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StrateGems

2020

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StrateGems 2018 #2 Award
by Charles Ouellet

It is a privilege for me to express my appreciation of the original twomovers published in *StrateGems* for the year 2018 competition. My thanks to Eugene Rosner for having invited me to do so and to all participants.

My first concern has been to check if the material submitted to my attention was really original. All 24 entries have been scrutinized with the online Albrecht #2 collection (*https://www.schach-udo.de/dab/daten.htm*). Of these 5 failed to pass the test of originality. Their sources are quoted below along with their Albrecht collection number (put between brackets after the letter A):

T0970 (Ljevaković) and **T0977** (Pankratyev): (A 72,370) Herman Leonard Jonsson *Tri-weekly Gleaner* (before 1887);
T0971 (Tkachenko): (A 52,160) Hugo Knuppert *Schweizerische Schachzeitung (Memorial Brunner)* V/1963 4th Prize; (A 24,675) Hans-Dieter Paul *Szachy* X/1974; (A 168,141) Valeri Kopyl JT *Poltawa – 303* 2012 1st Prize;
T0974 (Seehofer): (A 118,437) Hrvoje Bartolovic *Schach-Echo* 5.1.1957 (unsound): Seehofer's entry could otherwise have been published as a correction;
T0979 (Barclay): (A 187,171) Horacio L. Musante *Tijdschrift van den K.N.S.B.* 1955.

Most of the 19 remaining entries have appealed to my taste. Before revealing my ranking of the awarded entries, I will say a word about other ones I particularly liked but did not select in spite of their quality and interest:

T0969 (Lincoln): This eight-piece Meredith, a waiter showing secondary combinative separation of mates, actively involves each of the four black pieces for at least one defense, a valuable feature. However, the primary combinative separation of mates has been shown several times in miniature (once by the author himself) and the secondary combinative separation of mates, with an extra elimination mate, has also been achieved in a nine-piece Meredith – (A 53,098) Tony Lewis & Ian Shanahan *StrateGems* 9 January-March 2000.

T0976 (Kapustin & Chernyavsky): The highlight of this composition, featuring the Latvian Nowotny in three phases, as in Peter Hoffmann's (A 5,876) *Deutsche Schachblätter* IX/1980, is precisely its destruction in a fourth phase, while the doubling of this idea has already been shown by Vasyl Dyachuk's (A 95,612) *Schach-Aktiv* 3/2005 3 HM. This splendid matrix could have lead to new thematic content with a fifth phase similar to the fourth. Perhaps in a new publication?

T0978 (Maleika): A task featuring two cycles of duals introduced by keys on the same square, an achievement that the late Bob Lincoln would have surely appreciated! It is, however, more like a demonstration than a piece of art.

T0981 (Moen): Partial Karström Fleck (with three total defenses matching the three threats) in a miniature. An elegant sketch for more elaborate compositions by the same author published at about the same time – (A 210,937) *The Problemist Supplement* July 2018; (A 210,918) *The Problemist Supplement* September 2018.
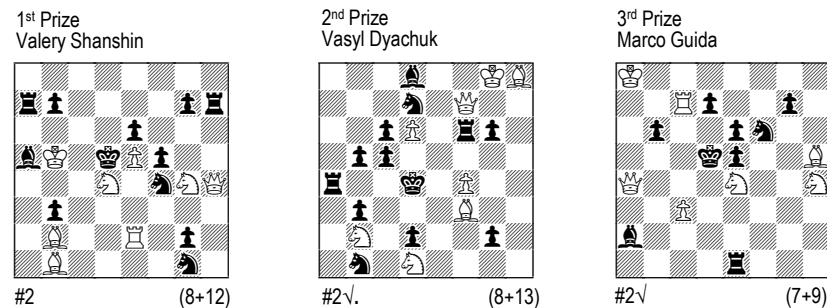
T0982 (Kapustin): The Albrecht collection contains thirteen twomovers exploiting the same matrix (wKe1, wRa1, wRh1, bKe5) among which the closest to this one is L.J.M. Reynders' (A 6,132) *Probleemblad* May-June 1995. A better use of the wSd8 (replaced by a bPe6) would have allowed more subtle play and extra content able to upgrade this composition.

T0985 (Gavryliv): Each key-piece introducing the Banny theme in the virtual play alternatively intends to mate by capturing one of two bPs it pins, leaving the other to refute the threat by vacating its own square located in the bK field. With such nice thematic content combined with the Barnes theme, this composition just missed being honored due to the obvious and aggressive key-move and also the repetition of the strong and unprovided refutation 1...exd2.

T0986 (Maleika): The same matrix has already been exploited for more spectacular effects but without the precise W promotions to Q done here by two pawns. However, the actual play is already set and some material is only used to prevent the key-piece from being out of play. Compare to Barry J. Da Costa Andrade's (A 80,843) *Good Companion* IV/1924 2nd Prize.
T0990 (Pankratyev): Reciprocal change from set to actual play with masked-line effects involving, in different ways, the bBs (guard, line opening). Interesting but quite predictable content.

My congratulations to the authors of the honored entries:

1st Prize
Valery Shanshin

2nd Prize
Vasyl Dyachuk

3rd Prize
Marco Guida

#2   (8+12)   #2√.   (8+13)   #2√   (7+9)

1st Prize - (Valery Shanshin - T0980) A splendid blend of classical and modern features where line combination themes or ideas have given life to a growing organism for which change implies both construction and destruction as is vividly expressed by the Dombrovskis paradox Aa – aA anchored in white correction with threat correction A – X(A?)A. The master words able to evoke the alchemical process taking place here are *construction of multiple developing effects from deeply engaged forces.* Naming the other themes can just give a glimpse of my studious solving experience: Levman, A, B and D. The original contribution of this work could be labeled as a *post-key partial theme I effect* (according to the definitions given in the *Encyclopedia of Chess problems of Theme F effect* "425" and *Theme I* "426"). After **1.Sc2!** the four white line-pieces (**A**=wRe2, **B**=wBb2, **C**=wBb1, **D**=wQh4) are getting involved differently. **A** guards both thematic squares **x**=e4 and **y**=e5 along the same guard-line and **B** only guards **y**. **C** and **D** have a masked guard-line of **x** respectively by **X**=wSc2 and **Y**=wSg4. The threatening and actual mates play the role of the two thematic tries in theme I since 1...Sd3 is not a refutation but only a black thematic defense after which dual mates on the same square by identical pieces are avoided through a compensatory line-opening on White's second move. As in the 2nd Prize, all phases of **T0980** are harmoniously related: 1.Qf6? and 1.Sd~? are each refuted by a black line-piece exploiting a line-opening created by the white key-piece while 1.Qf6? and **1.Sc2!** are respectively partial and total sacrificial key-moves. And as in the 3rd Prize the rich by-play is naturally blossoming in all phases from the main idea but without involving out-of-play units. A quiet musical masterpiece in the spirit of J.S. Bach. Solution: 1.Qf6? (2.Se3#[A], 1…Sd3[a] 2.Qxe6#, 1…gxf6 2.Sxf6#, 1…fxg4 2.Be4#, 1…Rh3!; 1.Sd~? (2.Se3#[A]) Bb6!; **1.Sc2!** (2.Sce3#[X]) (2.Sge3[A])?, 1…Sd3[a] 2.Sge3#[A], 1…bxc2 2.Ba2#, 1…Bb6 2.Sb4#, 1…Bc3/Bd2 2.Qd8#.

2nd Prize - (Vasyl Dyachuk - T0992) A clear and appealing cycle of double threats with changed mates showing all the powers of the wQ playing as the key-piece and mating piece in each and every variation of all phases. As always with this kind of theme, the solver may find the actual play first, as I did. Solution: 1.Qxg6? (2.Qe4[A]/Qd3#[B]), 1...Se5[a] 2.Qe4#[A], 1...Sc3[b] 2.Qd3#[B], 1...g1Q[c] 2.Qxg1#, 1...c4!; 1.Qxb3? (2.Qd3[B]/Qe3#[C]), 1...Se5[a] 2.Qe3#[C], 1...Sc3[b] 2.Qxc3#, 1...g1Q[c] 2.Qd3#[B], 1...Ra3!; **1.Qe6!** (2.Qe3[C]/Qe4#[A]), 1...Se5[a] 2.Qxe5#, 1...Sc3[b] 2.Qe3#[C], 1...g1Q[c] 2.Qe4#[A].

Perfect harmony between all phases down to similar capture mates following total defenses. A pure gem well-suited for *StrateGems*!

3rd Prize - (Marco Guida - T0983) Defense-based Dombrovskis theme with double-threat combined with two self-blocks showing antidual effects. This composition displays a good by-play that my proposed version **A** extends by adding a defense which will force each mate of the double threat to occur and bring a third changed mate. (The replacement of the bPg7 by the bBg7 allows the defense 1...Bf8 which justifies the double-threat after 1.Bf3? by forcing 2.Qxa2, and it gives an active extra role to the wSe4 in the post-key play.) Due to the fact that it does not play any role in the virtual play, the wSh4 is naturally called to play the key-move and the mating threat as well. The post-key play in **A** shows all pieces (black to defend/white to mate) except for Kings moving at least once. Elegant and light construction with rich content.
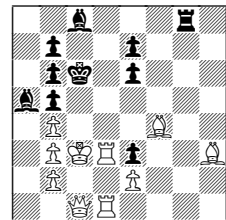
A 3rd Prize(v)
Marco Guida

#2√ (7+9)

Solution: 1.Bf3? (2.Qxa2/Qb5#), 1...Sxe4/Rxe4 2.Qxd7/Qd1# (**A**: 1...Bf8/Ra1,Re2 2.Qxa2/Qb5#)**,** 1...Rb1!; **1.Sf5!** (2.Se7#), 1...Sxe4/Rxe4 2.Qxa2(Qb5?)/Qb5(Qxa2?)#, 1...Bc4/exf5/Sg8 2.Qxc4/Bf7/Rxd7#, (**A:** 1...Bf8 2.Sxf6#).
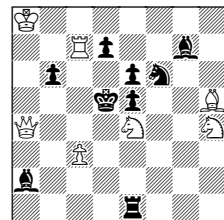
1st Honorable Mention
John Rice &
Barry Barnes
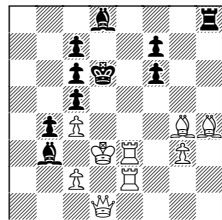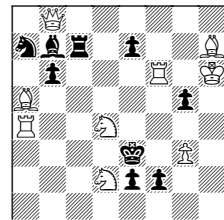
B 1st Honorable Mention(v)
John Rice &
Barry Barnes

2nd Honorable Mention
Kabe Moen

#2√. (9+10)   #2√. (10+10)   #2* (9+9)

1st Honorable Mention - (John Rice & Barry Barnes - T0991) A pleasant problem to solve featuring tertiary threat-correction achieved with a vertical royal battery. Probably due to its crude refutation, the authors did not mention the try 1.Re8? (2.Ke3/Ke4#), 1...f5 2.Ke3#, 1...Rh5 2.Rxd8#, 1...Rxe8! as an essential part of the Barnes theme. At the opposite end the extra tries 1.cxb3? (2.Kc2#), 1.Rd2~? (2.Ke2#) and 1.Re4? (2.Ke3#), refuted by 1...Rh5!, could have been avoided so as to give a neater impression (see my own version **B**) and even provide extra content. Solution: 1.Re4? (2.Ke3#) Rh5!; 1.Re5? [2.Ke4# (Ke3?)] f5!; **1.Re7!** [2.Rd7# (Ke3? Ke4?)], 1...f5 2.Ke3#, 1...Bxe7 2.Ke4#, 1...Bxc2+ 2.Kxc2#, 1...Bxc4+ 2.Kxc4#. Tertiary threat correction. Version **B**, apart from the Barnes theme, adds progressive reduction of refutations in a legal position with bPs having captured the six missing white pieces. (**B**: 1.Qxe3? (2.Qe4/Qf3#) Rg5/Bxb4+/Rd8!; 1.Kc2? (2.Kb1#) Rg5/Bxb4!; 1.Rd4? (2.Kd3#) Rg5!; 1.Rd5? [2.Kd4# (Kd3?)] e5!; 1.Rd8? (2.Kd3/Kd4#), 1...Bxb4+/Rg5/e5/Bd7 2.Kxb4/Rxc8 /Kd3/Kd4#, 1...Rxd8!; **1.Rd7!** [2.Rc7# (Kd3?/Kd4?)], 1...Bxb4+/e5/Bxd7 2.Kxb4/Kd3/Kd4#.

2rd Honorable Mention - (Kabe Moen - T0972) Partial Fleck where the Novotny key introduces four threats separated by at least one defense. The defenses by bBb7 and bRc7 show the Romanian Novotny theme. Some changed mates after 1...Bc6 and 1...e1S(B) involve the key-piece already in play. Solution: **1.Sc6!** (2.Rf3/Re6/Ra3/Sc4#), 1...Rxc6 2.Qe5#, 1...Bxc6 2.Qxb6#, 1...Sxc6 2.Rf3#, 1...bxa5 2.Sc4#, 1...exf6 2.Ra3#, 1...e1Q(R,B,S) 2.Re6#.
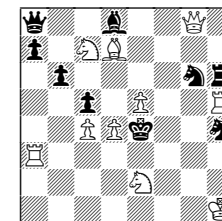
1st Commendation
K.Seetharaman &
C.G.S.Narayanan
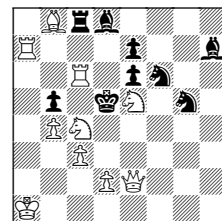
3rd Honorable Mention
Barry Barnes
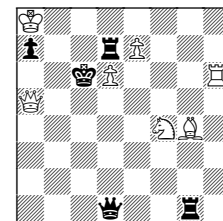
2nd Commendation
David Shire

#2*√. (10+9)   #2* (7+5)   #2√. (10+9)

3rd Honorable Mention - (Barry Barnes - T0973) The Nowotny tries 1.Bc7? and 1.Rac7?, introducing the same double-threat (2.Sb6/Rc5#), are respectively refuted by 1...Sd7! (2.Rxd7?) and 1...bxc4! (2.Rc5+ Kd6!), both exploiting white Grimshaw interferences on the c7-square. The post-key play allows each of these prevented mates to reappear. An unusual idea! The strong defense 1...bxc4 also allows a changed mate. Solution: **1.d3!** (2.Se3#), 1...Rc7 2.Sb6#, 1...Bc7 2.Rc5#, 1...Bb6 2.Sxb6#, 1...Bxd3 2.Qxd3#, 1...bxc4 2.dxc4#.

1st Commendation - (K.Seetharaman & C.G.S.Narayanan - T0987) Nice Meredith showing changed pin-mates. The wPe7 delivers one of the mates and provides a new mate for the set-check 1...Rd8+. This piece, not involved in the post-key play, also introduces the following try: 1.e8Q? (2.Qxd7/Bxd7#), 1...Qxg4 2.Qe4#, 1...Rxg4!. Solution: 1....Rxd6 2.e8Q#, 1....Qxd6 2.Bf3#, 1...Rd8+ 2.exd8S#; **1.Se6!** (2.Qc5#), 1....Rxd6/Rd8+ 2.S(x)d8#, 1...Qxd6 2.Sd4#, 1...Qd5 2.Qa6#.

2rd Commendation - (David Shire - T0984) Active play in three phases by the key-piece wSc7 whose interferences in both tries are, at last, avoided in the actual play showing tertiary black correction by the bSg6. Such a nice echo is presented with a rich by-play and a transferred mate first introduced as a threat in one of the tries. The unavoidable dual after 1...Qb8 is a slight flaw compensated for by a richer use of the same matrix exploited in Pascal di Scala's (A 94,186) *Problemas* VII/XII 1962. Solution: 1.Se6? (2.Sg3#) Sf5! (2.Bxf5?); 1.Sd5? (2.Re3#), 1...cxd4 2.Sg3#, 1...Sf5/Sg2 2.B(x)f5#, 1...Qxd5 2.Qxd5#, 1...Bg5! (2.Qxa8?); **1.Sb5!** (2.Sd6#), 1...Sg~ 2.Qg4#, 1...Sf4 2.Sg3#, 1...Sxe5 2.Rxe5#, 1...Sf5 2.Bxf5#, 1...Be7/Bc7 2.Qxa8#, 1...Qb8 2.Qd5/Bc6#, 1...Qd5 2.Qxd5#, 1...Qc6 2.Bxc6#.

3rd Commendation
Gerhard Maleika

3th Commendation - (Gerhard Maleika - T0989) The key **1.f4!** threatens a double-check mate (2.Bxd4#) delivered by wBe3 and wRh3. Black simultaneously defends against the attack of both pieces by 1...exf3 e.p. thus showing for the first time (so far as I know!) the Chicco-Moscow theme with an en passant capture. In the by-play, self-pin variations also exploit a line opening, this time for the wQ.

Solution: **1.f4!** (2.Bxd4#), 1...exf3 e.p./Sxe3/Bxe3/Sb3,Sb1,Sf3 2.Sd1/Qc1/Qg7/Rxc4#.
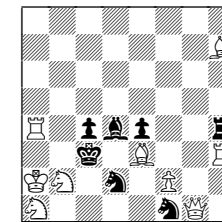
#2 (9+7)

Many thanks to Charles for this award and the hard work he put into it. The award stays open for three months. Comments should be sent to Eugene Rosner.

# StrateGems 2018 Selfmates Award

By Ivan Soroka

I'd like to thank the Selfmates Section Editor, Petko A. Petkov, for asking me to judge a tourney in such a prestigious magazine. In 2018, thirty-six problems were published by composers from Bulgaria, Germany, Macedonia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The level of problems in both sections was rather high. A number of compositions are undoubtedly contenders for inclusion in the FIDE Album.

I have divided the problems into two separate subsections.

S#2-3 moves

1st Prize
Petko A. Petkov
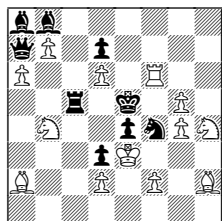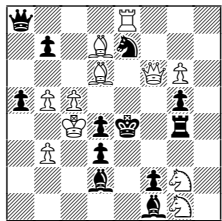
2nd Prize
Waldemar Tura

3rd Prize
Alexandr Feoktistov

s#3   (13+9)

s#3   (11+12)
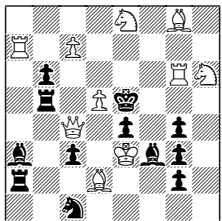
s#3   (10+12)

1st Prize - (Petko A. Petkov - S0741) An SOTF problem with two pairs of variations. The first pair features a play by the black R/Q battery. The second pair radically contrasts in terms of thematic content, presenting battery destruction and interchange of sacrifices of white Knights. It would be great to see the author's problems in tourneys more frequently. Solution: **1.Rh6!** (2.Sg6+ Kxd6 3.Bxf4+! Re5#), 1…Bxd6 2.Re6+! dxe6 3.Sc6+ Rxc6#, 1…Qxa6 2.Sf3+![A] exf3 3.Sxd3+![B] Qxd3#, 1…Qxb7 2.Sxd3+![B] exd3 3.Sf3+![A] Qxf3#.

2nd Prize - (Waldemar Tura - S0742) This problem is also SOTF-styled, having two pairs of variations. The first pair includes the white Bishop's sacrifices on the second move and the white Queen's play on the third move. The common features binding the second pair are dual avoidance after the captures on g2-square, and the white Queen's play on each move. A harmonious composition. Solution: **1.Qf7!** (2.Bc6+ bxc6 3.Qd5+ cxd5#), 1…Qxe8 2.Bf5+ Sxf5 3.Qe6+ Qxe6#, 1…Bxg2 2.Qd5+ Ke3 3.Qxd4+ Rxd4# (2.Qf5+? Ke3 3.Qxd3?#!), 1…Rxg2 2.Qf5+ Ke3 3.Qxd3+ Bxd3# (2.Qd5+? Ke3 3.Qxd4?#!).

3rd Prize - (Alexandr Feoktistov - S0740) In the first pair of variations (threat and 1…Bb2) White undertakes two successive sacrifices to attract the black Bishop to the mating square. The other two variations share self-interference of a Bishop in defenses and sacrifices of white pieces. Solution: 1.c8Q? Rc5!; 1.c8S? Rb4!; **1.c8B!** (2.Re7+ Bxe7 3.Rg5+ Bxg5#), 1…Rc5 2.Qxe4+![A] Bxe4 3.Bxc3+![B] Rxc3#, 1…Rb4 2.Sxg4+ Bxg4 3.Qxe4+![A] Rxe4#, 1…Bb2 2.Bxc3+![B] Bxc3 3.Qd4+ Bxd4#.

4th Prize - (Zoran Gavrilovski - S0728) There are four variations consisting of two thematic pairs, with white S/Q battery play in all four. The first pair (the threat and the variation 1…Ba5) ends with direct mates after the black King is provided with flights. The second pair (1...Rxe2/Bxf3) shows exchange of places (wSe4↔bRe2, wSe4↔bBf3) with Umnov effect and battery mates. Solution: 1.Bb4~? (2.Sxc3+ Kxc3 3.Qe3+ Bxe3#) Ba5!; **1.Bd6!** (2.Sxc3+ Kxc3 3.Qe3+ Bxe3#), 1…Ba5 2.Sc5+ Kd5 3.Qd2+ cxd2#, 1…Rxe2 2.Sxg3+ Re4 3.Se2+ Sxe2#, 1…Bxf3 2.Sd2+ Be4 3.Sdf3+ Sxf3#.
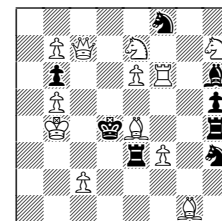
4th Prize
Zoran Gavrilovski
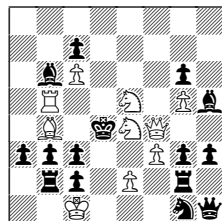
1st Honorable Mention
Zoran Gavrilovski
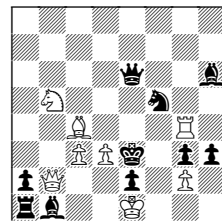
2nd Honorable Mention
Zoran Gavrilovski

s#3   (10+15)

s#3   (8+10)

s#3   (12+8)

1th Honorable Mention - (Zoran Gavrilovski - S0738) An SOTF problem showing a cycle AB-BC-CD-DA in a well-known mechanism. In the first pair of variations we have a play by the bB/bR battery. In the second pair Black captures a white piece guarding a flight of the black King. On the second move, the black King opens the mating line. In my opinion, SOTF problems should not be combined with another (third) theme; in this case a cyclic shift of white moves, which (to me) is the main theme. Solution: **1.Sa3!** (2.Sc2+[A] Bxc2+ 3.Qc1+[B] Rxc1#), 1…Sd4 2.Qxe2+[D] Sxe2 3.Sc2+[A] Bxc2#, 1…Qxc4 2.Qc1+[B] Kxd3 3.Qd2+[C] Bxd2#, 1…hxg2 2.Qd2+[C] Kf3 3.Qxe2+[D] Qxe2#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Zoran Gavrilovski - S0739) Solution: 1.Bf5? (2.Sc6+ Kd5+ 3.c4+ Rxc4#) Bf4! (2.Sf5?); 1.Bd5? (2.Sc6+ Kxd5+ 3.c4+ Rxc4#) Sf4! (2.Qc4+ Ke5 3.Qd5?); **1.Bg6!** (2.Sc6+ Kd5+ 3.c4+ Rxc4#), 1…Bf4 2.Sf5+ Kd5 3.Qd6+ Bxd6#, 1…Sf4 2.Qc4+ Ke5 3.Qd5+ Sxd5#. Battery transformation after defenses on the same square. The tries by the key-piece are refuted by thematic defenses, due to White's self-obstruction of the f5- or d5- square.

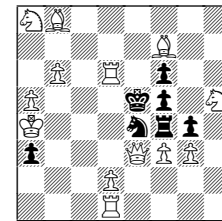Commendation
Mirko Degenkolbe
& Udo Degener
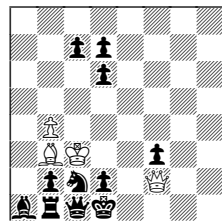
Commendation
Sergey I. Tkachenko
& Anatoly Vasilenko
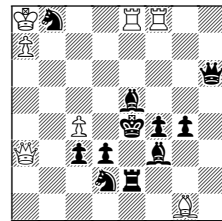
1st Prize
Gennady Koziura
Dedicated to V.Kopyl-60

s#3√..   (4+11)

s#2√   (7+11)

s#6   (13+7)

Commendation - (Mirko Degenkolbe & Udo Degener - S0736) Solution: 1.Ba4? (zz), 1…c6 2.Bb3 c5 3.Bxc2+ Qxc2#; 2…d5 3.Qxd2+ Qxd2#, 1…d5!; 1.Qe3? (zz), 1…c6 2.Qf2 c5 3.Bxc2+ Qxc2#; 2…d5 3.Qxd2+ Qxd2#, 1…f2!; 1.Kd3? (zz), 1…c6 2.Kc3 c5 3.Bxc2+ Qxc2#; 2…d5 3.Qxd2+ Qxd2#, 1…c5!; **1.b5!** (zz), 1…c6 2.b6 c5 3.Bxc2+ Qxc2#; 2…d5 3.Qxd2+ Qxd2#. Haring theme (3 x Switchback after 1…c6) with change of continuations, but the play is simple and schematic.

Commendation - (Sergey I. Tkachenko & Anatoly Vasylenko - S0720) A nice s#2 with a surprising key and interesting set- and post-key play. Solution: 1…c2 2.Qxd3+ Kxd3#, 1…Qxf8 2.Rxe5+ Kxe5#; 1.Qxc3? (2.Qxd3+ Kxd3#) Sc6!; **1.Qd6!** (2.Qxd3+ Kxd3#), 1…Sc6 2.Qxc6+ Qxc6#, 1…Re3 2.Qd4+ Kxd4#.

S#4 or more moves

1st Prize - (Gennady Koziura - S0715) A brilliant Bohemian problem with three model mates (two of which are echoed), with play of the battery Se4/Rf4. The variation 1…a2 is spectacular with distant blocking of the a2-square. The common feature of all variations is play of the white battery Rd7/Be8. <u>Solution</u>: **1.Be8!** (zz), 1…Rxf3 2.Rd7+ Ke6 3.Sc7+ Ke5 4.Sa6+ Ke6 5.Qb3+ Rxb3 6.Sc5+ Sxc5#, 1…a2 2.Rxf6+ Kd5 3.Bc6+ Kc4 4.d3+ Kc3 5.Rc1+ Kb2 6.Be5+ Sc3#, 1…gxf3 2.Bb5 ~ 3.Rd7+ Ke6 4.Sc7+ Ke5 5.Re7+ Kd6 6.Qxa3+ Sc5#.

2nd Prize
Gennady Koziura
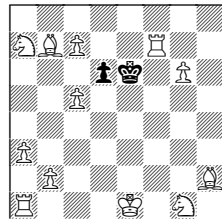
3rd Prize
Gennady Koziura
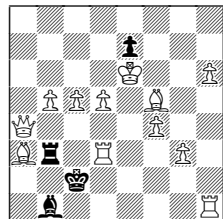
1st Honorable Mention
Eugene Fomichev
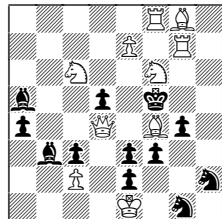
s#8 (12+2)   s#7 (12+4)   s#4 (10+12)

2nd Prize - (Gennady Koziura - S0733) A problem with two variations featuring Valladao theme, with model echoed mates and two white promotions to Queen and Knight. Sg1 is not needed for the solution, but the author had no other way to avoid a dual. <u>Solution</u>: **1.Be4!** (zz), 1…dxc5 2.c8S c4 3.Bf5+ Kd5 4.0-0-0+ Kc5 5.b4+ cxb3 e.p. 6.Bd6+ Kc4 7.Sb6+ Kc3 8.Bb1 b2#, 1…d5 2.Bc2 d4 3.c8Q+ Kd5 4.Qc6+ Kc4 5.Rc1 d3 6.Bd1+ Kd4 7.Sb5+ Ke3 8.Rf1 d2#.

