GENS UNA SUMUS

The 8th FIDE World Cup in Composing

Section G – Fairy

Preliminary award by

Vlaicu Crişan

MMXX

G01	G. Nicolaescu (ROU)	G23	V. Kozhakin (RUS)
G02	A. Kostyukov (RUS)	G24	V. Zheglov (RUS)
G03	B. Shorokhov (RUS)	G25	G. Tar (HUN)
G04	G. Jordan (DEU)	G26	S. Trommler (DEU)
G05	J. Csák (HUN)	G27	K. Solja (FIN)
G06	C. Yakubovsky (BLR)	G28	P. Muljadi (USA)
G07	A. Semenenko (UKR)	G29	F. Pachl (DEU)
G08	S. Borodavkin (UKR)	G30	B. Bašić (SRB)
G09	V. Medintsev (RUS)	G31	J. Lörinc (SVK)
G10	A. Oganesjan (RUS)	G32	D. Werner (CHE)
G11	V. Semenenko (UKR)	G33	I. Kochulov (RUS)
G12	G. Hadzi-Vaskov (MKD)	G34	M. Bílý (CZE)
G13	D. Gatti (ITA)	G35	L. Grolman (RUS)
G14	Z. Sibinović (SRB)	G36	B. Gadjanski (SRB)
G15	A. Gasparyan (ARM)	G37	L. Packa (SVK)
G16	H. Gockel (DEU)	G38	R. Kohring (DEU)
G17	D.-C. Gurgui (ROU)	G39	J. Mikitovics (HUN)
G18	A. Shpakovsky (RUS)	G40	S. Dietrich (DEU)
G19	K. Mlynka (SVK)	G41	T. Linss (DEU)
G20	V. Nefyodov (RUS)	G42	V. Kotěšovec (CZE)
G21	P. Tritten (FRA)	G43	M. Grushko (ISR)
G22	T. Giakatis (GRC)		

From the tournament director Aleksandr Bulavka I received 43 anonymous entries presented in uniform diagrams with the authors' solutions and comments. I was informed the 44th entry had to be excluded due to duals. I had to exclude also G24, which had been previously published in Шахматная композиция 148/2019 (G20).

Some words about the distribution of originals: 15 entries had no fairy conditions and no fairy pieces at all. These are called "light fairies" or – better said – heterodox compositions. 7 problems featured fairy pieces without fairy conditions. 15 problems featured fairy conditions without fairy pieces. 6 problems featured both fairy pieces and fairy conditions. Due to the presence of heterodox and genuine fairy problems competing under the same tournament, it was difficult to find some specific evaluation criteria, so I applied in my evaluation the technical merit and the artistic presentation.

Certain problems just narrowly missed to be included in the award, in spite of fulfilling the abovementioned criteria. I apologize to the authors of these compositions – I am sure their works might be eventually better ranked by other judges in different tournaments.

As expected, the overall level of the tournament was high, with the top problems of excellent quality both technically and artistically. The honourable mentions are also very good compositions, maybe displaying slightly less original ideas. The commendations are generally solver-appealing compositions. My ranking is the following.

1ˢᵗ Prize – Gold medal
ROLF KOHRING
Germany
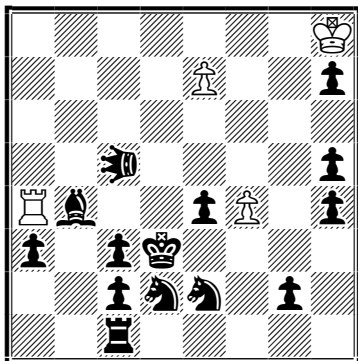
hs#3,5   2 sol   4+14
Mars Circe
c5: Eagle

1...♞b3 2.e8=♕ ♗c5 3.♖c4 ♞g1
4.♕:d2+ ♖d1#
1...♞h6 2.e8=♗ ♗d6 3.♖d4 ♞b1
4.♗:e2+ ♖f1#

