

CONTENTS

The Good Companion Chess Problem Club a Century Ago.....	2
Benjamin Franklin – A Chess Player.....	3
StrateGems 2020 #3 Award.....	4
StrateGems 2020 Moremovers Award.....	7
StrateGems 2019 Proof Game and Retro Award Correction.....	10
Recently Honored US Compositions.....	10
Original compositions and SG91 solutions.....	14
Notable Composers – The Amazing Jorges.....	35
75 th Anniversary of the End of WWII Chess Composing Tourney.....	39
Recent Tourney Winners.....	41
Knight Tour.....	50
Happy Holidays.....	51

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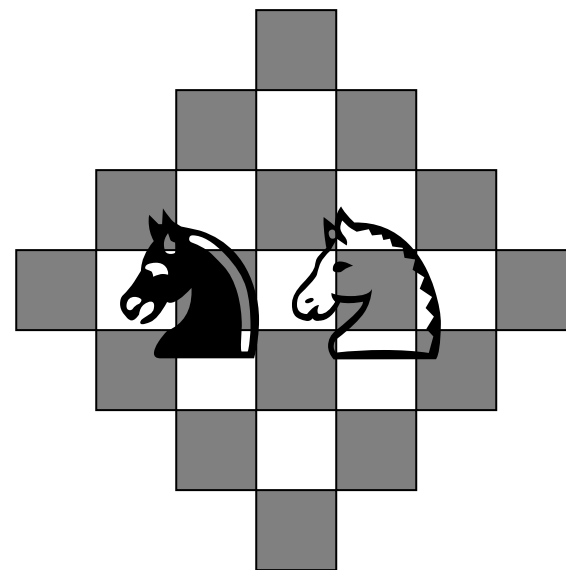
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StrateGems

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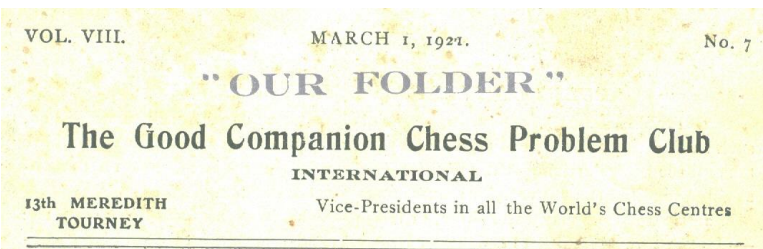
U.S. CHESS PROBLEM MAGAZINE

The Good Companion Chess Problem Club a Century Ago

by Mike Prcic

The year was 1921 and The Good Companion Chess Problem Club (or simply **The Good Companion**) was in full swing, celebrating its seventh year of existence. Its secretary and editor, J.F.Magee, Jr. was able to attract the best composers worldwide. It was the golden age of American chess problems. The Good Companion magazine (Our Folder) was published nine times a year, from October to May with an extra folder on February 22nd. A special problem collection was printed each year and was free to members. The yearly subscription was 3 dollars U.S. or Canadian, 12 shillings (British), 40 francs (French) and 50 lira (Italian). Among the editorial staff we find Alain C. White, who was a designated judge for all tournaments.

For nostalgia buffs, I have scanned the front page of the March 1921 issue.



LA PRINCESS ANNA MURAT MME. REGNAUET DE SAINT JEAN D'ANGELY.

Two of Paul Morphy's fair chess opponents of the French Capital in 1858-9.

"Madame la Princess Murat expressed a desire to play our hero, and other great dames followed; and knowing, as I do, the result, I solemnly declare that, in spite of my confidence in Morphy's powers of combination, I never would bet a cent upon him when his opponent is a lady."

COMPOSERS, ATTENTION! Prizes \$350.00

Eighth American Chess Congress Two and Three-move Problem Composing Tourney. ALAIN C. WHITE, Judge of the Tourney.

All Entries should be sent to J. F. MAGEE, JR., Secretary, Hamilton Court, Philadelphia, Pa. They must reach him on or before June 15th, 1921.

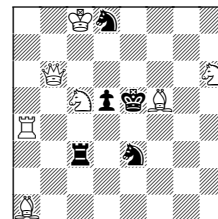
Each problem must have written upon it the author's name and the key. We will recopy the diagrams and send them to the Judge under numbers.

The two ladies featured on the front page are La Princess Anna Murat (left) and Mme. Regnauet De Saint Jean D'Angely. They were two of Paul Morphy's fair chess opponents in Paris, 1858-9. Said the editor: "Madame la Princess Murat expressed a desire to play our hero, and other great dames followed; and knowing, as I do, the result, I solemnly declare that, in spite of my confidence in Morphy's powers of combination, I never would bet a cent upon him when his opponent is a lady."

Among many interesting things in this issue, we have an announcement of the Eighth American Chess Congress Two and Three-move Problem Composing Tourney, with Alain C. White being the judge. The prize fund was \$350.00, a surprising sum.

The results of the 13th Meredith Award were also announced with Giuseppe Brogi, from Genoa, Italy, winning the 1st as well as the 2nd Prize.

1st Prize
Giuseppe Brogi



#2 (7+5)

1.Qxd8? (2.Qe7#), 1...d4 2.Qxd4#, 1...Sxf5 2.Sg4/Sf7#, 1...Sc4!; 1.Kxd8? d4!; **1.Kc7!** (2.Qd6#), 1...Sxf5 2.Sg4# (Sf7?), 1...Sc4 2.Sd3# (Sd7?), 1...Sb7 2.Qe6#, 1...Sc6 2.Sd7# (Sd3?), 1...Se6+ 2.Qxe6# and 1...Sf7 2.Qe6#. The judge's comment: "A clever unpinner in the modern manner, rounded out by a somewhat surprising little key. The tries are a little violent, as 1.KxS and 1.QxS, but they require careful study. Such a problem would have been very astonishing in the earlier Meredith competitions, but we have grown accustomed to finding the modern devices reduced to compact form, and perhaps all the more inviting thereby. The method of forcing the choice of mates in the two unpins is new to me, and is a master touch."

Among other participants we see G.W.Sheppard, Dr. H.W.Bettmann, W.A.Shinkman and A.Ellerman to name but few.

Benjamin Franklin – A Chess Player

Born the son of a Boston candle-maker, Benjamin Franklin grew into the symbolic role of the archetypical American. He was, indeed, a blend of Poor Richard and Leonardo da Vinci. A writer, inventor, scientist, social engineer, musician, philosopher, economist, diplomat and revolutionary, Franklin helped shape the American colonies' destiny. When thinking of Franklin as a chess player, Prof. George Allen offers this caveat:

Now this clever Yankee [Franklin], so economical of time in all other respects, had a perfect passion for playing Chess; and he gives no hint of ever being at a loss for Philadelphians to play with. - in spite of the various attempts of a certain Chess editor to make it out otherwise - is a fair inference from the fact, that he found his match in an English-woman, and had to accept the Knight from a French woman; and that some of his antagonists were strong players, who beat him soundly and easily, is rendered in the highest degree probable by the fact, that the line of hereditary Chess-talent, in one known contemporary instance, can be traced back, to the generation in question. It was, however, neither his weakness, nor their strength, in Chess, that attracted or repelled the attention of the disdainful Muses. But it happened that our Yankee friend took it into his head, one day, to perform the unaccountable feat of flying a kite at a thunder-cloud, and afterwards to dabble in rebel politics; and now, behold! a godly heap of octavos, by the biographer of Washington, lies solidly and heavily upon his memory; one entire section of this very chapter of THE BOOK has been devoted to his glory as a "Chess-player" forsooth; and thus he has come to have nearly as good a chance for immortality as Philidor himself; while not even the name of those who really deserve to be remembered - the men who gave him, or could have given him, "Pawn and two" at the least - has escaped the cruel god that eats up his own children: "Can haughty time be just?"

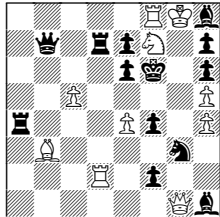
Franklin should be remembered more for his "passion" for chess rather than for his "skill."

StrateGems 2020 #3 Award

by Alexander Melnichuk

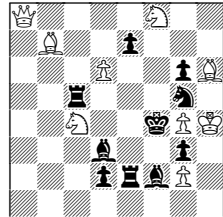
It has been an interesting tourney. I judged thirty-six threemovers. **M1681** has a dual in the threat which, considering the thematic content, is a shortcoming. **M1678** falls short of its target. **M1657** was anticipated by: Gérard Doukhan, *PZSzach*, May, 2020. wKd2 Ra4 Ba1-c6 Sd4-g5 Pa6-b4-b6-d6-e2-f2-f4 (13), bKc4 Rb8 Bc7-g8 Sg7 Pe7-g4-g6 (8), #3. 1.e4?[A] (2.Bb5#[C]) Rxb6[!a]; 1.Se4?[B] (2.b5#[D]) Bxd6![b]; **1.Kc1!** (2.Se4 ~ 3.b5/Sd2#), 1...Rxb6[a] 2.b5+[D] Kc5 3.Se4#[B], 1...Bxd6[b] 2.Bb5+[C] Kd5 3.e4#[A]. I selected fifteen entries for the award.

1st Prize
Ljubomir Branković
& Waldemar Tura



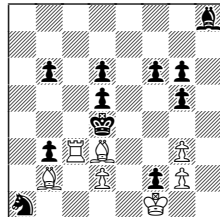
#3*√ (10+13)

2nd Prize
Eugene Fomichev
& Mikhail Kostylev



#3 (9+10)

3rd Prize
Zoltán Labai



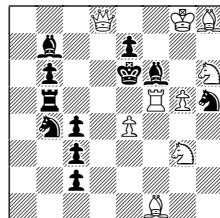
#3 (7+11)

1st Prize - (Ljubomir Branković & Waldemar Tura - M1683) Adabashev system with Siers battery. The value and beauty of this composition, with four thematic variations and defenses on same square, is greatly increased by the preliminary play with change of play. A masterpiece! **Solution:** 1...Q/B/R/Sxe4 2.Sxh6+ Ke5 3.Sg4#; 1.Qb1? Rd3!; **1.Re2!** (2.e5+ Kf5 3.Sxh6#), 1...Qxe4 2.Sd8+ Ke5 3.Sc6#, 1...Bxe4 2.Sg5+ Ke5 3.Sf3#, 1...Rxe4 2.Sd6+ Ke5 3.Qa1#, 1...Sxe4 2.Sxh8+ Ke5 3.Qg7#. Side variation 1...Sxe2 2.Qg5+ hxg5 3.hxg5# is a big plus.

2nd Prize - (Eugene Fomichev & Mikhail Kostylev - M1680) Versatile conception: Bristol, Wurzburg-Plachutta and Adabashev system. Change of moves' functions by three white pieces in a 6x6 cycle. **Solution:** **1.Bf3!** (2.Qe4+ Rxe4/Bxe4 3.Sxg6/Se6#), 1...Rd5 2.Qxd5 Bf5/Re5 3.Bxg5/Qxe5#, 1...Bxc4 2.Sxg6+ Ke3 3.Qe4#, 1...Rxc4 2.Bxg5+ Ke5 3.Qd5#, 1...Rce5 2.Se6+ Rxe6 3.Bxg5#, 1...Rce5 2.Bxg5+ Rxg5 3.Se6#.

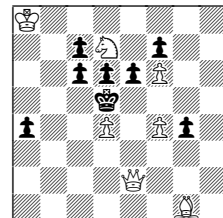
3rd Prize - (Zoltán Labai - M1679) A very nice key. Beautiful battery play with change of moves' functions and white Bishop's switchback. **Solution:** **1.Bb5!** (2.Rxb3+ Ke4/Kc5 3.Bd3/d4#), 1...f5 2.Be2 ~/K~ 3.Rc4[A]/Re3#[B], 1...Sc2 2.Rc4+[A] Kd3 3.Rd4#, 1...K~ 2.Re3+[B] Kf5 3.Bd7#.

4th Prize
L.Lyubashevsky,
L.Makaronez & V.Volchek



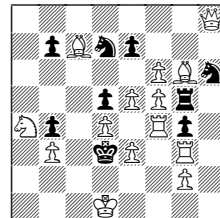
#3 (9+11)

5th Prize
Sergey I.Tkachenko



#3√ (7+8)

6th Prize
Victor Chepizhny



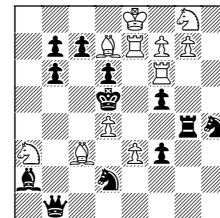
#3 (14+9)

4th Prize - (L.Lyubashevsky, L.Makaronez & V.Volchek - M1659) (Originally Sg1 was on g3.) Beautiful threat and excellent play on the 5th row! **Solution:** **1.Se2!** (2.Re5+ Kxe5/Bxe5/Rxe5 3.Qxe7/Bh3/Sd4#), 1...Sd5 2.e5 ~ /Bxe5 3.Sd4/Rxe5#, 1...Sc6 2.Rd5 (3.Qd7/Bh3#) Se5/Rxd5 3.Sd4/Qxd5#, 1...Rxf5 2. exf5+ Ke5 3.Qd4#, 1...Bxe4 2.Qc8+ Kd6 3.Sf7#, 1...Bd5 2.e5 (3.Qc8/Sd4#) Bxe5 3.Rxe5#.

5th Prize - (Sergey I. Tkachenko - M1630) I like the wonderful, symmetrical play. **Solution:** 1.Sc5? (2.Qa2#) dxc5!, 1.Se5? (2.Qg2#) dxe5!; **1.Qd3!** (zz), 1...c5 2.dxc5+ Kc6 3.Sb8#, 1...e5 2.dxe5+ Ke6 3.Sf8#, 1...a3 2.Sc5 ~/dxc5 3.Qb3/dxc5#, 1...g3 2.Se5 ~/dxe5 3.Qf3/dxe5#.

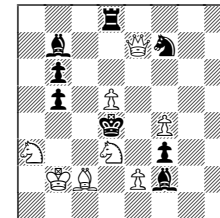
6th Prize - (Victor Chepizhny - M1684) The classic Schiffmann defense done in an excellent way. **Solution:** **1.e6!** (2.e4+ Kxd4 3.e5#), 1...Sxf5! 2.Qh1 ~ 3.Qf1#, 1...Sxf6! 2.Be8 ~/Sxe8 3.Bb5/e4# (1...Se5 2.dxe5 ~ 3.Rd4#).

1st Honorable Mention
Leonid Makaronez



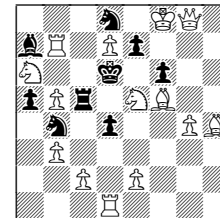
#3√ (11+12)

2nd Honorable Mention
Leonid Makaronez
& Viktor Volchek



#3*√ (8+8)

3rd Honorable Mention
Leonid Lyubashevsky
& Leonid Makaronez



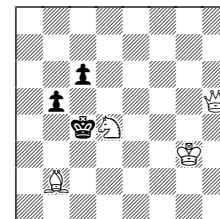
#3 (14+9)

1st Honorable Mention - (Leonid Makaronez - M1645) Tries with refutations on g6-square, good key and three white Rook sacrifices. The repetitions of 3.Sf6# and 3.Se7# kept the award lower. **Solution:** 1.Ree6? Sg6!, 1.Rh6!+ Rg6!; **1.Bb4!** (2.Rxd6+ cxd6 3.Sf6#), 1...Qxb4 2.Rxf5+ Sxf5 3.Sf6#, 1...Se4 2.Re5+ dxe5 3.Se7#, 1...Sc4 2.Be6+ Ke4/Kc6 3.Bxc4/d5#, 1...Rg6 2.Ree6! ~ 3.Se7#, 1...c5 2.Bc8! ~ 3.Bxb7#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Leonid Makaronez & Viktor Volchek - M1631) A good solvers' problem! I struggled while solving it. **Solution:** 1...Kxd5 2.Bb3+ Kc6 3.Sb4# (2...Kd4 3.Sxb5/Sc2#, a minor dual), 1...Bxd5 2.Sxb5+ Kc4 3.Qb4#, 1...Rxd5 2.e3+ Bxe3 3.Qb4#, 1.Sc1? (2.Sb3+ Kxd5 3.Be4#), 1...Bxd5 2.Sxb5+ Kc4 3.Bd3#, 1...Sd6 2.Qe5+ Kc5 3.Sd3#, 1...Kxd5!; 1.Sb4? (2.Sxb5+ Kc4 3.Bd3#), 1...Ba6 2.Sc6+ Kxd5 3.Be4#, 1...Rd6 2.Qe4+ Kc5 3.Sd3#, 1...Rxd5!; **1.Se1!** (2.Sxf3+ Kxd5 3.Be4#), 1...Bxe1 2.e3+ Kxd5 3.Be4#, 1...Kxd5 2.Be4+ Kd4 3.Sec2#, 1...Bxd5 2.Sxb5+ Kc4 3.Bd3#, 1...Sg5 2.Qe5+ Kc5 3.Sd3#.

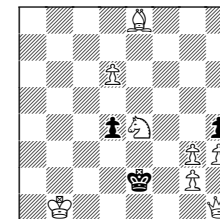
3rd Honorable Mention - (L.Lyubashevsky & L.Makaronez - M1660) Pity that Pd4 is pinned in the initial setting. Also, the two last variations are not coordinated. **Solution:** **1.Qc4!** (2.Sf7+ Sxf7 3.Qe6#), 1...Rxc4 2.Sxc4+ Kd5 3.e4#! (3.c4#?), 1...Rxe5 2.Qc7+ Kd5 3.c4#! (3.e4#?), 1...Sd5 2.Qxc5+ Bxc5/Kxe5 3.Sc4/Bg3#, 1...Rc8 2.dxc8S+ Kxe5 3.Bg3#.

Sp. Honorable Mention
Abdelaziz Onkoud



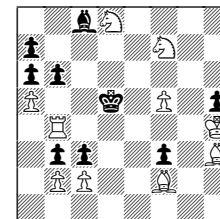
#3 (4+3)

1st Commendation
Elmar Abdullayev



#3√ (8+3)

2nd Commendation
Mike Pric



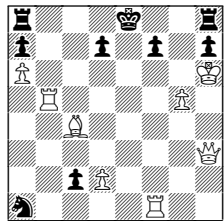
#3 (10+9)

Special Honorable Mention - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - M1652) Queen's second moves show up as thirds. Not bad for a miniature. **Solution:** 1.Qe8! (zz), 1...c5 2.Qe2+ Kb4/Kd5 3.Qxb5/Qe6#, 1...b4 2.Qe6+ Kc5/Kd3 3.Qxc6/Qe2#, 1...Kb4 2.Qxc6 K~ 3.Qxb5#, 1...Kc5 2.Qxc6+ Kb4 3.Qxb5#, 1...Kd5 2.Qxc6+ Ke5 3.Qe6#.

1st Commendation - (Elmar Abdullayev - M1675) Change of play. Multiple mates with black self-blocks. **Solution:** 1.Ba4? (2.Qd1+ Ke3 3.Qf3#), 1...d3 2.Qg1 hxg3/d2 3.Bd1/Bb5#, 1...Ke3 2.Qe1+ Kd3 3.Bb5#, 1...Kd3!; 1.Bf7? (zz), 1...d3 2.Qg1 d2 3.Bc4#, 1...Kd3 2.Qe1 hxg3 3.Sc5#, 1...hxg3!; 1.Bh5+? Ke3 2.Qe1+ Kd3 3.Qe2#, 1...Kd3!; **1.Bg6!** (zz), 1...d3 2.Qg1 hxg3/d2 3.Bh5/Sc3#, 1...hxg3 2.Qc1 Kd3/d3 3.Sxg3/Bh5#, 1...Ke3 2.Qf1 hxg3/d3 3.Qf3/Qf2#, 1...Kd3 2.Qf1+ Ke3 3.Qf3#.

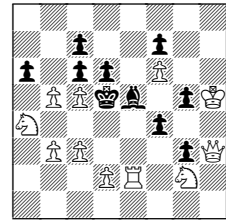
2nd Commendation - (Mike Prcic - M1656) White second moves turn into third moves. Elegant moves by Rook and both white Bishops. **Solution:** **1.Bf1!** (2.Bc4+[A] Ke4 3.Be6#), 1...bxa5 2.Rf4 (critical move) ~ 3.Bc4#[A], 1...b5 2.Bxa7 (critical move) ~ 3.Rd4#[B], 1...bxc2 2.Rd4+[B] Kc5 3.b4#.

3rd Commendation
L. Lyubashevsky, L. Makaronez,
V. Shevchenko & A. Zhuk



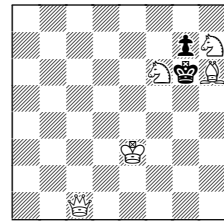
#3 (8+9)

4th Commendation
Leonid Makaronez
& Viktor Volchek



#3√ (11+10)

Sp. Commendation
Kenan Velikhanov



#3 (5+2)

3rd Commendation - (L.Ljubashevsky, L.Makaronez, V.Shevchenko & A.Zhuk - M1632) Castlings have been shown numerous times before. However, here, the economy is good, and wQ's moves are charming. **Solution:** **1.Rb7!** (2.Qxd7+ Kf8 3.Qxf7#), 1...0-0-0 2.Rf6 ~/Rd~ 3.Rc6/Qxd7#, 1...0-0 2.Qc3 ~ 3.Qg7#, 1...Rd8 2.Rxf7 ~/Rd~ 3.Qe3/Qxd7#, 1...f5 2.Qxf5 ~/0-0-0 3.Qxd7/Qc5#; 2...Rd8 duals 3.Qe5/Qf7/Qe4/Re1#.

4th Commendation - (Leonid Makaronez & Viktor Volchek - M1682) The weak key prevented higher placement. Otherwise, the change of moves' functions of four white pieces is very good. **Solution:** 1.d4? (2.Qd7[D] ~ 3.Qxf7#; 2...cxb5 3.Rxe5#) cxb5!; 1.b6? (zz), 1...cxb6 2.Qd7[D] Bxc3 3.Qxd6#, 1...a5!; **1.bxa6!** (2.Qf5[A] dxc5/g4/f3 3.Qxe5/Sxf4[C]/Se3#[B]), 1...dxc5 2.Qd7+[D] Bd6 3.Qxf7#, 1...Bxc3 2.dxc3 ~ 3.Qf5#[A]; 2...dxc5/g4 3.Qd7[D]/Sxf4#[C], 1...Bxf6 2.Qf5+[A] Be5 3.Qxf7#, 1...g4 2.Sxf4+[C] Bxf4 3.Qg2#, 1...f3 2.Se3+[B] Ke4 3.Qf5#[A].

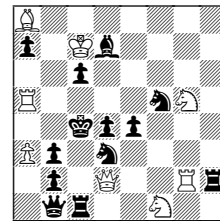
Special Commendation - (Kenan Velikhanov - M1628) Visserman theme. **Solution:** **1.Qc6!** gxh6 2.Qe8+ (threat) Kg7/Kf5 3.Qg8/Qe4#, 1...gxf6 2.Qxf6+ Kh5 /Kxh7 3.Qg5/Qg7#. (1...Kxh6 2.Qh1+ Kg6 3.Qh5#.)

Many thanks to Alexander for his timely report. Please send you comments to Rauf Aliovsadzade by April 1, 2021.



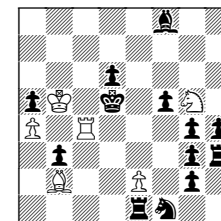
There were thirty compositions published in 2020. The quality was good with several excellent award winners. Judging four-movers together with long logical movers is always difficult because they are different in nature. The four-movers are highly thematic with many variations, while the logical moremovers are almost always linear in nature. I did my best to evaluate each entry on its own merits. Here is my decision.

1st-2nd Prize
Mikhail Marandiyuk



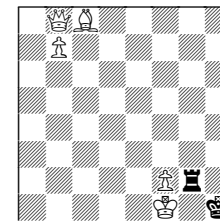
#4 (8+13)

1st-2nd Prize
Olivier Schmitt



#12 (6+13)

3rd Prize
Richard Becker



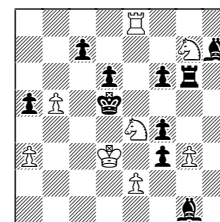
#5√ (5+2)

1st-2nd Prize - (Mikhail Marandiyuk - M1662) Cyclic changes, ABC-BCA-CAB, of second, third, and fourth move are enhanced with sacrifices of thematic pieces on the second move. **Solution:** **1.Sf7!** (2.Qb4+[A] Sxb4 3.Se5+[B] Kc3 4.Rc5#[C]), 1...c5 2.Se5+[B] Sxe5 3.Rxc5+[C] Kxc5 4.Qb4#[A], 1...Be6 2.Rc5+[C] Sxc5 3.Qb4+[A] Kd3 4.Se5#[B]; 3...Kd5 Bxc6#; 2...Kxc5 3.Qa5+ Kc4 4.Sd2#, 1...Rc3 2.Qxd3+ Rxd3 3.Se5+ Kc3 4.Rc5#, 1...Sc5 2.Rxc5+ Kxc5 3.Qa5+ Kc4 4.Se5#.

1st-2nd Prize - (Olivier Schmitt - M1692) A complex problem. The immediate 1.Bf6? (2.Rd4#) is defeated by 1...g1Q! After 1.Rd4+! Ke5 the removal of Pg4 becomes clear only later in the variation 5.Rc3 Rd1? Rf3!. Only after both black Pawns are removed (Pg4 and Pg2) can White resume the original plan. A hard nut to crack. **Solution:** **1.Rd4+!** Ke5 2.Rxg4+ Kd5 3.Rd4+ Ke5 4.Rc4+ Kd5 5.Rc3 g1Q (5...Rd1 6.Rf3!; 5...Bg7 6.Rd3+ Bd4 7.Bxd4 Rd1 8.Rxd1) 6.Rd3+ Qd4 7.Rxd4+ Ke5 8.Rc4+ Kd5 9.Bf6 Rd1 10.Rf4 Se3 11.Rxf5+ Sxf5 12.e4#.

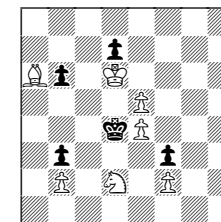
3rd Prize - (Richard Becker - M1636) Sacrificing the white Queen and then a follow-up sacrifice of the white Bishop is not only unexpected but spectacular. Notice that 2.Bh3 is a quiet move. The new white Queen rises from ashes (Phoenix theme) to avenge the old monarch. **Solution:** 1.Qa8? Rg1+ 2.Ke2 Re1+ 3.Kxe1 Kg1! 4.b8Q stalemate. **1.Qh2+!** Rxh2 2.Bh3!! (2.b8Q? Rxf2+! 3.Kxf2 stalemate) Rxh3 3.b8Q Ra3 4.Qh8+ Rh3 5.Qxh3#; 3...Rh4 4.Qg3 Rg4/Rh2 5.Qh3/Qg1#; 3...Rh2 4.Qb7/Qa8+ Rg2 5.Qxg2#; 2...Rxf2+ 3.Kxf2 Kh2 4.b8Q+ Kh1/Kxh3 5.Bg2/Qg3#.

4th Prize
Olivier Schmitt



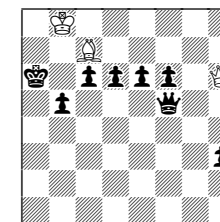
#11√ (8+10)

1st Honorable Mention
Mihail Croiter &
Jokim van den Bos



#6 (7+5)

2nd Honorable Mention
Ferhat Karmil



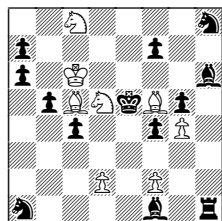
#14 (3+8)

4th Prize - (Olivier Schmitt - M1669) Classic Olivier with a Main Plan and good pendulum movement to close black Bishop's line and then return to the Main Plan. Solution: 1.Sh5? Be3!; **1.Se6!** Ke5 2.Sd4+ Kd5 3.Sc3+ Kc5 4.Sa4+ Kd5 5.e4+ fxe4 e.p. 6.Sc3+ Kc5 7.Se4+ Kd5 8.Se6 Ke5 9.Sg7+ Kd5 10.Sh5 Rg4/~ 11.Shxf6/Sf4#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Mihail Croiter & Jokim van den Bos - M1648) Both sides are in Zugzwang. The hesitating moves by the white Bishop break the white Zugzwang. Notice how two black Pawns self-block at the right time. The white Bishop returns home, and after white King's withdrawing move, the Knight mates. A little gem! Solution: **1.Bc4!** zz b5 2.Bf1 zz b4 3.e6 dxe6 4.Ba6 e5 5.Kc7 Kc5 6.Sxb3#.

