



The 6<sup>th</sup> FIDE World Cup in Composing

# Section D – Endgame Studies

Preliminary award by

**Harold van der Heijden**

MMXVIII

## Participants

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D01	B. Djurašević (SRB)	D18	A. Sochnev (RUS)
D02	M. Hlinka (SVK)	D19	S. Kindermann (DEU)
D03	S. Didukh (UKR)	D20	L. Katsnelson (RUS)
D04	A. Avni (ISR)	D21	E. Kopylov (RUS)
D05	J. A. Garzón (ESP)	D22	A. Avedisián (URY)
D06	V. Samilo (UKR)	D23	S. S. Nielsen (DNK)
D07	A. Pallier (FRA)	D24	O. Pervakov (RUS)
D08	L. Kekely (SVK)	D25	A. Gasparyan (ARM)
D09	E. Wyckoff (USA)	D26	D. Hlebec (SRB)
D10	Á. Rusz (ROU)	D27	M. Minski (DEU)
D11	L. Topko (UKR)	D28	L. M. González (ESP)
D12	S. Kasparyan (ARM)	D29	D. Gatti (ITA)
D13	P. Arestov (RUS)	D30	V. Syzonenko (UKR)
D14	D. Keith (FRA)	D31	K. Barikbin (IRN)
D15	V. Kalashnikov (RUS)	D32	G. Hadzi-Vaskov (MKD)
D16	V. Tarasiuk (UKR)	D33	B. Shleyfman (RUS)
D17	A. Skripnik (RUS)		

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*I* thank the organizers for the honourable invitation to judge this major tourney. Following that, something must have gone wrong, because I saw my name listed as a judge for the endgame study section in several announcements before I had accepted (or declined!) the job.

The tourney director provided me with 33 anonymous entries. I had to disqualify one entry (**D21**) which had been sent to me for a previous tourney in which I acted as tourney director, so I knew the identity of the composer. This violates the rule of a formal tourney.

Further, five entries proved to be unsound:

**D07:** 9.♙g2 ♗e6 10.♗g7 ♗f5 11.♙f1 ♖b1 and now 12.♙c7 ♙:c2 13.c4 ♙d1 14.♙d3+ ♗g5 15.♗f7. In the 10...♗c5 main line there is another cook: 13.♙f2.

**D12:** 3.♗c8 ♙:a5 is a winning position (7EGTB), e.g. 4.♗c7 wins. Another cook is the thematic try (!): 5.♙e1+ ♗c5 and now e.g. 6.♙c3.

**D14:** Cooked by 1.♖h5 ♗d8 2.♖h7+ ♙c7+ 3.♖:c7+ ♗:c7 4.♙c3 (7EGTB), or here: 1...♗a7 2.♖h7+ ♙c7+ 3.♖:c7+ ♗:c7 4.♙d5+ (7EGTB).

**D22:** In addition to the duals (12.♗g6, 12.♗g7) mentioned by the author, White can win by playing f5-f6 at several instances. E.g. 19.f6 (20.f6, 21.f6, 22.f6) 19...e:f6 20.♗d3 ♗e1 21.h4 ♗f2 22.♗e4 ♗g3 23.♗f5 (the point of f5-f6) 23...♙h6+ 24.♗:f6.

**D24:** Instead of the dual 12.♙e5 (mentioned by the author), White also wins when he gives up his f-pawn. E.g. 12.♗f7 (also 12.♙e7) 12...♙:f4 13.♙e7 ♙e2 (the b♗ cannot escape: 13...♗h6 14.♙d2 ♗g5 15.♙d5) 14.♙g7 ♙f4 and now e.g. 15.♙g8 ♙d5 16.♙e5 c3 17.♙g7 c2 18.♙b2 ♙b4! (18...♙e3/f4 19.♙f6+ ♗h6 20.♙c1) 19.♙f6+ ♗h8 20.♙d7+ ♗h7 21.♙g7 and mate.

