

“SCHACH” - Preisbericht Studien 2002-2002

48 studies from 11 different countries competed. In the last couple of years several study enthusiasts from Germany complained to me that nowadays there are so few German composers. But in this Schach-tourney no less than 15 German composers were responsible for 32 studies! Although the average level was acceptable for an informal tourney, there was not a real masterpiece among the entries.

Presumably it's interesting for the readers to learn about my judgement procedure. It consisted of three phases:

1. correctness checking

A small number of studies (14974, 15095, 15112, 15113, 15152, 15206, 15319, 15392 and 15393) were cooked by the solvers. I agree with their findings. Then all other studies were checked for their correctness, resulting in some extra cooks:

14957: incorrect: 1...Kc2 2.Ra2+ Sxa2 3.Kxa2 d3 4.Rb8 Kc3+ 5.Ka3 f2 6.Rf8 (6.Rb3+ Kd4 7.a8Q f1Q 8.Qd8+ Ke3) 6...Rg1 7.Rxf2 d2 8.Rxd2 Kxd2 and Black wins.

14992: dual 9.Sge6 Kh8 10.Sc5 a4 11.Sxa4.

15036: dual 13.Qf7+ Kc5 14.Ra8! Re1 15.Kd8!! Kd6!? 16.Ra6+ Kc5 17.Qf5+ Kb4 18.Rb6+ Ka3 19.Qb5. In the main line there is another dual: 14.Ra7! also wins. Note that after 13.Qf7+ Kc5 14.Ra7? doesn't win because of 14...Kb6! and White can only escape a loss by a stalemate combination: 15.Kd8 Qc6 16.Ra6+.

15037: in the 4...Se7 line there is a dual: 4.Qh2!

15054: minor dual: 6.Kf7/6.Ke7. Doesn't seem to be a big problem, but especially in this Réti-manoevre type of studies the K-moves should in my view be precise.

15055: dual: 9.Be8+ Kb3 10.Rb6+ Ka3 11.Be7+ Ka2 12.Bf7+ Ka1 13.Bf6! The funny thing is that White can't use this plan immediately, since after 8.Rb6+ Ka3 9.Be7+ Ka2 10.Be6+ Ka1 White can't play 11.Bf6? Of course the solution could be shortened, but the interesting part of this study is the fact that there is extra play after the underpromotion. If the above mentioned line and try would have worked (instead of the intended solution) this would even have been a candidate for a prize...

15094: dual: 4.Qf1+ ... and 10.Qe4! Sf3 11.Qd5 Kf2 12.Qc5!

15112 (corrected position): there are many time-wasting duals, making it difficult to appreciate this study; e.g. 11.Sc5+ Ka7 12.Qa4+ Kb8 13.Sd7+ Kb7 14.Qb4+ Kc7 15.Qd6+ Kb7 16.Sc5+ Ka7 17.Qc7+ is an alternative win.

15206: The correction (with a bpb3) is unnecessary because the whole idea is incorrect: 5.Rxa6+ Bxa6 6.Bf6 is an easy draw. Or also 5.Re6.

15336: dual: 4.Sc7 Sf6 5.Kg7 Se8+ 6.Sxe8 Sd4 7.Sd6!, and also 4.Sd6 wins.

15337: This study is probably correct. However, after 1...Bxe6 White shouldn't play 2.Sxe3 Bxf5 winning, e.g. 3.Kxh6 Bd3 4.Kg5 Kf7 5.Kg4 Ke6 6.Kf4 Kd6 7.Kf3 Ke5 8.Kg3 Kd4 9.Kf3 Bg6 10.Kf2 Bh7 11.Ke2 Be4. Instead 2.Rf1! Bc4 3.Ra1 Bf7+ 4.Kh4 Bg5+ 5.Kg3 c2 6.Se5 probably draw.

2. scoring

In my view, a good study should always have a study-like move; a big surprise, a subtle try; something to admire. In this tourney a lot of studies in fact were technical positions where there is only one way to win without much study-content. Indeed, sometimes White's battle was far from easy, but difficulty is not the most important. Often this even distracts from the main idea! Over

15 candidates were tagged for the award.

3. anticipation testing

I tested several studies for possible anticipation. Of course all 18 candidates, but also some other studies. There were two cases of accidental recomposition (or plagiarism): #15170 by Melnichenko was identical to a 1997 Gurgenedze study. And #15300 (Waelzel) is a position from a recent study by D.Makhatadze (special prize Gaprindashvili-60 JT): Ka5, Rg6; Ke3, Bh4, c3, d6, h6; draw: 1.Re6+! (1.Rxd6? Be1 2.Kb5 c2 3.Rc6 Kd2 4.Rxc2+ Kxc2 5.Kc4 Bc3) 1...Kd4! 2.Rxd6+ Kc5! 3.Rxh6! (3.Rd1? Bg5; 3.Rd7? Bg3 4.Rd3 Be1 5.Ka4 Kc4 6.Rd1 Bd2) 3...c2!, see !5300, 4.Rh8! Kd6! 5.Rc8 Bd8+! 6.Rxd8+ Kc7 7.Rd4! c1Q 8.Rc4+ Qxc4 stalemate.