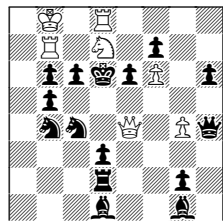
2nd Honorable Mention - (Ferhat Karmil - M1693) A complex maneuvering by the white Queen forcing Black to move its Pawns, thus exposing its King. The self-block by the black Queen makes this award-winner better. Solution: 1.Qe3? Qc5!; 1.Qd2? b4!; **1.Qc1!** Qe4 2.Qa3+ Qa4 3.Qe3 c5 4.Qf3 d5 5.Qxf6 Qg4 6.Qa1+ Qa4 7.Qe5 b4 8.Qxe6+ Kb5 9.Qe2+ c4 10.Qe8+ Kc5 11.Qe3+ d4 12.Qe5+ Kc6 13.Qd6+ Kb5 14.Qb6#.

3rd Honorable Mention
Olivier Schmitt



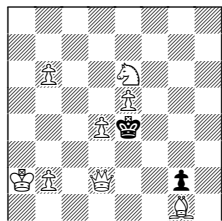
#7√ (8+13)

4th Honorable Mention
Aleksandr Pankratyev



#4 (7+15)

Commendation
Petrašin Petrašinović



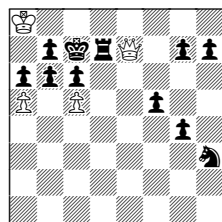
#4 (8+2)

3rd Honorable Mention - (Olivier Schmitt - M1649) After the failed try (1.Sf6? Bg2+!), White performs preliminary maneuvers in order to close two lines before restoring the Main Plan. Solution: 1.Sf6? Bg2+!; **1.Bd6+!** Kd4 2.Bb4 Rh3 3.f3 Rxf3 4.Bc5+ Ke5 5.d4+! (5.Sf6? Rd3!) 5...cxd3 e.p. 6.Sf6 Kxf6/~ 7.Bd4/Sd7#.

4th Honorable Mention - (Aleksandr Pankratyev - M1663) Siers battery is combined with four white Queen sacrifices. Solution: **1.Kc8!** (2.Sb8+ Kc5 3.Qxc6+ Sxc6 4.Sa6#), 1...Bf3 2.Sxb6+ Kc5 3.Qxc4+ bxc4 4.Sa4#, 1...Ra2 2.Se5+ Kc5 3.Qxc6+ Sxc6 4.Sxd3#, 1...Qxf6 2.Sxf6+ Kc5 3.Qd4+ Bxd4 4.Se4#.

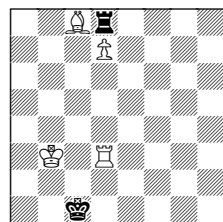
Commendations are not rated.

Commendation
Aleksy Oganesyanyan



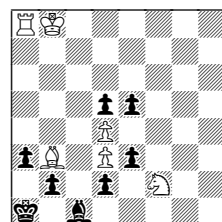
#14 (4+11)

Commendation
Richard Becker



#4 (4+2)

Commendation
Boško Milošeski



#14 (6+8)

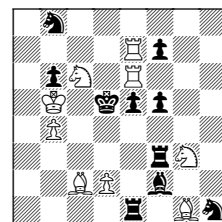
Commendation - (Petrašin Petrašinović - M1634) Black King's cross. Solution: **1.Qh6!** Kd3 2.Qe3+ Kc2 3.Qe2+ Kc1 4.Be3#, 1...Kd5 2.Sc5 Kc4 3.Qc6 Kb4 4.Qa4#, 1...Kf5 2.Qf6+ Ke4 3.Sc5+ Kd5 4.Qe6#; 2...Kg4 3.Qf4+ Kh5/Kh3 4.Qg5/Sg5#, 1...Kf3 2.Qe3+ Kg4 3.Qf4+ Kh5/Kh3 4.Qg5/Sg5#.

Commendation - (Aleksy Oganesyanyan - M1639) The Grab Theme has been extended perhaps too far, but the try 1.axb6? saves the day. Solution: **1.cxb6+!** (not 1.axb6?) Kc8 2.Qf8+ Rd8 3.Qxf5+ Rd7 4.Qf8+ Rd8 5.Qxg7 Rd7 6.Qg8+ Rd8 7.Qxg4+ Rd7 8.Qg8+ Rd8 9.Qxh7 Rd7 10.Qh8+ Rd8 11.Qxh3+ Rd7 12.Qf5 c5 13.Qxc5+ Kd8/Rc7 14.Qf8/Qxc7#.

Commendation - (Richard Becker - M1646) A Good key (1.Ba6? Rb8+!) is followed by Knight and Queen promotions. Solution: **1.Bb7!** Rb8 2.d8S! Rxb7+ 3.Sxb7 Kb1 4.Rd1#, 1...Rf8 2.d8Q! Rxd8 (2...Rf1 3.Qd4) 3.Rxd8 Kb1 4.Rd1#.

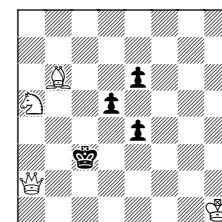
Commendation - (Boško Milošeski - M1651) The technique is well-known, but the two switchbacks by the white Rook are refreshing. Solution: **1.Rxa3+!** Kb1 2.Sd1 exd4 3.Ra4 e2 4.Rxd4 exd1Q 5.Bxd1 Ka2 6.Ra4+ Kb1 7.Ra8 d4 8.Ka7 Ka2 9.Kb6+ Kb1 10.Ka5 Ka1 11.Kb4+ Kb1 12.Ka3 Ka1 13.Kb3+ Kb1 14.Bc2#.

Commendation
Rainer Ehlers†
& Carsten Ehlers



#4 (9+10)

Commendation
Abdelaziz Onkoud



#4 (4+4)

Commendation - (Rainer Ehlers† & Carsten Ehlers - M1661) A combination of Nowotny, Plachutta and Bristol. Solution: **1.Rf6!** ~ 2.Rd7+ Sxd7 3.Se7+ Kd4 4.Rd6#, 1...Bc5 2.Be3! Nowotny (3.Rxe5/Bb3#) R1xe3 3.Bb3+ Rxb3 4.Rxe5# Plachutta; 2...R3xe3 3.Rxe5+ Rxe5 4.Bb3#. Also, B/W Bristol.

Commendation - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - M1685) A near miniature with some good self-blocks. Solution: **1.Sc6!** (zz), 1...Kd3 2.Sb4+ Kc3 3.Bc5 ~ 4.Qc2#, 1...e3 2.Sd4 e2 3.Qc2+ Kb4 4.Qb3#, 1...d4 2.Ba5+ Kd3 3.Se5+ Ke3 4.Qd2#, 1...e5 2.Bc5 d4 3.Sb4 d3/~ 4.Sd5/Qc3#.

Please send comments to Richard Becker before April 1, 2021.

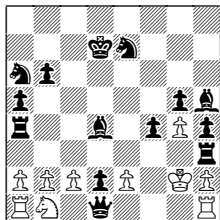
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Subscription rates for 2021 remain the same. U.S. subscribers \$40 per year. Other countries \$45 or €40. Good Companions Fellow \$60 or €55. Make your checks (drawn on U.S. banks only) or postal and international money orders payable to: Mike Prcic, 2613 Northshore Lane, Westlake Village, CA 91361-3318. We also accept, and encourage, PayPal payments (add 5% for processing charges) to the account: Tuzlak@aol.com.

StrateGems 2019 Proof Games Award - Correction

Following the cook report in SG92, pg.196, Unto Heinonen sent a correction to his P0483.

3rd Prize
Unto Heinonen



PG 23 (10+14)

Solution: 1.d4 h6 2.Bg5 hxg5 3.Sf3 Rh3 4.Sh4 gxh4 5.d5 g5 6.d6 Bg7 7.dxc7 d5 8.f4 Bg4 9.c8S Bh5 10.Sb6 axb6 11.g4 Ra4 12.Bg2 Sa6 13.Be4 dxe4 14.Kf1 e3 15.Qe1 Qd1 16.f5 Bd4 17.f6 Kd7 18.fxe7 f5 19.e8R f4 20.Re5 Se7 21.Ra5 bxa5 22.Kg2 b6 23.Qd2 exd2.

The judge, Hans Gruber, accepted the replacement of the 3rd Prize and the award is final.

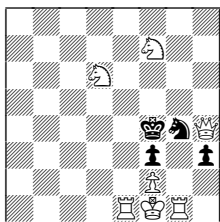
StrateGems 2019 Retros Award - Correction

In SG92, pg.194, the Prize and Honorable Mention were reported cooked. The authors Günther Weeth & Klaus Wenda corrected only the latter, by replacing the wPf2 with a bRg1. The judge, Hans Gruber, removed the Prize from the award and retained the Honorable Mention. The award is final.

Recently Honored US Compositions

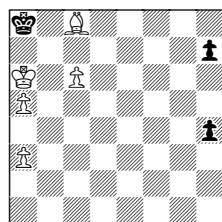
All solutions and comments have been obtained from magazines, which originally published the awards, or from awarded composers.

N^o1 Steven B. Dowd
1st Honorable Mention
Tehtävienekka 2014-2015



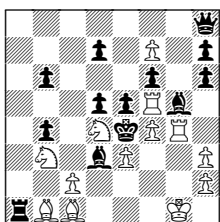
s#8* (7+4)

N^o2 R.Becker & P.Arestov
Comm., UAPA 5th ITT 2017
Section for wins



Win (5+4)

N^o3 Eugene Rosner
Commendation
Israel Ring Tourney 2015



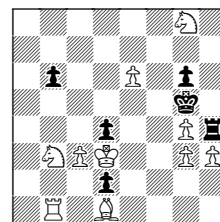
#2 Alsatian Circe (13+13)

N^o1 1...h2 2.Qxh2+ Sxh2#; **1.Se5!** h2 2.Qxh2+! Kg5 3.Qh8 Kf4 4.Sd3+ Kg5 5.Re8 Kg6 6.Se1 Kg5 7.Rg8+ Kf4 8.Qh2+ Sxh2#. In the set, the white Rook is self-blocking the e1-square, while the white Knight is guarding the g5-square. In the play, their roles are reversed.

N^o2 1.c7! Rf6+ 2.Kb5 Rf8 3.Bh3 Kb7 4.c8Q+ Rxc8 5.a6+ Kc7 6.a7 Ra8 7.Ka6 Rg8 8.Bf5 Re8 9.a4 h6 10.a5 h5 11.Bh3 Rg8 12.Bg2 Rg6+ 13.Kb5 Rg5+ 14.Kb4 Rg4+ 15.Kc3 Rg3+ 16.Kd4 Rg4+ 17.Ke3 Rg3+ 18.Kf4 Rg4+ 19.Kf5 Rg8 20.Bd5! h3 21.Ke4 h2 (21...Rd8 22.Kf3! +-) 22.Kd4 Rd8 23.a8Q +-.

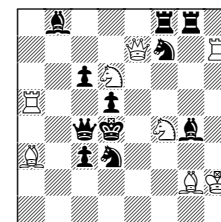
N^o3 **1.Kh1!** [2.Sc5#; 2...bxc5(Sg1)? is not possible], 1...Ra5 2.Rxe5(Pe7)#; 2...fxe5(Ra1)? is not possible, 1...Qf8 2.fxg5# (no rebirth on f8), 1...Qc8 2.cxd3# (no rebirth on c8).

N^o4 Eugene Rosner
2nd Honorable Mention
Pat A Mat 2016



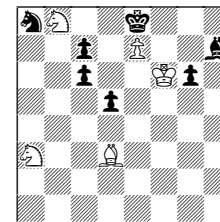
#2 Circe equipollents (10+6)

N^o5 Rauf Aliovsadzade
1st Honorable Mention
ChessStar 2017



#3√. (8+11)

N^o6 A.Tsaplin & R.Aliovsadzade
1st Commendation
ChessStar 2017



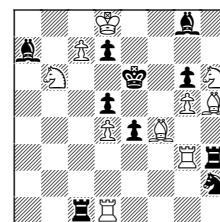
#3 (5+7)

N^o4 1.Sb~/Sa1/Sa5? (2.Rb5#[A]), 1...dxc3(Pb2)!, 1.Sxd4(Pf5)!? {2.Sf3#[B] (2.Rb5?)}, 1...fxg4 2.Rb5#[A], 1...Rxxh3(Ph2)!, **1.Sxd2(Pf1=R!)!** {2.Se4#[C] (2.Rb5?, Sf3?)}, 1...Rxd1 2.Rb5#[A], 1...Rf3+/Re1 2.S(x)f3#[B], 1...Rf4 2.gxf4(Re5)# [2...Kxf4(Pe3)?]. Complete tertiary threat correction with white correction in a light setting. Equipollent Circe Sushkov effects. The generous key gives Black plenty of counter-play.

N^o5 1.Sf5+? Bxf5! 2.Se2#?; 1.Se2+? Bxe2! 2.Sf5#?; **1.Rh3!** (2.Qe3#), 1...Sfe5 2.Sf5+! (2.Se2+?) Bxf5 3.Se2#; 2...Rxf5 3.Se6#, 1...Sde5 2.Se2+! (2.Sf5+?) Bxe2 3.Sf5#; 2...Qxe2 3.Bc5#, (1...Re8 2.Rxd3+ Qxd3 3.Bc5#, 1...Be6 2.Qf6+ Sde5/Sfe5 3.Sxe6/Se2, 1...c2 2.Bb2+ Sxb2/Qc3 3.Qe3#). Petkov-2 theme.

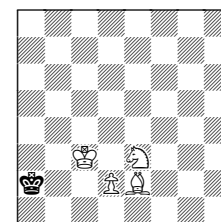
N^o6 **1.Sb5!** (zz), 1...Bg8 2.Bxg6+ Bf7 3.Bxf7#, 1...cxb5 2.Bxb5+ c6 3.Bxc6#, 1...c5 2.Sd6+ cxd6 3.Bb5#, 1...g5 2.Bxh7 ~ 3.Bg6#, 1...d4 2.Be4 ~/Sb6 3.Bxc6/Sxc7#.

N^o7 Rauf Aliovsadzade
2nd Commendation
ChessStar 2017



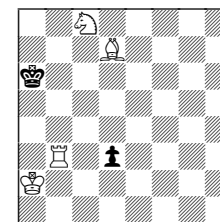
#3√. (10+10)

N^o8 Rauf Aliovsadzade
Prize
CirtDan 2018



#7 (4+1)

N^o9 M.Chernyavskiy & R.Aliovsadzade, 2nd H.M.
International Chess Day 2018



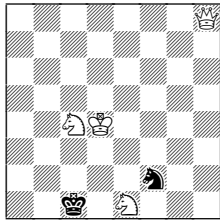
#3√. (4+2)

N^o7 1.Sxd7?[A] Bc5!; 1.Bxg6?[B] Rxh6!; **1.Re3!** (2.Rxe4+ dxe4 3.d5#), 1...Rxd1 2.Sxd7[A] ~/Bc5 3.Sf8/Sxc5#, 1...Rxe3 2.Bxg6[B] ~/Bh7 3.Bf5/Bf7#.

N^o8 **1.Bc4+!** Ka3 2.Bd5 Ka4 3.Sc4 Kb5 4.Bb7 Kc5 5.d3! (5.d4?) Kb5 6.d4 Ka4 7.Bc6#, 1...Ka1 2.d4! (2.d3?) 3.d5 4.d6 5.d7 6.d8Q 7.Qd1#. Zalokotsky theme. Excelsior. (This was a tourney for Tanagras.)

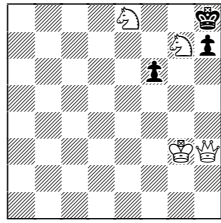
N^o9 1.Ka3? (2.Ka4 & 3.Rb6#), 1...Ka5 2.Rb7 & 3.Ra7#, 1...d2!; 1.Rb4? (2.Bc6 & 3.Ra4#) d2!; **1.Se7!** d2 2.Sc6 (threat) & 3.Bc8#, 1...Ka7 2.Sc6+ Ka8 3.Rb8#; 2...Ka6 3.Bc8#, 1...Ka5 2.Sc6+ Ka4 3.Rb4#. Lincoln theme with change of play.

N°10 R.Aliovsadzade & M.Chernyavskiy, 1st H.M. *Problemist of Ukraine* 23rd TT '18



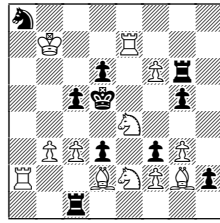
#3*√. (4+2)

N°11 Rauf Aliovsadzade 12th Prize, *Problemist of Ukraine* 23rd TT 2018



#3 (4+3)

N°12 R.Aliovsadzade & P.Novitsky, 3rd Prize N.Zelepukin-100 MT 2018



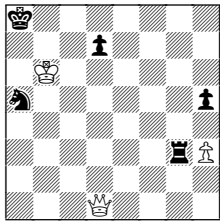
#2*√. (12+10)

N°10 1...Sd3 2.Kxd3 ~ 3.Qa1#; 1.Qa8? Kd1!, 1.Qf8? S~!: **1.Qh2!** Kd1 2.Qxf2 Kc1 3.Qc2#.

N°11 **1.Qd7!** (2.Se6/Sf5/Sh5), 1...Kg8 2.Se6, 1...f5 2.Sxf5, 1...h5 2.Sxh5 (3.Qg7# throughout). Kuzhaev theme.

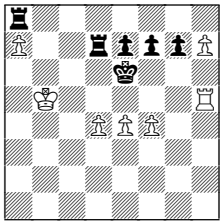
N°12 1...fxe2 2.Sxg5#[A], 1...Rc~ 2.c4#, 1...Rxc3 2.S4xc3#; 1.Sxg5?[A] (2.Bxf3[B]/Sf4# [C]), 1...c4 2.Ra5#, 1...Rxf6!; 1.Bxf3?[B] (2.Sxg5#[A]), 1...g4 2.Sf4#[C], 1...Rxf6 2.Sxf6#, 1...h1Q!; **1.Bxg5!** (2.Sf4# [C]), 1...dxe2 2.Rd2#, 1...fxe2 2.Sd2#. Urania, Baltic, change of mates and moves' functions.

N°13 Richard Becker Commendation *Pat a Mat* 2014-2015



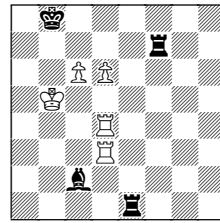
#12 (3+5)

N°14 Richard Becker, Comm. UAPA 3rd ITT 2016 Section for pawn mates



Win (7+6)

N°15 Richard Becker Commendation Konkord 2016



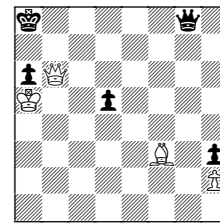
Win (5+4)

N°13 1.Qh1+? Kb8!, 1.Qxd7? Rb3+! 2.Ka6 Sc6! 3.Qxc6+ Kb8 4.Qe6 Rb1!; **1.Qd5+!** Sc6 2.Qf7 h4 3.Qe8+ Sb8 4.Qe4+ Sc6 5.Qa4+ Kb8 6.Qf4+ Ka8 7.Qf7 zz Rc3 8.Qg8+ Sb8 9.Qa2+ Ra3 10.Qxa3+ Sa6 11.Qxa6+ Kb8 12.Qb7#.

N°14 1.f5+? Kd6 2.h8Q Rb7+!; **1.h8Q! Rxb8 2.f5+ Kd6** (2...Kf5 3.e5#) **3.Rxb8 Rxa7 4.Kb6 Rd7 5.Re8! zz e6 6.fxe6 fxe6 7.d5 exd5 8.e5#**. Two model mates by pawns.

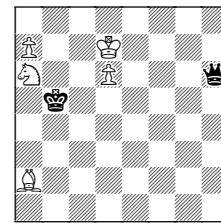
N°15 1.Ra3? Rb1+ 2.Kc5 Rf5+ 3.Kc4 Rf8 4.Kc3 Bf5 5.Rda4 Rc1+ 6.Kd4 (6.Kb2 Rc2+ 7.Ka1 Rc1+ 8.Kb2 Rc2+ 9.Kb3 Rxc6 10.Ra8+ Kb7 11.Rxf8 Be6+ =) 6...Rd1+ 7.Ke5 Re1+ 8.Kd4 Rd1+ 9.Kc5 Rc1+ 10.Kb5 Rb1+ 11.Kc5 Rc1+ 12.Kd5 Rd1+ 13.Rd4 Be6+ =; **1.Rc3! Rb1+ 2.Kc4** (2.Kc5? Rf5+ 3.Kc4 Ba4 4.d7 Bb5#) **2...Bd1 3.d7 Rf8 4.d8Q+ Rxd8 5.Rxd8+ Kc7 6.Rh8!** [6.Rg8? Kxc6! 7.Rg1 Bc2 8.Kd4+ Kd6 =; 6.Rf8? Ba4! 7.Kc5 Rb5+ 8.Kd4 Rb4+ 9.Ke3 (9.Kd5 Rb5+ 10.Ke6 Bb3+ 11.Kf6 Bb5 =) 9...Rb3 10.Rf7+ Kc8 11.Rxb3 Bxb3 12.Rf6 Kc7 13.Kd4 Kb6 =] **6...Kxc6 7.Rh1 Kc7 8.Rg1 Kc6 9.Rf1 Kc7 10.Kd3+ Kd6 11.Kd2 Bc2 12.Rf6+ Ke5 13.Kxc2 +.**

N°16 Richard Becker Honorable Mention *ChessStar.com* 2016



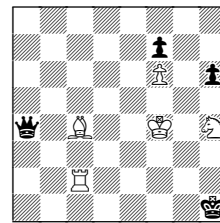
#6 (4+5)

N°17 Richard Becker 2nd Commendation *EG-50 AT* 2016



Win (5+2)

N°18 Richard Becker 1st Prize *Pat a Mat* 2016-2017



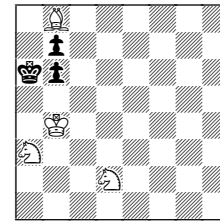
#12 (5+3)

N°16 1.Bh1? Qf7! 2.Kxa6 Qf1+; **1.Qd6!** Ka7 2.Qc7+ (2.Bxd5? Qd8+! 3.Qxd8 stalemate) 2...Ka8 3.Qb6 zz Qf7 4.Kxa6 Qd7 5.Bxd5+ Qxd5/Qc6/Qb7+ 6.Qa7/Bxc6/Qxb7#; 3...Qe6 4.Qxe6 Kb7 5.Qb6+ Kc8/ Ka8 6.Bg4/Bxd5#, 1...Kb7 2.Bxd5+ Qxd5 3.Qxd5+ Kc8 4.Kb6 a5 5.Qd6 a4 6.Qc7#.

N°17 1.a8Q? Qg7+! 2.Ke8 Qe5+ 3.Kd7 Qg7+ 4.Kc8 Qf8+ perpetual check. 1.Sc7+? Kb6 2.a8S+ Ka7 =; **1.Bd5! Qg7+** (1...Kb6 2.a8Q! +) **2.Kc8 Qxa7** (2...Kb6 3.a8S+! +) **3.Sc7+ Kb6 4.Ba8! Qa3 5.d7 Qh3 6.Bd5 Qf5 7.Ba2! Qe4 8.Sd5+ Kc6 9.d8Q Qf5+ 10.Kb8 +.** Play of wB to a8 and return to a2.

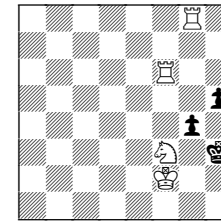
N°18 1.Rc1+? Kh2! zz; **1.Rc3!** Kh2 2.Rc1 zz h5 3.Sf3+ Kg2 4.Rg1+ Kf2 5.Rf1+ Kg2 6.Sh4+ Kh2 7.Rc1 zz Qc6 8.Sf3+ Qxf3+ 9.Kxf3 h4 10.Bf1 h3 11.Bxh3 Kxh3 12.Rh1#.

N°19 Rauf Aliovsadzade 2nd Prize (Miniature section) *Şahmat bəstəçiliyi-15 JT '18*



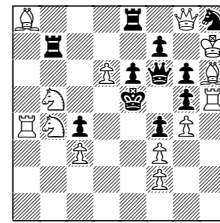
#6√ (4+3)

N°20 Rauf Aliovsadzade 3rd Comm. (Miniature section) *Şahmat bəstəçiliyi-15 JT '18*



#2√. (4+3)

N°21 R.Aliovsadzade & M.Chernyavskiy, 1st Prize *Şahmat bəstəçiliyi-15 JT '18*



#3√. (13+11)

N°19 1.Kc4? (zz), 1...Ka5 2.Sb3+ Ka6 3.Sc2 b5+ 4.Kc5 b6+ 5.Kc6 b4 6.Sxb4#, 1...b5+!; **1.Sb3!** (zz), 1...b5 2.Kc5 b4 3.Sc4 b5 4.Kc6 bxc4 5.Sc5+ Ka5 6.Bc7#. Change of play.

N°20 1.Rxg4? (2.Rh4/Rg3#), 1...hxg4 2.Rh6#, 1...Kxg4!; 1.Rf5? (2.Rxh5#), h4!; **1.Rh6!** (2.Rxh5#), 1...h4 2.Rxh4#, 1...g3+ 2.Rxg3#. Pseudo-Rudenko.

N°21 1.Bg7? (2.Rxg5#), 1...gxh5 2.Bxf6+ Kxf6 3.Qg7#, 1...Qxg7+ 2.Qxg7+ f6 3.Rxg5#, 1...Rxb5!; 1.Qg7? (2.Rxg5#), 1...gxh5 2.Qxf6+ Kxf6 3.Bg7#, 1...Qxg7+ 2.Bxg7+ f6 3.Rxg5#, 1...Rxb5!; **1.Bxg5!** (2.Bxf6+[A] Kxf6 3.Qg7#[B]; 2.Sd3+[C] cxd3 3.Bxf4#[D] (2...Kd5 3.Bxb7#), 1...Qg7+ 2.Qxg7+[B] f6 3.Bxf6#[A], 1...Rxb5 2.Bxf4+[D] Kxf4 3.Sd3#[C], (1...Qxg5 2.Qg7+ f6 3.Rxg5#).

Problems published in this section are eligible for the year 2021 competition. Please send your originals to the individual editors. Solvers' comments are due by 5/15/2021 and should be sent to the Section Editor. Comments are preferred by email, but those sent by regular mail will be accepted as well.

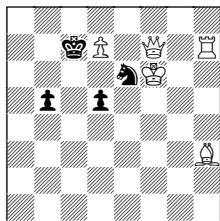
Notice to composers: It is in your interest to describe the content of your original as best as you can. It will help the judge and improve your chances of receiving an award.

TWOMOVERS

Editor: **Eugene Rosner**, Judge: **Kabe Moen**

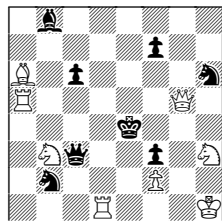
We start the year 2021 with three traditional twomovers. What task is shown in **T1041**? Be sure to have paper and pencil handy to truly enjoy and appreciate Marjan's **T1042**. We welcome back Alex Markevitch with his **T1043**. **T1044** is an excellent rendition of the relatively new Einat theme. The key piece in **T1045** might be easy to spot, but where does it go? Finally, at the heart of **T1046**, note how mates *not* threatened return as variations.

