

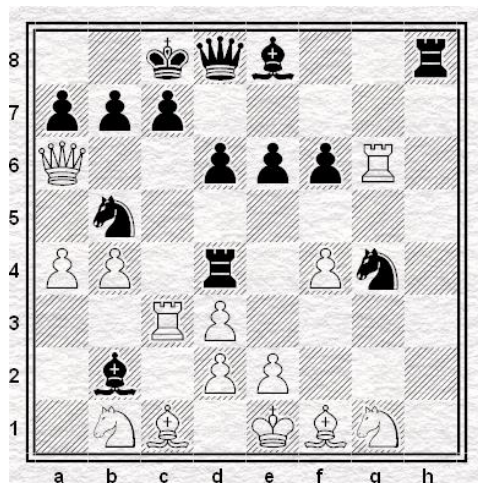
**WCCI 2019-2021**

**Section H: Retros**

**Entries from Mikhail Kozulya (mimikons@ukr.net)**

1.

*StrateGems* 95, July-September 2021,  
page 140, No. P0516



14+14 SPG in 22.5 moves C+

1.h4 Sc6 2.h5 Sd4 3. h6 Sb5 4.hxg7 Sh6 5.g8=B Bg7 6.b4 Bb2 7.g4 f6 8.Be6 dxe6 9.g5 Qd3 10.g6 Bd7 11.g7 O-O-O 12.g8=Q Be8 13.Qg3 Sg4 14.Rh6 Rd4 15.Rg6 h5 16.cxd3 h4 17.Qa4 h3 18.Qa6 h2 19.a4 h1=Q 20.Ra3 Qd5 21.Rc3 Qd8 22.Qgd6 exd6 23.f4

Ceriani-Frolkin Q and B (both promoted on g8), black Pronkin Qd8, cross-captures by black pawns on e6 and d6.

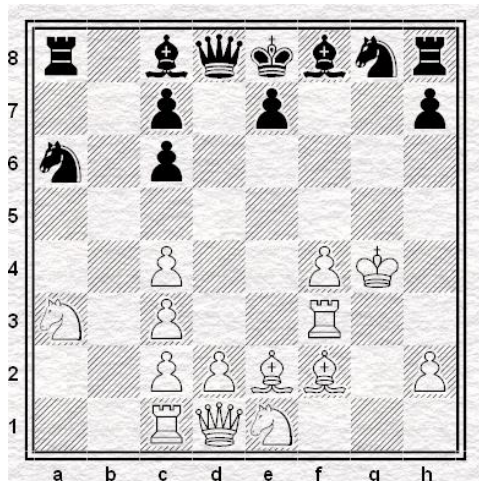
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**Entries from Mikhail Kozulya (mimikons@ukr.net)**

2.

*Die Schwalbe* Heft 210, August 2021,  
page 210, No. 18682



14+12 SPG in 23.0 moves C+

1.a4 f5 2.a5 f4 3.a6 f3 4.axb7 fxg2 5.f4 g5 6.Sf3 g1=R 7.Kf2 Rg3 8.Se1 Rd3 9.exd3 g4 10.Be2 g3+  
11.Kf3 g2 12.Rf1 g1=B 13.Kg4 Bd4 14.Rf3 Bc3 15.bxc3 a5 16.Ba3 a4 17.Bc5 a3 18.Bf2 a2 19.Sa3  
Sa6 20.Rc1 a1=Q 21.b8=S Qa2 22.Sc6 Qc4 23.dxc4 dxc6+

Probably the fastest AUW in a SPG.

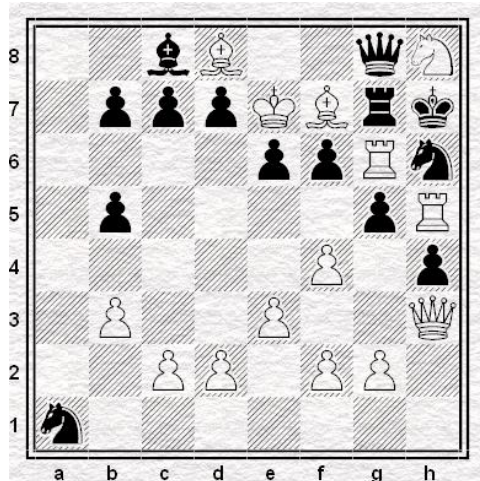
**WCCI 2019-2021**

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3.

