

17th Ukrainian Folk Crafts Theme Tourney

Final Award

This year's traditional Ukrainian Folk Crafts composing tourney was amazingly successful. A total of 49 problems were received from 36 composers representing 18 countries. The overall level was high; the judges are very grateful to all the participants! Unfortunately, we had to leave out a number of entries that would surely be included in the award of a less competitive tourney. Even more regrettably, several problems included in the preliminary award appeared to be anticipated and had to be excluded.

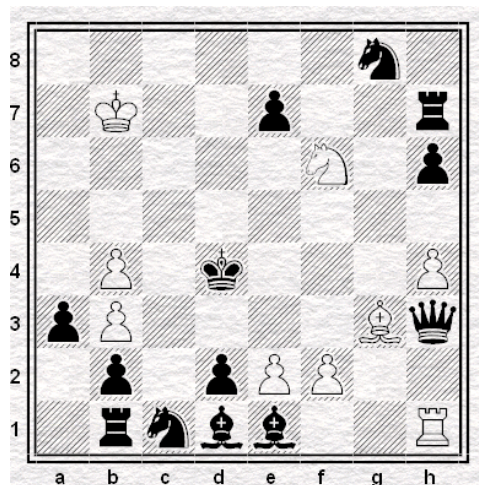
Former 4th Prize: anticipated by Valery Gurov, SuperProblem 2018; former 2nd Special Mention: anticipated by József Korponai, Europe Echecs 1969; former 6th Commendation: anticipated by Leonid Makaronez, Semion Shifrin, Orbit 2002; former 13th Commendation: anticipated by Valery Gurov, Phénix 1999; former 14th Commendation: anticipated by Abdelaziz Onkoud, Sachmatija 2018.

Non-anticipated entries not appearing in this award are at the disposal of their authors, who can send them to other tournaments.

When assessing the entries, the team of judges focused on the scope and unique aspects of thematic content, nontriviality of motivation for theme implementation, specificity of twin formation and a variety of technical details.

1st Prize

Themis ARGIRAKOPOULOS & Harry FOUGIAXIS (Greece)



9+13 h#2 b) Rh1>h8; c) Rh1>a1; d) Sc1>g1; e) –Bd1

a) 1.Bxe2 Rxe1 2.Bd3 Be5#

b) 1.Sxf6 Rc8 2.Sd5 Rc4#

c) 1.Bxb3 Rxa3 2.Bc4 e3#

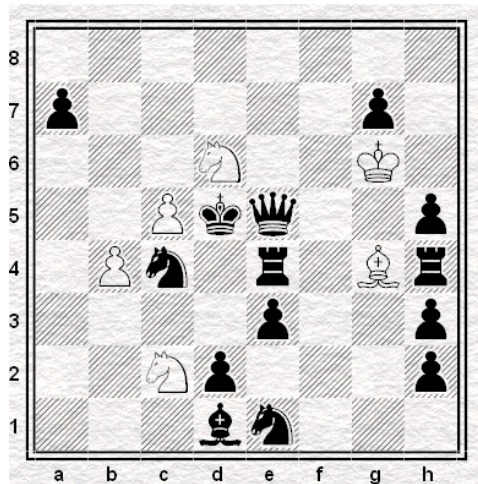
d) 1.Qxg3 Rh3 2.Qe5 Rd3#

e) 1.Bxf2 Rxc1 2.Be3 Rc4#

Five solutions and a festival of different mates (in b) and e) the mating patterns are not the same). A remarkable achievement for Bukovina theme.

Aleksandr SEMENENKO & Valery SEMENENKO (Ukraine)

2nd Prize



6+14 h#2 b) Re4>d4; c) Re4>c6

a) 1.Bxg4 Sc8 2.Be6 Se7#

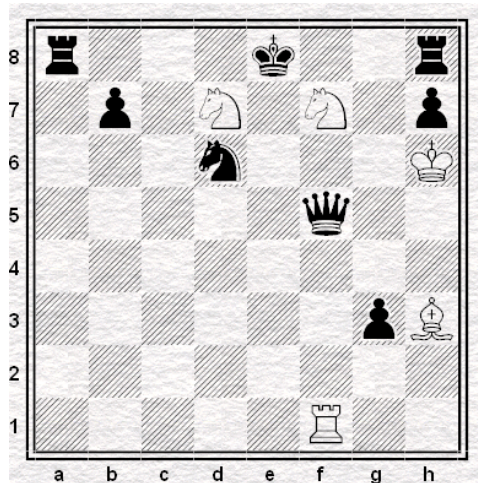
b) 1.Sxd6 Bd7 2.Se4 Sxe3#

c) 1.Sxc2 Be2 2.Sd4 Bxc4#

Cyclic Zilahi, triple interference with black long-range pieces, three model mates. A top-class problem.

