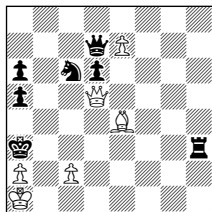
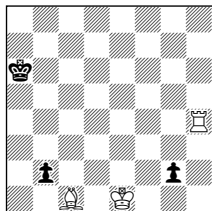


Michael Pasman

C *The Problemist* 2022

Win

Ludek Sedlak

C *The Problemist* 2022

Draw

A 22-move battle, during which the white knight travels across the board, twice occupying c1 to control the black a-pawns. At the same time the black knight switches diagonal corners, which has been done 7 times, but here the thematic knight is also promoted for the first time.

Commendation E1344 Michael Pasman (July, p408): **1.c3! Rxc3 2.Qd2! Kb4 3.a3+! Kb5 4.Qxc3 d5 5.Bd3+ Kb6 6.Bb5!! Kxb5 7.Qd3+! Ka4 8.Ka2! Sb4+! 9.axb4 Qxe7 10.b5! Qb4 11.bxa6 Qb6 12.Qb1! Qe3 13.Qb2! d4 14.a7 Qe6+ 15.Kb1 Qe1+ 16.Qc1 Qb4+ 17.Ka1! Qb7 18.Qc4+ Ka3 19.Qa2+** winning.

19 moves of various tactics including mating threats, promotion threats, sacrifices, and skewers. The composer chose the longest conclusion, but it is also possible to provide thematic unity by using the unmentioned conclusion 14...Qf3 15.a8Q Qxa8 16.Qb3 mate, showing a Pa2 Excelsior, enhanced by no double jumping, and overcoming three black units initially standing in its way. There are only three studies with these features.

Commendation E1354 Ludek Sedlak (November, p500): **1.Rh6+ Kb5 1...Kb7 2.Rh7+ Kc6 3.Rh6+ Kd5 4.Rh5+ Ke4 5.Re5+! One!** (5.Rh4+? Kf3 6.Rh3+ [6.Rf4+? Kg3 loses] 6...Kg4 Black wins) **5...Kxe5 6.Bxb2+ Ke4 7.Kf2 draws 2.Rh5+ Kc4 3.Rh4+ Kd3 3...Kb3 4.Rh3+ Kc2** (Or 4...Ka2 5.Ra3+! **Two!** 5...Kxa3 (5...Kb1 6.Be3 draws) 6.Bxb2+ Kxb2 7.Kf2 draws) **5.Rc3+! Three!** 5...Kxc3 6.Bxb2+ Kxb2 7.Kf2 draws **4.Rd4+! Four!** 4...Kxd4 **5.Bxb2+ Kc3 6.Bd4+! Five!** 6...Kxd4 **7.Kf2 Draw.** Four rook sacrifices and a bishop sacrifice.

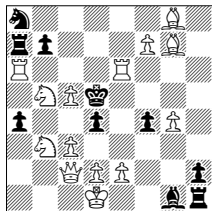
The composer adds a fourth rook sacrifice compared with Matous (17208) with ideal economy.

We thank Gady for his interesting award, especially making use of CQL (the app he devised with Lewis Stiller) to extract relevant precursors and compile statistics. Claims should be directed to Yochanan Afek within three months, please.

BCPS AWARD: SELFMATES & REFLEXMATES 2020

By Ivan Soroka

Miodrag Mladenović

1 Pr *The Problemist* 2020

S#3*

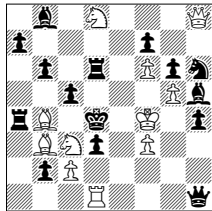
In 2020, a total of 57 selfmates and reflexmates were published in *The Problemist* and *The Problemist Supplement*. The level of the tourney was quite high, which enabled me to divide the award into two sections: S#2-4 and S#5-10. In view of the small number of reflexmates, I included them in the S#2-4 award. I apologize for the delay in preparing the award, caused by the war unleashed by Russia against Ukraine. It is hard to concentrate on chess composition when Russian missiles explode in your city, civilians die, buildings are destroyed and power cuts last for hours each day. The award is as follows.

Section A. S#2-4, R#2-4

1st Prize S2827 Miodrag Mladenović 1...dxc3 2.Sxc3+ Kc4 3.Re4+ Bd4#. **1.f8s!** (>2.Rf6+ Ke5 3.cxd4+ Bxd4#; 1.f8-? Rxa6!) 1...dxc3 2.Rf6+ Ke5 3.d4+ Bxd4#; 1...d3 2.Red6+ Ke4 3.Rd4+ Bxd4#; 1...Sc7 2.Re4+ Se6 3.Rxd4+ Bxd4#; 1...axb3 2.Reb6+ Kxc5 3.Bxd4+ Bxd4#; 1...Kc4 2.Rec6+ Kxb5 3.Sxd4+ Bxd4#; 1...Rxa6 2.Re5+(Re7?) Kc6 3.S3xd4+ Bxd4#; 1...b6,bxa6 2.Re7+(Re5+?) Kc6 3.S5xd4+ Bxd4#. A panoramic problem with eightfold play of the Re6/Bg8 battery and a white rook's "cross" on e5, d6, e7, f6. Different white pieces play six times to the same d4 square on the 3rd move. A clear winner of the tourney. Bravo, Miodrag!

