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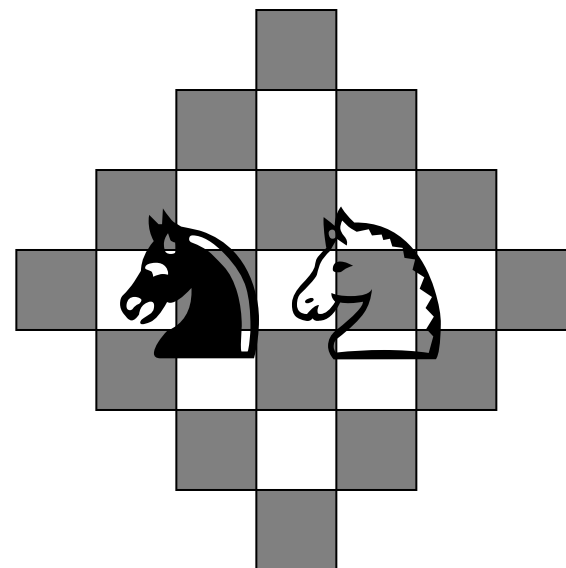
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| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
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| George P. Sphicas | Radovan Tomašević | Vladimir Tyapkin | Franjo Vrabec |

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2017



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SG79

U.S.

CHESS

PROBLEM

MAGAZINE

StrateGems 2014 Fairies Section B Award

By Diyan Kostadinov, International Judge FIDE

Fifty-three originals were published in SG 2014 Fairies Section B (problems with fairy pieces). The quality of the tourney was high as usual for this excellent chess magazine. Five problems were cooked thus 48 was the final number. The ranking is as follows:

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1 st Prize Franz Pachl & Michael Barth | 2 nd Prize Petko A. Petkov | 3 rd Prize Ofner Comay | 4 th Prize Julia Vysotska |
| | | | |
| h#2 Take & Make (1+4+8) b) nGih4→f6, c) nZf2→e3 Disparate 🦒 Giraffe, 🦓 Zebra 🐪 Camelrider | h#2½ 2 sols. (2+5+4) | h#2 (3+6+4) b/c) nPh7→c7b7 🦎 Nightrider | h#2½ 2 sols. (1+9+2) Take & Make, 🦗 Bishophopper 🦘 Kangaroo-Lion ♖ Rook-Lion |

1st Prize - (Franz Pachl & Michael Barth - FB1366) Rich thematic content with cyclic change of functions, Zilahi, creation of batteries and double check-mates. The play is fiery! **Solution:** a) 1.Qxb6-c8+ nCHRxc8-e8+ 2.nZd5 nGlx5-g3#; b) 1.Qxf6-b5 nCRxb5-e8+ 2.nSd5 nZxd5-f4#; c) 1.Qxe3-g6+ nCRxg6-e8+ 2.nGld5 nSxd5-e1#.

2nd Prize - (Petko A. Petkov - FB1400) Very interesting combination of neutral pieces and specific Disparate play! Using neutral pieces in combination with Disparate creates wonderful effects and looks promising. **Solution:** 1...nBe1 2.nQaa4 nRf6+ 3.nQxd2++ nRf4#; 1...nRb7 2.nQb3 nBf4+ 3.nQxb6++ nBd6#.

3rd Prize - (Ofner Comay - FB1383) Cyclic change of functions and Zilahi with creation of neutral batteries and pins after promotions. Similar content was shown before, but this problem is excellent and it deserves a prize. **Solution:** a) 1.nRc7 h8nB 2.nRd7 nBdx5#; b) 1.nNd7 cxd8nR 2.nNb8 nRcx6#; c) 1.nBf8 b8nN 2.nBg7 nNxc6#.

4th Prize - (Julia Vysotska - FB1385) Excellent ODT and creation of anti-batteries with exchange of functions between 3 pairs of pieces (despite the fact that the black RL and BH are too passive). **Solution:** 1...Kxg6-g3 2.Sc5 Kxh4-c4 3.nKlC6 Kxc5-e6#; 1...Kxg5-d8 2.Rd4 Kxd7-c5 3.nKlE3 Kxd4-f4#.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 5 th Prize Mario Parrinello | Special Prize Václav Kotěšovec | Special Prize Václav Kotěšovec | 1 st Honorable Mention Franz Pachl |
| | | | |
| h#3½ b) Kd8→g1 (10+8) 🦒 Vao, 🦓 Pao | h#6½* 2 sols. (2+3) 🦗 Double-Grasshop. | ser-h#10 3 sols. (2+6) 🦗 Grasshopper 🐪 Camel | h#2 3 sols. (7+8) 🦒 Leo, 🦎 Nao 🦒 Vao, 🦓 Pao |

5th Prize - (Mario Parrinello - FB1359) Critical moves, opening of lines, creation of white indirect anti-batteries, switchbacks, self-blocks with AB-BA reciprocal moves and change of functions between two pairs of pieces. Boring black 3rd moves, but perfect analogy in both solutions. **Solution:** a) 1...VAa2 2.VAg6 PAb3 3.PAh4 b6 4.Sf7+ VAXf7#; b) 1...PAa3 2.PAh4 VAb3 3.VAg6 b4 4.Sh3+ PAxh3#.

Special Prize - (Václav Kotěšovec - FB1380) Perfect realization of three echo mates on three different corners of the board. Of course it is a "computer" problem, but the result is excellent. **Solution:** Set-play: 1.Ke4 DGc1 2.Kf3 DGc3 3.Kg2 Ke3 4.DGh2 DGd3 5.Kh1 Kf2 6.DGg1 Kg3#; Play: 1...Kc3 2.Kc6 Kb4 3.DGe5 DGc4 4.Kb7 Kc5 5.DGh8 Kd6 6.DGa7 Kd7 7.Ka8 Kc7#; 1...Ke3 2.Ke6 Kf4 3.Kf7 Kg5 4.DGg8 Kh6 5.DGh7 Kh5 6.Kg7 DGf6 7.Kh8 Kg6#.

Special Prize - (Václav Kotěšovec - FB1381) Three echo model mates in white minimal form and three long solutions. Great! **Solution:** 1.Rc2 2.Gb1 3.Rc7 4.Gd7 5.Gbb7 6.Ka7 7.Kb8 8.Kc8 9.Gd8 10.Gbb8 CAf7#; 1.Gh4 2.Re7 3.Gf7 4.Gb7 5.Kc7 6.Gbd7 7.Kd8 8.Ke8 9.Gf8 10.Ghd8 CAh7#; 1.Ge1 2.Re4 3.Rb4 4.G2b5 5.Gb3 6.G7b5 7.Ka5 8.Ka4 9.Ga3 10.Gea5 CAa3#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Franz Pachl - FB1357) Rich thematic content with ublocks, blocks on the same square, creation of white anti-batteries and cyclic change of functions. I don't like that the move 2...VAd4# is not also a BiValve with Chinese pieces fairy effect of neutralization of the black piece after opening of line (as it is in the other two solutions). **Solution:** 1.LEf3 PAc4 2.VAd3 NA5d4#; 1.LEe3 PAA4 2.Rd3 VAd4#; 1.LExf5 PAB4 2.NAd3 NA3d4#.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 2 nd Honorable Mention Julia Vysotska | 3 rd Honorable Mention Valerio Agostini & Antonio Garofalo | Sp. Honorable Mention Václav Kotěšovec | Sp. Honorable Mention Anatoly Stepochkin |
| | | | |
| h#2 b) Bb7→e4 (1+7+3) Take & Make 🦗 Grasshopper 🦎 Nightrider | h#2 Andernach (6+10) 🦗 Gnu b) w Nightrider e1 c) w Sirene e1 | ser-s#12 3 sols. (6+2) Maximummer 🦗 Kangaroo | h#4 Koeko (3+2) b/c/d/e/f Ana8→h8/b3/g1/c8/c4 🦒 Antelope, 🦎 Lion |

2nd Honorable Mention - (Julia Vysotska - FB1342) Nice neutral half-battery play with transformations (which can be accepted as a fairy Zabunov theme where the neutral front half-battery piece becomes the rear piece of the mating battery). The only detail which detract is this: In the second solution the nG does not open the half-battery line, so the nN move is not a direct check. **Solution:** a) 1.nNa7 nGxf6(nGf5)+ 2.Kxa7(Kc8) nRxe5(nRh8)#; b) 1.nGb6 nNxe5(nNf4) 2.Kxb6(Kd8) nRxe4(nRa8)#.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Valerio Agostini & Antonio Garofalo - FB1333) Nice play with different black blocks on the square initially blocked by the mating piece. Good twins. Unfortunately the fairy conditions are utilised only in one half-move of the solutions. **Solution:** a) 1.Sxg4=wS GNd4 2.e5 Sf6#; b) 1.Sxc6=wS Ng5 2.Be5 Sb4#; c) 1.Sxg6=wS Slh1 2.Se5 Sf4#.

Special Honorable Mention - (Václav Kotěšovec - FB1363) Three echo model mates with creation of same mating net. There is a play almost all over the board in twelve moves. Excellent (of course composed with computer help). Unfortunately, use of the fairy condition seems only to avoid the bK escaping check.

Solution: 1.KAd6 2.KAc7 3.KAd2 4.Qc4 5.KAc1 6.Qb3 7.KAb2 8.KAb1 9.KAe2 10.Kd1 11.KAe1 12.Qe3+ Sxe3#; 1.Kb3 2.KAa3 3.Qc2 4.KAa4 5.Kc4 6.Kb5 7.KAb7 8.Ka6 9.KAa7 10.KAa8 11.KAa5 12.Qc7+ Sxc7#; 1.Qb5 2.KAb3 3.KAa4 4.Kb2 5.KAb1 6.Ka2 7.KAb6 8.KAb2 9.Qd3 10.KAa3 11.KAa1 12.Qc3+ Sxc3#.

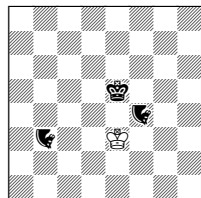
Special Honorable Mention - (Anatoly Stepochnik - FB1360) Super AUW (6 promotions) in miniature and black minimal. Excellent and typical for the author. **Solution:** a) 1.c1B+ Kd3 2.Be3 Kd4 3.Bf2 Llg2 4.Kd5+ Ke4#; b) 1.c1S Lib2 2.Se2 Kd3 3.Sd4 Kc3 4.Ke5 Kxd4#; c) 1.c1R ANe7 2.Ke6 Kc2 3.Rf1 ANb3 4.Rf7 LJa2#; d) 1.c1Q+ Lib2 2.Qc6 Llf2 3.Kc5 Ke3+ 4.Qh1 Kd4#; e) 1.c1Li Ke3 2.Kc7 ANf4 3.Llc8 Lle5 4.Kb8 Llg3#; f) 1.c1AN Ke3 2.Kd5 Kf3 3.ANg4 Kf4 4.Ke5+ Ke4#.

Sp. Honorable Mention
Václav Kotěšovec

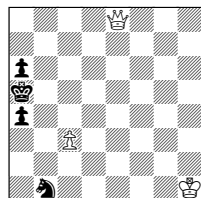
1st Commendation
Julia Vysotska

2nd Commendation
Vlaicu Crisan
& Eric Huber

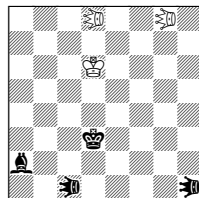
3rd Commendation
Marco Crucioi
& Antonio Garofalo



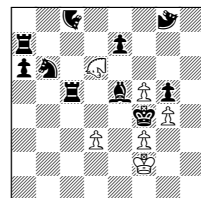
hs#7½ 3 sols. (1+3)
Koeko, ♞Nightrider



h#2 b) wCSe8 (3+4)
Anti-Andernach
Take & Make
Anti-Take & Make
Chameleons Qe8 & Sb1



hs#3 2 sols. (3+4)
Messigny Chess
♞♞Locust



h#2 2 sols. (6+10)
Vertical cylinder
♞♞Zebrarider
♞♞Nightrider, ♞♞Camel

Special Honorable Mention - (Václav Kotěšovec - FB1338) The author published a series of long movers with echo mates this year. Here we can see three corner mates in Tanagra form. **Solution:** 1...Ne6 2.Ke4+ Kd4 3.Kd3 Ke3 4.Kc3 Kd2+ 5.Kb2 Nc1 6.Kb1 Na2 7.Kb2 Kc1+ 8.Ka1 Nc2#; 1...Nd2 2.Kd4+ Nd3+ 3.Kd5 Kd6 4.Ke6 Nf6+ 5.Kf5 Ke7 6.Kg6 Nh7 7.Kg7 Kf8+ 8.Kh8 Nf7#; 1...Kd4+ 2.Kf3 Kc4 3.Ke4 Nc5+ 4.Ke5 Kb5 5.Kd6 Nd7 6.Kc7 Nb8 7.Kb7 Ka6+ 8.Ka8 Nb6#.

1st Commendation - (Julia Vysotska - FB1353) A miniature with complicated (but interesting) fairy play. **Solution:** a) 1.CSd2=CB(w) CQe4=CS(b) 2.CSxd2=CB-e3(+wCBc1) CBxe3=CR(+bCBb6)# [not 3.CBc5=CR(w)??-self-check!]; b) 1.CSa3=CB(w) CSd6=CB(b) 2.CBxa3=CR-d6(+wCBc5) CBxd6=CR-e5(+bCBb6)# [not 3.CRb5=CQ(w)??-self-check!].

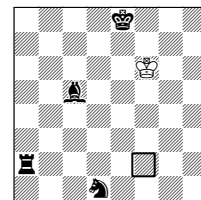
2nd Commendation - (Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber - FB1376) Good play and Messigny Chess effects in a miniature form. **Solution:** 1.LOc1-LOg8 Bd5 2.Kc5 LOd8-LOg8 3.LOxd5/c4+ LOc4-LOh1#; 1.Kd3-Kd6+ Kc6 2.Kd4 Be6 3.LOxe6/d5+ LOd5-LOh1#.

3rd Commendation - (Marco Crucioi & Antonio Garofalo - FB1393) Closing of lines and unpins in vertical cylinder play. **Solution:** 1.Sc4 d4 2.ZRe4 CAc3# (2.Na4?); 1.Sh7 f6 2.Na4 CAg7# (2.ZRe4?).

4th Commendation - (Ladislav Packa - FB1394) Cycle ABC-BCA-CAB and excellent construction, but the zero position detracts. **Solution:** a) 1.Rf2(wR) 2.Sxf2(wS, wS→b8) 3.Bf2(wB) Bh4=; b) 1.Sf2(wS) 2.Bxf2(wB, wB→f8) 3.Rf2(wR) Rf4=; c) 1.Bf2(wB) 2.Rxf2(wR, wR→h8) 3.Sf2(wS) Rh3=.

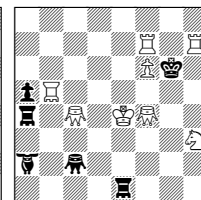
5th Commendation - (Waldemar Tura - FB1374) Fairy twomover with many changes. **Solution:** 1...RHe5 2.Gd6#, 1...BHd5 2.Ge6#, 1...Gf5 2.Rfg7#, 1...Gc5 2.Gc6#, 1...RHa~ 2.Ga6#; **1.Gd4!** (zz), 1...RHe5 2.Rfg7#, 1...BHd5 2.Gd6#, 1...Gf5 2.Sf4#, 1...Gc5 2.Gb6#, 1...RHa~ 2.Ga6#; 1.Ke5? Gxh7!; 1.Rh4/Rh8? RHe5!; 1.Gg8? BHxg8!

4th Commendation
Ladislav Packa



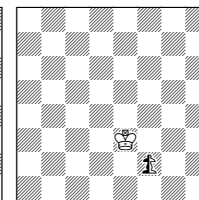
ser-h=3 Zero pos. (1+4) #2
Magic square: f2
a) Kf6→g7
b/c) Ke8→h5/f4, Anti-Circe

5th Commendation
Waldemar Tura



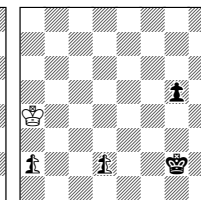
(8+6)
♞♞Bishopopper
♞♞Rookhopper
♞♞Grasshopper

6th Commendation
Janos Mikitovics



HR#3* 3 sols. (1+0+1)
Sentinelles

7th Commendation
Geoff Foster



h#2 2 sols. (1+2+2)
Symetry Anti-Circe
Anti-Take & Make

6th Commendation - (Janos Mikitovics - FB1387) Not-so-matched play, but a nice little two-piece problem with promotions. **Solution:** Set-play: 1...f1nQ 2.nQg2 nQg4[+bPg2] 3.Kf2[+wPe3] g1Q#; Play: 1.Kd2[+wPe3] f1B 2.nBg2 nBf3[+bPg2] 3.Ke1[+wPd2] g1Q#; 1.Ke2[+wPe3] f1nS 2.nSh2 nSg4[+bPh2] 3.Kf1[+wPe2] h1Q#; 1.Ke4[+wPe3] f1nQ 2.nQf2 nQh4[+bPf2] + 3.Kf3[+wPe4] f1=Q#.

7th Commendation - (Geoff Foster - FB1399) Zilahi, change of functions and ODT mates in typical author's style. **Solution:** 1.nPa2-a1=nQ+ nQa1-c1 2.nPd2xc1=nQ[nQc1→f8][+nQc8] nQf8xc8[nQc8→f1][+nQh3#]; 1.nPd2-d1=nQ+ nQd1-b1 2.nPa2xb1=nQ[nQb1→g8][+nQb8] nQg8xb8[nQb8→g1][+nQg3#].

We thank Diyan for this award which becomes final in three months. Please send comments to Petko A. Petkov.

StrateGems 2015 Studies Award

By Yochanan Afek, International Judge FIDE

I received twenty-three studies from the Chief Editor, Mike Prcic. I thank Harold van der Heijden for his assistance in checking my candidates for soundness and originality. The following candidates had to be disqualified:

E0285 (Becker) Unsound: 2...Bc4! 3.Bg4 Be6! 4. Be2 (4.Bxe6 stalemate!) 4...Rh7 5.Be5 Rd7 6.Bf1 Bf5 7.Bc4 Rd8+ 8.Ke7 Rd7+ 9.Kf6 Bd3 10.Be6 Bxa6 11.Sf7 Be2 12.Bf4 Bd1 13.Se5 Ba4 =. Also: 2...Bd5! 3.Bh5 Rd8+ 4.Ke7 Rd7+ 6.Kf8 Rh7. Further: cook 9.Bg3 Be2 10.Sd6+

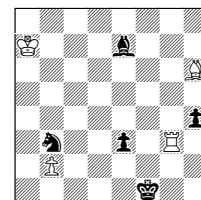
E0287 (Tarasyuk) Unsound: 9...Ke2! =

E0290 (Tarasyuk) Unsound: 2...Rxf4 (e.g.) 3.Kd5 Rfxe4 4.Qg8 f4 wins (7EGTB).

E0293 (Kekely) Anticipated especially by #05052.

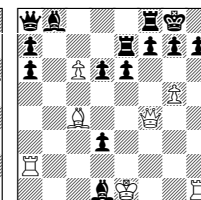
From the rest, here are my rankings:

1st Prize, Iuri Akobia
& Pavel Arestov



Draw

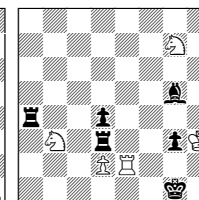
2nd Prize, Peter S. Krug
& Mario G. Garcia



(4+4)

Win

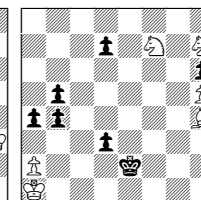
Special Prize
Steffen S. Nielsen



Draw

(5+6)

1st Honorable Mention
Zlatko Mihajloski



Draw

(6+7)

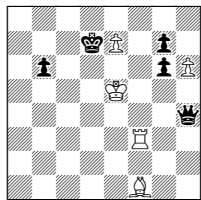
1st Prize - (Iuri Akobia & Pavel Arestov - E0284) 1.Rf3+! (1.Rxe3? Bc5+ 2.Ka8 Bxe3 3.Bxe3 h3 4.Bf4 Sc5 5.b4 Sd3 6.b5 Sxf4 7.b6 h2 8.b7 h1Q+) **1...Kg2 2.Rxe3 Bc5+ 3.Ka8!!** (3.Ka6 Bxe3 4.Bxe3 h3 5.Bf4 Sc5+ 6.Ka7 Se4+) **3...Bxe3 4.Bxe3 Kf3** (4...h3 5.Bf4 Sc5 6.b4! Sd3 7.b5 Sxf4 8.b6 h2 9.b7 h1Q 10.b8Q=) **5.Bg1! Kg3!** (5...Kg2 6.Be3! Kf3 7.Ba7! Main line) **6.Ba7!** [Thematic try: 6.Bb6? h3 7.Bc7+ Kf2! so (7...Kg2? 8.Bf4! zz; 7...Kf3 8.Bh2! zz) 8.Bh2 Kf3! zz] **6...h3 7.Bb8+ Kg2 8.Bf4! Kf3 9.Bh2! zz Kf2! 10.Bc7! zz Kg2 11.Bf4! zz** (positional draw) **11...Sd4 12.b4 Se2 13.b5 Sxf4 14.b6 Sd5 15.b7 Sb6+ 16.Kb8 Sd7+ 17.Kc8 Sb6+ 18.Kb8** draw. An original and complex mechanism of positional draw based on reciprocal Zugzwang almost all over the board with only six pieces. Following the subtle 3.Ka8!! the white bishop should be moved only to those squares which wouldn't allow black to win a single tempo on his way to interfere with it on g3 (nor the forking of the bishop and pawn nor a black promotion with a check or a pin) to prevent a successful chase of the white pawn. Even when black eventually manages to break this vicious circle he is still faced with the final and familiar positional draw. Highly subtle and precise and yet comprehensive to the mind. A remarkable achievement!

2nd Prize - (Peter S. Krug & Mario G. Garcia - E0286) 1.Qh4! (1.Rxh7? Bc2! 2.Bxd3 Bxd3 3.Rxg7+ Kxg7 4.Qf6+ Kg8 5.Rh2 Bh7 6.g6 fxxg6 7.Qxe7 Rf7 8.Qe8+=) **1...Bh5!** (1...f5 2.g6! h6 3.Qxe7+) **2.Qxh5 f5 3.Qxh7+ (3.gxf6? gxf6 4.Bxd3 f5 5.Rg2+ Kh8 6.Qg5 Qxc6! 7.Qxe7 Qc3+ 8.Rd2 Qa1+ 9.Rd1 Qe5+ 10.Be2 Qg3+ 11.Kd2 Qf4+=) 3...Kf7 4.Qxf5+ Ke8 5.Qxf8+!! Kxf8 6.g6!** (6.Rh8+? Kf7 7.Rf2+ Kg6 8.Bxd3+ Kxg5 9.Rh1 d5! 10.Rg1+ Bg3! 11.Rxg3+ Kh4 12.Rg1 Qb8! =) **6...Re8** (6...Rf7 7.Rh8+ Ke7 8.gxf7+) **7.Rf2+ Kg8** (7...Ke7 see later) **8.Rfh2 Kf8 9.0-0+!** (9.Rf1+? Kg8 10.Rfh1 Kf8=) **9...Ke7 10.Rf7+ Kd8 11.Rd7+ Kc8 12.Bxa6+ wins**. This sacrificial middlegame-like encounter makes an original use of the castling element. Players and solvers would like it.

Special Prize - (Steffen S. Nielsen - E0275) 1.Rg2+! (1.Sc5? Rxd2 2.Rxd2 Bxd2 3.Sxa4 g2+) **1...Kh1** (1...Kf1 2.Sc5 Rxd2 3.Rxg3 Rc4 4.Se4=) **2.Sc1** (2.Sc5? Rxd2 3.Rxg3 Rc4 4.Se4 d3! 5.Sxd2 Rh4#) **2...Rxd2 3.Se2! Rxe2 4.Rxe2 g2! 5.Rxg2 Ra3+ 6.Rg3 d3! 7.Sf5! d2 8.Rxa3! d1Q 9.Rf3!!** (9.Sg3+? Kg1 10.Rf3 Qd7+) **9...Qxf3+ (9...Kg1 10.Rg3+ Kf2 11.Rxg5=) 10.Sg3+ Kg1** draw. The final stalemate has been displayed quite often. (A fine example is G. Zakhodyakin, *Shachmaty* (Riga) 1967). Nevertheless, the tense tactical struggle, rich with mutual blows and highlighted by the quiet 9.Rf3!!, is new and deserves honor.

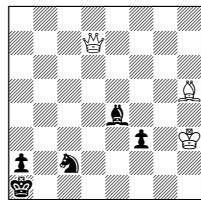
1st Honorable Mention - (Zlatko Mihajloski - E0281) 1.Be1! Kxe1 2.Se5 d2 3.Sf3+ Ke2 4.Sxd2 Kxd2 5.Kb2! (5.Kb1? d5! 6.Sf6 d4 7.Sd5 d3 8.Sxb4 Ke2 9.Sd5 d2 10.Kb2 b4!+) **5...d5 6.Sf6 d4 7.Sd5 d3 8.Sxb4 Ke2 9.Ka3** (9.Sd5? b4! 10.Sf4+ Kd2 11.Kb1 a3 12.Sd5 Ke1 13.Se3 Ke2+) **9...d2 10.Sd5 d1Q** (main 10...Kd3 11.Sc3! Kxc3= White is in a stalemate) **11.Sc3+ Kd2 12.Sxd1 Kxd1 13.Kb4 Kc2 14.Kxb5 a3 15.Kc4** (15.Kb4? Kb2 16.Kc4 Kxa2+) **15...Kb2 16.Kd3 Kxa2 17.Kc2 Ka1 18.Kc1 a2 19.Kc2** Black is in a stalemate. All three pieces are given away to restrain the pawn thrust, after which the kings are mutually stalemating each other.

2nd Honorable Mention
Luboš Kekely



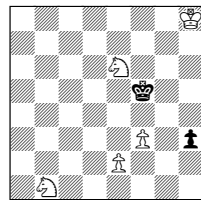
Draw (5+5)

1st Commendation
Daniel Keith & Martin Minski



Win (3+5)

2nd Commendation
Pavel Arestov



Win (5+2)

2nd Honorable Mention - (Luboš Kekely - E0292) 1.e8Q+! (1.h7? Qxe7+ 2.Kd5 Qg5+ 3.Kc4 Qh4+ 4.Kb3 Qxh7+) **1...Kxe8 2.h7! Qxh7** (2...Qh2+ 3.Ke6 Qxh7 4.Bb5+ Kd8 5.Rf8+ Kc7 6.Rf7+) **3.Rh3 Qg8 4.Ra3! Qh7 5.Rh3 Qg8 6.Ra3 Kd7 7.Bb5+ Kc7 8.Ra7+ Kb8 9.Re7 Qb3 10.Re8+ Kc7 11.Re7+ Kd8 12.Re8+ draw**. The white pawns are sacrificed to deflect the royal couple to a total domination by the rook and the bishop. Consequently a positional draw is obtained and concluded by perpetual check. The long-distance moves create an aesthetic impression.

1st Commendation - (Daniel Keith & Martin Minski - E0276) 1.Bf7! (1.Qb5? Bd3! 2.Qxd3 Kb2 3.Bg6 a1Q 4.Qxc2+ Ka3=) **1...f2 2.Qb5!** (2.Qd1+? Kb2 3.Bxa2 Bg2+! 4.Kg3 f1Q=; 2.Bc4? f1Q+! 3.Bxf1 Kb2=) **2...Bd5! 3.Bxd5 Se3 4.Bg2! Sxg2 5.Kg3!** (5.Kxg2 f1Q+! =) **5...f1Q 6.Qxf1+ Se1! 7.Kf2!** (7.Qf6+? Kb1 8.Qb6+ Kc2! 9.Qa5 Kb3! 10.Qb5+ Ka3 11.Qe5 Kb3 12.Qxe1 Kb2=) **7...Kb2 8.Qb5+ Ka3 9.Qa5+ Kb2 10.Qb4+ Kc2 11.Qa3 Kb1 12.Qb3+ wins**. Refusing to capture the knight to avoid a basic theoretical draw has been done before. Here the attraction is its repetition in a natural and fluent play.

2nd Commendation - (Pavel Arestov - E0289) 1.Sg7+! (1.Sd4+? Kg6+) **1...Kg6** (1...Kg5 2.Sc3 h2 3.Se4+) **2.Sh5! Kxh5 3.Sd2! h2 4.Sf1 h1S 5.Kg7! Kg5 6.e3! Sf2 7.Sg3!** (7.Sd2? Sd1=) **7...Sd3** (7...Sd1 8.f4+ Kg4 9.f5 Sxe3 10.f6+) **8.Se2!** (8.Se4+ Kf5 9.Sg3+ Kg5 Loss of time) **8...Kf5 9.Sd4+ Ke5 10.Kg6 Se1 11.f4+ Ke4 12.f5+.** Both white knights are given away in a successful effort to tame an unstoppable pawn and to force a winning knight ending.

We thank Yochanan for his effort and hope he can help us again. The award becomes final in three months. Please send comments to Franjo Vrabec before October 1st, 2017.

StrateGems 2016 Studies Award

By Peter Gyarmaty

I judged twenty-three studies by nineteen authors from sixteen countries. There were nine joint compositions. One study, by Ilham Aliev, has a serious anticipation: M.Chodera, Gros, 1938. The Kirillov-Aberman study seems familiar after 2.gxf3, so I did not award this work.

A word about my taste. I like tactical studies, and clear strategic composition. I appreciate the complex structures: two or more main lines and the thematic tries. It is crucial for the study to be an inspired work. I don't like computer based technical play and the many side lines. One more very important thing: the study must be solver-friendly.

Here is my decision:

| 1st Prize Martin Minski | 2nd Prize Steffen S. Nielsen | 3rd Prize Árpád Rusz | 4th Prize Andrzej Jaski |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | | |
| Win | (9+6) Win | (5+4) Win | (4+4) Win |
| | | | (5+3) Win |

1st Prize - (Martin Minski - E0296) A beautiful key setting is achieved after the seventh move when Black is in Zugzwang--the main line (the roles are reversed in the try). All moves show tactical motifs. The author built his work superbly, the highlight of the study comes at the end: a minor piece promotion. **Solution: 1.Rb6! Rxb6** (1...Rd8+ 2.Kb7 Rd7+ 3.Kc8 +-) **2.Qxe7 Re5!** (2...Rd7 3.Qxd7 Bg8 4.Qb7! Rxb3 5.Qb8 +- zz see main line) **3.Qd8+!** (thematic try 3.Qxe5?)

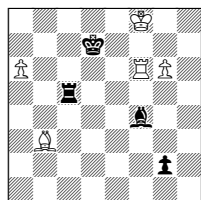
Bg8! zz 4.Qb8 Rxb3 zz 5.Qxb3 Bxb3 6.Kb8 Bd5 =) **3...Re8!** (3...Bg8 4.Qxb6 +) **4.Qxe8+ Bg8 5.Qe5!+- zz** (5.Qb8? Rxb3 = zz, or 5.Qd8? Rb8+! 6.axb8Q stalemate) **5...Rb4!** (5...Rxb3 6.Qb8 + zz) **6.Qd6!** (6.Qb8? Rxb3 = zz) **6...Rxb3** (6...Rb5 7.b4! Bd5+ 8.Qxd5 +) **7.Qb8! zz Rxb8+** [7...Ra3 8.Kb7 Rxa7+ 9.Qxa7 +- (9.Kxa7? stalemate)] **8.axb8S!** (8.axb8Q? stalemate, or 8.Kxb8? Bd5 =) **8...Bd5+ 9.Ka7 +-.**

2nd Prize - (Steffen S. Nielsen - E0316) Excellent tactical play in classical style. Black's counterplay is very interesting. After 3...Rxd6 the position is difficult for both sides. My impression is that the ending is not as impressive as in the first prize winner's study. Solution: **1.Qb8!** (1.d7? Qb2 2.Qc8+ Rxc8+ 3.dxc8Q+ Ka5 =) **1...Rb1** (1...Rb6 2.Qc8+ Ka5 3.Bd2+ Ka4 4.Qc4+ Ka3 5.Qc5+ Ka2 6.Qa5+ Kb2 7.Qxb6+ +-) **2.Qxb1 Qf8+ 3.Qb8 Rxd6! 4.Sc6!** (4.Bxd6? Qf3+ +-) **4...Rf6** (4...Qxb8+ 5.Sxb8+ Kb6 6.Bxd6 +, or 4...Rxc6 5.Qxf8 +-) **5.Bg5!** (5.Sb4+? Ka5 6.Bc7+ Ka4 =) **5...Rf7** (5...Qxb8 6.Sxb8+ Kb5 7.Bxf6 +) **6.Bd8! Qc5 7.Sb4+ Qxb4 8.Qxb4 Ra7+ 9.Kb8 Ra8+ 10.Kc7** (10.Kxa8 stalemate) +-.