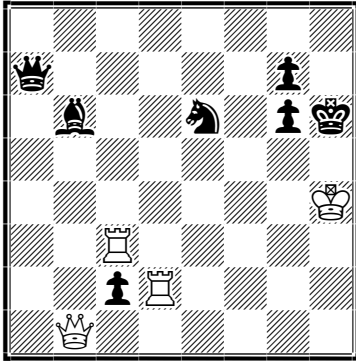
One study suffered from a major anticipation:

**D25:** Roxlau HHdbV#16170.

The overall level of the tourney was good, with only the gold medal study really standing out. In my view, a good study should always have at least one surprising move (and other artistic features like an idea, flow, economy, difficulty). A position with unique but obvious/normal winning moves is a technical ending rather than an artistic study.

In quite some of the studies with excellent moves in the award, there are passive pieces including pieces that are captured without playing.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize – Gold medal  
 VLADISLAV TARASIUK  
 Ukraine



+ 4+7

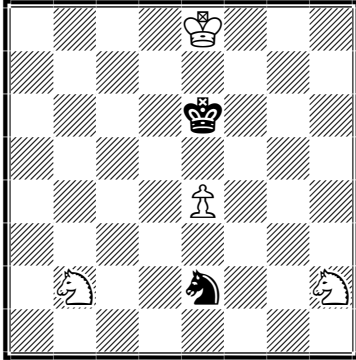
1. ♖h1! (1... ♙h2? ♜b8/♜a5 and White cannot make progress)  
 1... ♜f4 2. ♙c8 ♘h7! (2... ♜e7+ 3. ♘g4+ ♜h5 4. ♙h8 mate)  
 3. ♘g5+ ♜h5 At first sight, black is safe now. But White has a surprising rook sacrifice: 4. ♙h8+ ♘:h8 5. ♘:g6 ♜a5 Now White seems to win by 6. ♜e4 which threatens 7. ♜e8 mate. But Black counters with a queen sacrifice: 6... ♜g5+! 7. ♘:g5 c1♜ 8. ♜e8+ ♘h7 9. ♜:h5+ ♘g8 10. ♜e8+ ♘h7 11. ♜e4+ and White seems to win after all (11... ♘g8 12. ♘g6 ♜g1+ 13. ♙g2 ♜f1 14. ♜e8+ ♜f8 15. ♜e6+ and mate), but 11...g6! 12. ♜:g6+ ♘h8 draws! But White has 6. ♙h2! c1♜! 7. ♜:c1 (7. ♙h5+? ♜:h5+ 8. ♜:h5+ ♜h6+ draws, avoiding 8... ♘g8? 11. ♜d5+) 7... ♜a6! 8. ♙:h5+ ♘g8 The point of 7... ♜a6! is that White cannot check on c4 of c8 now, and

obviously threatens to fire the ♜+♜ battery. Now 9. ♜c6? with numerous threats, and pinning the b♜ looks promising, but Black escapes by 9. ♜c6? ♜d3+ 10. ♙f5 ♜g3+ 11. ♙g5 ♜d3+ with a positional draw. Instead White also sacrifices his other rook at h8! 9. ♙h8+! ♘:h8 10. ♜h1+ ♘g8 11. ♜d5+ ♘h8 (11... ♘f8 12. ♜f7 mate). It is nonobvious that White wins here: 12. ♜d6! ♜c8 (12... ♜a2 13. ♜b8+! ♜g8 14. ♜h2+ ♜h7+ 15. ♜:h7 mate, would also make a nice main line) 13. ♜h2+ ♘g8 14. ♜h7+ ♘f8 15. ♜h8+ wins.

This is a very entertaining study. White must sacrifice both his rooks at h8. After one has recovered from the surprise, White finishes off by the excellent quiet move 12. ♜d6! The inactive b♜b6 is a blemish, and also the initial position of the w♜ being attacked by the b♜c2 is a pity.