3rd Prize - (Gennady Koziura - S0745) Three echoed mates through double-check on three different squares. It is a pity that one of the mates is not model. Nevertheless, a good achievement. **1.d6!** (zz), 1…Ba2 2.d7 Bb1 3.h7 Ba2 4.h8Q Bb1 5.Qe5 Ba2 6.Rf3+ Kd2 7.Qe3+ Rxe3#, 1…exd6 2.Kd5 Ba2 3.c6 Bb1 4.Rhd1 Ba2 5.Bg4 Bb1 6.Re3! Ba2 7.Qe4+ Rd3#; 2…dxc5 3.Kc4 Ba2 4.h7 Bb1 5.h8Q Ba2 6.Re3+ Kd2 7.Qc3+ Rxc3#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Eugene Fomichev - S0730) White queen sacrifices with Siers battery play in four variants. Repetition of White's 3rd move detracts from the favorable impression created by the author's concept. 1.Bh6? Bd8!; **1.Bc7!** (2.Qxd5+ Bxd5 3.Sxd5+ Ke4 4.Sxc3+ Bxc3#), 1…Bxc2 2.Qd3+ Bxd3 3.Sxd5+ Ke4 4.Sxc3+ Bxc3#, 1…Bb6 2.Qxg4+ Sxg4 3.Sxg4+ Ke4 4.Sf2+ exf2#, 1…Bxc7 2.Qf4+ Kxf4/Bxf4 3.Sh5+ Ke4 4.Sg3+ Bxg3#.

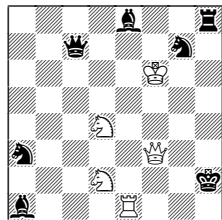**2nd Honorable Mention**
Valery Kopyl &
Gennady Koziura
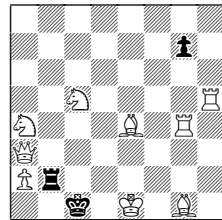
3rd Honorable Mention
Valery Kopyl
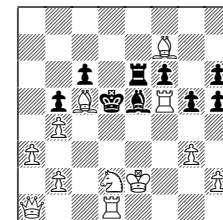
4th Honorable Mention
Sergey Smotrov

s#7 (9+3)   s#6 (12+9)   s#17 b) -Ba1 & s#14 (5+7)

2nd Honorable Mention - (Valery Kopyl & Gennady Koziura - S0717) Three different mates, unfortunately one of them is not model. <u>Solution</u>: 1.Rg2? (zz), 1…g5 2.Rf2 g4 3.Rf1 g3 4.Qc3+ Rc2 5.Qb2+ Rxb2 6.Sb3+ Rxb3 7.Be3+ Rxe3#, 1…g6!; 1.Rd5? (zz), 1…g6 2.Sc3 g5 3.Bf3 Kc2 4.Bd1+ Kc1 5.Re4 g4 6.Kf1 g3 7.Re1 g2#, 1…g5!; **1.Re5!** (zz), 1…g5 2.Rf4 g4 3.Rf1 g3 4.Qc3+ Rc2 5.Qb2+ Rxb2 6.Sb3+ Rxb3 7.Be3+ Rxe3#; 2…gxf4 3.Bf2 f3 4.Qe3+ Rd2 5.Bc2 Kxc2 6.Qb3+ Kc1 7.Qd1+ Rxd1#, 1…g6 2.Sc3 g5 3.Bf3 Kc2 4.Bd1+ Kc1 5.Rd4 g4 6.Kf1 g3 7.Re1 g2#.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Valery Kopyl - S0731) Model battery mates combined with Hoffman theme. <u>Solution</u>: 1.Ke3?[A] (zz) g4![b]; 1.Ke1?[B] (zz) h4![a]; **1.Qb1!** (zz), 1…h4[a] 2.g4 h3/h5 3.Ke3[A] ~ 4.Sf3+ Kc4 5.b3+ Kc3 6.Bd4+ Bxd4#, 1…g4[b] 2.Ke1[B] h4 3.gxh4 g3 5.Sf1+ Kc4 6.Qc2+ Bc3#.

4th Honorable Mention - (Sergey Smotrov - S0747) In the author's typical style, the problem features multiple realignments of pieces, creation and play of white batteries, and switchbacks of white pieces. The solution to b) contrasts to that of a), but hardly adds anything new to the problem's content. <u>Solution</u>: a) Main Plan: 1.Qh1+? Kg3 2.Se4+ Kg4!; **1.Sf1+!** Kg1 2.Se3+ Kh2 3.Re2+ Kg1 4.Rg2+ Kh1 5.Rg5+ Kh2 6.Sg4+ Kg1 7.Se5+! Kh2 8.Rg2+ Kh1 9.Rd2+ Kg1 10.Se2+ Kh2 11.Sc3+ Kg1 12.Rg2+ Kh1 13.Re2+ Kg1 14.Re1+ Kh2 15.Qh1+ Kg3 16.Se4+ Kf4 17.Qh6+ Rxh6#; b) **1.Re2+!** Kg1 2.Qe3+ Kh1 3.Qe4+ Kg1 4.S4f3+ Kh1 5.Sh2+ Kg1 6.Sdf3+ Kh1 7.Se1+ Kg1 8.Rg2+ Kh1 9.Rf2+ Kg1 10.Rf1+ Kxh2 11.Rh1+ Kg3 12.Qg2+ Kf4 13.Qg5+ Ke4 14.Qe5+ Qxe5#.
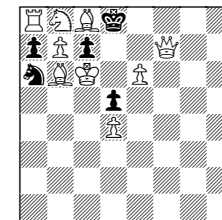
5th Honorable Mention
Valery Kirillov &
Alexey Oganesyan
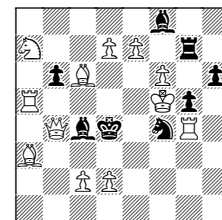
6th Honorable Mention
Eugeniusz Iwanow
& Marcin Banaszek
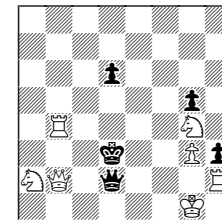
Commendation
John Bowden &
Stephen Taylor

s#5 (12+8)   s#8 b) **bR**d2 (7+5)   s#11 (9+5)

5th Honorable Mention - (Valery Kirillov & Alexey Oganesyan - S0714) A selfmate with a full threat and good variations with defenses on the same square and sacrifices of the white Queen. <u>Solution</u>: **1.Ba4!** (2.Qd6+ Bd5 3.Qe5+ Kc4 4.Qe2+ Kd4 5.Qe4+ Bxe4#), 1…Bxe7 2.Sb5+ Kd5 3.Qd6+ Bxd6 4.Sc7+ Kd4 5.Se6+ Bxe6#, 1…Rxe7 2.Qc5+ bxc5 3.Bb2+ Kd5 4.Bc6+ Kd6 5.Be5+ Rxe5#.

6th Honorable Mention - (Eugeniusz Iwanow & Marcin Banaszek - S0724) Using Forsberg twins, the authors realized round trips by the bQ, bR and wQ with silent tempo moves in each solution. <u>Solution</u>: a) **1.Qb3+!** Qc3 2.Qd1+ Qd2 3.Kh1 d5 4.Qb3+ Qc3 5.Qxd5+ Qd4 6.Qf3+ Qe3 7.Qd1+ Qd2 8.Ra4 Qxd1#; b) **1.Qb1+!** Rc2 2.Ra4 d5 3.Qb5+ Rc4 4.Qxd5+ Rd4 5.Qf5+ Re4 6.Qf1+ Re2 7.Qd1+ Rd2 8.Kh1 Rxd1#.

Commendations without ranking:

Commendation - (John Bowden & Stephen Taylor - S0719) Round trip of the black Knight and two switchbacks of the white Queen. Quite ingenious. <u>Solution</u>: **1.Qf6+!** Ke8 2.Qh8+ Ke7 3.Bc5+ Sxc5 4.Qg7+ Ke8 (or 4…Kd8; 5.Qf6+ etc. & s#10) 5.Qf7+ Kd8 6.Qf6+ Ke8 7.Bd7+ Sxd7 8.Sa6+ Sb8+ 9.Kc5 c6 10.e7 Kd7 11.Qf7 Sxa6#.

Commendation
Marcin Banaszek
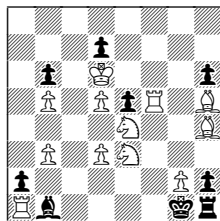
s#13 b) Rf5→d2 C-   (12+9)

Commendation
Gennady Koziura
& Valery Kopyl
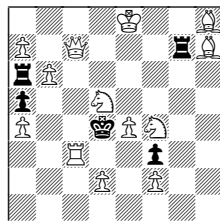
s#6   (13+5)

Commendation - (Marcin Banaszek - S0746) Two very interesting and hard-to-solve twins, with the white King traveling to distant squares and quiet moves by both sides. It is particularly difficult to discover the solution to the twin b), in which the initially pinned Bb1 suddenly comes to life and delivers mate. Also worthy of mention is the specific change of play on the first four moves of both solutions after the black Pawn's moves. Solution: a) **1.Bf7!** h5 2.Be7! h4 3.Rf6! h3 4.Be6! hxg2 5.Sc2! dxe6 6.Kxe5 exd5 7.Kd4 dxe4 8.Ke3 exd3 9.Kd2 dxc2 10.Bc5+ bxc5 11.Kc1 c4 12.b4 c3 13.Rf2 Kxf2#; 4...dxe6 5.Kxe5 exd5 6.Kxd4 dxe4 7.Kc3 exd3 8.Kd2 hxg2 9.Sc2 dxc2 etc. main line; b) **1.Bf3!** h5 2.Bg5! h4 3.Rf2! h3 4.Sc4! hxg2 5.Sa5! bxa5 6.Kc5 a4 7.b4 a3 8.Kc4 d6 9.Rxg2+ Kf1 10.Sg3+ Ke1 11.Re2+ Kd1 12.Re4+ Kc2 13.Rxa2+ Bxa2#.

Commendation - (Valery Kopyl & Gennady Koziura - S0732) Two different model mates after dynamic play with change of continuation after 1…Rxb6. Solution: 1.Se3? (zz), 1…Rxb6 2.Qxg7+ Rf6 3.Se6+ Ke5 4.Sc4+ Kxe6 5.Qg6 Rxg6 6.Bg8+ Rxg8#, 1…Rxa7!; **1.Sh3!** (zz), 1…Rxb6 2.Qc4+ Ke5 3.Sxb6 Kd6/Kf6 4.Qd4+ Ke6 5.Sg5+ Rxg5 6.Bg8+ Rxg8#, 1…Rxa7 2.Qc5+ Ke5 3.d4+ Ke6 4.Sdf4+ Kf6 5.Qf8+ Rf7 6.Kd8 Rxf8#.

Many thanks to Ivan for this award. The award stays open for three months. Please send comments to Petko A. Petkov.

StrateGems 2019 #3 Award

By Sergey Bilyk

Thirty-nine threemovers by 30 composers from eight countries (Belarus, Czechia, Israel, Serbia, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine and USA) were in the tourney which turned out to be of high quality. There were many interesting compositions. For this reason, composers of light-weight entries, including miniatures, couldn't compete on a par with the others.

Some entries were anticipated, or had close predecessors:

M1560 V.Malyuk: Fully anticipated by https://www.yacpdb.org/#118906 with even more content;

M1575 M.Chernyavskyi: Fully anticipated by https://www.yacpdb.org/#152155;

M1579 P.Petrašinović: An anticipation, https://www.yacpdb.org/#50115, was pointed out in 'Solutions to SG-86' (SG88) misses a model mate in a variation in M1579. There is a closer anticipation, https://www.yacpdb.org/#56963, with all five model mates presented.
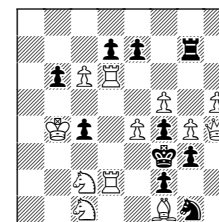
Here is my verdict:

1st-2nd Prize
Zoltán Labai &
Miroslav Svitek
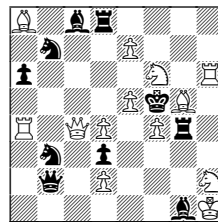
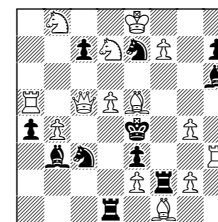#3   (13+10)

1st-2nd Prize
Eugene Fomichev &
Alexander Sygurov

#3*   (12+10)

3rd Prize
Felix Rossomakho

#3   (14+11)

1st-2nd Prize - (Zoltán Labai & Miroslav Svitek - M1568) 1.Qf7! (2.Qh7+ Ke6 3.f5#), 1...Qxd4 2.Sd5+ Ke4 3.Sc3#, 1...Bxd4 2.Sfxg4+ Ke4 3.Sf2#, 1...Sxd4 2.Sd7+ Ke4 3.Sc5#, 1...Rh8 2.Se8+ Ke4 3.Sd6#, 1...Rxg5 2.Sh7+ Ke4 3.Sxg5#, 1...Rxf4 2.Sh5+ Ke4/Kxg5 3.Sg3/Qxf4#. Three pairs of variations (with pinning of bQ & bB on d4, pinning bSb7 and with the play of bRg4) are united by a Siers battery. Three defenses on d4. Pity that 1...Rxd4 isn't a thematic defense.

Note that, if we remove wBa8, wPe7, bBc8 and bSb7 then, instead of 1...Rh8 (g8), we get the defense 1...Rxd4 with the same idea adding a third mate with a black unit pinned. Then, 1...Sxd4 is followed with a non-pin mate. Probably this is why the authors decided on a heavier construction.

1st-2nd Prize - (Eugene Fomichev & Alexander Sygurov - M1597) 1...Sh3 2.Sd4+ K~ 3.Re2#; **1.Sb3!** (2.Re2 & 3.Sbd4/Sd2/Scd4#), 1...dxc6 2.R2d3+! cxd3/Kxe4 3.Sd2/Re6#, 1...c3 2.R6d4! ~/cxd2 3.R2d3/Sxd2#, (1...cxb3 2.R6d4 ~ 3.R2d3#), 1...Kxe4 2.R2d4+! Ke5/Kf3 3.R6d5/Sd2#, 1...Rxg4 2.Sbd4+! Kxe4 3.Qxe7#, 1...g2 2.Bxg2+! Kxg2 3.Rxf2#, 1...Rg6 2.Qh1+ Kxg4/g2 3.Rxg6/Qxg2#. A good sacrificial key leads to a complex of variations: play of white pieces to d4-square; sacrifices of Rd2 and white Rooks' oncoming moves. The defenses after a quiet threat are nice: getting ready to eliminate controls off squares adjacent to bK (1...Rxg4, 1...g2) and threatening to check the wK (1...dxc6). (White technical Pawn on h5 can be replaced by its black counterpart on the same square, with the position legality remaining intact.)

3rd Prize - (Felix Rossomakho - M1616) 1.Rf3! (2.Sf6+ Kxe5 3.Sbd7#), 1...Sexd5 2.Qe7! ~ 3.Sc5#; 2...Sd~ 3.Sf6#, 1...Scxd5 2.Qc3! ~ 3.Sc5#; 2...Sd~ 3.Sf6#, 1...Rxd5 2.Qd4+! Rxd4 3.Sf6#, 1...Bxd5 2.Qc4+ Bxc4 3.Sf6#, (1...Sxe2 2.Sf6+ Kd3 3.Qc3#, 1...Sg8 2.fxg8Q ~ 3.Qxh7#). Four defenses on the same d5-square with annihilation of wPd5. Two pairs of variations (the first pair with Umnov) are united by wQ's sacrifices. Pity about the same mate appearing several times. (Alternate setting: -wPb4, -wRa5, +wRb5, +bPa5.)
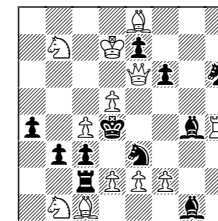
4th Prize
Alexander Kuzovkov
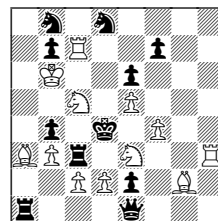
#3√   (12+11)

5th Prize
Mikhail Marandyuk
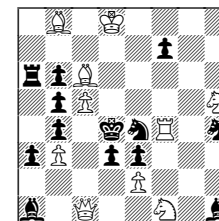
#3   (10+13)
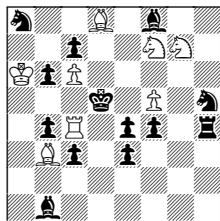
1st Honorable Mention
Leonid Makaronez
& Viktor Volchek

#3   (12+11)

4ᵗʰ Prize - (Alexander Kuzovkov - M1515) 1.Rh6? (2.Sf5+[A] exf5 3.Rd6#), 1...Rxe3 2.Sxe6+[B] fxe6 3.Rc4#, 1...Rxc5 2.Bb2+[C] Rc3 3.Rc4#, 1...Qxd2!; **1.Rxf7!** (2.Sxe6+[B] Sxe6 3.Sf5#), 1...Rxe3 2.Bb2+[C] Rc3 3.Rd3#, 1...Rxc5 2.Sf5+[A] exf5 3.Rd3#. Change of moves' functions, change of play 2x2, Shedey combination and Pseudo Le Grand on Whites 1ˢᵗ & 2ⁿᵈ move. The try looks more appealing for a no-capture key. There is some symmetry, though.

5ᵗʰ Prize - (Mikhail Marandyuk - M1598) 1.Bb7! (2.Qxa1+[A] Kxc5 3.Qe5#), 1...Bb2 2.Qxe3+[B] Kc3 3.Qxd3#, 1...f6 2.Sg7 ~ 3.Se6#; 2...bxc5/dxe2 3.Qxa1[A]/Qxe3[B]#, 1...Sg6 2.Rf5 ~ 3.Rd5#; 2...Se~/Sc3! 3.Qxa1[A]/Qxe3[B]#; (2...Se5 3.Bxe5#). Two pairs of variations are unified with wQ's moves functions. The second pair presents Visserman-1 with á la Rukhlis change. There is no correction on Black's second move after 1...Sg6. Everything is, however, set before the key which simply triggers the play.
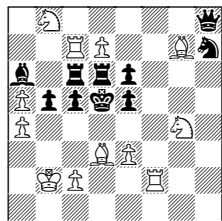
1ˢᵗ Honorable Mention - (Leonid Makaronez & Viktor Volchek - M1582) 1.Bg6! (2.Rxg4+ ~ 3.Qe4#), 1...Sef5 2.d6! ~/Sf~/Se3 3.Qd5/e3/dxe3#, 1...Shf5 2.d3! ~/Sf~ 3.Qe4/Be3#, 1...f5 2.Qxe3+ Kxc4 3.Qc5#, 1...Kxc4 2.Bd3+ Kb4/Kd4 3.Ba3/dxe3#. Three defenses on the same f5-square. In the main pair of variations, the wQ's unpinnings are used as threats after White's quiet second moves, with anti-dual separations of moves. The wQ remains on the pinned line and takes advantage of being unpinned on the final move. Repinning of the wQ causes new mates. However, there is no quiet move (and repinning of the wQ) after 1...f5.

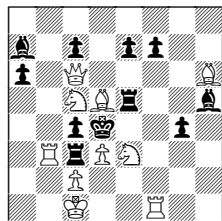2ⁿᵈ Honorable Mention
Alexandr Pankratyev
& Valery Shavyrin

#3   (8+13)

3ʳᵈ Honorable Mention
Sergey I. Tkachenko

#3   (12+10)

4ᵗʰ Honorable Mention
Leonid Lyubashevsky,
Leonid Makaronez
& Viktor Volchek

#3   (10+11)

2ⁿᵈ Honorable Mention - (Alexandr Pankratyev & Valery Shavyrin - M1614) 1.Kb7! (2.Se6 & 3.Rc5[A]/Rd4[B]/Rxc3[C]/Rxb4#[D]), 1...b5 2.Rc5++[A] Kd4[a] 3.Rd5#[E]; 2...Kxc5[b] 3.Se6#[F], 1...Bd3 2.Rd4++[B] Kxd4[a] 3.Se6#[F]; 2...Kc5[b] 3.Rd5#[E], 1...Sxg7 2.Rxc3+[C] Kd4[a] 3.Bf6#, 1...Bxg7 2.Rxb4+[D] Kc5[b] 3.Be7#. Four-fold mating threat becomes a second move in variations. There are two pairs of variations with a R-cross battery. The first pair of variations is of a Visserman-type change of play. However, there is symmetry in construction and play.

3ʳᵈ Honorable Mention - (Sergey I. Tkachenko - M1567) 1.Rf4! (2.c4+ bxc4 3.Be4#), 1...Rb6 2.Rd4+ cxd4 3.e4#, 1...b4 2.Be4+ Kc4 3.Sxe5#, 1...Qxb8 2.e4+ Kd4 3.Bxe5#, 1...c4 2.Be4+ Kc5 3.Sxa6#, 1...Rxd7 2.e4+ Kd4/Kd6 3.Sxc6/Rxd7#. Complex of variations forming different combinations: threatening to check the wK in the first three variations; White's play to the same e4-square on second move and to the same e5-square on final move after 1...Qxb8 and 1...b4; self-blocks by black b4- and c4-Pawns. Repetition of White's 2ⁿᵈ move detracts.

4ᵗʰ Honorable Mention - (Leonid Lyubashevsky, Leonid Makaronez & Viktor Volchek - M1596) 1.Be6! (2.Qd7+ Rd5/Kxc5 3.Qxd5/d4#), 1...Rxb3 2.Sxb3+ cxb3 3.Qc4#, 1...Rxd3 2.Rxd3+ cxd3 3.Sb3+, 1...cxd3 2.Rb4+ Rc4 3.Rxc4#, 1...Rg5 2.Rf4+ Ke5/Kxe3 3.Qxc7/Qe4#, 1...Bxc5 2.Sf5+ Rxf5 3.Qe4#, 1...fxe6 2.Sxe6+ Rxe6 3.Qd5#. (1.Bh1? e6!.) A complex of variations with different combinations. The main content here is providing flights for the black King which triggers white indirect battery play. There are many different elements but they are not unified.
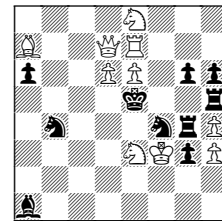
5ᵗʰ Honorable Mention
Vasily Malyuk
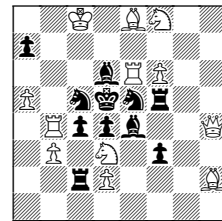
#3   (12+11)

6ᵗʰ Honorable Mention
Victor Chepizhny
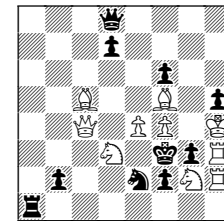
#3√.   (10+10)

1ˢᵗ Commendation
Evgeny Gavryliv
& Leonid Makaronez

#3   (10+10)

5ᵗʰ Honorable Mention - (Vasily Malyuk - M1583) 1.Qf4! (2.Qxe5+ Bxe5/Rxe5 3.Bc6/Sf4#), 1...Scxd3 2.Qxe4+ Kxe4/Kc5 3.Bc6/Rb5#, 1...Bxd3 2.Rxd6+ Kxd6 3.Qxd4#, 1...cxd3 2.Rxd4+ Kxd4 3.Rxd6#, 1...Scd7 2.Rb5+ Kc6/Bc5 3.Rc5/Sb4#. Three defenses on the d3-same square with sacrifices of white pieces. Heavy position with a dual in a side variation 1...Sf7 2.Rxd6+ & 2.Qxd6+.

6ᵗʰ Honorable Mention - (Victor Chepizhny - M1613) 1.Sde1+? fxe1S!, 1.Sge1+? fxe1Q!; **1.Qc2!** (2.Rxg3+ Sxg3 3.Qxf2#), 1...f1Q 2.Sde1+! (Sge1+?) Qxe1 3.Qd3#, 1...f1S 2.Sge1+! (Sde1+?) Rxe1 3.Rf2#, 1...Rf1 2.Qd2 ~ 3.Qe3#, 1...Qg8 2.Se5+ fxe5 3.Qd3#. Tries 1.Sde1+? and 1.Sge1+? are defeated by promotions to Queen and Knight. In the play, the same promotions occur on a different square.

1ˢᵗ Commendation - (Evgeny Gavryliv & Leonid Makaronez - M1566) 1.Rh7! (2.Qg7+ Kxe6 3.Qe7#), 1...Sc6 2.Qxc6 ~/Kxe6/S~ 3.Qe4/Re7/Qd5#, 1...Sbd5 2.Sc4+ Kf5 3.hxg4#, 1...Sfd5 2.Sxg4+ Kf5 3.e7#, 1...Sxe6 2.Qxe6+ Kxe6 3.Re7#. Bristol key. Two pairs of variations with black Knights' play to the same d5-square and anti-dual separation of White's 2ⁿᵈ moves. Too many captures.
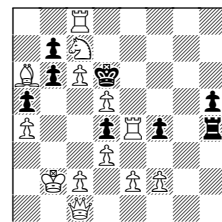
2ⁿᵈ Commendation
Kabe Moen
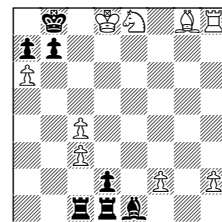
#3√.   (9+7)

3ʳᵈ Commendation
Stanislav Vokál
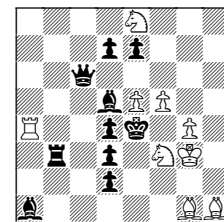
#3   (9+10)

4ᵗʰ Commendation
A.Zhuk, V.Melnikov,
V.Shevchenko & L.Lyubashevsky


#3   (13+8)

2nd Commendation - (Kabe Moen - M1595) 1.Sg7?[A] (2.Kd7 & 2.Bd5) Bxf2[a]!, 1.Be6?[B] (2.Kd7 & 2.Sd6) Rxc3[b]!; **1.Kd7!** (2.B/S~), 1...Bxf2[a] 2.Be6[B] Rg1/Bh4/Bc5/Bb6 3.Sg7/Sf6/Sd6/Sc7#, 1...Rxc3[b] 2.Sg7[A] Rd3+/Re3/Rf3/Rh3/Rxc4 3.Bd5/Be6/Bf7/Bh7/Bxc4#. Differentiation of White's 2nd and 3rd moves with a masked battery. Banny theme. Composer claimed Fleck but there isn't one, because in Fleck, the thematic multiple threat is virtual, and every black defense is followed by a single mate.

3rd Commendation - (Stanislav Vokál - M1564) 1.Ra5! (2.Sg5+ Kxe5 3.Sf7#), 1...Qe6 2.Sxd2+ Kxe5 3.Sc4#, 1...Rb5 2.Se1+ Kxe5 3.Sxd3#, 1...Qb5/Qc5 2.Sh4+ Kxe5 3.Sg6#. The threat and three variations present the four-fold Siers battery.