Vlaicu CRISAN & Eric HUBER (Romania)

3rd Prize



5+8 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

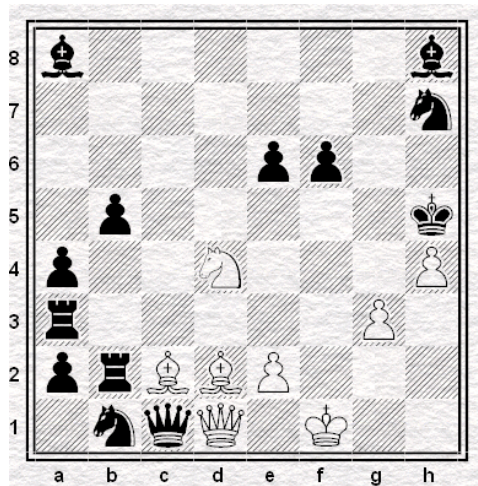
1.Qxd7 Bf5 2.0-0 Bxh7#

1.Qxf7 Rf5 2.0-0-0 Rc5#

The blocking unit in both solutions is the rook involved in the castling; the bK leaves his initial square, but the thematic adjacent square remains the same; this is highly original. White's first move is made to a square just vacated by the black queen (black-white Umnov, also known as Follow-My-Leader). The result is what looks like a "White Grimshaw" featuring the Anti-Ziel paradox: White immediately closes a line opened by Black. The basic scheme comes from: Alexandr Pankratyev, Gravura 2017.

Ricardo de MATTOS VIERA (Brazil)

4th Prize



8+13 h#2 b) wPh4>g5

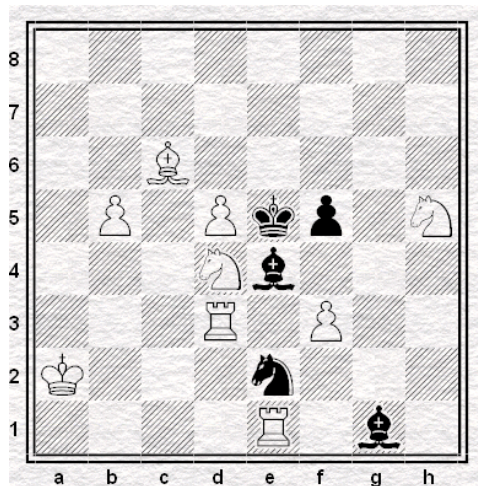
a) 1.Qxd2! (1.Qxc2?) Sc6! 2.Qh6 e3# (1...Sb3? 2.Qh6 e4+ 3.Kg6)

b) 1.Qxc2! (1.Qxd2?) Sb3! 2.Qg6 e4# (1...Sc6? 2.Qg6 e3+ 3.Kxg5)

The tourney theme is presented against the background of a number of subtle dual avoidance based choices by the two sides.

Fadil ABDURAHMANOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) & Marko KLASINC (Slovenia)

5th Prize



9+5 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

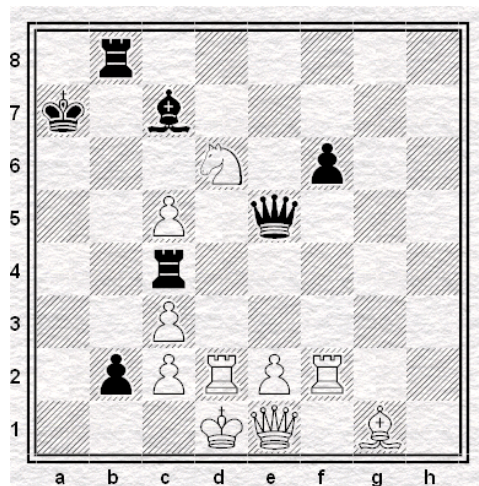
1.Sxd4 d6 2.Se6 Rd5#

1.Bxd5+ Sb3 2.Be6 f4#

An original interpretation of the theme: in the diagram position the thematic square e6 is guarded by two white pieces; in each solution, one of these pieces is captured and the other makes a move unguarding the e6-square, which is then blocked by the black piece that made the capture on the first move. All of this happens against the background of black self-pinning in half-pin mechanism.

