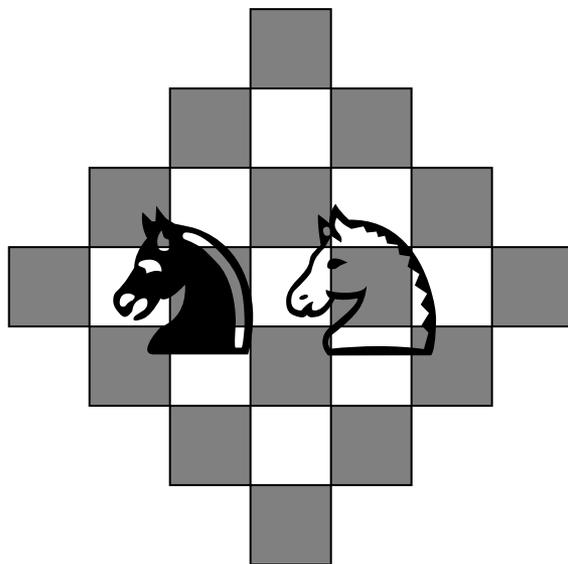


StrateGems



Ourstanding Awards

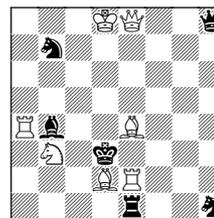
September 2022

It is a great honor to have been designated as judge of the fairy problems published in 2021 in Section A and B. As usual in *StrateGems*, the quality of many of the various originals has been equally high, hence a difficult task for anyone willing to compare the merits of two good problems, even more when they are featuring collaborative play on one side, and antagonistic play on the other. It seems that helpselfmate problems take advantage of their often spectacular content. I just hope that the readers will be pleased to see again, or maybe discover, the problems placed in the award, they have faced a serious competition to earn their place.

Section FA

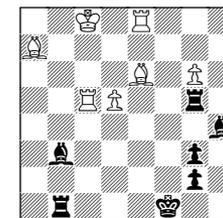
Among the forty-five entries, one was a revision of a problem published earlier, and that version is in the award. Another one is an ambitious hs#16½ in the Rex Solus mode, which proved unfortunately dualistic. Eighteen problems were awarded.

1st Prize, Armin Geister
& Daniel Papack
After R. Kohring



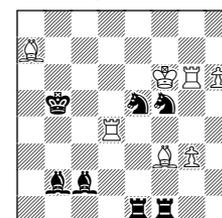
hs#3* Mars Circe (7+6)

2nd Prize
Vlaicu Crişan
Ded. to Tadashi Wakashima



hs#3½ 2 solutions (7+7)
Crazyhouse

3rd Prize
Vlaicu Crişan



hs#3½ b) Kb5→h2 (7+7)

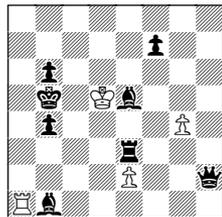
1st Prize - (Armin Geister & Daniel Papack - FA1988) Solution: 1...Bc5 2.Rc4 Ra1 3.Be1+ Rd1#; 1.Sa1 Bc3 2.Rd4 Rg1 3.Re1+ Rf1#. As is often the case with Mars Circe the solution needs some explanations. Two batteries are ready: Bd2/Qe8 and Re2/Be4. The bK can only escape to c4 or d4. If the bR plays to d1 or f1, to reply to a battery check, it has a great chance to set the wK mate. To do so, the captures Kxd1 or Kxf1 must be prevented by the presence of a battery front piece on e1. Thus the bR must first leave e1 and play very carefully as does the bB: in the set-play 1...Bc5 prevents 4.Rc8, and in the solution 1...Bc3 blocks c3 which has become a flight square after 1.Sa1. When the bB has moved, the Ra4 can block one of the two flight squares existing initially. In the solution 1.Sa1 avoids 4.Rxf1. Amazing mechanism. One of the best Mars Circe problem I have ever seen.

I understand that one half of the strategy is inspired by a problem by R.Kohring awarded with 1st Prize in the 8th FIDE World Cup, but density is a new feature here, with a white Zugzwang, without any fairy piece and even without pawns, so I think that this new splendid interpretation deserves a very high ranking.

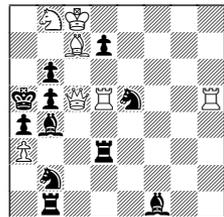
2nd Prize - (Vlaicu Crişan - FA2034) Solution: 1... Rg4 2.Rc2 Bxc2 3.Bxg4 @Rc1 4.@Rf5+ Bxf5#; 1... Bc2 2.Bg4 Rxc4 3.Rxc2 @Bh3 4.@Bc4+ Rxc4#. If the four indirect batteries (2 for White, 2 for Black) open, the flight squares of the bK vanish, and among those of the wK only c7 and d7 remain. What will be the play of the front pieces? In each solution one black and one white front piece play on a square where they can be captured by the other front piece of the opposite side. The black captured piece is immediately dropped behind the capturing black piece to form a new battery. The white captured piece is dropped only in the final move to give check and be captured by the front piece of the new battery, with double-check. Reciprocal captures between Rc5 and Bb3 on one side, between Be6 and Rg5 on the other. But the piece playing white last move is captured twice by the same black piece! Fascinating geometry, with a Zilahi flavor says the author.

3rd Prize - (Vlaicu Crișan - FA2033) Another contribution to the story of batteries transforming themselves. Solution: a) 1...Rd1! (the useful effect is to unguard e5 and the visual effect is to destroy the indirect battery Re1/Se5) 2.Ra4 Sd4 (destroys the battery Bb2/Se5) 3.Kxe5 (creates a new battery Bb2/Sd4) and a new indirect battery Rd1/Sd4, 3...Bf5 (controls e6) 4.Bc6+ Sxc6# (fires the newly created direct and indirect batteries); b) after the transportation of the bK, the same type of comment applies: 1...Bd1 2.Bh1 Sf3 3.Kxf5 Bc1 4.Rh4+ Sxh4#. Perfect D/O echo. First move on the same square. All black and white pieces play a thematic role in each solution (Ph6 is a sole technical piece).