4th Commendation - (Alexander Zhuk, Vladimir Melnikov, Vitaly Shevchenko & Leonid Lyubashevsky - M1581) 1.c3! (2.cxd4 ~/bxc6 3.Re6/Qxc6#), 1...dxc3+ 2.Qxc3 (3.Re6/Qa3#) bxc6 3.Qxc6#, 1...f3 2.Qh6+ Kc5 3.Qf8#, 1...Kc5 2.cxd4+ Kb4/Kd6 3.Qc4/Re6#, 1...Rh3 2.Qxf4+ Kc5 3.Qf8#. Set of variations with different tactics, change of moves' functions both for White and Black. Also, threat-mates show up as second moves in variations.
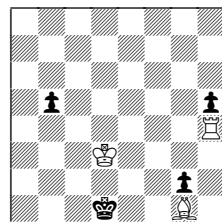
5th Commendation
Leonid Makaronez
& Victor Volchek
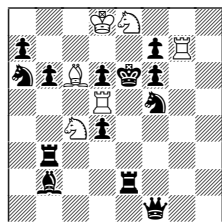
6th Commendation
Alexander Shpakovsky
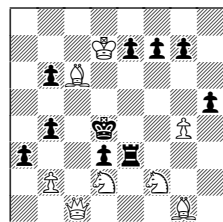
Sp. Comm. for Miniature
Karol Mlynka

#3 (6+13)   #3* (8+10)   #3*√. (3+4)

5th Commendation - (Leonid Makaronez & Victor Volchek - M1565) 1.Rg3! (2.Rxd6+ Sxd6 3.Sg7#), 1...Rxg3 2.Rb5 (3.Bd5/Bd7#) Sc5 3.Sc7#, 1...Ba3 2.Rxd4 (3.Bd5/Bd7#) Sxd4 3.Sg7#, 1...Qf4 2.Rxf5 (3.Bd7/Sg7#) Kxf5 3.Sg7#. Not easy to find the key. Nice play by Rd5. However, there are only two mates.

6th Commendation - (Alexander Shpakovsky - M1612) 1...f6 2.Sb3+ Ke5 3.Qxe3#, 1...Rg3 2.Sfe4+ Ke5/Rxg1 3.Sc4/Sf3#; **1.Be4!** (2.Sxd3 ~/b5 3.Qc4/Qc5#), 1...Ke5 2.Qc7+ Kf6/Kd4 3.Qf4/Sb3#, 1...Rxe4 2.Sf3+ Kd5 3.Qc6#, 1...axb2 2.Qxb2+ Kc5 3.Qe5#. Complex of nice variations.

Special Commendation for Miniature - (Karol Mlynka - M1561) 1...Ke1[a] 2.Rb4[B] ~ 3.Rb1#; 1.Be3?[A] g1R[d] 2.Rb4[B] ~ 3.Rb1#, 1...g1S/B[b] 2.Rh1[C] ~ 3.Rxg1#, 1...g1Q!; 1.Rxh5? (zz), 1...Ke1[a] Rxb5[D] ~ 3.Rb1#, 1...Kc1[c] 2.Rxb5[D] Kd1 3.Rb1#, 1...b4!; **1.Rb4![B]** (2.Rb1#), 1...Kc1[c] 2.Be3+[A] Kd1 3.Rb1#. Change of play, change of moves' functions for White and Black, reciprocation of White's 1st and 2nd moves (Pseudo-Salazar), and several model mates. The solution phase with a short threat is quite modest.

Many thanks to Sergey Bilyk for the timely award which stays open for three months. Please direct your comments to Rauf Aliovsadzade.

StrateGems 2019 h#2 Award
by Vladislav Nefyodov

Regarding the state of h#2 in the development of chess composition as a sport and as an art, I am not optimistic about its future. There are several reasons: too many contests, too many magazines and few composers. The composers are focused on getting their problems published at the expense of artistry and quality in general. This has resulted in a decline of quality so that many unremarkable problems are being published.

Anticipations and other comments.

H2355 (Dražkowski) is anticipated by Živko Janevski, *U.S. Problem Bulletin*, 1994; h#2, 2 sols. wKc1 Re4 Ba7-a8 Pa4-b2 (6), bKd3 Qh6 Rc8-e3 Bc4-g1 Sd4 Pb3-b3-e5 (10), 1.Re2+ Rf4 2.Ke3 Rf3#; 1.Bd5+ Bc6 2.Kc4 Bb5#.

H2356 (Tritten) is anticipated by Menachem Witztum, *Orbit*, 2013, 7th Comm., h#2 2 sols. wKa6 Rd3 Be6 Sg2 Pa5-e2-f6-g4 (8), bKe4 Qb8 Rh6 Bf1-h4 Sc1 Pb3-c7-g3-h5 (10); 1.Sxe2 Bc4 2.Sd4 Re3#; 1.Bxf6 Rd6 2.Be5 Bf5#.

H2358 (Jonsson) is anticipated by Abdelaziz Onkoud, Kozhakin-55 JT 2011012, 4th HM, h#2½ 2 sols. wKg2 Rh6 Bg5-h7 Sg6 Pe5 (6), bKd5 Qg7 Rf7-h8 Bf8 Pc7-f5 (7), 1…Be3 2.Qxh7 Sf4+ 3.Kxe5 Re6#; 1…Bf6 2.Qxh6 Se7+ 3.Ke6 Bxf5#.

H2360 (Ivunin/Kirillov/Pankratyev) Four solutions lack harmony.

H2361 (Elbaz) Illegal setting.

H2377 (Roland) Published previously in *Spička Borovička* 2010.

H2379 (Csák) is anticipated by F.Abdurahmanović, *Problemas*, 1991, h#2, 2 sols. wKb4 Rd2 Ba2-b2-Sd7-f6 (6), bKe7 Rd1-f8 Ba1-e8 Sc4 Pd4 (7), 1.Rxf6 Bxd4 2.Sb2 Bxf6#; 1.Bxd7 Rxd4 2.Sd2 Rxd7#.

H2386 (Syzonenko) The same idea has been seen in better form in this author's problem published in *Phénix* 2017, h#2, 3 sols. wKf6 Ra1-g3 Bc4-h6 Sc5 Pb3-d3-d4-e4-f5-g2-h5 (13), bKe2 Qc5 Ba6-d6 Sb7-h1 Pb4-b6-c6-f2 (10), 1.Sxc5 Rg4 2.Sxe4+ Rxe4#; 1.Qxc4 Se6 2.Qxd4+ Sxc4#; 1.Sxg3 Bf7 2.Sxh5+ Bxh5#. There are many more similar, previously published problems.

H2381 (Chumakov) In four solutions, the black King leaves its original square, and then the same square is self-blocked by four different black pieces. This has been already shown in 4 solutions and without twins, Markus Manhart, *Schach-Aktiv*, 1994, h#2, 4 sols. wKh2 Be1 Sd4-e7 Pb3-c4 (6), bKe4 Qg4 Ra5-f6 Bd3 Sc5-d6 Pf2 (8), 1.Kxd4 Sd5 2.Qe4 Bc3#; 1.Ke3 Bc3 2.Sde4 Sd5#; 1.Kf4 Sec6 2.Be4 Bd2#; 1.Ke5 Bd2 2.Sce4 Sec6#.

H2402 (Onkoud) An already shown ending with Ideal-mates by Vatslav Gebelt, *Ideal-Mate Review*, 1990, h#2, 2 sols. wKd7 Bd6 Sd1-f1 Pf2 (5), bKd5 Pe2-e3 (3), 1.exd1R f3 2.Rd4 Sxe3#; 1.exf1B fxe3 2.Bc4 Sc3#.

H2408 (Colaneri/Garofalo) is anticipated by G. Bakcsi, *Tipografia*-T.T., 1974(v), 3rd H.M., h#2, 3 sols. wKe6 Ra2-d4 Bd7 Pa3-b4-b5-c2-d5 (3), bKa4 Rb7 Bc3-c8 Sb1 Pa5-d2-d3 (8), 1.Bxb4 Rxd3 2.Bxa3 Rd4#; 1.Sxa3 Rb2 2.Sxb5 Ra2#; 1.Rxb5 Bxc8 2.Rxb4 Bd7#.

H2429 (Pankratyev) It has enough original content for publication. However, there is a predecessor without "extra" white pieces and with both the Knight and the Bishop involved in mating picture. F.Sabol, *Liga na Makedonski Problemisti*, 2001, 3rd Place, h#2, 2 sols. wKe4 Rb1 Be3-h1 Sd3 Pe5 (6), bKc6 Qd6 Ra1-c2 Bd7 Se2 Pa2-b2-c7-e7-h2 (11), 1.Qh6 Sc1 2.bxc1B Kd3#; 1.Qa3 Bc1 2.bxc1S Ke3#.

H2430 (Ljevaković) Compare with J.Niemann, *Schach-Echo* 1970-II, Commendation, h#2, 2 sols. wKa7 Pc4-d7-e7 (4), bKa5 Pa2-d2 (3), 1.d1B e8Q 2.Ba4 Qe1#; 1.a1R d8S 2.Ra4 Sc6#.

H2431 (Jonsson/Onkoud) Compare to: C.Jonsson, *The Problemist Supplement* 2015, h#2, 2 sols. wKg5 Rc5 Bh2 Sd4 Pc3-c4-f5 (7), bKe5 Qf1 Re2-f2 Bh1 Sc5-f4 Pc6-f7-g4 (10), 1.Be4 Sf3+ 2.gxf3 Bxf4#; 1.Re4 Sb5 2.cxb5 Rxd5#.
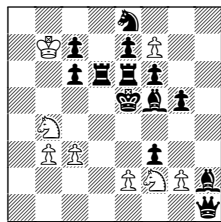
Here is my ranking:

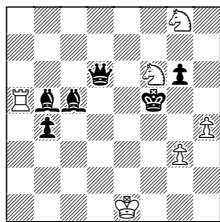1st Prize
Vitaly Medintsev
& Anatoly Skripnik
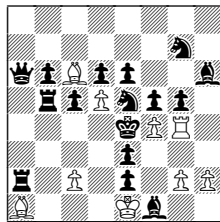
2nd Prize
Abdelaziz Onkoud
& Michal Dragoun

3rd Prize
Menachem Witztum
& Ricardo Vieira

h#2   4 solutions   (9+16)

h#2   6 solutions   (8+13)

h#2   b) **wB**a5   (6+6)

1st Prize - (Vitaly Medintsev & Anatoly Skripnik - H2385) Solution: 1.exd5 Bxb5 2.Sd3+ cxd3#; 1.gxf4 Rg3 2.Sf3+ gxf3#; 1.Sxg4 dxe6+ 2.Kxf4 g3#; 1.Sxc6 fxg5+ 2.Kxd5 c4#. Large-scale mechanism! In all four variations the same thematic pieces take part! The King, the Knight, two Pawns on the black side and the Rook, the Bishop, and four white Pawns on the white side. The whole idea is based on the destruction of white batteries.

2nd Prize - (Abdelaziz Onkoud & Michal Dragoun - H2384) Solution: 1.Be4 g4 2.Bd5 Sbd3#; 1.Rd4 fxe8S 2.Re4 Sfd3#; 1.Bg6 Sbd3+ 2.Kf5 g4#; 1.Rd7 Sfd3+ 2.Kd6 fxe8S#; 1.Bf4 Sg4+ 2.Ke4 exf3#; 1.c5 Sc6+ 2.Kd5 c4#. The first two pairs of solution, with alternating W1 and W2, are harmonious. The third pair is less interesting. It is similar to: A.Onkoud, *Phénix* 2018, h#2, 6 sols. wKb3 Sd7-e8 Pb7-f2-f5-g3-g4-h4 (9), bKd5 Qa5 Rc6 Bd4 Sa7-f7 Pc5-c7-e3-f6-g5 (11), 1.Be5 fxe3 2.Bd6 Sexf6#; 1.Re6 b8S 2.Re5 Sdxf6#; 1.Sd6 Se5 2.fxe5 Sf6#; 1.Se5 Sd6 2.cxd6 Sxf6#; 1.gxh4 Sdxf6+ 2.Ke5 f4#, 1.Sc8 Sf6 2.Kd6 bxc8S#.
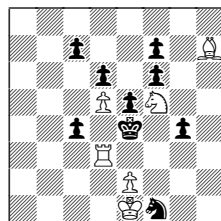
3rd Prize - (Menachem Witztum & Ricardo Vieira - H2403) Solution: a) 1.Be2 (Be3?) Ra6 2.Qe5 Sh6#; b) 1.Be3 (Be2?) Bc7 2.Qe6 g4#. The black Queen self-blocks twice (self-blocks with Bishops are not possible). White makes two ambush moves. Good dual avoidance.
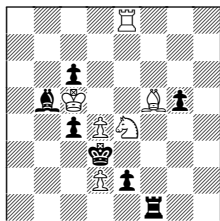
Honorable Mention
Emil Klemanič
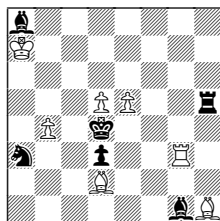
Honorable Mention
Abdelaziz Onkoud

Commendation
Abdelaziz Onkoud

h#2   3 solutions   (7+6)

h#2   4 solutions   (6+9)

h#2   4 solutions   (6+7)

Honorable Mention - (Emil Klemanič - H2404) Solution: 1.Bxd5 Bc1 2.Bc4 Bb2#; 1.Rxe5 Re3 2.Rxd5 Re4#; 1.Sc4 Rf3 2.Sxe5 Rf4#. Black's cyclic play on squares c4-d5-e5 in a light form, without additional strategy.

Honorable Mention - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2359) Solution: 1.Se3 Rc3 2.Sxd5 Rxc4#; 1.c6 Rg3 2.cxd5 Rxg4#; 1.Sg3 e3 2.Kf3 Sh4#; 1.c5 Sd4+ 2.Kxd5 e4#. A change of functions between black Pawns and the black Knight. In the first pair of solutions, d5-square is self-blocked, while in the second pair, we have distant self-blocks. White has an interesting change of functions between its Rook, Knight and Pawn.

Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H2427) Solution: 1.c3 Ra8 2.c2 Ra3#; 1.Rc1 Rh8 2.Rc2 Rh3#; 1.e1S Bh3 2.Sc2 Bxf1#; 1.Ba4 Be6 2.Bc2 Bxc4#. The theme of Azemmour 7th T.T.: Self-blocking on the same square.

Commendation
János Csák
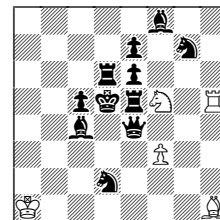
Commendation - (János Csák - H2406) Solution: a) 1.Sxf3 Sg3 2.Sd4 Bxe4#; 1.Sxf5 f4 2.Sd4 Rxe5#.

We thank Vladislav for this timely award, which stays open for three months. Comments should be sent to Abdelaziz Onkoud.

h#2   b) Pc5→c6   (5+11)

Letters to the Editor

Over the last twenty-some years I have received numerous letters from our subscribers. Often the letters have come with payments for subscription, but also by email. This year I received more than the usual number due to my 80th birthday. I would like to use this opportunity to thank all of you for your good wishes for me as well as for our magazine.

I would like to quote a letter from a long-time subscriber, Luke Neyndorff, from El Cajon, California. Luke wrote: "Hi Mike, This card is for our hard-working *StrateGems* editor! May your 80th birthday be a pleasant one. You can be compared with a fine wine – both get better as they age!"

I don't know about the last sentence, but I thank Luke for his kind words. Luke also dug-up an old problem (from 1890) which shows my (M. P.) initials. It is quite crude by today's standards, but it is the thought that counts. You should be able to solve it without a hint.

Charles A. Gilberg
Crumbs from the chess-board, 1890

#2   (10+11)
b) s#2

ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS
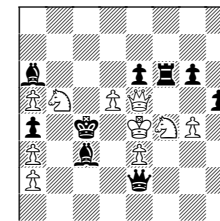
Problems published in this section are eligible for the year 2020 competition. Please send your originals to the individual editors. Solvers' comments are due by 8/15/2020 and should be sent to the Section Editor. Comments are preferred by email, but those sent by regular mail will be accepted as well.

   Notice to composers: It is in your interest to describe the content of your original as best as you can. It will help the judge and improve your chances of receiving an award.

TWOMOVERS
Editor: **Eugene Rosner,** Judge: **Anatoly Slesarenko**

We start with two Merediths featuring fine changed play. Marco continues his exploration of a favorite theme, one that has taken over the problem world in the last decade. Bruno's problem is "theme only", so don't expect much in the way of byplay! A plethora of themes can be found in Pavel's **T1027**. The same can be said for the concluding **T1028**, which shares one subtle theme with **T1027**.

T1023 Edward Barclay
Cumming, GA
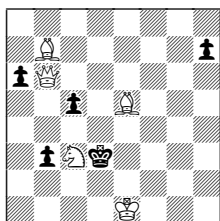
#2*   (5+5)

T1024 Kabe Moen
Tuscaloosa, AL
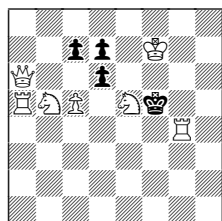
#2√.   (7+4)

T1025 Marco Guida
Italy
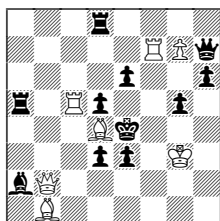
#2√.   (7+11)

T1026 Bruno Colaneri
Italy
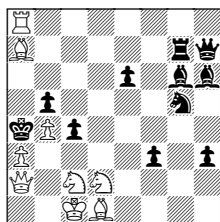
#2   (9+11)

T1027 Pavel Murashev
Russia
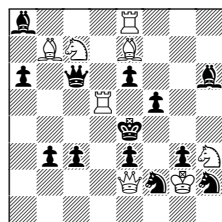
#2*√.   (8+13)

T1028 Mark Basisty,
Sergei I. Tkachenko &
Peter Novitsky, Ukraine

#2*√..   (11+10)

SG88 (October - December 2019) Solutions - TWOMOVERS
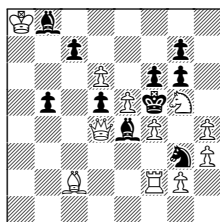
Comments from: Author (A), Editor (E), Wilfried Seehoffer (WS)

T1011 (Murashev) 1.Qb7? (2.Qd5#), 1…fxe4/Bxc4 2.Qxe4/Sxf5#, 1…Sc6!; 1.Qxf7? (2.Qd5#), 1…fxe4/Bxc4 2.Sf5/Qxc4#, 1…Bh5!; 1.Sd2? (2.Sb3#), 1…Kc3 2.Sf3# (2.Sb3? Kxc2!), 1…fxe4/Bxc4 2.S6xe4/Sf3#, 1…c4!; **1.Rxc5!** (2.Rd5#), 1…Kxc5 2.Qxa7#, 1…fxe4/Bxc4 2.Sb7/Rxc4#. *There are two systems of play: In the first two phases, there is destruction of battery, Bikos theme and transferred mates. In the 3rd try and solution, we have flight-giving moves and battery play. 4x2 Zagoruiko (A), An amazing key (WS)*

T1012 (Barnes) 1.Re3? (2.Re4#), 1...Sxe3 2.Qg7#, 1...Sf6 2.Qe5#, 1...Bd5/Bf5 2.S(x)f5#, 1...Qc6 2.Sxc6#, 1...Sd3! (2.Qxd3?); 1.Rf3? [2.Qf4# / 2.Rf4# Ke5!)] Sf6! (2.Qe3?); 1.Bf5? (2.Rd3#) Bxc4! (2.Sf5?); 1.Bh7? Rxh7!; **1.Bg6!** (2.Rd3#), 1…Se3/Se5 2.Q(x)e3#, 1...Bxc4/Bf5 2.S(x)f5#, 1...Qxc4 2.Sc6#, 1...bxc3 2.Qf4#, (1.Rd3+? Ke4! 1.Qd4+? Kxc3!). *Two anti-Bristol tries by wRc3. The key-move eliminates duals 2.Qxe3 and 2.Qg7 after 1...Se3 (E), A classical problem (WS).*

T1013 (Maleika) **1.Sxc7!** (2.Rd6/Sxb5/Se6#), 1…Rxe3 2.Rd6/Sxb5#, 1…Rxb3 2.Rd6/Se6#, 1…Rxc7 2.Rd6/Rd3#, 1…Re4 2.Rd6/Rxe4#, 1…Sb4 2.Sxb5/Se6#, 1…Rc6 2.Sxb5/Rd3#, 1…Rg6 2.Sxb5/Re4#, 1…Rc5 2.Se6/Rd3#, 1…Rg5 2.Se6/Re4# 1…Bg3 2.Rd3/Re4#. *All combinations of two mating moves are out of a five mating move pool. A favorite theme of the composer (E).*

T1014 (Gockel) 1.Qxh6? (2.Sxg5#), 1…Qa5[a] 2.f8S#[A], 1…Sxf7!; 1.Rxh6? (2.Sxg5#), 1…Qa5[a] 2.Qc8#[B], 1…Sxf7 2.Qxf7#, 1…Rh5!; 1.Qg7? (2.Sd4#), 1…Qb6[b] 2.f8S#[A], 1…Rd1!; **1.Rxf2!** (2.Sd4#), 1…Qb6[b] 2.Qc8#[B], 1…Rd1 2.Rxe2#. *Reciprocal change of two mates spread over four phases. Threats by the same piece (E), Only two variations, but interesting tries (WS).*

T1015 (Basisty/Vasilenko/Tkachenko) 1.Be6[A]? {2.Sd~# (2.Sxe4[C]?)} e3[a]! (unblock); 1.Bc6[B]? {2.Sd~# (2.Sxc4[D]?)} c3[b]! (unblock); 1.Sd~? (2.Be6[A]/Bc6#[B]) Sc3[c]/Se3[d]!; 1.Sxe4[C]!? (2.Bc6[B]#), 1…fxe4 (self-block) 2.Be6#[A], 1…c3[b] 2.Qxd3#[E], 1…Sc3[c] 2.Qf2#, 1…Se3[d] 2.Qc3#, 1…Be7/Be5 2.B(x)e5#, 1…Sc8 2.Sc6#, 1…Rxf7[e]!; **1.Sxc4[D]!** (2.Be6#[A]), 1...bxc4 (self-block) 2.Bc6#[B], 1...e3[a] 2.Qxd3#[E], 1...Sc3[c] 2.Qe3#, 1...Se3[d] 2.Qb2#, 1...Rxf7[e] 2.Bxf7#, 1...cxb4 2.Bxa7#, 1...Be7/Be5 2.B(x)e5#, 1...Sc8 2.Sc6#. *Two systems of half-battery play with complete form of the caprice theme against the background of pseudo-Le Grand interchange. Change of move functions: dual-avoidance moves of threats in tries become first moves of a try and of the solution; and the first moves of tries become threats. White Correction against the background of Rotterdam (Kharkov) theme as well as geometrical mimicking (monkey theme) in white and black knights' play (c8/e8 – c3/e3). Barnes theme. Change of defense. Change of mates with interchange of squares of defense and mate (c3-e3). Five-fold change of move functions of the type "refutation-defense" (E), Rich variations with a clever use of the half battery (WS).*

T1016 (Wong) **1.bxc6 e.p.!** (2.Sb5/Sf5/Sf3/Sxe2#), 1…exd6 2.Sb5#, 1…Rh5+ 2.Sf5#, 1…Rxh3 2.Sf3#, 1…e1Q 2.Se2#, 1…dxc6+ 2.Sxc6#, 1…dxe6+ 2.Sxe6#, 1…Sxb3 2.Sxb3#, 1…Sxc2 2.Sxc2#. *The en passant capture key is justified by the following retro-analysis: The white pawn structure requires 5 captures and Black's requires 2, accounting for all missing units. Black's last move couldn't have been: (1) ...c6-c5/Kb7-b6/Rh5-h4 due to impossible checks. (2) ...Kc7-b6 since the uncheck e5xd6+ adds 2 more WP captures. (3) ...g7xh6 because the original f8-B must have come out to be captured by a WP. (4) ...f3xe2 because if the BP immediately retracts to its original f-file, then it and White's original f-P, now on either f4 or f7, couldn't have gotten around each other, with no spare units to be captured by either side. That is, a WP must return to f2 before Black could retract ...f3xe2. Therefore Black's last move must have been ...c7-c5 (A), Karlstrom-Fleck with 4 threats and 4 total defenses, in the form of a knight-tour. The Fleck is also non-partial, to use the term coined by Barry Barnes in a recent Problemist article. The thematic Knight is captured in the set 1...cxd4 2.Bxd4, but there are no extraneous variations post-key. There are 2 unprovided checks, but they are well-carried by the task of an e.p. key introducing the theme combination (E), A clever retro key (WS).*

THREEMOVERS

Editor: **Rauf Aliovsadzade**, Judge: **Alexander Melnichuk**

A warm welcome to Edward Barkley, from Cumming, GA, whose contribution has quite a picturesque setting!

In the miniature by V.Kozhakin, there is a clear-cut idea in the two thematic tries.
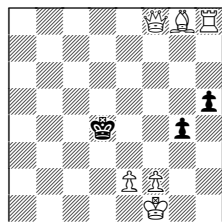
Happy to hear from Salman again. He was busy writing a book which was published last year. With a few pieces, Vasily's entry shows a random change (set-solution). **M1644** and **M1645** have nice multiple variations.

M1640 Vladimir Kozhakin
Russia
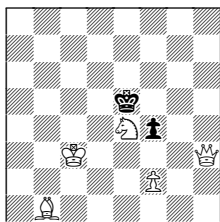
#3√.   (5+2)

M1641 Edward Barclay
Cumming, GA

#3   (6+3)

M1642 Salman Cavadzade
Azerbaijan
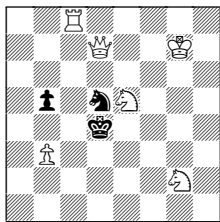
#3   (6+3)

M1643 Vasily Malyuk
Russia
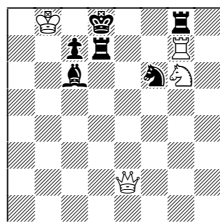
#3*   (4+6)

M1644 Mikola Chernyavskyi
Ukraine
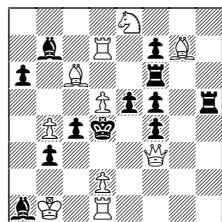
#3   (10+12)

M1645 Leonid Makaronez
Israel

#3√.   (11+12)

SG88 (October - December 2019) Solutions – THREEMOVERS

Comments from: Author (A), Editor (E), Wilfried Seehoffer (WS)

M1605 (Moen) a) **1.Rc4! (**zz), 1...Bc2 2.R2xc2 Kd1 3.Rc1#, 1...Bb3 2.Rxb3 Kd1 3.Rb1#, 1...Ba4 2.Rxa4 Kd1 3.Ra1#; **1.Ra2!** (zz), 1...Bc2 2.R2xc2 Kd1 3.Rc1#, 1...Bb3 2.Rxb3 Kd1 3.Rb1#, 1...Ba4 2.Rxa4 Kd1 3.Ra1#. *Grab theme (A), Change of functions of the white rooks (WS).*

M1606 (Petrašinović) 1.Qd6? Kc3!; 1.c6? Kb5!; 1.b5? Kxc5!; **1.Qf5!** (zz), 1...Kd4 2.Rb3 Kc4 3.Qd3#, 1...Kb5 2.Qe6 Ka4 3.Qa6#, 1...Kc3 2.Qg4 Kd3 3.Rb3#.

M1607 (Neyndorff) **1.Bb7!** (2.Sc6 ~/S~ 3.Sc5/Sf6#), 1...Kd4 2.Sc6+ Kc4/Ke4 3.Ba6/Sc5#, 1...Bd3 2.exd3+ Kd4 3.Sc6#. *Black's 1st and White's 2nd moves in the 1st and 2nd variation, become 2nd and 3rd moves (A), Rich content with few pieces (WS).*

M1608 (Shakleina/Kozhakin) 1.Qb6? fxg4!; 1.Qg6? dxe2!; 1.Kh7? fxg4!; 1.Rg2? e2!; **1.Qa7!** (2.Qxe3#), 1...Kg3 2.Qxe3+ Kh4 3.Rh2#, 1...fxg4 2.Sg6+ Kf5/K~ 3.Qf7/Qxe3#.

