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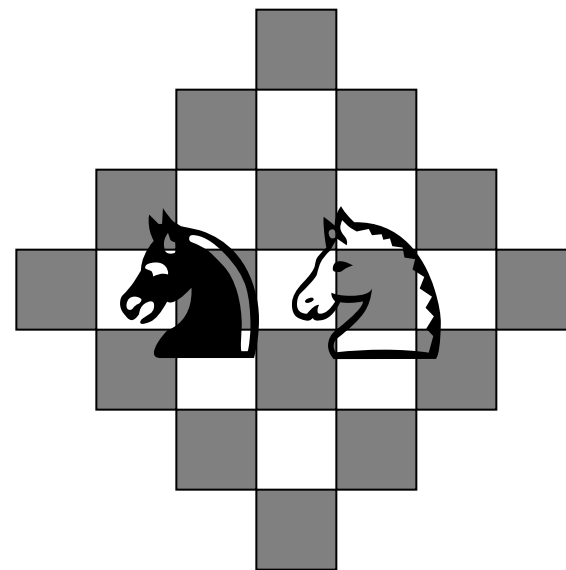
feenschach **\$55**.

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StrateGems

Petko Andonov Petkov

75 Jubilee Tourney



April 2017

U.S. CHESS PROBLEM MAGAZINE

Petko A. Petkov 75th Jubilee Tourney Award

By Petko A. Petkov

Forty-six composers, from sixteen countries participate in this tourney. I want to express my warm gratitude to the many of my friends-composers who sent exactly 100 memorable originals (for all three sections) for participation in my jubilee tourney. I also express my heartfelt thanks to the organizer of this remarkable event, *StrateGems*, as well to my dear friend Mike Prcic, who directed the tourney.

All 100 originals, which I have received on identical diagrams without names, have been tested by me with programs Popeye or/plus WinChloe and Gustav (for s#).

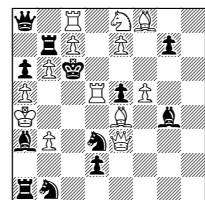


Petko in front of his family house in Dobrich

Section A The theme: *Selfmates with any number of moves with free theme, but without fairy pieces or conditions.*

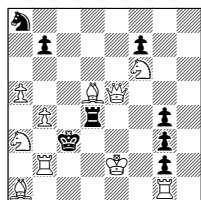
I received forty-one problems. The level of the tourney was very good - an enjoyable fact given that this genre, in recent years, has experienced a crisis in thematic and constructive attitude. An entry by Igor Agapov & Eugene Fomichev (wKd3/bKd5) was eliminated because it shows WCCT-10 theme.

1st Prize
Andrey Selivanov



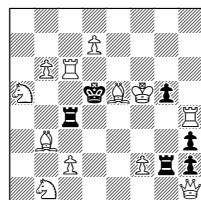
s#4

2nd Prize
Michail Mishko &
Sergey Borodavkin



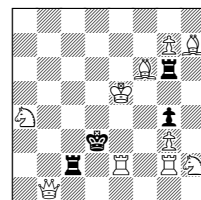
(13+12) s#8√

3rd-4th Prize
Michail Mishko &
Sergey Borodavkin



s#8√

3rd-4th Prize
Gennedy Koziura



s#7*

(10+4)

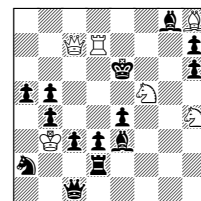
1st Prize, Andrey Selivanov Probably the first realization in s#4 of a difficult thematic combination: white Rook-cross on the second move & white AUV on the third move. This is a brilliant achievement without rivals for the first place. As in most memorable task problems, there are some minor shortcomings: the same mate 4...Bd6 in three of the variations, heavy construction etc. But I do not see possibilities for improvement. Top creative achievements should be evaluated without a manifestation of false idealism. **Solution:** 1.Sf6! (2.Rxe5+! Kd6 3.e8S+! Kxe5 4.Bd6+ Bxd6#), 1...Bxf5 2.Rc5+! Kd6 3.e8B+! Ke6 4.Rc6+ Bd6#, 1...Rxb6 2.Rd4+! Kc5 3.e8Q+! Rd6 4.Qb5+ axb5#, 1...gxf6 2.Rd6+! Kxd6 3.e8R+! Kd7 4.Qxd3+ Bd6#.

2nd Prize, Michail Mishko & Sergey Borodavkin The most unusual problem in this tourney. A full threat in which the white Rook, in the final phase, makes three consecutive moves to d2, e2, and f2. The excellent key is followed by two surprising thematic variations with sacrifices of the black Knight, ending with beautiful model mates. A grand conception. Unfortunately, in the threat we have only a pure mate. **Solution:** 1.Be6! (2.Ke1 Kd3 3.Qe2+ Kc3 4.Qe3+ Rd3 5.Qc1+ Kd4 6.Rd2+ Ke3 7.Re2+ Kf3 8.Rf2+ gxf2#), 1... Sb6 2.axb6 fxe6 3.Qc5+ Rc4 4.Sxc4 e5 5.Ke1 Kd3 6.Se3 e4 7.Sd1 e3 8.Rd2+ exd2#, 1... Sc7 2.Qxc7+ Rc4 3.Rc1+ Kd4 4.Rd1+ Kc3 5.Qe5+ Rd4 6.Qc5+ Rc4 7.Qd4+ Rxd4 8.Se4+ Rxe4#; 1.Ba2? Sb6!

