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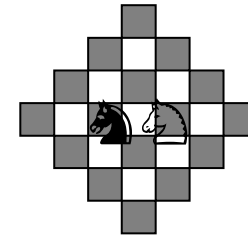
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StrateGems

Supplement



Informal Tourneys Results

Vol. 3

October/December 2000

SG12

U.S.

CHESS

PROBLEM

MAGAZINE

StrateGems Informal Tourney Awards

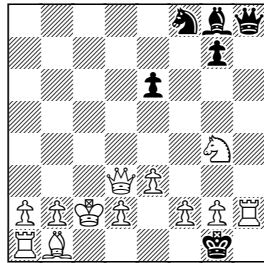
Many thanks to Milan Velimirović, David L. Brown, John Roycroft, Rauf Aliovsadzade, and Hans Peter Rehm for their prompt reports.

StrateGems 1998 Threemovers Award

by Milan Velimirović

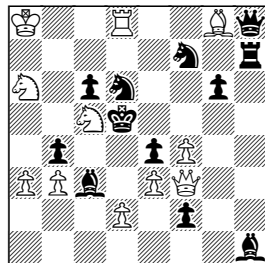
It was a great honor for me to be a judge of a StrateGems tourney in the first year of the magazine. The overall quality of threemovers was surprisingly high, so 15 of 39 published problems found places in the award. The two best-placed problems are real masterpieces. I hesitated about M0025 and finally decided not to include it in the award because of its flaws. The double refutation and dual/triple mate, in thematic variations, is not acceptable.

1st Prize
Milan R. Vukcevic
StrateGems 1998



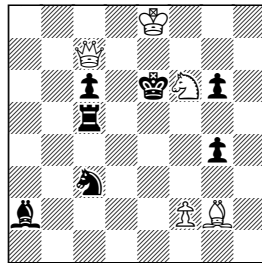
#3 (12+6)

2nd Prize
C.G.S. Narayanan
StrateGems 1998



#3 (11+12)

3rd Prize
Milan R. Vukcevic
StrateGems 1998



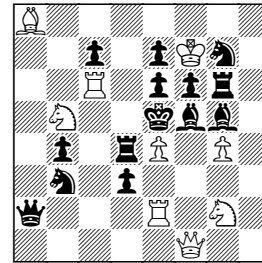
#3 (5+7)

1st Prize – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0051) This is sheer beauty! Decoys of two black pieces by wQ sacrifice and complementary obstruction of both black pieces, after capture by bN, allow the wK to move away to three different safe squares in order to activate the wR-wB battery. The idea is simple, but the way it is presented is highly artistic and impressive. **1. Qh7!** (2.Rh1+, 1...Qxh7+ 2.Kc3!, 1...Bxh7+ 2.Kb3!, 1...Nxb7 2.Kd3!. Also: 1...Kf1 2.Rh1+ Ke2 3.Qd3# with queen returning, and 1...g6 2.Rh1+ Kxg2 3.Qb7#, with a long-range mate.

2nd Prize – (C. G. S. Narayanan - M0023) Fourth-degree line-correction features an unusual pair of black units. Corrective bB moves gradually shorten the bQ line, accumulating black errors, but also compensating for all but newly introduced errors. The compensating motive is as ingenious as it is simple: 1... Bd4! and 1... Be5!! would capture the wP to remove the guard of d4 and e5 respectively, while 1... Bf6!!! would unpin the bN by capture of wR. The final touch is the additional variation 1... Bxd2 which clears the diagonal for 2.axb4? Qa1!! **1.Qd1!** (2.dxc3+), 1...Bc3~ 2.axb4 3. Nc7#, 1...Bd4! 2.Qf1! (2.axb4? Bxe3!) 3. Qc4#, because bQ cannot defend from d4. 1...Be5!! 2.Qxh1! (2.Qf1? Bxf4!) 3.Qxe4#, because bQ cannot reach e5, 1...Bf6!!! 2. Qg4! (2.Qxh1? Bxd8!) 3.Qe6#, because bQ cannot reach f6.

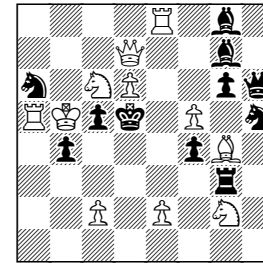
3rd Prize – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0004) Two beautiful main variations showing two Nowotnys on d5 after bK flights. The en passant side-variation adds additional "spice" which turns a good soup into a delicious one. **1.f4!** (2.Qf7+ Kf5 3.Nd5#), 1...Kxf6/Kf5 2.Bd5!/Nd5!. Also, 1...gxf3 e.p. 2.Bh3+.

4th Prize
Zoran Gavrilovski
StrateGems 1998



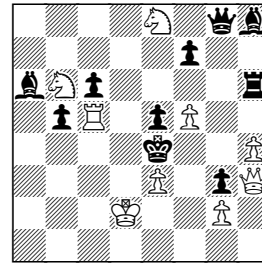
#3 (9+14)

1st Honorable Mention
V.Rudenko & V.Chepizhny
StrateGems 1998



#3 (11+11)

2nd Honorable Mention
Milan R. Vukcevic
StrateGems 1998



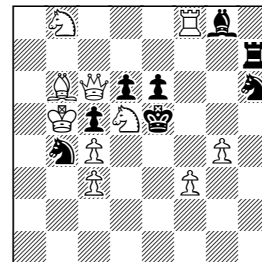
#3 (9+10)

4th Prize – (Zoran Gavrilovski - M0015) Two main self-pinning variations, with deferred Umnov mates, each complemented by a variation with reciprocal white moves. Good construction and acceptable key. **1. Qf2!** (2.Qg3+, 1...Rxe4 2.Rc5+ A Nxc5 3.Qd4# B, 1...Qd2 2.Qxd4+ B Nxd4 3.Rc5# A, 1...Bxe4 2.Rxe6+ C Nxe6 3.Qxf5# D, 1...Nh5 2.Qxf5+ D exf5 3.Re6# C

1st Honorable Mention – (V. Rudenko & V. Chepizhny - M0037) The wR sacrifice is a good introduction to rich play featuring a pair of variations with interferences by en passant captures, after critical decoys of black line-movers, and another pair ending with mates by double-advance of white Pawns after the elimination of possible en passant captures. The actively placed wQ has a rather static role. **1.Ra1!** (2.Rd1+ Rd3/Bd4 3.Bf3/Re5#), 1...Rd3 2.e4+! fxe3 e.p. 3.Bf3#, 1...Bxa1 2.c4+! bxc3 e.p. 3.Re5#, 1...Qh8 2.Nxf4+ Nxf4 3.e4#!, 1...Bd4 2.Nxb4+ Nxb4 3.c4#!

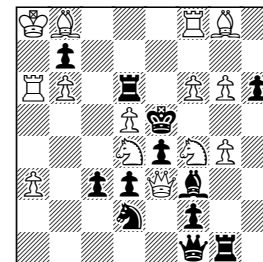
2nd Honorable Mention – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0003) Novotny threat and "Queen-Novotny" after black Wurzburg-Plachutta defenses. Not quite a new idea, but making three different sacrifices on the same square is always interesting. **1.Nd7!** (2.f6 Rxf6/Bxf6 3.Rxe5/Nd6#), 1...Qg7 2.Nef6+!, and 1...Qg6 2.Ndf6+!

3rd Honorable Mention
M. Parthasarathy
StrateGems 1998



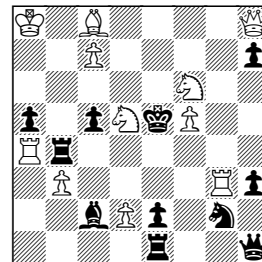
#3 (10+8)

4th Honorable Mention
Leopold Szwedowski
StrateGems 1998



#3 (14+12)

5th Honorable Mention
Mirko Marković
StrateGems 1998



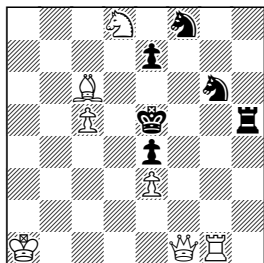
#3 (11+11)

3rd Honorable Mention – (M. Parthasarathy - M0030) Two sacrifices of the wQ after interferences by the bRh7, where 1... Nf7 is the arrival correction. A difficult threat and good by-play. **1.Qd7!** (2.Qxh7), with two strongly related variations: 1...Nf7 2.Qxe6+!, and 1...Bf7 2.Qxd6+!.

4th Honorable Mention – (Leopold Szwedowski - M0024) Changed variations after black self-obstructions on g4, including the reversal of white moves, after 1... Bxg4. 1.Ra5? A ~ 2.Nc6+, 1...Rg4 2.Nh5 3.Re8#, 1...Bg4 2.Nfe6 B Bxe6 3.dxe6#, 1...Qb1!; **1.Nfe6!** B ~ 2.Nc6+, 1...Rg4 2.Nc5 3.Nd7#, 1...Bg4 2.Ra5 A. (1...Kxd5 2.Ra5+; 1...Nb3 2.Nc5).

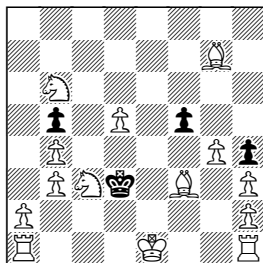
5th Honorable Mention – (Mirko Marković - M0046) Good flight-giving and check provoking key, cross-checks after random and corrective moves of bN and rich and accurate by-play.