4th Prize
Petko A. Petkov

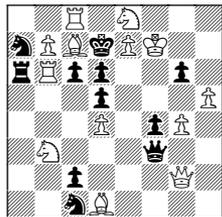


hs#2½ Anda (4+8)
b) Be5→f6, c) Pb4→f5



#2+√. MAFF (7+11)

6th Prize
Hubert Gockel



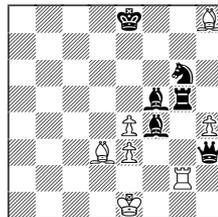
#2 Breton adverse (13+11)

4th Prize - (Petko A. Petkov - FA1986) Solution: a) 1...Qh1=nQ+ 2.nQc1 Ba2=nB+ 3.nBc4=wB+ nQ x c4=bQ#; b) 1...Re5=nR+ 2.nRe7 Qd6=nQ+ 3.nQd7=wQ+ nR x d7=bR#; c) 1...Bc4=nB+ 2.nBc2 Rd3=nR+ 3.nRb3=wR+ nB x b3=bB#. Everything is cyclical here, including Zilahi. The three thematic black pieces incur Anda transformations and end as a white piece on the last white move, and as a black piece on the last black move. They also exchange their functions which are: sacrifice, mate setting, guard of a flight square of the wK. Complete harmony.

5th Prize - (Eugene Rosner & Jean-Marc Loustau - FA1982) Solution: 1...Rxa3 2.Qxb4# ; 1...Bxa3 2.Qxb6# (2.Qb4+??); 1.Q~ (Qc1/Qc2)? (2.axb4[A]/Rxb5[B]/Bxb6[C]#) Bc5!; 1.Qc3!? (2.Rxb5[B]/Bxb6[C]#), 1...Rxc3 2.axb4[A]#, 1...Sec4!; **1.Qc4!** (2.Bxb6[C]#), 1...Sec4 2.axb4[A]#, 1...Sbxc4 2.Rxb5[B]#, 1...Bc5 2.Qxb5#. The authors' use of the MAFF condition is very logical in the threat reduction process, as the number of squares to which the wQ can access on the b-file increases again after the first try. After 1.Qc3? the defense 1...Bc5! against the primary try is impossible because of the pinning, but now the control of b4 by the wQ can be considered as a white error in the scope of the tertiary white correction scheme and therefore Black defends against only two mates by 1...Sec4!. After 1.Qc4!, the same white error exists, but the move Sc4 captures the wQ and suppresses the error! The thematic mate A reappears in the first try, and again in the solution (with mate transference) together with mate B. (So does the defense 1...Bc5.) There is also a second degree pair of specific variations in the set-play after the captures on a3. An important and surprising contribution to theory! (For comparison the reader should refer to the T1052 by JML in the issue SG94, an orthodox two-mover.

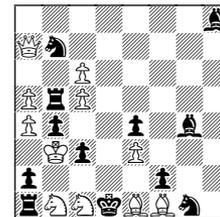
6th Prize - (Hubert Gockel - FA1984) Solution: 1.Qxc2[-Pd6]? (2.Sc5#), 1...Sxb3[-Se8] 2.e8Q[A]# (2.e8B+? Qxd1[-Be8]!), 1...Qxb3[-Se8] 2.e8B[B]# (2.e8Q+? Qxc2[-Qe8]!), 1...Qxg4[-Pb7] 2.Bxg4[C]# (2.Sc5+? Kxc8 [-Rb6]!), 1...gxh5 [-Pb7] 2.Qf5[D]#. Also: 1...Sd3 2.Sf6#!, 1...Ra5 2.Rd8# (2...Rxb6[-Rd8]?), 1...Qc3!; **1.Bxc2[-Pd6]!** (2.Sc5#), 1...Sxb3[-Se8] 2.e8B[B]# (2.e8Q+? Qxg2[-Qe8]!), 1...Qxb3[-Se8] 2.e8Q[A]# (2.e8B+? Qxc2[-Be8]!), 1...Qxg4[-Pb7] 2.Qxg4[E]#, 1...gxh5[-Pb7] 2.Bf5[F]#. Also: 1...Sd3 2.Sf6#!, 1...Ra5 2.Rd8# (2...Rxb6[-Rd8]?), 1... Qc3 2.Qxd5[-Pc6]#. Exchange of promotions are rarely seen in a two-mover. Two more mates are changed.

7th Prize
Pierre Tritten



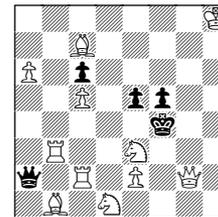
h#2 2 solutions (7+6)
Anti-Circe Couscous (Cheylan)

8th Prize
Manfred Rittirsch



h#2 2 solutions (11+12)
Breton adverse

1st Honorable Mention
Hubert Gockel



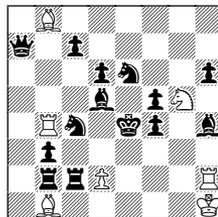
#2 Breton adverse (11+5)

7th Prize - (Pierre Tritten - FA2006) Solution: 1.Rxg2(Rh1) exf4(Bf8) 2.Kxf8(Kc1) exf5(Rc8)#; 1.Sxh8(Sc1) exf4(Rf8) 2.Kxf8(Ka1) hxg5(Bh8)#. With Anti-Circe Couscous a pawn capturing a piece is reborn on the Circe rebirth square of that piece and promotes in a piece chosen by the capturing side. Here the first black move aims at blocking the rebirth square reserved for the black Q if she would capture the mating piece. And this is exactly what she is able to do, since move W1 frees the way for her. In the meantime, the bK propels himself towards the first rank. All moves are captures. Phenix theme in each solution. WRg2 and wBh8 exchange functions (captured/guard). Just brilliant.