2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – Silver medal  
 ÁRPÁD RUSZ  
 Romania



+ 4+2

The thematic try: 1. ♖d3? ♕f4!  
 2. ♖c5+ ♖d6 3. ♖d7 ♕e6 4. e5+  
 ♖d5 5. ♖f7! ♖c5 6. ♖g4! ♖:d7 7. e6  
 ♖b6 8. ♖e3+ (8.e7 ♖c8 9. e8♘  
 ♖d6+ draws) 8... ♖c5 9. ♖e7! ♖c8+  
 10. ♖d7 ♖b6+ 11. ♖d8 ♖c8!  
 12. ♖c4! (12. ♖:c8 ♖d6) 12... ♖a7!  
 (12... ♖d5? 13. ♖d7) 13. ♖a5 (13.e7  
 ♖c6+). This position, occurs,  
 vertically mirrored, in the main  
 line. The difference is asymmetry:  
 13... ♖c8! 14. ♖c4 (14. ♖:c8 ♖d6)  
 14... ♖a7 (a similar square is not  
 available in the main line) 15. ♖e5  
 ♖c8! 16. ♖c4 ♖a7 positional draw.

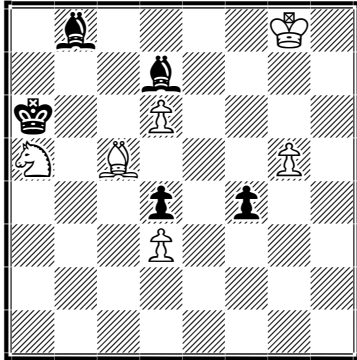
1. ♖f3! ♖d4! (knight  
 sacrifice. 1... ♖g3 2. e5 ♖f5 3. ♖d3  
 ♖d6+ 4. ♖f8 wins) 2. ♖g5+  
 (2. ♖:d4+? ♖e5) 2... ♖f6 3. ♖f7  
 ♖e6 4. e5+ ♖f5 5. ♖d7! (5. ♖e7?  
 ♖g5 6. ♖c4 ♖f3 draws) 5... ♖g5

6. ♖c4! knight sacrifice 6... ♖:f7  
 7. e6 ♖h6 (7... ♖f6 8. e7) 8. ♖e3+!  
 (8. e7? ♖g8 9. e8♘ ♖f6+ draws)  
 8... ♖g5 9. ♖e7! ♖g8+ (9... ♖f4  
 10. ♖f8! wins) 10. ♖f7 (10. ♖f8?  
 ♖f6! draws) 10... ♖h6+ 11. ♖f8  
 (11. ♖g7? (♖e7?) ♖g8(+) 12. ♖f7  
 ♖h6+ draws) wins.

We see a perfect symmetry  
 study, i.e. symmetry of the initial  
 position, but also with a unique  
 solution and a unique refutation of  
 the thematic try. Such studies  
 might suffer from a mechanical  
 solution, but here we see fine  
 moves like 1... ♖d4!, 5. ♖d7!, and  
 9. ♖e7!



3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Bronze medal  
 ALEXEY SOCHNEV  
 Russian Federation



+ 6+5

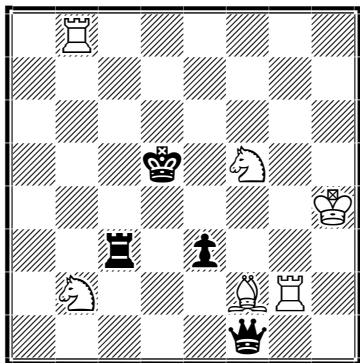
1. **♖c4** (1. **♖b3?** ♜:d6 2. ♜:d6 ♜e6+ 3. ♜f8 ♜:b3 4. g6 ♜b5! 5. ♜e5 ♜c5 6. ♜:f4 ♜b4 7. ♜d2+, e.g. ♜a3 8. ♜c1+ ♜a2 draws)  
**1... ♜e6+ 2. ♜h7!** (Thematic try: 2. ♜h8, see move 12) **2... ♜:c4** (2... ♜b5 3. ♜:d4 ♜c6 4. g6 ♜:d6 5. ♜:d6 ♜:d6 6. g7 wins) **3. d:c4 d3!** (3... ♜:d6 4. ♜:d4!) **4. d7 ♜c7 5. ♜d6! d2!** (5... ♜b7 6. ♜:f4! ♜c6 7. g6 ♜:d7 8. g7 ♜:f4 9. g8♜ wins) **6. ♜:c7 d1♜ 7. d8♜ ♜:d8! 8. ♜:d8 f3 9. g6 f2 10. g7 f1♜ 11. g8♜ ♜f7+!** (In the thematic try (2. ♜h8?) the w♜ is now at h8, and it is a zz with WTM) In the present position, White plays **12. ♜h8!** zz with BTM (avoiding 12. ♜:f7? stalemate) Now, White wins: **12... ♜h5+ 13. ♜g7 ♜g4+ 14. ♜f8** wins.