*Problemas 36, October 2021, page 1200*



14+14 Release the position

Retract: -1.g3xRf4 Ra4-f4 -2.Qg4-h3 Ra8-a4 -3.Qa4-g4 Rb8-a8 -4.Qa8-a4 b6-b5 -5.a7-a8=Q Ra8-b8 -6.a6-a7 a7xSb6 -7.Sc4-b6 Rb8-a8 -8.Sd6-c4 Ra8-b8 -9.Sf5-d6 Sg4-h6 -10.Sh6-f5+ Se5-g4 -11.a5-a6 Sc4-e5 -12.a4-a5 Sd6-c4 -13.a3-a4 Se8-d6 -14.a2-a3 Sd6xQe8 -15.Qf8-e8 S~-d6 -16.Ke8-e7 and the cage is unlocked.

## WCCI 2019-2021

### Section H: Retros

Entries from Mikhail Kozulya (mimikons@ukr.net)

4.

*feenschach* 2017

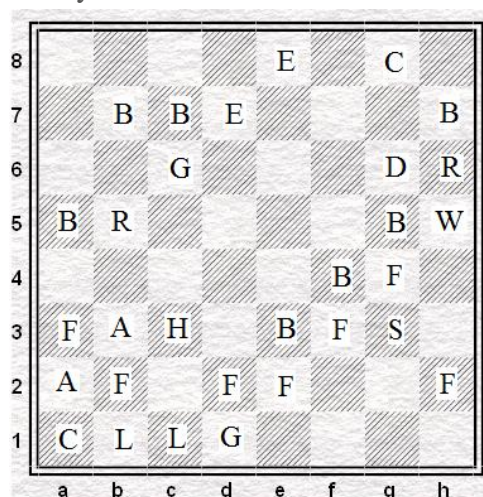
Information on cook: *feenschach* Heft 244,

February-April 2021, page 86

The issue was released in autumn of 2021;

the correction has not been published yet

(“Later corrections or versions could be accepted if they are submitted before the deadline.”)



30+0 Last 4 single moves?

Number of instances of letters on the board: A 2 B 7 C 2 D 1 E 2 F 7 G 2 H 1 L 2 R 2 S 1 W 1.

With 30 units on the board, any of the sides can only have 4 promoted pieces. There are 7 B's and 7 F's; if any of these letters stood for a piece type other than pawn, this would mean 5 promoted pieces for that side – one too many. **So B's and F's are pawns; F's must be white pawns,** otherwise too many captures by pawns would be required.

Two pawns are missing: the white c-pawn and the black d-pawn. Suppose two promotions took place. In that case, the promotion squares must be d8 and c1, in view of the arrangement of pawns. This is impossible if there is a white bishop on c1. But if the L on c1 is not a white bishop, then the original wBc1 was captured on c1 and this means 3 captures – 2 by pawns and Bc1 on its home square, while 2 pieces are missing. This implies that no more than one promotion could have occurred in previous play.

There are 4 “singleton” letters: D, H, S, W. The kings are among these letters. **Only D can be the black king;** the other three letters would be in illegal check from white pawns b2/d2, g4 (h3xg4+ means a total of 3 captures), or h2.

If L ≠ white bishop, then the white Bc1 was captured on its home square. White must still have one or two bishops on the board (there are 12 different letters, which means that no piece type is missing for either side). If White has two bishops, then the white c-pawn promoted on the dark square d8 after capturing the black d-pawn, closing the material balance. In that case, both sides have a light and dark bishop on the board. R and L are the only letters with one light and one dark instance, but L ≠ bishop (a black bishop could not move to c1 and there was no black promotion). Thus, White could not have two bishops if L ≠ wB. If White has only one bishop on the board, it

must be on a light square in case of  $L \neq wB$ . But  $W$  is the only singleton on a light square and  $W \neq$  white bishop (impossible check).