8th Prize - (Manfred Rittirsch - FA2031) Solution: 1.Rxc5(xe3) Qxc5(xa1) 2.fxe1=S(xf1) Qxg1(xe1)# (not Sxc5? Qxc5(-Sg1) 2.fxe1=?); 1.Sxa5(xa4)+ Qxa5(xg1) 2.axb1=R(xc1)+ Qxa1(xb1)# (not Rxa5? Qxa5(-Ra1) 2.axb1=?). Breton elimination of obstacles between the white Q and the square she has to reach to set mate, and between that square and the square occupied by the black K. Perfect analogy between the two solutions, with a D/O echo.

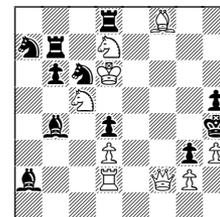
1st Honorable Mention - (Hubert Gockel - FA1983) Solution: **1.Sb2!** (2.Sd3#) (2...Kxe3[-Sd4]?? self-check), 1...Qxb2[-Se3] 2.e3#, 1...Qxa6[-Pe2] 2.Rf2#, 1...Qxb3[-Rc2] 2.Sxf5[-Pe5]#, 1... Qxa6[-Pc5] 2.Rxc6[-Pe5]#. The function of setting mate and the function of being eliminated are attributed cyclically to Ce3, Rc2 and pawn e2. Excellent specific threat and elegant construction of a « Breton Zilahi ».

2nd Honorable Mention
Jacques Rotenberg
& Pierre Tritten



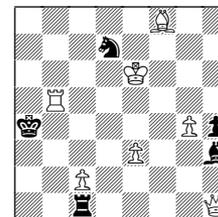
h#2 2 solutions (7+14)
Take & Make (bK in check)

3rd Honorable Mention
Christopher Jones



hs=3½ 2 solutions (9+11)

4th Honorable Mention
Vitaly Medintsev & Aleksey Oganesyan



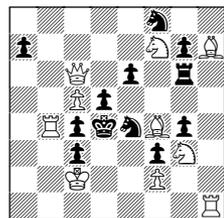
hs#4 2 solutions (7+5)

2nd Honorable Mention - (Jacques Rotenberg & Pierre Tritten - FA1951) Solution: 1.hxg5(f3) Bxa7(Ba6)? 2.Sxd2(Sd4) Pelle move Rxb4(Re1)#; try: 1...Bxa7(Fg1)? 2.Rxd2(Rd3) Rxb4(Re1) 3.Re2!; 1.Sxg5(Sf3) Bxa7(Ba1)! 2.Rxd2(Rd3) Pelle move 2.Rxb2(Re2)#; try: 1...Bxa7(Ba6)? 2.Cxd2(Cd4) Re2+ 3.Rxe2(Rc2)! or 2...Rxc2(Re2)+ 3.Rxe2(Rc2)!; 1...Bxa7(Bb6)? ... 3.cxb6(e3)!; 1...Bxa7(Bg1)? ... 3.Sxg1(Se3)!. The piece moving to f3 on B1 determines which of the two possible mates on e1/e2 will take place (reciprocal antidual effect). The flights to d3 and d4 must be eliminated. The specific Pelle moves on B2 are the core of the combination. The pawn d2 disappears, opening lines in both directions on the second row, which is why some thematic tries by the white B fail. The ambushes after W1 add a surprising touch. Very rich content. Double pinmates. The check to the white K in the initial position is only a slight blemish.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Christopher Jones - FA1956) Solution: 1...Rxf8[A] 2.Se5 Bxd2[B] 3.Scd7 Rd8 4.Qf4+ Bxf4#; 1...Bxd2[B] 2.Se6 Rxf8[A] 3.Sdc5 Bb4 4.Qf6+ Rxf6#. In each solution the bR and the bB exchange « their » pinned white S. One pinning line is the same as in the initial position, after a switchback, and the second one is different. Pleasant geometry. Umnov moves by the white S. Reversed order of moves B1 and B2.

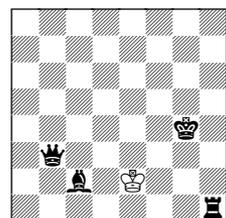
4th Honorable Mention - (Vitaly Medintsev & Alexei Oganessian - FA1991) Solution: 1.Kd5 Rd1+ 2.Kc4 Rd3 3.Qd1 Bf1 4.c3+ Rxd1# ; 1.Qc6 Bg2 2.Kf5 Bf3 3.Kf4 Rf1 4.Rg5+ Bxc6#. Active battery building by both camps and excellent economy. The mutual interference between the black R and the black B takes place on different squares (d3,f3), forming a « distant Grimshaw » as mentioned by the authors referring to an article by Petko Petkov in The Problemist (november 2020) where several such helpselfmate problems were included. The exchange of functions of the front pieces seems not very obvious.

