

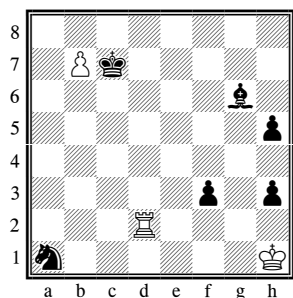
**XVIIIth Z. Birnov memo-
 rial tourney, 2004-05**

The results of the traditional Volgograd chess composition tourney dedicated to well-known Soviet composer Zinovy Markovich Birnov (1911-57) are worked out. The studies section has been judging by Andrey VYSOKOSOV.

Studies section of XVIIIth Z. Birnov MT results in the international tourney of rather good level. After the primary selection made by the general judge V. Persiyonov I received 29 works for my judging. Geography is wide: of course, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, also Latvia, Kyrgyzstan, France, Italy, USA... Not all the opuses have stood the analytic and "prototype" testing, also evident aesthetic faults made by some authors did not allow to include them in awards, (for example, I resolutely refuse to be serious for the studies where two or more static pieces are beaten). I think this judging will be the final results. So,

**Yu. AKOBIYA (Georgia) &
 R. BECKER (USA), 2005**

1/2 Prize, XVIIIth Z. Birnov memorial tourney



White to play and draw

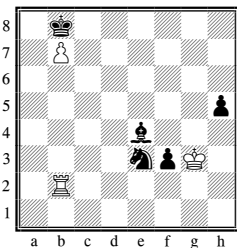
1.Kh2! Nc2! After 1...Be4 the following saves: 2.K:h3 B:b7 3.Kg3 Nb3 4.Rh2 Nc5 5.R:h5 Ne4+ 6.Kh2! Kd6 (6...f2 7.Rf5 Ba6 8.Kg2=) 7.Rf5 Nd2 8.Kg3 Be4 9.Rf8 Ke5 10.Kf2 Kd4 11.Re8 – positional draw. In a case of 1...Bf5 the move 2.Rf2 makes equality with two variations: 2...Be4 3.K:h3 Nc2 4.Kh4 Ne1 5.K:h5 Nd3 6.Rf1 f2 7.Kg4 Bg2 8.R:f2 N:f2+ 9.Kg3=, or 2...Bg4 3.Rb2 Kb8 4.Kg3 Bf5 5.K:f3 Nc2 6.Kf2 h4 7.Kg1 Nd4 8.Kh1 Nf3 9.Re2 Ng5 10.Rb2, draw again.

2.K:h3. Self-confident 2.b8Q? leads to defeat: 2...K:b8 3.K:h3 (3.Kg3 Ne3 4.K:f3 Ng4! 5.Kg3 h2 6.Rd1 Be4+) 3...Ne3 4.Rb2+ Kc7 5.Kg3 Be4! 6.Kf4 Nd1! 7.K:e4 (or 7.Rd2 f2 8.R:d1 Bd3! 9.Kg5 Be2 10.Rb1 Kc6!+) 7...N:b2 8.K:f3 Nd3! 9.Kg3 Kd6! 10.Kh4 Nf4 11.Kg5 Ke5, and the black h-fighter decides the result of a duel.

2...Ne3! Now 2...Ne1 is not perspective because of 3.Kg3 Be4 4.Rh2

B:b7 5.R:h5 Kd6 6.Rh2 Ke5 7.Rf2 Ke4 8.Rf1! with equality. **3.Rb2!** After 3.Rf2? Black has time to consolidate the position by means of 3...Bf5+ 4.Kg3 Bg4! 5.Rb2 Kb8 6.Rb1 Nf5+ 7.Kf2 Nd6+.

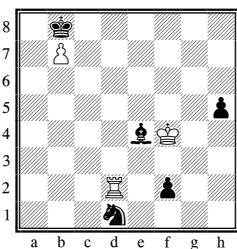
3...Kb8 4.Kg3 Be4.



5.Kf4! Nc2 6.Kg3! For 6.K:e4?!, there is, of course 6...f2 7.Rb1 Ne1!+. But 6.Rb1? was bad too because of 6...B:b7 7.Kg5 Ne3! 8.Rb2 Ng4 9.Rd2 (9.Rb5 Nf2! 10.Kf4 Ne4 11.K:f3 Nd6+) 9...Kc7 10.Rd4 Nf2 11.Kf4 Nh1 12.Rd1 f2 13.Ke3 Bg2, and it's time for White to resign.

6...Ne3. Need to come back, because 6...h4+ leads to a known positional draw: 7.Kf2 h3 8.Rb6! Nb4 9.Kg3 Nd3 10.Rf6 B:b7 (10...f2 11.K:h3=) 11.Rf8+! Kc7 12.K:h3 Ne5 13.Kg3 Kd6 14.Kf2=.

7.Kf4 Nd1! 8.Rd2!, not falling into a trap 8.K:e4? f2 9.R:f2 N:f2+ 10.Kf4 Ng4 11.Kg5 Nf6!+. **8...f2.** If 8...Nc3, then 9.Rh2 B:b7 10.Kg3 Ne2+ 11.Kf2! Nf4 (11...Kc7 12.R:h5=) 12.Kg3 Ne2+ 13.Kf2, draw by repetition of moves.