The helpselfmates using the difficult fairy condition Mars Circe have been recently revitalized by the German composers Armin Geister, Daniel Papack and Rolf Kohring, but G38 brings everything to new heights never

reached before. To fully appreciate all the subtleties of the solutions, one must slowly analyze what's actually going on. In the initial position, the white King has a flight (g8), while the black King has two flights (c4 and d4). In order to force the mate White must decoy the black Rook c1 on a light square, as it will attack the white King via a8. This deflection is possible only if the black Rook is forced to occupy the rebirth square of a checking white piece. Here comes into play the white Pawn: by promoting into a Bishop or Queen, it can attack the black King on the next move after capturing one of the black Knights. The remaining black flight must be therefore blocked by the white Rook. But wait: White is able to counter the check in no less than four specific Martian ways: by interfering with the Rook on the 8th rank, by capturing the black Rook with the Rook via a1/h1, by capturing the remaining black Knight with the King via e1 or by capturing the mating black Rook with the King again via e1. Each of these possibilities requires a different black move. B2 is an anticipatory interference opening the line of wRa4 but closing the future line of wR towards the 8th rank. B3 closes the line of white Rook against the black Rook on the 1st rank and also removes the possibility of capture by the wK. Finally B1 anticipatorily guards the mating black Rook, while opening the line

of the black Bishop: from h6 the Eagle guards f1 (via h1 over the bPg2) and from b3 the Eagle guards d1 (via b1 over bPc2). The whole strategy is therefore motivated by the specific Martian effects and the play is unified in the two solutions. The presence of a black Eagle when all the eight black Pawns are still on the board requires no explanation: fortunately, according to the Codex, the legality of the position is completely ignored in fairy chess! This monumental conception is definitely worth the gold medal, being the most striking original from the whole tournament.
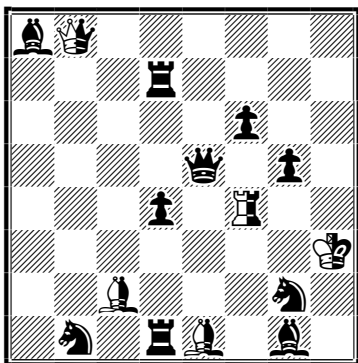
~
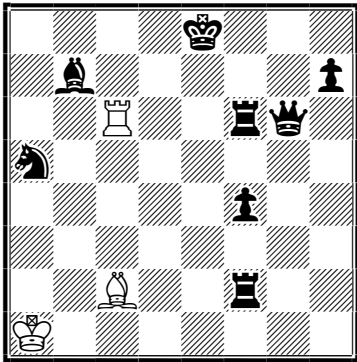
h#2,5   2 sol   3+8
Take & Make Chess
Circe

1...♖:f6-f5[+b♖h8] 2.♖:c2-d3
[+w♗f1] ♗:d3-h3[+b♖a8] 3.0-0-0
♖:a5-c4[+b♘b8]#
1...♗:g6-g3[+b♕d8] 2.♖:c6-c1
[+w♖h1]+ ♖:c1-g1[+b♖h8] 3.0-0
♗:f2-a2[+b♖h8]#

The author's description says almost everything: The main task of the problem is the realization of the classic idea "white battery and black castling" in an initial position where there is not right for castling and in shorter time than in orthodox chess, using the two fairies conditions Circe – Take&Make. Apparently the solutions are well unified, with similar strategic motivations: W1 sets the front battery piece, B2 captures a white piece and indirectly sacrifices the Rook, W2 captures the black Rook and sets the rear battery piece, B3 is the castling and W3 fires the battery and blocks a flight by the captured black piece. All these create the intensive impression of fireworks. Both fairy conditions are heavily exploited, with an impressive density of Take&Make effects and Circe also very consistently used. However, there are some effects which are not matching: the captured bQg6 is placed on the battery's prospective line, while bRf6 isn't. There is also a choice of the arrival square in one solution (3...♖:a5-c6[+b♘b8]?? 4.♘:c6-e6[+w♖h1]!), while in the second solution there is no similar choice. Last, but not least, the two castling moves have been already shown with these conditions (see Appendix I), but without the creation of white batteries. Undoubtedly, the problem can be easier to follow than the 1st Prize and definitely deserves its high ranking.