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stalemate, which surprisingly seems to be original. The zugzwang position is remarkable. It is a pity that the less obvious move (2. ♜h8?) is the thematic try. The ♜a6 does not play.

This shows us a good construction of a (non)-obvious

1<sup>st</sup> Honourable Mention  
 STEFFEN SLUMSTRUP NIELSEN  
 Denmark



+

6+4

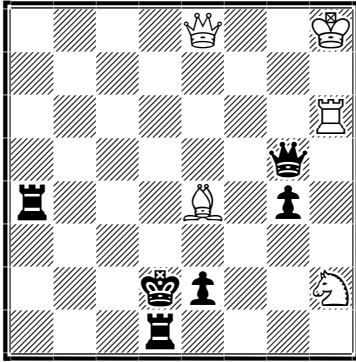
1. ♖d1! (1. ♖e3+? ♜e3  
 2. ♜g5+ ♜e5 3. ♜d8+, e.g. ♜e6  
 4. ♜e8+ ♜d7 draws. 1. ♜d8+? ♜e6  
 2. ♖e3 ♜e3 draws) 1... ♞h1+  
 (1... ♞g2 2. ♖e3+ wins) 2. ♜g3  
 ♞d1! 3. ♜d8+! Winning the  
 queen (3. ♖e3+? ♜e6 (♜e5) draws.  
 3... ♜e4 4. ♖d6+! But it is too  
 early to capture the queen:  
 4. ♜d1? e2+ 5. ♜d3 ♜d3+ 6. ♜g4  
 ♜d1 7. ♖g3+ ♜d3 draws. 4... ♜e5  
 5. ♖c4+ (5. ♖f7+? ♜f6 6. ♜d1 e2+  
 draws) 5... ♜e4 6. ♜d1 e2+  
 7. ♜d3! ♜d3! 8. ♖b2+! ♜d2+  
 (8... ♜c2+ 9. ♜f4 ♜b2 10. ♖d4!  
 wins) 9. ♜f4 e1 ♞ (9... ♜c2  
 10. ♖d4!) 10. ♖e3 mate.

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the surprise 7. ♜d3!. Unfortunately, we see another piece (w ♜g2) that is passive except for the fact that it delivers half of the mate! The initial version was (probably) unsound, but the author managed to provide a quick correction.

The final double-check ideal midboard mate is nice mate. This study has some excellent moves: the key (1. ♖d1!), the nice knight manoeuvre 4. ♖d6+ 5. ♖c4+, and

2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable Mention  
 AMATZIA AVNI  
 Israel

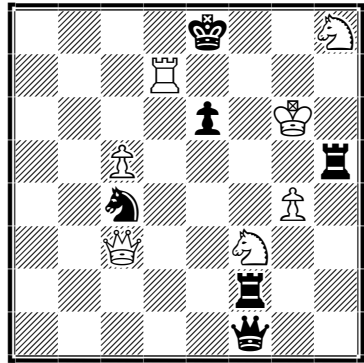


= 5+6

1. ♖d6+ ♜d4! Black sacrifices his rook. If 1... ♝c3 2. ♖c6+ ♜c4 3. ♖:c4+ ♝:c4 4. ♖a4+, or 1... ♝e1 2. ♖:d1+ ♝:d1 ♖ 3. ♙f3+ ♝d2 4. ♙:d1 draw. 2. ♖:d4+ ♝c3 3. ♖c4+! A counter-sacrifice. If 3. ♖a4? ♖f6+ 4. ♝h7 ♖:d4, or 3. ♖d3+? ♖:d3 4. ♙:d3 ♖h4+ 5. ♙h7 e1 ♖ win. 3... ♝:c4 4. ♖a4+ ♝c3 5. ♖c2+ ♝b4 6. ♖b2+ ♝c5 (6... ♝a5 7. ♖c3+ ♝b6 8. ♖c6+ ♝a5 9. ♖c3+ draws) 7. ♖c2+ ♝d4 (7... ♝d6 8. ♖:e2 ♖d2 9. ♖a6+ ♝e7 10. ♖a3+ ♖d6 11. ♙:g4 ♖:g4 12. ♖a7+ draws) 8. ♖:e2 ♖d2 9. ♖:g4 ♖:h2+ (9... ♖:g4 10. ♙:g4 ♝:e4 11. ♙h6 draws) 10. ♙h7+! ♖:g4 stalemate.