3rd Prize - (Árpád Rusz - E0309) A very rich study! The 2.Bc3!! move is excellent, avoids the stalemate trap by opening white rook's line. While it is true that the material is EGBT after White's first move, a solver can also find out all moves. The brilliant 5.Rg6!! (instead of try: Rf6?) is not an EGTB move! All side lines contain interesting tactical play. Solution: **1.bxc7! Rc2+** [1...Se6+ 2.Kc6! (2.Kb6? Rd6+ =) 2...Rc2+ (2...Sxc7 3.Kxc7 Ka7 4.Bc3 Rd5 5.Rc6 Rb5 6.Bd4+ Ka8 7.Ra6+ mate) 3.Kb6 Sf8! (3...Sxc7 4.Rh8+ +-) 4.Be5! (4.Rh8? Kb5+ 5.Ka6 (5.Bxb2 stalemate) 5...Ra2+) 4...Sd7+ 5.Ka6 Ra2+ (5...Sxe5 6.Rh8+ mate) 6.Kb5 Kb7 7.Rh8 Rc2 8.Rb8+! Sxb8 9.cxb8Q+ mate] **2.Bc3!!** (2.Kb6? Rc6+ 3.Kb5 Rxc7 =) **2...Rxc3+ 3.Kb6 Rb3+** [3...Sf7 4.Rh3! Rxc7 (4...Rxb3 5.c8Q+ mate) 5.Kxc7 +-] **4.Ka6 Rb8!** [4...Ra3+ 5.Kb5 Rb3+ 6.Ka4! (6.Kc4? Rb8 7.Rh8 Rc8 =) 6...Rb8 7.Rh8 +-] **5.Rg6!!** [mutual zugzwang 5.Rf6? Sc6! 6.Rxc6 (6.cxb8Q+ Sxb8+ 7.Kb6 Sd7+ =) 6...Rb6+! 7.Kxb6 stalemate, or 5.Rh8? Rb6+! (or 5...Sc6 6.cxb8Q+ Sxb8+ 7.Kb6 stalemate) 6.Ka5 (6.Kxb6 stalemate) 6...Ra6+! 7.Kb5 Rb6+ perpetual check/stalemate, or 5.Rd6? Sf7 6.cxb8Q+ Kxb8 =] **5...Rc8** (5...Sf7 6.cxb8Q+ Kxb8 7.Rg8+ Kc7 8.Rg7 +-) **6.Rg8 Rxc7 7.Rxd8+ Rc8 8.Rxc8#.**

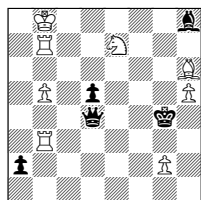
4th Prize - (Andrzej Jasik - E0304A) Clean and elegant elaboration of a strategic theme. White avoids the Zugzwang positions, and thereby the stalemate traps. A solver-friendly study. Solution: **1.Rb7!** (1.h7? c5 2.Kxc5 Qxa7 3.Rxa7 stalemate) **1...Qd8+ 2.Ka6! Qc8 3.c5! zz** (3.h7? c5 =) **3...Kg8 4.Kb6!** (thematic try: 4.h7+? Kh8 zz 5.Kb6 Qd8+ =) **4...Qd8+ 5.Rc7 Qa8** (5...Qe8 6.Kb7 +-) **6.Ka6! Kh8! 7.Rb7!** (7.h7? Qxa7+ 8.Kxa7 stalemate) **7...Qc8 8.h7! zz 8...Qd8 9.Rb8 +-.**

1st Honorable Mention
David Gurgenzidze
& Martin Minski



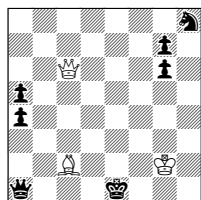
Draw

2nd Honorable Mention
Andrzej Jasik
& Mario G. Garcia



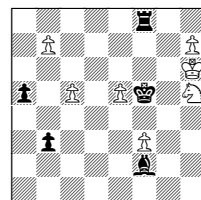
Draw

3rd Honorable Mention
Richard Becker



Win

4th Honorable Mention
Alain Pallier &
Mario G. Garcia



Draw

(7+5)

1st Honorable Mention - (David Gurgenzidze & Martin Minski - E0312) A nice tactical play, but the check and many captures detract. The 7...Qh1 variant is interesting, but 9.Rd7 and 10.Kh7 are EGTB moves. Solution: **1.Ba4+** [1.a7? Rc8+! 2.Kf7 g1Q 3.Be6+ Kd8 4.Bxc8 Qxa7+ Lomonosov; 1.g7? Bd6+! 2.Kf7 Rg5 3.a7 (3.Ba4+ Kc7+)=) 3...Rgx7+ 4.Kxg7 g1Q+-; 1.Be6+? Kd8!-; 1.Rxf4? g1Q+] **1...Kc7 2.a7 Kb7** (2...Ra5 3.g7 g1Q 4.g8Q=) **3.Bc6+! Rxc6 4.Rxc6 Bh6+ 5.g7 Bxg7+ 6.Kg8! g1Q 7.Rg6!! Qxg6** [7...Qh1 8.Rxg7+ Kb6 9.Rd7!

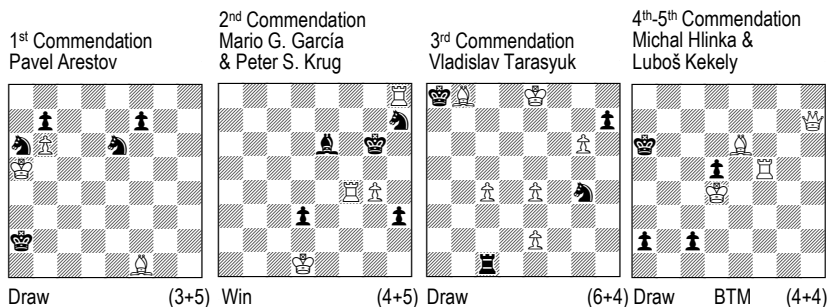
(9.Re7? Kc5! 10.Rd7 Qa1 11.Kh7 (11.Kf8 Kc6+)=) 11...Qa6+)= 9...Qa1 10.Kh7! = (10.Kf7? Kc6! 11.Re7 Kd6+)=] **8.a8Q+ Kxa8 model stalemate** wKg8; bKa8, Qg6, Bg7.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Andrzej Jasik & Mario G. Garcia - E0308) Two main echo lines with good strategic content. Unfortunately the introductory play is not related to the theme. (Please read the judgment report of ChessBase-25 Study Tourney by John Nunn. He wrote about introductory play in great detail.) Solution: **1.Rg3+!** (1.Sc6? Be5+ 2.Ka8 a1Q+ 3.Ra7 Qxa7+ 4.Sxa7 Qa4 5.Rb1 Kxh5 +, or 1.Ra3? Be5+ 2.Ka8 a1Q 3.Rxa1 Qxa1+ 4.Ra7 Qb2 5.Sc6 Bh2 -) **1...Kxg3** [1...Kxh5 2.Rg5+! (2.Rh3+? Kg4 3.Rh1 Be5+ 4.Kc8 a1Q 5.Rxa1 Qxa1 6.Sc6 Qa8+ 7.Sb8 Kf5 8.Bg7 Bxb8 9.Rxb8 Qa7 10.Rb7 Qc5+ +) 2...Kxh6 3.Rg6+ Kh5 (3...Kh7 4.Ra6 =) 4.g4+ Qxg4 5.Rxg4 a1Q 6.Rg6 Be5+ 7.Rc7 d4 (7...Bxc7 8.Kxc7 Qa7+ 9.Kc6 Qxe7 10.Rd6 =) 8.Ra6 Bxc7+ (8...Qb2 9.b6 d3 10.Ka7 d2 11.Rd7 =) 9.Kxa7 =] **2.Sf5+ Kxg2** (2...Kh2 3.Sxd4 Bxd4 4.Bg7 a1Q 5.h6 Be5+ 6.Bxe5+ Qxe5+ 7.Ka7 Qa1+ 8.Kb6 Qf6+ 9.Kc5 Qxh6 10.Kxd5 =) **3.Sxd4 Be5+** [main 3...Bxd4 4.Rg7+! (4.Bg7? a1Q 5.h6 Be5+ 6.Bxe5 Qxe5+ 7.Ka7 Qe3+ a1Q Qxh6 -) 4...Kh3 5.Rg1 Bxg1 6.Bg7 d4 7.h6 a1Q 8.h7 Bh2+ 9.Kb7! =] **4.Kc8!** [4.Rc7? 8.B6 Qxh6 -) 5.Kxc7 a1Q 6.Sc6 Qb1 7.Bg7 Qxb5 8.h6 =] **4...Bxd4** (4...a1Q 5.Sc6 Qa8+ 6.Sb8 d4 7.Bg7 Bxb8 8.Rxb8 Qd5 9.Bxd4 =) **5.Rg7+!** (5.Ra7? Bxa7 6.Bg7 d4 7.h6 a1Q 8.h7 Qc3+ 9.Kd7 Qh3+ 10.Kd6 Qxh7 -) **5...Kf2 6.Rf7+ Kg2 7.Rg7+ Kh3 8.Ra7!** (8.Rg1? Bxg1 9.Bg7 d4 10.h6 a1Q 11.h7 Qa8 -) **8...Bxa7 9.Bg7 d4 10.h6 a1Q 11.h7 Qc3+ 12.Kd7!** (= (12.Kd8? Bd6+! -, or 12.Kb7? Qf3+! 13.Ka6 Qa3+ 14.Kb7 Qe7+! -))

3rd Honorable Mention - (Richard Becker - E0304) It is well known that Richard is a great composer also without a computer - see his beautiful masterpiece from 1982: *Chess Life*, 3-4. prize. But this material is rather boring. Otherwise the mate ending is nice, and the technical part was hard work. Solution: **1.Qd6! g5 2.Qg3+** (2.Qd3? Qc1 =) **2...Kd2 3.Qd3+ Kc1 4.Qd1+ Kb2 5.Qd4+ Ka2 6.Qxa4+ Kb2 7.Qd4+ Ka2 8.Qd5+ Kb2 9.Qe5+ Ka2 10.Qxa5+ Kb2 11.Qe5+ Ka2 12.Qd5+ Kb2 13.Qd4+ Ka2 14.Qa7+ Kb2 15.Qxg7+ Ka2 16.Qg8+ Kb2 17.Qxh8+ Ka2 18.Qg8+ Kb2 19.Qg7+ Ka2 20.Qa7+ Kb2 21.Qd4+ Ka2 22.Qb4 Qb2** (22...Qc1 23.Qb3+ Ka1 24.Qc3+ Qb2 (24...Ka2 25.Bb3+ Kb1 26.Ba4 +-) 25.Qa5+ [etc.]) **23.Qc4+ Ka1 24.Qa4+ Qa2 25.Qd4+ Qb2 26.Qd1+ Ka2 27.Qd5+ Ka1 28.Qa5+ Qa2 29.Qe1+ Kb2 30.Qd2 g4 31.Kg3 Qa3+ 32.Bd3+ Kb3** (32...Ka1 33.Qd1+ Kb2 34.Qc2+ Ka1 35.Qb1+ mate) **33.Qc2+ Kb4 34.Qc4+ Ka5 35.Qb5#**

4th Honorable Mention - (Alain Pallier & Mario G. Garcia - E0310) Is this an analysis of a grandmaster's practical game? This work is a good technical performance with non-thematic tries. Unfortunately, I don't see a single tactical motif. Solution: **1.c6!**; **Try I:** 1.Kg7? Bxc5 2.Sg3+ Ke6! (not 2...Kf4? 3.h8Q Rxh8 4.Kxh8 Ba7 5.e6 Kxg3 6.e7 b2 7.e8Q b1Q 8.Qe5+)=) 3.h8Q (3.Se4 b2 4.Sxc5+ Ke7 5.h8Q Rxh8 6.Kxh8 b1Q+)=) 3...Rxb8 4.Kxh8 Ba7 5.Se4 b2 (not 5...Kxe5? 6.Sc5! Kd6 7.Sxb3=) 6.Sd2 a4 7.Sb1 Kxe5+-; **1...Bb6 2.Kg7 Rb8** [2...Rd8 3.Kf7 b2 4.Sg7+ Kxe5 5.Se8! (5.b8Q+? Rxb8 6.Se8 Rxe8 7.Kxe8 b1Q 8.h8Q+ Kd5+)=) 5...b1Q 6.h8Q+ Kd5 7.b8Q Rxh8 8.Sf6+ Kxc6 9.Qxb8=] **3.h8Q** (3.Kf7? Kg5 4.Sg7 Kh6 5.Se8 Kxh7 6.Sf6+ Kh6+)=) **3...Rxb8 4.Kxh8 Bc7 5.Sg7+ Kxe5 6.Se8 b2 7.Sxc7 b1Q 8.Kg7!**; **Try II:** 8.Sa6? Kf6 9.b8Q Qh1+ 10.Kg8 Qg2+ 11.Kf8 Qg7+ 12.Ke8 Qe7#; **8...Qb2 9.Kf7 Qb3+ 10.Ke7 a4 11.f4+!**; **Try III:** 11.Sa6? Qe6+ 12.Kd8 Qd6+ 13.Kc8 Qxc6+ 14.Sc7 Qb6 15.f4+ Kf5! 16.b8Q Qxb8+ 17.Kxb8 a3 18.Sb5 a2 19.Sd4+ Kxf4 20.Sc2 Kf3! 21.Kc7 Ke2 22.Kc6 Kd2 23.Sa1 Kc3 24.Kd5 Kb2 25.Kd4 Kxa1 26.Kc3 Kb1+-; **11...Kf5 12.Se8 Kxf4 13.Sf6!**; **Try IV:** 13.Sd6? Ke5 14.Sf7+ Kd5 15.Sd8 a3 16.c7 Qb4+ 17.Kd7 Qa4+ 18.Ke7 Qe4+ 19.Kd7 Qh7+! 20.Kc8 a2 21.b8Q Qh3+ 22.Kb7 (22.Se6 Qxe6+ 23.Kd8 Qd6+ 24.Kc8 a1Q+)=) 22...a1Q+ **13...a3 14.Sd7 a2 15.b8Q+ Qxb8 16.Sxb8 a1Q 17.c7! =.**

1st Commendation - (Pavel Arestov - E0303) Not a big task, but a nice study. The theme is the well-known foresight, with minimal material. Solution: **1.Bc4+!** [1.Bxa6? bxa6 2.b7 Sd8! 3.b8S f5 4.Sxa6 (4.Sd7 Sc6+! 5.Kxa6 f4 6.Sf6 f3 7.Se4 Kc2 8.Kb6 Se7 -) 4...f4 5.Sc5 (5.Sb4+ Kb3 6.Sd3 f3 -) 5...Sb7+! 6.Sxb7 f3 7.Sc5 f2 -) **1...Ka3** (1...Ka1 2.Bxa6 bxa6 3.b7 =) **2.Bxa6 bxa6 3.b7** (3.Kxa6? Kb4 4.b7 Sc5+ +-) **3...Sd8! 4.B8S!** (4.b8Q? Sc6+ +-) **4...f5 5.Sxa6!** (5.Sd7? Sf7! 6.Kxa6 f4 7.Sf6 f3 8.Se4 Kb2 -) **5...f4 6.Sc5!** (6.Sb4? Kb3 -) **6...Sb7+ 7.Sxb7 f3 8.Sd6! f2 9.Sc4+** = (9...Kb3 10.Sc3 =)



2nd Commendation - (Mario G. García & Peter S. Krug - E0311) It is a careful work: mainly by the chess program. The main lines are not equivalent in content and in quantities - the 'A' line is more valuable. The mate ending is good, but overall, the play is not interesting enough.

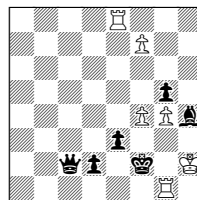
Solution: **1.Rf1!** (1.g5? h2 2.Rh4 Sxg5=) with the following lines: **A) 1...Bd5 2.Rd8 Bc4 3.Rg8+ Kh6 4.Rf2!** (4.Re8? Bg2 5.Rf5 Kg7=) **4...Bd5 5.Rd8 Bg2 6.Rf5 Kg7 7.Rh5!** [7.Rd7+? Kg8! 8.Rh5 (8.Kd2 h2 9.Rxh7 Kxh7 10.Rh5+ Kg6=) 8...Sf6 9.Rd8+ Kf7!=] **7...Sf6** (7...Bf3+ 8.Ke1 Bxg4 9.Rh4 Sf6 10.Rxd3 Kg6 11.Kf2 Kg5 12.Rh8+-) **8.Rh4 Se4** [8...Kg6 9.Kd2! Kg5 (9...Bf1 10.Rf8 Kg5 11.Rhh8 Kg6 12.Rc8 Kg5 13.Rc7 Kg6 14.Ra7 Bg2 15.g5+-) 10.Rhh8! Kxg4 (10...Se4+ 11.Kxd3+-) 11.Rdf8 Sh5 12.Rf2! (12.Rfg8+? Kh4 13.Rb8 h2=) 12...Kg3 (12...Bd5 13.Ke3+ (13.Kxd3? Sf4+ 14.Ke3 (14.Kd4 Kg3=) 14...Sg2+=)] 13.Rf5 Sf4 14.Ke3!+- (14.Rg5+? Kf2 15.Rf8 Kf3=)] **9.Ke1 d2+ 10.Ke2 Kg6 11.Ke3 Kg5** [11...Sf6 12.Kxd2! (12.Rxd2? Kg5 13.Rh8 Sxg4+=) 12...Kg5 13.Rhh8+-] **12.Rg8+ Kf6!** (12...Kxh4 13.Kf4 Sf6 14.Rh8+ Sh5+ 15.Rxh5#) **13.Rh6+ Kf7** (13...Ke5 14.Re8+-) **14.Rd8 Sf6 15.Kxd2! Sxg4 16.Rd7+ Ke8 17.Rhh7 Sf6 18.Rhe7+ Kf8 19.Rf7+** (19.Ra7? h2!-) **19...Ke8 20.Rde7+ Kd8 21.Ra7! h2** (21...Se8 22.Rh7+-) **22.Rxf6 h1Q 23.Rf8#.** **B) 1...h2 2.Rh1! Sg5 3.Kd2!** (3.R8xh2? Bxg4+=) **3...Bd5;** **a) 3...Sf3+ 4.Ke3!** (4.Kxd3? Se5+ 5.Ke4 Sxg4 6.Kf4 Bd5=) 4...Se5 (4...d2 5.Rd8 Se5 6.Kf4 Sd7 7.Ra1/b1+-) 5.Kf4! (5.Rd8? Kg5!-) 5...Sxg4 6.Rd8!+-; **b) 3...Se4+ 4.Ke3 Sg3 5.R1xh2 Sf1+ 6.Kf4 d2 7.R2h6+!** (7.R8h6+? Kf7=) 7...Kg7 8.Kg5! Bg8 (8...d1Q 9.R6h7#) 9.Rxg8+ Kxg8 10.Rd6!+-; **c) 3...Kg7 4.R8xh2 Sf3+ 5.Ke3 Sxh2 6.Rxh2+- 4.R1xh2!** (4.R8xh2? Bxh1 5.Rxh1 Sf7! 6.Kxd3 Se5+ 7.Ke4 Sxg4 8.Rg1 Kh5!-) **4...Sf3+ 5.Ke3! Sxh2 6.Rxh2 Be6 7.Kf4!+-;** **C) 1...Kg7 2.Rd8! Sf6** (2...Bxg4+ 3.Kd2 Be2 4.Rg1+-) **3.Rd6! Bb3+ 4.Ke1/c1 h2 5.Rdx6 h1Q 6.Rxh1 Kxf6 7.Rh5!** +-

3rd Commendation - (Vladislav Tarasyuk - E0317) A lovely study. Tarasyuk likes the foresight theme, but this study does not clearly show the theme by 7.e3! and 7.e4?, since the difference between the two lines is not small. **Solution:** **1.Bf4!** (1.gxh7? Sf6+ 2.Kf7 Sxh7 3.Bf4 Rf1! 4.e3 Sg5+ +, or 1.Bd6? hxg6 2.e5 Rxc4 +-) **1...Rxc4** [1...Rf1 2.gxh7 Sf6+ (2...Rh1 3.e5 Rxh7 4.e6 =) 3.Ke7! Sxh7 4.e3 Kb7 5.e5 =] **2.gxh7** (2.g7? Rxe4+ 3.Kd8 Sf6 +-) **2...Sf6+ 3.Kf7** (3.Kf8? Rc8+! 4.Kf7 Sxh7 5.Kg7 Sf8 +-) **3...Sxh7 4.Kg7** (4.Bh6? Rc6! +-) **4...Rxe4 5.Bh6 Re7+ 6.Kg6 Re7!** (6...Rd7 7.e4 Kb7 8.e5 Kc6 9.e6 Re7 10.Bg7 =) **7.e3!!** [7.e4? Kb7 8.e5 Kc6 9.e6 Kd5! 10.e7 Rxe7 11.Bg7 Ke6! (11...Sg5? 12.Bf6! =) 12.Kxh7 Kf7 13.Kh6 Re6+ +-] **7...Kb7 8.e4 Kc6 9.Bg7!** (9.e5? Kd5 10.Bg7 Sg5! 11.Kxg5 Rxg7 +-) **9...Sg5! 10.Be5! Re7 11.Bf6 =**

4th-5th Commendation - (Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely - E0301) It seems that the authors researched Q+R vs. two Queens material. It is clear that this is an EGTB work by chess program analysis. Nevertheless the game is interesting if you know the solution. **Solution:** **1...a1Q+!** (1...c1Q 2.Bc8+ Qxc8 3.Qh6+ Kb7 4.Rf7+ Ka8 5.Qh1 Qc4+ 6.Ke5 Qc3+ 7.Ke6 Qc6+ 8.Kf5 Qc2+ 9.Kg5 Qd2+ 10.Rf4 Ka7 11.Qa1 Kb6 12.Kf5 =) **2.Kxd5 c1Q** (2...Qa5+ 3.Ke4 Qe1+ 4.Kd5 Qd1+ 5.Ke5 Qe2+ 6.Kd6 c1Q 7.Qd7 Qd3+ 8.Ke7 Qxd7+ 9.Bxd7 = {EGTB}) **3.Bc8+!** (3.Bd7? Qa5+ 4.Ke6 Qc4+ 5.Ke7 Qab4+ 6.Kd8 Qd6 7.Qg7 Qcc7+ 8.Ke8 Qb8+ 9.Kf7 Qxd7+ + {EGTB}) **3...Qxc8 4.Qg6+** (4.Qh6+? Kb5 5.Ke4+ Kc4+ {EGTB})

4...Kb7 5.Rf7+ Kb8 (5...Ka8 6.Qg2 = {as main line}) **6.Qg3+** (6.Qb6+? Ka8 +- {EGTB}) **6...Ka8 7.Qg2!** (7.Qf3? Qac3 +- {EGTB}) **7...Qaa6** (7...Qb1 8.Kd4+ = {EGTB}, or 7...Qa3 8.Kd4+ Kb8 9.Qh2+ Ka8 10.Qg2+ = {EGTB}, or 7...Qa4 8.Kd6+ Kb8 9.Qb2+ Ka8 10.Qg2+ = {EGTB}) **8.Ke5+!** (8.Kd4+? Qac6 9.Qa2+ Q8a6 10.Rf8+ Kb7 11.Qf7+ Qc7 12.Qd5+ Qac6 +- {EGTB}) **8...Kb8** (8...Qac6 9.Qa2+ = {as main line}) **9.Qb2+ Ka8 10.Qg2+ Qac6** (10...Qcc6 11.Rf8+ Kb7 12.Rf7+ Kb6 13.Qxc6+ Kxc6 14.Rf6+ Kb5 15.Rxa6 = {EGTB}) **11.Qa2+ Q8a6 12.Rf8+ Kb7 13.Rf7+** (13.Qf7+? Qc7+ +- {EGTB}) **13...Kc8 14.Rf8+ Kc7** (14...Kd7 15.Qf7 #) **15.Rf7+ Kb6 16.Qxa6+** (16.Qb3+? Qab5+ +- {EGTB}, or 16.Qf2+? Qc5+ +- {EGTB}) **16...Kxa6 17.Rf6 =** (EGTB).

4th-5th Commendation
Michal Hlinka &
Luboš Kekely



Win (6+6)

4th-5th Commendation - (Michal Hlinka & Luboš Kekely - E0306) **Solution:** **1.f8Q!** (1.Rg2+ Kf1 2.f8Q Bf2 3.Rxe3 d1Q 4.fxg5 Qd6+ 5.Qxd6 Bg1+ 6.Kg3 Qxg2+ 7.Kh4 Qh1+ 8.Rh3 Bf2+ 9.Kh5 Qxh3+-) **1...Ke2** (1...Qc7 2.Rg2+ Kf1 3.Rxe3 d1Q 4.Rg1+ Kf2 5.Rxd1 Kxe3 6.Qa3+ Kxf4 7.Rc1 Qb8 8.Rc4+ Ke5 9.Kh3) **2.Rg2+** (2.Qa3 Bf2 3.Qa6+ Qd3 4.Qxd3+ Kxd3 5.Rd1 e2 6.Rd8+ Ke4 7.R8xd2 exd1Q 8.Rxd1 Kxf4 +-) (2.Qd6 Qa4 3.Rd8 Qxf4+ 4.Qxf4 gx4 5.Rg2+ Bf2 6.g5 f3 7.g6 fxg2 8.Kxg2 Bh4) **2...Bf2 3.Rxf2+ Kxf2 4.fxg5+ Ke2 5.Qf4** (5.Kg3 Qc7+ 6.Kg2 d1Q 7.Qf2+ Kd3 8.Rxe3+ Kc4) **5...d1Q 6.Rxe3+ Kd2** under the wheels of white battery **7.Rf3+ check from battery** (7.Ra3+ Ke2 8.Re3+ waste of time) **7...Ke1+ 8.Kg3** (8.Kh3 Qde2) **8...Qxf3+ 9.Kxf3** (9.Qxf3 Qd3 10.Kg2 (10.Qxd3 stalemate) 10...Qd2+ 11.Kg3 Qd3

12.Kf4 Qd6+ 13.Kf5 Qf8+ EGTB) **9...Qf2+ 10.Ke4 Qc2+ 11.Kd5 +-.**

We thank Peter for this timely award which stays open for three months. Please send comments to Franjo Vrabec.

Four of a Kind

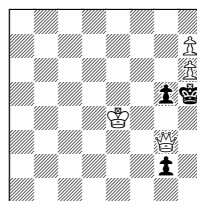
by Robert Lincoln

There is a special breed of problems which feature the so-called "elimination". The idea is that in one or more instances, none of the expected mates occur, but something new is introduced.

N°1 resorts to a bland key for soundness. **1.Kf5!** (2.Qh3, Qxg5, Qh2#) has threats rigorously separated following 1...g1Q (only 2.Qh3#), 1...g1S (only 2.Qxg5#), and 1...g4 (only 2.Qh2#). The real kicker is 1...Kxh6 which seeks to escape all harm. Unfortunately, this ambles into the waiting arms of 2.h8Q#.

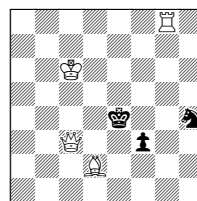
N°2 divides multiple threats into cyclic pairs. **1.Rg5!** (2.Re5, Qc4, Qe3#) is fragmented as 1...Sg2 2.Re5/Qc4#, 1...Sg6 2.Qc4/Qe3#, and 1...f2 2.Re5/Qe3#. The stopper comes thru 1...Sf5 which avoids the leading henchmen but succumbs to 2.Rg4#.

N°1 Robert Lincoln
Original



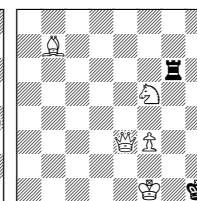
#2

N°2 Robert Lincoln
Original



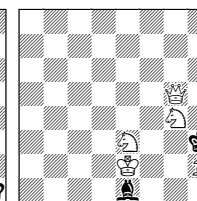
(4+3) #2

N°3 Robert Lincoln
Original



(4+3) #2

N°4 Robert Lincoln
Original



(5+2) #2

(5+2)

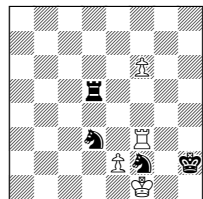
1.Qf4? (2.Qh4#) is a practical try for N°3. 1...Rh6 would allow 2.Qxh6#. However, three scoundrels can refute by 1...Rg3!, 1...Rg2!, or 1...Rg1+! The correct 1.Qf2! (2.Qh4#) will then punish 1...Rh6 with a tripled 2.Sg3/Qg2/Qg1#. Erstwhile spoilers are mowed down in succession: 1...Rg3 2.Sxg3#, 1...Rg2 2.Qxg2#, and 1...Rg1+ 2.Qxg1#. The elimination finale comes with 1...Rg4 2.fxg4#. Those thematic elements are conveniently labeled Kharkiv and Ivanov paradox I.

An illustration of Ivanov paradox II occurs in N°4. 1.Qf4! starts the ball rolling to snare 1...B~ via 2.Sf2/Qg3/Qh6#. Meticulous partitions are achieved after 1...Bf2 2.Sxf2#, 1...Bg3 2.Qxg3#, and 1...Kh4 2.Qh6#. An exacting 1...Bh4 denies the favored sequels but self-blocks to admit a finishing 2.Qf1#.

Recently Honored US Compositions

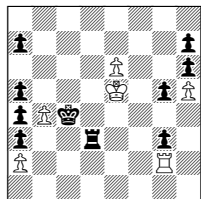
All solutions and comments have been obtained from magazines which originally published the awards, or from awarded composers.

N°1 Richard Becker
3rd Honorable Mention
Magyar Sakkvilag 2014



Win

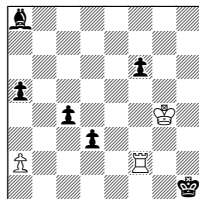
N°2 Richard Becker
Special Prize
Magyar Sakkvilag 2014



Win

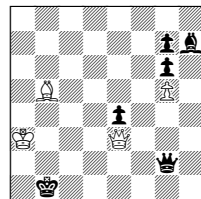
(4+4)

N°3 Richard Becker
4th Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2015



Draw

N°4 Richard Becker
1st Honorable Mention
Muradov-65 JT 2015



Win

(4+6)

N°1 1.f7! Rd8 2.f8Q! (2.exd3? Sxd3 3.Rxd3 Rxd3 4.f8Q Rf3+! 5.Qxf3 stalemate) **2...Rxf8 3.Rxf8 Kg3 4.Rf3+!** (4.Rg8+? Kf4 5.Re8 Kf5 zz 6.Re7 Kf6(Kf4) 7.Re8 Kf5 8.Kg2 Kf4 zz 9.Re7 Sg4 10.exd3 Se5 11.d4 Sc6 =) **4...Kg4 5.Rf7 Kg3 6.Rg7+ Kf4 7.Re7 zz Kf5 8.Re8 zz Kf4 9.Kg2 zz Sg4 10.exd3 Se5 11.d4 Sc6 12.d5 +-.**

N°2 1.b5! Re3+ 2.Kd6 Rd3+ 3.Kc6 Re3 4.Kd7 Rd3+ 5.Ke8 Re3 6.e7 Rf3 7.Kd7 Rd3+ 8.Ke6 Re3+ 9.Kf7 Rf3+ 10.Ke8 Re3 11.Rg1 g4 12.Rg2 Rf3 13.Kd7 Rd3+ 14.Ke6 Re3+ 15.Kf7 Rf3+ 16.Ke8 Re3 17.Rg1 g2 18.Rxg2 g3 19.Rg1 Rd3 20.Kf7 Rf3+ 21.Ke6 Re3+ 22.Kd7 Rd3+ 23.Ke8 Re3 24.Rc1+ Kd3 25.Kd7 Kd2 26.Rf1 Rd3+ 27.Ke6 Re3+ 28.Kf7 Kc2 29.e8Q Rxe8 30.Kxe8 Kb2 31.Rf7 Kxa2 32.Rxa7 Kb2 33.b6 a2 34.b7 a1Q 35.b8Q+ +-.

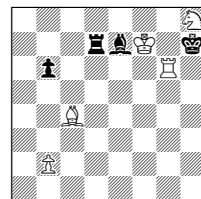
N°3 1.Kf4! c3 2.Ke3 d2 3.Ke2 Bc6 4.Rxf6 Bb5+ 5.Kf2 d1S+ 6.Ke1 Sb2 7.a4 Bc4 8.Rh6+ Kg2 9.Rg6+ Kf3 10.Rg3+ Kxg3 stalemate.

