Quartz 57

June 2023

The old Constantza- paint by Cristi Bâlea

## Contents

The last judgement of V. Nestorescu

The Romanian Grandmaster of the FIDE for chess composition, Virgil Nestorescu (b. 1929-d.2018) is well known in the world of endgame studies. I found by chance his last award, published in Gambit magazine 4/2010: *V. Nestorescu 80JT*.

I reproduce here several award-winning works. Lets begin with an astonishing work by the Armenians A.Gasparian and A. Manvelian.
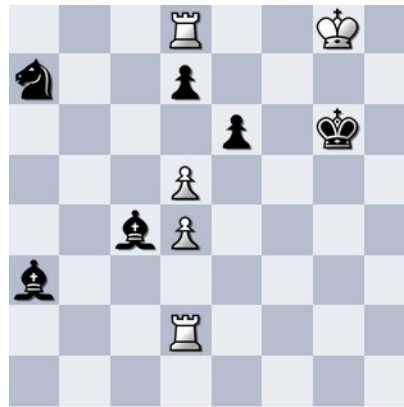
A. Gasparian & A. Manvelian
1st Prize, Nestorescu 80JT
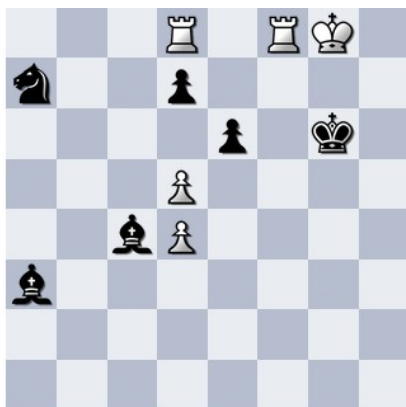
A. Gasparian & A. Manvelian
1st Prize, Nestorescu 80JT
Version M.Croitor

5+6   win

5+6   win

Solution: **1.Rf2!** Be7 2.Rxd7 Sc8 **3.d6! e5+** (3. ...Bxd6 4.Rg7+ Kh6 5.Rc2 Se7+ 6.Rxe7 Bxe7 7.Rxc4 Kg6 8.Rc6 Kf5 9.Kf7) **4.Kh8 Bf6+ 5.Rxf6+ Kxf6 6.Rf7+! Ke6** (6. ...Kxf7 7.d7 Be6 8.d8=Q) 7.d7 Sd6 8.d5+! Bxd5 9.d8=S# *A study of high artistic value, in which White creates a model mate, as the result of a triple active self-block and the promotion into a Knight, difficult to anticipate.* (judge)

Later, Nestorescu received a cook: **1.Rf3!** He was probably upset that he had to eliminate this beautiful study. When I showed this work to Mihail Croitor, he quickly found a version with **Rf8 to d2**. Now, only **1.Rf2!** is possible. We conclude that the authors could have found themselves this correction and the award should be preserved.

The second Prize is a sort of massacre game:

1.Kc7! Kc4 (1. ...Ba5+ 2.Kc8 Qxe3 3.b8=Q+ Bb6 4.Sc7+ Kc5 5.Qxb6+ Kxb6 6.Sd5+) **2.b8=Q Qxd6 3.Kxd6 Be5+ 4.Kc6 Bxb8 5.Sf3!** (5.Sg4? Kc3 6.Sd4 Se5+! 7.Sxe5 Bxe5=) **5. ...Se5+ 6.Sxe5 Bxe5 7.Bb6!** (7.Bd2? Bc3! 8.Be3 Bh8! 9.Bb6 Kc3=) **7...Bh8** (7...Kc3 9.Kd5!) **8.Ba5! Bc3 9.Kb6!** (9.Bd8? Ba5! 10.Be7 Bd2! 11.Bf6 Bc3! 12.Bd8 Ba5!) **9...Bxa5+ 10.Kxa5 Kc3 11.Sd4 Kxd4 12.Kb4!** Win. *Surprisingly, the only way to win is when all white pieces disappear, which sets the c2 Pawn, the last soldier on the board, in motion.* (judge)

M. Doré & A. Pallier
2nd Prize, Nestorescu 80JT

M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
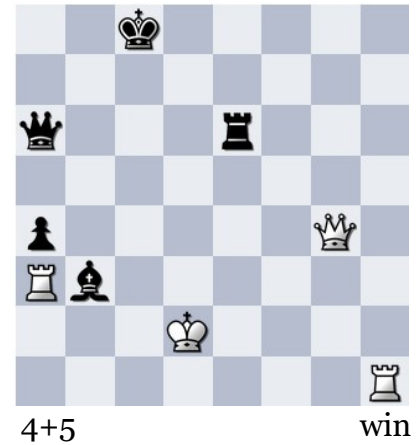3rd Prize, Nestorescu 80JT

7+4   win

5+6   =

Solution: **1.c7 Rh4+ 2.Rxh4 Bd5+ 3.Kh2 Rxd7 4.Sf3+!** (4.c8=Q? Bd6+ 5.Kh3 Be6+ 6.Rg4 Rh7+) 4...Kf1 5.c8=Q Bd6+ 6.Kh3 Be6+ 7.Rg4 Rh7+ 8.Sh4 Bxc8 stalemate. *A beautiful and unexpected stalemate position with two white pinned units, obtained after dynamic play on both sides.* (judge)