2nd Prize S2817 Zoran Gavrilovski 1.Qe8! (>2.Sc6+ Rxc6+ 3.Qe5+ Bxe5#) 1...Rd5+ 2.Qe5+ Rxe5 3.Se2+ Rxe2#; 1...Bxf3 2.Se2+ Bxe2 3.Qe4+ Qxe4#; 1...Rxb4 2.Qe4+ Kxc3 3.Rxd3+ Rxd3#; 1...cxb4 2.Rxd3+ Kc5 3.Qe3+ Rd4#; 1...Sg4 2.Qe3+ Sxe3 3.Sc6+ Rxc6#. Yet another achievement by Zoran in the field of cyclical themes. A six-fold cycle of White's 2nd and 3rd moves according to the pattern AB/BC/CD/DE/EF/FA. A well-known mechanism has been expanded to six variations with fivefold play of the black battery. More than 10 problems presenting six-fold cycles have been published and so the question

Zoran Gavrilovski

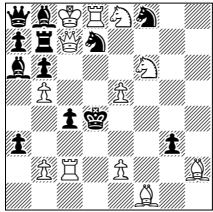
2 Pr *The Problemist* 2020

S#3

arises whether it is possible to raise the record to a 7-variation cycle. Zoran, please try to do it!

3rd Prize S2828 Aleksandr Pankratiev 1.Sc4! (>2.Rxe4+ Bxe4 3.Rf5+[A] Bxf5 4.Qxg4+[B] Bxg4#) 1...Sxc4 2.Be3+ Sxe3 3.Qxg4+[B] Sxg4 4.Rf6+[C] Sxf6#; 1...Rxc4 2.Bd6+ Qxd6 3.Rf6+[C] Qxf6 4.Rf5+[A] Qxf5#. A problem with a cycle of White's 3rd and 4th moves in the threat and 2 variations. After a nice key with white knight's sacrifice on c4, Black's two defences are focused on that square. The author skilfully used a familiar three-move cyclical scheme. The set play variations shown by the author do not add anything interesting to the problem's content.

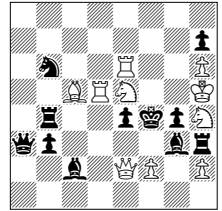
Aleksandr Kuzovkov
4 Pr *The Problemist* 2020



S#3

4th Prize S2816 Aleksandr Kuzovkov 1.e6! ~ 2.Rxc4+ Ke3 3.Qf4+ (A) Bxf4#; 1...c3 2.bxc3+ Ke3 3.Qxg3+ (B) Bxg3#; 1...Bxb5 2.Qf4+ (A) Kc5 3.Qd6+ Bxd6#; 1...Ke3 2.Qxg3+ (B) Kd4 3.Qe5+ Bxe5# (1...Sxe6,Sg6 2.Rxd7+ Ke3 3.Qxg3+ Bxg3#). Two pairs of harmonious variations with geometric motifs are related by Bristol and active play of the white queen. White's 3rd moves of the first pair become 2nd moves in the second pair.

Aleksandr Pankratiev
3 Pr *The Problemist* 2020

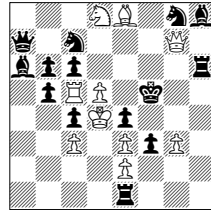


S#4

1st Honourable Mention S2783v
Brian Chamberlain

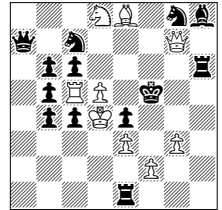
1.f3! (>2.Qe5+ Bxe5#) 1...exf3 2.e4+ Rxe4#; 1...Re6,Rxe3 2.fxe4+ Rxe4#; 1...Rf6 2.Qg6+ Rxg6#; 1...Sf6 2.Qg4+ Sxg4#; 1...Se6+ dxe6+ bxc5#; 1...Sxe8 2.d6+ bxc5#. A very good SOTF problem: three harmonious pairs of variations. The first pair features play by different white pawns to e4; the second pair presents the creation and subsequent play of black batteries plus white queen's sacrifice; and the third pair involves two defences by a black knight with play of the Pd5+Rc5 battery. It is unclear why the author chose 1.e2xf3 as the key instead of 1.f2-f3; the key 1.e7-e8B is also possible with wPf3 in the diagram position.

