Quartz 58

Feb 2024

Tulcea, first snow on Train Street – paint by Gh. Neatza

Contents

Birth, change of place and death - a paradoxical theme in proof games – by B. Graefrath

1　　　　**Gerd Wilts**
Messigny TT 2004 (Version)
5. Preis

BP 17.5　　　　　　14+14

Proof games differ from other retros because of time pressure. So why should it be necessary in the solution of a proof game for two units to change places?

This question arises particularly when the two thematic units are even captured at the end. Why do they have to transform themselves into a specific piece? What function do they actually fulfill before they are captured? And if they change place after their birth (through pawn promotion), why didn't they immediately convert into this (other) type of piece? The highest degree of paradox is achieved when the two figures involved are of the same type and color, and this is also particularly pleasing. In the following I would like to introduce all the orthodox proof games that I know and which are dedicated to this topic.

The theme of the 2004 Messigny Retro Composition Tournament was: A promotion takes place on field A. Another one into the same figure of the same color takes place on a field B (A≠B). Then the unit promoted on field B moves to field A. It doesn't matter in which order the transformations take place. (Fairy proof games were allowed.) Gerd Wilts used this to a change of place between two black Bishops who are captured on each other's promotion square (see problem **1**). How is the change of place motivated? At least not through necessary moves: that would be too rough! Rather, the two thematic bishops must leave their promotion squares to enable White's long castling and let the wRh1 reach d1. Promotion in Rooks or Queens would have given a disruptive check, and Knights could not conveniently disappear. Solution: 1.d3 f5 2.Bd2 f4 3.Ba5 f3 4.Sc3 f×g2 5.f4 b5 6.Sf3 g1=B 7.Bh3 b4 8.Be6 b3 9.f5 b×c2 10.b4 c1=B 11.Qa4 c5 12.Qc6 Bce3 13.a4 Bd4! (great that this additional retreat is possible) 14.0-0-0 Bge3+ 15.Kb2 Bc1+ 16.R×c1 c4 17.Rhd1 Bg1 18.S×g1. (tested by Stelvio 2.0 in 26 seconds.)

Is this also possible with two promoted Rooks? Reto Aschwanden worked on this and obtained problem **2**. On e8 and on g8 pawns transform into Rooks, and both are on the each other's promotion field. However, the change of place is not entirely clear because the first Rook is captured before the other one is created. The sPe7 must be eliminated quickly so that the sBf8 can get to a3. The resulting Rook has to go from e8 to g8 because the bQ has to move to the kingside. It is impressive that both Rooks leave the battlefield at the end. Solution: 1.f4 Sf6 2.f5 Sd5 3.f6 Sc6 4.f×e7 f5 5.h4 Kf7 6.e8=R Ba3 7.Rg8 Q×g8 8.h5 Sd8 9.h6 c5 10.h×g7 h5 11.d3 Qh7 12.g8=R Sc7 13.Re8 R×e8 14.Bh6

2　　　**Reto Aschwanden**
Die Schwalbe 2003
1. ehrende Erwähnung

BP 14　　　　　　14+14

Re3. (tested by Stelvio 2.0 in few seconds)

With problem **3**, Gerd Wilts and Reto Aschwanden worked together to clearly represent the topic with two promoted Rooks. This time the two black Rooks are on their promoted squares at the same time, and only then do they begin changing places. The Rook g1 must provide check protection for the sK on g6 against the white Queen on its way over h5 to a5. Then the other Rook has to move from e1 to g1 to pave the way for wRa1.

After this Rook gets through, the second Rook can go from g6 to e1 to be captured. Solution: 1.h4 d5 2.Rh3 d4 3.Rc3 d3 4.Sh3 d×e2 5.d4 f5 6.Sd2 f4 7.Sb3 f3 8.Bd2 f×g2 9.f4 g1=R 10.Kf2 e1=R 11.Qh5+ Rg6 12.Qa5 Sd7 13.h5 Sb6 14.Bb5+ Bd7 15.Ba4 Reg1 16.R×g1 Re6 17.Sc1 Re1 18.B×e1. (tested by Stelvio 2.0)

3 **Gerd Wilts**
Reto Aschwanden
Die Schwalbe 2004
2. Preis

BP 17.5   14+14

4 **Reto Aschwanden**
Phénix 2004
3. Preis

BP 13   14+14

Reto had already shown earlier that the theme can also be represented with a Rook and a Knight. (According to the PDB, this proof game appeared in 2003; but according to the tournament report in feenschach issue 231 from July-September 2018, page 465, it was awarded in the informal tournament for the year 2004.) In problem **4**, a promotion into a Knight must take place on e8, so that the promoted piece can still get out after Black moves Sg8-e7. A capture can only happen on c8 after the sRa8 has moved to e8. So the promoted Knight only then leave e8 and then disappear from the board. Solution: 1.d4 Sc6 2.d5 Se5 3.d6 Sg6 4.d×e7 d5 5.b4 Kd7 6.e8=S Bc5 7.b5 S8e7 8.b6 Rf8 9.b×c7 b5 10.Sd6 Bb7 11.c8=R Qb6 12.Re8 Ra×e8 13.Sc8 S×c8. (tested by Stelvio 2.0)

5 **Gerd Wilts**
Phénix 2004
4. Preis

BP 18.5   14+14

6 **Gerd Wilts**
Probleemblad 2004
3. Preis

BP 18   11+14

7 **Reto Aschwanden**
The Problemist 2004
2. ehrende Erwähnung

BP 13.5   14+14

The diagrams **5** to **8** are given without comments. Sol.5: 1.Sc3 d5 2.Se4 d4 3.Sg5 d3 4.e4 d×c2 5.d4 Bd7 6.Be3 c1=S 7.Qa4 Se2 8.b3 Sg3 9.0-0-0 f5 10.Kb1 f4 11.Rc1 f3 12.Rc4 f×g2 13.f4 Bc6 14.S1f3 g1=S 15.Bh3 S1e2 16.Bc8 Sc1 17.Rh×c1 Se2 18.R1c2 Sg1 19.B×g1.

