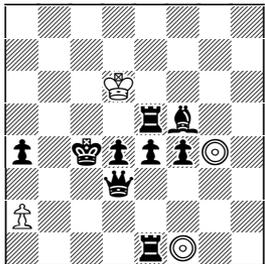


2nd Honorable Mention
Henryk Grudzinski

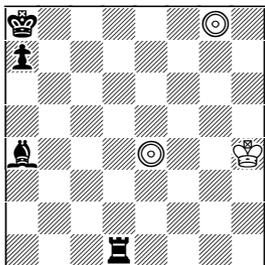


H#2 b) f1O →a6

1.Rb6 Oe3 2.Rb3 Od7
1.Bb5 Of5 2.Bd7 Ob3

The wO battery is formed to mask the rear piece, which does the actual firing. This problem and the next are prototypes which took (too!) many years to be revealed. Although seemingly simple now, the geometry is not at all obvious.

2nd Commendation
Daniel Meinking



H#2 2 solutions

1.Nc7 Of2 2.Oh3 (Od3?) Of4 3.Nd5 (Ne6+?) 2Oxh3
1.Nb4 Og7 2.Oh5 (Oe6?) Of4 3.Nd5 (Nd3+?) 7Oxh5

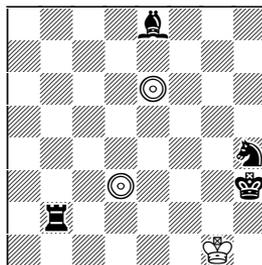
After two long knight-chains are armed, the Os slither off, only to be re-chained again so that the tailing wO can snap his fangs. Note the dual avoidance and the critical placement of the WK. The play suggests the movement of a two-headed snake. I am aware that this idea has been tried several times, but I believe this is the first synchronous setting.

My thanks to all the composers who made this tourney a success, and for finding new creative grounds. Special appreciation to Torsten Linß, whose software *Popeye* made computer Orphan-testing possible. Thanks also to John W. Meyers, who directed. Three months after publication will be given for claims of anticipation before this award is final.

a) 1.a3 Od1 2.Bh3 Oxb3
b) 1.Rb5 Oh5 2.Bc8 Oc5

The bB feeds one wO, then uses the other wO to pin a fellow officer, which, in turn, supplies feed for the mating Orphan. The mates are not just pinmates, but are essential to provide guards of b5 in a) and of c3 in b). Though the construction requires cook-stoppers, computer testing thwarted any extensive thinning.

1st Commendation
Torsten Linß

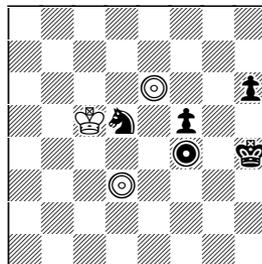


H#2 2 solutions

1.Re1 Oe8+ 2.Rg1 Oc6
1.Bb3 Od5+ 2.Bc2 Od8

The fortuitous placement of the front-end of the wO battery allows Black to switch powers to the rear.

3rd Commendation
Daniel Meinking



H#3 2 solutions



Special Supplement

Tourney Awards

Stategems' First Theme Tourney

David L. Brown 50th Birthday Tourney

Edgar Holladay Birthday Tourney, 1995-98

Vol. 1

October/December 1998

No:4

U.S. CHESS PROBLEM MAGAZINE

AWARD FOR **StrateGem's** FIRST THEME TOURNEY

Many thanks to Philippe Schnoebelen for judging **StrateGem's** first Theme Tourney and for submitting his award so promptly. Thanks also to Peter van den Heuvel for his careful testing of entries which could not be computer-tested, and to Pascal Wassong, whose "Natch" program was able to verify all but two of the honored problems. Finally, thanks to each of the 14 composers who entered their work, all of whom receive a copy of this issue, and a personal thanks to Michel Caillaud for his kind dedication. -Gianni Donati



It has been a pleasure to look at the original problems submitted to **StrateGem's** first Theme Tourney and to pick those I think are the best. Gianni Donati, who organized the Tourney, picked the following theme: "In an orthodox shortest proof game, one or more pieces are not what they appear to be." Gianni received a number of entries and, after he removed a few cooked submissions, sent me the 22 remaining problems. I received anonymous diagrams without visible solutions and, for one full week, I spent several hours a day just solving the problems. For me, these were among the most pleasant hours of this summer vacation!