～

5

IGOR KOCHULOV

Russian Federation

h#2   b) a1=a8   0+10+5
           c) a1=h8
           Anti Circe

a) 1.n♕c8 n♗f5+ 2.g4+ n♖:g4
[n♖g4->h1]#
b) 1.n♗d8 n♖c3+ 2.♕c2 n♕:c2
[n♕c2->d1]#
c) 1.n♖c8 n♕a1+ 2.♖a2+ n♗:a2
[n♗a2->f1]#

Three neutral pieces cyclically change their roles. The first one blocks a black rebirth square on B1. The second checks the neutral King on W1 with no selfcheck, as the black rebirth square of the first neutral piece is occupied. The third mates capturing the interfering black piece on W2, with a double check occurring as a result of its AntiCirce rebirth. Again there is no selfcheck, as the black rebirth square of the second neutral piece is occupied, too. An amazing concept, realized without any white piece and only 5 neutral pieces on the board – that's absolutely astonishing! Now let's take a closer look and examine the mechanism in detail. In a), the bBa8 initially occupies the rebirth square of the neutral Rook, while the neutral Queen occupies the rebirth square of the neutral Bishop. In b), the bRh8 initially occupies the rebirth square of the neutral Rook, while the neutral Bishop occupies the rebirth square of the neutral Queen. Finally, in c), the neutral Bishop initially occupies the rebirth square of the neutral Queen, while the neutral Rook occupies the rebirth square of the neutral Bishop. Although the cycle of functions is still present, it is clear the cycle is not applied on the occupied rebirth squares on W1. The whole play revolves around AntiCirce condition and tremendous effort has been put by the imaginative author in order to ensure the problem is sound. Unfortunately, the whole impression is slightly marred by the comparison with Lev's Grolman outstanding work, in which the same theme of cyclic double check mates delivered by neutral pieces to a neutral King in AntiCirce is realized without twinning and with 6 pieces less (see Appendix II). Nevertheless, this ambitious task is still worth admiring.

4ᵗʰ Prize
VALERY SEMENENKO
Ukraine
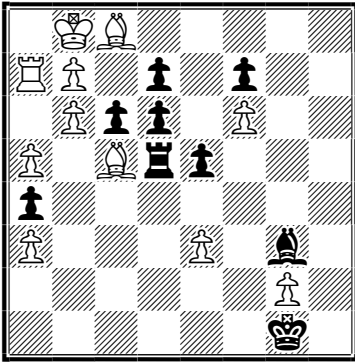
hs#7   11+9

1.♘:d6 ♖:a5 2.♗c5! ♖b5 3.♖:a4 ♔f2 4.♖d4 ♔e3 5.♖:d7 ♔e4 6.♗g1 ♖a5! 7.♖d4! e:d4#

This single-line problem achieves a task never shown before in the HS# field: a cyclic Klasinc! First, the white Bishop opens the gate, enabling the black Rook to pass from d5 to a5, before it returns on c5. Then the black Rook opens the gate, enabling the white Rook to pass from a7 to a4, before it returns to a5. Finally, the white Rook opens the gate, enabling the white Bishop to pass from c5 to g1, before it returns to d4. A purist might complain the last Klasinc is not quite pure, as the black King must also leave the c5-g1 diagonal in order to allow the white Bishop thematic move. The sequence of moves demonstrates a masterful precision. The construction initially seems crowded with 13 pawns, but you will soon forget about it after seeing the sparkling theme and the crystal-clear idea. In case you wonder why the author cautiously mentioned the HS# field, have a look at Appendix III which shows a fourfold cyclic Klasinc in Proof Game. Please don't get fooled by the fact it received "only" a fourth prize: this composition should also go directly into the anthology. A really triumphant combination, which concludes a superb set of prize winners!

1ˢᵗ Honourable Mention
Vitaly Medintsev
Russian Federation
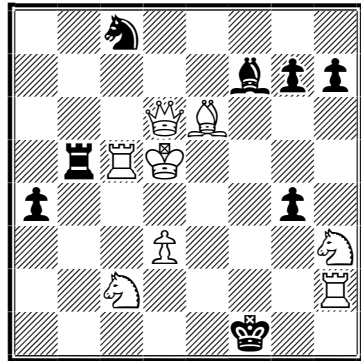

hs#4   b) ♗d3→f4   8+8

a) 1.♕a6! ♗g6 2.♗f7 ♗:d3 3.♔e6 ♗g6! 4.♖f5+ ♗:f5#
b) 1.♕f8! ♖b4 2.♖b5 ♖:f4 3.♔c5 ♖b4! 4.♗c4+ ♖:c4#