5th Honorable Mention
Hubert Gockel



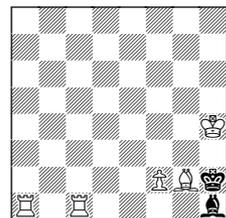
#2 Breton adverse (10+12)

6th Honorable Mention
Kostas Prentos



hs#3½ (1+4)
b/c/d) Bc2→f4/c6/b6
e) Qb3→d4 Messigny + Masand

1st Commendation
Torsten Linß
Dedicated to Wilfried Seehofer



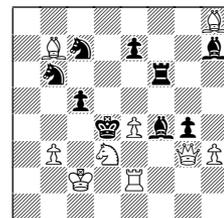
reci-hs#9 (5+2)

5th Honorable Mention - (Hubert Gockel - FA1952) Solution: 1.Be3/Be5+? Sxh7 [-wBe3/wBe5]!; **1.Bg8!** (2.Be3/Be5#), 1...Sxf2 [-wPc5] 2.Qxc4 [-bPd5]# (2.Rxc4 [-bPd5]+? Sxh1 [-wRc4]!), 1...Sxg3 [-wSf7] 2.Qxd5 [-bPe6]# (2.Bxc6 [-bPc4]+? Sxh1[-wRb4]!), 1...Sxc5 [-wPf2] 2.Qxe6 [-bPc4]#. Byplay, also introduced by the bS: 1...Sf6 2.Rd1# (2.Be3/Be5+? Sxg8 [-wBe3/wBe5]!). After a nice specific key two of the three black pawns c4,d5,e6 disappear in each of the three thematic variations in cyclic fashion. All the defenses are played by the same S.

6th Honorable Mention - (Kostas Prentos - FA2032) Solution: a) 1...Bd1[b3=w]+ 2.Kg4«Ke2 Kf1+ 3.Kg3 Be2 4.Qd1[e2=w]+ Kg3 «Kf1#; b) 1...Qc4[f4=w]+ 2.Kg4«Ke2 Ke1 3.Kf3 Qc1 4.Bd2[c1=w]+ Kf3«Ke1#; c) 1...Qb5[c6=w]+ 2.Kf2 Kh3 3.Bf3 Qh5 4.Bg4[h5=w]+ Kf2«Kh3#; d) 1...Qe6[b6=w]+ 2.Be3 Kh4 3.Kf3 Qh6 4.Bg5[h6=w]+ Kf3«Kh4#; e) 1...Kh5 2.Kf3 Qd3[c2=w]+ 3.Kf4 Qh7 4.Bg6 [h7=w]+ Kf4«Kh5#. Five echo mates, an impressive performance. *En passant* suggestion for composers: instead of having 4 or 5 echo images of the same mate, why not contrive two pairs of solutions, each pair with two echo mates, which would be as different as possible between pairs, in pure HOF style?

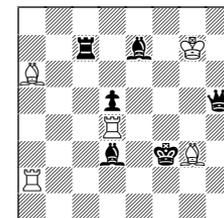
1st Commendation - (Torsten Linß - FA2009) Solution: 1.Ba8 Bb7 2.Rc6 Kg2 3.Re1 Kf3 4.Kh3 Kf4 5.Kg2 Kg4 6.Kf1 Kh3 7.Rce6 Bh1 8.Bg2+ Kh2 9.Rh6# & 9.R6c2 Bxg2#. List of themes as enunciated by the author: round trip (sK), Bristol, Anti-Bristol, helpmate indian, double switchback corner to corner. A very good start for this new stipulation.

2nd Commendation
Hubert Gockel



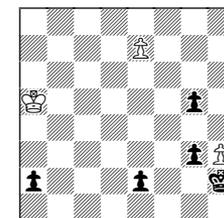
#2 Bolero (9+9)

3rd Commendation
Thomas Maeder
Dedicated to Joshua Green



h#2 2 solutions (5+6)
Breton adverse

4th Commendation
Themis Argirakopoulos



h#2½ a) BGL 7.72/8 (3+5)
b) BGL 8.83/10.9

2nd Commendation - (Hubert Gockel - FA2027) Solution: 1.hxg4? (2.Sf3#, 1...Be3[a] 2.Qxe3[A]#, 1...Be5[b] 2.Qxe5[B]#, 1...Bh1!; **1.Qxg4!** (2.Sf3#, 1...Be3[a] 2.Qe5[B]#, 1...Be5[b] 2.Qe3[A]#, 1...c4 2.Bc5#, 1...Se5 2.Sb5#, 1...Bxe4 2.Rxe4#. Bolero rule: a piece plays non-capturing moves like the piece situated in the same file on first rank initially in the game, and capturing moves as per its usual power. Reciprocal changes here thanks to a shrewd use of the given rule : in the try the wQ can move to e3 or e5 only if she captures. This is reversed in the solution, the Queen must not capture if she wants to reach these squares.

Specific threat, byplay and refutation. Try and key on the same square.

3rd Commendation - (Thomas Maeder - FA1977) Solution: 1.Bf1 Bf2! 2.Bg2 Be2# (not 1...Bf4? 2.Bg2 Be2+ 3.Kf2!); 1.Bf5! Re2! 2.Bg4 Rd3# (not 1...Ra4? 2.Bg2 Rd3+ 3.Ke2!). *The mates rely on the pretty Breton Adverse motif that a line-piece can guard a piece through another piece of the same type (e.g. in the first solution: 3.Kf3xf2[-wBe2]? self-check).* The tries highlight this motif by leaving the black king a flight because the white pieces don't move onto it (A). A pretty Breton way for blocking flight squares, the same as in the threat of the 1st HM.

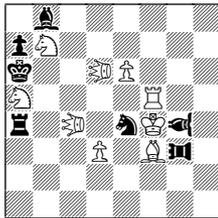
4th Commendation - (Themis Argirakopoulos - FA2029) Solution: a) BGL 7.72/8: 1...e7-e8S (6.72/8) 2.e2-e1R (6.72/7) Se8-f6 (4.48/7) 3.Re1-e8 (4.48/0) Sf6-g4 (2.24/0)#; b) BGL 8.83/10.9: 1...e7-e8Q (7.83/10.9) 2.a2-a1B (7.83/9.9) Qe8-e4 (3.83/9.9) 3.Ba1-h8 (3.83/0) Qe4-g2 (1/0)#. The author has found a « Kindergarten » way for obtaining a bicoloured AUW in two solutions (two pawns promote for Black). White must reach the square for the mate and still have enough credit to be allowed to capture the bK, whereas Black must reduce the available credit they have to eliminate any defensive move by their K.

