

StrateGems h#2 Award

by Petko A. Petkov, International Judge of FIDE

There were 44 h#2 problems published in 2010. The quality was high - a good and traditional trend for *StrateGems*, but without exceptional compositions.

It is well-known that the exhaustion of possibilities in this genre is an obstacle to creating original masterpieces; Thus, the composers are looking for ways to enrich and to refresh the old themes (complexes) and good, known mechanisms, with new components. Often the work becomes a search for "originality in the details".

Here are some of the problems not included in the ranking: H1454, H1456, H1481, H1482, H1483, H1508, H1510, H1511, H1535, H1536, H1537, H1540. They demonstrated nice ideas (such puzzles are always enjoyed by solvers), but their content is simple and insufficient in depth for such a strong tournament.

In another group of helpmates, H1459, H1460, H1484, H1485, H1487, H1488, H1489, H1490, H1514, H1541, H1542, H1543, I found familiar patterns to an excessive degree, without sufficient demonstration of new motifs.

Due to heavy construction that does not justify content, I did not include in the award H1545, H1546, H1547, H1548.

H1491 has an unusual idea but there is no homogeneity between the solutions.

H1539 is only a try to demonstrate HOTF content but the repetition of moves detracts.

I decided on the following ranking:

1 st Prize Fadil Abdurahmanovic	2 nd Prize Emanuel Navon & Yoel Aloni	3 rd Prize Abdelaziz Onkoud	4 th Prize Žilko Janewski & Fadil Abdurahmanovic
h#2 2 sols. (7+5)	h#2 2 sols. (6+14) b) Pe2 → f4	h#2 2 sols. (6+8)	h#2 4 sols. (6+9)

1st Prize - (Fadil Abdurahmanovic - H1513) An excellent Meredith, which seems surprisingly fresh, regarding its originality. The black Rooks "deactivate" the black K/B battery with a pair of fine Bivalve moves to g2. The second bK's move pins the Rooks. There are three pairs of pieces which change their functions: Rb2/Rg5, Ba1/Bh5 and Sc7/Bg8. Solution: 1.Rgg2 Rc5+ 2.Kd4 Sb5#, 1.RBg2 Be5 2.Kf5 Bh7#.

2nd Prize - (Emanuel Navon & Yoel Aloni - H1461) The most complex problem of the tourney. In the first pair of solutions only Knights (Sa8 and Sb8) play (the black Knight closing lines of Bg6 and bQd4). In the second pair of solutions, only Bishops (Bg3 and Bg2) play, imitating the same strategy as in the first two solutions. I can accept the heavy construction, which is inevitable, but I do not like the twin which limits WBg3 movements. Solution: a) 1.Sc6 Sb6 2.Sb4 Sa4#, 1.Sd7 Sxc7 2.Sb6 Sxa6#; b) 1.Bf1 Be1 2.Bc4 Bb4#, 1.Bh3 Bh4 2.Be6 Be7#.

3rd Prize - (Abdelaziz Onkoud - H1458) A beautiful problem with fine white sacrifices on d2/f2, indirect self-pins of the black Queen, self-blocks and model mates. A small but nice additional motive is also the line closing of Be1. Solution: 1.Bd1 Sf2 2.exf2 Sf4#; 1.Bd3 Bd2 2.exd2 Sc3#.

4th Prize - (Žilko Janewski & Fadil Abdurahmanovic - H1517) A HOTF problem with two anti-identical pairs of solutions. In the first pair we have two active self-block and two passive ones, by the initially pinned Rd3 and Bd4. 1.d1B Qxb4 2.Bc2 Qe1#, 1.Sd5 Rf5 2.Sxb4 Rc5#. In the second pair, Rd3 and Bd4 are active, executing the Vacation-square theme, while still pinned: 1.Rc3 Bb2+ 2.Kd3 Qh7#, 1.Be5 Bxd2+ 2.Kd4 Rf4#. On the plus side, all four mates are given by the pinning pieces, Rf3 and Qh8. However, the first pair of solutions, in its thematic aspect, seems more modest than the second pair does.

Special Prize Fadil Abdurahmanovic & Mike Prieic	1 st Honorable Mention Žilko Janewski	2 nd Honorable Mention Ricardo de Mattos Vieira	3 rd Honorable Mention Tibor Érsek
h#2 4 sols. (5+7)	h#2 2 sols. (5+15)	h#2 b) Kg3 → g2 (8+1)	h#2 b) Pe7 → e6 (5+7)

Special Prize - (Fadil Abdurahmanovic & Mike Prieic - H1538) This "triangle" formed by three white pieces (Qd8, Bd7 and Re7), with obligatory White Grimshaw, is well-known also in its more modern form with 4 solutions (HOTF type). There are many examples and I will show two problems for comparison: 1) F. Abdurahmanovic, *British Chess Magazine*, 1979, 6th Prize: wkf2. Qh2. Rg3. Bh3 (4); bKc8. Ra8. Rh8. Ba4. Sd8. Sh7. Pb7. Pe4 (8) h#2, 4 solutions: 1.Sf6 Bg4 2.0-0 Bc6#, 1.Sc6 Rg4 2.0-0-0 Rg8# and 1.Sg5 Bf5 2.0-0 Qh7#. 1.Sc6 Rg7 2.0-0-0 Qc7#.