6: 1.c4 e5 2.c5 Qh4 3.c6 Se7 4.c×b7 c5 5.d4 Sc6 6.b8=Q e×d4 7.Qg3 Ba6 8.f4 0-0-0 9.f5 Re8 10.f6 Sd8 11.f×g7 f5 12.g8=Q Bh6 13.Q8b3 B×c1 14.e3 f4 15.Qb8 K×b8 16.Be2 Sc8 17.Kf1 R×e3 18.Qg8 R×g8. (Stelvio 2.0)

7: 1.g3 c5 2.Bh3 c4 3.Bg4 c3 4.Sh3 c×b2 5.c4 f5 6.Sc3 b1=Q 7.Ba3 f4 8.Bb4 f3 9.a3 f×e2 10.f4 Qe4 11.Kf2 e1=R 12.Qf3 Rb1 13.Rh×b1 Qe1+ 14.K×e1 (Stelvio 2.0)

8: 1.a4 d5 2.Ra3 d4 3.Re3 d3 4.f3 d×e2 5.d4 b5 6.Kd2 e1=R 7.Bd3 b4 8.Qe2 b3 9.Kc3 b×c2 10.b3 Qd6 11.Bb2 c1=B 12.Ba1 Bd2+ 13.Kb2 Rc1 14.Ka2 Be1 15.Sd2 Bg3 16.h×g3 Rc5 17.Rh6 Rh5 18.Lb1 Rh4 19.g×h4. Well hidden solution due to the zig-zag capture of the h2 Pawn (Stelvio 2.0 checked this in 23 seconds)

8   **Reto Aschwanden**
Die Schwalbe 2019

BP 18.5   14+14

Award of Murfatlar tourney
WCCC Batumi 2023

Theme: Proof games with Fuddled men and, possibly, with another fairy condition (without fairy units). 22 PGs was received.

My main criteria for establishing a classification of problems are *originality* and the *intensive use of the condition.* The level of the tournament was very high and it gave me a lot of pleasure. I congratulate all the participants for their contribution.

Here is my palmares presented from Commendations to Prizes.

7 Commendations without order:

V. Nallusamy (India): 1.e3 a6 2.Bxa6=R d5 3.Kf1 Be6=S 4.Rxe6=Q d4 5.exd4=S Qd5=R 6.Qee1=R Sd7=P 7.Ke2 Rh5=B 8.Rf1=B d5+ 9.Ke1 Kd7 10.Sde2=P

White units transformed into all type of pieces, then back home like nothing happened.

A. Daga (India): 1.c3 Sc6 2.Qb3 Rb8 3.f4 Sd4 4.Qe6 fxe6 5.f5 Kf7 6.Kf2 Qe8 7.f6 Kg6 8.Kg3 Sf5 9.f7 Kh5+ 10.Kh3 g6 **11.fxe8=Q** Bh6 12.Sf3 Sf6 13.Qxh8 Bxd2 14.Sg5 Se8 15.Qd4 Be1 16.Bf4 h6 17.Qd1 Bg3 **18.e3#**

Unexpected Queen Phoenix-Pronkin. It's interesting that if black King is not checkmated, then the last two white moves could be interchanged.

Velmurugan Nallusamy (India)
Comm – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

16+13 Fuddled + Einstein
PG 9.5

Anirudh Daga (India)
Comm – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

14+14 Fuddled   PG 17.5
black King checkmated

Mario Parrinello (Italy)
Comm – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

16+14 Fuddled + Koeko
PG 17

Jonathan Mestel (UK)
Comm – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

14+14   Fuddled   PG 12

M. Parrinello (Italy): 1.Sf3 Sf6 2.e4 Sc6 3.d4 Sd5 4.exd5 Se5 5.dxe5 Rg8 6.d6 Rb8 7.Qd5 Rh8 8.Bd3 Ra8 9.O-O Rg8 10.Re1 Rb8 11.Kh1 Rh8 12.Re4 Ra8 13.Be3 Rg8 14.Rc4 Rb8 15.Sd4 Rh8 16.f3 Ra8 17.Bg1 Rg8
Amusing use of Fuddled men, to make alternative moves of black Rooks. The cross-capture **dxe** and **exd** is a very good bonus.

J. Mestel (U.K.): 1.c4 h5 2.Qa4 c6 3.Kd1 h4 4.Qxa7 d5 5.Kc2 h3 6.Qxb8 d4 7.Kd3 hxg2 8.Sh3 Qd5 9.Qg3 **g1=S** 10.Sf4 Bf5 11.Bh3 Ra3+ 12.e4 dxe3 +++#

The idea of triple checkmate was realized in 9 moves by **St. Emmerson**, Julias fairies 2020: 1.f4 c6 2.Kf2 Qb6 3.Sf3 h5+ 4.Kg3 Qg1 5.Se5 h4 6.Kg4 (tempo) Qxh1 7.Sxd7 Bxd7 8.Kh3 Qxh2+ 9.g4 hxg4 e.p. +++#
Here, Jonathan added a S promotion.

M. Caillaud (France): 1.e4 d5 2.d4 Kd7 3.e×d5 c5 4.Bf4 Kd6 5.d×c5+ e5 **6.d×e6 e.p.+++**
The constraint to end in triple check has similarities with Jonathan's PG (which ends in triple checkmate). The solution is very difficult, because the unique aid is the Pawn c2.

M. Hiroachi (Japan): **1.e4** e6 2.Bb5 Bc5 3.Sf3 Ke7 4.Bc6 Bxf2 5.Kxf2 dxc6 6.Rf1 Qd4 7.Kg1 Kd6+
1.e3 e6 2.Bb5 Bc5 3.Sf3 Ke7 4.Bc6 Bxe3 5.fxe3 dxc6 6.O-O Qd4 7.e4 Kd6+

E. Huber (Romania): 1.c4 Sf6 2.Q-c3xf6 Bf8-g6xb1 3.Kd1 O-O#
Mate by bBb1. The wK can't move because of Fuddled Men.

O. Comay (Israel): 1.h4 d5 2.b3 a5 3.h5 d4 4.Ba3 a4 5.h6 d3 6.Bb4 axb3 7.hxg7 dxc2 8.Rh6 Ra4 9.Sa3 **c1=S** 10.Ra6 Sh6 11.**g8=S** Bg7 12.Qc2 Sd3 **13.O-O-O** Ba1+ 14.exd3 b2 15.Sf6 **O-O+** 16.Kb1+ exf6 Good technique to show *two castlings* and *two S Ceriani-Frolkin*. A surprising and pleasant contribution to this tourney from the master of Israel.
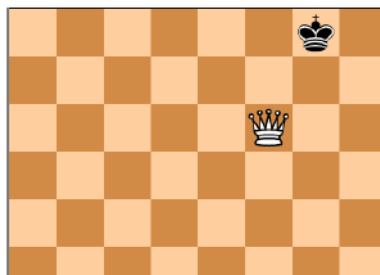
Michel Caillaud (France)
Comm – Murfatlar Batumi 2023
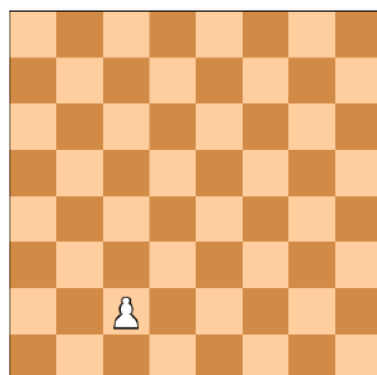
1+0   Fuddled   PG 5.5
ending in triple check Add pieces