Commended
Mike Prcic
StrateGems 1998



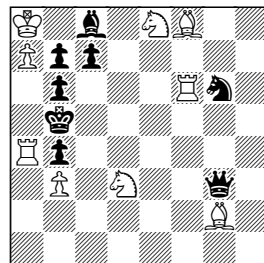
#3 (7+6)

Commended
Isaak Kavrnatsky
StrateGems 1998



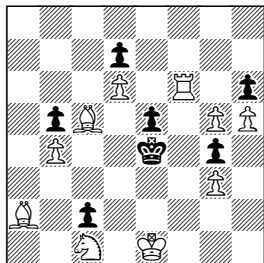
#3 (14+4)

Commended
Milan R. Vukcevic
StrateGems 1998



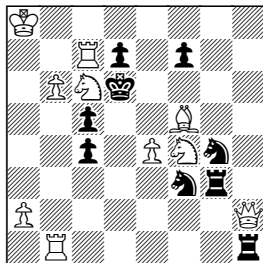
#3 (9+8)

Commended
Isaak Kavrnatsky
StrateGems 1998



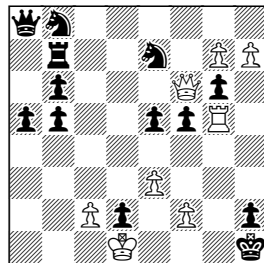
#3 b) Ke1→h2 (10+7)
c) Ke1→c3, d) g5→c6

Commended
Jacques Savournin
StrateGems 1998



#3 (10+9)

Commended
Efren Petite
StrateGems 1998



#3 (8+13)

Commendations in numerical order:

Commended – (Mike Prcic - M0006) Elegantly constructed problem. Particularly attractive is the path of the wQ which twice slides beside the bK before the final strike. **1.Qf7!** e6 2.Qf2 Rf5 3.Qb2#

Commended – (Isaak Kavrnatsky - M0011) Mates by both castles. Moves by different Knights to the same square are a nice touch. **1.d6!** (zz), 1...Kc2 2.N3d5! Kd3 3. 0-0-0#, 1...Ke3 2.N6d5+! Kxf3 3.0-0#, 1...fxg4 2.Be4+ Ke3 3.N6d5#

Commended – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0012) Two attempts completing the white Grimshaw interference come true after the inviting key and self-blocks after the discovered checks. The clear and economically presented idea is slightly spoiled by a dual after 1...Qd6. 1.Bd6?!/1.Rd6? (2.Sc7#), 1...Qxg2!/1...Qxd3!; **1. Kb8!** (2.Rxb4+), 1...c6+ 2.Bd6!, 1...c5+ 2.Rd6!

Commended – (Isaak Kavrnatsky - M0021) The Indian theme is always attractive. Four Indians are always commendable. a) **1.Rf1!** hxg5 2.Kf2; b) **1.Rf8!** hxg5 2.Bf7; c) **1.Bg1!** hxg5 2.Rf2; d) **1.Bg8!** dxc6 2.Rf7.

Commended – (Jacques Savournin - M0038) Good variety after the strong key which pins the bR. The lack of a pin-mate(s), after removal of the unpinned Rook, is slightly disappointing. **1.Nd5!** (2.Rxd7+), 1...Nfe5 2.Na5!, 1...Nge5 2.Nd8!

Commended – (Efren Petite - M0042) Three different forms of valve theme: valve (1... Na6), bi-valve (1... Nd7) and masked bi-valve (1... Nbc6). **1.Qxe5!** (2.Qxh2+!), 1...Na6/Nbc6/Nd7 2.Qxb5/Qg3/Qa1!

All claims by 4/1/2001 to Milan R. Vukcevic.

StrateGems 1998 Moreover Award

by David L. Brown, FIDE Judge

Apologies for the lateness of this award--I am a substitute judge. Of the twenty entries, nearly half were of award caliber, and so all of these are honored. Favored especially were those problems possessing flair and technical quality. Several non-winners were impressive but all had various defects which hurt their chances. In all, an excellent array for solvers and a good first year.

1st Prize

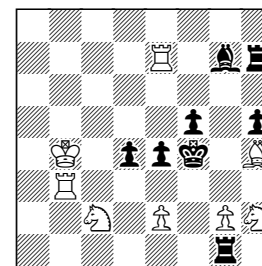
Ralf Krätschmer
StrateGems 1998

2nd Prize

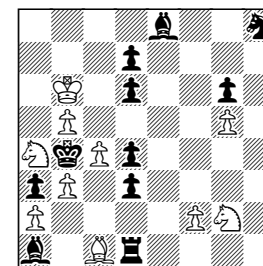
Milan R. Vukcevic
StrateGems 1998

3rd Prize

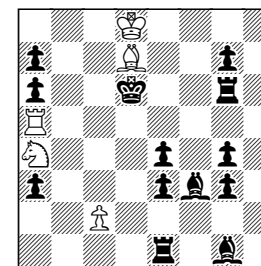
Alois Johandl
StrateGems 1998



#6 (8+8)



#5√ (10+11)



#6 (5+13)

1st Prize – (Ralf Krätschmer - M0035) A great presentation! Surely, one thinks, the b3R must stay put on the 3rd rank. And the bBg7 seems rather tame. But in reality, the point is to find safety on a W-square for the wK! This becomes apparent when you try 1.e3+? dxe3 2.Nxe3 threatening 3.Nd5#, but 2...Bc3+! So, the amazing tempo-giving key (the wR being but the perfect window-dressing!) affords the wK time to hide. Later, 4.g3+ Rxg3 (a humble yet potent caveat throughout) now merely buries the bR on a harmless square. Thoroughly delightful! **1.Rb1!!** Rxb1+ 2.Kc4! Rg1 3.e3+ dxe3 4.g3+ Rxg3 5.Nb4 ~ 6.Nd5#

2nd Prize – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0054) At first glance, this hardly looks like a waiter, especially with the a1B seeming not to cause any errors. Yet, as explained by the composer, interferences by 1...Bb2 and 1...Bc3 (yes!) allow White to force black-obstructions on f7! Seeing the try-play is imperative: 1.Bf4? Nf7! 2.Bd2+ (freeing 3.Nf4 and 4.Nd5#) but 2...Rxd2 3.Nf4 Rxa2! And its counter-part: 1.Nf4? Bf7! 2.Nxd3+ (now freeing 3.Bf4 and 4.Bxd6#) but 2...Rxd3 3.Bf4 Rxb3! As noted, this is not a new concept, but it is an extremely clear example.

The soft key accommodates only 1...d5 where the wB can go f4-c7-a5. **1.Ka6!** Bb2 2.Bf4! Nf7 3.Bd2+ Rxd2 4.Nf4 ~ 5.Nd5# 1...Bc2 2.Nf4! Bf7 3.Nxd3+ Rxd3 4.Bf4 ~ 5.Bxd6#

3rd Prize – (Alois Johandl - M0034) The diminutive W-force suggests little of the subtle and tricky progression needed to set up the Nowotny finale. **1.c4!** Rd1 2.Nc5 Ke5 3.Nb3+ Kd6 4.Rf5 e2 5.Nd4 Rxd4 6.c5#; 5...Bxd4 6.Rd5#

4th Prize Milan R. Vukcevic StrateGems 1998	1st Honorable Mention Ralf Krättschmer StrateGems 1998	2nd Honorable Mention Leopold Szwedowski StrateGems 1998
#4 (12+11)	#8 (7+12)	#5 (12+12)

4th Prize – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0018) The crucial tries 1.Nbxd5+? Bxd5! and 1.Nfxd5+ Qxd5! beg for the nice decoy key, which brings the Madras-like wRs into play. A perfectly symmetrical idea without the appearance. **1.Qd8!** (2.Qg5/Nfxd5+/Ng2+). 1...Rbxd8 2.Nbxd5+ Qxd5 3.Ng2+ Qxg2 4.d5#; 2...Bxd5 3.Rb3+ Bxb3 4.d5# 1...Rfxd8 2.Nfxd5+ Bxd5 3.Nc4+ Bxc4 4.d5#; 2...Qxd5 3.Rf3+ Qxf3 4.d5# (1...Rg8 2.Nfxd5+ same)

1st Honorable Mention – (Ralf Krättschmer - M0058) A user-friendly problem: virtually leading a solver halfway down the right path, then forcing him to understand the true depth of the icons. Only then does the selfblock on f4 make sense. **1.Re2!** exf5 2.Re3 h1N 3.Rf3 Bd2 4.Bc5! d6 5.Bxd6! exd6 6.Rf4+ Bxf4 7.Nf3+ Kg4 8.Nf6#

2nd Honorable Mention – (Leopold Szwedowski M0033) Very attractive fireworks are seen in two Q-sacrifices. Both main lines are tactically pretty. **1.f6!** (2.Qh7+). 1...c3 2.Nc5+ Kc4 3.Na6+ Kd3 4.Qc4+! Kxc4 5.Be2# (or 3...Kxb5 4.Qb6+ Ka4 5.Qb4# pinmate!), 1...Bg6 2.Qe7 Be4 3.Nf7! Bf3! 4.Qe4+ dxe4 5.Ne5#

3rd Honorable Mention Yuri Sushkov StrateGems 1998	1st Commended Milan R. Vukcevic StrateGems 1998	2nd Commended Mike Prcic StrateGems 1998
#5* (2+3)	#7 (8+14)	#4 (8+8)

3rd Honorable Mention – (Yuri Sushkov M0055) A marvelous miniature, hard to believe it remained undetected so long. Set: 1...b5+ 2.Qxb5+ Ka7 3.Kxa5 Ka8 4.Kb6 is changed to: **1.Qc7!** b5+ 2.Kb3! a4+ 3.Kb4 a3 4.Kc5 a2 5.Qb6#, followed by a chameleon echo in 1...b6 2.Qc8+ Ka7 3.Kb5 a4 4.Kc6 a3 5.Qb7# 1...Ka7 2.Kxa5 Ka8 3.Qc5 b6+ 4.Kxb6 Kb8 5.Qf8#

1st Commended – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0009) A well-keyed assault on the e5N, thrice threatening then sacrificing all the heavy units (to force a selfblock!) on e5, whereupon the lowly wP triumphs. **1.Qb2!** Nc6 2.Re5+ Kxe5 3.Rxc5+ Ke6 4.Qe5+ Nxe5 5.d4 Ng6 6.Re5+ Nxe5 7.d5#

2nd Commended – (Mike Prcic - M0008) Good long-move foreplay prepares for a surprising flight-giving Nowotny. **1.Rxb6!** Bxb6 2.Qh8 (3.Qa8+) Ra5 3.Nc5+! Bxc5 4.Qe5#; 3...Rxc5 4.Qd4#, (3...Kxf4 4.Qh4#)

All claims by 4/1/2001 to Milan R. Vukcevic.