2) Fadil Abdurahmanovic & Mike Prieic, *Jub. B. Rusanov-50, Sahmat bastactily*, 2010, 3rd Prize: wkKa8, Qf8, Re7, Bf7, Pg2 (5); bKd3, Qc2. Rb1. Rg4, Bh4, Bh5, Sf1, pa2-b4-c7-d4-f2-g7 (13) h#2, 4 solutions: 1.g5 Be6 2.Kc4 Bc4#, 1.g6 Re6 2.Kc4 Rc3# and 1.Qd2 B6 2.Kc3 Qf3#, 1.Kc3 Re6 2.Kb3 Qxb4#.

Obviously, the authors continue to find new nuances in the interpretation of this mechanism. These new motifs, and the excellent construction are my reasons for awarding this elegant Meredith with a special prize. Solution: 1.Bxd7 Re3+ 2.Kg4 Qg5#, 1.Bxc7 Bc6+ 2.Kc3 Qd2#; 1.Bd1 Re6 2.Kg4 Rc3#, 1.Be1 Be6 2.Kc4 Bg4#.

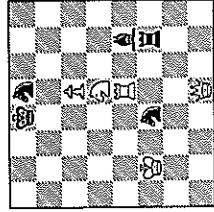
1st Honorable Mention - (Žilko Janewski - H1544) Interesting and difficult complex: functional play between the pinned and pinning piece. Unfortunately, the construction is quite heavy. Solution: 1.Bg2 Rf2 2.Sf6 Rxf5#, 1.Qa4 Ba5 2.Sc6 Bc7#.

2nd Honorable Mention - (Ricardo de Mattos Vieira - H1462) A problem with 2 anti-identical solutions (ANI). The overall content is nice and unusual, but in my opinion the first solution is richer in strategic terms than the second. Solution: a) 1.Bc3 d4 2.Rxd4 Kg2#; b) 1.Bc5 Rc3 2.Rc4 dxe4#.

3rd Honorable Mention - (Tibor Érsek - H1486) An elegant Pheenix with model mates in Meredith form. It is a well-known concept, but this interpretation gives a good impression and the solutions are spectacular. Solution: a) 1.Bxf4 Qxd4+ 2.Ke6 d8S#; b) 1.Rxb4 Sxd3+ 2.Kd6 d8Q#.

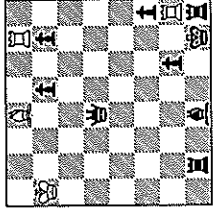
4th Honorable Mention - (Francesco Simoni - H1509) A nice Zilahi with Annihilation-captures on e6/e5 and self-blocks on d7, followed by surprising model mates. This well-known synthesis is well designed, but, unfortunately, Sd3/Rg3 plays only minor roles (Rg3 is a cook-stopper). Solution: 1.Bxc6+ Rc4 2.Bd7 Sf7#; 1.Sxc5+ Qc3 2.Sd7 e7#.

4th Honorable Mention
Francesco Simoni



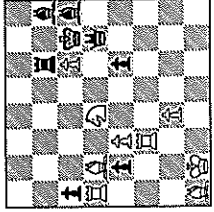
#2 2 sols. (5-5) #f2

Commendation
Christer Jonsson



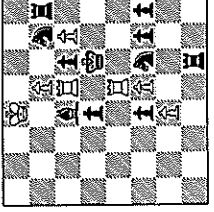
#2 2 sol. (4+9) #f2 b) -Qg5

Commendation
Alexander Pankratiev
& Mihail Gershinski



#2 b) -Qg5 (9+8) #f2

Commendation
Vitaly Medintsev
after G. Pongrac



#2 4 sols. (7+11)

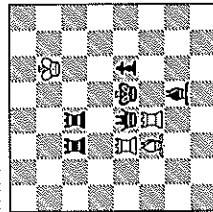
Commendation - (Christer Jonsson - H1457) This manner of realizing a Zilahi is also well-known. There are many problems in which the analogous captures by the bQ are shown with model-mates. Here we don't have such mates, but other nice motifs decorate the content: minor promotions, line openings and line closings. A minus is that, after 1.f1b, we also have a line opening for the wB. Such motif does not exist in the other solution. Solution: 1.f1R Re2 2.Qxd8 Rxc7#, 1.f1B Rb2 2.Qxg8 Bb6#.

