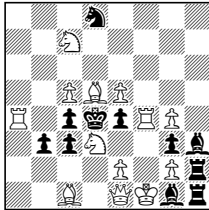


BCPS AWARD: SELFMATES 2019, by Miodrag Mladenović

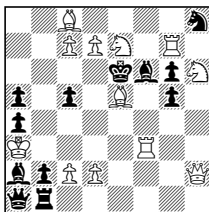
There were 53 selfmates and 2 reflexmates published in 2019. The overall quality was very good. The prize winning problems are amazing achievements. After reviewing all problems I decided to include 12 problems in the award in the following order:

Aleksandr Kuzovkov
1 Pr *The Problemist* 2019



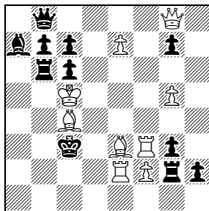
S#3

Andrey Selivanov
2 Pr *The Problemist* 2019



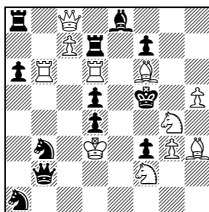
S#3

Camillo Gamnitzer
3 Pr *The Problemist* 2019



S#4

Aleksandr Azhusin
1 HM *The Problemist* 2019



S#6

Fomichev 1.Be2! (>2.Sxf4+ Kxe5 3.Qc5+ Bd5#) 1...Kxe5 2.Bg4+ Kxd5 3.Be6+ Bxe6#; 1...Kxd5 2.Bc4+ K~ 3.Bb3+ Bc4#; 1...dxe5 2.Sc7+ Kd6 3.Rd1+ Bd5#; 1...cxd5 2.Bh5 ~ 3.Bf7+ Bxf7#. Obviously White has to open the black battery to

1st Prize S2744 Aleksandr Kuzovkov 1.Bg8? (>2.Rxe4+ (A) Kxe4 3.Rxc4+ Bd4#) 1...Sc6 (a) 2.Sd5 (B) ~ 3.Be3+ Bxe3#; 1...Se6 (b) 2.Rxc4+ (C) Kxc4 3.Rxe4+ Bd4#; 1...Bxg4! 1.Ba8? (>2.Rxc4+ (C) Kxc4 3.Rxe4+ Bd4#) 1...Sc6 (a) 2.Rxe4+ (A) Kxe4 3.Rxc4+ Bd4#; 1...Se6 (b) 2.Sd5 (B) ~ 3.Be3+ Bxe3#; 1...b2! **1.Sb4!** (>2.Rxe4+ Kxc5 3.Be3+ Bxe3#) 1...Sc6 (a) 2.Sxc6+ (D) Kxc5 3.Be3+ Bxe3#; 1...Se6 (b) 2.Sxc6+ (E) Kxe5 3.Qxc3+ Bd4#.

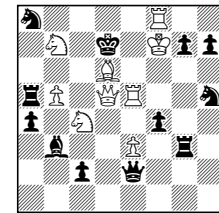
An amazing problem that shows the full Shedy-Lačný theme in tries. Additionally the Zagoruiko theme is shown. I do not recall seeing this combination of themes in the selfmate genre. It is a pity that there are duplicate thematic tries (in both tries there are two possible first moves by the wBd5). But the key that gives two flights compensates for this so in my opinion this is the best problem in the tournament. An excellent achievement.

2nd Prize S2735 Andrey Selivanov 1.Qe2? (>2.Qc4+ Kxe5 3.Qd5+ Bxd5#) 1...Bxe5! **1.Qf4!** (>2.Qc4+ Kxe5 3.Qd5+ Bxd5#) 1...Bxe5 2.d8B+ Kd6 3.Rd3+ Bd5#; 1...Bxe7 2.d8S+ Kd5 3.c4+ Bxc4#; 1...Bxg7 2.d8R+ Kxe7 3.Sg8+ Bxg8#; 1...gxf4 2.d8Q+ Kxe5 3.Qd5+ Bxd5#. The difficult combination of AUW and Phoenix themes. At first I was planning to rank this problem in first place but then when I analyzed it a little bit more I found two issues: 1) The triple continuation in a side variation: 1...Sf7 2.Qc4+/Qg4+/d8R+ is not pleasant. This move is a defence because after 2.Qc4+ there is 2...Kxe7, so it changes the third white move. 2) An even bigger issue for me is that instead of wBe5 there could be a wPe5. I know that this is the only way to create the Phoenix theme but I am not sure if it is justified.