R. Becker & I. Akobia
Special HM, Nestorescu 80JT

4+5   win

V. Nestorescu gave a Special HM to a theoretical fight QR vs QR.

1.Rh8+! Kc7 2.Rh7+ Kb8 3.Qb4+ Rb6 4.Qf8+ Qc8 5.Qf4+ Ka8 6.Rxa4+ Bxa4 7.Qxa4+ Ra6 (7...Qa6 8.Qe8+ Kb8 9.Qe4+ Rb7 10.Rh8+ Ka7 11.Qd4+ Rb6 12.Rh7+ Ka8 13.Qd5+ Rb7 14.Rh8+ Ka7 15.Qc5+ Kb6 16.Ke3! as in main line) **8.Qe4+ Qc6 9.Rh8+ Kb7 10.Qb4+ Rb6 11.Rh7+ Kb8 12.Qf8+ Qc8 13.Qf4+ Ka8 14.Qf3! Kb8 15.Qg3+ Ka8 16.Qa3+ Qa6 17.Qf8+! Rb8 18.Qf3+ Rb7 19.Rh8+ Ka7 20.Qe3+ Rb6** (20...Qb6? 21.Qa3+ Qa6 22.Ra8+) **21.Rh7+ Ka8 22. Qe8+ Rb8 23.Qe4+ Rb7 24.Rh8+ Ka7 25.Qd4+ Rb6 26.Rh7+ Ka8 27.Qd5+ Rb7 28.Rh8+ Ka7 29.Qc5+ Rb6 30.Ke3!** (Black is in zugzwang) **30...Qb7 31.Re8! Qa6 32.Kf2! Qa2+ 33.Kg3! Qa6 34.Kh2! Qa2+ 35.Rh3 Qa6 36.Re7+ Ka8 37.Qd5+ Rb7 38.Re8+ Ka7 39.Qd4+! Rb6**

40.Rg8! (returning to column g is decisive) **40...Qa3+ 41.Rg3 Qa6 42.Rg7+ Ka8 43.Qe4+! Rb7 44.Rg8+ Ka7 45.Qd4+ Rb6 46.Kh4! Qa2 47.Rg7+ Ka6 48.Qd3+ Rb5 49.Rg6+ Ka5 50.Qd8+! Kb4 51.Rg4+ Kc5 52.Qc7+ Kd5 53.Qf7+** win

For the whole classified studies, you can go to
https://www.arhisah.ro/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/stere_sah_chess-Gambit-2010.04.pdf
For an article wrote by the Grandmaster V. Nestorescu, see Quartz 46/2018.

◇ **An interesting proof game by H. Grudzinski** was demolished in the database of Ch. Poisson:

En bref

Henryk GRUDZINSKI
Quartz 2014
Partie justificative en 16.5 (16+16) C-coups
Circé parrain

1.h4 d5 2.Th3 Dd6 3.Ta3 Dh2 4.T×a7 Ff5(d4) 5.Ta5 D×g1 6.Tb5(Ch1) D×f1+ 7.R×f1(Fg1) Rd8(De1)+ 8.D×e1 Rc8(Dd1) 9.a4 D×c1 10.Tc5(Fd1) D×b1 11.T×b1(Cc1) Fe6(Da2) 12.T×d5 g5(d3) 13.Td6 g×h4 14.T×d4(h2) Dd5(g7) 15.T×d3 Dd8(d6) 16.Ta3 T×a4 17.Taa1(a2)
démoli : 11.T×d5(Cc1) g5(d3) 12.T×b1 Fe6(Da2) Shifted units on first rank.   I tried to fix it and here is what I found:

H. Grudzinski - Quartz39/2014
correction M. Caillaud
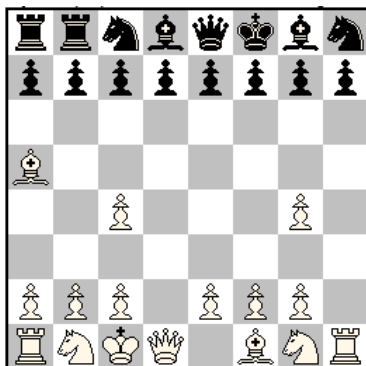
16+16   Circe Parrain   PG15.5

1.h4 d5 1.d4 h6 2.Dd3 Th7 3.D×h7 a5(Th5) 4.D×h6 T×h6(h7) 5.h4(Dh8) Td6 6.Fé3 T×d4 7.D×g8(ç4) Té4(Ch8) 8.D×f8+ R×f8(Fg8) 9.Rd1(Dé8)+ D×é8 10.Rç1(Dd8) Tg4 11.D×ç8 T×h4(Fd8) 12.D×b8(g4) T×b8(Cç8) 13.Fd2(Da7) Th6 14.Dd4 Ta6 15.F×a5 Taa8(a7) 16.Dd1

After the initial trick to restore quickly h Pawn (with reversed colors), the play is similar to the one in Henryk's problem.
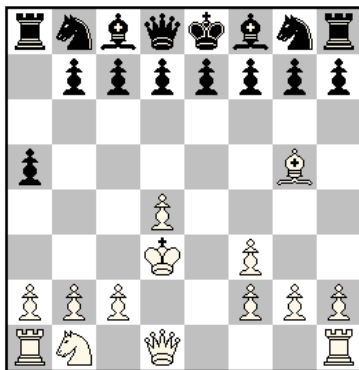
◊ **The first prize by M. Caillaud**, PG 18.5 #C, Quartz49/2020, was cooked by **D. Baibikov**.