Remarks on some problems not in the award

- FA1954: subtle, but too special
- FA1957 and 1958: attract solvers without marked theme
- FA1978: less appealing than FA2027 (2nd Comm.)
- FA1979: not quite harmonious
- FA1980: I suggest to move Re3 to e5 and pawn g6 to d6
- FA1981: what about a threefold duel Q/Q ?
- FA1985: just 3 promotions
- FA1989: the repetition of 1...Sf3 detracts
- FA2005: nice but simple
- FA2007: not as clear as usual
- FA2008: too similar solutions; FA2012: artificial try; FA2028: quite formal theme

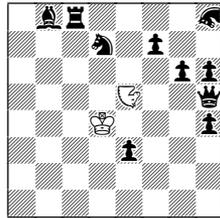
The introductory observations made in the Section A award apply here also. Twenty problems enter this new award, out of forty-eight.

1st Prize
Vlaicu Crişan



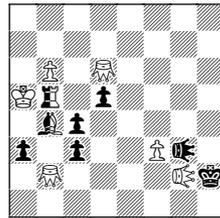
hs#3½ 2 solutions (9+7)
♙Bul Vao, ♚Bul Pao, ♘Bul Leo

2nd Prize
Petko A. Petkov



h#2½ 2 solutions (2+10)
Partial Paralysis, ♞Nightrider
♙Royal Spiral Knight on h8

3rd Prize
Mario Parrinello



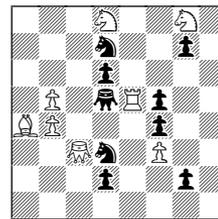
hs#3 ♙Grasshopper (6+6+2)
b) CgG2↔CGg3 Anti-Kings
♞♞Contra-Grasshopper

1st Prize - (Vlaicu Crişan - FB1966) Solution: 1...BVAXe6 (Rg6)! [1...BVAXe6 (Rh3)?] 2.Kf5! BPAxd3 (Bh3)! [2...BVAd5? 3.Bg4 BPAAd3??] 3.Bg4 BVAd5 4.BLExd3 (BVAb5)+ BVAXd3 (BLEe6)#; 1...BPAxd3 (Bf1)! [1...BPAxd3 (Bh3)?] 2.Ke3! BVAXe6 (Rh3)! [2...BPAAd5? 3.Rf3 BVAXe6??] 3.Rf3 BPAAd5 4.BLExe6 (BPAC6)+ BPAxe6 (BLEd3)#. One must play the solutions several times to check how everything works together: on the last move Black must play the Bul-chinese piece which has just been propelled by one of the white BLE between the second wBLE and the bK, provoking a double check (because there is also a discovery check). That Bul-chinese piece is obliged to capture the first wBLE and use the second one to play a Bul move to parry the discovery check, and also block a wK flight square. This intricate combination is preceded by black moves helping White to install the battery for the discovery check and to block another wK flight square (respectively g4 and f3). Perfect analogy between the two solutions, with a D/O echo. Clearly the 1st Prize.

2nd Prize - (Petko A. Petkov - FB2038) Solution: 1...Na3! 2.Rf8 Nxg6 3.Qe5 Ne2#; 1...Nc1! 2.Rd8 Nxf7 3.Be5 Nb5#. The mate can never be given by the wN from f7 or g6 because of the Royal Spiral Knight (no S moves allowed for these two pieces). Therefore the wN must first open lines by capturing either pawn g6 or f7, and cannot do so by starting from, respectively, e5 and c4, nor e5 and d3, because of bSd7. This explains move W1. After the capture, the mating move cannot be a retreat by a S move because of, again, the presence of the Royal Spiral Knight. So the wN plays a long move to set mate, after a reciprocal interception between the bQ and the bB, combined with a partial paralysis by the wK when these pieces arrive on e5. The bR also performs a block on f8 or d8, reachable by the bRSK once the capture of the pawns g6 or f7 has taken place! The wN plays in four different directions! Model mates. A delightful combination in Meredith form.

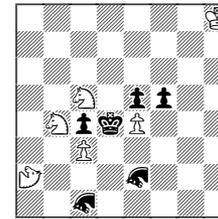
3rd Prize - (Mario Parrinello - FB2001) Solution: a) 1.nBxc3 CGxc3 2.nRxd5 CGc7 3.CGxd5 + CGg3 #; b) 1.nRxd5 CGxd5 2.nBxc3 CGa2 3.CGxc3 + CGg2#. An Anti-King is in check when not attacked! A Contra Grasshopper must touch the hurdle and move beyond on Q lines. Here it is important to get rid of the neutral pieces, which will easily parry any specific check to any of the two Ks. The bCG does the job for one, then attacks the wK, permitting the capture of the second one by the wCG, which also gives check by suppressing the attack by a white G. The bCG is forced to restore the attack, but doing so withdraws its own attack on the wK. The result is a round trip by the bCG in each solution. Not a big theme, but the clever combination of the fairy elements forces respect. Perfect analogy between the solutions.