Cornel PĂCURAR (Canada)

Special Prize



10+7 h#2 b) Ka7>a5

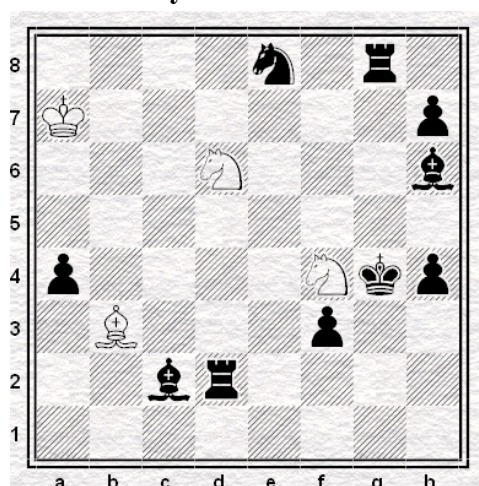
a) 1.Qxc5 Rf5 (Rd5?) 2.Qb6 Ra5#

b) 1.Qxc3 Rd3 (Rf3?) 2.Qb4 Ra3#

The wQ and wB only participate in one of the solutions; the participation of each wR in one of the twins is limited to a “dual-avoiding” attempt. This is at odds with the present-day helpmate standards. Nevertheless, the combination of square-blocking and self-pinning of the thematic black piece after White’s first move (unlike the 5th Prize and 4th Honorary Mention, where the self-pinned piece is not the thematic one, and unlike the 5th Commendation, where the thematic piece is self-pinned at its 2nd move) is highly unusual for Bukovina theme – one may even question the validity of such interpretation of the theme. However, the judges give this “rule-breaking” composition the benefit of the doubt and allocate a special place for it in the award.

Vlaicu CRISAN (Romania)

1st Honorary Mention



4+10 h#2 b) Kg4>c7; c) Kg4>a3

a) 1.Bxf4 Se4 2.h5 Be6#

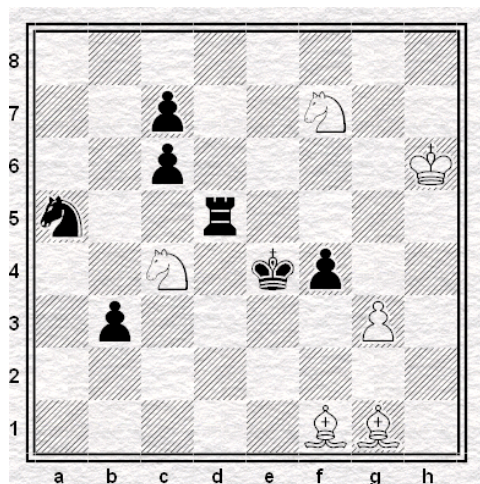
b) 1.Sxd6 Bxa4 2.Rc8 Se6#

c) 1.Bxb3 Sd3 2.Ra2 Sb5#

Cyclic exchange of functions between the white pieces: one of them is captured by Black's 1st move, another makes a move to guard two flights, and the third piece delivers mate. Three model mates, two from the same square. All of Black's 1st moves are line-opening captures. The black king's "journey across the board" in the twins to preset "cages," however, detracts from the problem's overall impression.

Piotr MURDZIA & Waldemar TURA (Poland)

2nd Honorary Mention



6+7 h#2 b) Pf4>g2; c) Pf4>h2

a) 1.Sxc4 g4 2.Se5 Sg5#

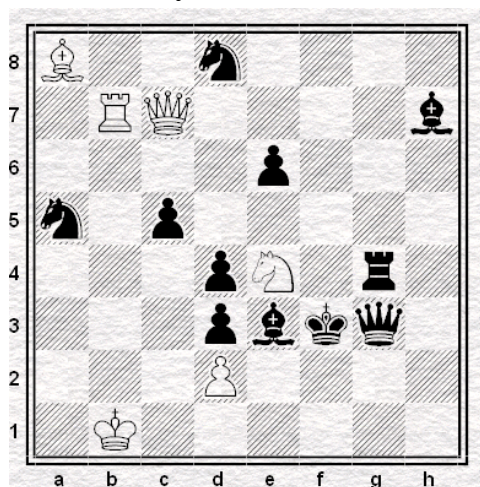
b) 1.gxf1=B Kg6 2.Bd3 Sd2#

c) 1.hxg1=B Sfe5 2.Bd4 Bd3#

Triple bR interference and three model mates. Unfortunately, there are considerable differences in the pattern of play between a) and the other two twins; for this reason, the problem is somewhat lacking in homogeneity.