Author's solution: 1.d3 a5 2.Rd2 Ta6 3.Re3 Th6 4.Rf4 Th3 5.Rg5 Ch6 6.Ff4 f6#(PBf6) 7.Cf3 Cg8 8.Rf5 Th6 9.h3 Rf7 10.Fh2 De8 11.Cg5#(CNg5) Ce4 12.d×e4 Dd8 13.Dd5+ Re8 14.f7#(PNf7) Td6 15.Rf4 h5 16.Re3 h4 17.Rd2 Th5 18.Re1 Te5 19.Dd1.

Cook : 3…Tb6 4.Fd2 Tb4 5.Cf3 f5 6.h3 f4#(PBf4) 7.Fc3 Rf7 8.f5 De8 9.Cg5#(CNg5) Ce4 10.d×e4 Dd8 11.f6 Re8 12.Dd5 h5 13.f7#PNf7 h4 14.Fe5 Th5 15.Fh2 Te5 16.Rd2 Tb6 17.Re1 Td6 18.Dd1

The author sent me the following correction:

M. Caillaud - Quartz49/2020
1st Prize, Christmas TT

15+16   #color   PG18.5

M. Caillaud - Quartz49/2020
1st Prize, Christmas TT
correction

14+16   #color   PG15.5

1.d4 a5 2.Rd2 Ta6 3.Re3 Th6 4.Rf4 Th3 5.Rg5 Ch6 6.Ff4 **f6‡(PBf6)** 7.Cf3 **Cg8** 8.Rf5 Rf7 9.Fg5 De8 **10.Ce5‡(CNe5)** Cf3 11.e×f3 **Dd8** 12.Fc4+ **Re8 13.f7‡(PNf7)** Th6 14.Fa6 T×a6 15.Re4 **Ta8** 16.Rd3.

Capture e×f implies change of color of a missing white unit. Black King has to escape in order to be mated. This implies another double change of color.(M.C.)
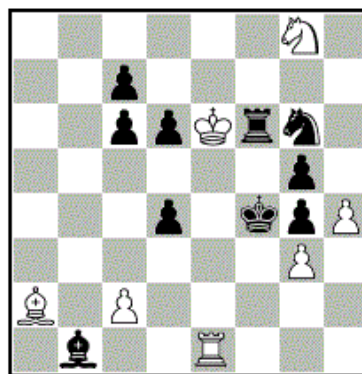
◊ **An hs# with Multicaptures condition by I. Murăraşu**, Die Schwalbe 226/2007, P1255720 has multiple cooks.

It can be fixed by shortening the solution, see the diagram on the right:

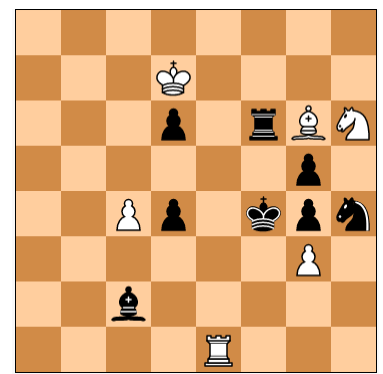**1.Bf7 Bh7 2.Sg8 Rh6 3.Re8 Sg6 4.Ke6 Ke5 5.Kf5++ Se7#**

One single phase, but interesting showing the theme Indian. Jacobi+ in about 17 hours.

I. Murăraşu
Die Schwalbe 226/2007

7+10 Multicaptures
hs#6

I. Murăraşu
Die Schwalbe 226/2007
correction P. Raican, 2023

6+8   Multicaptures
hs#5

Some records with stipulation Ser-s=

*The well known composer and friend **George Sphicas** from United States kindly accepted to write this interesting article for Quartz. He is an expert in series movers and is very active from 80-ies beginning till now. Enjoy!*

The purpose of this short article is to present a few records with the stipulation Series Selfstalemate. Two types of records are examined, **Length Records** and **Promotion Records**. We chose the particular stipulation ser-s= because of two reasons: First, some of the examples presented here appear to be doable only with this stipulation and no other. Second, some promotion tasks are relatively new. It is useful to have some occasional collections of records, encouraging further investigations. The overall length record, **Tomasevic's ser-s=116**, by one of the greatest composers of seriesmovers, is certainly worth revisiting, for its skillful construction.