3rd-4th Prize, Michail Mishko & Sergey Borodavkin Hoffman theme with two excellent chameleon-echo mates. Another remarkable work! However, the mates are not completely identical in their structure. **Solution:** Thematic tries: 1.Bg3?[A] gxh4![b]; 1.Bg7?[B] g4![a]; 1.Rc7! (zz), 1...g4[a] 2.Bg3[A] Kd4 3.Rxg4+ Kd5 4.Bf4 Kd4 5.Be3+ Kd5 6.Kf6 Kd6 7.Rd4+ Rxd4 8.Bf4+ Rxf4#; 1... gxh4[b] 2.Bg7[B] Kd6 3.Bf8+ Kd5 4.Ba2 Kd4 5.Sb3+ Kd5 6.Sc3+ Rxc3 7.Qd1+ Rd3 8.Qf3+ Rxf3#.

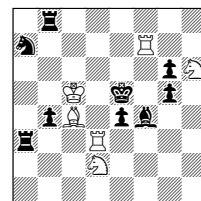
3rd-4th Prize, Gennady Koziura Undoubtedly, there are some analogies about the black material, construction and the conception in this problem and in the previous one. But in my opinion there are also important differences. In this s#7 we see very interesting set-play and a paradoxical situation in which White does not have a tempo move! Here we also see two model- mates, not with strictly echo-mates, but created after interchange of functions between the black Rooks. **Solution:** Set: 1...Kc4 2.Bg8+ Kd3 3.Rd2+ Ke3 4.Sf1+ Kf3 5.Qb7+ Rc6 6.Sh2+ Ke3 7.Bg5+ Rxg5#, 1.Bg5! (zz) Kc4 2.Re4+ Kd3 3.Rf4 Ke3 4.Sxg4+ Kd3 5.Rg1 Kd2(e2) 6.Qe1+ Kd3 7.Sc5+ Rxc5#.

Special Prize
Aleksandr Kuzovkov



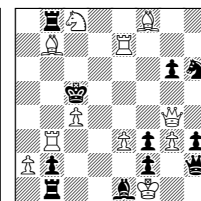
s#4

1st Honorable Mention
Sergey Smotrov



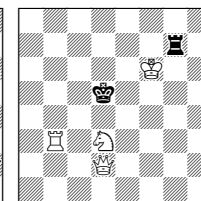
s#22

2nd Honorable Mention
Mark Erenburg



s#4

3rd Honorable Mention
Victor Zheglov
& Yuri Paramonov



s#26 2 vars. (4+2)

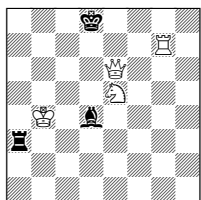
Special Prize, Aleksandr Kuzovkov Another task problem with the white Rook-cross plus four additional sacrifices by the white Rook! In total, the white Rook makes eight different moves. There is also a wR/bB duel. A unique concept, but the double, non-thematic repetition of white moves 4.Qc6+/4.Qe8+ detracts. This is the reason why I gave it a special prize. **Solution:** 1.Qe8! (2.Rc7+ Kd5 3.Rc5+ Bxc5 4.Qc6+ Kxc6#), 1...Bf4 2.Re7+ Kd5 3.Re5+ Bxe5 4.Qc6+ Kxc6#, 1...Bc5 2.Rd8+ Kf7 3.Rf8+ Bxf8 4.Qe8+ Kxe8#, 1...Bg5 2.Rd6+ Kf7 3.Rf6+ Bxf6 4.Qe8+ Kxe8#.

1st Honorable Mention, Sergey Smotov This logical style (only white check-moves plus multiple white battery-creations & switchbacks) is well-known in many author's problems. In this arena there are unlimited possibilities for composing new, similar in concept, selfmates. This can also lead to over exploitation of the concept. Nevertheless, this problem seems perfectly composed and deserves to be honored. **Solution:** Logical try: 1.Sf3+? exf3 2.Re3+ Rxe3!; 1.Re7+? Kf6 2.Sg8+ Rxg8!; **1.Rd5+!** Ke6 2.Rd8+! Ke5 3.Re7+ Kf6 4.Sg8+ Kf5 5.Be6+ Ke5 6.Bb3+ Kf5 7.Sh6+ Kf6 8.Rf7+ Ke5 9.Sc4+! Ke6 10.Sxa3+! Ke5 11.Sc4+ Ke6 12.Sd2+ Ke5 13.Re7+ Kf6 14.Sg8+ Kf5 15.Be6+ Ke5 16.Bc4+ Kf5 17.Sh6+ Kf6 18.Rf7+ Ke5 19.Rd5+ Ke6 20.Rd3+ Ke5, and follows the main plan: 21.Sf3+ exf3 22.Re3+ Bxe3#.