T1041 Sergey I. Tkachenko
Ukraine



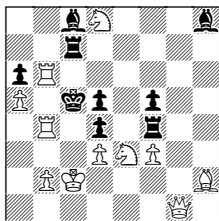
#2 (5+4)

T1042 Marjan Kovačević
Serbia



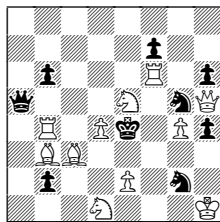
#2 (8+8)

T1043 Alex Markevitch
Brookton, MA



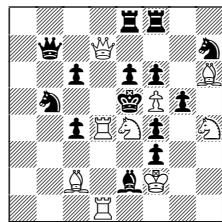
#2 (11+9)

T1044 Anatoly Vasilenko
Ukraine



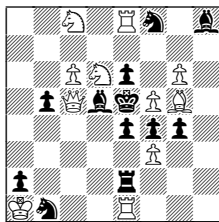
#2√... (11+9)

T1045 David Shire
England



#2√.. (9+14)

T1046 Gerard Doukhan
France



#2√.. (11+12)

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

T1029 (Doukhan) 1...Se6[b] 2.Rxe6#, 1...Rc7[a] 2.Bxc7#, 1...Rd2[c] 2.Rxd2[A]/Qxd2#[C]; 1.Rd2[A]? (2.Bc5#[B], 2.Sf5?) 1...Rxd2[c] 2.Qxd2[C]#, 1...Se6[b] 2.Sf5#[D], 1...Rd3 2.Rxd3#, 1...Rd4 2.Rxd4#, 1...c5!; **1.Qd2[C]!** (2.Sf5#[D], 2.Bc5?), 1...Rxd2[c] 2.Rxd2#[A], 1...Rc7[a] 2.Bc5#[B], 1...Rd3 2.Qxd3#, 1...Rd4 2 Qxd4#. *Sushkov, Pseudo-Lender: Combination of Salazar and pseudo-LeGrand themes. A festival of changed mates and no white pawns! (A), Elegant problem, at first I tried 1.Re7?!(WS).*

T1030 (Permyakov/Derevchuk) 1...Sf3[a] 2.Qxd3#; 1.Sg2? (2.Sd2[A]/Qf5#[B]) Sf3[a]!; 1.Qh3? (2.Sd2#[A]), 1...Sf3[a] 2.Qf5#[B], 1...Sxe3[b] 2.Qxe3#, 1...b1S!; 1.Sxd3? (2.Qf5#[B]), 1...Bf4[c] 2.Sc5#, 1...f5[d]!; 1.Sh3! (2.Qf5#[B]), 1...Sf3[a] 2.Sf2#, 1...Sxe3[b] 2.Sd2#[A], 1...Bf4[c] 2.Qxf4#, 1...f5[d] 2.Sg5#, 1...Sxd4+ 2.Rxd4#. *Barnes, Dombrovskis (cross-closed form), Dombrovskis paradox twice (in relation to double-threat), pseudo-LeGrand, Kharkov-2 theme (1...Sf3) (A), Changed mates. Good tries are 1.Qh3, 1.Sxd3 and 1.Sg2. (WS)*

T1031 (Moen) 1.Rf7? (2.Sfd6#), 1...d2/Kxe4 2.Rc3/Rc4#, 1...Ra7!; **1.Rf6!** (2.Sfd6#), 1...d2/Kxe4/Bxg3/Rxe4/Bd2 2.Rb3/Rb4/Sxg3/Rxe4/Bd2#. *Masked half-battery with battery creation and exchange of functions between two rooks. Each rook acts as a lead and rear battery piece between phases. BRR is common, but the addition of a wS on the battery line is rare (A), More difficult than it looks. Extensive battery play (WS).*

T1032 (Guida) 1.Rxd3[A]? (2.Sf2#[B]), 1...Bxg4/Sxe3 2.Rf7[C]/Rd4#[D], 1...gxf4!; **1.Rf7[C]!** (2.Rd4#[D]), 1...Bxg4/Sxe3/Bxd5 2.Rxd3[A]/Sf2[B]/Bxd5#. *More BRR! The difficult Lender theme (E).*

T1033 (Murashev) 1...Sg1 2.Qxc3#[A]; 1...Sf4! 2.Qxc3+? Qxc3! (unpin), 1...fxg4 2.Sd3#[B], 1...f4! 2.Sd3+? Qxd3! (unpin); 1.Re1? (2.Qxc3#[A]) f4[a]! 2.Sd3+? Qxd3! (unpin); 1.Bxf5? (2.Sd3#[B]), 1...Sxf5+ 2.Rxf5#[C], 1...bxc4 2.Qxb8#, 1...Sf4[b]! 2.Qxc3+? Qxc3! (unpin), 1.cxb5? (2.Sd3#[B]), 1...f4(a) 2.Qe4# 1...Sf4[b] 2.Qd4#, 1...Bd6!; **1.Rf3!** (2.Re3#), 1...f4[a] 2.Sd3#[B], 1...Sf4[b] 2.Qxc3#[A], 1...Sxg4 2.Rxf5#[C]. *New syntheses of the themes: Hannelius (thematic threats on the same square), Dombrovski's effect, Ventira (anticipatory line-closing of unpinned black piece - Qg3). Changed mates and transferred mates (A), Many themes, hard to solve, pretty problem (WS).*

T1034 (Labai/Svitek) **1.Kc3!** (2.Qc4#), 1...Bd2+ 2.Kxd2#, 1...Bb2+ 2.Kxb2#, 1...Rxb3+ 2.Kxb3#, 1...axb4+ 2.Kxb4#, 1...exd4+ 2.Kxd4#, 1...Sd5+ 2.exd5#, 1...Sxe4+ 2.Qxe4#, 1...Sb5+ 2.Qxb5#, 1...Sd7 2.Rc7#, 1...Rh3 2.Rc7#. *A classical problem, 8 checks against the king, a good task! (WS).*

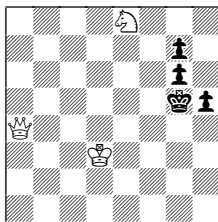
THREEMOVERS

Editor: **Rauf Aliovsadzade**, Judge: **Sergey Bilyk**

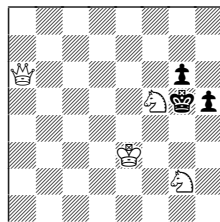
It is nice to have N.Kharchishin and M.Keller back! Both of Michael's originals have logical flavor.

Nikolay is known as a collector of chess-related aphorisms. He has also written some of his own. Here are some examples: Love triangle: He, she and chess; Silent moves sometimes cause earthquakes; In chess composition the impossible becomes the possible.

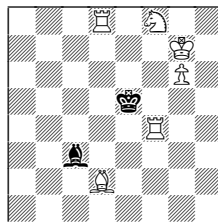
The lightweights **M1696**, **M1697** and **M1699** have interesting variations. The contribution from Israel had diverse play.

M1694 Vladimir Kozhakin
Russia

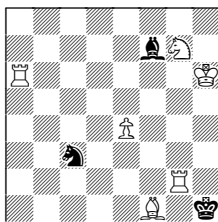
#3√ (3+4)

M1695 Vladimir Kozhakin
Russia

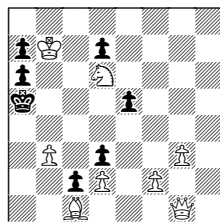
#3√ (4+3)

M1696 Mikhail Croitor
Moldova

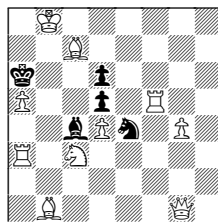
#3 (6+2)

M1697 Mykola Cherniavskiy
Ukraine

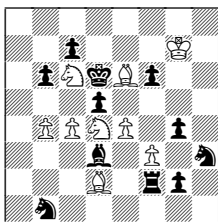
#3+√ (6+3)

M1698 Nikolay Kharchishin
Russia

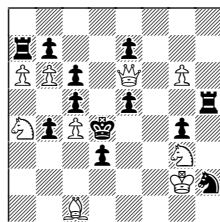
#3√ (8+7)

M1699 Alexander Melnichuk
& Alexander Sygurov
Russia

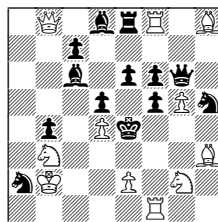
#3 (10+5)

M1700 Michael Keller
Germany

#3√ (9+11)

M1701 Leonid Lyubashevsky
& Leonid Makaronez
Israel

#3 (9+12)

M1702 Michael Keller
Germany

#3√ (11+13)

M1655 (Petrašinić) 1.Ra8? (2.Ra3+ Kd4/Kf4 3.Qc4/Sf7#), 1...exf3 2.Ra4 ~ 3.Bb6#, 1...Kf4!; 1.f7? (zz), 1...Kf4 2.Qh2+ Ke3/Kg5 3.Bb6/Bd8#, 1...Kd4!; 1.Sc6? (zz), 1...Kd3 2.Rxe4 Kc3 3.Re3#, 1...Kxf3!; **1.Re6!** (zz), 1...exf3 2.Sxf3+ Kd3/Kxf3 3.Qb3/Qe2#, 1...Kd4 2.Rd6+ Ke3/Kc3/Kc5/Kxe5 3.Qd2/Ba5/Qc4/Qh2#, 1...Kf4 2.Qh2+ Ke3/Kg5 3.Bb6/f4#. *A starflight in the main variation. A lovely pawn mate after 1...Kf4 2.Qh2+ (WS).*

M1656 (Prcic) **1.Bf1!** (2.Bc4+[A] Ke4 3.Be6#), 1...bxc2 2.Rd4+[B] Kc5 3.b4#, 1...bxa5 2.Rf4! ~ 3.Bc4#[A], 1...b5 2.Bxa7! ~ 3.Rd4#[B]. *White's second moves show up as third ones. Two critical quiet moves (A), Remarkable second quiet moves (WS).*

M1657 (Gockel/Doukhan) 1.gxf3[A]? (2.Bxc4#[C]) Qxc5![a]; 1.Sxf3[B]? (2.Sf4#[D]) Qxe5![b]; **1.Ra4!** (2.Ra3+ c3 3.Rxc3#), 1...Qxc5[a] 2.Sf4[D]+ Kd4 3.Sxf3#[B], 1...Qxe5[b] 2.Bxc4[C]+ Ke4 3.gxf3#[A], 1...Qa7 2.Sxf3[B] (3.Sf4#[D]) Bxe5 3.Sxe5#. *Hannelius, deferred Banny, reciprocation of White's 2nd & 3rd moves after 1...Qxc5 & 1...Qa7 (A), Compare with: Gérard Doukhan, PZSzach, May, 2020. w: Kd2 Ra4 Ba1-c6 Sd4-g5 Pa6-b4-b6-d6-e2-f2-f4 (13) ,b: Kc4 Rb8 Bc7-g8 Sg7 Pe7-g4-g6 (8),#3, 1.e4?[A] (2.Bb5#[C]) Rxb6![a]; 1.Se4?[B] (2.b5#[D]) Bxd6![b]; **1.Kc1!** (2.Se4 ~ 3.b5/Sd2#), 1...Rxb6[a] 2.b5+[D] Kc5 3.Se4#[B], 1...Bxd6[b] 2.Bb5+[C] Kd5 3.e4#[A] (E), Easy key and threat, but good variations and thematic tries (WS).*

M1658 (Gorbatenko) **1.Rd6!** (2.d3+[A] cxd3 3.Rxd4#[B]), 1...Be6 2.Rxd4+[B] Kxd4 3.Qxe3#[C], 1...Sf3 2.Qxe3+[C] dxe3 3.d3#[A], (1...Rxb4 2.a8Q+ Bc6 3.Qxc6#). *AB-BC-CA cycle (A), Cyclic play, good performance (WS).*

M1659 (Lyubashevsky/Makaronez/Volchek) [Authors have moved Sg3 to g1 from the initial position.] **1.Se2!** (2.Re5+ Kxe5/Bxe5/Rxe5 3.Qxe7/Bh3/Sd4#), 1...Sd5 2.e5 ~ /Bxe5 3.Sd4/Rxe5#, 1...Sc6 2.Rd5 (3.Qd7/Bh3#) Se5/Rxd5 3.Sd4/Qxd5#, 1...Rxf5 2.exf5+ Ke5 3.Qd4#, 1...Bxe4 2.Qc8+ Kd6 3.Sf7#, 1...Bd5 2.e5 (3.Qc8/Sd4#) Bxe5 3.Rxe5#. *Complex puzzle, nice quiet move 2.e5! (WS).*

M1660 (Lyubashevsky/Makaronez) **1.Qe4!** (2.Sf7+ Sxf7 3.Qe6#), 1...Rxc4 2.Sxc4+ Kd5 3.e4#! (3.c4?), 1...Rxe5 2.Qc7+ Kd5 3.c4#! (3.e4?), 1...Sd5 2.Qxc5+ Bxc5/Kxe5 3.Sc4/Bg3#, 1...Rc8 2.dxc8S+ Kxe5 3.Bg3#. *Many sacrifices, pleasant solving (WS).*

MOREMOVERS & STUDIES

Moremovers Editor: **Richard Becker**, Studies Editor: **Franjo Vrabec**
Judges, Moremovers: **Aleksandr Kuzovkov**, Studies: **Pavel Arestov**

Moremovers. Kurt begins with a King hunt by the Knights and Bishops. This problem would have two solutions, but, of course, the board has edges. Olivier's six-mover has two full-length variations, and both must be enabled by the foreplan. One must solve the set-play after 1...Qg7 to appreciate the cyclic effects in Alexandr's problem. I think my own problem will find favor with solvers who like a cute trick. Black can promote a pawn in Baldur's Meredith, but White still mates. Olivier's second effort could be the most humorous of his problems we've published so far...

Studies. **E0389** The first three moves by White are crucial. **E0390** Richard's entry has a try. Be careful were you place the white Rook. **E0391** A warm welcome to Ivan Malyi, from Ukraine. His study has some heavy fireworks. When the dust settles, there will be only four pieces left on the board.

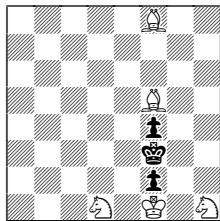
SG91 (July - September 2020) Solutions – THREEMOVERS

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

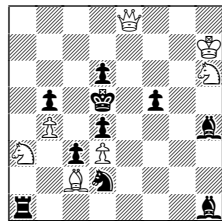
M1652 (Onkoud) **1.Qe8!** (zz), 1...c5 2.Qe2+ Kb4/Kd5 3.Qxb5/Qe6#, 1...b4 2.Qe6+ Kc5/Kd3 3.Qxc6/Qe2#, 1...Kb4 2.Qxc6 K~ 3.Qxb5#, 1...Kc5 2.Qxc6+ Kb4 3.Qxb5#, 1...Kd5 2.Qxc6+ Ke5 3.Qe6#. *Good key, many variations (WS).*

M1653 (Utarova) **1.Sg6!** (2.Se7#), 1...e5 2.Kd7 (3.Se7/Sb6#) e3 3.Qd3#, 1...Kc6 2.Sge5+ Kd5/Kb5 3.Qd2/Qa5#, 1...e3 2.Qd3+ Kc6 3.Qd7#. *Nice play after 1...Kc6 (WS).*

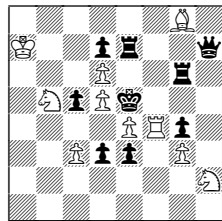
M1654 (Onkoud) **1.Sa2!** (zz), 1...Kc5 2.Qb3 d5 3.Qb4#, 1...Kd5 2.Qc2 Ke6/c5 3.Qf5/Qe4#, 1...c5 2.Sc1 ~/Kd5 3.Qb3/Qe4#, 1...d5 2.Qb4+ Kd3 3.Qc3#. *Compass Theme (A), Nice tries 1.Se2? and 1.Se4? (WS).*

M1703 Kurt Keller
Germany

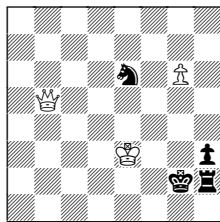
#5 (5+3)

M1704 Olivier Schmitt
France

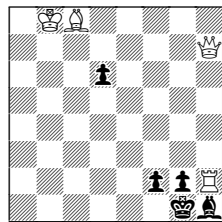
#6√ (7+10)

M1705 Alexandr Pankratyev
Russia

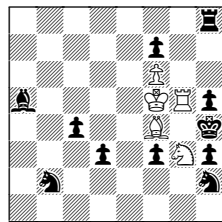
#6* (10+9)

M1706 Richard Becker
Oregon City, OR

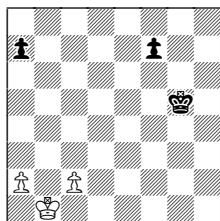
#7* (3+4)

M1707 Baldur Kozdon
Germany

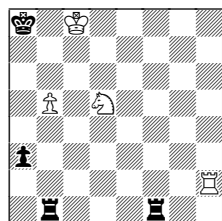
#9 (4+5)

M1708 Olivier Schmitt
France

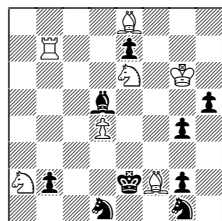
#14√ (5+11)

E0389 Franjo Vrabec
Sweden

Draw (3+3)

E0390 Richard Becker
Oregon City, OR

Draw (4+4)

E0391 Ivan Malyi
Ukraine

Draw (7+9)

SG91 (July - September 2020) Solutions - MOREMOVERS & STUDIES

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

M1661 (R.Ehlers† & C.Ehlers) **1.Rf6!** ~ 2.Rd7+ Sxd7 3.Se7+ Kd4 4.Rd6#, 1...Bc5 2.Be3! Nowotny (3.Rxe5/Bb3#) R1xe3 3.Bb3+ Rxb3 4.Rxe5# Plachutta; 2...R3xe3 3.Rxe5+ Rxe5 4.Bb3#. Also, B/W Bristol. *Plachutta theme, classical problem (WS).*

M1662 (Marandiyuk) **1.Sf7!** (2.Qb4+[A] Sxb4 3.Se5+[B] Kc3 4.Rc5#[C]), 1...c5 2.Se5+[B] Sxe5 3.Rxc5+[C] Kxc5 4.Qb4+[A], 1...Be6 2.Rc5+[C] Sxc5 3.Qb4+[A] Kd3 4.Se5+[B]; 3...Kd5 Bxc6#; 2...Kxc5 3.Qa5+ Kc4 4.Sd2#, 1...Rc3 2.Qxd3+ Rxd3 3.Se5+ Kc3 Rc5#, 1...Sc5 2.Rxc5+ Kxc5 3.Qa5+ Kc4 4.Se5#. *Cyclic changes of second, third, and fourth move with sacrifices of thematic pieces on the second move (A), Cyclic Zilahi with queen sacrifices. Grandmaster problem! (WS).*

M1663 (Pankratyev) **1.Kc8!** (2.Sb8+ Kc5 3.Qxc6+ Sxc6 4.Sa6#), 1...Bf3 2.Sxb6+ Kc5 3.Qxc4+ bxc4 4.Sa4#, 1...Ra2 2.Se5+ Kc5 3.Qxc6+ Sxc6 4.Sxd3#, 1...Qxf6 2.Sxf6+ Kc5 3.Qd4+ Bxd4 4.Se4#. *Multiple use of the battery with 3 queen sacrifices (WS).*

M1664 (Aliovsadzade) **1.Sc2!** (2.Rxe5+ fxe5 3.e4+ fxe3 e.p. 4.Be4#), 1...Rxe2 2.Rxe2 exd4 3.Be4+ Kc5 4.Bxd4#; 2...Sxh4 3.Bf7+ e6 4.bxe6#; 2...Se3 3.S4xe3+ fxe3 4.Sxe3#, 1...exd4 2.gxf6 Sb6+ 3.Sxb6+ Kc5 4.Re5#; 2...exf6 3.Rh5+ f5 4.Ree5#; 2...Rxe2 3.Rh5+ e5 4.Rhxe5#. *Changed play Visserman type (A), A good try is the Bristol key 1.Bb8? f4! (WS).*

M1665 (Korin) 1.Bb8? f4!; 1.Qh4+? Kc8 2.Qf4 Be5!; **1.Bc7+!** Kc8 2.Qd6 (2.Bb6? f4!) Bf6 3.Ra8+ (3.Bb6? Qh2!) Qxa8 4.Bb6 ~/Qb8/Be5 5.Qc7/Qe6/Qd8#; 2...b5 3.Bb6 Be5 4.Qc6+ Kb8/Bc7 5.Qa8#/Qxc7#; 3...d4+ 4.Rxa2 ~ 5.Qc7#.

M1666 (Schmitt) 1.Qa3+? Kxa3 2.Bc5+ b4!; 1.Sxb5? Ra8!; 1.Sxf4? Sxf4; **1.Rg5!** Sxg5 2.Sxf4 (3.Qb2+ Sb3+ 4.Qxb3+ Ka5 5.Qa3#) Rxf4 3.Sxb5 Bxb5 4.Qa3+ Kxa3/Kc4 5.Be5/Qc5#. *Rook sacrifice, good performance. 3.Sxb5 was hard to find (WS).*

M1667 (Melnichuk & Aliovsadzade) 1.a6? b4!; 1.Kg5? f4!; **1.c6!** zz Kd5 2.a6 Kd4 3.b4 Kd5 4.Rc5+ Kd4 5.Sc3 d1Q 6.Sxb5#, 1...a6 2.Kg5 b4 3.Rc4+ Kxe5 4.f4+ Kd6 5.Kf6 e5 6.fxe5#; 2...f4 3.Kxf4 Kd5 4.Kg5 Kd4 5.f4 b4 6.Rc4#; 4...Kxe5 5.Rxd3 b4 6.f4#.

M1668 (Vokál) **1.b3!** Qxb3 2.c4 Qxc4 3.d5 Qxd5 4.e6 Qxe6 5.Rg8+ Qxg8 6.f7+ Qg7+ 7.Qxg7#. *A well known technique (WS).*

M1669 (Schmitt) 1.Sh5? Be3!; **1.Se6!** Ke5 2.Sd4+ Kd5 3.Sc3+ Kc5 4.Sa4+ Kd5 5.e4+ fxe3 e.p. 6.Sc3+ Kc5 7.Se4+ Kd5 8.Se6 Ke5 9.Sg7+ Kd5 10.Sh5 Rg4/~ 11.Shxf6/Sf4#. *Again an interesting work by our French friend (WS).*

E0379 (Arestov) **1.a8S+!** (1.a8Q? Qd2+! 2.Kb5 Qb2+ 3.Kc5 Qf2+ 4.Kb4 Qd2+! 5.Kb5 Kb2+ positional draw) **1...Kb7!** [1...Kc6 2.e8Q! Qxe8 3.Bd5+! Kxd5 4.Rxe8 +-, or 1...Kd6 2.Rh6+! Kc5 (2...Kxe7 3.Rh7+ +-) 3.Rh5+! Kd6 4.Rd5+ +-] **2.e8Q!** (2.Bd5+? Qxd5+ +-) **2...Qxe8 3.Bd5+ Ka7! 4.Rh7+!** (4.Rxe8? stalemate) **4...Kb8 5.Rb7+! Kc8** (5...Kxa8 6.Re7+ +-) **6.Sb6+ Kd8 7.Rb8+** (7.Rd7+? Qxd7 8.Sxd7 Kxd7 =) **7...Ke7 8.Rxe8+ win.**

E0380 (Kekely) **1.c7** (1.Rxb2? Rf2+ 2.Kd3 Rxb2 3.c7 Sf2+ 4.Ke3 Rc2 =) **1...Rf2+** (1...Rf8 2.Bc6+ Ka7 3.Rd8 +-) **2.Ke1!** (2.Ke3? Sc4+ 3.Kd4 Rxd2+ 4.Kc3 Sd6 5.Bc6+ Ka7 6.Kxd2 Sf2 =) **2...Sd3+! 3.Rxd3** (3.Kd1? Rf8 4.c8Q+ Rxc8 5.Bxc8 Sf4 6.Rd8 g2 7.Rg8 Sf2+ 8.Kd2 Se4+! 9.Ke3 Sc3 10.Rg7 Kb8 11.Ba6 Scd5+!) **3...Rc2 4.c8Q+ Rxc8 5.Bxc8 g2 6.Bb7+! Kxb7 7.Rd7+ Kc6 8.Rg7 Kd5 9.Rxg2 Ke4 10.Rg1 Sf2 11.Kxf2 +.**

E0381 (Minski) **1.Kd8! Kb8** (1...Rg7 2.f6 +-, or 1...e4 2.Rxg3 +-) **2.a7+!** [2.Rb1? Bh4+! 3.Qxh4 Qd3+ 4.Bd5+ Qxb1 5.a7+ Rxa7 6.Qf6 Rh7! 7.Qxe5+ (7.Qc6 Rh8+ =, or 7.Qd6+ Ka7 8.Qa3+ Kb6 =) 7...Ka7 8.Qd4+ Qb6+ 9.Qxb6+ Kxb6 =, or 2.Rxg3?? Qxa6 →] **2...Rxa7 3.Rb1!** (battery 3.Rxg3?? Qa6 →) **3...Bh4+!** (deflection of the white queen 3...Qd3+ 4.Bd5+ +-) **4.Qxh4** (4.Ke8?? Qb5+ →) **4...Qd3+** (4...Qd2+ 5.Bd5+ +-) **5.Qd4!** (the point 5.Bd5+? Qxb1 6.Qf6 Rh7! =) **5...Qxd4+** (5...exd4 6.Bc2+ Ka8 7.Bxd3 +) **6.Bd5+ Rb7 7.Rxb7+ Ka8 8.Rd7+** (8.Rb5+? Ka7 =) **8...Kb8 9.f6 e4** (9...Qh4 10.Rb7+ +-, or 9...Qb6+ 10.Ke7 Qc5+ 11.Ke8 e4 12.f7 +-) **10.f7 Qh8+ 11.Ke7 Qe5+ 12.Be6 Qc5+ 13.Ke8 +-.** *Not too difficult, pleasant to solve (WS).*

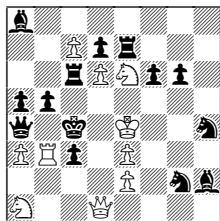
SELFMAATES

Editor: **Petko A. Petkov**, Judge: **Mike Prcic**

This first group of selfmates for 2021 confirms a known trend: Moremovers (with 4 or more moves) are a priority with composers. In this issue we have seven of them, all with interesting and difficult play. As a warmup, the solvers should start with the threemovers, **S0827** and **S0828**, both composed in modern style.

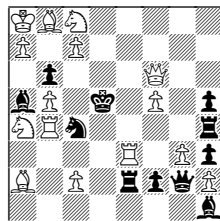
It is desirable for composers to send brief comments for their originals. For moremovers, computer-tested information should always be provided. The C- symbol indicates originals which were not computer-tested or for which the test is incomplete.