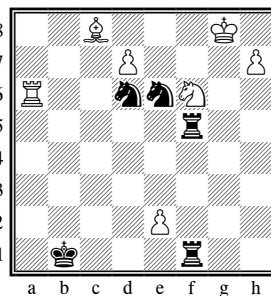


Here is a key position of the study. **9.Rd8+!!** Impatient thematic try 9.R:d1?, with the following 9...Bd3 10.Kg5 K:b7. Mutual zugzwang! 11.Kh4 (11.Rc1 Be2+) 11...Kb6! (but not 11...Kc6? 12.Rc1+ Kd5 13.K:h5=) 12.Kg5 Kb5! 13.Kh4 Kb4 14.Kg5 Kc3!, moving to the Pawn. 15.Rc1+ Kd2 16.Ra1 Be2 17.Rh1 Bf3 18.Rf1 (18.Ra1 Bd1+) 18...Ke2 19.Ra1 f1Q 20.R:f1 K:f1, and Black overcomes his opponent, because the colour of the Bishop is that condition we learn at our first steps in chess...

9...K:b7, and just now **10.R:d1 Bd3 11.Kg5!** The same mutual zugzwang, but now zugzwang is for Black! **11...Kb6!** Or 11...Be2 12.Rd7+! Kc6 13.Rf7!=. **12.Kh4! Kb5! 13.Kg5! Kb4!** After 13...Kc4 the Rook avoids the attack with tempo 14.Rc1+ Kd4, and then simple 15.K:h5 with a draw.

Final subtlety **14.Rh1!** with a strength based on the fact that the white King does not block h4! **14...Be2** (14...Kc3 15.K:h5=) **15.Rh4+! Kc3 16.Rf4! =** or **15...Bg4 16.Rh1 Be2 17.Rh4+**, thus obtaining equality by repetition of moves.

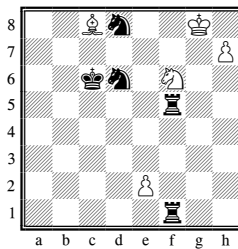
S. OSINTSEV (Russia), 2005
 1/2 Prize, XVIIIth Z. Birnov memorial tourney



White to play and draw

1.Rb6+. A mania for acquisition is strictly punished: 1.h8Q? Rg5+ 2.Kh7 Rh1+ with mate on the next move. 1.R:d6? R:f6 2.Rb6+ Kc2 3.Rc6+ Kb3 4.Rb6+ Ka4 5.Ra6+ Kb5 6.Rb6+ K:b6 7.d8Q+ N:d8 8.h8Q Rf8+, and Black has overwhelming advantage. However, careless offering meets a convincing repulse: Ra1+? K:a1 2.h8Q Rg5+ 3.Kh7 Rh1+ 4.Nh5+ Kb1+.

1...Ka2 2.Ra6+ Kb3 3.Rb6+ Kc4 4.Rc6+ Kb5 5.Rb6+! Kc5! At this square the Rook is invulnerable: 5...K:b6 6.d8Q+ N:d8 7.B:f5 N:f5 8.Nd5+ Kc5 9.h8Q= **6.Rc6+! K:c6 7.d8N+! N:d8.** Elegant introduction leads us to a central position of the work:

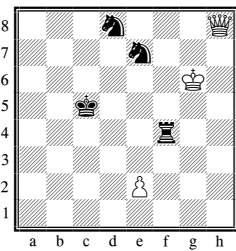


8.Bd7+!! Only this unintelligible, needless at the first glance, intermediate check can save. But the continuation that seems to be logical, 8.B:f5? (thematic try), looses, and the sense of the 8th move will be clear only 11 moves later (!): 8...N:f5 9.h8Q Ne7+ 10.Kg7 Rg1+ 11.Ng4 R:g4+ 12.Kf6 Nd5+ 13.Kf5 Rf4+ 14.Kg6 Ne7+ 15.Kh5 Rh4+! 16.K:h4 Ng6+ 17.Kg5 N:h8 18.e4 (or 18.Kf6 Kd6! 19.e3 Nhf7! 20.e4 Ne5+) 18...Ne6+! 19.Kf5! Kd7! Being not banished from c6, now the black monarch shows his nimble temper! 20.Kf6 Kd6!, and White is in zugzwang: 21.e5+ Kd7+ 22.Kf5, now Black easy delivers the Night closed in the corner and wins according to the Troitsky line that is so close to the heart of every chess player.

8...Kc5. More weak is 8...Kc7 because of 9.B:f5 N:f5 10.Nd5+! Kd6 11.h8Q= **9.B:f5.** Not enough is 9.h8Q? because of 9...R:f6 10.Qg7 Kb6 11.e4 N:e4 12.Bh3 R1f3 13.Bg2 Ne6+ or 13.Qg1+ Kc6 14.Qc1+ Rc3+ **9...N:f5.** Also without profit is 9...Rg1+ 10.Kf8 N6f7 11.Ke7 Rh1 12.Bg6 Nh8 13.Bh5=.