It turned out that the authors interpreted "a piece is not what it appears to be" in several different ways. The two commonest interpretations were the "Phoenix piece" (a piece on home square really is a promotee replacing the captured original) and the "Sibling piece" (a piece on home square really is the corresponding symmetric unit, e.g., a wKN on b1). I am not sure whether there is an official name for what I call Sibling, but we cannot use PlatzWechsel since the PlatzWechsel theme is when two units are in fact corresponding Siblings. Other possible interpretations were PlatzWechsel between a promotee and an original unit, or rotation between more than 2 units, etc.

The submitted problems were really of high caliber. The authors were very inspired by the theme, and it was difficult to rank the problems because so many of them were so pleasurable. The award below reflects my own subjective choices. I am more a solver than a composer, and this probably shows in my ranking. Problems with obvious solutions (even if they are tasks) or with no appeal to solvers (e.g. with too many captures) have been discarded. I was very pleased when noticing false directions and subtle motivations for precise move ordering. You really enjoy a good SPG when you unravel the solution small step by small step, every time with a surprising turn.

I cooked 2 more entries and, later, Peter van den Heuvel cooked 2 more problems I would have rated highly. Out of the remaining problems I picked my favorites and ranked them. Only then did I open the envelope where the authors' names had been hidden all the while. This caused quite a shock: most prize winners were by the same author. In retrospect, I believe knowing the authors while ranking the problems would probably have resulted in a fairer sharing of the prizes, influenced by a subconscious aim of pleasing everyone. In the end I am happy that I did not open the envelope earlier. Really, the best problems do not look alike (except that they are excellent!) and all of them deserve praise and recognition.

First Prize, Michel Caillaud. I had no doubt about this one: a clear 1st Prize. It features two distinct solutions, each with a White Phoenix and a Black Frolkin promotion as a bonus. With Q+R+B+N, these promotions are a beautiful AUW. Between the two solutions, only the thematic moves differ. This is a nice way of solving the difficult balancing problem between symmetry and variety one faces with 2-solutions proof games.

Second Prize, Michel Caillaud. An impressive rotation among three Bishops, one original and two promoted. Rotating Bishops is more difficult than rotating Rooks because they cannot change place in just one move. Here, although almost all Black moves are thematic, I found them hard to uncover.

Third Prize, Michel Caillaud. Three Black Phoenix pieces in light twins, a master find!! This is what you show to beginners to hook them on SPGs. I enjoyed the very pleasing discriminant between the twins and the appealing position of the Black men. The "symmetry versus variety" compromise is excellently handled: the White moves are always the same (albeit with reordering) and the Black moves are all thematic.

1st Honorable Mention, Michel Caillaud. Thierry Le Gleuher. White's Ra1 and Nb1 and Black's Rh8 and Ng8 are in fact Sibling units, providing a rich thematic content! The idea was quite visible but solving the problem was still difficult. I especially appreciated how precise move ordering was motivated.

2nd Honorable Mention, Michel Caillaud. Two White Phoenixes in a minimalist setting. All White moves are thematic. Although the theme is quite visible here, it is not immediately clear what are the Phoenix units! There is a nice try with 7.d5? that only fails late in the game.

3rd Honorable Mention, Michel Caillaud. PlatzWechsel between wNb1 and (promoted) wNg8. All White moves are thematic. The tempo 4. f3! is a welcome bonus. The motivation for the PlatzWechsel (screening the black Queen) is quite hidden so that one can spend a long time pondering what are the White moves...

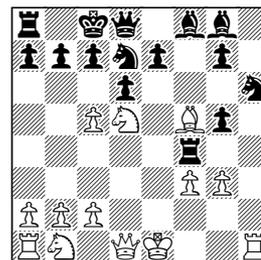
Commendation, Goran Forslund. One Phoenix white Bishop plus a black Rf8 that really is a Sibling unit. I especially enjoyed the beautiful trip of the promoted wBc1.

Commendation, Thierry Le Gleuher. The black Queen is a Phoenix!! This problem is for the solver's enjoyment. It is the most literal interpretation of the theme and has some flavor of the old classic "First Move of the Black Queen?" retros. It suffered from being too easy to solve.

Commendation, Michel Caillaud. Two white Phoenixes in two twins. This kind of problem is very hard to compose. This entry suffered from the presence of the outstanding 1st Prize.