S0827 Zoran Gavrilovski
North Macedonia



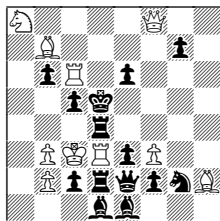
s#3 (10+14)

S0828 Sergey I. Tkachenko
& Leonid Lyubashevsky
Ukraine/Israel



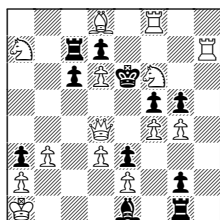
s#3 (15+11)

S0829 Aleksandr Kuzovkov
Russia



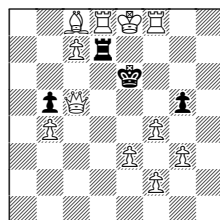
s#4 (10+14)

S0830 Aleksandr Pankratyev
Russia



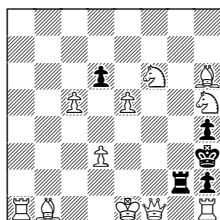
s#4 (14+11)

S0831 Valery Kopyl
& Gennady Koziura
Ukraine



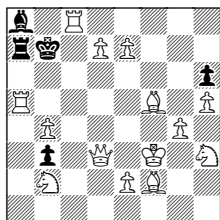
s#6 (11+4)

S0832 Gennady Koziura
& Valery Kopyl
Ukraine



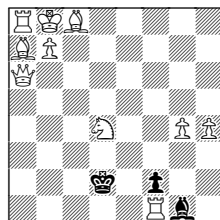
s#7 (11+5)

S0833 Valery Kopyl
& Gennady Koziura
Ukraine



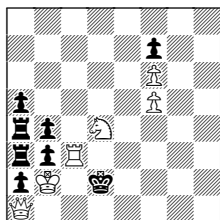
s#7 (14+5)

S0834 Jozef Holubec
Slovakia



s#8 2 solutions (10+3)

S0835 Stephen Taylor
& Sergey Smotrov
England/Kazakhstan



s#9* (6+8)

SG91 (July - September 2020) Solutions - SELFMATES

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

S0808 (Selivanov) 1.Bh6? g5!; **1.Bg5!** (2.Sxe4+ Kxe4 3.Sf2+ Rxf2#), 1...Rd8 2.Sc4+ Rxd7 3.Be3+ Rxe3#, 1...e3 2.Sxf5+ Ke4 3.Sg3+ Rxg3#, 1...f4 2.Sf7+ Ke3 3.Bxf4+ Rxf4#. *This is the first realization of four-fold play of white S/R battery, black King's cross and play of the black battery (A), Complex and intelligent (WS).*

S0809 (Lyubashevsky/Makaronez) 1.Rd8? Sc5!; **1.Rc8!** (2.Qe5+ dxe5+ 3.Bxe5+ fxe5#), 1...Sf3 2.Sxb3+ Qxb3 3.fxe3+ Qxe3#, 1...Sc4 2.c3+ Sxc3 3.Se2+ Sxe2#, 1...Sc5 2.Qxc5+ dxc5 3.Be5+ fxe5#. *Splendid problem (WS).*

S0810 (Kopyl) 1.Sb3?[B] R~[a] 2.Rde2+ Kd3 3.Ka5+[A] Kc3 4.Qc8+ Bc7#, 1...g5! [b]; 1.Bb6?[C] g5 [b] 2.Ka5 [A] g4 3.Rfe2+ Kf3 4.Qb3+ Bc3#, 1...R~[a]; **1.Ka5! [A]** (2.Rde2+ Kd4 3.Sb3+ Kc3 4.Qc8+ Bc7#), 1...g5 [b] 2.Bb6 [C] g4 3.Rfe2+ (Rde2+?) Kf3 4.Qb3+ Bc3#. *Activation of play of the black battery from different flanks. Salazar effects in both versions. The choice of play by White on e2-square with the model mates in logical style (A), Brilliant play. I like this very much (WS).*

S0811 (Pankratyev) **1.Qd3!** (2.Se6+ Qxe6 3.Rc6+ Qxc6 4.Qb5+ Qxb5#), 1...Sxf4 2.Qxd5+ Sxd5 3.Bb4+ Sxb4 4.Rc6+ Sxc6#, 1...Qh4 2.Qc4+ dxc4 3.Sd3+ cxd3 4.Bb4+ Qxb4#. *Attraction of the black Queen and the black Knight on squares b5, b4 and c6 (E).*

S0812 (Koziura/Selivanov) **1.Qc6! (zz)**, 1...f3 2.Bc8+ Kf4 3.Qc1+ Ke4 4.Sed6+ Kd5 5.Qc6+ Kd4 6.Rd2+ Bxd2#, 1...Bf6 2.Qc5+ Be5 3.Bc8+ Ke4 4.f3+ Kd3 5.Qc4+ Ke3 6.Qc3+ Bxc3#, 1...Bxe7 2.Qb5+ Bc5 3.Bc8+ Ke4 4.Sf6+ Kd4 5.Rd2+ Kc3 6.Qb4+ Bxb4#. *Play and transformation of the black half-battery (A).*

S0813 (Stepochkin) a) **1.f8Q!** Ke6 2.e8R+ Kd7 3.Qd5+ Kc7 4.Rc8+ Kb6 5.Qh6+ Rf6 6.Qe3+ Ka6 7.Rc6+ Rxc6 8.Bc8+ Rxc8#; b) **1.g8R!** Ke6 2.e8Q+ Kf6 3.Qc3+ Re5 4.Bf3 Kf5 5.Qf8+ Ke6 6.Rg6+ Kd7 7.Bc6+ Kc7 8.Qa5+ Rxa5#. *Reciprocal change of promotions in Q and R in a miniature form (E).*

S0814 (Jenkner) **1.Bf1!** Kd4 2.Be3+ Ke5 3.Qxd6+ Kf5 4.Qc5+ Bd5 5.Kh5 Ke5 6.Bg5+ Kf5 7.Bh4 Kf4 8.Qe3+ Kf5 9.Qf3+ Bxf3#, 1...Kf5 2.Se7+ Ke5 3.Bc4 Kd4 4.Sb5+ Ke5 5.Qc5+ Rd5 6.Bc3+ Kf4 7.Qf2+ Bf3 8.Bd2+ Rxd2 9.Qh2+ Rxh2#. *An elegant Aristocrat with difficult play (E), Flight-giving key, two good variations. Hard to solve (WS).*

S0815 (Kirillov/Marandyuk) 1.Bxd7+? Qxd7+! 2.g7/Qg7; **1.Sf2+!** Kg3 2.Sh1+ Kg4 3.Qh5+ Kf4 4.Qe5+ Kg4 5.Qf5+ Kh4 6.Rh2+ Rxh2 7.Rb4+ Be4 8.Qf4+ Kh5 9.Qh6+ Kg4, and main plan: 10.Bxd7+ Qxd7#. *A logical problem with several preparatory plans. A surprising finale with model mate and pins of the white Queen and the white Pawn (A).*

S0816 (Banaszek) 1.Qg5? h4 2.Rd3 h3 3.e4 h2? 4.Se3 h1Q 5.Rxh1 Bd8 6.Rc1+ Bc7 7.e5 dxe5 8.Ke4 d6 9.Qg8+ Kd7 10.Rxc7+ Kxc7 11. axb8Q+ Kd7 12.Qbc8+ Ke7 13.Qc7+ Kf6 14.Qxd6+ Sxd6#, 3...hxg2!; **1.Sc3!** Bd8 2.Se4+ Bc7 3.Sf6 Kd8 4.Se8+ Kc8 5.Re7 Kd8 6.Re6+ Kc8 7.Rf6 Kd8 8.Rf8+ Kc8 9.Kf6 Kd8 10.Kf7+ Kc8 11.Qf6 h4 12.Ke7 h3 13.Qf7 h2 14.Rh1 Bd8#, or 13...hxg2 14.Rg1 Bd8#. *The white king must be placed into a mate-net. To do this, five batteries must be created and actively played. One battery is built and plays on the c-rank and four others are created and play on the diagonal d8-h4. Another mate-net is formed in the try. The pawn a7 plays an active role with the promotion and mate setting. In the solution, the pawn plays the role of a cook-stopper only. Computer test (partially) with Gustav (solution with parameters 3-1) is O.K. Try test after first 3 moves (s#11) with parameters 4-2 is O.K. (A), Attractive play, one of my favorites! (WS).*

HELPMATES

Editor: **Abdelaziz Onkoud**

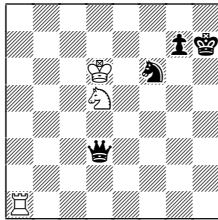
Judges: h#2: **TBD**, h#3: **Valery Kirillov** and h#: **Mike Preis**

A warm welcome to Valery Liskovets from Belarus and Hiroaki Maeshima from Japan.

H2553 and **H2554** start from the same white matrix but develop different strategies. **H2557** and **H2560** are typical of Christopher's work with sacrifices of black pieces. Look for promotions in **H2548** and **H2563**. **H2568** shows the black King switchback in 11 moves.

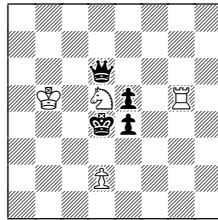
We are saddened by the death of our long-time contributor from Ukraine, Mikhail Gershinsky, who passed away on October 1st, 2020. He will be missed.

H2545 Valery Liskovets
Belarus



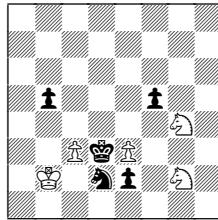
h#2 2 solutions (3+4)

H2546 Andrew Kalotay
New York, NY



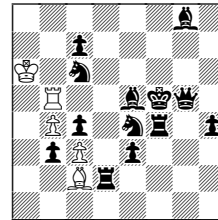
h#2 2 solutions (4+4)

H2547 Hiroaki Maeshima
Japan



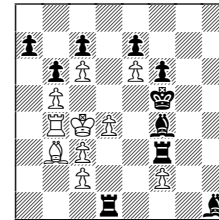
h#2 2 solutions (5+5)

H2557 Christopher Jones
England



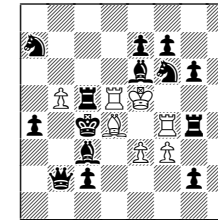
h#3 b) Pc3→e2 (5+13)

H2558 Valerio Agostini
& Antonio Garofalo
Italy



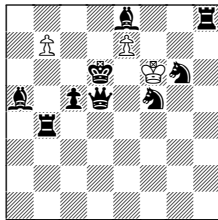
h#3 b) Pd4→d5 (10+10)

H2559 Alexandr Pankratyev
& Evgeny Gavryliv
Russia/Ukraine



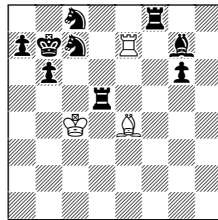
h#3 b) Pb5→e4 (7+14)

H2548 Gennady Chumakov
Russia



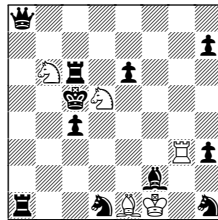
h#2 2 solutions (3+9)

H2549 János Csák &
Gábor Tar, Hungary



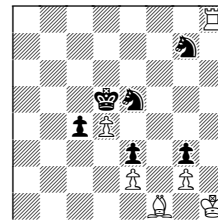
h#2 2 solutions (3+9)
b) Kb7→h7

H2550 Dmitry Grinchenko
Ukraine



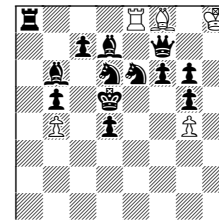
h#2 2 solutions (5+11)
b/c) Pe6→c7/d4

H2560 Christopher Jones
England



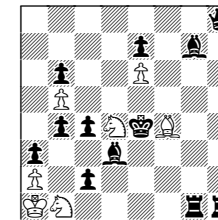
h#3½ 2 solutions (6+6)

H2561 Alexandr Pankratyev
Evgeny Gavryliv
Russia/Ukraine



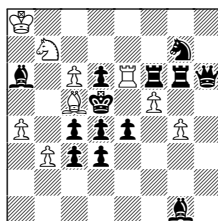
h#3½ 2 solutions (5+13)

H2562 János Csák
Hungary



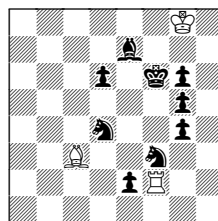
h#3½ b) Sb1→c1 (7+12)

H2551 Alexandr Pankratyev
Evgeny Gavryliv
Russia/Ukraine



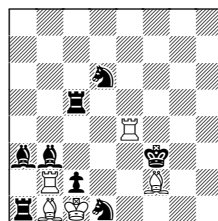
h#2 4 solutions (9+13)

H2552 Pierre Tritten
France



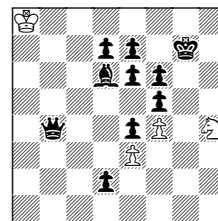
h#2½ b) Pg5→e6 (3+9)

H2553 Abdelaziz Onkoud
France



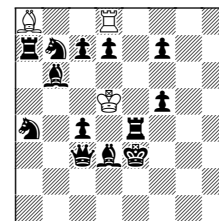
h#2½ 2 solutions (5+8)

H2563 Ladislav Packa
Slovakia



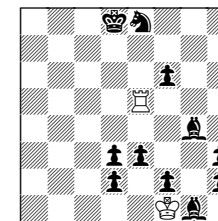
h#4 b) Sh4→d8 (4+10)

H2564 János Csák
Hungary



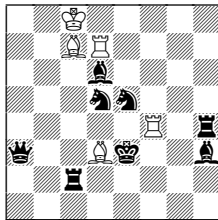
h#4 2 solutions (3+13)

H2565 Valery Barsukov
Russia



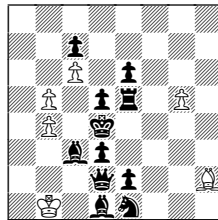
h#6 b) Pe3→g3 (2+11)

H2554 Abdelaziz Onkoud
France



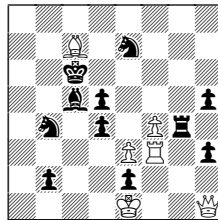
h#2½ 2 solutions (5+8)

H2555 Andrew Kalotay
New York, NY



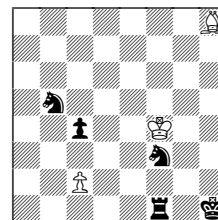
h#3 2 solutions (6+11)

H2556 Victor Yuzyuk
Ukraine



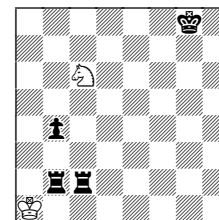
h#3 4 solutions (6+11)

H2566 Marcos Roland
Brazil



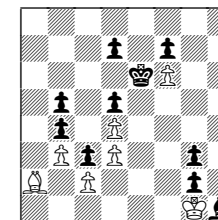
h#6½ (3+5)

H2567 Krzysztof Drazkowski
Poland



h#7½ 2 solutions (2+4)

H2568 Mirko Degenkolbe,
Steven B. Dowd
& Rolf Wiehagen
Germany/USA



h#11 (7+10)

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

H2497 (Çefle) a) 1.Bd5 Sg6+ 2.Ke4 Sd6#, b) 1.Kd5 Sb1 2.Kd4 Sc6#, c) 1.Kd6 Sc6+ 2.Kd5 Sc7#, d) 1.Bf5 Sg6+ 2.Ke4 Sf6#. *Very nice quartet with few pieces* (WS).

H2498 (Jonsson) 1.Re4 Bf4+ 2.gxf4 Sf5#, 1.Rf4 Se4 2.dxe4 Ba7#. *An idea à la Jonsson; good economy and model mates* (E), *economie et mats modèles*. (E), *A small Zilahi, pleasant to solve* (WS).

H2499 (Kekely) a) 1.Bd5+ Kxh2 2.Be4 Rxd3#; b) 1.Be4+ Kg1 2.Bd5 Rc4#. *Easy but nice* (WS).

H2500 (Elbaz) 1.Bd5 Bb3 2.Ke6 Re2#; 1.Re6 Rb6 2.Kf6 Bd8#. *Unexpected pin-mates* (WS).

H2501 (Vasyuchko) 1.Bd8 Sc2 2.Be7 Qb2#; 1.Ke7 Qc2 2.Kd8 Sc6#. *BK moves only. Exchange of functions (wQa2/wGb4, Interference/Mate). Play on the same square (W1, 2). Zalokotsky theme.* (A), *Function exchange from queen and knight, but too much material* (WS).

H2502 (Colaneri) a) 1.cxd6 Qxd6 2.Qxf6 Qxf6#; b) 1.cxd4 Qxd4 2.Rxe3 Qxe3#. *Blacks clears the way for the wQ* (WS).

H2503 (Gorbatenko) 1.Qxh8 Qd7 2.Kxc3 Qxc8#; 1.Rxd8 Qg7 2.Kxd3 Qxh7#. *A nice idea with remote retreats by the white Queen* (E), *Stunning queen moves* (WS)

H2504 (Medintsev) 1.g3 Rd2 2.g4 Sf4#; 1.Rc5 Bc2 2.Sb6 Sxc5#; 1.Rxd3 Bf8 2.Rg3 Rd6#; 1.Bxd3 Rf8 2.Bb5 Bf5#. *Good quartet with many motifs* (WS).

H2505 (Basisty/Frolkin/Tkachenko) 1.Rc6 dxc6 2.Rg8 Qxg8#[A]; 1.Rc5[a] Qg8[A] 2.Rxd5 Qxd5#; 1.Sc5+ dxc5 2.Rxc5[a] Ke5#[B]; 1.Bxe3 Ke5[B] 2.Bxd4+ Qxd4#; 1.Qb3[b] Qxf3 2.d2 Qxe2#[C]; 1.f2 Qxe2[C] 2.Qb3[b] Qxd3#. *Three white and two black moves occurring on different turns (1st - 2nd) in six solutions* (A), *Six possibilities to crack the cage* (WS).

H2506 (Jones) 1...Rxb5 2.Rg1 Rxf5 3.Qf1 Rxf1#; 1...Rc7 2.Bc2 Rxc2 3.Rg2 Rf2#; 1...Rd7 2.Bd3 Rxd3 3.Rg3 Rf3#; 1...Rxe7 2.Be4 Rxe4 3.Rg4 Rf4#. *Analog play* (WS).

H2507 (Shamir/Haymann) a) 1...Bg8 2.Qxd5 Rc7 3.Qxb5 cxb5#; b) 1...Ba5 2.Qxb5 Rb7 3.Qc5 bxc5#. *Splendid co-production!* (WS)

H2508 (Onkoud) 1...Rc1 2.Sa7 (Sb8?) Kxd6 3.Bh7 Bc4#; 1...Bc1 2.Sb8 (Sa7?) Kxf6 3.Rd8 Re3#. *The white King opens two lines, one for the Bishop and the other one for the Rook* (A).

H2509 (Jonsson) 1.Qxg8 Se4 2.Qb3 Rd8+ 3.Kc4 Rd4#; 1.Sxg5 Bf7 2.Ke4 Rh4+ 3.Kf5 Rf4#. *A nice work of art* (WS).

H2510 (Vasyuchko) 1.Rf4 dxe5+ 2.Kxe5 Bxg2 3.Bf6 Sc6#; 1.Rg6 Sxe6 2.Kxe6 Bxf3 3.Rf6 d5#.

H2511 (Grinchenko) 1.Qf4 Qb1 2.Qd6 d5+ 3.Ke5 d4#; 1.Qf5 Qc1 2.Qd5 exd5+ 3.Kf5 e4#. *Good technique* (WS).

H2512 (Ljevaković) 1.Rxe6+ Sd4 2.Re3 Sxf5 3.Rg4 Bf7#; 1.Rxb3+ e3 2.Rb5 Bc4 3.Kg4 Bc2#.

H2513 (Medintsev/Skripnik) 1.e3 Sfxe5 2.Bc6 Sd3 3.Bd7 Sf4#; 1.Se3 Scxe5 2.Qc6 Sd3 3.Qd7 Sf4#.

H2514 (Kolesnik/Semenenko) 1...Bxg6+ 2.Ke5 Bb1 3.g4 Rc2 4.Kf5 Rc5#; 1...Rxxg5+ 2.Ke4 Ra5 3.Rg4 Bb5 4.Kf5 Bd3#. *Reciprocal batteries are combined with Klasinc theme* (A), *Attractive battery buildings* (WS).

H2515 (Barsukov) a) 1.Kd6+ Ka2 2.Bd4 e5+ 3.Kd5 Sd3 4.Be4 Se7#; b) 1.Bh5 Sf8 2.Kf6 Sd3 3.Kg5+ Se5 4.Bf6 Sxe6#.

H2516 (Wiehagen/Degenkolbe) 1.Qc7 dxc7 2.d6 Kg2 3.Bd7 c8S 4.Sd8 Sxd6#; 1.Qc7 dxc7 2.Sd8 cxd8S 3.Sf7 Sxb7 4.Sd8 Sd6#; 1.g5 dxe7 2.Sg6 exd8S 3.Se7 Sxb7 4.Sd8 Sd6#. *A single white pawn against 14 black pieces!* (WS), *Dedicated to Mike Pricic. Three Rundlaufs P[S] by the same Pawn on non-identical routes. Two passive black sacrifices R+Q ; two active black sacrifices Q+S ; temporary Platzwechsel wP[S]/bP/bB (after W3). Umnovs in all color combinations: 3x white-white, 5x white-black, 2x black-white, 4x black-black. Models and minimal* (A).

H2517 (Csák) 1.Sc1 Kxc5 2.Rb3 Kxd5 3.Rh3 Kxe5 4.Rh4 Kf6#; 1.Kg5 Kc7 2.Kf4 Rxc5 3.Ke3 Rxd5 4.Sf4 Rxe5#. *A busy white king in the first solution* (WS).

H2518 (Roland) 1.Be4 Bxb8 2.Re6+ Kxe6 3.Qb1 Be5 4.Bb7 Kd6 5.Kb8 Kd7#. *Platzwechsel WK/WB and BQ/BB. Helpmate Indian. Kniest. Wigwag. Ambush. Hideaway (bQ). Sacrificial hideaway (bK).* Meredith (A), *A wonderful work of art* (3.Qb1!). (WS)

H2519 (Csák) 1.Qf3+ gxf3 2.Be4 fxe4 3.c5 Kf3 4.Kc6 exd5+ 5.Kxd5 Be4#; 1.Bg4 hxg4 2.Qf5 gxf5 3.Re7 Kg4 4.Kd7 fxe6+ 5.Kxe6 Bf5#. *A powerful problem from our friend János* (WS).

H2520 (Degener/Degenkolbe) 1.f5 0-0-0 2.Be2 Re1 3.Bd1 Re5 4.Re1 Rxf5 5.Re5 Rxx5 6.Rg5 hxg5#. *A really surprising mate on the h-line* (WS).

SERIES-MOVERS and STALEMATES

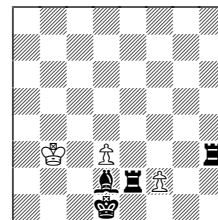
Editor: Radovan M. Tomašević, Judge: Mike Pricic

A warm welcome to Piet Pascal! His first two entries end with pretty mates. **C0733** is a correction of an old problem. It has many promotions. Milomir's joint with Zoran appears to be a length-record for a "King and Pawns" setting. Steven's miniature features four promotions. **C0736** is a pretty miniature with two minor-piece promotions. Steven's second entry ends with an Ideal-stalemate, but there is much more to it. Another long affair by Zoran with a twist at the end. Piet's last entry is a Meredith with the black Bishop executing some amazing maneuvers. Another correction of a previously published problem by Milomir with several promotions into the same piece. An AUW by Joshua and a long walk by the black King in the next two entries. More promotions and more long King's walk in the next two entries. L'uboš's entry features an excelsior.

The first help-stalemate has two harmonious solutions. Well done Chris! The second entry by L'uboš is a light affair. Tibor ends these proceedings with a familiar piece-exchange motif.

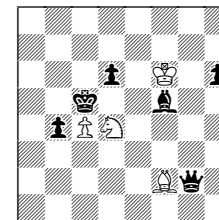
[Editor's note: In SG92, **C0730** was published by error and has been eliminated from the competition.]

C0731 Piet Pascale
France



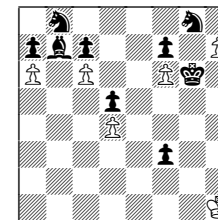
ser-s#15 (3+4)

C0732 Piet Pascale
France



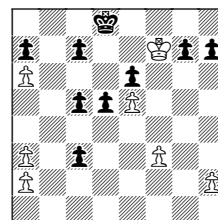
ser-s#16 (4+6)

C0733 Milomir Babić
Serbia



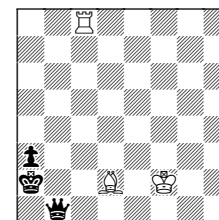
ser-s#22 (6+9)

C0734 Zoran Sibinović &
Milomir Babić, Serbia



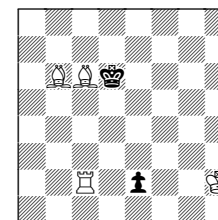
ser-s=50 C- (7+9)

C0735 Steven B. Dowd
Birmingham, AL

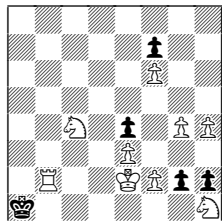


ser-h#7 a) 2 solutions (3+3)
b/c) Bd2→e2/b5 one sol. each

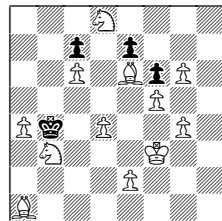
C0736 Zoran Sibinović
Serbia



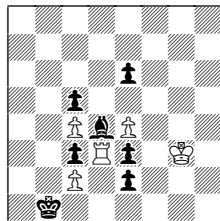
ser-h#7 2 solutions (4+2)

C0737 Steven B. Dowd
Birmingham, AL

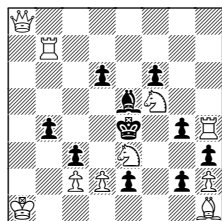
ser-h#23 (9+5)

C0738 Zoran Sibinović
Serbia

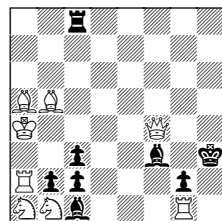
ser-h#50 (12+4)

C0739 Piet Pascale
France

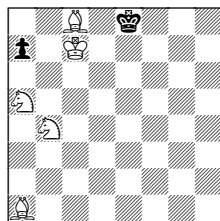
ser-h=18 (5+7)

C0740 Milimir Babić
Serbia

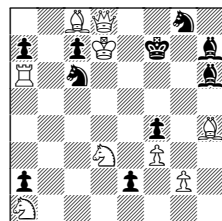
ser-h=14 (10+10)

C0741 Joshua Green
Princeton, NJ
Inspired by C0719

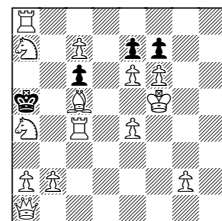
ser-h=16 (8+8)

C0742 Jean Carf
France

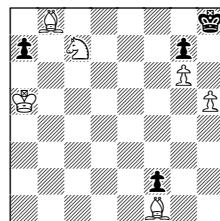
ser-h=23 (5+2)

C0743 Paz Einat &
Radovan M. Tomašević
Israel/Serbia

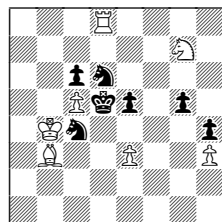
ser-h=26 (9+10)

C0744 Zoran Sibinović
Serbia

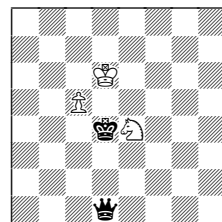
ser-h=64 (14+4)

C0745 Ľuboš Kekely
Slovakia

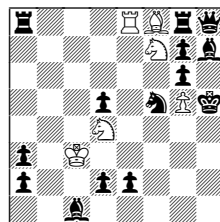
pser-h=17 (6+4)

Q0354 Christopher Jones
England

h=3 2 solutions (7+7)

Q0355 Ľuboš Kekely
Slovakia

h=4 b) Kd4↔Se4 (3+2)

Q0356 Tibor Érsek
Hungary

h=7 (6+14)

SG91 (July - September 2020) Solutions - SERIES-MOVERS & STALEMATES

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

C0718 (Csák/Tar) 1.b1R 2.Rb5 3.Rh5 4.b5 5.b4 6.b3 7.b2 8.b1R 9.Rb5 10.Rbg5 11.b5 12.b4 13.b3 14.b2 15.b1R 16.Rb5 17.Rbf5 Bc8=. *Promotions to the same piece on the same square (A), Three rook promotions. Neat and easy (WS).*

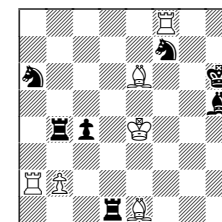
C0719 (Green) 1-3.Sf7-e5-f4 4.Kf1 5.Ke2 6.Sd4 7.c3 8.c2 9.c1B 10.Bxb2 11.Rc1 12.Kd1 13.Ba1 14.R4b1 15-17.Sb4-d3 17.Sb2 18.Kc2 19.Bd1 20.Se2 Rf2=. Author has replaced the original setting with a new version (see diagram A). 1.Kg5 2.Sh6 3.Sf5 4.Kg4 5.Kh3 6.Kg2 7.Kf1 8.Ke2 9.Sd4 10.c3 11.c2 12.c1B 13.Bxb2 14.Rc1 15. Kd1 16.Ba1 17.Rbb1 18.Sb4 19.Sd3 20.Sb2 21.Kc2 22.Bd1 23.Se2 Rf2=. *Ideal stalemate. Every black piece moves into position during play. There is but a single, "incidental" capture. The black King moves from one area of the board to the opposite area (the new version improves on this). Fairly open position; 3/4 of which is arguably used. The precise timing of Rc1, my favorite move in the sequence. The white pieces are fairly well utilized (A), Beautiful play. My favorite (WS).*