2nd Honorable Mention, Mark Erenburg A good key (with the sacrifice of the white Knight) that transforms the initial R/B battery into a half-battery. This mechanism is not new, but it affords composers many possibilities. Here the content is nice and deserves attention but there are also some negative elements: the play of the half-battery is not strictly reciprocal. Also, the short variation after 1...Kxd6 2.c5+ and 3.Qb4+Bxb4# is not aesthetical. **Solution:** **1.Sd6!** (2.Se4+ Kxc4 3.Sd6+ Kc5 4.Qb4+ Bxb4#), 1...Sxg4 2.Re5+ Sxe5 3.Se4+ Kxc4 4.Sd2+ Bxd2#, 1...Rxb7 2.Re7+ Rxc7 3.Sb7+ Kc6 4.Sa5+ Bxa5#.

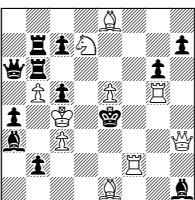
3rd Honorable Mention, Victor Zheglov & Yuri Paramonov Is is amazing that this very long problem is correct (checked with Gustav!) and also that it has two variations with echo-mates. Of course, I do not believe that such a conception can be realized without a computer. But this is not the main question here. The play is rather mechanical, and the checking key-move that takes four free squares of the black king is weak. However the problem is a paradoxical record that cannot be unacknowledged. **Solution:** **1.Se5+!** Ke4 2.Re3+ Kf4 3.Re2+! Kg3 4.Qe1+! Kh3/Kf4 5.Qh1/Qf1+ Kg3 6.Qf3+ Kh4 7.Re4+ Rg4 8.Sg6+ Kh5 9.Kg7! Kg5 10.Qf6+ Kh5 11.Qf5+ Rg5 12.Qf3+ Rg4 13.Re3! Kg5 14.Qf6+ Kh5 15.Qe5+! Rg5 16.Qh2+ Kg4 17.Qh4+ Kf5 18.Qh3+ Rg4 19.Kh6! Kf6 20.Qf3+ Rf4 21.Qc6+ Kf7 (21...Kf5? 22.Qd7+! Kf6 23.Qg7+ Kf5 24.Sh4+ Rxh4#) 22.Qe8+ Kf6 23.Qe7+ Kf5 24.Qd7+! Kf6 25.Qg7+ Kf5 26.Sh4+! Rxh4#; 1...Kc5 2.Qa5+ Kd4 (2...Kd6 3.Rb6+ Kc7 4.Rb5+! Kd6/Kc8 5.Qa6/Qa8+ Kc7 6.Qc6+ then like 2...Kd4) 3.Qa4+ Kc5/Kd5 4.Rb5+ Kd6 5.Qa6+ Kc7 6.Qc6+ Kd8 7.Rd5+ Rd7 8.Sf7+! Ke8 9.Kg7! Ke7 10.Qf6+ Ke8 11.Qe6+ Re7 12.Qc6+ Rd7 13.Rc5! Ke7 14.Qf6+ Ke8 15.Qe5+! Re7 16.Qb8+ Kd7 17.Qd8+ Ke6 18.Qc8+ Rd7 19.Kf8! Kf6 20.Qc6+ Rd6 21.Qf3+ Kg6 (21...Ke6? 22.Qg4+! Kf6 23.Qg7+ Ke6 24.Sd8+ Rxd8#) 22.Qh5+ Kf6 23.Qg5+ Ke6 24.Qg4+! Kf6 25.Qg7+ Ke6 26.Sd8+! Rxd8#. Echo-mates.

Commendation
Victor Zheglov
& Yuri Paramonov



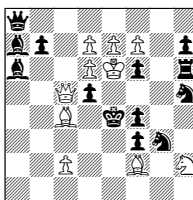
s#18 b) Ra3→a5 (3+4)

Commendation
Aleksandr Feoktistov



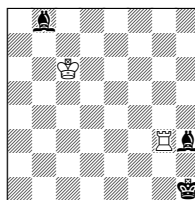
s#4√ (10+12)

Commendation
Waldemar Tura



s#3 (10+13)

1st Prize
Victor Zheglov



hs#11* 2 sols. (2+3)
Functionary Chess

Commendations are equal and without comments.

