FIDE OLYMPIC TOURNEY - 2012
## Section Retro
(preliminary award)

PARTICIPANTS: №1.Enzo Minevra (Italy); №2.Mario Parrinello (Italy); №3.Henryk Grudzinski (Polen); №4.Silvio Baier (Germany); №5.Paul Rãican (Romania); №6.Diyan Kostadinov (Bulgaria); №7.Nicolas Dupont (France); №8.Stanislav Vokal (Slovakia); №9.Per Olin (Finland); №10.Antonio Garofalo (Italy); №11.Marco Bonavoglia (Italy); №12.Vlaicu Crisan (Romania); №13.Alexandr Tyunin (Russia); №14.Olexij Lysjanyi (Ukraine); №15. Bojan Basic (Serbija); №16.Darko Nesek (Croatia).

The FIDE Olympic Chess Composing Tourney 2012 was an important tourney of the FIDE which was also co-ordinated with the WFCC. One of its aims was "the popularization and development of chess composition worldwide". With this background, one could expect a large number of participating composers, with many problems of outstanding quality. However, the results of the retro section are rather disappointing. Only 16 problems took part, and many of them did not reach the level which is nowadays necessary to be included in an award. It was especially sad that no complex retros (be it orthodox or fairy) with the stipulation to release the position took part. Fortunately, there were four problems worthy to be included in the award, so that gold, silver, and bronze medals can be awarded. The prize problems are truly memorable. Before we come to these, let we make some comments about some of the other participating problems. Problem no. 2 shows optical 0-0 after actual 0-0-0 in 18.0 moves. It uses a similar constructional idea like a predecessor by Itamar Faybish (*Mat Plus* 2008; PDB: P1084679). This predecessor needs 19.5 moves; however, the new problem is not a new record for shortness, because the theme has already been shown in 13.5 moves (Orbit 2009; not in the PDB, see additional problem A below); and recently, I have increased the record to only 12.5 moves (*Orbit* 2012; not in the PDB, see additional problem B below). Problem no. 5 is too similar to a Circe Parrain Proca by Paul Raican (*Die Schwalbe* 2005; PDB: P1068106). Problem no. 9 has to be compared with a Chess960 problem by Per Olin (*Die Schwalbe* 2010; PDB: P1113793); furthermore, it contains a dual in the solution: Instead of the intended 11...Sd5 12.Bh8 Qg7, it is also possible to play 11...Qg7 [...] 16.Bh8 Sd5.
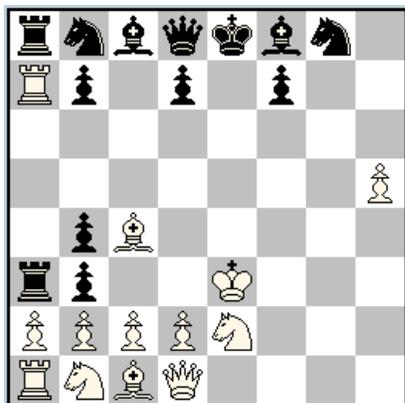
PG in 21.0 moves   (13+13) (C+)

1st Prize (Gold Medal) - №4 - Silvio Baier (Germany) - This "future proofgame" (cf. the special issue 250A of *Die Schwalbe,* August 2011) is a further development of previous achievements. The combination of two white Ceriani-Frolkin-bishops and two black Pronkin-bishops was first shown in a prize-winning proofgame by Roberto Osorio, Nicolas Dupont, and Jorge Lois in *Best Problems* 2007, which, however, turned out to be cooked (PDB: P1106797). Meanwhile, a corrected version (C+!) has been published in *Best Problems* 2012 (not in the PDB, see additional problem C below). The new problem now under consideration shows an enormous progress: Now the promotions of both white bishops and both black bishops occur on the same squares (f8/g1), which increases the harmony of the two parts of the theme; and all this takes place in only 21.0 moves, with great economy of time. There is no obtrusive promoted force in the diagram position, and the black triple pawns on the b-file can be regarded as an acceptable investment. Some might object that the predecessor already reached a great height of perfection; but, as Herbert Grasemann always insisted, in evaluating a problem, one should not just measure the difference from its predecessors, but also appreciate its total achievement; and in this case it is very great indeed. Solution: 1.f4 h5 2.f5 h4 3.f6 h3 4.fxe7 hxg2 5.exf8=B Rh3 6.Bb4 Ra3 7.h4 a5 8.h5

axb4 9.Rh4 b3 10.Ra4 g5 11.e4 g4 12.Bc4 g3 13.Se2 g1=B 14.e5 Bc5 15.e6 Bf8 16.e7 g2 17.exf8=B g1=B 18.Bb4 Bc5 19.Ra7 Bf8 20.Kf2 c5 21.Ke3 cxb4.

