

QUARTZ 43

Dec. 2016



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A new retro genre?

by Paul Răican

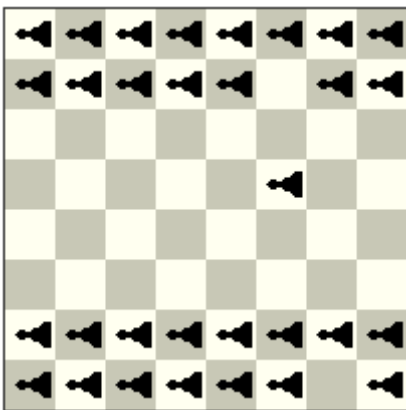
Editor's note: This little article is the result of a fruitful correspondence between me and my friends Eric Huber, Vlaicu Crisan, Cornel Pacurar and Adrian Storisteanu at the end of 2015.

At the beginning of December 2015, Eric Huber discovered this problem by the late Romanian composer Vasile I. Tacu (b.1910 - d.1993):

(A) Vasile I. Tacu

Europe Echecs 376, 1991

P0001674



Position after the 6th
black move, #1

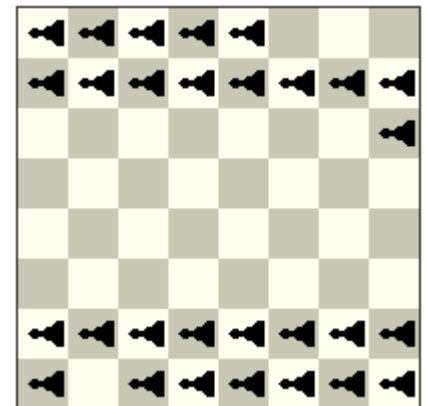
 is an unspecified unit

The stipulation asks to find an exact proof game in 6 moves, which allows a mate in 1. Here is the solution:
1.Sf3 f5 2.Se5 Sf6 3.Sxd7 Rg8 4.Se5 Qd7 5.Sg6 Kd8 6.Sh8 Se8 (diagram) & 7.Sf7# I was delighted by this unexpected and nice solution (which, by the way, was found by the Canadian Jeff Coakley). Almost immediately, I composed the following version (B).

1.Sb1-c3 d7-d5 2.Sc3xd5 Qd8-d7
3.Sd5xe7 Ke8-d8 4.Se7xg8 Bf8-e7
5.Sg8-h6 Rh8-e8 & 1.Sxf7#

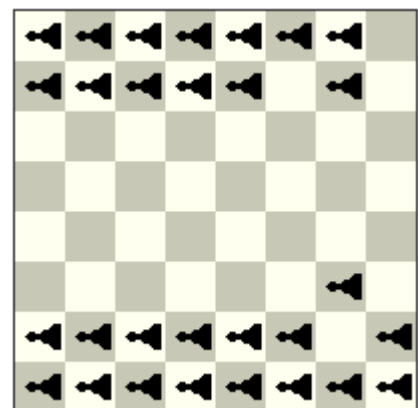
(B) P. Răican

after V. I. Tacu



Position after the 5th
black move, #1

(C) P. Răican original



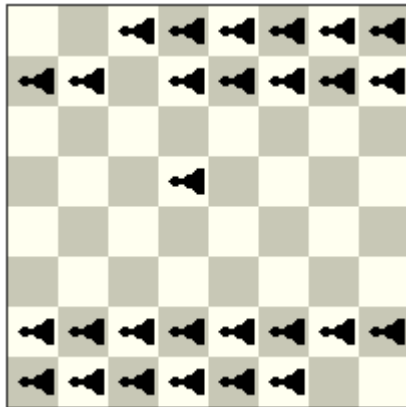
Position after the 4th black
move, Einstein Chess, #1
b) Xf1 → f6

Now, the question is: why not a fairy Proof Game with similar content? Einstein Chess seems to be a good choice and resulted the problem (C).

- a) 1.g2-g4 h7-h5 2.g4xh5=S f7-f6 3.Sh5xf6=B Rh8-h4=B 4.Bf6xg7=R Bh4-g3=S & 5.Rg7-g6=B#
b) 1.g3 h5 2.Bg2=S h4 3.Sxh4=B f6 4.Bxf6=R Rxh2=Q & 5.Rg6=B#.

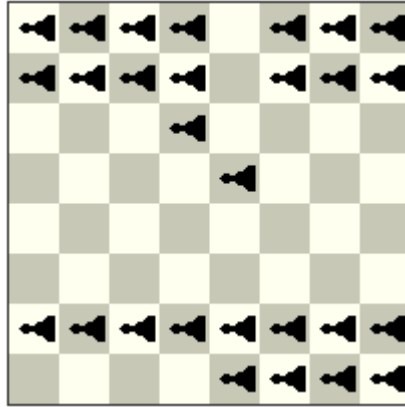
However, we have the checkmate from a), so the twin adds no novelty.

(D) P. Răican
original



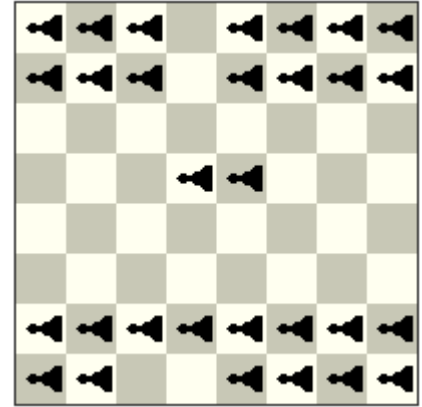
Position after the 6th black move, Einstein Chess, #1

(E) E. Huber
original



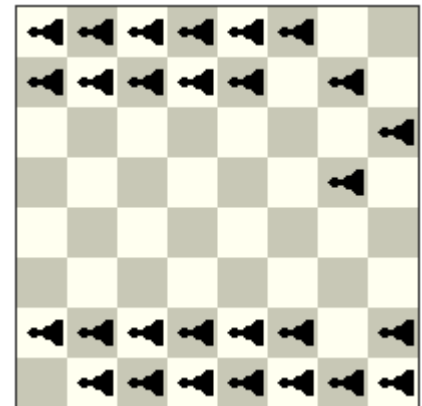
Position after the 5th black move, Einstein Chess, #1

(F) P. Răican
original



Position after the 4th black move, Einstein Chess, #1

(G) P. Răican
original



Position after the 5th black move, Einstein Chess, #1

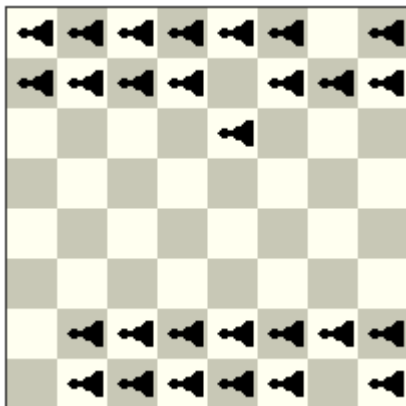
(D) 1.h3 d6 2.Rh2=B Bxh3=R 3.Sxh3=B Sd7=P 4.Bxd7=R Rc8=B 5.Rxc7=Q Bd7=S 6.Qc8=R d5 & 7.Bc7=S#
Black Qd8 is a pinned piece.

(E) 1.d4 e5 2.dxe5=S Ba3=S 3.Qd6=R Sxb1=B 4.Bd2=S Bxa2=R 5.Rxa2=Q Kf8 (6.Qxf7#)

(F) 1.d4 e5 2.dxe5=S d5 3.Qxd5 Qd7=R 4.Bd2=S Re7=B (5.Sxf7=B#)

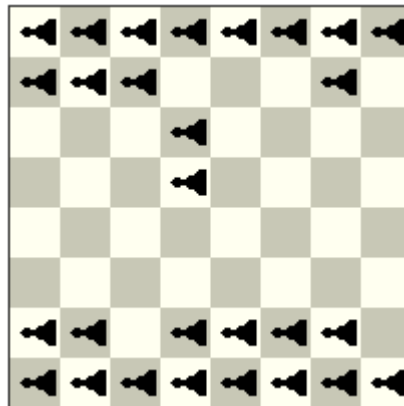
(G) 1.g2-g4 f7-f5 2.g4xf5=S Sg8-h6=P 3.Sf5xh6=B Rh8-g8=B 4.Bh6-g5=S Bg8xa2=R 5.Ra1xa2=Q h7-h6 si 1.Sg5-f7=P#
Mate with a white Pawn.

(H) P. Răican
original



Position after the 6th black move, Einstein Chess, #1

(I) E. Huber
original



Position after the 3th black move, Southern Chess, #1

(H) 1.a3 e6 2.Ra2=B Bxa3=R 3.Bxe6=R+ Kf8 4.Re8=B Rh3=B 5.Sxh3=B Se7=P 6.Bxd7=R e6 (7.Rxf7=Q#)

(I) 1.c2xh7 f7xa2 2.hxg8=Q d7-d5 3.h2xh8=S e7-d6 4.Qf7#, two white promotions, but the mate must be specific, I guess.

Quartz TT10

We think that the above little article is a good start towards a new thematic tournament, **Quartz TT10**: Realize problems with the stipulation *Position after the Nth black move, #1*, as exemplified in this article. The corresponding proof game must be: a) unique, b) associated with a fairy genre. The mate in 1 must be unique as well.

Send problems in an unlimited number to our Director, Dinu-Ioan Nicula, e-mail: nicudinoo4@yahoo.com, up to July 1, 2017.

Judge: Will be designed.

Award of Fairies-Quartz 2010-2015 judge Klaus Wenda

Editor's note: The classified problems are posted here with the year in which they were published. Our last judge for this section was the great expert, IGM Klaus Wenda. Long-time President of PCCC and current Honorary President of the WFCC, he was awarded the title of International Grandmaster (IGM) in 2010.

Thanks to Chris Feather for translation. Many thanks to Klaus for his well argued classification!

It was with great regret that I learned that the originals section of the magazine Quartz was abolished at the end of 2015. To make a proper conclusion, the tourneys from 2010 to 2015 inclusive are therefore amalgamated for judging purposes.

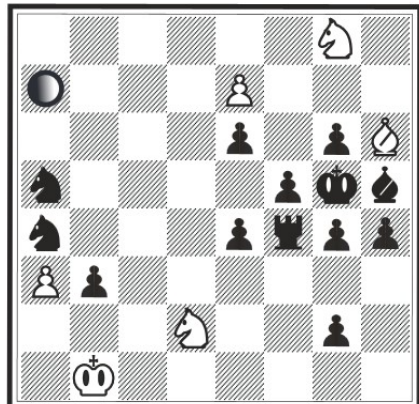
There was a total of 55 problems to evaluate. I was pleased to take on the role of judge, which gives me the opportunity to thank the magazine's indefatigable editor, Paul Răican, for his work over a long period, providing the international problem community with varied and unfailingly interesting material for reading and study. I excluded 849 (Răican) because, in my opinion, the added condition Normal Pawn is at variance with Take&Make rules. In view of problem A (Neutrals: Rf4 Be6 Sd4 Black: Ke5 Pf6; h#2.5, Take&Make, PWC) which appeared in StrateGems in 2010 and was awarded a Third Prize, 766 (Crisan & Huber) is not included in the present award, since its theme is exactly the same. Finally, I also put aside a group of 13 undoubtedly interesting constructional records, because such works have their own criteria which make it impossible to apply the standards of comparative evaluation normally used in a composing tourney. Here is my ranking:

1st Prize: 765 (2010) - by R. J. Millour (France)

The composer is renowned as a chess problem magician when it comes to transformation and promotion tricks. Here he has conjured up a fivefold Babson task with an extra Knight/Queen promotion pair. The pivotal point of the action is a humble imitator on a7, which works from the background to differentiate the thematic moves of the e7 and g2 Pawns and the respective continuations. The subtlety of the motivation for each line of play shows outstanding constructional skill and provides fine intellectual enjoyment. The lack of unity in the twinning must be accepted as the unavoidable price to pay for such rich contents.