Maeshima Hiroachi (Japan)
Comm – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

14+15   Fuddled   PG 7
2 sol

Eric Huber (Romania)
Comm – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

1+1 Fuddled + Make&Take
Add pieces for a PG3 with #

Ofer Comay (Israel)
HM3 – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

13+14   Fuddled   PG 16

N. Dupont, V. Crisan and M. Caillaud (France/Romania):
1.b3 b6 2.Ba3 Bb7 3.Qc1 Qc8 4.Sc3 Bf3 5.Qb2 Qa6 6.0-0-0 Sc6 7.Re1 Qd3 8.e:d3 0-0-0 9.Re6 Re8 10.Sge2 Kd8 11.Rf6 e:f6 12.Kd1 Re5 13.Be7 Ke8 14.Ke1 Rf5 15.Sc1 Bd1 16.Be2 Se5 17.Bd8 Bd6 18.Bh5 Se7 19.f3 Rf8 20.Bg6 f:g6 21.Kf2 Kf7 22.Rf1 g5 23.Kg1 Kg8.

Very interesting task: White and Black apparently castled short, although both sides castled long in the game. I think it's hard to make this with orthodox rules.

N. Dupont, V. Crisan and M. Caillaud (France/Romania)
HM2 – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

14+15   Fuddled   PG 23

Kostas Prentos (Albuquerque, U.S.A.)
HM1 – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

15+13   Fuddled   PG 12.5

Kostas Prentos (Albuquerque, U.S.A.): 1.a4 f5 2.e3 e6 3.a5 f4 4.Qg4 Qh4 5.a6 f3 6.Qb4 Be7 7.axb7 Qe4 8.Ra6 Bh4 9.bxc8=B Sf6 10.Rd6 a5 11.Bfa6 Ke7 12.Se2 Rxc8 13.Bxc8. A Schnoebelen Bishop is captured, and the piece that captured it is also captured by an Anti-Pronkin Bishop. The theme of **V. Crisan 50 JT**, 2023. (author) A spectacular and rare theme, impeccably performed by the Greek composer.

Andy Ooms (Belgium)
5th Prize – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

14+15   Fuddled   PG 25.5

Andy Ooms (Belgium) : 1.Sf3 g5 2.Rg1 Bg7 3.g4 Sh6 4.Rg3 B×b2 5.Bg2 Rf8 6.Rh3 Bh8! 7.Bb2 Sg8 8.Rh6 b6 9.Bg7 Bb7 10.Rf6 e×f6 11.Sc3 Ke7 12.Rb1 Bd5 13.Kf1! Kd6 14.Rb4 Qe7 15.Qa1 Kc5 16.Re4 Rc8 17.Sd4 Kb4 18.Bf8 Sc6 19.S×c6+ Ka3 20.Sb1 Bg7 21.Qe5+ Kb2 22.Sd4 Qd8 23.Qe8 Kc1 24.Ba3 Bf8 25.Ke1+ Kd1 26.Bc1#

A complex proof game, very well managed. We have here many switchbacks, wQ/bK exchange of places, bicolored Bristol, white Bishop circuit and finally a fantastic checkmate with white King.

"The black king looked like it has dropped in the middle of the white position" (author)
Partially tested by Jacobi:

cond fuddled
stip dia 5 pieces white Ke1 Qd1 Ra1g3 Bc1g2 Sb1f3 Pa2c2d2e2f2h2g4
black Ke8 Qd8 Ra8f8 Bb2c8 Sh6b8 Pg5a7b7c7d7e7f7h7
stip dia 16 pieces white Kf1 Qe5 Re4 Bg2f8 Sb1c6 Pa2c2d2e2f2h2g4
black Kb2 Qe7 Ra8c8 Bd5g7 Sg8 Pg5b6f6a7c7d7f7h7
stip dia 4.5 pieces white Ke1 Qe8 Re4 Bc1g2 Sb1d4 Pa2c2d2e2f2h2g4
black Kd1 Qd8 Ra8c8 Bd5f8 Sg8 Pg5b6f6a7c7d7f7h7
in about 40300 seconds (~11 hours)

Kostas Prentos (U.S.A.)
4th Prize – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

15+15   Fuddled   PG 12

K. Prentos (Albuquerque, U.S.A.): 1.e4 f6 2.Qf3 Kf7 3.e5 Qe8 4.Qb3 Ke6 5.d3+ d5 **6.exd6 e.p.+** Ke5 7.Be3 Be6 8.d7 Qg6 9.Sd2 Bf7 **10.d8=S** e6 **11.O-O-O** Se7 12.Sc6 bxc6.
Another well finished work by Kostas, showing Valladão, with Ceriani/Frolkin Knight. Impressive.

Kjell Widlert (Sweden)
3ʳᵈ Prize – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

Theodoros Giakatis & Kostas Prentos (Greece/U.S.A.)
2ⁿᵈ Prize – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

14+16   Fuddled   PG 13.5
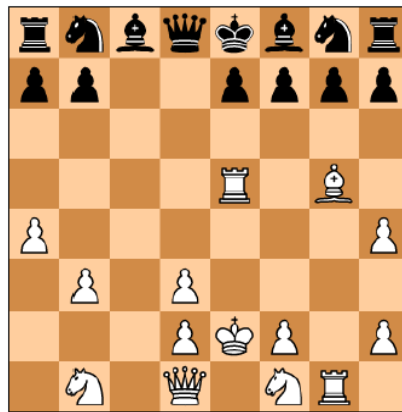
14+14   Fuddled   PG 16

Kjell Widlert (Sweden):
1.a4 e5 2.Ra3 Bxa3 3.h4 d6 4.Rh3 Bxh3 5.Sf3 Sd7 6.Sc3 f5 7.Sg5 Sdf6 8.Sb5 Qd7 9.Se4 Kf7 10.Sd4 Re8 11.Sc3 Qc8 12.Sf3 Re6 13.Sb1 Se8 14.Sg1.

