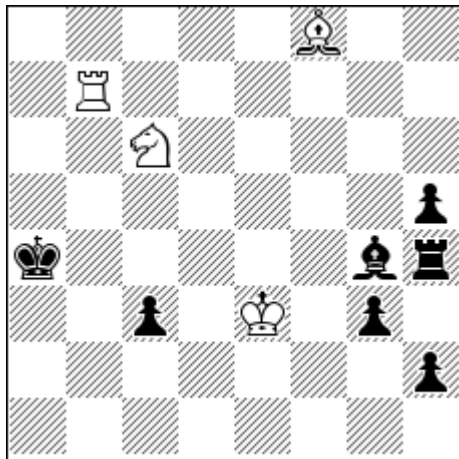


Mehrzüger abteilung

Altogether, there were 31 entries, seven of which miniatures, to be judged in the 2019 tournament. The general artistic level was satisfactory, with a few very ambitious problems standing out. Some entries were excluded because of duals (No.2375, No. 2377, #9 and #11 Becker), one (#14 Karmil) because of self-anticipation, one (Kirillov/Popov #13) because it is anticipated by Krätschmer (cf. PDB No. 126 2967), one (No. 2349 #10 Croitor) because it received an award in the 5th FRME tourney 2019. To do justice to the miniatures I judged them separately. My ranking is the following:

1st Prize № 2384 – Ferhat Karmil (Turkey)



#17

4+7

Main plan: 1. Ne5 ~ 2. Nc4 ~ 3. Rb4#

1. Nd4! Ka5 2. Nb3+ Ka4 3. Nc5+ Ka3 4. Nd3+ Ka4 5. Bb4! Kb3 6. Bd6+ Ka4 7. Nc5+ Ka3 8. Ne4+ Ka4 9. Nxc3+ Ka5 10. Ne4! Ka4 11. Nc5+ Ka3 12. Nd3+ Ka4 13. Rb4+ Ka3 14. Rb6+ Ka4 15. Nb2+ Ka5 16. Nc4+ Ka4 17. Rb4#

A top quality logical problem with often used white material and precisely timed foreplans.

White has to rearrange its force before carrying out the main plan as follows:

Moves 1-4: The knight is transferred to d3.

Moves 5-6: Using a BR battery, the bishop reaches a better position (d6).

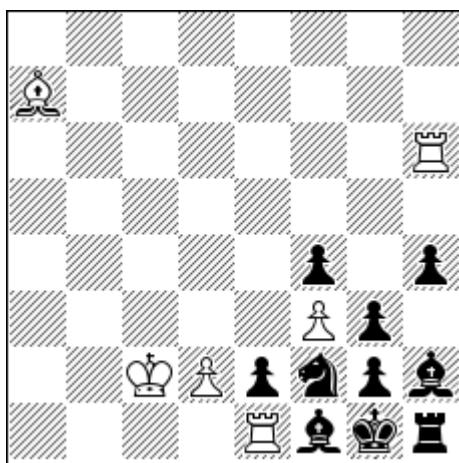
Moves 7-12: The knight performs an elegant dance to eliminate bPc3 and finally switches back to d3.

Moves 13-14: Like the bishop before the rook visits b4 and, taking advantage of the new battery, improves its position, settling on b6.

Moves 15-17: The main plan is successfully implemented.

What makes this problem stand out is the perfect collaboration of the three white officers, the multiple use of b4 in forming the RB and BR batteries and in serving as the mating square and, last but not least, the model mate as the icing on the cake.