N°4 1.Be2! Kc2 2.Bc4 Kb1 3.Bb3 Qb2+ 4.Kb4 Qg2 5.Qe1+! (5.Ka4? Bg8 6.Bxg8 Qf3 7.Qxf3 exf3 8.Kb3 f2 9.Bc4 Kc1 10.Kc3 Kd1 11.Kd4 Kd2 12.Ke4 Ke1 13.Ke5 Kd2 14.Ke6 Ke3 15.Kf7 Kf4 16.Kxg6 Kg4 17.Bf1 Kf4 18.Be2 Ke3 19.Bc4 Kf4 =) **5...Kc2 6.Qc3+ Kb1 7.Qe3 Bg8 8.Bxg8 Qf3 9.Qxf3 exf3 10.Kc3 f2 11.Bc4 Kc1 12.Be2 +-.**

N°5 1.Bb5! Ra7 2.Rg7+ Kxh8 3.Kg6 Rc7 4.Be8 Bd8 5.Bd7 b5 6.b4! (6.b3? b4 zz 7.Rf7 Kg8 8.Rh7 Kf8 =) **6...Rc1 7.Rh7+ Kg8 8.Be6+ Kf8 9.Rf7+ Ke8 10.Bd7#.**

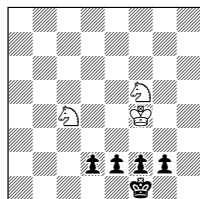
N°6 1.Se5! (1.Sxd2+? Ke1 2.Sf3+ Kd1 3.Se3+ Kc1 4.Sxg2 f1Q -+) **1...e1S 2.Sg3+ Kg1 3.Se2+ Kh1 4.Sg3+ Kh2 5.Sg4+ Kh3 6.Sxf2+ Kh4 7.Sf5+!** (7.Se2? Sd3+ 8.Ke3 Sxf2 -+) **7...Kh5 8.Sg3+ Kg6 9.Se2 Sd3+ 10.Ke3 Sxf2 11.Kxd2 Kf5 12.Ke3 =.**

N°5 Richard Becker
2nd Honorable Mention
Fokin-90 JT 2015



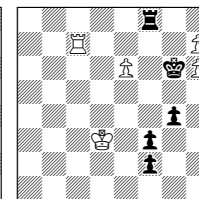
Win

N°6 Richard Becker
3rd Honorable Mention
Schach 2014-2015



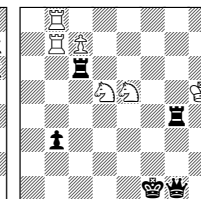
Draw

N°7 Richard Becker
& Mario Garcia
1st Prize, *Schach* '14-15



Draw

N°8 Victor Abermanj
2nd Prize
Problemist Ukraini '13-14



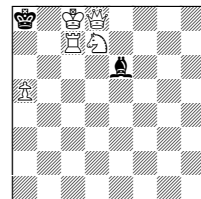
Draw

(6+5)

N°7 1.Rc1! Rc8 2.Ra1! (2.Rb1? Kxh7 3.Ke3 Kxh6 4.Kxf2 Rc2+ 5.Kg3 Rg2+ 6.Kf4 Kg7! 7.Kf5 f2 8.e7 Kf7 9.e8Q+ Kxe8 10.Ke6 Kd8 11.Kd6 Kc8 -+; 2h8Q? Rxc1! 3.Qg7+ Kf5 4.Qf8+ Kg5 5.Qe7+ Kh5 6.Qf7+ Kh4 7.Qf6+ Kh3 -+) **2...Kxh7 3.Ke3 Kxh6 4.Kxf2 Rc2+ 5.Kg3 Rg2+ 6.Kf4 Kg7** (6...Kg6 7.Re1 f2 8.e7! fxe1Q 9.e8Q+ Qxe8 stalemate) **7.Kf5 f2 8.e7 Kf7 9.e8Q+ Kxe8 10.Ke6 Kd8 11.Kd6 Kc8 12.Ke6 Kb8 13.Rb1+ Ka7 14.Ra1+ Kb8 15.Rb1+ =.**

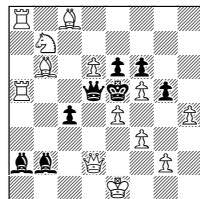
N°8 1.Rf8+!/i Ke2 2.Sxc6/ii Qg3 3.Sf4+/iii, and: 3...Ke1 4.Sg2+ Qxg2 5.Rxb3 Rg5+/iv 6.Kh6 Qg4/v 7.Rb1+/vi Kd2 8.Rd8+ Kc3/vii 9.Rb3+/viii Kxb3 10.Sd4+ Ka4 11.Ra8+ Kb4 12.Rb8+ Ka5 13.Sc6+ Ka4 14.Rb4 draws, or: 3...Kd2 4.Rd8+ Ke1 5.Sg2+ Qxg2 6.Rxb3 Rg5+ 7.Kh6 Rg6+/ix 8.Kh7 Rg7+/x 9.Kh8 Qxc6 10.Rb1+/xi Ke2 11.Rb2+ Ke3 12.Rb6+ Ke4 13.Rb4+ Ke5 14.Rb5+ Kf6 15.Rb6/xii Qxb6 16.e8Q Rh7+ 17.Kxh7 Qb1+ 18.Rd3 Qxd3+ 19.Kh8 draws. i) 1.Sxg4? Qh1+ 2.Kg5 Qxd5+ 3.Kh4 Qh1+ 4.Kg5 Rc5+ 5.Kf4 Rc4+ 6.Kg5 Qd5+ 7.Kh4 Qf5, or 1.Sxc6? Rg5+ 2.Kh6 Rg6+ 3.Kh7 Qg5 4.Rf8+ Kg1 wins. ii) 2.Sxg4? Qh1+ 3.Kg5 Qxd5+ 4.Rf5 Qg8+ 5.Kh4 Qh7+ 6.Rh5 Qe7+ 7.Rg5 Rc5 wins. iii) 3.Sd4+? Rxd4 4.Sf4+ Rxf4 5.Rxf4 Qh3+ 6.Kg5 Qg2+ wins. iv) Qe4 6.Re3+ Qxe3 7.Kxg4 draws. v) Rg6+ 7.Kh7, and: Rg7+ 8.Kh8 Qxc6 9.Kxg7 Qxc7+ 10.Rf7, or here: Qxc6 8.Rb1+ Ke2 9.Rb2 Ke3 10.Rb2 Ke4 11.Rb4+ Ke5 12.Rb5+ positional draw. vi) 7.Re8+? Kd2 8.Rd8+ Kc1 9.Rc3+ Kb2 10.Rc2 Kb1 11.Rh2 Rg6+ 12.Kh7 Rxc6 wins. vii) Kc2 9.Sd4+ Kxb1 10.Rb8+ draws. viii) 9.Rc1+? Kb2 10.Rc2 Kb1 wins. ix) Qg4 8.Rb1+ Kf2 9.Rb2 Kg1 10.Rb1+ draws. x) After 8...Qxc6 echo-play: 9.Rb1+ Ke2 10.Rb2 Ke3 11.Rb3+ Ke4 12.Rb4+ Ke5 13.Rb5+ Kf6 14.Rf5+/xiii Ke7 15.Re5+ Kf6 16.Rf5+ positional draw. Qe4 9.Re3+/xiv Qxe3 10.Kxg6 xi) 10.e8Q? Qh6+ mate. 10.Kxg7? Qxc7+ 11.Kg6 Qxd8 wins. xii) 15.Rf5+? Kg6, or 15.Rh5+? Kf6 21.Rg6+ Kf5 22.Rg5+ Kf4 23.Rg4+ Kf3 24.Rg3+ Rxg3 stalemate. xiii) Not 14.Rb6? Qxb 15.c8Q Rh6+ 16.Kxh6 Qe3+ wins. xiv) Not 9.Rb4? Qf5 10.Re8+ Re6+ wins, avoiding Kf2? 11.Rf4+ echo-sacrifice. "We see a multi-plan study with strategic directions, realizing complex interrelated ideas: a systematic maneuver, echo-play, stalemate, mutual sacrifices, logical maneuvers and a positional draw". (Judge: Eduard Eilazyan)

N°9 Robert Lincoln
3rd Honorable Mention
The Problemist 2015/1



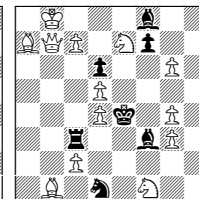
#2√..

N°10 Eugene Rosner
1st Commendation
The Problemist 2015/1



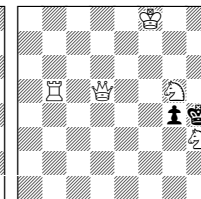
(5+2) #2√....

N°11 Eugene Rosner
4th Prize
The Problemist 2015/2



(13+8) #2√

N°12 Robert Lincoln
4th-5th Commendation
The Problemist 2015/2



(13+7) #2√...

(5+2)

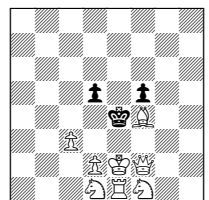
N°9 1.Qh8? (zz) Bf5/Bg4/Bh3!, 1.Qf8? (zz), 1...Bh3 2.Qf3#, 1...Bg4/Bf5!, 1.Qe8? (zz), 1...Bh3/Bg4 2.Qe4#, 1...Bf5!, **1.Qg8!** (zz), 1...Bf5/Bg4/Bh3 2.Qd5#, 1...Bxd7+ 2.Kxd7#, 1...B~ 2.Sb6#. Progressive reduction of refutations with changed mates and sacrificial key.

N°10 1.Bg1? (2.Bh2#), 1...exf5 2.Rxe5#, 1...g4!, 1.Bf2!? (2.Bg3#), 1...exf5 2.Rxd5#, 1...gxh4!, 1.Bc7!? (2.d7#), 1...Qa5 2.Rxa5#, 1...exf5 2.Rxd5#, 1...Ba3!, 1.d7? (2.Bc7#), 1...Qxa5 2.Rxa5#, 1...Ba3 2.Bd4#, 1...exf5!, 1.fxe6? (2.Rxd5#), 1...Qxa5 2.Rxa5#, 1...Qb5 2.Qxb5#, 1...Qc5 2.Rxc5#, 1...c3 2.Bd4#, 1...f5!, 1.g4? (2.Qh2#), 1...Qxa5 2.Rxa5#, 1...Bc1 2.Bd4#, 1...exf5 2.Rxd5#, 1...Bc3!, **1.Bxe6!** (2.Rxd5#), 1...Qxa5 2.Rxa5#, 1...Qb5 2.Rxb5#, 1...Qc5 2.Rxc5#, 1...c3 2.Bd4#. Changed defensive motives (from direct guard, unblock, pin and anticipatory shut-off) after 1...exf5, 1...Qa5 and 1...Qc5.

N°11 1.Sf5? (2.f4#), 1...Rc6 2.c4#, 1...Rd3 2.cxd3#, 1...Bh6 2.Sxd6#, 1...Rxc2 2.Bxc2#, 1...Bxg4!, **1.Qc8!** (2.Qf5#), 1...Rc5 2.c3#, 1...Rb3+ 2.cxb3#, 1...Se3 2.Sd2#, 1...fxg6 2.Qe6#, 1...Bxg4 2.Qxg4#. An Albino spread over two phases. An excellent, check-inducing, key-move.

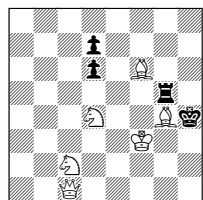
N°12 1.Qd3? (zz) g3!, 1.Qf7!? (zz), 1...g3 2.Rb4#, 1...gxh3!, 1.Qh1!? (zz), 1...g3 2.Sf2#, 1...Kh5 2.Sf4#, 1...Kg3!, 1.Qd4!? (zz) Kh5!, **1.Qf5!** (zz), 1...g3 2.Sf3#, 1...gxh3 2.Qxh3#, 1...Kg3 2.Qf2#, 1...Kh5 2.Qh7#. A rich changed play with try corrections. Black is able to fight off four "wrong" moves.

N°13 Steven Dowd
1st Honorable Mention
Problemiste 2013



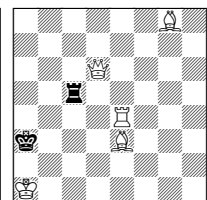
s#9*

N°14 Steven Dowd
2nd Commendation
Problemiste 2013



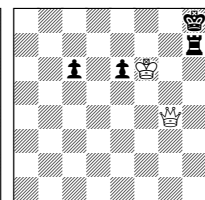
(8+3) s#9

N°15 Steven Dowd
3rd Commendation
Problemiste 2013



(6+4) s#10

N°16 Richard Becker
Prize, Section for minis
ChessStar.com 2013



(5+2) #12 (2+4)

N°13 1...d4 2.c4 d3#; **1.Sde3!** d4 2.cxd4 Kxd4 3.Rc1 Ke4 4.Rc5 Kd4 5.Sd1+ Ke4 6.Qg3 Kd4 7.Be3+ Ke4 8.Qe1 f4 9.Bf2 f3#. Fata Morgana selfmate with capturing of the mating piece and change of mate.

N°14 **1.Qf4!** d5 2.Ke3 d6 3.Se2 d4+ 4.Kd3 d5 5.Se3 dxe3 6.Kc2 d4 7.Kd1 d3 8.Bf3+ Kh3 9.Sg1+ Rxg1#. Nice play with the white King trip and an interesting mate.

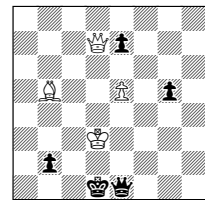
N°15 **1.Bh7!** Kb3 2.Qd3+ Rc3 3.Qb5+ Ka3 4.Qa5+ Kb3 5.Qb4+ Kc2 6.Rd4+ Rd3 7.Qd2+ Kb3 8.Bg8+ Ka3 9.Qc3+ Rxc3 10.Bc1+ Rxc1#. After an ambush key and some white maneuvering, this miniature ends with a model mate.

N°16 **1.Qb4!** (1.Qf4? Rb7! 2.Qg3 Rd7; 1.Qe4?/Qd4?/Qc4? Rg7!; 1.Qg3? Rb7! 2.Qa3 Rc7 zz 3.Qb4 Rd7 zz) 1...Rd7 2.Qb8+ Kh7 3.Qb1+ Kh8 4.Qb4 zz e5 5.Qa3 Rc7 6.Qh3+ Kg8 7.Qb3+ Kh7 8.Qd3+ e4 9.Qh3+ Kg8 10.Qg3+ Kh7 11.Qxc7+ Kh6/Kg8 12.Qh2/Qg7#. Queen and Rook play a cat-and-mouse game with predictable outcome. Good tries.

N°17 **1.Ba4+!** Kc1 2.Qc6+ Kb1 3.Bc2+ Kc1 4.Bb3+ Kb1 5.Qg2 g4 6.e6 zz g3 7.Qf3 Ka1 8.Qa8+ Kb1 9.Ba2+ Ka1 10.Bd5+ Kb1 11.Qa2+ Kc1 12.Qc4+ Kb1 13.Qc2+ Ka1 14.Qa4+ Kb1 15.Ba2+ Ka1 16.Bb3+ Kb1 17.Bc2+ Kc1 18.Qf4+ Qe3+ 19.Qxe3#; 5...Kal 6.Qa8+ Kb1 7.Ba2+ Ka1 8.Bf7+(Bg8+). Good maneuvering by the white Queen and Bishop.

N°18 **1.Rh1! h5 2.Rh4 Rh6 3.Kf7 Kh7 4.a3!** (4.a4? Kh8 zz 5.a5 Kh7 zz 6.Ra4 Ra6 =) **4...Kh8 5.a4 zz Rh7+ 6.Kg6 Rc7 7.Re4 Rc6+ 8.Kxh5 Rc5+ 9.Kg6 Rc6+ 10.Kf5(Kf7) Rc5+(Rc7+) 11.Kf6 Rc6+ 12.Re6 Rc4 13.a5 Ra4 14.a6 +-.**

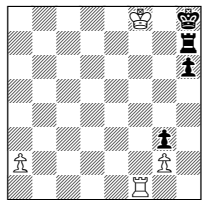
N°17 Richard Becker
2nd Prize, Section for #7+
ChessStar.com 2013



#19

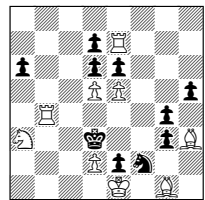
(4+5)

N°18 Richard Becker &
luri Akobiat, 1st H.M.
ChessStar.com 2014



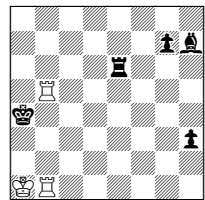
(4+4)

N°19 Rauf Aliovsadzade
7th Commendation
Rudenko-MT 2016



#3*

N°20 Richard Becker
4th Honorable Mention
ChessStar.com 2014



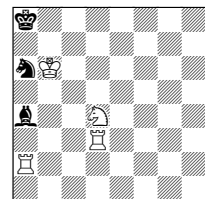
(9+10)

Win (3+5)

N°19 1...gxh3 2.Rf7 ~ 3.Rf3#, 1...h4 2.Bxg4 ~ 3.Bxe2#; **1.Bg2!** (2.Be4+ Sxe4 3.Rd4#), 1...exd5 2.exd6 ~/d4/Sd1 3.Re3/Rb3/Rd4#, 1...dxe5 2.Rxd7 ~/exd5/Se4 3.dxe6/Rxd5 Bxe4#. Random change with mutual captures in both phases.

N°20 **1.R1b4+! Ka3 2.Rb3+ Ka4 3.R5b4+ Ka5 4.Rb8 Ka4 5.Rb2 Re1+ 6.Ka2 Re5 7.R2b4+!** (7.Ra8+? Ra5 8.Rh8 Rh5 9.Rb3 Bb1! -+) **7...Ka5 8.Rb3 Re2+ 9.Ka3 Re6 10.Ra8+ Ra6 11.Rh8 Bg6 12.Rb4 h2 13.Rhb8 Rb6 14.R8xb6 Be8 15.Rb7 Ka6 16.R4b6+ Ka5 17.Rb1 +-.**

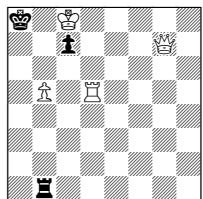
N°21 Robert Lincoln
4th Commendation
Problem Forum 2014



#2√.

(4+3)

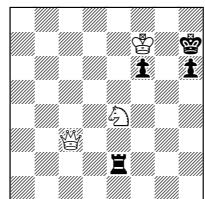
N°22 Robert Lincoln
3rd-4th H.M. *Problemist*
Ukraini 17th TT 2016



#2*√

(4+3)

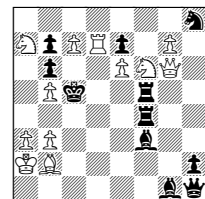
N°23 Robert Lincoln
6th-9th Comm., *Problemist*
Ukraini 17th TT 2016



#2√.

(3+4)

N°24 Rauf Aliovsadzade
& Kenan Veilkanov
5th-6th Prize
E.Abdullayev-30 JT 2016



#3

(12+11)

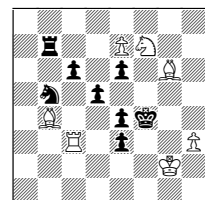
N°21 1.Sc6? Sb8!; 1.Se6? Bd7!; **1.Sb5!** (zz), 1...S~B~/Kb8/Sb8 2.Rd8/Rd8/Rd8/Sc7#. "A plausible illustration of the Lincoln theme with enhancements where threat and defense augment the half-pin." (Judge: G. Schaffner)

N°22 1...c6 2.Qb7!; 1.Qf6? (2.Qa6#) c6!; **1.Rd6!** (2.Ra6#), 1...cxd6 2.Qb7#, 1...Ra1 2.Qxa1#.

N°23 1.Qc8? (2.Qg8/Sxf6#) h5!; 1.Qg3? (2.Qg7/Qg8#) Rg2!; **1.Sg5+!** Kh8 2.Qxf6#, 1...fxg5 2.Qg7#, 1...hxg5 2.Qh3#

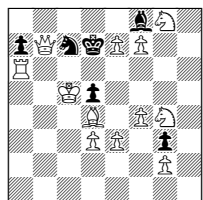
N°24 **1.Qg3!** (2.Se4+ Rxe4/Bxe4 3.c8Q/Qc3#), 1...Rd4 2.Rd5+ R(any)xd5/Bxd5 3.c8Q/Sd7#, 1...Bd5 2.Qc3+ Bc4/Rc4 3.Qb4/b4#, 1...exf6 2.c8Q+ Bc6 3.Qf8#, 1...Rxf6 2.Qg5+ R6f5/R4f5/Bd5 3.Qxe7/Qc1/c8Q#.

N°25 R. Aliovsadzade
& A. Tsalpin, 5th H.M.
E.Abdullayev-30 JT 2016



#3

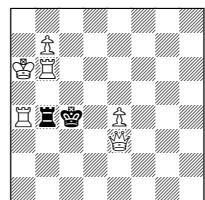
N°26 Steven Dowd
2nd Honorable Mention
feenschach 2014



s#10*

(12+6)

N°27 S.Dowd & H.Tanner
Sp. Honorable Mention
feenschach 2014

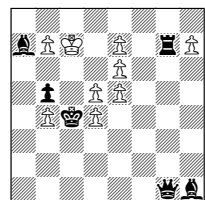


#12*

b) a1=a8

(6+2)

N°28 George P. Sphicas
1st Prize
feenschach 2014



ser-s=25

(9+6)

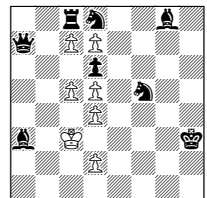
N°25 1.Ra3! (2.Be1 ~ 3.Bg3#), 1...e2 2.Bd2+ e3 3.Bxe3#, 1...S~ 2.Bd6+ e5 3.Bxe5#, 1...Rxe7 2.Bxe7 ~ 3.Bg5#.

N°26 1...Bxe7+ 2.Rd6+ Bxd6#, 1...Bg7 2.Se5+ Bxe5 3.Rd6+ Bxd6#, 1...Bh6 2.e8R Bg5 3.Sf6+ Bxf6 4.Se5+ Bxe5 5.Rd6+ Bxd6#; **1.exf8B!** Kd8 2.Bf6+ Kd7 3.Qc6+ Kc8 4.d4 Kb8 5.Bd6 Kc8 6.Se5 Kb8 7.Sd3 Kc8 8.Sb4 Kb8 9.Qe8+ Kb7 10.Rb6+ axb6#. The key captures Black's Bishop, the piece which mates in set-play! (White has no tempo move). The rest is routine.

N°27 a) 1...Rxa4#; **1.e5!** Kd5 2.Rd6+ Kc4 3.Qd3+ Kc5 4.Qc3+ Rc4 5.Qe3+ Rd4 6.Rd7 Kc6 7.b8S+ Kc5 8.Qa3+ Rb4 9.Ka5 Kc4 10.Qd3+ Kc5 11.Sa6+ Kc6 12.Qb5+ Rxb5#; **b)** 1...Rxd8#; **1.Qc5+!** Ke6 2.Re8+ Re7 3.Qc4+ Kd6 4.Rf6+ Kd7 5.Qb5+ Kc7 6.Rc6+ Kd7 7.Rc5+ Kd6/Ke6 8.Qb6+ Kd7 9.Qd8+ Ke6 10.Qd5+ Kf6 11.g8S+ Kg6 12.Qf7+ Rxf7#.

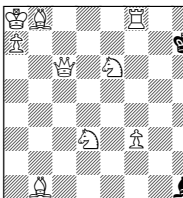
N°28 1.h8R 2.Ra8 3.b8B 5.Kxa7 7.d7 8.e8S 9.e7 10.d8B 11.Ba5 12.Sc7 13.e8R 15.Ra6 18.e8R 20.Reb6 24.d8Q 25.Qd3+ Kxd3= AUW plus three with four white pieces caged and two pinned.

N°29 George P. Sphicas
2nd Prize
feenschach 2014



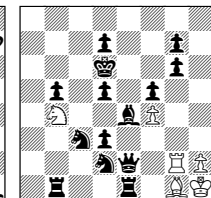
ser-s=29 (7+8) s#7

N°30 Steven Dowd
1st Honorable Mention
Zadachy i etyudi 2013



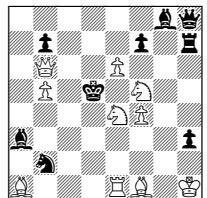
(9+2) h#3 b) Pd5→g4 (6+14) #2*√

N°31 Kostas Prentos
2nd Prize, St.-Germain-au-Mond-d'Or 2016



(10+9)

N°32 Robert Burger & Marjan Kovačević
1st Prize
Phénix 2012-13



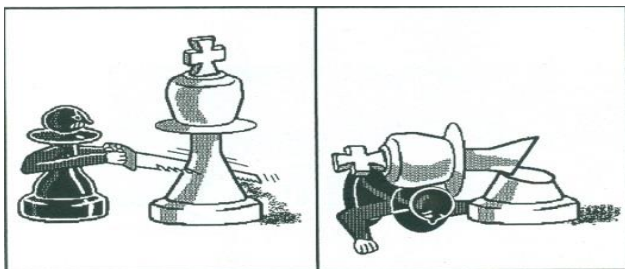
(10+9)

N°29 1.cxd8B 2.Ba5 3.d8Q 4.Qc7 5.cxd6 7.d8R 9.Rb6 12.d8R 13.Rd5 14.Rdb5 18.d8R 19.Rd4 20.Rdb4 22.d5 24.Kc5 27.d8S 28.Sc6 29.Qh2+ Kxh2= AUW plus two ending with three white pieces pinned and two caged.

N°30 1.Qd5! (zz), 1...Bg2 2.Se5+ Kh6 3.Qd2+ Kh5 4.Sg7+ Kh4 5.Rh8+ Kg3 6.Sd3+ Kxf3 7.Qe2+ Kxe2#, 1...Kg6/Kh6 2.Qg5+ Kh7 3.Rf7+ Kh8 4.Qf6+ Kg8 5.Rg7+ Kh8 6.Rg2+ Kh7 7.f4 Bxg2#, (1...Bxf3 2.Qe4+ Kh6 3.Bf4+ Kh5 4.Rh8+ Kg4 5.Bb8+ Bxe4#). Two variations with different mates. Good use of white batteries.

N°31 a) 1.Rec1 Sc6 2.Sd1 Bb6 3.Sf3 Rxc6#, **b)** 1.Bc6 Sa6 2.Sd5 Rxe2 3.Sf1 Bc5#. In each phase Black has to unpin two white pieces.

N°32 1...Qc3[a]/Qf6[b]/Be7/Bd6 2.Sxc3/Sxf6/Sxe7[A]/Qxd6#[B]; 1.Sd2? (2.Se3#[C]), 1...Sd1/Sc4/Bd6/Bc5/Qe5/Qd4 2.Bc4/Bxc4/Qxd6[B]/Qxb7/Rxe5/Qxd4#, 1...Qc3[a]!; 1.Sed6!? {2.Se7#[A] (2.Se3[C]?)}, 1...fxe6/f6/Bxd6/Bc5/Qe5 2.Se3[C]/Qd4/Qxd6[B]/Qxb7/ Rxe5#, 1...Qf6[b]!; **1.Sc5!** {2.Qd6#[B] (2.Se7[A]?, 2.Se3[C]?)}, 1...Sd3/Sc4/Bxc5/Qe5 2.Se3[C]/Se7[A]/Qxb7/Rxe5#. A complex three-phase twomover with white correction in tries, dual avoidance in threats and a plethora of mates.



Instant Karma

Problems published in this section are eligible for the year 2017 competition. Please send your originals to the individual editors. All solutions and comments are due by 11/15/2017 and should be sent to the Solutions Editor. Solutions and comments are preferred by email, although regular mail solutions and comments will be accepted as always.

TWOMOVERS

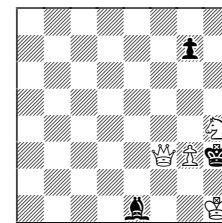
Editor: **Eugene Rosner**, Judge: **Wieland Bruch**

It is indeed a joy to have nine original problems once again for solving. We start this issue with a problem from the master of miniatures, the focus of which is on one Black defense which involves two kinds of changes. Yet another WCCT example awaits our solvers in Vasyly's **T0949**, this time featuring double threat, Dombrovskis effects, and of course, ample changed play.

Marco presents a cycle of threats and mates in a light setting, and Evgeny keeps things equally economical (literally!) and "capricious" with an original featuring the theme of the 2013 Moscow Championship. Note the splendid construction (no wPs!) in Klaus' **T0952**, while two Russian composers (both quite familiar to our solvers!) team up, fusing double threat and Dombrovskis effects (again!!) with Makhivovi, Erokhin, and Rudenko-threat correction. A copy of the recently published *Encyclopedia of Chess Problems* would really come in handy now.

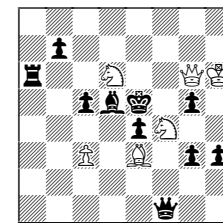
Hubert sends us **T0954**, inspired by a problem theme encountered during his 2015 SG judging work. I can all-but-guarantee solver enjoyment in John's **T0955**, which will certainly go a long way in justifying your 2017 subscription! A complex affair concludes the proceedings. Take particular note of what is happening on f4 & c5.

T0948 Robert Lincoln
Little Egg Harbor, NJ



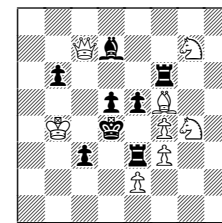
#2√. (4+3)

T0949 Vasyly Dyachuk
Slovakia



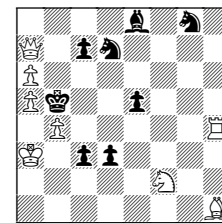
#2√. (6+10)

T0950 Marco Guida
Italy



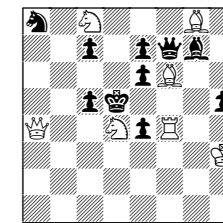
#2√. (8+8)

T0951 Evgeny Permyakov
Russia



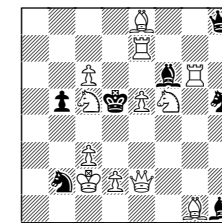
#2*√ (8+8)

T0952 Klaus Förster
Germany

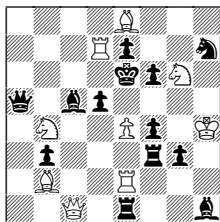


#2*√ (7+10)

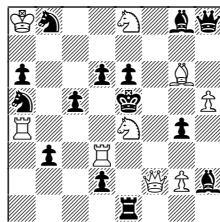
T0953 Pavel Murashev & Valery Shanshin
Russia



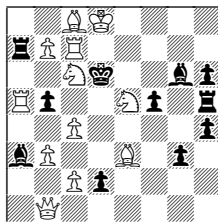
#2*√. (12+7)

T0954 Hubert Gockel
Germany

#2√ (9+13)

T0955 John Rice
England

#2√... (9+14)

T0956 Emanuel Navon
Israel

#2√... (12+11)

SG77 (January-March 2017) Solutions – TWOMOVERS

Comments from: Bob Bua (BB), Romuald Lazowski (RL)

T0936 (Lincoln) 1...e6 2.Qf8#; 1.Qg3? (2.Qg6/Qg8#) e6!; 1.Qb3? (2.Qg8#) Sc4!; **1.Qa6!** (2.Qg6#), 1...e6 2.Qxe6# A pleasing setting in a miniature of the Barnes theme with good refutations and change for 1...e6.

T0937 (Barnes) 1...dxc6 2.Rb5#; **1.Bxd7!** (2.Rb5#), 1...Kd5 2.Qf5#, 1...Qd5+ 2.Rb7#, 1...Qh1+ 2.e4#, 1...e5 2.Qf8#. Barry returns to his beginnings! Two fine cross-checks introduced with a fine flight-giving, thematic key.

T0938 (Moen/Shire) 1.S5~? (2.Qxd6#), 1...Re5 2.Qd3#, 1...Be5 2.Qf3#, 1...Re6 2.Bxb7#, 1...Rg8 2.Qxg8#, 1...Sxc7!; 1.Sf7? (2.Qxd6#) (extra guard on d6) Rg8! (2.Qxg8#); 1.Sc6? (2.Qxd6#), 1...Sxc7 2.Sb4#, 1...Re6! (2.Bxb7#); **1.Sd3!** (2.Qxd6#), 1...Sxc7 2.Sb4#, 1...Re5 2.Sf4#. White correction with self-obstructing tries and key. Novotny in the set-play, Grimshaw in the tries, and changed mate after 1...Re5. *1.Sf1 is a good try (BB), Good tries and self-blocks (RL).*

T0939 (Murashev) 1...Sd~[a] 2.exf4#[A], 1...Sf5 2.Sf7#[B]; 1.Rxf4? (2.Sf7#[B]), 1...Sd~[a] 2.Bf6#, 1...Sxf4! 2.exf4#[A], 1...Sxe3!; 1.Se4? (2.Qe6#), 1...Sd~[a] 2.Qf6# - thematic mate 1...Kf5 2.Qe6#, 1...Sb4!; **1.e4!** (2.Sf7#), 1...Sd~[a] 2.Qc3# - thematic mate, 1...Qxa4 2.Qxd5#, (1...Bxe4 2.Rxe4#, 1...Qc4 2.Saxc4#). Anticipatory unpin WQx2, changed mates 4x1(1...Sd~), black correction. *Vladimirov theme (RL).*

T0940 (Gasparyan) a) 1.Qe8? (2.Sf5#) Ra5/Rg7!; 1.Qe6/Qg1? Ra5/Rg7!; **1.Qb3!** (2.Bxd2#), 1...S~/Bd3/Bxf3/Bd5 2.Sg4/exd3/exf3/Sf5#; b) 1.Qb3/Qg1/Qe8? Ra2/Rg7/Rg7!; **1.Qe6!** (2.Sf5#), 1...S~/Be5 2.Sg4/Bxd2#; c) 1.Qb3/Qe6? Ra2/Ra5!; **1.Qg1!** (2.Sg4#) Bxf3/Bf5 2.exf3/Sxf5#. In each solution White pins a black unit. The nice part about the twinning is that it forces you to see the tries and their refutations, which might be missed in a traditional form.

T0941 (Shire) 1.Re5? (2.Qxe3#), 1...Bc3/Bd3/Sf1/Qxf4/Qxe5 2.Qxc3/Qc5/Re4/Re4/Bxe5#, 1...gxf4!; 1.Sd6? (2.Sc6#), 1...Bc3/Bxb5/Bf3/Sxd6 2.Qxc3/Sxb5/Rc4/Qxd6#, 1...e7!; 1.Sxg5? (2.Sxe6#), 1...Bc3/Bc4/e5/Qe5 2.Qxc3/Sc6/Rd5/Bxe5#, 1...Qxg7!; **1.Se5!** (2.Qc5#), 1...Se4/Qxe5/Qe7(Qf8)/Bc4 2.Sc6/Bxe5/Sf3/Rxc4#. A good solving problem with plenty of variations. There is a change for 1...Bc4 and a transfer for 2.Rc4#. The outlying Knight has two viable tries, good refutations throughout and an alternative unpin try. 2.Qc5, Sc6 are threats and variations, so there is a threat correction element here as well.

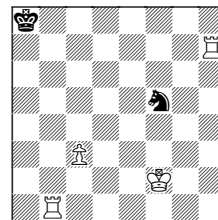
THREEMOVERS

Editor: Rauf Aliovsadzade, Judge: Kenan Velikhanov

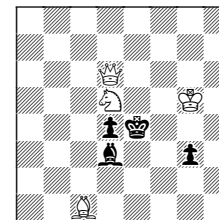
A warm welcome to the well-known composers Alexander Fica (Czechia) and Zoltán Labai (Slovakia) and to the young Alana Utarova from Russia who turned fifteen on June, 28. Happy Birthday, Alana!

After a very long hiatus we are glad to have Michael Lipton back. His **M1454** has twins: b) Pc3→d5 and c) = b) and Kf2→h3. **M1458** & **M1461** are studies on model mates. **M1465** is an extraordinary piece of work. Six variations are centered around the same square. Stanislav's **M1466** has some logic.

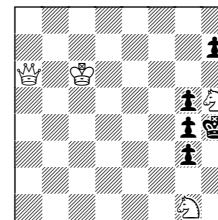
Alexander Derevchuk, Chief Editor, *Chorno-Bili Stejini*, (a Ukrainian chess composition magazine) has two originals here. The 24-piece strong **M1468** by Ramo sounds like a task. There are several en passant moves! What is the key here?