M1609 (Tkachenko/Lyubashevsky) **1.Kc3!** [2.Qc4+ Ke4 3.Sc2# (3.Sxf5?)], 1...Ke4 2.Qd3+ Kd5 3.Sb3# (3.Sxe6?), 1...Kxc5 2.Qb5+ Kd6 3.Qc6#, 1...Ba6 2.Qxa6 ~/Ke4 3.Qc6/Qxe6#. *Anti-duals (A), Flight-giving key, tricky (WS).*

M1610 (Chernyavskyi) 1...Sxf4 2.Se7+ Ke5 3.Qh8#; 1.Qh8? (2.Qd4+ Qxd4 3.Sb4# & 2.Sb4+ Qxb4 3.Qd4#) c3!; **1.Qa1!** (2.Sc7+ Kc5 3.Qa7# & 2.Sb4+ Qxb4 3.Qa8#), 1...Sxf4 2.Sc7+ Kc5 3.Qa7#, 1...Qa5 2.Sb4+ Qxb4 3.Qa8#, 1...c3 2.Qa2+ Sc4 3.Sb4#, 1...e3 2.Qh1+ Bf3 3.Qxf3#. *Queen at all four corners. Both try and solution have two threats (E), Good tries: 1.Qh8 and 1.Qg1. Busy queen! (WS).*

M1611 (Gavryliv/Makaronez) **1.Bc6!** (2.Qf4+ Kxe6 3.Qf6#), 1...f5 2.Qe2+ Kd4/Kd6 3.Qe3/Sxa2#, 1...f6 2.Bd7 ~ 3.Qf4#, 1...fxe6 2.Sd3+ Kf5 3.Qf4#, 1...Kxe6 2.Qe4+ Kd6 3.Sxa2#. *The most difficult 3# so far, rich content (WS).*

M1612 (Shpakovsky) 1...f6 2.Sb3+ Ke5 3.Qxe3#, 1...Rg3 2.Se4+ Ke5/Rxg1 3.Sc4/Sf3#; **1.Be4!** (2.Sxd3 ~/b5 3.Qc4/Qc5#), 1...Ke5 2.Qc7+ Kf6/Kd4 3.Qf4/Sb3#, 1...Rxe4 2.Sf3+ Kd5 3.Qc6#, 1...axb2 2.Qxb2+ Kc5 3.Qe5#. *Quiet threat, many variations (WS).*

M1613 (Chepizhny) 1.Sde1+? fxe1S!; 1.Sge1+? fxe1Q!; **1.Qc2!** (2.Rxg3+ Sxg3 3.Qxf2#), 1...f1Q 2.Sde1+! (Sge1+?) Qxe1 3.Qd3#, 1...f1S 2.Sge1+! (Sde1+?) Rxe1 3.Rf2#, 1...Rf1 2.Qd2 ~ 3.Qe3#, 1...Qg8 2.Se5+ fxe5 3.Qd3#. *I like this problem very much, at first I tried 1.Qb3? Sc3! (WS).*

M1614 (Pankratyev/Shavyrin) **1.Kb7!** (2.Se6 & 3.Rc5[A]/Rd4[B]/Rxc3[C]/Rxb4[D]#), 1...b5 2.Rc5++[A] Kd4[a] 3.Rd5 [E]#; 2...Kxc5[b] 3.Se6 [F]#, 1...Bd3 2.Rd4++[B] Kxd4[a] 3.Se6[F]#; 2...Kc5[b] 3.Rd5[E]#, 1...Sxg7 2.Rxc3+[C] Kd4[a] 3.Bf6#, 1...Bxg7 2.Rxb4+[D] Kc5[b] 3.Be7#. *Rook-cross mates on the third move in the threat show up as second moves in variations with Visserman-type reciprocation in the first pair of variations (A), Surprising key (WS).*

M1615 (Kuzovkov) 1.Rh6? (2.Sf5+[A] exf5 3.Rd6#), 1...Rxe3 2.Sxe6+ [B] fxe6 3.Rc4#, 1...Rxc5 2.Bb2+[C] Rc3 3.Rc4#, 1...Qxd2!; **1.Rxf7!** (2.Sxe6+[B] Sxe6 3.Sf5#), 1...Rxe3 2.Bb2+[C] Rc3 3.Rd3#, 1...Rxc5 2.Sf5+[A] exf5 3.Rd3#. *Shedey-Lačny (A), Weißauer-Bahnung in the variation 1...Rxe3 2.Bb2+ (WS).*

M1616 (Rossomakho) **1.Rf3!** (2.Sf6+ Kxe5 3.Sbd7#), 1...Sexd5 2.Qe7! ~ 3.Sc5#; 2...Sd~ 3.Sf6#, 1...Scxd5 2.Qc3! ~ 3.Sc5#; 2...Sd~ 3.Sf6#, 1...Rxd5 2.Qd4+! Rxd4 3.Sf6#, 1...Bxd5 2.Qc4+ Bxc4 3.Sf6#. (1...Sxe2 2.Sf6+ Kd3 3.Qc3#, 1...Sg8 2.fxg8Q ~ 3.Qxh7#.) *Umnov-I. Four defenses on the same square with four Q-sacs (A), The most complex 3# here (WS).*

MOREMOVERS & STUDIES

Moremovers Editor: **Richard Becker**, Studies Editor: **Franjo Vrabec**

Judges, Moremovers: **Mike Prcic**, Studies: **Michal Hlinka**

Moremovers. We begin with a simple four-move example of a "grab" mechanism. You must first capture (or grab) the black Rook before you can mate the black King. Rauf's problem shows change of play between try and solution. Precise tempo play solves the joint effort by Mihail and Jokim.

There is nice unity in the way the two black defenses are disabled in Olivier's logical seven-mover. White seems to be effecting a Grimshaw in Baldur's problem, but Black defends by making luft for his King. In our last moremover, the mobile white Rook returns home to aid his King.

Studies. **E0376** To help you solve this study, reading a book about end-games might help. **E0377** Stopping the black Pawn from reaching the first row must be the first priority. **E0378** The author experienced a similar setting in an over-the-board speed-chess game.
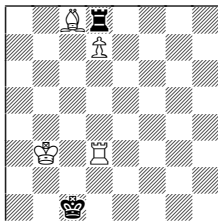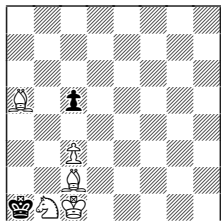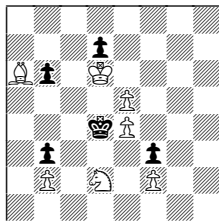
M1646 Richard Becker
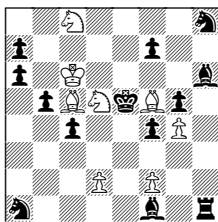Oregon City, OR

#4 (4+2)

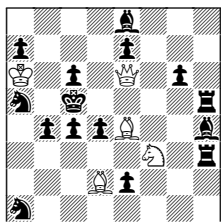**M1647 Rauf Aliovsadzade**
Lincoln, NE

#5√ (5+2)

M1648 Mihail Croiter
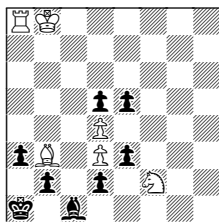**& Jokim van den Bos**
Moldova/The Netherlands
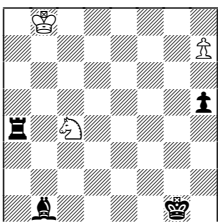

#6 (7+5)

M1649 Olivier Schmitt
France

#7√ (8+13)
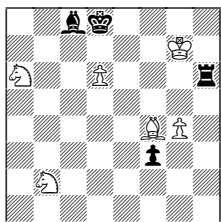
M1650 Baldur Kozdon
Germany

#9 (5+15)

M1651 Boško Miloševeski
North Macedonia
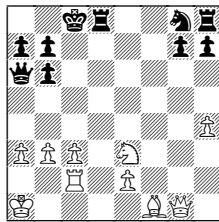

#14 (6+8)

E0376 Pavel Arestov
Russia

Win (3+4)

E0377 Yochanan Afek
The Netherlands & Israel

Win (6+4)

E0378 Franjo Vrabec
Sweden

Win (10+10)

SG88 (October - December 2019) Solutions - MOREMOVERS & STUDIES

Comments from: Author (A), Editor (E), Radovan Tomašević (RT), Wilfried Seehoffer (WS)

M1617 (Keller) **1.Bb2!** (zz), 1…a2 2.Bc1 b2+ 3.Qxb2 b3 4.Qa3#, 1...axb2+ 2.Kb1 Ka3 3.Qxb2+ Ka3 4.Qa1#. *Bristol and Turton with impure motivations, but remarkable economy (E), Unprovided for 1...b2+ (RT).*

M1618 (Shavyrin) **1.g6!** (2.Rxb5+[A] Ke3 3.Sd5+[B] Kf2 4.Bh4#), 1...Sc6 2.Rd5+[B] Ke3 3.Se4[C] Kf4 4.Bg5#, 1...c6 2.Re4+[C] Kc5 3.Sxb5+[A] Kb6 4.Bxd8#; 3...Kd5 4.Re5#. *Cyclic play to same two squares by wR and wS (A), Surprising mates with bK on f2 and b6! (WS).*

M1619 (Aliovsadzade) 1.Kf3? Kc5 2.Ke3 d4+ 3.Ke4 d3 4.Bxd3 g5 5.Rb5#, 1...g5!; **1.Kg5!** Kc5 2.Kxg6 Kd4 3.Kf5 Kc5 4.Ke5 d4 5.Rb5#. *Perhaps too small (WS).*

M1620 (Becker) 1.Qc2+? Kh1! (zz); **1.Qc7+!** Kh1 2.Qc2 (zz) Rg7 3.Qb1+ Kh2 4.Qb2+ Kg1 5.Qxg7+ Kf1/Kh2 6.Qa1/Qg2#; 4...Kh3 5.Qxg7 Sf6/Kh4 6.Qg3/Qg4#; 2...Sf6 3.Qc1+ Kh2 4.Qxg5 Sg4 5.Qxg4 Kh1 6.Qg2#.

M1621 (Becker) 1.b4? Qxf3+ 2.Qxf3+ Kh2 3.Kf2 Rf8 4.Qxf8 Kh3 5.Qf4 stalemate; **1.b3!** (zz) Qxf3+ 2.Qxf3+ Kh2 3.Kf2 Rf8 4.Qxf8 Kh3 5.Qb4 Kh2 6.Qh4#. *The difference between 1.b3 and the try 1.b4 is remarkable. Good for the award (WS).*

M1622 (Doré) **1.g4!** g5+ 2.Kf5 c3 3.f4 Rf1 4.e8Q Rxf4+ 5.Ke5 Rxf7 6.Qxf7 c3 7.Qf6#; 5...Re4+ 6.Kxe4 c3 7.Qe6#.

M1623 (Kozdon) **1.Qc3!** Qxf7+ 2.Ka1 Qf2 3.Qb3 Qd4+ 4.Ka2 Kd1 5.Qf3+ Kc1 6.Qf1+ Qd1 7.Qf4+ Kxc2/Qd2 8.Qc4/Qxd2#. *After the sharp key the knight is unprotected! Nice miniature (WS).*

M1624 (Arestov) **1.Kd8!** Qg7 2.Ke8 (zz) Qg8+ 3.Qf8 (zz) e5 4.Ke7 Qxf8+ 5.Kxf8 e4 6.Kf7 e3 7.g7+ Kh7 8.Qg8+ Kh6 9.Qg6#.

M1625 (Krug) **1.Bc5!** Qf6 2.f8R Qa1 3.Rh5+ Kg7 4.f6+ Qxf6 5.Rg5+ Qg6 6.Kg4 Kh7 7.Rxg6 Kxg6 8.Bd4 Kh~ 9.Kf5 Kh~ 10.Rh8#. *More of an endgame. The key and the defensive moves were hard to find (WS).*

M1626 (Schmitt) 1.Kg8? d1Q! 2.Kxf7 Qxd5+; **1.Bg8!** Kg6 2.Sh4+ Kh5 3.Sg2 Kg6 4.Bd4 cxd4 (4...d1Q 5.Bh7+ Kh5 6.Bf6!; 4...Sf2 5.Bh7+ Kh5 6.Sf6+ Sxf6 7.Bxf6 Sxh3 8.e8S!) 5.Sh4+ Kh5 6.Sf3 Kg6 7.Bh7+ Kh5 8.Kg8 g2 9.Sg3+ Bxg3 10.Kxf7 ~ 11.Bg6#; 8...Sf2 9.Kxf7 Sxh3 10.Kxe8 ~ 11.Sf6#. *Stunning sacrifices in the fourth (4.Bd4) and ninth move (9.Sg3+)! (WS).*

M1627 (Schmitt) 1.Bh4? Kd6 2.Sb7+ Rxb7! or 2.axb4 Sa4!; **1.Sf7+!** Ke6 2.Sg5+ Ke5 3.Sf3+ Ke6 4.Sd4+ Ke5 5.Bh4 Kd6 6.axb4 axb4 7.Be7+ Ke5 8.Sf3+ Ke6 9.Sg5+ Ke5 10.Sf7+ Ke6 11.Sd8+ Ke5 12.Bh4 Kd6 13.Sb7+ Ke6 14.Sc5+ Kd6 15.Be7+ Ke5 16.Sxd7+ Ke6 17.Sf8+ Ke5 18.Sh6 gxh6 19.g7 Rf1 20.Sg6+ Ke6 21.g8Q+ Kd7 22.Se5+ Kxe7 23.Sxc6+ Kd7 24.Qd8+ Ke6 25.Qe7#. *In Olivier's wonderful style. I spent a lot of time on 5.Bh4 and 6.a3xb4 (WS).*

E0367 (Rusz) **1.Qg6!** Kb2 (1...Qe2+ 2.Kd5+ Kb2 3.Qe4 Qxe4+ 4.Kxe4 +-) **2.f7 Raxb4+!** [2...Qe2+ 3.Kf5 Raxb4 4.Qf6+! (4.Bxb4? Rb5+! 5.Kf6? Qe5#) 4...Kc2 5.Bxb4 Rb5+ 6.Kg6 Qg4+ (6...Qh5+ 7.Kg7 +-) 7.Kh7 Rh5+ 8.Qh6 Rxh6+ 9.Kxh6! (9.Rxh6? Qxb4 =) 9...Qxb4 10.f8Q +-] **3.Bxb4 Qe2+!** [3...Rxb4+ 4.Kf5! (4.Kd5? Qe2! = mutual zugzwang) 4...Qf4+ (4...Rf4+ 5.Ke6 Qe2+ 6.Kd7 +-; 6.Kd5? Rb4! = mutual zugzwang) 5.Ke6 Qe3+ 6.Kf6 Qc3+ 7.Ke7 Rb7+ 8.Rd7 Qe5+ 9.Qe6 Qg5+ 10.Qf6+ +-] **4.Kd4!!** [Thematic try: 4.Kd5? Rxb4 mutual zugzwang 5.f8Q? Rb5+ 6.Kc6 (6.Kd4 Qe5+ 7.Kd3 Rb3+ 8.Kd2 Qe3+ 9.Kd1 Qc1+ 10.Ke2 Re3+ 11.Kf2 Qe1+ 12.Kg2 Re2+ 13.Kh3 Qh1+ 14.Kg4 Qg1+ 15.Kh4 Rh2#) 6...Qc4+ 7.Kd7 Rb7+ 8.Ke8 Qa4+ position X 9.Kd8 Qa8#] **4...Rxb4+ 5.Kd5!** mutual zugzwang **5…Rb5+** (5...Qc4+ 6.Ke5 Qf4+ 7.Ke6 Qe3+ 8.Kf6 Qc3+ 9.Ke7 Rb7+ 10.Rd7 Qe5+ 11.Qe6 Qg5+ 12.Qf6+ +-) **6. Kc6 Qc4+ 7.Kd7 Rb7+ 8.Ke8 Qa4+** position X **9.Kf8! Qa8+10. Kg7 +-** [A]. *Interesting key. The wP wins the game (WS).*

E0368 (Krug/Garcia) **1.Sc7+!** [1.Sb6? Kxe5! 2.Qc5 (2.Qe3+ Kd6 =) 2...Qd2! 3.Qxa3 (3.Qe7+ Kd4 =) 3...Qg5+ 4.Kf1 Qh4 =] **1...Kxe5** (1...Kd7 2.e6 +-) **2.Qc5!** (2.Qe3+? Kd6! =) **2...a2** (2...Qd2 3.Qe7 +-) **3.Qe7+!** [3.Qxd5+? Kf6 4.Qe6+ Kg7! (4...Kg5? 5.h4+! +-) 5.Se8+ Kf8! 6.Sd6 Qc7 =] **3...Kd4 4.Se6+ Ke4** [4...Kd3 5.Qa3+ Qc3 6.Sf4+ Kc4 (6...Kc2 7.Qxa2+ Qb2 8.Qxd5 Qb3 9.Qxf5+ +-) 7.Qxa2+ Qb3 8.Qe2+ Kc3 9.Qd3+ Kb2 10.Qd2+ Ka3 11.h4 +-; 4...Kc4 5.Qc5+ Kb3 6.Sd4+ Kb2 7.Qc2+ Ka3 8.Qc1+ Kb4 9.Sc6 +-] **5.Sf4+!** (5.Sc5+? Kd4 6.Se6+ Ke4 7.Sf4+ is loss of time) **5...Kxf4** [5...Kd4 6.Qe3+ Kc4 7.Qd3+ Kb4 (7...Kc5 8.Qxd5+ Kb6 9.Qd8 +-) 8.Qd2+ Ka3 9.Qxa5 a1Q 10.Sd3 Qd4 11.Qxb5 Qg4+ 12.Kf1 Qd1+ 13.Se1 +-] **6.Qe3+ Kg4 7.Qh6!** (7.h3+? Kh5 =) **7...f4 8.Qg6+ Kh4 9.Qf6+ Kh5 10.h4 f3+ 11.Kh3!** (11.Kg3? Qc7+ 12.Kxf3 Qc1! =) **11...Qd2 12.Qg7 Qh6** (12...a1Q 13.Qh7+ Qh6 14.Qf5+ +-) **13.Qg4#**. *Sorry, I cannot find a forced win (WS).*

E0369 (Krug) **1.h5+!** (1.Re6+? Kf7 2.Re7+ Kf6 3.Re6+ Kxe6 4.c8Q+ Ke7 5.Sc5 Qxc5+) **1...Kh6 2.Re6+ Kg7 3.Re7+ Kf6 4.Re6+ Kxe6 5.c8Q+ Ke7 6.Sc5 Qxc5+ 7.Kxc5 Rc3+ 8.Kd4 Rxc8 9.Ke3 Rc1 10.Kf2 Rc2+ 11.Kf3 Ke6 12.g4** =.

E0370 (Kiryakov) **1.Sa5+!** (1.Sd6+? Ka8! =) **1...Kc8 2.b6 d6+!** (2...Sa6+ 3.Kb5 +-) **3.Bxd6 Sa6+** [3...Rxd6 4.Kxd6 (4.b7+? Kd7 =) +-] **4.Kc6 Sb8+** (4...Rxd6+ 5.Kxd6 +- see main line after White's 8th move) **5.Kd5!** (5.Bxb8? Kxb8 6.b7 Rd4! 7.b5 Ra4! 8.Kb6 Rxa5 9.Kxa5 Kxb7 =) **5...Rd7** (5...Rxd6 6.Kxd6 +-) **6.Kc5!** [6.b7+? Rxb7 7.Sxb7 Sc6!! 8.b5 (8.Kxc6 stalemate, or 8.Sa5 Sxa5 9.bxa5 Kb7 =) 8...Sa7 9.Bc5 Sxb5 10.Kc6 Sa7+! (10...Sc7 +- mate in 50) 11.Kb6 (11.Bxa7 stalemate) 11...Sb5! (11...Kb8 +- mate in 75) =, or 6.b5? Rb7! 7.Sxb7 Kxb7 8.Bxb8 Kxb8 9.Kc6 Kc8 10.b7+ Kb8 = (mutual zz #1)] **6...Sa6+ 7.Kc6 Rxd6+ 8.Kxd6 Kb8!** (8...Sxb4 9.b7+ Kb8 10.Kc5 +-) **9.b7!** (9.b5? Sb4 10.Sc6+ Kb7 11.Sxb4 Kxb6 =) **9...Ka7** (9...Sxb4 10.Kc5! Sd3+ 11.Kb6! Sb4 12.Sc6+ +-) **10.Kd7!** [10.b5? Sb4! (mutual zz #2) 11.Kc7 Sd5+ 12.Kc6 Sc3! =] **10...Kb8** (10...Sxb4 11.Kc8 Sa6 12.Sc6+ Kb6 13.Sb4 +-) **11.Kc6 Ka7 12.b5 Sb4+ 13.Kd6!** (mutual zz #2) **13...Kb8 14.Kc5!** (14.Sc6+? Kxb7 15.Sxb4 Kb6 =) **14...Sd3+ 15.Kb6 Sb4 16.Sc6+! Sxc6 17.Kxc6** (17.bxc6 stalemate, mutual zz #1) **17...Ka7 18.b8Q+ Kxb8 19.Kb6 +-.** *Easy to solve (WS).*

E0371 (Nielsen) **1.Rd4+!** (1.Qxb8? Qe1+! with a perpetual check) **1...Ke2** (1...Ke1 2.Re4+ Kd1 3.Qxb8) **2.Re4+ Kf3 3.Qg7** (3.Qh7? Qa1+ 4.Sxa1 Rb1+) **3...Qc5+!** (3...Qxg7 4.Sd2#, or 3...e5 4.Qxe5 +-) **4.Rd4** (4.Sd4+? Qxd4+ 5.Qxd4 Rb1+, or 4.Sxc5? Rb1+ 5.Re1 Rxe1#, or 4.Qd4? Qxd4+) **4...Qf5!** (4...Qh5 5.Sd2+ Ke2 6.Sf1 +-, or 4...Rxb3 5.Qg4+ Ke3 6.Qe4#) **5.Sd2+** (5.Rd1? Rxb3 6.Rf1+ Ke2 (6...Ke4) 7.Rxf5 exf5 =) **5...Ke3** [5...Ke2 6.Re4+ Kd1 (6...Qxe4 7.Sxe4 Rb1+ 8 Kg2 +-) 7.Qa1+ with a winning attack] **6.Sf1+** [6.Sc4+? Kf3 7.Rd3+ Qxd3 8.Se5+ Ke2 9.Sxd3 Rb1+ =, or 6.Re4+? Qxe4 7.Sxe4 Rb1+ = (7... Kxe4 =)] **6...Qxf1+** [6...Ke2 7.Sxg3+ (7.Rd2+)] **7.Kxf1 Rb1+ 8.Kg2** (8.Rd1? Rxd1+ =) **8...Bb7+ 9.Kh3** (9.Kxg3 Rg1+) **9...Rh1+ 10.Kg4 Bf3+ 11.Kg5 Rh5+ 12.Kg6** (12.Kf6 Kxd4 =) **12...g2** [12...Rd5 13.Rc4 (13.Rb4) (13.Ra4)] **13.Qa7!** [13.Kf7? Rd5 14.Rxd5 (14.Ra4? Rd7+) 14...exd5 15.Qg3 Ke2 =] **13...Ra5** (13...g1Q+ 14.Rg4+ +-) **14.Qb6!** [14.Qxa5? g1Q+ 15.Kf6 Be4 16.Qd2+ (16.Qc3+ Kf4 =) 16...Kf3] **14...Rb5** [14...Ra6 15.Rd3+ (15.Qc5 Ra516.Qc3+ +-)] **15.Rd3+** [15.Qxb5? g1Q+ 16.Kf6 Qe1 17.Qc5 (17.Qe5+ Kf2)17...Ke2 =, or 15.Qa7 Ra5 16.Qb6 Rb5 17.Rd3+ waste of time] **15...Kxd3 16.Qxb5+ Ke3 17.Qc5+** (or 17.Qb6+ Ke2 18.Qg1 +-) **17...Ke2 18.Qg1** +- [A]. *The best study in this issue with the remarkable 3.Qg7!! (WS).*

SELFMATES

Editor: **Petko A. Petkov,** Judge: **Diyan Kostadinov**

In this issue we offer 11 problems with various themes. The modern form called "SOTF" (Selfmate Of The Future") is demonstrated in **S0797**, **S0800** and **S0805** (in this s#6 the first thematic duo is created from variations of the try-play). Interesting logical play is shown in **S0799**, **S0801**, **S0802** and **S0807** (a long play with the main accent on Berlin-theme). Unusual strategic ideas exist in **S0798**, **S0803** (with echo-play), **S0804** and **S0806** (where every black piece gives a mate).

Please, submit your originals with short comments about the content. Also, give information about the computer test, the type of program and, if possible, information about whether the test was full or partial.