After all this I notice there remain a few problems I would have enjoyed sharing with you. Well, I had to stop at some point and, hopefully, these remaining entries will be published somewhere. I also notice there is no Donati masterpiece in the lot. This is the one bad side of having an SPG theme tourney organized by Gianni himself. - Philippe Schnoebelen

1st Prize, Michel Caillaud
Dedicated to Gianni Donati

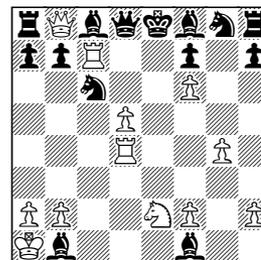


1.g3 f5 2.Bh3 f4 3.Bf5 f3 4.Nh3 fxe2 5.Nf4 exd1=N
6.Nd5 Nc3 7.dxc3 h6 8.Bg5 hxg5 9.c4 Rh4 10.c5 Rf4
11.h4 d6 12.h5 Be6 13.h6 Kd7 14.h7 Kc8 15.h8=Q
Nd7 16.Qh5 Nh6 17.Qd1 Bg8 18.f3

1.g3 f5 2.Bh3 f4 3.Bf5 f3 4.Nh3 fxe2 5.Rf1 exf1=B
6.f3 Bc4 7.d3 h6 8.Bg5 hxg5 9.Nf4 Rh4 10.Nd5 Rf4
11.h4 d6 12.h5 Be6 13.h6 Kd7 14.h7 Kc8 15.h8=R Nd7
16.Rh1 Nh6 17.dxc4 Bg8 18.c5 {NATCH+}

Proof Game in 17.5 moves
2 solutions

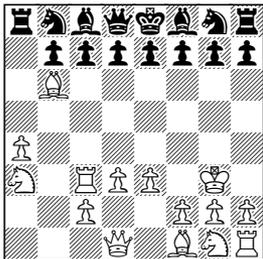
2nd Prize, Michel Caillaud



1.e4 d5 2.e5 Bh3 3.Qg4 d4 4.Qc8 d3 5.g4 dxc2 6.d4
cxb1=B 7.Bg5 Bf5 8.Bf6 gxf6 9.exf6 e5 10.O-O-O e4
11.Kb1 e3+ 12.Ka1 e2 13.d5 exf1=B 14.Rd4 B1d3
15.Ne2 Bb1 16.Rc1 Bf1 17.Rxc7 Nc6 18.Qb8 Bc8
{NATCH+}

Proof Game in 18.0 moves

3rd Prize, Michel Caillaud

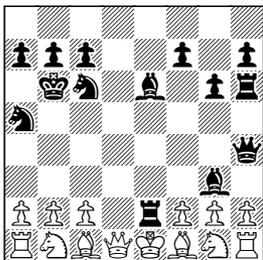


- a) 1.d3 a5 2.Be3 a4 3.Bb6 a3 4.e3 axb2 5.a4 Ra5!
6.Ra3 Rf5! 7.Rc3 Rf3! 8.Na3 b1=R 9.Ke2 Rb5 10.Kxf3
Ra5 11.Kg3 Ra8 {NATCH+}
- b) 5.a4 d6 6.Ra3 Bg4! 7.Rc3 Be2! 8.Na3 b1=B
9.Kxe2 Ba2 10.Kf3 Be6 11.Kg3 Bc8 {NATCH+}
- c) 5.a4 d5 6.Ra3 Qd6! 7.Rc3 Qa3! 8.Nxa3 b1=Q
9.Ke2 Qb5! (Qb4?) 10.Kf3 Qd7 11.Kg3 Qd8 {NATCH+}

Proof Game in 11.0 moves
(b) Pd7→d6; (c) Pd7→d5

- 1.e4 f5 2.e5 Nf6 3.exf6 Kf7 4.fxg7 Kg6 5.gxh8=B
Bg7 6.c4 Qg8 7.c5 Qc4 8.Ne2 Qxc1 9.Nec3 Qxb1
10.Be2 Qxa2 11.O-O Qf7 12.Ra5 d5 13.Qa4 Be6
14.Ra1 Nd7 15.Nb1 Bc3 16.Bf6 Rh8 17.Bg5 Nf6
18.Kh1 Ng8 {NATCH+}

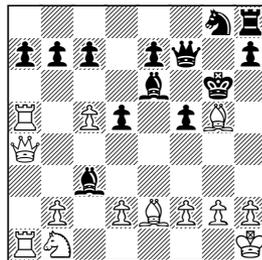
2nd Honorable Mention
Michel Caillaud



Proof Game in 18.0 moves

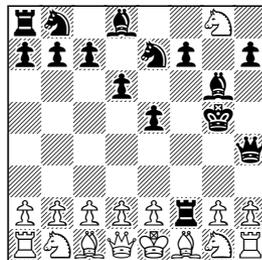
- 1.e4 Nc6 2.Qg4 Na5 3.Qxd7+ Kxd7 4.d4 Kc6 5.Bg5
Kb6 6.Bxe7 Nxe7 7.e5 Nec6 8.e6 Bd6 9.e7 Bg3
10.e8=Q Qh4 11.Qe2 Re8 12.d5 Re6 13.d6 Rh6 14.d7
g6 15.d8=B Be6 16.Bg5 Rd8 17.Bc1 Rd2 18.Qd1 Re2+
{NATCH+}