M1454 Michael Lipton
England

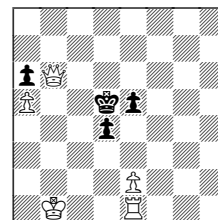
#3√... (see text) (4+2)

M1455 Vladimir Kozhakin
& Evgeniya Konechnykh
Russia

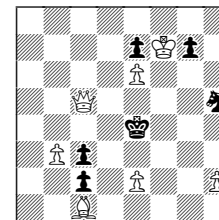
#3√ (4+4)

M1456 Alana Utarova
Russia

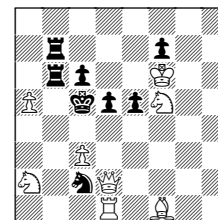
#3 (4+5)

M147 Alexander Dashkovsky
Ukraine

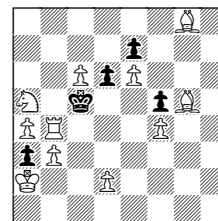
#3 (5+4)

M1458 Alexander Dashkovsky
Ukraine

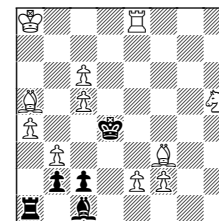
#3 (7+6)

M1459 Aydan Huseynzade
Azerbaijan

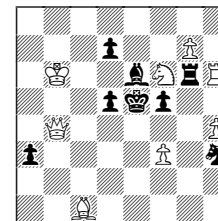
#3 (8+8)

M1460 Alexander Derevchuk
Ukraine

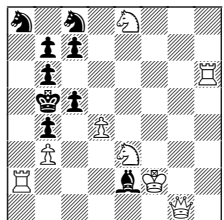
#3√ (11+5)

M1461 Alexander Fica
& Zoltán Labai
Czechia/Slovakia

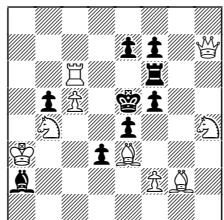
#3 (11+5)

M1462 Alexander Spakovsky
Russia

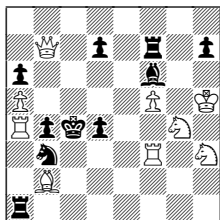
#3* (8+8)

M1463 Ramo Ljevaković
Bosnia-Herzegovina

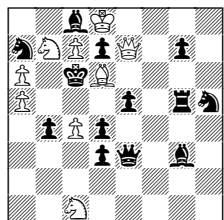
#3 (8+9)

M1464 Leonid Lyubashevsky
& Leonid Makaronez
Israel

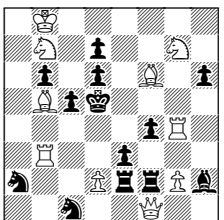
#3 (9+9)

M1465 Valery Kirillov
& Felix Rossomakho
Russia

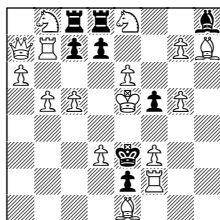
#3 (9+10)

M1466 Stanislav Vokál
Slovakia

#3√ (9+13)

M1467 Alexander Derevchuk
Ukraine

#3 (10+13)

M1468 Ramo Ljevaković
Bosnia-Herzegovina

#3 (16+8)

SG77 (January-March 2017) Solutions – THREEMOVERS

Comments from: Author (A), Bob Bua (BB), Romuald Lazowski (RL), Radovan M. Tomašević (RT)

M1418 (Shmatov) **1.Sd8!** (zz), 1...Kc7 2.Qc6+ Kb8/Kxd8 3.Qb7/Qd7#, 1...Ke7 2.Qd5 Kxf6/Kf8 3.Qg5/Qf7#. *Nice aristocratic miniature (RL).*

M1419 (Shmatov) 1.Qg8? (zz), 1...K~ 2.Rd5+ Kf6/Kf4 3.Qg6/Qg3#, 1...Kf3 2.Qg3+ Ke2 3.Re1#, 1...e3!; **1.Sh2!** (zz), 1...Ke3 2.Qxe4+ Kf2 3.Qf3#, 1...Ke5 2.Sc4+ Kf4 3.Rf1#. *Three-phased change of play (A), Good problem with changed mates (RL). Anticipated by Y. Bogdanov, Kazatska Shakhivnitsa, 2006: wKg1, Qe6, Rb1, Sd1, Pf5; bKd4, Pc4, #3, 1.Sf2! (Reported by K. Velikhanov).*

M1420 (Shmatov) **1.Sf5!** (2.Qf6+ K~ 3.Qd4#), 1...d4 2.Qxd4 Ke6 3.Qd6#, 1...f2 2.Qg3+ Ke4 3.Qe3#. *BPh6 stops the dual in threat (A).*

M1421 (Kravtsov) **1.Ba5!** (2.Bd2+ Kxd4 3.Qd6#), 1...Kxd4 2.Qd6+ Ke3 3.Bd2#, 1...Kf4 2.Qg6 ~/Ke3 3.Bd2/Qe4#.

M1422 (Tsaplin) **1.Qb6!** (zz), 1...S~ 2.Qxd6+, 1...B~ 2.Qxc6+, 1...g4 2.Qe3+. *Switchbacks by the bb (RL).*

M1423 (Grishechkina) 1.Bd4? f4!; 1.Bg7? f6!; **1.Bf6!** (zz), 1...Kf4 2.Bd4 Ke4 3.Qe3#, 1...d4 2.Bc6+ Kf4 3.Qf3#, 1...f4 2.Bf5+ Kxf5 3.Qe5#. *Good logic (RL).*

M1424 (Ljevaković) **1.Bf6!** (zz), 1...Kxc6 2.d8R Kb6 3.Rd6#, 1...Ke6 2.d8S+ Kd5 3.Sge3#, 1...Ke4 2.d8Q Kf3 3.Qd3#, 1...Kc4 2.Sb2+ Kd5 3.Sf4#. *Too bad 2.d8B doesn't follow 1...Kc4 (RT).*

M1425 (Kostylev/Melnichuk) Thematic try: 1.Sd3? (2.Rf4#), 1...Rg4 2.Sxb4 ~/Bxb4/Bb5 3.Bd3/Rd4[A]/Bd5[B]#, 1...Be3!; **1.Ba2!** (2.Bb1+ c2 3.Bxc2#), 1...c2 2.Rd4+![A] Bxd4 3.Sd2#, 1...Bb5 2.Bd5+![B] Rxd5 3.Sxg3#. *Try mates show up as second moves in solution (1...b3 2.Sd1 ~/Bb4 3.Sxc3/Rd4#). Non-thematic try: 1.Be6? (2.Bf5+ Rxf5 3.Sxg3#), 1...Bf2! (A).*

M1426 (Chandrasekaran) 1.Sb4? fxe6+!; 1.Sc7? fxg6+!; **1.Sc5!** (zz), 1...fxe6+ 2.Scxe6 Kxe3 3.Rd3#, 1...fxg6+ 2.Sxg6 Kg2 3.Sh4#, 1...f6 2.Rd3 fxg5 3.e4#. *Outstanding variations (BB), Good logical play (RL).*

M1427 (Lyubashevsky/Makaronez) 1.fxe7? Bxe7!; 1.Bg3? Rh4!; **1.Bf4!** (2.Re5+ Kd6 3.Rxe7#), 1...Rh4 2.fxe7 ~/Bxe7/Rxe7/Rxd5 3.exf8S/Qxg8/Qg6/xf8Q#, 1...Rxd5 2.Bg4+ Rf5 3.d5#, 1...Sxd4 2.Re1+ Se2+ 3.Rxe2#. *Excellent problem (BB), Pin-mates and Indian theme (RL).*

M1428 (Shpakovsky) 1.f3? (2.Sg4+ hxg4 3.Qxe4#), 1...fxe3 2.Qh4 (3.Qxe4, Qxh2#) 2...exf3/Bf4+ 3.Qxd4/Qxf4#, 1...dxe3 2.d4+ exd3 (e.p.) 3.Qxc3#, 1...Bc6!; **1.d3!** (2.Sg4+ hxg4 3.Qxe4#), 1...fxe3 2.Qxe3 (3.Qxe4/Qxd4#); 2...dxe3/Bf4+ 3.d4/Qxf4#, 1...Bc6 2.Qxc3 ~/dxc3 3.Qxd4/d4#. *Change of play, change of function (A).*

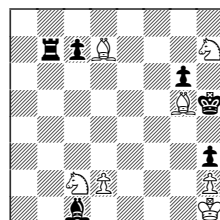
M1429 (Almammadov) **1.Bh5!** (2.Qf8 & 3.Qb8#), 1...Se6 2.Qd2 ~ 3.a4#, 1...Re3 2.Bd1 ~ 3.Ba4#. *Mates from the same square with different pieces (1...d5 2.Qxc6+ Kxc6 3.Be8#) (A).*

Moremovers & Studies

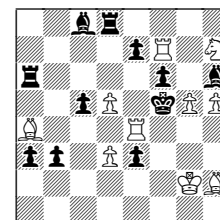
Moremovers Editor: **Richard Becker**, Studies Editor: **Franjo Vrabec**
Judges, Moremovers: **Mike Prcic**, Studies: **Mario Guido Garcia**

Moremovers. Rauf's problem demonstrates a popular form of mutual interference. We thank Carsten Ehlers for contributing his late brother's five-mover. Rainer's problem demonstrates another popular form of mutual interference. Nice battery play in Alexander's problem is followed by some concentrated logic in Olivier's six-mover. To solve the final two long moremovers, you must find ways to remove the many obtrusive pawns.

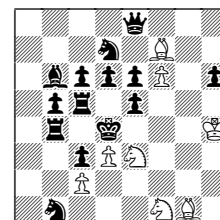
Studies. **E0327** This study will fit perfectly in Kasparyan's book *Domination*. **E0328** A two-Pawn advantage is usually sufficient for a win. However, here the Pawns are used to lead black pieces to certain squares. **E0329** Look for a stalemate. **E0330** White Rb3 and black Ra4 are liabilities. Black threatens stalemate, but White makes a point at the end. **E0331** The newcomer, Fabio Magini, debuts with a romantic study in Koroljko's style.

M1469 Rauf Aliovsadzade
Lincoln, NE

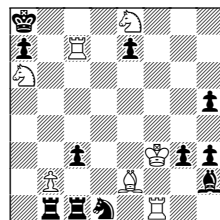
#4 (7+6)

M1470 Rainer Ehlers†
Germany

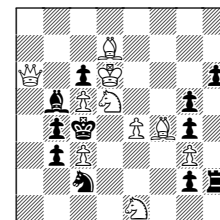
#5√ (10+11)

M1471 Alexander Pankratyev
Russia

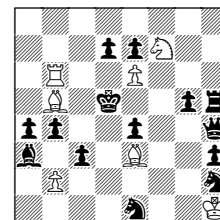
#5 (8+14)

M1472 Olivier Schmitt
France

#6√ (7+11)

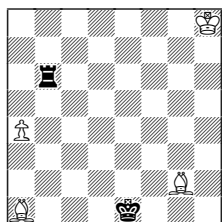
M1473 Mikhail Kostylev
Russia

#14 (10+11)

M1474 Olivier Schmitt
France

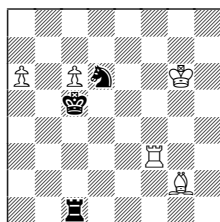
#20 (7+14)

E0327 Daniel Keith
& Pavel Arestov
France/Russia



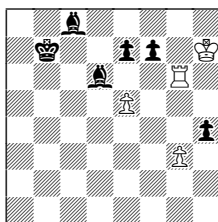
Win (4+2)

E0328 David Gurgenidze
& Martin Minski
Georgia/Germany



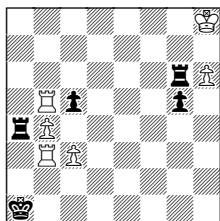
Win (5+3)

E0329 Luboš Kekely
& Michal Hlinka
Slovakia



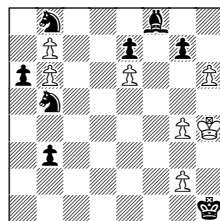
Draw (4+6)

E0330 Vladimir Samilo
Ukraine



Win (6+5)

E0331 Fabio Magini
Italy



Draw (7+8)

SG77 (January-March 2017) Solutions – MOREMOVERS & STUDIES

Comments from: Romuald Lazowski (RL)

M1430 (Kostylev/Melnichuk) 1.Re1? c3!; 1.Qg1? e5!; **1.Re2!** (2.Ba3+ Kd5 3.Be4+ Ke5 4.Bxc6#), 1...gxf3 2.Ba3+ Kd5 3.Be4+ Ke5 4.Bxf3#, 1...c3 2.Bb3 d3 3.Qg1+ Rd4 4.Ba3#, 1...Sxf6 2.Re5+ Rxe5 3.Ba3+ Kd5 4.Sxf6#, 1...Qxg8 2.Rxf5+ exf5 3.Re5+ R(Q)d5 4.Ba3#. *Diagonal-orthogonal echo with pin-mate (RL).*

M1431 (Aliovsadzade/Derevchuk) 1.e3? Bd1+!; 1.Bxd5? Sxe2!; **1.Bb5!** Ba4 2.e3 Bd1+ 3.g4+ Bxg4+ 4.Kh5 ~ 5.Bd7#; 2...Rg2 3.Bxa4 b5 4.Bc2+ Rxc2/Sd3 5.g4/Bxd3#. *Zilahi with logical play (RL).*

M1432 (Aliovsadzade) **1.Kb4!** d5 2.Rh8 Ke4 3.Rh4 Kd4 4.Rg4 fxd4 5.Sc5 g3 6.e3#; 4...Ke4 5.Sc5+ Kd4 e3#.

M1433 (Kozdon) 1.Rb3+? Ka7 2.Bf2+ e3 3.Rb7+ Ka8 4.Sd5 Be4+!; **1.Sd5!** exd5 2.Rb3+ Ka7 3.Bf2+ e3 4.Rb7+ Ka8 5.Rh7+ Kb8 6.Bg3+ Kc8 7.Bb7+ Kd8 8.Bc7+ Ke8 9.Bc6+ Kf8 10.Bd6#.

M1434 (Schmitt) 1.a3? bxa3 2.b4+ Kc4 3.Bf1+ Kc3 4.Ka3 Rh3!; 1.Se5? c6! 2.a3 Rh4!; **1.Sf6!** Rh7 2.Se4+ Kc6 3.Sf2+ Kc5 4.Rd8 Rh3 5.Se4+ Kc6 6.Sf6+ Kc5 7.Rd2 Rh7 8.a3 bxa3 9.b4+ Kc4 10.Bf1+ Kc3 11.Se4#.

M1435 (Schmitt) 1.Re4+? Kf3 2.dxc5 f6!; **1.Bh1!** Bd3 2.Rf3+ Ke4 3.Rxf7+ Ke3 4.Rf3+ Ke4 5.Rf4+ Ke3 6.Bd5 Be2 7.Re4+ (7.dxc5? Ra4!) Kf3 8.dxc5 Sb5 9.Rc4+ Ke3 10.Bd4+ Sxd4 11.Rxc3+ Bd3 12.Rxd3#.

E0318 (Arestov) **1.Rg2+!** (1.Rxc2? Rb1+ +) **1...Kh3** (1...Kf3 2.Bxb7+ Rxb7 3.Rxc2 =) **2.Sf4+ Kh4 3.Rxc2** (3.Sg6+? Kh5 +) **3...Rb1+!** (3...Rxc2 4.Bxb7 =) **4.Kh2! Rxc2+ 5.Sg2+ Kg4! 6.Be2+!!** (6.Bd3? Rcb2 7.Bxb1 Rxb1 8.Se3+ Kf3 +) **6...Kg5!** (6...Rxe2 stalemate) **7.Bd3 Rcb2 8.Bxb1 Rxb1 9.Kg3!** (9.Kh3? Rb3+ +) **9...Rb3+ 10.Kf2!** (10.Kh2? Kg4! +) =.

E0319 (Borojević/Vrabec) **1.Qe7+! Kh6 2.Qe8+ Kg5 3.Rxf5!! gxf5** (3...Qxf5 4.f4+ +) **4.Qg7+ Kh5 5.h4 Qxf2+** [5...Qe3 6.Qh7+ Qh6 (6...Kg4 7.Qg6+ Kh3 8.Qxf5+ mate) 7.Qxf5+ +] **6.Rxf2 a1Q+ 7.Qxa1 Rxf2 8.Qd1+** (8.Qh8+? Kg4 9.Qd4+ Kxg3 10.Qd3+ Kg4 11.b7 Rg2+ 12.Kf1 Rcf2+ 13.Ke1 Rb2 =, or 8.g4+? Kxg4 9.Qd4+ Kg3 =, or 8.Qe1? Rg2+ 9.Kf1 Rh2 10.Qe8+ Kg4 11.Qg6+ Kf3 12.Qxf5+ Kxg3 =, or 8.Qe5 Kg4 9.Qd4+ Kxg3 =) **8...Kg6 9.Qd6+** (9.Qxd7? Rg2 10.Kf1 Rh2 =) **9...Kh5 10.g4+!** [10.b7? Rg2+ 11.Kf1 Rcf2+ 12.Ke1 Re2+ 13.Kd1 Ref2 =, or 10.Qd5? Rcd2! 11.Qe5 (11.b7 Rxd5 12.b8Q Rdd2 =) 11...Kg4 12.b7 Rg2+ 13.Kf1 Rdf2+ 14.Ke1 Rb2 =] **10...Kxh4** (10...Kxg4 11.b7 Rg2+ 12.Kh1 Rgd2 13.Qxd2 +, or 10...fxg4 11.Qe7 Kg6 12.Qe4+ Kf7 13.b7 +) **11.b7! Rfe2** (11...Rg2+ 12.Kh1 Rge2 13.Qh6+ Kxg4 14.Qg6+ Kh4 15.b8Q +) **12.Qf6+** (12.Kf1? Rf2+ 13.Ke1 Rce2+ 14.Kd1 Rb2 =, or 12.Qh6+ Kxg4 13.Qg6+ Kh4 14.Qf6+ waste of time) **12...Kxg4** (12...Kh3 13.Qh8+ Kxg4 14.Qd4+???) **13.Qd4+ Kg5** [13...f4 14.Qxd7+ Kg5 (14...Kh4 15.Qh7+ Kg3 16.Qd3+ +) 15.Qg7+ Kf5 16.Qh7+ Kg4 17.Qxc2 +] **14.Kf1!** (14.Qg8+? Kh5 15.Qh7+ Kg5 =) **14...Re8** (14...Rh2 15.Qg1+ Kf6 16.Qxh2 +) **15.Qg7+!** (15.Qa1? Rc6 16.Qg7+ Rg6 17.Qxd7 Rgg8 =, or 15.Qd1? Rc6 16.Qb3 Kf6 17.b8Q Rxb8 18.Qxb8 Ke7 =) **15...Kf4 16.Qh6+** (16.Qa1? Rc6 =) **Ke4 17.Qh4+!** [17.Qb6? Rc1+! 18.Ke2 Kd5+ 19.Kd2 (19.Kf3 Rc3+! 20.Kf4 Rc4+ 21.Kg5 Rg4+ 22.Kf6 Rgg8 =) 19...Rc6! 20.b8Q Rxb6! 21.Qxb6 (21.Qxe8 Kd6! =) 21...Re4! =, or 17.Qd6? Rb2 18.Qc7 (18.Qxd7 Rb1+ 19.Ke2 Re5! =) 18...Rb1+ 19.Ke2 Kd5+ 20.Kd2 Ke6 21.Qc8 Ke7 22.Qc5+ Ke6 23.Qe3+ (23.Qa3 Kf6! 24.Qd3 Rxb7! 25.Qxa6+ Re6 26.Qxb7 Ke7 =) 23...Kf7 24.Qd3 Rxb7! 25.Qd5+ Re6 =, or 17.Qa6? Rc1+! 18.Ke2 Kd5+ 19.Kd2 Rc6 20.Qa8 Rxa8 21.bxa8Q Kd6! 22.Qd8 Rc4! =] **17...Kd5 18.Qf4!** (18.Qb4? Rc6 19.Qd2+ Ke6 20.Qe3+ Kf7 21.Qa7 Rxb7! 22.Qxa7 Ke7 =, or 18.Qa4? Rc6! 19.Qa8 Rxa8 20.Qxa8 Kd6! 21.Qd8 Rc4 =, or 18.Qg5? Kc6 19.Qg6+ Kxb7 20.Qxe8 Kc7 =, or 18.Qh7? Rc1+ 19.Kf2 Kc6 =) **18...Rc6** (18...Kc6 19.b8Q +, or 18...Ke6 19.Qe3+! Kf7 20.Qb3+ +) **19.b8Q!** [19.Qxf5+? Kd6 20.Qg6+ (20.Q7 Rd8! 21.Qf6+ Kc7 22.Qxd8+ Kxd8 23.b8Q+ Ke7 =) 20...Ke7 21.Qxe8+ Kxe8 22.b8Q+ Ke7 =] **19...Rxb8 20.Qxb8 Ke6 21.Qf8! Rc2 22.Kg1!!** (22.Ke1? Rg2! =, or 23.Qb4 Rc6 24.Qf8 Rc2 =) **22...Rc4 (Re2) 23.Qg8+ (Qe8+) +**.

E0320 (Kekely/Hlinka) **1.a7!** (1.Rc1+? Kb8 =) **1...b6** (1...Qe8+ 2.Kxa5 Qd8+ 3.Kb5 Qe8+ 4.Kc4 +) **2.Sxf2 Qe2+ 3.Sfd3 Kb7 4.a8Q+!** (4.Re1? Qh5+ 5.Re5 Qg6! 6.Sf4 Qf7 7.Sbd5 Qd7+ 8.Kc4 Qc6+ 9.Kd3 Kxa7 =) **4...Kxa8 5.Kxb6 Qe6+ 6.Kxa5 Qxb3 7.Kb5+!** (7.Kb6+? Kb8 (zz) 8.Rc1 Qe6+ 9.Sc6+ Kc8 =) **7...Kb8** (7...Kb7 8.Sc5+ +) **8.Kb6!** (zz) **Qc3** (8...Kc8 9.Ra8+ Kd7 10.Sc5+ +) **9.Sc6+ Kc8 10.Ra8+ Kd7 11.Sc5+ Kd6 12.Rd8#**. *Meredith, thematic try, reciprocal zugzwangs, forks, mate (A).*

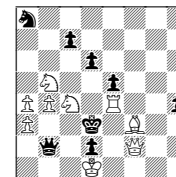
E0321 (Heghina) **1.Scxe7+! Kf8 2.Sg6+ hxg6 3.Rxc7** (3.Sd4 Rxc1+ 4.Kxc1 Qf7 +) **3...Qxc7 4.Sd4 Qe5 5.e3 b5 6.a3 Kf7 7.Kd2 Qb8 8.Kd1 a5 9.Kd2 a4 10.b4 b6 11.Kd1 Kf6 12.Kd2 Ke5 13.Kd1 Qxd4 14.exd4+ Kxd4 15.Kd2 =**.

SELFMATES

Editor: Petko A. Petkov, Judge: Alexandr Azhusin

A colorful spectrum of themes and ideas is shown in the ten originals in this issue. Recently, some young authors have sent us problems without diagrams. We also accept selfmates sent only with a notation, but this makes our work harder. This way, mistakes are made. There are a number of free programs on the internet for creating chess diagrams. Please use them if necessary.

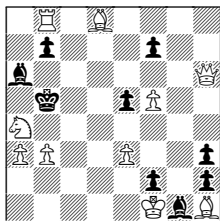
2nd Prize
Camillo Gamnitzer



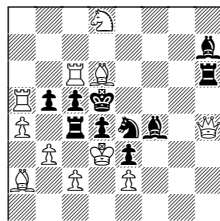
s#5

(9+8)

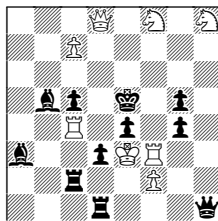
Please note that Camillo's second prize winner was incorrectly diagrammed in the last issue. The black Bishop on e7 should have been black Pawn (as in the diagram). The judge was aware of the correct diagram, thus the award was not affected. Our apologies to the author.

S0693 Ivan Soroka
Ukraine

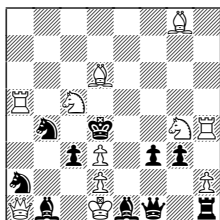
s#2 (10+9)

S0694 Rauf Aliovsadzade
Lincoln, NE

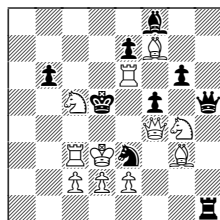
s#2 (11+10)

S0695 Valery Kopyl
Ukraine

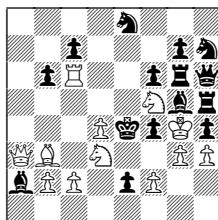
s#3 (8+11)

S0696 Waldemar Tura
Poland

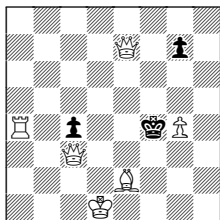
s#3 (11+10)

S0697 Eugene Fomichev
& Igor Agapov, Russia

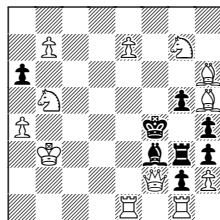
s#4 (11+9)

S0698 Velko Alexandrov
Bulgaria

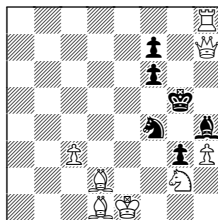
s#4 (12+15)

S0699 Olaf Jenkner
Germany

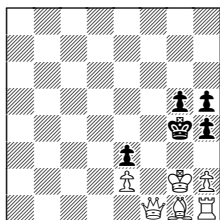
s#6 (6+3)

S0700 Gennadi Koziura
& Valery Kopyl, Ukraine

s#7 (12+8)

S0701 Stephen Taylor
England

s#9 2 solutions (8+6)

S0702 Anatoly Stepochnik
Russia

s#11* (6+5)

SG77 (January-March 2017) Solutions – SELFMAATES

Comments from: Romuald Lazowski (RL)

S0679 (Sickinger) 1...Qf6 2.Qf4+ Qxf4#; 1...Qxg6 2.Qxe4+ Qxe4#; **1.Qe8!** (2.Bxd6+ Bxd6 3.Qc5+ Bxc5#), 1...Qf6 2.Sxd3+ exd3 3.f4+ Qxf4#, 1...Qxg6 2.f4+ exf3 e.p. 3.Sxd3+ Qxd3#. *Great White sacrifices (RL).*

S0680 (Tura) 1...axb6 2.Qe4+ Kc5 3.Qd5+ Bxd5#; 1.Bc7? exd6!; **1.Bd8!** (2.Qe4+ Kc5 3.Qd5+ Bxd5#), 1...Sxf5 2.Qb6+ axb6 3.Sd4+ Sxd4#, 1...Qg4 2.Se5+ fxe5 3.Qc4+ Qxc4#, 1...exd6 2.Rc7+ Qxc7 3.Bd7+ Qxd7#. *Good bicolored Bristol and Keller-paradox (RL).*

S0681 (Hramtsevich) **1.Sb4!** (2.Sd3+[A] Rxd3+ 3.Qd4+[B] Rxd4#), 1...Rc4 2.Qd4+[B] Rxd4+ 3.Sd5+[C] Rxd5#, 1...bxc1S 2.Sd5+[C] Sxd5 3.Qe5+[D] Qxe5#, 1...Sc6 2.Qe5+[D] Sxe5 3.Bh3+[E] Sxf7#, 1...Bxg7 2.Bh3+[E] Bf6 3.Sd3+[A] Rxd3#, (1...Qf1/Qf2 2.Rxf3+ Qxf3 3.Sd5+ Qxd5#, 1...Qd2+ 2.Qd4+ Qxd4+ 3.Sd5+ Qxd5#). *Good problem with many variants (RL).*

S0682 (Jenkner) **1.Sh3!** (zz) g5 2.Sxg5 fxg5 3.Qd1 g4 4.Qe1+ Kf3 5.Bb6 g3 6.Bg1 g2#, 1...g6 2.Qg1+ Kf3 3.Bxg6 f5 4.Re4 fxe4 5.d4 e3 6.Be1 e2#; 4...f4 5.Re3+ fxe3 6.Be1 e2#. *Echo.*

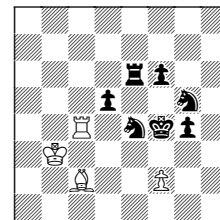
S0683 (Jenkner) **1.g4!** Kd1 2.g5 Kc1 3.g6 Kd1 4.g7 Kc1 5.g8B Kd1 6.Ra1+ Kd2 7.Ba2 Kc3 8.Rd1 Kb2 9.Qe2+ Kc3 10.Rd5 Kb4 11.Kd4 Ka4 12.Kd3 Kb4 13.Kc2 Ka4 14.Kb1 Kb4 15.Qb5+ Kc3 16.Ka1 Kc2 17.Qb2 axb2# *Excelsior. Interesting play to get the wK to a1.*

HELPMATES

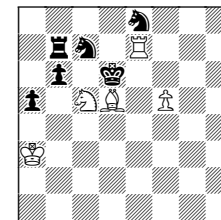
Editor: **Abdelaziz Onkoud**

Judges: **Vitaly Medintsev** (h#2), **Marcel Roland** (h#3) and **Emmanuel Manolas** (h#n)

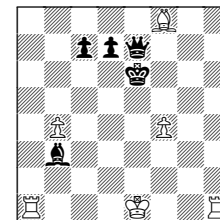
In this issue we have nine twomovers, seven threemovers and eight moremovers. Many entries show Zilahi theme (**H2210**, **H2214**, **H2221**, **H2223**). The battery play is shown in several entries (**H2214**, **H2215**, **H2218**, **H2220**, **H2224**, **H2232**). **H2230** shows Klasic theme, while in **H2222**, the white and black moves are played to the same square. **H2225** shows white Rundlaufs. Finally, a difficult exchange of pieces in **H2227**.

H2209 Živko Janevski
Macedonia

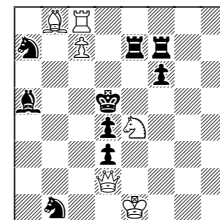
h#2 3 solutions (4+7)

H2210 Christer Jonsson
Sweden

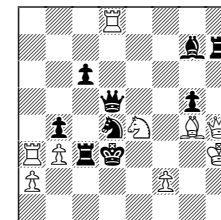
h#2 3 solutions (5+6)

H2211 Andrew Kalotay
New York, NY

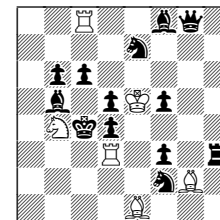
h#2 b) -Pf4 (6+5)

H2212 Jorge Lois
& Jorge Kapros
Argentina

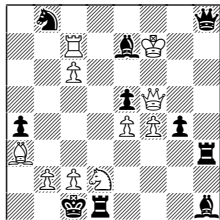
h#2 2 solutions (6+9)

H2213 Abdelaziz Onkoud
France

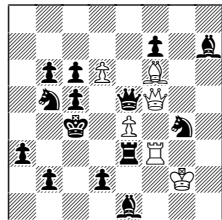
h#2 2 solutions (9+9)

H2214 Zvonimir Hemitz
& Fadil Abdurahmanović
Croatia/Bosnia-Herzegovina

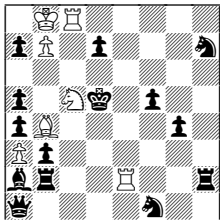
h#2 2 solutions (6+13)

H2215 Alexandr Pankratyev
Russia

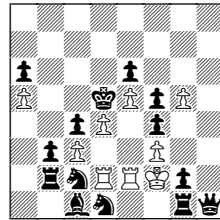
h#2 2 solutions (10+10)

H2216 János Csak
Hungary

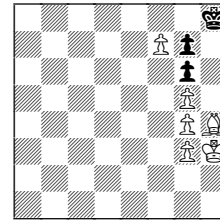
h#2 2 solutions (6+14)

H2217 Mike Pric
Los Angeles, CA

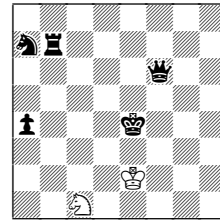
h#2 4 solutions (7+14)

H2227 Henk Weenink
Holland

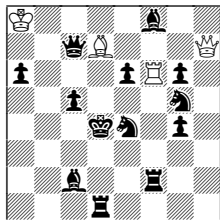
h#3½ (9+14)

H2228 Robert J. Bales Jr.
Broadview, IL

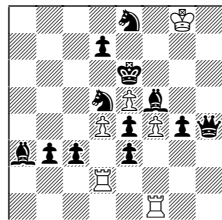
h#5 (6+3)

H2229 Zoltán Labai
Slovakia

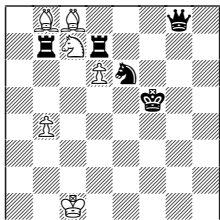
h#5½ 2 solutions (2+5)

H2218 Kostas Prentos
Albuquerque, NM

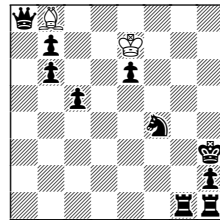
h#2½ 2 solutions (4+13)

H2219 Vitaly Medintsev
Russia

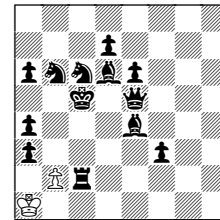
h#2½ 2 solutions (6+12)

H2220 János Csak
Hungary

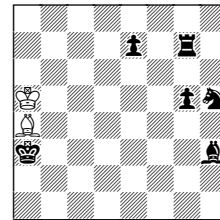
h#3 b) Se6→f6 (6+5)

H2230 Zlatko Mihajloski
Macedonia

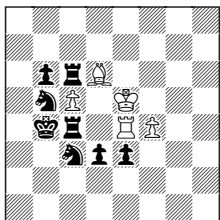
h#5½ (2+10)

H2231 Marcos Roland
Brazil

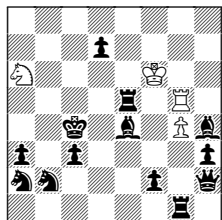
h#5½ (2+13)

H2232 Mečislovas Rimkus
Lituania

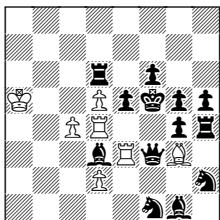
h#8½ (2+6)

H2221 Valery Kopyl
Ukraine

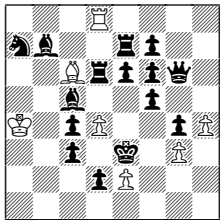
h#3 b) Rc4→d4 (5+8)

H2222 Abdelaziz Onkoud
France

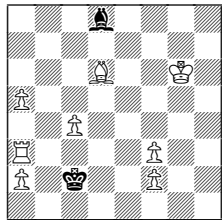
h#3 2 solutions (4+13)

H2223 Vasil Krizhanivsky
Ukraine

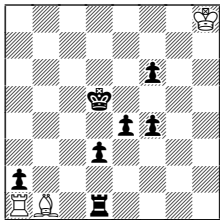
h#3 2 solutions (7+13)

H2224 Christopher Jones
England

h#3 b) -Pd4 (7+15)

H2225 Fadil Abdurahmanović
Bosnia-Herzegovina

h#3½ b) Pf2→a4 (8+2)

H2226 Alexey Ivunin
& Alexandr Pankratyev
Russia

h#3½ 2 solutions (3+7)

SG77 (January-March 2017) Solutions – HELPMATES

Comments from: Author (A), David Moulton (DM), Romuald Lazowski (RL), Radovan M. Tomašević (RT), Hans Nieuwhart (HN), Henryk Kalafut (HK)

H2161 (Markevitch) 1.Qe4+ Sd5 2.Re5 c3#, 1.Qe3 Kd6 2.Re4 Sb5#. Double Bristol. *Bristol clearance with self-blocks (HK)*.