10.h8Q Ne7+. Hunting season for the white Queen is open. **11.Kg7**

Rg1+ 12.Ng4!, buying the loophole for the King at a price of cheap Knight's life, **12...R:g4+ 13.Kf6 Nd5+! 14.Kf5 Ne3+ 15.Kf6 Nd5+ 16.Kf5 Rf4+ 17.Kg6!** (17.Kg5?? Nf7+) **17...Ne7+.**



Culmination of a drama!

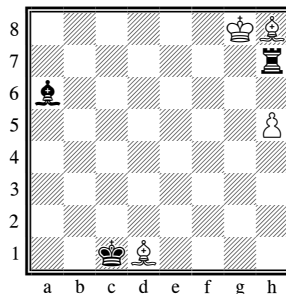
18.Kh5! But not 18.Kg5? because of 18...Nf7+ 19.K:f4 N:h8 20.Ke5 (20.e4 Nhg6+ 21.Kg5 Ne5+) 20...Nhg6+! 21.Ke6 Nc6 22.e4 Nge5+ or 21.Kf6 Kd6! 22.e4 Ne5+ **18...Rh4+!** Sacrifice of the whole Rook in replay!

19.K:h4. Now the Queen gets a guileful double stroke, succeeding to do nothing remarkable in this life: **19...Ng6+ 20.Kg5!** Of course, not 20.Kg4? N:h8 21.e4 Ng6! 22.Kf5 (22.e5 Ne6+) 22...Nf8! 23.e5 Nfe6+ **20...N:h8 21.e4!** The infantryman is trying to cross quickly the Troitsky's line, that is the 5th rank for the central white Pawns. Delay is a death: 21.Kf6? Kd6! 22.e3 Nhf7!+, or 21.Kf5? Kd6! 22.e4 Ke7! 23.e5 Ne6+.

21...Ne6+ (21...Kd6 22.e5+=). The Pawn is stopped where it seems to be necessary, but... **22.Kf5!**, thus winning a time!, 22.Kf6? Kd6 23.e5+ Kd7+ **22...Kd6.** Alas, a King cannot jump like a horse, so the square d7 was inaccessible for the black commander (other case was in the try). **23.Kf6!** Mutual zugzwang at the Black's move! **23...Kd7 24.e5!**, and Black has to give one of the Knights or to open the way for the enemy's Pawn that is equal to the peace agreement.

P. ROSSI (Italy), 2005

3/4 Prize, XVIIIth Z. Birnov memorial tourney



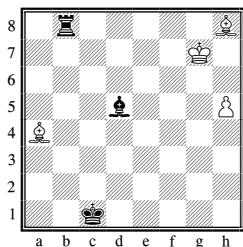
Black to play, White draw

Miniature! Classic material. **1...Rb7!**, at once leaving the Bishop d1 without sacred possibility to come at the diagonal a2-g8. **2.Ba4!** Only here! Both 2.Bf3? Bc4+ 3.Kf8 Rf7+ 4.Ke8 R:f3 5.h6 Bg8+ and 2.Bg4? Bc4+ 3.Kf8 Rb8+ 4.Kg7 Rg8+ 5.Kh7 R:g4+ looses.

2...Bc4+ 3.Kf8 Rb8+. For 3...Rf7+, of course, not 4.Kg8? Ra7+,

but simple 4.Ke8! leads to a draw, and White is OK. **4.Kg7**. There is no reason for defence by a Bishop from a check: 4.Be8? Bb5 5.h6 R:e8+ 6.Kf7 Rb8 7.Bf6 Bd3 8.Kg7 Rb7+ 9.Kg8 Kd2 10.Bg7 Ke3 11.h7 Rb8+ 12.Bf8 B:h7+ 13.K:h7 R:f8, the result is a surplus black Rook.

4...Bd5! What an insinuating move whose purpose is to take away from his opponent the last square which is accessible for him!



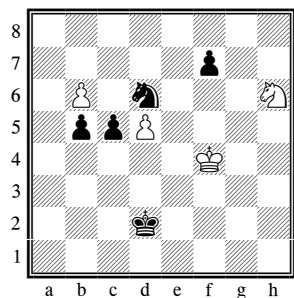
5.Kh7! It's early 5.h6? because of 5...Rg8+ 6.Kh7 Rg4! 7.Be5 (in other case the Bishop mates from g8!) 7...R:a4+.

5...Be4+ 6.Kg7. The Bishop is closed in a corner. **6...Kd2!** (6...Rb4 7.Be8!) **7.h6 Ke1!** The King is dancing a very strange charming dance... **8.h7! Ke2!** The capture of the h-Pawn did not promise the winning for Black: 8...Rb7+ 9.Kf6 R:h7 10.Bg7=. But now White has no useful moves, so it seems the loosing of one Bishop is inevitable. Well, it is so, moreover White loses both Bishops!

9.Bc6!! Effective and courageous move! Cowardly 9.Bd7? lost the game: 9...Rb7 10.Kg8 R:d7 11.Bg7 Rd8+ 12.Kf7 B:h7+. **9...B:c6**. But our unlucky warrior has lost a sight! **10.Kh6!** The second sacrifice needs the right execution: 10.Kf6? Be4+, or 10.Kf7? Rb7+ 11.Kg6 Be4+, and Black wins again in the battle.