1st Honorable Mention
M.Caillaud & T.Le Gleuher



Proof Game in 18.0 moves

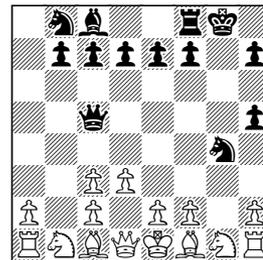
3rd Honorable Mention
Michel Caillaud



Proof Game in 15.5 moves

- 1.Nc3 e5 2.Ne4 Qh4 3.Ng3 Ke7 4.f3 Kf6 5.f4 Be7 6.f5
Kg5 7.f6 Bd8 8.fxg7 Ne7 9.g8=N d6 10.Nf6 Rg8
11.Nd5 Rg6 12.Nc3 Rf6 13.Nb1 Rf2 14.Nh5 Bf5 15.Nf6
Bg6 16.Ng8 {NATCH+}

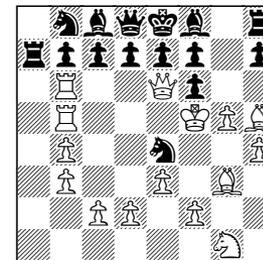
Commendation
Goran Forslund



Shortest Proof Game ?

- 1.d3 Nf6 2.Bh6 gxf6 3.g4 Bg7 4.g5 Ng4 5.g6 Bc3+
6.bxc3 O-O 7.g7 h5 8.gxf8=B Kh8 9.Bh6 Qg8 10.Be3
Qg5 11.Bxa7 Qc5 12.Bb6 Ra6 13.Ba5 Rg6 14.Bb4 Rg8
15.Ba3 Rf8 16.Bc1 Kg8

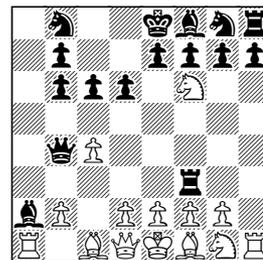
Commendation
Thierry Le Gleuher



Proof Game in 25.0 moves

- 1.Nc3 Nf6 2.Nd5 Ne4 3.Nf6+ gxf6 4.h4 Bh6 5.Rh3 Kf8
6.Rb3 Kg8 7.Rb6 Qf8 8.b4 Qg7 9.Bb2 Qg3 10.Be5
Qb3 11.axb3 a6 12.Ra5 Ra7 13.Rab5 a5 14.e3 a4
15.Be2 a3 16.Bh5 a2 17.g4 a1=Q 18.Bg3 Qe5 19.Ke2
Qg5 20.Kf3 Qg7 21.g5 Qf8 22.Kf4 Qd8 23.Qg4 Kf8
24.Qe6 Ke8 25.Kf5 Bf8

Commendation
Michel Caillaud



Proof Game in 12.5 moves
2 solutions

- 1.a4 c6 2.Ra3 Qc7 3.Rb3 Qxh2 4.Rb6 axb6 5.Nc3 Ra5
6.Ne4 Rf5 7.a5 Qd6 8.a6 Qb4 9.a7 d6 10.a8=R Be6
11.Ra1 Ba2 12.c4 Rf3 13.Nf6+
- 1.c4 c6 2.Qb3 Qc7 3.Qb6 axb6 4.Nc3 Ra3 5.Nd5 Rf3
6.a4 Qxh2 7.a5 Qd6 8.a6 Qb4 9.a7 d6 10.a8=Q Bf5
11.Qa4 Bb1 12.Qd1 Ba2 13.Nf6+ {NATCH+}

Please send any claims of unsoundness or anticipation to G. Donati before December 31, 1998.

E. Holladay Birthday Tourney Awards, 1995-98

By Edgar Holladay

Theme: Direct stalemates in three or more moves

Direct stalemates have been a relatively neglected area of composition, perhaps because they are not considered orthodox by the FIDE. But arguably they are closer in spirit to direct mates than are selfmates or helpmates.

The very high quality of a number of entries of various lengths was gratifying and furnished ample justification for dividing the award into two sections: Section A for threemovers and Section B for moremovers.

Section A.

First Prize. Miodrag Mladenovic. An extremely rich promotion-based reciprocal change problem. Black's thematic promotions are 1...bxa1=N/bxa1=Q, and White's are 2.cxb8=N/cxb8=B. Following play has appropriate changes for 2...Nb3+/Nc2/Qa2/Qxb1. Worth passing notice are two pins of the bB, one in the solution when 1...Bxc7 2.Re8+ Bd8 3.Bxb2=, and the second in an extra try, 1.Bxb2? (1...h5!), when 1...h6 2.Rxh6 Bxc7 3.Rc6=.