Kjell is not a regular of proof games and I am glad that he was attracted to this tournament. The idea of changing the places of the white Knights without using an additional condition is brilliant. Michel Caillaud realized the same idea, but with the additional condition of white maximummer. Completely tested by Jacobi in about 46500 sec (~13 h)

Theodoros Giakatis & Kostas Prentos (Greece/U.S.A.): 1.a4 d5 2.Ra3 Bh3 3.gxh3 d4 4.Re3 c5 5.b3 d3 6.Bb2 c4 7.h4 dxe2 8.Bf6 c3 9.Re5 Qd3 10.cxd3 c2 11.Bg5 **exf1=B** 12.Se2 **c1=Q** 13.Rg1 Bh3 14.Sg3 Qc7 15.Ke2 **Bc8** 16.Sf1 **Qd8**. I liked very much this double Phoenix-Pronkin, because the condition is used intensively and we have the minimmum number of moves to reach the theme: Qd8>d3 to be captured=1 move, Pc7>c1=Q>Qd7=7 moves, Bc8>h3 to be captured=1 move, Pd7>f1=B>Bc8=7 moves, so a total of 16 moves. Checked by Jacobi in about 46300 seconds (~13 hours)

For the first Prize, I was not able to separate the following two problems:

Michel Caillaud (France): "En Fuddled men, il est facile de mater un Roi: il joue en "auto-échec" et ne peut s'échapper au coup suivant (author). Solution: 1.e3 c5 2.Ke2 Qc7 3.e4 c4 4.Kd3 Sc6#[c4=w] 5.c5 Qf4 6.Ke3 Sd4#[f4=w] 7.c6 Rb8 8.Qxb8 Sf5 9.c7 Kd8+ 10.Ke2#[c7=b] Sg3 11.Qxc8 Ke8+ 12.Ke1#[c8=b] Qd8.

One of the most intelligent combination of conditions, in my opinion. The great French master seems to know what I like to see in a proof game. We have here a real enigma: Pawn c7 becomes white at c4, then moves back at c7 and becomes black; bQd8 becomes white at f4, then moves at c8 and becomes black again.

Michel Caillaud (France)
1ˢᵗ Prize e.a. – Murfatlar Batumi 2023
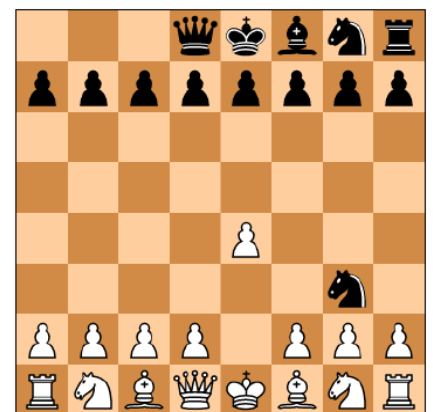
16+14   Fuddled   #color
                    PG12

K. Prentos (Albuquerque, U.S.A.)
1ˢᵗ Prize e.a. – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

11+11   Fuddled   PG14
Point Reflection

K. Prentos (Albuquerque, U.S.A.): 1.a3 c6 2.Ra2 hxh2 3.b3 Rh6 4.axa7 **hxg1=B** 5.Rh3 Sh2 **6.axc8=S** Rd6 7.Rf3 cxc2 8.Bg3 Rxc8 9.Ba3 **c1=S** 10.Kxg1 Bg6 11.bxf7 Rc2 12.Qxc1 Qc7 **13.f8=S** Bf7 14.Qd3 Kxf8

Four Schnoebelen promotions **SSsb**. The fairy condition "Fuddled Men" prevents: 3...hxg1=B, 6.Rf3, 8...c1=S, 11.Qxc1 and allows the game to continue after 13.f8=S that would have been mate otherwise. (author)

Like in Caillaud's previous PG, a very smart combination of conditions which facilitates this tremendous task. This work once again demonstrates the ability of the magician from Albuquerque.

Paul Raican – International Judge of the FIDE
September 07, Batumi, Georgia

Definitions:
#color: After a checkmate, the colour of the mating piece(s) is changed and the game resumes, if a legal position results.[feenschach, April 2015]

Point Reflection: When two pieces of any colour stand on the squares which are symmetric to the central point of the chessboard (e.g. a1-h8, g3-b6), they exchange their role (i.e.power of movement). A Pawn on the first rank and its corresponding unit on the eight rank cannot move by themselves.
Only non-reflected K and R can castle, and only non-reflected Ps can make en passant captures.

Make&Take: Before any unit captures any other unit, it must first mimick a non-capturing move by that unit. For example, if a white Rook on a4 wants to capture a black Knight on d6, it first moves like a Knight to b6, then captures the Knight.
● Pawns may not go to the 1st or 8th rank before capturing.
● A unit cannot first move to the 1st or 8th rank and then capture a pawn.

# Selection of ser-h=N problems without promotions

by George P. Sphicas
IM for Chess Composition

Among **ser-h=N**, a large portion of the entries include pawn promotions, with several excellent examples. But we will leave those for some potential future article, and limit this selection to ser-h= without promotions. We hope to illustrate the good variety of strategies involved in this type of problem.

Since the objective for black is to have the entire force immobilized, a natural approach is to bury several pieces somewhere, typically behind a wall of pawns. **No.1** is a classic example of that. The four pieces are already under the pawns, but they need to be rearranged, and that is done nicely. Another example is **No.2**, where black hides everything either under the pawn wall on the second rank or the vertical wall on the b file. An unusual twist to this kind of incarceration is **No.3**. The two Rooks and the Queen need to get buried on the h file. In addition to the unique solution, there are two tries, which fail for different reasons.

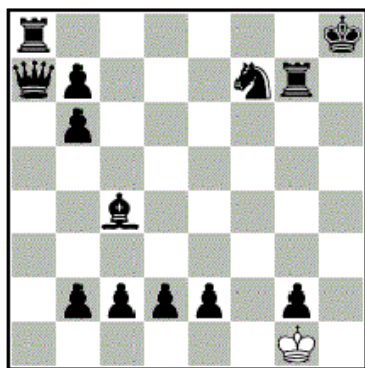**1)** 1.Rh1 2.Qf1 3.Re1 7.Kd1-e2 and back 8.Ra1 9.Qb1 10.Rc1 11.Kd1 Kf2 =

1) P1107531
Erich Bartel
1461 Feladvanykedvelök
Lapja 1974
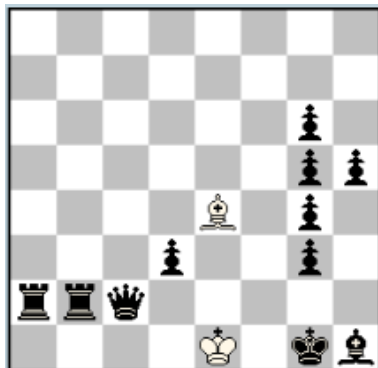2.Lob, Richter: Endre Szenta
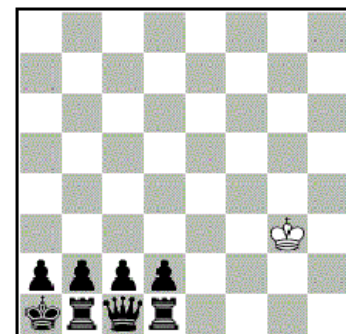
1+8   ser-h=11