S0797 Mikhail Khramtsevich
Belarus
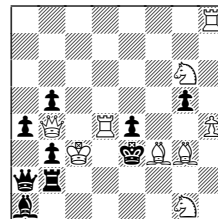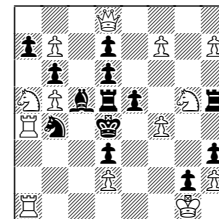

s#3   (9+9)

S0798 Sergey I. Tkachenko
Ukraine
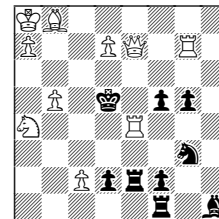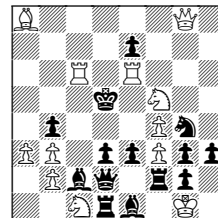

s#3*   (10+9)

S0799 Zoran Gavrilovski
North Macedonia

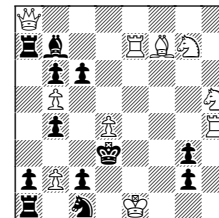s#3*   (13+13)

S0800 Eugene Fomichev
Russia

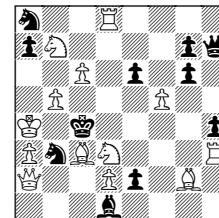s#4   (12+14)

S0801 Alexandr Kuzovkov
Russia
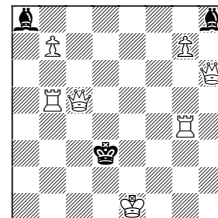

s#5   (10+12)

S0802 Camillo Gamnitzer
Austria
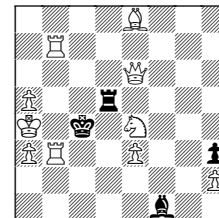

s#5   (13+11)

S0803 Olaf Jenkner
Germany

s#6   (7+3)
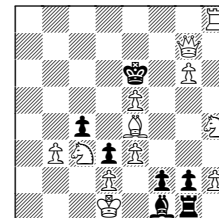
S0804 Valery Kopyl
Ukraine

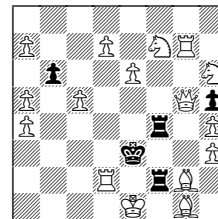

s#6   (10+4)
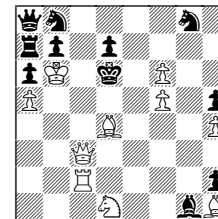
S0805 Petko A. Petkov
Bulgaria

s#6√.   (12+7)

S0806 Gennady Koziura
Ukraine

s#7   (16+5)

S0807 Mikhail Kostylev
Russia

s#15   C-   (10+11)

SG88 (October - December 2019) Solutions - SELFMATES

Comments from: Author (A), Editor (E), Wilfried Seehofer (WS)

S0778 (Gavrilovski) **1.Sd8!** (2.Sf7+[A] Sxf7+ 3.f4+[B] Qxf4#), 1...Se6+/Sh3+ 2.f4+[B] Sxf4 3.Re6+[C] Sxe6#, 1...Q~ 2.Re6+[C] Sxe6 3.Rd5+[D] Rxd5#, 1...exf3 2.Rd5+[D] Rxd5 3.Sf7+[A] Sxf7#. *A cycle of white moves with play of two batteries, one of which is double-masked (A), Sharp battery play (WS).*

S0779 (Gavrilovski) **1.Re6!** (2.Sf5+[A] Rxf5+ 3.Qd4+[B] Bxd4+), 1…Sf7~ 2.Qd4+[B] Rxd4 3.Rxd3+[C] Rxd3#, 1…Sc5/Se5 2.Rxd3+[C] Sxd3 3.Qxd3+[D] Rxd3#, 1…Sxe6 2.Qxd3+[D] exd3 3.Sf5+[A] Rxf5#. *Cycle of white moves with Black correction (A), The key opens the black battery. The sacrifices on d3 are attractive (WS).*

S0780 (Soroka) **1.b3!** (2.Rd4+ exd4 3.Qe4+ Bxe4#), 1…Sf3/Sxg4 2.Rxe5+ Sxe5 3.e4+ Bxe4#, 1…Sxc6 2.Qd6+ cxd6 3.Se7+ Sxe7#, 1…Sxc8 2.Qc5+ bxc5 3.Se7+ Sxe7#. *Four clearance sacrifices; two pairs of sacrifices by the white Queen and Re4 on the cross squares c5, d6, e5 and d4, with different 3rd white moves (A), The top variation follow after 1...Sxc8/Sxc6 with crushing queen sacrifices (WS).*

S0781 (Lyubashevsky/Makaronez) **1.Qe7!** (2.Sd5+ Kf5 3.Sg3+ Qxg3 4.Qe5+ Qxe5#), 1…Rxg2 2.Sxg4+ Kxg4 3.Bc8+ Kf3+ 4.Qe4+ Qxe4#, 1…Qxh5 2.Rf7+ Qxf7 3.Rf5+ Qxf5 4.Qe5+ Qxe5#, 1…g3 2.Sxc4+ Kg4 3.Se5+ Kf5+ 4.Be4+ Qxe4#. (1.Qe8? g3!). *Battery play, white interference (A), After much thinking I found the difference between the key and the try 1.Qe8? g3! (WS).*

S0782 (Koziura) **1.e6!** (zz), 1…exd6 2.Ra5 d5 3.Be3 d4 4.Sg4 b6 5.Rb5 dxe3 6.Qf1+ Rxf1#, 1…exf6 2.c8R f5 3.Rc2 f4 4.e4 fxe3 e.p. 5.0-0-0+ Rf1 6.Re1 Rxe1#. *Valladao task. The black Pawn arrives at e3-square using different paths, while the black Rook mates on different squares (A), Valladao theme in non-standard form (WS).*

S0783 (Kopyl) 1.Ke7? (zz), 1…Rxa6 2.Bg7+ Rf6 3.Qc6 Ke5 4.Kd8 Kd4 5.Qc4+ Ke5 6.d4+ Kd6 7.Bf8+ Rxf8#, 1…Rxb5!; **1.Ke8!** (zz), 1…Rxb5 2.Qd6+ Rd5 3.Qb4+ Ke5 4.Bg7+ Ke6 5.Rc6+ Rd6 6.a8Q Rxc6 7.Qc8+ Rxc8#, 1…Rxa6 2.Bg7+ Rf6 3.Qc6 Ke5 4.Kd8 Kd4 5.Qc4+ Ke5 6.d4+ Kd6 7.Bf8+ Rxf8#. *Two model mates on opposite sides of the white King (A), Two attractive variations (WS).*

S0784 (Müller/Jenkner) **1.Kg2!** (zz), 1…Ke2 2.Qf1+ Ke3 3.Qe1+ Re2 4.Qc1+ Rd2 5.Kf1 c5 6.Bg2! c6 7.Qc3+ Rd3 8.Qe5+ Kd2 9.Qb2+ Ke3 10.Sd1+ Rxd1#, 1...c5 2.Kf1 c6 3.Bf3 Kxf3 4.Qc3+ Rd3 5.Qf6+ Ke3 6.Qg5+ Kf3 7.Rf4+ Ke3 8.Rh4+ Kf3 9.Qg2+ Ke3 10.Sd1+ Rxd1#. *Two different white moves (W2) on f1 square. Two different white moves on g2 square (the key-move and the white 6th move 6.Bg2) (A), The most difficult s# among the moremovers (WS).*

S0785 (Soroka) Main plan: 1.Qxd3+? Sxd3# but 1...Rxd3!; **1.Rd5!** (2.Rxd3+ Rxd3 3.Qxd3+ Sxd3#), 1...Rh4 2.Rc5 (3.Qxd3+ Sxd3#) 2...Rh3 3.Rc3+ Kb4 4.Rc7+! Kb3 5.Rxd7 Rh4 6.Rda7! Rh3 7.Rd8 Rh4 8.Bd7 Rh3 9.Bc6! ~ 10.Ra3+! Kxa3 11.Ra8+ Sa4 12.Qa1+ Kb3 13.Bd5+ Kc2 14.Qa2+ Sb2 15.Qb3+ Kb1 16.Qxd3+ Sxd3#. *Logical problem with good strategy: annihilation of Pa7, moving white Bishop from e8 to c6, switchbacks (A), The moves 8.Bd7 & 9.Bc6 are very fine! Busy rooks and intelligent play (WS).*

HELPMATES

Editor: **Abdelaziz Onkoud**

Judges: (h#2) **Valery Gurov** , (h#3) **Francesco Simoni** and (h#n) **Marko Klasinc**

In this issue you will find that there are many helpmates which present a variety of ideas (HOTF, Cyclic Pinning, etc.) Several problems show impressive ideas that I hope you would like.
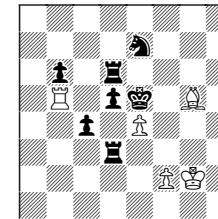
In a very difficult global context linked to the Coronavirus, which rages all over the world and which makes no difference between populations, the ordeal we are undergoing shows that we have the same destiny. I wish everyone and their families good health. God bless us all.

H2473 Alexander Fica
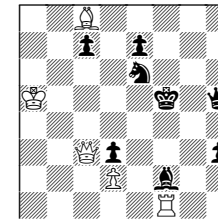Czechia
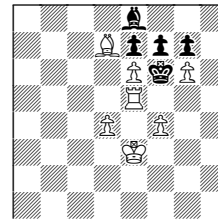
h#2**   4 solutions   (7+5)

H2474 Živko Janevski
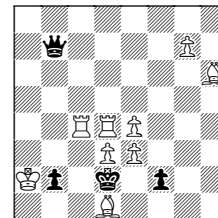North Macedonia

h#2   3 solutions   (5+7)

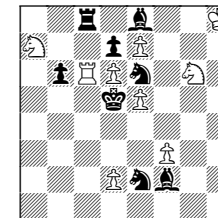H2475 Fadil Abdurahmanović
Bosnia-Herzegovina

h#2   2 solutions   (5+8)
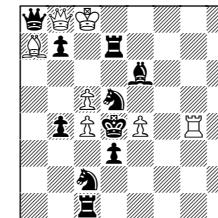
H2476 Kivanç Çefle
Turkey

h#2   2 solutions   (9+4)
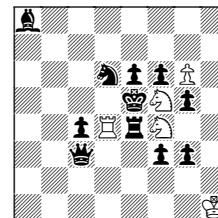
H2477 Mario Parrinello
Italy

h#2   2 solutions   (9+8)
b) Sa7→b3

H2478 Jozef Ložek
Slovakia
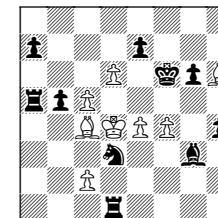*Dedicated to E. Klemanič*

h#2   4 solutions   (7+10)

H2479 Christer Jonsson
Sweden

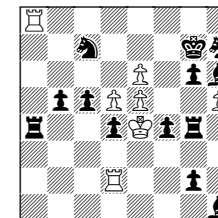
h#2   3 solutions   (5+11)

H2480 Ladislav Salai Jr.
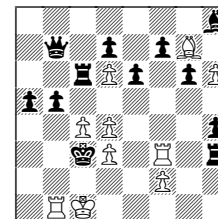& Michal Dragoun
Slovakia/Czechia

h#2   3 solutions   (8+10)
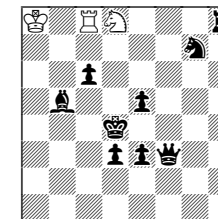
H2481 Bruno Colaneri
Italy

h#2   2 solutions   (7+13)
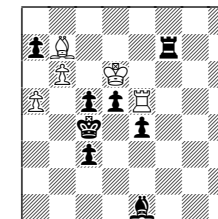
H2482 János Csák
Hungary

h#2   b) Pf7→f4   (10+12)
c) **bP**c6, d) Pa5→f4,
e/f) Qb7→h2/h5

H2483 Christer Jonsson
Sweden
After F. Abdurahmanović
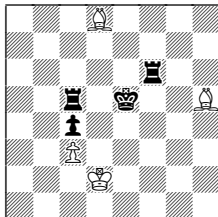

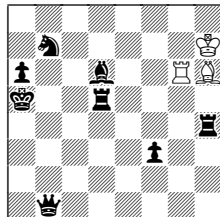h#2½   2 solutions   (3+9)

H2484 Abdelaziz Onkoud
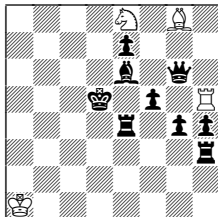France

h#2½   4 solutions   (5+8)
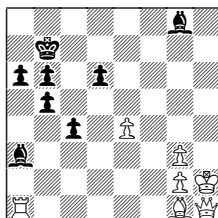
H2485 Andrew Kalotay
New York, NY

h#3   2 solutions   (4+4)
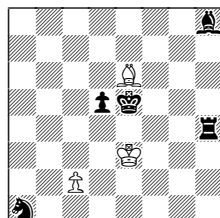
H2486 Marcos Roland
Brazil

h#3   b) –Rd5   (3+8)
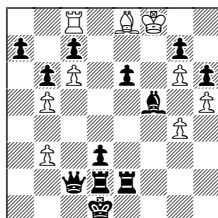
H2487 Yuri Gorbatenko
Russia

h#3   2 solutions   (4+9)

H2488 Mikhail Gershinsky
& Aleksandr Pankratyev
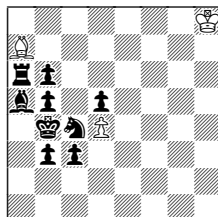Ukraine/Russia
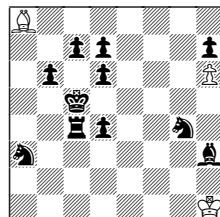
h#3   3 solutions   (7+8)

H2489 Valery Barsukov
Russia

h#4   2 solutions   (3+5)

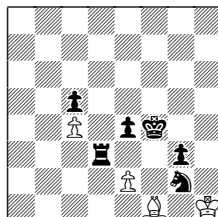H2490 Ramo Ljevakovic
Bosnia-Herzegovina

h#4   2 solutions   (9+12)
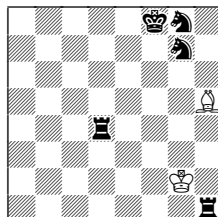
H2491 Alexandr Pankratyev
Russia

h#4½   (3+9)

H2492 Fadil Abdurahmanović
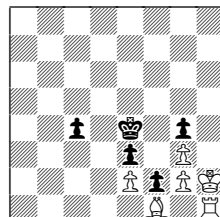Bosnia-Herzegovina

h#4½ 2 solutions   (3+11)

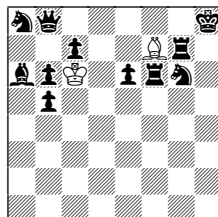H2493 Abdelaziz Onkoud
France

h#5   2 solutions   (4+6)

H2494 Zlatko Mihajloski
North Macedonia

h#5½   (2+5)

H2495 Abdelaziz Onkoud
France

h#6½   (6+5)

H2496 Zlatko Mihajloski
North Macedonia

h#6½   (2+11)

SG88 (October - December 2019) Solutions - HELPMATES

Comments from: Author (A), Editor (E), Wilfried Seehoffer (WS)

H2425 (Moen/Shire) 1.Re6 Bb5 2.Re4 Rc3#; 1.Bf8 Rxc6 2.Qh8 Bg6#; 1.Qe6 Bd7 2.Qxc4 Bf5#. *Solver's problem with heterogeneous solutions. Probably the highlight is the unpin anticipating the bQ hideaway in first solution but the solutions have the common thread of line-opening throughout (A), The tricky solution is 1.Bf8 and 2.Qh8! (WS).*

H2426 (Çefle) 1.Ra1 Bh2 2.e1B bxc6#; 1.Sa7 bxa7 2.fxg1R Qxf6#. *A good idea with orthogonal and diagonal mates and underpromotions (WS).*

H2427 (Onkoud) 1.c3 Ra8 2.c2 Ra3#; 1.e1S Bh3 2.Sc2 Bxf1#; 1.Rc1 Rh8 2.Rc2 Rh3#; 1.Ba4 Be6 2.Bc2 Bxc4#. *In each solution, only two pieces play, one white and one black (A), Four different blocks on c2! (WS).*

H2428 (Csák) a) 1…Sd5 2.cxd5 Qc3#; 1.cxb5 Qxb5+ 2.Kd4 Qd3#; b) 1…Sd4 2.cxd4 Qd5#; 1.cxb4 Qxb4+ 2.Kd5 Qd4#.

H2429 (Pankratyev) 1.Qg7 Se1 2.dxe1B Kg2#; 1.Bg7 Be1 2.dxe1S Kg3#. *Sacrifices by White's and Black's minor promotions (E), An amazing problem, thematically clear (WS).*

H2430 (Ljevaković) 1.d1R gxh8Q 2.Rd3 Qe5#; 1.e1S fxe8B 2.Sd3 Bc6#. *AUW (E), Too many pieces for an AUW (WS).*

H2431 (Jonsson/Onkoud) 1.Bd4 Se5+ 2.dxe5 Bxd5#; 1.Rd4 Sb2+ 2.axb2 Rxc3#. *White sacrifices (E), A good performance (WS).*

H2432 (Kapros/Lois/Jonsson) a) 1.c5 Rf4 2.f6 Rxd4#; b) 1.c6 Rd6 2.f5 Rxd5#.

H2433 (Luce) a) 1…Bf4 2.Kd7 Sc5+ 3.Kc8 Ra8#; 1…Sc7+ 2.Kd6 Ra6+ 3.Kc5 Be3#; b) 1…Rd2 2.Kf7 Rd7+ 3.Ke8 Sf6#; 1…Sf6 2.Ke5 Ra5+ 3.Kd4 Rd5#. *Four very nice mating positions (WS).*

H2434 (Müller/Wiehagen) a) 1…Bg2+ 2.Kxg2 Sd5 3.Kh3 Sf4#; b) 1…Bf2 2.Kxf2 Sc5 3.Ke1 Sd3#. *Two active bishop sacrifices (WS).*

H2435 (Serafimović) 1…Rxg3 2.Qg1 Re3 3.Qg4 Re5#; 1…Rxb7 2.Qa8 Rg7 3.Qe4 Rg5#. *Nice mates. The white rook helps the black queen to reach self-blocking squares (WS).*

H2436 (Lois/Kapros/Jonsson) 1.Rxb3 Sab5 2.Rb2 Sc3 3.Bc2 Sde2#; 1.Bxb3 Saxc6 2.Bd1 Se5 3.Rb1 Sd3#. *Model mates (E),*

H2437 (Ivunin/Pankratyev) 1.Sf7 Rb7 2.Sd6 Rb3 3.Kd5 Rb5#; 1.Sb7 Bg8 2.Sd6 Rf7 3.Kd5 Rf5#; 1.Kf6 Rd6+ 2.Kg7 Rxg6+ 3.Kh8 Rg8#; 1.Kf4 Ra7 2.Ke3 Rxa4 3.Kd3 Ra3#. *An enjoyable problem with lovely mates (WS).*

H2438 (Pankratyev/Gavrilyv) a) 1.Sxg1 Kxg1 2.Ke8 Ref2 3.Qd7 Rf8#; b) 1.Sxf1 Kxf1 2.Rd8 Bc5 3.Bc8 Rxe7#.

H2439 (Jones/Onkoud) a) 1.Qf6+ exf6 2.Rxd5 Sd4 3.e5 Bf5#; b) 1.Se6 dxe6 2.Rxe5 Bg4 3.d5 Sc5#. *Black sacrifices are combined with Umnov effects (E).*

H2440 (Kopyl) 1.Sc5 Se4+ 2.Kxe3 Sxd4 3.Kxd4 Bxc5#; 1.Se6 Sd4 2.Kxe3 Sxe4 3.Kxe4 Rxe6#. *Model mates and Kniest theme (E), An amazing technique! (WS).*

H2441 (Csák) a) 1.Kxe3 Sxc5 2.Kd4 Rd8+ 3.Kxc5 Ba7#; b) 1.Kxf3 Sxf5 2.Kf4 Bxc7+ 3.Kxf5 Rf8#.

H2442 (Csák) 1…Rxe6 2.Ke3 Rxe4+ 3.Kf3 Re2 4.g3 Bh5#; 1…Bxe6 2.Kc4 Bxd5+ 3.Kb4 Bb3 4.bxc5 Rb7#. *Two well-known mates. The knights are cookstoppers (WS).*

H2443 (Moen) 1.b5 Ra7 2.Bb6 Ra1 3.Kb7 Ka2 4.Ka6 Ka3 5.Ka5 Kb3#. *A surprisingly fine Indian! Pleasant solving (WS).*

H2444 (Barsukov) 1.Se7 Sh7 2.Rff6 Kg3 3.Bf4+ Kf3 4.Ke6 Ke4 5.Bd6 Sg5#; 1.Sd6 Sxe8 2.Re6 Kh4 3.Re7 Kh5 4.Ke6 Kg6 5.Qe5 Sc7#. *A good problem but the queen moves only once! (WS).*

H2445 (Roland) a) 1.Kg5 f4+ 2.Kh6 f5 3.g1R f6 4.Rg6 fxg7 5.Bg5 gxh8Q#; b) 1.Ke5 f4+ 2.Kd6 f5 3.g1B f6 4.Bc5 fxe7 5.Qe5 exd8Q#; c) 1.Ke5 fxe4 2.Kd6 Kb4 3.Qb6+ Kc3 4.Qc7 Kd4 5.Rd7 e5#; d) 1.Rd6 Kb4 2.Qc3+ Kxc3 3.Bd5 Kd2 4.Ke5 Ke3 5.Bf6 f4#. *A high-level HOTF problem (WS).*

H2446 (Mihajloski) 1…Bxe4 2.Rc5 Kb2 3.Ra1 Bb1 4.Ra6 Kc2 5.Ke4 Kd2+ 6.Kd5 Ke3 7.Rd6 Be4#. *Ideal-mate, well constructed! (WS).*

H2447 (Caillaud) 1…Sb6 2.Kg3 Sc4 3.Kf4 Sd2 4.Ke5 Sxb3 5.Kd6 Sd4 6.Kc7 Se6+ 7.Kb6 Sc7 8.b3 Sa8#. *A long white Knight Rundlauf (E), A grandmaster problem. Black must play a tempo move at last (WS).*

H2448 (Paliulionis) 1.Bxc3 2.g1S Ba5 3.Sf3 Bxc7 4.Re8+ Bb8 5.Kd8 Bf4 6.Se5 Bxe3 7.Sd7 Bf4 8.Rbe3 Kb7 9.R3e7 Bc7#. *Magnificent, difficult for the solvers! In the style of Torsten Linß (WS).*

SERIES-MOVERS and STALEMATES
Editor: **Radovan M. Tomašević**, Judge: **Zoran Sibinović**

A warm welcome to Marco Bonavoglia, a newcomer to this section.

In the first three entries, finding the mating square will be challenging. Not surprisingly, the white King does all the work in **C0717**.

Q0331 is a rare orthodox stalemate which shows the theme from the Belgrade Internet tourney, 2019. In Mike's Tanagra, be careful what you promote into. In Geoff's **Q0333**, the white Queen and Bishop exchange their roles. In Mike's next entry (**Q0334**), the white Pawn makes the last move in both solutions. Marco and Mike composed the joint while Marco was visiting California.
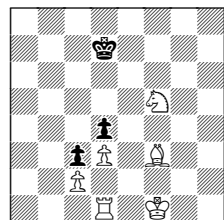
The next two entries show Klasinc and Bristol themes. In the last entry, corner pieces shuffle around.
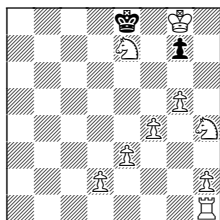
C0714 Tibor Érsek
Hungary
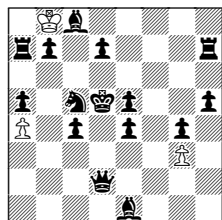
ser-s#25   (3+15)
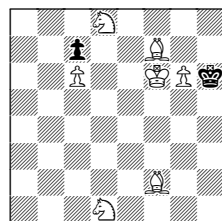
C0715 Abdelaziz Onkoud
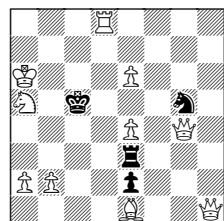France

ser-h#19   (6+3)

C0716 Ľuboš Kekely
Slovakia

ser-h=20   (9+2)

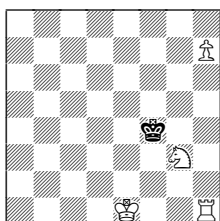C0717 Ľuboš Kekely
Slovakia

ser-h=31   (7+2)

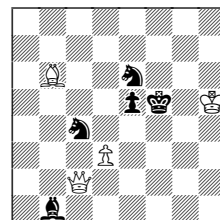Q0331 Gerhard Maleika
Germany

=2√..   (10+4)

Q0332 Mike Prcic
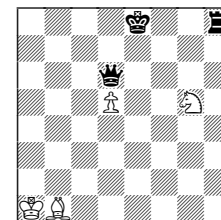Los Angeles, CA

h=2   2 solutions   (4+1)

Q0333 Geoff Foster
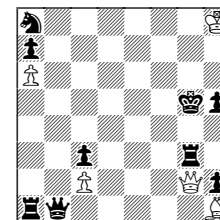Australia

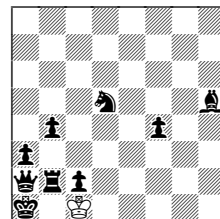h=3   2 solutions   (4+5)

Q0334 Mike Prcic
Los Angeles, CA

h=3½   2 solutions   (4+3)

Q0335 Mike Prcic &
Marco Bonavoglia
USA/Italy
Dedicated to Iris Prcic
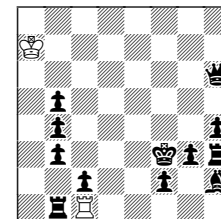
h=4   (5+9)

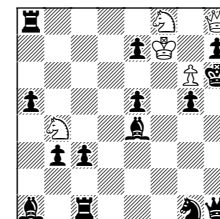Q0336 Boško Miloešeski
North Macedonia

h=7   (1+9)

Q0337 Gábor Tar
Hungary

h=7   (2+12)

Q0338 Mikola R. Vasjucka
& Radovan M. Tomašević
Ukraine/Serbia

h=8   (5+14)

SG88 (October - December 2019) Solutions - SERIES-MOVERS & STALEMATES

Comments from: Author (A), Wilfried Seehofer (WS)

C0702 (Érsek) 1.Kd6 2.Ba5 3-5.Sd8-xf7-h6 7.Rxb3 8-14.Kd5-c4-c3-c2-d1-e1-f1 15.Be1 g2#. *A surprising mating square (f1) for the white king (WS).*

C0703 (Onkoud) 1-4.Bh5-xe8-xc6-xd5 Bxd5#; 1-4.Rb3-xb7-xe7-xe5 Rxe5#. *Zilahi, bicolor Bristol, diagonal-orthogonal echo, cycle of captures and black sacrifices (A), Unusual Zilahi, but nice (WS).*

C0704 (Onkoud) 1.d2 2.d1B 3-6.Ba4-xe8-xg6-xf5 Qxf5#; 1.e2 2.e1R 3-6.Rh1-xh7-xe7-xe5 Rxe5#. *Zilahi, bicolor Bristol, diagonal-orthogonal echo, cycle of captures and black sacrifices and Ceriani-Frolkin (A), It is nice to compare these two problems (WS).*

C0705 (Kobayashi) 1.h1R 2.Rh4 3.Rd4 4.g1B 5.Bh2 6.Rb4 7.Rb8 8.Rxa8 9.Bb8 10.Kc7 Ba6=. *Black builds a cage. Lovely sequence of moves (WS).*

C0706 (Kekely) 1-26.Kg8-f8-e7-d6-e5-f4-g3-g2-xg1-f2-e3-xd4-e3-d2-c1-xb2-xa1-b2-xb3-c4-d5-xe6-e7-f8-g8-h8 Ba2=. *Meredith. A long walk of the black king with three returns. Line clearing (A), Simple strategy (WS).*

C0707 (Kekely) 1-20.Kf4-g3-g2-f1-e1-d2-c1-xb2-c1-xd1-e2-f3-g4-xh5-xg6-h7 21.g1R 22-25.Rg6-xc6-xc5-e5 26.Kh8 Rc7=. *A long walk of the black king. Excelsior. Minor promotion. Line clearing. Pin stalemate (A), The pin of bRe5 was hard to find (WS).*

C0708 (Tomašević) 1.Ba5 3.Rb8 4.R1c8 5.Qh1 6.**a1B** 8.B1a7 11.exd2 12.**d1S** 15.Se7 16.Bd8 17.b6 18.Qa8 19.**h1R** 22.R1b7 23.Kc7 27.dxe2 28.**e1Q** 29.Qxb4 31.Qg7 Rxg7=. *AUW (A).*

Q0325 (Prcic) 1.g6 Qxa1 2.Sh7 Qxh1 3.Kg7 Qxa8 4.Kh6 Qh8=; 1.Sh7 Qxa8 2.g6 Qxh1 3.Kg7 Qxa1+ 4.Kh6 Qh8=. *Two white Queen's X-Rundlaufs in opposite directions (A), A busy four corner queen, but the solutions are too similar (WS).*

Q0326 (Benkö/Mikitovics) 1.h1B cxb8Q 2.Kd8 bxc8B 3.Bb7 Bd7+ 4.Bc8 Bxa4=; 1.Se6 cxb8Q 2.Sc7 Rxh2 3.Sa8 bxa8Q 4.Kd8 Qxa4=.

FAIRIES

Editor: **Petko A. Petkov,** Judge: FA & FB sections **Shankar Ram**
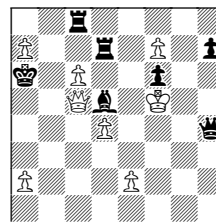
The twenty-one originals presented here show many interesting ideas. Regarding the complex Total Invisible pieces (see **FB1897**), please see the detailed explanations in SG89. As previously reported, the tests in this arena (now possible with Popeye 4.83) are not reliable enough, so computer results should also be verified personally.

Anda and Anda Inverse (**FA1879** and **FA1880)** are programmed (as fairy-conditions) only in WinChloe. The Anda piece is also programmed there, which corresponds to the "Anda" form of the condition, but applies only to a single piece. Therefore, the Anda piece can be combined with various other types of fairy units.