Commendation - (Alexander Pankratiev & Mikhail Gershinski - H1516) A nice idea with Annihilation of pieces which create white indirect batteries. An additional pinning of a black piece is a good thematic motif. But here we have two different types of white indirect batteries: Sd5/Bb5/Ra5 create a white indirect half-battery, while Rc3/Ba1 create only an indirect battery. Solution: a) 1.axb5 Rg3 2.bxc4 Sxf4#; b) 1.bxc3 Be8 2.cxd2 Se7#.

Commendation - (Vitaly Medintsev - H1515) A well-known matrix and an improvement over a Pongrac problem. However, there is no full thematic identity between the duos in this HOTF composition. For example, in the solution, which begins with 1.Bf4, the rude capture of the bB spoils the harmony. Solution: 1.Be5 e8S 2.Kxe4 Sd6#, 1.Se5 e8B 2.Kxe6 Bd7#, 1.Kxg6 R4e5 2.Kh6 Rxf6#, 1.Bf4 R6e5+ 2.Kg4 Rxf4#.

Commendation - (Živko Janevski - H1455) Visually very beautiful setting, but unfortunately, this is not a cyclic Zilahi in its purest form. Solution: 1.Bf3 Re5 2.Qxd3 Re5#, 1.Kd5 Re3 2.Qxc4 Re5#, 1.Ke5 Rg3 2.Qxc3 Rg5#.

Many thanks to Peiko (who replaced the original judge, the late Toma Garai) for this timely award. Please send comments to Nikola Stolev. The award remains open for three months.



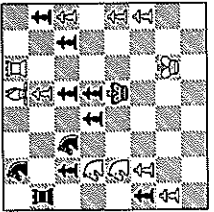
#2 3 sols. (4+6)

StrateGems 2011 Moremovers Award

by Alexander Feoktistov, International Judge FIDE

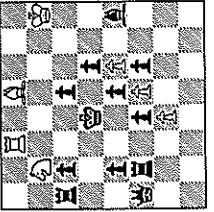
I reviewed 37 entries by 27 composers. Some entries were at the level of 1 to 1.5 points in FIDE Album judging. Those I did not check for predecessors. However, there were enough memorable entries. One of the entries contending for the award was M0955 (L.Makaronez & L.Lyubashevsky), which I found to be very similar to a problem by S.Abramenko, *Chess Composition*, 1999, 1st HM (No.336803 in the yaepdb data base). There were a couple of entries (M0958, M0982) showing line openings, after white Pawns captures. However, this idea has already been shown (See 6th WCCT, 5th Place, No.66591 in the yaepdb data base). To qualify for the award, it is necessary to show some new nuances: an interesting tactical element in Black's defense, cycle motifs, etc. I also want to point out that entries such as M1033 (with promoted white Bishop) do not excite judges. The promoted piece itself is not the cause for excluding it from the award, but the author must have a good reason for such a piece, and in M1033 there is none. I decided on the following ranking:

1st Prize
Evgeny Bourd
& Arieh Grinblat



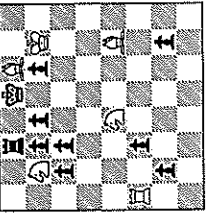
#5 (11+11) #12

2nd Prize
Valery Kirillov &
Grigory Popov



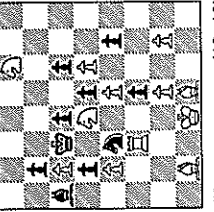
#8 (7+12) #8

3rd Prize
Klaus Wenda



#8 (6+10) #8

1st Honorable Mention
Hans Peter Rehm



#8 (12+10)

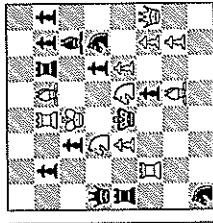
1st Prize - (Evgeny Bourd & Arieh Grinblat - M0983) I.R.E! (2.Bxg6+ hxg6 3.e8S), 1...Ra5 2.Bxg6+ hxg6 3.e8S Rxb5 4.Sc2 d4/Sd7 5.Sf6/Sd6#, 1...Sxb4 2.Bxg6+ hxg6 3.e8S Sd3+ 4.Kg3 Rd7/R7 5.Sf6/Sed6#, 1...Sxe7 2.Sc3+ Kd4 3.Sc2+ Kc5 4.b4+ Kd6 5.Sb5#, 1...Rxe7 2.Re3+ Kf4 3.Sd3+ Kf5 4.Sd6+ Kf6 5.Rf3#. Distant blocks are combined with switchbacks. Good use of white and black pieces. Average key with an interesting threat, easily stretched to five moves. The only completely original entry, but the construction and economy are only fair.