4th Prize
Neal Turner



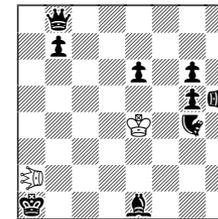
s#2 SAT (8+9)
♙♙Royal Grasshoppers

5th Prize
Petko A. Petkov



h#2 b) Pe5→e3 (6+8)
Cast inverse
♙RAO, ♞Rose

1st Honorable Mention
Petko A. Petkov



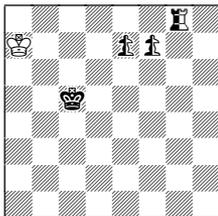
h#2 Take & Make (2+9)
Immun Rex Inclusiv
b) Ke4→d7, c) Pb7→c2
♞Nightrider, ♞Lion, ♘Solus

4th Prize - (Neal Turner - FB1964) Solution: 1.Sf6! (2. Se6+ rGf7#), 1...S3xe5 2.Se4+ Sxf3#, 1...S7xe5 2.Sh7+ Sd7#. With SAT a K is in check only if he can play on a square not guarded by the opponent. Such a condition changes the habits we have considerably. Here the diagonal c3-h8 plays an important role, and the wRc5 is pinned to begin with (the wRG is in check if he can reach h8). The logical 1.Se6+? is meant to force immediately 1..RGf7 which would set mate the wRG now allowed to reach a5. Unfortunately, 1..RGf7 is illegal because of selfcheck, as the bRG can reach c7 or h7. Therefore 1.Sf6! threatens 2.Se6+ RGF7#. On their way to f7, where they intend to block their K, the bS annihilate the Re5 and are pinned because any move would give the flight g5 to the bRG. But the threat unpins each bS by controlling g5! (Schiffman defense, the author call this Drese theme). Paradoxically the key piece plays to unpin the bS by controlling g5 and force the evacuation of e5 by giving a check. After 1...S3xe5 2.Se4+ 2.Sxf3 mates (the diagonal c3-h8 is opened, and 3.Sf6? does not parry). This does not work after 1...S7xe5 because 2.Se4? sets the bRG mate! So 2.Sh7+ must be played followed by 2...Sd7# (switchback). Of course the bRG cannot plays on f3 or d7, the moves would be illegal. Also if we replace the wRe5 with a pawn, then 1...gxf6! 2.Se6? does not give check because 2...bRGf7 is illegal as the royal piece can return from f7 to d5! An intensive cavalry play with very hidden motivations.

5th Prize - (Petko A. Petkov - FB1962) Solution: a) 1.RAa6 Sd5 2. RAac7 ROe6#; b) 1.RAe6 Sbd3 2.RAcf4 ROe2#. With Cast Inverse a piece can capture only if it threatens already another piece. In the final position of a) the wSc5 threatens the bRAa6, so guards d3 and e4, the wSd5 threatens the Rac7, so guards c3 and e3, the ROe6 threatens the bRAc7, so guards c5 and also sets mate (note that 3.RAXe6 is not allowed). In the final position of b) the wSc5 threatens the bRAe6 so guards again d3 and e4, the wSd3 threatens the bRAf4, so guards c5 and e5, the wROe2 threatens the bRAf4, so guards c3 and sets mate (note that 3.RAe6xe2 is illegal, but if the bRA was in a6 and not e6 –apparently without impact on the solution- then 3.RAa6 e2 would be legal, because from a6 the Rao attacks the wSd3!). In each solution, spectacular black Bristol RA/RA and bicolor Bristol RA/RO. Model mates. Meredith.

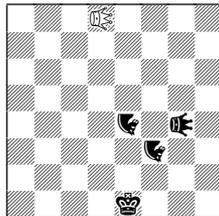
1st Honorable Mention - (Petko A. Petkov - FB2037) Solution: a) 1.Qe5 Lef2 2.Nxf2-f7 Kxe5-b2#; b) 1.Nc6 LEa5 2.LIxa5-d8 Kxc6-a2#; c) 1.Lf5 LEb2 2.Qxb2-f6 Kxf5-b1#. List of the functions exchanged cyclically between the three thematic black pieces: 1) loss of access to square d8 (no black piece must be able to occupy d8 if the bK is to be mated) and sacrifice so that the wK can reach the right square for setting mate 2) capture of the wLE and interposition between d8 and another thematic piece 3) being intercepted by a thematic piece. The wLE is also three times sacrificed. Stuck in the corner the bK is set mate by the white Rex Solus occupying three different squares!

2nd Honorable Mention
Eric Huber



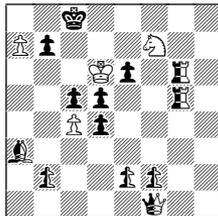
h#2½ 2 solutions (1+1+3)
Leffie + Partial Paralysis

3rd Honorable Mention
Václav Kotěšovec



h#9 2 solutions (1+4)
♞Nightrider, ♜Lion, (NWK)

4th Honorable Mention
Ladislav Packa



hs#3½ 2 solutions (4+6+7)

6th Honorable Mention - (Sergey Smotrov - FB1997) Solution: Main Plan: 1.ROe7#??; 1.Qc1+! Ka2 2.Ne4+ Kb3 3.Qc2+ Ka3 4.Qa4+ Kb2 5.Qa2+ Kc1 6.Qd2+ Kb1 7.Qc2+ Ka1 8.ROf3+ Sd4! 9.Qa4+ K- 10.Qa2+ Kc1 11.Qa1+ Kc2 12.ROe1+ Kb3 13.Qc3+ Ka2 14.Qc1+ Kb3 15.Nd2+ Ka2 16.Qb1+ Ka3 and follows the Main plan 17.ROe7+ S~ 18.ROe3+ Sxe3 19.Nc4+ Sxc4#. I am not crazy about the Berlin theme here, because 1) in the try White do not choose the cleverest move 2) the thematic purity of aim is questionable, as the bS has to be deflected anyway to participate in the mate of the wK. This comment applies also to the original FA2012. But here the wQ plays along a more interesting path visually, making a knot from b1 to b1 as it includes the sequence c2-a4-a2 twice in a row. The three white pieces return to their initial square.