Second Prize. Miodrag Mladenovic. The composer has somehow managed to double the reciprocal change theme in mutate form with an additional variation introduced by the flight-giving key. The pins of the moving bN in the set play are not matched in the solution, but another bN pin surfaces in an additional try: 1.Qh5? (1...Nh4!), when 1...Nf4 2.Qf3+ Nd5 3.Qg2=.

Third Prize. Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic. The reciprocal change doubling is related to that in the Second Prize winner. There is no complete block feature, but the reciprocal change flavor is enhanced by the types of strategy in the pairs of variations, bN pins occurring after 1...Nf6/Ne7 in the set play and after 1...Nc3/Nb4 in the solution. There is an incidental try: 1.Kf2? (1...Nf4!), when Ne3 2.Kxe3 d5 3.Kd4=.

First Honorable Mention. Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic. Reciprocal correction theme, the three-move form allowing additional appearances of white moves Bc5 and g7.

Second Honorable Mention. Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic. The best correction moves have bQ pinning itself on the g3...c3 and c6...c3 lines.

Commendation. (given in alphabetical order) Dieter Müller. Reciprocal changes in the order of white second and third moves smoothly shown with tempo strategy throughout.

Commendation. Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic. Correction moves with a thematic key. An unforced threat (2.Rd5+) does not do material damage; it can be given approximately the status of set play.

Section B

First Prize. Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic. After 1...Bg4 there are formed two white batteries in which the f5R and the e4B take turns as the firing and the rear men; after 1...Rf1/Rh3 the same white men form two similar batteries but in reverse order! This ambitious theme is set on fire by a pair of explosive wQ sacrifices. In chess problems, generally it is the result that counts, but sometimes, as here, one cannot help but admire the composing technique which must have been necessary to achieve soundness.

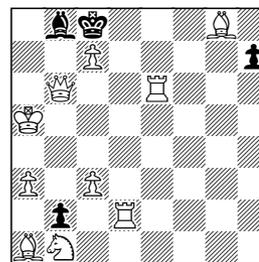
Second Prize. Mark Kirtley. The Allumwandlung in the solution is well shown, but helping to push the problem into prize territory is the excellent 1.e8=Q?, Qd2! try, in which the bQ makes three withdrawal unpins of the wQ.

Honorable Mention. Daniel Meinking. The bB and bR take turns getting pinned and captured, and there is repeated re-blocking of the unblocked a4P.

Commendation. Eugene Rosner. Pleasingly varied white battery openings (including openings of wQ guards on d2 and d1) with a graceful key and two tries.

Section A

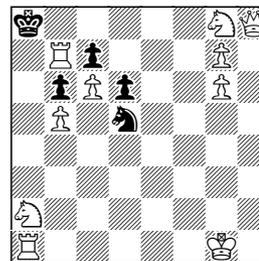
1st Prize
Miodrag Mladenovic



=3

Set: 1...Nf4 2.Nh4+ Ng6/Ne6 3.Ng2=
1...Nh4 2.Nf4+
1...Ne3 2.Ne1+ Nc2/Nc4 3.Ng2=
1...Ne1 2.Ne3+
Key: **1.a7!** Nf4 2.Nxf4+ Kb7 3.Ng2=
1...Nh4 2.Nxh4+
1...Ne3 2.Nxe3+ Kb7 3.Ng2=
1...Ne1 2.Nxe1+
1...Kb7 2.Bxg2+ Ka6 3.Rf1=

3rd Prize
Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic

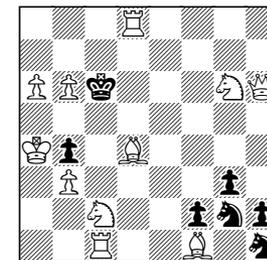


=3

1.Qh7! (ZZ)
1...R~ 2.g7+ Rf5 3.Bc5=
1...Rxe5 2.Bc5 Rxe6+ 3.Kxe6=
1...B~ 2.Bc5+ Bc4 3.g7=
1...Bxd5 2.g7 Bxc6 3.Kxc6=