2) P1231746
Christopher Jeremy Morse
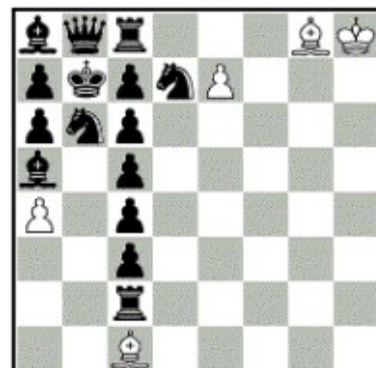The Problemist 1970

1+13   ser-h=29

3) John M. Rice
The Problemist 1971

2+11   ser-h=9

P0577131
4) Peter Rösler
Problemkiste 1986

5+15   ser-h=16

2) 1.Se5 2.Sd3 3.Sc1 4.Qa1 5.b5 6.b4 7.b5 8.Rga7 9.Kg7 10.Kf6 11.Ke5 12.Kd4 13.Kc3 14.Kb3 15.Ka2 16.Kb1 17.Sb3 18.Kc1 19.Kd1 20.Ke1 21.Qd1 22.Ra1 23.Rc1 24.Raa1 25.Rab1 26.Sa1 27.Ba2 28.b3 29.b4 Kxg2=

3) 1.Qc8 2.Rh2 3.Rh4 4.Rah2 5.g2 6.g3 7.Qh3 8.g4 9.g5 Bxd3= 1.Qh2? 1.Qc7?
1.Qh2? 2.Qh4 4.bRh3 5.aRh2 6.g2 7.g3 8.g4 9.g5 Bxd3= But the move 6.g2 is check to the white king!

4) 1.Rd2 2.c2 3.c3 4.c4 5.c5 6. c6 7.Rc7 8.Kc8 9.Bb7 10.Sa8 11.Bb6 12.a5 13.a6 14.Qa7 15.Sb8 16.R2d7 Be6= Follow My Leader.

### 5) P1371855
Arno Tüngler
feenschach 1977
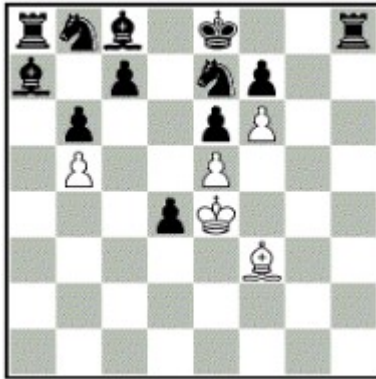
5+12   ser-h=9

5) 1.Sbc6 2.Bb7 3.0-0-0 4.Ba8 5.Kb7 6.Rb8 7.Rhc8 8.Sd8 9.Sec6 Kd3 =

The preparation for stalemate may involve some unusual features. In the witty **No.5** it appears that black is ready to castle. That happens to be part of the solution, but the castling is actually 0-0-0, and not 0-0! In **No.6** we see the black King moving down the board followed by two Pawns, with stops, like a train! The captureless construction is excellent, as always, by GM Michel Caillaud

6) 1.Kc4 2.c5 3.c6 4.Rg7 5.Rg2 6.Qg7 7.Qa1 8.Kc3 9.c4 10.c5 11.Be4 12.Bb1 13.Rb2 14.e2 15.Kc2 16.c3 17.c4 18.Bf2 19.Be1 20.Kc1 21.c2 22.c3 Qh6 =

6) P1305718
Michel Caillaud
The Problemist Supp 137/2015
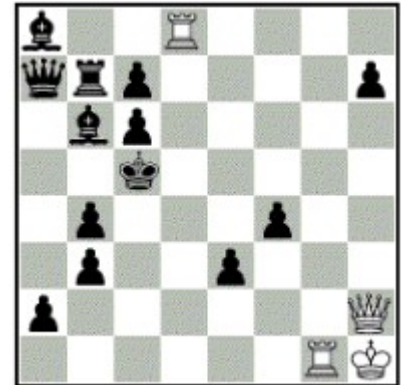
4+13   ser-h=22

Pin/unpin or change of shield

The stalemate position that is aimed at often includes some pinned pieces. In **No.7** there are three pieces pinned in the diagram, and in the three solutions all of them are cyclically unpinned and repinned. Another way of describing this type of play is change of shield. Without promoted force, the maximum number of pins possible is four. In **No.8** and **No.9** we have four pinned pieces in the diagram and interesting play involving them. In **No.9** there are five switchbacks, probably the most that can be done.
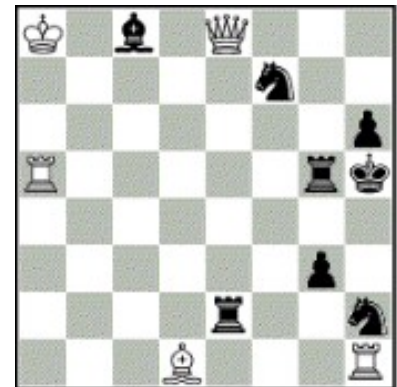
7) P1177880
Matti Myllyniemi
2HM - feenschach 1972
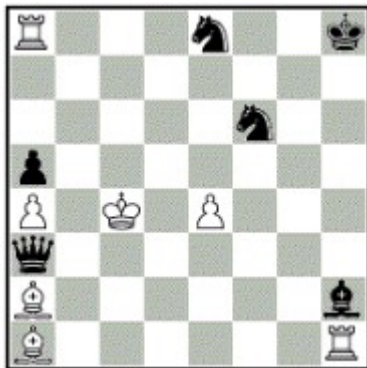
7+6   3 sol   ser-h=5

7) A) 1.Qh3 2.Bb8 3.Sg7 4.Sh7 5.Qd3+ Kxd3 =
B) 1.Qf8 2.Sg7 3.Sh7 4.Bb8 5.Qc5+ Kxc5 =
C) 1.Qb2 2.Sh7 3.Bb8 4.Sg7 5.Qb5+ Kxb5 =