C0720 (Kekely) 1-18.Ka8-a7-b6-c5-xc4-b3-c2-xd1-xe1-f2-g3-xh4-g3-xg2-g3-h4-h5-xg6-h7 23.g1R 24.Rg6 Bf5=. *Meredith. Long walk of the black King with returns. Excelsior. Minor promotion. Ideal pin stalemate (A), Entertaining (WS).*

C0721 (Kekely) 1-4.Kxa5 5.Kxa4 and back 6-10.Ka4-a5-b6-c6-d7-xe8 and back again 11-26.Ke8-d7-xd6-c5-b4-b3-xb2-c1-d1-e1-f2-g3-xh4-g3-xf3-xf4-e5 30.f1=R 31.Rxf6 Rxf6=. *Very long walk of the black King with returns. Minor promotion. Ideal central stalemate (A), Unexpected stalemate at the center of the board (WS).*

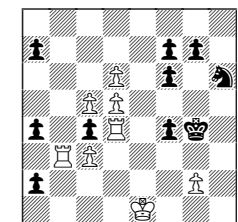
C0722 (Laborcz/Tomašević) 1.Se3 3.Kh4 4.Sg4 5.f3 6.fxg2 7.g1S 8-10.Se2-xc3-xd5 13.c1B 14.a1Q 15.Qa3 16.Qxc5 19.a1R 20.Ra6 21.Rxd6 26.a1R 27.Ra5 28.Bh6 29.Sf4 30.Qh5 31.Rg5 32.f5 33.Rdg6 34.f6 Rxf4=. **Joshua Green found a cook:** 1.Kg1 2.f3 3.fxg2 4.Sf2 5.Sh1 6.a1B 8.Bc1 11.a1Q 12.Qb1 13.Qxd3 14.Qxd4 15.Qxc5 20.a1R 21.Ra2 22.Rf2 23.Bf4 24.Bh2 25.27.g3 30.f3 32.f4 Bxc5=. Authors propose the following version (see diagram B) with the solution: 1.Kh4 2.Sg4 3.f3 4.fxg2 5.g1S 6-8.Se2-xc3-xd5 11.c1B 12.a1Q 13.Qa3 14.Qxc5 17.a1R 19.Rxd6 24.a1R 25.Ra5 26.Bh6 27.Sf4 28.Qh5 29.Rg5 30.f5 31.R6g6 32.f6 Rxf4=. *Five promotions (SBQRR) with AUW, captureless switchback, round-trip of a pinned pawn with final annihilation. A rich line strategy including pins and unpins. Excelsior (A).*

A C0719(v) Joshua Green



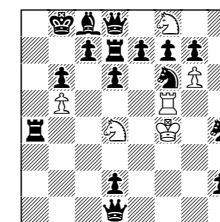
ser-h=23 (6+7)

B C0722(v) Zoltán Laborcz & Radovan M. Tomašević



ser-h=32 C- (8+10)

C Q0346(v) Tibor Érsek & Radovan M. Tomašević



h=8 C- (7+15)

C0723 (Laborcz) 1.b1R+ Kc5 2.g1Q+ Kxd5 3.Qd4+ Kxd4 4.a1B+ Ke3 5.d1S+ Ke2 6.Sb2 Ba3=. *Shortest and most economical AUW in pser-h=. (see also PDB P1224866) (A).*

C0724 (Laborcz) 1.f1Q 2.Qf7+ Kb6 3.Qf6+ Bd6 4.b1R+ Kc5 5.Qd4+ Kxd4 6.a1B+ Ke3 7.d1S+ Kxe2 8.Sb2 Ba3=. *Black AUW with black pawns on the 2nd rank. bPe2 is a cook-stopper (A).*

Q0339 (Maleika/Reddmann) 1...Sxb2 2.Bf5=; **1.Bxc4!** (2.Bxd3/Sexd3/Scxd3=), 1....Sxb2/Sxc1/Sxe1/Sxf2/Sf4/Se5/Sc5/Sb4 2.Bd3/Sed3/Scd3/Qxf2/Kxf4/Bxe5/Qxc5/Qxb4=. Fleck theme. Authors propose the following version: wKf4 Qf8 Rb7 Bd5 Se7-e8 Pb4-c3-e3-f6 (10), bKa8 Sd6 Pb5-c4-d7-e4-f5-f7 (8) =2, with the solution: **1.Sc8!** (2.Qxd6/Sexd6/Scxd6), 1...Sxb7/Sxc8/Sxe8 2.Qd6/Sed6/Scd6=. *A change of play after 1...Sxb2 (WS).*

Q0340 (Prcic) 1...Bxa1=; 1.Bxb2 d8B 2.Bf6 Bxf6=; 1.axb2 Kb1 2.Se8 dxe8S=. *Fata Morgana with minor piece promotions mirroring black piece sacrifices (A), A small problem with underpromotions (WS).*

Q0341 (Prcic) 1...dxe7= (1...fxe7?); 1.exd6 Kc8 2.d5 Sxd5= (Try: 1.exd6 ~ 2.d5 cxd5 3.c4!); 1.exf6 Bd8 2.Kxd8 Sxf6= (Try: 1.exf6 f3? 2.f5 f4 3.f6!); 1.e6 f4 2.e5 fxe5=; 1.e5 f3 2.e4 fxe4=. *Fata Morgana theme is combined with Pickanniny. Dual avoidance in the first set where each major piece plays only once. In the second set, the theme of the 7th Azemmour tourney, where only two pieces play, one white and one black. Win Chloe shows only one (the shortest) set. However, Popeye and Alybadix show additional sets in 1.5 moves (A), An excellent problem (E), Pickanniny with 4 easy solutions (WS).*

Q0342 (Shorokhov) 1...Rxcg6+ 2.Ke5 Qxf3=; 1.Se5 (Rxf5+?) Qh7 (Re6+?) 2.Rxf5 Re6=. *Black. Set play: bS and bR capture. Solution: bS and bR pinning. White. Set play: play by a battery. Solution: destruction of a battery (A), A radical change of play (WS).*

Q0343 (Krätschmer) a) 1.Ba3 Be6+ 2.Kb4 Rf1 3.Sb2 Rb1=; b) 1.Kd5 Kxa5 2.Bb4+ Kxb4 3.Sc3 Kxc3=. *I don't like the double guard of e6-square (A), The first solution seems better (WS).*

Q0344 (Pankratyev) 1...Bf1 2.Bb6 Kxd6 3.Bg1 Bf2 4.e3 Ke5 5.exf2 Kf4=. *Cage-building. Quite easy (WS).*

Q0345 (Ārsek) 1.g1S gxf8Q 2.Sf3 Qxb4 3.Rd6 Qxb2 4.Rxa2 Rxa2 5.Bf6 Qd4+ 6.Kxf4 Rxf2=. *Four pieces are pinned in the final position (WS).*

Q0346 (Ārsek/Tomašević) 1.f1S Sxf8 2.Sg3 Se6 3.Sxe4 Qh8 4.Sf6 Qh4 5.Qh5 Rf5 6.Qh8 Bc6 7.Qd8 d5 8.Se8 Qxa4 9.f6 Qd1=. ♔♚♛♜♝♞♟. *Unfortunately there were at least two cooks. The authors propose the following correction (see diagram C). Solution: 1.h1B Se6 2.Ba8 Qh8 3.Kb7 Qxb4 4.Qh5 Rd5 5.Qh8 Kf5 6.Qd8 Sc6 7.Se8 Qxa4 8.f6 Qd1=. ♔♚♛♜♝♞♟*

FAIRIES

Editor: **Petko A. Petkov**, Judge: FA & FB sections: **Maryan Kerhuel**

We open the new year with a very rich and interesting selection of 24 originals. This is a bright ray in the painful atmosphere of the COVID-19 pandemic. For obvious reasons, the work of many authors and judges is seriously hampered and delayed. However, in the spirit of optimism, let us note that in this issue our readers will find several new fairy-conditions and pieces (**FB1963**, **FB1967**, **FB1971**, **FB1972**).

Please, pay special attention to **FA1960** in which an unpromising retro-element suggests the appearance of the theme "Schnoebelen". Although in a mini-format, the task in **FB1970**, by Geoff Foster, demonstrates the paradoxical and very fruitful possibilities of the combination of conditions Ghost Chess + Take & Make .(The author first presented this synthesis in an interesting form in the tournament Tzuica, 2020.)

(Correction: SG92 - FA1937 by Torsten Linß - the right stipulation is Reci-h#8.)

Definitions of Fairy Conditions and pieces

Anticipated: (French: Anticipé): A king is also in check if he can be put in check. (Check with WinChloe only).

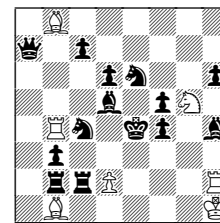
Dob Lion: Moves like a Lion, but in addition, as the second part of a move, the hurdle must also move (without capture) according to its own rules. (If the second part is impossible, the move of the Dob Lion is illegal). A neutral hurdle is considered to have the color of the moving side. (Check with WinChloe only).

Nostalgic Chess: (Nostalgie in French): If a piece (King included) can, by a Queen move, play on its original square (of a game), it must play to it, unless it is a self-check. (Check with WinChloe only).

Querquisite (Oq): It has the power of the orthodox piece which is initially on the column on which it is located. Other name: Odysseus.

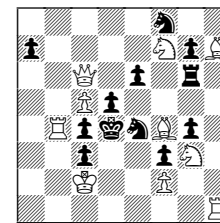
For all definitions of fairy conditions and pieces please consult StrateGems web site <http://strategems.net/>

FA1951 Jacques Rotenberg
& Pierre Tritten
Israel/France



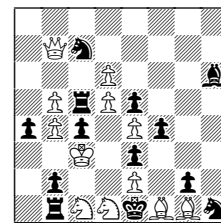
h#2 2 solutions (7+14)
Take & Make (bK in check)

FA1952 Hubert Gockel
Germany



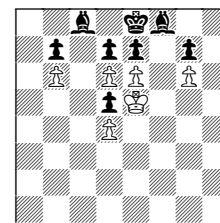
#2 Breton adverse (10+12)

FA1953 Manfred Rittirsch
Germany



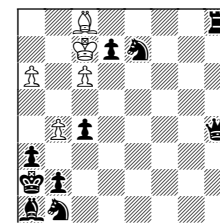
h#2 2 solutions (12+13)
Breton adverse

FA1954 Jaroslav Štůň
Slovakia



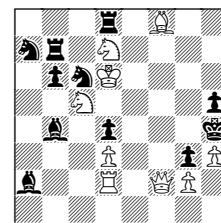
h#3* b) Einstein Chess (6+8)

FA1955 Christopher Jones
England



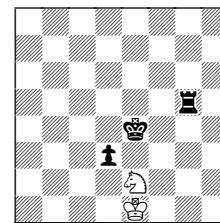
hs#3½ b) Pc4→f7 (5+10)

FA1956 Christopher Jones
England



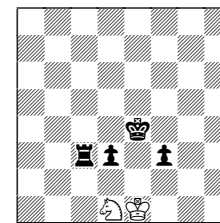
hs=3½ 2 solutions (9+11)

FA1957 Geoff Foster
Australia



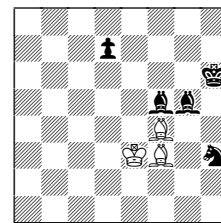
h#4 2 solutions (2+3)
Chameleon Circe

FA1958 Geoff Foster
Australia
Dedicated to John Rice



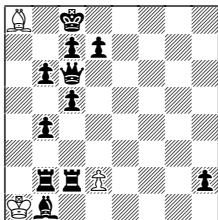
h#4 b) Pd3→e3 (2+4)
Chameleon Circe

FA1959 Sergey Smotrov
Kazakhstan



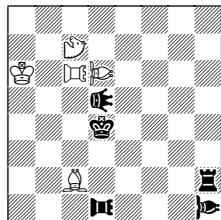
hs#5½ (3+5)

FA1960 Andrey Frolkin
& Igor Vereshchagin
Ukraine/Russia



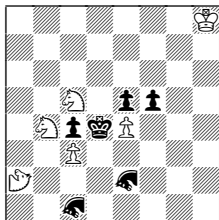
hs#5½ (3+11)

FB1961 Franz Pacht
Germany



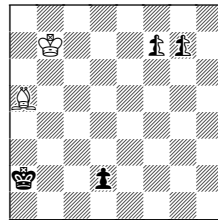
h#2 2 solutions (5+5)
♞Senora, ♞Saltador
♞Loco, ♞Faro

FB1962 Petko A. Petkov
Bulgaria



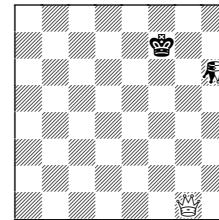
h#2 b) Pe5→e3 (6+6)
Cast inverse
♞RAO, ♞Rose

FB1972 Eric Huber
Romania



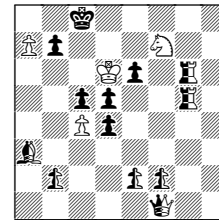
hs#2½ 2 solutions (2+2+2)
Anticipated

FB1973 Petko A. Petkov
Bulgaria



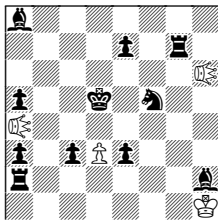
h#3 Cast (1+1+1)
b) nGh6→a8, c) Kf7→h5
d) Qg1→a4, NWK
♞Grasshopper

FB1974 Ladislav Packa
Slovakia



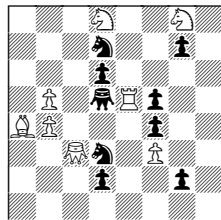
hs#3½ 2 solutions (4+6+7)

FB1963 Waldemar Tura
Poland



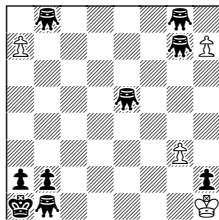
h#2 2 solutions (4+11)
♞Querquisite

FB1964 Neal Turner
Finland



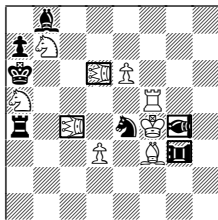
s#2 SAT (8+9)
♞Royal Grasshoppers

FB1965 Romeo Bedoni
& Sebastien Luce, France



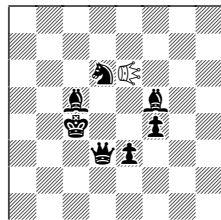
hs#3 b) - Gg7 (4+9)
♞Grasshopper

FB1966 Vlaicu Crișan
Romania, In memory of
my mother Monica Crișan



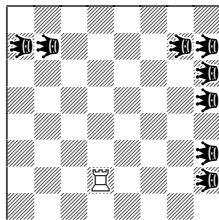
hs#3½ 2 solutions (9+7)
♞Bul Vao, ♞Bul Pao, ♞Bul Leo

FB1967 Sébastien Luce
France



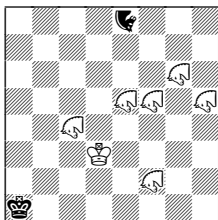
h#6½ Nostalgic Chess (1+7)
♞Locust

FB1968 Václav Kotěšovec
Czechia



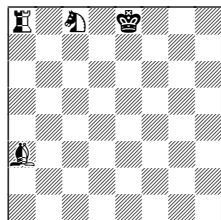
ser.h=9 2 solutions (1+8)
(No Kings), ♞Lion

FB1969 Václav Kotěšovec
Czechia



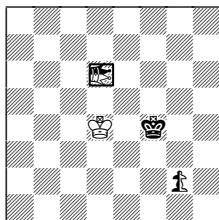
ser-s#16 2 sols. (7+2)
Maximummer, ♞Nightrider
♞Nightrider-Hopper

FB1970 Geoff Foster
Australia



h#2 b) nBa3→a5 (0+1+3)
Ghost Chess + Take & Make
(NWK)

FB1971 Eric Huber
Romania



h#2½ b) Kf4→b6 (1+1+2)
♞Dob Lion

SG91 (July - September 2020) Solutions - FAIRIES

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

FA1900 (Tura) 1...h5 2.Bxh5=w Bg4#; 1.dxe5=w Bh6 2.Rxh6=w Rf6#. *Andernach-switchbacks. Model mates (A). Nice Switchbacks after fairy effects (WS).*

FA1901 (Tritten) 1.Bxc7 Sb6 2.cxb6 Bxb2#; 1.Bd2 Sf6 2.Sxe7 Se8#; 1.Sxd7 Rxa2 2.Rxd8 Rb2#. The black King can capture any white piece to escape mate. The goal is to avoid such capture. Cyclic Zilahi (A), A special Mars Circe problem with many good effects (WS).

FA1902 (Petkov) 1.Rxh5?[A] (zz), 1...d6[a] 2.Bxd5#[B], 1...d4[b] 2.Kxd7#[C], (1...d2[x] 2.Bb1#), 1...exf4! (y); 1.Bxd5?[B] (zz), 1...h4[c] 2.Kxd7#[C], 1...d6[a] 2.Rxh5# [A], (1...exf4[y] 2.Re8#, 1...d2[x]; **1.Kxd7![C]** (zz), 1...d4[b] 2.Rxh5# [A], 1...h4[c] 2.Bxd5# [B], (1...d2[x] 2.Bb1#, 1...exf4[y] 2.Re8#). *Complete cycle of white moves ABC-BCA-CAB (Lacny in 3 phases in a special reversible form). The main strategic motive in this complex combination is the Cyclic annihilation of black pawns. The two variations, after 1...d2[x] and 1...exf4[y], with line-opening, are also an important thematic part of the content. The Cast condition provides rich opportunities to compose problems with direct stipulations in a modern style. The dedication is on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of my mother, Danka Petkova (1920-1993) (A).*

FA1903 (Degener) 1.Sc6? (zz), 1...dxc6 (xb1) 2.Bb8+ Kxb8 (xc1)#, 1...Bd2 2.Qd8+ Kxb7 (xb1)#, 1...Sd2!; 1.Sa6? (zz), 1...Sd2 2.Qd8+ Kxa7 (xc1)#, 1...Bd2!; **1.Qd8!** (zz), 1...Bd2 2.Sc6+ Kxb7 (xb1)#, 1...Sd2 2.Sa6+ Kxa7 (xc1)#. *The condition "Breton" is a novelty in the # genre. The play of the "Breton black half-battery" is especially interesting (E).*

FA1904 (Gockel) This is a complete block, every black move can be answered by a mate. White must find a waiting move: 1.b8Q? (zz), 1...Rc3~(=a3) 2.Qd4#, 1...Rb3! 2.Qd4+? Rxb8[-Qd4]!; 1.b8R? (zz), 1..Bf4~ 2.Re3#, 1...Bxd6[-Pg2]! 2.Re3+? Bxb8[-Re3]!; 1.b8B? (zz), 1...Sc5~ 2.Be4#, 1...Sa6! 2.Be4+? Sxb8[-Be4]!; 1.b8S? (zz), 1...Ra4~ 2.Sb4#, 1...Ra8~ 2.Sb4+? Rxb8 [-Sb4]!; (1.Bg7? (zz) Se6! (2.Be4+ Sxg7 [-Be4]!); **1.Bh8!** (zz), 1...Rc~/Bf~/S5~/Ra~/S1~ 2.Qd4/Re3/Be4/Sb4/Qxc3[-Ra4]#. *AUW tries (plus another by wB) fail after Black correction (A).*

FA1905 (Argirakopoulos) a) 1...Ra7 2.Sf7 Rf2 3.g3 Ra1#; b) 1...Bb1 2.Se4 Rg3 3.e2 Bxe4#. *In W1 White play its longest move, while B1 is a move by bS to prevent this piece to return to its initial square. Then, W2 is a short move just to control squares around bK and white delivers mate in a long W3 move (A).*

FA1906 (Balasubramanian/Crişan) a) 1...Se4 2.Re3 (2.Ra3?? 4.Ra4!) Rd3 3.Bxb6 Rc5# (3...Sc5?? 4.Ke4/Re4!); b) 1...Se5 2.Bd6 (2.Ba3?? 4.Bb2!) Bc5 3.Rxd2 Bd3# (3...Sd3?? 4.Ke5/Be5!). *Five pairs exchange their functions actively, half-actively or passively: a) bRd3/bBc5: Active play out of the orthodox pin line/Active capture of the orthodox pinning piece; b) wRd2/wBb6: Active rear piece of the mating anti-battery piece/Passively annihilated at B3; c) wRc1/wBa6: Active front piece of the mating anti-battery/Passive guard of the rear piece of the mating anti-battery; d) wSf6/wSg4: Active guard of the front piece of the mating anti-battery; hindering the black piece from guarding the bK/Passive flight control; e) bRc8/bBf1: Passive guard of potential flight c4 after B3/Passive guard against potential flight c4 after B2 (A).*

FA1907 (Foster) a) 1.Se8 Ke6 2.Sdd7 Ba4 3.Sc8 Ba5#; b) 1.Ke8 Bd1 2.Sd8 Kd6 3.Sf8 Bh5#. *Ideal-mate with left/right reflected echo. bSh8 moves as Rook, bSd2 moves laterally and diagonally, wB moves laterally, diagonally and as Knight (A).*

FA1908 (Rallo) 1.Bg4 Ke4 2.Kd2 Se2 3.Bf5+ Kd2↔Ke4#; 1.e4 Sxe4+ 2.Ke3↔Kc3 Sf2 3.Sd5+ Sd5↔Sf2#. *Specific Messigny mates with active play of both kings (A).*

FA1909 (Jones) 1.Rxf3[A] exf3 2.exf3[B] Qa4 3.f4+ Qxd1#; 1.exf3[B] Rxf3 2.Rxf3[A] Qd7 3.Rf5+ Qxd1#. *Unusual strategy with cycle of white moves AB-BA (E), Interesting as always (WS).*

FA1910 (Foster) 1...Bc6 2.Se8 Bh1 3.Rf7+ Ke6 4.Rg8 Bh6#; 1...Ba6 2.Re7+ Kd6 3.Ke8 Ba5 4.Rf8 Bh5# (1...Bc6? 2.Re7+ Kd6 3.Ke8?? Bh1). *Chameleon echo ideal mate, with long lateral mating moves by wB; bR makes two short moves in each solution; wB moves laterally, diagonally and as a Knight (A), Bolero is quite new, I had a hard time here (WS).*

FA1911 (Jones) 1...Be5 2.cxb5+ Kxd6 3.Rc7 Sc3 4.Bd2 Bg3#, 4.Bxe5#; 1...Rc4 2.d5+ Kxc6 3.Bc7 Sg4 4.Re2 Rc1#, 4.Rxc4#. *Interesting diagonal-orthogonal echo (E).*

FA1912 (Petkov/Alexandrov) a) 1...g1R 2.Qxa2 (Pa7) Rb1 3.Qxb1(Ra8) Rc2 4.Qb6+ axb6 (Qd1)#; b) 1...g1B 2.Qxe3 (Pe7) Bf2 3.Qxf2 (Bf8) Rd2 4.Qf6+ exf6 (Qd1)#. *Surprising black promotions in R and B as future rear battery-pieces. Creation of black batteries P/R and P/B after captures of black Pawns and active sacrifices of bR and bB, preventive line-closing of the wQ after 3...Rc2 in (a) and 3...Rd2 in (b) (A), Two remarkable solutions, difficult to find (WS).*

FA1913 (Foster) 1.Qe2+! Sf2 2.Qd1 Sh3 3.Sc3 Sg1 4.Se2 Sf3#; 1.Qc5 Se3 2.Qc1 Sf1 3.Kd1 Kf2 4.Sd2 Se3#. *A chameleon echo. The first solution has an amazing tempo move 1.Qe2+!, then 1...Sf2 2.Qd1 unpins the wS! In the second solution it is surprising that the bQ only has one path to c1 (1.Qh6?Se3 2.Qc1??). Also 1.Sd2? Se3 2.Qc5 Sf1 3.Kd1 Kf2??. In the second solution 4...Sf1-e3 is a switchback mate (A), Very good echo mates (WS).*

FA1914 (Tar) a) 1.bxc6+ Kxc6 2.Se2 Kb5 3.Sd4+ Ka4 4.Sc3+ Sxc3#; b) 1.Sd6 Sg4 2.fxg4 Ke7 3.Sc8+ Kf6 4.Se4+ Bxe4#. *Theme: In the initial position, the piece X stands on the square x. In the solution, another piece of the same type and color as X arrives on the square x. Thematic squares: c3 & e4. Zilahi with bB and bS sacrifices (A), The twin is more difficult (WS).*

FA1915 (Petkov) 1...Sc5 2.Bb2 Sb3 3.Qf6 Sa1 4.a5 Bc2 5.Qa6+ Sb3#. *Thematic try: 1...Bc2? 2.Bb2 Sc5 3.Qf6 Sb3 and 4.Pa5 is illegal because of self-check. A specific white Indian B/Q in logical form with paradoxical self-block of wPa5 from the wQ as a forward battery piece. Model mate (A).*

FA1916 (Medintsev) 1.Kc1 a6! tempo (1...a5?) 2.Rb1 a5 3.Sb2 a4 4.Sc2 a3 5.Bb3! a2 6.Rd5 a1S! 7.Qh6+ Kg8 8.Rd1+ Sxb3#. *Slow black Excelsior with minor promotion to bS, four active self-blocks by White with wB/wR battery creation, active kings (involving flight-giving for bK), W-B & W-W Umnov effects, model mate in a Meredith setting without technical pieces (A).*

FB1917 (McDowell) a) 1.EHdd6 EHae4 2.Ke3 Ehh4#; b) 1.EHAd6 EHee4 2.Kf3 EHe13. *Reciprocal formation of white EH/EH batteries combined with reciprocal black Edgehog's closures. Lightweight and nice construction! (E).*

FB1918 (Loustau) 1.Sc3! (2 Sxd5#), 1...LEfd3 2 Rc6# (2.Rb7+? NLxb7!), 1...LExh5 2 Rb7# (2.Rc6+? Kb8!), 1...LEde5 2Qd6# (2.Qxd7+? Kxd7!), 1...LEde4 2Qxd7# (2.Qd6+? Kc8!), 1...LExg2 2 Sb5# (2.Qc5+? Kd8!), 1...LExd2 2 Qc5# (2.Sb5+? Kxb6!), (1...Rxa5 2.Qd8#). *Three couples of pure anti-dual variations performed in a kind of dance of Leos (which control cyclically, 2 by 2, the threat square d5) (A).*

[Continue on page 49.]

Editor: **Kostas Prentos**

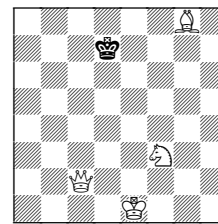
Judges: Retros: **Paul Răican** Proof Games: **Paul Răican**

Our hopes and wishes for 2021 are for a year of health, prosperity and many good chess problems. Paul Răican from Romania has kindly accepted to judge both sections. He is a prolific composer in a wide range of genres that include Retractors and PGs, the organizer and judge of the *Murfatlar* tourney for fairy proof games and Editor of the problem magazine *Quartz*.

Thank you to the new judge and all the authors who sent originals for this issue and, especially, Andreas Thoma for his loyalty and support over many years. His three originals are appealing, as always, with **R0335** being a hard nut to crack. **R0337** combines Anti-Circe with Circe, which means that normally both the capturing and captured piece are reborn. Be on the lookout for a new article by Günther Weeth in *Die Schwalbe* and *Julia's Fairies* about Retractors that combine these two conditions. Ladislav's logical **R0338** was inspired by his own cook idea to **R0332** by Vokál & Packa.