10...R:h8. What else can they do? If 10...Be4 then 11.Bf6=. However, annihilating the arrested Bishop, the black Rook vacates a square for promotion of the Pawn h7 and White uses this fact immediately: **11.Kg7!**, suddenly draw!

A. SOCHNEV (Russia), 2005
3/4 Prize, XVIIIth Z. Birnov memorial tourney



White to play and win

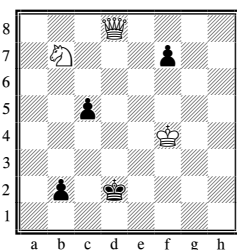
1.Nf5!! It needs to save the Pawn f7 alive! We will examine the try 1.N:f7 in the end. **1...Nb7 2.d6 b4!** Alternative defence 2...c4 leads to the complications of another kind: 3.d7 c3 4.Nd6 Nd8 5.b7 c2 (more weak is

5...Ne6+ because of 6.Ke5 c2 7.b8Q c1Q 8.N:f7 Qe1+ 9.Kf6+-) 6.b8Q c1Q 7.Q:d8, and variations:

1) 7...Ke2+ 8.Ke5 Qc5+ 9.Kf6 Q:d6+ 10.Kg7! (Pawn f7 is inviolable again: 10.K:f7? Qd5+ 11.Kg7 Qd4+! 12.Kh6 Qd6+ 13.Kh7 Qd3+, perpetual check) 10...Qg6+ (or 10...Kd3 11.Qe8 Qg6+ 12.Kf8 Qh6+ 13.K:f7 Qf4+ 14.Kg7!+-) 11.Kf8 Qh6+ 12.K:f7 (it's time!) 12...Qh5+ 13.Ke6 Qg4+ 14.Kd6 Qb4+, and here not 15.Kc7? Qa5+=, but 15.Kc6!+-;

2) 7...Kd3+ 8.Ke5 Qc5+ 9.Kf6 Q:d6+ 10.K:f7 Qd5+ 11.Kg7 Qd4+ 12.Kh6! (after 12.Kh7? the way to the Queen flank will be prohibited for the white King: 12...Qe4+! 13.Kh6 Qe6+ 14.Kg7 Qg4+ 15.Kf7 Qf5+=) 12...Qd6+ 13.Kh7! Qh2+ 14.Kg7 Qg2+ 15.Kf8! Qf3+ 16.Ke7! Qe4+ 17.Kd6 Qb4+ 18.Kc6! Qe4+ 19.Kc7+-.

3.d7 b3 (3...Nd8 4.Nd6 b3 5.b7 and so on, see farther) **4.Nd6 Nd8!** (4...b2 5.N:b7 b1Q 6.d8Q+) **5.b7 Nb7 6.N:b7 b2 7.d8Q+**. Is that all? Not entirely...



7...Kc2! It became clear White cannot prevent the enemy's Queen appearance on the board! Well, we start to win anew... **8.N:c5 b1Q 9.Qd3+ Kc1 10.Qc3+ Kd1 11.Nb3!** (11.Nd3 Ke2 12.Nc1+ Kd1 13.Nb3, senseless lengthening of solution) **11...Qa2 12.Kg3!** Quiet move of a great destroying force!

12...f5. A little change after 12...f6 13.Qd3+ Ke1 14.Qf3! Qc2 15.Qh1+ Ke2 16.Nd4+, and Black loses the Queen. **13.Kh3!**, avoiding the check by moving Pawn. **13...Qf2**. Or 13...f4 14.Qd3+ Ke1 15.Nd4 Qb2 16.Nc2+ Kf2 17.Qd2+ Kf3 18.Qg2#.

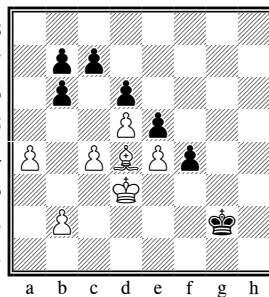
Transient mate attack in final: **14.Qc1+ Ke2 15.Qd2+ Kf1 16.Qd1+ Qe1 17.Nd2+ Kf2 18.Qf3+ Kg1 19.Qg2#**, not so aesthetic, but mate.

It's clear now, would the White play 1.N:f7? the opponent can run a draw by means of 1...Nb7 2.d6 b4! 3.d7 b3 4.Nd6 Nd8 5.b7 N:b7 6.N:b7 b2 7.d8Q+ Kc2! 8.N:c5 b1Q 9.Qd3+ Kc1 10.Qc3+ Kd1! (but not 10...Qc2? 11.Nb3+ Kd1 12.Qd4+ Ke2 13.Qe3+) 11.Nb3 Qa2! 12.Kg3!? Qf2+! 13.K:f2#, not so aesthetic, but stalemate.

In this issue of the Chess Weekly the judge introduces the works which get the honourable mentions.

Six studies from this group differ one from another in such a small degree of quality that I decided it's not necessary to hurt them with figures.