S2783v Brian Chamberlain
The Problemist 2020



S#2

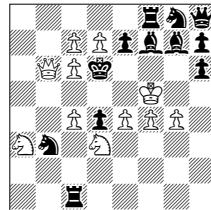
Brian Chamberlain
1 HM *The Problemist*
2020



S#2

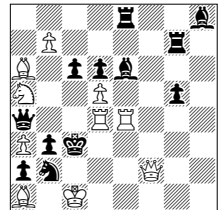
2nd Honourable Mention S2815 Eugene Fomichev & Sergey Khachaturov 1.Sd-? e5!, 1.Sb4! (>2.e5+ Bxe5 3.fxe5+ Qxe5#), 1...Sf6 2.c8S+ Rxc8 3.dxc8S+ Qxc8#; 1...Re1(Rf1) 2.c5+ Sxc5 3.Sc4+ Bxc4#; 1...e5 2.Sb5+ Ke7 3.Sd5+ Bxd5#. A synthesis of two different pairs of variations. The first pair presents black Bristol; particularly spectacular is the variation 1...Sf6 with two white pawn promotions. The second pair, with play of the black battery Bf7+Rf8, is unfortunately not as good as the first one, on account of heterogeneity of White's play.

Eugene Fomichev & Sergey Khachaturov
2 HM *The Problemist*
2020



S#3

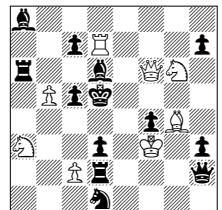
Gunter Jordan & Raúl Jordan
3 HM *The Problemist*
2020



S#3

3rd Honourable Mention S2800 Gunter Jordan & Raúl Jordan 1.Rb4! (>2.Rxb3+ Qxb3 3.Qc2+ Qxc2#), 1...Qxa5 2.Rbc4+ Kd3 3.Qd2+ Qxd2#; 1...Qxb4 2.Qc2+ bxc2 3.Bxb2+ Qxb2#; 1...Rxb7 2.Qd4+ Bxd4 3.Re3+ Bxe3#; 1...Bxd5 2.Re3+ Rxe3 3.Qe1+ Rxe1#. A solid problem with a SOTF synthesis. The first pair presents black queen's ambush behind her pieces, followed by White's sacrificial opening of lines for her. In the second pair, Black opens lines for bR/bB, with sacrifices and change of functions of wR/wQ.

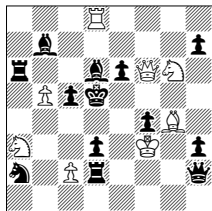
S2824 Manfred Ernst & Stephen Taylor
The Problemist 2020



S#2

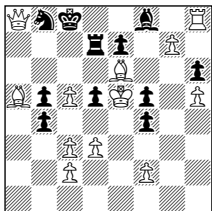
4th Honourable Mention S2824v Manfred Ernst & Stephen Taylor 1.Qh8!! (>2.Sxf4+ Qxf4#), 1...Rxa3 2.c4+ Kxc4#; 1...c4 2.Qd4+ Kxd4#; 1...hxg6 2.Qe5+ Kxe5#; 1...Qg1 2.Bxe6+ Kxe6#; 1...Ra4 2.Rxd6+ Kxd6#. A classical-style problem; after a remarkable key to the corner square h8 by the white queen, the black royal battery Kd5+Bb7 plays five times. The simple shifting of Ba8 to b7 and Pc7 to e6 (see diagram over page) adds one more

Manfred Ernst &
Stephen Taylor
4 HM *The Problemist* 2020



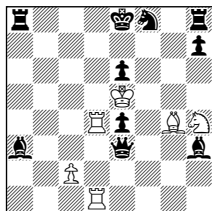
S#2

Gábor Tar
C *The Problemist* 2020



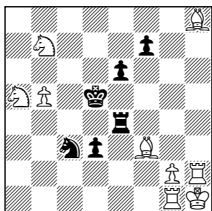
S#3

Gábor Tar
C *The Problemist* 2020



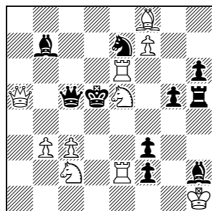
R#2 Duplex

Anatoly Stepochkin
C *The Problemist* 2020



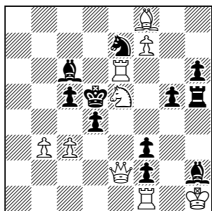
R#2

Vilimantas Satkus
C *The Problemist* 2020



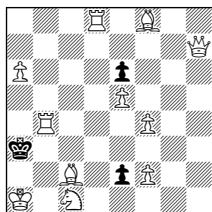
S#2

S2806v



S#2

Marcin Banaszek
1 Pr *The Problemist* 2020



S#10

thematic variation with black royal battery play 1...Ra4 2.Rxd6+ Kxd6# – and now the key looks even better!