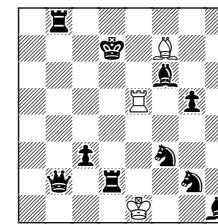
Pierre's **P0506** asks for a PG in 4 moves that ends with triple check and must have a wPc2 in the final position. In *Contra Parrain Circe*, following a capture, the captured piece is reborn only after another piece of its own side has moved. The line between capturing square and rebirth square is parallel with and of the same length (but **opposite** direction) as the move of this other piece. The definitions of all the other fairy conditions are available at the *StrateGems* website. Only **P0509** of the four PG originals has not been fully computer-tested. Notably, Jacobi cruises through **P0508**, solving it in minutes, while Euclide and Natch seem to require days.

R0334 Andreas Thoma
Germany



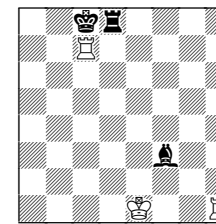
-2 & s#1 b) wSg8: -3 & s#1 (4+1)
(Proca) Anti-Circe Cheylan

R0335 Andreas Thoma
Germany



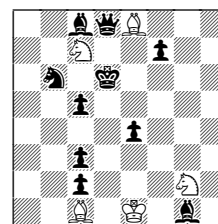
-6 & #1 (Proca) (3+10)
Anti-Circe Cheylan

R0336 Andreas Thoma
Germany



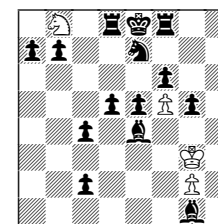
-8 & s#1 (Proca) (3+3)
Anti-Circe Cheylan

R0337 Günther Weeth
& Klaus Wenda
Germany/Austria



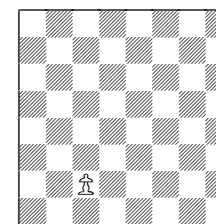
-11 & s#1 (Proca) (5+10)
Anti-Circe + Circe

R0338 Ladislav Belcsak
San Francisco, CA

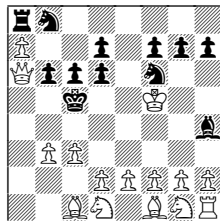


-11 & #1 (4+14)
(Pacific Retractor)

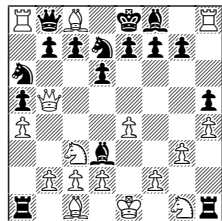
P0506 Pierre Tritten
France



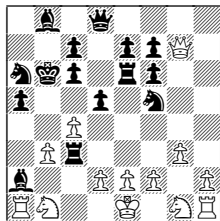
PG 4: Add pieces (1+0)
for triple check (+++)
Contra Parrain Circe

P0507 Mikhail Khramtsevich
Belarus

PG 17½ (15+12)

P0508 Unto Heinonen
Finland

PG 19 (16+16)

P0509 Satoshi Hashimoto
Japan

PG 21½ (13+15)

P0499 (Räican/Caillaud) 1.Sf3 Sc6 2.Se5 Sxe5(+wSc4) 3.Sb6 axb6(+wSa4) 4.Sc5 bxc5(+wSe6) 5.f3 dxe6(+wSd4) 6.Kf2 cxd4(+wSf5) 7.Kg3 exf5(+wSe3) 8.Kf4 dxe3(+wSg4) 9.d4 fxg4(+wSf2) 10.dxe5(+bSd7) exf2(+wSh3) 11.e6 gxh3(+wSg1) 12.exd7(+bSb8)+. "Big" circuit by wSg1 with 14 different squares (and small 4-squares circuit by bSb8) (A). This well-crafted proof game presents an attractive idea (LB).

P0500 (Prentos/Räican) 1.d4 Sa6 2.Bh6 gxh6→c1B 3.e3 Sc5 4.Ba6 bxa6→f1B 5.dxc5→b7 Sf6 6.Qd6 exd6→d1B 7.Se2 Ba3 8.bxa3→f8B d6 9.Sxc1→a3 Bh3 10.gxh3→c8B Qe7 11.Kxf1→h3 Rxf8→h6+ 12.Rxd1→h5 Rxc8→g4. Five Schnoebelen Bishops, expedited by the Take & Make fairy condition (E).

P0501 (Grudzinski) 1.d4 Sf6 2.d5 Sxd5(+wPb4) 3.f4 Sxf4(+wPh3) 4.Qd5 Sxd5(+wQb6) 5.Bg5 axb6(+wQc5) 6.Sd2 bxc5(+wQd4) 7.0-0-0 cxd4(+wQe3) 8.Kb1 dxe3(+wQf2) 9.Bxe3(+bPe1S) Sxe2(+wPg3) 10.Ba7 c5 11.Qd4 Qc7 12.Bxc5(+bPe3) Qxc5(+wBc3) 13.Sxe2 Qxc3(+wBc1). The Bc1 plays the main role and returns home (A).

P0502 (Ubaidullaev) 1.b4 b5 2.Bb2 Bb7 3.Bd4 Bd5 4.Bxa7 Bb3 5.Bb6 Rxa2 6.Sa3 Rxa1 7.Qxa1 Sa6 8.Qxg7 Qa8 9.Qxg8 Qxg2 10.Qg6 Qg5 11.Bh3 Bg7 12.Bg4 0-0 13.Sh3 Rc8 14.0-0 Kf8 15.Rc1 Be5 16.Kf1 Bg3 17.hxg3 h6. *Sitting at home these weeks. What dreams may come beside "the heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks"?* (A), *Enjoyable, but it took some hours...* (WS).

SG91 (July - September 2020) Solutions - RETROS & PROOF GAMES

Comments by: Author (A), Editor (E), Ladislav Belcsak (LB), Wilfried Seehofer (WS)

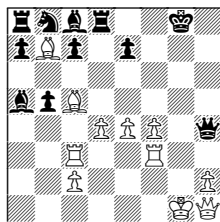
R0325 (Thoma) Retract: a) 1.Kc7xPc6(+wKe1) Kf8-e7+ 2.Se7xPg6(+wSb1) g7-g6 3.Kd7-c7 & 1.Ke8#. b) 1.Ke1xPf2(+wKe1) f3-f2+ 2.Kf5xBg4(+wKe1) Bh5-g4+ 3.Se6xSg7(+wSg1) Se8-g7+ 4.Sf8-e6 & 1.Ke6#. *Two distinct solutions in a very economical setting* (E).

R0326 (Thoma) Retract: 1.Qd1xSa1(+wQd1) Sb3-a1+ 2.Qd1xSa1(+wQd1) a2-a1S+ 3.Qd1xSa1(+wQd1) Kg8-g7+ 4.Qa6xSd3(+wQd1) & 1.Qg6#. *Three consecutive Knight uncaptures force a damaging move by the bK* (E).

R0327 (Thoma) Retract: 1.Rh1xBh7(+wRh1) Bb1-h7+ 2.Rh1xBh7(+wRh1) Bc2-h7+ 3.Rh1xBh7(+wRh1) Bd3-h7+ 4.Rh1xBh7(+wRh1) Be4-h7+ 5.Rh1xBh7(+wRh1) Bf5-h7+ 6.Rh1xBh7(+wRh1) Bg6-h7+ 7.Rh1xBh7(+wRh1) Kc8-d7+ 8.Re7xBe8(+wRh1) & 1.Rc7#. *Seven consecutive Bishop uncaptures force a damaging move by the bK* (E).

R0328 (Wenda/Crişan) Retract: **1.LEh8xPc3(+wLEc8)!** [1.LEc8xBc1(+wLEc8)? Bf8-d6+] **Bd7-e6+** **2.LEb8xRh2(+wLEh8) Rh1-h2+** **3.Ke1-d2 Rh2-h1+** **4.Kd2xPc2(+wKe1)** [Not 4.Kd2xQ,R,B,S,LEc2 (+wKe1)?] **Rh1-h2+** [Here, the wPf3 prevents the forward defense 1...Bg4#] **5.Ke1-d2 Rh2-h1+** **6.LEd3xQb1(+wLEb8)** [Not 6.LEf5xQb1(+wLEb8)? due to 6...Qa2-b1+ and forward defense 1...c1Q# - The wLE cannot capture the bBd7] **Qa2-h1+** **7.Ka7xBb8(+wKe1) Se6xLEd8(+bSb8) 8.LEb8-d8 & 1.LExd7(+wLEd8)#**. *The use of a fairy piece is justified in this complex and inspired Retractor* (E).

P0496v Unto Heinonen



PG 19½ Monochrome (11+11)

P0496v (Heinonen) In the previous issue, we reported the cook to this problem from SG90. This correction (see diagram) survived targeted tests with Jacobi. The 2020 judge, Ryan McCracken, kindly agreed to consider it for his award.

1.g4 f5 2.gxf5 g5 3.fxc6 e.p. Bg7 4.gxh7 Bc3 5.hxc8B Ba5 6.Bc4 d5 7.f4 dxc4 8.b4 cxb3 e.p. 9.Ba3 bxa2 10.Bc5 axb1Q 11.Ra3 Qd4 12.Rc3 Qxg1 13.d4 Qg5 14.Bg2 b5 15.0-0 Qh4 16.Bb7 0-0 17.e4 Rd8 18.Qf3 Qd1 19.Qh1 Qf3 20.Rxf3.

White and Black Valladao theme. Double Ceriani/Frolkin theme (wB and bQ) with invisible captures (A).

P0498 (Packa) 1.c3 c5 i) 2.Qa4 Qc7 3.Qxa7 Qxh2 4.Rxh2 Rxa7 5.Rxh7 Rxa2 6.Rh6 Rxa1 7.Rc6 Ra8 8.Rxc8# ii) 2.Qc2 Qa5 3.Qxh7 Qxa2 4.Rxa2 Rxh7 5.Rxa7 Rxh2 6.Ra6 Rxa1 7.Rc6 Rh8 8.Rxc8#. *Zilahi theme, perhaps for the first time in SPG* (A), *A lovely short proof game with two variations. Easy* (WS)

Notable Composers – The Amazing Jorges

Jorge Joaquin Lois and Jorge Marcelo Kapros

by Mike Prcic

I have known of Kapros and Lois for some time. I always admired their work and looked forward to more. They published often in *StrateGems* and won some awards as well. I had an opportunity to meet them thanks to the Congress in Rio in 2009. They flew in from Buenos Aires and were part of the Argentine contingent which also included Roberto Osorio. We often talked (Roberto is nearly fluent in English and Kapros knew enough to communicate). This was their one chance in lifetime to participate in the workings of the Congress and to meet composers. They were happy to be there.

This is their story.

Jorge Joaquin Lois was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 5, 1946. He studied medicine at La Plata University, graduating as Doctor of Medicine in 1975. He is a specialist in Labor Medicine. Now retired, he has worked in that capacity for different institutions in his home town. He is married to Norma and they have two sons, Maximiliano and Fernando.

Jorge Lois learned the rules of chess at the age of 8, playing sporadically until 1962, when he met Jacobo Bolbochán (who won the Argentine chess championship twice, in 1931 and 1932), at the Huracán Soccer Club, where Jorge was a member and Jacobo was working as a chess teacher. Jacobo was his first chess instructor and opened the doors of the chess world to him.

It was during 1972 that a series of helpmates appeared in *La Prensa* and a photo of Peña del Mate de Ayuda, the group of fairy composers (at the time helpmates were considered fairy chess) who met every Saturday at Club Argentino de Ajedrez, was published in the then well-known magazine *Ajedrez* (no longer existing). Owing to those events, Lois contacted Emiliano F. Ruth, problemist and then President of the Peña del Mate de Ayuda. Lois joined the group because he adopted fairy chess or perhaps fairy chess adopted him.

Jorge Marcelo Kapros was born in Buenos Aires also, on November 6, 1955. His family moved to El Palomar, near Buenos Aires, when he was 5 years old. He studied at an elementary school with commercial orientation, and has worked as a Cobol programmer. He hopes to retire soon.



Kapros (left) and Lois

Jorge Kapros learned about chess problems by reading the weekly chess columns in newspapers. He enjoyed twomovers, especially when he discovered the themes explained in a magazine called *Joker*. He composed his first twomover in 1972 and sent it to the Editor of *Joker*, Luciano Wilfrido Cámara, who published the problem. Cámara invited him to join Peña del Mate de Ayuda a few months later than Lois. Kapros, who was fond of twomovers at the time, was gradually integrated as he discovered that the strategies of twomovers could be used in helpmates.

Jorge Kapros edited a permanent section for chess composition in the magazine *Ajedrez Postal Americano* from 1973 to 1982, and later did the same in the magazine *Ajedrez de Estilo* while its printed version was available. Lois wrote another permanent section of fairy composition with Julio Alberto Pancaldo in the magazine *Mundo del Ajedrez* (no longer existing).

Luciano Wilfrido Cámara had a weekly chess column in the newspaper *La Prensa* until 1980 and *La Nación* later, until his death in 2004. Those columns and his two pages in *Joker* made known the activity of Argentine composers, explaining what they did, how and where. This helped both Jorges to learn as much as possible. They started composing together. This relationship, which started 43 years ago, still goes strong. They both have fun composing mainly helpmates together, whether at the club, at Lois's house, or on the phone.

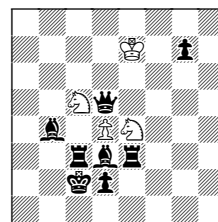
Oscar Jorge Carlsson used to say that he reserved his endgame studies with short solutions for *La Prensa* and *La Nación* because he knew that space in these newspapers was at a premium. They still compose helpmates with few moves and solutions because they would have a better chance of being published in any chess column also.

Feenschach and *Problemas* were the first specialized magazines to publish their originals. Emiliano F. Ruth translated the comments of solvers of problems published in *feenschach*. There were no language difficulties with the Spanish magazine *Problemas*. Today they do their best to manage English with online translators.

Sadly, they are not working much together now because of transportation problems. The telephone is good, but not the best, for this.

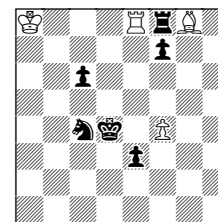
They selected the following 12 compositions for this article.

N°1 3rd Prize
Deutscher Schachbund
100 JT 1977-78



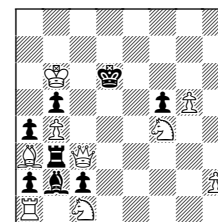
h#3 2 solutions (4+8)

N°2 Arbeiter-Zeitung 1979



h#3 b) Sc4→c5 (4+6)

N°3 1st Prize
Problemas (SEPA) 1982



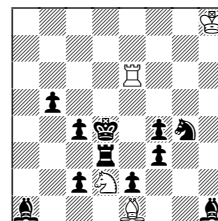
h=2 b) Kd6→h1 (9+8)

N°1 Our first composition. In the initial setting two white pieces are pinned. The white King unpins one of the white pieces. The unpinned piece moves, while the black piece unpins the second white piece, which mates. There is a black Grimshaw on e7-square as well as B/B and B/W Umnov in each solution. Many problems were composed using the idea, and some of them are in the FIDE Albums. Solution: 1.Kc1 Kf8 2.Rc2 Sc3 3.Re7 Sxd3#; 1.Kd1 Ke8 2.Bc2 Sd3 3.Be7 Sxc3#.

N°2 The weekly column of Friedrich Chlubna in *Arbeiter Zeitung* was a delight. This column and the column of Saturnin Limbach in *Gazeta Czeszochowska* are always present in our bank of fond memories. Since Cámara published our originals in his column, we were happy with being published in newspaper columns. In this problem the black f-Pawn makes one-two step moves while the black Rook follows in Bristol-like fashion. Solution: a) 1.f6 Bh7 2.Rf7 Rxe3 3.c5 Rd3#; b) 1.f5 Rc8 2.Rf6 Rxc6 3.Sd3 Rc4#.

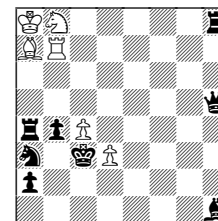
N°3 A rare case where help-stalemate received the first prize competing with helpmates. The magazine *Best Problems* is trying to combine helpmates with help-stalemates. The rare case could happen again. This problem features mixed Bristols in both solutions with one thematic black piece being self-pinned, while the black Bristol piece is captured. Solution: a) 1.Rxb4! Qh8 2.Bg7 Qxg7=; b) 1.Bxc1! Qh3 2.Rg3 Qxg3=.

N°4 feenschach 1985



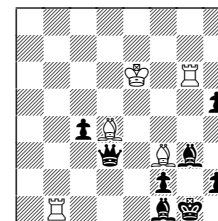
h#2 3 solutions (4+11)

N°5 1st Prize
Boletim da U.B.P. 1990/91



h#3 3 solutions (6+8)

N°6 1st Place
Group G WCCT-5 1993-1996

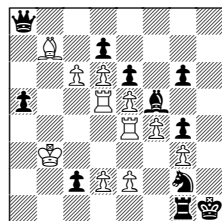
h#2 3 solutions (5+8)
Andernach chess

N°4 A cycle, AB-BC-CA, of white moves with closing of a1-h8 diagonal by Black in each solution, allowing the black King to move to the mating square. Dual avoidance. Solution: 1.Sf6 Se4[A] 2.Ke3 Bf2+[B]; 1.Rc3 Bf2+[B] 2.Kd3 Rd6#[C]; 1.Se5 Rd6+[C] 2.Kc5 Se4#[A].

N°5 We learned how to construct helpmates by reading a special issue of *Boletim da União Brasileira de Problemistas* dedicated to helpmates. It provided much information about helpmates in a few pages. It was like learning to use spices when seasoning a special meal. Here we have cyclic Zilahi combined with a cycle, AB-BC-CA, of white moves. Solution: 1.Rxb8+ Kxb8 2.Kb2 Rxb4+[A] 3.Ka1 Bd4#[B]; 1.Bxb7+ Kxb7 2.b3 Bd4+[B] 3.Kb4 Sc6#[C]; 1.Rxa7+ Kxa7 2.Kb3 Sc6[C] 3.Ka3 Rxb4#[A].

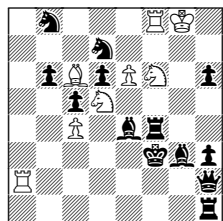
N°6 In Andernach Chess, a piece making a capture (except Kings) changes color. The judge, Theodor Tauber, awarded us First Place and we thank him for our happiness because it is easier to give thanks to a person than to five countries! Edward Daniel Kelly, another of Peña's composers, whose problems are very nice to solve, imagined Tibetean Chess as follows: A black unit other than King becomes white on capturing a differently-moving white unit. When no restriction of color and moving was suggested, Andernach Chess appeared, with such success that h#2 with Andernach Chess was proposed for Gruppe G in 5.WCCT. Edward must have enjoyed from heaven the success of our problem. **Solution:** 1.Qxg6[wQ] Rxf1[bR] 2.Ra1 Qb1# (3.Ra1xb1[wR]?); 1.Qxb1[wQ] Bxf2[bB] 2.Ba7 Qb6# (3.Ba7xb6[wB]?); 1.Qxd4[wQ] Rxg3[bR] 2.Rg8 Qg7# (3.Rg8xg7[wR]?).

N°7 1st Prize
Suomen Tehtävänäikat 1996



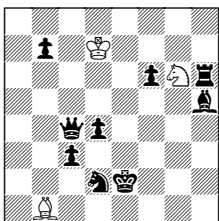
h#3 3 solutions (11+11)

N°8 3rd Prize
Suomen Tehtävänäikat 2000



h#2 2 solutions (8+13)

N°9 1st Commendation
Problem Echo 21st TT 2003



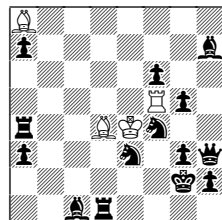
h#4 2 solutions (3+9)

N°7 In the 90's Peña del Mate Ayudado got Alybadix. We bought a Commodore 128, a Datassette and an old black & white television for using the tape with the program. This problem, with Ra8, was cooked, and it was necessary to replace the rook with a Queen. The solving test took 16 hours first, and another 16 hours after. Helpmate Analyzer has just solved this problem in ten seconds! **Solution:** 1.Bxe4 Rxa5 2.Bxc6 Rxa8 3.Bb5 Rh8#; 1.exd5 cxd7 2.dxe4 d8Q 3.e3 Qh4#; 1.dxc6 Rc4 2.cxd5 Rc7 3.d4 Rh7#.

N°8 We searched for a reason to capture the front and rear pieces of a masked battery which never fires and, even so, their pieces take active play. We found it. **Solution:** 1.Sxc6 Rfa8 2.Bxd5 R8a3#; 1.Sxf8 Be8 2.Rxf6 Bh5#.

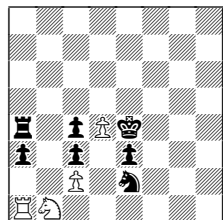
N°9 The construction of the same B/S battery is made in two different ways. Not an easy task. We composed "similar position of white pieces before mate" on two other occasions. **Solution:** 1.Qd3 Ba2 2.Qe3 Bg8 3.Kd3 Bh7 4.Be2 Se5#; 1.Rh8 Sh4 2.Re8 Bh7 3.Re3 Sg6 4.Kd3 Sf4#.

N°10 2nd Prize
Cachaza Tourney 2009



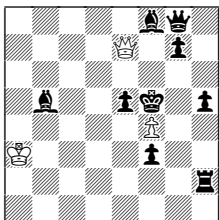
h#2 2 solutions (4+14)

N°11 1st Prize
C. Jonsson-64 JT 2012



h#3 NWK (4+7)

N°12 1st Prize
Memorial Rafael Candela
Problemas 2018



h#2 3 solutions (3+9)

N°10 The meeting of the Fifty-second World Congress of Chess Composition at Rio de Janeiro was a great present of the Brazilian composers to us. It was an opportunity to make a trip of a lifetime. Wonderful days! We will be eternally grateful. **Solution:** 1.Sg6 Rf4 2.Sg4 Kf5#; 1.Sc4 Be3 2.Sd3 Kd4#.

N°11 The tourney asked for helpmates with no white King (NWK). The long castling (0-0-0) is necessary for the a posteriori proof of the en passant capture, since it proves that the last white move in the diagram was d2-d4. There is NWK on the board, but the white King moves! The motivation was a rare challenge. **Solution:** 1.cxd4 ep cxd3+ 2.Kxd3 Sxa3 3.Re4 0-0-0! (Rd1)?#.

N°12 **Solution:** 1.Rh3 Kb2 2.Kg4 Qg5#; 1.Bd3 Ka4 2.Ke4 Qxe5#; 1.Qh7 Kb3 2.Kg6 Qe6#. Three unpins of the white Queen with anticipatory self-blocks. Rafael Candela Sanz edited El Rincón de la Fantasía, the fairy section of *Problemas*, the Bulletin of the Sociedad Española de Problemistas de Ajedrez, following the first editor Luis Olivella de Pagés, from 1968 until he passed away in September 1993. Rafael was pure cordiality.



75th Anniversary of the End of WWII Chess Composing Tourney

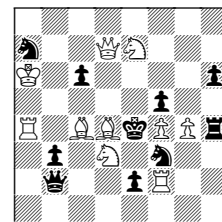
by Mike Prcic

Last year The Russian Chess Federation celebrated the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII with a composing tourney in six sections: #2, #3, #n, EG, h# and s#. I was fortunate enough to be invited to select the theme and judge selfmates section (Eugene Rosner judged twomovers). The participating composers were divided into several groups. Some of the greatest Russian composers participated in this highly prestigious tourney.

I was in a quandry which theme to select. Knowing that the late Dr. Milan Vukcevic was an expert selfmate composer I consulted his book *My Chess Compositions*. There is where I found my inspiration and a suitable theme that Milan would like: Two sets of variations (Selfmate of The Future) with at least two Bristol variations in one pair. Surprisingly, I received some good entries, meaning that the Bristol theme is still very much alive.

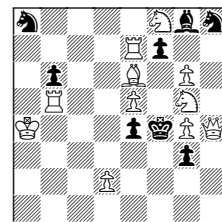
Below is a winner in each group.

1st Place
Valery Shanshin



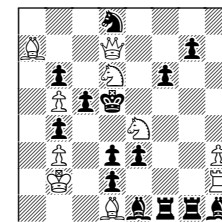
#2*√ (10+10)

1st Place
Valery Shavryin



#3* (11+8)

1st Place
Aleksandr Kuzovkov



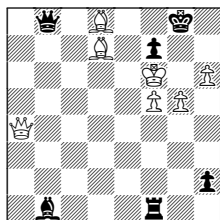
#4 (10+14)

1st Place - (Valery Shanshin) 1...Sf~ 2.Sc5#[A], 1...Sxd4![a]; 1.Qd6? (2.Sc5#[A]), 1...Sxd4[a] 2.Qe5#, 1...Qa3 2.Rxe2#, 1...Qxd4![b]; 1.Bb5?[X] (2.Qf5#[B]), 1...Sxd4[a] 2.Qe6#, 1...Qxd4[b] 2.Rxe2#, 1...Rh5!; **1.Sd5!** (2.Sf6# but not 2.Sc5#[A]? Kxd4![c]), 1...Sxd4[a] 2.Sc5#[A] (2.Qxf5?[B] Sxf5!), 1...Qxd4[b] 2.Qxf5#[B] (2.Sc5?[A] Qxv5!), 1...Kxd4[c] 2.Bb5#[X], (2.cxd5 2.Qxd5#). Focal point is the white Bishop on d4-square, which, in three phases, gets captured several times with changed mates and dual avoidance.

1st Place - (Valery Shavryin) 1...fxe6 2.Rxe6! & 3.Rf6#; 2...Bxe6 3.Sfxe6#; 1...f6 2.exf6! & 3.Rf5#; 2...Bxe6 3.Sfxe6#; (1...g2 2.Sh3+ Kf3 3.Qf2#); **1.Bb3!** (2.Bd1[A] & 3.Sh3#[B]; 2...e3 3.Rb4#), 1...g2 2.Sh3+[B] Kf3 3.Bd1#[A], 1...f6 2.e6! & 3.Rf5#; 2...Bxe6 3.Sfxe6# (2...Bb3?), 1...f5 2.Be6! & 3.gxf5#; 2...fxg4 3.Qxg4#; 2...Sxg6 3.Sxg6#; 2...Bxe6 3.Sfxe6# (2...Bb3?), 1...fxg6 2.Re6! & 3.Rf6#; 2...Bxe6 3.Sfxe6, (2...Bb3?). A complex problem with the main idea of opening a2-g8 line by the main protagonist, bPf7, with a Picknanny theme.

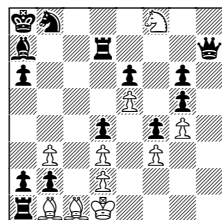
1st Place - (Aleksandr Kuzovkov) 1.Bb8! (...Sf5+ Kxe4 3.Qxd3+ Kxd3 4.Bc2#), 1...Rf2 2.Sg3! Rxc3 3.Sf5+ Ke4 4.Sxg3#, 1...Bf2 2.Sxf6+! gxf6 3.Se8+ Ke4 4.Sxf6#, 1...Bg2 2.Sg5! fxc5 3.Sf7+ Ke4 Sxg5#, 1...Rg2 2.Sxc5! bxc5 3.Sb7+ Ke4 4.Sxc5# (...Kxc5 3.Se4#). Organ pipe interference by Black is combined with four white Knight sacrifices and Siers battery play. Great problem!

1st Place
Oleg Pervakov



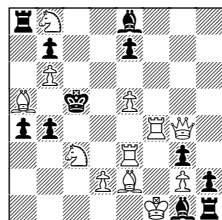
Win (7+6)

1st-2nd Place
Eugene Fomichev



h#3½ b) Ka8→h6 (10+14)

1st Place
Aleksandr Kostyukov



s#3 (12+11)

1st Place - (Oleg Pervakov) 1.h7+! Kh8! (1...Kxh7 2.g6+! fxc6 3.Qh4+ Kg8 4.Be6+ Kf8 5.Qh8#) **2.Kxf7 Ba2+!** **3.Kg6!** (3.Qxa2? h1Q 4.Bf6+ Kxh7 5.g6+ Kh6 6.Qd2+ Rf4 →) **3...Qd6+ 4.Bf6+** (4.Be6? Qxd8 ⇒) **4...Qxf6+ 5.Kxf6** (5.gxf6? Rg1+ →) **5...h1Q 6.g6!** [6.Qxa2? Rxf5+! 7.Bxf5 (7.Kxf5 Qxh7+ ⇒) 7...Qa1+! 8.Qxa1 stalemate] **6...Bb3! 7.Be6! Rxf5+! 8.Bxf5 Qxh7! 9.Qa8+! Bg8 10.Qh1! Qxh1 11.g7#**. Queen sacrifices.