The stalemate combination with the queen sacrifice is original (the exact stalemate is not). w♙h2 is captured without playing. The study makes a pleasant impression with rook sacrifices in the introduction by both sides.

3<sup>rd</sup> Honourable Mention  
 DARKO HLEBEC  
 Serbia



+ 7+6

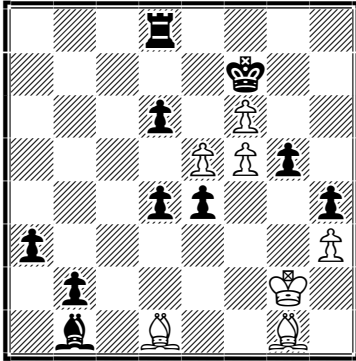
1. ♖g7! ♙e5+! 2. ♙:e5 ♖f6+! (After 2... ♖h6+ not 3. ♝:h6? ♖h2+! 4. ♝g6 ♖h6+ 5. ♖:h6 ♖f6+ 6. ♝:f6 stalemate, but 3. ♖:h6! ♖f6+ 4. ♝h7 ♖:h6+ 5. ♝:h6 wins) 3. ♖:f6 (3. ♝:h5? ♖h3+ quickly leads to a stalemate) 3... ♖h6+ 4. ♝:h6 ♖h3+! (4... ♖:f6+ 5. ♝h7! ♖:e5 6. ♖d8+ (♖e7+) wins) 5. ♖h4! (5. ♝g6? ♖h6+ 6. ♝:h6 stalemate) 5... ♖:h4+ 6. ♝g6! (6. ♝g7? ♖g5+ 7. ♙hg6 ♖:e5+ (♖h6+) 8. ♙:e5 stalemate) 6... ♖:h8 7. ♖d8+! ♝e7! (7... ♝:d8 8. ♙f7+ wins) 8. ♙c6 mate, avoiding 8. ♖:h8? stalemate.

This is an adventurous study with a whole series of surprising moves: 1... ♙e5+, 2... ♖f6+, a refusal to capture a whole queen (4... ♖h3+), a queen sacrifice (5. ♖h4), and a rook sacrifice (6. ♖d8+), stalemate avoidance and



a mate. Again, a passive piece (w♘h8) is captured.

Special Honourable Mention  
 LUIS MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ  
 Spain



+ 7+10

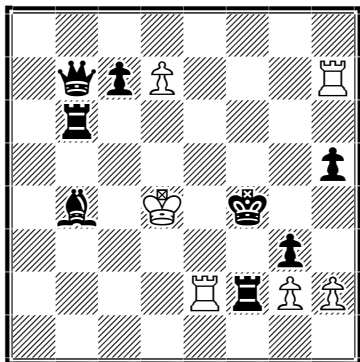
1. ♖h5+ ♜g8! (1... ♜f8 2.e6  
 2.e6 ♜c8! (2... ♖a2 3.♙f7+ ♜h7  
 4.e7 ♖:f7 5.e:d8♙ b1♙ 6.♙f8  
 wins) 3.f7+ ♜f8 4.f6 ♜c2+  
 5.♜h1 ♜c7 6.♖h2! (6.e7+? ♜:e7  
 7.f:e7+ ♜:e7 8.♖h2 ♖d3 (♖a2)  
 9.♖:d6+ ♜d7 10.f8♙ b1♙+ draws)  
 6... ♜c1+ 7.♜g2 ♜c2+ 8.♜f1  
 (♜g1) ♜c1+ 9.♜f2! ♜c2+  
 (9...e3+ 10.♜f3 ♜f1+ 11.♜g4  
 ♜g1+ 12.♖:g1 ♖f5+ 13.♜:f5 b1♙+  
 14.♜:g5 ♙e4 15.e7+ ♙:e7 16.f:e7+  
 ♜:e7 17.♖h2 a2 18.♖:d6+ wins)  
 10.♜e1 ♜c1+ 11.♖d1! ♜c6  
 12.e7+! (12.♖:d6+? ♜:d6 13.e7+  
 ♜:f7 14.♖h5+ ♜:f6 15.e8♙, and  
 e.g. 15...♖d3 draws) 12... ♜:f7  
 13.♖b3+! (13.♖h5+? ♜:f6  
 14.e8♙ ♜c1+ 15.♜f2 e3+ 16.♜g2  
 ♜c2+ draws) 13...d5! 14.♖:d5+  
 ♜:f6 15.e8♙ ♜c1+ 16.♜f2!  
 ♜c2+ 17.♜g1 (♜f1) ♜c1+