Vlaicu Crisan
(Romania)

FIDE Olympic Tourney 2012

2nd Prize (Siver Medal)
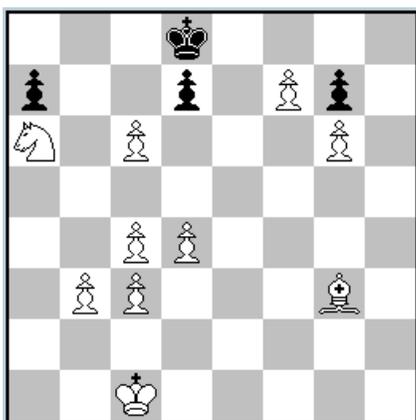
(10+4)

-14 & s#1
Proca Retractor
Circe Assassin

2nd Prize (Silver Medal) №12 – Vlaicu Crisan (Romania) - During the last ten years, we have witnessed an astonishing phenomenon in the evolution of the Anticirce Retractors. The thematic content and the constructional finesses are very impressive, but do not appeal to many solvers (and there are also not many composers active in this field!). Furthermore, it is very hard to check Anticirce Procas for correctness. Now we see a new type of retractor problems which might develop similarly: the Circe Assassin Proca! Circe Assassin has rebirths like in regular Circe, but these rebirths come with a vengeance: If the rebirth square is occupied, the occupant is stomped into the ground by the reborn unit. This has far-reaching consequences: When a piece of one side attacks a piece which would be reborn on the square where the opponent's king is standing, then this king is in check! In backward play, this means that a king can easily walk into checks which the opponent then has to neutralize. This technique is also used in the problem now under consideration, which

combines a long sequence of retractions with a selfmate in the forward play. Let me comment on the solution: Back 1.f5xg6(g7) e.p. g7-g5 2.Bf2xPg3(g7, -Bg7). The black pawn captured on g3 landed on the top of a black bishop at g7 which now, in the backward play, returns to existence. 2...g4-g3+ 3.Kd2-c1. White moves into check, because the bBg7 attacks the wPd4 which would be reborn on d2 (on the head of the wK). 3...Bf8-g7+ 4.Ke3xBd2(Bf8, -bQf8) Be1-d2+ 5.Kd2-e3 e2-e1=B+ 6.Kd1-d2 e3-e2+ 7.Kd2-d1 e4-e3+ 8.d3-d4 e5-e4+ 9.Kc2xPd2(d7, -bBd7) Bc8-d7+ 10.Sc7xBa6(Bc8) Bc8-a6+ 11.Kb1xBc2(Bc8, -bQc8) Bd1-c2+ 12.Kc2-b1 Be2-d1+ 13.Sa6-c7 Qb8-c8+ 14.Sc5xPa6(a7, -wSa7)+ and now White plays forward 1.Sd7+ (attacking two queens!) and forces Black to mate with 1...Kc7#. The author calls this a doubled Matrioshka theme: two "dolls" are consecutively "embedded" (passively annihilated) one in (under) another (bP -> bB -> bQ). I hope that no cooks will be found in this fine pioneer problem, and that the pioneer problems of Circe Assassin Procas will have a future at least as bright as that of the Anticirce Procas!

Nicolas Dupont
(France)
FIDE Olympic Tourney 2012
Honourable Mention (Bronze medal)
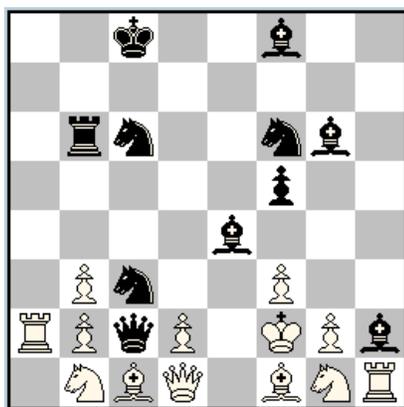
PG 30.5   **(13+11)**   (C+)

Honourable Mention (Bronze medal): №7. Nicolas Dupont (France) This problem is of a type which is giving me headaches. It is a great achievement to show three Pronkin-SSS in an orthodox proofgame; BUT it is a very heavy investment to employ four black bishops and three black knights in the diagram position. I have written about this topic in the *The Problemist* of May 212 (p. 390), and I know that not all judges share my misgivings (cf. what Thomas Brand has written in *The Problemist* of November 2011, p. 254-255). But, like Martin Luther, I must say:

"Here I stand, I can do no other." In his book *Chess Wizardry,* John Rice quotes the views of Hermann Albrecht (p. 245): "Originality + convincing form = prize; originality with formal weaknesses = honourable mention; attractiveness without particular originality = commendation". And since I regard obtrusive promoted force as a formal weakness, I give this original problem an honourable mention. Solution: 1.h4 a5 2.h5 a4 3.h6 a3 4.hxg7 h5 5.c4 Rh6 6.c5 Rb6 7.c6 h4 8.cxb7 c5 9.e4 Sc6 10.b8=S c4 11.Sxd7 c3 12.Se5 Bf5 13.S5f3 Bg6 14.e5 f5 15.e6 Sf6 16.g8=S c2 17.Sxe7 cxb1=B 18.Sd5 Be4 19.Sc3 Qd3 20.Sb1 0-0-0 21.e7 h3 22.e8=S h2 23.Sc7 hxg1=B 24.Sb5 Bh2 25.Sg1 Qc2 26.f3 Rd3 27.Kf2 Rb3 28.axb3 a2 29.S5a3 axb1=S 30.Ra2 Sc3 31.Sb1.