H2162 (Elbaz) 1.Rg3 Re5+ 2.Kf4 Bxg3#, 1.Re5 Rc4+ 2.Kf5 Rf4#, 1.Qd5 Bxe2 2.Kf5 Bd3#.

H2163 (Janevski) 1.Re1 Bd8 2.Re5 Rf6#, 1.Ke5 bxc5 2.Se6 Bf6#, 1.Kd6 Re3 2.Bc6 Be7#, 1.d6 Rf7 2.Rf5 Re7#. *Good echo with bicolored Bristol (RL), Self-blocks with play on the same square (HK)*.

H2164 (Janevski) 1.bxc5 Rc4 2.dxc4 Rd2#, 1.Rxc5 Rb4 2.Bd6 Rc2#, 1.exd4 Se4+ 2.Ke5 Rg5#. *First one, then the other, finally both (DM)*.

H2165 (Zamanov) 1.Se3 d4 2.Sf5 d5#, 1.Ba2 Se2 2.Bd5 Sd4#, 1.Ra8 Ba6 2.Ra7 Bxc8#, 1.f6 Rf4 2.fxe5 Rf6#. The Rope theme. *Diagonal-orthogonal echo and self-blocks (RL), Cyclic Rope theme (HK)*.

H2166 (Abdurahmanović/Janevski) 1.Sd5+ Kd2+ 2.Ka5 Kc1#, 1.Rd5 Ke2+ 2.Rb5 Kf3#, 1.Qd5 Qf2 2.Kc5 Kf4#. Royal Batteries, model mates. *Model mates with Royal Battery play (RL), Durbar theme with Royal Battery model mates (HK)*.

H2167 (Tritten) 1.Kd4 Sxe4 2.Rd6 Sg3#, 1.Kd5 Sxe6 2.Bg2 Sd8#. White batteries. *Bivalve play with battery mates (HK)*.

H2168 (Onkoud) 1.Bd4 Be4 2.d5 Bd3#, 1.Rb5 Rd3 2.c5 Bd5#, 1.Be5 Bd5+ 2.Kd4 Rd3#, 1.Ra5 Rc3+ 2.Kb5 Bc6#, 1.Kb5 Bc6+ 2.Ka5 axb4#, 1.Kd4 Rxb4+ 2.Ke5 e4#. The Compass theme. *The Compass theme with interchange of moves (HK)*.

H2169 (Jonsson) a) 1.Bxe6 Se5 2.Bxh3 Sf3#; b) 1.Rxh3 Sc3 2.Rxd3 Re4#; c) 1.Qxe6 Bxe6+ 2.Kxd3 Sc5#. *I like it better without the c) twin (RT)*.

H2170 (Chandrasekaran) 1...Rxf3 2.Kf5 Rf2 3.Sg5 Sg3#, 1...Rh2 2.Kh6 Sf2 3.Bg5 Sxg4# Square vacation, self-pinning, pin-mates, self-blocks on the same square, a switchback and no wPs. *Two pin-mates (HK)*.

H2171 (Bales) a) 1.Kb5 0-0-0 2.Kc4 b3+ 3.Kc3 Rd3#, b) 1.b3 0-0-0 2.bxa2 Rd4+ 3.Kb3 Rb4#. In a), castling is illegal because White's last move was by the R or K (HN).

H2172 (Pankratyev) a) 1.Sd5 f4 2.Sc3 Bd5 3.Se3 Rd2#, b) 1.Se3 f3 2.Se6 Rc2 3.Sd4 Be4#. *Four thumbs up! (HN), Model mates with self-blocks (only Knights play) (HK)*.

H2173 (Parkkinen) 1.Ke7 Bb5 2.Ke8 c4 3.Re7 Rc8#, 1.Ke5 Ba6 2.Ke4 Bb7 3.Re5+ Rc4#. *Double-check battery mates (HK)*.

H2174 (Parkkinen) 1.Kc5 Bxg5 2.Be5 Bf4 3.Kd4 Be3#, 1.Qc5 Kg4 2.Be5 Bg7 3.Kd4 Kxg5#. *Battery model mates (HK)*.

H2175 (Abdurahmanović/Chumakov) 1.Bxf2+ Bg3 2.Bb6 Bf2 3.Ka7 Ra1#, 1.Qxf4+ Rg4 2.Qc7 Rd4 3.Kb8 Rd8#. Model mates, Annihilations. *Model mates after annihilation captures (HK)*.

H2176 (Taylor) a) 1.Bf3 Ra3 2.Qe2 Re3 3.Qc4 Bxf3#, 1.Rb5 Bf1 2.c5 Bxb5 3.c4 Bd7#; b) 1.Bf3 Bh3 2.Qe3 Rxc5+ 3.Ke4 Bf5#, 1.Rb5 Rxa6 2.Qb4 Bxe4+ 3.Kc5 Rxc6#. *Pelle moves with battery mates (HK)*.

H2177 (Stojoski) 1.Kb5 Kb2 2.Ka4 Bd7+ 3.Reb5 cxb3#, 1.Kd5 Kd2 2.Ke4 Bxb7+ 3.Rad5 cxd3#. *Too symmetric (HN), Model pin mates with self-blocks (HK)*.

H2178 (Stojoski) a) 1.Qc1 Ra1 2.Qf4 Rf1 3.Be5 Se3#, b) 1.Bf4 Rb2 2.Qxc5+ Rb5 3.Qe5 Sd4#. In b), position is illegal. Correction: bPg5=wPh4 (RT), b) is an illegal position (13 Black captures and 5 White pieces!) (bRg6 make things legal!) (HN).

H2179 (Ljevaković) 1.a1Q h7 2.Qa5 hxg8Q 3.Qc7 Qd5#, 1.f1Q h7 2.Qxf3 h8Q 3.Qxc6 Qe5#, 1.h1Q c7 2.Qxh3 c8Q 3.Qe6 Qc5#. *Interesting Q-promotions (RL), Position is illegal (wPgxbPh etc.) (RT), Six Queen promotions! (HK)*.

H2180 (Jonsson) a) 1...Sxg4 2.Sh5 Sf6 3.Kf3 Sd7 4.Kg4 Se5#; b) 1...Sxc4 2.Sb3 Sa5 3.Kd3 Sc6 4.Kc4 Se5# Model mates, battery annihilations, Knight circuits. *An interesting circuit by the wS and Knight theme (RL), Crusader and Knight theme (HK)*.

H2181 (Foster) a) 1...Kc3 2.Rc7 Kb3 3.Bd6 Ka4 4.c5 Ka5 5.Kc6 Be4#; b) 1...Ke2 2.Bd6 Kf3 3.Sc5 Kg4 4.Rb4+ Kf5 5.Rd4 Se3# Ideal-mates. *Ideal-mates with self-blocks (HK)*.

H2182 (Onkoud) 1...Kb2 2.Re4 Kb3 3.Rc4 dxc4 4.Sa4 Kxb4 5.Sb6 cxb5#, 1...Kd2 2.Se4+ dxe4 3.Ra8 Kd3 4.Ra6 Kd4 5.Rb6 exd5#, 1...d4 2.Sc5 dxc5 3.Rb8 cxd6 4.Rb6 dxc7 5.d6 c8Q#, 1...Kb3 2.Sa4 Kxb4 3.Sb6 Kb3 4.Kc5 Kc3 5.c6 d4#. *Neat echo with Chumakov theme (RL), Many ways theme with model mates (HK)*.

H2183 (Rimkus) 1...Bxe6 2.Bg5 Kb4 3.Kd3 Bg4 4.Kc2 Bxd1+ 5.Kb1 Kb3 6.Bc1 Bc2#, 1...Bxd1 2.Kd5 Kd2 3.Kc4 Bh5 4.Kb3 Bf7 5.Ka2 Kc2 6.Bb3+ Bxb3#. Model mates in echo. *Compilation of Rehm and many ways theme with epaulette model mates (HK)*.

H2184 (Rimkus) a) 1...Bxc6 2.Bd4 Be4 3.Kf6 Bxd3 4.Ke5 Bxc4 5.Ke4 Bxf7 6.Kd3 Be8 7.Be4 Bb5#; b) 1...Ba3 2.Kg6 Bxb2 3.Kf5 Bxc3 4.Ke4 Bxd2 5.Kd4 Bxe3+ 6.Kc3 Kc1 7.Bd4 Bd2# Model mates, Annihilations, Knight theme. *Kniest theme with long trip of Bishop (HK)*.

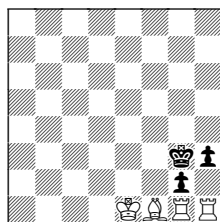
SERIES-MOVERS and STALEMATES

Editor: Radovan M. Tomašević, Judge: Abdelaziz Onkoud

A warm welcome to Evgeni Bourd and Emanuel Navon; two talented composers from Israel.

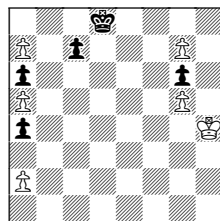
We open proceedings with two entertaining selfmates by Robert. The next three entries are C-. It will be interesting to find out if they are sound. There is a Knight wheel in Karol's entry. Michel and George create a complex cage in order to incarcerate white pieces. Geoff sends us another of his patented reflexmates. This is followed by two pser entries. We conclude with a lone stalemate; note that in b) the board rotates by 180 degrees.

C0624 Robert J. Bales Jr.
Broadview, IL



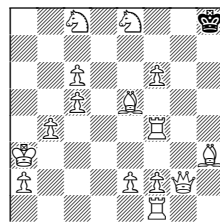
ser-s#5 (4+3)

C0627 Zoran Sibinović &
Radovan M. Tomašević
Serbia



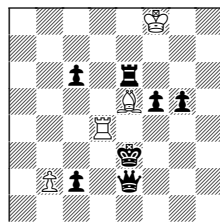
ser-s=25 C- (6+5)

C0630 George P. Sphicas
& Michel Caillaud
USA/France



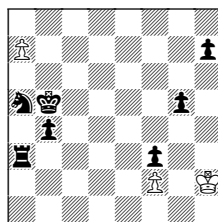
ser-l=37 C- (15+1)

C0633 Petko A. Petkov
Bulgaria



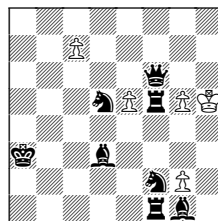
pser-h#6 2 solutions (4+7)

C0625 Robert J. Bales Jr.
Broadview, IL



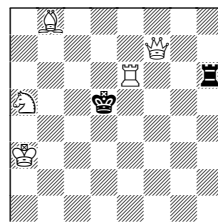
ser-s#17 (3+7)

C0628 Tibor Érsek &
Radovan M. Tomašević
Hungary/Serbia



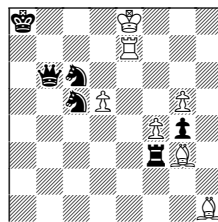
ser-s=26 C- (5+8)

C0631 Geoff Foster
Australia



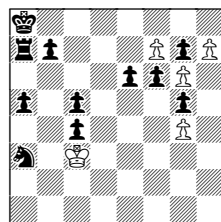
ser-r#8 (5+2)

Q0286 Evgeni Bourd
& Emanuel Navon
Israel



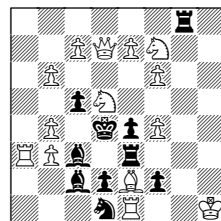
h=3 b) rotate 180° (7+6)

C0626 Alexey Gasparian
& Radovan M. Tomašević
Armenia/Serbia



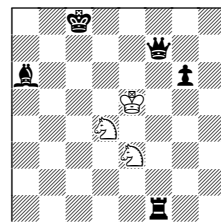
ser-s#20 C- (5+11)

C0629 Karol Mlynka
Slovakia



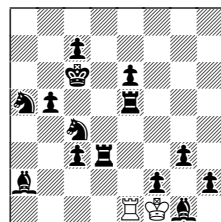
ser-h#2 8 solutions (14+10)

C0632 Vito Rallo
Italy



pser-h#4 2 solutions (3+5)

Q0287 Tibor Érsek
Hungary



h=9 (2+14)

SG77 (January-March 2017) Solutions – SERIES-MOVERS & STALEMATES

Comments from: Romuald Lazowski (RL)

C0607 (Csak) 1.0-0-0 2.Rxf1 3.Rxg1 4.Rd1 5.Rxd2 7.Ke1 8.Rd1 9.Ra1 =. *Switchback by the wR (RL).*

C0608 (Bakcsi/Csak) 4.cxb7 5.b8R 7.Rxf2 12.Kxb3 13.Kxa2 18.b8R 19.Rh8 20.R8h2 =. *Good Bristol and Excelsior themes (RL).*

C0609 (Tar) 1.d8S 2.Sb7 3.Sa5 4.Sxc4 5.Sxd2 6.Sb1 7.Rd3 8.Rxg3 9.Rxg5 10.g4 11.Bf1 12.Kc1 13.c4+ d4xc3 e.p. =.

C0610 (Koči) a) 1.Ke4 2.Kd5 3.Be4 4.Bxg2 Qxg2#; b) 1.c3 2.Re4 3.Rxe5 4.Rxe3 Qd5#; c) 1.Ra2 2.Re2 3.Rxe3 4.Re4 Qxd2#.

C0611 (Érsek) 1-3.Sf4-e6-xc5 4-6.Ke6-d5-d4-c3 8.Rd4 9.Bc7 11.Sa1 12.b3 13.b4 14-16.Rb5-a5-a3 18.a4 Bxg7 =.

C0612 (Sibinović) a) 1.Kc5 2.Kc6 3.Rc5 Qb7#; b) 1.Rh1 2.Rh4 3.Rd4 Rc7#.

C0613 (Comay) a) 1.Se6! (1.Kxf4? 2.Re8#) 2.Kxf4 3.Re4! (3.Kg5? 4.Bb7#) 4.Kg5 5.Bh5! (5.Rh4?) 6.Rh4 7.Qg4 f6#; b) 1.c6! (Kd3? 2.Bb7#) 2.Kd3 3.Be4! (3.Kc3? 4.Re8#) 4.Kc3 5.Rb2 6.Qd2! (6.Bc2?) 7.Bc2 b4#. *Grimshaw, pins, unpins, ODT (A).*

C0614 (Foster) 1.f4! (1.Sf5? 2.Qg3#) 2.Sf5 (2.Kf3? 3.Qxh5#) 3.Kf3 4.Bf2 (4.Qe2? 5.Qg2#) 5.Qe2 6.Re3 7.Be4 (7.Sg4? 8.Qf1#) 8.Sg4 hxg4#. *Good Bristol and self-blocks (RL).*

C0615 (Stanley) 1.Kb8 8.Kb4 9.Kxa5 10.Kb4 11.a5 13.a3+ 14.wKc1 15.Kb3 17.Ka1 18.a2 19.wPb6 20.cxb6 21.bxc5 24.c2 25.wPc7 26.c8Q 27.Qc3#. *In a parry series helpmate, White can move when in check. There is one further situation in chess in which only White is allowed to move--when Black is in stalemate. Thus I define an "extended parry series helpmate" (epsh#) to be a parry series helpmate where in addition White is free to move when Black is in stalemate. Since both Black and White can play series of indeterminate lengths in such problems, I specify the total number of Black and White (half) moves (A).*

Q0284 (Érsek) 1.Qh2 Sxh2 2.f3 Sxf3 3.Rc4 Sxd2 4.Kb4 Sb1 5.Bc3 Rxf7 6.Ba1 Rxa7 7.b2 Bxd5 8.Ba4 Sxh4 9.Kb3 Sf3 10.Ka2 Sfd2 =. **Hovsep Diratsoouian and Mike Neumeier** found a cook: 1.Bf2 Se5 2.Kb2 Sc4+ 3.Ka2 Sa3 4.Bd4 Rxf7 5.Ba1 Rxa7 6.Rc4 Bxd5 7.b2 Sxh4 8.f3 Sxf3 9.Ba4 Sxd2 10.Qb1 S3xb1 =. The author is correcting the problem with bQh1-g3.

FAIRIES

Editor: **Petko A. Petkov**, Judge: FA & FB sections: **Pierre Tritten**

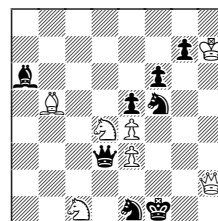
In this issue we offer you a brief description (more to follow in the next issue) of a new fairy condition: ConditionsFromPly = n and ConditionsUntilPly = n, invented by Christian Poisson. These options are included in the new version of WinChloe 3,36. They offer great opportunities in the development of Fairy Chess. We are demonstrating them with three originals: **FA1621**, **FA1622** and **FA1623**.

Definitions of Fairy Conditions and Pieces

Anti-Circe Couscous (WinChloe): As Anti-Circe Cheylan, but the capturing piece reappears on the Circe rebirth square of the captured unit. Pawns capturing on their rank of promotion are promoted before the rebirth. Captures on the rebirth squares are not allowed.

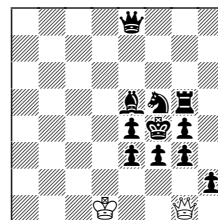
ConditionsFromPly = n and ConditionsUntilPly = n, "n" being the number of plies (half-moves). New options of WinChloe (3,36), indicate from which ply, or until which ply, fairy conditions are taken into account. For example: ConditionsFromPly=5 means that the conditions are taken into account only from the 5th ply (the 3rd white move for a direct#(=), s#(=) or HS#(=) and the 3rd black move for a H# problem. ConditionsUntilPly=6 means that the conditions are taken into account only until the 6th ply. These options work with almost all other stipulations and many other conditions but for more information see the Readme of the new version 3,36 (the Readme file, named "readme.txt" is in the "C:\WinChloe" folder).

FA1612 Hubert Gockel
Germany



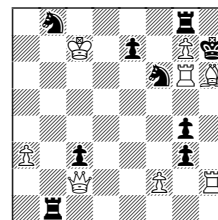
#2√. Circe (7+8)

FA1615 Petko A. Petkov
Bulgaria



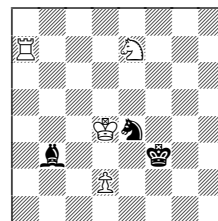
h#2 3 solutions (2+11)
Anti-Circe Couscous

FA1618 Mario Parrinello
Italy



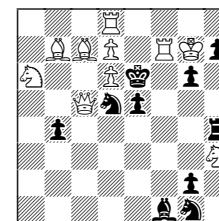
hs#2½ b) Pe7→e6 (8+9)
Anti-Andemach + Eiffel

FA1621 Geoff Foster
Australia



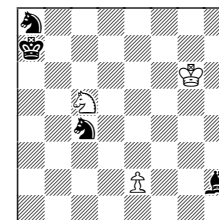
hs#4 2 solutions (4+3)
ConditionsFromPly = 7
Maximumber

FA1613 Hubert Gockel
& Eugene Rosner
Germany/USA



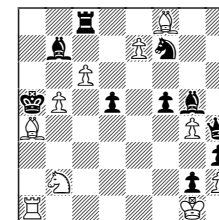
#2 AMU (10+10)

FA1616 Waldemar Tura
Poland



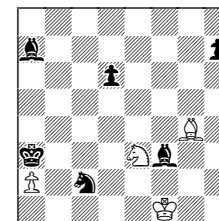
h#2½ 2 solutions (3+4)
Take & Make

FA1619 Manfred Rittirsch
Germany



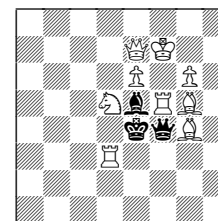
hs#3 2 solutions (10+10)
Circe Assassin + Eiffel

FA1622 Petko A. Petkov
Bulgaria



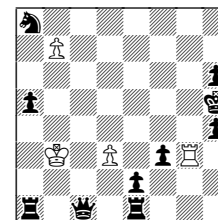
hs#4 2 solutions (4+6)
ConditionsFromPly = 7
Minimummer

FA1614 Daniel Novomeski
Slovakia



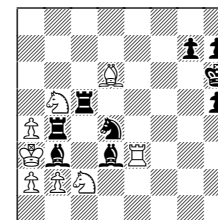
hs#2 2 solutions (9+3)
Disparate

FA1617 Mario Parrinello
Italy



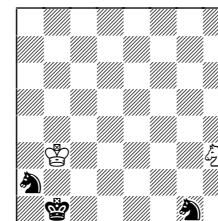
hs#2½ b) Pd3→d2 (4+10)
Anti-Andemach + Eiffel

FA1620 Vlaicu Crisan
& S.K.Balasubramanian
Romania/India

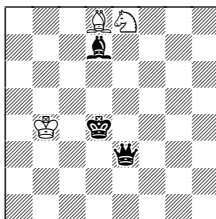


hs#3 2 solutions (8+9)
Take & Make

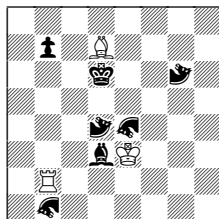
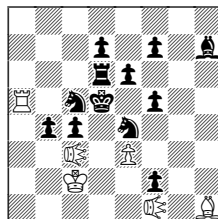
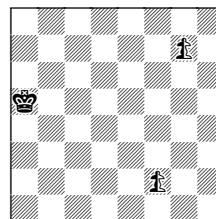
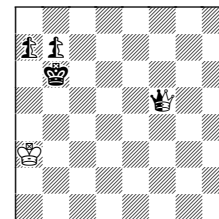
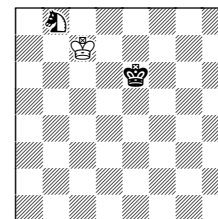
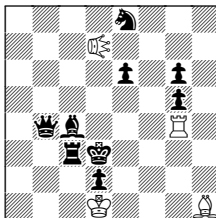
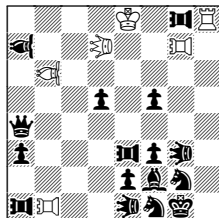
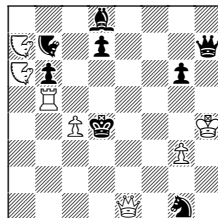
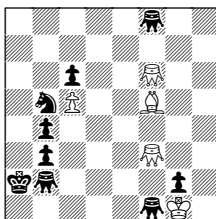
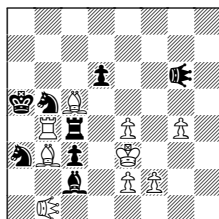
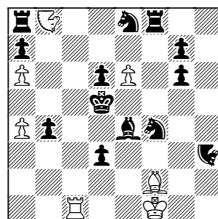
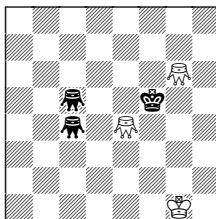
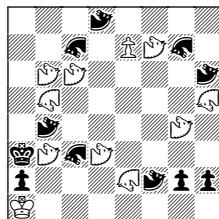
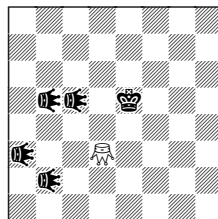
FA1623 Geoff Foster
Australia



hs#5 2 solutions (2+3)
ConditionsFromPly = 9
Alphabet Chess

FA1624 Geoff Foster
Australia

h#7 Alphabt chess (3+3)

FB1625 Stephen Taylor
Englandh#2 3 solutions (3+7)
Take & Make, ♛Moa, ♜MaoFB1626 Valerio Agostini &
Antonio Garofalo, Italyh#2 b) bPe3 (6+12)
♜LocustFB1636 Kostas Prentos
Albuquerque, NMh#2½ 2 solutions (0+1+2)
b) Ka5→b2, Phantom, NWKFB1637 Vlaicu Crisan
& Eric Huber, RomaniaPhser-s#4 Circe (1+1+3)
b/c) Ka3→a4/d1FB1638 Stephan Dietrich
Germanyh#5 (1+1+1)
Annan ChessFB1627 Valerio Agostini &
Antonio Garofalo, Italyh#2 2 solutions (4+9)
♜Contra-GrasshopperFB1628 Ladislav Packa &
Emil Klemanič, Slovakiah#2 3 solutions (6+16)
♜Vao, ♜Leo, ♜PaoFB1629 Petko A. Petkov
Bulgariahs#2½ b/c) Sg1→h2/e4 (7+8)
Anti-Circe Couscous
♜NightriderFB1630 Václav Kotěšovec
Czechiah#2½ 2 solutions (5+9)
♜GrasshoppersFB1631 Klaus Wenda
& Hans Peter Rehm
Austria/Germanyhs#3½ b) bEAA3 (9+8)
♜EagleFB1632 Sven Trommler
& Franz Pacht, Germanyser.h#5 (7+13)
b/c) Pe6→b3/d2
♜NightriderFB1633 Vito Rallo
Italyh#5½ (3+3)
♜GrasshoppersFB1634 Václav Kotěšovec
Czechiah=#5 Madrasi (11+11)
♜Mao, ♜MoaFB1635 Václav Kotěšovec
Czechiaser.h#12 3 solutions (1+5)
♜Kangaroo, NWK
♜Grasshopper

For all definitions of fairy conditions and pieces please consult the [StrateGems web site](http://strategems.net/)
<http://strategems.net/>

SG77 (January-March 2017) Solutions – FAIRIES

Comments from: Author (A), Romuald Lazowski (RL), Radovan M. Tomašević (RT), Henryk Kalafut (HK)

FA1576 (Gockel) 1.Kc3/Kc4? (2.Bxe4[wBf1]#[A]), 1...e2 2.Sf2#[C], 1...fxg4[bPg7] 2.Be6#, 1...Sf4!; 1.Kxe4[wKe1]?! (2.Bg2#[B]), 1...Re4 2.Bxe4[wBf1]#[A], 1...fxg4[bPg7] 2.Be6#, 1...Sg3!; **1.Kxe3[wKe1]!** {2.Sf2#[C] (2.Bxe4[wBf1]?)}, 1...e3 2.Bg2#[B], 1...Rb7 2.Bxe4 [wBf1]#[A], 1...fxg4[bPg7] 2.Be6#. WK correction, closed Pseudo-le Grand cycle, reciprocal fields. *Pseudo Le-Grand theme (RL)*.

FA1577 (Balasubramanian) a) 1.Re8 Rxe8(Re2)+ 2.Ka1 Rxb2(Ra3)#; b) 1.Be5 Bxe5(Bf4)+ 2.Ka8 Bxb8(Bb6)#. Change of roles between two pairs of pieces.

FA1578 (Rallo) a) 1...d4↔e2 2.Sf2+ Ke3 3.d4↔b4+ Ka4↔Ke3#; b) 1...Sf7↔Se5 2.Kb5 Sd6+ 3.Kc5 Kc5↔Ke4#.

FA1579 (Packa) 1.Sxe3 Kd4 2.Sg2 Rb5 3.Se1 Ke3 4.Sc2+ Sxc2#; 1.Sxe4+ Kd5 2.Sxd2 Be1 3.Sb1 Ke4 4.Sc3+ Bxc3#. *An interesting circuit by the wS (RL)*.

FA1580 (Rallo) 1.Kxe5 Sc6(P) 2.Kf6 d4 3.e5 Kd6 4.Kf7 dxe5(S)+ 5.Ke8 Sd7(P)+ 6.Kd8 c7#. *Neat miniature (RL)*.

FA1581 (Sphicas) 1.a8B 2.fxg8Q 3.Qxe6(+bPe7) 4.fxg7 5.e8S 7.Sxf5(+bSg8) 8.hxg8R 10.Rh2 11.Bg2 12.Sg3+ Sxg3(+wSg1)#. AUW.

FB1582 (Loustau) 1.RAe3~? (2.Sd6#), 1...Rxc4 2.LIxb5#, 1...bxc4 2.BLd7#, 1...RLxc4 2.Rg6#, 1...BLxc4 2.LLa8#, 1...RAxe2!; 1.RAd5! (2.Sd6#), 1...RAxe2 2.LLce4#, 1...BLxc4 2.RAa8# (2.LLa8?), 1...Rxc4! (2.LIxb5?); 1.RAf5! (2.Sd6#), 1...RAxe2 2.LLce4#, 1...Rxc4 2.RAXb5# (2 LIxb5), 1...bxc4! (2 BLd7); 1.RAg4! (2.Sd6#), 1...RAxe2 2.LLce4#, 1...bxc4 2.RAd7# (2.BLd7?), 1...RLxc4! (2.Rg6?); 1.RAg2! (2.Sd6#), 1...RAxe2 2.LLce4#, 1...RLxc4 2.RAg6# changed (2.Rg6?), 1...BLxc4! (2.LLa8?); **1.RAc2!** (2.Sd6#), 1...Rxc4 2.LIxb5#, 1...bxc4 2.BLd7#, 1...RLxc4 2.Rg6#, 1...BLxc4 2.LLa8# (1...RLF8+ 2.exf8Q(R)# (2.Rg6?)) *This problem seems to be the first achievement of a quaternary Velimirović attack combined with four Black thematic defenses (variations or refutations) on the same square and four thematic correction mates by the same piece - the White Rao (A), Good diagonal-orthogonal echo (RL)*.

FB1583 (Manolas/Prentos) 1.c4 Gb5 2.Kc6 Gd7 3.Kb7 Gc7+ 4.Ka8 Gb7#; 1.Kc4 Ge1 2.Kf3 Gf2+ 3.Kg2 Gh2 4.Kh1 Kg3#; 1.Kc4 Gf8 2.Kb3 Gb1+ 3.Ka2 Gb3+ 4.Ka1 Gf6#; 1.Ke6 Gd5 2.Kf6 Gf7 3.Kg7 Kh5 4.Kh8 Kg6#. *Good chameleon-echo with Royal Battery play (RL), A problem in style of Václav (RT), The bK visits all four corners (HK)*.

FB1584 (Zheglov) 1.Kf6 Gg7 2.Ke5 Gd4 3.Rg7 Gf6 4.Rg1 Kb7 5.Bh2 Kc6 6.Kf4 Kd5 7.Kf3 Gf2 8.Kg2 Ke4 9.Kh1 Kf3 10.Sg3 Gh4#; 1.Se3 Gf3 2.Ke6 Gd3 3.Kd5 Gd6 4.Ra7+ Kb8 5.Kc6 Kc8 6.Sd5 Gb6 7.Bb8 Kd8 8.Kb7 Kd7 9.Ka8+ Kc6 10.Sc7 Gd8#.

FB1585 (Zhegllov) 1.NDd3 TRc2+ 2.POb4 TRc3 3.NDb5+ POd5 4.NDe5 TRb3 5.NDb2 NDc3+ 6.POC4 POc5 7.NDc6 NDb4 8.NDe5 TRc3 9.NDg3 NDe1 10.NDf2 TRg3#; 1.NDc2 POe6 2.NDe4 TRc2+ 3.POD4 TRc4 4.POe5+ POD7 5.NDc6+ POC7 6.POe6 POD6+ 7.POF7 NDf6 8.NDd5 TRf4 9.NDc6 NDh4+ 10.POe6 TRf2#; 1.NDe6 TRf5 2.NDd7 POe4+ 3.POD6 TRg5 4.NDf4 TRb5 5.NDe5 TRb6 6.POe6 NDf6 7.NDc7 TRd6 8.NDc6+ POF4 9.NDf3 NDD8+ 10.POF5 TRb6#; 1.NDd7 TRc2 2.POC4 POe4 3.POD3 POF3 4.NDe5 TRc7 5.NDc3 NDD4 6.NDc6+ POe3 7.NDf3 NDb6 8.NDe5 TRc5 9.NDc7 NDA5 10.NDb6 TRc7# *Solid work (RL)*.

FB1586 (Wenda/Rehm) 1.Bc7+? Sxc7+ 2.Kd8!; 1.LEg1-e3+? Kf4 2.Rf2+? VAXf2 3.LEe1-g1+ Ke4 4.LEe3-e1+ Ke5 5.d8Qf+? Sxd8!; **1.LEg1-e3+!** Kf4 2.TRg1+! Kf5 3.LEe1-g3+ Kf4 4.TRe1+ Kf4 5.Rf2+ VAXf2 6.LEg3-g1+ Kf5 7.LEe3-g3+ Ke5 8.d8Qf+! VAD4 9.LEg1-g3+ Kf4 10.TRg1+ Ke4 11.LEg3-g1+ Kf5 12.TRg3+ Kf4 13.LEe3-g1+ Ke5 (13.Bc7+? VAE5!) 14.Bc7+ Sxc7#.

FB1587 (Foster) 1.nQf8 nQb4(Ke4↔Kg3) 2.Kg4 nSg5(Kg2↔Ke4)#; 1.nSc7 nQc6 (Ke4↔Kg3)+ 2.Kg2 nSg3(Kg2↔Ke4).

RETROS AND PROOF GAMES

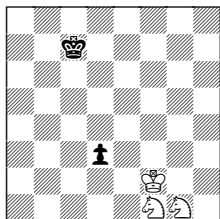
Editor: **Kostas Prentos**

Judges: Retros: **Ivan Denkovski**, Proof Games: **Ivan Denkovski**

The summer issue brings three new lightweight Proca Retractors by Andreas Thoma and one joint KLAN Retractor, improving on **R0260** from SG76 that required a fairy piece.

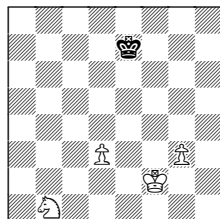
Once more, the proof games are outnumbered by the “other retros”. **P0442** is the only PG without the C+ stamp.