With the Gustav program, it is now possible to check long HS# or HS= problems. Gustav is often faster than other programs. (**FA1888** is checked with Gustav.) However, Gustav checks only problems with orthodox pieces and without any other fairy conditions.
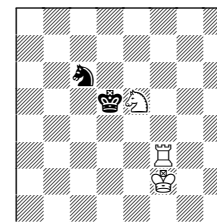
For all definitions of fairy conditions and pieces please consult the *StrateGems* web site: http://strategems.net/

FA1879 Vlaicu Crişan
Romania

h#2   2 solutions   (1+4)
Anda

FA1880 Eric Huber
Romania

h#2   2 solutions   (1+4)
Anda inverse

FA1881 Pierre Tritten
& S. K. Balasubramanian
France/India

h#2   b) Pg6→h4   (2+10)
Masand Chess

FA1882 Pierre Tritten
France

h#2   b) Pf6→a2   (5+9)
Take & Make

FA1883 Hubert Gockel
Germany

#2   Breton adverse   (9+6)

FA1884 Theodoros Giakatis
& Themis Argirakopoulos
Greece

hs#2½   (5+7)
b/c/d/e) Ka5→b6/c7/d8/g8

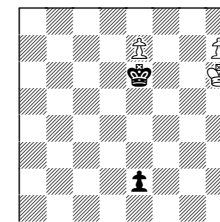FA1885 Velko Alexandrov
Bulgaria

hs#2½   b) Pf7→e7   (8+7)
Circe
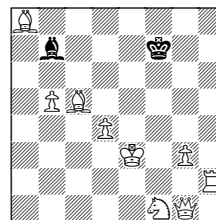

FA1886 Geoff Foster
Australia

h#3   2 solutions   (3+2)
b) Rf3→f7, Circe Parrain

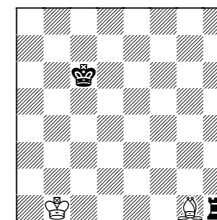---

FA1887 Kostas Prentos
Albuquerque, NM

hs#4   b) Kh6→d8   (3+2)
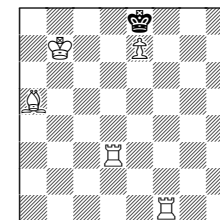Kobul Kings

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FA1888 Vitaly Medintsev
Russia

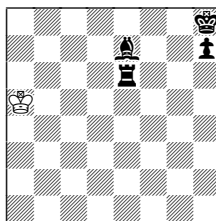hs#7   (9+2)

FA1889 Geoff Foster
Australia

ser-h#14   (2+2)
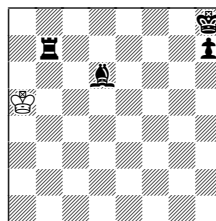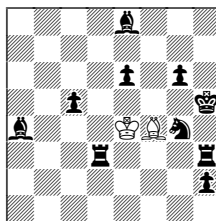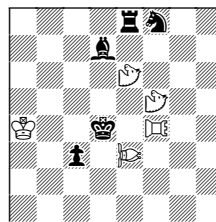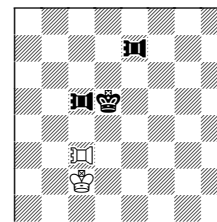Point Reflection + PWC

FA1890 Chris Feather
England

ser-h#15   (5+1)
Equipollent Circe
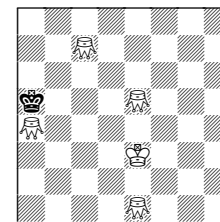

FB1891 Mario Parrinello
Italy

h#2   b/c) Ka4→a8/g6   (5+5)
Anti-Kings + Patrol Chess
Nightrider-Locust
Bishop-Locust, Rook-Locust

FB1892 Václav Kotěšovec
Czechia

h#7   4 solutions   (2+3)
White Maximummer
Eagle

FB1893 Václav Kotěšovec
Czechia

h#9   3 solutions   (5+1)
Alphabet Chess
Grasshopper

FB1894 Václav Kotěšovec
Czechia
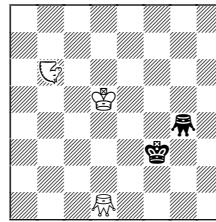
hs#10   4 solutions   (3+2)
Maximummer
nightrider, Grasshopper

FB1895 Chris Feather
England
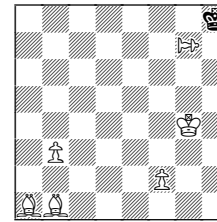
ser-h#18*   (6+1)
Equipollent Circe
Berolina Pawn

FB1896 Chris Feather
England
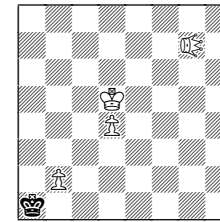
ser-h#20   2 solutions   (4+1)
Equipollent Circe, Elan

FB1897 Eric Huber
Romania

FB1898 Franz Pachl
Germany

FB1899 Igor Kochulov
Russia
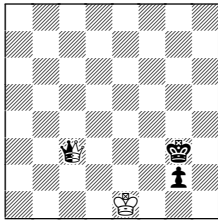
h#2 b) nQc3→e5 (1+2+1)
3 Total Invisibles
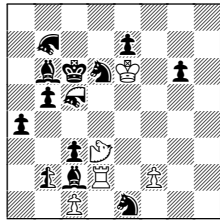
h#2 b) **nGIc5** (5+11+2)
Annan Chess, ◣◢Zebra
☽Giraffe
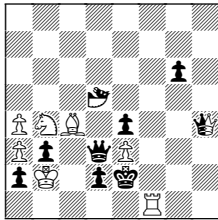
hs#3 2 solutions (7+7+2)
☽Rose

SG88 (October - December 2019) Solutions - FAIRIES

Comments from: Author (A), Editor (E), Wilfried Seehoffer (WS)

FA1837 (Argirakopoulos) 1.d1B a8R 2.Bxb3(Bc8) Rxc8(Rh1)#; b) 1.h1R a8S 2.Rh2 Sxb6(Sg1)#; c) 1.f1S a8B 2.Sh2 Bxb7(Bf1)#. *The author demonstrates an interesting new opportunity for cyclical play with the same material he used in FA1813 (SG87) (E), A good problem with the typical reborn mates on f1, g1 and h1 (WS).*

FA1838 (Tritten) 1.Qxd2(Qc1;xg1) Sf4 2.Kxf4(Kg1;xa1) Se2#; 1.exf3(Sf1;xb1) Se4 2.Kxe4(Kb1;xf1) Sc3#. *Rex-inclusive, two-captures Zilahi, specific clearing of rebirth square, white sacrifice, specific model mates (A).*

FA1839 (Gockel) **1.Rg7!** (2.Rxg4[-wPe4]#); 1...gxf3[-bBf7] 2.Rd7#, 1...gxf3[-bBh8] 2.Qxe5[-wRg7]#, 1...Qxb5[-bPg4] 2.Sxb5[-wQf6]#, 1...Sxc6[-bPg4] 2.Rxc6[-wSc3]#, 1...Qc4/Sc4 2.Rxe5[-wRe5]#, 1...Sxc3[-bSa5] 2.Rxc3#! (2...Kxc3[-bRe5]? Illegal self-check!). *Four times, Black defends by getting rid of his own Pg4 which White needs for the threat. Battery play (A), Many variations with intensive use of Breton condition (WS).*

FA1840 (Foster) 1.Kd3 Rf6 2.Qg4 Bd3 3.Qg2+ Rf3#, 1.Ke1 Be3 2.Qc2 Re6 3.Qd3+ Bd4#. *Pay attention to the following illegal moves typical of this condition. In the first solution: 1.Qg4?? self-check; 1.Kd3 Rf6 2.Qh3,Qc2?? self-check. In the second solution: 1.Qc2?? self-check; 1.Ke1 Be3 2.Qc3?? self-check (E), Only 5 pieces, but not easy (WS).*

FA1841 (Syzonenko) 1.Rd4 cxd4R 2.Sf4+ Rxf4S 3.Bg2+ Sxg2B #; 1.Sb4 cxb4S 2.Bd5 Sxd5B 3.Rf3+ Bxf3R#. *Unusual activity of the black pawn, which demonstrates a triple metamorphosis and super activity! (E), Good use of the fairy condition (WS).*

FA1842 (Foster) 1...Ke6 2.Sc7+ Ke7 3.Se6 (Sb5?) Kd6 4.Sd4 Sc5#; 1...Se5 2.Sb6 Kc5 3.Sc4 (Sd7+?) Sf7 (Sxc4?) 4.Se5 Sd6#. *Ideal-mate echoed over a8-h1 diagonal (A).*

FA1843 (Jones) a) 1...Rg2 2.Ba4 Sf6 3.Bd1+ Se2 4.Rxf6+ Bxf6#; b) 1...Rg2 2.Ba4 Sf6 3.Bd1+ Se2 4.Rxf6+ Bxf6#. *This problem started as an attempt to achieve a sound h#3 ending with the white mating moves ...Rxf6# and ...Bxd5#. There were many and diverse cooks and I realized I wouldn't be able to get such a h#3 sound. By turning it into a hs# I was able to eliminate the cooks that ended with different mating moves. So it is a weakness of this problem that it is really just a h#3 with a black mating move tacked on at the end. Since the play (changing the pins of the bSs) was attractive I thought this could be forgiven! (A).*

FA1844 (Jones) a) 1.Bb5 Qb6 2.cxb6 c5 3.Bd7 Kd6 4.Rd1+ Rxd1#; b) 1.Bh3 Rg5 2.fxg5 f4 3.Be6+ Ke5 4.Re1+ Qxe1#. *Zilahi (reciprocal sacrifices by the black Q and R) + model mates. I like the fact that, in each solution, the black sacrifice not only enables White to guard one square but also enables Black to block another square (A), Good analogy in this problem by the expert. The problems FA1843 & FA1844 are for me two highlights (WS).*

FA1845 (Foster) 1.Rc1 Bb2 2.Rc2 Be5 3.Re2 Bh2 4.Rc2 Bc7+ 5.Kb4 Be5 6.Re2 Bb2 7.Rc2 Bc3+ 8.Ka3 Ba1 9.Rd2+ Kc3 10.Ra2 Bb2#. *The wR plays as follows: c2-c1-c2-e2-c2-e2-c2-d2-a2 (A).*

FB1846 (Petkov) 1.b2(nP)+! Kd2! 2.b1nQ! nQb8(wQ)# (but not 2.b1bN+??) and 1...Kd1! 2.b1nN! nNa3(wN)# (but not 2.b1bQ+??); 1.d2(nP)+!Kb2!2.d1nQ! nQh5(wQ)# (but not 2.d1bN+??) and 1...Kb1! 2.d1nN! nNa7(wN)# (but not 2.d1bQ+??). *A curious Anda duel between two pawns and the white king is combined with anti-dual effects (A).*

FB1847 (Shankar/Rotenberg) **1.Nh2!** (2.e6 & 3.FEAe5#), 1...Sef2 2.FEAb6+[A] Sdxb6(FEAd4) 3.FEAf6[B]#; 2...Saxb6(FEAd4) 3.FEAc5[C]#, 1...Sab2 2.FEAf6+[B] Sexf6(FEAd4) 3.FEAc5[C]#; 2...Sdxf6(FEAd4) 3.FEAb6[A]#, 1...S5e3 2.FEAc5+[C] Saxc5(FEAd4) 3.FEAb6[A]#; 2...Sexc5(FEAd4) 3.FEAf6[B]#, 1...Sdf2 2.FEAb6+[A] Saxb6(FEAd4) 3.FEAb2[E]#; 2...Sdxb6(FEAd4) 3.FEAe3[F]#, 1...Sdf6 2.FEAb2+[E] Sdxb2(FEAd4) 3.FEAe3[F]#; 2...Saxb2(FEAd4) 3.FEAb6[A]#, 1...Sac5 2.FEAe3+[F] S5xe3(FEAd4) 3.FEAb6[A]#; 2...S1xe3(FEAd4) 3.FEAb2[E]#, 1...Sdb2 2.FEAf6+[B] Sexf6(FEAd4) 3.FEAf2[D]#; 2...Sdxf6(FEAd4) 3.FEAe3[F]#, 1...Sdb6 2.FEAf2+[D] Sdxf2(FEAd4) 3.FEAe3[F]#; 2...Sexf2(FEAd4) 3.FEAf6[B]#, 1...Sec5 2.FEAe3+[F] S5xe3(FEAd4) 3.FEAf6[B]#; 2...S1xe3(FEAd4) 3.FEAf2[D]#, 1...S1e3 2.FEAc5+[C] Sexc5(FEAd4) 3.FEAf2[D]#; 2...Saxc5(FEAd4) 3.FEAb2[E]#, 1...Sab6 2.FEAf2+[D] Sdxf2(FEAd4) 3.FEAb2[E]#; 2...Sexf2(FEAd4) 3.FEAc5[C]#, 1...Sef6 2.FEAb2+[E] Saxb2(FEAd4) 3.FEAc5[C]#; 2...Sdxb2(FEAd4) 3.FEAf2[D]#. *"Super Jacob's" - quadrupling of standard Jacob's theme with 4 black pieces, 6 white moves and 12 variations with triple dual-avoidance. Four-fold cycle of White's 1st and 2nd moves: A-BC/B-CA/C-AB, A-EF/E-FA/F-AE, B-DF/D-FB/F-BD & C-DE/D-EC/E-CD. All continuations and mates by FEAd4 (including an extended "star" pattern). The FEA/N battery fires a total of 36 times (A).*

FB1848 (Petkov) Logical tries: 1.APe7(=n)+? nAPe5!; 1.APc7(=n)+? nAPc5!; Ke4? (zz) b5!; 1.Kc4? (zz) f5!; **1.Kd4!** (zz), 1...f5[b] 2.Ke5! and 3.APe7+! nAPe6 4.nAPe7(=w)#; 1...b5 2.Kc5! and 3.Apc7(=n)+ nAPc6 4.nAPc7(=w)#. *Anda effect is shown only for two white pawns: Pc6 and Pe6. Therefore, it is possible here to use the option 'Piece Anda' instead of condition Anda. The problem has logical content combined with Umnov, switchback and blocking of Anda pawns. The play is fully symmetrical making it only a good education example (A).*

FB1849 (Kotěšovec) 1.Qd5+ Kf6 2.Qd6+ Kg5 3.Kf3 Gh6 4.Kg2 Gc6 5.Qc5+ Kf4 6.Kh1 Gg4 7.Qc1+ Kg3 8.Qg1+ Gg2#; 1.Qb3+ Kd7 2.Kf5 Gb2 3.Kg6 Ga3 4.Qd3+ Ke6 5.Kh7 Ge3 6.Kh8 Ge7 7.Qh3+ Kf7 8.Qh7+ Gg7#; 1.Kd3 Ge1 2.Qe2+ Ge3 3.Kc2 Kd5 4.Kb1 Ge1 5.Qd2+ Kc4 6.Ka1 Gc3 7.Qd3+ Kb3 8.Qb1+ Gb2#; 1.Kd4 Ge4 2.Kc5 Gc6 3.Kb6 Gf3 4.Ka7 Ge7 5.Qb3+ Kd7 6.Qa4+ Kc8 7.Ka8 Kc7 8.Qa7+ Gb7#. *Four-fold echo in four corners (A), An incredible four-corner problem by Václav, a candidate for the award. (WS).*

FB1850 (Pachl) 1.nQhxd7? (2.Qxe4#) Ke3! (2.nRxf3+? nRf2!); 1.nQexd7? (2.Qxe4#) Ke5! (2.nRxe7+? nRg7!); 1.nRcxd7? (2.Qxe4#) Kc4! (2.nSxc6+? nSb4!); **1.Rdxd7!** (2.Qxe4#), 1...Ke3 2.nRxf3#, 1...Ke5 2.nRxe7#, 1...Kc4 2.nSxc6#. (1...Bxc3 2.Qxc3#). *An interesting thematic complex! Three thematic tries lead to "future" unpins of the forward battery-pieces nRf2, nRg7 and nSb4! An unusual play of the black King that unpins the black Sd6 (E), Remarkable theme with tries and 3 flights for the bK (WS).*

FB1851 (Prentos) 1...nBh3(=w) 2.nRg8(=b) nKe6+ 3.Rg4(=n) nRf4(=w)#; 1...nRh8 2.nBh7(=b) Ke8+ 3.nBg8(=n) nBe6(=w)#. *Reciprocal battery creation with critical play of the rear piece. The seemingly interchangeable move-order is forced by the specific properties of the fairy condition. ODT (A). An interesting and paradoxical starting position in which all pieces are in a neutral phase! (E).*

Abdurahmanović-Prcic-80 JT Update

The 5th Honorable Mention (Z.Mihajloski) is anticipated (and removed from the award) by C. M. B. Tylor, *Chessics*, I-VI/1982, h#6, wKa7, Se2 (2); bKh1, Ph2 (2). The setting is 100 % identical, just mirrored. The same position was previously published by J. Pitkänen as well, in 2016. We thank Hans Gruber for pointing this out.

RETROS AND PROOF GAMES

Editor: **Kostas Prentos**

Judges: Retros: **Ryan McCracken** Proof Games: **Ryan McCracken**

Fairy originals are well-represented in this issue; in fact, only three originals are orthodox. **R0322** is a <u>Pacific Retractor</u>: The retractions cannot be captures. To save space, I will refer the reader to the *StrateGems* website for the definitions of Proca, KLAN, Anti-Circe Cheylan and Calvet, Lion, Equipollent Circe, Monochrome and Duelist Chess.

Stanislav's **R0271** from 2017 was cooked twice. The new correction **R0271vv** required the assistance of his two co-authors. **Try:** 1.Rd1? 0-0! **Solution: 1.0-0-0!** ~ (1...0-0??) 2.Rd8+ Qxd8 3.Qxd8#. The white and black castlings are mutually exclusive: If a white piece was captured on c6, a white pawn would have to promote on d8, e8 or f8. If a white pawn was captured on c6, reaching the c-file by capturing the bBf8, the bBc8 could reach f5 only via e8. In both cases, the bKe8 would have to move. If a bS was captured on the c-file by the white d-pawn on the way to c6, the bPf7 would have to promote on f1, forcing the wKe1 to move. The key 1.0-0-0! excludes the latter possibility and proves that Black's defense by 0-0 is not allowed.
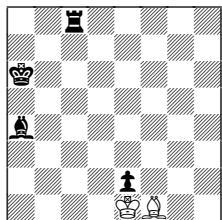
All four proof games are fairy; only **P0494** has been fully computer tested.

R0271vv Stanislav Vokal,
Yoav Ben-Zvi & Ladislav Packa
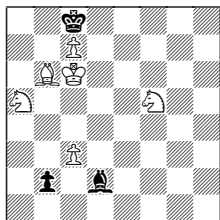Slovakia/Israel
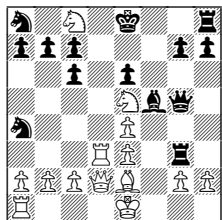
#3   (14+14)

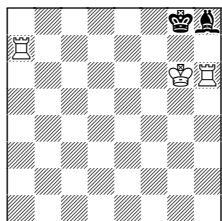R0318 Andreas Thoma
Germany

-3 & #1   2 solutions   (2+4)
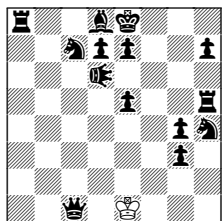(Proca) Anti-Circe Cheylan

R0319 Andreas Thoma
Germany

-3 & #1   (Proca)   (6+3)
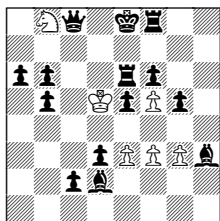Anti-Circe Cheylan

R0320 Andreas Thoma
Germany

-4 & s#1   (Proca)   (3+2)
Anti-Circe Cheylan

R0321 Klaus Wenda
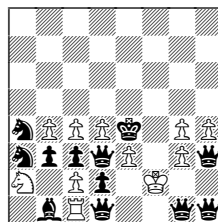Austria
Dedicated to Andreas Thoma

-4 & #1   (KLAN)   (1+14)
Anticirce Calvet, Lion

R0322 Stanislav Vokál
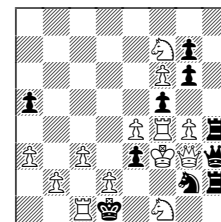& Ladislav Packa
Slovakia

-20 & #1   (6+14)
(Pacific Retractor)
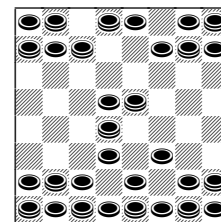
R0323 Joaquim Crusats
& Andrey Frolkin
Spain/Ukraine

Add a bS on a corner (11+12)
square & release the position

R0324 Andrey Frolkin &
Sergey I. Tkachenko, Ukraine
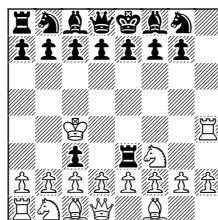*'Slip sliding away' (P.Simon's song)*

Add one bishop for each (13+10)
side on h1 and h5. Where were
the missing pieces captured?

P0494 Kostas Prentos
Albuquerque, NM

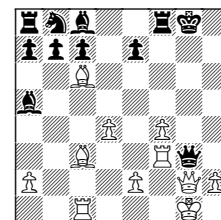
PG 6½ & #1
(31 Unspecified Pieces)
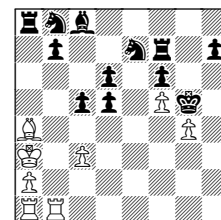
P0495 Henryk Grudzinski
Poland

PG 9½   (16+16)
Equipollent Circe

P0496 Unto Heinonen
Finland

PG 18   (11+11)
Monochrome

P0497 Ralf Krätschmer
& Paul Raican
Germany/Romania

PG 26   Duelist   (8+12)

SG88 (October - December 2019) Solutions - FAIRIES

Comments from: Author (A), Editor (E), Andreas Thoma (AT), Klaus Wenda (KW)

R0310 (Thoma) Retract: 1.f5xPg6 e.p.(+wPg2) g7-g5 2.Ba8xRe4(+wBf1) R~-e4+ 3.Kf7xSe8(+wKe1) & 1.Kg6#. *In only 3 moves, White gains access to the mating square g6 that is controlled by 5 pieces in the initial position (E)*

R0311 (Thoma) Retract: 1.Kd4xSe4(+wKe1) Sc3-e4+ 2.Be5xSg7(+wBc1) Se8-g7 3.Bc7-e5 & 1.Kc4#. *White forces the uncaptured bS to occupy e8, by means of Zugzwang. This explains the wPh5 (E).*

R0312 (Weeth/Wenda) Main plan: R: 1.Gf4xQh6(+wGh8)? Qh8-h6+ 2.Ka2xPb3(+wKe1) Pb4-b3+ 3.Se1-c2 & 1.Sb6+ Kb3+, but 2.Kb1! **Solution:** R: **1.Gd8xQh4(+wGh8)! Qh8-h4+ 2.Ke2xBd1(+wKe1) d2-d1B+ 3.Gg4xBd1(+wGd8)!** [Not: 3.Gg4xQd1(+wGd8)? Gd8-g8+ 4.Ke1-e2 d3-d2+ 5.Ka2xPb3(+wKe1) b4-b3+ 6.Se1-c2 & 1.Sb6+ Kb3+ 2.Ka1!, nor 3.Gf3,h5xBd1(+wGd8)? Gc8-g8+ etc & fw: 1.Sb6+ Sb1!] **Gc8-g8+ 4.Ke1-e2 d3-d2+ 5.Ka2xPb3(+wKe1) Pb4-b3+ 6.Se1-c2 & 1.Sb6++ Kb3#.** *Decoy of bGg8 in order to vacate g8 (the square of origin of bSa3), choice of uncapture on d1(B! Q?) Guidance of wGh8 to the 4th rank in order to install a double check by G+S (A), Very fine maneuver to vacate the rebirth square g8 of bSa3, when it guards b1. The double uncapture of Bd1 is hard to find (AT).*

R0313 (Thoma) Retract: 1.Kf6xRf7(+wKe1) Re7-f7+ 2.Ke5-f6 Rf7-e7+ 3.Kf4-e5 Re7-f7+ 4.Ke3-f4 Rf7-e7+ 5.Kf2-e3 Re7-f7+ 6.Ke1-f2 Rf7-e7+ 7.Kf6xPe6(+wKe1) Re7-f7+ 8.Kf7-f6 Re8-e7+ 9.Kf6-f7 & 1.Kg5#. *The pair of pawns d7/g7 indicates a pendulum-maneuver of a bR. Indeed, the wK starts with the key 1.Kf6xRf7!, then moving like on a staircase to e1. A lovely "Wenigsteiner" with flawless construction (KW).*

A R0314v Yoav Ben-Zvi
After Nabokov, Rul 1923
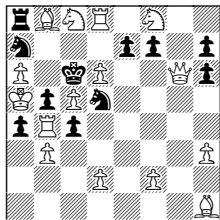
#2   b) Pd2→d7   (15+11)
c) Pb3→e6 d) Bb8→e5
e) Qg6→c2

*R0314 (Ben Zvi) **Hans Gruber and Ladislav Belcsak found a cook** in the forward play: 1.Ba7! & 2.Sd4#. The author sent a correction (see diagram A). White's only missing piece accounts for the capture g7xh6. The position of the wPs a6, c5 and d6 requires 5 captures in all twins (one less in twin c), closing the black balance. Retracting g7xh6 as the last move locks the bBf8 out and is illegal in all twins, except c. In twin c, g7xh6 blocks the promotion of the wPg2 on g8, adding at least one more (impossible) capture by the white pawns. Therefore, the last black move could have been either b7-b5, or S~-d5 (without a capture). **In twin a**, it is possible to retract 1...Sf6-d5 2.e5xPd6 e.p. d7-d3 3.e4-e5+, etc. **In twin b,** the square d7 is occupied, preventing the retraction d7-d5. **In twin c,** the retraction 1...S~-d5 2.e5xPd6 e.p. requires 6 captures by wPs. In both twins b and c, the only valid last move is b7-b5 and the *en passant* capture 1.cxb6 is permitted. **In twins d and e,** the last move could 1...Rb8-a8 and 1...S~-d5, respectively. **Solution: a) 1.Qxf7!** (2.Qxd5#) 1...e6 2.Qc7#; 1.cxb6 e.p.??; 1.d4? cxd3 e.p.!; **b) 1.cxb6 e.p.!** & 2.Rxc4#; **c) 1.Sd7!** (2.Sxe7#) 1...Sxc8 2.Rxc8#; 1.cxb6 e.p.? Kc5!; **d) 1.Sxe7+!** Kxc5 2.Sd7#; **e) 1.d4!** (2.Sxe7#) 1...cxd3 e.p. 2.Sxe7#; 1...Sxc8 2.Rxc8#. *The main thematic content involves 5 cases of en passant captures, each in a different role: 1.cxb6 e.p. is the key in twin b and a try in twin c. 1...cxd3 e.p. is the refutation of the try 1.d4 in twins a and c. The retraction 2.e5xPd6 e.p proves that 1.cxb6 e.p. is invalid in twins a and e. The secondary content includes the shields by bS on f6 and by bP on d5 (A).*

P0481 (Caillaud) 1.c4 a5 2.c5 Sa6 3.c6 Rb8 4.cxd7R c5 5.e4 Qb6 6.e5 Qa7 7.e6 Qa8 8.exf7S e5 9.g4 Se7 10.g5 Sc6 11.g6 Sa7 12.gxh7R g5 13.Be2 Bg7 14.Bh5 0-0 15.Ke2 Kxh7 16.Kf3 Rxf7+ 17.Kg4 Rxd7. *P0461 was the starting point (hence the dedication), where I got the "new idea" of several Schnoebelens determined by a single castling move in Glasgow. This version of RRS promotions maximizes the fairy effect, with all 3 promotions determined by one move (A).*