StrateGems 1998-99 Study Award

by John Roycroft, FIDE judge (studies, 1959)

For enjoyment a study need be neither original nor sound. This applies to composer and audience alike. But a judge's duty to exercise scholarship and argued discernment makes him on occasion a kill-joy. So, do not let a mere judge mar your enjoyment - your award is perfectly valid, for you. (End of quotation from an imaginary Ralph Waldo Emerson essay.)

This judge's (abridged) criteria: charm; originality; depth. All should be present in an honored study, with at least one desideratum prominent. The three terms are to be taken broadly: disguise may well contribute to charm; originality can be in the setting as well as in the idea; struggle contributes to depth. Mind you, a fourth, unexpected, ingredient is always welcome.

StrateGems can celebrate the excellent standard of this, its first tourney for studies: 23 published cosmopolitan entries ranging widely in style and content. A feast for everyone. If the award is in some respects harsh - due to scrutiny for both soundness and anticipations by Harold van der Heijden--HvdH (Deventer, The Netherlands), whose sophisticated computer-based consultation service is now de rigueur for both composers and judges - this too should be taken as a compliment.

Editor's note: All the solutions and comments are given by the editor Milan R. Vukcevic as they appeared originally in StrateGems.

1st Prize Jan Rusinek StrateGems 1998-99	2nd Prize Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic StrateGems 1998-99	3rd Prize Marco Campioli StrateGems 1998-99
Draw (7+5)	Draw (10+14)	Win (7+9)

1st Prize – (Jan Rusinek - E0011) There is compensation in plenty for the initial heavy material, and the climax is spectacular. No close anticipations.

Solution: A few solvers thought that this one is won for White. They found the correct start: 1.Ng4+! Qxg4 2.Re2+ Kh1 3.Rh2+! Kxh2 4.b8Q+, but drunk with white sacrifices, they pronounced the position won for White due to 4...f4 5.Qh8+ Qh3 6.Qxh3+ Kxh3 7.Nxc6, etc. However, they forgot that Black can sacrifice too: 5...Rc7!! 5. Qxc7+ f4, and now the h7 is guarded. Still, White succeeds to draw: 6.Bf2! Qd1+ 7.Be1 Bd3+ 8.Kf2 Qg4 9.Nf3+ Kh1 10.Qxf4! Qxf4, stalemate.

2nd Prize – (Milan Vukcevic – E0002) The Romanian Emilian Dobrescu (1998, so not an anticipation, though indeed a correction of his prize in Shakhmaty v SSSR in 1982--see diagram 84 in his 1999 book *Chess Study Composition*) showed the same theme of alternating Novotny interference defenses to a double threat of (mating) N+. It is interesting for composers and classifiers that Dobrescu gives Black the mating threats so the interference moves are made by Black, whereas in, E0002, the mating threats are by White who therefore also plays the countering interference moves. Dobrescu shows the theme with greater economy, but his supporting variations are less readily comprehended.

Solution: This one is full of sacrifices and violence but is easy to understand if you know about the Novotny intersection. White is in dire straits (1... g1Q, and 2...Ra1#) if something is not done fast. So: 1.Rh8+! Kxh8 2.h7, and now Black has a problem because of the threat Nxg6#. However, black is a copy-cat: 2...Ra1+! 3.Kxa1 g1Q+ 4.Ka2 Qb1+!! 5.Kxb1 Nd1+ 6.Ka1!! (If 6.Ka2? Nc3+ checkmates) 6...Bc3+ 7.Ka2 Rb2+ 8.Ka1!! (If 8.Ka3? Bb4+ checkmates) Rf2+ 9.Kb1 Be4, and both mates by white Knight are protected. It looks as if Black is finally winning. But, here comes Novotny to the rescue: 10.Bf5!! Is White now winning? No: 10...Rb2+ 11.Ka1! Rb6+ 12. Ka2 Bd5, and once more everything is protected, and again comes Novotny: 13. Be6!. The draw is by perpetual check and perpetual Novotny: 13...Rb2+ 14.Ka1 Rf2+ 15.Kb1 Be4 16.Bf5!, and so on, forever.

3rd Prize – (Marco Campioli - E0004) Despite the absence of a climax, and rather too many Pawns, the supporting lines (such as 10.Kf4 Bb4) are fresh and the originality sufficient.

Solution: This is a very interesting study with a lot of sidelines. The main play is: 1.h7! Bf5+ 2.Ke5 Bxh7 3.Bxd2+ Kxh5 4.a6! Bg8! 5.a7 Bf6+! 6.Ke4! Bh7+ 7.Kf4 Bg5+ 8.Kxg3 Bxd2 9.a8Q Be1+ 10.Kh2 g3+ 11.Kh1!, and the white King finally escapes from the two Bishops. Even here at the end, White could go astray: 11.Kg1? Bf2+ 12.Kh1 Bf5 13.Qe8+ Kg5 14.Qe5 d3 15.Qxc7 d2, with a draw, or 11.Kh3?? Bf5#, with a loss. At the end, the win is like this: 11.Kh1! Bf2 12.Qe8+ Kg5 13.Qd7+ Bf5 14.Qxc7 d3 15.d6 d2 16.Qc4+ Kg5 17.Qd5, and the rest is easy.

1st Honorable Mention – (Pal Benko - E0023) The accuracy of the extraordinary content (for this pawnless heavy material) is borne out by the computer.

Solution: Great precision is required to win: 1.Qa1+! Kb6 (If 1...Qa2/Ra2 2.Qc3+ Ka6 3.Rh6+ etc., because 3...Rf6 is now not possible.) 2.Qb1+!! Ka5 (If 2...Ka6, again 3.Rh6+ Rf6 4.Qf1+!, and wins the Rook. The same as after 2...Kc6 3.Rh6+ Rf6 4.Qe4+! Kb6 5.Qf5!!, and black Queen does not have the check on a7.) 3.Qe1+ Kb6 4.Rh6+ Rf6 5.Qf2!!, and the same trick for the third time, but on the third square.

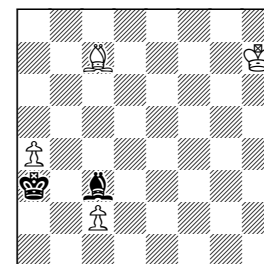
2nd Honorable Mention – (Ilham Aliev - E0007) The judge is uncomfortable placing twins in an award, but finds himself impressed, despite the twinning being irregular in that it involves a switch of both piece type and square. There are partial anticipations - especially a magnificent Bron (1970, see No.1593 in EG29).

Solution: In (a) after 1. Be3+! Qxe3 2. g7 Qe5 3.e8N! Qxe8+ 4.g8N+! Kg6 5.Bd3+ Kf7 6. Bg6+! Kxg6, White is stalemated after two minor promotions. In (b), after 1.Ne6! Qxe6 2.g7 Qe5 3.Be3+! Qxe3 4. g8N+! Kg6 5.e8Q+ Qxe8, we again have the same stalemate, but the order of promotions is different.

3rd Honorable Mention – (Milan Vukcevic - E0001) The undeniable charm of the finale conflicts with the introduction's discordant--and head-scratching--thematic complexity.

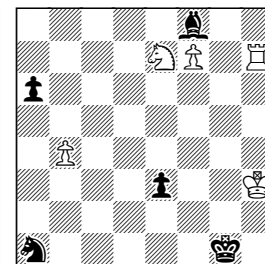
Solution: Here is the thematic try that explains this endgame: 1.Nc2? Bxc2 2.Bxc2 Be1! 3.Kxf8 Bxb4+ 4.Ke8 Kg7 5.Bd1 Kf6 6.Bg4 h5! 7.Bh3 h4! 8.f8Q+ Bxf8 9.Kxf5 stalemate. White Bishop has to hold the f5-Pawn before winning the black Bishop, but White has also to stop the black Pawn. This is possible only by putting the Bishop on g4 or h3. In the try, Black had time to create a stalemate. In the solution, White wins a tempo: 1.Nd3! Bxd3 2.Bxd3 Be1! 3.Kxf8 Bxb4+ 4 Ke8 Kg7 5.Bf1! Kf6 6.Bh3 h5 7.f8Q+ Bxf8 8.Kxf8 h4 9. Ke8(g8), and White wins because the stalemate is broken.

1st Commended
Mike Prcic
StrateGems 1998-99(v)



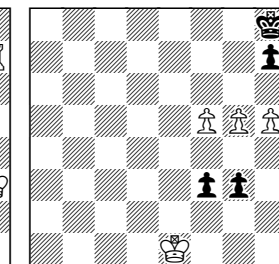
Win (4+2)

2nd Commended
Michael Roxlau
StrateGems 1998-99



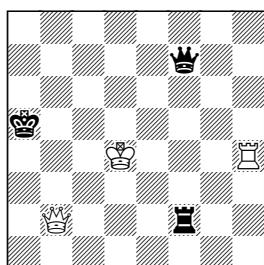
Win (5+5)

3rd Commended
Robert Brieger
StrateGems 1998-99(v)



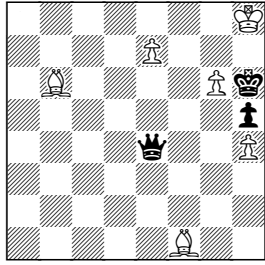
Win (4+4)

1st Honorable Mention
Pal Benko
StrateGems 1998-99



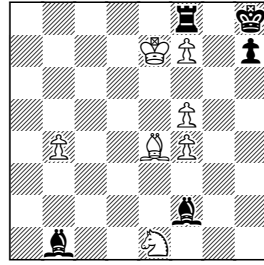
Win (3+3)

2nd Honorable Mention
Ilham Nuruoglu Aliev
StrateGems 1998-99



Draw (6+3)
b) -wBf1 +wNd4

3rd Honorable Mention
Milan R. Vukcevic
StrateGems 1998-99



Win (7+5)

1st Commended – (Mike Prcic - E0012) Charm again predominates. A computer-identified dual (4.Kg2) can be cured, HvdH proposes, by placing the non-participating wK (on h1 as diagrammed) on h7.