18. ♜g2 ♜c2+ 19. ♜h1 ♜c1+  
 20. ♖g1! wins.

This is a curious study. The w♜ has to shelter three times behind a w♖ for the checks delivered by the b♜. b♖b1 remains passive in the main line.

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1st Commendation  
 MARTIN MINSKI  
 Germany



+ 6+8

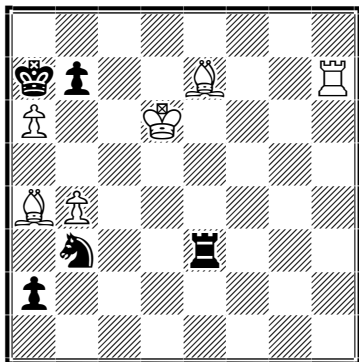
1. ♖f7+ ♘g4 2. h3+ ♘h4  
 (2... ♘g5 3. d8♖+ ♖ff6 4. ♖e5+ ♘h4  
 5. ♖:f6 c5+ 6. ♘e3 with a mate  
 soon) 3. d8♖+ ♖bf6 4. ♖:f6  
 ♗e7! This sacrifice, in  
 combination with the next move, is  
 the point of Black's defence. Of  
 course 4...c5+ 5. ♘c4 and mate to  
 follow again. 5. ♖:e7 c5+! 6. ♖:c5  
 Although the w♖/w♖ battery has  
 been destroyed, Black, being a rook  
 down seems to have no chance at  
 all. But: 6... ♖f5! playing for  
 stalemate. If White captures the  
 rook, Black had a rabid queen. The  
 w♖ which is under attack has no  
 good move: 7. ♖c4? ♖:f6 8. ♘d3+  
 ♘g5 9. ♖e5+ ♘h6 draws, or  
 7. ♖b6? ♖d7+ 8. ♖d6 ♖a4+ 9. ♘d3  
 ♖d5+! with perpetual check or  
 stalemate. Of course 7. ♖e4+?  
 ♖:e4+ 8. ♘:e4 ♖:c5 brings White  
 nothing. But: 7. ♖b6! Now the b♖  
 does not have a good square

(7... ♖d7+ 8. ♖d6 wins) 7... ♖d5+!  
 8. ♘e3! (8. ♖:d5? ♖:b6+ 9. ♘e5  
 ♖f6+! 10. ♘:f6 stalemate; 8. ♘e4?  
 ♖h7+! 9. ♘:d5 ♖f5+ with  
 stalemate to follow) 8... ♖d3+!  
 9. ♘:d3 (9. ♘f4? ♖f7+) 9... ♖h7+  
 (9... ♖a6+ 10. ♖c4+ wins, or  
 9... ♖d5+ 10. ♖d4+) 10. ♖f5!  
 (10. ♖e4+? ♖:e4+ 11. ♘:e4  
 stalemate; 10. ♘d2? (♘d4?) ♖d3+!  
 11. ♘:d3 stalemate) 10... ♖:f5+  
 11. ♖e4+ ♘g5 12. h4 mate.

