

3rd Honorable Mention - (Valery Kalashnikov & Janos Mikitovics - E0247) After 1...c2!, White sacrifices his Bishop with 2.Bg2+! in order to capture the white Pawn. Black has three possible continuations, all ending in defeat after careful play by White. **Solution:** 1.**Sf1** (1.Sc6? c2 2.Sxd4 c1Q 3.Se6 Kxh2 4.e5 Qxa3 5.Bh5 Qe7 6.Bf7 Kg3 7.f5 Qb7 =) **1...c2!** (1...Rd3 2.Bd1!! Rxd1 3.Se3 Rd8+ 4.Kg7! +-) **2.Bg2+!** (2.Bg4+? Kxg4 3.Se3+ Kxf4 =) **2...Kxg2** (2...Kh4 3.Sf5+ fork #1) **3.Se3+ Kf3** **4.Sxc2:**
A) 4...Rd8+ 5.Kg7 Kxf4 6.e5 Rd2 (6...Kxe4 7.Sc6+ fork #2) **7.Sg6+ Ke4 8.Sb4! Rd7+** (8...Kf5 9.Sc6 Ra10.Sd4+ Ke4 11.Sb5 Kd5 12.Sc3+ fork #3) **9.Kf6 Ra7 10.e6 Rxa3 11.Se5! Ra8 12.Sf7 Kd4** (12...Re8 13.Sd6+ fork #4) **13.Sd8!! Rxd8 14.Sc6+ fork #5 +-**
B) 4...Rxe4 5.f5 Rxe7 6.f6 Re4 7.Sb4 Rg4+8.Kf8 Ke3 9.f7 Kd410.Sc6+ Ke3 (10...Kc4 11.Se5+ fork #6) **11.Ke8 Rf4** (11...Re4+ 12.Se7 Rf4 13.Sd5+ fork 7) **12.a4 Kc4 13.Se5+ Kb4 14.Sd3+ fork #8 +-**
C) 4...Rd2 5.Sd5! Kxe46.Sce3! Rd3 (6...Rb2 7.f5! Ra2 8.Sc3+ fork #9) **7.a4 Rd4** (7...Ra3 8.f5! Ke5 9.Sc4+ fork #10, 8...Rxa4 9.Sc3+ fork #11; 7...Kf3 8.f5! Ra3 9.Sb6 Kxe3 10.Sc4+ fork #12) **8.f5! Kd3 9.a5! Ra4 10.a6!! Rxa6 11.Sb4+ fork #13 +-**

Commendations are in publishing order and without comments.

Commendation - (Martin Minski - E0234) **Solution:** 1.**b4!** [1.Sd3? Ba7! =; 1.Kb5? Ba7! =] **1...Bb6!** [1...Ba7 2.Sg2! (2.Ka5? h4! 3.b5 h3 4.Sf3! Kxf3 5.b6 Bxb6+ 6.Kxb6 h2 7.a7 Kf2 8.a8Q Kg1 =) 2...Kg3 3.Sh4!! Kxh4 4.Ka5! (4.b5?? Bb6! +-) 4...Kg3 5.b5 +- see main line] **2.Kb5!** [2.Sg2? Kg3! 3.Kb5 Bf2! (3...Bd4? 4.Sh4!! Kxh4 5.Ka5 Kg4 6.b5 Bc3+ 7.Kb6 h4 8.Kc5! Be1 9.b6 Bf2+ 10.Kb5 +-) 4.Sh4!? Kxh4 5.Ka5 Kg4/Kg5 6.b5 Be1+! 7.Kb6 h4! (7...Bf2+? 8.Kc7! +-) 8.a7 Bf2+ 9.Ka6 Bxa7 =] **2...Ba7 3.Sg2!** [3.Ka5? h4! 4.b5 h3 5.Sf3! Kxf3 6.b6 Bxb6+ 7.Kxb6 h2 8.a7 Kf2 9.a8Q Kg1 =] **3...Kg3 4.Sh4!!** [Thematic try 4.Ka5? Kxg2! 5.b5 Kg1 (or 5...h4) 6.b6 Bxb6+ 7.Kxb6 h4 8.a7 h3 9.a8Q h2 =] **4...Kxh4 5.Ka5!** [5.Kc6? Kg3/Kg4/Kg5 6.b5 h4 7.b6 h3! 8.bxa7 h2 9.Kc7 h1Q 10.Kb8 =] 5...Kg3 6.b5 h4 7.b6 Bxb6+ 8.Kxb6 h3 9.a7 h2 10.a8Q Kf2 11.Qh1 +-.