Solution: The start is forced, but then the things get more interesting: 1.a5! Ka4! (1...Bd4 2.Bb6 Be5 3.a6 Bb8 4.c4 wins, or 1...Kb2 2.a6 Bd4 3.Be5! also wins) 2.a6 Bd4 3.Bb8! Kb4 (3...Kb5 4.c3! B~ 5.a7 Bxa7 6.Bxa7 Kd4 7.Bd4 wins) 4.c3+! Kxc3 5.Be5! Bxe5 6.a7, and White wins.

2nd Commended – (Michael Roxlau - E0020) Charm may be wanting--or merely concealed--but ingenuity is abundant.

Solution: The solution is more of a good fight than a logical study. The simple 1.Nf5? does not work: 1...e2 2.Nd4 Kf2! (2...e1Q 3.Nf3+ Kf2 4.Nxe1 Kxe1 5.Rh8 Bxb4 6.Rb8 B~ 7.Rb1+, and White wins the black Na1 without giving up his Pf7) 3.Nxe2 Kxe2 4.Rh8 Bxb4 5.Rb8 Bd6, with a draw because Black will lose one piece for Pf7, but draw against the Rook with the other. So, 1.Rh8! Bxe7 2.Re8! Bxb4 3.Rb8 Bd6 (3...Bc5 4.Kg3! Kf1 5.Rb1+ Ke2 6.Rxa1, and wins) 4.Rb6! Bc5 5.Kg3! Bxb6! 6.f8Q e2 7.Qg7!! (7.Qg8 Kf1!, draws) e1Q+ 8.Kf3+ Kf1 9.Qg2#.

3rd Commended – (Robert Brieger - E0006) Every move sets up a reciprocal Zugzwang. A dual (4.Kh1) seems to be avoided (HvdH again) by initially placing wK(g1) on e1.

Solution: 1.h6! (1.f6? Kg8 2.g6 h6!)= Kg8 2.g6 hxg6 3.f6! g5 4.Kf1 g2+ 5.Kg1! g4 6.Kf2 g3+ 7.Kg1, and White wins.

Eliminations and comments.

E0003 Duals. 1.Bf6 Qd5+ 2.Be6 Qb7+ 3.Ke8 (HvdH). Also, after composer's main line 4.Kf7 Nxa8, 5.Rh8+ (AJR)

E0005 2.Nxh5 (HvdH). Also, since this is a correction--the composer's first version was in Mezija (Yugoslavia)--the correction ought to have been published there. HvdH informs me that the judge was Franjo Vrabc, now residing in Sweden and the studies editor of Tidskrift for Schack.

E0008 In the judge's view, this formidable analysis does not constitute a study.

E0009 unsound - 2...Rxe6+ (HvdH)

E0010 unsound - 1.gxh3. Also 3.Kg7 (HvdH)

E0013 low content, heavy material

E0014 many duals

E0015 1.Be4 Rh8 2.Bg6

E0016 unsound: line 4...Rd1 ... 6.Bc2 Rb1+ 7.Ka3 b4+ (HvdH)

E0017 An oscillating and eventual conflict--the a1 promotion pins wN that has reached e5 in the course of the solution--almost fatally marred by the dual 9.Kf6. HvdH informs us further that this study had been entered in another tourney besides StrateGems.

E0018 duals

E0019 (1.a5 c5 2.Kd5 Bh5 3.?) Black wins

E0021 1.Be3 (HvdH)

E0022 many anticipations, particularly by V.Bron in the 1940s

Supplementary information selected by AJR from data supplied by Harold van der Heijden:

E0007a Aliev 1...Kg6 2.Bd3!

E0007b Aliev q Also after 2...Qe4 3.Be3+ is the only move. Another interesting line is 2...Qc8+ 3.Bd8! (3...Qc6 =; not 3...Qe6? 4.Bc7!! Qc8+ 5.g8Q and Qc3+ is not possible).

E0007 Bron.V - [=3040.43 a8b6] 3.p champ USSR Ty {theme tourney} 1970 (EG#1593) White: Ka8,Bf8,a4,c6,d6,f3. Black: Kb6,Qe1,Bb1,a5,b7,d4. Solution: 1.d7 Qh4 (1...Kc7 2.cxb7 Be4 3.fxe4 Qxe4 4.d8Q+ Kxd8 5.Ka7 Qh7 6.Ka8 Qe4 7.Ka7) 2.cxb7 Ka6 3.Be5! Be4 4.fxe4 Qxe4 5.d8N! d3 6.Be3 Qd5! 7.Bg5!! (7.Bd2 Qxd8+ 8.b8N+ Kb6 9.Be3+ Kc7 10.Bb6+ Kc8 11.Bxd8 d2) 7...d2 (7...Qe4 8.Be3 Qd5 9.Bg5) 8.Bxd2! Qxd8+ 9.b8N+ Kb6 10.Be3+ Kc7 11.Bb6+ Kxb6

E0012 Pric. Dual: 4.Kg2! Bb6 (4...Kc3 5.Be5) 5.Kf3 Kc3 6.Ke4 Kxc2 is a CD-ROM confirmed win. And also 5...Kb5 6.a7 Bxa7 7.Bxa7 Kc4 8.Ke2 Kc3 9.Kd1! wins. Seems to be easy to correct by placing wK at h7: 4.Kg6? Bb6(g1,f2) 5.Kf5 Kb5! 6.a7 Bxa7 7.Bxa7 Kc4 8.Ke4 Kc3 =.

E0019 Zimmer. Incorrect: 2...c5! 3.Kd5 Bh3 4.Kxc5 Bg2 5.Kb5 Kd4 6.c5 Ba8 7.Kb4 Bc6 wins.

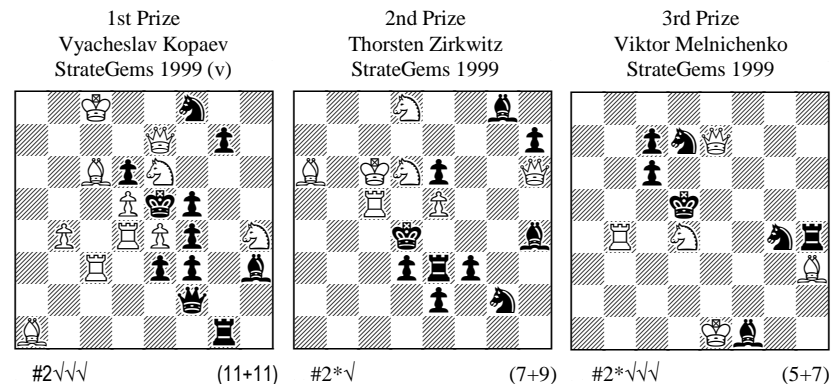
E0023 Benko. Checked against Ken Thompson's 6-man web-site data. Minor dual: after 2...Kc6 also 3.Qe4+ works: 3...Kb6 4.Rh6+ Rf6 5.Qf5 exchanging moves. The next line is more-or-less thematic! 2...Ka7 3.Rh7! Rf4+ 4.Ke5 Rf5+ 5.Qxf5.

All claims to John Roycroft (17 New Way Road, London, NW9 6PL, England, e-mail roycroft@dcs.qmw.ac.uk) by 4/1/2001.

StrateGems 1999 Twomovers Award by Rauf Aliovsadzade

The general standard of participating compositions was very high, and I enjoyed analyzing and judging them.

Some remarks: T0088 - (Farion) is a mirrored position of a problem by N. Zinovyev "Shakhmaty v SSSR", 1989, Sp. Pr.; T0110 - (Dikusarov) is anticipated by R. Aliovsadzade & M. Vagidov, "Vilna Ukraine", 1978, Sp. Hon. Men.: wKc2, Qb1, Ba8 d2, Na5: bKa6 Pb6. 2#.1.Qa2!; T0080 - (Surkov) has duals in the thematic try: 1.Nxf2? 1...Rd6 2.Bxg5/Bd4#, 1...Rf6 2.Bxc5/Bf4#. Some problems, with good intentions, lacked the requirements of the themes. For example: T0105 - (Groeneveld & Prins)--no Hannelius as the variations in actual play are present in set: T0127 - (Petite)--no Pseudo-le Grand between the tries because of the above-mentioned reason.

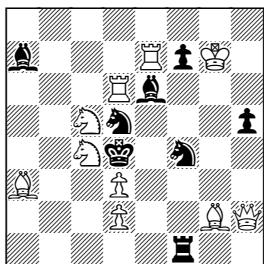


1st Prize – (Vyacheslav Kopaev - T0143v), see version in SG10 A skillful execution of half-battery mechanism, focused to take control of the d4 square, to allow the threat. A harmonious combination of Banny-Salazar-Zagoruiko-Rukhlis themes! A rude refutation in the extra try (Rxe3? fxe3!) is a trifling matter in this huge undertaking. 1.Rc2? A, (2.Nxf8#), 1...Rg6 b/fxe4 c/Rxa1 2.Rdc4 C/Rd1 D/Qg7#, 1...Qxh4! a, 1.Rc1? B (2.Nxf8#), 1...Qxh4 a/fxe4 c/Qb2 2.Rdc4 C/Rd2 E/Nxf3#, 1...Rg6! b, (1.Rdc4? C (2.Nxf8#) 1...Qxh4 a/Rg6 b 2.Rc1 B/Rc2 A#, 1...fxe4! c, (1.Rxe3? fxe3!); **1.Rcc4!** (2.Nxf8#) 1...Qxh4 a/Rg6 b/fxe4 c/Nxe6/Ng6 2.Rd1 D/Rd2 E/Rxe4/Qxe6/Qxg7#, (1...Nxe6/Ng6 2.Qxe6/Qxg7#). Very difficult key!