1) 1.Kg3 2.g5 5.K×e4 6.Kf3 7.e4 19.K×d8 34.K×e6 50.K×e8 66.K×g6 83.K×f8 101.K×d6 102.K×e5 103.Kd6 106.e7 109.Kf8 110.e8=Q 111.Qf7 114.Kg6 115.Q×f2 116.Qf8+ Q×f8=
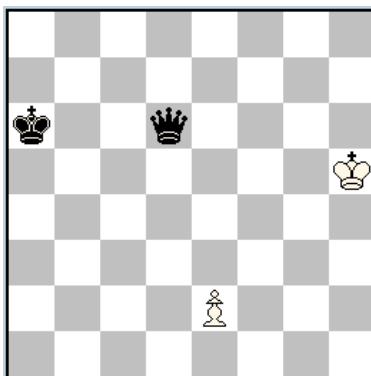
1) Milos Tomasevic
feenschach 25/2004(v)

4+16   ser-s=116

2) Erich Bartel &
A. H. Kniest
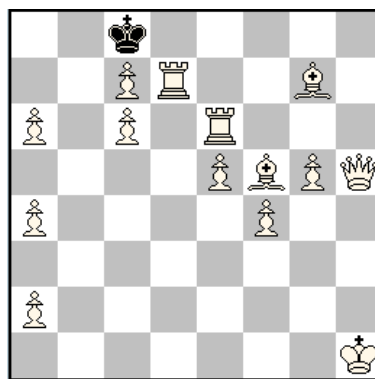Sfrankfurten Notizen 1966

2+2   ser-s=15

3) Ljubomir Ugren
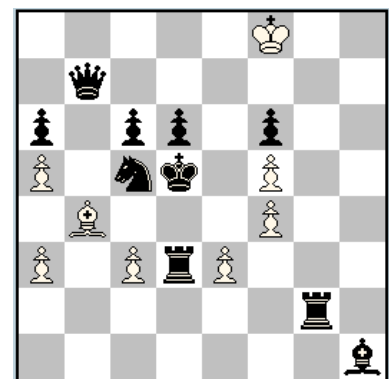4 Prize, Mat 1980

14+1   ser-s=40

4) Arno Tungler
KobulChess/2018

8+10   ser-s=55

With only four units on the board and lots of interesting play, the classic ser-s=15 appeared almost sixty years ago, among the earliest examples with this stipulation.

**2)** 3.e6 4.Kg6 5.Kf7 7e8=Q 8.Qd7 11.Kc8 12.Qc7 14.Ka8 15.Qb6+ K,Qxb6=

Our third example, by L. Ugren, is the longest ser-s= with minimal stalemating force. It is an unusual setting, very appropriate for the stipulation: White must immobilise the entire force, with admirable accuracy.

3) 7.Ke8 8.Qh8 9.Bh7 10.Rg6 11.e6 12.Bd4 13.Ba7 14.Bb8 16.a8=R 17.Ra5 18.Rf5 22.a8=Q 23.Qa3 24.Qaf8 29.a8=Q 30.Qa2 31.Ba7 32.Bd4 33.Bg7 34.Bh6 35.Rdg7 36.e7 37.Qag8 38.Rff7 39.f5 40.f6 K×c7=

The specific category of seriesmovers without any capture by either side was examined a few years ago in StrateGems. The impressive ser-s= by Arno Tungler, longest for ser-s= ***without any captures***, was never quoted in that magazine, and sadly that has now ceased publication.

5) G. Sphicas
Ideal-Mate Review, 1988
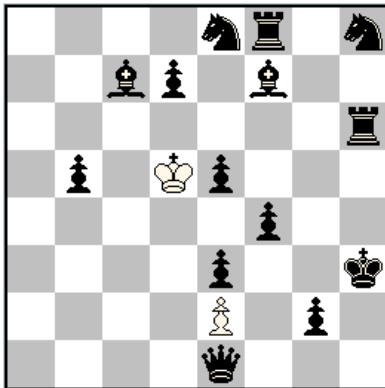
2+14   ser-s=73

4) 1.a4 9.Bg7 13.Kh5 17.Bg3 19.Kf3 20.Bf2 22.Kf1 24.Bd2 27.Kc1 35.Bb6 37.Ka1 44.Bf2 46.Ka3 53.Bb6 54.Kb4 55.c4+ Ke4=

A final example is the ser-s=73, longest in the sub-category of problems ending with ***ideal stalemate***. It may be worth presenting in the hope that others may explore possibilities for longer settings.

5) 2.K×b5 11.K×h6 24.K×d7 26.K×f8 41.K×h8 56.K×f7 57.K×e8 59.K×c7 61.K×e5 62.K×f4 63.K×e3 64.Kf3 69.e8=Q 70.Q×e1 72.Kg1 73.Qg3+ K×g3=

Some promotion records

The well-known masterpiece by Z. Maslar, with eight promotions to Bishop, is the best example of an achievement unique to this stipulation. It is hard to imagine doing anything like that with any other series stipulation.
**6)** 1.d8=B 2.d7 3.d6 4.d5 5.Sd4 6.Se6 7.e×f8=B 8.Bh6 9.f8=B 10.f7 11.Bh4 12.d8=B 13.d7 14.d6 15.Kd5 16.Sg5 17.Sh7 18.Bdg5 19.d8=B 20.d7 21.Rg6 23.a×b7 24.b8=B 25.Be5 26.Bh8 27.Bfg7 28.f8=B 29.Rf7 30.Bdf6 31.d8=B 32.Bde7 33.Ke5 34.Qc4+ K×c4= This version is in f-111, p.249.