Fadil ABDURAHMANOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) & Marko KLASINC (Slovenia)

3rd Honorary Mention



6+11 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

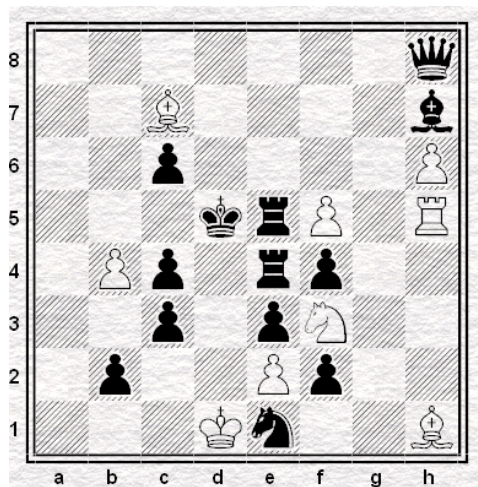
1.Bxd2 Rb2 2.Be3 Sg5#

1.Qxc7 Sc3 2.Qg3 Rf7#

The two sides cooperate in opening lines to provide for mate through double check. Switchbacks by black pieces.

Menachem WITZUM (Israel)

4th Honorary Mention



9+13 h#2 b) Bc7>c5

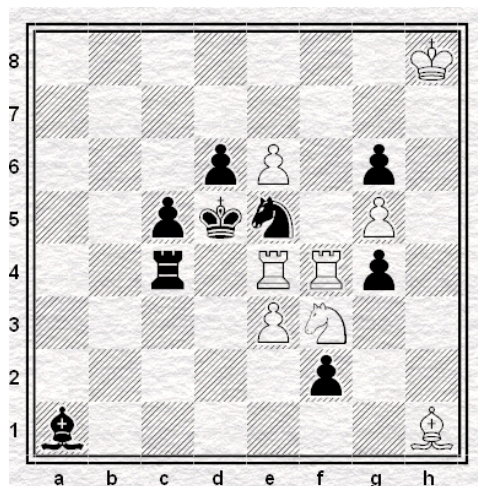
a) 1.Sxf3 f6 2.Sd4 Rxe5#

b) 1.Bxf5 Sd2 2.Be6 Bxe4#

The reason for the capture of the thematic white pieces on Black's 1st move consists in enabling the self-pinning of a black rook on the 2nd move.

Fadil ABDURAHMANOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) & Marko KLASINC (Slovenia)

5th Honorary Mention



8+9 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

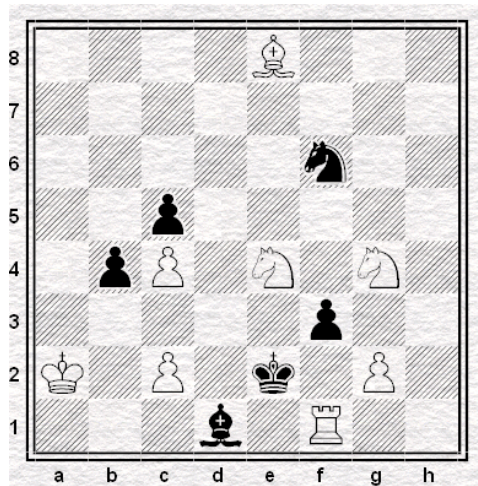
1.Rxe4 Rf5 2.Rc4 Sd4#

1.Sxf3+ Rf6 2.Se5 Rd4#

White half-battery, switchbacks by bR and bS. White mates from the same square. However, the solutions do not look quite harmonious.

Abdelaziz ONKOUD (France)

6th Honorary Mention



8+6 h#2 3.1.,1.1.

1.Bxc2 Ba4 2.Bd3 Bd1#

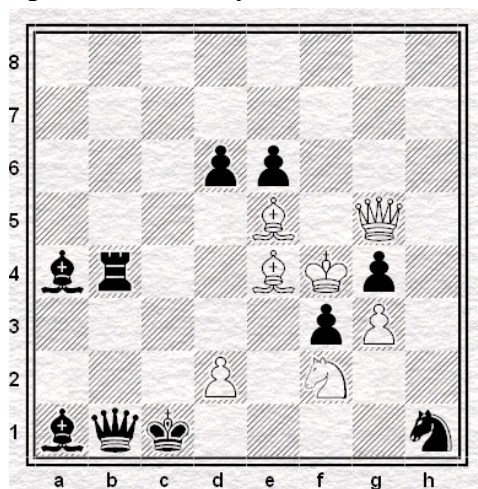
1.Sxe4 Bg6 (1...Bc6? 2.Sd2 Bf3??) 2.Sd2 Bd3#

1.Sxg4 Bh5 2.Se3 Bxf3#

Threefold wB ambush, Azemmour 7 theme (White Monopoly + Black Mixed Monopoly).