2nd Prize № 2302 – Givi Mosiashvili (Georgia)



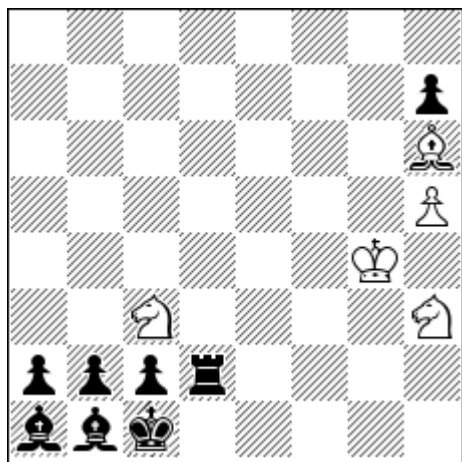
#7

6+10

1.Rd6! h3 2.Rd4 Sd1(g4) 3.Rf4+ Sf2! 4.d4 S~ 5.d5+ Sf2 6.Rd4 S~ 7. R:S#

The very ingenious concept of this problem consists of three finely timed sub-plans: At move 1 Black is forced to make h3 inaccessible for the knight. In the following play the white rook and the white pawn take turns in entering d4 to release stalemate and to open the orthogonals to g4 and d1 for the rook in the next move. The mating move is a discovered check, with the rook eliminating the black knight wherever it moves.

1st HM № 2374 – Valery Kirillov, Grigory Popov (Russia)

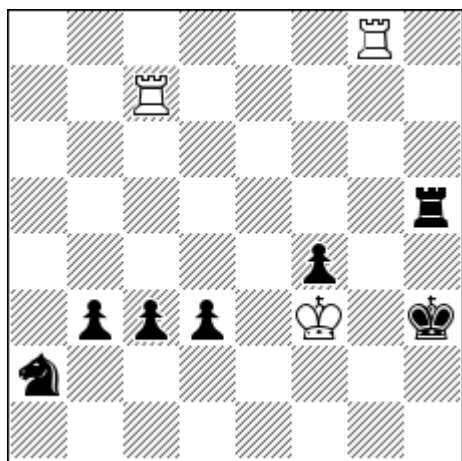


#11

5+8

1. Sg5? Rg2+! 1. Sf4? Rd4!
 1. Be3? h6 2.Sg5 hg5 3.Kf5 g4 4. h6 g3 5. h7 g2 6. h8Q g1Q
 7. B:g1 Rd5+ 8. S:d5 Kd1 9. Qd4+ Ke1 10. Qe3+ Kd1 11. Sc3#;
 10... Kf1 11. Qf2#
 1. Kf4! Rd6 2.Ke3 Re6+ 3. Kd3+ R:h6 4. Sf4 Rd6+ 5. Ke3 Re6+ 6. S:e6 h6 7. Sg5 hg5 8. Ke2 g4 9. Ke1 g3 10. Se2#
 Four white moves by the white king and the knight h3 have to be considered to release the stalemate position, but only 1. Kf4 works. The king starts off on the long journey to e1, during which the now unpinned black rook succeeds in eliminating the bishop that pinned it in the diagram position. Then the knight h3 hurries to help, captures the rook and sacrifices itself so that the king can reach e1 undisturbed. The fact that the moves to f4 and g5 by the white knight, which fail at the first move, appear later in the solution is a very nice feature of this problem.

2nd HM № 2344 – Peter Krug (Austria), Mario Garcia (Argentina)