R0272 Andreas Thoma
Germany



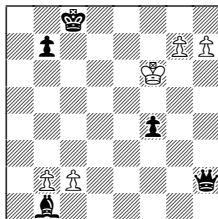
-5 & #1 (Proca) (3+2)
Anti-Circe Cheylan

R0273 Andreas Thoma
Germany



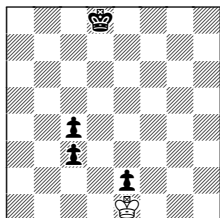
-5 & #1 (Proca) (4+1)
Anti-Circe Cheylan

R0274 Klaus Wenda
& Vlaicu Crisan
Austria/Romania



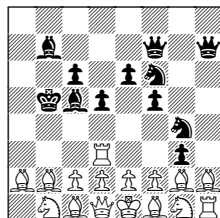
-6 & #1 (KLAN) (5+5)
Anti-Circe Calvet

R0275 Andreas Thoma
Germany



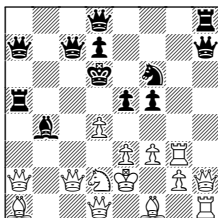
-8 & #1 (Proca) (1+4)
Anti-Circe Cheylan

P0440 Unto Heinonen
Finland



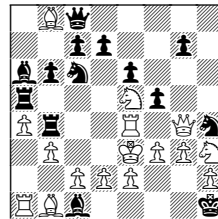
PG 26 (16+12)

P0441 Unto Heinonen
Finland



PG 26½ (14+12)

P0442 Paul Monsky
Waltham MA



PG 27 (16+14)

SG77 (January-March 2017) Solutions – RETROS & PROOF GAMES

Comments from: Author (A), Klaus Wenda (KW), Ladislav Belcsak (LB), Romuald Lazowski (RL), Radovan M. Tomašević (RT), Henryk Kalafut (HK),

The judge, Vlaicu Crisan, reported cooks in several Retractors submitted in 2016:

***R0245** (Thoma) **Dual**: Retract: 2.Qd6-b8 Qd8xQb8(+bQd8) 3.Qb2-b8 Qd8xSb8(+bQd8) 4.Sd7-b8 & 1.Se5#. Also, **forward defense**: Retract: 1...Qd8xQb8(+bQd8) & 1...Rf8~#. The author offers the **correction: +bPb2 and changes the stipulation to “Without Forward Defense”**.

***R0246** (Thoma) **Forward defense**: Retract: 1...Ka6/b6-a5 & 1...c1Q/R#. The author adds the **stipulation: “Without Forward Defense”**.

***R0250** (Thoma) **Cook**: Retract: 1.Rb1-a1 & 1.Sd3#. Also, **forward defense**: Retract: 1...Rg2-g3+ & 1...Rh4#. The author offers the **correction: +bSb1 and changes the stipulation to “Without Forward Defense”**.

***R0255** (Thoma): **No solution** after 2...b7/d7xQc6(+bPc7). No correction was offered.

R0264 (Thoma) Retract: 1.Kg1xPg2(+wKe1) Qh8-h4 [Forced, in order to avoid retro-stalemate] 2.Kh2-g1 Rh7-h3+ 3.Kh3-h2 & 1.Kg4#. *Nice puzzle with KK-mate at the end (KW)*.

R0265 (Thoma) Retract: 1.Kf1xPf2(+wKe1) Qd8-d3 2.Ke1-f1 Qd8xR/B/Sb8 (+bQd8)+ [Black must recapture a White unit on b8 in order to abolish the self-check. Uncapturing a Queen on b8 leads to a short mate: 2...Qd8xQb8(+bQd8)+ 3.Kg6xBg5(+wKe1) Qg8xPg7(+bQd8)+ 4.Kf7-g6 Bd8-g5+ 5.Qd6-b8 & 1.Qd3#] 3.Kf7xQe8(+wKe1) Sg6-h8+ 4.Ke6-f7 Sd7-f8+ 5.Kd5-e6 Rc8/c6-c5+ 6.Kc4-d5 & 1.Kd3#. *Although we have a White Rex Solus, the solution with KK-mate on d3 is rather unexpected (KW)*.

R0266 (Thoma) Retract: 1.Rd4-d3! Qa8-e8+ 2.Kg3-h3 Qh8-a8+ 3.Kf3-g3 Qa8-h8+ 4.Kc3-f3 Qh8-a8+ 5.Kd3-e3 Qa8-h8+ 6.Kc3-d3 [This move has become possible thanks to the anticipatory closing of the diagonal h8-a1 on the first move.] Qh8-a8+ 7.Kb3-c3 Qa8-h8+ 8.Bc4-d5 & 1.Rd1 Qh1#. *A bQ oscillating from a8 to h8, in order to abolish White self-checks was shown - probably for the first time - in a famous prizewinner by W. Dittmann (P1007297 in PDB). Here, one sees a less complicated presentation in elegant Meredith form (KW), Nice mechanism (RL)*.

P0430 (Soliman) 1.a4 h5 2.Ra3 Rh6 3.Rh3 Rg6 4.d3 Rg3 5.hxg3 d5 6.R3h2 Bh3 7.Be3 e6 8.Bxa7 Ba3 9.Sxa3 Qh4 10.Sc4 Qe4 11.f4 b5 12.Bf2 Rxa4 13.Se3 Rc4 14.gxh3 Rxc2 15.Sg2 Rxe2+ 16.Qxe2 Compare with P1080350 in PDB. *In spite of heroic efforts, this one proved unbeatable. Congratulations to the composer for this great problem (LB)*.

P0431 (Heinonen) 1.h4 a5 2.h5 a4 3.h6 a3 4.hxg7 axb2 5.a4 h5 6.a5 h4 7.a6 h3 8.a7 h2 9.axb8Q hxg1Q 10.Rh6 f5 11.Rha6 c6 12.Qh2 Sf6 13.f4 Qa7 14.d4 Qb8 15.Sd2 b1Q 16.g8Q Qa2 17.Qb3 Bh6 18.Qb1 Qg8 19.Qg1. *The wQb8 and bQg1 change places; the wQg8 and bQb1 change places. The Interchange does not begin until both thematic pieces are on their symmetrical squares. FPG problem: IN(Qq)2 & IN(Qq)2 (A), Six Queens on the board in a symmetrical position! (HK)*.

P0432 (Monsky) 1.Sf3 f5 2.Sh4 Kf7 3.f3 Kf6 4.Kf2 Kg5 5.Ke3 Sf6 6.Kd4 c5+ 7.Kxc5 Sc6 8.Sc3 Qc7 9.Rb1 Qxh2 10.Se4 Kf4 11.Sg5 Kg3 12.c3 Kf2 13.Qa4 Ke1 14.Qxa7 Kd1 15.Kb6 Qg1+ 16.Kc7 Kc2 17.Qf2 Ra6 18.Qe1 Sa7 19.Kb8 Kxb1 20.Ka8 Ka1 Both Kings end up deep in the heart of the opposite camps. *Well motivated trip for both Kings (HK)*.

P0433 (Heinonen) 1.h4 c5 2.h5 e4 3.h6 e3 4.hxg7 cxb2 5.c4 h5 6.e5 h4 7.c6 h3 8.c7 hxg2 9.Rh4 Sh6 10.Sh3 g1R 11.g8R Rh1 12.Rg1 Bg7 13.Bg2 Bd4 14.Bd5 Bb6 15.Bb3 d5 16.d4 Sd7 17.Be3 Sf6 18.Sd2 Bd7 19.c8R b1R 20.Rc2 Rc1 21.Rb2 Rcc8 22.Qc2 Rh2 23.0-0-0 Rg2 24.Rb1 Rgg8 Same content as P0431, with Rooks. *Seven Rooks in the final position!* (HK)/

P0434 (Heinonen) 1.c4 h5 2.c5 h4 3.c6 Rh5 4.cxb7 c5 5.f4 c4 6.f5 c3 7.f6 c2 8.fxg7 f5 9.g3 f4 10.Bh3 f3 11.Kf1 f2 12.Kg2 f1S 13.Bg4 Se3+ 14.Kh3 Sd5 15.a4 Sc7 16.Ra3 d5 17.Rc3 Qd6 18.b3 Qa3 19.Bb2 c1S 20.gxf8S Sd3 21.Se6 Se5 22.Sd4 Sf7 23.Sc2 d4 24.bxc8S Rd5 25.Bh5 e5 26.Sd6+ Ke7 27.Se4 Qa1 28.Sf2 Kf6. *WPs c2, f2 and bPs c7, f7 change places; FPG problem: PI(SS) & PI(ss) (A), Masterly craftsmanship. Four pawns return home after promotion to S (LB), Eight Knights on the board in a symmetrical position!* (HK).

P0435 (Dupont/Baier/Osorio) 1.h4 e5 2.h5 e4 3.h6 e3 4.hxg7 h5 5.g4 h4 6.g5 h3 7.g6 h2 8.Sh3 Sh6 9.Rg1 h1Q 10.g8B Qc6 11.g7 Qc3 12.dxc3 exf2+ 13.Kd2 f5 14.e4 f4 15.Bb5 f1Q 16.e5 Qc4 17.Qe2 Qa4 18.Kd3 f3 19.Sd2 f2 20.Sb3 f1Q 21.Bd2 Qf7 22.Sc1 Qfb3 23.cxb3 Bc5 24.bxa4 Be3 25.Bb3 c5 26.g8B Sc6 27.Bgc4 d5 28.e6 dxc4+ 29.Ke4 cxb3 30.e7 Be6 31.exd8B Bg8 32.Bb6 axb6. *Very few proof games showing a six-fold Ceriani-Frolkin combination have been published since Michel Caillaud's pioneering work (P0004254 in PDB). This entry demonstrates, for the first time, such a rendition where the thematic units are of the same type for each side. It reads CF(B,B,B)&CF(q,q,q) in the "Future Proof Game" language. Three White Ceriani-Frolkin Bishops coupled with three Black Ceriani-Frolkin Queens (A), Well done! An extraordinary problem for the FIDE Album. Very difficult to solve (RT).*

Future Proof Game chronicle 8 - the central non-classical case, part III

By Silvio Baier, Nicolas Dupont & Roberto Osorio

1. Introduction

Chronicles 6 and 7 were devoted to the two-piece case. In this chronicle we present the one-piece and three-piece cases.

The basic structure of the **three-piece central FPG** is of one of the following types:

X(A,A) & (Y & Y)(A) or X(A,A) & (Y & Y)(A)
(X & Y)(A,A,A)

The basic structure of the **one-piece central FPG** is of the following type:

(X & X & Y & Y)(A)

Of course themes X and Y might be the same in those settings. We need a short piece of theory to explain the precise meaning of the latter case (X & X & Y & Y)(A). Indeed, when a given piece is performing different themes, it is not always true (at least for the common intuition) that it performs the whole series of themes. For example: A piece A standing on square a1 and playing the sequence a1→b1→a1→b1→a1 is performing two switchbacks on square a1 and one switchback on square b1. It looks counter-intuitive to denote this sequence $SW^3(A)$, as all the moves needed for the switchback on square b1 are already used for the construction of the other two.

For this reason, in the previous chronicle we introduced a definition that seems reasonable: For a whole series of circuits to be performed, it is necessary that each of them contains a "proper edge" (a specific move not shared with any of the remaining circuits). We need to extend this definition to any set of themes. This is done in the simplest way - when a given piece is performing different themes, then it always performs the whole sub-series of non-circuit themes and it performs the whole sub-series of circuit themes, provided each of them contains a specific move not shared with any of the remaining themes, whether it belongs in the circuit sub-family, or not. When a circuit does not fill this condition (each of its thematic moves is shared with another theme), it is simply deleted from the notation.

Let us illustrate this important definition with a working example: The original Ra1 is captured, a promotion to Rook occurs on square a8, and one of the following two sequences is played:

- Ra8-a1 Ra1-b1 and Rb1-a1
- Ra8-a1 Ra1-h1 and Rh1-a1

According to the above definition, the notation for the first sequence is (PR & SW & PR)(R). The thematic piece is performing two times the Pronkin theme and one time the Switchback theme. The circuit SW has a proper edge (second move of the sequence) and must be included in the notation.

The notation for the second sequence is (PR & SI & PR)(R). The thematic piece is performing two times the Pronkin theme, one time the Sibling theme, and one time the Switchback theme. Now, the circuit SW has no proper edge (Ra1-h1 is thematic for SI and Rh1-a1 is thematic for the second PR), and must be deleted from the notation.

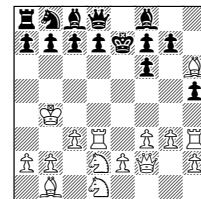
It is generally easy to recognize if a given theme is a circuit or not. There is an exception; the Pawn Circuit theme (PC). Despite its name, we did not consider it a circuit but a "touching theme". (Only the last move reaching the right spot is considered thematic). PC is a strange theme, as it involves a Pawn at the beginning and a promoted piece at the end so it seems suitable not to consider it as a real circuit.

There are two originals in chronicle 8 and one new theme that we did not already encounter in the previous chronicles: **Sibling (SI)** (a piece, original or promoted, moves to the initial square of another original piece of the same nature and color). The following eight themes appear in this chronicle: Ceriani-Frolkin (CF), Cross Capture (CC), Pawn Circuit (PC) and Switchback (SW) introduced in chronicle 1, Pronkin (PR) introduced in chronicle 2, Impostor Pawn (IP) and Anti-Pronkin (AP) introduced in chronicle 3 and finally Donati (DO) introduced in chronicle 4.

2. The thematic pieces are Queens

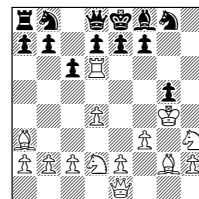
- 1: $SW^9(q)$
- 2: (PR & DO^2 & PR)(q)
- 3: (CC & CF)(QQ) ↔ $AP^2[2](Q)$
- 4: (CF & PC)(q,q,q)

N°1 Jorge Lois & Roberto Osorio
feenschach 2016



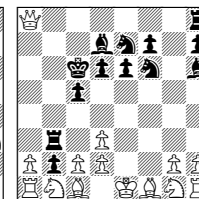
PG 25 C? (15+14)

N°2 Roberto Osorio & Jorge Lois
Phénix 2005



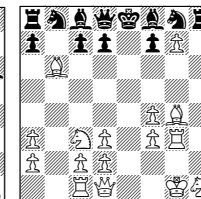
PG 20 C+ (14+13)

N°3 Nicolas Dupont
Original



PG 17½ C+ (14+13)

N°4 Silvio Baier
Die Schwalbe 2011



PG 21½ C+ (16+12)

N°1. Jorge Lois & Roberto Osorio - $SW^9(q)$

1.d4 h5 2.Kd2 Rh6 3.Kc3 Re6 4.Bh6 Re5 5.dxe5 Sf6 6.exf6 exf6 7.Qd4 Ke7 8.Kb4 Qe8 9.Sc3 Qd8 10.Rd1 Qe8 11.Rh3 Qd8 12.Rh3 Qe8 13.g3 Qd8 14.Bg2 Qe8 15.Be4 Qd8 16.Sf3 Qe8 17.Rd1 Qd8 18.Rd2 Qe8 19.Sd1 Qd8 20.c3 Qe8 21.Bb1 Qd8 22.Rd3 Qe8 23.Sd2 (C+) Qd8 24.f3 Qe8 25.Qf2 Qd8.

N°2. Roberto Osorio & Jorge Lois - (PR & DO^2 & PR)(q)

1.f3 c6 2.Kf2 Qa5 3.Kg3 Qc3 4.dxc3 h5 5.Qd6 h4+ 6.Kg4 h3 7.Qc7 hxg2 8.Sh3 g1Q+ 9.Bg2 Qb6 10.Qxc8+ Qd8 11.Qc7 Rh5 12.Qg3 Qb6 13.Rd1 Qg1 14.Rd6 Rd5 15.Be3 g5 16.Sd2 Qxa1 17.Bc5 Qg1 18.Ba3 Qb6 19.Qe1 Rd4+ 20.cxd4 Qd8.

N°3. Nicolas Dupont - (CC & CF)(QQ) ↔ $AP^2[2](Q)$

1.b4 c5 2.b5 Sc6 3.b6 Rb8 4.bxa7 b5 5.f4 b4 6.f5 b3 7.f6 b2 8.fxg7 Sf6 9.g8Q Rb3 10.Qg4 Bh6 11.Qe6 dxe6 12.a8Q Qd3 13.Qb8 Kd7 14.Qd6+ exd6 15.exd3 Se7 16.Qg4 Kc6 17.Qg8 Bd7 18.Qa8+.

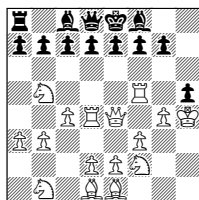
N°4. Silvio Baier - (CF & PC)(q,q,q)

1.h4 e5 2.h5 e4 3.h6 e3 4.hxg7 h5 5.Rh3 h4 6.Rg3 h3 7.f4 h2 8.Sh3 h1Q 9.Sf2 Qh7 10.Sh1 Qd3
11.exd3 e2 12.Kf2 e1Q+ 13.Kg1 Qee7 14.Be2 Qa3 15.bxa3 b5 16.Bb2 b4 17.Bd4 b3 18.Sc3 b2
19.Rc1 b1Q 20.Bg4 Qb7 21.Bb6 Qf3 22.gxf3.

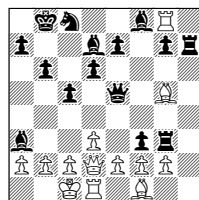
3. The thematic pieces are Rooks

- 5: SW¹⁵(R)
- 6: DO⁸(R)
- 7: ((SI & SW)⁸ & SI & SW²)(R)
- 8: ((PC & SW)⁷ & PC)(R)

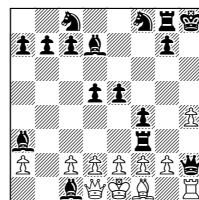
There exists a combination (PR & DO² & PR)(R) (Satoshi Hashimoto, *Die Schwalbe* 2000), which is not included here because an improvement is going to appear elsewhere. Note also that we cannot provide a C+ bound for problems 6 and 8, as they end with castling and are not sound before this special terminal move.

N°5 Unto Heinonen
U.S. Pr. Bulletin 1992

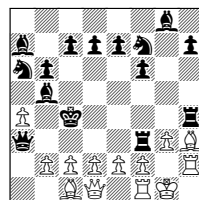
PG 35½ C? (16+13)

N°6 Satoshi Hashimoto
Problem Paradise '95

PG 28½ C? (13+15)

N°7 Satoshi Hashimoto
Probleemblad 2000

PG 28½ C? (11+16)

N°8 Thierry Le Gleuher
Osorio-55 JT 2012

PG 29½ C? (13+15)

N°5. Unto Heinonen - SW¹⁵(R)

1.h4 Sc6 2.h5 Se5 3.Rh4 Sg6 4.hxg6 h5 5.Sh3 Rh7 6.gxh7 Rb8 7.hxg8S Ra8 8.Sh6 Rb8 9.Sf5
Ra8 10.Sd4 Rb8 11.Sb5 Ra8 12.Rd4 Rb8 13.g4 Ra8 14.Bg2 Rb8 15.Bd5 Ra8 16.Bb3 Rb8
17.c4 Ra8 18.Qc2 Rb8 19.Qe4 Ra8 20.Bd1 Rb8 21.b3 Ra8 22.Ba3 Rb8 23.Bd6 Ra8 24.a3 Rb8
25.Ra2 Ra8 26.Rc2 Rb8 27.Rc3 Ra8 28.Rf3 Rb8 (C+) 29.Rf5 Ra8 30.f3 Rb8 31.Rf2 Ra8
32.Rg3 Rb8 33.Rh4 Ra8 34.Bg3 Rb8 35.Be1 Ra8 36.Sf2.

N°6. Satoshi Hashimoto - DO⁸(R)

1.Sc3 h5 2.Se4 h4 3.Sg3 hxg3 4.h4 f5 5.Rh2 gxh2 6.h5 hxg1B 7.h6 Bh2 8.h7 Bd6 9.hxg8R Rh7
10.Rh8 Ba3 11.Rg8 c5 12.Rh8 Qc7 13.Rg8 Qe5 14.Rh8 d6 15.Rg8 Sd7 16.Rh8 Sb6 17.Rg8
Bd7 18.Rh8 0-0-0 19.Rg8 Kb8 20.Rh8 Rc8 21.Rg8 Rc6 22.Rh8 Sc8 23.Rg8 Rb6 24.Rh8 Rb3
25.Rg8 Rg3 26.d3 b6 27.Bg5 f4 28.Qd2 f3 29.0-0-0.

N°7. Satoshi Hashimoto - ((SI & SW)⁸ & SI & SW²)(R)

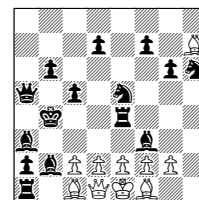
1.Sc3 h5 2.Se4 h4 3.Sg3 hxg3 4.h4 d5 5.Rh2 gxh2 6.Rb1 hxg1B 7.Ra1 Bh2 8.Rb1 Be5 9.Ra1
Bxb2 10.Rb1 Bxc1 11.Rb3 Qd6 12.Rh3 Sd7 13.Rh1 Qh2 14.Rg1 e5 15.Rh1 Bfa3 16.Rg1 Se7
17.Rh1 0-0 18.Rg1 Kh8 19.Rh1 Rg8 20.Rg1 Sf8 21.Rh1 Bd7 22.Rg1 Re8 23.Rh1 Sc8 24.Rg1
Re6 25.Rh1 Rf6 26.Rg1 (C+) Rf3 27.Rh1 f5 28.Rg1 f4 29.Rh1.

N°8. Thierry Le Gleuher - ((PC & SW)⁷ & PC)(R)

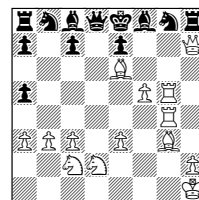
1.Sf3 a5 2.Sd4 a4 3.Sb3 axb3 4.h4 Ra4 5.h5 Rh4 6.a4 f6 7.Ra2 bxa2 8.h6 axb1B 9.hxg7 Sh6
10.g8R Ba2 11.Rg3 Rg8 12.Rgh3 Rg3 13.R3h2 Bg8 14.Rh3 Kf7 15.R3h2 Ke6 16.Rh3 Sf7
17.R3h2 Bh6 18.Rh3 Be3 19.R3h2 Ba7 20.Rh3 b6 21.R3h2 Ba6 22.Rh3 Bb5 23.R3h2 Sa6
24.Rh3 Qa8 25.R3h2 Qf3 26.Rh3 Qa3 27.R3h2 Rf3 28.g3 Kd5 29.Bh3 Kc4 30.0-0.

4. The thematic pieces are Bishops

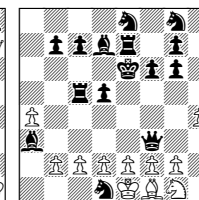
- 9: DO⁸(B)
- 10: (IP & CF)(b,b,b)

N°9 Nicolas Dupont
Donati-50 JT 2004

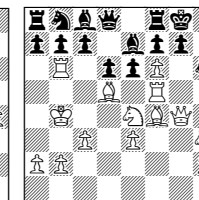
PG 29½ C? (10+15)

N°10 Roberto Osorio
& Jorge Lois
StrateGems 2011

PG 24 C+ (14+12)

N°11 Unto Heinonen
Probleemblad 2001

PG 26 C+ (11+15)

N°12 Jorge Lois
& Roberto Osorio
Original

PG 20 C+ (14+15)

N°9. Nicolas Dupont - DO⁸(B)

1.Sf3 e5 2.Sd4 exd4 3.Sc3 dxc3 4.h4 cxb2 5.Rh3 bxa1B 6.Rg3 Bb2 7.Rg6 hxg6 8.a4 Rh5 9.a5
Rxa5 10.h5 Ra1 11.h6 a5 12.hxg7 Sh6 13.g8B a4 14.Bh7 a3 15.Bg8 a2 16.Bh7 Bfa3 17.Bg8
Ke7 18.Bh7 Kd6 19.Bg8 Kc5 20.Bh7 Kb4 21.Bg8 c5 22.Bh7 Qa5 23.Bg8 b6 24.Bh7 Bb7
25.Bg8 Bf3 26.Bh7 (C+) Sc6 27.Bg8 Re8 28.Bh7 Re4 29.Bg8 Se5 30.Bh7.

N°10. Roberto Osorio & Jorge Lois - (IP & CF)(b,b,b)

1.a4 f5 2.a5 f4 3.Ra4 f3 4.Sa3 fxg2 5.f4 g5 6.Sf3 g1B 7.Bh3 Bd4 8.Be6 Bc3 9.dxc3 g4 10.Qd3
g3 11.Qxh7 g2 12.f5 g1B 13.Bf4 Bc5 14.e3 d5 15.0-0 d4 16.Kh1 d3 17.Rg1 d2 18.Rg5 d1B
19.Bg3 Be2 20.Rag4 Bc4 21.Sd2 Bb3 22.cxb3 b6 23.Sc2 Ba3 24.bxa3 bxa5.

5. The thematic pieces are Knights

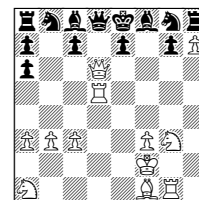
- 11: SW⁷(S)
- 12: (SW & PR)²(s)
- 13: (IP & CF)(s,s,s)

N°11. Unto Heinonen - SW⁷(S)

1.Sc3 a5 2.Sd5 a4 3.Sxe7 Kxe7 4.h4 Ke6 5.Rh3 Qf6 6.Rb3 axb3 7.a4 Qf3 8.Ra2 bxa2 9.Sh3 a1S
10.Sg1 Sb3 11.Sh3 Sxc1 12.Sg1 Sa2 13.Qa1 Sc3 14.Qa3 Sd1 15.Qd3 Ba3 16.Qg6+ hxg6
17.Sh3 Rh5 18.Sg1 Rc5 19.Sh3 d5 20.Sg1 Sd7 21.Sh3 Sdf6 22.Sg1 Bg7 23.Sh3 Re8 24.Sg1
Re7 25.Sh3 Se8 26.Sg1 f6.

N°12. Jorge Lois & Roberto Osorio - (SW & PR)²(s)

1.f4 Sf6 2.f5 Se4 3.f6 Sxd2 4.Kxd2 h5 5.Kc3 h4 6.Kb4 h3 7.Sc3 hxg2 8.Sh3 g1S 9.Bg2 Sf3
10.Rf1 Se5 11.Rf5 Sg4 12.Bf4 Sh6 13.e3 Sg8 14.Qg4 Sh6 15.Rd1 Sg8 16.Rd6 Sh6 17.Rb6 d6
18.Bd5 e6 19.Se4 Be7 20.c3 0-0.

N°13 Roberto Osorio
& Jorge Lois
Probleemblad 2011

PG 21 C+ (12+13)

N°13. Roberto Osorio & Jorge Lois - (IP & CF)(s,s,s)

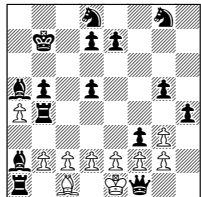
1.a4 h5 2.a5 h4 3.a6 h3 4.Ra5 hxg2 5.h4 f5 6.h5 f4 7.h6 f3 8.h7
fxe2 9.f3 d5 10.Kf2 e1S 11.Se2 g1S 12.Sg3 Se2 13.Rg1 Sc3
14.dxc3 d4 15.Sd2 d3 16.Sb3 d2 17.Sa1 dxc1S 18.Qd6 Sb3
19.cxb3 Sc2 20.Rd5 Sa3 21.bxa3 bxa6.

6. The thematic piece is a King

- 14: SW¹³(K) & SW³(R)

This problem is also an extension of the non-central SW³(K,R), but we prefer to emphasize the centrality of SW¹³(K) with extension SW³(R).

N°14 Satoshi Hashimoto Orbit 2005



PG 40 C? (10+15)

N°14. Satoshi Hashimoto - SW¹³(K) & SW³(R)

1.Sf3 a5 2.Sd4 a4 3.Sb3 axb3 4.a4 f5 5.Ra2 bxa2 6.Rg1 axb1S
7.Rh1 Sc3 8.Rg1 Sxd1 9.Rh1 Sc3 10.Rg1 Se4 11.Rh1 Sg3 12.hxg3
f4 13.Rh6 f3 14.Rd6 cxd6 (C+) 15.Kd1 Qa5 16.Ke1 Qh5 17.Kd1
Qh1 18.Ke1 h5 19.Kd1 h4 20.Ke1 Rh5 21.Kd1 Rb5 22.Ke1 g5
23.Kd1 Bg7 24.Ke1 Bc3 25.Kd1 Ba5 26.Ke1 Rb4 27.Kd1 b5
28.Ke1 Bb7 29.Kd1 Bd5 30.Ke1 Sc6 31.Kd1 0-0-0 32.Ke1 Kb7
33.Kd1 Rc8 34.Ke1 Sd8 35.Kd1 Rc3 36.Ke1 Ra3 37.Kd1 Ra1
38.Ke1 Ba2 39.Kd1 d5 40.Ke1 Qxf1+.

7. Comments and open problems

It would be interesting, albeit difficult, to break the long established SW oscillation records. Also challenging would be to apply this SW oscillation trick on some thematic square(s), as already done in problems 7, 8 and 12. For example, oscillations from an anti-Pronkin piece would make a significant open problem.

Generally, combinations of the type (X & X & Y & Y)(A), where X and Y are different themes, are appealing. This possibility is already illustrated by problems 2, 7, 8 and 12. It is probably possible to break some of them, or to construct new examples of the same kind. Also challenging and completely new would be to find an extension with three different themes, namely (X & X & Y & Y & Z & Z)(A).

It is probably possible to break the (IP & CF)(b,b,b) and (IP & CF)(s,s,s) combinations (problems 10 and 13 respectively). Indeed, the same combinations for Queens and Rooks are no longer FPG records - these belong to combinations IP(Q,Q,Q,Q)[3] (Roberto Osorio & Jorge Lois, Die Schwalbe 2011) and IP(R,R,R,R,R)[3] (Nicolas Dupont, Die Schwalbe 2016).

The combination (CF & PC)(A,A,A) is only known in the Queen case (problem 4) - it looks challenging to achieve it for another piece type.

Finally, it would also be interesting to construct new examples with the X(A,A) & (Y & Y)(A) structure. Indeed, problem 3 seems to be the only such rendition - an original constructed to illustrate this possibility.

StrateGems 2015 #3 Award

By Salman Javadzade

Twenty-nine composers from thirteen countries published forty-five threemovers during 2015.

Some remarks on three entries, with excellent ideas, that did not make it into the award:

M1327 by C.G.S. Narayanan: duals in the solution in the thematic variation 1...f4 2.Rf3 fxb3 3.Qf6/Rf5/Bxg3# and in the non-thematic variation 1...d3 2.exf5/Sh5;

M1328 by A.Sygurov & F.Kapustin: duals in the thematic tries: 1.Sde5? Be8 2.Qa7+ Kd8 3.Qc7/Qd7# and 1.Qxd4? Kf7 2.Qxf4+ Ke7 3.Qf8/Bd6#, 1...e5 2.Qxe5+ Be6 3.Qxe6/Qc7/Qxg7#;

M1330 by C.G.S. Narayanan: multiple duals on mating move in the thematic variation 1...Rf6 2.gxf6+ Qf5 3.Qxc7/Qc6/Rxf5/Rhxf5#; 2...Sg5 3.Qxc7/Qc6#.

Compositions with difficult ideas, but having some insurmountable shortcomings, are publishable but will not receive an award. In the future, hopefully, other composers may present the same ideas in more suitable and flexible versions.

I omitted some unnecessary tries in some awarded compositions which had nothing to do with the main content.

Here is my decision:

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 st Prize Michael Keller | 2 nd Prize Victor Aberman† & Fedir Kapustin | 3 rd Prize Kenan Velikhanov | 1 st Honorable Mention Araz Almammodov & Kenan Velikhanov |
| | | | |
| #3*√ | (9+11) #3 | (11+4) #3 | (9+11) #3 (13+6) |

1st Prize - (Michael Keller - M1351) 1...Bxd5+ 2.Rxd5#; 1.S5~? (2.Sh4#), 1...Bxd5+ 2.Rxd5+ Ke6!; **1.Qa8!** (2.Qc8+ Kxg5 3.Qg4#), 1...Sxd8 2.Se4! ~/g5/Bxd5/Be1 3.Sh4/Sg3/Qxd5/Sxe3#, (2.Sh3/Sh7? g5!; 2.Sf7/Se6? Sxf7/Sxe6!), 1...Sc5 2.Sf7! ~/g5/Bxd5+/Be1 3.Sh4/Sxh6/Qxd5/Sxe3#, (2.Sh3/Sh7? g5!; 2.Se6/Se4? Sxe6/Sxe4!), 1...Sd6 2.Se6! ~/g5/Bxd5+/Be1 3.Sh4/Sg7/Qxd5/Sxe3#, (2.Sh3/Sh7? g5!; 2.Se4/Sf7? Sxe4/Sxf7!), (1...Kxg5 2.Qc8 ~/Bxd5+ 3.Qg4/Rxd5#). A beautiful key. A marvelous Knights' duel. Tries on White's second moves involve three moves (Sf7, Se6, Se4 - note a cycle here!) by the white Knight that are defeated by the black Knight's moves to the same squares, while the tries 1.Sh3? & 1.Sh7? are defeated by the 1...g5! Very harmonious! Side variation, set and try are a welcome addition to this outstanding piece of art.

2nd Prize - (Victor Aberman† & Fedir Kapustin - M1348) A nice presentation of a popular King's star idea. Good activity of the white Queen. Bristol-like key. Technically impeccable composition. **1.Bf3!** (2.Qd5+ Kf4/Kf6 3.Qg5/Qf5#), 1...Kxd6 2.Qb8+ Kxc5/Ke7 3.Qxb4/Qf8#, 1...Kd4 2.Qd5+ Ke3 3.Qd2#, 1...Kf6 2.Sxd7+ Kf7 3.Qf8#, 1...Kf4 2.Sd3+ Ke3 3.Qa7#.

3rd Prize - (Kenan Velikhanov - M1329) 1.Re3! (2.Se2+ Kc5 3.Re5#), 1...Sb7 2.Se6+ Kd5 3.Bxb7# (Re5?), 1...Sc6 2.Se6+ Kd5 3.Re5# (Bxc6?), 1...S2~ 2.Re4+ Kc5 3.axb4# (d4?), 1...Sc4!? 2.Re4+ Kc5 3.d4# (axb4?). Two pairs of variations with Velikhanov theme added by a side variation 1...Kc5 2.Re5+ Kd4 3.Rd5#. The composer continues finding new possibilities of presenting this theme.

1st Honorable Mention - (Araz Almammodov & Kenan Velikhanov - M1326) Bristol variations with a surprising key. **1.Qh2!** (zz), 1...Ba5 2.Bc7 ~ 3.Qd6#, 1...g5 2.Rh8 ~ 3.Qh7#, 1...b2 2.Rc2 ~ 3.Qe2#, 1...bxc5 2.Bc7 ~/c4 3.Qd6/Bxg6#, (1...Bxc5 2.Rd2+ cxd2 3.Qxd2#).