Tadeusz LEHMANN (Poland)

Special Honorary Mention



7+10 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

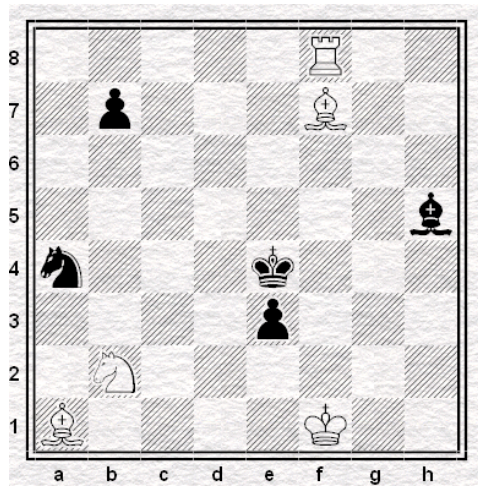
1.Bc2 d3 (d4?) 2.Rxe4+ Kxe4#

1.Bb2 d4 (d3?) 2.dxe5+ Kxe5#

Anticipatory form of Bukovina theme. Such interpretation of the theme is not in line with the tourney theme definition; however, the judges decided that this interesting problem deserves a Special Honorary Mention.

Pierre TRITTEN & Axel GILBERT (France)

1st Commendation



5+5 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

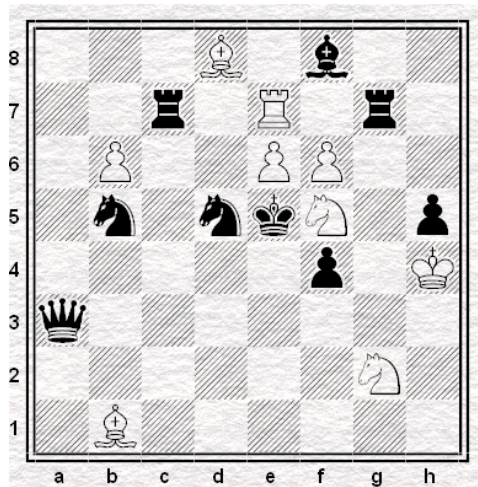
1.Sxb2 Bxh5 2.Sd3 Bf3#

1.Bxf7 Sxa4 2.Bd5 Sc5#

Chumakov and Zilahi themes. Reciprocal capture of pieces. Model mates.

Mario PARRINELLO (Italy)

2nd Commendation



9+9 h#2 3.1.,1.1.

1.Qxe7 Se1 2.Qxe6 Sf3#

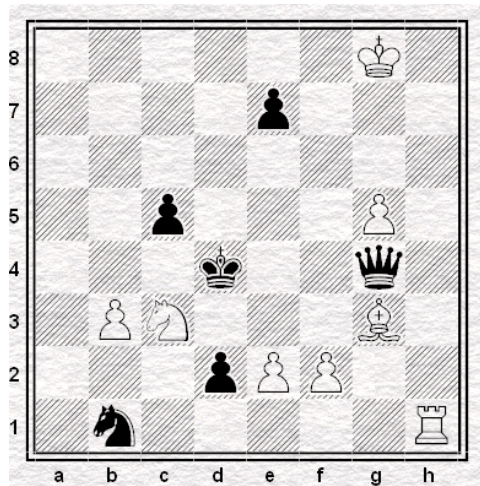
1.Rcxe7 Sge3 2.Rxe6 Sc4#

1.Rgxe7 Sxf4 2.Rxe6 Sg6#

Triple capture of wR for line-opening. Three mates (one of them model) by the same wS.

Ofer COMAY & Paz EINAT (Israel)

3rd Commendation



8+6 h#2 3.1.,1.1.

1.Sxc3 Rc1 2.Sd5 Rc4#

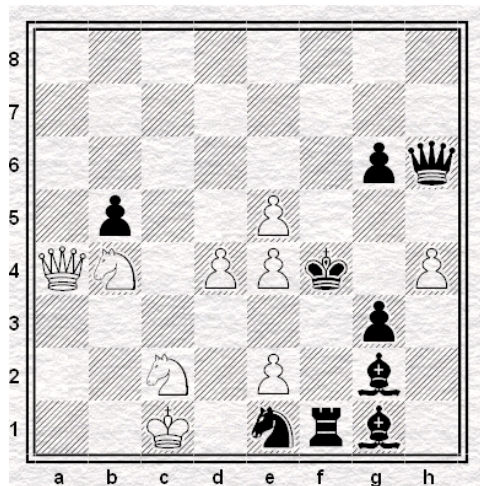
1.Qxe2 Re1 2.Qd3 Be5#

1.Qxg3 Rh3 2.Qe5 Rd3#

Three solutions featuring wR ambush.