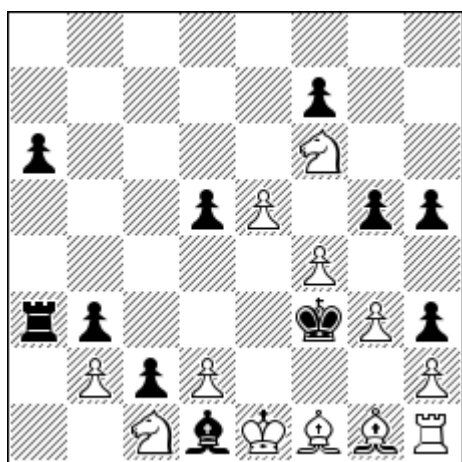
#12

3+7

1.Rc5! 1.Rg1? Kh2 2.Rcg7 Rh3+ 3.Kxf4 Rh7 4.R7g2+ (4.R1g2+ Kh1÷)
 4... Kh3 5.Rg3+ Kh2= 1.Rcg7? c2!-+
 1...Rh7 2.Rg1 Kh2 3.Rcg5 Rh3+ 4.Kxf4 4.Kf2? f3!= 4... Rh8!
 4... Rh5?? 5.R5g2+! mate in 10 moves 5.R1g2+ 5.R5g2+? Kh3 6.Kf3 Rf8+!
 5... Kh1 5... Kh3? 6.R5g3+ 6.Kf3 Rf8+ 6... Rh3+??
 7.Kf2 mate in 10 moves 7.Kg3 Rh8 8.Rf2 Kg1 9.Kf3+ Kh1 10.Rf1+ Kh2
 11.Rg2+ Kh3 12.Rh1#

A very fine rook duel: White offers to sacrifice a rook on the fifth rank to protect the king from checks later in the play, which Black declines. There is perfect collaboration between the the two rooks and the white king.

3rd HM № 2364 – Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA), Alexander Melnichuk (Russia)



#5

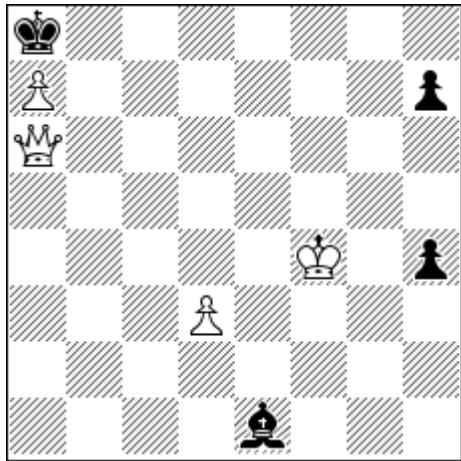
12+11

b) Ra3 > a5

a).
 1.Bc5? gxf4!
 1.Bd4? g4!
 1.Be3! - 2.Bxh3 Be2 3.Rg1 (- 4.Bg2#) Bf1 4.Rxf1#
 1... g4 2.Nh7 f6 3.exf6 Ke4 4.Bd3+ Kf3 5.0-0#
 1... Ra1 2.Bc4 Kg2 3.Bxd5+ Bf3 4.Bxf3+ Kxf3 5.0-0#
 b).
 1.Bc5? gxf4! 1.Be3? g4!
 1.Bd4! - 2.Bxh3 Be2 3.Rg1 (- 3.Bg2#) Bf1 4.Rxf1#
 1... g4 2.Nh7 f6 3.exf6 Ke4 4.Ng5+ Kxd4 5.Nxb3#
 4... Kf5 5.Bd3#
 1... Ra1 2.Bc4 Kg2 3.Bxd5+ Bf3 4.Bxf3+ Kxf3 5.0-0#
 1... gxf4 2.Bxh3 Be2 3.Rg1 fxf3 4.Rxg3+ Kf4 5.Nxe2#

A twin with changed try and solution. The white play culminates in castling in the mating move after the two white bishops have cleared the first rank. Unfortunately, the bishop g1 is a promoted pawn.

1st COM № 2376 – Richard Becker (USA)



#8

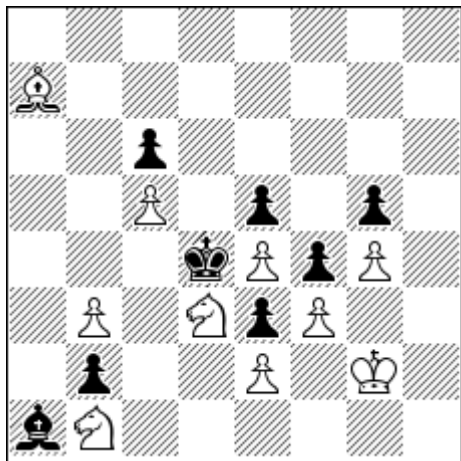
4+7

1.Kg4? Bf2!
 1.Kf3? Bg3! 2.Qb6 h6 zz 3.d4 h5 zz
 1.Ke5? h3! 2.Kd6 h2 3.Kc7 Bg3+ 4.Kc8 h1Q