Curiously, another critical position, in #15246 (Josten) is also known from another study: R.Missiaen, 2nd prize Schakend Nederland 1974: Kg2, Rc2, Bd1; Ka8, Bb3, Bf8; win: 1.Bf3+ Ka7 2.Rc3 Be6 3.Rc6 Bb3 and with the fantastic move 4.Kh1! and 4...Bb4 we have the same critical position (although mirrored) as in the Josten-study after move 5. Curiously, Missiaen also selected another main line: 5.Rc1 Bg8 6.Rg1! Be6 7.Rg7+ Kb6 8.Rg6. In my view Missiaen's study is clearly better, and there's nothing else than downgrade Josten's study (not in the award). Then there are two cases of auto-anticipation: #15018 (Rossi) is almost identical to this study in Uralski Problemist 2001, and #15073 (Melnichenko) is a re-working of an older study of Melnichenko in EG 1979. In the latter case the new version does add something because the wK is one square farther away from the central board stalemate, but it's insufficient to include it in the award.

#14956 (Degener) compare B.Olimpiev, 3rd commendation L'Italia Scacchistica 1970 for a better setting: Kg4, Rf8, Be6; Kd1, a6, g2, g5; draw: 1.Bb3+ Kc1 2.Rc8+ Kb1! 3.Ba2+! Kb2! 4.Rb8+! Kxa2! 5.Kh3!, and 5...g1Q 6.Rb2+! Ka3 7.Rb3+! (7.Ra2+? Kb3 8.Rb2+ Kc4 9.Rc2+ Kd5 10.Rd2+ Qd4) 7...Ka4 8.Rb4+ Ka5 9.Rb5+ Ka4 10.Rb4+ Kxb4 stalemate, or 5...g1R 6.Rb6 a5 7.Ra6 draws.

#15054 (Hörning): compare L.Nyeviczkey, Magyar Sakkvilag 1928: Kd3, Sb2, a4, e2; Ka8, Sc4, c3, d2, h7; draw: 1.Sd1 Sb2+ 2.Kxc3 Sxd1+ 3.Kxd2 Sb2 4.Ke3 Sxa4 5.Kf4 Sc5 6.Kg5 Se6+ 7.Kh6 Sf8 8.e4 Kb7 9.Kg7 Kc6 10.Kxf8 Kd6 11.Kg7 h5 12.Kf6 draws.

#15189 (Hörning) a well-known combination, known as the "Loman-move"; a move found by Loman when he played Em.Lasker in a simul game in London 1910; and also used in many studies, e.g. A.Wotawa, Deutsche Schachzeitung 1942: Kc2, Rh6, Sd3, b2, b3, e3, h2, h4; Kb5, a2, a6, b7, c5, d7, g4; win: 1.Sxc5! Kxc5 2.b4+ Kb5 3.Rh5+ Kxb4 4.Ra5 Kxa5 5.b4+ Kxb4 6.Kb2.

#15374 (Gruber): the S-promotion and subsequent play is well-known, and was used by several composers (including myself) in combination with a very interesting try. All those studies are anticipated by: A.Selesniev 1933: Kf8, h4, h6; Kg6, g7, h5, h7; win: 1.hxg7 Kh6 2.Kg8! (try: 2.g8S+ Kg6 3.Se7+ Kf6 4.Sd5+ Kf5 5.Se3+ Kf4 6.Sg2+ Kg3 draw!) 2...Kg6 3.Kh8 Kh6 4.g8S+ Kg6 5.Se7+ Kf6 6.Sd5+ Kf5 7.Se3+ Kf4 8.Sg2+ Kg3 9.Kxh7 Kxg2 10.Kh6 Kg3 11.Kxh5 Kf4 12.Kg6 wins!