Valery KOPYL & Gennadi KOZIURA (Ukraine)

4th Commendation



9+9 h#3 3.1.,1.1.

1.Kxe4+ e3 2.Rf5 Qa8#

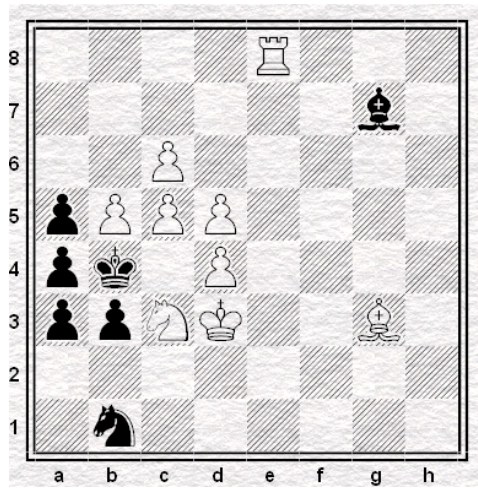
1.Bxe4 d5 2.Bf5 Sd3#

1.Bxd4 Se3 2.Bxe5 Sbd5#

Again three solutions, but the level of harmony between them leaves much to be desired.

Menachem WITZUM (Israel) & Ricardo de MATTOS VIERA (Brazil)

5th Commendation



9+7 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

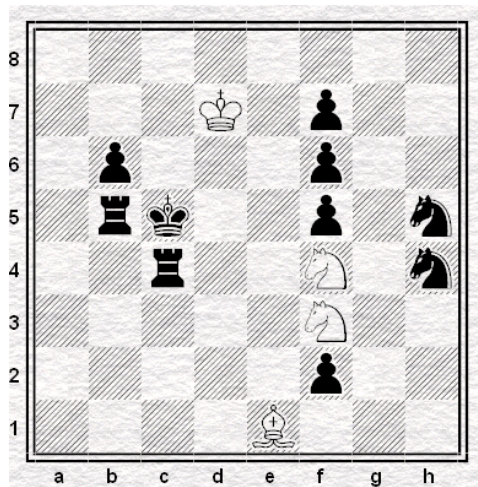
1.Sxc3 Rb8 2.Sxb5 Be1#

1.Bxd4 Bd6 2.Bxc5 Re4#

Self-pinning of the thematic black pieces.

Gennady CHUMAKOV (Russian Federation)

6th Commendation



4+10 h#2 b) Be1>f1; c) Be1>h2

a) 1.fxe1=B Sd4 2.Bb4 Sb3#

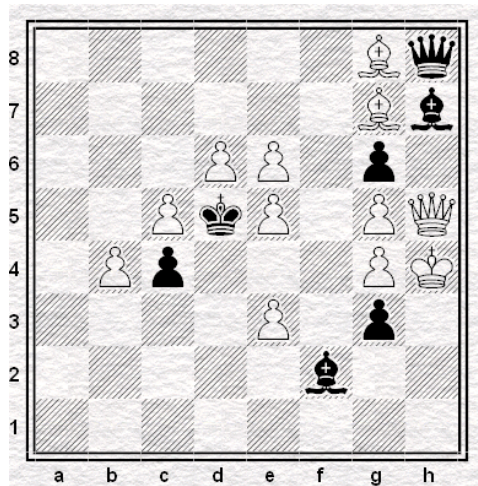
b) 1.Sxf3 Bg2 2.Sd4 Sd3#

c) 1.Sxf4 Bg3 2.Sd5 Bd6#

In view of the shifting of the wB in the twins, this is a pseudo rather than real cyclic Zilahi.

Valery GUROV (Russian Federation)

7th Commendation



12+7 h#2 3.1.,1.1.

1.Bxg8 Qxh8 2.Bxe6 Qa8#

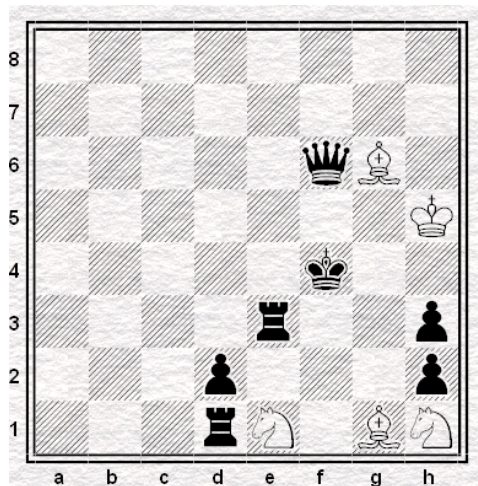
1.Qxg7 Qxh7 2.Qxe5 Qb7#

1.Bxe3 Kxg3 2.Bd4 Qh1#

Three mates by wQ. The solutions are not quite concordant with one another.