Another example of a task very likely impossible with other stipulations is seven promotions to Rook. That was done twice: first in a ser-s=39, **Sphicas** F2126v, The Problemist Nov.2002 (see **7**), and later by **Maslar**, in **8** here (*)

6) Zdravko Maslar
feenschach, 1989 (v)
1st Prize
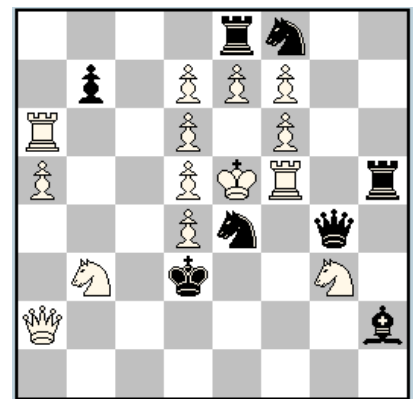
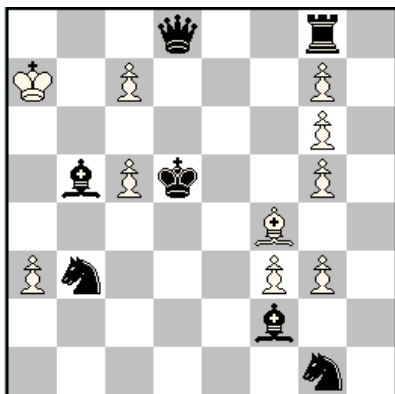14+8   ser-s=34

7) George Sphicas
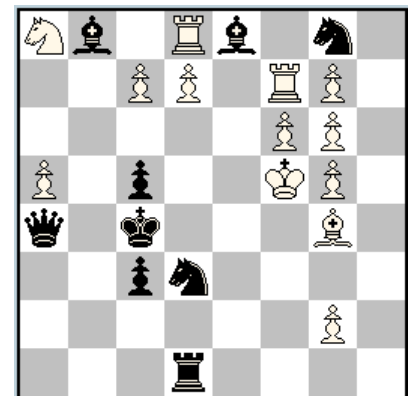The Problemist 2002(v)

10+7   ser-s=39

7) 1.c8=R 2.Ra8 3.Bb8 8.f×g8=R 9.Re8 10.g8=R 11.Rg7 12.Rb7 14.g8=R 15.Rg6 16.Ra6 19.g8=R 20.Rg4 21.Rga4 26.g8=R 27.Rg3 28.R×b3 29.Ree3 32.c8=R 33.Rcc7 34.Kb6 35.R6a7 36.R4a6 38.a5 39.Rbd3+ B×d3=

8) 1.c×b8=R 2.Rb5 3.Rdb8 4.d8=R 5.Ra7 7.f×g8=R 8.Rf8 9.g8=R 10.Rgg7 11.Rgb7 13.g8=R 14.Rgg6 15.Rga6 18.g8=R 19.Rgg6 20.Rgb6 22.Kd6 23.Bç8 28.g8=R 29.Rgg7 30.Rgç7 31.Rdd7 32.Kc6 33.Rf4+ S×f4=

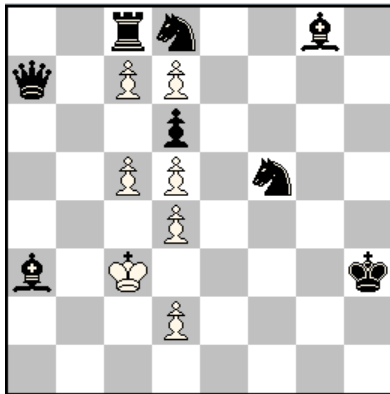**8) Zdravko Maslar**
feenschach 198/2013

13+9   ser-s=33

(*) The version 7 appears in The Problemist Nov. 2014

9) G. Sphicas
2nd Prize, feenschach 2014

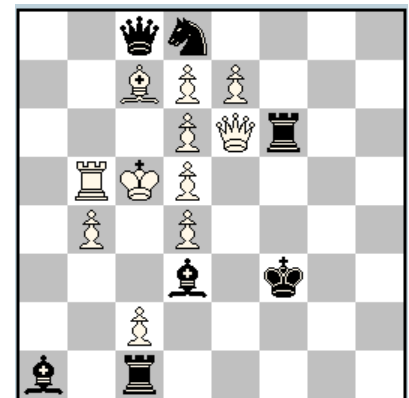7+8   ser-s=29

Our next example is AUW+2 on one square, shown in **9**.

9) 1.cxd8=B! 2.Ba5 3.d8=Q 4.Qc7 5.c×d6 7.d8=R 8.Rd6 9.Rb6 12.d8=R 13.Rd5 14.Rdb5 18.d8=R 19.Rd4 20.Rdb4 22.d5 24.Kc5 27.d8=S 28.Sc6 29.Qh2+ K×h2=

The following example is the recent **10**, showing six promotions to bishop all on one square, here d8.