2nd Prize – (Thorsten Zirkwitz - T0095) A twomover with great simplicity(!), thematical variety, clever use of pieces, and attractiveness of the position. Set: 1...Re4 2.Nb5#, 1...Rxe5 2.Rc4#. In the try and solution, the above mates become the threats and, after the same black moves, follow different mates. A reverse form of the Dombrovskis theme that ends in a three-phased Zagoruiko. 1.Qxe6?(2.Rc4#), 1...Re4/Rxf5 2.Nf5/Qxe5#, 1...Bxe6 2.Nxe6#, 1...d3!, **Qxh7!** (2.Nb5#) In the play, the Queen is sacrificed like in the try! 1...Re4/Rxe5 2.Qxe4/Qxd3#, 1...Bxh7 2.Nxe6#, plus a transfer of mate!

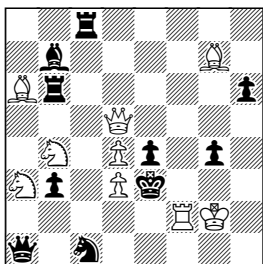
3rd Prize – (Viktor Melnichenko - T0115) Another masterpiece by a well-known composer who can produce wonders with a few pieces. It is not that easy to find the right square for the white Knight. Set: 1...c5 2.Qe6#, 1.Nb3? (2.Rd4#), 1...Ng~ 2.Qe6#, transfer of mate, but: 1...c5!, 1.Nc2? (2.Rd4#), 1...Ng~ 2.Ne3#, 1...c5!, 1.Nf3? (2.Rd4#), 1...Ng~/c5 2.Be6/Qxd7#, 1...Bc4!; **1.Nf5!!** 1...Ng~/c5/Bc4 2.Ne3/Qe4/Bg2#. In the tries 1.Nb3?/Nf3?, and in the play, the white Knight takes control of c5,e5,d6 squares used in mates. Well-knit mechanism, white correction, and changed mates. Refutations become defenses in the play. Pity that 1...Ng~ is not a refutation in one of the tries.

4th Prize
Waldemar Mazul
StrateGems 1999



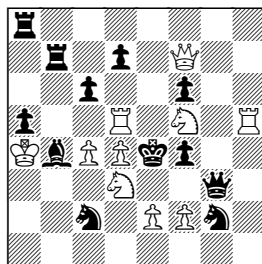
#2*√ (10+8)

5th Prize
Wieland Bruch
StrateGems 1999



#2√ (9+10)

6th Prize
David Shire
StrateGems 1999



#2*√ (10+12)

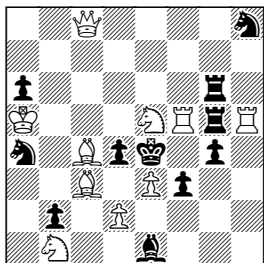
4th Prize – (Waldemar Mazul - T0119)

The Dombrovskis theme is represented in a brilliant way! Beautiful mates and rich play in all three phases! Set:1...Bd7/Rb1 2.Re4/Qxf4#, 1.Rc7? (2.Bb2# **A**), 1...Nxd3/Ne2/Rb1 2.Nxb3 **B**/Qe5/Qxf4#,1...Bxc5! **a**, 1.Be4? (2.Nb3# **B**), 1...Bxc5 **a**/Rb1/Rg1+ 2.Bb2 **A**/Qf2/Qxg1#, 1...Nxd3! **b**; **1.Ne5!!** (2.Nc6#),1...Bxc5 **a**/Nxd3 **b**/Kxe5 2.Bb2 **A**/Nb3 **B**/Rxd5#. A flight-giving key adds to this fine work.

5th Prize – (Wieland Bruch - T0122) Original plot in both try and key. A three-lined Nowotny--the third mate being possible after a defense against the two threats! 1.Nc6? [2.Qxe4/Bxh6# (2.Nc4?)], 1...Nxd3 2.Nc4!, 1...Ne2!; **1.Qc6!** [2.Nd5/Nc4# (2.Bxh6#?)], 1...Qxd4 2.Bxh6#!, 1...Bxa6/Rxb4 2.Qxe4/Qxh6#. Nowotny with a third thematic mate?!

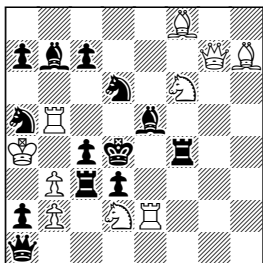
6th Prize – (David Shire - T0104) Set:1...Nxd4 2.Rxd4#, 1...cxd5 2.Qxd5#, 1.Rc5? (2.Qe7#) but not 2.Nd6#? because of giving up a second control over d4, 1...Nxd4 2.Nd6#, 1...Re8 2.Qxe8#, 1...dP~ 2.Qe6#, 1...Qg7(8) 2.f3#, 1...Bxc5 2.Nxc5#, 1...f3!; **1.c5!** (2.Nd6#) but not 2.Qe7# because of giving up a second control over d5 (Sushkov), 1...cxd5 2.Qe7#, 1...Bxc5 2.Nxc5#, 1...f3 2.Nxg3#. Tactically related dual avoidances, Pseudo-le Grand. Good work by both white Knights.

7th Prize
David Shire
StrateGems 1999



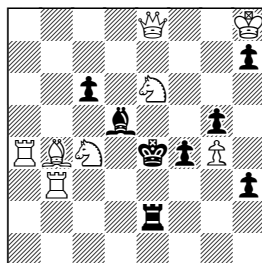
#2*√ (10+11)

8th Prize
Givi Mosiashvili
StrateGems 1999(v)



#2√ (10+12)

1st Honorable Mention
Vasyl Dyachuk
StrateGems 1999



#2√ (8+8)

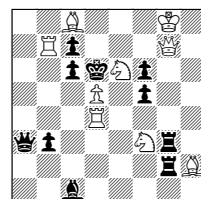
7th Prize – (David Shire - T0128) Set: 1...dxe3/d3/Rxf5 2.d3 **A**/Rf4 **B**/Qxf5#, 1.Bxd4? (2.Rf4# **B**) The Pawn on d2 is pinned, 1...Bg3/Bxd2+ 2.d3 **A**/Nxd2#, 1...Rf6!!; **1.Nxg4!** (2.d3# **A**) The Rook on f5 is pinned. The same tactics as in try), 1...Nc5/d3/Rxg4/Rxf5+/Re6 2.Rf4 **B**/Bd5/Re5/Qxf5/Qxe6#. Cyclic Pseudo-le Grand, Sushkov. The thematic mates appear after different defenses. Very nice half-pin!

8th Prize – (Givi Mosiashvili - T0129) Corrected. Add a black Pawn on c7. Another nice cyclic Pseudo le Grand, transfer of mates, Zagoruiko. Good use of the white Queen. 1.Qc7? (2.Qc5# **A**), 1...Ne4/cxb3/Bc6/Nc6 2.Qe5 **B**/Qxc3 **D**/Qa7/Rd5#, 1...Nb3!, 1.Qg3? (2.Qe3# **C**), 1...Rf3/dxe2/Bf3 2.Qe5 **B**/Qxc3 **D**/Qf2#, 1...Qg1!; **1.Qg5!** (2.Qe5# **B**), 1...Rf5/Bf6/Nf7/Re4 2.Qe3 **C**/Qc5 **A**/Bc5/Nf3#.

1st Honorable Mention – (Vasyl Dyachuk - T0117) Neatly done Zagoruiko.

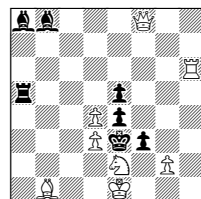
In the try: 1.Qd7? (2.Qxh7#) the black moves have anti-dual effects: 1...Bxc4/Bxe6 2.Qd4/Qd3#, 1...Re3!, 1.Be5? (1.Nxg5#),1...Bxc4/Bxe6 2.Nc7/Qxe6#, 1...f3!; **1.Bd6!** (2.Nd2#), 1...Bxc4/Bxe6 2.Qxc6/Nb6#. Discovered mates following self-pins.

2nd HM
Jacques Savournin
StrateGems 1999



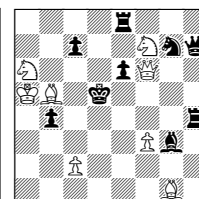
#2√√√ (9+10)

3rd HM
Efren Petite
StrateGems 1999



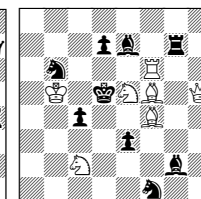
#2√√√ (8+7)

4th HM
Jacques Savournin
StrateGems 1999



#2*√ (8+9)

5th HM
C.G.S. Narayanan
StrateGems 1999



#2√ (7+9)

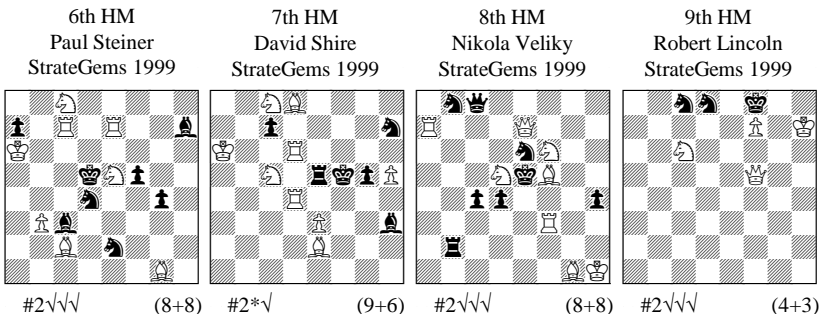
2nd Honorable Mention – (Jacques Savournin - T0123) White has five(!) ways to unpin the white Queen. The flight-giving move in three phases is a plus.