3rd Prize S2745 Camillo Gamnitzer 1.Ba2? Qxg8.Kd3! 1.Rxg3? (>2.Bc1+ Rxg3 3.Bb2+) 1...Rxg3! **1.Qh7!** (>2.Bd2+ Kb2 3.Bf4+ Ka1 4.Be5+ Rb2#) 1...g6 2.Rxg3! (>3.Bc1+ Rxg3 4.Bb2+ Rxb2#); 2...Rxg3 3.Qh8+! Qxh8 4.Bd4+ Qxd4#. A logical problem with excellent play. I enjoyed analyzing the solution.

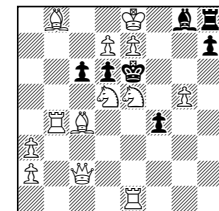
4th Prize S2775 Viktor Syzonenko 1...Qxc4 2.Bb8+ Qxd5+ 3.Rxd5+ Bxd5#. 1.Rf5! (>2.Sb6+ (A) Sxb6 3.Qe6+ (B) Bxe6#) 1...Rg6 2.Qe6+ (B) Rxe6 3.Se5+ (C) Rxe5#; 1...Rxe3 2.Se5+ (C) Rxe5 3.Bxe5+ (D) Bxd5#; 1...Sa~ 2.Be5+ (D) Sxd5 3.Sb6+ (A) Sxb6#; 1...Rxb5 2.Bb8+ Rxd5 3.Se5+ Rxe5#. Although the 4-fold cycle of white 2nd and 3rd moves has been shown many times in the S#3, this is a very unusual mechanism with many interesting moves. I like that there are two thematic white moves on the same square (e5).

Viktor Syzonenko
4 Pr *The Problemist* 2019



S#3

Eugene Fomichev
2 HM *The Problemist* 2019

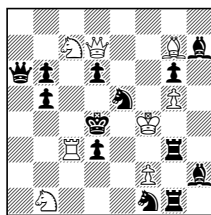


S#3

achieve the goal. After the surprising key that gives two flights there are four very nice variations. A very good problem.

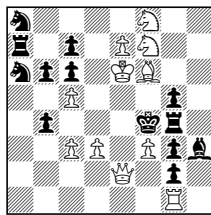
3rd Honourable Mention S2776 Zoran Gavrilovski 1.Bc~? (>2.Sc3+ Rxc3+ 3.Qe4+ Bxe4#) 1...Qxc7! 1.Bd4? c3! **1.Bb4!** (>2.Sc3+ (A) Rxc3+ 3.Qe4+ (B) Bxe4#) 1...Sf7 2.Qe4+ (B) Rxe4 3.Rd7+ (C) Qxd7#; 1...Se~ 2.Rd7+ (C) Qxd7 3.Bxe6+ (D) Qxe6#; 1...Sxf4 2.Bxe6+ (D) Sxe6 3.Sc3+ (A) Rxc3#. Another 4-fold cycle of white 2nd and 3rd moves but similar schemes have been used before so I could not rank this problem higher. Because of the additional white correction moves by the white bishop the problem deserves to be included in the award.

Frank Richter
4 HM *The Problemist* 2019



S#2

Camillo Gannitzer
2 C *The Problemist* 2019



S#4

3rd Commendation S2737 Eugene Fomichev 1.Sc4! Ka4 2.Qd7+ Kb4 3.Qd6+ Kb3,Kb5 4.Qb6+ Ka4 5.Qa5+ Kb3 6.Sc2+ Rxd2 7.Qa2+ Rxa2#; 3...Ka4 4.Qa6+ Kb4 5.Qa5+ Kb3 6.Sc2+ Rxd2 7.Qa2+ Rxa2#. An amazing key that gives two flights in a miniature. A good achievement.