10) G. Sphicas
1st Prize, feenschach 236/2019
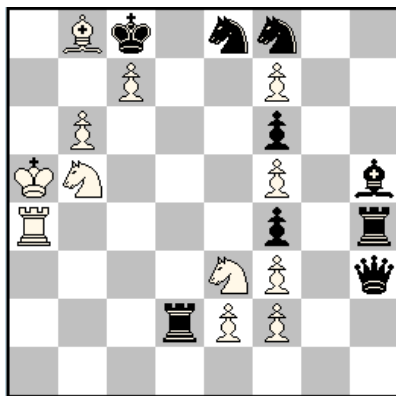Dedicated to Hans Gruber

11+7   ser-s=31

10) 1.e×d8=B 2.Be7 3.d8=B 4.d7 5.d6 6.Kd5 7.Bb8 8.Ba5 9.d8=B 10.d7 11.Bc5 12.Bca7 13.Bdb6 14.d8=B 15.Bdc7 16.Kc6 17.d5 20.d8=B 21.Be7 22.Bec5 23.c×d3 28.d8=B 29.Bde7 30.Bed6 31.Qe4+ K×e4=

A little competition began in 1991, when promotions in Queen was the main theme. In **11**, we have five promoted Queens.

11) G. Sphicas
Prize, feenschach 1991 (v)
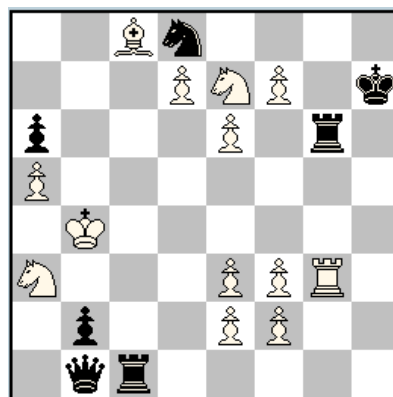

12+9   ser-s=35

11) 1.Sc2 6.e×f8=Q 7.Qa3 8.f8=Q 9.Q×f6 10.Qfa1 13.f8=Q 14.Q×f4 15.Q×d2 20.f8=Q 22.Qfa8 23.f4 24.Kb4 26.Rb7 27.Q3a7 28.Q1a6 29.Ka4 30.Qda5 31.Sb4 35.f×e8=Q+ B×e8=

Heinonen showed 6 Q promotions very nicely in **12**.
12) 1.f8=Q 2.Qf4 3.Qb8 8.f8=Q 9.Qf3 10.Qfa8 15.f8=Q 16.Qff3 17.Qfb7 18.e4 19.Rc3 20.Rc7 21.Sc6 23.e8=Q 24.Qe5 25.Q×b2 29.e8=Q 30.Qe3 31.Qea7 36.e8=Q 37.Qee2 38.Qe×a6 40.Kb6 41.Sb5 42.Qh8+ K×h8=

13 shows AUW on a unique square: b8. It reached the FIDE Album 2001-2003.

13) 1.b7 2.b8=S 3.Sd7 6.b8=B 7.Bf4 11.b8=R 12.Rc8 13.Rc2 18.b8=Q 19.Qb3 20.Qg8+ K×g8= The version is in Problemesis 45/2005

12) Unto Heinonen
Probleemblad 2000

13+7   ser-s=42

13) M. Caillaud
Problemesis 36/2003(v)

16+7   ser-s=20

We want to conclude this article with two recent problems: an amusing work by Michel Caillaud and one by Paul Rãican with an unusual condition.

14) 22.Kc6 23.b8=R 24.Rb7 46.Ka6 47.a5 48.d3+ K~=

15) 1.Bd4 2.Bc3 [+wPd4] 3.Ba5 [+wPc3] 4.Bxb6 [+wPa5] 5.Ba7 [+wPb6] 6.b7 7.b8=R 8.Rb6 9.Kb7 [+wPc7] 10.c8=S 11.Kc7 [+wPb7] 12.b8=B 13.Rb7 [+wPb6] 14.Se7+ Bxe7=
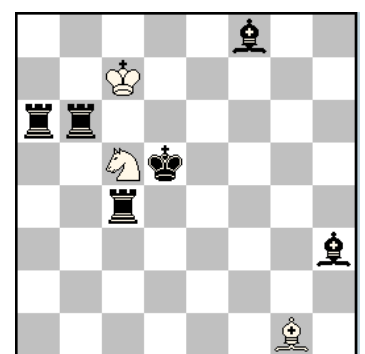
No single stipulation is best suited for promotion records, but these examples show that the stipulation ser-s= can produce some impressive results.

14) M. Caillaud
StrateGems 2018
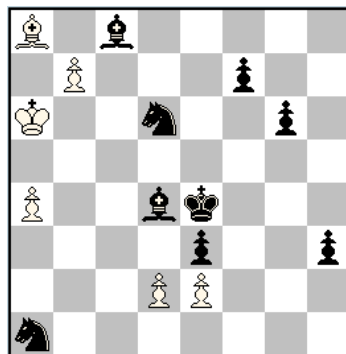
6+9   ser-s=48

15) P. Rãican
Problem Paradise 100/2022

3+6   ser-s=14
white Sentinels =4

George P. Sphicas
International Master of Chess Composition

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An interesting Thematic Tourney from Springaren

*In the Winter 2009-2010, **Springaren** magazine proposed an amazing Thematic Tourney with this simple request: **the King makes the last move**. This theme gave great freedom to creativity, and there were no less than 108 contributions (one cooked) from 50 composers. The judge **Göran Forslund** had then a difficult task and in the end he picked out 6 prize winners. We reproduce here only few classified works.*

1) is a spectacular s#11, with many pins and unpins.