Commendation - (Pavel Arestov - E0243) **Solution:** 1.**Sb6** (1.Rf8? Ra3+ 2.Kb4 Rb3+ 3.Kc5 Rf3=) **1...Ra3+** (1...Re7 2.Sd4 Sg4 3.Sxd5 Se3 4.Rf2+ Ka3 5.Sc2+ Sxc2 6.Sxe7 +-) **2.Kc2! d4!** (2...Ka1 3.Sxd5 +-) **3.Sxd4** (3.Sxc4? d3+ 4.Kd2 Sf1+! 5.Rxf1 exd=) **3...Sg4! 4.Sd5!!** (Thematic try: 4.Sxc4? Se3+! 5.Sxe3 Rxe3 6.Rh5 Ka3! 7.Ra5+ Kb4 8.Sc6+ Kc4!=) **4...Se3+ 5.Sxe3 Rxe3 6.Rh5!** zz (6.Ra5+? Ra3 7.Rh5 Re3! zz =) **6...Ka3** (6...Rg3 7.Se2! Rg2 8.Ra5#) **7.Ra5+ Kb4 8.Sc6#!.**

Commendation
Pavel Arestov

Win (3+4)

Commendation
Peter Krug

Draw (7+7)

Commendation
Peter Krug

Win (6+6)

Commendation - (Pavel Arestov - E0248) **Solution:** 1.**Kf6!** **Bg5+!** (1...Sd2 2.Sxe3 Se4+ 3.Ke5 +-) **2.Kxg5 Sd2! 3.Kf6!** (3.e7? Se4+ 4.Kf5 Sd6+ 5.Ke6 Se8 =) **3...Sc4!** (3...Se4+ 4.Ke5 +-) **4.Ke7!!** (switchback, 4.e7? Sd6 =) **4...Kb4** (4...Se5 5.Kd6! Sg6 7.Sf4! +-) **5.Kd7 Sb6+** (5...Se5+ 6.Kd6! Sg6 7.Sf4! +-) **6.Kd8!** (6.Kd6? c4 7.e7 Se8+=, or 6.Kc6? Se8 7.Kd7 Sb6+ loss of time) **6...Sd5 7.Se3! Sf6** (7...Sxe3 8.e7 +-) **8.e7** (8.Ke7? Se4 9.Kd8 loss of time) **8...c4 9.Sd5+!** (9.Sg4? c3! 10.Sxf6 c2 11.e8Q c1Q =) **9...Sxd5 10.e8Q +-**

Commendation - (Peter Krug - E0249) **Solution:** 1.**Sc4!** (1.Rxc8 2.Kg1) **Sxb6+** (1...Kg1 2.Kc5 Sxb6 3.Kxb6 Rxc6+ 4.Ka5 Re2 5.b5 f2 6.Qa1 Rg5 7.Rxf2) **2.Sxb6 Kg1 3.Qd1** (3.Qa1 f2+ 4.Ke5 Re2+ 5.Kf6 Rg8) (3. Ke5 Rxc6) **3...f2+ 4.Ke5 Rxc6** (4...Re2+ 5.Kf6 Ree7 (5...Rg8 6.Qxe2 Rxf8+ 7.Ke7) 6.Rf7 Rgxf7+ 7.gxf7 Re3 8.Qd6 f1Q+ 9.Kg7 Qf5 10.f8Q Qg5+ 11.Qg6) **5.Rxf2 Kxf2 6. Kf5** (6.Qd4+ Kf1 7.Kf5 Rg5+ 8.Kf6 Re2) **6...Be4+ 7.Kxe4 Rxb4+ 8.Kd5 Rxb6 9.Qd2+ Kf1 10.Qd3+ Kg1 11.Qe3+ Kf1 12.Qd3+ Sxd3 drawn.**

Commendation - (Peter Krug - E0250) **Solution:** 1.**f7** (1.Rd2 Qb8 2.f7 Re1 3.Rxa2 Kg4 4.Rgc2 Kh3 5.Rc3 Qb4+ 6.Kg8 Qb8 7.Raxa3 Rxe8+ 8.Kh7 Rd8) **1... Rf1** (1...Re1 2.Rxa2) **2.Kg8** (2.Rxa2 Rf2 3.Rgxf2+ gxf2 4.Kg8 Qd5 5.Rxa3+ Kg2 6.Ra1 f1Q 7.Rxf1 Kxf1) **2...Qd5** (2...Rf2 3.Rgxf2+ gxf2 4.Re6 Qd3 5.f8Q+ Kg2 6.Be5) **3.Sf6 Qxf7+ 4.Kxf7 Sc3 5.Rc2 a2 6.Rgd2 a1Q 7.Rd3+ Kf4 8.Rxc3 Qxc3 9.Bh6+** (9.Rxc3 g2 10.Bh6+ Ke5 11.Rc5+ Kd4) **9...Ke5 10.Rd5#**

Many thanks to Zlatko for being a judge. The award stays open for 3 months. Please send your comments to Franjo Vrabec.