2nd Prize - (Valery Kirillov & Grigory Popov - M1009) 1.Bh5? is premature, since Pf3 is guarded by Pe4. Removing Pe4 takes four moves, thus we can play Bh5 only on the fifth move. (Note the Bishop switchback to e8.) There is another switchback by the white Knight. Beautiful and simple. 1.Be6+! Kc4 2.Bxe4+ Kb5 3.Bc6+ Kc4 4.Be8+ Kd5 5.Bh5 Ke4 6.Rc4+ Kd5 7.Rc7 Ke4 8.Sd6+ Kd5 9.Sb5 Ke4 10.Sd4 Kd5 11.Bxf3+ Kd6 12.Sb5#.

3rd Prize - (Klaus Wenda - M1008) 1.Sb5! (2.Sxc7+ Rxe7 3.Ra8+ Rc8 4.Rxc8#) cxb5 2.Rxc3 g1Q 3.Sd6+ Kd8 4.Sxf7+ Ke8 5.Sd6+ Kd8 6.Sb7+ Ke8 7.Re3+ Qxe3 8.Bh5#. In order to open e8-h5 line, White must first remove bPc6 by sacrificing his Knight with the key-move. Then, the Rook is sacrificed on the seventh move to eliminate the bQ guard of e8-h5 line. Elegant and beautiful, although the ten captures by black Pawns barely made the position legal.

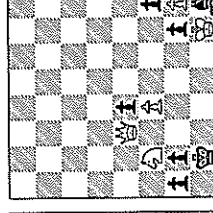
1st Honorable Mention - (Hans Peter Rehm - M0988) An attempt to create a R/B battery is premature and leads to White being mated. 1.Rc1? g3 2.Be2? Sb2#! Therefore, White must liberate e1-square first. 1.Bh4! g3 2.Bg5! fng5 3.Rcl g4 4.Be2! Sb2+ 5.Ke1 Se4 6.f6! S-7.Ba4+ Sc4 8.Rxc4#. A pity that Bb1 is promoted.

2nd Commendation
Eugene Fomichev &
Alexander Syurov



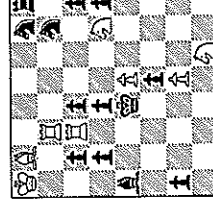
#4 (12+13)

1st Commendation
Anatoly Stepochnik



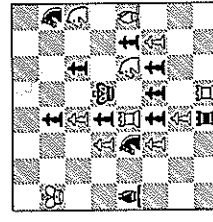
#7 (5+7) #4

3rd Honorable Mention
Oto Mihalco



#5 (8+13) #7

2nd Honorable Mention
Arieh Grinblat



#5 (11+12)

2nd Honorable Mention - (Arieh Grinblat - M1032) I.Rg1! (2.Sxg4+ Kf5 3.Sh6+ Ke5 4.Sf7+ Kf5 5.g4#, 1...Sxd6 2.Rxd5+ Ke4 3.Rd4+ Ke5 4.Sg6+ Ke6 5.Rxd6#, 1...Rsg1 2.Sxd3+ Ke6 3.Sf4+ Ke5 4.Rxd5+ Ke4 5.d3#, 1...Sg5 2.Sg6+ Ke6 3.Sf8+ Ke5 4.Sxg4+ Kf5 5.Rf4#. Powerful content: three variations (plus the threat) with line openings to facilitate mates, and switchbacks of three white pieces. A good entry. However, the basic idea (with a similar scheme) has been shown many times before. (For example, M. Maranduyk, 1st 2nd Prize, *Chess Composition*, 2009.) If the fourth move in the threat was Sxd3+, then we would have a four-cycle (while Maranduyk has a triple). Then the composition would have won 1st Prize.

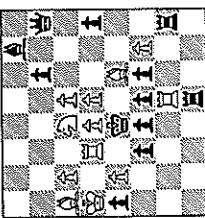
StrateGems 2011 Selfmates Award

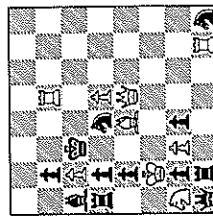
by Klaus Wenda

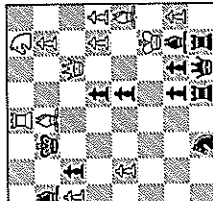
The year 2011 produced 33 contributions in all: 9 s#2s, 8 s#3s and 16 s#ns.

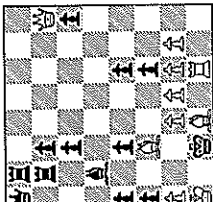
As has mostly been the case in selfmate tourneys of recent years, the twomovers did not match the standard of their longer rivals. That is why they are missing from this award. Also absent are moremovers in which selfmate is forced simply by rearrangement of the white forces, using constant checks or Zugzwang-positions but without any strategic black counter play worthy of the name.