Try: 1.Rh6? bxa1=N 2.cxb8=N Nb3+ 3.Bxb3=;
2...Nc2 3.Rxc2=
1...bxa1=Q 2.cxb8=B Qa2 3.Bxa2=
2...Qxb1 3.Qxb1=; 1...Bxc7!
Key: **1.Bxh7!** bxa1=N 2.cxb8=B Nb3+ Qxb3=
2...Nc2 3.Bxc2=
1...bxa1=Q 2.cxb8=N Qa2 3.Rxa2=
2...Qxb1 3.Bxb1=
1...Ba7 2.Bxb2 Bxb6+ 3.Kxb6=
1...Bxc7 2.Re8+ Bd8 3.Bxb2=

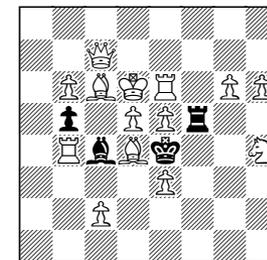
2nd Prize
Miodrag Mladenovic



=3

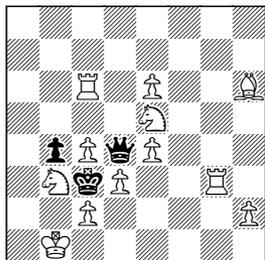
Try: 1.Rf1? (ZZ), Nf6 2.Ne7+ Ng8/Ne8 3.Nd5=
1...Ne7 2.Nf6+ Ne8 3.Nd5=
1...Nc3 2.Nxc3 d5 3.Nxd5=
1...Nb4 2.Nxb4
1...Nf4 2.Rxf4 d5 3.Rd4=; 1...Ne3!
Key: **1.Qh6!** (ZZ), Nf6 2.Nxf6 d5 3.Nxd5=
1...Ne7 2.Nxe7
1...Nc3 2.Nb4+ Na2/Na4 3.Nd5=
1...Nb4 2.Nc3+ Na6 3.Nd5=
1...Nf4/Ne3 2.QxN d5 3.Qd4=

1st Honorable Mention
Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic



=3

2nd Honorable Mention
Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic

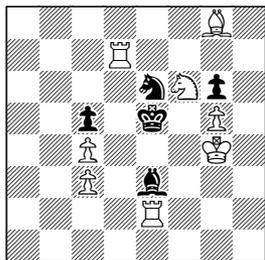


=3

1.Bg7! (ZZ)
1...Q~ 2.Nf3+
1...Qxd3 2.Bh6
1...Qxc4 2.Bf8
1...Qd8 2.Nd7+
1...Qxe5 2.d4+

1.Qh1! Nb6 2.Qd1+ Nd5 3.Qd3=
1...Nc7 2.Qh3+ Ne6 3.Qf5=
b) **1.Qh7!** Nb6 2.Qd3+ Nd5 3.Qd1=
1...Nc7 2.Qf5+ Ne6 3.Qh3=

Commendation
Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic

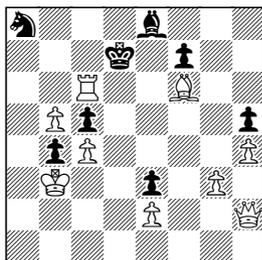


=3

Section B

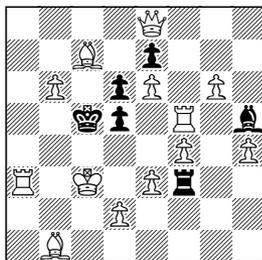
1.Be4! Bg4 2.Qb5+ Kxb5 3.Rxd5+ Kc6
4.Rg5+ d5 5.Bxd5+ Kb5 6.Bxf3+ Bf5 7.d4=;
1...Rf1/Rh3 2.Qc6+ Kxc6 3.Bxd5+ Kb5/Kc5
4.Bg2+ d5 5.Rxd5+ Kc6 6.Rxh5+ Rf3 7. Ra7=;
1...Rf2/Rg3 similar to preceding line, but
4.Bh1+; 1...Bxg6 2.Qxg6 Rf1 3.d4+ Kc6
4.Bxd5+ Kb5 5.Bg2+ d5 6.Bxf1+; 1...Rxf4
2.exf4 Bg4 3.Rg5 Bxe6 4.Bxd5 Bg4/Bh3
5.Be6+ d5 6.BxB; 1...Rxe3+ 2.dxe3