StrateGems 2013 h#n Award

By Boško Milošeski

Twenty-two problems were published in 2013. H1868 (Uzunyan/Gasparyan) was eliminated because it was previously published in the July, 2013 issue of *The Problemist*. The quality of the entries was solid. Here is my decision:

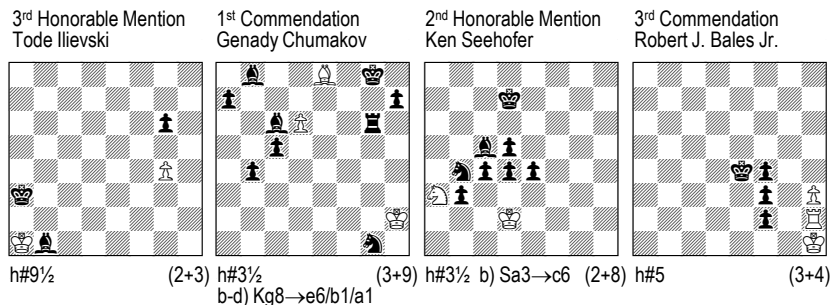
1st Prize Viktoras Paluilionis	2nd Prize Fadil Abdurahmanović & Zlatko Mihajloski	1st Honorable Mention Mirko Degenkolbe & Steven Dowd	2nd Honorable Mention Zlatko Mihajloski
h#9½*	(2+3) h#4 2 solutions	(3+10) h#7*	(7+9) h#7 (2+7)

1st Prize - (Viktoras Paluilionis - H1800) The problem impresses with artistic content shown with only five pieces. The complex maneuvers end with ideal-echo mates. This is the best rendition with material KS/kqp. (See problems A, B, C and D in the Appendix.) **Solution:** Set: 1.Qa6+ Kb8 2.e5 Kc7 3.e4 Se5 4.e3 Sc6 5.e2 Kd6 6.e1R Kd5 7.Ra1 Sd4+ 8.Ka5 Kc5 9.Ra4 Sb3#; 1...Sg5 2.e5 Se6 3.Kc6 Sc7 4.Kd7 Kb6 5.e4 Kc5 6.e3 Kd5 7.e2 Se6 8.e1R Sg5 9.Kd8 Kd6 10.Re8 Sf7#.

2nd Prize - (Fadil Abdurahmanović & Zlatko Mihajloski - H1865) Original and effective play by Bishops ends with a same mate in both solutions. The first solution is more impressive due to the Bristol effects. **Solution:** 1.Bf6 Bg7 2.Bxh4 Bf6 3.Bf2 Bh4 4.Bg1 Bg3#, 1.Bh6 Bxe5+ 2.Bf4 Bc3 3.Be3 Be1 4.Bg1 Bg3#.

1st Honorable Mention - (Mirko Degenkolbe & Steven Dowd - H1821) A passive white Queen sacrifice, which mates in the set-play. Black then promotes to a Rook which is sacrificed on g4. A tempo move (3...b3) and a model mate with the f-Pawn are added element to this interesting problem. **Solution:** 1...Qd1#; 1.bxc2 Kh1 2.c1R+ Kh2 3.Rg1 b3 4.Rxg5 Kh1 5.Rg4! hxg4 6.Kxg4 Kg2 7.g5 f3#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Zlatko Mihajloski - H1820) Spectacular anti-critical moves enabling line closures to shield the white King and enable its passage to c2-square. The line closing is done (mostly) by the black Knight which self-blocks on a2. **Solution:** 1.Re8 Bc1 2.Qc7 Kxg5 3.Rd6 Kf4 4.Se7 Ke3 5.Sd5+ Kd2 6.Sc3+ Kc2 7.Sa2 Bb2#.



3rd Honorable Mention - (Tode Ilievski - H1799) A good, long miniature in which the white Pawn mates on g7-square. Solution: 1...g5 2.Kb4 Kb2...6.Kf8 Kf6 7.Ba2 Kxg6 8.Kg8 Kh6 9.Kh8 g6 10.Bg8 g7#.