R. J. Millour

1st Prize, Quartz 2010



(6+13) hs=3

Imitator a7, a) diag b) = a) +wSh3

c) = b) wK → e1 d) = c) - bSa5

e) = d) +wRh8

Solution:

a) **1.e8=S(Ia8) g1=Q(Ia7) 2.Sef6(Ib5) Qg2!(Ib6) 3.Sh7++ (Id7)**

Qxd2(Ia7) =

2....Qf2(Ia6)? 3.Sh7++(Ic7) Qxd2(Ia7)= but 3...Kxh6(Id8)!

? solution b) → 1.e8=B(Ia8) g1=B(Ia7) 2.Bxg6+(Ic5) Be3(Ia7) 3.Bh7+(Ib8) Bexd2(Ia7) = but 3... Rf2(Ib6)!

? RQ-solution → 1.e8=R(Ia8) g1=Q(Ia7) 2.Re7(Ia6) Qg2(Ia7) 3.Rh7+(Id7) Qxd2(Ia7) but 4.Rh8(Ia8)!

b) **1.e8=B(Ia8) g1=B(Ia7) 2.Bxg6++(Ic5) Be3(Ia7) 3.Bh7+(Ib8) Bexd2(Ia7) =**

1.e8=B(Ia8) g1=Q(Ia7) 2.Bxg6++(Ic5) Qe3(Ia7)? 3.Bh7+(Ib8) Qxd2(Ia7) = but 3... Qd3(Ia8)!

1.e8=Q(Ia8) g1=B(Ia7) 2.Qxg6++(Ic5) forcing Kxg6(Ic6)

? solution a) → 1.e8=S(Ia8) g1=Q(Ia7) 2.Sef6+(Ib5) Qg2(Ib6) 3.Sh7++ (Id7) Qxd2(Ia7) = but 2... Qg2(Ib6) illegal!

c) **1.e8=S(Ia8) g1=S(Ia7) 2.Sef6+(Ib5) Sf3(Ia7) 3.Kf1+(Ib7) Kxf6(Ia8) =**

? solution e) → 1.e8=R(Ia8) g1=R(Ia7) 2.Re7(Ia6) Rg2(Ia7) 3.Rh7+(Id7) Rxd2(Ia7) but 4.Rh8(Ia8)!

d) **1.e8=Q(Ia8) g1=Q(Ia7) 2.Qxe6(Ia5) Qg3!(Ia7) 3.Qf6++(Ib7) Kxf6(Ia8) =**

1.e8=Q(Ia8) g1=R(Ia7) 2.Qxe6(Ia5) Rg3(Ia7) 3.Qf6++(Ib7) Kxf6(Ia8) but 4.Sf1+(Ic7)!

? solution c) 1.e8=S(Ia8) g1=S(Ia7) 2.Sef6+(Ib5) Sf3(Ia7) 3.Kf1+(Ib7) Kxf6(Ia8) = but 3... Se1+(Ia5)!

? solution e) → 1.e8=R(Ia8) g1=R(Ia7) 2.Re7(Ia6) Rg2(Ia7) 3.Rh7+(Id7) Rxd2(Ia7) but 4.Rh8(Ia8)!

e) **1.e8=R(Ia8) g1=R(Ia7) 2.Re7(Ia6) Rg2(Ia7) 3.Reh7+(Id7) Rxd2(Ia7)=**

1.e8=R(Ia8) g1=Q(Ia7)? 2.Re7(Ia6) Qg2(Ia7) 3.Reh7+(Id7)

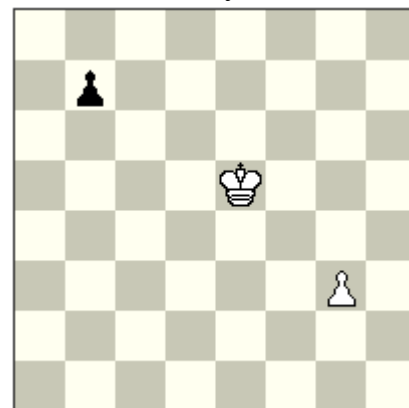
Qxd2(Ia7)# mate, not stalemate!

1.e8=Q(Ia8) g1=R(Ia7) 2.Qe7(Ia6) #

? solution d) → 1.e8=Q(Ia8) g1=Q(Ia7) 2.Qxe6(Ia5) Qg3(Ia7) 3.Qf6+(Ib7) Kxf6(Ia8) but 4.Rh7(Ia7)!

E. Huber

2nd Prize, Quartz 2013
dedicated to P. Răican
for his 56 years



(2+1)

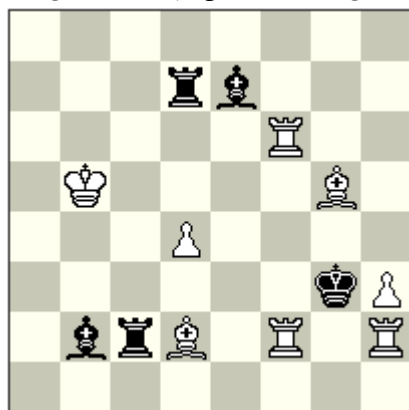
ser-hs=56

Chameleon Chess
Sentinelles, BlackMax

2nd Prize: issue 38, VII (2013) - by Eric Huber (Romania)

The diagram shows an innocent-looking minimal position with wK, wP and bP. By exploiting an imaginative combination of three fairy conditions the author makes it lead to an exciting, colourful and tricky solution in which, after a series of 56 helpful black moves White achieves the goal of selfstalemate in one. After three interpolated capture-free promotions (to S, B and Q) a total of ten Pawns (!) is finally left on the board as a result of the Sentinelles condition. In a maximumer such promotions require great technical skill, as do the single-step Pawn moves h7-h6-h5-h4. Sol: 1.b7-b5 **5.b1=B** 6.Bh7=R 7.Ra7=Q[+bPh7] 8.Qg1=S[+bPa7] 9.Sh3=B 10.Bc8=R[+bPh3] 11.Rc1=Q 12.Qh6=S 13.Sg8=B[+bPh6] 14.Ba2=R 15.Rh2=Q[+bPa2] 16.Qb2=S[+bPh2] 17.Sc4=B[+bPh2] 18.Bg8=R[+bPh4] 19.Ra8=Q 20.Qh1=S 21.Sf2=B 22.Bb6=R 23.Rg6=Q 24.Qb1=S 25.Sa3=B 26.Bf8=R 27.Rf1=Q 28.Qf8=S 29.Sd7=B 30.Ba4=R 31.a7-a5! 32.h6-h5 33.h7-h6! 34.h4 35.h4xg3 **36.h1=S** 37.Sf2=B 38.Ba7=R[+bPh2] 39.Rh7=Q 40.Qb1=S 41.Sa3=B 42.Bf8=R 43.Ra8=Q 44.Qh1=S **45.f2-f1=Q** 46.Qf8=S 47.Se6=B 48.Bg8=R[+bPh6] 49.Ra8=Q 50.Qg2=S 51.Sh4=B 52.Bd8=R 53.Rd1=Q 54.Qd8=S 55.Sf2=B 56.Ba7=R & 1.Ke5-f6[+wPe5] Rh7=Q =

**V. Crisan &
S. K. Balasubramanian**
3rd Prize, Quartz 2013



(8+5) hs#4
Isardam, 2 solutions

3rd Prize: 810 (2013) by V. Crisan & S. K. Balasubramanian (Romania & India)

In this problem the emphasis is on economy and consonance. Both solutions flow like a beautiful calm stream of perfect harmony, undisturbed by any rapids. Isardam condition is used intensively as can be seen especially in the anticipatory interferences in both phases. Bd2/Bf6 and Rd2/Rf6 guarding against 5.Rc2?/Rc6?> and 5.Bb4?/Be7? respectively, whereby White might otherwise defend against the selfmate. Both promoted white units – R & B – are used thematically and fit well into the airy position, so I do not see them as a defect.

1.Kb5-b4 Rc2-c3 + 2.Kb4xc3 Be7-b4 3.Rf6-g6 Rd7xd4
4.Bg5-f6 + Rd4-d3 # (5.Rc2? due to Bd2; 5.Rc6? due to Bf6)

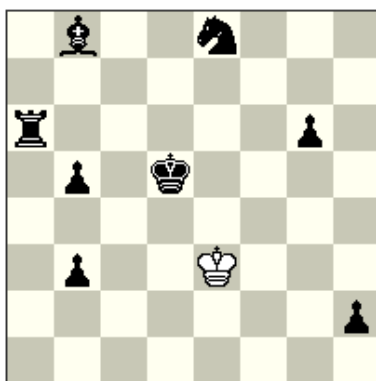
1.Kb5-c6 Be7-d6 + 2.Kc6xd6 Rc2-c6 3.Bd2-e1 Bb2xd4
4.Rf2-d2 + Bd4-e5 # (5.Bb4? due to Rd2; 5.Be7? due to Rf6)

1st HM: 824 (2014) - by V. Rallo & M. Parrinello (Italy)

An elegant and instructive position with a lone wK. Each one of three solutions shows the black King's choice of move being determined in a condition typical way by means of the first moves 1.Rd6/Bd6/Sd6. Also in the mates, the King's power to move or capture is reduced to that of the black Pawn which stands immediately above him.

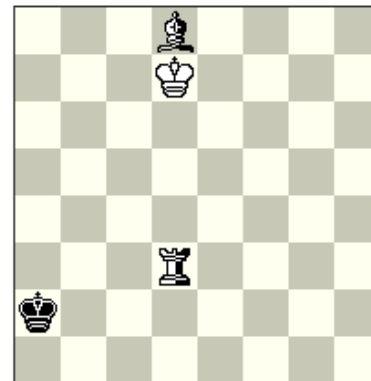
1.Ra6-d6 Ke3-f3 2.Kd5-g5 Kf3-g4 #
1.Bb8-d6 Ke3-f2 2.Kd5-h1 Kf2-g2 #
1.Se8-d6 + Ke3-d4 + 2.Kd5-b4 Kd4-c5 #

V. Rallo & M. Parrinello
1st HM, Quartz 2014



(1+8) h#2
Annan Chess, 3 sol

G. Foster
2nd HM, Quartz 2014



(1+1+2) h#2.5
PWC, Take&Make twins, see text

2nd HM: 826v (2014) - by G. Foster (AUS)

By means of black King twinning no fewer than five echo-like mate positions are generated and in the process, the long moves by both neutrals ensure that the scene of action encompasses the whole board.

a) 1...Kxd8-a5[nBd7] 2.nBa4 Kxa4-c2[nBa5] 3.nRc3+ nBxc3-c4[nRa5]#

bKh2 b) 1...Ke6 2.nRxd8-f6[nBd3]+ Kxf6-f2[nRe6] 3.nRd6 nRxd3-h7[nBd6]#

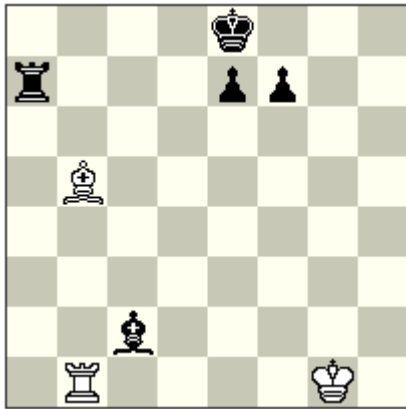
bKe2 c) 1...Kxd8-b6[nBd7] 2.Kxd3-d6[nRe2] nRe6+ 3.Kxd7-c8[nBd6] nRxd6-f8[nBe6]#

bKf1 d) 1...Kxd8-h4[nBd7] 2.nRd5 Kg3 3.nRxd7-b5[nBd5] nRxd5-h1[nBb5]#

bKc5 e) 1...Kxd8-c7[nBd7] 2.nBc6 nRd5+ 3.Kxc6-a8[nBc5] nRxc5-a3[nBd5]#

J. Rotenberg

3rd HM, Quartz 2015



(3+5) h#2.5

Provocation
4 solutions

3rd HM: 841 (2015) - by J. Rotenberg (France)

What is impressive about this eight piece problem is the polished technique by means of which the chosen fairy condition is exploited in four lines of play.