1.Kh7/Kh8? (2.Qxc7/Qf8/Qd7#), 1...Rxb2+, 1.Kf8? (2.Qxc7/Qe7/Qd7#), 1...Bh6!, 1.Nfg5?(2.Qxc7#), 1...Ke5 2.Nf7#, 1...Qa5!, 1.Neg5? (2.Qf8#?), 1...cxd5 2.Qxc7#, 1...Re2!; **1.Rg4!** (2.Qd7#), 1...Kxd5 2.Rd4#. Looks like the Barnes theme, not Sushkov, as claimed by the author.

3rd Honorable Mention – (Efren Petite - T0116) There is humor here. It seems that the black Pawns, avoiding threats each time, literally scoff at White.1.Qf6? (2.Qg5#), 1...exd4 2.Qxd4#, 1...exd3!, 1.Qf5? (2.Qg5?), 1...exd3 2.Qxd3#, 1...exd4!, 1.Rc6? (2.Qh6#), 1...exd3 2.Qxf3#, 1...exd4!, 1.Rd6? (2.Qh6#), 1...exd4 2.Qf4#, 1...exd3!; At last **1.Re6!** (2.Qh6#) nails down the naughty Pawns: 1...exd4/exd3 2.Qxf3/Qf4#. Changed mates.

4th Honorable Mention – (Jacques Savournin - T0078) Another fresh approach to Nowotny-in set, there are two mates to each of black thematic moves. 1...Rf4 2.Nxc7 and Qe5#, 1...Bf4 2.Nxb4 and Qd4#, 1.Qf4? (2.Nxc7/Nxb4#) 1...Ra8!; **1.f4!!** (2.Qe5/Qd4#) which follow 1...Rxf4,Bxf4, respectively. Also: 1...Ke4/e5/Qe4 2.Bc6/Qc6/Nxc7#

5th Honorable Mention – (C. Narayanan - T0075) White correction in a marvelous setting! 1.Ne~? (2.Bg6#-throughout), 1...Bxf6!, 1.Nd3? Bxf6 2.Ndb4#, 1...Ng3!, 1.Nf3? Ng3 2.Nxe3#, 1...Bh3!; **1.Ng4!**, 1...Be4 2.Be6#, 1...Bxf6 2.Nxf6#

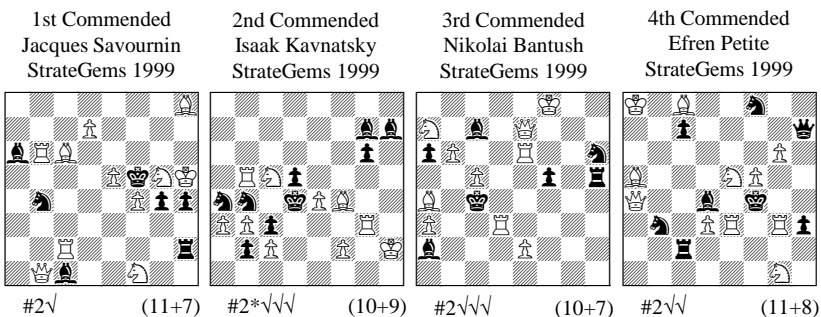


6th Honorable Mention – (Paul Steiner - T0077) Cycle, white obstruction and black correction. : 1.Nc6? dN~!, 1.Nd3? Ne6!, 1.Nc4? Nxb3!; **1.Nf7!** (2.Re5#), 1...dN~ 2.Rc5#, 1...Ne6 2.Red7#, 1...Nxb3 2.Bxb3#, 1...Nc6 2.Rcd7#

7th Honorable Mention – (David Shire - T0074) A perfect example of Sushkov. Set:1...g4 2.Rf4#, 1...Nf6 2.Rxf6#, 1.R6d5? (2.Bd3# not 2.Ne7?), 1...Nf6 2.Ne7#, 1...Bf1!; **1.R4d5!** (2.Ne7# not 2.Bd3?), 1...g4 2.Bd3#, 1...Rxd5 2.Rxd5#

8th Honorable Mention – (Nikola Veliky - T0094) Banny - Salazar with a nice relationship between White's first and mating moves. 1.Nc7 A? (threat 2.Ng4# throughout), 1...Rg2 a 2.Ra5 C#, 1...Qxc7 2.Qxe6#, 1...Qg8 b! nor 1.Nb4 B? Qg8 b 2.Ra5# C, 1...Rxb4 2.Bh2#, 1...Rg2 a! nor 1.Nb6? Qg8 b 2.Nc4#, 1...Rxb6 2.Bh2#, 1... Rg2! Now! **1.Ra5 C!** Rg2 a 2.Nc7 A#, 1...Qg8 b 2.Nb4 B#. Again changing 1...Rb5 2.Bh2# and 1...Qc5 2.Qxe6#. So the primary pattern is: **AaC/BbC/CaAbB**

9th Honorable Mention – (Robert Lincoln - T0089) Excellent key and changed mates in this fine miniature. Tries: 1.Qg6? Nxc6!, 1.Nxd8? N~ 2.Qc5#, 1...Ne7 2.Ne6#, 1...Nd6!, 1.Qd7? Nd6 2.Qe7#, 1...Nxf7!; **1.Ne5!** (2.Ng6#), 1...Nxf7 2.Qxf7#, 1...Ne7 2.Nd7#, 1...Ke7 2.f8Q#

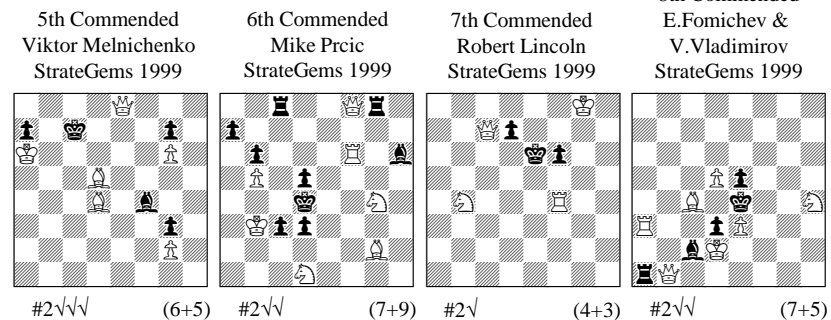


1st Commended – (Jacques Savournin - T0121) 1.Bb5? (2.Rf6#), 1...Kxf4 a/Nd5 b 2.Rc4 A/Rf2 B#, 1...Bxf4!; **1.Bg2!** (2.Rf6#), 1...Kxf4 a/Nd5 b 2.Rf2 B/Rc4 A#, 1...Bxf4/Nc6 2.Be4/Rc4#. In the try, the mates are in reversed order.

2nd Commended – (Isaak Kavnavsky - T0081) Cycle with the mates from the tries present in set. Set: 1...Be5 2.Be3#, 1...Nxc2 2.Rd3#. Tries: 1.Re3? (2.Ne6 A#), 1...Nxc5 2.Rxb4 B#, 1...Bg8!, 1.Bd6? (2.Rxb4 B#), 1...bN~ 2. Rd3 C#, 1...Nb6!, 1.axb4? (2.Rd3 C#), 1...dxe4 2.Ne6 A#), 1...Nxc5! An AB/BC/CA cycle. **1.Rg5!** (2.Be3#). Changing 1...Be5 2.Bxe5# and 1...Nxc2 2.Rxd5#. Also, 1...Nxc5 2.Rxb4. But, note that 2.Be3(D) also links to the set!

3rd Commended – (Nikolai Bantush - T0098) 1...Bd6! defeats all three tries: 1.c6? (2.Qb4#), 1...a5 2.Bb5#, 1.Sc6? (2.Sa5#), 1...Bxb6 2.Se5; and 1.Bc6? (2.Bd5#), 1...f4 2.Rc4#. So, **1.Rc6!** (2.Qe6#), 1...Bd6 2.cxd6# and 1...f4 2.Qe4#. Tries and key on the same square.

4th Commended – (Efren Petite - T0141) 1.Nc6? A (2.Ref3#), 1...Qh5 b 2.Bxc7# C, 1... Rxc6 c 2.Ne2# D, 1...Rf2! a, 1.Nf7? B (2.Ref3#), 1...Rf2 a 2.Bxc7# C, 1...Qxf7 d 2.Nxh3# E, 1...Qh5! b; **1.Bxc7!** C (2.Ref3#), 1...Rf2 a 2.Nf7# B, 1...Qh5 b 2.Nc6# A, 1...Rxc7 e 2.Ne2# D, 1...Qxc7 f 2.Nxh3# E Ordinary Banny.



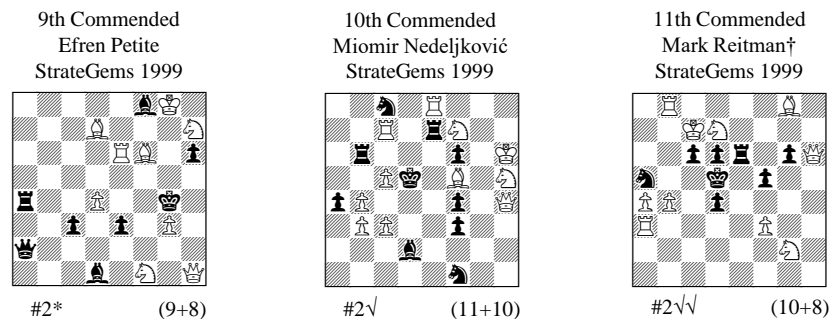
5th Commended – (Viktor Melnichenko - T0112) 1.Kxa7? (zz), 1...Kd6/B~/Bd6 2.Qd8/Be5/Bb6#, 1...Be3!, 1.Bc6? (zz), 1...Kd6 2.Qd7#, 1...Bd6!, 1.Bb7? (zz), 1...Bd6 2.Qc8#, 1...Kd6!; **1.Be6!** (zz), 1...Kd6/Bd6/B~ 2.Qd7/Qc8/Be5# Changed mates.