Final Award Schach 2002-2003

I received a handful of claims and remarks about my provisional award. The most important one was from Wieland Bruch, who clearly showed that his study #14.957 was too difficult for me to adsorb. The alleged cook 1.Kc2!? 2.Ra2+ is actually one of the main lines!! (1.Kc3 2.Ra3+ Kc2 3.Ra2+). Of course I offer my apologies to the composer, but on the other hand this type of

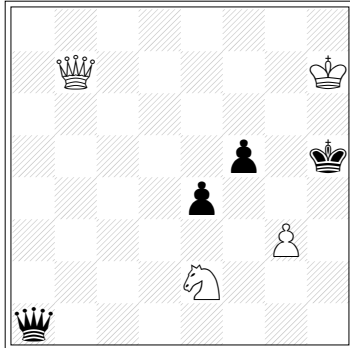
mistakes is exactly the reason why we have a confirmation time for endgame study awards. After reconsideration I award this study with the 3rd prize. The middle board stalemate in the 1.Sc6 main line is very nice with the surprising wR-sacrifice in a natural ending, and also the other main line (1.Kc3) ends with (less-interesting) stalemate. The charm of this line is an indeed very surprising avoidance of capture of bSa2. This study qualifies for a prize, but not the top positions because it's not very concise and the lack of harmony between the two main lines.

Michael Roxlau remarks that the 1st HM of Gerd Wilhelm Horning (#15.229) would have been much better if the black pawn on a7 was omitted. This only serves to prevent a transposition dual (Ka6/Ka7) which is indeed unimportant. Roxlau states: "dieser Bauer signalisiert geradezu den Losungsweg wie ein Leuchtturm". I agree.

Then there are some remarks that don't affect the ranking: In the anticipation section of my report, I attributed #15.054 to Horning instead of Ilham Aliev. Study #15.392 was corrected in Schach 2004 no.8.

Harold van der Heijden, January 6th 2005.

1st prize: P.Schmidt (x/2003)

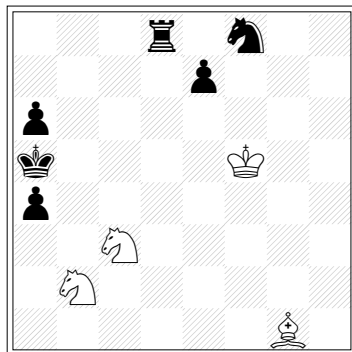


1. Dc7! Df6 2. g4+ fg4 3. Sg3+ Kh4 4. Se4 Df5+
5. Kg7 De4 6. Dh2+ Kg5 7. Dh6+ Kf5 8. Df6

A study with a splendid quiet first move, two surprising sacrifices (white's last pawn and a knight), and a nice mate with two active selfblocks.

Of course the mate itself is not new; compare for instance with B.Brekhov, 3rd commendation Shakhmaty v SSSR 1973: Kb6, Qg8, Sa7; Ka2, b2, b3, b4; win: 1.Qg2 Ka1 2.Qg7 Ka2 3.Sc6! b1Q 4.Sxb4+ Ka3 5.Sd3! Qxd3 6.Qa1+ Kb4 7.Qa5+ Kc4 8.Qc5 mate (two selfblocks, one active; similar Knight sacrifice).

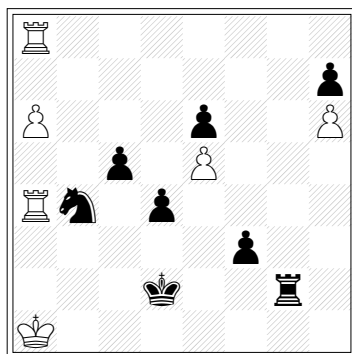
2nd prize: V.Tarasjuk (#15360)



1. Lc5! Td5+ 2. S:d5 e6+ 3. Ke5 Sd7+ 4. Kd6 S:c5 5. Sc4+ Kb5 6. Sa3+ Ka5 7. Kc6 e:d5 8. K:c5 d4 9. Sc4 matt

Again a mate study, with good black counterplay. White wins by avoiding to capture a whole piece because this brings him on the right site of an original reciprocal zugzwang. This study looks especially suited for a solving event.

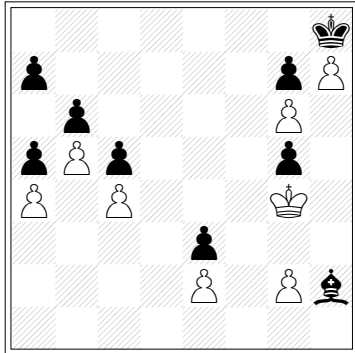
3rd prize: W. Bruch (#14957)



see above "Final Award Schach"