- 1...Rb1-b4 2.Ra7-a8 Rb4-c4 3.Bc2-d3 Rc4-c8 #
 1...Rb1-b3 2.Ra7-a2 Bb5-a4 + 3.Ra2-b2 Rb3-b8 #
 1...Rb1-c1 2.Bc2-f5 Rc1-c6 3.Ra7-a5 Rc6-c8 #
 1...Bb5-c6 2.Ra7-a8 Rb1-b5 3.Bc2-a4 Rb5-b8 #

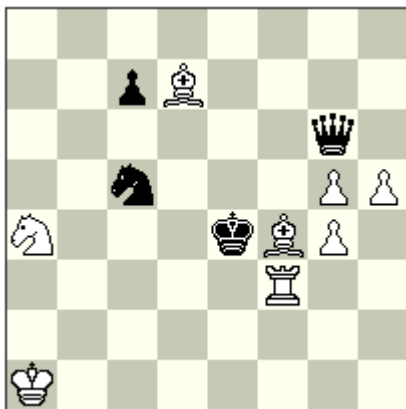
1st Com: 804 (2012) - by P. Răican (RO)

Another thematically lucid example of this condition in a well constructed Meredith form. In part a) the apparent defenses 3.Se6?/Qxc6? Fail because of selfcheck by White and the same effect appears in the moves 3.Se4?/Qxd3? in part b).

- a) 1.Se6 Sc5+ 2.Sd4 Bc6# (3.Se6? 3.Qxc6? self-check)
 b) 1.Kd5 Bg3 2.Kd6 Rd3# (3.Se4? 3.Qxd3? Self-check)

P. Răican

1st Com, Quartz 2012

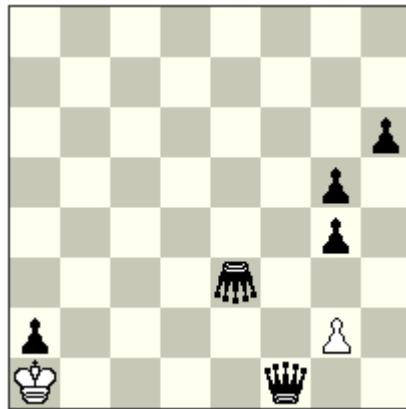


(8+4) h#2

Provocation
b) Sa4 → c6

V. Kotesovec

2nd Com, Quartz 2013

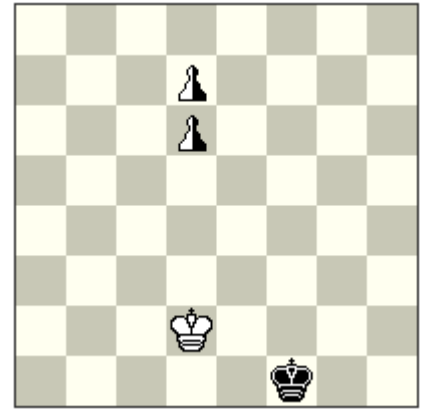


(2+6) ser-h#11

2 sol

G. Foster

3rd Com, Quartz 2012



(1+1+2) h#3

Couscous Circe, Super-pawns
b) Vertical mirror

2nd Com: 809 (2013) - by V. Kotesovec (CZ)

Pretty echo play, with the black grasshopper blocking once on g6 and once on g5.

- 1.Ke2 2.Ge1 3.Ke3 4.Ge4 5.Kf4 6.Kf5 7.Gg6 8.Kf4 9.Kg3 10.Kh4 11.Kh5 g3=
 1.Kf2 2.Kg3 3.Kf4 4.g3 5.g4 6.Gg5 7.Kf5 8.Kg6 9.Kh5 10.Kh4 11.h5 Kxa2=

3rd Com: 803 (2012) - by G. Foster (AUS)

So-called reflective or mirror twins have flourished under Circe and its related conditions. The four-unit form and the RQ/QR promotion switch secure this problem a place in the award.

- a) 1.Pd3 Kxd3[Pe1=R]+ 2.Re5 Rf5+ 3.Pxf5[Rf7]+ Rxf5[Ph1=Q]#
 b) 1.Kb1 Pe8=Q 2.Qa4 Qb3+ 3.Pxb3[Qb7] Qxb3[Pd1=R]#

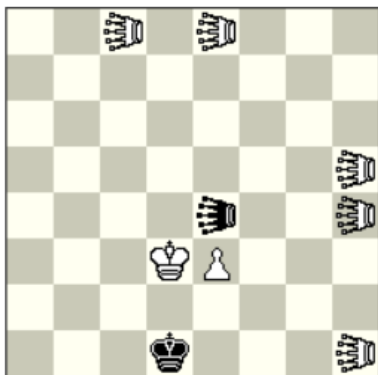
4th Com: 812 (2013) - by G. Foster (AUS)

A puzzling problem using a highly interesting fairy piece – the edgehog, which was invented by John Driver in the 1960s and was for many years unjustly neglected.

- 1.EHc8-c3 EHe4-a8 2.EHh4-c4 EHa8-e4 3.EHh5-c5 EHe4-h4 4.EHe8-e5 EHh4-d4 5.EHh1-e4 EHd4-d8#

G. Foster

4th Com, Quartz 2013



(7+2) hs#5
5+1 Edgehogs

J. de Heer

5th Com, Quartz 2015



(10+1) ser-h=43*

**5th Com: 843 (2015) -
by J. de Heer (NED)**

Let us not end without a touch of humor. Here the solitary black King makes a long trip, capturing the Ba8, Pe4 and Sd5 at various stages, so that he can finally reach the stalemate square c7. The promotion switch between the set and actual stalemates d8S= and d8R= is a visual attractive bonus.

1.d8=S=
1.Kxf7 16.Kxa8 28.Kxe4 29.Kxd5
43.Kc7 d8=R=

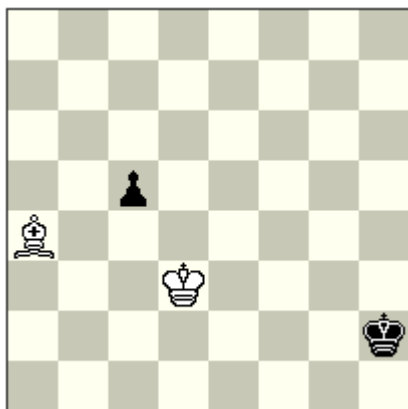
Vienna May 2016

Series help-self with Vertical Mirror Circe rules

Beginning with Quartz 38/2013, I published a number of **series-hs** compositions with orthodox and Circe rules, as a result of researches on ChessProblems.ca workshop. Further, I focused my search on series-hs with Vertical Mirror Circe rules (noted VMC), and many times my companion was the Master Arno Tüngler. This time we begin with ser-hs+ and ser-hs%, the current length records for the corresponding number of units.

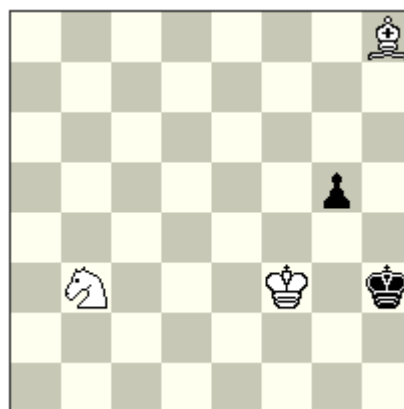
Part1: ser-hs+ VMC

1. A. Tüngler



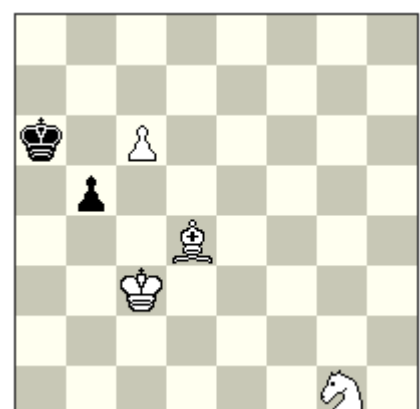
(2+2) ser-hs+ 17 VMC

2. A. Tüngler & P. Răican



(3+2) ser-hs+ 28 VMC

3. P. Răican



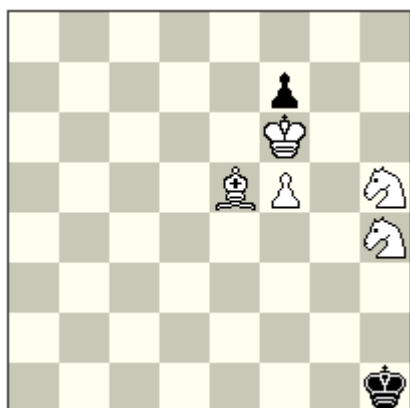
(4+2) ser-hs+ 36 VMC

1. 1.Kh2-g3 2.Kg3-f4 3.Kf4-e5 4.Ke5-d6 5.Kd6-c7 6.Kc7-b6 7.Kb6-a5 8.Ka5*a4[+wBc1] 9.Ka4-b3 10.Kb3-a2 11.Ka2-b1 12.Kb1*c1[+wBf1] 15.Ke1*f1[+wBc1] 16.Kf1-e1 17.Ke1-d1 & 1.Bc1-d2 c5-c4 +

2. 1.Kh3-h2 2.Kh2-g1 ... 7.Kc2*b3[+wSg1] 8.Kb3-c4 ... 13.Kg8*h8[+wBf1] 14.Kh8-g7 15.Kg7-f6 16.Kf6-e5 17.Ke5-d4 18.Kd4-c3 19.Kc3-d2 20.Kd2-e1 21.Ke1*f1[+wBc1] 22.Kf1*g1[+wSb1] 23.Kg1-f1 24.Kf1-e1 25.Ke1-d1 26.Kd1*c1[+wBf1] 27.Kc1-d1 28.Kd1-e1 & 1.Bf1-e2 g5-g4 +