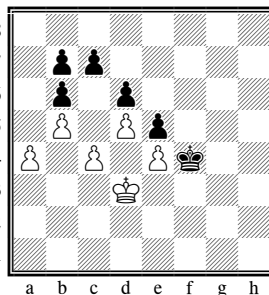
N. MIRONENKO (Ukraine), 2005
Honourable mention, XVIIIth Z. Birnov memorial tourney



White to play and win

The Bishop is under attack and must go away. But where? Now thematic try appears: 1.Be3? fe 2.K:c3 Kg3 3.b3 (nothing is after 3.b4 because of 3...Kg4 4.b5 Kg5 5.Kf3 Kf6 6.Kg4 Ke7=) 3...Kg4 4.b4 Kg5 5.Kf3 Kf6 6.Kg4 Ke7 7.Kf5 Kd7 8.Kf6 (or 8.a5 ba 9.ba Ke7 10.c5 dc 11.K:e5 Kd7 12.Kf4 Kd6 13.Ke3 Ke5 14.Kd3 Kf4 15.Kc4 K:c4 16.K:c5 Ke5 17.d6 cd+ 18.Kb6 d5 19.K:b7 d4 20.a6 d3 21.a7 d2 22.a8Q d1Q=) 8...Ke8 9.Ke6 Kd8! 10.a5 ba 11.ba Ke8! 12.c5 dc 13.K:e5 Ke7 14.Kf4 Kd6 15.Ke3 Ke5 16.Kd3 Kf4 17.Kc4 K:e4 18.K:c5 Ke5 19.d6 cd+ 20.Kb6 d5, draw again because the Pawns promote into the Queens simultaneously.

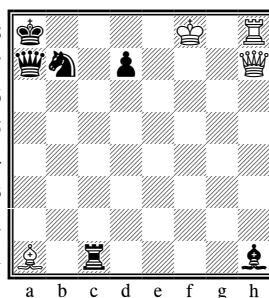
Solution **1.Bc3! f3 2.Be1 f2 3.B:f2 K:f2**. Just the same but now the black King is one rank lower, so the following trick becomes possible: **4.b4! Kf3 5.b5! Kf4**.



6.c5!! The pawn break in the most strengthen place! (However, it all was yet many times, alas!) **6...dc** (after 6...bc a simple 7.a5 wins) **7.a5!** However! **7...ba 8.b6!** the third, decisive sacrifice! **8...cb 9.d6 Kg5 10.d7**, and white Pawn is irrepressible.

Sympathetic ending with pretension for logic. Alas, it is not enough logic here. However, it's a funny toy.

P. ROSSI (Italy), 2005
Honourable mention, XVIIIth Z. Birnov memorial tourney



White to play and win

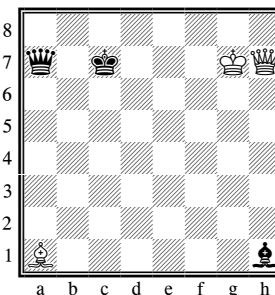
White to play and win

White has a deficit of a piece, so the only chance is in attack. The only way to attack is a check by the K/R-battery. But there are three checks for one attack! What must we do? **1.Kg7+!** It seems to be more active 1.Ke7+?, but it loses the victory: 1...Nd8 2.R:d8+ Kb7 3.R:d7+ Rc7 4.R:c7+ K:c7 5.Kf6+ Kb8 6.Be5+ Ka8 7.Qh8+ Kb7 8.Q:h1+ Ka6, theoretic draw ending on the board.

1...Nd8! For 1...Qb8 we can find tempo-play 2.Qh2!, after 2...Q:h8+ (2...Qc8 3.R:c8+ R:c8 4.Q:h1+-) 3.Q:h8 (check!) Ka7 4.Bd4+ Nc5 5.Qh2 Bc6 6.Qb2 Rc4 7.Qa2+ Ra4 8.B:c5+ Black loses a piece and a game.

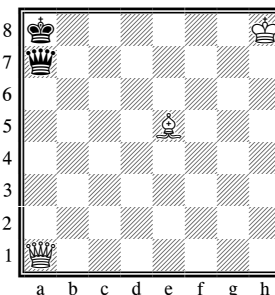
2.R:d8+ Kb7. Helpless 2...Qb8 because of 3.R:b8+ K:b8 4.Qh2+ with overwhelming advantage of White.

3.R:d7+ Rc7 4.R:c7+ K:c7.



5.Kh8+! This is a sense of the first move! Now the King can hide in the corner of the board. **5...Kb8 6.Be5+ Ka8 7.Q:h1+**.

The play came smoothly in the 'five-pieced computer space'. Further evolution of events is dictated by genius of Italian studies specialist and... American-Germanium base of C. Tompson. **7...Qb7 8.Qa1+ Qa7**.

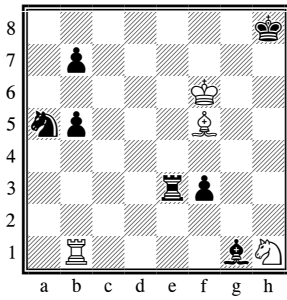


9.Qb1! But not 9.Qb2? because of 9...Qb6! 10.Qg2+ Ka7!, stalemate.