A study that one begins to  
 appreciate better and better when  
 trying to understand what is going  
 on. Black sacrifices a bishop to set  
 up a defence which is based on  
 stalemate. On an open board both  
 queens are attacked by a rook  
 (7. ♖b6!, 7... ♖d5+!) and unable to  
 move. White must sacrifice his  
 queen (8. ♘e3!) and Black counters  
 by sacrificing his last rook. Then  
 stalemate seems inevitable, but  
 after a stunning queen sacrifice,  
 White can play a crosscheck and  
 mates.

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2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation  
ANATOLY SKRIPNIK  
Russian Federation



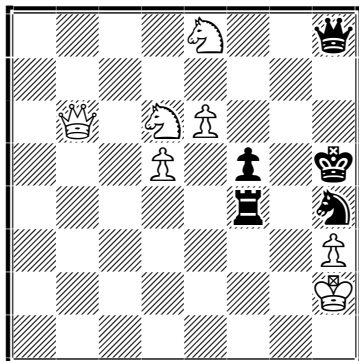
+ 6+5

1. ♖f6 ♜:a6 (1... ♞d3+ 2. ♜c7! ♞d4 3. a:b7 ♞c3+ 4. ♜d7 a1 ♜ 5. ♞:d4+ ♜:b7 6. ♜d8+! ♜a6 7. ♞a7 mate) 2. ♞h2 (After 2. ♜c7? a1 ♜ 3. ♞:a1 ♞:a1 White has nothing) 2... a1 ♜ 3. ♞:a1 ♞:a1 4. ♞a2! ♞b3 (4... ♜b6 5. ♞:a1 ♞e4 6. ♞b1 consolidates) 5. ♜c7 (5. ♞:b3+? ♜b5) 5... ♞a5 (5... ♞c1 6. ♞a1 ♞b3 7. ♞a3 ♞c3+ 8. ♞c6+ and mate) 6. ♞c6 b6 (6... b:c6 7. ♞:a5 mate. 6... ♞e7+ 7. ♜d6 ♞h7 8. ♞:a5+ ♜b6 9. ♞b5+ ♜a6 10. ♞e8 wins) 7. ♜b8 (7. ♞d7? ♞e7 8. b5+ ♜a7 draws) 7... ♞b3 8. b5+ ♞:b5 9. ♞b7 mate

A mate with two active self-blocks. Despite the fact that White plays various quiet and remarkable moves (2. ♞h2, 6. ♞c6, 7. ♜b8), Black is helpless. The whole idea looks familiar, but only

the mate position is known (Stavrietsky HHdbV#21467).

3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation  
OLEG PERVAKOV  
Russian Federation



+ 7+5

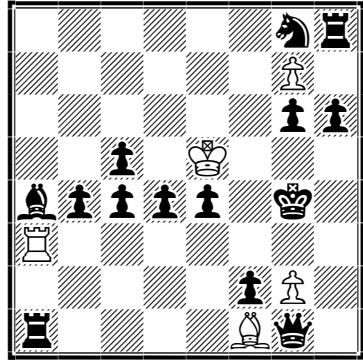
1. e7 ♞f2+! (1... ♞g6 2. ♞g7+! ♜:g7 3. e8 ♜ or, 1... ♞f3+ 2. ♜g3 win) 2. ♜:f2 ♜e5+ 3. ♜h1! (3. ♜g1 ♜a1+ 4. ♜f1 ♜d4+ 5. ♜f2 ♜a1+ 6. ♜h2 ♜e5+ 7. ♜h1 loss of time) 3... ♜:d5+ (3... ♜a1+ 4. ♜g1! wins) 4. ♜g1! ♞f3+! (4... ♜d1+ 5. ♜h2 ♞f3+ 6. ♜g3 wins) 5. ♜f1 (5. ♜g2? ♞h4+! 6. ♜f1 ♜d1+ 7. ♜e1 ♜f3+ draws) 5... ♞h2+! 6. ♜:h2 (6. ♜e2? ♜a2+ 7. ♜e3 ♜a7+! draws) 6... ♜d1+ 7. ♜f2 (Loss of time: 7. ♜g2 ♜d5+ 8. ♜g3 ♜e5+! 9. ♜g2 ♜d5+ 10. ♜g1 ♜d1+ 11. ♜f2) 7... ♜d2+! (7... ♜c2+ 8. ♜g3! f4+ 9. ♜f3 ♜:h2 10. ♞g7+! ♜h6 11. ♞gf5+ ♜h7 12. e8 ♜ wins) 8. ♜g3! (8. ♜f3? ♜:h2 9. ♞g7+ ♜g5! draws) 8... f4+ 9. ♜f3 ♜e3+! (9... ♜:h2 10. ♞g7+! ♜h6 11. ♞gf5+ ♜h7 12. e8 ♜ wins) 10. ♜g2 f3+ 11. ♜g3 (11. ♜f1

