716. M. Caillaud
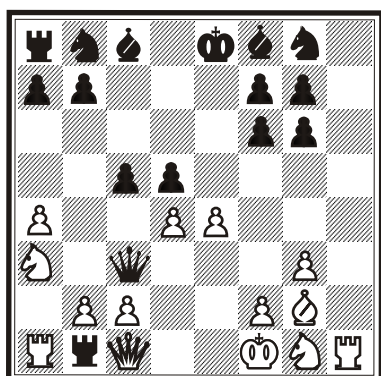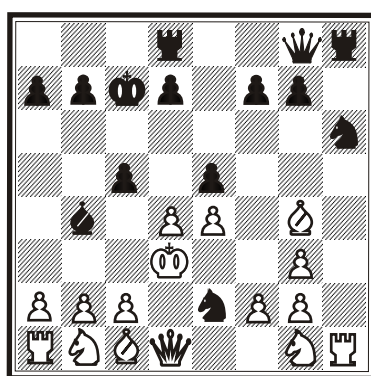*F*

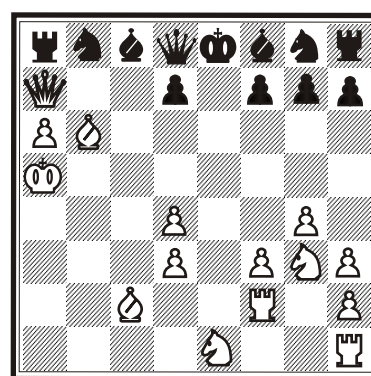(14+16)   PJ 18

717. J. Lois & R. Osorio
Argentine

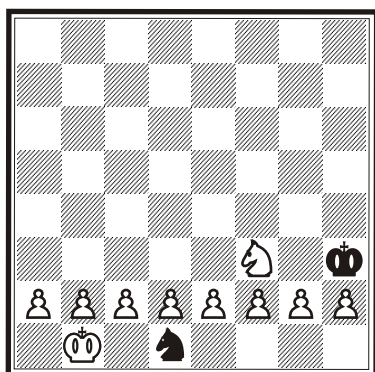(16+14)   PJ 18

718. P. Rãican
RO

(15+12)   PJ 27.5

719. René J. Millour
F

(10+2)   **Where is the
Imitator?**

Solution (719 - Millour): The vertical displacements of the present pieces are: Kh3=-5 (5 squares down), Sd1=-7, Sf3=+2 (2 squares up), other pieces = 0, together -5-7+2+0 = -10. Concerning the missing pieces, their displacements the most ascending are: bPs= 0 (all captured on 7), other black pieces = 0 (all on 8), second wS= +7 (on 8), other white pieces = 0 (all on 1), together 0+0+7+0 = +7. In this case, for the whole game (present + missing pieces), the vertical general displacement is descending: -10+7 = -3. With pieces captured lower, the result for the game would be -4, -5, -6, ... but at the start of the game the Imitator was on 3 or 4 [of course not on 1, 2, 7 or 8 (occupied squares) and not either on 6 or 5 (no first move, it was a wS move!)] and, consequently, with lower captures the Imitator could not be presently on the board because its most descending displacement, from the 4th to the 1st rank, is -3. It means the missing pieces were captured as mentioned above and, initially on 4, *the Imitator is present only on 1.* For the time being, White cannot uncapture on 7 or 8, and the plausible uncapture by the bS of the wQ (or a wR) at d1 is intentionally not mentioned hereafter because this does not change anything.

With Ia1: retracting Se3-d1(Ib3-a1) forces Se1-f3(Ia1-b3)+ Sf5-e3(Ib3-a1) and White has no retro-move providing the check given, with Ib3, by Pg2. Similar result if White retracts first Kc1-b1(Ib1-a1) followed by Se3-d1(Ic3-b1) etc...
With Ic1: again similar results.
With Ie1: no valid retro-move: Sc3-d1(Id3-e1) retro-checks the wK, Kc1-b1(If1-e1) retro-checks the bK by Pg2.
With If1: the bK is in check. After Kc1-b1(Ig1-f1)+ Kg3-h3(If1-g1), the continuations Kb1-c1(Ie1-f1) or Se5-f3(Ie3-f1) are retro-checks by Pf2.
With Ih1: Sc3-d1(Ig3-h1) retro-checks the wK. On Kg3-h3(Ig1-h1) Sg5-f3(Ih3-g1), the bK again is retro-checked, this time by Ph2. The retro-sequence Ka1-b1(Ig1-h1) Kg3-h3(If1-g1) Kb1-a1(Ig1-f1) Se3-d1(Ih3-g1) Se1-f3(Ig1-h3)+ Kh3-g3(Ih1-g1) Ka1-b1(Ig1-h1) does not release anything.
With Ig1: not Ka1-b1(If1-g1) once more for retro-check reason, *but Kc1-d1(Ih1-g1), Sc3-d1(Ig3-h1), Sg5-f3(Ih5-g3)+, Kg,h4-h3(Ig,h6-g5) ... releases the position. The Imitator is presently on **g1.***

713. (J. Lois & R. Osorio): the shortest game in Madrasi which leads to stalemate (last move was 7.g2-g4);
714. (Joost de Heer): the shortest game in Madrasi which leads to a specific Madrasi stalemate (without the trick of e.p.) Dedicated to N. Dupont;
715. (Silvio Baier): is QRR Phoenix-Pronkin