6th Commended – (Mike Prcic - T0137) 1.Qd6? (2.Qxd5#), 1...Rc5/Rcd8/Rg5 2.Qe5/Qb4/Rf4#, 1...Rgd8!, 1.Rd6? (2.Rxd5#), 1...Rc5/Rg5 2.Qf6/Qf2#, 1...Rd8!; **1.Rf5!** (2.Rxd5#), 1...Rc5/Rd8/Rg5 2.Qf6/Qb4/Rf4#. Changed mates .

7th Commended – (Robert Lincoln - T0090) Interesting miniature. 1.Kf8? dP~ 2.Qe7# but 1... f5!; **1.Nd3!** Kd5 2.Qxd7#, 1...Ke7 (set) 2.Re4# and changing 1...d6 2.Qf7# and 1...d5 2.Nc5#. With 1...f5 2.Qe5#

8th Commended – (Evgenij Fomichev & V.S. Vladimirov - T0135) Double Salazar, Banny, black correction, but to mechanical. 1.Bb3?A (zz), 1...Rxb1 a 2.Ra4# C, 1...Bxb1! b, 1.Ba2? B (2.Qb4#), 1...Bxb1 b 2.Ra4# C, 1...Rxb1! a; **1.Ra4!** C (zz), 1...Rxb1 a 2.Bb3# B, 1...Bxb1 b, 2.Ba2# A.

9th Commended – (Efren Petite - T0097) 1...Kf5/Qf2/Qg2/Qh2 2.Qe4/Re4/Rxe3/Re5#, **1.Be5!** Kf5 2.Nxe3#, 1...Qf2 2.Rg6#, 1...Qg2 2.Rf6#, 1...Qh2 2.Rxh6#



10th Commended – (Miomir Nedeljkovic - T0103) 1.Qxf6? (2.c4#), 1..Bxc3 2.Nxf4, 1..Rxb4 2.Qc6, 1...axb3!; **1.Qxf4!** (2.c4#), reciprocally changing the unpin and unguard by 1...Bxc3 2.Qc4# and 1...Rxb4 2.Nxf6#.(1...Nd6 2.Nxf6# and 1...Ne3 2.Qd4#)

11th Commended – (Mark Reitman - T0120) 1.Qc1? (2.Nf4#), 1...d3 2.Rxd3#, 1...g5!, 1.Qd2? (2.Ne3#), 1...d3/Nc4/Kc4 2.Qxd3/Nf4/Nb6# 1...f4!, **1.Qf4!** (2.Nb6#) 1...Nc4/Kc4 2.Nf6/Ne3#

All claims by 4/1/2001 to Misha Mladenovic.

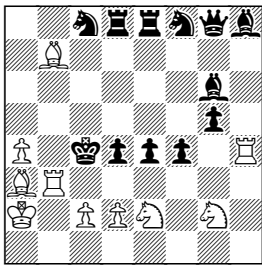
StrateGems 1999 Moremovers Award

by Hans Peter Rehm

In the 19th century, America was one of the leading countries for moremovers. The American genius Sam Loyd is for me the best composer of all time, but in the 20th century, the English speaking countries lost interest in moremovers, and no composer considered moremovers as one of his central fields--with the exception of your section editor and perhaps Norman MacLeod. Here is a place where the knowledge and love of moremovers in America may restart. This is why I am writing a rather elaborate award (which will be perhaps too long for some.)

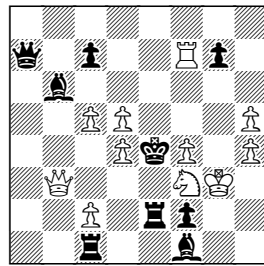
Starting a new thing is always difficult. I found that the overall quality in the first three issues was rather good but that candidates for top places were rare. Then, the last issue provided me with prizes. Without this last issue (that is in a weaker tournament), honorable mentions would have been prizes. So beware of thinking that any awarded 1st prize is a guarantee of absolute top quality. Here are the usual statistics for the record: 37 problems participated. If you do not find your favorite problem in this award, it is presumably because the judge has something showing the same things in a similar or better form. Here are the two most important examples: M0125 (Polacek) is anticipated by (A). Solution: 1.Kb1! (2.Rb4+ 3.Rb5+ 4.Rc5#), 1...Nd7 2.Rc3+ dxc3 3.Ne3+ fxe3 4.d3#, 1...Re5 2.Ne3+ fxe3 3.d3+ exd3 4.Rc3, 1... Ne6 2.d3+ exd3 3.Rc3+ dxc3 4.Ne3. Perhaps the author wanted to present a study in construction, saving 3 pieces. In my opinion, he spoiled a masterwork: 1. The key in (A) is much better 2. The variations, all 3 with interferences, are much finer in (A). 3. In M0125 one of the thematic variations follows after 3 different black defenses: 1...Be5/Ne6/Rb8. Such black duals are not ruinous, like white duals in main variations, but they should be avoided if possible. And I feel that, in cyclic and other "letter" themes, they destroy clarity of expression. (I do not say that what remains is not a problem much above average.) M0085 (Raican) The contents of this problem have been shown in (B) in a somewhat different matrix. It is a good exercise to compare the constructions. I think (B) is much better because of more colorful black play (self-blocks), more sophisticated and varied mates, and the absence of uninteresting by-variations. All white pieces (apart from Pawns) have roles in all thematic variations. 1.f5! (2.Re7+ 3.Rf7+ 4.Rf4#) 1...c6 2.Qd3+ 3.Qb3+ 4.Qe6#, 1...Bxc5 2.Sg5+ Kxd4 3.Sxf3+ 4.Qd3#

(A) Jakov Vladimirov,
Probleemblad 1966, 1st Prize



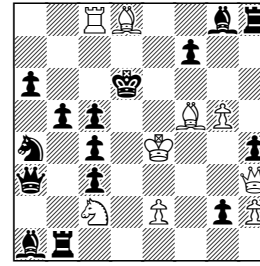
#4 (10+12)

(B) Friedrich Chlubna
Breuer-Memorial 1983, 2nd HM



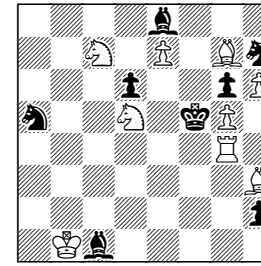
#4 (11+9)

1st Prize
Milan R. Vukcevic
StrateGems 1999



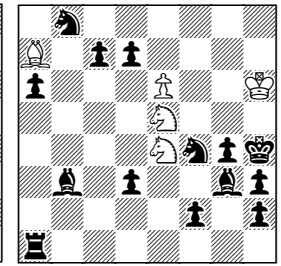
#4 (9+15)

2nd Prize
Camillo Gamnitzer
StrateGems 1999



#5 (9+8)

1st Honorable Mention
Milan R. Vukcevic
StrateGems 1999



#5√ (5+14)

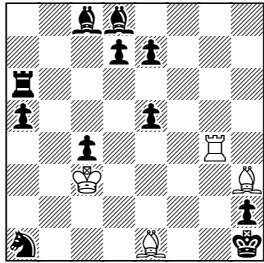
1st Prize – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0121) Very nice doubling of King's battery creation. For me, the rather strong key with a short threat is more than balanced by the subtle play which follows it. The white battery aims at a square which becomes efficient only after a sacrifice pulling the black King onto this square. Very good harmony between the two variations and fine handling of thematic lines. This remark extends also to the refutations eliminated by the key: The lines c1-f4 and f1-f4 have to be separated so that the black defense is not able to guard the rear piece of the battery together with f4. 1.Qe3? Qc1!, 1.Qf3? Rf1!, **1.Nb4!** (2.Rc6) Qxb4 2.Qe3 Rf1 3.Be7+, 1...Rxb4 2.Qf3 Qc1 3.Rc6+.

2nd Prize – (Camillo Gamnitzer - M0128) Unusual logic: The main plan is 1.Rg3+ 2.Re3, but Bxe3. 1.Kxc1? eliminates this guard on e3, but the promoted queen after 1...h1Q+ is too strong. Forcing the necessary black underpromotion (Holst theme) White creates a weakness (he allows a black fork). So the good black defense h1Q is substituted by the inferior (Nb3+)-Nxd4 resulting in a self-block (which corrects the unguard error on d4 introduced by the key.) This is a very unusual form of the Dresden defense substitution theme. So, the solution is **1.Bd4!** (2.Rf4+ 3.Ne6+ Kh5 3.Bg4+ Kxb6 5.Bg7. Of course, with this composer, you are entitled to an interesting full-length threat.) 1...h1N 2.Kxc1 Nb3+ 2.Kb2 Nxd4. What have we now received from this foreplan? The guard on e3 has been destroyed and also--which is rather rare--the guard of d4 has been changed to a self-block, and the main plan 4.Rg3+ 5.Re3 works. The by-variation 2...Nc4 3.Nxe8 Ke6 4.Ng7+ Kxd5 5.Bg2 is also difficult and adds a second model mate. This is a good example of the modern logical school where the logic gets more and more subtle and complicated.