1) 1.Qe3+ Kf5 2.Qh3+ Ke4 3.Bh2+ Be5 4.Rb4+ Bc4 5.Ra4 a5 6.S5b4+ Bd5 7.Sc6+ Bc4 8.Sd4+ Bd5 9.Se6+Bd4 10.Bc6 Bxc6 11.Qf5+ **Kxf5#** Surprisingly, Gustav found a cook in 10: **3.S5b4+!** Bd5 4.Rxa1 a5 5.Rxa5 Bc6 6.Re7 Bd5 7.Bc6 Bxc6 8.Bg3+ Kf3 9.Bh2+ Kf2 10.Qg2+ Bxg2#
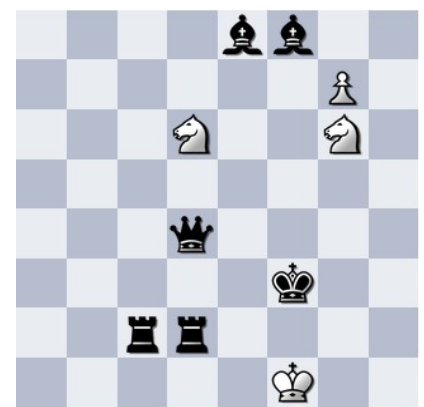
Two chameleon echo mates in **2)**

2) 1.Qg4 gxf8=B(Bc1) 2.Rxc1(Rh8) **Kf2#** and 1.Ke3 gxf8=Q(Qd1) 2.Rxd1(Ra8) **Ke2#**

1) Steven B. Dowd
Springaren Winter 2010 TT
Comm

10+4   s#11

2) J. Rotenberg & Guy Sobrecases
Springaren Winter 2010 TT
7 HM

4+6   Anticirce   h#2
2 solutions

3) Sven Trommler
Springaren Winter 2010 TT
5HM

4+10   Anticirce   ser-h#6
2 solutions

4) J. Lois & R. Osorio
Springaren Winter 2010 TT
5 Prize

14+15   C+   PG15

3) fully deserves his HM. Two analogue phases.

3) 1.Bxg3 [bBg3->f8] 2.Be7 3.Bd8 4.Qf1 5.Kb5 6.Ka4 **Kxf1 [wKf1->e1]#**
1.Qxg3 [bQg3->d8] 2.Qe7 3.Qf8 4.Bg1 5.Kb6 6.Ka5 **Kxg1 [wKg1->e1]#**

4) 1.e4 a6 2.Bb5 axb5 3.d4 Ra6 4.d5 Rh6 5.d6 f6 6.dxe7 Kf7 7.e8=B+ Ke7 8.Bg6 b4 9.Bf5 Ke8 10.e5 Qe7 11.e6 Qc5 12.e7 Kf7 13.e8=B+ Ke7 14.Beg6 hxg6 15.Kf1 **Ke8.** Two little triangles designed by black King. Well done! (the initial 2nd Prize was eliminated because of anticipation)

5) Unto Heinonen
Springaren Winter 2010 TT
2 Prize

5) **1.b1=S** 2.Sd2 3.Sxe4 [bSe4->g8] 4.Sf6 5.Se4 **Kxe4 [wKe1]=**
1.b1=B 2.Bxd3 [bBc8] 3.Bg4 4.Be2 5.Bd3 **Kxd3 [wKe1]=**
1.b1=R 2.Rb4 3.Rxc4 [bRa8] 4.Ra4 5.Rc4 **Kxc4 [wKe1]=**
1.b1=Q 2.Qb7 3.Qxd5 [bQd8] 4.Qg8 5.Qd5+ **Kxd5 [wKe1]=**

The play is somewhat mechanical here, but the unity between the phases impressed the judge.

15+6   ser-h=5
Anticirce Calvet
4 solutions

6) V. Crisan & P. Raican
Springaren Winter 2010 TT
3 Prize

10+8   -10 & s#1 Proca
Circe Assassin

6) gave to me and my friend Vlaicu Crisan a lot of trouble with his finishing, but in the end we had great satisfaction. I guess it was worth the work, wasn't it?

Sol: -1.Bc5×Qg1(Qd8, -bBd8)! Qh2-g1+ -2.Sd7×Pb6(Pb7) b7-b6+ (wK was in check via wBc5) -3.Bb6-c5 Be7-d8+ -4.Bc5-b6 Bd8-e7+ -5.Bb6-c5 Be7-d8+ -6.Bc5-b6 **Rd6×Pd2(Pd2, -bRd2)** -7.Bb4-c5 a6-a5+ **-8.Bc3×Pb4(Pb7, -bSb7)** b5-b4+ -9.Bd4-c3 **Bd5×Pg2(Pg2, -bBg2)** -10.Be3-d4 & **1.Bg5+** (check to King via bPh4) **Kg6#** Must say that Kg8 and Kh8 are not legal because it is self-check: g8 is guarded by Pc7 via Sb7 and h8 is guarded by Pe5 via Rd6. After Kg6, the white King is in checkmate via wBg6 (Note: the diagram in Sringaren was wrong printed)
Here is the comment of the judge: *I think it's incredibly clever, but I'm afraid I don't appreciate it as much as I should.*
If you want to see more other **Proca Retractors Assassin Circe**, then read the article *Circé Assassin, un genre du XXI siècle*, Quartz 36/2011 (in French language).