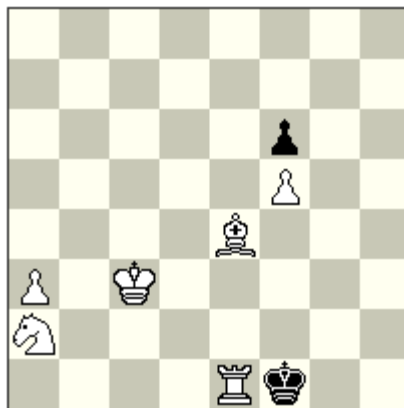
3. 1.Ka6-a5 2.Ka5-a4 3.Ka4-a3 ... 15.Kd5*c6[+wPf2] 16.Kc6-b7 17.Kb7-a6 18.Ka6-a5... 26.Ke1-f1 27.Kf1*g1[+wSb1] 28.Kg1-g2 29.Kg2-f3 30.Kf3-e4 31.Ke4-d5 32.Kd5-c6 33.Kc6-b7 34.Kb7-a6 35.Ka6-a5 36.Ka5-a4 & 1.Bd4-b6 b5-b4 +

4. P. Răican



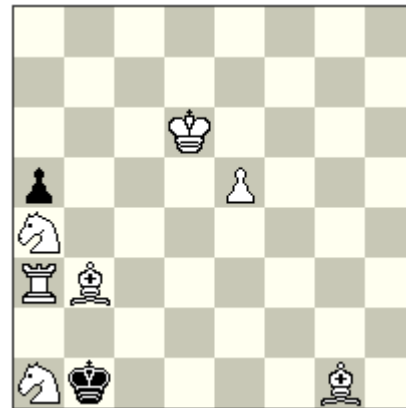
(5+2) ser-hs+ 39 VMC

5. P. Răican



(6+2) ser-hs+ 48 VMC

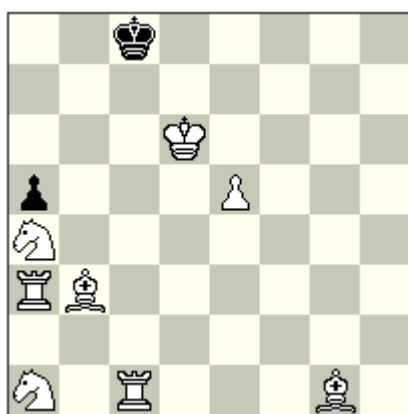
6. P. Răican



(7+2) ser-hs+ 57 VMC

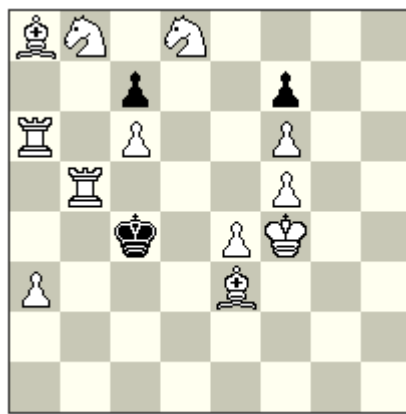
7. P. Răican

7th Place, TT Marianska 2015



(8+2) ser-hs+ 66 VMC

8. P. Răican



(12+3) ser-hs+ 104 VMC

4. 1.Kh1-g1 2.Kg1-f2 ...
 13.Kh6*h5[+wSg1] 14.Kh5-h6
 15.Kh6-h7 ... 24.Ke3-f2
 25.Kf2*g1[+wSb1] 26.Kg1-f2 ...
 39.Kg4-h3 & 1.Kf6-g5 f7-f6 +
 5. 1.Kf1-f2 2.Kf2-g3
 9.Ka4*a3 [+wPh2] 10.Ka3-a4 ...
 18.Kh3*h2 19.Kh2-g3 20.Kg3-f4 ...
 27.Ka3*a2 [+wSg1] 28.Ka2-a3 ...
 37.Kf2*e1 [+wRh1] 38.Ke1-f2
 39.Kf2-e3 40.Ke3*e4 [+wBc1]
 41.Ke4*f5 [+wPc2] 42.Kf5-e5 43.f6-f5
 ... 47.f2-f1=Q 48.Qf1-f6 & 1.Sg1-f3 +
 Qf6*f3 [+wSg1] + (K~ +)

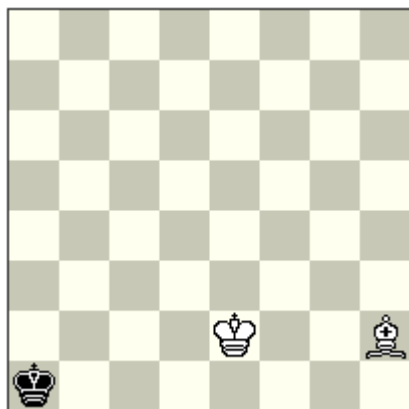
6. 1.Kb1-c1 2.Kc1-d2 3.Kd2-d3 ... 16.Kb4*a3[+wRh1] 17.Ka3-b4 ... 33.Kb1*a1[+wSb1] 34.Ka1*b1
 35.Kb1-c1 36.Kc1-d2 37.Kd2-d3 38.Kd3-e4 39.Ke4-f5 40.Kf5-g6 41.Kg6-g7 42.Kg7-f8 43.Kf8-e8 44.Ke8-d8
 45.Kd8-c8 46.Kc8-b7 47.Kb7-a6 48.Ka6-b5 49.Kb5-b4 50.Kb4*b3[+wBc1] 51.Kb3*a4 52.Ka4-b4 53.a5-a4 54.a4-
 a3 55.a3-a2 56.a2-a1=Q 57.Qa1-a3 & 1.Rh1-h4 + K~ +

7. 1.Kc8-d8 ... 10.Kd2*c1[+wRh1] 11.Kc1-d2 ... 24.Kb5-b4 25.Kb4*a3 26.Ka3-b4 ... 42.Kb1*a1[+wSb1]
 43.Ka1*b1 44.Kb1-c1 ... 58.Kb5-b4 59.Kb4*b3[+wBc1] 60.Kb3*a4 61.Ka4-b4 62.a5-a4 63.a4-a3 64.a3-a2 65.a2-
 a1=Q 66.Qa1-a3 & 1.Rh1-h4 + K~ +

8. 1.Kc4-d3 2.Kd3-e2 3.Ke2-f1 4.Kf1-g2 5.Kg2-h3 6.Kh3-h4 7.Kh4-h5 8.Kh5-h6 9.Kh6-h7 10.Kh7-g8
 11.Kg8-f8 12.Kf8-e8 13.Ke8*d8[+wSb1] 14.Kd8-e8 15.Ke8-f8 16.Kf8-g8 17.Kg8-h7 18.Kh7-h6 19.Kh6-h5 20.Kh5-
 h4 21.Kh4-h3 22.Kh3-g2 23.Kg2-f1 24.Kf1-e2 25.Ke2-d3 26.Kd3-c4 27.Kc4*b5[+wRa1] 28.Kb5-c4 29.Kc4-d3
 30.Kd3-e2 31.Ke2-f1 32.Kf1-g2 33.Kg2-h3 34.Kh3-h4 35.Kh4-h5 36.Kh5-h6 37.Kh6-h7 38.Kh7-g8 39.Kg8-f8
 40.Kf8-e8 41.Ke8-d8 42.Kd8-c8 43.Kc8*b8 44.Kb8-c8 45.Kc8-d8 46.Kd8-e8 47.Ke8-f8 48.Kf8-g8 49.Kg8-h7
 50.Kh7-h6 51.Kh6-h5 52.Kh5-h4 53.Kh4-h3 54.Kh3-g2 55.Kg2-f1 56.Kf1-e2 57.Ke2-d3 58.Kd3-c4 59.Kc4-b5
 60.Kb5*a6 61.Ka6-b5 62.Kb5-c4 63.Kc4-d3 64.Kd3-e2 65.Ke2-f1 66.Kf1-g2 67.Kg2-h3 68.Kh3-h4 69.Kh4-h5
 70.Kh5-h6 71.Kh6-h7 72.Kh7-g8 73.Kg8-f8 74.Kf8-e8 75.Ke8-d8 76.Kd8-c8 77.Kc8-b8 78.Kb8*a8[+wBc1]
 79.Ka8-b8 80.Kb8-c8 81.Kc8-d8 82.Kd8-e8 83.Ke8-f8 84.Kf8-g8 85.Kg8-h7 86.Kh7-h6 87.Kh6-h5 88.Kh5-h4
 89.Kh4-h3 90.Kh3-g2 91.Kg2-f1 92.Kf1-e2 93.Ke2-d3 94.Kd3-c4 95.Kc4-b5 96.Kb5*c6[+wPf2] 97.Kc6-d6 98.c7-
 c5 99.c5-c4 100.c4-c3 101.c3-c2 102.c2*b1=Q[+wSg1] 103.Qb1*c1[+wBf1] 104.Qc1-c7 & Ra1-d1 + Kd6-c6 +