Commendation
Dieter Müller



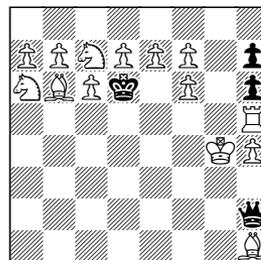
=3 b) Qh2→h8

1st Prize
Dr. Milan R. Vukcevic



=7

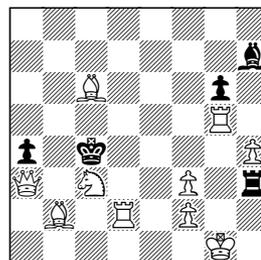
2nd Prize
Mark Kirtley



=5

Try: 1.e8=Q? Qd2! 2.Qe4/Qe3 Qd1+ 3.Qf3
Qc2 4.Qa3+ Qc5 5.Nxc5=; 3...Qa1 4.Qd3+
Qd4+ 5.Bxd4=; 3...Qa4+ 4.Qf4+ Qxf4
5.Kxf4=; but 3...Qd5!
Key: **1.Bf2!** (2.Bg3+) 1...Qxf2 2.Nb5+ Ke6
3.e8=Q+ Kxf6 4.f8=R+ Kg7 5.Rxf2=;
1...Qxh1 2.e8=N+ Kxc6 3.Nb8+ Kxb7
4.a8=B+ Kxb8 5.Bxh1=

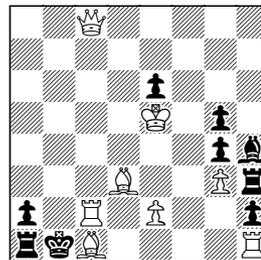
Honorable Mention
Daniel Meinking



=5

Tries: 1.Nb5? (zz) Bg8! 2.Qa2+ Kb4 3.Rd4+
Ka5! (3...Be4? 4.Na3!); 1.Nxa4? (zz) Rxh4!
2.Qc5+ Kb3 3.Bd5+ Kxa4! (3...Rc4? 4.Nc3!)
1.Nb1! (ZZ) Bg8 2.Qa2+ Kb4 3.Rd4+ Bc4
4.Na3 Rxh4 5.Rxh4=; 1...Rxh4 2.Qc5+ Kb3
3.Bd5+ Rc4 4.Ba3 Bg8 5.Bxg8=

Commendation
Eugene Rosner



=4

Tries: 1.Be4? Rxg3!; 1.Bh7? Bxg3+!
Key: **1.Bg6!** (ZZ) 1...Rxg3 2.Rc4+ Rd3
3.Ba3+ Be1 4.Rxg4=; 1...Bxg3+ 2.Bf4+ Be1
3.Rd2+ Rd3 4.Bg3=

David L. Brown 50th Birthday Tourney – Award

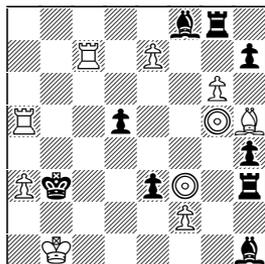
By David L. Brown

Using only Orphans in two sections, this tourney drew five directmates and seventeen helpmates. Of all, only one H# was unsound. In a couple of cases I have taken the liberty of slightly altering the honored positions (maintaining accuracy with computer testing), either to improve the economy, construction or presentation. However, in no case was the overall content or its placement changed. In these instances, it seemed inevitable that these changes would be made, so why not now.

DIRECTMATES

Only two entries showed high merit and successfully validated the section.

Prize, H.P. Rehm,
bernd ellinghoven
& Hans Gruber

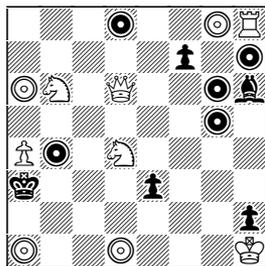


#3

To understand why the volatile potential of the f3O (opening the line for the menacing h5B) needs assistance from the threat, the following strong tries should be examined: 1.Oxd5+? Rf3! and 1.Oxe3+? Bf3! Further, 1.Og2? e2! and 1.Og3? Bf3/Be4+! Lastly, 1.e8Q? Bc5! goes nowhere. The h7P stops the dual after 1.Ra6! Rxb6 2.Bxb6? hxg6!

This rich and powerful problem has all the ingredients of an excellent composition. Easily, it's one of the best and cleanest Orphan illustrations I've seen.

Honorable Mention
Juraj Lorinc



#2

In the end, if we ignore the beauty-and-the-beast nature of the key, the problem as a whole shows a solid, original and charming idea.

1.Ra6! threat 2.Rb6+ K-any 3.Ra7.
1...Bxe7 2.fOxd5+ Bxd5 3.Bd1; 2...Rf3! 3.Oxe3.
1...Rxb6 2.fOxe3+ 2.Rh2/Rxe3 3.Bd1; 2...Bf3! 3.Oxd5.

Only two WO are used, but they deploy with excellent harmony and execution. And, both of Black's B/R pairs become wonderfully connected via thematic pinmates. First, the pleasingly subtle key and its unpretentious threat entice the f8B and g8R into the fray, aiming to interfere on the b-file. Now, the g5O becomes active, letting its sidekick (the f3O) take advantage of the h3R and h1B. The result is that Black creates a neat self-pinning Grimshaw on f3!