Gennady CHUMAKOV (Russian Federation)

8th Commendation



5+7 h#2 b) Re3>f3

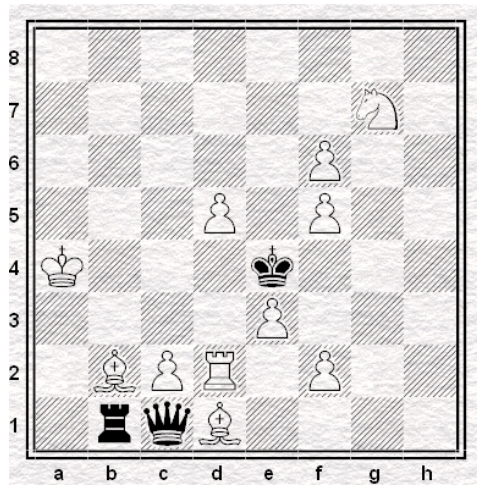
a) 1.dxe1=S Bf2 2.Sf3 Bg3#

b) 1.hxg1=B Bh7 2.Be3 Sd3#

Mixed phoenix, Chumakov, Zilahi, bR interference, model mates. Partial anticipation: Tibor Szabo, match Hungary – Finland 1978-79, 5th place.

Mark ERENBURG (Israel)

9th Commendation



11+3 h#2 3.1.,1.1.

1. Qxb2 Rd3 2. Qe5 f3#

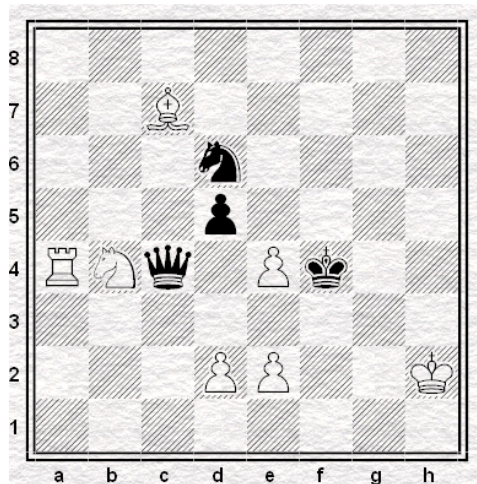
1 Qxd1 Se8 2. Qf3 Sd6#

1. Qxd2 Sh5 2. Qxd5 Sg3#

Threefold bQ play. Similar to quite a few other entries, the solutions in this one are somewhat lacking in homogeneity.

Valery KOPYL & Gennadi KOZIURA (Ukraine)

10th Commendation



7+4 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

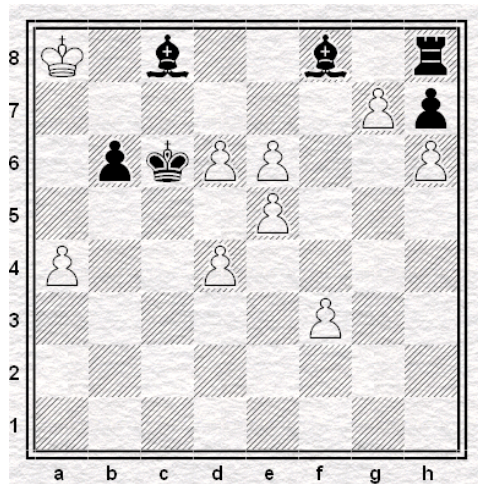
1.Qxe4 Bd8 2.Qf5 Sd3#

1.Kxe4 Sc2 2.Sf5 d3#

Baltic theme “enhanced” by Black playing to the same square on his both first moves and then to another “same square” on his second move; White delivers mate from a third “same square.”

Alain BIENABE (France)

11th Commendation



9+6 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

This problem was received shortly after the closing time and was not included in the preliminary award, but the judges decided that it deserved a place in the final award.

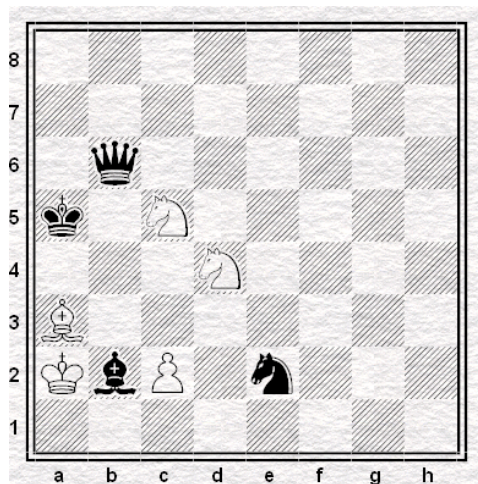
1.Bxe6 g8=Q 2.Bd7 Qc4#

1.Bxd6 g8=S 2.Bc7 Se7#

The only entry with promotions. Quite nice.