Commented S2793 Gábor Tar The attempts 1.cxb4? f3 2.Kd4 f4 3.g8B Bg7#, but 1...d4!; 1.f3? bxc3 2.Kd4 b4 3.Qc6+ Sxc6#, but 1...d4! come too early, failing to the same defence 1...d4. Therefore, White's key makes Black choose a particular defence in advance. **1.Kd4!** (>2.Qc6+ Sxc6#) 1...f3 2.cxb4 f4 3.g8B Bg7#; 1...bxc3 2.f3 b4 3.Qc6+ Sxc6#. Double Salazar.

Commented S2790R Gábor Tar 1.Bh5+! Sg6+/Ke7 2.Kf6/R4d3 0-0/exd3#; duplex: 1.Sd7+! Rxd7/Kxe6 2.Bf8/Sb8 Bh5/Rd8#. A duplex is rarely seen in selfmates/reflexmates. Interesting play in two variations. One of the solutions also involves kingside castling.

Commented S2823R Anatoly Stepochkin 1.Bd1, Bh5? (>2.Re1, Rh4) Re1? 2.Rf1 Rxf1#, but 1...Rh4!; 1.Rh6/Rh7? (>2.Bh5) e5/f5! 2.Rd6/Rd7#, 1.Rc1/Rb1? (>2.Bd1) S~/Sxb5! 2.Rc5/Rxb5#. **1.Ra1!** (>2.Bd1 Re1#) Se2 2.Rg1 Sg3#. It is clear that the key must be a departure of the Rg1 or Rh2. But what destination square should be chosen? An interesting problem for solving, with numerous tries. It is a pity that there is only one variation after the key.

Commented S2806 Vilimantas Satkus 1.Sc4? fxe2!; 1.Sd7? g4!; **1.Sd3!** (>2.R2e5+ Bxe5#) 1...fxe2 2.c4+ Kxe6#; 1...g4 2.Sf4+ Bxf4#; 1...Sc6(Sg6) 2.Rd6+ Bxd6#. White knight's threefold correction. The variation 1...fxe2 2.c4+ Kxe6# is unexpected and nice, with half-battery play and line-opening for the Bb7. Sad is the role of the white Qa5, which is only necessary for pinning the black Qc5, the latter additionally guarding the white king's possible g1-flight after 1...f1S/B. The position can be improved – see **S2806v**, in which the white queen has a heavier workload and the wSc2 is gone. The Bb7 is shifted to c6, getting rid of the superfluous variation 1...Sc6.

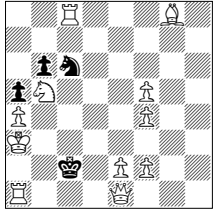
Section B. S#5-N

1st Prize S2796 Marcin Banaszek 1.Be4! (-) **1...e1Q** 2.Rb3+ Ka4 3.Bc6+ Ka5 4.Qc7+ Kxa6 5.Qb7+ Ka5 6.Rb5+ Ka4 7.Qa7+ Qa5 8.Qd4+ Qb4 9.Rc5+ Ka3 10.Qb2+ Qxb2#; **1...e1R** 2.Rb3+ Ka4 3.Ra4+ Qb4 4.Qb7+ Kc4 5.Rd4+ Kxd4 6.Ra4+ Kc3 7.Qb3+ Kd2 8.Rd4+ Kxc1 9.Qe3+ Rxe3 10.Ba3+ Rxa3#; **1...e1B** 2.Rc4+ Bb4 3.Rc3+ Ka4 4.Rd4 Ka5 (if 4...Kb5, 5.Qb7+ etc. & S#9) 5.Qc7+ Kxa6 (5...Kb5 6.Qb7+ Ka4 7.Sb3 Ka3 8.Bb1 B~ 9.Qb4+ Bxb4 10.Sc5+) 6.Qb7+ Ka5 7.Sb3+ Ka4 8.Bb1 Ka3 9.Sc5+ Bxc3+ 10.Qb2+ Bxb2#; **1...e1S** 2.Rb1+ Ka4 3.Qd7+ Ka5 4.Sb3+ Kxa6, Kb6 5.Qc6+ Ka7 6.Qc7+ K(x)a6 7.Rd6+ Kb5 8.Sd4+ Ka4 9.Bc6+ Ka3 10.Sc2+ Sxc2#.

At the moment of publication of the problem, this was the first-ever presentation of black AUV in a S#10. Obviously, it is simply impossible to compose such a problem without using a computer program. Each variation involves white battery play – unfortunately, with repetition of moves after 1...e1Q, 1...e1R. A considerable technical achievement of the author and his devoted assistant Gustav.