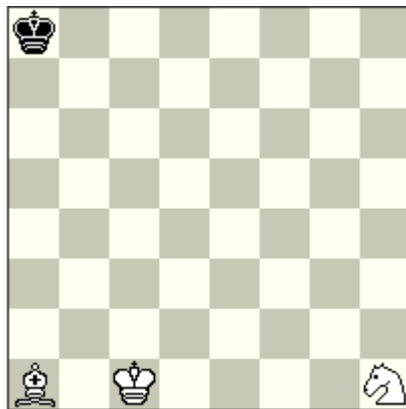
Part2: ser-hs% VMC

9. A. Tüngler



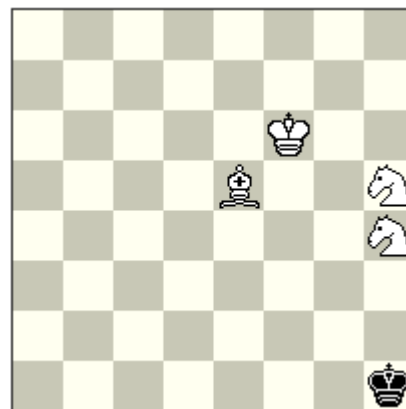
(2+1) ser-hs% 9 VMC

10. A. Tüngler & P. Răican



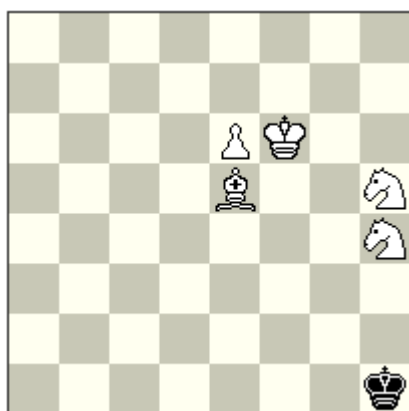
(3+1) ser-hs% 22 VMC

11. P. Răican



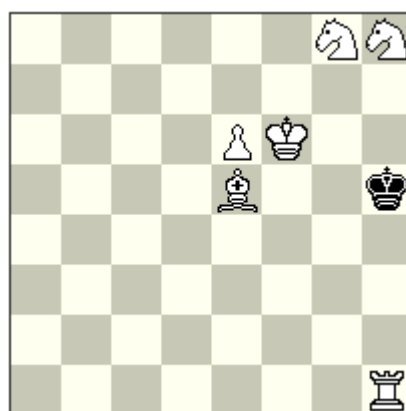
(4+1) ser-hs% 39 VMC

12. P. Răican



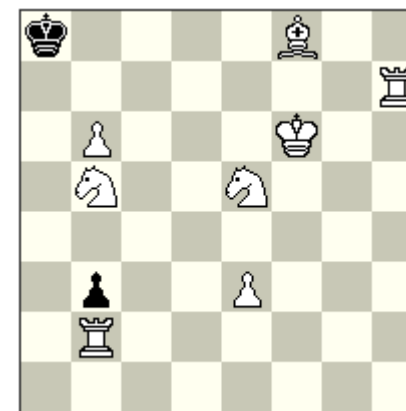
(5+1) ser-hs% 45 VMC

13. P. Răican



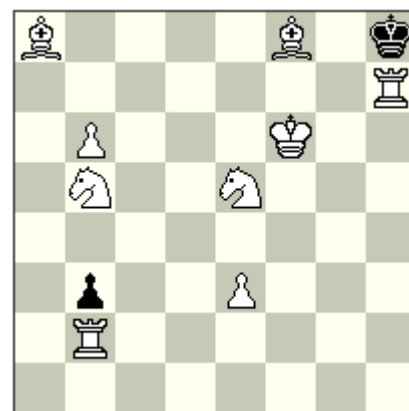
(6+1) ser-hs% 49 VMC

14. P. Răican



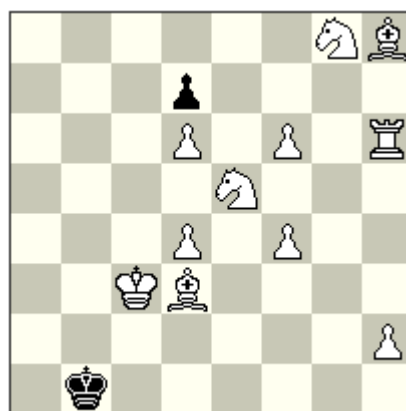
(8+2) ser-hs% 61 VMC

15. P. Răican



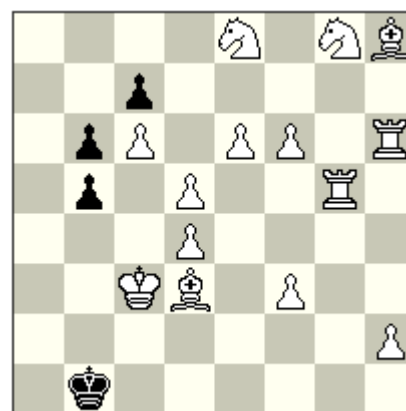
(9+2) ser-hs% 68 VMC

16. P. Răican



(11+2) ser-hs% 93 VMC

17. P. Răican



(14+4) ser-hs% 130 VMC

9. 1.Ka1-b2 2.Kb2-c3 3.Kc3-d4 4.Kd4-e4 5.Ke4-f5 6.Kf5-g4 7.Kg4-h3 8.Kh3-g2 9.Kg2-h1 & 1.Ke2-f1 Kh1*h2 %

10. 1.Ka8-b7 2.Kb7-c6 3.Kc6-d5 4.Kd5-e4 5.Ke4-f3 6.Kf3-g2 7.Kg2xh1[+wSg1] 8.Kh1-g2 9.Kg2-f2 10.Kf2-e3 11.Ke3-d3 12.Kd3-c4 13.Kc4-b3 14.Kb3-a2 15.Ka2xa1[+wBf1] 16.Ka1-a2 17.Ka2-b3 18.Kb3-c3 19.Kc3-d4 20.Kd4-e3 21.Ke3-f2 22.Kf2-e1 & 1.Sg1-h3 Ke1xf1 %

11. 1.Kh1-g1 2.Kg1-f2 ... 13.Kh6*h5[+wSg1] 14.Kh5-h6 ... 25.Kf2*g1[+wSb1] ... 39.Kg4-h3 & 1.Kf6-f5 Kh3*h4 %

12. 1.Kh1-g1 ... 15.Kh6xh5 [+wSg1] ... 29.Kf2xg1 [+wSb1] 30.Kg1-f2 ... 45.Kg4-h3 & 1.Kf6-f5 Kh3xh4 %

13. 1.Kh5-g4 2.Kg4-f3 ... 11.Kf8*g8 [+wSg1] 12.Kg8-f8 13.Kf8-e8 ... 23.Kg2*h1 [+wRa1] 24.Kh1-g2 ... 36.Kg8*h8 [+wSb1] 37.Kh8-g8 38.Kg8-f8 39.Kf8-e8 40.Ke8-d8 41.Kd8-c8 42.Kc8-b7 43.Kb7-c6 44.Kc6-d5 45.Kd5-e4 46.Ke4-e3 47.Ke3-f2 48.Kf2-g2 49.Kg2-h1 & 1.Ra1-a2 Kh1xg1 %

14. 1.Kb8 2.Kç8 3.Kd8 4.Ké8 5.K×f8(Bf1) 6.Kg8 7.K×h7(Ra1) 8.Kg8 9.Kf8 10.Ké8 11.Kd8 12.Kç8 13.Kb7 14.K×b6(g2) 15.Kb7 ... 28.K×f1(Bç1) 29.Kg1 30.Kh2 31.Kg3 32.Kh4 33.Kh5 34.Kh6 35.Kh7 36.Kg8 37.Kf8 38.Ké8 39.Kd8 40.Kç8 41.Kb7 42.Kb6 43.K×b5(Sg1) 44.Kb6 45.Kç7 46.Kd8 ... 56.K×g1(Sb1) 57.Kf1 58.Ké1 59.Kd1 60.K×ç1(Bf1) 61.K×b2(Rh1) & 1.Bd3 K×a1 %

15. 1.Kg8 2.K×f8(Bf1) 3.Ké8 4.Kd8 5.Kç8 6.Kb8 7.K×a8(Bç1) 8.Kb8 9.Kç8 10.Kd8 11.Ké8 12.Kf8 13.Kg8 14.K×h7(Ra1) 15.Kg8 ... 21.K×b6(g2) 22.Kb7 ... 35.K×f1 36.Kg1 ... 50.K×b5(Sg1) 51.Kb6 52.Kç7 53.Kd8 54.Ké8 55.Kf8 56.Kg8 57.Kh7 58.Kh6 59.Kh5 60.Kh4 61.Kg3 62.Kh2 63.K×g1(Sb1) 64.Kf1 65.Ké1 66.Kd1 67.K×ç1(Bf1) 68.K×b2(Rh1) & 1.Bd3 K×a1%

16. 1.Kç1 2.Kd1 3.Ké1 4.Kf2 5.Ké3 6.K×f4(ç2) 7.Ké3 8.Kf2 9.Ké1 10.Kd1 11.Kç1 12.Kb1 13.Ka2 14.Ka3 15.Ka4 16.Ka5 17.Kb6 18.Kb7 19.Kç8 20.Kd8 21.Ké8 22.Kf8 23.K×g8(Sg1) 24.Kf8 25.Ké8 26.Kd8 27.Kç8 28.Kb7 29.Kb6 30.Ka5 31.Ka4 32.Ka3 33.Ka2 34.Kb1 35.Kç1 36.Kd1 37.Ké1 38.Kf2 39.Ké3 40.Kf4 41.Kg5 42.K×h6(Rh1) 43.Kg5 44.Kf4 45.Ké3 46.Kf2 47.Ké1 48.Kd1 49.Kç1 50.Kb1 51.Ka2 52.Ka3 53.Ka4 54.Ka5 55.Kb6 56.Kb7 57.Kç8 58.Kd8 59.Ké8 60.Kf8 61.Kg8 62.K×h8(Bf1) 63.Kg8 64.Kf8 65.Ké8 66.Kd8 67.Kç8 68.Kb7 69.Kb6 70.Ka5 71.Ka4 72.Ka3 73.Ka2 74.Kb1 75.Kç1 76.Kd1 77.Ké1 78.Kf2 79.Ké3 80.Kf4 81.Kg5 82.K×f6 83.Ké6 84.K×d6(é2) 85.Ké6 86.d6 87.d×é5(Sb1) 88.é4 89.Kf5 90.Kf4 91.Ké3 92.Kf2 93.é×d3(Bç1) & 1.Kd2 d×ç2,d×é2,K×f1%

17. 1.Kç1 2.Kd1 3.Ké1 4.Kf2 5.K×f3(ç2) 6.Kf2 7.Ké1 8.Kd1 9.Kç1 10.Kb1 11.Ka2 12.Ka3 13.Ka4 14.Ka5 15.Ka6 16.Ka7 17.Kb8 18.Kç8 19.Kd8 20.K×é8(Sg1) 21.Kd8 22.Kç8 23.Kb8 24.Ka7 25.Ka6 26.Ka5 27.Ka4 28.Ka3 29.Ka2 30.Kb1 31.Kç1 32.Kd1 33.Ké1 34.Kf2 35.Ké3 36.Kf4 37.K×g5(Rh1) 38.Kf4 39.Ké3 40.Kf2 41.Ké1 42.Kd1 43.Kç1 44.Kb1 45.Ka2 46.Ka3 47.Ka4 48.Ka5 49.Ka6 50.Ka7 51.Kb8 52.Kç8 53.Kd8 54.Ké8 55.Kf8 56.K×g8 57.Kf8 58.Ké8 59.Kd8 60.Kç8 61.Kb8 62.Ka7 63.Ka6 64.Ka5 65.Ka4 66.Ka3 67.Ka2 68.Kb1 69.Kç1 70.Kd1 71.Ké1 72.Kf2 73.Ké3 74.Kf4 75.Kg5 76.K×h6 77.Kg5 78.Kf4 79.Ké3 80.Kf2 81.Ké1 82.Kd1 83.Kç1 84.Kb1 85.Ka2 86.Ka3 87.Ka4 88.Ka5 89.Ka6 90.Ka7 91.Kb8 92.Kç8 93.Kd8 94.Ké8 95.Kf8 96.Kg8 97.K×h8(Bf1) 98.Kg8 99.Kf8 100.Ké8 101.Kd8 102.Kç8 103.Kb8 104.Ka7 105.Ka6 106.Ka5 107.Ka4 108.Ka3 109.Ka2 110.Kb1 111.Kç1 112.Kd1 113.Ké1 114.Kf2 115.Ké3 116.Kf4 117.Kg5 118.K×f6 119.Ké7 120.Kd6 121.K×d5(é2) 122.K×ç6(f2) 123.Kd5 124.ç5 125.ç4 126.ç×d3(Bç1) 127.d×é2(d2) 128.é1=Q 129.Qé5 130.Qd6 & 1.Bg2+ K×é6%

Here is a spectacular jump between 4 and 5 units: from 22 to 39 moves! No length records yet for 8, 9, 14, 15, ... units.

Definitions:

Ser-hs+N: Black makes first a series of N moves, then White makes a move which force the Black to give check;

Ser-hs%N: Black makes first a series of N moves, then White makes a move which force the Black to win a piece;

Vertical Mirror Circe: same as Circe, except that the rebirth square is on the vertical mirror from the normal place.

Award of Retros-Quartz 2013-2015 judge Hans Gruber

Editor's note: Hans GRUBER – our last judge for retros – is International Judge of the FIDE. He had the inspiration to ask Dirk Borst for careful analysis and verification. Dirk found then many flaws. Our thanks go to Hans and Dirk for their great work!

List of participating problems:

Qz38 (II 2013): V (p. 668) (replaced by 850), 819v [black Pawn b3], 820, 821 [4 problems].

Qz39 (II 2014): 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832 (replaced by 852), 833 [7 problems].

Qz40 (VII 2014): 836, 837, 838 [3 problems].

Qz41 (IV 2015): B (p. 707), C (p. 707), 845, 846, 847, 848 [6 problems].