1. a7! Nun hat Schwarz zwei Möglichkeiten: X) 1. ...Sc6 (greift Ba7 sofort an) und Y) 1. ...Kc3 mit Mattangriff. X) 1. ...Sc6 2. Tf8! (2.Ta2+? Ke3! 3.Ta3+ Ke4 4.Tf8 S:a7 5.T:a7 f2 6.Taf7 Ke3 7.T:h7 Tg1+ 8.Kb2 f1D 9. T:f1 T:f1 10. Te7 c4 11. h7 Th1 12. T:e6 c3+) 2. ...S:a7 3. T:f3! (4. Ta2+ Ke1 5. T:g2) Nicht 3. T:a7!? f2! 4. Kb2 Ke2 5. Kb3 Tg3+ 6. Kc4 Tc3+ 7. Kb5 f1D 8. T:f1 K:f1 9. T:h7 und Schwarz gewinnt, siehe Urdruck mit vertauschten Farben! 3. ...Tg1+ 4. Kb2 (4. Ka2? Sc6! 5. Taa3 Te1 6. Tfd3+? Kc2!) X1) 4. ...Sb5! 5. Kb3! (6. Ta2+ Ke1 7. Kc4) Sc3 6. Ta5! (6. Ta7? d3!, z.B. 7. T:h7 Tg4! 8. Tf2+ Se2 9. Tc7 Tb4+ 10. Ka3 Th4 11. h7 Ke3 12. Tf1 Sd4 13. Te1 Kd2 14. Te4 T:e4 15. h8D Sb5+ 16. Kb2 Tb4+ 17. Ka1 S:c7 18. Dh2+ Kc3 19. Db2+ Kc4 [19...T:b2? patt] 6. ...Tb1+ 7. Kc4 Se4 (8. Tb4) 8. Ta2+ Ke1 9. Kd3 [10. Te2+] (9. Tf7? Tc1+! 10. Kd3 Sd2! 11. Tf1+ [11. T:d2 Tc3+ 12. Ke4 K:d2] 11...K:f1! [S:f1? 12. Te2+ Kd1 13. Td2+ S:d2 patt] 12. K:d2 Te1 13. Ta7 Te2+ 14. Kd3 Te3+ 15. Kd2 c4 16. Tf7+ Kg2 17. T:h7 Kf3) 9. ...Sd2! (Sc3? 10. Tg2! Td1+ 11. Kc4) 10. T:d2 Tb3+ 11. Ke4! T:f3 12. Te2+! K:e2 patt! X2) 4...Sc6 5. Taa3! Te1 (5. ...Tg2 6. Kb3 S:e5 7. Ta2+ Ke1 8. T:g2 S:f3 9. Kc4 e5 10. Tg7 e4 11. T:h7 d3 12. Td7 Se5+ 13. Kc3 S:d7 14. h7 d2 15. h8D d1D 16. Dh1+ Dauerschach; 5. ...Td1 6. Th3 Te1 7. Thd3+ mit Übergang in die Variante 5. Taa3! Te1; 5. ...S:e5? 6. Tf2+ Ke1 7. Tc2 Sc4+ 8. T:c4) 6. Tfd3+ Ke2 7. Th3 S:e5 8. Th2+ Kf1 9. Ta7 Te2+ 10. T:e2 K:e2 11. T:h7 d3 12. Tg7 d2 13. Tg2+ Kd3 14. Tg1 Sf3! (...c4 ist schwächer) 15. Th1 c4 [Sg5 16. h7 S:h7 17. Th3+ Ke4 18. Kc2 Remis] 16. h7 c3+ 17. Ka2 c2 18. h8D c1D 19. Dh7+ Ke2 20. De4+ Kf2 21. T:c1 d:c1D 22. D:e6 = (oder 14. Tg3+ Sf3 15. h7 d1D h8D, und Schwarz hat keinen Gewinnweg) Y) 1. ...Kc3! 2. Ta3+! (2. T:b4? c:b4 3. Tc8+ Kb3 4. Tc1 Ta2+ Schwarz gewinnt) 2. ...Kc2 3. Ta2+! S:a2 4. Tg8! (4. K:a2? d3! 5. Tb8 Kc3+ 6. Ka3, Schwarz gewinnt z.B. mit 6. ...f2 7. Tf8 Tg1! 8. a8D f1D 9. Da5+ Kd4! 10. Td8+ Ke4 11. Dc3 Tc2! 12. D:d3+ D:d3 13. T:d3 K:d3) Y1) 4. ...T:g8 5. a8D T:a8 patt (5. ...Tg1+ 6. K:a2 f2 7. De4+ d3 8. Dc4+! [8.Da4+? Kc3!] Kd2 9. Df4+ Ke2 10. De4+ Kd2 11. Df4+ Dauerschach; 5. ...Sc3? 6. D:g8 d3 7. D:h7) Y2) 4. ...Sc3 (auf 4. ...Te2/Td2/Tf2 erreicht Weiß mit 5. K:a2 Remis, aber es ginge auch 5. a8D Sc3 mit Übergang zu Y2) 5. a8D (dr. 6. T:g2+ f:g2 7. D:g2+) Nun hat Schwarz die Wahl unter drei T-Zügen mit Mattdrohungen: Y2.1) 5. ...Te2 (dr. Te1) 6. Tg1 f2 7. Tc1+! K:c1 (7. ...Kd2/Kd3 8. Df3; 7. ...Kb3 8. Db7+) 8. Da3+ Kd2 9. Dc1+ K:c1 patt (9. ...Kd3 10. Dc2+ T:c2 patt, 10. ...Ke3 11. Dd3+ K:d3 patt oder 11. ...Kf4 12. Df3/Dg3+ nebst Dauerschach oder Patt. 10. ...Kc4 11. Db3+/Dd3+ usw.) Y2.2) 5. ...Tf2!? (dr. Tf1) 6. Da6! (6.Tg1? Kd3!, Schwarz gewinnt nach Abtausch auf a2) 6. ...Te2!? (dr. Te1, einen Zug später als in Variante Y2.1. Die Pattfalle 7. Tg1? f2! 8. Tc1+? scheitert nun an 8. ...Kd2!) 7. Tg2! Kd2 (der einzige Versuch, dem Patt etwa nach 7...T:g2 8. Dd3+ K:d3 auszuweichen) 8. Da3! (8. Th2? f2! 9. T:f2 T:f2 10. Dd3+ Ke1 11. De3+ Se2) 12. Dd3 c4! 13. Db1+ Kd2) 8. ...f:g2 9. Dc1+ K:c1 patt (9. ...Kd3 10. Dc2+ T:c2 patt, 10. ...Ke3 11. Dd3+ usw.) Y2.3) 5. ...Td2 [dr. Td1] (Auch jetzt darf nicht wie in Variante Y2.1 mit 6. Tg1? fortsetzen, denn nach 6...f2! 7. Tc1+? K:c1 8. Da3+ Kc2! 9. Dc1+ Kd3 10. Dc2+ Ke3,e2 scheitert 11. Dd3+ nun an T:d3! ohne Patt! Auch 7. Tf1? verliert: 7. ...Td1+ 8. T:d1 K/S:d1) 6. D:f3! und das Remis nach 6. ...Td1+ 7. D:d1 K/S:d1 8. Tg7 (oder 8.Th8) mit folgendem Freischiessen des Bh6 ist auf technische Weise zu sichern.