1.Qb6! Bg3+ 2.Kg4 zz h6 3.Kf3 zz h5 4.d4 zz Bd6 5.Ke4 h3 6.Kd5 Bg3 (6...h2 7.Kxd6 h1Q 8.Qb8#) 7.Kc6 h1Q 8.Qb7#
 2...Bd6 3.Kf5 h3 4.Ke6 Bg3 5.Kd7 h2 6.Kc8 h1Q 7. Qb8+ Qxb8+ 8.ab8Q#

The white king has to select its moves wisely to outwit the black defensive force before it can approach the scene of action in the NW corner. There are some duals if Black defends poorly.

2nd COM № 2350 – Mikhail Croitor (Moldova)



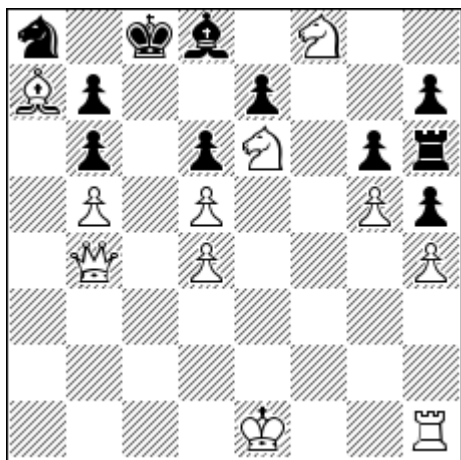
#10

10+8

1.Sf2! ef 2.Kf1 Ke3 3.Bb8 Kd4 4.Bd6 Ke3 5.Bf8 Kd4 6.Be7 Ke3 7.Bxg5 Kd4 8.Be7 Ke3 9.Bh4 Kd4 10.Bxf2 #

After the knight has sacrificed itself on f2 to release stalemate, the black king moves back and forth, while the white bishop systematically approaches and delivers mate.

3th COM № 2366 – Aleksandr Sygurov (Russia)



#4

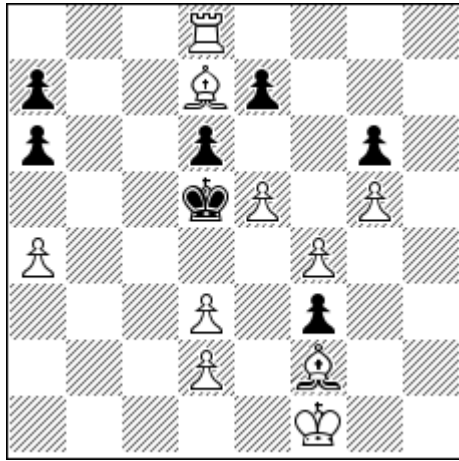
11+11

1.Sd7? Kxd7!
 1.Qxd6? ed6!
 1.Rf1!? Sc7!
 1.Rh2(3)!? Bc7!

1.O-O! (zz)
 1...Bc7 2.Sd7! (zz) Kxd7 3.Rf8 (zz) B~ 4.Rd8#
 1...Sc7 2.Qxd6! ed6 3.Rc1 (zz) B~ 4.Rxc7#

A problem with a clear, logical structure, where White makes use of black self-interference at c7. However, the position is crammed with pawns and the incarcerated black rook. Moreover, there is a minor dual in the first variation after 3. – Sc7 4. Sxb6/Rxd8#.

4th/5th COM № 2388 – Miguel Uris (Spain)