Qz42 (XI 2015): 850, 851, 852, 853 [4 problems].

No. V (Qz38, p. 668) was cooked and replaced by no. 850. No. 819 (Qz38) was cooked by the author (dual: R 14.b2×Qa3 [Pa2] & 1.Ra5+ Q×a5 [Qd8]#) and replaced by no. 819v. No. 832 was cooked (Qz42, p. 734) and replaced by no. 852. This left **22 problems** to be analyzed.

I am grateful to Paul Răican for entrusting me with the judgment of this tournament. The award is a very unusual one, in particular in times of omnipresent computer testing. Quartz always provided a stage for problems beyond the main stream, fairy retros and fairy proof games being a strong specialty. These are quite prone to unsoundness, however. When I cooked no. 852, I became suspicious and started a debate with Dirk Borst which obviously motivated him tremendously to test the problems. As a result, he cooked twelve problems, and some of his cooks are most remarkable and spectacular! This left only a total of eight retro problems to be judged – fortunately I was able to include 50 % of those in the award. I sincerely regret that Quartz stopped publishing original problems; this exciting tournament showed how interesting the fairy chess and retro enterprise is.

The author cooked no. **828**[Răican] by inversion: 13.Qa4 ... 16.d×c3. I cooked no. **852**: 1.b4 c5 2.b×c5 [Pc3] Qb6 3.c6 Qb2 4.d×c3 [Pb3] g6 5.c×b3 [Pc7] Q×b3 [Pg7] 6.c×b7 [Pb2] Kd8 7.a×b3 [Qe8]. Dirk Borst found the following cooks: No. **819v**: Cook R 1.Kc7-d8 Rd3-c3+ 2.Rd5-e5 Bg1-h2+ 3.f2×Bg3 [Pg2] Bh4-g3+ 4.Kd8-c7 Bg3-h4+ 5.Re5-d5 Rc3-d3+ 6.Kc8-d8 Rd3-c3+ 7.g×f6 e.p. [Pf2] f7-f5 etc. as in the intended solution. No. **820**: No solution, 2.B×a4 [bBc8]! refutes in the forward play. No. **821**: Cook 1.Sf3 Sf6 2.Sd4 Se4 3.Sc3 S×f2 [Pf6] 4.Sd5 Se4 5.Sb6 S×d2 [Pb5] 6.a4 Sc4 7.Be3 a6 8.Bg1 Se3 9.a5 S×d1 [Qa7] 10.Ra2 Se3 11.Ra4 S×g2 [Sg8] 12.Kf2 Se1 13.Sh6 S×c2 [Pa3] 14.S×c2 [Sg8] Sc6 15.Q×a6 [Pg2] Sb8 16.Re4 Ra7 17.e3 Ra8. No. 827: Dual 11.R×d5 [Sc1] g5 [Pd3] 12.R×b1 Be6 [Qa2] 13.Rd6. No. **831**: Dual R 2.Kh5×Pg5! [+bPg7, wBg7-h6] Rh8×Bh7 [+wBf1, bQf1-e2]++ 3.Bg6-h7 Bh7-g8+ 4.Bb2×Bg7 [+bBf8, bKf8-e7] & 1.B×a3 [+bRh8, bRh8-g8]#. No. **833**: Cook 1.b3 Sh6 2.Ba3 Rg8 3.B×e7 [Pb2] g6 4.Bd6 Qg5 5.B×c7 [Qc1] Q×g2 [Pe7] 6.B×g2 [Qd8] Q×c2 [Sh8] 7.Bf4 b×a1=R [Rg7] 8.B×b7 [Pc3] R×h8 9.d3 Q×d3 [Qg8] 10.Bc1 S×g8 11.Sd2 Qb1 12.Bg2 c2 13.Sdf3. No. **836**: Cook 1.b4 g5 2.Bb2 d5 3.B×h8 [Bc1] e5 4.Bb2 a5 5.Bd4 a4 6.f4 Ra5 7.Ba7 Be6 8.e4 d×e4 [Pe7] 9.Sf3 a3 10.S×a3 [Sg1] Bb3 11.a×b3 [Pb2] Bg7 12.Ra4 b6 13.b×a5 [Pa2] f5 14.Rd4 e×d4 [Pd7] 15.Bb5 Bc3 16.Ke2 g×f4 [Pf7] 17.g4 f×g4 [Pg7] 18.Bc6 Qc8.

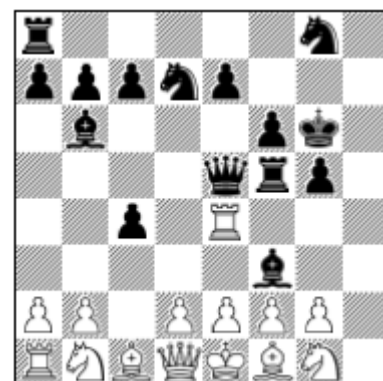
No. **C (p. 707)**: Cook 1.d3 Sf6 2.Bh6 g5 3.g4 S×g4 4.Bg7 Sc6 5.B×h8 [K=rR] Bg7 6.Bh3 rR×h8 [K=rB] 7.B×g4 [rR=rS] B×b2 [rB=K] 8.Bf5 B×a1 [K=rR] 9.B×d7 [rS=K] Bg7 10.B×c8 [K=rB] Bf8 11.B×b7 [rB=K] Q×d3 [rB=K]. No. **847**: Cook 1.d3 d5 2.Bf4 Bf5 3.h3 Be4 4.d×e4 [rBe8] e5 5.Q×d5 [bKe8] Bb4+ 6.Kd1 c5 7.Qd3 Q×d3+ [rQd1, bPc2/e2/e4/h3] 8.rQc1 Qd8 9.Sc3 h×g2 [wKc1] 10.Sd5 g×h1=R [rRc1] 11.B×e5 Ba3 12.rRe1 R×g1 [rSe1] 13.B×g7 B×b2 [wKe1]. No. **848**: Cook 1.h4 g5 2.h×g5 Sf6 [Pf3] 3.g×f6 a5 [Sf4] 4.b4 a×b4 5.Rh3 [Pb6] f×g2 6.Rc3 [Pb2] Ra3 7.b×c7 g×f1=S [Pb6] 8.c×d8=S [Bg2] Sa6 [Qc6] 9.S×f7 Qa4 [Pd5] 10.f×e7 K×f7 [Pf6] 11.e8=B+ Ke6 12.B×d5+ K×d5 [Pc4] 13.B×d7 Bd6 [Pb5] 14.Bh3 Se3 15.f×e3 Rg8 [Sd3]+ 16.e×d3 Rg4 17.Bf1 R×a2 18.b3 [Pa3]. No. **850**: Cook 1.e3 a6 2.B×a6 Ra7 3.Bf1 R×a2 [+Pa7] 4.d4 Ra4 5.Ra2 R×d4 6.Ra6 [+Pa2] Rf4 7.Rf6 [+Pa6] R×f6 8.Se2 R×f2 9.Kd2 R×e2+ 10.Kc3 [+Pd2] Re1 11.a×b7. No. **853**: Cook R 1.Kg2×Ph3 [+bPh7] h4-h3+ 2.Kh1×Pg2 [+bPg7] g3-g2+ 3.Ra4×Pa7 [+bPa7, -wRa7] b6-b5+ 4.Ra5×Pa4 [+bPa7, -bSa7] & 1.R×a7 [bSb8]#. In No. **837**, the condition has to be specified: it should read „Anticirce type Calvet“. In type Cheylan, the dual R 5.e6×Qf7 [Pf2] exists which is refuted by 1.- K×e8 [Ke8!] in type Calvet.

Prize: 838, Quartz 2014 - by Nicolas Dupont (France)

Solution: 1.c4 d5 2.Qc2 Bg4 3.Q×h7 Bf3 (guards d5) 4.Qe4 (interferes f3-d5) Rh5 5.h4 Rf5 (guards d5) 6.h5 g5 7.h6 Bg7 8.h7 Bd4 9.Rh6 Bb6 10.Rd6 (interferes d8-d5) f6 11.h8=Q Kf7 12.Qh2 Kg6 13.Qhe5 (interferes f5-d5) d×c4!! 14.Rd4 Qd5 (14.- Qd6? Qd6 never can capture on e5) 15.Qc2 Sd7 16.Re4 (once more f3-d5 is interfered) Q×e5 17.Qd1.

Black needs the available 16 moves, so [Ph7] has to be captured on h7, and Black needs to play Pd5×c4. Unfortunately, three black pieces guard d5, so White has to undertake breathtaking adventures to permit the pawn capture. After this capture finally has been played, a promoted white queen is on e5 and has to be captured (Ceriani-Frolkin), and in order to permit that, an additional interference is played. A splendid, original, and highly strategic endeavor The clear winner of the tournament. (And it would have been so even if all other participating problems would have been sound.)

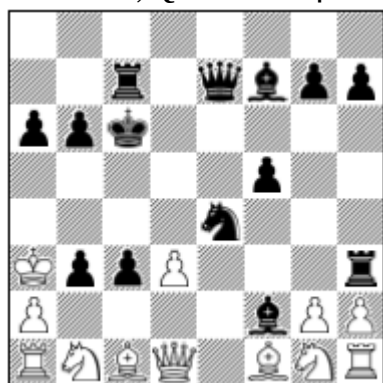
Nicolas Dupont
Prize, Quartz 2014



(14+15) PG 16.5
Elliortap

HM: 829, Quartz 2014 - by Nicolas Dupont & Silvio Baier (F & D)

Nicolas Dupont & S. Baier
HM, Quartz 2014



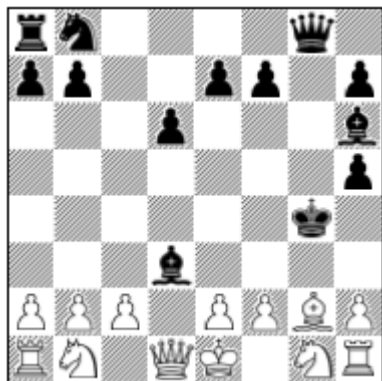
(12+14) PG 22
C+

1.f4 d5 2.f5 Be6 3.f6 Kd7 4.f×e7 f5 5.e8=R Bf7 6.Re6 Bc5 7.Rb6 a×b6 8.e4 Ra3 9.e5 Rh3 10.d3 Bf2+ 11.Kd2 c5 12.e6+ Kc6 13.e7 Sf6 14.e8=R Qe7 15.R×b8 Rc8 16.Ra8 Rc7 17.Ra6 b×a6 18.Kc3 Se4+ 19.Kb3 d4+ 20.c4 d×c3 e.p.+ 21.Ka3 c4+ 22.b4 c×b3 e.p.+

A kind of Proof Game of the Future, i.e. a combination of themes: two white Ceriani-Frolkin promotions into rook (on the same square, e8), cross captures of the black pawns a7 and b7, two enpassant captures. The latter are a bit mechanical, and the technique is well-known from dissolution retros. The combination of themes is a good achievement, however. The technical capture on b8 is coarse, but plausible. Because White seems to have available one move (e8-a8 could be played in 1 move), no. 829 is superior to the otherwise almost identical version with two knight promotions, no. 830.