P0482 (Monsky) 1.Sh3 Sc6 2.Sf4 Se5 3.h3 Sg4 4.hxg4 b5 5.Rh5 b4 6.Rb5 h5 7.gxh5 Rh6 8.g4 Rc6 9.Bh3 Rc4 10.Kf1 c5 11.Kg2 Qb6 12.Kg3 Qh6 13.Kh4 Qh8 14.Kg5 f6+ 15.Kg6 Kd8 16.Kf7 Kc7 17.Ke8 Kd6 18.Kd8 Ke5 19.Kc7 Rb8 20.Kxb8 Sh6 21.Ka8 Sf7 22.Rb8 Sd8. *A treacherous long trip by the wK in a well-disguised solution (E).*

P0483 (Heinonen) 1.d4 h6 2.Bg5 hxg5 3.Sf3 Rh3 4.Sh4 gxh4 5.d5 g5 6.d6 Bg7 7.dxc7 d5 8.e4 Bf5 9.c8S Bg6 10.Sb6 axb6 11.Bc4 Raa3 12.Bb3 Sa6 13.c4 dxc4 14.0-0 Qd2 15.e5 Kd7 16.e6+ Kd6 17.exf7 e5 18.f8Q+ Se7 19.Qe8 Sc8 20.Qa4 b5 21.Re1 bxa4 22.Re3 b5 23.Rd3+ cxd3. *Zig-Zag theme on the a, d and h files. The realization includes double Ceriani-Frolkin theme (A).*

P0484 (Baier) 1.d4 a5 2.d5 a4 3.d6 a3 4.dxc7 axb2 5.a4 e5 6.Sa3 b1Q 7.cxd8B Qb6 8.Bdg5 Qd8 9.c4 b5 10.c5 b4 11.c6 b3 12.c7 b2 13.cxd8B b1Q 14.Ba5 Qb6 15.Bb2 f5 16.Rc1 f4 17.Rc5 f3 18.Sc2 fxe2 19.f4 exf1S 20.Qg4 Sg3 21.hxg3 e4 22.Rh6 e3 23.Qh3 e2 24.Kf2 e1S 25.Se2 Sf3 26.Se1 Sh4 27.gxh4 Qd8. *(ZZ&CF(ss)&PR(qq) (A).*

P0485 (Baier) 1.h4 d5 2.h5 d4 3.h6 d3 4.hxg7 h5 5.f4 Rh6 6.f5 Rd6 7.f6 dxc2 8.fxe7 f5 9.e4 Sf6 10.g8Q cxd1B 11.Qg4 Bb3 12.Qd1 c5 13.g4 c4 14.g5 c3 15.g6 c2 16.g7 cxd1S 17.g8Q Sc3 18.Qg4 Kf7 19.Qd1 Kg6 20.e8Q+ Kg5 21.Qb5 Sc6 22.Qb6 axb6 23.e5 Ra3 24.e6 Sa4 25.e7 Bce6 26.e8Q Se7 27.Qb5 Se8 28.Qa5 bxa5.*(ZZ&CF)(QQ)&PR(QQ). Michael Barth encouraged me to look for zig-zag Ceriani-Frolkin pairs. This one has one more homebase piece. Also, all the other zig-zag Ceriani-Frolkin pairs are possible (A).*

P0486 (Baier) 1.d4 h5 2.d5 h4 3.d6 h3 4.dxc7 hxg2 5.h4 e5 6.Sh3 g1Q 7.cxd8B Qg5 8.Bb6 Qd8 9.c4 g5 10.c5 g4 11.c6 g3 12.c7 g2 13.cxd8S g1Q 14.Sc6 Qg5 15.Rg1 f5 16.Rg4 f4 17.Bg2 f3 18.Sf4 fxe2 19.f3 e4 20.Kf2 e1R 21.Kg3 Re3 22.Qh1 Rb3 23.axb3 e3 24.Ra6 e2 25.Bce3 e1R 26.Bg1 Re4 27.Sa5 Ra4 28.bxa4 Qd8. *(ZZ&CF(rr)&PR(qq) (A).*

P0487 (Baier) 1.d4 h5 2.d5 h4 3.d6 h3 4.dxc7 hxg2 5.h4 e5 6.Sh3 g1Q 7.cxd8S Qg5 8.Bb6 Qd8 9.c4 g5 10.c5 g4 11.c6 g3 12.c7 g2 13.cxd8S g1Q 14.Sc6 Qg5 15.Bg2 e4 16.0-0 e3 17.Kh1 exf2 18.e4 f5 19.Qg4 f4 20.Rd1 f1B 21.Rd6 Bc4 22.Sd2 Bb3 23.axb3 f3 24.Ra6 f2 25.Sa5 f1B 26.Sf2 Bb5 27.Sf1 Ba4 28.bxa4 Qd8. *(ZZ&CF(bb)&PR(qq) (A).*

P0488 (Caillaud) 1.g4 e6 2.g5 Bb4 3.g6 Se7 4.gxh7 Rf8 5.h8Q g5 6.Qc3 b5 7.d4 Bb7 8.d5 Sc8 9.d6 Bg2 10.Qd5 Qf6 11.Qc6 dxc6 12.d7+ Ke7 13.d8R a5 14.Rd2 a4 15.Qb3 axb3 16.h4 Ra4 17.h5 Ba5 18.h6 Rh4 19.a4 Sd7 20.Ra2 bxa2 21.b3 Qa1 22.h7 Sf6 23.h8Q Se8 24.Qc3 f6 25.e3 Rf7 26.Re2 Kd6 27.Sd2 Kd5 28.Qc4+ bxc4. *Three "Reitsen" promotions. Only one pinning line is used. The unpinning promoted units are in turn unpinned. No apparent promotee in the diagram. 2 Ceriani-Frolkin + 1 "pseudo-Phoenix" (A).*

Notable Composers – Miodrag Mladenović

Miodrag (Miša – Misha to his friends) was born on 6/14/1964 in the Serbian city of Zemun. He started playing chess when he was four years old (with his older brother). He started composing at the age of fourteen. He learned about chess problems from his father Dr. Slobodan Mladenović (a well-known Serbian composer), Milan Velimirović, Marjan Kovačević and other Serbian composers who regularly met once a week to discuss chess problems. Under the influence of Milan Velimirović, Misha started composing problems showing some "letter" themes (reciprocal changes, Lačny theme etc.). So far he has composed over 500 problems, the majority of them awarded. More than 100 of his problems made into FIDE albums. He earned his GM title in composing in 2007. He earned his GM title in solving in 2008. His best results in solving are a couple of medals from ECSC and twice fourth at the WCSC tournaments. He won several gold medals from ECSC with the Serbia national team. At the moment he is ranked #25 on the WFCC rating list.
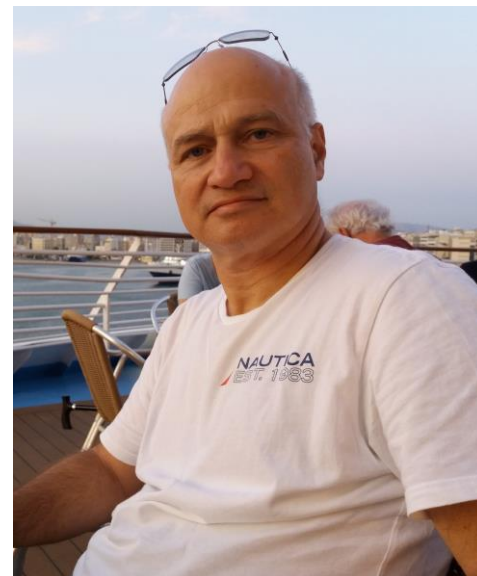
Misha relaxing on a cruise ship

Unusually, Miodrag's first published problem is a Fairy. He likes to compose problems showing paradox themes (reciprocal changes, Lačny theme, Ukrainian cycle etc.). He worked in all areas of chess problems except endgames.

He has a Master degree in Structural Engineering from the University of Belgrade. He worked several years in Belgrade as a structural engineer but then, due to the war in the former Yugoslavia, he moved to the United States in 1995 and started working as a programmer.

In 2006 he moved back to Belgrade and started working for Microsoft Development Center Serbia, where he is still currently employed on the Microsoft Math team. He created Solver Tournaments Manager software for directing solving tournaments as well as maintaining the official WFCC rating list. During his stay in The United States, Misha was *StrateGems* editor for twomovers from April 1999 till September 2004.

Married to Verica for thirty years and they have two wonderful daughters, Mila (25) and Tina (21).
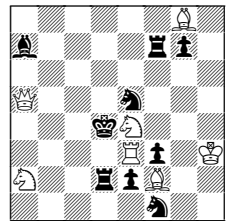
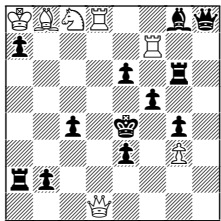Below is a selection of his problems.

N°1 *Mat* 1978
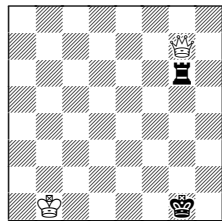
N°2 1st Place
Yugoslav Championship 1990

N°3 1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 1989

ser-#9 (2+2)   #2*√ (7+9)   #2√. (7+12)

N°1 It may seem strange that my first published problem is a Fairy. There was a group of composers working on various series-movers task problems (Miloš Tomašević, Dr. Aleksandar Atanasijević and Dr. Tomislav Petrović). I started attending meetings a couple of months earlier and I saw a lot of tasks with a variety of conditions and materials. Thus, my first problem was a task as well. The matrix is simple but the wK moves are determined by preventing checks to the bK. Solution: 1.-5. Kxg6 6.-8.Kg3 9.Qa1#. I believe that this problem is still a task in this category (4 pieces WK+WQ+BK+BR – ser-#).
N°2 is one of my favorite #2s showing Zagoruiko 3x2. The theme required set-mates on the square where try and key moves are executed. I managed to find this setting without white Pawns. Solution: Set: 1…Kc4[x]/Rd7[y] 2.Rc3[A]/Qc3#[B]; 1.S4c3? (2.Qd5#), 1…Kc4[x]/Rd7[y] 2.Qb4[C]/Qxe5#[D], 1…Bc5! ; **1.S2c3!** (2.Qd5#), 1…Kc4[x]/Rd7[y] 2.Qa4[E]/Sb5#[F].
**N°3** is one of my best twomovers and it shows the "Ukrainian Cycle" or "Cyclic le Grand". This is a difficult theme to achieve if the thematic black defense is not by the bK. Here, the bP is making a thematic move to e5. Solution: 1.Bf4? (2.Sd6#[A]), 1…e5(a)/Qe5/Qd4 2.Qd5[B]/Qh1/Rxd4#, 1…Ra6!; 1.Re7? (2.Qd5#[B]), 1…e5[a]/Qe5/Qd4 2.Rd4[C]/Qh1/Rxd4#, 1…Ra5!; **1.Rf6!** (2.Rd4#[C]), 1…e5[a]/Qxf6/e2 2.Sd6[C]/Qh1/Qxe2#.
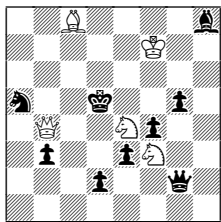
N°4 1st Place
WCCT-4 1989-1992
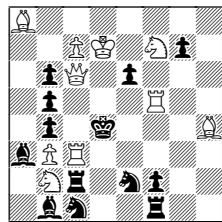
N°5 1st Prize
Hirschenson-65 JT 2010
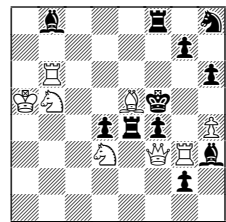
N°6 1st Prize
*MatPlus* 1997

#2√.. (10+13)   #2√ (8+11)   #3* (5+9)

N°4 Here, there are three tries where White takes control of c3-square and threatens three thematic mates (A/B/C). Tries are refuted by Black's thematic moves (a/b/c). In the solution, a/b/c moves are defenses, while A/B/C mates are separated. This seems like a modified version of Dombrovskis theme. Solution: 1.c8Q? (2.Qd6[A]/Qxb6[B]/Qe4#) Rxc3![a]; 1.Sd1? (2.[A]/[B]/[C]#), 1…Rxd1 2.Bxf2#, 1…Sxc3![b]; 1.R5f3? (2.[A]/[B]/[C]#) bxc3![c]; **1.Bg5!** (2.Be3#), 1…Rxc3[a]/Sxc3[b]/bxc3[c]/Sf4/Sd3 2.Qd6[A]/Qxb6[B]/Qe4[C]/Rxf4/Rxd3#.
N°5 Reciprocal changes of mates after black correction moves. Solution: 1.Bxg7? (2.Qh5#), 1…R4~[a]/Re5![b]/Sf7/Bg4 2.Sxd4[A]/Qxf4[B]/Rf6/Qxg4#, 1…Bd6!; **1.Sc5!** (2.Qxe4#), 1…R4~[a]/Rxe5![b] 2.Qxf4[B]/Sxd4#[A].
**N°6** One of many problems showing reciprocally changed White's 2nd moves in #3. The problem has a good threat and the setting is without white Pawns. Solution: 1…Qf1[a] 2.Qd6+[A] Kxe4/Kc4 3.Sxg5/Ba6#, 1…Qxf3[b] 2.Qc5+[B] Kxe4 3.Bf5#, 1…Bd4 2.Qxd4+ Kc6 3.Qc5#; **1.Ba6!** (2.Qc4+ Sxc4 3.Bb7#), 1…Qf1[a] 2.Qc5+[B] Kxe4 3.Sxg5#, 1…Qxf3[b] 2.Qd6+[A] Kxe4 3.Bd3#, 1…Bd4 2.Qxd4+ Kc6 3.Qd6#.
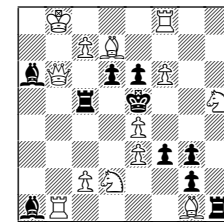
N°7 3rd Prize
Mat 1982
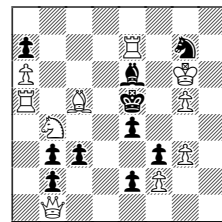
N°8 1st Prize
Schach-Echo 1985-1986
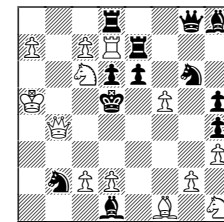
N°9 5th Honorable Mention
FIDE World Cup 2010

#3 (10+10)   #3*√ (13+12)   #3 (13+10)

N°7 I like composing problems for solvers. This one has a surprising key. White sacrifices its Rook and in the process destroys its B/R battery. There are four thematic variations with two pairs of black Queen and Knight promotions. Solution: **1.Ra1!** (zz), 1…bxa1Q 2.Qxb3 ~ 3.Qd5/Sc6#, 1…Bxa1S 2.Qc1 (3.Qf4#) e3 3.Qxe3#, 1…e1Q 2.Qd3 exd3 3.Rxe1#, 1…e1S 2.Qxe4+ Kxe4 3.Rxe1#, 1…S~ 2.Qxe4+ Kxe4 3.Rxe6#.
N°8 Perhaps my best threemover. It shows Lačny theme 3x3 and uses the late Milan Velimirović's mechanism. However, the setting is quite original. There are three thematic squares (f3, f4 & f5). In all phases White guards one of those squares. Two black defenses will block another square and a third one will unguard the guarded square. The wQ will guard the third square or mate on the unguarded square. Solution: 1…Bf3[a] 2.Qb3+[A] Ke4 3.Qxf3#, 1…Sf4[b] 2.Qb5+[B] Ke4 3.Sf2#, 1…exf5[c] 2.Qxd6+[C] Ke4 3.Sf2#; 1.g4? (2.Bg2+ Bf3 3.Bxf3#), 1…Bf3[a] 2.Qxd6+[C] Ke4 3.Sf2#, 1…Sf4[b] 2.Qb3+[A] Ke4 3.Sf2#, 1…exf5[c] 2.Qb5+[A] Ke4 3.Qxf5#, 1…hxg4!; **1.g3!** (2.Bg2+ Bf3 3.Bxf3#), 1…Bf3[a] 2.Qb5+[B] Ke4 3.Sf2#, 1…Sf4[b] 2.Qxd6+[C] Ke4 3.Qxf4#, 1…exf5[c] 2.Qb3+[A] Ke4 3.Sf2#, 1…e5 2.Sb8 ~/Rxb8 3.a8Q/Rxe6#.
**N°9** One of my favorite themes in threemovers is the quaternary black correction. If I have to choose my best problem showing this theme, it's this one which combines the theme with bR cross-moves. Solution: **1.Rd1!** (2.Qxd6+ Kxd6 3.Sc4#), 1…Rc~ 2.Qd4+ Bxd4 3.exd4#, 1…Rd5!? 2.Re8 ~ 3.Rxe6#, 1…Rc4!!? 2.Sxg3 ~ 3.Sxf3#, 1…Rb5!!!? 2.Sc4+ Kxe4 3.Sxg3#, 1…Bd3 2.cxd3 ~ 3.Sxf3#.
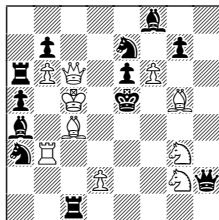
N°10 1st Prize
The Problemist 1986
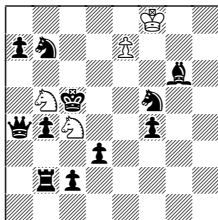
N°11 1st Place
WCCT-4 1989-1992
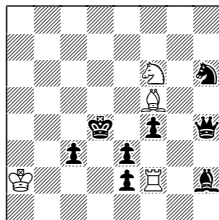
N°12 2nd Prize
The Problemist 2003

h#2   4 solutions   (4+11)
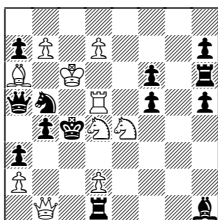
h#3   3 solutions   (4+8)

s#3   (10+12)

N°10 Extended bK cross in combination with AUW theme. Solution: 1.Kxb5 e8S 2.Ka6 Sc7#; 1.Kc6 e8R 2.Kd7 Se5#; 1.Kd5 e8B 2.Ke4 Bc6#; 1.Kxc4 e8Q 2.Kb3 Qe6#.

N°11 Cyclic Zilahi with mates on the same d5-square in a Meredith setting. Solution: 1.exf2 Kb3 2.Ke3 Kxc3 3.f3 Sd5#; 1.Qxf6 Be6 2.Ke4 Rg2 3.Kf3 Bd5#; 1.Sxf5 Rg2 2.Sd6 Rg5 3.Sc4 Rd5#.
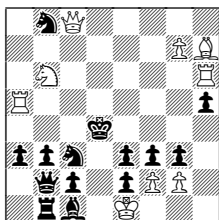
N°12 I composed many selfmates showing cycle of White's 2nd and 3rd moves. This is one of my favorites. It shows a five-fold cycle (AB-BC-CD-DE-EA). Solution: **1.Sh4!** (2.Sg6+[A] Sxg6+ 3.Qd6+[C] Bxd6#), 1…Sc8+/Sf5+ 2.Qd6+[B] Sxd6 3.Re3+[C] Se4#, 1…Qxg3 2.Re3+[C] Qxe3+ 3.d4+[D] Qxd4#, 1…Sb5 2.d4+[D] Sxd4 3.Qxe6+[E] Sxe6#, 1…Rxb6 2.Qxe6+[E] Rxe6 3.Sg6+[A] Sxg6#.

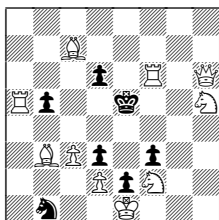**N°13** 1st Prize
Thema Danicum 2003

N°14 3rd Prize
The Problemist 2004

N°15 3rd Prize
Kozyura-64 JT 2019

s#3   (10+13)

s#3   (9+14)

s#5   (10+7)

N°13 shows a cycle of 2nd and 3rd white moves combined with White's third pin theme. Solution: **1.Sf3!** (2.Se5+[A] fxe5+ 3.Sd6+[B] Rxd6#), 1…b3 2.Sd6+[B] Kb4 3.Rd4+[C] Sxd4#, 1…Rxd2 2.Rd4+[C] Rxd4 3.Se5+[A] fxe5#, 1…Bxf3 2.Qc1+ Rxc1 3.Rd4+ Kxd4#, 1…fxe4 2.Qd3+ exd3 3.Se5+ fxe5#.

N°14 is one of my favorites. Combination of anticipatory self-pin, bK star moves, black correction and duel between wQ and bS. Solution: **1.Qf8!** (2.Qf4+ Se4 3.Qxe3+ Bxe3#), 1…Sc~ 2.Qd6+ Kc3 3.Qd2+ Bxd2/exd2#, 1…Sb5 2.Qf6+ Kc5 3.Qc3+ Qxc3#, 1…Sd5 2.Qc5+ Ke5 3.Qxe3+ Bxe3#, 1…Se4 2.Qb4+ Kd3 3.Qd2+ Bxd2/exd2#, 1…fxg2 2.fxe3+ Kxe3 3.Qf2+ gxf2#.

N°15 was composed for solving competition. It has a try and four model mates. The key is a corner move that unpins bPb5. Solution: 1.Sf4? (zz), 1…Sxd2 2.S2xd3+ Ke4 3.Bd5+ Ke3 4.Re6+ Se4 5.Sb4 f2#, 1…Sxc3!; **1.Ra1!** (zz), 1…b4 2.Rxb1 bxc3 3.Bxd6+ Kd4 4.dxc3+ Kxc3 5.Rf4 d2#, 1…Sa3 2.Sxd3+ Ke4 3.Sf2+ Ke5 4.Re6+ Kf5 5.Bc2+ Sxc2#, 1…Sxc3 2.Qe3+ Se4 3.Rf4 b4 4.Qc5+ Sxc5 5.Sxd3+ Sxd3#, 1…Sxd2 2.Re6+ Kf5 3.Qf8+ Kg5 4.Bd8+ Kh5 5.Qxf3+ Sxf3#.
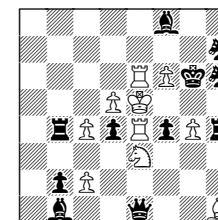
N°16 1st Prize
The Problemist 1986
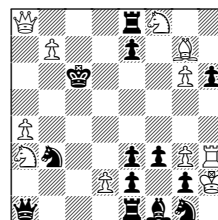
N°17 1st Prize
The Problemist 1989-1990
Babson TT
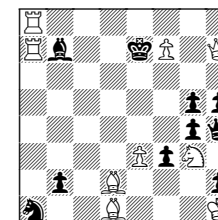
N°18 1st Prize
The Problemist 1982

r#3   (11+13)

r#3   (9+10)

r#2   (10+11)

I enjoy composing Reflexmates. **N°16** shows AUW theme in combination with bK cross and duel between bQ and wP. All thematic black defenses are reflex refutations of the threat. Black wants to bring its Queen to c5 in order to force 3.b8Q#. Solution: 1.b8S++? Kd6! 2.Qc6#; 1.b8B+? Kb6! 2.Sd7#; 1.b8R+? Kc7! 2.Sb5#; 1.b8Q+? Kc5! 2.Sd7/Se6#; **1.d3!** (2.Kxg1 ~ 3.Rh2 f2#), 1…Qc3 2.b8S++ K~ 3.Qxf3 Sxf3#, 1…Qd4 2.b8B+ K~ 3.Qxf3 Sxf3#, 1…Qe5 2.b8Q+ Kc5 3.Qxf3 Sxf3#, 1…Qxa3 2.b8R+ K~ 3.Qxf3 Sxf3#.

N°17 is my best reflexmate showing a Babson task. White's goal is to unpin bBb7 and then play Bxf3 Bxf3#. However, White has to avoid mating Black. Solution: **1.Rc8!** (zz), 1…b1S 2.f8S+ K~ 3.Bxf3 Bxf3#, 1…b1B 2.f8B++ K~ 3.Bxf3 Bxf3#, 1…b1R 2.f8R+ K~ 3.Bxf3 Bxf3#, 1…b1Q 2.f8Q++ K~ 3.Bxf3 Bxf3#.

N°18 Lačny 3x3 theme shown in r#2. Solution: 1…Qd1[a] 2.g5[A] Sf7#, 1…Qf1[b] 2.c5[B] Sf7#, 1…Qxh1[c] 2.c3[C] Qxe4#; 1.Rxd4? (2.Ke4 Qxe3#), 1…Qd1[a] 2.c5(B) Qxd4#, 1…Qf1[b] 2.c3[C] Sf7#, 1…Qxh1[c] 2.g5[A] Sf7#, 1…Sg5!; **1.Rxf4!** (2.Ke4 Qxe3#), 1…Qd1[a] 2.c3[C] Sf7#, 1…Qf1[b] 2.g5[A] Qxf4#, 1…Qxh1[c] 2.c5 Sf7#.

♞♘♞♘♞♘♞

Length records for capture-free circuits in orthodox proof games

by Nicolas Dupont

1. Introduction

The circuit theme (in its more general acceptance - a piece leaves and goes back to a given square after any path) is well-known in the proof game land, and has been intensively investigated during the last 3 decades, especially when the circuit is capture-free. The main reason is probably that such a theme is highly paradoxical, as it leaves no trace on the board, hence a special kind of motivation must be developed to make sound a proof game containing such an invisible sequence.

Those motivations are ranked into 3 categories in this article:

• Oscillations: the thematic side has no other available move than to oscillate between 2 squares.

• Tempo maneuver: a sequence such that, when ended, there is at least another solution leading to the same position, but with at least one ply less.

• Other kind of motivation: shielding, line clearance, etc.

I did not find in the literature a definition of tempo maneuver. I hope that the one suggested above correctly reflects this feature. As a consequence, when a proof game ends with a move by the side that performs the tempo maneuver, it should be labeled "Exact PG", because at least one shorter solution exists. It is the case for some problems collected in this article, in particular for 19b, where moreover the shorter solution is unique.

The article is divided into 3 sections, according to the thematic piece-nature:
- Original piece.
- Promoted piece.
- Special piece-nature.

In each of those 3 sections, I list the longest capture-free circuits I was able to find in the literature, one for each piece-type and each kind of motivation introduced above (when such a circuit is theoretically possible, and when there is no gap).

The special piece-natures are Pronkin, anti-Pronkin and Sibling. I think they deserve their own length circuit records, even if they are not absolute, when the thematic piece is just considered original or promoted.
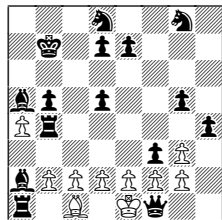
Of course, circuits may also be classified according to their "purity" (Rundlauf, no self intersection, no repeated square, etc.), but this leads to some unfortunate subjective interpretation, which is avoided when only best bounds are considered.

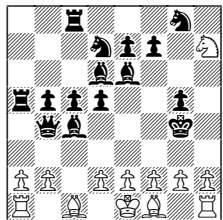## 2. Original piece
2.1 The King case
- 1: Length 26 with oscillations.
- 2: Length 17 with tempo maneuver.
- 3: Length 15 with other kind of motivation.
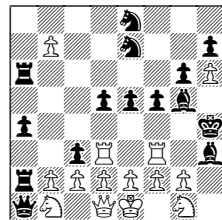
N°1 Satoshi Hashimoto
Orbit 2005

N°2 Unto Heinonen
The Problemist 1992

N°3 Nicolas Dupont
Die Schwalbe 2019
Ded. to Thierry Le Gleuher

PG 40   C?   (10+15)

PG 25½ (exactly)   (13+15)

PG 34½   C?   (14+15)

N°1 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 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+.

N°2 1.Sf3 a5 2.Sd4 a4 3.Sb3 axb3 4.Sc3 bxc2 5.Se4 cxd1B 6.Sg5 Bb3 7.Sxh7 Bc4 8.Sg5 Rh5 9.Sh7 Rha5 10.Kd1 d5 11.Kc2 Kd7 12.Kc3 Ke6 13.Kd4 Kf5 14.Ke3 Be6 15.Kf3 Sd7 16.Kg3 Rc8 17.Kh4 g5+ 18.Kh3 Bg7 19.Kg3 Be5+ 20.Kf3 Bd6 21.Ke3 Kg4 22.Kd4 c5+ 23.Kc3 Qb6 24.Kc2 Qb4 25.Kd1 b5 26.Ke1.