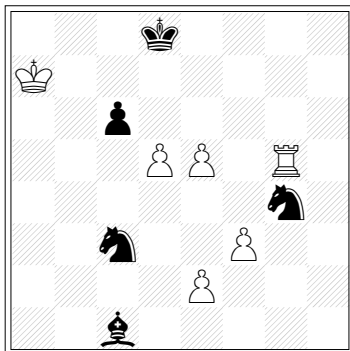
1st honourable mention: G.Hörning (#15229)



1. Kf3! Lg1 2. g4 Lf2 3. Ke4 Lg1 4. Kd5 Lh2 5. Kc6 Le5 6. Kb7 Ld6 7. K:a7 Lc7 8. Kb7 Ld8 9. Kc6 Lc7 10. Kd5 Lh2 11. Ke4 Lf4 12. Kf3 Lg3 13. K:e3 Ld6 14. Ke4 Le5 15. Kd5 Ld6 16. e4 Lc7 17. Kc6 Lf4 18. Kb7 Lc7 Gewinn

The king outplays a black Bishop that defends the crucial black pawn on e3 doing a long walk to a7 and back, and then the wK again has to walk all the way to b6 to create an extra passed pawn. Of course there are loss-of-time duals, but in this particular case these aren't very relevant.

2nd honourable mention: Y.Akobija (#15247)

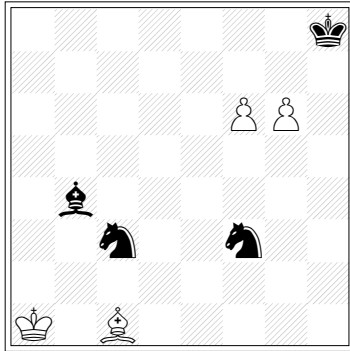


1. Tg8+! Kd7 2. d:c6+ K:c6 3. Tc8+ Kd5 4. T:c3 Le3+ 5. Kb7 Ld4 6. Tc6 S:e5 (6...Se3 7. e6 Lf6 8. Kc7) 7. e4 matt

The final position is almost the only highlight of this study. It is a very nice mate in the center of the board, with two active selfblocks. Except for white pawn f3, all pieces play during the solution, the bK coming all the way from the 8th line.