**7) Ch. Jonsson &
Rolf Wiehagen**
Springaren Winter 2010 TT
1 Prize

9+12   8 solutions   h#2

With his eight solutions all finishing by white King checkmating, it's easy to understand the high placement of **7)**

1.Ba3 hxg5 2.Bxb4 **Kxf4#**
1.Rb2 Kf6 2.Rxb4 **Kxg5#**
1.Sd5 bxc5 2.Sb4 **Ke6#**
1.Sfd3+ Kf6 2.Sxb4 **Kxg6#**
1.Sa6 exf5 2.Sxb4 **Ke4#**
1.Bxf7 bxa7 2.Qxb4 **Kxf5#**
1.Ra4 Kf6 2.Rxb4 **Ke7#**
1.Qxb6 Rd5 2.Qxb4 **Kd6#**

Murfatlar Thematic Tourney for Proof Games - 6ᵗʰ edition
WCCC Batumi 2023

In 2020, Thomas Brand hosted on his site the **5th Retroblog TT**, the requirement being proof games with the condition **Fuddled Men** (judge B. Gräfrath). At **Murfatlar TT6**, Fuddled Men is also required, but **an additional fairy condition** (no fairy units) could be used.

Theme: Proof Games in which **Fuddled Men** condition must be presented. The authors can add another fairy condition, but not fairy pieces. This condition can be tested with Jacobi.

Definition Fuddled Men: No unit can make two moves in succession. This restriction also holds for the effect on the opponent's King. (the fairy condition was invented by John D. Beasley, and his pioneering play appeared in the 1987 British Chess Magazine)

Examples (without fairy conditions):

1) B. Gräfrath
Th. Brand Retroblog, 2019

16+15   PG9.5

Fuddled Men

Sol 1: 1.c3 h5 2.Qb3 Sf6 3.Kd1 h4 4.Q×f7 d5 5.Kc2+ Kd7 6.Qe8 h3 7.Kd3+ Ke6 8.Qa4 Sbd7 9.Ke3 Rb8 10.Qd1
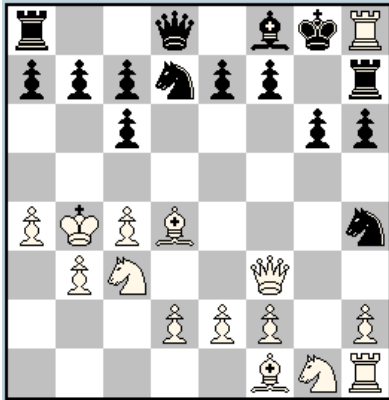A round trip can be managed, which due to the *Fuddled* condition must be built in single steps with interruptions. In 1) the white Queen is the thematic piece.
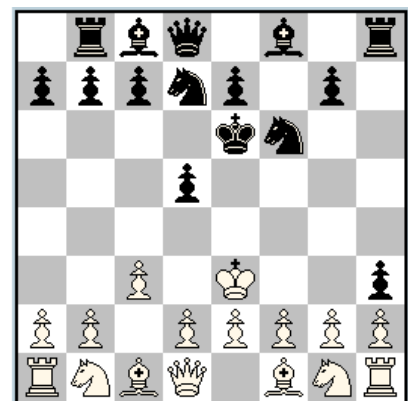
2) M. Caillaud
Prize, Retroblog TT5/2020

15+15   PG23.5

Fuddled Men

Sol 2: 1.a4 Sh6 2.Ra3 Rg8 3.g4 Sf5 4.Rc3 h6 5.g5 Sh4 6.Rc6 dxc6 7.c4 Bf5 8.Qb3 Kd7 9.Kd1 Bh7 10.g6 Ke6 11.Kc2 Sd7 12.gxh7 g6 13.Kc3 Rg7 14.h8=R Kf6 15.Kb4 Rh7 16.Qf3 Kg7 17.Rg8 Rh8 18.b3+ Kh7 19.Rg7 Rg8 20.Bb2+ Kh8 21.Rh7+ Rg7 22.Bd4+ Kg8 23.Rh8 Rh7 24.Sc3#

The 'Fuddled' condition is used extensively to display rich thematic content. You have to undo sKg7-h7 and then wRh7-h8, but that's not enough to untie the knot. This only succeeds when both thematic Rooks complete a circuit (whereby the black Rook almost completes a second circuit). The thematic white Rook came about through promotion, but is not 'obtrusive' because the original rook was taken from a1 to c6 (Phoenix theme). It's also great that the black King gets to g8 by a very tortuous path. The fact that the proof game ends in mate I consider an added bonus. (B. Gräfrath)

Deadline: September 02, 2023.
Judge: P. Rãican, quarpaz1@yahoo.fr
Prize: Books (delivered at Batumi)

Gerome – Rider and his steed in desert 1872