№8. Stanislav Vokal

(Slovakia)

FIDE Olympic Tourney 2012

Commendation
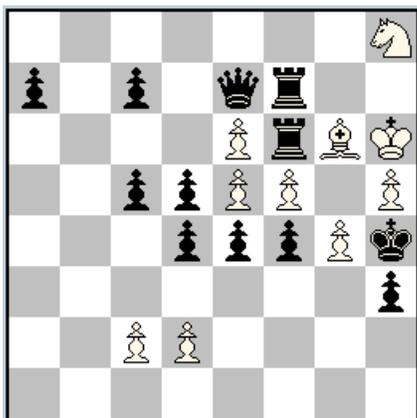
Series Helpmate in 6 moves (10+12)

Commendation: №8. Stanislav Vokal (Slovakia) - This retro problem is a nice example of the combination of forward play with backward reasoning. Most series-help-problems of this type with an en-passant-key are of the "a posteriori" kind: The key enforces later castling by the other side. In the present case, no such scheme is necessary: Retroanalysis alone can prove that White's last move must have been g2-g4. The black pawns must have captured six white units (the bPh7 needed two captures to come around the white h-pawn), and this required the white a-pawn to

promote at b8 (capturing a black unit on the way). The white b-pawn captured three more black units. So White cannot have captured anything on his last move (because we assume that the diagram position was reached in a regular game in which White moved last, so that now Black has to make his series moves). The white King cannot have come from g7 or h7 on his last move, because there is no white unit left which could have been captured by the bRf7. And so the en-passant-key is justified, and the solution runs 1.fxg3 e.p.! 2.e3 3.exd2 4.d1=B 5.Bg4 6.Rxg6+ Sxg6#. It is not easy to combine long forward play with exact retro reasoning, and this good construction can serve as an advertisement for retros.

Bernd Graefrath
(International Judge)

Additional problems mentioned in the award:

A:Bernd Graefrath (*Orbit* 2009, 2nd Commendation) -

bn2kbnr/q1pp1ppp/rp1Q1p2/p7/8/NP5R/P1PPP1P1/5RK1

PG 13.5 (C+) - Solution: 1.b3 a5 2.Bb2 Ra6 3.Bf6 exf6 4.Qc1 Qe7 5.Qa3 Qe5 6.Qd6 Qxh2
7.Sa3 Qxg1 8.0-0-0 Qxf1 9.Rh3 Qxf2 10.Rf1 Qa7 11.Kd1 b6 12.Ke1 Bb7 13.Kf2 Ba8
 14.Kg1.

B: Bernd Graefrath (*Orbit* 2012)

r3kbnr/p2ppppp/2p5/1p6/b2Q4/4BN1N/PPP1PPPP/5RK1

PG 12.5 (C+) Solution: 1.d4 Sc6 2.Be3 Sxd4 3.Qxd4 c6 4.Sd2 Qa5 5.0-0-0! b6 6.Sdf3 Qe1
7.Sh3 Qxf1 8.Kd2 Qxd1+ 9.Rxd1 Ba6 10.Ke1 Bb5 11.Kf1 Ba4 12.Kg1 b5 13.Rf1.

C: Nicolas Dupont, Jorge Lois & Roberto Osorio

(*Best Problems* 2007-08 (Version: 2012) - Dedicated to Mario Richter; 1st Prize

rnb2bk1/ppp1B3/7n/1P4Pr/2P4p/P2P1K2/p1B5/RN3QNR

PG 28.0 (C+) Solution: 1.h4 e5 2.h5 e4 3.h6 e3 4.hxg7 h5 5.f4 h4 6.f5 Rh5 7.f6 Sh6 8.g8=B
Bg7 9.fxg7 f5 10.a3 f4 11.Ba2 f3 12.g8=L Kf8 13.Bgb3 d5 14.c4 dxc4 15.g4 Qd3 16.exd3
f2+ 17.Ke2 cxb3 18.Kf3 bxa2 19.b4 Be6 20.b5 Bc4 21.dxc4 Kg8 22.Bd3 e2 23.Bc2 e1=B
24.d3 Bb4 25.Bg5 Bf8 26.Be7 f1=L 27.g5 Bh3 28.Qf1 Lc8.