Commendation, Victor Zheglov & Yuri Paramonov a) 1.Rg8+! Kc7 2.Qd7+ Kb6 3.Rb8+ Ka6 4.Qc8+ Ka7 5.Rb7+ Ka6 6.Re7+! Kb6 7.Re6+ Ka7 8.Sc6+! Kb6 9.Sa5+! Ka7 10.Qa6+ Kb8 11.Re8+ Kc7 12.Qb7+ Kd6 13.Qe7+ Kd5 14.Qf7+! Kd6 15.Sc4+! Kc6 16.Re6+Kd5 17.Re5+! Kc6 18.Rc5+! Bxc5#; **b) 1.Qe7+!** Kc8 2.Qb7+ Kd8 3.Qc7+ Ke8 4.Qd7+ Kf8 5.Rf7+ Kg8 6.Qg4+ Kh8 7.Rf8+ Kh7 8.Qd7+ Kh6 9.Rf6+! Kg5/Kh5 10.Qf5+! Kh4 11.Rh6+ Kg3 12.Rh3+ Kg2 13.Qf3+ Kg1 14.Qh1+! Kf2 15.Rf3+ Ke2 16.Qf1+ Kd2 17.Sc4+! Kc2 18.Rc3+! Bxc3#. Echo-mates.

Commendation, Aleksandr Feoktistov 1...Bf3 2.Bd2! Rd6 3.Qf5+ gxf5 4.R2+ Bx2#. **1.Qg3!** (2.Sf6+ Rxf6 3.Rf4+ Rxf4 4.Qe3+ Kxe3#; 2.Sxc5+? Bxc5!), 1...Rxb5 2.Sdxc5+ Bxc5 3.Bc6+ Qxc6 4.Re2+ Be3#; 2.Sf6+? Qxf6!; 1...Bf3 2.Qf4+ Kxf4 3.Bd2+ Ke4 4.Re2+ Bxe2#, 1...c6 2.Bd2! ~ 3.Qf3+ Bxf3 4.Re2+ Bxe2#; 2...Bf3 3.Re2+ Bxe2+ 4.Qd3+ Bxd3#. 1.Bd2? Rf6!.

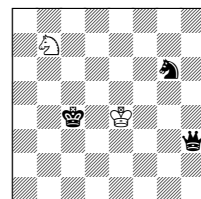
Commendation, Waldemar Tura 1.Sg4! (2.Sxf6+ Sxf6 3.Bxd5+[A]/3.Qxd5+[B] Sxd5#), 1...b5 2.Qd4+ Bxd4 3.Bxd5+[A] Qxd5#, 1...b6 2.Bd3+ Bxd3 3.Qxd5+[B] Qxd5#.

Section B The theme: *Help-selfmate (hs) problems of any kind (hs#, hs+, hs==, hs+ etc.) and any number of moves. The theme: set-play + solution. All fairy pieces and conditions are allowed.*

Twenty-seven problems were entered into the competition. The level of the tourney was very high! A very big and pleasant surprise was the fact that most of the originals are miniatures and even Tanagras (five pieces or less). Even with this very limited material it is possible to achieve very ambitious works!

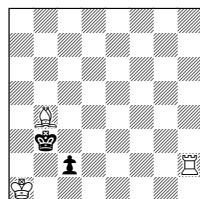
1st Prize, Victor Zheglov An excellent three-fold chameleon-echo (with Ideal mates!) achieved with five pieces after long and very active play, by all white and black pieces, in three different directions of the board. **Solution:** Set: 1...Bc8 2.Rh3+ Kg2 3.Rh8 Bd7+ 4.Kb5 Be5 5.Rh2+ Kf3 6.Rf2+ Ke3 7.Re2+ Kd3 8.Ka4 Ba1 9.Rd2+ Kc3+ 10.Ka3 Bb5 11.Ra2 Bb2#; Play: I. 1.Rf3 Bg2 2.Rf8 Bd6 3.Rf1+ Kh2 4.Kd5 Be5 5.Ke4 Bf6 6.Ke3 Bg5 7.Rh1+ Kg3 8.Rg1 Bf1 9.Kd2 Kf3+ 10.Ke1 Bd2+ 11.Kf1 Bg2#; II. 1.Rg1+ Kh2 2.Rg3 Bd7+ 3.Kd6 Bg4 4.Rg2+ Kh3 5.Rh2+ Kh4 6.Ke6+ Kg5 7.Rh8 Be5 8.Rg8 Bh8 9.Kd7 Kf6+ 10.Ke8 Bd7+ 11.Kf8 Bg7#.

2nd Prize
Geoff Foster



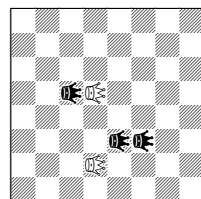
hs#5*
Anti-Koeko

3rd Prize
Eric Huber



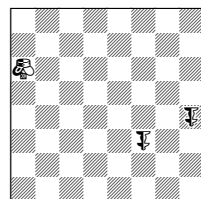
hs#5* (3+2)
Anti-Andernach Chess
Sentinelles
Ultramaximummer

4th Prize
Geoff Foster & Eric Huber



hs#4½** 2 sols. (2+3)
Double-Gs c5-d2-f3
Royal Double-Gs d5-e3

1st Honorable Mention
Bojan Bašić



hs#4* (0+0+3)
Haaner Chess
Royal SuperPawn
SuperPawns

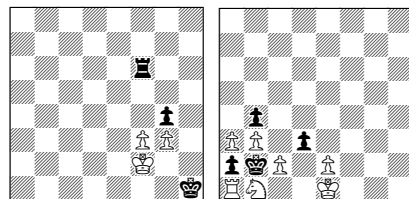
2nd Prize, Geoff Foster Another chameleon-echo Tanagra with fine and surprising white strategy in both phases: capture-free Rundlauf by the white King in the set-play and a double tempo-switchback by the white Knight in play! **Solution:** Set: 1...Qd7 2.Kf3 Se5+ 3.Ke3 Sg4+ 4.Ke4 Qa4 5.Sd6+ Kc3#; Play: 1.Sd8 Qa3 2.Sb7 Sh4 3.Kf4 Kd4 4.Sd8 Qb4 5.Se6+ Kd3#.