I couldn't initially believe my eyes: this is pure perfection, with

7

every single move from each twin being in diagonal-orthogonal correspondence. The key is a surprising foresight prospective pinning, with the black piece getting indirectly pinned after the annihilation of the innocent looking white Pawn and the splendid well conceived hideaway of its capturer. Two pairs of pieces exchange roles: ♖c5/♗e6 and ♗b5/♙f7. So, why not a Prize?! Well, there are just some very tiny details to ponder. First, the strategic conception is somehow less ambitious compared to the prize winners. Secondly, there are three white pieces which are solely guarding black King flights. Thirdly, there is limited interplay. And finally: the initial setting and play remembered me Franz Pachl's unforgettable 17th Sternstunden (see Appendix IV), but nicely extended with additional motivations. Nevertheless, this charming and artistic presentation is perhaps the most aesthetically satisfying from the whole tournament. My deep congratulations and admiration to the author!

~
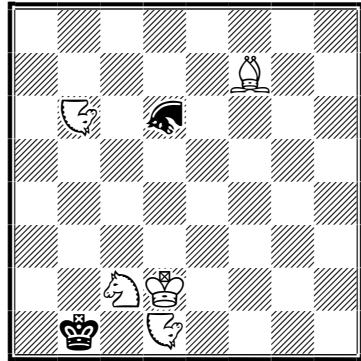
r#17   5+2
d6: Zebra
b6, d1: Nightrider

This was another love at first sight! White's main plan 1.♗a2+ ♚:a2 2.♚c1 ♘a4#?? fails due to the presence of ♘b6: 3.♘:a4! The direct attempt 1.♘d5+? ♚a2 2.♚c1?? ♘a4# fails due to the reflex mate 2.♘c3#. White needs therefore to play a long foreplan (or preparatory maneuver) in order to be able to get rid of the ♘b6 and then returns to the initial position in order to successfully play the basic attack – the logical new German school at its best!

1.♘a3+ ♚a1 2.♘d7+ ♘b3 3.♚c1 ♚a2 4.♗b5 ♚a1 5.♘f5 ♚a2 6.♘h4 ♚a1 7.♘d4 ♚a2 8.♘b6 (switchback) ♚a1(♚a3) 9.♗c2+ (round trip) ♚a2 10.♚d1 ♚b2 11.♘a4+ ♚a2 12.♚d2 (round trip) ♚b1 13.♘c3+ ♚b2 14.♘d6+ ♘:d6

15.Nd1+ ♔b1 16.♗a2+ ♔:a2 17.♔c1 Za4#

The whole sequence of moves has some subtle points, including a switchback and two round trips. The economy is really amazing (miniature!) and the aristocratic form is simply superb. Although the reflex condition is used only once, it plays an essential role in ensuring the composition's correctness. Again this could have been a prize, when I discovered another mind-blowing miniature (see Appendix V). While the setting and play are entirely different, the similar conception downgrades the score for originality, hence the lower placement in the ranking. But I would like to warn again: this astonishing reflexmate should be retained in anthologies!