Jacques ROTENBERG (Israel)

12th Commendation



5+4 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

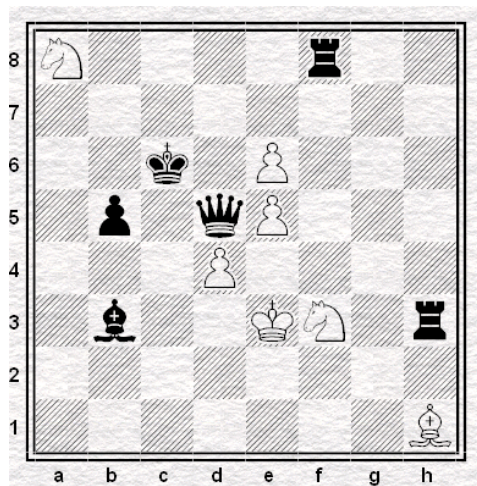
1.Bxa3 c4 2.Bb4 Sdb3# (1.Sc3# – the wK has nowhere to retreat to for 2.Sb5 Sdb3#)

1.Sxd4 c3 2.Sb5 Bb4#

Just nine pieces on the board, but quite a lot of content. Elegant!

Rainer KUHN, D-WORMS & Ralf KRÄTSCHMER (Germany)

13th Commendation



7+6 h#2 2.1.,1.1.

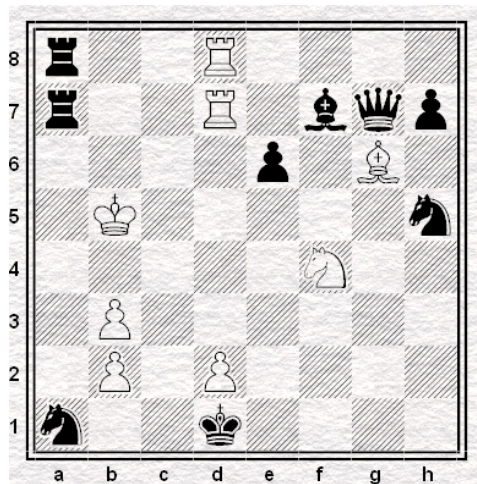
1.Qxd4+ Ke2 2.Qc5 Sd4#

1.Qxe5+ Kd2 2.Qd6 Se5#

Unusual motivation for Black's first moves: enabling double check by White.

Jacques ROTENBERG (Israel)

1st Special Commendation



8+9 h#2 5.1.,1.1.

1.Rxd8 Rxa7 (Rxa8 unplayable) 2.Rxd2 Rxa1#

1.Rxd7 Rxa8 (Rxa7 unplayable) 2.Rxd2 Rxa1#

1.Sxf4 Rxf7 (Rf8?) 2.Se2 Rf1#

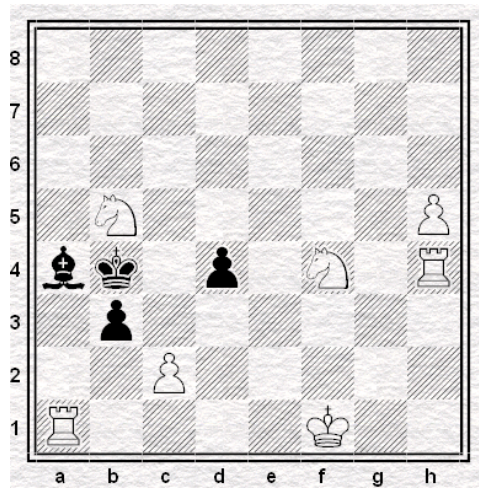
1.Qxg6 Rg8 (Rxg7 unplayable) 2.Qc2 Rg1#

1.Bxg6 Rxg7 (Rg8?) 2.Bc2 Rg1#

Five solutions, Zilahi, sort of dual avoidance; but the play looks rather “mechanical” and uninspiring on account of repetition of too many elements and mates.

Igor VERESHCHAGIN & Valery GUROV (Russian Federation)

2nd Special Commendation



7+4 h#2

1.Bxb5+ c4 2.dxc3 e.p.+ Sd3#

Just one solution, but the only problem featuring thematic e.p. capture.

Tourney judges:

Yevgen Reytsen, Nataliia Kucherenko, Andrey Frolkin