3rd Prize, Eric Huber An excellent combination of three difficult fairy conditions and a good thematic analogy in both phases where the model mates follow after the action of the specific black "ecto-batteries" bR/bPb2 (in set) and bB/bPc2 (in play). Another beauty of this unusual problem are the white blocks on a2/a1 and the Zilahi motives! **Solution:** Set: 1...Kc4 (+bPb3) 2.Rxc2 (+wPh2)+ Kb5 (+bPc4) 3.Ra2=b (+wPc2) Ra8=w (+bPa2) 4.Rxa2 bxc2 5.Rb2=b (+wPa2) Rxb4 (+bPb2)#; Play: 1.Rd2=b (+wPh2) Rd8=w (+bPd2) 2.Rg8=b Rg1=w 3.Bc5=b (+wPb4) Bxg1 (+bPc5) 4.Kb1 Bd4=w+ 5.Bc3=b (+wPd4) Ba1=w (+bPc3)#.

4th Prize, Geoff Foster & Eric Huber It is difficult to create a four-phase hs#4½ problem with two sets and two plays using only five Double-Grasshoppers, two of them royal pieces. Even though we don't have exact echo-mates, the final play, with thematic black anti-batteries, deserves a high place. Regretably, in both mates in the play, DG moves to d1 and d2. Such analogy affects the aesthetics somewhat negatively. Solution: Set: I. 1.DGb4 DGe2 2.rDGd2+ DGg2 3.rDGf2 DGh3 4.rDGa4 DGf3#; II. 1.rDGg4 rDGd4+ 2.DGg2 DGb5 3.rDGa6 DGa7 4.rDGh1 DGc5#; Play: I. 1...DGe4 2.rDGd3 DGe2 3.rDGd1 rDGc6 4.rDGb7 DGe7 5.rDGd1 DGc7#; II. 1...rDGc6 2.rDGe4 DGb5 3.rDGb4 DGb7 4.rDGB6 rDGc8 5.rDGd1 rDGc6#.

1st Honorable Mention, Bojan Bašić A nice problem (three pieces only) with non-standard thematic mates which demonstrate the specifics and beauties of Haan Chess. It is curious that in both phases the neutral royal pieces (nrR and nrS) deliver mates from only one neutral SP! Solution: Set: 1...nSPh4-h1=nB 2.nBh1-g2 nrSPa6-a1=nrR 3.nBg2-f1 nrRa1xf1 4.nrRf1-g1 nSPf3-f2#; Play: 1.nSPf3-f5 nSPh4-h1=nR 2.nRh1-f1 nrSPa6xf1=nrS 3.nrSf1-e3 nrSe3-g4+ 4.nrSg4-h2 nSPf5-f4#

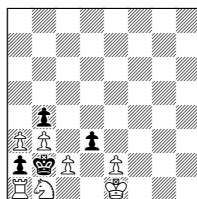
2nd Honorable Mention
Vlaicu Crisan
& Eric Huber



hs#4½*
Circe Parrain
Einstein Chess

(3+3)

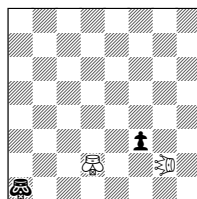
3rd Honorable Mention
Vlaicu Crisan



hs#4½*

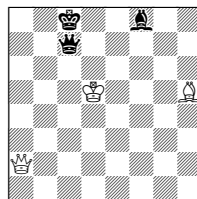
(7+4)

Commendation
Karol Mlynka



hs#3* ♞locust (2+2)
♞Super Transmuting
King

Commendation
Victor Zheglov



hs#3.5* 2 sols. (3+3)

PWC

2nd Honorable Mention, Vlaicu Crisan & Eric Huber A nice and dynamic play by the white King which makes all moves in the second phase. Good mates realized by the black King. This achievement deserves attention, but there is here also a minus - no optimal balance between the two conditions. The Einstein condition seems underutilized. Solution: Set: 1.f4 Rxf4=Q+ 2.Ke2 (+wPe4) Qe3=R+ 3.Kf2 Rxc3=Q+ 4.Kxc3 (+wPh4) Kg1 (+bQf3)#; 1...Rxf3=Q+ 2.Kf1 (+wPf2) Qxc3 3.Ke2 (+wPf4) Qxf2+ 4.Kxf2 (+wPg2) g3 (+bQf1)+ 5.Kxf1 Kh2 (+bQf2)#.