a) Diagram

1.e6! threat 2.Rb8 a5 3.Rb5#

1... a5 2.Rb8 a6 3.Ba7! f2 4.Rb6

4... Kc5 5.Rb5#

4... Kd4 5.Rxd6#

b) Move Kf1 to d2 then #4

1.e6! threat 2.Rb8 a5 3.Rb5#

1... a5 2.Rb8 a6 3.Ke3! Kc5 4.Ke4#

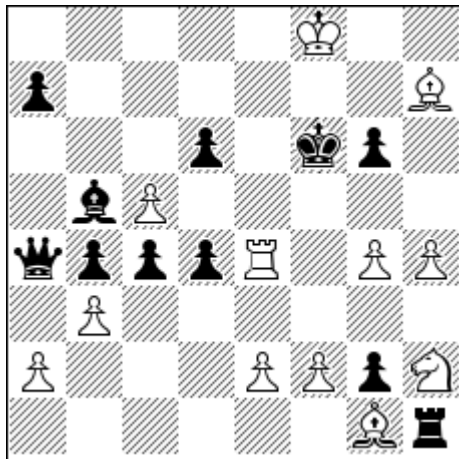
Two related evergreen motifs shown in a twin: Indian in a, Anderssen theme in b.

#5

10+7

b) Move f1 d2, stipulation #4

4th/5th COM № 2346 – Miguel Uris (Spain)



1. Bg8? [2. Re6#]

1...Bd7! x

1. f3? [2. Bxd4#]

1...Rxc1 2. g5+ Kf5 3. Sg4 ~ 4. Sh6# 1...dxc5! y

1. f4! [Bxd4#] 1...Rxc1 (1...dxc5 y 2. Re5 [3. g5#] g5 3. hxg5#)

2. f5 [3. Re6#] 2...Bd7 x (2...gxf5 3. g5#)

3. fxg6 [4. g5+ Kf5 5. g7#] (3. Bxc6? Bxf5!)

3... Be8 (3...Bxc4 4.Sxc4+ Kf5 5. g7#)

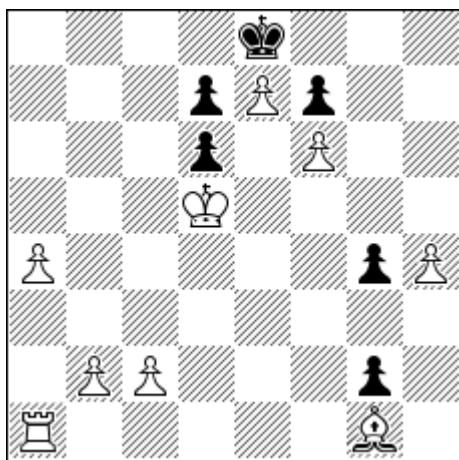
4. g7 [5. g8=S# A . 5. g5# B] 4...Bg6 5. g8=S# A 4...Bf7 5. g5# B

Another classic theme: Excelsior. By creating short threats the pawn f2 moves forward to promote to a knight on g8. The bishop g1 and the knight h2 are underemployed, though

#5

12+11

6th COM № 2351 – Mikhail Croitor (Moldova)



1.Bh2? g3 2.Rg1 gh 3.Rxc2 h1=Q(B)

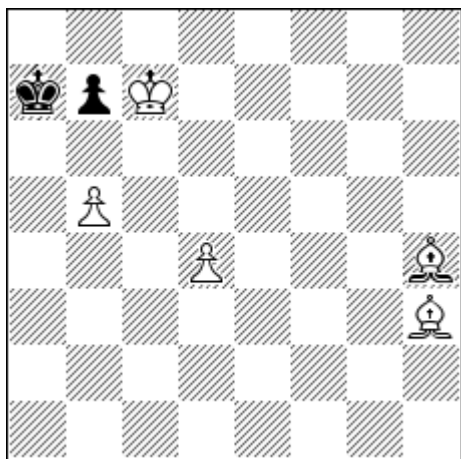
1.Bf2! g1Q (~) 2.Rxc1 g3 3.Rg2 gf 4.Rg8#

After the knight has sacrificed itself on f2 to release stalemate, the black king moves back and forth, while the white bishop systematically approaches and delivers mate.