9...Qb6! 10.Qe4+! Not falling into a trap with 10.Q:b6?, stalemate. **10...Qb7**. After 10...Ka7 11.Bd4 the black Queen dies. **11.Qa4+ Qa7 12.Qc6+ Qb7 13.Qe8+ Ka7 14.Bd4+ Ka6 15.Qa4#**.

Too many innocent pieces were laid for the fulfilment of not the greatest (saying diplomatically) plan in Chess history...

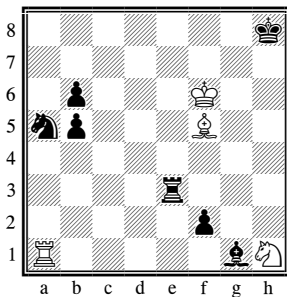
S. DIDUKH (Ukraine), 2005
Honourable mention, XVIIIth Z. Birnov memorial tourney



Black to play, White draw

After **1...f2** White had to choose either to delete the dangerous moving Pawn immediately or to threaten with a check to the enemy's commander. The first way is baseless as we can see soon: **2.N:f2? B:f2 3.Rh1+ Kg8 4.Be6+** (in a case of **4.Bh7+ Kf8 5.Bf5 Rg3 6.Rd1** it is enough to play **6...Nc6** for the Black's victory). **4...R:e6+ 5.K:e6 b4 6.Kd5 b3 7.Rb1 b6**, and White cannot save the ending. But following the second way gets the troubles: **2.Rd1? Nc6 3.N:f2 B:f2 4.Rh1+ Kg8 5.Be6+ R:e6+ 6.K:e6 b4**, with the similar ending that is hopeless for White.

Preliminary **2.Ra1!** saves (Röntgen!) **2...b6**. What else to do?! The try **2...Re1 3.R:a5 Re6+!** is refused elegantly but easy: **4.Kf7! Re7+** (or **4...Ra6 5.R:a6 ba 6.N:f2 B:f2 7.Bd3=**) **5.Kf6!**= Well, after **2...Ra3?! 3.Rd1! Nc6 4.N:f2** we must remember that for the rash **4...B:f2??** we can find **5.Rh1+ Kg8 6.Be6+ Kf8 7.Rh8#**.



White to play and win

3.Rc1! Again not **3.Rd1?** because of **3...Nc6 4.N:f2 B:f2 5.Rh1+ Kg8 6.Bh7+ Kf8 7.Bf5 Ne7**, and Black defends against the mate from h8, keeping material advantage that is enough for victory.

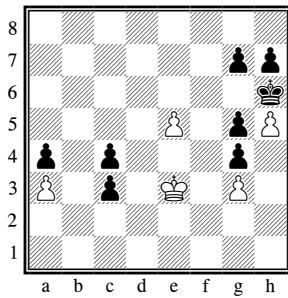
3...Nc4. Alas, the Knight has no square c6 now! Well, 'shuttle' work by the Rook gets the fruit, the black jumper cannot reach the 8th horizontal from c4 and the square b6 is prohibited now for the Bishop. So **4.N:f2** It's time! Delay is equal to death! **4.Rd1? Re8! 5.N:f2 5...Rf8+! 6.Ke7 (6.Ke6 B:f2+) 6...R:f5+ or 5.Kf7 Ne3! 6.N:f2 N:d1 7.N:d1 Re5+**.

4...B:f2 5.Rh1+ Kg8 6.Bh7+! Kf8 7.Bf5! Rg3 The only defence from mate! **8.Rd1! Re3 9.Rh1 Rg3 10.Rd1 Ke8**, in other case it is a draw by repetition of moves. But now the Knight while it seems to be well defended comes under death attack. **11.Bd7+ Kd8 12.B:b5+** with equality.

Study with a somewhat problem's logic scheme. Very skilful but

very artificially...

V. KOVALENKO (Russia), 2005
Honourable mention, XVIIIth
Z. Birnov memorial tourney

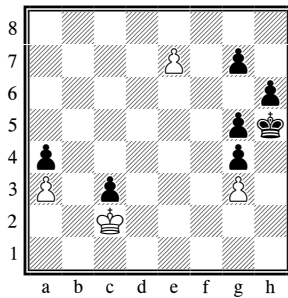


White to play and win

The pawn ending with noble contours says distinctly about author's plan to immerse the black King on the square h5. **1.e6 c2 2.Kd2 c3+**. Where would the white autocrat go? He wants to unite the useful thing with another useful one after **3.K:c2**. However, let's see what will be further.

3...K:h5 4.e7 h6! (not **4...g6? 5.e8N!**+ with variations:

1) **5.e8N Kg6 6.K:c3 h5 7.Kd4 h4 8.Ke3 Kf7 9.Nd6+ (9.Nc7 Ke7 10.Nd5+ Kd6 11.Nc3 Kc5 12.N:a4 Kc4 and so on) 9...Ke6 10.Nc8 Kd5 11.Nb6+ Kc5 12.N:a4 Kc4 13.Nb2+ Kb3 14.a4 Kb4 15.Kf2 Ka5 16.Kg2 Kb4**, positional draw;



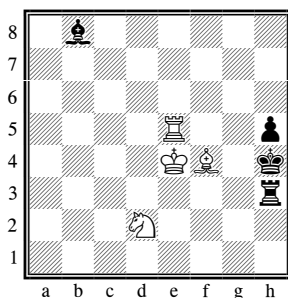
White to play and win

2) **5.e8Q+ g6 6.Kd3 c2 7.Qe2! c1N+! 8.Ke3 N:e2 9.K:e2**, stalemate.