2nd Prize S2830 Gennady Koziura 1.Kb5! 1...a5 2.Ra7+ Kg8 3.Ka4 Kh8 4.Ra8 Kg8 5.Qc4 Kh8 6.Qxb3 Kg8 7.Rxe5+ Kh8 8.Bf5 gxf5 9.Re8+ Bxe8#, 1...a6+ 2.Kxb4 a5+ 3.Ka3 a4 4.Ra6 Ke8 5.Sxh7 g5 6.Sf6+ Kf8 7.Qc5+ Be7 8.Ra8+ Be8 9.Qd6 Bxd6#. Once again, a wonderful problem in the author's peculiar style. Two impressive echoed chameleon mates with change of functions in black bishops' play and active play by the white king in both variations. In the diagram position, there are no pieces at all on any of the 8 squares adjacent to the white king! It is a pity that 1...a6+ is not followed by white Rg7+Bh6 battery play.

**Valery Kirillov,
Mykhailo Maranduk &
Grigory Popov**
3 Pr *The Problemist* 2020



S#23

3rd Prize S2818 Valery Kirillov, Mykhailo Maranduk & Grigory Popov. A problem of a logical character, in view of the try 1.Qb4? axb4+ 2.Ka2! It is clear that White must occupy the a2-square with his bishop; but after 1.Ba2? Black is stalemated. **1.Qf1!** Kd2 2.Rd1+ Kc2 3.Sd4+ Kc3. Now Black has the move 4... b5 at his disposal, which enables White to block a2. 4.Ba2! b5 5.Sxb5+ Kc2 6.Ra1 (rook switchback) Kd2 7.Qe1+ (queen switchback) Kc2 8.Qb4 axb4#. An elegant problem with double Bristol and switchback of three white pieces presented in a technically skilful way.

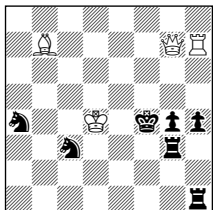
Special Prize S2821 Mark Kirtley 1.Qb8+ Sxb8 2.Rc8+ Bxc8 3.a8S+ Rxa8 4.Qd8+ Qxd8 5.axb6+ Kd6 6.Qh2+ Ke6 7.Qe5+ Kxf7 8.g8Q+ Sxg8 9.Sh8+ Rxh8 10.Qg7+ Kxe8 11.Qf8+ Bxf8#. An interesting, smart idea with switchback of all black pieces to the initial squares, for which obtrusive force is used. A similar concept, with switchback of white pieces to the initial squares, was implemented by the author in S1116 *The Problemist* 11/1986, P1081510.

1st Honourable Mention S2802 Camillo Gamnitzer 1.Qxf5+? Bf4+ suggests itself, but 2.Qb1. How about implementing the same plan by rook instead of queen? 1.Qf8? (>2.Rf7) but 1...Rb1! The try 1.Sh4+? Kf4? 2.Sg2+ Kf3 3.Qh5+ g4 4.Rf7! also fails: 1...gxf4! Moreover, 1.Bd4.Bb8? (>2.Rf2+ Ke4 3.Qxf5+ K(x)d4 4.Qe5+ Kd3 5.Qe3+ Bxe3#), 1...cxb5! Another foreplan is found, this time on the queenside: **1.Bg1!** (>2.Rf2+ Ke4 3.Qxf5+ Kd4 4.Qe5+ Kd3 5.Qe3+ Bxe3#) cxb5 2.Qb7+! Bxb7 3.Rf7! (>4.Rxf5+) Be4 4.Sge5+ Kf4 5.Be3+ Bxe3#. A brief but intense logic of the two sides' encounter, with changed functions of White's queen and rook. As always, Camillo's inimitable style is displayed.

2nd Honourable Mention S2832 Anatoly Steepochkin 1.Qb4+? Kd4 2.Re4#?? **1.Be4!** (>2.Qxe3+ Sxe3#) Bf2 2.Bg2 (>3.Rxe3+ Bxe3 4.Qxe3+ Sxe3#) Be1 3.Qb4+ Kd4 4.Re4+ Kd5 5.Re8+ Kd4 6.Qc5+ Kc3 7.Be7 Bf2 8.Bd6 Be1 9.Qb4+ Kd4 10.Re4+ Kd5 11.Rd4+ Kxd4 12.Qc5+ Kc3 13.Qxe3+ Sxe3#.