The new fashion nowadays seems to be mate studies with self-blocks (replacing the reciprocal zugzwang studies that were very popular in the last decade). Compare (not really anticipating the present study of course) the task-performance: A.Mikaeljan, special honourable mention Kasparjan MT 2000: Ke6, Re8, Rh3, Sf1, c2, f2, f4, g2; Kg4, Rd4, Bf6, Sd1, Se2, d5, g7; win: 1.Kf7 Sxf4 2.Sh2+ Kg5 3.Sf3+ Kf5 4.g4+ Kxg4 5.Rg3+ Kf5 6.Re5+ Bxe5 7.Sh4+ Ke4 8.Re3+ Sxe3 9.f3 mate! A 5 piece self-block (3 active) pawn mate.

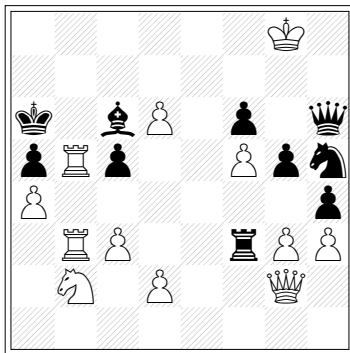
3rd honourable mention: L.Gruber (#15188)



1. Lh6? Se5!; Nur 1. f7! "erzwingt auf prägnante Weise das Patt (KR). 1...Kg7 2. f8D+ L:f8 3. La3 L:a3 patt, 2...K:f8 3. La3 L:a3 4. g7+ K:g7 patt, 1...Se5 2. g7+ K:g7 3. f8D+ L:f8 4. La3 L:a3 patt

Two stalemate lines, with different motivations why the black Bishop can't escape from the white Bishop's attack. If the king captures on f8, the black Bishop is pinned, and if the bishop captures on f8, the black Bishop is blocked by the black King.

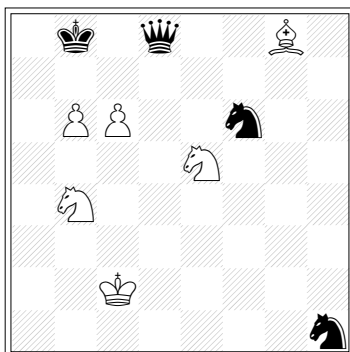
1st commendation: J.Gerhold (#14993)



1. Tb6+! Ka7 2. Tb7+ L:b7 3. T:b7+ K:b7 4. D:f3+ Kb8 5. D:h5 D:h5 6. d7 Kc7 7. g4 Dh6 8. Sd3 c4 9. Sc5 Kd8 10. d3 c:d3 11. S:d3 K:d7 12. Sc5+ Ke8 13. Se6 Ke7 14. c4 Kd6 15. c5+ Kd7 16. c6+ Ke7 17. c7 Kd7 18. Sd8 K:c7 19. Sf7 Gewinn

A sad example on how an introduction spoils a nice idea. The initial position is similar to #14975, and probably the author intended some sort of twin study. However, #14975 is hardly interesting at all, whereas the idea behind #14993 is excellent. The introduction should be skipped (as well as some changes to the position). Then it seems possible to construct another introduction, even inclusion of the move Sg7-h5 (and a further white move before that) seems to be feasible.

2nd commendation: K.Valtonen (#15207)



1. Sa6+! (1. c7+? D:c7!) Ka8 2. Sc7+ Kb8 3. Ld5 S:d5 4. S:d5 D:d5 5. Sd7+ Kc8 6. b7+ Kc7 7. b8D+ K:c6 8. Se5+ Kc5 9. Sd3+ Kd4 10. Dh8+ Ke3 11. Dh6+ Kd4 12. Dg7+ Ke4 13. Dg4+ Ke3 14. Dg1+ Ke4 15. D:h1+ Kd4 16. Dh8+ Ke3 17. Dh6+ Kd4 18. Dg7,Df6+ Kc4 19. Dc3+ Kb5 20. Db2+ Ka5 21. Db4+ Ka6 22. Sc5+ Ka6 23. Da5+ Kb8 24. Sa6+ Kc8 25. Dc7

This study deserves a commendation for the introduction. The main play after that is largely anticipated, e.g.: V.Bogorelov & V.Persianov, 2nd commendation Birnov MT 1999: Kc2, Qg8, Bd3, Sf2; Kc6, Qd7, Rd5; win: 1.Be4 Kc5 2.Bxd5 Qxd5 3.Sd3+ Kc4 4.Qc8+ Kd4 5.Qh8+ Ke3 6.Qh6+ Kd4 7.Qf6+ Kc4 8.Qc3+ Kb5 9.Qb2+ Ka5 10.Qb4+ Ka6

11.Sc5+

Ka7

12.Qa5+

Kb8

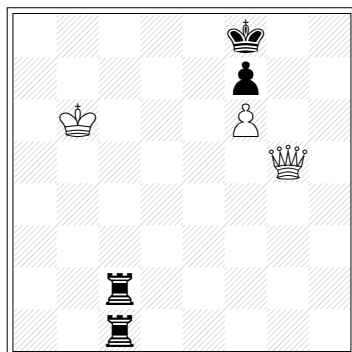
13.Sa6+

Kc8

14.Qc7

mate.