The accurate **3.Kc1!** leads to success, only after **3...K:h5 4.e7 h6** (the same is **4...g6 5.K:c2 Kh6 6.e8Q Kh5 7.Qe4+**) we can allow **5.K:c2 g6 6.Kd3!** (undo the stalemate!) **6...c2 7.e8N!** with a quick mate.

Mutual promotions of the Pawns into the Knights, in solution and try, somewhat colour the cliché of idea...

V. TARASYUK (Ukraine), 2005
Honourable mention, XVIIIth
Z. Birnov memorial tourney

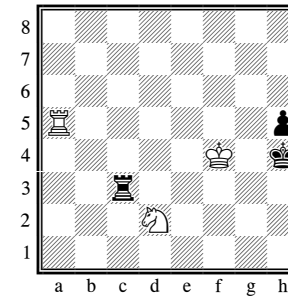


White to play and win

Where must we move the Rook under attack, at b5 (actively with

attack) or farther at a5? First we try that looks hard: **1.Rb5? B:f4 2.K:f4 Ra3!** (only here!) **3.Nf3+ Kh3 4.R:h5+ Kg2 5.Rh2+ Kf1 6.Kg3** with a threat **7.Rf2#**, but **6...Ra2! 7.R:a2**, educational stalemate.

Only **1.Ra5!** is right, and after **1...B:f4 2.K:f4** the black Rook has no square a3 (if **2...Ra3!?** with a naive hope for stalemate after **3.R:a3??** then the easy **3.Nf3+!** breaks this illusions: **3...Kh3 4.R:a3+**). The near jump is left: **2...Rc3**.

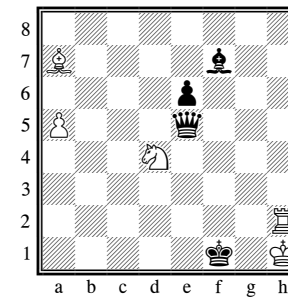


Of course White intends not to change its once elected plan: **3.Nf3+ Kh3 4.R:h5+ Kg2 5.Rh2+ Kf1 6.Kg3!**

6...Rc2!, still hoping for a stalemate **6...Rc8 7.Rf2#**, but now it is impossible, **7.Rh1+!** (**7.R:c2?**, stalemate) **7...Ke2**, and the black Rook which could not move so far on its second move, now pays the high price for its youth mistakes, it's a wooden head: **8.Nd4+ Kd3 9.N:c2+**

The same eternal trouble, all this is not new...

B. SIDOROV (Russia), 2005
Honourable mention, XVIIIth
Z. Birnov memorial tourney

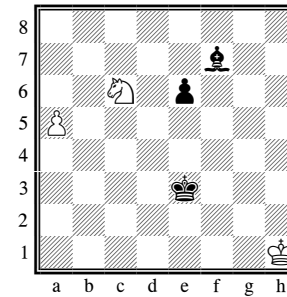


White to play and win

1.Rf2+! forced sacrifice because for the less nervous **1.Nf3?** there is **1...Qg3 2.Rf2+** (it needs to give the Rook in any case!) **2...Q:f2 3.B:f2 e5!** (now Black succeeds to give the interfering Pawn, it would be bad to play **3...K:f2?** because of **4.Ne5! Bg8 5.a6 Bh7 6.Ng4+ Kg3 7.Nf6 Bd3 8.a7 Be2 9.Ne4+**, and White gets the Queen on the next move) **4.N:e5 Bd5+ 5.Kh2 K:f2=**. But there is a bad thing not discounted by the author: **3...Bg6!** (instead **3...e5!**) **4.Ng5 K:f2 5.a6 Be8!** with a draw because the purity of the try has vanished entirely...

1...K:f2 2.Nc6+ Qe3. The ending after **2...Ke2 3.N:e5** is absolutely without any chance thinking of the Black's play for a draw: **3...Be8 4.Bd4 Bb5 5.Kg2 Kd2 6.Kf3 Kc2 7.Ke4 Kb3 8.Nf7 Kb4 9.Bb6+**.

3.B:e3+ K:e3.



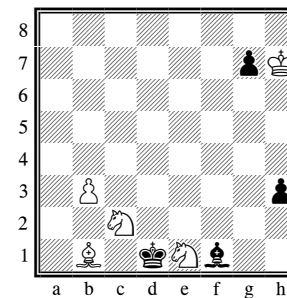
4.Ne5! stopping the Pawn on the white square! **4...Bh5!** The Bishop had to escape from exile where the author sent him because his heroic victim (of course Bishop's one not author's) cannot help: **4...Kd4 5.N:f7 Kc5 6.Ne5! Kb5 7.Nc4!+-**.