8) 1.Bf5 2.Rg6 3.Sg5 4.Bh3 5.Sg4 6.Rh2 7.Bf1 8.Rh4 9.Bh3 10.g2 Rg1 = Reprinted in FIDE Album 1971-1973.
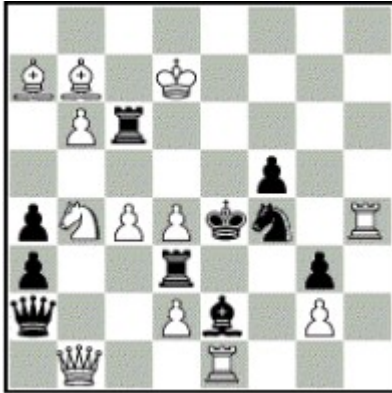
8) P1333019
Valentin Lider
feenschach 1972

5+8   ser-h=10

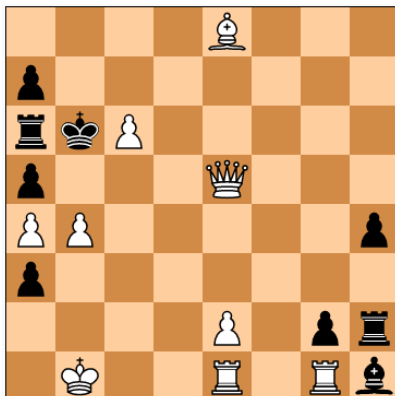## 9) P1247043
Vaclav Kotesovec
StrateGems 44/2008
Special Prize

12+10   ser-h=10

9) 1.Qc2 2.Re3 3.Bg4 4.Sd5 5.Rxb6 6.Rc6 7.Sf4 8.Be2 9.Rd3 10.Qa2 Sxa2 =

Another pattern that can produce interesting play is rundlauf. In **No.10** we have double rundlauf by Knight and King around a white Rook. In **No.11** the double rundlauf is by Rook and King around a white Queen. It may be noted that an earlier attempt to do this was published in Quartz back in 2004, but that proved unsound. Testing of this would be appreciated.

10) P0575556
Hans Peter Rehm
Stella Polaris 1966
2 Prize

8+7   ser-h=16

10) 1.Kf5 2.Sd3 3.Sf4 4.Kg4 5.Kf3 6.Sd5 7.Se3 8.Ke2 9.Kd3 10.Sf5 11.Sd4 12.Kxc4 13.Kd5 14.Sf3 15.Se5 16.Ke6 Se3 = Double Rundlauf bK si bS. Reprinted in FIDE Album 1965-1967.

11) 1.Rh3 2.Rd3 3.Rd6 4.Kc7 5.Kd8 6.Re6 7.Ke7 8.Kf8 9.Rf6 10.Kg7 11.Kh6 12.Rf5 13.Kg5 14.Kg4 15.Rf4 16.Kg3 17.Kf2 18.Re4 19.Ke3 20.Kd2 21.Rd4 22.Kc3 23.Kxb4 24.Rd5 25.Kc5 26.Kb6 27.Rd3 28.Rh3 29.Rh2 30.h3 Ka2 =

11) G. Sphicas
original
dedicated to P. Raican

9+9   ser-h=30

If sound, this may be a new task: Eight shields in all directions around a Queen. If anyone knows of any earlier example of this, we would appreciate knowing about it

Length Records

Finally, we turn to length records. As in all stipulations, it is interesting to find out what is the longest possible under different conditions.

12) P1361188
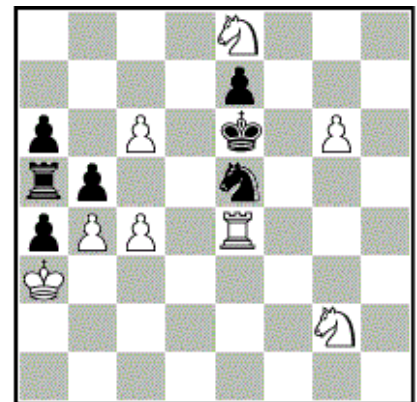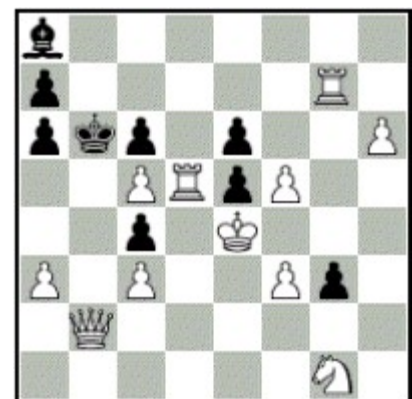### Arno Tüngler
CP Bulletin 15/2018

With the restriction of no captures at all, the longest is the ingenious **No.12,** with remarkable play by the Bishop.

12) (shortened solution) 1.Ka5 2.Bb7 3.Bc8 4.Bd7 12.Bb3 13.Kb5 14.a5 15.a4 16.a5 17.Ka6 18.Bd1 19.Be2 20.Bf1 21.Bh3 22.Bg4 23.Bh5 24.Bf7 25.Ka7 26.Ka8 27.Bh5 28.Bg4 ... 33.Bb3 34. Kb8 35.Kc8 36.Bd1 37.Be2 ... 42.Be8 43.Bd7 44.Kd8 45.Ke8 46.Kf8 47.Be8 48.Bf7 49.Ke7 50.Kf6

51.Bh5 52.Bg4 53.Bh3 54.Bg2 55.Bh1 56.g2 Rd6=


11+9   ser-h=56

Without restrictions, the overall length record for the stipulation is the fantastic **No.13**. This wonderful composition, with a Zeller trap and excellent construction, is also the longest among all series-movers without promoted force or fairy conditions.

13) (shortened solution) 1.Rg4 2.Rh6 3.Kh2 4.Kh3 5.Kh4 6.Kh5 7.Rh4 8.Rh2 9.Kh4 10.Kh3 11.Rh4 12.Rg4 13.Kh4 14.Kh5 15.Kh6 16.Kg7 17.Kf7 18.Ke8 19.Kd7 20.Kc7 21.Kb6 22.Kb5 23.Kc4 **24.Kxd3** 25.Kc4 26.Kb5 ...**49. Kxd1** 50.Ke1 51.Kf1 ... **74. Kxb3** 75.Kc4 76.Kb5 ... **101.Kxb1** 102.Kc1 103.Kd1 104.Ke1 105.Kf1 ... **128.Kxc3** 129.Kxd4 130.Kc4 131.Kb5 132.Kb6 133.Kc7 134.Kd7 135.Ke8 136.Kf7 137.Kg7 138.Kh6 139.Kh5 140.Kh4 141.Kh3 142.Rh4 143.Rh6 144.Kh4 145.Kh5 146.rh4 147.Rg4 148.Kh4 149.Kh3 150.Kh2 151.Rh3 152.h5 153.h4 Bc5=

13) P1224276
Markus Johannes Ott
Prize- feenschach 50/1980
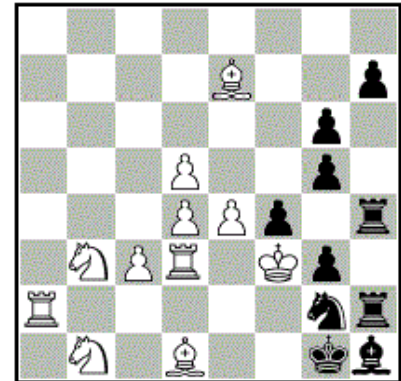
11+10   ser-h=153

Markus Ott † (30-Jan-1960; 01-Oct-2021) Swiss composer. He was 20 when composed this masterpiece.