1st-2nd Place - (Eugene Fomichev) a) 1...Sxd7 2.bxc1S Sxb8 3.Sxd3 Sd7 4.Sc1 Be4#; b) 1...Sxe6 2.axb1S Sxf4 3.Sxd2 Se6 4.Sb1 Bxg5#. Two sets of promotions to Knight and white and black switchbacks of the same Knights.

1st Place - (Aleksandr Kostyukov) 1.Rd3! (2.Rd6! ~ 3.d4+ Bxd4#; 2.Rxb4? Rxb8!; 2.Rf6? bxc3!), 1...Rxa5 2.Rxb4! & 3.Qd4+ Bxd4# quiet Bristol, 1.Bc6 2.Rd5+ Bxd5 3.d4+ Bxd4#, 1...Bb5 2.Rc4+ Bxc4 3.Qd4+ Bxd4# Bristol with checks and white sacrifices, 1...Rxb8 2.Rd5+[A] Kc6 3.Rc4+[B] Bc5#, 1...bxc3 2.Rc4[B] Kb5 3.Rd5[A] Bc5#.



WCCT-11

The World Championship in Composing for Teams (WCCT-11) has been announced in May 2020. It is conducted in eight sections: A (#2), B (#3), C (#n), D (Studies), E (h#), F (s#), G (Fairies) and H (Retros). This is a thematic tourney. Each country can submit three entries in each section. The entries will be judged by the selected countries on a point system; four being the highest score. The entries are due by July 1, 2021.

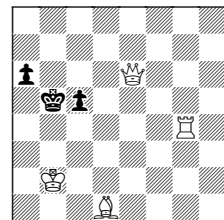
In late May, invitations have been sent to US composers to join Team USA. Many did, but not all. There is still time for those who did not, to step in and help our team.

The current team members are: Rauf Aliovsadzade, Richard Becker, David Brown, Mark Kirtley, James Malcom, Kabe Moen, Paul Muljadi, Daniel Noon, Mike Prcic (Team Captain), Kostas Prentos, Eugene Rosner, George Sphicas, Christopher Yoo and David Zimbeck. Several young composers have joined our team. It should be a valuable experience for them.

Recent Tourney Winners

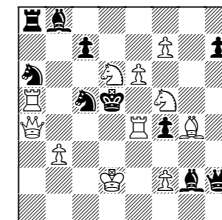
Comments and solutions are from the magazines which originally published the awards.

N°1 Vladimir Kozhakin
1st Prize (miniatures only)
Gulayev-Grin-110 MT 2018



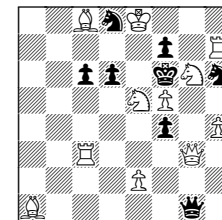
#2√. (4+3)

N°2 Valery Shanshin
1st Prize
Ural Problemist-25 JT 2018



#2√. (11+10)

N°3 Pavel Murashev
1st Prize
Gavrilovski-50 JT 2018



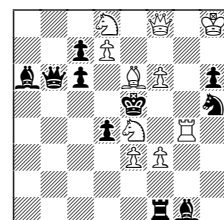
#2*√. (11+8)

N°1 1.Qb3+? Ka5 2.Ra4#, 1...Kc6!, 1.Qd5? (zz), 1...a5 2.Qb7#, 1...Kb6!, 1.Rc4/Ka3? Ka5!, 1.Rg6? (zz), 1...Ka5 2.Qb6#, 1...c4 2.Qb6#, 1...a5 2.Qb3#, 1...Kb4!; **1.Qd6!** (zz), 1...Ka5 2.Qxc5#, 1...a5 2.Ba4#, 1...c4 2.Rg5#.

N°2 1.Be2? (2.Bc4#), 1...cxd6[a] 2.Se7#[A], 1...Bxe4[b] 2.Qxe4#, 1...Bf1!; 1.Qd7?[B] (2.Se7#[A]), 1...cxd6[a] 2.Qb7#, 1...Bxe4[b] 2.Sc4#[C], 1...Qh4!; **1.Sc4![C]** {2.Re5# (2.Se7?[A])}, 1...Bxe4[b] 2.Qd7#[B] (2.Se7?[A]), 1...Kxe4 2.Qc6#, 1...c6 2.Sb6#, 1...f3 2.Sce3#. A combination of Dombrovskis effect (aA-Aa), Dombrovskis anti-effect (Ab-bB) and Salazar.

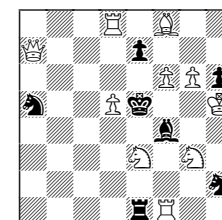
N°3 1...Sh~ 2.S(x)g4#[A]; 1.Rc5? (2.Sg4[A]/Sd7#[B]), 1...Qe3[y] 2.Qg5#, 1...Sxf5![x]; 1.Re3!?[C] (2.Sg4#[A]), 1...Sxf5[x]/dxe5[z]/Qxe3 2.Sd7[B]/Bxe5/Qg5#, 1...Se6!, 1.Qxf4? (2.Sd7#[B]), 1...Sxf5[x]/dxe5[z]/Qa7 2.Qxf5/Qxe5/Qg5#, 1...Qxe3![y]; **1.Se7!** (2.Sd7#[B]), 1...Sxf5[x]/dxe5[z]/Kxe5/Qa7 2.Sg4[A]/Rxh6/Re3[C]/Qg7#. A rich complex of themes with changed functions of white moves, Z-(2,3,3)-38, Zagoruiko (xyz), Barnes (AB) Dombrovskis theme (ABx!), Dombrovskis paradox by secondary threat (Ax!), Le Grand (xAB), Pseudo-Erokhin (CB), exchange of defenses and refutations (xy), 3 Q-mates on 3 adjacent squares (e5,f5, g5), a flight-giving key and a very good construction.

N°4 V.Pilchenko & V.Shanshin
1st-2nd Prize
ChessStar 2018



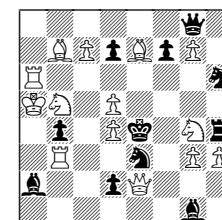
#2*√ (10+10)

N°5 Anatoly Slesarenko
1st-2nd Prize
ChessStar 2018



#2√. (10+7)

N°6 Anatoly Slesarenko
1st Prize
Zadachy i etudy 2017



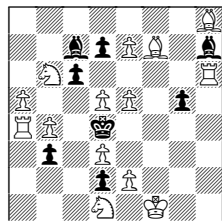
#2*√. (14+11)

N°4 1...Qb1 2.Qc5#, 1...Sxf6 2.Qxf6#; 1.Sc5? (2.Re4), 1...Qb1 2.Sxc6#, 1...Sxf6 2.Sf7#, 1...Sg3!; **1.Sf2!** (2.Re4#), 1...Qb1 2.exd4#, (2...Bxd4?), 1...Sxf6 2.f4# (2...Rxf4?), 1...Bd3 2.Sxd3#. Zagoruiko with interesting masked-prolonged Novotny play in the solution.

N°5 1.Sef5? (2.Qd4[A]/Qxe7#[B]), 1...Kxf6 2.Bg7#[C], 1...Sc6!; 1.f7? (2.Bg7#[C]), 1...Kf6 2.Qxe7#[B], 1...Bxg3!; **1.fxe7!** (2.Bg7#[C]), 1...Kf6 2.Qd4#[A], 1...Bg5 2.Rf5# (2.e8Q?), 1...Bxg3 2.e8Q# (2.Rf5?), 1...Sg4 2.Sxg4#. Solid presentation of the Burmistrov combination with antiduals in the solution.

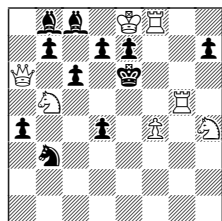
N°6 1...Kf5[a] 2.Qd3[A]/Qf3#[B], 1...Shf5 2.d6/Sf6#; 1.Se5? (2.Qd3[A]/Qf3#[B]), 1...Kf5[a] 2.Sd6#, 1...d1Q!; 1.Bf6? (2.Sd6#), 1...Kf5[a] 2.Qd3#[A] (2.Qf3?[B]), 1...Shf5[b] 2.d6# (2.Sf6?), 1...Qf8!; **1.Rd3!** (2.Sd6#), 1...Kf5[a] 2.Qf3#[B] (2.Qd3?[A]), 1...Shf5 2.Sf6# (2.d6?). Changed mates and dual avoidance (combination of Burmistrov and Mäkihovi themes).

N°7 Aleksandr Sygurov
1st Prize
Gavrilovski-50 JT 2018



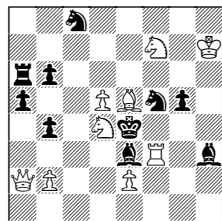
#3√.. (14+8)

N°8 Mikhail Maranduyk
1st Prize
ChessStar 2018



#3 (7+11)

N°9 Mikhail Maranduyk
1st, 2nd Prize
Kopnin-100 MT 2018



#3 (9+10)

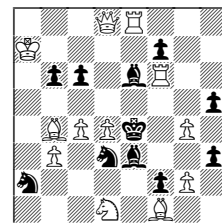
N°7 1.b5+?[A]/e3+?[B]/e6+?[C] Kc5!/Kxd3!/Be5!; **1.Rg6!** (2.Sxd7! ~/Bd6/c5/Bxa5 3.b5[A]/exd6/bxc5/bxa5#), 1...c5 2.b5+[A] e4 3.Rxc4#, 1...b2 2.Ra3! & 3.e3#[B], 1...Bxg6 2.e3+[B] Kxd3 3.Bxcg6#, 1...Bg8 2.Rd6! ~/Bxd6 3.e6[C]/exd6#, 1...Bxb6 2.e6+[C] Kxd5 3.exd7#. All three possible checks by Pawns are not effective as first moves, but they appear as second and mating moves after a good sacrificial key (the threat is quiet). I believe that even those who are not fond of using twomover themes in a threemover, could hardly be indifferent regarding this triple rendering of the Urania theme with a good construction. The problem also has a battery play (which is expected owing to the prepared batteries in the initial position) completed by transformation of P/B battery into another P/B battery in the continuation 1... Bxb6 2.e6+ Kxd5.

N°8 After the key: **1.Rf7!** (2.Rxe7+ Kf6 3.Rf5#), Black defends with 1...Bd6 2.Sxd4+! (Sc7+?) Sxd4 3.Qc4# (3...d5??) and 1...d6 2.Sc7+! (Sxd4+?) Bxc7 3.Qe2# (3...Be5??), with a Pikabish interference on d6-square. The white Queen waits in ambush behind its Knight, which is sacrificed twice, with dual avoidance. In the side variation, 1...d5 2.Re5+! Bxe5 3.f5#, the white Rook is sacrificed while the black Bishop self-blocks. The theme is presented in clear and clean fashion in the simplest way possible. The economy is excellent considering White's heavy advantage in manpower.

N°9 **1.Qb3!** (2.Qc2+ Kxd5 3.Qc6#), 1...Sa7 2.Sc6! (3.Qd3#) Bd4[a] 3.Sxg5#; 2...Sd4[b] 3.Sd6#, 1...b5 2.Se6! (3.Qd3#) Bd4[a] 3.Sxg5#; 2...Sd4[b] 3.Sc5#, 1...Bxd4[a] 2.Rf4+ gx f4 3.Qf3#, 1...Sxd4[b] 2.Rxe3+ Kf5 3.Sh6#.

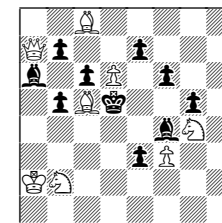
N°10 **1.Qd6!** (2.Qg3! & 3.Qxe3#; 2...B~[a] 3.Qxd3#; 2...Bxd4[b] 3.Bxd3#), 1...B~[a] 2.Sxf2+ Ke3 3.Rf3#[A]; 2...Sxf2 3.Qe5#, 1...Bxd4[b] 2.Qxc6+[B] Ke5 3.Rf5#, 1...b5 2.Bc5! (3.Qxc6#[B]) Bxd4[b] 3.Qxd4#; 2...Sab4 3.Sxc3#; 2...Sbd4 3.Qe5#, 1...h4 2.Rf3![A] (3.Rxe3#) B~[a] 3.Bxd3#; 2...Se5 3.Qxe5#, 1...Bf4 2.Rxf4+ Sxf4 3.Qe5#.

N°10 Valery Shavyrin
1st 2nd Prize
Kopnin-100 MT 2018



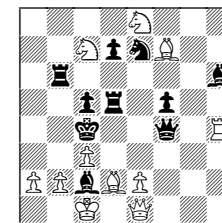
#3 (12+11)

N°11 Mikhail Maranduyk
1st Prize
Shakhmatnaya Kompositsia '18



#3 (8+10)

N°12 Chris Handloser
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 2016

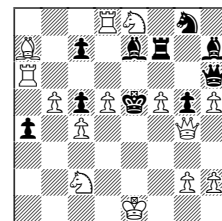


#3√ (11+10)

N°11 **1.Qb6!** (2.Bd4 & 3.Qc5#; 2...Bxd6 3.Sxe3#[A]; 2...exd6 3.Sxf6#[B]; 2...Kxd6 3.Qd8#), 1...b4 2.Qxb4 & 3.Qd4#; 2...Be5 3.Sxe3#[A]; 2...e5 3.Sxf6#[B]; 2...Be4+ 3.Qxc4#, 1...Bxd6 2.Sxe3+[A] Ke5 3.Sd3#, 1...exd6 2.Sxf6+[B] Ke5 3.Bd4#. Two sets of variations with Abadashev Theme.

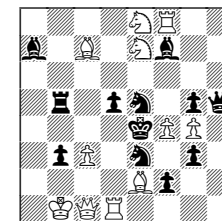
N°12 1.Qg3? (2.b3+ Rxb3/Bxb3 3.Sd6/Qd3#) Re6!; **1.Qf1!** (2.b3+[A] Rxb3/Bxb3 3.Sd6[B]/e3#[C]), 1...Be4 (unpinning the Queen) 2.Sd6+[B] (a new Nowotny square) Qxd6/Rxd6 3.e3[C]/b3#[A], 1...Re6 (unpinning the Rook) 2.e3+[C] (a new Nowotny square) Bd3/Rd3 3.b3[A]/Sd6#[B].

N°13 Sergey Khachaturov
1st Prize
Siegfried-Brehmer-JT 2018



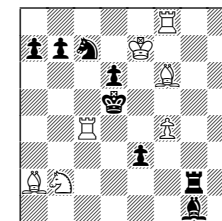
#3√. (14+10)

N°14 V.Rudenko &
V.Chepizhny
1st Prize, *The Problemist* 2016



#3 (11+12)

N°15 Waldemar Tura
1st Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2019



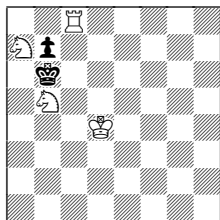
#3 (7+8)

N°13 1.Sb4? (2.Sd3#) Bxf5!; 1.Sd4? (2.Sf3#) Rxf5!; **1.Kd1!** (2.Se1 Bxf5/Rxf5 3.Sf3/Sd3#; 1...Qd6 2.Se1 Qxd5 3.Rxd5#), 1...Qg6 2.Sb4 (3.Sd3#) (2.Sd4? Rxf5!) cxb4/Qxf5 3.Bd4/Sc6#, 1...Qf6 2.Sd4! (3.Sf3#) (2.Sb4? Bxf5!) cxd4/Qxf5 3.Bxd4/Sc6#, 1...Bxf5 2.Qg3+ Ke4 3.Qe3#, 1...Rxf5 2.Qe2+ Kf4 3.g3#.

N°14 **1.Qd2!** (2.Qd4+ Bxd4 3.Rxd4#), 1...Rb4 2.Sd6+[A] (2.Qd3+[B]/Sf6+[C]?) Kxf4 3.Sxd5#, 1...Qh1 2.Qd3+[B] (2.Sf6[C]/Sd6+[A]?) Kxf4 3.Sg6#, 1...f1Q 2.Sf6+[C] (2.Sd6+[A]/Qd3+[B]?) Kxf4 3.Rxf1#. After Kxf4 defense, Black is pinned on three different lines. This is combined with cyclic dual avoidance.

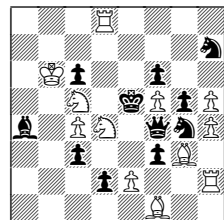
N°15 **1.Kd7!** (2.Rb4+ Kc5 3.Sd3#), 1...b5 2.Ra4+! (Rd4+?) Kc5 3.Bd4#, 1...Sb5 2.Rd4+! (Ra4+?) Kc5 3.Sa4#, 1...Rc2 2.Bc3! & 3.Rf5# (2.Sa4? Rxc4!), 1...Rd2 2.Sa4! (2.Bc3? Rd4!). Self-blocks, Lewman, anti-dual.

N°16 Udo Degener
1st-2nd Prize
Lenin's covenant 2018



#4√... (4+2)

N°17 Valery Shanshin
1st Prize
Ural Problemist-25 JT 2018



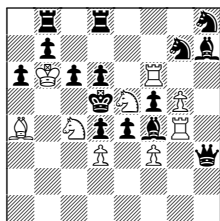
#4 (12+11)

N°16 1.Rc4? Ka5 2.Kc5 b6+ 3.Kc6 Ka6 4.Ra4#, 1...Ka6!; 1.Sc7? Kxa7 2.Kc5 b7 ~ 3.Kc6 ~ 4.Ra8#, 1...Ka5!; 1.Ra8? Ka5 2.Kc4 Kb6 3.Kb4 Ka6 4.Sc8#, 1...Ka6!; 1.Rb8? Ka6 2.Kc4 Ka5 3.Sc8 ~ 4.Ra8#; 2...b6 3.Sc8 Ka5 4.Ra8#; 2...Kb6 3.Ra8 Ka~ 4.Sc8#, 1...Ka5!; **1.Kc4!** Ka5 2.Ra8 Kb6 3.Kb4 Ka6 4.Sc8#, 1...Ka6 2.Rb8 Kb6 3.Ra8 Ka~ 4.Sc8#; 2...Ka5 3.Sc8 ~ 4.Ra8#; 2...b6 3.Sc8 Ka5 4.Ra8#. The quiet move by the black Rook (1...Ka5 2.Ra8!) is the main feature.

N°17 1.Rf2! (2.Sxf3+ Kxf5 3.e4+! Qxe4 4.Sd4#), 1...Sg~ 2.Re8+ Kxd4 3.e3+! Qxe3 4.Rd8# (4...Ke3?), 1...Se3! 2.Sd3+ Ke4 3.exf3+! Qxf3 4.Sc5# (4...Ke3?), (1...Be2 2.Sxc6+ Kxf5 3.Se7+ Ke5 4.Rd5#, 1...gxh4 2.Rxf3 Qxg3 3.Re8+ Kxd4 4.Re4#; 3...Kd6 4.Re6#; 2...hxg3 3.Re8+ Kd6 4.Re6#; 3...Kxd4 4.Rxf4#). An excellent problem with three thematic variations. In each variation, the white piece, which checks the black King on the second move, returns to its original square on the mating move. The black thematic Knight corrects in the third variation. In the second and third variation the thematic black pieces (Q/K) self-block on e3-square.

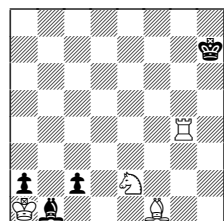
N°18 The mate will come from c1-square. In order to do that White has to remove black Se3 first. 1.f5? (2.Bxe3 c2 3.Sc3+ Kxa3 4.Bc1#) but 1...c2! (1.Bd3? is too slow). White Be2 embarks on a long trip to finally arrive at an advantageous square. From there the Main Plan takes over. **1.Bf3!** (2.Bc6+) **Scd5** (1...Sed5? 2.Bd1+) **2.Bh5** (3.Be8+) **Sc7** (2...Sxb4? 3.axb4, 2...Sf6? 3.Bxf6) **3.Bf7** (4.Bb3#) **Sed5** (3...Sed5? 4.Be8#, 3...Sc4? 4.Bxc4) **4.Bg6** (5.Bc2#) **Se3** (4...Sxb4? 5.axb4 Sb5 6.Rxb5) **5.Be4** (6.Bc6+) **Scd5** (Sed5?) **6.Bd3** (7.Bb5#) **Sc7** (6...Sxb4? 7.Rxb4+ Kxa5 8.Sb3/Sc6#) **7.f5!** (8.Bxe3 & Bc2#) **c2** **8.Bxc2+** **Sxc2** **9.Sc3+** **Kxa3** **10.Bc1#**.

N°19 Mikhail Maranduyk
1st Prize
The Problemist 2017



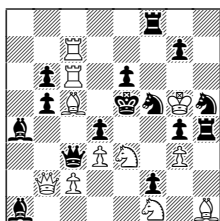
#5 (9+15)

N°20 Ferhat Karmil
1st-2nd Prize
ChessStar 2018



#10 (4+4)

N°21 Aleksandr Sygurov
1st-2nd Prize
ChessStar 2018



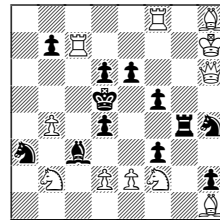
#4 (11+15)

N°19 1.Bb3! (2.Sf7 Sxf7 3.Sxd6+ Ke5 4.Sxf7#), 1...Bg8 2.dxe4+ fxe4 3.Sd3 exd3 4.Sb2+ Ke5 5.Sxd3#, 1...Qh5 2.fxe4+ fxe4 3.Sf3 exf3 4.Sd2+ Ke5 5.Sxf3#, 1...Bxg5 2.Rxe4 fxe4 3.Sg4 Qxg4 4.Se3+ Ke5 5.Sxg4#. The play of Siers battery with Keller Paradox by using a three-move mechanism.

N°20 1.Sc1! Kh8! (1...Kh6? ends with a shorter mate) 2.Bc4 Kh7 3.Rg8 Kh6 4.Bd3 Kh5 5.Rg6 Kh4 6.Be2 Kh3 7.Rg4! Kh2 8.Bf1! Kh1 9.Se2! c1Q 10.Rh4# with a model mate.

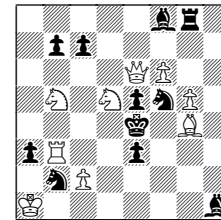
N°21 1.Qc1! (2.Sc4+! bxc4 3.Qf4+! Sxf4 4.gxf4#), 1...Rxx1 2.Sxg4+! Kd5 3.Sfe3+! dxe3 4.Qxh1#; 3...Sxe3 4.Rd6#, 1...Qd2 2.Bd6+! Sxd6 3.Rc5+! bxc5 4.Rxc5#, 1...dxe3 2.Qxe3+! Sxe3 3.Rxe6+! Kxe6 4.Re7#. Many nice white sacrifices in two pairs of variations.

N°22 Viktor Volchek
1st Prize
Kopnin-100 MT 2018



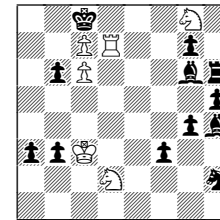
#4 (11+12)

N°23 Mikhail Maranduyk
Prize
Shakhmatnaya Kompositsia '18



#5 (9+11)

N°24 Uwe Karbowiak
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 2017



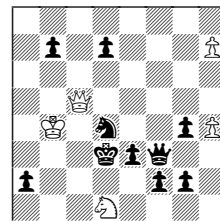
#13 (6+12)

N°22 1.Sa4? (2.Sb6#) Sc4!; 1.Rd8? (2.Rc5#) b6!; **1.Qh5!** (2.Rxf5+ Sxf5 3.Bxf3+ Re4 4.Bxe4#), 1...Re4 2.Sa4! (3.Sb6#) (2.Rd8? Bxb4!) Sc4 3.d3 (4.dxe4/dxc4#) Sd2 4.Sb6#; 3...e5 4.Qf7#, 1...Rf4 2.Rd8! (3.Rc5#) (2.Sa4? Sc4!) Bxb4 3.Sbd3 (4.Sxf4/Sxb4#) Bxd2 4.Rc5#, (1...Rg7+ 2.Bxg7 & 3.Q(B)xf3#. Good anti-dual play in two thematic variations including tries.

N°23 1.Sbc3+? Kd4!; 1.Sdc3+? Kf4!; **1.Rc3!** (2.Qxf5+ Kxd5 3.Qe6+ Ke4 4.Rc4+! Sxc4 5.Qxc4#), 1...Rxx5 2.Rxe3+ Sxe3 3.Sdc3+! Kf4 4.Se2+ Ke4 5.Sbc3#, 1...Bc5 2.Rc4+! Sxc4 3.Sbc3+ Kd4 4.Se2+ Ke4 5.Sdc3#. Two distant black self-blocks, three sacrifices by the white Rook and a return of try-moves.

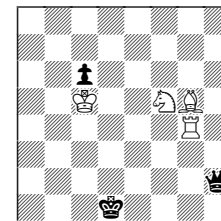
N°24 1.Sc4! (2.Sxb6/Sd6#) Be1+ 2.Kd4 Bf2+ 3.Se3 Bh4 4.Sd5 (5.Sxb6#) Bf2+ 5.Ke5 Bg3+ 6.Sf4 Bh4 7.Se6 (8.Rd8+) Bg3+ 8.Kd4 Bf2+ 9.Kc3 Be1+ 10.Rd2!! the maint point Bxd2+ 11.Kxd2 Sf1+ 12.Kc3 & 13.Se7#. Beautifully conceived.

