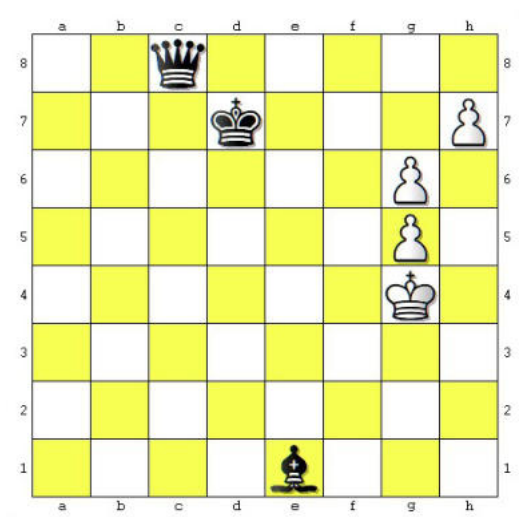




Valery Kalashnikov
 White to move and draw
3rd Commendation

A delightful miniature filled with geometrical motifs, elegant Queen maneuvers and a rich net of little tactical traps.

The final stalemate position itself is known, yet the route leading to it feels fresh, lively and carefully constructed. Particularly attractive are the repeated triangular maneuvers of the black

Queen, creating a sense of rhythm and continuity throughout the play.

White appears completely lost at the beginning, which makes the final saving mechanism emerge with surprising effect.

This is perhaps not a study aiming at revolutionary complexity or conceptual violence. Instead, it succeeds through clarity, charm and neat execution.

In the end, one word summarizes my impression best: pleasant. And sometimes, in art as in chess composition, that is already a very valuable achievement.

Solution: 1. g7 Ke7+ 2. Kh5 Qh3+ 3. Kg6 Qd3+ 4. Kh6 Qd6+ 5. Kh5 Qh2+ 6. Kg6 Qc2+ 7. Kh6 Qc6+ {2 black triangles in execution of a Queen} 8. Kh5 Qh1+ 9. Kg6 Qe4+ 10. Kh6 Bd2 ! 11. h8=Q {! - Choice true} (11. g8=Q ? Qh4+ 12. Kg7 Qxg5+ 13. Kh8 Bc3+ -+)

11. .. Qh4+ 12. Kg6 Qxg5+ 13. Kh7 Qf5+ {! - Way for preparation of a trap} {Simply} (13. .. Qh5+ 14. Kg8 Bh6 {(final)}))

14. Kg8 Qd5+ 15. Kh7 Qh1+ 16. Kg8 ! {But not} (16. Kg6 ? Qe4+ 17. Kh5 Qf5+ 18. Kh4 Be1# {model mate})

16. .. Qa8+ !? {Simply} (16. .. Bh6 {(final)}))

17. Kh7 {And once again} Qh1+ 18. Kg8 ! Bh6 19. Qxh6 ! (19. Kh7? Bxg7+ ! 20. Kxg7 Qg2+ -+) (19. Qh7? Qa8#)

19. .. Qxh6 {stalemate} 1/2-1/2