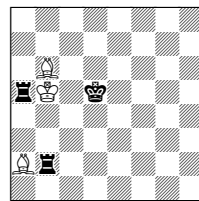
3rd Honorable Mention, Vlaicu Crisan A rather small thematic format, but nice and hard to solve. In both phases White castles long (0-0-0) which is followed by different black under-promotions. Solution: Set: 1.Sc3 Kxc3 2.0-0-0 dxc2 3.Rd4 a1B 4.Rxb4 Bb2#; Play: 1...d2+ 2.Sxd2 Kxa3 3.0-0-0 a1R+ 4.Sb1+ Ka2 5.Rd2 Rxb1#.

Commendations are equal and without comments.

Commendation, Karol Mlynka Set: 1...Kb2[A] 2.Kd1+ Kxc2-h2L[B] 3.Ke1 f2# [C]; Play: 1.Ke3 f2[C] 2.Kxf2 Kb2[A] 3.Kg3+ Kxc2-h2# [B].

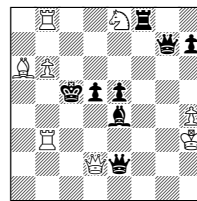
Commendation, Victor Zheglov Set: 1.Bf7 Qxf7 (+wBc7)+ 2.Kc6 Qb3 3.Qa6+ Qb7#; Play: I. 1...Qb6 2.Qf2 Qxf2 (+wQb6) 3.Ke4 Bc5 4.Bg4+ Qf5#; II. 1...Kd7 2.Qa3 Bxa3 (+wQf8) 3.Be2 Bb2 4.Bb5+ Qc6#.

Commendation
Victor Zheglov



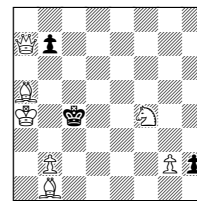
hs#4* 3 sols. (3+3)
Patrouille

1st Prize
Julia Vysotska



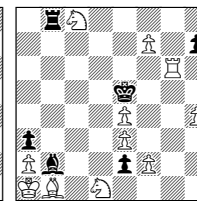
hs#2½ 2 sols. (8+8)
Anti-Andernach Chess
Eiffel

2nd Prize
Manfred Rittirsch



hs#3 b) Ba5→f2 (7+3)
Anti-Andernach Chess
Eiffel

3rd Prize
Igor Kochulov



hs#3 4 sols. (11+6)
Anti-Andernach Chess
Eiffel

Commendation, Victor Zheglov Set: 1...Kc4 2.Bb3 Kb4+ 3.Bxa5+ Ka3 4.Ka4+ Rxb3#; Play: I. 1.Bc5 Kc6 2.Be6 Rd2 3.Bd7 Rd5 4.Kb6+ Rdx5#; II. 1.Bd8 Kd6 2.Kc6 Re5 3.Be7 Rbb5 4.Bd5+ Rxd5#; III. 1.Bc7 Kc6 2.Kc5 Rb7 3.Be6 Rab5+ 4.Kd6+ Rxc7#.

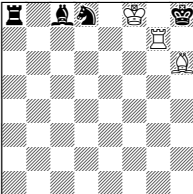
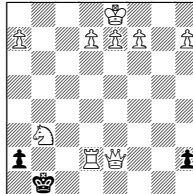
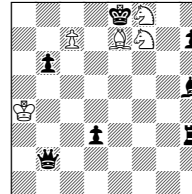
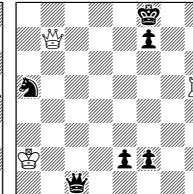
Section C The theme: *Help-selfmate problems of any kind (hs#, hs+, hs==, hs+ etc.) and any number of moves. The theme: a combination of the following two conditions – Anti-Andernach Chess + Eiffel Chess. Note: other fairy conditions or fairy pieces are not allowed. If the problem belongs to this section, but also has a set-play, it will be judged in this section. Only the standard forms of Anti-Andernach and Eiffel Chess are allowed.*

I judged thirty-two problems. The level of the tourney was high! It is evident that this unusual combination of fairy conditions gives unlimited possibilities for composing interesting tasks. However, here can be implemented various themes among which are, of course, the "eternal ideas" with Pawn's promotions!

1st Prize, Julia Vysotska This is a unique task with very rich and interesting content! In two solutions four pairs of thematic pieces change their functions reciprocally: Rf8/Be4; Rb3/Ba6; Qd2/Rb8; Qe2/Qg7. Each half-move is strictly thematic: at first, Be4 and Rf8 preliminary close the black lines and follow white moves Rc3(bR) and Bc8(bB) respectively. Very paradoxical and beautiful are the second black moves 2...Qh2(wQ) / 2...Qg3(wQ) that demonstrate white (!) self-blocks and prevent the negative future white defenses 4.Bxe2! (paralyzes Rf3) and 4.Sxg7 (paralyzes Bf5). As finals follow two thematic mates on f3/f5 with paralysis of Qc3/Rc8. A real masterpiece! Solution: I. 1...Rf5(wR) 2.Bc8(bB) Qg3(wQ) 3.Rxc8+ Bxf5#; II. 1...Bf3(wB) 2.Rc3(bR) Qh2(wQ) Qh2(wQ) 3.Qxc3+ Rxf3#.