N°25 Andrzej Jasik, 1st Prize
5th UAPA Internet Ty. 2017
Draw section



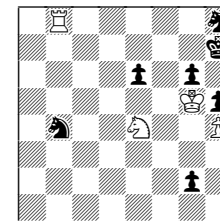
Draw (5+10)

N°26 Pavel Arestov
1st Prize (Win section)
Krug-50 JT 2017



Win (4+3)

N°27 A.Avni & Y.Afek
1st Prize (Draw section)
Krug-50 JT 2017



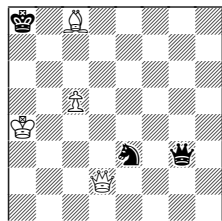
Draw (4+7)

N°25 1.Sb2+!i! Ke4 (Ke2 Qc4+) 2.h8Q/i Sc6+ 3.Qxc6+ bxc6 4.Qe8+ Kf4 5.Qb8+ Ke4 6.Qe8+ Kd4 7.Qh8+ Kd5 8.Qh5+ Ke4 9.Qe8+ Kd4 10.Qh8+ Qf6 11.Qxf6+ Ke4 12.Sa4/iii f1Q/iv 13.Sc5+ Kd5 14.Qg5+ draws. i) 1.Qc4+? (h8Q? a1Q) Kd2 2.Qxd4+ Ke1 3.h8Q Qxd1 4.Qxc3+ Kf1 wins. ii) Thematic try: 2.Qxd4+? Kxd4 3.h8Q+ Qf6 4.Qxf6+ Ke4 5.Sa4 f1Q 6.Sc5+ Kd5 7.Qg5+ Kc6 8.Qg6+ Kc7 wins. iii) 12.Qg6+? Kf3 13.Qf5+ Kg3 14.Qe5+ Kh3 wins. iv) a1Q 13.Sc5+ Kd5 14.Qf5+ Kd6 15.Qd3+ draws. "This is a study in classical style. There is a very good thematic try which perfectly harmonizes with the main line. White avoids the threats with Q sacrifices, and it seems that he has reached a draw by perpetual check but Black rebuilds his threats with a spectacular Q sacrifice and promotes his pawn on a1 or f1. In both lines White is saved by a perpetual check". (Judge: S.Polomo)

N°26 1.Se3+! Ke2/i 2.Rg2+ Ke1 3.Sc2+/ii Kd1 (Kf1 Rxb2) 4.Kc4/iii c5 (Qxg2 Se3+) 5.Se3+/iv Ke1 6.Kb3/v Qb8+/vi 7.Ka2 Qa7+ 8.Kb1 (Kc2? Qa4) Qa4/vii 9.Rb2/viii Qe4+ 10.Kc1/ix Qa4 (c4 Bh4+) 11.Bh4+ Qxh4 12.Sg2+ wins. i) Kc1 2.Sf1+, or Ke1 2.Bh4+ Ke2 3.Rg2+ wins. ii) 3.Rxb2! stalemate. 3.Kc4? Qh7 4.Sc2+ Kf1 5.Se3+ Ke1 draws. iii) 4.Rxb2? stalemate. iv) S.Rxb2? stalemate. v) 6.Rxb2? stalemate. 6.Kc3? Qe5+ draws. vi) Qh7 7.Ka2 Qa7+ 8.Kb1 Qb6+ 9.Kc1 Qb4 10.Sc2+ wins. vii) Qb6+ 9.Kc1 Qb4 10.Sc2+ wins. viii) 9.Sc2+? Kf1 10.Se3+ Ke1 repeats. ix) 10.Ka1? Qa4+ 11.Kb1 Qe4+, or 10.Rc2? Qb4+ 11.Rb2 Qe4+ repeats. "This is an outstanding miniature with the domination theme, stalemate-avoidance and quiet king moves". (Judge: P.Krug)

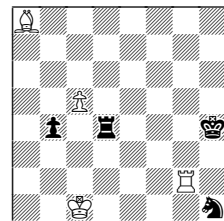
N°27 1.Rb7+!i! Sf7+/ii 2.Kf6 (Rxf7+? Kg8) Sd5+ 3.Kxf7 g1Q 4.Sg5+ Kh6 5.Kg8 Sf6+ 6.Kh8 Qxg5 7.Rg7 (hxxg5+ Kxg5) e5 (Qf5 Rxxg6+) 8.hxxg5+ Kxg5 9.Rxxg6+ Kf5/iii 10.Rh6 Kg5 11.Rg6+ Kf5 12.Rh6 e4 13.Kg7 draws. i) 1.Sf6+? Kg7 2.Se8+ Kf7 3.Sd6+ Ke7 wins. ii) Kg8 2.Sf6+ Kf8 3.Sh7+ (Sd7+) Ke8 4.Sf6+ Kd8 5.Rd7+ Kc8 6.Rd1 draws. iii) Kxxg6 stalemate. "This is a pleasant study which has the surprising move 7.Rg7!, a stalemate and appropriate tries". (Judge: P.Krug)

N°28 D.Gurgenidze & M.Minski
1st Prize
Polish Chess Federation Ty. 2017



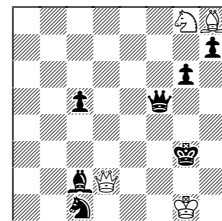
Win (4+3)

N°29 Árpád Rusz
1st, 2nd Prize
Zinchuk-80 MT 2018



Win (4+4)

N°30 A.Bezgodkov & V.Tarasuyk
1st, 2nd Prize
Zinchuk-80 MT 2018



Win (4+7)

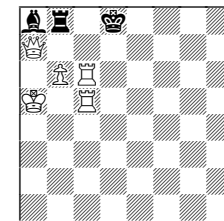
N°28 1.Qd8! (1.Qa5+? Kb8) Qb8 2.Bb7+ Kxb7 3.c6+ Ka7 4.Qa5 mate, or: - Qf4+ 2.Ka5 Qb8 3.Ka6/i Qa7+ 4.Kb5 Qb8+ 5.Kc6 Sc4 6.Bb7+ Ka7 7.Qb6+ Sxb6 8.cxb6. i) 3.Bb7+? Kxb7 (3...Ka7? 4.Qb6 mate) 4.c6+ Ka7 draws. "This is a very nice study in a classical style ending in two mates with active self-blocks. There are two preliminary plans - one by Black, the other by White - with spectacular sacrifices of B and Q. The play is clear without unnecessary long analyses and the need to use a table base, which in such cases spoils the aesthetic impression". (Judge: J.Rusinek).

N°29 1.Rh2+!i Kg3 2.Rd2 (2.Rxb1? Rc4+) Rc4+/ii 3.Rc2 Rxc2+ 4.Kxc2 Sf2 5.Bh1/iii b3+/iv 6.Kxb3/v Sd3 7.c6 Sc5+ 8.Kc4 Se6 9.Kd5 Sc7+ 10.Kc5/vi Sa8 11.Kb5 Kf4 12.Ka6 Ke5/vii 13.Kb7 Kd6 14.Kxa8 wins. i) 1.c6? Sg3 2.c7 Rc4+ 3.Rc2 Se2+ 4.Kd2 Sc3 draws. ii) Rxd2 3.Kxd2 Sf2 4.Bd5/viii Sg4 5.c6 Sf6 6.c7 wins. iii) 5.Bd5? Sg4 6.c6 Se3+ 7.Kb3 Sxd5, or 5.c6? Se4 6.c7 Sd6 draw. iv) Sxh1 6.c6 Sf2 7.c7 Se4 8.c8Q wins. v) 6.Kb1? (6.Kb2? Sd3+) Sd1 7.c6 Sc3+ 8.Kb2 Sb5 draws. vi)

10.Kd6? Sa8 11.Kd7 Sb6+ 12.Kd6 (12.Kc7 Sc4;) Sa8 positional draw. vii) Sc7+ 13.Kb6 Se8 14.Bd5 Ke5 15.Bf7 Sd6 16.c7 wins. viii) But not: 4.Bh1? Sxh1 5.c6 Sf2 6.c7 Se4+ 7.Kd3 Sd6 draws. "The author has managed to realize the original idea of a mutual 'castling' of a B and S on the long diagonal by simple means with 8 pieces. Costeff (EG#17277) managed an exchange of places for Ss". (Judge: V.Samilo).

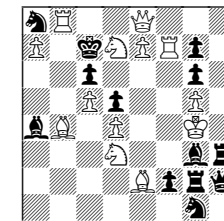
N°30 1.Sh6!/i Se2+ (1...Qf3 2.Qh2 mate) 2.Qxe2 Qg5 3.Be5+/ii Kh4+/iii 4.Kh2 Qxh6 5.Bf6+ (5.Qf3? Qd2) g5 6.Qf3 Bf5 7.Qxf5 Kh5 (7...Qg6 8.Qh3 mate) 8.Kg2/iv zz c4 9.Kg3 c3 (9...Qf8 10.Qxg5 mate) 10.Be7 Qg7 11.Bf8 Qg8/v 12.Qf6 Qg6 (12...Qd5 13.Qh6 mate) 13.Qf3+ g4 14.Qh1+/vi Kg5 15.Be7+ Kf5 16.Qd5 mate. i) Try: 1.Sf6? Se2+ 2.Qxe2 Qg5 3.Qxc2 Qe3+ 4.Kf1 Qf3+ (Qf4+) 5.Ke1 Qe3+ draws. ii) 3.Qxc2? Qe3+ 4.Kf1 Qf3+ (Qf4+) 5.Kg1 Qe3+ positional draw. iii) Kh3+ 4.Kf1 Qc1+ 5.Kf2 Qxh6 6.Qf3+ wins. iv) Thematic try: 8.Kg3? c4 zz 9.Be7 Qg7 10.Bf8 Qc3+ (Qg8? Qf6) draws. v) Qh8 12.Qf7 mate, or Qc7+ 12.Kh3 h6 13.Qe6 wins. vi) 14.Qd5+? Qg5 15.Qe4 Qh4+ (15...h6? 16.Ke7) 16.Kg2 Qh3+ draws. "This is a study on the domination of Q and B vs. Q with fierce play from both sides and a coordinated action of wQ and wB. The inconspicuous c-pawn plays an important role in the solution, as White uses it to avoid a reciprocal zugzwang position. The first move of the S is not obvious. The final mate picture is organically connected with the other five (!) mates by the wQ during the solution". (Judge: V.Samilo).

N°31 Jorma Pitkänen
1st Prize
Tehtävänäikka 2014-2015



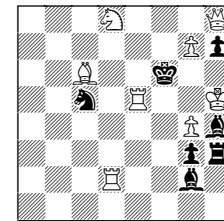
s#13 (5+3)

N°32 Aleksandr Kuzovkov
1st Prize
Zadachi i etyudi 2017



s#4 (13+13)

N°33 Andrey Selivanov
1st Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2019



s#3 (8+7)

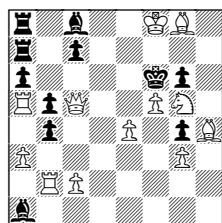
N°31 1.Rd5+! Ke8 2.Re6+ Kf8 3.Rf5+ Kg8 4.Rg6+ Kh8 5.Rh6+ Kg8 6.Rg5+ Kf8 7.Rf6+ Ke8 8.Re5+ Kd8 9.Rd6+ Kc8 10.Rc5+ Bc6 11.Qa6+ Rb7 12.Qa8+ Rb8 13.Ka6 Rxa8#. The Rooks move the black King to the NE corner with checks on white squares, and then back to c8-square, with checks on black squares. Very original.

N°32 1.Sf6! (2.Sxd5+ cxd5 3.Qd8+ Kc6 4.Se5+/Qd6+ Bxe5/Bxd6#), 1...Rh8 2.Qd8+ Rxd8 3.e8Q+ Rd7 4.Qe5+ Bxe5#, 1...gxf6 2.Qd7+ Kxd7 3.e8B+ Ke6 4.Sf4+ Bxf4#, 1...Sb6 2.Qc8+ Sxc8 3.e8S+ Kd8 4.Ba5+ Bc7#, 1...Bb3 2.Qxc6+ Kxc6 3.e8R gxf6 4.Re6+ Bd6#. White AUW is combined with a four-fold sacrifice of the white Queen. The dual in the threat is unfortunate.

N°33 1.Sb7! (2.g8R+ Kf7 3.Sd8+ Bxd8#), 1...Se6 2.g8S+ Kf7 3.Rf5+ Bf6#, 1...Kxe5 2.g8Q+ Kf4 3.Qg5+ Bxxg5#, 1...Kf7 2.g8B+ Kf8 3.Rd8+ Bxd8#. AUW.

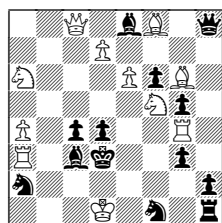
N°34 1.e5+? Kxf5 2.Be6+ Bxe6+ 3.Ke7/Kg7; 1.Qc6+? Be6+!; 1.Qc4? (2.Qe6+ Bxe6#) bxc4 2.Rc5 (3.Sf3+ g5 4.Rc6+ Be6#) bxa3! 3.Ra2 Be5!; 1.c3! (2.e5+ Kxf5 3.Qf2+ Kxe5 4.Qc5+ Kf6 5.Rf2+ Bf5#) Bxb2 2.Qc4 bxc4 3.Rc5 c6 4.e5+ Kxf5 5.Be6+ Bxe6#; 3...gxf5 4.Bh7 ~ 5.R(x)f5+ Bxf5#; 2...Ke5? 3.Qd5+ Kf6 4.Qe6+ Bxe6#. The try 1.Qc4? comes to life after the capture of wRb2.

N°34 Camillo Gamnitzer
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 2016



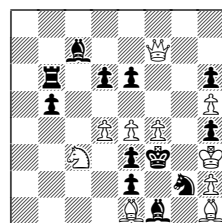
s#6√.. (12+11)

N°35 Camillo Gamnitzer
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 2017



s#5√.. (11+13)

N°36 Frank Richter
1st 2nd Prize
Die Schwalbe 2017

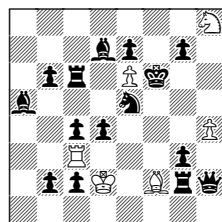


s#11 (10+12)

N°35 1.Qxc4+? Kxc4 2.Se3+ Sxe3+ 3.Ke2; 1.Qc6? (2.Qf3+ Se3#) Sd2+! 2.Qxh1; 1.Qc7! (2.Qxg3+ Sxg3#), 1...Qh4? 2.Sb4+ Sxb4 3.Sxh4+ f5 4.Bxf5+ Ke3 5.Qxg3+ Sxg3#, (1...Rg1? 2.Qxc4+ Kxc4 3.Se3+ Sxe3#), 1...Qh3!; **1.Qc5!** [2.Sb4+ Sxb4 3.Rxc3+ Kxc3 (dxc3? 4.Qe3+ Sxe3#) 4.Qxb4+ Kd3 5.Qd2+ Sxd2#] Qxf8 2.Qc7! (2.Qd6?) Rg1 3.Qc6! Rg2 4.Qxc4+! Kxc4 5.Se3+ Sxe3#. After three unsuccessful tries the white Queen finds the right square on the same c-file. After black defenses, some of the try-moves return.

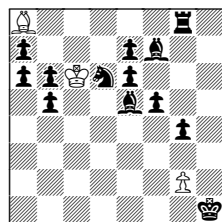
N°36 1.Bxh4? (2.Bxg2+ Bxg2#) e1S!; **1.Qf6!** [2.Qxh4 & 3.Bxg2+ Bxg2# (1...Rb8? 2.Qxh4 Rg7 3.Bxg2+ Rxg2 4.Qg4+ Rxg3#)], 1...Bd8 2.Qxh6! (3.Bxg2+ Bxg2#) Bg5 3.Qxg5 Rb7 4.Qxh4 etc.; 2...Bc7 3.Qf6! Bd8 4.Qf7! Bc7 5.h6! (6.Bxh4! e1S 7.Bxg2+ Sxg2 8.Qh5+ Kxf4 9.Qg5+ Kf3 10.Qf6+ Sf4#) d5 6.e5! (7.Bxh4) Bxe5 7.Qh5+ Kxf4 8.Qxe5+! Kf3 9.Bxh4 e1S 10.Bxg2+ Sxg2 11.Qf6+ Sf4#. The initial try 1.Bxh4? reappears several times under different circumstances.

N°37 Béla Majoros
1st Prize
Problemblad 2017



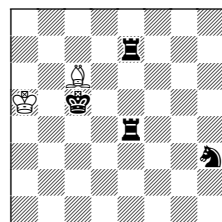
h#2½ b) Se5→f5 (6+15)

N°38 R.Fiebig & R.Wiehagen
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 214 Theme Ty. '19



h#5½ (3+13)

N°39 Viktoras Paliulionis
1st Prize for miniature
Die Schwalbe 214 Theme Ty.



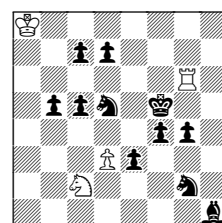
h#8 (2+4)

N°37 a) 1...Ke1 2.Rxe6 Bxd4 3.Rd2 Rf3#; b) 1...Kxc2 2.Bxe6 Rf3 3.Bd2 Bxd4#. Complex pinning and unpinning with self-block on e6.

N°38 1...Kd7 2.Bh2 Kxe7 3.f4 Kxd6 4.f3+ Kc6! 5.fxg2 Bb7 6.g1B Kd7#. The white mating battery is in place. While Black builds its mating cage, the white Kings captures two black pieces via rhomboid Rundlauf! The white tempo-move and the black minor-piece promotion are icing on the wonderful cake.

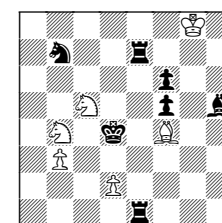
N°39 1.Sf4 Bb5! (Bb7?) 2.Ra7+! Ba6 3.Ree7! (Sd5?) Ka4 4.Sd5! (Reb7?) Kb3 5.Sb6 Bb7! (Bc8?) 6.Kb5 Bc6+! 7.Ka6 Kb4 8.Reb7 Bb5#. A well-constructed helpmate with several traps (tries), three self-blocks and one shield.

N°40 Michael Schreckenbach
1st Prize
Die Schwalbe 214 Theme Ty.



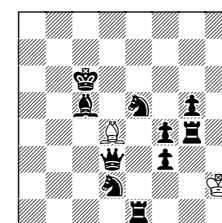
h#3 (4+11)

N°41 Ladislav Salaj jr.
1st Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2019



h#2 4 solutions (6+7)

N°42 Zlatko Mihajloski
1st Prize
Moscow Konkurs 2019



h#6½ (2+10)

N°40 1.Sh4! Se1 2.Sf3 Sg2 3.Se5 Sh4# (not 1.Se7/Sb4? Se1 2.Sc6 Sxg3 3.Se5 Sh4??); 1.Se7! Sb4 2.Sc6 Sd5 3.Se5 Se7# (not 1.Sh4/Se1? Sb4 2.Sf3 Sxd5 3.Se5 Se7??). The choice of which black Knight will self-block on e5-square dictates the the path of the white Knight.

N°41 1.R7e4 Be5+ 2.fxe5 Se6#[A]; 1.R1e5 Se4 2.fxe4 Be3#[B]; 1.Bf3 Se6+[A] 2.Ke4 d3#; 1.Sd6 Be3+[B] 2.Ke5 d4#.

N°42 1...Bf2 2.Re4 Bg3 3.Rd4 Kg1 4.Kd5 Kf2 5.Ke4 Ke1 6.Ke3 Bh4 7.Re4 Bf2#.

[Continued from page 32.]

FB1919 (Rice) 1.EHa3=w EHb8=b 2.EHb3=w EHa4=b 3.Kd3 EHxa4#; 1.Kf3 EHH2=b 2.EHf2=w EHH4=b 3.EHf1=w EHxh4#. A nice example of the formation of EH/EH batteries using the effects of Anti-Andernach (E).

FB1920 (Stephenson) **1.h3!** (2.Rg4 ~ 3.Sg7#), 1...d5 2.NAb3 ~3.PAb5#, 1...d6 2.PAb5 ~3.NAb7#. Pleasant reciprocal Chinese piece effects in the play of white NAO and PAO after the defensive moves of the black pawn (E).

FB1921 (Kochulov) 1...Lla1 2.Lld2 Lle7+ 3.Qb2+ Lle5#; 1.Qf4 Lia4 2.Lle2 Llxg5+ 3.Qb4+ Llf4#. Interesting play of white Q/LI battery combined with reciprocal creation of LI/LI batteries and Umnov theme (E), Radical change of play (WS).

FB1922 (McDowell) 1...d4 2.Qg7+ EQKxg7 3.EQKb2 EQKh8 4.EQKa1 d5=; 1...EQKb7 2.Qe4+ dxe4 3.EQKg2 EQKa8 4.EQKh1 e5=. The royal Edgohogs visit the four corners of the board. In both phases we see Chameleon-echo model stalemates (E).

FB1923 (Rice) a) 1.Kc2 Gd3 2.Gd2 Gc1 3.Kxc1 [Gc2] Gxe2 [Pc2] 4.Gb2 Gc4#; b) 1.Kxf3 [Ge4] Gg2 2.Kxg2 [Gf3] Gg1 3.Kxg1 [Gg2] Gxe2 [Pg2] 4.Gh2 Gg4#. It is not easy to predict that, in this position, the play will end with two interesting finales with ideal echo-mates! (E), Attractive and not easy (WS).

FB1924 (Brown) 1.Rd8 2.Oe2 3.Rh8 4.Rh2 5.Bh5 6.g6 f4#. Curious interaction between white and black Orphans (E).

FB1925 (Kalkavouras/Prentos) **1.Gb3!** (2.Kc4 & 3.Gd5#) fxg2 2.Kc4 (3.Gd5#) Be2+ 3.Kxc5 (4.Gf7#) Bh5 4.Kc4 Be2+ 5.Kxb4 Bh5 6.Kc4 Be2+ 7.Kxc3 Bh5 8.Kc4 Be2+ 9.Kc5 Bh5 [9...Be4 10.Kxc4 ~11.Gd5#] 10.e4 ~ 11.Gd5#. (If 5...a5+ 6.Kxc3 Bh5 7.Kc4 Be2+ 8.Kc5 follows to #10; if 1...f2 2.Kxc5 (3.Gf7+, 3.g4+). Tries: 1.Kc4? f2!; 1.Gg8? fxg2 2.Kxc5 Bf7! Duel between the wG and the bB, with help from the white King (A), A fine duel between king, grasshopper and black bishop (WS).

FB1926 (Kotěšovec) 1.Ne2 2.Nxg6(Ge2) 3.Nf4 4.Nxd5(Gf4) 5.Nb4 6.Nxa2(Gb4) 7.Nc3 8.Na4 9.Nxe2(Ga4) 10.Nd4 11.Nxf5(Gd4) 12.Nh4 13.Nxg2(Gh4) 14.Nc4 15.Nxa8 (Gc4)=; 1.Nxa2(Gc6) 2.Nb4 3.Na6 4.Nxe4(Ga6) 5.Nd6 6.Nxf5(Gd6) 7.Nh6 8.Nxg4(Gh6) 9.Nf6 10.Nxd5 (Gf6) 11.Nb6 12.Nxa8(Gb6) 13.Ne6 14.Nxg2(Ge6) 15.Ne1=; 1.Ng8 2.Nxe4 (Gg8) 3.Nxa2(Ge4) 4.Nc3 5.Nxd5(Gc3) 6.Nh3 7.Ng1 8.Nxc3(Gg1) 9.Na4 10.Ng7 11.Nxf5 (Gg7) 12.Ng3 13.Nxe4(Gg3) 14.Ng5 15.Nxa8(Gg5)=; 1.Nd8 2.Nxa2(Gd8) 3.Nb4 4.Nh1 5.Nxf5 (Gh1) 6.Nh4 7.Nxg6(Gh4) 8.Ne5 9.Nf3 10.Nxh4(Gf3) 11.Nb7 12.Nxd8(Gb7) 13.Nc6 14.Nxg4(Gc6) 15.Na1=.

The white knightrider moves the black pieces to the positions, in which Black is in stalemate. The one-line stalemate positions of black grasshoppers are shifted [0,2] and rotated 90 and 45 degrees (A).

FB1927 (Gockel) a) 1.nRxd1 Se7 2.Bxe7(zz) Sxb3#; b) 1.Rnxe1 Sc4 2.Bxc4(zz) Sxh4#. Rich thematic effects with main emphasis on reciprocal realization of the Zilahi theme with the two neutral Rooks (Editor).

FB1928 (Smotrov) a) 1.nSe6 nSg7 2.Kf6 Kh8 3.nSf5 nSe7 4.Kf7 nSg6+ 5.Kg8+ nSf8#; 1.nSa6 Rf7 2.Ke6 Ra7 3.nSb8 nSd7 4.Ke7 nSf6+ 5.Kf8+ nSe8#; b) 1.Kg5 Rh6 2.Kg6 Rh8 3.Kf7+ Kf8 4.Ke7 Ke8 5.Kd8 Ke7#; 1.Kg6 Rc6 2.nSd7 Rc8 3.nSf6 nSh5 4.Kf7 Kf8 5.Kg8 Kf7#. Different finales in the two twins: in a) shift chameleon echo mates; in b) mirror chameleon echo mates (A).

FB1929 (Solja) 1...nCh8 2.nOKh7+ nCb2 3.Kb1 nCg7 4.nOKf8 nCb2 5.Kc2 nCg7 6.nOKg6 nCb2 7.Kc3 nCh5 8.nCf8 nCb4 9.Kc4 nCf8 10.nCh5 nOKd4 11.Kd5 nOKf7 12.Ke6 nOKh4 13.nCg4 nCf8 14.Ke7 nCg4 15.nCh5 nCd8 16.Kf8 nCh5 #. The goal is achieved after long and difficult maneuvers made by two powerful neutral pieces! (E), Funny and nice (WS).

Knight Tour

By Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India

The author wishes you all a very happy New Year 2021 and let us celebrate it with an interesting knight tour on a 20x21 board. The knight tour is an old puzzle – the earliest known dates back to 9th century. The knight is an intriguing piece, due to its weird move which has not changed since the inception of the game around the 5th century. The challenge is to move a knight over an empty board so that it covers all the squares, without visiting any square twice. There are zillions of knight’s tours on a 20x21 board and the exact number is unknown. The tours having magic properties are more fascinating and challenging to compose.

17	14	407	404	171	24	397	250	61	166	255	360	129	66	355	292	303	300	121	118	4210
406	403	18	15	398	249	170	25	254	361	62	165	356	291	128	67	120	117	304	301	4210
13	16	405	408	23	172	251	396	167	60	359	256	65	130	293	354	299	302	119	122	4210
402	409	12	19	248	399	26	169	362	253	164	63	290	357	68	127	116	123	298	305	4210
11	20	411	400	173	22	395	252	59	168	257	358	131	64	353	294	297	306	115	124	4210
410	401	10	21	394	247	174	27	258	363	58	163	352	289	132	69	126	113	296	307	4210
9	6	415	412	175	28	393	246	57	162	259	364	71	134	287	350	295	308	125	114	4210
416	413	8	5	392	245	176	29	260	367	54	161	288	351	70	133	112	109	312	309	4210
7	4	417	414	177	30	391	244	53	56	365	368	135	72	349	286	313	110	111	108	4210
212	419	210	□	242	389	32	179	366	261	160	55	284	347	74	137	110	105	316	311	4210
3	208	213	418	31	178	243	390	159	52	369	262	73	136	285	348	317	314	107	104	4210
420	211	2	209	388	241	180	33	370	265	156	51	346	283	138	75	106	103	318	315	4210
207	204	217	214	181	34	387	240	155	158	263	266	139	76	345	282	99	320	101	322	4210
218	215	206	203	238	385	36	183	264	371	50	157	280	343	78	141	102	323	98	319	4210
205	202	219	216	35	182	239	386	49	154	267	372	77	140	281	344	97	100	321	324	4210
230	221	190	201	384	237	184	37	378	269	148	47	342	279	142	79	336	325	86	95	4210
191	200	231	220	189	38	379	236	153	48	373	268	147	80	337	278	85	96	335	326	4210
222	229	192	199	232	383	42	185	270	377	46	149	274	341	84	143	334	327	94	87	4210
193	196	225	228	39	188	235	380	43	152	273	374	81	146	277	338	91	88	333	330	4210
226	223	198	195	382	233	186	41	376	271	150	45	340	275	144	83	328	331	90	93	4210
197	194	227	224	187	40	381	234	151	44	375	272	145	82	339	276	89	92	329	332	4210

Figure 1, Knight Tour

Figure 1 is a semi-magic knight tour on a 20x21 board. Readers can see that all the consecutive numbers from the first square (1) to the last square (420) are at knight’s move and the sum of all the rows is 4210. Such tours are called semi-magic tours of the knight. Since it is an ‘even by odd’ size board, the columns will have an unequal number of dark and light squares. Columns will not add up to a magic constant.

Eagle-eyed readers must have spotted that it is an open knight tour. That is, the squares 1 and 420 are not connected by the knight’s move. It is more challenging to compose reentrant (or closed) magic knight tours and readers are encouraged to compose such tours.



Awani Kumar is an Indian Forest Service officer who works on 'Tour of Knight' puzzles as a hobby. He has published over half a dozen articles on this topic in international journals. He has appeared in the Limca Book of Records four times.

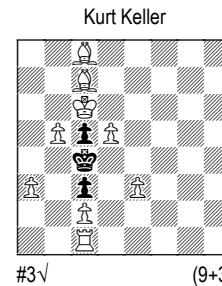
Happy Holidays

By Mike Prcic

As the holiday season approaches, we are reminded of the current COVID-19 pandemic. It has been a difficult time for many of us. I have been in touch with many composers. Many are suffering, especially the older ones. Some are not infected but still need medical care, which is not available, since the hospitals are swamped with COVID-19 patients. One of *StrateGems*’ editors lost his younger brother to COVID-19. A long-time subscriber from Italy informed me that his whole family was infected. He had the hardest time with the infection but survived and is now COVID-19 negative.

On a positive side (if there is such a thing), we all have ample time for composing (and in my case for playing online bridge). WCCT-11 should benefit from the pandemic. Nevertheless, I hope the vaccine arrives soon, is effective, and that we all can go back to our lives.

To brighten the holiday spirit, Kurt Keller has sent a composition that reminds us of the Christmas tree. Thank you, Kurt!



1.Kd6? Kxb5 2.Rb1+ Ka4! (Kc4? 3.Ba6#);
2.Ra1 c4! (2...Ka4/Kc4 3.Bd7/Ba6#)
1.Kb6! Kxd5 2.Bf5 zz c4/Kc4 3.Rd1/Be6#