1st Commendation - (Genady Chumakov - H1843) The white Bishop makes all four possible moves (in twins) while Black unpins (four times) the white Pawn, which promotes and mates. Solution: a) 1...Bd7 2.Bxd7 Kh1 3.Be8 d7 4.Rg7 dxe8Q#; b) 1...Bxc6 2.Rg3 d7 3.Be5 Bd5+ 4.Kd6 d8Q#; c) 1...Bf7 2.Rg3 d7 3.b3 d8Q 4.b2 Qd1#; d) 1...Bxg6 2.Bc7 dxc7 3.Bd5 c8Q 4.Ba2 Qh8#.

2nd Commendation - (Ken Seehofer - H1842) A double white Knight's rundlauf in a Meredith. Solution: a) 1... Sxc4 2.Kc6 Se3 3.Kb5 Sc2 4.Kc4 Sa3#; b) 1...Sxd4 2.Kd6 Sc2 3.Ke5 Sxb4 4.Kd4 Sc6#.

3rd Commendation - (Robert J. Bales Jr. - H1819) Nice play by the white Rook and the black f3-Pawn, opening the path for the white King. Solution: 1.Kf5 Rxf2 2.Kg5 Rf1 3.f2 Kg2 4.Kh4 Kf3 5.Kxh3 Rh1#.

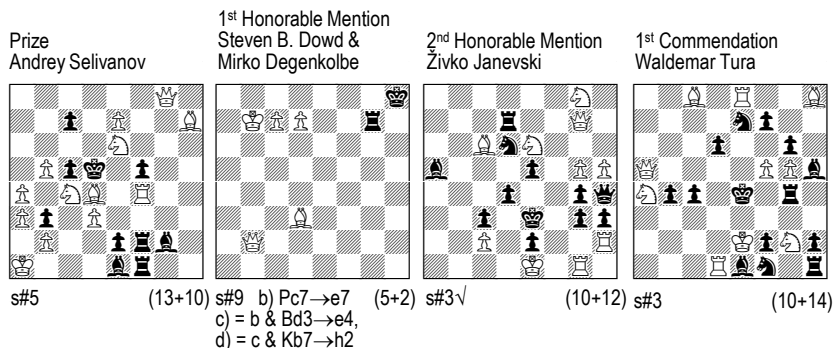
We thank Boško for this timely award. The award stays open for three months. Please send comments to Nikola Stolev.

StrateGems 2013 Selfmates Award

By Diyan Kostadinov

Twenty-eight selfmates were published in 2013. The level of the tourney was below average. Unfortunately this has also been a tendency in other selfmate tourneys during the last few years.

I propose the following ranking:

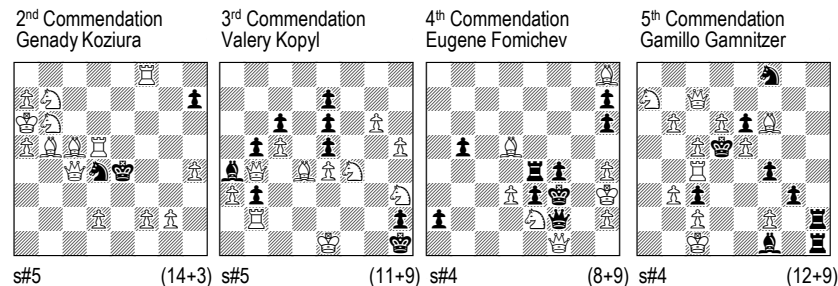


Prize - (Andrey Selivanov - S0571) The white S/Q battery is set. It plays five times. The most important are the main variations 1...f4 and 1...cxd4 where we have a battery translation. Such white battery translations are already known (for example they were realized 20 years ago by Petko Petkov), but the new detail here is that in both variations the new batteries are created with quiet moves by the rear piece. Excellent! Solution: **1.Rf3!** (2.Sxc5+ Kxd4 3.Qd8+ Kxc5 4.d4+ Kxc4 5.Rc3+ Bxc3#), 1...Bxf3 2.Sg5+ Kxd4 3.Qd8+ Bd5 4.Qh8+ Kxd3 5.Qc3+ Bxc3#, 1...Rxf3 2.Sd8+ Kxd4 3.Sc6+ Kxd3 4.Qd5+ Kc2 5.Qd2+ Bxd2#; 1...f4 2.Sxf4+ Kxd4 3.Qg4 (4.Sxe2+ Kd5 5.Sc3+ Bxc3#), 1...cxd4 2.Sxc7+ Kc5 3.Qc8 (4.Sa6+ Kd5 5.Sb4+ Bxb4#), 1...Rxf4 2.Sg5+ Kxd4 3.Qd8+ Bd5 4.Qh8+ Kxd3 5.Qc3+ Bxc3#, (1.Bc3? ~ 2.Sxc5+ Kxc5 3.Bb4+ Bxb4#, 1...Rxf4 2.Sxc5+ Kxc5 3.d4+ Rxd4 4.Bb4+ Bxb4# but 1...Be4!