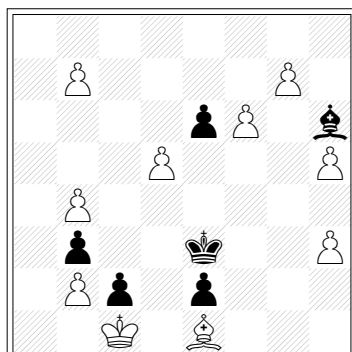
3rd commendation: G.Hörning (#15019)



1. Dh6+! Ke8 2. De3+ Kf8 3. Da3+ Kg8 4. Dg3+ Kf8 5. Db8+ Tc8 6. Dd6+ Kg8 7. Dg3+ Kf8 8. Kb7 T1c7+ 9. D:c7 T:c7+ 10. K:c7 und gewinnt, 8...T1c2 9. Dg7+ Ke8 10. Dg8+ Kd7 11. D:f7+ Kd6 12. De7+ Kd5 13. f7 Tc1 14. Dd7+ Ke4 15. D:c8 Tb1+ 16. Ka6 Ta1+ 17. Kb5 Tb1+ 18. Ka4 Ta1+ 19. Kb3 Tb1+ 20. Kc2 Tf1 21. Dc4+ Ke5 22. D:f1 Ke6 23. f8D Kd5 24. Dd3+ Kc6 25. Dfd6+ Kb7 26. D3a6 matt

Nice geometrical manoeuvre by the wQ. It should be mentioned that immediately 8.Qg7+? doesn't win: 8...Ke8 9.Qg8+ Kd7 10.Qxf7+ Kd6 11.Qe7+ Kd5 12.f7 R8c6+ 13.Kb7 Rb1+ and perpetual check. For a similar geometric manoeuvre with the same material: D.Dzjaja, Politika 1966: Kh5, Qa4, h6; Kh8, Rg8, Rh7, c4; win: 1.Qa1+ Rgg7 2.Qa8+ Rg8 3.Qf3 Rgg7 4.Qf8+ Rg8 5.Qf6+ Rgg7 6.Qd8+ Rg8 7.Qd4+ Rgg7 8.Qxc4 Rg1 9.Qd4+ Rgg7 10.Qe5 Kg8 11.Qe8 mate.

special prize: G.Sonntag (#15301)

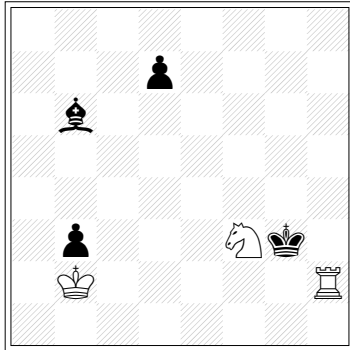


1. g8S! Lg5 2. h4 Lf4 3. b8L e5 4. L:e5 L:e5 5. f7 Ld6 6. Se7 L:e7 7. h6 Kd3 8. h7 Ld6 9. f8T L:f8 10. h8D Gewinn, 1...Lf4 2. b8L e5 3. L:e5 L:e5 4. f7 Ld6 5. Sh6 Kf3 6. f8D+ L:f8 7. Sf7 Lg7 8. d6 Ld4 9. Sg5+ Kg2 10. Se4 Kf1 11. d7 Le3+ 12. Sd2+ K:e1 13. d8D Kf2 14. Dh4+ Gewinn

An Allumwandlung is always something special. However there are some flaws that need quite drastic changes to the solution:

First of all the (important) line 1..Bf4 should be shortened, because also 8.Sg5+ wins: 8...Kg2 9.d6 Be5 10.Se4 Bf4+ 11.Sd2 Bxd6 12.Sxb3 Kf1 14.Bh4. A more important problem is that in the main line there is a dual: 6.Sh6! Kd3 7.f8R! and wins. It's possible to shorten the main line with 5...Bf4(!) 6.f8R! winning. But the problem is that this is an Allumwandlung study (despite the comments of the readers speaking about "3-fachen Unterverwandlung", apparently not being aware that also the Q-promotion has some value here!). By shortening the solution the Q-promotion is lost...