Sp. Honorable Mention - (Vlaclav Kotěšovec - FB2017) Solution: 1.Ka3 Ga2 2.Rh4 Gd5 3.Rd4 Ggc5 4.Ka4 Gc6 5.Rb4 Gb5#; 1.Rh3 Ga1 2.Rc3 Gb2 3.Kb3 Gb4 4.Ka3 Gad4 5.Rb3 Gc5#; 1.Rb7 Gc6 2.Rf7 Gc3 3.Rf4 Gg3 4.Rf2 Ge3 5.Rb2 Gb3#; IV.1.Re7 Ge8 2.Ka1 Ge6 3.Rg7 Gg8 4.Rg2 Gb3 5.Rb2 Ga2#. With four solutions and no twinning this problem looks more like a technical task, different in its aspect from the other problems awarded, featuring besides Kings four « weak » Grasshoppers and one black Rook. The last mate image differs slightly from the three preceding ones.

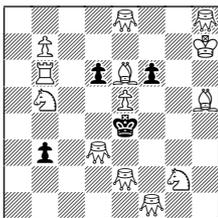
2nd Honorable Mention - (Eric Huber - FB2022) Solution: 1...fxg8nQ 2.Kd6 nQc4 3.Kc7 e8nS#; 1...f8nB 2.nRg1 e8nR 3.nRe5 nRgg5#.

Some amazing moves due to the fact that in both solutions moves looking like self checking moves are in fact authorized because the capture of the K would be illegal under Leffie terms. In a) the mate is with an ecto-battery double check, in b) the mating piece is the nB alone (ecto-battery simple check), the nR must play on g5 to impeach 4.bBh6! Neutral AUW in tanagra format thanks to the Partial Paralysis condition !

3rd Honorable Mention - (Vlaclav Kotěšovec - FB2019) Solution: 1.Kd2 LId1 2.Na2 LId7 3.LIc8 LId1 4.Kc1 LIa1 5.Kb1 LIh1 6.Ka1 LIc6 7.LIc3 LIg2 8.Nd2 LIb2 9.Nb1 LIh8#; 1.Nf6 LIh4 2.Kf2 LIe4 3.LId1 LIg2 4.Ng1 LIe2 5.LIf3 LIh2 6.Kg2 LIb2 7.Kh1 LIg7 8.Ng4 LIg2 9.Nh2 LIa8#. Pretty Chameleon-echo mates and long solutions.

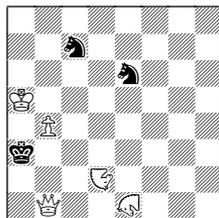
4th Honorable Mention - (Ladislav Packa - FB1974) Solution: 1...b1nR 2.nRb5 e1nB 3.nBeb4 nQxc4 4.nRxc5+ nBxc5#; 1...b1nB 2.nQh3 f1nR 3.nR1f6 nBf5 4.nBxe6+ nRxe6#. In their last move Black cannot move out the neutral piece attacking their K because it is pinned by the nQ. So it must be captured (with mate) by another neutral piece which White cannot move out either because it is also pinned. Good specific neutral strategy, hopefully not anticipated.

5th Honorable Mention
Michael Barth



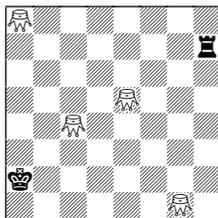
#2v Take & Make (13+4)
♞Grasshopper

6th Honorable Mention
Sergey Smotrov



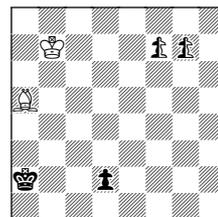
s#19
♞Rose, ♞Nightrider (5+3)

Sp. Honorable Mention
Václav Kotěšovec



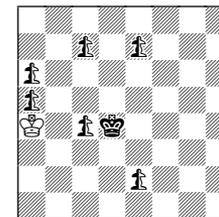
h#5 4 solutions (4+2)
♞Grasshopper, (NWK)

1st Commendation
Eric Huber



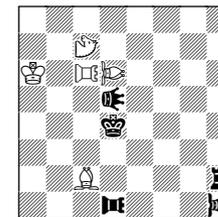
hs#2½ 2 solutions (2+2+2)
Anticipated

2nd Commendation
Kostas Prentos



h#2 2 solutions (1+1+6)
Phantom Chess

3rd Commendation
Franz Pachl



h#2 2 solutions (5+5)
♞Senora, ♞Saltador
♞Loco, ♞Faro

1st Commendation - (Eric Huber - FB1972) A King is also in check when he can be in check. Simple rule, but difficult to handle for a composer. **Solution:** 1...d1S 2.Bd8 Se3 3.g8nQ+ Sc4#; 1...Kb1 2.Bc7 d1R 3.g8nB Rd3#. Here the difficulties are nicely overcome.

2nd Commendation - (Kostas Prentos - FB1998) Solution: 1.e1=nR e8=nS 2.nRe7 tempo c8=nQ#; 1.e1=nS c8=nB 2.nSd7 c8=nB#.

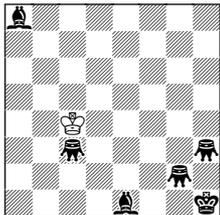
When the mate is given from the Circe rebirth square, the mating piece although neutral cannot parry by itself when it is a Q or a B. Six promotions including an AUW, of which three are changed.

3rd Commendation - (Franz Pachl - FB1961) Solution: 1.Rd2 LOb8 2.Ke5 SAb5#; 1.Rg2 FAc8 2.Kc4 SAe6#. The wLO and the wFA exchange their function as rear piece of a battery and as hurdle for the front piece of each battery, namely the Saltador. Fine aristocratic construction.