If it were not for Re5, White could play 1.Qxe3+ Sxe3#. White's objective is to get rid of his Re5 without tempo loss. First the bishop is transferred to g2: **1.Be4!** (>2.Qxe3+ Sxe3#) Bf2 2.Bg2 (>3.Rxe3+ Bxe3 4.Qxe3+ Sxe3#) Be1. Now 3.Qb4+ Kd4 4.Re4+ Kd5 5.Rd4+! Kxd4 6.Qc5+ Kc3 7.Qxe3+ Sxe3# suggests itself, but 5... Ke5! Therefore the next foreplan is not to let the black king get to e5. 5.Re8+ Kd4 6.Qc5+ Kc3 7.Be7 Bf2 8.Bd6 Be1. Now the rook can at last be sacrificed. 9.Qb4+ Kd4 10.Re4+ Kd5 11.Rd4+ Kxd4 12.Qc5+ Kc3 13.Qxe3+ Sxe3#. An interesting problem of a logical character with two foreplans, featuring successive mutual interference of white rook and bishop on e4. The matrix is well-known from problems by the same author, the tourney judge and other composers since the 1990s.

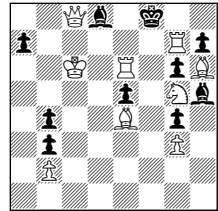
Sergey Smotrov
3 HM *The Problemist* 2020



S#23

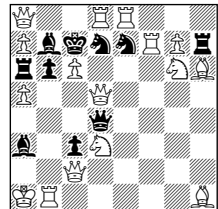
3rd Honourable Mention S2833 Sergey Smotrov 1.Qc7+! K~ 2.Qe5+ Kg6 3.Qh5+ Kf6 4.Rf7+ Ke6 5.Qf5+ Kd6 6.Qf4+ Ke6 7.Rf6+ K~ 8.Qd6+ Ke8 9.Qf8+ Kd7 10.Rf7+ Ke6 11.Re7+ Kd6 12.Rh7+ Ke6 13.Qf7+ Kd6 14.Qc7+ Ke6 15.Bc8+ Kf6 16.Qf4+ Kg6 17.Bf5+ Kf6 18.Bxg4+ Kg6 19.Qf7+ Kg5 20.Qg7+ Kf4 21.Qf6+ Kxg4 22.Rxh4+ Rxh4 23.Qf5+ Kxf5#. In the absence of the black

Gennady Koziura
2 Pr *The Problemist* 2020



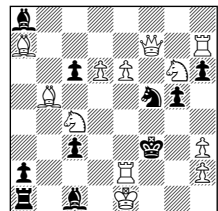
S#9

Mark Kirtley
Sp Pr *The Problemist*
2020



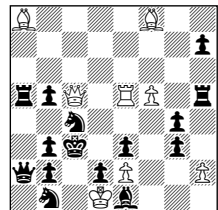
S#11

Camillo Gamnitzer
1 HM *The Problemist*
2020



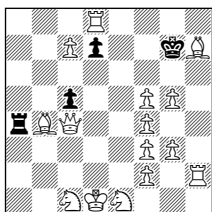
S#5

Anatoly Steepochkin
2 HM *The Problemist*
2020



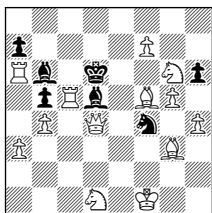
S#13

S2797 Cedric Lytton
The Problemist 2020



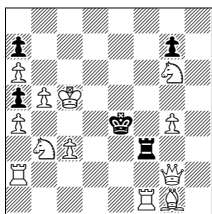
S#12

Manfred Ernst & Stephen Taylor
 5 HM *The Problemist* 2020



S#10

Valery Kirillov & Mykhailo Mishko
 6 HM *The Problemist* 2020

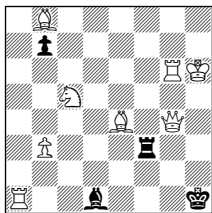


S#9*

2.Rxb4 e5 3.Qc1 Kg4 4.Bc8+ Kf3 5.Qe3+ Rxe3 6.Se1+ Rxe1#; 1...exf6 2.Bc1 f5 3.Qe3+ Kg4 4.Se5+ Rxe5 5.Bf3+ Kg3 6.Qe1+ Rxe1#; 1...e5 2.Rxb4 exf4 3.Qg2+ Ke3 4.Qd2+ Kf3 5.Se5+ Kg3 6.Qe1+ Rxe1#. Pickaninny theme, albeit without any interesting nuances.

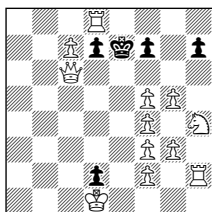
2nd Commended S2808 Valery Kirillov & Evgeny Kirillov

Valery Kirillov & Evgeny Kirillov
 2-C *The Problemist* 2020



S#5

Cedric Lytton
 4 HM *The Problemist* 2020



S#9

two complete moves look superfluous; the queen's systematic movement is not "pure" – it would be proper to begin the manoeuvre from the c6-square: c6-c5-c4-c3-c2. Moreover, the use of the pair Bb4 and Ra4 is unjustified: the concluding mate is not a model one. Fortunately, the concept can be presented in a pure form in a shorter, 9-move solution ending in a model mate. I suggest that the author consider using the S#9 version.