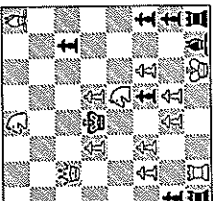
In the end I ranked the award-winning problems as follows:

A Special Prize
Arieh Gimblat(v)

#4 (12+12)

1st Prize
Volker Gülke,
Frank Richter &
Dieter Werner

s#11 (9+12) #6

2nd Prize
Camillo Gannitzer

s#11 (12+12) #6

3rd Prize
Ivan Soroka

s#11 (10+13) s#3 v.l. (13+9)

1st Honorable Mention
Diyari Kostadinov


1st Prize - (Volker Gülke, Frank Richter & Dieter Werner - S0515) Here the combined constructional skill of three experts in their field has given rise to an impressive logical work. The BRa5 is kept under control by constant attacks on the squares c4 and c5, so that White can bring its pieces into more favourable positions. The choice between 4.Rg7! and 4.Rg8? is a subtle one: its basis may be seen in the short variation7.Bg1! Rxb1? 8.Re6+ Kc5 9.Qc4+ bxc4#. The columns of pieces (11 in all) stationed on the a- and b-files bear witness to the technical difficulties which have had to be overcome. This aesthetic weakness is however more than outweighed by the sophisticated overall concept, which culminates in the decoy of the black knight for the surprising mate by 11...Sxd2!. **Solution:** 1.Be3! (2.Qc4+ bxc4#) Rd4! 2.Qf3 (3.Sxb4+ Rxb4#) Ra5 3.Rg4 Ra4 4.Rg7! Ra5 5.Qe4 Ra4 6.Bd4 Ra5 7.Bg1 Ra4 8.Qg6+ Sf6 9.Qg2+ Se4 10.Rg6+ Kd5 11.Qd2+ Sxd2#.

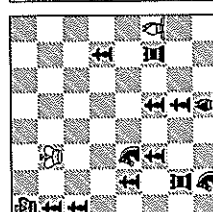
2nd Prize - (Camillo Gannitzer - S0486) White threatens to activate the black R+B-battery by means of a six-move sequence which is interesting enough in itself. Black's far-from-obvious defense consists in dismantling this battery by removing the rear piece (the Rg1). However that allows White, after 2.Qxe5+, to interpose the quiet threat 3.Bg4!, forcing 3...Bb8, because the previous defense by the front battery piece (3...Bg2-B3+/Bg2-h3+, driving the WK to f4) has been made ineffectual by the loss of the accompanying check. It is amazing how from one initial position the author always manages to conjure up two radically different mating nets, using a dynamic mixture of strategy with changes in play between threat, defense and solution. **Solution:** 1.b5! (2.Re8+ Kxd7 3.Qf5+ Kd6 4.Rc6+ Kd5 5.Sf6+ Kd4 6.Qxe4+ Bxe4#), 1...Rh1 2.Qxe5+ Kxd8 3.Bg4! (4.Qb8+Bxb8#) 3...Bb8 4.Qd6+ Ke8 5.Sf6+ Kf7 6.Qc7+! Bxc7#.

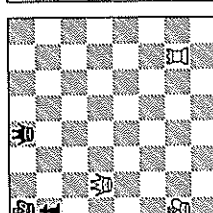
3rd Prize - (Ivan Soroka - S0498) The logical construction of this problem bears a certain resemblance to that of the first prize-winner, but without achieving the same degree of complexity. Decoys keep the BBb5 busy while the WQ removes the harmful mass of the Bf4, a motif which is familiar from many direct mate moremovers and thus not selfmate-specific.

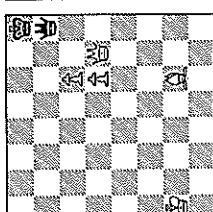
3rd Honorable Mention - (Oto Mihalco - M1031) 1.Rxd6! Se7(Sf6) 2.Rxd5+ Sxd5 3.Sf3+ Kxe4 4.Sg3+ Kf4 5.Re4#, 1...hxg5 2.Rxd5+ Kxe4 3.Rcd7 Sf5 4.Rd4+ Sxd4 5.Sg3#; 3...h4 4.Re5+ Kf4 5.Rd4#, 1...Bb3 2.Sf3+ Kxe4 3.Rc4+ Bxc4 4.Sg3+ Kf4 5.Rg6#, 1...Ke5 2.Rcc6 dxe4 3.Sf7+ Kf5 4.Sxc3+ Kf4 5.Rd3#, 3...Kf4 4.Rg6+ Kf5 5.Sxc3#, 2...hxg5 3.Re6+ Kd4 4.Be5+ Kxe4 5.Sg3#. Battery and half-battery play with various mates. There is no battery in the initial setting! However, the black defenses are a bit chaotic.

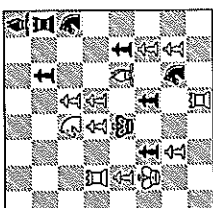
1st Commendation - (Anatoly Stepankin - M1007) Set: 1...a1 2.Sd2#, but White does not have a good waiting move. Thus: 1.Kf2! g1Q+ 2.Kxg1 B- 3.Sd2+ Ka1 4.Qxd4 Bd5 5.Sc4 Bxc4 6.dxe4 Kbl 7.Qd1#. A pseudo-twomover, with good introduction, and two mates in play and set-play.