~
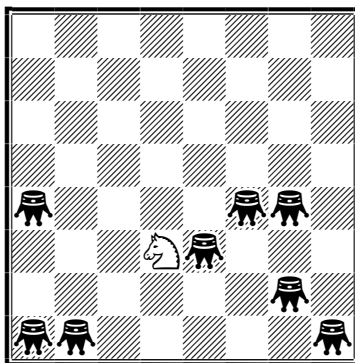
Ser-d=23   3 Sol.   1+8
PWC

1.♘b2 2.♘:a4(♜b2) 3.♘c5 4.♘b3
5.♘:a1(♜b3) 6.♘c2 7.♘:e3(♜c2)
8.♘f1 9.♘h2 10.♘:g4(♜h2)
11.♘f2 12.♘:h1(♜f2) 13.♘g3
14.♘e2 15.♘:f4(♜e2) 16.♘d3
17.♘c1 18.♘:b3(♜c1) 19.♘d2
20.♘:b1(♜d2) 21.♘c3 22.♘a2
23.♘:c1(♜a2)=
1.♘:f4(♜d3) 2.♘:g2(♜f4) 3.♘h4
4.♘f5 5.♘g3 6.♘:h1(♜g3) 7.♘f2
8.♘h3 9.♘:f4(♜h3) 10.♘g6
11.♘e5 12.♘:g4(♜e5) 13.♘h2
14.♘f3 15.♘:e5(♜f3) 16.♘c4
17.♘a3 18.♘:b1(♜a3) 19.♘c3
20.♘:a4(♜c3) 21.♘c5 22.♘b3
23.♘:a1(♜b3)=
1.♘f2 2.♘:h1(♜f2) 3.♘g3 4.♘f5
5.♘:e3(♜f5) 6.♘c2 7.♘:a1(♜c2)
8.♘b3 9.♘d2 10.♘:b1(♜d2)
11.♘a3 12.♘c4 13.♘:d2(♜c4)
14.♘e4 15.♘:f2(♜e4) 16.♘d3
17.♘b4 18.♘:c2(♜b4) 19.♘d4

20.♘:f5(♟d4) 21.♘h4
22.♘:g2(♟h4) 23.♘e1=

Perhaps the most controversial composition of the whole tournament: there is no King on the board! The solutions are quite well matched: each of them has 9 captures and end up with a whole line fully occupied by the black Grasshoppers, while the capturing white Knight retires on the first rank. An amazing technical virtuosity, with the absence of duals being almost miraculous! Surely, there are some repeated moves here and there, but that's quite secondary taking into consideration the achievement. As in the case of the previous composition, the judge should ignore the usage of the computer within the composing process and focus solely on the outcome. Unfortunately, here the abstract result doesn't particularly touch the heart – it looks like the outcome of an advanced machine-learning algorithm, with the initial position and the order of moves forced for rather obscure reasons, beyond ordinary human understanding. There is almost no strategy, but that's of course not a big surprise for the readers already familiar with Jaroslav Štúň and Sébastien's Luce article Locust Length Records published in ChessProblems.ca Bulletin 10/2016: the main interest of such problems consists in reaching to the final position!

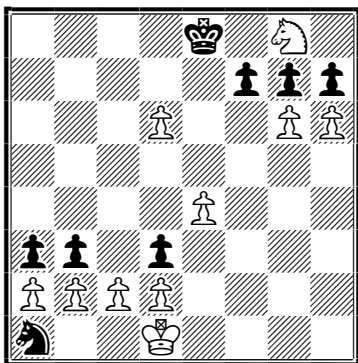1ˢᵗ Commendation
PIERRE TRITTEN
France
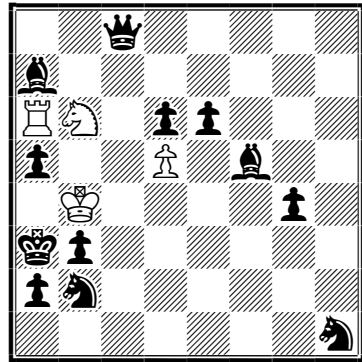
h#2   2 Sol.   4+12
Mars Circe

1.♛c3 d5-d2:c3 2.♗f5-c8:a6 ♘a4#
1.♗b8 ♖a8 2.a2-a7:b6 ♖a7#

This classical Zilahi enhanced with white tempo moves ends with specific model mates. The solutions are not quite well unified: in the first solution the black Queen has a lot of squares to choose from, but eventually sacrifices itself for the white Pawn, while in the second solution the black Bishop has actually only one square to go. Also the mating moves have different motivations: in the first solution the white Knight has several options, but must also blocks black King's flight, while in the second solution the white Rook has no option to change from a light to a dark square. In spite of the rather non homogenous play, the strategic content is interesting enough to be retained in the award.

hs#6,5   10+8

h#2   2 sol   2+3
Symmetry Circe

1...b:c2+! (d:c2+?) **2.♔c1 ♘b3+!**
3.a:b3 a2 4.♘f6+! g:f6 5.g7 a1=♘
6.g8=♘ ♔f8 7.♘:f6 ♘:b3#

1.0-0 ♕d2! 2.c:d2[+w♕e7] ♕g7#
1.♖h1 ♕:h1[+b♖a8] 2.0-0-0 ♕b7#

Another appealing single-line problem, with humorous content: both white and black Knights sacrifice themselves allowing new promoted Knights to appear on their initial squares – a kind of double Pronkin applied in the HS genre. The zugzwang mate is unavoidable. The author describes the whole concept as "Monkey Knight Phoenix", hence outlining the echo promotions and movements of promoted versus original Knights. The position is simply memorable, with ♙ e4 ideally placed to avoid cooks with the original ♘ arriving on g5. An amusing and refreshing find, which will surely raise a smile on anyone's face!