4th Commendation S2757 Udo Degener 1...Kd6 2.Sc5+ Rd5#. 1.Ba2? (>2.c5+ (A) Rd5#) Kd6 (x) 2.Sc5+ Rd5#; 1...Rh2! **1.Ra6!** (>2.Sc5+ (B) Rxc5#) Kd6 (x) 2.c5+ (A) Rxc5#. Elegant achievement of the Le Grand theme in S#2. In the try, White twice gives direct battery check to force the black rook to open the mating battery. In the solution White twice uses the pinning of bPb6.

[Many thanks to Miodrag for his award, which remains open for 3 months; please address all claims to Stephen Taylor – Ed.]

HELPMATE SOLUTIONS (continued from p.65)

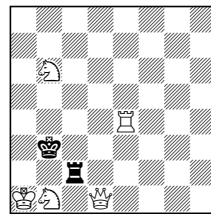
H4613 (Mihajloski) 1...Be3 2.Rf1 Bf2 3.g4 Kf4 4.Kd5 Ke3 5.Ke5 Bh4 (Be1?) 6.Rf5 Ke2 7.Kf4 (g5?) Kf2 8.g5 Bg3#. A satisfying miniature with the rook's file being closed once in each direction for wK access, after a maximal critical move initially and culminating in an attractive ideal mate (SJGT). The mating position is obvious – getting there is certainly not!! (CRB)

4th Honourable Mention S2773 Frank Richter 1.Bxe5#?? 1.Qc8,Qc6,Qf7? (>2.Bxe5+ dxe5#) 1...d5! 1.Qf5? (>2.Qxd3+ Rxd3# - not 2.Bxe5+?) 1...gxf5 2.Bxe5+ dxe5#, 1...Se3 2.fxe3+ Rxe3#, 1...b4!; **1.Qxb5!** (>2.Rxd3+ Rxd3# - not 2.Qxd3+?,Bxe5+?) 1...Qxb5 2.Bxe5+ d,Qxe5#; 1...Qa3 2.Qxd3+ Rxd3#; 1...Se3 2.fxe3+ Rxe3#. Nice correction play by the white queen. The main idea to unpin the black pawn on d6 does not work because of the d5 refutation. Therefore the queen has to make correction moves to try other threats. Very good play in S#2.

1st Commendation S2771 Udo Degener 1...Sxc3#; 1.Sxa4+! Kb5 2.Qxb6+ Kxa4 3.Sd4 Ka3 4.Qb5 b6 5.Qxb2+ Ka4 6.Sc6 b5 7.Qc2+ Ka3 8.Ka1 b4 9.Bb1 b3 10.Qc4 b2#. In the set play bSa4 captures wSc3. However, White cannot lose a tempo so in the solution on the first move wSc3 captures bSa4 (reciprocal capturing of the same type of piece on the first move). Then unexpectedly bPb7 mates White on the b2 square. A very nice problem.

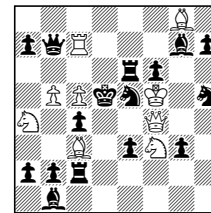
2nd Commendation S2761 Camillo Gannitzer 1.Rxg2? Bxg2!, 1.Sh7? bxc3! **1.c4!** (>2.Sh7 ~ 3.Qd2+ Kxf3 4.Shxg5+ Rxg5#) Sb8 2.Rxg2 (>3.Qe5+ Kxf3 4.Qe4+ Rxe4#) Bxg2 3.Bxg5+ Rxg5 4.Sg6+ Rxg6#. Two nice tries and interesting variations. One of the thematic tries becomes a quiet threat after the key move. The other try becomes a variation when bSb8 defends the d7 square so that Rg6 checkmate is possible. A very good problem.

Eugene Fomichev
3 C *The Problemist* 2019



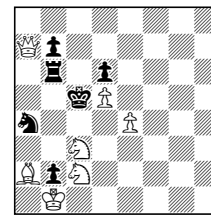
S#7

Zoran Gavrilovski
3 HM *The Problemist*
2019



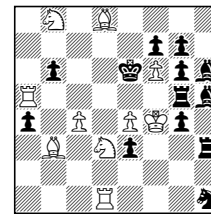
S#3

Udo Degener
1 C *The Problemist* 2019



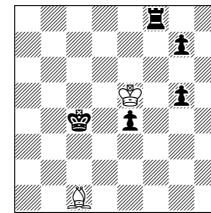
S#10

Udo Degener
4 C *The Problemist* 2019



S#2

H4613



H#7½