2nd Commendation - (Eugene Fomichev & Alexander Sygurov - M1003) 1.Qh6! (2.Qxg7+) gxh6 2.Bf6+ Rxf6+ 3.Ke7+ Rd6 4.Rxd6#, 1...Oxc5+ 2.Kc7+ Qd6+ 3.Rxd6+ Kxe4 4.Bd3#, 2...Qd5 3.Bc5+ Kxe4 4.Rxe3#, 1...Sxe4+ 2.Ke6+ Sd6 3.Rxd6+ Kxc5 4.Rd5#. I don't like problems with many captures of black pieces. However, this problem seems original enough with an excellent key, a sacrifice of the white Queen (although she has limited play).

3rd Commendation
Vladimir Nikitin

#8 (2+13) #7

Sp. Prize for a miniature
Richard Becker

#10 (3+3) #7

Sp. HM for a miniature
Baldur Kozdon

#4 (5+2) #4

Special Prize
Arieh Gimblat

#8 (12+9)

3rd Commendation - (Vladimir Nikitin - M1036) 1.Bd7! Sa5 2.B15 Rg4 3.Bxg4 Bg3+ 4.Kc8 e1S 5.Bf5! Sd2 6.Be6! & 7.Bd5+ Sb7/Sc6 8.BxS#. White Bishop struggles against the black army. The author has found some new nuances, enough for commendation.

Among the rather numerous miniatures, I would like to highlight just two, as they have a lively game, and without the lone black King. I gave these two miniatures a special distinction. **Special Prize for miniature - (Richard Becker - M0960)** 1.Rg1!! (zz). 1..Qd2+ 2.Kb1 Qd8 3.Qc6+ Kb8 4.Kc2! (zz) a5 5.Rb1+ Qb6 6.Rxb6+ Ka7 7.Qb7#, 1...Qc8 2.Qd5+ Kb8 3.Rb1+ Kc7 4.Rcl+ Kb6 5.Rxc8 a5 6.Qc6+ Ka7 7.Ra8#. In the initial position of the black King seems safe from checks while the white King is exposed. Surprisingly (at first glance), White gives Black chance for a check, but after the black Queen retreats back to the eight rank, a quiet white moves twice force Zugzwang, at the expense of Black. Pity that the finale of both variations is not very interesting, otherwise the composition could compete on equal terms with many others who have received normal distinctions.

Special Honorable Mention for miniature - (Baldur Kozdon - M0961) 1.Bd4! Qf7+ 2.Kal Kh7 3.Qh4+ Kg8 4.Qh6 (zz) Qd7 5.Qg6+ Kh8 6.Qe8+ Qxe8 7.f7+ Qe5 8.f8Q+ Kh7 9.Qf7+ Kh8/Kh6/Qg7 10.Bxc5/Qg6/Qxg7#. Not on the same level as M0960, but despite only one variation, a good fight for such a small force.

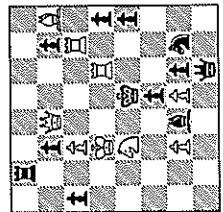
I have made some changes to the original composition, but claim no ownership--partial or otherwise (See diagram A next page). 1.b7! (threat Rb1 2.b8S Rxb4 3.Kxb4 ~ 4.Sc6#), 1...fxe6 2.Rc4+ Kxd5 3.Rc5+ Kd4 4.Bxe3#, 1...f6 2.Bxe3+ Kxe5 3.Bf4+ Kd4 4.Sb5#, 1...f5 2.Sb5+ Ke4 3.Sxc3+ Kd4 4.Rc4#. Now, the black Pawn makes all three defenses.

Many thanks to Alexander for his diligence in judging. The award remains open for three months. Please send claims to Richard Becker.

Then the WQ returns to its starting square. Now the d2-h6 diagonal is open, the spectacularly-arranged main plan of three-piece sacrifices to clear the first rank can be carried out successfully. The promoted WB on d1 does not trouble me, but the presence of 13 pawns plus the rather static-looking diagram inevitably means a certain lack of aesthetic appeal. Solution: Without bPf4 follows: 1.Qxh6 Ba6 2.Be2+ Kxc2 3.Rc1+ Kxcl 4.Qh1+ Kc2 5.Qb1+ Rxb1#; 1.Qd7! (2.Bb2+) Ba6 2.Qf5! (3.Qb1+) Bb5 3.Qxf4 Ba6 4.Qf5! Bb5 5.Qd7! Ba6 6.Qh7 Bb5 and now: 7.Qxh6 Ba6 8.Be2+ Kxc2 9.Rc1+ Kxcl 10.Qh1+ Kc2 11.Qb1+ Rxb1#.