A simple and witty tanagra, showing black castlings and specific mates. No deep content, yet very enjoyable for any solver. This didactic example could be used to catch newcomers in the wonderful fairies world!
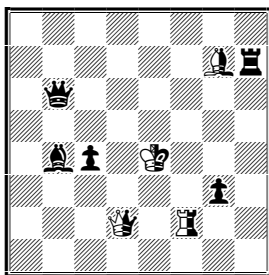
~

APPENDIX

I – Sebastien Luce
Gaudium, 2015
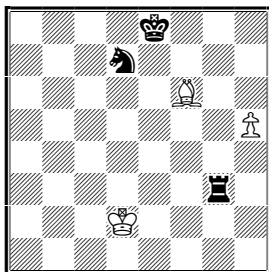
h#2,5   2 sol   3+3
Take & Make Chess
Circe

1...h6 2.♖e3 ♔:e3-e6[+b♖h8] 3.0-0
h7#
1...♗e5 2.♖g6 h:g6-b6[+b♖a8] 3.0-0-0
b7#

II – Lev Grolman
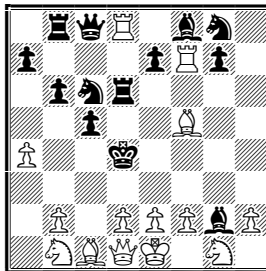### SuperProblem.ru, 2015
2ND Prize

h#2   3 sol   0+5+4
Anti Circe
Parrain Circe

1.♖h8 n♘h6 2.♗:d2[b♗d2->f8]
n♘f4[+n♕e2]#
1.♗f8 n♘d6 2.♕:f2[b♕f2->d8]
n♔d4[+n♖e2]#

1.♕d8 n♖f3 2.♖:g7[b♖g7->h8]
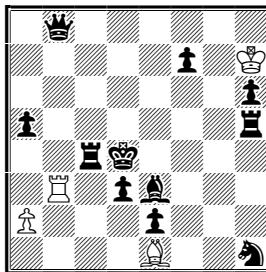n♔e3[+n♗g6]#

III – Aleksandr Semenenko
FIDE World Cup, 2019
1ST HM

PG 15,0   14+13

1.a4 b6 2.♖a3 ♗b7 3.♖f3 ♕c8 4.♖:f7
♗:g2 5.♖f3 ♗:h1 6.♘h3 ♗g2 7.♗f5
♔f7 8.c4 ♔f6 9.c5 ♔e5 10.c6 ♔d4
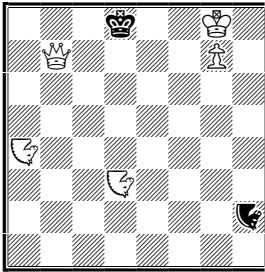11.c:d7 c5 12.♗:h7 ♘c6 13.♖f7 ♖b8
14.♗f5 ♖h6 15.d8=♖+ ♖d6

IV – Franz Pachl
The Problemist, 1992
2ND Prize

h#3   b) ♙a2 → g2   4+11

a) 1.♗g5 ♖b5 2.♖b4 ♗f2+ 3.♔c4
♖c5#
b) 1.♖c7 ♗g3 2.♗f2 ♖b4+ 3.♔e3
♗f4#

12

r#15   5+2

1.♘f7+? ♔e8 2.♘h8?? ♘f6# but
2.♘b2# so ♘a4 must disappear
1.♕c8+! ♔e7 2.♕f8+ ♔d7 3.♘e5+ ♔c7
4.♕c8+ ♔d6 5.♕e6+ ♔c7 6.♕b6+ ♔c8
7.♕d6+ ♔b7 8.♘d3+ ♔a8 9.♘b6+
♔a7 10.♘c8+ ♔a8 11.♕a3+ ♔b8
12.♕a7+ ♔:c8 13.♕b7+ ♔d8 14.♘f7+
♔e8 15.♘h8 ♘f6# Not 14.♘f4+? ♔e8
15.♕f7#