Editor's Note: Many thanks to George Sphicas for this interesting article dedicated to ser-h=N problems *without promotions*. The second part will fallow, this time dedicated to ser-h=N problems with promotions.
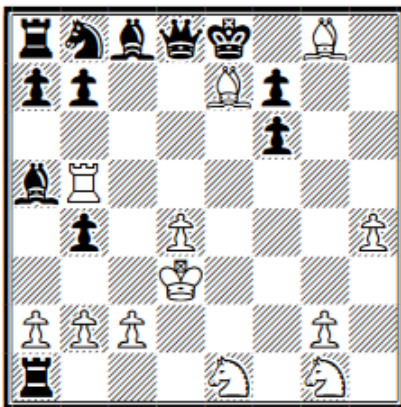************

En bref

► **Award of Crişan 50JT**

The tournament had **51** entries: **40** in the first section and **11** in the second section. The judge classified 10 works (proof games) + 4 works (retractors). We reproduce here one classified:

Dirk Borst
Prize
Crişan-50 JT - Section A

PG 19   12+12

Prize: Dirk Borst

Two black pawns are promoted to Rooks on e1 and f1. Their capture is delayed until the white King reaches the critical square d3 via d2 hence determining the promotion type. The white Queen captures the black Rook e1 5 moves after the promotion and the white Rook a1 captures the black Rook f1 6 moves after the promotion. Both white capturing pieces need another move to sacrifice and are captured by black Pawns.

1.h4 d5 2.Rh3 d4 3.Rb3 d3 4.Rb5 dxe2 5.d4 e5 6.Bg5 e4 7.Sd2 e3 8.Sdf3 exf2+ 9.Kd2 **e1=R** 10.Bd3 **f1=R** 11.Bxh7 Bb4+ 12.Kd3 Ba5 13.Bxg8 Rh6 **14.Qxe1+** Re6 15.Qb4 c5 **16.Rxf1** Re1 17.Be7 Ra1 18.Se1 **cxb4** 19.Rf6 **gxf6**. Tested by Stelvio 2.0 in 53 sec.

► **The theme of of Crişan 50JT -** a Schnoebelen is captured by a unit A and later A is itself captured- was accidentally realized in the following fairy PG:

P. Rãican
feenschach 240/2020

9+12   take&make   PG 8
Glasgow

1.d3 e5 2.Bh6 **gxh6-d2=S** 3.e3 Sxf1-e2 4.Sxe2-f4 exf4-h5 5.Qxh5-h4 Qxh4-d4 **6.exd4-g7=S+** Bxg7-e6 7.O-O Bxa2-a3 **8.bxa3-e7=S** Kxe7-g6. (Jacobi+)

SSS Ceriani-Frolkin.

take&make: during a capture, the capturing piece must immediately make a move using the march of the captured piece, starting from the capture square; this additional move must not be a capture. Promotions only occur when a Pawn arrives on its eighth row thanks to the extra move, and not when a Pawn capture takes place on its eighth row.

Glasgow: the promotion of Pawns no longer takes place on their 8th row, but on their 7th.

► **Dirk Borst** kindly sent me a message: *Congratulations on your 1st Prize in the **Heinonen Memorial**! A splendid problem which I have studied intensely, because some time ago Hans Gruber gave it to me for testing (without knowing the author of course). Well deserved! Dirk*
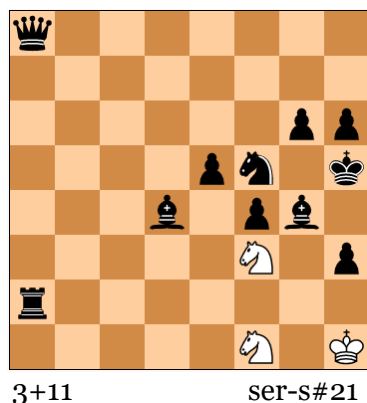
Sol: 1.f1=S 2.e1=R 3.Re3 4.Rc3 5.e4 8.e1=Q 9.Qxe6 10.Qb3 11.e5 15.e1=R 16.Rb1 17.c1=B 18.Sd2 19.Kb2 20.a1=B Bxb3=

Surprisingly, **Norbert Geissler** checked this with Popeye:

I have computer tested the first prize in section A) from Paul Raican, with the latest Popeye program (4.89). After 919:32:20 h:m:s the computer found the solution and no cook, so its now Co+ ! (January 7, 2024)
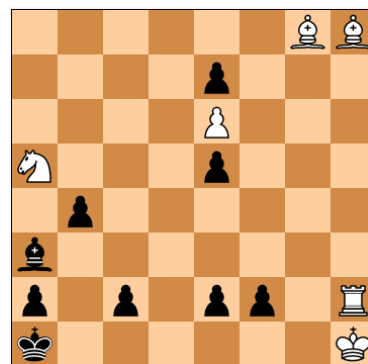
Hans Gruber *(judge): The problem obviously is a correction of an unsound problem (George P. Sphicas, 7455. Phénix, 2015), but a splendid one with better white economy, although a black bishop was added.*

P. Rãican
1 Prize – Heinonen MT 2023
Section A

6+9   ser-h=20

Dieter Werner
2nd Prize – Heinonen MT 2023
Section A

3+11   ser-s#21

In the same tournament, the second Prize was obtained by **Dieter Werner**:
Sol: Main plan: 1.Sg3+? Sxg3#, but 1.- fxg3!