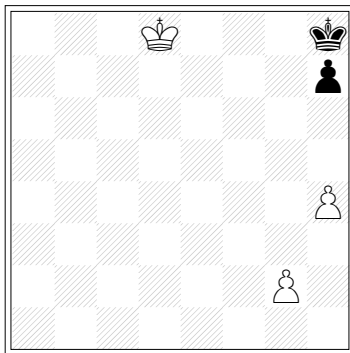
special honourable mention: G.Josten (#15152)



1. Th6! Le3 2. Tf6 Lf4 3. Sd4 Le5 4. Tf3+ Kg4 5. Td3 Kf4 6. Kb3 Ke4 7. Kc4 d5+ 8. Kc3 Gewinn

This immediately reminds of one of the most famous studies of all time: J. De Villeneuve Escaplon, 1st prize Schweizerische Schachzeitung 1923, correction 1992: Kh3, Bf8, Sa7, h2, h6; Kb8, Rh8, Bb2, Sd4; draw: 1.Bg7 Rh7 2.Kg4 Kxa7 3.Kh5 Sf5 4.Bxb2 Rxh6+ 5.Kg5 Rxh2 6.Be5 Rf2 7.Bf4 Sd4 8.Be3 Rf5+ 9.Kg4 Rd5 10.Kf4 Kb6 11.Ke4 Kc5 12.Kd3 and draw! The present study is, as far as I know, the first presentation of the idea in a win study.

special commendation: R.Staudte (ix/2003)



Pawn studies are almost always difficult, especially because one expects surprising moves when trying to solve the study. Here, the first move is the highlight of the study, the rest of the solution looks natural.

The solution has not been published so far in Schach: (Kd8, g2, h4; Kh8, h7; win): 1.Kd7! (1.Ke8? Kg8! 2.g4 (2.Ke7 Kg7!) 2...Kg7! 3.Ke7 Kg8! 4.g5 Kg7!; 1.Ke7? Kg7! 2.Ke6 (2.g4 Kg8! 3.g5 Kg7!; 2.Ke8 Kg8!) 2...Kg6! 3.Ke5 (3.g3 Kg7! 4.Ke7 Kg8! 5.Kf6 Kf8!) 3...Kh5! 4.g3 Kg6! 5.Ke6 Kg7! 6.Ke7 Kg8! 7.Kf6 Kf8! (7...Kh8?

8.Kf7!) 8.g4 (8.h5 Kg8!) 8...Kg8! 9.g5 (9.h5 Kf8!) 9...Kf8!) 1...Kg7 (1...Kg8 2.Ke6 Kg7 3.Kf5 Kf7 4.Kg5! Kg7 5.h5 h6+ 6.Kf5!) 2.Ke7! (2.Ke6? Kg6!) 2...Kg6 (2...Kg8 3.Kf6 Kf8 4.Kg5! (4.g3? Kg8! 5.g4 (5.h5 Kf8!) 5...Kf8! 6.g5 Kg8! 7.h5 Kf8 8.g6 Kg8 9.g7 h6 10.Kg6; 4.g4? Kg8! 5.g5 (5.h5 Kf8!) 5...Kf8!) 4...Kg7 5.h5 Kh8 (5...h6+ 6.Kf5! Kf7 7.g4 Kg7 8.Ke6; 5...Kg8 6.Kh6! Kh8 7.g4! Kg8 8.g5! Kh8 9.g6 hxg6 10.hxg6 Kg8 11.g7 Kf7 12.Kh7) 6.Kh6! Kg8 7.g3! Kh8 8.g4! Kg8 9.g5! Kh8 10.g6 hxg6 (10...Kg8 11.g7! Kf7 12.Kxh7) 11.hxg6 Kg8 12.g7 Kf7 13.Kh7) 3.Kf8! (3.Ke6? Kh5! 4.g3 Kg6! (4...Kg4? 5.Kf6! h5 6.Kg6!); 3.g3? Kg7! 4.g4 Kg8! 5.g5 Kg7!; 3.g4? Kg7!) 3...h5 (3...Kf6 4.g4 Kg6 5.h5+ Kf6 6.Kg8 h6 7.Kh7 Kg5 8.Kg7 Kxg4 9.Kxh6 Kf5 10.Kg7; 3...Kh5 4.g3! Kg4 5.Kg7! Kxg3 6.h5! Kg4 7.h6! Kg5 8.Kxh7 Kf6 9.Kg8 Kg6 10.h7) 4.Ke7! (4.g3? Kf6! 5.Ke8 Ke6!; 4.Kg8? Kf5! 5.Kf7 Kg4! 6.Kg6 Kxh4!) 4...Kf5 5.g3! Kg4 (5...Kg6 6.Ke6 Kg7 7.Kf5 Kh6 8.Kf6 Kh7 9.Kg5 Kg7 10.Kxh5) 6.Kf6! Kxg3 7.Kg5! Kf3 8.Kxh5 Kf4 9.Kg6 Kg4 10.h5 wins.

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International judge of FIDE for endgame studies