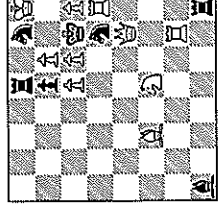
1st Honorable Mention - (Diyari Kostadinov - S0494) For my taste this is the best and most original threemover in the tourney, with its accumulation of white and black battery-building. The key threatens to create a white R+P-battery on the d-file by means of a quiet second move, thus activating the black R+B-battery. Black captures the R in two variations in which there is underpromotion, once to B and once to S. Thus a new black battery is created with the promoted unit as its front piece, and White can exploit it. Solution: 1.Rd1? (2.dxe3+ Rxd1#) exd2[x], 1.Qa5? {2.Rd1 (2.dxe3+ Rxd1#) exd2[x] 3.c6+[A] Bc5#}, 1...axb1B[y], 1.Qa6? {2.Rd1 (2.dxe3+ Rxd1#) exd2[x] 3.Qd3+[B] Bd4#}, 1...axb1S[z]; 1.Qb4! {2.Rd1 (2.dxe3+ Rxd1#) exd2[x] 3.Qd4+[C] Bxd4#} axb1B[y] 2.Sf6+ Kxe5 3.Qe4+ Bxe4#, 1...axb1S[z] 2.c4+ Kd4 3.Qc3+ Sxc3#.

2nd Honorable Mention
Alexander Azhusin



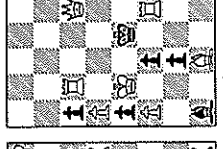
s#4 (9+12) s#3

3rd Honorable Mention
Zoran Gavrilovski



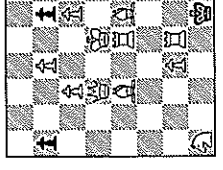
(10+7) s#3

Commendation
Ivan Soroka



(9+10) s#7

Commendation
Eugene Fomichev



(13+5)

2nd Honorable Mention - (Alexander Azhusin - S0495) The white B+R+R-half-battery fires in a four-move threat and three variations. The attractive position is full of tries, but a slight schematic impression cannot be denied. Thus for example the move g7-g6, shutting out the WBh7 once it has done its duty, turns up in every one of the four lines of play. Solution: 1.Rf7! (2.Rgf6+ g6 3.Rf4+ Sxf4 4.Qe6+ Sxe6#), 1...Qxe2 2.Qd3+! Qxd3 3.Rd6+ g6 4.Rd4+ Qxd4#, 1... Re8 2.Rg5+ g6 3.Re5+ Rxe5 4.Qd5+ Rxd5#, 1...S~ 2.Rg3+ g6 3.Rxe3+ Bxe3+ 4.Qd4+ Bxd4#.

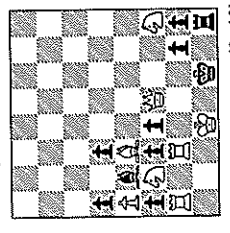
3rd Honorable Mention - (Zoran Gavrilovski - S0492) A clearly-structured, harmonious problem showing the formation of two black batteries, one orthogonal and one diagonal. One solver, not unreasonably, was reminded of the strategy of a helpmate; it says something for the composer's technical skill that he has succeeded in mastering the theme in the adversarial context of a selfmate. Solution: 1.Sd5! (2.f8S+ Rxf8 3.Sxe7+ Sxe7#), 1...Rxb5 2.Qe4+ Kxb6 3.Qg6+ Kxg6#; 1...Bxc3 2.Sf4+ Kxf6 3.Qf5+ Kxf5#.

Commendations (in order of publication)

Commendation - (Ivan Soroka - S0493) An experienced hand is visible in this changed-mate setting (Zagoruiko) spread over set, try and solution after the thematic moves ...Sxf4 & ...Rxf4. In this kind of problem however, a double threat constitutes a conspicuous defect. Solution: 1...Sxf4 2.Qf6+ Kd5 3.Rd3+ Sxd3#, 1...Rxf4 2.Rd3+ Kxd3+ Rxc4#, 1.Re1? (2.Se2+ Kd3+ 3.Qc4+ Rxc4#), 1...Sxf4 2.Qe3+ Kd5 3.Qd3+ Sxd3#, 1...Rxf4 2.Be3+ Kd3+ 3.Qe4+ Rxc4#, 1...Sg1!; 1.Qc8! (2.Sf66+ or 2.Se2+ Kd5+ 3.Qc4+ Rxc4#), 1...Sxf4 2.Qh8+ Kd5 3.Rd3+ Sxd3#, 1...Rxf4 2.Se6+ Kd5+ 3.Qc4+ Rxc4#.