1st Honorable Mention – (Milan R. Vukcevic - M0070) In the first try 1.Bd4? f1Q(R)!, a white ambush behind a white piece is refuted by a black ambush behind a black piece. In the second try 1.Be3? Ra5!, a white ambush behind a black piece is refuted by a black ambush behind a white piece. This looks original. In the solution, White is able to force Black to close the line of Black's ambush piece: **1.Nd6!** Bxe6 2.Bd4 (Be3?) f1Q(R) 3.Nf5+! Bxf5 4.Ng6+, 1...fxe6 2.Be3 (Bd4?) Ra5 3.Nf5+ e6xf5 4.Ng6. With more harmony in the dual avoidance mechanism I would have awarded a prize.

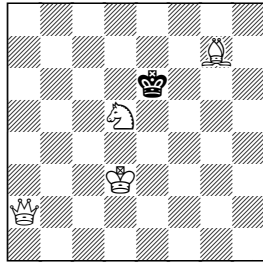
2nd Honorable Mention – (Ferad Kakabadze - M0131) Good problem in classical logical style. The originality of this type and material is restricted; however, the intermezzo Rg2+ Rg5 is new for me in this context (the Rook is better on g5 since the interference of Bd5 on e4 is avoided.) 1.Bf2? Bb7, hence 1.Bg2+ 2.Bd5+ 3.Bh4 Ke2 4.Rg2+ (not Re4+?) Kf1(best) 5.Rg5! Rc6 (if Ke2? 6.Rxe5+) 6.Bg2+ Kg1! 7.Bh3+, and 8.Bf2.

2nd Honorable Mention
Ferad Kakabadze
StrateGems 1999



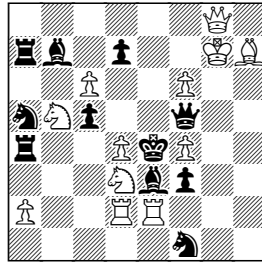
#9 (4+11)

3rd Honorable Mention
Edgar Holladay
StrateGems 1999



#4 (4+1)

1st Commended
L. Makaronez, M. Marandjuk
& N. Nahybida
StrateGems 1999

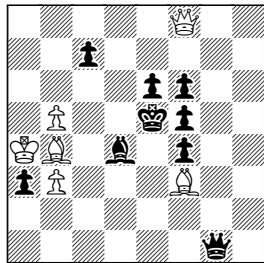


#4 (12+11)

3rd Honorable Mention – (Edgar Holladay - M0067) Unexpected key, since after 1... Kd7 we have the set play 2.Qa6 Ke8 3.Qe6+. I found 1.Ke4? more tempting than 1.Qc4?. I liked the echo-mates in try 1.Qc4? Kd6 2.Nb6 Ke7 3.Qc7(d5) Ke8 4.Qd7# and solution **1.Qa4!** Kf5 2.Qe4 + Kg5 3.Ne3 Kh5 4.Qg4 # Other variations: 1...Kxd5 2.Qa6 3.Bf8+, 1...Kd6 2.Ke4 3.Qe8+, 1...Kf7 2.Qd7+ Kg6 3.Nf6! Rich content for this (old fashioned) type of problem. In miniatures with a lonely black King, one has little opportunity to correct duals in minor variations. Here they are completely absent in the solution. I hope it will escape anticipation.

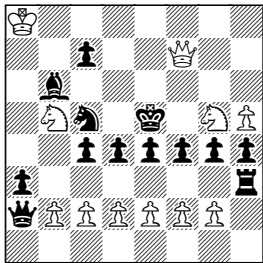
1st Commended – (L. Makaronez, M. Marandjuk & N. Nahybida - M0088) Self-blocks, nice sacrifices of the Queen and switchback mating moves. The heavy construction and a not-so-wonderful key seem necessary. The white Rooks are needed to have a mate after the flight c3 and this flight is necessary to fight cooks like 1.Nd6+? 2.Nxf5+ 3.Nd6+ Kc3! Solution 1.Kh6 (2.Bxf5+) Nc4 2.Nc3+ 3.Qd5+, 1...Ng3 2.Nf2+ 3.Qg4+

2nd Commended
Mike Prcic
StrateGems 1999



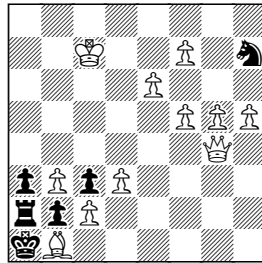
#6√ (6+9)

3rd Commended
Tadashi Wakashima
StrateGems 1999



#8 (11+13)

4th Commended
Leonid Makaronez
StrateGems 1999



#5 (11+6)

2nd Commended – (Mike Prcic - M0092) The material for this pendulum maneuver is unusual (duel Q+B against Q+B.) On the minus side, there is a rather commonplace finale. 1.Qd8 Qc1! **1.Be7!** Qg6 2.Qd8 Bb6 3.Bb4 Qg1 4.Bc3+

3rd Commended – (Tadashi Wakashima - M0095) A well known task, but the construction is perfect. **1.b4!** cxb3 e.p. 2.c4 dxc3 e.p. 3.d4+ exd3 e.p. 4.e4 fxe3 e.p. 5.f4+ gxf3 e.p. 6.g4 hxg3 e.p. 7.Nxf3+ Kxe4 8.Nxc3.

4th Commended – (Leonid Makaronez - M0127) Of course, this idea is not new, but I find it funny how, after the Queen promotion, the Knight can run for his life to safety on g1. 1.f8Q? Nxc5 2.Qc5 Nh3! 3.Qc5 Ng1!, hence **1.f8B!**

All claims by 4/1/2001 to Milan R. Vukcevic.

Did you know?
by Mike Prcic

The Hungarian composer Otto T. Bláthy was a specialist in orthodox moremovers. To most of us, a moremover means mate in four, five, six and certainly no more than 10 moves. How about 50 moves? If this doesn't surprise you, will 292 moves do? Yes, Mr. Bláthy specialized in **longmovers**.

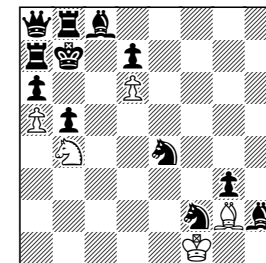
In 1890, he published a collection of 50 problems: *Vielzügige Schachaufgaben* (Longmover Chess Problems). The shortest mate has 6 moves, and the longest one 292. In eight of his problems, the position was illegal and he stated so.

How did he do it? It is quite simple, actually. One can find a position in which several identical white moves provoke Black to make one move, and then you repeat the same procedure until the last black move creates the desired weakness resulting in mate. Some of the shorter longmovers rely on White gaining a tempo. In the diagram (A), if Black is to move, he would have to play Bg1. (Any moves by Nf2 result in instant mate: Bxe4#.) White would capture the Bishop and mate 3 moves later. But, White is on the move and lacks the tempo. So, the King goes in search of an elusive tempo move: 1.Ke2 Bg1 2.Ke3 Bh2 3.Kd4 Bg1 4.Ke5 Bh2 (4...Nd3+ 5.Nxd3 Kc6 6.Bxe4#) 5.Kf5 Bg1 6.Kg6 Bh2 7.Kf7 Bg1 8.Kg7 Bh2 9.Kg6 Bg1 10.Kf5 Bh2 11.Ke5 Bg1 12.Kd4 Bh2 (12...Ng4+ 13.Kxe4 Ne3 14.Bf3 and 16.#) 13.Ke3 Bg1 14.Ke2 Bh2 15.Kf1 Bg1, here we go... 16.Kxg1 Nh3+ 17.Kf1 Ng5 (17...Nf2 18.Ke2) 18.Ke2 Nf3 19.Bxf3 ~ 20.Bxe4#. Somewhere, while roaming the board, the white King found a tempo to defeat the black Bishop.

Not impressed yet? Here is a #102 (B), where White uses a simple mechanism of holding the black King captive, while slowly picking off Black's remaining Pawns. The key to increasing the number of moves is the five-move maneuver by white King (Kg8,Kh8,Kh7,Kg8,Kf7). This gains White a tempo, which prohibits the black Rook from moving to e8 (Re8 dxe8Q etc.), forcing a black Pawn's move. For each black Pawn's move, White must move his King five times. This fact alone accounts for 85 moves. There are 17 black Pawn moves, thus 17x5=85. Here is the solution: 1.Rh1 Ka7 2.Ra1+ Kb8 3.Kg8 Re8 4.Kh8 Rd8 5.Kh7 Re8 6.Kg8 Rd8 7.Kf7 f3, and now the moves 3-7 are repeated until 12...f2; 17...h5; 22...h4; 27...h3; 32...h2; 37...d4; 42...d3; 47...f4; 52...f3; 57...d1 58.Rxd1 Ka7 59.Ra1; 64...d2; 69...d1 70.Rxd1 Ka7 71.Ra1+; 76...f1 77.Rxf1; 78.Ra1; 83...f2; 88...f1 89.Rxf1; 90.Ra1; 95...h1 96.Rxh1; 97.Ra1; 98.Ra2 Rxd7 99.exd7 Rd8 100.e6 Rc8 101.bxc8Q+ Kxc8 102.Ra8#

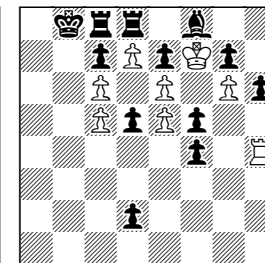
Now that you know the secret behind Bláthy's longmovers, I will leave you with one of his longmovers to solve (C). It should not be difficult once you find the mechanism. Solution in SG13.

(A) Otto T. Bláthy



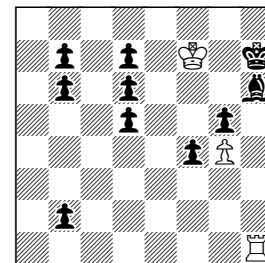
#20 (4+13)

(B) Otto T. Bláthy



#102 (8+12)

(C) Otto T. Bláthy



#105 (3+10)