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| 2 nd Honorable Mention Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez | 3 rd Honorable Mention Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez | 4 th Honorable Mention Fedir Kapustin | 5 th Honorable Mention Mike Prcic |
| | | | |
| #3√ | (9+11) #3*√ | (11+10) #3√... | (11+4) #3 (13+8) |

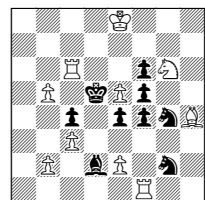
2nd Honorable Mention - (Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez - M1350) Composition with two phases and nice sacrifices in solution. 1.Sb6? (2.Qxg6+ Kd4 3.Qd3#), 1...Kd4 2.Qd7+ Rd5/Ke4 3.Qxd5/Qd3#, 1...Rc~ 2.Rxf4+ exf4 3.Qd5#, 1...Rxb5!; **1.Qd7!** (2.Sf6+ gxf6 3.Qd3#), 1...Bd4 2.Qe6 ~/Rxd5 3.Rxf4/Qxg6#, 1...Rd4 2.Rxf4+ exf4 3.Qe6#, 1...Rc3 2.Sxc3+ Bxc3 3.Qd3#, 1...Rxd5 2.Rxe3+ Kd4/fxe3 3.Bb6/Qg4#.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez - M1291) Another nice threemover with sacrifices. 1...Qxg3+ 2.Qxg3+ Kd4 3.Qc3? Ra4!; **1.Sb4!** (2.Rxd5+ Qxd5 3.Qf4#), 1...Sg6 2.Sd3+ Qxd3 3.Qf6#, 1...Be4 2.Sc4+ dxc4 3.Qd4#, 1...Se2 2.Qe3+ Qxe3 3.Rxd5#, 1...Qxg3+ 2.Qxg3+ Kd4 3.Rxd5#.

4th Honorable Mention - (Fedir Kapustin - M1308) 1.e4? (zz), 1...d6 2.Re8 d5 3.exd5#, 1...dxc6 2.Bf1 c5 3.Rd1#, 1...d5!; 1.e3? (zz), 1...d5 2.Re8 d4 3.exd4#, 1...d6!; 1.Re8? (zz), 1...d5 2.e3, 1...d6 1...dxc6!; 1.Be4? (zz), 1...P~ 2.Bd5, 1...dxc6 2.Bxc6, 1...Kxe2!; **1.Bf5!** (zz), 1...d5 2.Rxd5 Kxe2 3.Re5#, 1...d6 2.Rxd6 Kxe2 3.Re6#, 1...dxc6 2.Bxg4 e5 3.Rd1#. Multiphased change of play, Banny, change of move functions, correction by the white Bishop.

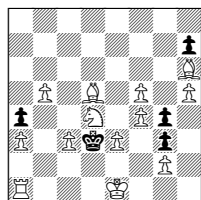
5th Honorable Mention - (Mike Prcic - M1290) **1.Be3!** (2.Rc5+ Ke4 3.Bd3#), 1...Bxd6 2.Sb6+! cxb6 3.Qb7# (2...Ke4 3.Bd3#), 1...Be5 2.Sge7+! Sxe7 3.Qf3# (2...Ke4 3.Bd3#). Two masked Game interference. Classic. Also, 1...Sxe3 2.Rd3+ Kc4/Kc6 3.Qxc7#, (2...Ke4 3.Qf3#), 1...Ke4 2.Bd3+ Kd5 3.Rc5#.

1st Commendation
Roman Zalokotsky
& Anatoly Mityushin



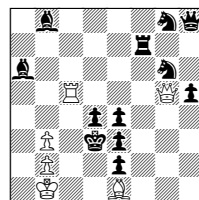
#3√

2nd Commendation
Fedir Kapustin



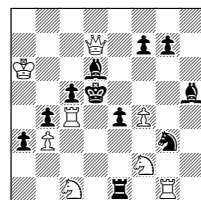
(10+9) #3√..

3rd Commendation
Leonid Lyubashevsky
& Leonid Makaronez



#3

4th Commendation
Tibor Érsek



(6+12) #3

(8+11)

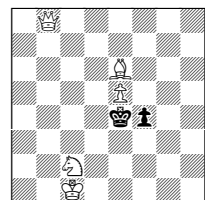
1st Commendation - (Roman Zalokotsky & Anatoly Mityushin - M1288) Same square defenses, some en passant involved. 1.b4? e3 2.Rd6+ (threat) Ke4 3.Rd4#, 1...cxb3 e.p.!: **1.e3!** (2.b4 ~/cxb3 e.p./fxe5 3.Rd6/c4/Se7#), 1...S2xe3 2.Sxf4+ Kxe5 3.Re6# (2.b4? cxb3 e.p.), 1...fxe3 2.Se7+ Kxe5 3.Rxf5# (2.b4? cxb3 e.p.), 1...S4xe3 2.Se7+ Kxe5 3.Bxf6# (2.b4? cxb3 e.p.), 1...Bxe3 2.Rd1+ Bd2 3.Rxd2#.

2nd Commendation - (Fedir Kapustin - M1287) Banny. Change of play. 1.0-0-0+?[A] Kxe3![a], 1.Rd1+?[B] Kxc3![b]; 1.Bg5? (zz), 1...Kxe3[a] 2.Rd1[B] h6 3.Sc2#, 1...Kxc3[b] 2.0-0-0[A] h6 3.Se2#, 1...h6!; **1.Ra2!** (zz), 1...Kxe3[a] 2.Be4 Ke4 3.Re2#, 1...Kxc3[b] 2.Be4 Kc4 3.Rc2#.

3rd Commendation - (Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez - M1324) **1.Rc2!** (2.Rd2+ exd2 3.Qxd2#), 1...Sf4 2.Qg3! ~ 3.Rd2#, 1...Rf4 2.Qd5! ~ 3.Rc3#, 1...Bf4 2.Qg2! ~ 3.Qxe2#, WCCT-9 theme, (1...Qh6 2.Rc3+ dxc3 3.Qd5#)..

4th Commendation - (Tibor Érsek - M1325) **1.Se2!** (2.Rxc5+ Kxc5 3.Qb5#), 1...Rxe2 2.Rd1+ Rd2 3.Rxd2#, 1...Bxe2 2.Qxf7+ Kc6 3.Qb7#, 1...Sxe2 2.Rg5+ f5 3.Rxf5#. Captures on the same square. (1...Rc1 2.Rxc5+ Rxc5 3.Rd1#).

5th Commendation
Abdelaziz Onkoud



#3

(5+2)

5th Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - M1300) The best miniature. **1.Qh8!** Kd3 2.Qh5 threat (3.Qf3#) Ke4 3.Qe2#, 1...f3 2.Qf6 (3.Qf5#) Kd3 3.Qxf3#, 1...Kf3 2.Qh2 Ke4 3.Qe2#.

Many thanks to Salman for replacing the previously announced judge. Please send your remarks within three months to Rauf Aliovsadzade.

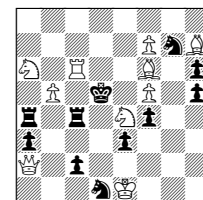
StrateGems 2016 #3 Award

By Jim Grevatt

I was grateful for this opportunity to see work from several old acquaintances and a number of new names. There were 36 problems to examine, covering a wide range of ideas and solving challenges. **M1364** by L.Lyubashevsky & L.Makaronez was withdrawn from the tourney; it was previously published.

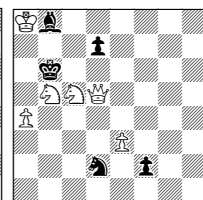
Two general thoughts: One of them is the increasing use of unprovided flights in the diagram, which sometimes gives the solver too broad a hint but also enables complex ideas to be successfully set. The other is that lightweight problems can still offer a good challenge for solvers even though (with one exception) they are not featured in this award.

1st Prize
Valentin Rudenko†
& Viktor Chepizhny



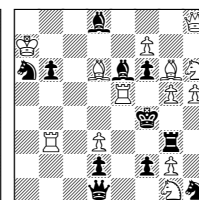
#3

2nd Prize
V.Kirillov, Y.Gorbatenko
V.Ivanov & V.Aberman†



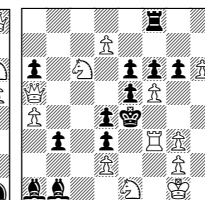
(10+11) #3

1st Honorable Mention
Aleksander Kuzovkov



(6+5) #3

2nd Honorable Mention
Leonid Lyubashevsky,
Leonid Makaronez
& Sergey I. Tkachenko



(13+11) #3

(12+12)

1st Prize - (Valentin Rudenko & Viktor Chepizhny - M1409) An amazing key and quiet threat (brushing off 1...c1S/Q) using the unprovided flight 1...Ke4 to transfer three 2nd move defenses and subsequent mates, to 1st move defenses and the same moves as continuations, followed by new mates after 2...Ke4. A worthy epitaph to a distinguished partnership. **1.Ke2!!** (2.Kf3 Sxf5/Se6/Se8 3.Sc7/Rd6/Rc5#), 1...Sxf5 2.Sc7+ Kxe4 3.Re6#, 1...Se6 2.Rd6+ Kxe4 3.fxe6#, 1...Se8 2.Rc5+ Kxe4 3.fxe8Q#, (1...Kxe4 2.Rxc4+ Rxc4 3.Qxc4#; 2...Kd5 3.Rd4#).

2nd Prize - (Valery Kirillov, Yuri Gorbatenko, Valery Ivanov & Viktor Aberman - M1375) The shining exception. A difficult lightweight with a flight-giving key, 4 models, one or both Ss sacrificed, 3 mates on b5 with bK on different squares and even a Holst under-promotion. Quite a find. **1.Sd6!** (2.Sc8+ Ka5/Kc7 3.Qxd2/Qxd7#), 1...Kc7 2.Sa6+ Kd8/Kb6 3.Qg5/Qb5#, 1...Ka5 2.Sa6+ Kxa4 3.Qa2#, 1...Bxd6 2.Qb7+ Kxc5 3.Qb5#, 1...f1S 2.Sa6 ~ 3.Qb5#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Aleksandr Kuzovkov - M1411) A flight-gift key, followed by 3 defenses cutting off W control of h4 and openings of a R battery cutting off B1 controls. A complex and difficult problem, but the thematic content is not entirely clear. **1.Sg8!** (2.Re4+ Kxg5 3.Qh6#), 1...Qg4 2.Rd5+ Ke3 3.d4#, 1...Bg4 2.Re7+ Kxg5 3.Qxf6#, 1...Rg4 2.Re2+ Kxg5 3.Sf3#, (1...fxe5 2.Qxe5+ Kg4 3.Qf4#).

2nd Honorable Mention - (Leonid Lyubashevsky, Leonid Makaronez & Sergey I. Tkachenko - M1380) Subtle key followed by a partial S wheel vacating c6, with 8 variations in total achieved with few pieces – but many pawns! **1.Qc5!** (2.Sd8 ~ 3.Qc6#), 1...exf5 2.Se7 Rc8 3.Qd5#, 1...gxf5 2.Sxe5 ~/fxe5 3.Rf4/Qc6#, 1...b2 2.Sxd4 ~/exd4 3.Re3/Rf4#, 1...Ra8 2.Sb8 ~ 3.Qc6#, 1...Rf7 2.Se7 ~ 3.Qc6#, 1...Rc8 2.dxc8S ~ 3.Sd6#, 1...Ba2 2.Sxd3 ~ 3.Sf2#.

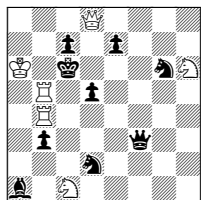
3rd Honorable Mention - (Valery Kirillov & Felix Rossomakho - M1406) Four harmonious variations where bB & bS cut off the bQ's control of d5. Compared to **M1411**, this one is more elegant but the degree of symmetry detracts. **1.Ra4!** (2.Rc5+ Kxc5 3.Qxc7#), 1...Bd4 2.Sd3! ~/Qxd3/Bc3 3.Sb4/Qxd5/Rc5#, 1...Be5 2.Sf5! ~/Qxf5/Sf8 3.Qe8/Qxd5/Sxe7#, 1...Sc4 2.Sxb3! ~/Qxb3/Bd4 3.Rc5/Qxd5/Sxd4#, 1...Se5 2.Sf5! ~/Qxf5/Sg6/Sd7 3.Sxe7/Qxd5/Qe8/Qa8#.

3rd Honorable Mention
Valery Kirillov &
Felix Rossomakho

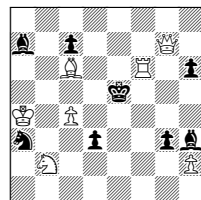
4th Honorable Mention
Leonid Lyubashevsky
& Leonid Makaronez

Commendation
Charles Ouellet
ded. to John Francis Ling

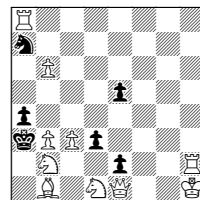
Commendation
Kenan Velikhanov



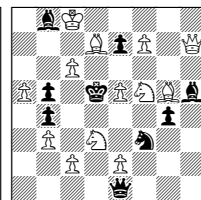
#3



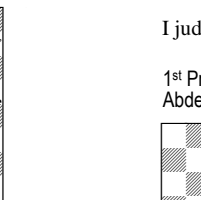
(6+9) #3



(7+8) #3



(10+6) #3



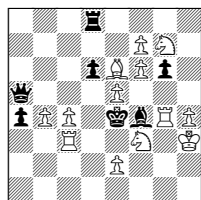
(13+9) #3

4th Honorable Mention - (Leonid Lyubashevsky & Leonid Makaronez - M1393) Another one with R battery openings, 5 in total but not a complete wR cross. Good construction, but here the unprovided flight flags the solution. **1.Kb3!** (2.Sxd3+ Kd4 3.Rf3#), 1...Bf5 2.Rxh6+ Kf4 3.Qxg3#, 1...Be6 2.Sxd3+ Kd6/Kd4 3.Qd7/Rf3#, 1...Sxc4 2.Sxc4+ Kd4 3.Rf5#, 1...Kd4 2.Re6+ Kc5 3.Sa4#, 1...Bf1 2.Qe7+ Kd4 3.Rf4#.

Commendation - (Charles Ouellet - M1362) Long lines with wQ using the corners. Unprovided flight. 1.bxa7? (2.Rb8 ~ 3.Sc4#), 1...exd1 ~ 2.Sc4+ Kxb3 3.Ba2#, 1...d2!; 1.Sxd3? (2.Qxe2), 1...exd1 ~ 2.Qxd1 ~/axb3 3.Ra2/Rxa7#, 1...Kxb3!; **1.Qg1!** (2.Qc5+ Kxb3 3.Qb4#), 1...exd1Q 2. Qxd1 ~/axb3 3.Sc4/Rxa7#, 1...e1Q 2.Sc4+ Kxb3 3.Ba2#, 1...Kxb3 2.Qg8+ Ka3 3.Qa2#, 1...Sc6 2.Rxa4+ Kxb3 3.Qg8#.

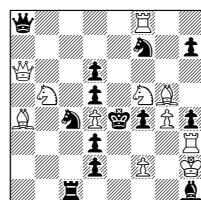
Commendation - (Kenan Velikhanov - M1365) A good key leads to a double flight-gift threat and pleasing variety. **1.c7!** (2.Bc6+ Kxc6/Ke6 3.Sxe7/f8S#), 1...Bg6 2.Bc6+ Kxc6/Ke6 3.Sxe7/Qxg6#, 1...Bxf7 2.Bc6+ Kxc6/Ke6 3.Sxe7/Sg7#, 1...Sxe5 2.Be6+ Ke4/Kc6/Kxe6 3.Sc5/cxb8S/Sf4#, 1...Qc3 2.Sxe7+ Kd4 3.e3#.

Commendation
Vladimir Kozhakin
& Alexander Melnichuk



#3

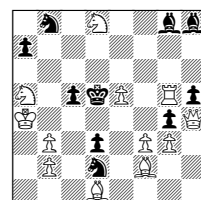
Commendation
Abdelaziz Onkoud



#3

(11+13)

Commendation
Kenan Velikhanov



#3

(12+10)

Commendation - (V. Kozhakin & A. Melnichuk - M1379) After a good key and quiet threat, 2 mating moves reappear as 2nd move checks after defenses. This theme is developed in **M1409**. **1.Kg2!** (2.e3 ~/Qxe5[a]/dxe5[b]/g5 3.Rxf4/Sd2[A]/Sg5[B]/Bf5#), 1...Qxe5[a] 2.Sd2+[B] Kd4 3.Rd3#, 1...dxe5[b] 2.Sg5+[B] Kd4 3.Rd3#.

Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - M1381) A simple but entertaining dual avoidance theme based on the bSs focused on e5 and the wSs on d6. **1.Bd1!** (2.f3+ Bxf3 3.Bxf3#), 1...Sce5/Sfe5 2.Sfxd6+! (2.Sbxd6+?) Sxd6 3.Rxf4#, 1...Sxg5 2.Sbxd6+! (2.Sfxd6+?) Sxd6 3.Qxd3#, (1...f3 2.Rxh4 ~ 3.Sg3#).

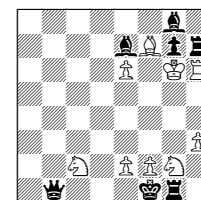
Commendation - (Kenan Velikhanov - M1396) A good half S wheel, but some repetition. The wQ is under-used, but how amusing that she goes to h1 and never breaks out to e7! **1.Sc4!** (2.e6+ Be5 3.Rxe5#), 1...Sxc4 2.bxc4+ Kxc4 3.Bb3#, 1...Se4 2.fxe4+ Kxe4 3.Qh1#, 1...Sxb3 2.Bxb3 ~/Bxe5 3.Sb6/Rxe5#, 1...Sxf3 2.Bxf3+ gxf3 3.Se3#, 1...Sd7 2.Se3+ Kd4 3.Sc6#, 1...Bh7 2.Se3+ Kd4 3.Se6#.

Many thanks to Jim for this timely and expert report. This award will be open for three months. All comments should be sent to Rauf Aliovsadzade.

By János Csák

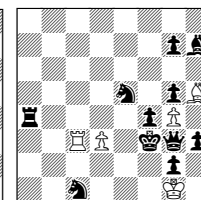
I judged twenty-nine problems. Here is my decision:

1st Prize
Abdelaziz Onkoud



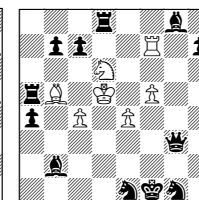
h#3 2 sols.

2nd Prize
Christopher Jones



h#3 b) Pf4→g6

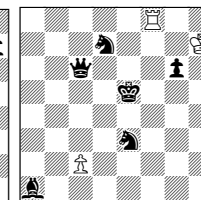
3rd Prize
Abdelaziz Onkoud



h#3 2 sols.

(7+12)

4th Prize
Valery Kopyl



h#3

(3+6)

b/c) Se3→e4/e7

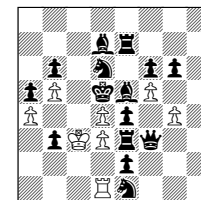
1st Prize - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2080) A combination of function exchange, annihilation, unpinning and self-blocks achieved with the minimum number of pieces and good technique. **Solution:** 1.Bxf7+ Kxh7 2.Bh5 Rf6 3.Bxe2 Sge3#; 1.Rxh6+ Kxg7 2.Rf6 Bh5 3.Rxf2 Sce3#.

2nd Prize - (Christopher Jones - 2150) Two good solutions with full harmony between them. **Solution:** a) 1.Bf5 Bg6 2.Scxd3 Rxd3+ 3.Ke4 Bxf5#; b) 1.Re4 Rc4 2.Sxg4 Bxg4+ 3.Kf4 Rxe4#.

3rd Prize - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2151) An excellent battery play with a double annihilation of white pieces, exchange of functions, and Zilahi. **Solution:** 1.Rxb5+ Ke6 2.Rxf5 Sxf5 3.Qg2 Sg3#; 1.Bxf7+ Kc5 2.Bxc4 Sxc4 3.Qf2+ Se3#.

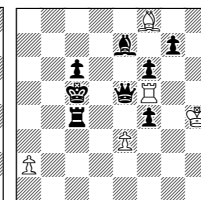
4th Prize - (Valery Kopyl - H2075) Three chameleon-echo mates, with three self-blocks by the black Queen and white Pawn's two-step. **Solution:** a) 1.Ke4 Kh6 2.Se5 Kg5 3.Qd5 Rf4#; b) 1.Sdc5 c3 2.Se6 Kxg6 3.Qd6 Rf5#; c) 1.Ke6 c4 2.Se5 Kg7 3.Qd7 Rf6#.

Special Prize
Abdelaziz Onkoud



h#3 2 sols.

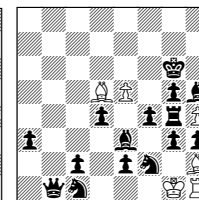
1st Honorable Mention
Menachem Witztum



h#3 2 sol.

(5+8)

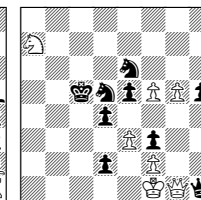
2nd Honorable Mention
Abdelaziz Onkoud



h#3 b) Kg6→a1

(6+15)

3rd Honorable Mention
Kenan Velikhanov



h#3 2 sols.

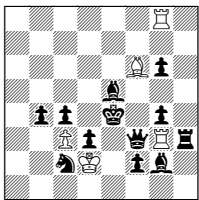
(7+9)

Special Prize - (Abdelaziz Onkoud SG73 N°9) Clearing of the d-file with mates on the same square. **Solution:** 1.Bxd4+ Kxb3 2.Bc3 dxe4+ 3.Kc5 Rd5#, 1.Rxd3+ Kb2 2.Rc3 fxe6 3.Ke6 d5#.

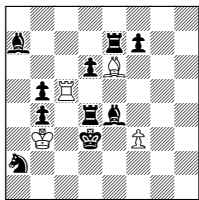
1st Honorable Mention - (Menachem Witztum - H2076) Unpins, switchbacks, self-blocks, white Pawn's two-step and pin-mates. **Solution:** 1.Bd6 Rxf6 2.Qb2 a3 3.Qb6 Rf5#; 1.Qd5 Bxg7 2.Bd8 a4 3.Bb6 Bf8#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Abdelaziz Onkoud SG73 N°10) Zilahi, black piece sacrifice and active play of both Kings. **Solution:** a) 1.gxh2+ Kxh2 2.Rg1 Rxg1 3.Kf5 Rxg5#; b) 1.Sxh1+ Kxh1 2.Bg1 Bxg1 3.Kb2 Bxd4#.

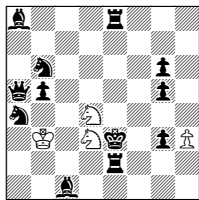
3rd Honorable Mention - (Kenan Velikhanov - H2079) Bicolor Bristol and line opening. **Solution:** 1.Qh2 Qg3 2.e4 Qb8 3.Qd6 Qb5#; 1.Qh4 Qg4 2.d3 Qa4 3.Qb4 Qc6#.

1st Commendation
Abdelaziz Onkoud

h#2½ 2 sols. (5+12)

2nd Commendation
Fadil Abdurahmanović

h#3 2 sols. (4+10)

3rd Commendation
Valery Kirillov &
Alexey Ivunin

h#3 b) Pg5→g2 (4+12)

1st Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2074) Solution: 1...Kc1 2.Ke3 Bg5+ 3.Bf4 Re8#; 1...cxb4 2.Kd4 Rxg4+ 3.Qe4 Rd8#.

2nd Commendation - (Fadil Abdurahmanović - H2125) Solution: 1.Bxf3 Bg4 2.Re3 Rc1 3.Be4 Rd1#, 1.Rd5 Rc2 2.Be3 Bh3 3.Rd4 Bf1#.

3rd Commendation - (Valery Kirillov & Alexey Ivunin - H2126) Solution: a) 1.Re4 Sb2 2.Kf4 Ka3 3.Be3 Sd3#; b) 1.Be4 Sc2+ 2.Kf3 Ka2 3.Re3 Sd4#.

We thank Janos for his expedient award. It stays open for three months. Comments should be sent to Abdelaziz Onkoud.

StrateGems 2016 Series-movers and Stalemates Award

By Hans Gruber, International Judge of the FIDE

It was entertaining and rewarding to study the 51 problems published in this section of *StrateGems* during the year 2016 (40 series-movers, 11 stalemates). I am grateful for the help of Erich Bartel (search for anticipations) and Dirk Borst (testing a couple of problems). Unfortunately, some good candidates were cooked.

C0584: Cook 1.g4 3.gxf2 4.Ke3 6.dxe1R 7.Rg1 8.f1B 9.axb1R 10.Re1 12.Kd1 15.d2 16.gxh5 20.h1B 21.Sc6 Rxc6=.

C0591v (correction see SG77): Cook 1.b1Q etc.

C0592v (correction see SG77): Cook 1.cxd1R 2.Rxe1 3.Rd1 4.Rxd5 5.Rc5 6.e1S 7.Sd3 8.Sxf4 9.Sh3 15.Kh4 16.Rh5 17.Rh6 18.Bxg6 19.Bh7 20.Bg8 21.b1B 22.Bbh7 23.g6 24.Bg5 25.Kh5 Kxh3=.

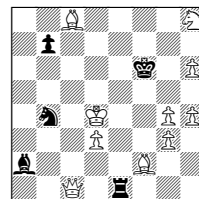
C0605v: Cook 31.b1R 32.Rxd1 33.Rb1 34.d1S 35.Sxf2 36.Se4 37.g1R 38.Rg2 39.Ra2 40.Bf3 41.Bd1 42.Rbb2 43.Sd2 44.Sb1 45.d2 46.d3 Rxd1=.

Section series-movers.

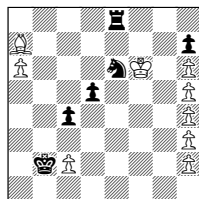
List of participating series-movers: I-III/2016: p. 6 (G. P. Sphicas), C0568, C0569, C0570, C0571, C0572, C0573, C0574, C0575, C0576 [10]; IV-VI/2016: C0577, C0578, C0579, C0580, C0581, C0582, C0583, C0584 (cooked), C0585, C0586 [10]; VII-IX/2016: C0587, C0588, C0589, C0590, C0591v (correction see SG75; again cooked), C0592v (correction see SG75; again cooked), C0593, C0594, C0595 [9]; X-XII/2016: C0596, C0597, C0598, C0599, C0600, C0601, C0602, C0603, C0604, C0605v (cooked), C0606 [11].

1st Prize - (Hans Peter Rehm - C0595) An exciting new discovery -- a series-movers with defensive play by the other side! This is the most compelling utilization of the parry-type series movers. As the word Parry indicates, this type offers the opportunity of counterplay, which is much more interesting than using the parry-type to include some extra help moves by the other side. One might discuss in-how-far parry-type series movers still belong to the group of series-movers -- this problem is well balanced between the white series and the black counterplay.

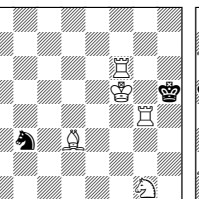
As one might expect, we can find New German logic in this problem. White plans to force Black to construct a battery (either orthogonal or diagonal). For that purpose, one black piece has to be decoyed beyond a critical square. One decoy alone does not suffice, however: When White tries to force the second piece to interfere, Black defends by moving again the decoyed piece. To prove the soundness of this argument, it is important that there are two lines of verifying play that show that one critical alone move does not suffice. These lines of play are 1.Qc7 2.Qd8+ Re7 3.Qd6+? Re6! and 1.Qc5 2.Qf8+ Bf7 3.Qd6+? Be6!. Therefore, both black pieces have to be decoyed critically: 1.Qc5 2.Qf8+ Bf7 3.Qd8+ Re7, and now 4.Qd6+ leads to two variations, ending with reciprocal uncovered mates: 4...Be6 5.Bxb7 6.Bf3 7.Ke4 8.d4 9.Qf4+ Bf5# or 4...Re6 5.Qxb4 6.Kd5 7.Bc5 8.Bd6 9.Qd4+ Re5#. This is a true series-mover of the future, opening the avenue into a new world!

1st Prize
Hans Peter Rehm

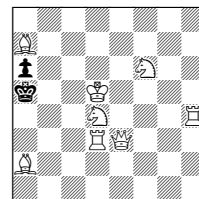
pser-s#9

2nd Pr., George P. Sphicas
& Václav Kotěšovec

(10+5)

3rd Prize
Geoff Foster

ser-r#7

1st Honorable Mention
Geoff Foster

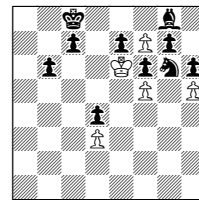
ser-r#8

(8+2)

2nd Prize - (George P. Sphicas & Václav Kotěšovec - C0571) 1.Bf2 3.a8Q 4.Qa7 5.Qxh7 6.Qd3 8.h8Q 9.Qh6 10.Qhd2 13.h8Q 14.Qh5 15.Qhd1 19.h8Q 20.Qh4 21.Qhxc4 26.h8Q 27.Qhh3 28.Qhf1 33.h8Q 34.Qhh4 35.Kf5 36.Kg4 38.Ke2 39.Qhd4+ Sxd4#. A great achievement: six queen promotions in a fantastic open position. The white king is mobile, the white pieces capture only twice. Only recently, the first author published a problem featuring seven queen promotions in Ser.S# (see diagram A), but the play in C0571 is much better and deeper.

3rd Prize - (Geoff Foster - C0572) Without the white reflex only four moves would be needed: 1.Be4 2.Rf4 3.Sf3 4.Se5 Sd4#. Solution: 1.Bb1! (1.Sf3? 2.Rh4#, 1.Sh3? 2.Sf4#, 1.Se2? 2.Sf4/Sg3#, 1.Rf4? 2.Be2#) 2.Rf4! (2.Sh3? 3.Sf4#) 3.Sh3! (3.Sf3/Se2? 4.Rh4/Sg3#) 4.Sf2! (4.Sg5? 5.Sf7 6.Rh6#) 5.Sd3! (5.Sg4/Be4? 6.Rh6/Bf3#) 6.Se5 7.Be4 Sd4#. An excellent presentation of a deep series-mover reflexmate in a light miniature setting. The moves that are played do not "just avoid" white mates, but are subtle, like the hideaway by the bishop or the long route of the knight which takes four consecutive moves to reach a square that it could reach in two moves.

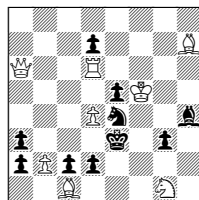
1st Honorable Mention - (Geoff Foster - C0586) 1.Rc3! (1.Kc4? 2.Ra3#, 1.Sb5? 2.Qb6#, 1.Bc5? 2.Ra3#, 1.Bb3? 2.Qe1/Qd2#) 2.Bb3! (2.Qd3? 3.Sc6#, 2.Bc5? 3.Ra3#, 2.Sb5? 3.Qb6#) 3.Bc5! (3.Sb5? 4.Qb6#, 3.Qd3? 4.Sc6#) 4.Sb5! (4.Qd3? 5.Sc6#, 4.Kc4? 5.Sc6#) 5.Rd4! (5.Kc4? 6.Bb6#, 5.Qd3? 6.Ra4#) 6.Kc4! (6.Qd3? 7.Ra4#) 7.Qd3! (7.Sd5? 8.Bb6#) 8.Sd5 axb5#. Another good series-mover reflexmate achievement with many white line closures to avoid mating the black king. It is fascinating to flesh out the quite dense solution.

2nd Honorable Mention
Alexey Gasparyan

ser-s#22

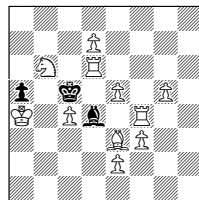
C-

(5+10)

3rd H.M., Tibor Ersek &
Radovan M. Tomašević

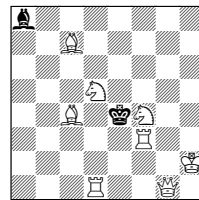
ser-h=15

(8+10)

1st Commendation
Zlatko Mihajloski

ser-h#16*

(11+3)

2nd Commendation
Geoff Foster

ser-r#8

(8+2)

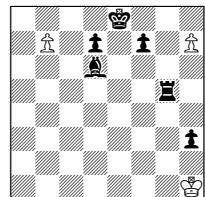
2nd Honorable Mention - (Alexey Gasparyan - C0570) 1.Kd5 2.Kc6 3.f8S 4.Se6 5.Sxd4 6.Sb5 7.d4 10.dxe7 11.e8S 12.Sxf6 13.Sd7 14.f6 16.fxg8S 17.Sxb6 18.Sf7 19.h6 20.hxg7 21.g8S 22.Se7+ Sxe7#. This problem runs wild with four knight promotions -- an unusual feature: Erich Bartel knew only two sound examples in the genre of ser.s#. Both are fantastic problems by George P. Sphicas (see diagrams B and C), including four excelsiors. C0570 employs a quite different pattern and shows intricate play within the cage. It is a pity that one of the white knights, while guarding a flight of the black king, spoils the model mate.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Tibor Érsek & Radovan M. Tomašević - C0575) 1.a1Q 2.Qa2 3.Qg8 4.a2 5.a1R 6.Ra4 7.Rc4 8.Kd3 9.d1B 10.Bf3 11.Bh1 12.g2 13.Bf2 14.Bxd4 15.Qg4+ Kxg4-. A nice and coherent solution with three promotions, ending in a triple pin-stalemate. It is fine that Black captures only one white unit, and that the king, the rook and the bishop are active. (A pity that the knight is not.) The cage h1 comes as a little surprise.

1st Commendation - (Zlatko Mihajloski - C0603) 1...Bxd4#; 1.Bxe3 2.Bd4 3.Bxe5 4.Bf6 5.Bd8 6.Bxb6 7.Bd8 8.Bf6 9.Bd4 10.Kxc4 13.Ke3 14.Bc3 15.Be1 16.Bf2 Re4#. After a tricky inception, a bishop movement follows that shows the geometry of the Rehm maneuver. The Rehm theme is not fulfilled in a narrower sense, which requires that the purpose of the maneuver (achieving the correct order of pieces on the thematic line) is that both pieces move or exert power along the line after reshuffling. Nevertheless it is entertaining how the bishop orbits around the king, because playing directly Bd4-f2 does not work.