N°3 1.a4 c5 2.a5 c4 3.a6 Qa5 4.axb7 Sa6 5.Ra3 Sc7 6.Rd3 Qa1 7.Sc3 Qxc1 8.h4 Qa1 9.h5 Qa5 10.h6 Qh5 11.Rh4 d5 12.Rf4 Qh1 13.Qa1 Bh3 14.Kd1 f5 15.Kc1 Kf7 16.Kb1 Kg6 17.Ka2 Kh5 18.Ka3 g6 19.Kb4 a5+ 20.Kc5 Ra6 21.Kd4 e5+ 22.Ke3 Be7 23.Kf3 Bg5 24.Kg3 Se7 25.Sf3 Qxf1 26.Qa2 Qa1 27.Qb1 Rc8 28.Qd1 Se8 29.Sb1 c3 30.Kh2 Rc4 31.Kg1 Ra4 32.Kf1 Ra2 33.Sg1 a4 34.Rff3 Kh4 35.Ke1.
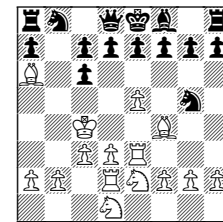
2.2 The Queen case
- 4: Length 20 with oscillations.
- 5: Length 13 with tempo maneuver.
- 6: Length 12 with other kind of motivation.
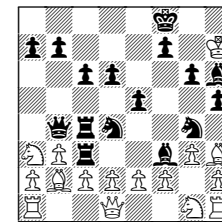
N°4 Nicolas Dupont
StrateGems 2018
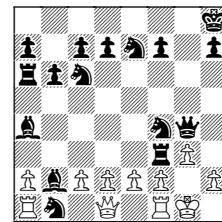
N°5 Olli Heimo
Suomen Tehtäväniekat 1997

N°6 Michel Caillaud
Die Schwalbe 2019

PG 30½ C?   (11+16)

PG 18 (exactly)   (15+15)

PG 23½   (16+16)

N°4 1.Sf3 e5 2.Sd4 exd4 3.Sc3 dxc3 4.Rb1 cxb2 5.Ra1 b1S 6.Bb2 Ba3 7.Bf6 Bb2 8.Bh4 g5 9.Qc1 gxh4 10.Qd1 h3 11.Qc1 Qh4 12.Qd1 Se7 13.Qc1 0-0 14.Qd1 Kh8 15.Qc1 Rg8 16.Qd1 Rg6 17.Qc1 Ra6 18.Qd1 b6 19.Qc1 Bb7 20.Qd1 Bc6 21.Qc1 Ba4 22.Qd1 Sbc6 23.Qc1 Rg8 24.Qd1 Rg3 25.Qc1 Rf3 26.g3 Qg4 27.Bg2 hxg2 28.Qd1 g1S 29.Qc1 Sh3 30.Qd1 Sf4 31.0-0
N°5 1.e4 Sf6 2.e5 Se4 3.Qf3 Sg5 4.Qc6 bxc6 5.Sc3 Ba6 6.Bxa6 Qc8 7.Ke2 Qb7 8.Kd3 Qb6 9.Kc4 Qe3 10.d3 Qh3 11.Bf4 Qh6 12.Re1 Qd6 13.Re3 Qa3 14.Sge2 Qa5 15.Rd1 Qb6 16.Rd2 Qb7 17.Sd1 Qc8 18.c3 Qd8.
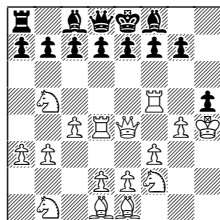**N°6** 1.g3 h5 2.Bh3 Rh6 3.Kf1 Rc6 4.Kg2 Sf6 5.Kf3 Rc3+ 6.Kf4 e5+ 7.Kg5 Qe7 8.Qf1 Qb4 9.Qg2 d6 10.Qe4 Bg4 11.Qh7 g6 12.Qg7 Bf3 13.Kh6 Sg4+ 14.Kh7 Sc6 15.Qf6 Bh6 16.Qe6+ Kf8 17.Qb3 Re8 18.Qa3 Re6 19.b3 Rf6 20.Qb2 Rf4 21.Sa3 Rfc4 22.Qb1 Sd4 23.Bb2 c6 24.Qd1.

2.3 The Rook case
- 7: Length 30 with oscillations.
- 8: Length 15 with tempo maneuver.
- 9: Length 24 with other kind of motivation.

N°7 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 29.Rf5 Ra8 30.f3 Rb8 31.Kf2 Ra8 32.Kg3 Rb8 33.Kh4 Ra8 34.Bg3 Rb8 35.Be1 Ra8 36.Sf2.

N°7 Unto Heinonen
U.S. Problem Bulletin 1992

N°8 Unto Heinonen
Suomen Tehtäväniekat 1994

N°9 Nicolas Dupont
& Michel Caillaud
Brand-Gräfrath-JT 2019

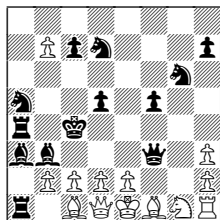PG 35½   C?   (16+13)   PG 24½   C?   (15+12)   PG 29½ (exactly) C?   (15+16)

N°8 1.b4 c5 2.b5 Sc6 3.bxc6 b6 4.c7 Bb7 5.c8Q Bf3 6.gxf3 h5 7.Bh3 Rh6 8.Be6 Rg6 9.h3 Rxg1+ 10.Rxg1 Rb8 11.Rg4 Rb7 12.Ra4 Rc7 13.d4 Rc6 14.Bg5 Rd6 15.Kd2 Rd5 16.Ke3 Rf5 17.Sd2 Re5+ 18.Kf4 Rd5 19.Rb1 Rd6 20.Rb3 Rc6 21.Rba3 Rc7 22.Bb3 Rb7 23.c4 Rb8 24.Qc2 Ra8 25.Qxd7+.

N°9 1.e3 a5 2.Ba6 b5 3.Sh3 Bb7 4.Rf1 Bf3 5.e4 Bxd1 6.f3 g6 7.Rf2 Bg7 8.Re2 Bd4 9.Re3 Bb6 10.Rd3 c5 11.Rd6 Qc7 12.Rc6 Qf4 13.Rc7 Sc6 14.Rb7 0-0-0 15.Rc7+ Kb8 16.Rc8+ Ka7 17.Rb8 Rc8 18.c4 Rc7 19.Rf8 f6 20.Rf7 h5 21.Rh7 h4 22.Rh5 Sh6 23.Rd5 Sg4 24.Rd3 Rh5 25.Re3 Rd5 26.Re2 Rd3 27.Rf2 Rc3 28.Rf1 Sf2 29.Rg1 Qg4 30.Rh1.

2.4 The Bishop case
- 10: Length 18 with oscillations.
- 11: Length 13 with tempo maneuver.
- 12: Length 11 with other kind of motivation.
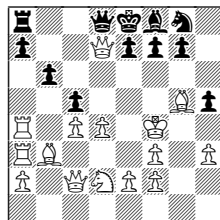
N°10 Unto Heinonen
StrateGems 2018

N°11 Unto Heinonen
Die Schwalbe 1992

N°12 Michel Caillaud
Die Schwalbe 2018
Ded. to T.Brand & B.Gräfrath

PG 28½   C?   (13+13)   PG 24½   C?   (13+14)   PG 22   (14+14)

N°10 1.Sc3 g5 2.Sd5 g4 3.Sxe7 Sxe7 4.a4 Sg6 5.Ra3 Qf6 6.Rh3 gxh3 7.f3 Qxf3 8.a5 f5 9.a6 Kf7 10.axb7 a5 11.gxh3 a4 12.Bg2 a3 13.Bf1 a2 14.Bg2 a1S 15.Bf1 Sb3 16.Bg2 Ra1 17.Bf1 Ba3 18.Bg2 d6 19.Bf1 Be6 20.Bg2 Sd7 21.Bf1 Ra8 22.Bg2 Ra4 23.Bf1 Sa5 24.Bg2 Bb3 25.Bf1 Ke6 26.Bg2 Kd5 27.Bf1 Kc4 28.Bg2 d5 29.Bf1.

N°11 1.d4 Sc6 2.d5 Sd4 3.h4 Sxe2 4.Rh3 Sc3 5.Ba6 h5 6.Rd3 Rh6 7.Be3 Rb6 8.Sd2 Rb3 9.cxb3 Sa4 10.bxa4 bxa6 11.Qb3 Bb7 12.0-0-0 Bc6 13.Qb8 Bb5 14.b4 Bc4 15.Kb2 Bb3 16.Rc1 Bd1 17.Rc4 Bc2 18.Rg4 hxg4 19.h5 Bb3 20.h6 Bc4 21.h7 Bb5 22.h8S Bc6 23.Sg6 Bb7 24.Sf4 Bc8 25.Sfe2.
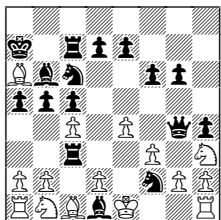
N°12 1.c4 Sa6 2.Qa4 Rb8 3.Qc6 bxc6 4.a4 Rb3 5.a5 Rc3 6.dxc3 Sb8 7.Be3 Ba6 8.Sd2 Bb5 9.0-0-0 Ba4 10.Sgf3 Bc2 11.Sb3 Bf5 12.Rd6 Bh3 13.Re6 dxe6 14.Kc2 Qd3+ 15.exd3 f5 16.Be2 Kf7 17.Se5+ Kf6 18.Bh5 Bg4 19.Be8 Bh5 20.Bd7 Be8 21.Bc8 Bd7 22.Bb7 Bc8.
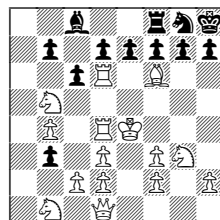

2.5 The Knight case
- 13: Length 16 with oscillations.
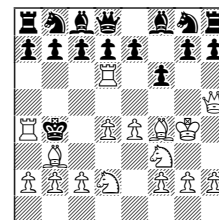- 14: Length 12 with other kind of motivation.

N°13 J.Lois, N.Dupont
& R.Osorio
Probleemblad 2017
After Unto Heinonen

N°14 Michel Caillaud
The Problemist Sup. TT3 2001

PG 30   (15+12)   PG 18½   (16+16)

N°13 1.b4 Sa6 2.Bb2 Sc5 3.Bf6 Sd3+ 4.exd3 a5 5.Ke2 a4 6.Ke3 Ra5 7.Se2 Rf5 8.Rg1 Rf3+ 9.gxf3 Sh6 10.Bh3 Sg8 11.Be6 Sh6 12.Bb3 axb3 13.a4 Sg8 14.a5 Sh6 15.a6 Sg8 16.a7 Sh6 17.Ra6 Sg8 18.Rd6 c6 19.Rg4 Qc7 20.Sg3 Qb8 21.axb8S Sh6 22.Sa6 Sg8 23.Sc5 Sh6 24.Se6 Sg8 25.Sxf8 Sh6 26.Se6 Sg8 27.Sd4 Sh6 28.Sb5 0-0 29.Rgd4 Kh8 30.Ke4 Sg8.

N°14 1.e4 Sc6 2.Qh5 Se5 3.Ke2 Sg6 4.Kf3 f6 5.Kg4 Kf7 6.Sf3 Ke6 7.Bc4+ Kd6 8.Re1 Sh4 9.Re3 Sf5 10.Rd3+ Kc5 11.Rd6 Kb4 12.d4 Sg3 13.Bf4 Se2 14.Sbd2 Sc3 15.Re1 Sa4 16.Re3 Sc5 17.Ra3 Sa6 18.Bb3 Sb8 19.Ra4#.
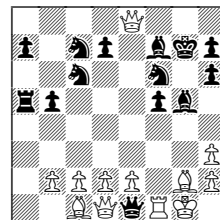
3. Promoted piece
3.1 The Queen case
- 15: Length 16 with oscillations (and other kinds of motivation).

3.2 The Rook case
- 16: Length 16 with oscillations.
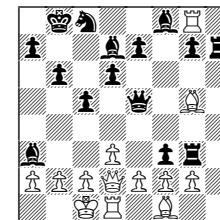- 17: Length 18 with other kinds of motivation.
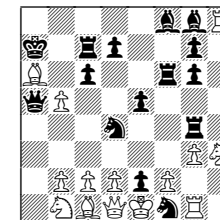
N°15 Nicolas Dupont
Phénix 2018

N°16 Satoshi Hashimoto
Problem Paradise 1995

N°17 Nicolas Dupont
Sergei Volobuev-60 JT 2018

PG 28½   (12+14)   PG 28½   C?   (13+15)   PG 32½   C?   (14+15)

N°15 1.Sf3 c5 2.Sd4 c4 3.Sb3 cxb3 4.f4 bxa2 5.f5 axb1S 6.f6 Sc3 7.fxe7 f5 8.Ra6 Kf7 9.Rh6 gxh6 10.e8Q+ Kg7 11.Qe3 Qh4+ 12.Qf2 Be7 13.Qg3+ Bg5 14.Qf2 Sf6 15.Qg3 Re8 16.Qf2 Re5 17.Qg3 Ra5 18.Qf2 b5 19.Qg3 Bb7 20.Qf2 Bd5 21.Qg3 Sc6 22.Qf2 Re8 23.Qg3 Re3 24.Qf2 Rh3 25.gxh3 Bf7 26.Bg2 Scd5 27.0-0 Sc7 28.Qe3 Qe1 29.Qe8.

N°16 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°17 1.a4 b5 2.axb5 Sc6 3.Ra6 Sd4 4.Rg6 hxg6 5.g3 Rh4 6.Bg2 Rg4 7.h4 a5 8.h5 a4 9.h6 a3 10.h7 a2 11.R8h5 a1R 12.R8h5 R1a6 13.Re5 f5 14.Bb7 Rf6 15.Ba6 Bb7 16.Re6 Bd5 17.Rb6 c6 18.Rb7 Qa5 19.Sh3 0-0-0 20.Rc7+ Kb8 21.Rc8+ Ka7 22.Rb8 Rc8 23.Rg1 Rc7 24.Re8 e5 25.Re6 Se7 26.Rd6 Bg8 27.Rd5 f4 28.Rc5 f3 29.Rc3 fxe2 30.Rf3 Sd5 31.Rf5 Se3 32.Rh5 Sf1 33.Rh8.
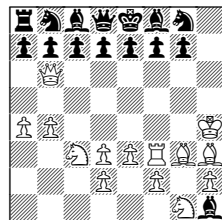
3.3 The Bishop case
- 18: Length 16 with oscillations.
- 19: Length 9 with tempo maneuver.
- 20: Length 15 with other kinds of motivation.

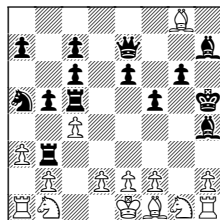**N°18** Nicolas Dupont
StrateGems 2004
Gianni Donati-50 JT
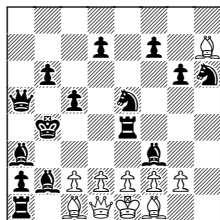
N°19 Nicolas Dupont
The Problemist 2019

N°20 Michel Caillaud
& Nicolas Dupont
Ecully 2018(v)

PG 29½   C?   (10+15)   PG 16½   (14+15)   PG 23½   (14+14)
b) PG 17 (exactly)

N°18 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 Sc6 27.Bg8 Re8 28.Bh7 Re4 29.Bg8 Se5 30.Bh7.

N°19 a) 1.a4 h5 2.Ra3 Rh6 3.Rf3 Rd6 4.e3 Rd3 5.cxd3 h4 6.Qb3 h3 7.Qb6 hxg2 8.b4 gxh1B 9.Bh3 Bg2 10.Bb2 Bf1 11.Be5 Be2 12.Sc3 Bd1 13.Kf1 Be2+ 14.Kg2 Bf1+ 15.Kg3 Bg2 16.Kh4 Bh1 17.Bg3.

b) 1.a4 h5 2.Ra3 Rh6 3.Rf3 Rd6 4.e3 Rd3 5.cxd3 h4 6.Qb3 h3 7.Qb6 hxg2 8.b4 gxh1B 9.Bb2 Bg2 10.Be5 Bh3 11.Sc3 Be6 12.Bh3 Bb3 13.Kf1 Bd1 14.Kg2 Be2 15.Kg3 Bf1 16.Kh4 Bg2 17.Bg3 Bh1.

N°20 1.c4 Sc6 2.Qa4 Sa5 3.Qc6 dxc6 4.g4 Bf5 5.g5 e6 6.g6 Be7 7.gxh7 Bh4 8.hxg8B Qe7 9.Bh7 Rd8 10.Bg6 Rd3 11.Bh5 Rc3 12.Bf3 Rh5 13.Be4 Bh7 14.Bc2 Rc5 15.Bd1 Rxc1 16.a3 Rc3 17.Ba4 f5 18.Bb5 Kf7 19.Ba6 b5 20.Bc8 Kg6 21.Bd7 Kh5 22.Be8+ g6 23.Bf7 Rb3 24.Bg8.
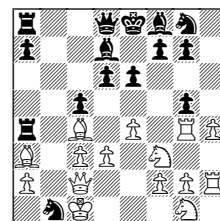
3.4 The Knight case
- 21: Length 8 with other kinds of motivation.
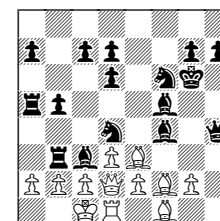### 3.5 The Pawn case
- 22: Length 19 with oscillations (and other kinds of motivation).
- 23: Length 23 with other kinds of motivation.
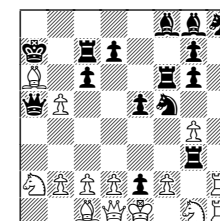
N21 Unto Heinonen
StrateGems 2004
Gianni Donati-50 JT

N°22 Nicolas Dupont
Phénix 2018

N°23 Nicolas Dupont
Die Schwalbe 2018

PG 22   (15+15)   PG 27½   (12+16)   PG 32½   C?   (14+15)

N°21 1.b4 c5 2.b5 Sc6 3.bxc6 d6 4.c7 Bd7 5.c8S e6 6.Se7 b5 7.Sg6 hxg6 8.c3 Rh4 9.Qc2 Ra4 10.e4 b4 11.Bc4 b3 12.d3 b2 13.Sd2 b1S 14.h4 Sa3 15.Rh2 Sb5 16.Ba3 Sd4 17.0-0-0 Sf5 18.Re1 Sg3 19.Re3 Sf1 20.Rg3 g5 21.Sdf3 Sd2 22.Rg4 Sb1.

N°22 1.Sc3 f5 2.Se4 f4 3.Sg3 fxg3 4.f4 gxh2 5.f5 hxg1B 6.Rh6 Kf7 7.Rd6 exd6 8.f6 Kg6 9.f7 Be7 10.f8B Bg5 11.Be7 Bf4 12.Bh4 Sc6 13.Bf2 Qh4 14.Bg3 Sf6 15.Bf2 Re8 16.Bg3 Re5 17.Bf2 Ra5 18.Bg3 b5 19.Bf2 Bb7 20.Bg3 Re8 21.Bf2 Re3 22.Bg3 Rb3 23.d3 Bd4 24.Be3 Bc3+ 25.Qd2 Sd4 26.0-0-0 Be4 27.Be1 Bf5 28.B1f2.

N°23 1.a4 b5 2.axb5 Sc6 3.Ra6 Sd4 4.Rg6 hxg6 5.g4 Rh3 6.Bg2 Rg3 7.h4 a5 8.h5 a4 9.h6 a3 10.h7 a2 11.h8R a1R 12.R8h5 R1a6 13.Re5 f5 14.Bb7 Rf6 15.Ba6 Bb7 16.Re6 Bd5 17.Rb6 c6 18.Rb7 Qa5 19.Sc3 0-0-0 20.Rc7+ Kb8 21.Rc8+ Ka7 22.Rb8 Rc8 23.Sa2 Rc7 24.Re8 e5 25.Re6 Sh6 26.Rd6 Bg8 27.Rd5 f4 28.Rc5 f3 29.Rc3 fxe2 30.Rf3 Sf7 31.Rf5 Sh8 32.Rfh5 Sf5 33.R5h2.
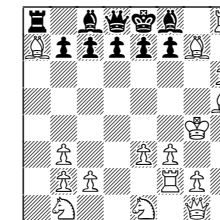
4. Special piece-nature
4.1 Pronkin piece
- 24: Length 8 from a Queen with oscillations.
- 25: Length 14 from a Rook with oscillations.
- 26: Length 4 from a Bishop with oscillations.
- 27: Length 4 from a Knight with oscillations.

N°24 Nicolas Dupont
StrateGems 2018
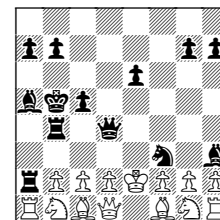
N°25 Andrey Frolkin
Werner Keym-75 JT 2017

N°26 Roberto Osorio
& Jorge Lois
StrateGems 2018
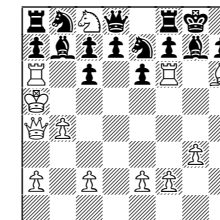
PG 19½   (14+13)   PG 28   (16+10)   PG 20   (12+15)

N°24 1.e3 Sc6 2.Qg4 Sd4 3.Qxd7+ Kxd7 4.e4 Kc6 5.e5 Bh3 6.e6 Rc8 7.exf7 e6 8.fxg8Q Bb4 9.Qf7 Rf8 10.Qh5 Rf4 11.Qd1 Sf3+ 12.Ke2 Kb5 13.Qe1 c5 14.Qd1 Rc6 15.Qe1 Ra6 16.Qd1 Rxa2 17.Qe1 Ba5 18.Qd1 Rb4 19.Qe1 Qd4 20.Qd1.

N°25 1.d4 Sc6 2.Be3 Se5 3.dxe5 Sf6 4.exf6 a5 5.fxg7 Ra6 6.gxh8B Rb6 7.Bg7 Rb3 8.axb3 h5 9.Ra4 h4 10.Rxh4 a4 11.Rh8 a3 12.h4 a2 13.h5 a1R 14.h6 Ra8 15.Ba7 Rb8 16.e3 Ra8 17.Be2 Rb8 18.Bh5 Ra8 19.Ke2 Rb8 20.Kf3 Ra8 21.Kg4 Rb8 22.Sf3 Ra8 23.Re1 Rb8 24.Re2 Ra8 25.Qg1 Rb8 26.Se1 Ra8 27.f3 Rb8 28.Rf2 Ra8.

N°26 1.Sc3 e6 2.Sd5 Bb4 3.Se7 Bxd2+ 4.Kxd2 g5 5.Kc3 g4 6.Qd4 g3 7.Qa4 gxh2 8.Kb4 hxg1B 9.Rh6 Bh2 10.Rf6 Bf4 11.g3 Bh6 12.Bg2 Bg7 13.Bh6 Bf8 14.Rd1 Bg7 15.Rd6 Bf8 16.Ra6 Bg7 17.Bc6 bxc6 18.Ka5 Bb7 19.Sc8 Se7 20.b4 0-0.

N°27 Jorge Lois
& Roberto Osorio
StrateGems 2018
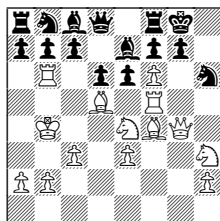
PG 20   (14+15)

N°27 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.
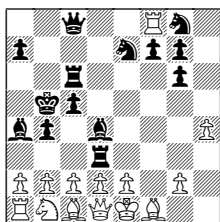
4.2 Anti-Pronkin piece
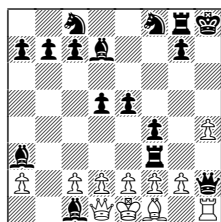- 28: Length 2+2 from a Rook with oscillations.

4.3 Sibling piece
- 29: Length 4+16 from a Rook with oscillations.
- 30: Length 12 from a Knight with oscillations.
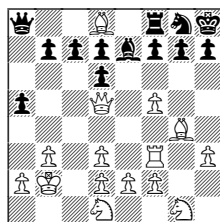
N°28 Jorge Lois
& Roberto Osorio
Ecully 2018

PG 18½   (14+14)

N°29 Satoshi Hashimoto
Probleemblad 2000

PG 28½   (11+16)

N°30 R.Osorio, J.Lois
& N.Dupont
Die Schwalbe 2017

PG 28   (15+13)

N°28 1.Sf3 b5 2.Se5 b4 3.Sxd7 Bxd7 4.f4 Ba4 5.f5 Kd7 6.f6 Kc6 7.fxe7 Kb5 8.e8R Bc5 9.Re6 Bd4 10.Rg6 hxg6 11.Rg1 Rh3 12.Rh1 Rd3 13.h4 c5 14.Rh3 Sc6 15.Re3 Rc8 16.Re8 Sce7 17.Rf8 Rc6 18.Re8 Qc8 19.Rf8.

N°29 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 Rf3 27.Rh1 f5 28.Rg1 f4 29.Rh1.

N°30 1.g4 Sh6 2.Bh3 Sf5 3.gxf5 a5 4.Bg4 Ra6 5.h3 Rd6 6.Rh2 Rd3 7.cxd3 Sa6 8.Qb3 Sc5 9.Qd5 Se4 10.b3 Sf6 11.Bb2 Sg8 12.Bf6 Sh6 13.Sc3 Sg8 14.0-0-0 Sh6 15.Kb2 Sg8 16.Rc1 Sh6 17.Sd1 Sg8 18.Rc6 Sh6 19.Ra6 Sg8 20.Ra8 Sh6 21.Rxc8 Sg8 22.Ra8 Sh6 23.Ra6 Qa8 24.Rd6 exd6 25.Bd8 Be7 26.Rg2 0-0 27.Rg3 Kh8 28.Rf3 Sg8.

I ask composers and retro editors who are aware of a new record or something that I missed (fitting the subject of this article, of course), to send it to me, so that I can maintain this collection updated.

Pál Benkő (July 15 1928 – August 26, 2019) Memorial Tourney

The tourney is sponsored by Andrew Kalotay (who provided 5,000 Euros in prize money) and directed by János Mikitovics. It is organized in two sections:

Section 1: Helpmates in 3 or more moves. Theme: Mate on a same square either by a Pawn or a piece promoted from the same Pawn. **Judge: Christopher Jones.**

Section 2: Help-stalemates in 3 or more moves. Theme: Free. **Judge: Mike Prcic.**

Submissions must be tested by either Alybadix, Popeye, Gustav or WinChloe. Participants should state which software was used. In both sections, a maximum of three compositions is permitted, including joint submissions. Fairy pieces and fairy conditions are not allowed. **Tournament Director: János Mikitovics**

Entries must be sent by e-mail to the Director's address at **j.mikitovics@gmail.com.** Participants should include their postal address in the e-mail. **The closing date is August 31, 2020.**

StrateGems **Books Library**

The following books are available from our library. All payments must be in US Dollars in checks drawn on US banks. We also accept **PayPal** payments to the account: Tuzlak@aol.com. To order send payment to: Mike Prcic, 2613 Northshore Lane, Westlake Village, CA 91361, USA. The price of mailing in the USA is $5/book. Outside of the USA shipping costs are higher.

My Chess Compositions, by Dr. Milan Vukcevich (spiral bound), $25.00

Chess by Milan, by Dr. Milan R. Vukcevich; $25.00

Petkov – Selected Compositions, by Mike Prcic;. $25.00

Rundlauf in Helpmates, by Mike Prcic; $20

Chess Compositions of Frederick GAMAGE, by Mike Prcic; $20.00

Julius Buchwald Selected Compositions, by Mike Prcic; $20.00

The Art of Composing Selfmates, by Petko A. Petkov; $25.00

Viktor Chepizhny, by Mike Prcic; $25.00.