5th Honorable Mention S2794v Manfred Ernst & Stephen Taylor

1.Rc2! 1...hgx5 2.Bxf4+ gxf4 3.Bc8 f3 4.Qf6+ Be6 5.Qe7+ Kd5 6.Bb7+ Kd4 7.Qd6+ [wQ<=>bK] Bd5 8.Qe5+ Kd3 9.Rc3+ Kd2 10.Qe2+ fxe2#; 1...h5 2.a4 bxa4 3.f8S a3 4.Bd3 a2 5.Qf6+ Be6 6.Qxf4+ Kd5 7.Be4+ Kd4 8.Bg2+ Kd3 9.Qc4+ Bxc4 10.Rd2+ Kxd2#. Two interesting variations with dissimilar content: the highlight of the first is the exchange of places by the queen and black king, while the second features the creation and play of the black battery Kd3+Bc4.

6th Honorable Mention S2805 Valery Kirillov & Mykhailo Mishko

set: 1...Kd3 2.Qe2+ Kxc3 3.Qb2+ Kd3 4.Qb1+ Kc3 5.Rc2+ Kd3 6.Qd1+ Ke4 7.Re2+ Re3 8.Kc4 Rxe2 9.Qc2+ Rxc2#; **1.Bd4!** Kd3 2.Rd1+ Ke4 3.Bxg7 Ke3 4.Re1+ Kd3 5.Se5+ Kxc3 6.Qd2+ Kxb3 7.Qd5+ Kc3 8.Sd7+ Rf6 9.Sb6 axb6#. I just love block problems with radical change of play. In the diagram position, everything is set; but although White has a lot of moves at his disposal, none of them is a waiting one and so the entire play is changed.

1st Commended S2787 Jozef Holubec & Stephen Taylor

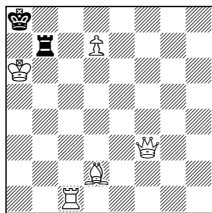
1.Bf4! 1...exd6 2.Se6 d5 3.Sdc5+ Re3 4.Rd3 b3 5.axb3 Rxd3 6.Qd1+ Rxd1#; 1...e6

1st Commended S2787 Jozef Holubec & Stephen Taylor

1.Bf4? b6!; 1.Se6? b5! **1.Kh5!** 1...b6 2.Se6 b5 3.Sg5 b4 4.Ba7 Kh2 5.Qh3+ Rxh3#; 1...b5 2.Bf4 b4 3.Bh6 Kh2 4.Qg1+ Kh3 5.Bf5+ Rxf5#. Two variations ending in mate through double check in a light position.

3rd-5th Commended S2831 Frank Richter

1.Rd1! Kb8 2.Qf8+ Kc7 3.d8Q+ Kc6 4.Qff6+ Kc5 5.Qfd4+ Kc6 6.Qe4+ Kc5 7.Bb4+ Rxb4 8.Qc2+ Rc4 9.Qe7+ Kc6 10.Qa4+ Rxa4# & **1.Re1!** Kb8 2.d8R+ Kc7 3.Ba5+ Rb6+ 4.Ka7 Kxd8 5.Qf5 Kc7 6.Rd1 Kc6 7.Qd5+ Kc7 8.Ka8 Kc8 9.Qc4+ Rc6 10.Qa6+ Rxa6#. A miniature with two solutions, two promotions of the white pawn – to Q and R, and two echoed mates. Both solutions begin with spectacular and mysterious keys: 1.Rd1, 1.Re1.



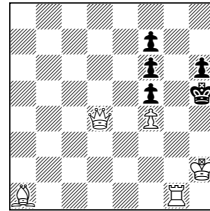
S#10 2 solutions

3rd-5th Commended S2829 Jorma Pitkänen
1.Qd1+! Kh4 2.Bd4 h5 3.Kh1 Kh3 4.Bf2 h4 5.Rg4 fxg4 6.f5 g3 7.Bg1 g2#; and **1.Kg3!** Kg6 2.Kh4+ Kh7 3.Kh5 Kh8 4.Qf2 Kh7 5.Qh4 Kh8 6.Bxf6+ Kh7 7.Rg6 fxg6#. Two graceful solutions with active play of the white king ending in model mates; especially spectacular is the key 1.Kg3!

3rd-5th Commended S2811 Anatoly Stepochkina (a) 1.g8B+ Kf8 2.d8Q+ Re8 3.Qd6+ Re7 4.Qc1 Ke8 5.Qb8+ Kd7 6.Bae6+ Rxe6 7.Qbc7+ Ke8 8.Bf7+ Kf8 9.Qh6+ Rxh6#; (b) 1.Qh5+ Rg6 2.Qd5+ Re6 3.d8Q Kg6 4.Q8g5+ Kf7 5.Qc4 Ke8 6.Qd8+ Kf7 7.g8S Kg6 8.Qg4+ Kf7 9.Sh6+ Rxh6#. Again two solutions – with black rook pinned in the diagram position and four promotions of two white pawns. Unfortunately, the author failed to achieve Allumwandlung – promotion of pawns to all four possible types of pieces: QRBS.