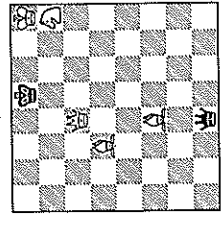
Commendation - (Eugene Fomichev - S0496) Problems using a Zugzwang position to motivate two variations by means of the single or double step of a BP are legion. Nevertheless the predominantly quiet play in both lines, combined with two pure mates, ensures that this problem has sufficient originality. The black economy deserves commendation, but it is a pity that the Ws1 serves only to block the BP. Solution: 1.Se7! (zz), 1...a6 2.Kd5! a5 3.Bc7 a4 4.Kd6! a3 5.Bd5 a2 6.Re6 fxe6 7.Rxe6 Sf7#, 1...a5 2.Bh2 a4 3.Rg4 a3 4.Kf4! a2 5.Qf5 gx f5 6.Re4+ Kf2 7.Sxf5 Sg6#.

Commendation
Eugene Fomichev &
Andrey Selivanov



s#3 (9+10)

Commendation
Torsten Linß



s#21 (5+2)

Commendation - (Eugene Fomichev & Andrey Selivanov - S0501) Neat settings of a black Allumwandlung such as this will always have admirers. White's strategic objective is to unguard f2 without giving the BPg2 a chance to defend by various promotions. This logically leads to the sacrificial key 1.Sg1!, interfering with the R+K-battery (an *Antizielelement*: a motif seemingly going against the purpose of the play) and so to the four promotions by the BPh2 as it captures the knight. Solution: 1.Sg5? (2.Sd2+ cxd2 3.Qf2+), 1...g1B 2.Qf3+ Bf2 3.Qg2+, 1...g1S 2.Bxd3+ Se2 3.Qf2+, 1...g1Q(R)!, 1.Sf4? (2.Sd2+ cxd2 3.Qf2+), 1...g1S 2.Bxd3+ Se2 3.Qf2+, 1...g1Q 2.Rf2+ Qxf2 3.Qe1+, 1...g1B!; 1.Sg1! hxg1B 2.Qxg3+ Bf2 3.Qg2+ Kxg2#, 1...hxg1S 2.Bxd3+ Se2 3.Qf2+ Kxf2#, 1...hxg1R (Rxxg1) 2.Sd2+! cxd2 3.Qf2+ Kxf2#, 1...hxg1Q 2.Rf2+ Qxf2 3.Qe1+ Qxe1#.

Commendation - (Torsten Linß - S0508) Over the last decade this author has developed a composing style featuring an uncompromising division of labor between man and machine. The result has been a whole series of rather mechanical-looking products but also a considerable number of works which enrich chess problem literature. Exactly the same material as here is used in five (aristocratic) miniatures in the PDB, among which the strongest impression is made by a s#120 (*harmonie* 09/2005, Spec. Hon. Men.; P1182762), which probably shows the length record for selfmates with the material WQ+BQ.

In the present tourney S0508 derives its merit from the key, which gives two flights, as well as from the two "incredible variants" (as one solver put it), one of which actually shows a quiet move (20.Sf3). Solution: 1.Qb8+! Kf7 2.Qf8+ Ke6 3.Qd6+ Kf7 4.Sg5+ Ke8 5.Qe6+ Kd8 6.Bb6+ Ke7 7.Qe6+ Kf8 8.Qf6+ Ke8 9.Bg6+ Kd7 10.Bf5+ Ke8 11.Qe5+ Kf8 12.Sh7+ Kf7 13.Qg7+ Ke8 14.Qg8+ Ke7 15.Bc5+ Qd6 16.Qe6+ Kd8 17.Qe8+ Ke7 18.Qe7+ Ke8 19.Bg6+ Qxg6 20.Qe8+ Kf7 21.Qg8+ Qxg8#, 1...Kd7 2.Sf8+ Kc6 3.Qd6+ Kb7 4.Ba6+ Ka8 5.Qc6+ Kb8 6.Qb6+ Ka8 7.Bb7+ Kb8 8.Bd5+ Kc8 9.Qb7+ Kd8 10.Se6+ Ke8 11.Qc8+ Kf7 12.Qg8+ Kf6 13.Qg5+ Kf7 14.Sd4+ Ke8 15.Bc6+ Kf7 16.Qe7+ Kg6 17.Be8+ Kh6 18.Qh4+ Qh5 19.Qf4+ Qg5 20.Sf3 Qxf4 21.Bf8+ Qxf8#.

Many thanks to Dr. Wenda for this timely award, which remains open until July 1st, 2013. Please send claims to Petko A. Pelkov.

Memorial Oscar BONIVENTO (11/271914 - 11/272014). The tourney will have two sections:
A) Direct twomover (#2) free theme and B) Helpmate in three moves (h#3) free theme. All entries will be published in *Sinfonie Scacchistiche* (official review of the Italian Problemists Association - API). Please send your works exclusively to the following e-mail address: valerio.agostini@gmail.com. Deadline 11/27/2013. A copy of the magazine and the award will be sent (in pdf format) to all participants. Judges : José Antonio Coello Alonso (#2), TBD (h#3).