2nd Prize, Manfred Rittirsch A very elegant Meredith that demonstrates unusual play based on elegant maneuvers, black promotions to the Queen and Rook, anti-duals and two-sided zugzwang! Solution: a) 1.b4(bP) h1Q(wQ) 2.Qh3(bQ) b3(bP) 3.Bg6(bB)! (not 3.Bd3(bB)? with line - closing by the bQ?) Qxb3#; b) 1.Qb6(bQ) h1R(wR) 2.Rh6(bR) Qa6(wQ) 3.Bd3(bB)! (not 3.Bg6(bB)? with line closing by the bR) Rxa6#.

3rd Prize, Igor Kochulov Babson Task (and its variants) is one of the most difficult and interesting themes in all the problem chess genres. If we use the condition Madrasi and the stipulation is, for example, s# or ser.s#, a fruitful way to achieve Babson Task is the following concept: In the beginning a black piece "x" cannot attack the white King because "x" is paralyzed by the white piece "y". In the play, a black Pawn is forced to capture "y" through a promotion that destroys paralysis and "x" gives mate. A lot of similar tasks were composed by Venelin Alaikov and other composers. If we replace Madrasi with Eiffel Chess, the creation of a Cyclic Babson seems easy. In this tourney, there were several originals of this kind. I gave a prize to this perfectly constructed entry although I do not see it as a completely original conception. Solution: I. 1.f8Q(b) Qxf2 2.Rd6(b) Qf8(w) 3.Qxd6+ exd1R#; II. 1.f8R(b) Rxf2 2.h5(b) Rh2(w) 3.Rxh5+ exd1B#; III. 1.f8B(b) Rb3(w) 2.Rc3(b) Bb4(w) 3.Bxc3+ exd1S#; IV. 1.f8S(b) Rb4(w) 2.Rd4(b) Se6(w) 3.exd4+ exd1Q#.

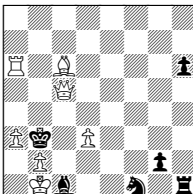
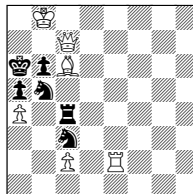
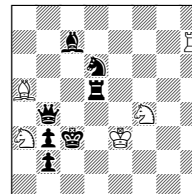
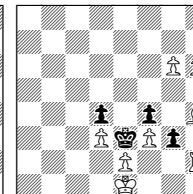
<p>4th Prize Julia Vysotska</p>  <p>hs#2½ b) +bPh7 (3+4) Anti-Andernach Chess Eiffel</p>	<p>Special Prize Michel Caillaud</p>  <p>hs#3 2 sols. (9+3) Anti-Andernach Chess Eiffel</p>	<p>1st Honorable Mention Julia Vysotska</p>  <p>hs#3 2 sols. (5+7) Anti-Andernach Chess Eiffel</p>	<p>2nd Honorable Mention Diyan Kostadinov</p>  <p>hs#2 b) Kf8→a4 (3+6) Anti-Andernach Chess Eiffel</p>
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4th Prize, Julia Vysotska This problem is a true jewel! An amazingly economical and beautiful construction shows a play by the black half-battery and white R/B and B/R batteries with exchange of functions. The rich thematic effects include the specific Zilahi theme. Solution: a) 1...Se6(w) 2.Rg3(b) Rh3(w) 3.Bg5(b)+ Bxe6#; b) 1...Be6(w) 2.Be3(b) Bd4(w) 3.Rd7(b)+ Sxe6#.

Special Prize, Michel Caillaud Double AUW realized in all four corners of the board, combined with additional paralysis by the wPd7/Pf7 and black Qd3/Qf2, black Zugzwang on the B3 moves etc. Abstractly speaking, such a unique synthesis deserves, without doubt, first prize. However, this phenomenal Meredith also has an obvious minus; almost complete symmetry in the play in both phases. Nevertheless, I felt obliged to award a Special Prize for this unusual and highly difficult complex presented in great form. Solution: I. 1.h8B(b) a1R(w) 2.Qd3(b) h1S(w) 3.a8Q(b) Bxa1#; II. 1.a8B(b) a1S(w) 2.Qf2(b) h1R(w) 3.h8Q(b) Bxh1#.

1st Honorable Mention, Julia Vysotska The two sides built so-called "ecto batteries" in every solution. In this unusual system of paralysis and spoiling of paralysis a very interesting role is played by the black King who gives mates, functioning as a forward piece of the black ecto – batteries. A wonderful idea implemented in Meredith form. Unfortunately, there is no complete thematic identity; only in the second solution we have white Knight promotion, etc. Solution: I. 1.Bg5(b) Bg4(w) 2.Bd7(b) Re3(w) 3.Sxg5+ Kxf8#; II. 1.Sd8(b) Rh4(w) 2.Rb4(b) Bf7(w) 3.cxd8S+ Kxe7#.