**Hence  $L =$  white bishop.** The black king is in check from  $wBb1$ . Neither  $S$  nor  $W$  can be the white king –  $W$  is adjacent to the black king and  $S$  as the white king would mean both kings in check (pawn  $f4$ ). **So  $H =$  white king.**

$G$  cannot be queen or rook of either color or black knight because of illegal checks. If  $G =$  black bishop, Black made 2 captures to promote on  $b1$  or  $d1$ ; the black dark-square bishop must remain on the board, but it isn't there. **So  $G =$  white knight.**

Suppose Black promoted. In that case, two white pieces were captured in order for the  $d$ -pawn to promote on  $b1$  or  $d1$ . Therefore all original black officers are on the board in addition to the promoted officer. There are no letters with 3 instances, so Black did not promote  $R, B, S$ . If Black promoted a queen, then there must be 4 letters with 2 instances each to represent the 4 pairs of black officers ( $QRBS$ ).  $A \neq$  black queen or rook (check  $b3$ ).  $A \neq$  black knight (check  $a2$ ).  $A \neq$  black bishop (both  $A$ 's on light squares). That leaves only  $REC$  with two instances. Thus, Black did not promote a pawn.

This means that Black did not promote. So Black has one queen on the board. There are two singletons left:  $S$  and  $W$ . One of them is the black queen.

$C \neq wQ, wR$  because of illegal checks. So  $C$  is black.  $C \neq$  black queen (promoted  $Q?$ ),  $C \neq$  black rook (inside the box in the  $a1$ -corner?),  $C \neq$  black bishop (in view of  $Ca1$  with pawn  $b2?$ ). **So  $C =$  black knight.**

The letters remaining unknown are  $AERSW$ , which represent  $wQR$  and  $bQRB$ .

Only  $A$ 's and  $S$  can stand for white queens; all other options result in illegal checks.

If  $A = wQ$ , then a white rook was captured inside its box ( $a1$  corner) and the white  $c$ -pawn promoted on  $d8$  by capturing the black  $d$ -pawn, closing the material balance. In that case, White has one rook on the board ( $S$  or  $W$ ) and Black has a queen ( $S$  or  $W$ ) plus 2 bishops and 2 rooks.  $E \neq bB$  (both on light squares), so  $E = bR$  and  $R = bB$ .

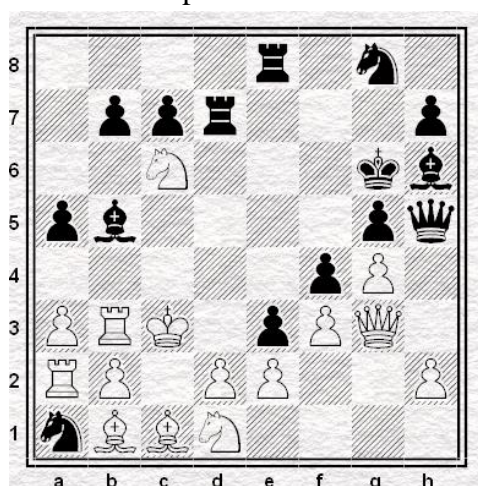
There is no legal last move.  $Kd3-c3?$  Illegal double check. The white  $c$ -pawn promoted, so the en passant capture by  $-1.Kd3xPc3 Pd4xPc4$  e.p.  $++ -2.Pc2-c4$  is ruled out. Hence  $A \neq wQ$ .  **$S =$  white queen.  $W =$  black queen.**

$A \neq bRS$  (check).  $A \neq bB$  (promoted light  $B$ ). Therefore  $A$  is white.

**$A =$  white rook** (all other white pieces are already accounted for).

**$E$ 's are black rooks** (not black bishops because that would imply black promotion to light-square bishop); and  **$R$ 's are black bishops.**

The encoded position is as follows.



The only way to explain the bishop check (b1) is with  $Kd3>c3$ , which means that the white king was in a double check on d3 that can only be explained by an en passant capture.

Retract: -1.Kd3xPc3+ d4xPc4 e.p.++ 2.c2-c4 Ba4-b5+.

The move 2...Bb5+ was not a capture (from a4 or a6) because the material balance is closed (two pawn captures on c3).