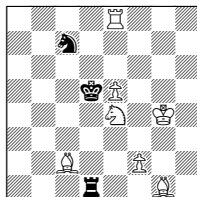
2nd Commendation - (Geoff Foster - C0594) 1.Se3 (1.Kg2? 2.Bd3#! 1.Rh3? 2.Qg6#! 1.Sh5? 2.Qg4#) 2.Kg2 (2.Rh3? 3.Qg6#! 2.Sh5? 3.Qg4#!) 3.Rh3 (3.Qh2? 4.Qh7#! 3.Sh5? 4.Rf4#!) 4.Qh2 (4.Sh5? 5.Rh4#!) 5.Rg1 (5.Sh5? 6.Qf4#!) 6.Bf1 (6.Sh5? 7.Qf4#!) 7.Se2 (7.Sh5? 8.Qf4#!) 8.Bg3 Kxe3#. White has to be careful, although the maneuvers are not as deep as in some other examples of the genre (see this award). I prefer this version to C0593.

3rd Commendation
Radovan M. Tomašević



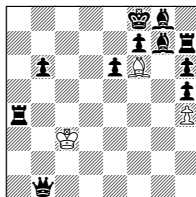
ser-s#18

4th Commendation
Abdelaziz Onkoud



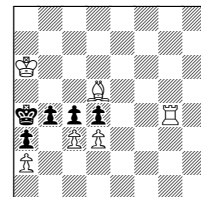
(3+6) ser-h#3 2 sols. (7+3)

Honorable Mention
Zlatko Mihajloski &
Radovan M. Tomašević



h=6½

Commendation
Menachem Witztum



(3+11) h=2 b/c) wSd5/wRd5 (6+5)

3rd Commendation - (Radovan M. Tomašević - C0579) 1.b8S 2.Sxd7 3.Sf8 4.h8R 5.Rxh3 6.Rg3 7.Kg2 8.Kf3 9.Ke4 10.Rf3 11.Rxf7 12.Rf5 13.Kd5 14.Ke6 15.Rf7 16.Kf6 17.Se6 18.Re7+ Bxe7#. An entertaining problem. It is a nice surprise that White promotes to rook, but not to queen (thanks to Se6). As the white king has to enter f6 via e6, both black pawns on the 7th rank have to be captured; thus Rxf7 has to be played quite early, and it has to leave and re-enter this square. An intricate mechanism.

4th Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - C0588) 1.Rd3 2.Kxe4 3.Sd5 f3#; 1.Se6 2.Kxe5 3.Rd5 f4#. Nice self-pins -- small, but fine.

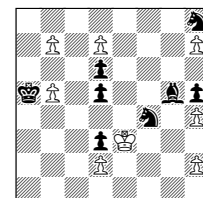
Section stalemates.

List of participating stalemates: I-III/2016: Q0273, Q0274, Q0275 [3]; IV-VI/2016: Q0276 (in solution: Q0275), Q0277 (in solution: Q0276) [2]; VII-IX/2016: Q0277, Q0278, Q0279 [3]; X-XII/2016: Q0281, Q0282, Q0283 [3].

Honorable Mention - (Zlatko Mihajloski & Radovan M. Tomašević - Q0283) 1...Bd4 2.Qd3+ Kxd3 3.Be5 Ke4 4.Kg7 Kxe5 5.Kh8 Bxb6 6.Rg4 Bd8 7.Rg7 Bf6-. Nice interaction of bishop and king, performing the geometry of the Rehm maneuver (including a Rundlauf of the bishop), although the strategic purpose of the Rehm theme is not exactly fulfilled (see comment provided with the 1st Commendation in the series-mover section).

Commendation - (Menachem Witztum - Q0274) a) 1.b3 Bxc4 2.bxa2 Bxa2=; b) 1.dxc3 Sxb4 2.c2 Sxc2=; c) 1.cxd3 Rxd4 2.d2 Rxd2=. An original cycle of functions of black pawns. The pieces either move and are captured in W2, or they do not move and are captured in W1, or they are pinned.

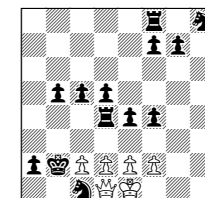
A George P. Sphicas
The Problemist V/2016
Ded. to my son Phil



ser-s#33

(8+8)

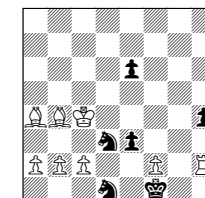
B George P. Sphicas
U.S Problem Bull. '95(v)



ser-s#32

(6+13)

C George P. Sphicas
1st Honorable Mention
StrateGems 2002



ser-s#35

(8+6)

For comparison. Solutions:

A 1.b8Q 2.Qxd6 3.Qxd5 4.Qe4 5.b6 6.d8Q 7.Qdxd3 8.Qe2 13.d8Q 14.Qdd3 16.b8Q 17.Qxh8 18.Qhd4 19.h8Q 20.Qhxh5 21.Qhf3 25.h8Q 26.Qh4 27.Qhf2 32.h8Q 33.Qhe5+ Sd5#.

B 1.c4 2.cxb5 5.b8S 7.Sxd4 8.Sc2 10.dxc5 13.c8S 15.Sxe4 16.Sd2 18.exd5 21.d8S 23.Sxf4 24.Se2 28.fxg7 29.gxh8S 30.Sxf7 31.Se5 32.Sd3+ Sxd3#.

C 1.f4 5.f8S 7.Sxh4 8.Sf3 10.Rxe6 11.Kd5 16.c8S 17.Sd6 18.Se4 19.Bd6 24.b8S 25.Sc6 26.Sc4 27.Bc6 32.a8S 33.Sb6 34.Sc4 35.Sxe3+ Sxe3#.

We thank Hans for this award which, I believe, is the fastest on record for *StrateGems*. Please send comments to Radovan M. Tomašević by July 1st.

StrateGems 2016 Moremovers Award

By Hans Peter Rehm

I judged twenty-four problems of very satisfying quality. I excluded two entries for the following reasons:

The pleasant miniature **M1399** is anticipated by Ferhat Karmil, *Sachovska skladba* 2004 (identical position one square up).

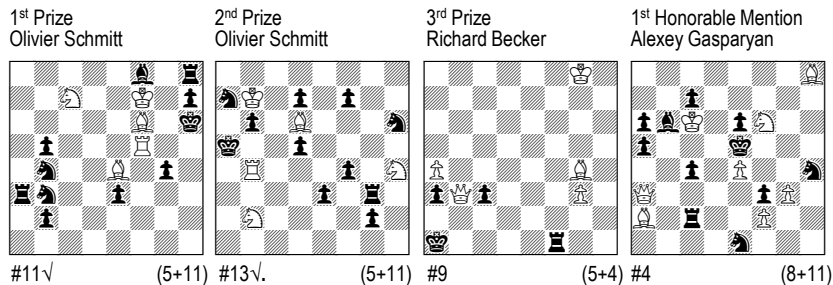
M1400 should have been published as an endgame study (if not cooked as such). For a moremover, it is not sufficiently concentrated on the theme (stalemate avoidance by the sacrifice Re8-e7). I would prefer the #7 starting by Re8-e7. I also dislike when the answers in the short by-variations are not obvious like 1...Qb7 2.Sd7 Qa8 3.f6 for which I had to use my computer in order to save time.

In a moremover, black moves outside the main variation(s) should be easy to deal with. (In endgame studies this may be different).

Most problems sent and selected have 9 or more moves. As a result of growing computer power and sophisticated solving programs, composers are able to test and compose longer and longer problems. Using this method, in most cases, black activity is restricted to forced defenses, and the strategic effects are in the white moves. This style is not my favorite one. Computers help much less in composing shorter problems, say 4-6 moves.

Olivier Schmidt's entries present a specific difficulty to the judge because most of them are of high quality. So, minor defects played a role in my selection, especially because I am not fond of sacrifices of pieces out of play.

Here is my decision:

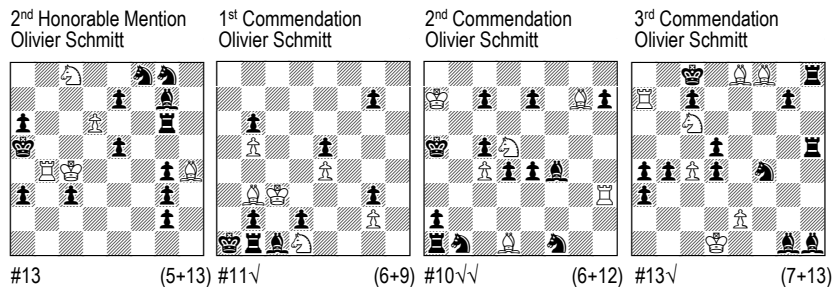


1st Prize - (Olivier Schmitt - M1372) The best problem because of the fine position and the introduction. 1.Se8? Ra7+! shows that we want to decoy away the bRa1. This would be possible by 1.Rf1? Ra1! **1.Bg5+!** Kh5 2.Bd8+ (2.Se8? Ra7+!) 2...Kh6 3.Rf1 Ra1 4.Bb1 Rxb1 5.Rf6+ Kh5 6.Rf5+ Kh6 7.Bg5+ Kh5 8.Se8 Sd5 9.Sg7+ Bxg7 10.Bf6+ Kh6 11.Bxg7#.

2nd Prize - (Olivier Schmitt - M1387) The main plan is 1.Rxb6? Sc6 2.Bc7 Sd8+ 3.Bxd8 (The wB is decoyed in such a way that the attack Rg8 is possible. An interesting detail.) If we try (as a foreplan) 1.Ra4+ Kb5 2.Rd4 & 3.Sf3? (threat 4.Ra4+) there is the refutation 3...Sf5! because the bS attacks Bd6 (4.Rxd5+ Sb5 5.Se5 Sxd6+). This is why the wB has to leave d6 (an original reason for pendulum play) and then return because the wB is needed on d6 in the main plan. The high placement is due to original logic (pure in aim) of the play and two well-known pendulum mechanisms (of wB and wR) which are not often shown together. **Solution:** 1.Sf3? Sf5!; 1.Rxb6? Sc6 2.Bc7 Sd8+ 3.Bxd8 Rg8!; **1.Ra4+!** Kb5 2.Rd4 Ka5 3.Bb4+ Kb5 4.Ba3 Ka5 5.Sf3 Rxf3 (5...Sf5 6.Rxd5+ Sb5 7.Se5 Sfd6+ 8.Bxd6) 6.Bb4+ Kb5 7.Bd6 Ka5 8.Ra4+ Kb5 9.Rb4+ Ka5 10.Rxb6 Sc6 11.Bc7 Sd8+ 12.Bxd8 ~ 13.Rb3#; 11...Sb4 12.Ra6+ Kb5 13.Ra6#.

3rd Prize - (Richard Becker - M1415) A fine duel of wB against bR. The march from g4 to e8 is impressive. 1...a2 is strategically interesting preparing a threat of stalemate but can be also used as a self-block. For me, it is rather a virtue that this problem is not very difficult to solve. **Solution:** **1.Qc2!** a2 2.Bf3 (2.Bf5? Rb1! 3.Bc8 Rf1 4.Bf5 Rb1 5.Qxc3+ Rb2 6.Qd4 stalemate) 2...Re1 3.Be2 Rd1 4.Bd3 Rb1 5.Bb5 Rd1 6.Be8 Rb1 7.Qxc3+ Rb2 8.Qd4 Kb1 9.Qd1#; 6...Re1 7.Qxc3+ Kb1 8.Bg6+ Re4 9.Bxe4#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Alexey Gasparyan - M1412) The only problem selected with less than 9 moves. Good unity of two Siers battery variations sacrifices to remove guards and self-blocks. The logical school is also satisfied because the self-blocks are forced in a way pure in aim (logical tries 1.Qc5+/?Qd6+?). With a better key, a prize would have been awarded. **Solution:** **1.Bb1!** (2.Qc3+ Bd4 3.Qxa5+ Bc5 4.Qxc5#), 1...Sd3 2.Qd6+ cxd6 3.Se8+ Kxe4 4.Sxd6#, 1...Sf5 2.Qc5+ Bxc5 3.Sd7+ Kxe4 4.Sxc5#, 1...c3 2.Qa4 Bd4 3.Qxa5+ Bc5 4.Qxc5#.



2nd Honorable Mention - (Olivier Schmitt - M1416) Good pendulum problem with complicated foreplan to remove the defense 1...Rxd4 by decoying away Rg6. I would remove bPc3 (#11). It is too obvious that the brutal capture of this pawn is necessary. **Solution:** 1.Sa7? Rxd6!; **1.Rb3!** Ka4 2.Sb6+ Ka5 3.Sd5 Ka4 4.Sxc3+ Ka5 5.Sd5 Ka4 6.Rb6 Ka5 7.Bg5 Rxc5 8.Rb3 Ka4 9.Sb6+ Ka5 10.Sc8 Ka4 11.Rb4+ Ka5 12.Sa7 ~ 13.Sc6#.

1st Commendation - (Olivier Schmitt - M1401) Rundlauf by the wB. **Solution:** 1.Se3? d1Q(S+); **1.Be6!** g5 2.Bg4 Ka2 3.Kb4 Ka1 4.Ka4 Ka2 5.Sc3+ Ka1 6.Bd1 g4 7.Sd5 Ka2 8.Kb4 Ka1 9.Se3 Ka2 10.Bb3+ Ka1 11.Sc2#.

2nd Commendation - (Olivier Schmitt - M1371) Nice pendulum play and logic but some crude moves, and a lackluster ending. **Solution:** 1.Rh6? Bd6!; 1.Sxe7? Kb4 2.Sd5+ Kxc4!; **1.Rb3!** Ka4 2.Rc3+ Ka5 3.Sxe7 Kb4 4.Sd5+ Ka5 5.Rb3 Ka4 6.Rh3 Ka5 7.Rh6 Bd6 8.Rxd6 cxd6 9.Be5 ~ 10.Bc7#, 8...c6 9.Rxc6 ~ 10.Ra6#, 7...Bxh6 8.Be5 Bf4 9.Bxf4 ~ 10.Bxc7#, 7...c6 8.Rxc6 Bb8+ 9.Kb7#.

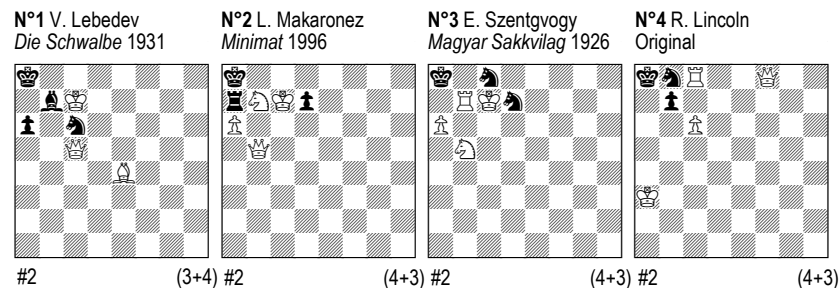
3rd Commendation - (Olivier Schmitt - M1402) A good problem with a known pendulum. But, at the end, there is a rather long sequence without strategic value: the white King moves away until black runs out of checks and then there is no defense against the threat. Bad economy of time: the checking sequence should and could be shorter. Still, there is good logic: - Black activity arises only after the main defender against the main plan has been decoyed away. - bPb4 is captured only to make black's checking sequence weak. All in all, only a commendation is awarded because I find the resulting problem rather unsatisfactory. **Solution:** 1.Bd6? Se6!; **1.Ra8+!** Kb7 2.Rb8+ Ka6 3.Sxb4+ Ka7 4.Sc6+ Ka6 5.Bc5 (threat 6.Sb4+ or 6.Rb5) 5...Sd3 6.Ra8+ Kb7 7.Ra7+ Kc8 8.Bd6 Sb2+ 9.Kc1 Be3+ 10.Kb1 Be4+ 11.Ka2 Bb1+ 12.Ka1 cxd6 13.Bd7#.

It is always a pleasure to have Hans as a judge. His understanding of moreovers is second to none. We thank him for this speedy award, which stays open for three months. Please send your comments to Richard Becker.

North by Northwest VI

by Robert Lincoln

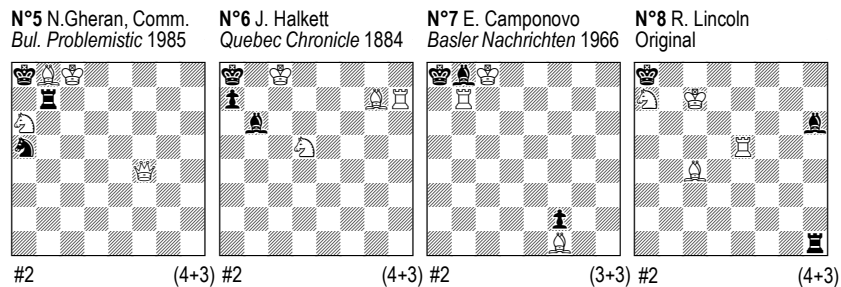
Here is yet another chapter in the ongoing saga regarding that crouching quarry situated at a8. N°1 solves in a trice. **1.Qb6!** (2.Qxb7#) slickly exploits half-pin mates that accompany 1...Bc8 2.Qb8# and 1...Sa5 2.Qxa6#. This particular formation has been innocently duplicated by many composers who apparently remain unaware of this early matrix.



Pat replies are available for any movement in N°2. A domineering WQ is ideally poised to suppress 1...Rxb7+ 2.Qxb7#, 1...Rxa6 2.Qxa6#, and 1...d6 2.Qe8#. But the sticking point is finding a most elusive starter, e. g. 1.Qd5? (2.Qg8#) 1...Rxa6!, 1.Qe2? (2.Qe8#) 1...Rxb7+! or 1.Qb6? (zz) 1...d6! **1.Qa4!** (zz) cracks the walnut. Two of Black's options remain hostages and 1...Rxb7+ is agreeably switched to 2.axb7#. So it's a clever mutate with one change.

Set mates are established for N°3 as well – 1.Sc~ 2.R(x)a7# and 1...Sd~ 2.R(x)b8#. Forcing the pace fizzles on 1.Kxd7? (2.Rc7#) 1...Sdb6+! or 1.Kxc8? (2.Ra7, Sc7#) 1...Sxb6+! **1.Kd8!** (2.Sc7#) cinches the trick. This neat block threat is bereft of any defenses post-key.

Two worthwhile pokes animate N°4. 1.Qd6? (2.Qxb8#) simply allows 1...Ka7! to run away. 1.Qe7? (2.Qxb7#) slumps to 1...bxc6! **1.Qb4!** (2.Qa4, Qxb7, Qa5#) poses a threefold hazard which is reduced to singletons on 1...b6 2.Qa4#, 1...b5 2.Qa5#, and 1...Ka7 2.Qxb7#. The lingering 1...bxc6 requires a brand new coup, 2.Qxb8#.

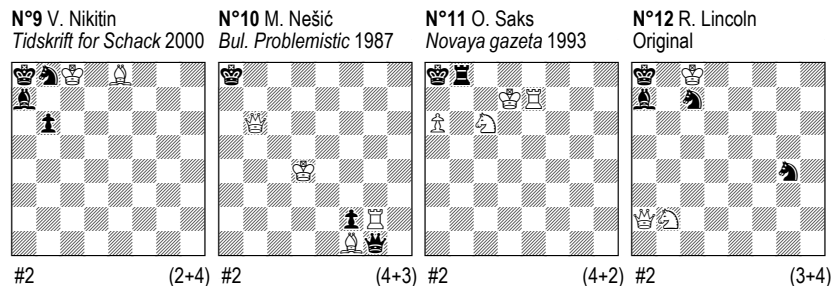


A densely compact N°5 shows one virtual attempt thru 1.Qe4? (2.Sc7#). That flea flick is patently ignored 1...Sc6! The more realistic **1.Qc7!** (zz) zooms in to apply a tight tourniquet. Variants are 1...R~ 2.Q(x)a7#, 1...Rxb8+ 2.Qxb8#, 1...Rxc7 2.Sxc7#, and 1...S~ 2.Qxb7#. The notable feature is an ill-fated BR being captured on four adjacent squares.

Little effort is needed to spot **1.Bd4!** (zz) for N°6. Still, this dainty morsel does contain an artistic point. The doubly ambushed BB capitulates to 1...B-SE (or 1...Bc7) 2.S(x)c7# plus 1...B-SW 2.Rxa7#. A potential dual at a7 is skirted smoothly. Naturally, 1...a6 yields 2.Sxb6#.

Sequence reversal antics distinguish N°7. First, 1.Rd7? (2.Bg2#) gets arrested 1...Bc7! 1.Bg2? (2.R~rank#) no longer restrains 1...f1Q! Ironically, the mesmerizing **1.Rb6!** (zz), works like a charm. The consequences are 1...B~ (or 1...Ka7) 2.Ra6# and 1...Ba7 2.Bg2#. Voila!

A prepared mate of N°8 is 1...Kxa7 2.Ra5#. It logically follows that 1.Bd5+? is useless owing to 1...Kxa7! (2.Ra5?). 1.Sc6? (2.Ra5[A]/Re8[B]#) is thwarted by the skewering 1...Bf4! 1.Sb5? (2.Re8[B]/Bd5[C]#) is prohibited by an alert 1...Rd1! At length, no antidote exists for **1.Sc8!** (2.Bd5[C]/Ra5[A]#). A decent cyclic Sushkov emerges with trademark threat avoidance. Unfortunately, there's a glaring absence of byplay.

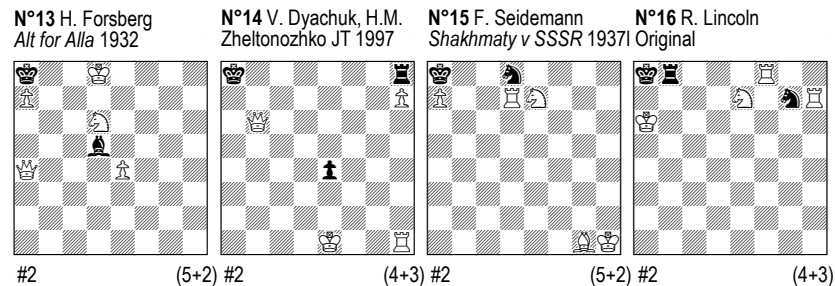


Strange creatures such as N°9 are willy-nilly published. Since 1...Sd7! and 1...b5! are unmolested, the key simply denies these passages. **1.Bb5!** (zz) guarantees 2.B(x)c6# when the BS departs. This can be classified as "White minimal."

An unusual N°10 is invested with a devious BQ resource. There is absolutely nothing standing in the way of 1...Qh2! So **1.Qc7!** (zz) hunkers down on the defensive path to compel 1...Q~ 2.Rg8# and 1...Qxg2 2.Bxg2#.

The WK must reach safe haven in N°11. Hence, **1.Ke6!** absconds upward while putting a bead on (2.Ra7#). The despondent BR can merely implant futile shields of 1...Re8 2.Rxe8# and 1...Rb7 2.axb7#.

Dogged guardians of N°12 strive gamely to ward off invasions. 1.Qa4? (2.Qc6#) can rout 1...Sb5 2.Qe4#, but not 1...Se5! 1.Qb3? (2.Qb7#) also takes 1...Sb5 in tow 2.Qf3/Qd5#, but 1...Bb6! 1.Sc4? spies (2.Sb6#) 1...Sc6 2.Qg2# but 1...Sd5! The deadly accurate **1.Sa4!** grooms (2.Sb6#) again to score 2.Q(x)d5# against 1...Sa5 or 1...Sd5. I really enjoyed arranging these White and Black unpin maneuvers.



Solution to the inspired N°13 might challenge some readers. 1.Qb5? (2.Qb8#) fetches 1...Bb7 2.Qxb7#, but 1...Ka7! 1.Qd7? (zz) watches both a7 and b7, but that plucky cleric goes either 1...Bxe4! or 1...Bc6! Abruptly, out of the blue comes a startling **1.Sc8!** (zz). This revised placement then wrecks havoc over 1...B~ 2.Q(x)c6#, 1...Bxe4 2.Qxe4#, 1...Bb7 2.Sb6#, and 1...Kb7 2.a8Q#.

The isolated WR of N°14 yearns for decisive action. However, that wily counterpart BR has 1...Rxb7! equipped to reject 1.Ke2? (2.Ra1#), 1.Rh2? (2.Ra2#), and 1.Rh5? (2.Ra5#). The mystery is revealed whereby **1.O-O!** (2.Ra1#) nonchalantly walks smack into an enemy check. Results are 1...Rg8+ 2.hxg8# and 1...Rxb7 2.Rf8#.

A less exciting N°15 does fabricate a valuable thematic detail. The only sensible target must be 2.Sb6#. 1.Sc8? (2.Sb6#) proves faulty because of a clever Theme A defense, 1...Sb7! Correct is **1.Sd5!** (2.Sb6#) in order to insert 2.Sc7# versus 1...Sb7.

At the 2000 British weekend an intricate idea was proposed by Colin Sydenham for the 2-move tourney. It asked for "Key opens at least one White and Black line and also closes one White line." N°16 extends these basic ingredients where **1.Sc8!** (2.Sb6#) opens a masked line for WRh7 and permits the BR go southward. A line is closed to WRf8. Additionally, an avenue is closed for BR to travel eastward. The threat will reopen a line just closed. The play comprises 1...Rxc8 (opens a flight) 2.Rxc8# and 1...Se8 (interferes on White line) 2.Ra7#. Unpins by both sides offer a goodly amount of strategy.

Review of two books: *EGEG* and *Stinking Bishops*

By Richard Becker

John Roycroft, EGEG. This is an eclectic collection of writings dealing mostly with endgame studies, mostly written by Roycroft, but with contributions by others including Yuri Bazlov, John Beasley, and David Blundell. The book begins with Roycroft's translation of IGM Yuri Bazlov's article "Trends are all very well, but...", which is critical of some recent trends in study composition. Along with the award reports by judge Roycroft for tourneys such as BCPS, Section G, and Hero Towns VII, section for studies, this is very interesting "inside baseball" material about study composition and competition. Also, much material is only obliquely related to study composition: Actual game endings; curious puzzles; true stories about players and composers; and some musings on endgame databases. A 400-page buffet to be enjoyed by the study enthusiast.

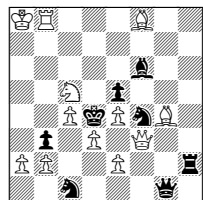
John Roycroft, *Stinking Bishops*. It is an ambitious project, to wring some human understanding from the computer-generated database longest wins in the ending KRBP-KRB. This book could have been the longest and quirkiest chapter in 'EGEG'. Unfortunately, I cannot claim that reading this book gave me significant understanding of these extremely difficult endings of nearly 200 moves. Playing through long database endings always gives me the impression of watching gods play perfect chess, but this time I had the ebullient John Roycroft for company.

To purchase these books please contact John at: roycroft@btinternet.com.

Recent Tourney Winners

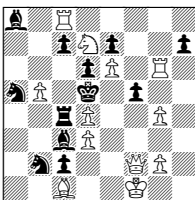
Comments and solutions are from the magazines which originally published the awards.

N°1 Michael Keller
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 2014



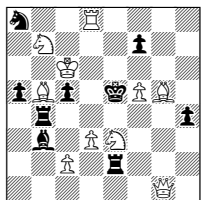
#3 (12+8)

N°2 Arieh Grinblat
1st Prize
Rochade Europa '12'13



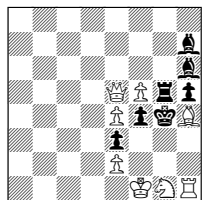
#3 (12+12)

N°3 Ladislav Salai
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 2015



#3 (10+9)

N°4 Vladimir Shavirin
1st Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2016



#3 (8+7)

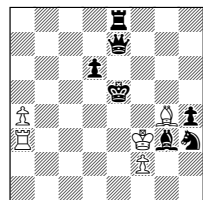
N°1 1.Sxb3+/Se6+? Sxb3/Sxe6!; 1...Scxd3 (2.Sxb3+? Kxc4!) 2.Se6+! Sxe6/Kxc4 3.Qxd3/axb3# (2.Be6? Sxc5!); 1...Sfxd3 (2.Se6+? Kxc4!) 2.Sxb3+! Sxb3/Kxc4 3.Qxd3/Be6# (2.axb3? Sxc5!); **1.Rb5!** (2.Se6+ Sxe6 3.Rd5#), 1...Scxd3 (2.Se6+? Kxc4 3.axb3+ Kxb5!) 2.Be6! (3.Sxb3#) Sxe6(Sd5)/Sc1/Sxc5/Qd1 3.Qxd3/Qc3/Bxc5/e3#, 1...Sfxd3 (2.Sxb3+? Kxc4 3.Be6+ Kxb5!) 2.axb3! (3.Se6#) Sxb3/Sf4/Sxc5/Qxg4 3.Qxd3/Qc3/Bxc5/e3#. Keller-Paradox II.

N°2 1.Rf6! (2.Rxf5+ Kxe6 3.Sf8#), 1...Sxd3 2.Qf3+ Kxd4 3.Be3# (self-block on d3), 1...Sc6 2.Qxf5+ Kxd4/Se5 3.Qe4# (line closing), 1...exf6 2.Re8 (3.Sxf6#) Bxd4/Rxd4 3.Qf3/Qxf5# (Grimshaw on d4 and self-block). An excellent sacrificial move leads to good variations.

N°3 1.Sd6! (2.Qa1+! Rd4 3.Sg4#), 1...Re1 2.Sdc4+! Rxc4/Bxc4 3.Rd5/Qh2#, 1...Rg2/Rxc2 2.Sec4+! Rxc3/Bxc4 3.Re8/Qe3#, 1...Ra4 2.Bc4! Rxc4/Bxc4 3.Sxf7/Sg4#; 2...Kd4/Rxe3 3.Bf6/Qxe3#, 1...Rd4 2.Re8+, 1...Rxe3 2.Qxe3+, 1...Bd5+ Sxd5. A triple Novotny on the same square, a difficult task.

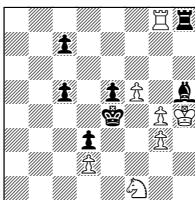
N°4 An early 1.Be1? (2.Rh4#) is refuted by 1...Rxf5! 2.Rh4+ Kg5!. **1.Sf3!** (2.Be1 & 3.Rh4#), 1...Rxf5 2.Qxf5+! Bxf5 3.Se5#, 1...Rg6 2.Qf6! & 3.Se5# (2...Bg7?, 2...Re6?), 1...Rg7 2.Qe6! & 3.Se5# (2...Bg7?, 2...Re7?), 1...Rg8 2.Qe7! & 3.Se5#; 2...Bg7 3.Qg5# (2...Re8?). Every move by the black Rook is mirrored with the move by the white Queen (WCCT-10 theme).

N°5 F. Abdurahmanović
1st-2nd Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2016



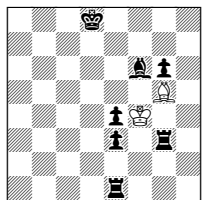
h#3 3 sols. (5+7)

N°6 Menachem Witztum
1st-2nd Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2016



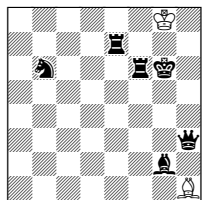
h#3 b) bSh5 (7+7)

N°7 Zlatko Mihajloski
1st-2nd Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2016



h#6½ (2+7)

N°8 Viktoras Paliulionis
1st-2nd Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2016



h#7 (2+6)

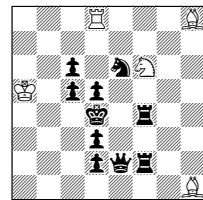
N°5 1.Bf4 Ke2 2.Ke4 Rd3 3.Qe5 f3#; 1.Kd5 Rc3 2.Be5 Ke3 3.Qe6 Bf3#; 1.Qg5 Kg2 2.Kf4 Bf5 3.Re5 Rf3#. Three mates on the same f3-square.

N°6 a) 1.Bxg4+ Kxg4 2.Rh3 Rd8 3.Rxg3+ Sxg3#; b) 1.Sxg3+ Kxg3 2.Rh4 Se3 3.Rxg4+ Rxg4#. Good play with Forsberg twins.

N°7 1...Kxe4 2.Ke7 Bxe3 3.Bg7 Kf4 4.Rf3+ Kg4 5.Rf7 Bh6 6.Kf6 Kf4 7.Re6 Bg5#. White maneuverers its King and Bishop in order to open e-line for the black Rook. Finale is an Ideal-mate.

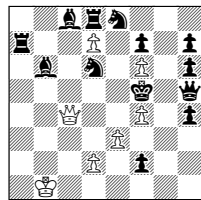
N°8 1.Be4 Bf3 2.Sd7 Bg4 3.Sf8 Bc8 4.Qd7 Kh8 5.Qe8 Bf5+ 6.Kf7 Bh7 7.Bg6 Bg8#. A triple bicolor Bristol: bB-wB,wB-bQ, wB-bB.

N°9 F. Abdurahmanović
1st Prize
Problemblad 2015



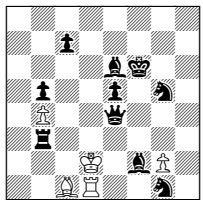
h#3 3 sols. (5+10)

N°10 F. Abdurahmanović
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 2014



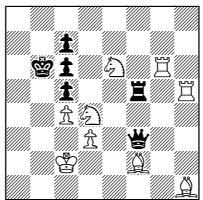
h#2 (7+13)
b/c/d)wRc4/wBc4/wSc4

N°11 F. Abdurahmanović
& Marjan Kovačević
1st Pr., *Die Schwalbe* 2014



h#3½ 2 sols. (5+10)

N°12 Vitaly Medintsev
1st Prize
Problemiste 2013



h#2 2 sols. (9+6)

N°9 1.Ke3 Rxd5 2.cxd5 Sxd5#; 1.Kc4 Sxd5 2.cxd5 Bxd5#; 1.Ke5 Bxd5 2.cxd5 Rxd5#. Captures by three white pieces on the same square is followed by mates on the same square. Cyclic Zilahi. Vintage Abdurahmanović!

N°10 a) 1.Kg4 dxc8Q+ 2.Kf3 Qh3#; b) 1.Ke6 dxe8R+ 2.Kd7 Re7#; c) 1.Ke4 dxe8B 2.Bf5 Bc6#; 1.Kg6 dxe8S 2.Sf5 Se5#. White AUW is combined with BK's star.

N°11 1...Bb2 2.Ke7 Bd4 3.Kd6 Kc1 4.Qc6+ Bc5#; 1...Re1 2.Kf5 Re3 3.Kf4 Kd1 4.Bg4+ Rf3#.

N°12 1.Qxh1 Sxc5 2.Kxc5 Sxc6#; 1.Rxh5 Sxc6 2.Kxc6 Sxc5#. Zilahi, Kniest, and pins.

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