P. Răican

1st Com, Quartz 2015



(13+13)

PG 10

Kobul Kings

1st Commendation: B (p.707), Quartz 2015 - by Paul Răican (Roumanie)

1.d3 Sh6 2.B×h6 [bK=rS] rSf6 3.g4 rS×g4 4.Bg2 g×h6 [wK=rB] 5.rBc3 h5 6.rB×h8 [rS=rR] Bh6+ 7.rBe5 Qg8 8.rB×c7 [rR=K] d6 9.rBa5 Bf5 10.rBe1 B×d3 [rB=K].

White (bishop) and black (rook, knight) officers are missing, thus both kings must have changed their nature at least twice. The captures of the missing black pawn and of (at least) one missing white pawn can only be played after the respective officers had been captured. The mechanics make almost evident that the white king made a trip and returned; the circuit thus is not surprising, but nevertheless nicely achieved. A petite idea which illustrates the condition.

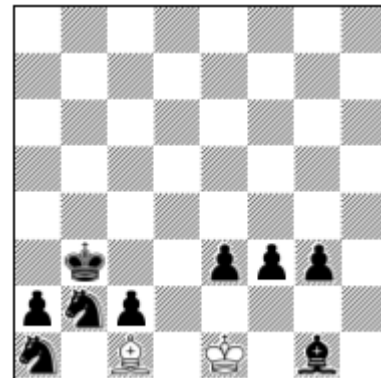
2nd Commendation: 846, Quartz 2015 - by Klaus Wenda (Austria)

R 1.Ke2×Rd1 [Ke1] f4-f3+ 2.Bc3×Qe1 [Bc1] Rd8-d1+ 3.Kd3-e2 Rg8-d8++ 4.Kc4-d3 Ka3,a4-b3+ 5.Kb4-c4 Re8-g8+ 6.Bd2-c3 (tempo) & 1.B×e1 [Bc1]#

Uncapture of two black units which are used to set the kings' duel in motion. The concluding tempo move is nice, the variation of black moves does not contribute to lucidity. (The black forward defence R 5.- Re8-g8+ & 1.- Re5# is excluded by stipulation.)

K. Wenda

2nd Com, Quartz 2015



(2+9)

-6 & #1

Proca Retractor Anticirce without forward defense

2010-2012 Retros-Quartz Judgment by Ryan McCracken

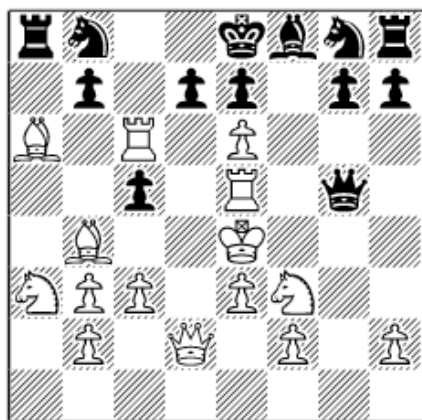
Thank you to Paul Răican for offering me this judgment.

Much as helpmates were considered fairy when they first came out, so retros have relaxed their grip on orthodoxy by admitting fairy conditions to the mix. This gives me an excuse to judge all 26 of the original retros in this award side-by-side, which is my preference. Some say, “one can't compare apples to oranges” - but I think it's obvious than one can, for example: Apples have a more edible peel and a handy stem for carrying, while Oranges are easier to peel by hand and more aerodynamic [for throwing or what not. OK, so really, just for throwing. But I digress]

The originals were of decent quality. I awarded a little over 1/3 of them.

1st prize

794 – Dupont & Osorio



(15+13)

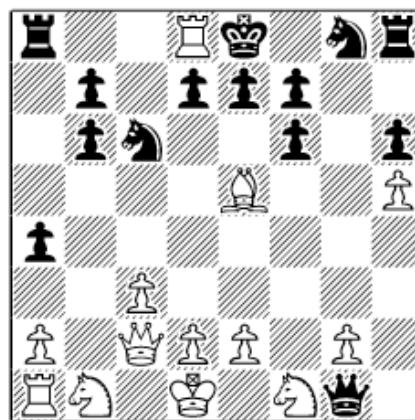
PG 21

1. e4 c5 2. e5 Qb6 3. e6 Qb3 4. axb3 f5 5. Ra6 f4 6. Rc6 a5 7. Ba6 a4 8. Ke2 f3+ 9. Kd3 fxe2 10. Nf3 a3 11. Re1 g1=Q 12. Re5 Qg5 13. Ke4 Qe3+ 14. dxe3 a2 15. Bd2 a1=Q 16. Bb4 Qa5 17. Rxc8+ Qd8 18. Rc6 Qa5 19. Qd2 Qa1 20. Na3 Qg1 21. c3 Qg5

The comments claim this is, among other things, an “Anti-Pronkin”. I’m not sure I agree; black’s original Q only dies on b3, having not visited any promotion squares, past or future. Still, it is an impressive combination of themes: Ceriani-Frolkin, Pronkin, Donati, plus a visit by 3 different bQ’s to the g5 square.

2nd Prize

798 – Raican & Richter



(13+14)

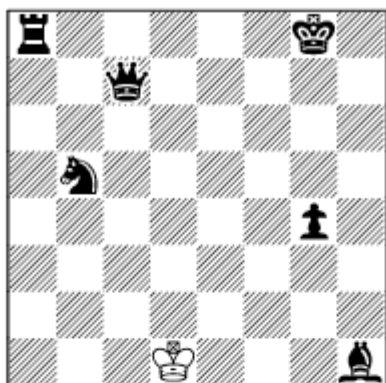
PG 19.5

1. b4 a5 2. b5 a4 3. b6 cxb6 4. f4 Qc7 5. f5 Qf4 6. f6 gxf6 7. Bb2 Bh6 8. Be5 Bg5 9. c3 h6 10. Qc2 Bh4+ 11. Kd1 Be1 12. h4 Qxf1 13. Nf3 Qg1 14. Nh2 Bf2+ 15. Nf1 Bc5 16. h5 Bd6 17. Rh4 Bc7 18. Rc4 Bd8 19. Rxc8 Nc6 20. Rxd8+

9 captureless moves of Bf8 before it gets annihilated. I tried for a while to cook it; the problem looks solid. I figured this would have been done before, but a search through PDB for “Figurenwander-ungen” yielded no comparable predecessors. Well done!

1st HM

797 – Raican, Crisan, Huber



(1+6) -3 and #1, Circe Assassin

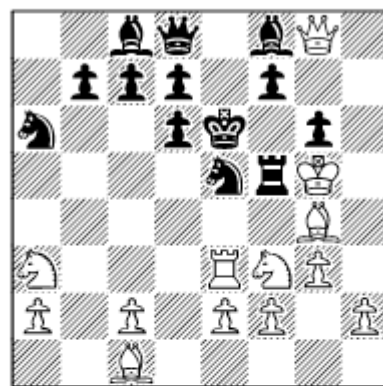
Retract -1.Qe4xRa8! h2-h1B+ and now -
2.Qf4xRe4[xR]? Re5-e4+ [retracting the
double-check – to white's Q] and Black
mates with the forward defense 1...Rd8#.
The right track is -2.Qf4xRe4[xB]! Re5-e4+
-3.Be4-a8 & 1.Bh7#.

This is a nice little problem – what with the
Assassin effect of making pieces temporarily
royal and all – and I wanted to give it a higher
ranking. The given solution had some nice
sidelines in the -2.Qf4xRe4[xR]? Re5-e4+
line - of -3.Qf3xRa8 with designs on 1.Qb3#,
but black can't retract the check from Pg4,
while -3.Qa3xRa8[xR] runs
into -3...Ra8-d8#, again before white can
play 1.Qb3#. The trouble is that those lines
don't actually obtain in the play, because
Black forward mates before any of that can
be retracted.

It would be nice to see more retractors with
this condition.

2nd HM

769 – Prentos, Frolkin

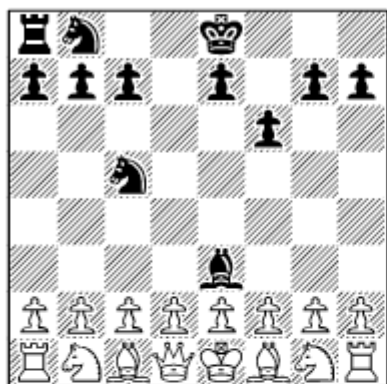


(13+13) PG 18

1. g3 a5 2. Bh3 a4 3. Kf1 a3 4. Kg2 axb2
5. Na3 b1=N 6. Kf3 Nxd2+ 7. Kg4 Nc4
8. Qd3 Ra4 9. Qxh7 Na6 10. Qxg8 Rh6
11. Nf3 Rf6 12. Rd1 g6 13. Rd6 exd6 14.
Rb1 Ke7 15. Rb3 Ke6 16. Re3+ Ne5+
17. Kg5+ Rg4+ 18. Bxg4+ Rf5#

Task of 6 checking moves in a row. I
enjoyed the aesthetic effect enough for an
HM.

3rd HM
788 Grudzinski

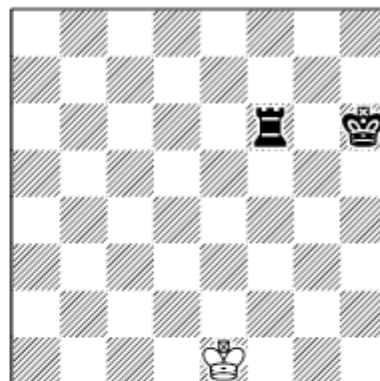


(16+12) PG 8.5, Einstein Chess

1. g4 f5 2. gxf5[N] Nf6[P] 3. Nd6[P]
Rg8[B] 4. dxe7[N] Bd5[N] 5. Nxc8[B]
Bc5[N] 6. Bxd7[R] Qe7[R] 7. Rd6[B]
Re3[B] 8. Bf4[N] Ne7[P] 9. Ng2[P]

I was confident I could cook this, and spent some hours trying. But it survived well enough. It's a fun solving problem, actually. The unsullied white homebase makes a nice impression. Seemingly, any wP could be the one to go on the requisite killing spree; yet, in the end, it seems it must be Pg2.

4th HM
786 Raican, after Dittmann



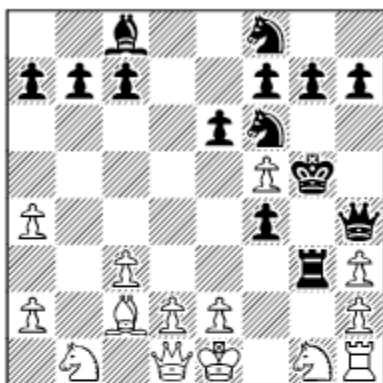
(1+2) -8 & #1, Proca, Anti-Circe

-1. Ke1xPf2 f3-f2+ -2. Ke2xPd2 f4-f3+ -3. Ke1-e2 d3-d2+ -4. Ke1xRd1 Rd2-d1+ -5. Kf2xBg2 Rd1-d2+ -6. Kf1-f2 Ba8-g2+ -7. Ke1-f1 Rd2-d1+ -8. Kf7xNe8 & 1.Kg6#

The predecessor is PDB P1067435, which has the bB in the starting diagram. Removing it is a nice improvement – it leaves the obscure B/R double check well hidden.