5th Honorable Mention - (Michael Barth - FB1992) Solution: 1.Bhg4? (2.Bd5#[A]), 1...d5 2.Bef5#[B], 1...f5 2.Sc3#[C], 1...b2!; **1.Gd8!** (2.Bf5#[B]), 1...d5 2.Sc3#[C], 1...f5 2.Bd5#[A]. A Shedy cycle is obtained in a fairly economical way, thanks to the two wB

on white squares. Some moves need to be analyzed carefully : in the try 1...K x d5 is illegal (there is no « make » move permitted), 1...f5 2.Bd5+? Kxe5(Ke6)! and 1...b2! 2.Bd5+? Kxd5(Ka2 or b3). In the solution 1...d5 2.Bf5+? Kxf5(Kd7)! An interesting conception based on the « make » move.

4th Commendation
Václav Kotěšovec



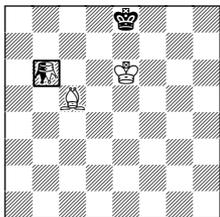
ser-h=14 2 solutions (1+6)
♠Grasshopper

4th Commendation - (Vlaclav Kotěšovec - FB2041) Solution: 1.Be4 2.Bc2 3.Gc1 4.Bc3 5.Bh8 6.Bg6 7.Gg7 8.Kg2 9.Kf3 10.Ge3 11.Ke2 12.Ge1 13.Kd1 14.Bd3+ Kxd3=; 1.Kg1 2.Kf2 3.Ge2 4.Bh1 5.Gg2 6.Ke3 7.Gd3 8.Kd2 9.Kc1 10.Bd2 11.Ge1 12.Gb1 13.Gdd1 14.Bc3 Kxc3=. Nice chameleon echo stalemates with K,B and SG playing in turn. I prefer the final setting here, in comparison with FB2042.

5th Commendation - (Geoff Forster - FB2014) Solution: 1...rLg6 2.Bb3 rLd3 3.rGa4 rLxb3-a3#; 1...rLf5 2.Bc4 rLe4 3.Be2 rLxe2-e1#; 1...rLe4 2.Bd5+ rLf5 3.rGd6 rLxd5-c5#; 1...rLd3 2.Be6 rLa6 3.Ba2 rLxa2-a1#. My favourite among the contributions of the author using the Point-Reflection condition. The sensation of mechanism is largely compensated by the artistry of the geographical moves along white diagonals.

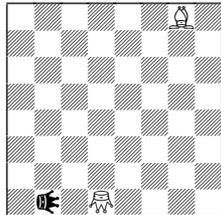
6th Commendation - (Pierre Tritten - FB2043) Solution: 1.Sh4 nBg6+ 2.nSexg6(»nBg6) nSf4(nBg6)# (3.nSf4xnBg6??); 1.Sg5 nRh3+ 2.nBxh3(»nRh3) nBg4(nRh3)# (3.nBg4xnRh3??); 1.Kh4 nSxf3(»Sf3)+ 2.nRxf3(»nSf3) nRh3(nSf3)# (3.nRh3xnSf3??). Cyclic exchange of functions with only 6 pieces .

7th Commendation
Sébastien Luce



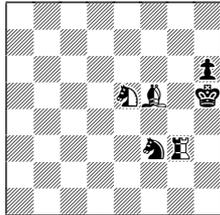
h#4½ (2+1+1)
♠Bul Grasshopper

5th Commendation
Geoff Foster



hs#2½ 4 solutions (2+1)
Point Reflection, ♠Royal Locust
♠Royal Grasshopper

6th Commendation
Pierre Tritten



h#2 3 solutions (0+3+3)
Ghost Chess, NWK

7th Commendation - (Sébastien Luce - FB2003) Solution: 1...Bd4 2.Kf8 Kd7 3.nBGe3(Bd8) Be7+ 4.nBGe8(Bc7) Bb8 5.nBGg8(Ka8) Kc7#; 1...Be7 2.nBGf6 (Kg6) Kg7 3.nBGd8(Bh7) Bg8 4.Kd7 Kf7 5.Kc8 nBGb8(Kh8)#. Good chameleon-echo ideal mate. In the first solution the move 5.nBGg8(Ka8) is not giving check to the bK because the capture nBGx Ka8 cannot be followed by a move of the Bb8 playing as a G.

8th Commendation - (Waldemar Tura - FB2036) Solution: 1.Sb5 tempo Re4 (Be4?) 2.Rd7 Re8#; 1.Sc6 tempo Be4 (Re4?) 2.Rd8 Bf5#.

The first move by the bS separates the two solutions existing in the set play. Elegant traditional style

Remarks about some problems not in the award after personal choices

FB1967: only one solution (but pleasant)

FB1968: for solvers

FB1969: some artistic touch is missing

FB1971: 90% of the 10 moves are by the nDL, one move away from perfection !

FB1995: repetitive solutions

FB2000: repetition of a well known stalemate position

FB2002: too similar solutions

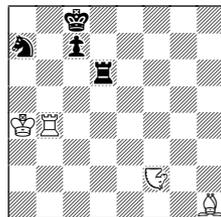
FB2004: a bigger result is expected with that many fairy elements involved

FB2018: complicated battery creation

FB2040: there is a logical structure apparent, with two main plans revealed by the tries. The claim for « change of functions » would mean that the author supersedes this logic with another content, which is not clearly established in my opinion.

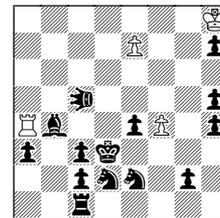
We thank Maryan for this comprehensive and timely award, which stays open for 3 months. Please send comments to Mike Prcic.

8th Commendation
Waldemar Tura



h#2 2 solutions (4+4)
♠Nightrider

A 1st Prize, R.Kohring
8th FIDE World Cup



hs3½ 2 solutions (4+14)
Mars Circe, ♠Eagle

Appendix