2nd Honorable Mention, Diyan Kostadinov A nice Meredith in which two duos of thematic pieces: Qb7/Rh5 and Pe2/Pf2 change reciprocally their functions. The creation of two black half-batteries: Pe2,Pf2/Rh2 and Pe2,Pf2/Qg2 is combined with interesting bicolor promotions of Pawns in two Rooks and two Bishops. Solution: a) 1.Rh2(b) f1R(w) 2.Qxf7+ e2xfR#; b) 1.Qg2(b) e1B(w) 2.Rxa5+ fxe1B#.

<p>3rd Honorable Mention Diyan Kostadinov</p>  <p>hs#2 b) bQh1 (7+6) Anti-Andernach Chess Eiffel</p>	<p>Commendation Pierre Tritten</p>  <p>hs#2½ 2 sols. (6+6) Anti-Andernach Chess Eiffel</p>	<p>Commendation Lev Grolman & Vladislav Nefyodov</p>  <p>hs#3 b) Sd6→g5 (5+7) Anti-Andernach Chess Eiffel</p>	<p>Commendation Rainer Kuhn</p>  <p>hs#4 2 sols. (8+4) Anti-Andernach Chess Eiffel</p>
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3rd Honorable Mention, Diyan Kostadinov There is a significant structural and thematic analogy between this entry and the one which received the 4th Prize. Since these originals were composed by different authors (according to additional director's information), I awarded both problems. Although this composition gives way in quality to 4th Prize, the formation of the twin is quite interesting. This change follows to thematic tries in both phases! Solution: a) 1.Qd5(b) Be3(w) 2.Bxd5+ Sxe3# (not 1.1.Qb6(b)? Se3(w) 2.Rxb6+ Bxe3+? 3.Bxg2!); b) 1.Qb6(b) Se3(w) 2.Rxb6+ Bxe3# (not 1.Qd5(b) Be3(w) 2.Bxd5+ Sxe3+? 3.Rxh6!)

Commendations are equal and without comments.

Commendation, Pierre Tritten Solution: I. 1...Rd4(w) 2.Qd8(b) Sxe2 3.Bxb5+ Sxd4#; II. 1...Sd5(w) 2.Re8(b) Rxc2 3.Qxb6+ Rxc6#.

Commendation, Lev Grolman & Vladislav Nefyodov Solution: a) 1.Rh2(b) Sc4(w) 2.Bb6(b) Qxc4+ 3.Sxd5+ Qxd5#; b) 1.Sh3(b) Bd8(w) 2.Re7(b) Rxd8+ 3.Bxb4+ Kxb4#.

Commendation, Rainer Kuhn Solution: I. 1.g7(b) gxh2 2.hxg7 h1Q(w) 3.g8R(b) Rg3(w) 4.Qg1(b) fxg3#; II. 1.Kf1 g2(w) 2.Be1(b) Bc3(w) 3.Rh5(b) Ra5(w) 4.Ra1(b) dxc3#.

We thank all participants as well as Petko A. Petkov for a successful tourney. All prize winners will receive books from the library of StrateGems. Other awardees will receive one year electronic subscription to StrateGems. This award stays open for three months. Please send your comments to Petko A. Petkov.

All prize winners will receive books from the library of StrateGems. Other winners will receive one year electronic subscription to StrateGems.

List of participants:

Geoff Foster (**Australia**)
Diyan Kostadinov (**Bulgaria**)
Nikola Predrag (**Croatia**)
Alexandr Fica, Jozef Holubec (**Czech Republic**)
Mark Erenburg, Misha Shapiro (**Israel**)
Vito Rallo (**Italy**)
Michel Caillaud, Pierre Tritten (**France**)
Stephan Dietrich, Rainer Kuhn, Manfred Rittirsch, Peter Sickinger, Andreas Thoma (**Germany**)
Julia Vysotska (**Latvia**)
Jaroslav Brzozowicz, Eugeniusz Iwanow, Waldemar Tura (**Poland**)
Peter Harris (**Republic of South Africa**)
Vlaicu Crisan, Eric Huber (**Romania**)
Bojan Bašić (**Serbia**)
Bedrich Formanek, Karol Mlynka, Ladislav Packa, Stanislav Vokál (**Slovakia**),
Igor Agapov, Aleksandr Azhusin, Aleksandr Feoktistov, Eugene Fomichev, Lev Grolman, Mikhail Hramtzevič, Igor Kochulov, Aleksandr Kuzovkov, Vladislav Nefyodov, Yuri Paramonov, Andrey Selivanov, Sergey Smotrov, Aleksandr Sygurov, Vadim Vinokurov, Victor Zheglov (**Russia**)
Sergey Borodavkin, Gennady Koziura, Michail Mishko (**Ukraine**),
Mark Kirtley (**USA**)