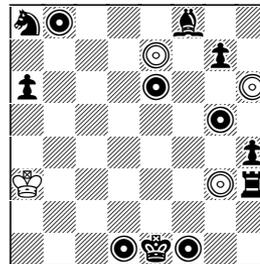
1.Qxh2! threat 2.Qa2.
1...Bg7 2.Nb5 (2.Nc4?).
1...Bf8 2.Nc4 (2.Nb5?).
1...e2 2.Qh3.

When can a key be both thematically grand and ghastly? This problem could be a defining example. On the bright side, the wQ opens the intersection of two potential Orphan chains (which she herself creates). The h6B then opens h8-h1 to pin the Queen, but also opens (bivalve) chains going in the other direction: h2-h7-g8-d8-d1 and h2-h7-g8-g6-a6. The Bishop's arrival on g7 or f8 closes one of these. Both these lines form indirect white batteries which, after the wN moves off, guard either b3 or a4. All rather pretty, but notice initially that the wQ stands *en prise* from three bOs, the worst being the flight-giving 1...b4Oxd6. And, her only safe refuge is on h2.

HELPMATES

In 1973, Edgar Holladay and I experimented with a pair of wOs in battery formations giving double-checkmates, fired by the bQ. In the present tourney, several such batteries are fired by bB and bR in an original air. More recently, Dan Meinking and I developed *rear-pinning* of the Bishop and Rook pair (*Problemist* 1995, No.84 in my book). However, several similar entries here become mostly anticipated since they add nothing new. I am especially happy to see some new mate-preventing devices, which in essence, thematically extend problems by half a move.

1st Prize
Juraj Lorinc



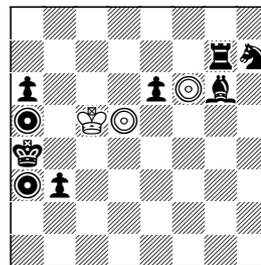
H#2 b) bK→a7

Also pretty is that squares c5 and e3 reciprocally home Black's chain-check and White's mate. This masterpiece shows a remarkable echo of strategic motivation and is an incredible creation. You never know when an amazing piece of invention will permanently rivet your fascination!

1.bxc1N e8N 2.Oe4 Nc7
1.bxc1R e8R 2.Rh1 Rxe5
1.bxc1Q e8Q 2.Oxa3 Qb5 (3.Ke6?)
1.bxc1B e8B 2.Oc3 Bc6 (3.Ke6?)

A grand exploitation of the Orphanage: the Babson task, but without promotion to Orphan. (Is the full W/B x 5 promotion task possible?) In all four solutions, O-chains assist in a variety of guarding, unguarding and selfblocks, as well as contributing to many clever dual avoidances and cook stoppers. The O-cluster on the g/h-files is used in three solutions, most notably assisting in rear-pin mates (2...Qb5 and 2...Bc6) when the BK cannot escape to e6. Despite its appearance, the heavy construction does not appear to have any flaws.

1st Honorable Mention
Juraj Lorinc



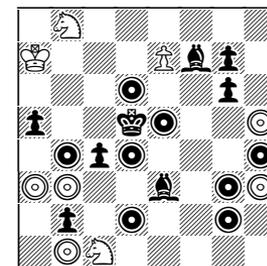
H#2 2 solutions

a) 1.Oc5+ Oxb4 2.Be7 Oe3 (3.Rxb4?)
b) 1.Oe3+ gOxb4 2.Rg3 Oc5 (3.Bxb4?)

Two Orphans fire the familiar batteries, but include tremendous innovations for the preliminaries and for the mates. To begin forming each battery, Black plays a shocking interference unpin check, which White disengages by moving over a newly opened line. The batteries are armed, then fired.

However, on these mates there are now two stunning protecting non-moves. In a), it appears that the bR can simultaneously disengage his check into the e3O and capture the h4O, 3.Rxb4?. But NO! For now there exists a new illegal chain h4-h6-e6-e3! And in b), if the bB disengages c5 and captures the g7O, 3.Bxb4?, we get the illegal chain g7-h6-e3-c5!

2nd Prize
Marcel Tribowski



H#2 4 solutions

1.Be4 Og4 2.Rg6 Oc6
1.Rd7 Oe8 2.Bf7 Od4

One way for Black to support checkmate by a single wO is to pin the black piece. Here, the B/R pair reciprocally use another wO to achieve this pin. The special original touch here is that Black, while sticking the pin, must also shut-off the potential interfering retreat of the pinned man.