1st Honorable Mention - (Steven Dowd & Mirko Degenkolbe - S0551) Four solutions, each nine moves long, start with different wK keys and finishes with model mates by the bR. This is quite good, but due to some repetition of moves I awarded it only an honorable mention. Solution: a) **1.Kc8!** Kg8 2.d8Q+ Kf7 3.Qf2+ Ke6 4.Qe3+ Kf7 5.Qf4+ Ke6 6.Bf5+ Kf7 7.Be4+ Ke6 8.Qe8+ Re7 9.Bb7 Rxe8#; b) **1.Kb8!** Kg8 2.d8Q+ Kf7 3.Qf8+ Ke6 4.Bc4+ Kd6 5.Qd4+ Kc6 6.e8B+ Rd7 7.Qe5 Kb6 8.Qff6+ Rd6 9.Qd8+ Rxd8#; c) **1.Ka8!** Kg8 2.d8Q+ Kf7 3.Qf8+ Ke6 4.e8Q+ Re7 5.Qf5+ Kd6 6.Qb8+ Rc7 7.Qbb4+ Rc5 8.Qf8+ Kc7 9.Qa5+ Rxa5#; d) **1.Kh1!** Kg8 2.d8Q+ Kf7 3.Qf2+ Ke6 4.e8Q+ Re7 5.Qdb6+ Ke5 6.Qh5+ Ke4 7.Qe2+ Kf4 8.Qbh6+ Kg3 9.Qe1+ Rxe1#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Zivko Janevski - S0563) There are two main variations with black defenses arriving on e4-square, only to be pinned by White. If we count the threat and the third variation (which are thematically connected to the mates by the bQ, after wR sacrifices) we can call this a SOTF type 2x2. Good try by the key piece and change of white continuation. Solution: 1.Sf6? (2.Sxg4+ Qxg4 3.Rxe2+ Qxe2#), 1...e4 2.Sd5+ Kf3 3.Rf2+ gxf2#, 1...Se4!; **1.Sh6!** (2.Sxg4+ Qxg4 3.Rxe2+ Qxe2#), 1...Se4 2.Sf5+ Kf3 3.Rf2+ gxf2#, 1...d3 2.Rxe2+ dxe2 3.Rxg3+ Qxg3#, 1...e4 2.Qxd4+ Kf3 3.Qxc3+ Bxc3#.

1st Commendation - (Waldemar Tura - S0569) Two black defenders, Bishop and Knight, close Rd1 line enabling the black King to escape to d5-square. Such pins are not new. However, the fresh element here is the nice dual avoidance effect after wK flights. Solution: **1.Qc7!** (2.Sc5+ dxc5 3.Qf4+ Rxf4#), 1...Sd2 2.Qxe7+ Kd5 3.Qe4+ Rxe4# (2.Rxe7+? Kd5 3.Sf4+ Rxf4+ 4.Ke3!), 1...Bd2 2.Rxe7+ Kd5 3.Sf4+ Rxf4# (2.Qxe7+? Kd5 3.Qe4+ Rxe4+ 4.Kxf2!), 1...f6 2.Qxc4+ Ke5 3.Qd4+ Rxd4#.



2nd Commendation - (Genady Koziura - S0564) Two variations, after the moves by the black Pawn, with mates by the unpinned bS. Tries by the key piece are a good addition. Solution: 1.Bb4(a3)? h6!, 1.Bd6? h5!; **1.Be7!** (zz), 1...h6 2.Qb4 h5 3.Qb1+ Sc2 4.Rc5 Kd4 5.Qb4+ Sxb4#, 1...h5 2.Rd6 Ke5 3.f4+ Ke4 4.Qe6+ Sxe6 5.Sc5+ Sxc5#.

3rd Commendation - (Valery Kopyl - S0566) Zugzwang, self-blocks and two model mates by the bB on different diagonals. There are also two tries by the wK. Solution: 1.Kd2? exf4!; 1.Kf2? exd4!; **1.Ke2!** (zz), 1...exd4 2.Kd3 e5 3.Sg2 e6 4.Qd2 b4 5.axb4 Bb5#, 1...exf4 2.Kf3 e5 3.Bf2 e6 4.Rd2 b2 5.Rd1+ Bxd1#.