#4

9+6

Prize for miniature № 2410 – Elmar Abdullayev (Azerbaijan), Alexander Melnichuk (Russia)

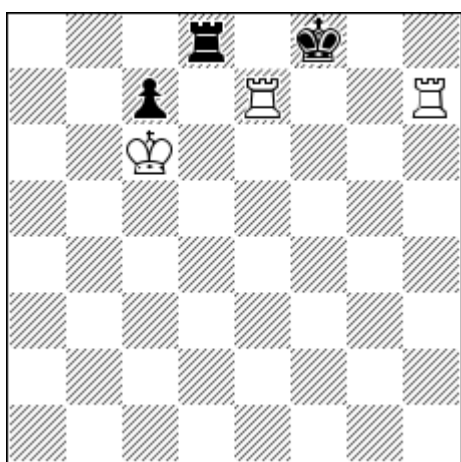


#4

5+2

1.Bg3? - 2.Bg2 b6 3.Kc6 Ka8 4.Kxb6#
 2... Ka8 3.Bxb7+ Ka7 4.b6#
 1... b6 2.Kc8 Ka8 3.Bg2+ Ka7 4.Bb8# 1... Ka8!
 1.Bg2? - 2.Bg3 b6 3.Kc6 Ka8 4.Kxb6#
 2... Ka8 3.Bb7+ Ka7 4.b6# 1... b6!
 1.Be1! zz
 1... Ka8 2.Bg2 Ka7 3.b6+ Ka8 4.Bxb7#
 3... Ka6 4.Bf1#
 1... b6 2.Ba5 Ka8 3.Bg2+ Ka7 4.Bxb6#
 2... bxa5 3.b6+ Ka8 4.Bg2#
 3... Ka6 4.Bf1#
 A super miniature with a hidden key, a bishop sacrifice and an extraordinarily flexible queen bishop, which appears on g2 at the first (in try), second, third and mating move (= Urania theme).

HM for miniature № 2408 – Richard Becker (USA)



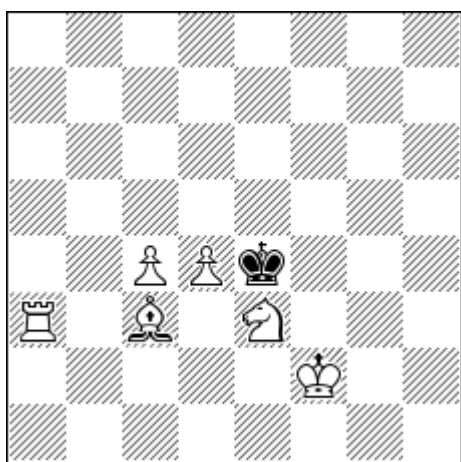
#10

3+3

1.Rd7! (1.Ref7+? Kg8 2.Rd7 Ra8 3.Rhg7+ Kh8!) 1...Kg8
 2.Rhe7(2.Rhg7+? Kf8!zz)
 2...Kf8 (2...Rb8 3.Kxc7 Ra8 4.Kb7 Rf8 5.Rg7+ Kh8 6.Rh7+ Kg8
 7.Rdg7#)
 3.Rg7! zz Rxd7 (3...Ra8 4.Rdf7+ Ke8 5.Re7+ Kf8 6.Kd7!)
 4.Rxd7 Ke8 5.Kxc7 Kf8 6.Kd8 Kg8 7.Ke8 Kh8 8.Kf7 Kh7 9.Rd6 Kh8
 10.Rh6#

Two rooks against one force Black into a zugzwang position where Black has to give up his rook for a white one. The rest is smooth sailing for White.

Com for miniature № 2369 – Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA), Alexander Melnichuk (Russia)



#4

6+1

1.c5? Kd3 2.d5 Ke4 3.Bf6 Kf4 4.Ra4#
 1... Kf4!
 1.Ra8? Kf4 2.Rg8 Ke4 3.Ke2 Kf4 4.Rg4#
 1... Kd3!
 1.d5! Kd3 2.c5 Ke4 3.Bf6 Kf4 4.Ra4#
 1... Kf4 2.Bf6 Ke4 3.c5 Kf4 4.Ra4#

Nice try and two quite similar variations with switched second and third moves.

I enjoyed the task of judging the 2019 tourney on ChessStar.

Many thanks to all the participants and congratulations to all the composers of the rewarded problems.