Solution: **1.Se3!** 2.Kg1 3.Kf1 4.Sc2 5.Ke2 6.Kd3 7.Sxe5 8.Sc6 9.Ke4 10.Kxf4 11.Ke4 12.Kd3 13.Se5 14.Sf3 15.Ke2 16.Kf1 17.Se3 18.Kg1 19.Kh1 20.Sf1 21.Sg3+ Sxg3#

H. Gruber: *A contribution from the logical school – the main plan 1.Sg3+ fails because Black can take the white knight with the pawn f4. Thus White eliminates this pawn, and then returns to the diagram position and plays the main plan.*

The **section B** (fairy series) was won by D. Werner:

Dieter Werner
1 Prize – Heinonen MT 2023
Section B
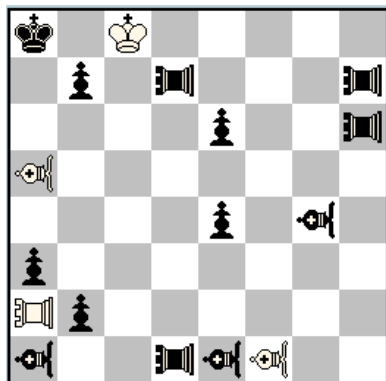
4+13   ser-s#20
        pao a2, d1, d7, h6, h7
        vao a1, a5, e1, f1, g4

Solution: a) Annihilation of the black pawn b7:

1.VAg2! 2.VA×b7. b) Unpin of VAa5: **3.VAa6**.

c) King's walk to capture e4 and back to the square e7, actively supported by VAa5: **4.VAd2!** 5.Kd8 6.Ke7 **7.VAc3!** 8.Kf6 9.Ke5 10.K×e4 11.Ke5 12.Kf6 13.Ke7. Now not directly back to c8, because 14.VAd2? is too slow. d) Unpin of VAa6: **14.VAa5**.

e) Now the VAa6 can head for the square f7, interfering the PAd1 in order to let the king pass: **15.VAd3** 16.Kd8 17.Kc8 18.VAg6 19.VAf7. f) Main plan: **20.VAd2+** (no longer a mate, but rather an ordinary check) **PAa7#**

► **Alain Pallier**, the well-known French expert in the field of artistic studies, sent us an important message. He analyzed the Croitor's version of **1ˢᵗ Prize A. Gasparian & A. Manvelian**:

A. Gasparian & A. Manvelian
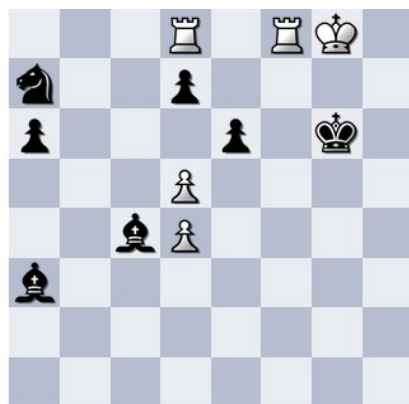1st Prize, Nestorescu 80JT
Version M.Croitor

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#**
But Alain discovers that after 2…Sc8 another gain exists: **3.Rc2!** Bxd5 (3…exd5 4.Rc7 Kf5 5.Rxc8 Ke4 6.Kf7 etc.) 4.Rxc8 Bf6 and then 5.Kf8 Bxd4 and Syzygy gives 14 moves for white win.

A. Gasparian & A. Manvelian
Nestorescu 80JT (v)

5+7   win

Then, I suggested to add a **black Pawn a6** and Alain to send **Rd2 back on f8**. Unchanged solution, as the authors wanted:
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. Pallier: Oui, je crois qu'avec la position initiale de la Tour en f8 et l'ajout du pion a6, l'étude est pleinement correcte.

Il y a bien eu: 1) un jugement provisoire avec Manvelyan-Gasparyan 1er prix et 2) un jugement final sans leur étude.

C'est la dure loi du sport....

► Meanwhile, **Alain Pallier** looked for another correction of this study and .... he found it in Didukh's database. The study was classified with **8ᵗʰ HM** in Pervakov 60JT

A. Gasparian
HM8, Pervakov 60JT
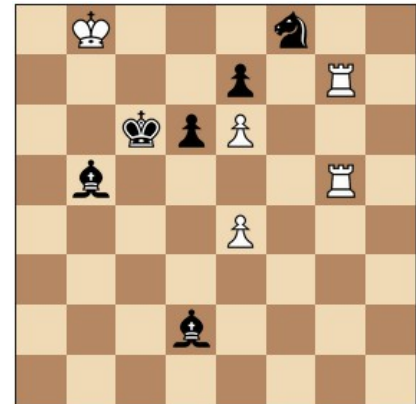
5+6   win

Solution: **1.Rg2!**

[1.Rd5? Sxe6 2.Rxe7 Ba5! 3.Rxe6 Bc7+ 4.Ka8 Ba6! 5.Re7 Kb6 6.Rxc7 Kxc7 =]

1... Bf4

[1... Sxe6 2.Rxe7 Ba5 3.Rxe6 Bc7+ 4.Ka8 Kd7 5.Rf6 win]

2. Rc2+!

[2.Rxe7? d5+ 3.Ka7 Be3+ 4.Ka8 Kd6 5.Rb7 Sxe6 =]

2... Kb6 3. Rxe7 d5+! 4. Ka8!

[4.Kc8? Ba6+ 5.Kd8 dxe4 6.Ke8 e3! =] [4. e5? Bxe5+ 5.Ka8 Bc6+ 6.Rxc6+ Kxc6 7.Rc7+ Kxc7 8.e7 Sd7 =]

4... Bc6+ 5.Rxc6+ Kxc6 6.Rc7+! Kd6! [6... Kxc7 7.e7 Bd6 8. e8=Q] [6... Bxc7 7.e7 Se6 8.e8=Q+]

7.e7 Se6! 8.e5+! [8. e8=S+? Ke5 =] **8... Bxe5 9.e8=S#**

► At the end of edition, Dirk Borst cooked **Andy Ooms** problem (see p. 961): **1.b4** Sc6 2.Bb2 g5 3.Sa3 Sxb4 4.Rb1 Bh6 5.Bg7 Sd5 6.Rb6 Sf6 7.Sf3 Rf8 8.Rxf6 exf6 9.Rg1 Ke7 10.Qa1 b6 11.g4 Kd6 12.Qe5 Qe7 13.Rg3+ Kc5 14.Bg2 Bb7 15.Sb1 Kb4 16.Kf1 Rfc8 17.Sc3 Ka3 18.Bf8 Qd8 19.Sd4+ Se7 20.Re3 Kb2 21.Sb1 Sg8 22.Qe8 Kc1 23.Re4 Bd5 24.Ba3 Bf8 25.Ke1+ Kd1 26.Bc1#

Andy Ooms (Belgium)
5ᵗʰ Prize – Murfatlar Batumi 2023

14+15   Fuddled   PG 25.5
                    cooked

John Wayne in Rio Bravo - Howard Hawks 1959 - here in break time. Dean Martin is back, near Angie Dickinson.