♖c1+ 12. ♘f2 ♖b2+! 13. ♘g3 ♖e5+  
 14. ♘:f3 loss of time) 11... ♖e5+  
**12. ♘:f3 ♖:h2 13. ♘g7+!**  
 (13. ♘f6+? ♘h4! 14. e8♖ ♖g3+!  
 15. ♘e2 ♖g2+ 16. ♘d3 ♖f3+  
 17. ♘c4 ♖:f6 draws) **13... ♘h6!**  
 (13... ♘g5 14. ♘e4+! ♘h4 15. ♘f5+  
 ♘:h3 16. ♘g5 mate, or 13... ♘h4  
 14. ♘gf5+ ♘:h3 15. e8♖ wins)  
**14. ♘gf5+!** (14. e8♖? ♖:h3+  
 draws; 14. ♘df5+? ♘h7 15. ♘g3  
 ♘:g7 draws) **14... ♘h7! 15. ♘g3!**  
**♖:h3 16. ♘df5!** (16. e8♖? ♖f5+!  
 17. ♘g2 ♖c2+ 18. ♘h3 ♖f5+  
 19. ♘h2 ♖f2+! 20. ♘h3 ♖f5+  
 21. ♘g2 ♖c2+ 22. ♘e2 ♖g6+!  
 draws) **16... ♖h2 17. ♘e3!** wins.

The last couple of moves of this study are remarkable, and during play there are some surprises (1... ♖f2+! 5... ♘h2+!) this study has too many checks.



Special Commendation  
 VIKTOR SYZONENKO  
 Ukraine



+

5+14

**1. ♘e2+ ♘h4 2. ♖h3+ ♘g5** Now  
 3. ♖h5+? is not a mate, because h5  
 is covered by b ♘g6. **3. ♖g3+ ♘h4**  
**4. ♖g4+ ♘h5** Now it looks like  
 White quickly wins by 5. ♖f4+?  
 ♘g5 6. g:h8♘ – threatening 6. ♘f7  
 mate, but Black has 6... ♘e8. This  
 not only covers f7, but, after  
 7. ♖g4+ ♘h5 8. ♖:g6+ ♘h4 9. ♖g4+  
 ♘h5 10. ♖g3+ ♘h4 11. ♖h3+ ♘g5,  
 also square h5, and prevents  
 12. ♖h5 mate. White must remove  
 the b ♘a4: **5. ♖:e4+! ♘g5**  
**6. ♖g4+ ♘h5 7. ♖:d4+ ♘g5**  
**8. ♖g4+ ♘h5 9. ♖:c4+ ♘g5**  
**10. ♖g4+ ♘h5 11. ♖:b4+ ♘g5**  
**12. ♖g4+ ♘h5 13. ♖:a4+! ♘g5**  
**14. ♖g4+ ♘h5** Mission  
 accomplished. So now: **15. ♖f4+**  
**♘g5 16. g:h8♘!** threatening  
 17. ♘f7 mate, which is effectively

prevented by 16... ♖a7 17. ♖g4+ ♘h5 18. ♖:g6+ Now we see the second function of the w♘h8: it covers g6, and the w♖ is able to remove this pawn, and moreover, g6 is not accessible for the b♘ later. 18... ♘h4 19. ♖g4+ ♘h5 20. ♖g3+ ♘h4 21. ♖h3+ ♘g5 22. ♖h5 mate!

Of course studies like this one are puzzles rather than artistic studies. However, I do like the idea that the Zwickmühle combination is used to replace a strong defence (6... ♗e8) by a weaker defence (16... ♖a7).