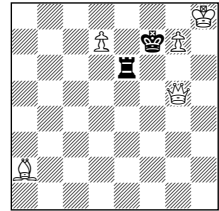
[Many thanks to Ivan for his proposed award, which remains open for 3 months; please address all claims and/or other comments to Stephen Taylor – Ed.]

Jorma Pitkänen
 3-5 C *The Problemist*
 2020



S#7 2 solutions

Anatoly Stepochkina
 3-5 C *The Problemist*
 2020

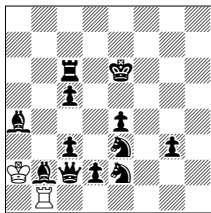


S#9 (b) Ba2>h4

HELPMATE SOLUTIONS (continued from p.155)

H4651 (Ylijoki) (a) 1.Sc3 Re4 2.Sb3 Rxe3 3.Sd2 Kf2 4.Kd1 Rxe2 5.Qc2 Re1#. (b) 1.Kc3 Rf4 2.Bb4 Rxf1 3.Kb3+ Kxe2 4.Ka4 Rf7 5.Ka5 Ra7#. Two very neat, contrasting, solutions with different keys on c3 to free the wR; the problem feels nicely unified by its differing rook captures to unlock the wK cage combined with wholly incidental captures of bPe2 by different white units (SJGT). Forced unpins allow different mechanisms for wK release and good twinning (LSB).

H4652v



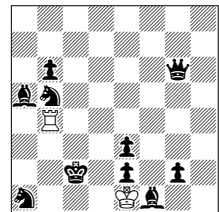
H#5 2 solutions

H4652v (Milewski) 1.Kf5 Re1 2.Kg4 Rxe2 3.Kh3 Rxd2 4.Sg4 Rd5 5.Qg2 Rh5#. 1.Qc1 Rxc1 2.Kd5 Rxc3 3.Bc2 Rxc2 4.Be5 Kb3 5.Kd4 Rxd2#. WR minimal with two very different solutions (CMBT). Engaging cornucopia of annihilations by the wR (SJGT) – SJGT suggests the 14-man setting diagrammed, which is accepted by the composer.

H4653 (Ylijoki) 1...Sb7 2.Kc6 Sc5 3.Kd5 Sd3 4.Ke4 Sxf2+ 5.Kf3 Sxh3 6.Se3 Sxg1+ 7.Kf2+ Kxh2 8.Bf3 Sh3#. 1...Sc6 2.Kb7 Se5 3.Rc1 Sxg4 4.Rc8 Sxf2 5.Kb8+ Se4 6.Ba7+ Kxh2 7.Rf7 Sc5 8.Rb7 Sa6#. Astonishing achievement to get same-length

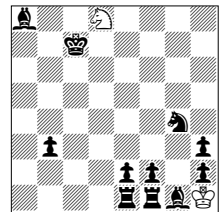
solutions at opposite ends of the board! (LSB) A marvellous problem that works like a magic trick: it doesn't seem possible to free all the black units from the 1st rank in one instance, or to release the wK for an active role in the other... What a good thing Marko has returned to helpmate composition! (SJGT) Hear, hear!

H4651



H#5 (b) Sb5<->Pb6

H4653



H#7½ 2 solutions (wK in check)

SOLUTION TO RETROGRADE ANALYSIS FOR NEWCOMERS (p.167)

Retract 1.Sc3xBa2+, then forward 1.Sxd5#. Not 1.Sc3xPa2+? – impossible position for black pawns, even assuming more captures were available.

Note that the Ba2 must have originally been the g or h pawn which promoted on f1.

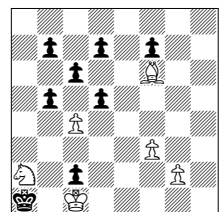
ANSWERS TO ECSC PROBLEMS (p.135)

Blindfold solving: (i) 1.Qb3 (ii) 1.Kg8. A 1.Bc7 Bxd7+ 2.Sf4 Bxc6.

B 1.Bc8! Rxc8 2.Rg3 hxg3+ 3.Kh3 Sg5+ 4.Kh4 S~+ 5.Kh5 (>6.Sd5) and 3...Kg5 4.Sc4+ e3 5.Bxe3+ Kxg6 6.Sxe5. Not 1.Rg3? as the Black rook is covering the eventual Sd5.

Trivia question: the Danube; Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Belgrade.

RQ22 Einar Oije
Die Schwalbe 1962



-1 & #1