Commendations without order:

793 Mururasu



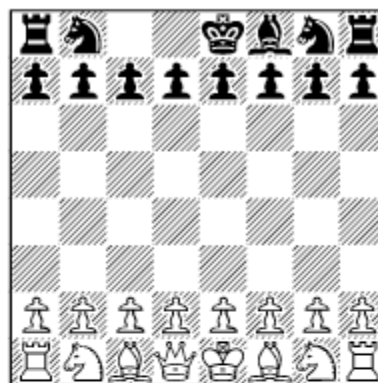
(14+14)

PG 20

1. f4 e6 2. f5 Ba3 3. bxa3 d6 4. Bb2 Nd7
 5. Be5 Qh4+ 6. Bg3 Ke7 7. Nc3 Kf6 8.
 Rb1 Kg5 9. Rb4 Ngf6 10. Rf4 Rd8 11.
 Rf2 Nf8 12. Be5 dxe5 13. Nb1 Rd3 14.
 c3 Rh3 15. gxh3 Bd7 16. Bg2 Rd8 17.
 Be4 Bc8 18. Bc2 Rd3 19. a4 Rg3 20. Rf4
 exf4

Substitute of the shielding piece by White.
 There have been similar problems, but
 perhaps not with both shielding pieces
 getting annihilated.

773 Iglesias

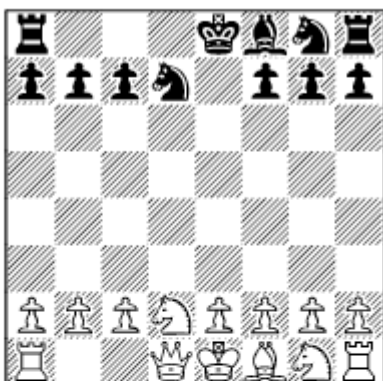


(16+14) PG 6.5, 2 solutions, Cage Circe

1. c4 d5 2. Nc3 Bh3 3. Nxb3 [+bBg1]
 Qd7 4. cxd5 [+bPd8] Qxd5 [+wPb1] 5.
 Nxb1 Qxa2 [+wPc2] 6. bxa2 [+bQb1] d7
 7. Nxb1
 1. Nh3 d5 2. Nf4 Qd7 3. Nxd5 [+bPd8]
 Qh3 4. Nf4 Qxh2 [+wPg1] 5. gxh2
 [+bQg1] Bh3 6. Nxb3 d7 7. Nxb1

In this condition, a piece can only rebirth
 on a square from which it has no
 captureless moves. Annihilating units is
 thus more difficult. I considered an HM
 for this one given the perfect white
 homebase; however, there is a bit too
 much symmetry across the solutions.

772 Raican

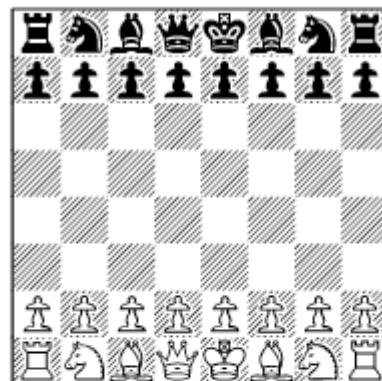


(14+12) PG5, 2 solutions, Messigny Chess

1. Ng1◊Nb8 Pe7◊Pd2+ 2. Bxd2 Bc8◊Bd2+ 3. Nxd2 Qxe7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. Nxd7 Ng1◊Nd7
 1. Nb1◊Nb8 Pe7◊Pd2+ 2. Bxd2 Nxd2 3. exf8=B Bc8◊Bf8 4. Bxd7 Qxd7 5. Nxd7 Nd2◊Nd7

Black B and N swap with 2 different white counterparts each.

796 Begley



(16+16) SPG ending in s#1? Anti-Circe Equipollents and a) Horizontal Cylinder b) Anchor Ring

- 1.g4 Kxf1[->g2] 2.e3 Qe8+ 3.Kf1+ Kh3#
 1.g3 Kxf1[->g2] 2.e3 Qe8+ 3.Kf1+ Kxg3[->g4]

In a), not 1.g3? allowing 3...Kxg3[->g4], and in b), not 1.g4? because 3...Kh3 is illegal [4.Nxh3[->a5]]. Cute idea.

Finally, a little note about the problems not awarded. I felt 774 [Begley & Raican] and 795 [Begley] were not amenable to solver or computer testing, to the point where I, the judge, have no idea what has been achieved here.

This is a controversial excuse – but I have to wonder about the future of this art if we award problems that don't attract even a small audience. I tried to allow some latitude due to the heavy trend towards fairy problems in retros and even that didn't get me there. The solving problem Popeye has hundreds of fairy conditions programmed in, but I think it's highly unlikely that a program capable of solving these problems would ever get written.

About the trio 807 [Buchanan], 767 [Graefrath] and 789 [Graefrath], the “losing chess” condition just didn't produce very interesting problems. The last two felt far too heavy on the captures and the first felt like the best thing I could say about it was that it *avoided* being too heavy on the captures. 775 [Crisan-Raican] was rejected on principle – a problem with an illegal position – less than 32 units in PWC – must be disqualified from a retro tourney. 776 [Raican] is just a shape problem, while 777 [Wenda] seemed mundane with black only able to walk a Pawn back. 778 [Frolkin & Crusats] seemed like an attempt to re-package some very old retro ideas as original; it seems like it actually shouldn't be a Proca-retractor at all, since Black has almost no defensive prospects. 779 [Dupont] was a simple exercise only of interest to composers. There are 9.0 move orthodox PGs with Valladao theme, so 790 [Raican] is just needless addition of a fairy condition. In 791 [Crisan] the annihilations of Bf1 and Bf1 are obvious. I don't think 19 moves and a fairy condition only to get single Anti-Pronkin is worthwhile, as in 792 [Raican]. And finally, there was problem no.5 from the “PGs ending in mate” article by Raican: I don't find mate by itself very interesting in a PG.

Editor's note: First of all, we are grateful to Ryan McCracken for this original and honest judgment. On the other hand, we must say that in at least two cases we have a different opinion. **790 [Răican]** shows not only Valladao – probably first time in Hypervolage – but also *two impostors: wQd1 and bRh8*. Regarding **775 [Crisan & Răican]**, our conviction is that the PWC condition does not implies – even in retro problems – that the rules apply from the starting position of a virtual game.

Announcements

◆ Klaus Wenda 75 Jubilee Tourney

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of Klaus Wenda (* September 13, 1941), Die Schwalbe and feenschach announce the Klaus Wenda 75 Jubilee Tourney.

Required are problems with Double-Grasshopper, Double-Rookhopper and/or Double-Bishophopper. A Double-Grasshopper makes two consecutive Grasshopper moves in each ply. The first one must not capture (not even the King: bKa1, bBb1, wDGh1 is NO check!); if a DG has available no capture-free first move, it cannot move at all. Both moves may use the same hurdle, but zero moves are not allowed. Double-Rookhoppers and Double-Bishophoppers move analogously on Rook and Bishop lines, respectively.

Closing date Feb 28, 2017. Tourney Director: Ulrich Ring. E-mail address: Wenda-75@rxng.de

◆ Gligor Denkovski Memorial Tourney

To commemorate the 70th birthday of Gligor Denkovski (20 August 1946 – 15 January 2015), a formal composing tourney is announced in three sections.

Section A: Orthodox proof games, showing a combination of at least one typical retro theme and at least one theme or motif traditionally seen in other problem genres.

Judge: Kostas Prentos.

Section B: Orthodox helpmate three-movers (h#2.5–3) with free theme. Judge: Nikola Predrag.

Section C: Orthodox selfmates (s#2–n) with free theme. Judge: Miodrag Mladenović.

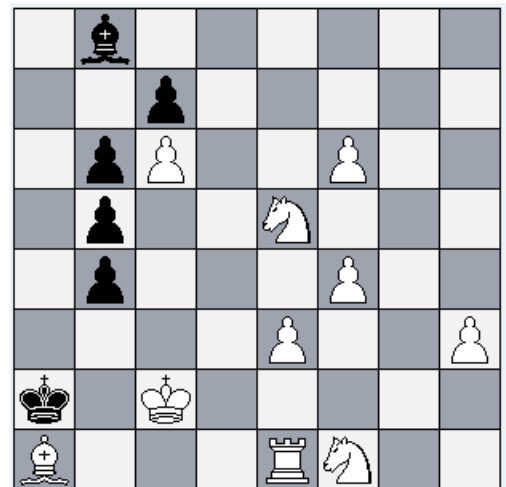
Closing date for all sections is 31 March 2017.

Entries should be sent to Ivan Denkovski, email: denkovski@hotmail.com

Just in end of edition: A last-minute new Ser-hs+, VMC length record. See “Series help-self with Vertical Mirror Circe rules”, p.742:

1.Ka2-a3 2.Ka3-a4 3.Ka4-a5 4.Ka5-a6 5.Ka6-a7 6.Ka7-a8 7.Bb8-a7
8.Ka8-b8 9.Kb8-c8 10.Kc8-d8 11.Kd8-e8 12.Ke8-f8 13.Kf8-g8 14.Kg8-h7
15.Kh7-h6 16.Kh6-h5 17.Kh5-h4 18.Kh4*h3[+wPa2] 19.Kh3-h4
20.Kh4-h5 21.Kh5-h6 22.Kh6-h7 23.Kh7-g8 24.Kg8-f8 25.Kf8-e8
26.Ke8-d8 27.Kd8-c8 28.Kc8-b8 29.Kb8-a8 30.Ba7-b8 31.Ka8-a7
32.Ka7-a6 33.Ka6-a5 34.Ka5-a4 35.Ka4-a3 36.Ka3*a2[+wPh2] 37.Ka2-a3
38.Ka3-a4 39.Ka4-a5 40.Ka5-a6 41.Ka6-a7 42.Ka7-a8 43.Bb8-a7
44.Ka8-b8 45.Kb8-c8 46.Kc8-d8 47.Kd8-e8 48.Ke8-f8 49.Kf8-g8
50.Kg8-h7 51.Kh7-h6 52.Kh6-h5 53.Kh5-h4 54.Kh4-h3 55.Kh3-g2
56.Kg2-f2 57.Kf2*e1[+wRh1] 58.Ke1-f2 59.Kf2-g2 60.Kg2-h3 61.Kh3-h4
62.Kh4-h5 63.Kh5-h6 64.Kh6-h7 65.Kh7-g8 66.Kg8-f8 67.Kf8-e8
68.Ke8-d8 69.Kd8-c8 70.Kc8-b8 71.Kb8-a8 72.Ba7-b8 73.Ka8-a7
74.Ka7-a6 75.Ka6-a5 76.Ka5-a4 77.Ka4-a3 78.Ka3-a2 79.Ka2*a1
80.Ka1-a2 81.Ka2-a3 82.Ka3-a4 83.Ka4-a5 84.Ka5-a6 85.Ka6-a7
86.Ka7-a8 87.Bb8-a7 88.Ka8-b8 89.Kb8-c8 90.Kc8-d8 91.Kd8-e8
92.Ke8-f8 93.Kf8-g8 94.Kg8-h7 95.Kh7-h6 96.Kh6-h5 97.Kh5-h4
98.Kh4-h3 99.Kh3-g2 100.Kg2*h1[+wRa1] 101.Kh1-g2 102.Kg2-h3
103.Kh3-h4 104.Kh4-h5 105.Kh5-h6 106.Kh6-h7 107.Kh7-g8 108.Kg8-f8
109.Kf8-e8 110.Ke8-d8 111.Kd8-c8 112.Kc8-b8 113.Kb8-a8 & 1.Se5-d7 b4-b3 +

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(10+6) ser-hs+ 113
Vertical Mirror Circe