5.a6 Bd1 6.a7 Bb3. Or **6...Bc2 7.Nc4+ Kd4 8.Nd2+-** **7.Ng4+** (but not **7.a8Q? Bd5+=**) **7...Kf4 8.Nf6! Bd1**.

And a final stroke, sacrifice of a Knight: **9.Nd5+!** (again not **9.a8Q?** because of **9...Bf3+=**) **9...ed 10.a8Q+-**.

In this issue of the Chess Weekly the judge introduces the works which get the commendations and non-mentioned (for the known reasons) opuses.

M. DUDAKOV (Russia), 2005
Commendation, XVIIIth
Z. Birnov memorial tourney

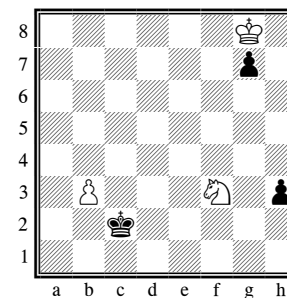


White to play and win

1.Nf3! After **1.Ne3+? K:e1 2.N:f1 K:f1 3.K:g7 h2 4.Be4** the black King are just in time to a passing Pawn of his opponent: **4...Ke2 5.Kf6 (5.b4 Ke3 6.Bh1 Kd4=) 5...Kd2 6.b4 Kc3 7.b5 Kd4 8.Kf5 Kc5 9.Bc6 h1Q 10.B:h1 K:b5**, draw.

1...Bd3+ 2.Kg8! Why not **2.K:g7?**, to be clear a little later. **2...B:c2**. No changes after **2...g3 3.Nh2 Ke2 4.Nd4+ Ke3 5.B:d3 K:d3 6.Nc2! Ke4 7.b4 Kf4 8.b5 g4 9.b6 g3 10.b7 gh 11.b8Q (check!)**, and White win.

3.B:c2+ K:c2.

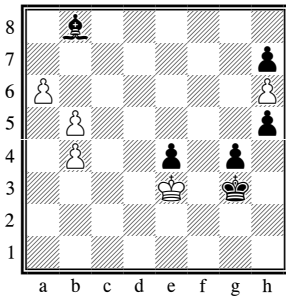


White to play and win

4.b4 Kd3! Or 4...g5 5.Nh2 Kd2 6.b5+-. **5.b5 Ke4 6.b6!** There is no time for 6.Ng5+? because of 6...Kd5 7.N:h3 Kc5=.

6...K:f3 7.b7 h2 8.b8Q+. It's clear now that if the white King captures the Pawn g7 at the second move, then after 8...Kg2 peace will accede to the board. However, the Pawn g7 stays alive breaking a Black's hope of stalemate thus a hope of rescue.

F. BERTOLI (Italy), 2005
Commendation, XVIIIth
Z. Birnov memorial tourney



White to play and win

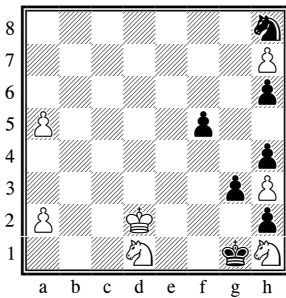
1.b6 h4 2.a7 B:a7 3.ba h3. Of course, the following Pawn's promotion into the Rook looks rather banal: **4.a8R!**, but not 4.a8Q? because of 4...h2 5.Q:e4 (after 5.Qb8+ it needs not 5...Kg2? 6.Qf4+- but 5...Kh3!!=) 5...h1Q 6.Q:h1, a tiresome stalemate.

4...h2 5.Ra1 Kh3. More interesting is the variation the author did not see: 5...Kh4! 6.K:e4 g3 7.Kf3 Kh3 8.Rc1(!) g2 9.Rc5 g1N+ 10.Kf2 Nf3 11.Rc1 Ne5 12.Rc3+ Kg4 13.Kg2+-.

6.K:e4 g3 7.Kf3 g2 8.Ra5! Now underpromotion in reply cannot save Black: **8...g1N+ 9.Kf2 h1Q** (or 9...Kh4 10.Kg2+-) **10.Rh5+ Kg4 11.R:h1+-.**

In my opinion, the study is underdeveloped...

M. CAMPIOLI (Italy), 2005
Commendation, XVIIIth
Z. Birnov memorial tourney



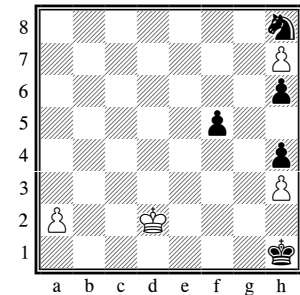
White to play and win

1.a6 g2. After 1...K:h1 2.a7 Kg1 3.a8Q h1Q 4.Q:h8 Qd5+ 5.Kc1 g2 6.Qc3 f4 7.h8Q White uses its material advantage: 7...Kh1 8.Qhe5 Q:e5 9.Q:e5 g1Q 10.Q:f4 Qc5+ 11.Kb1 Qb5+ 12.Ka1 with technical winning.

2.Ndf2!, just this Knight! The try to set another Knight free ended with perpetual check: 2.Nhf2? h1Q 3.a7 Qh2! 4.a8Q Qf4+ 5.Ke2 Qe5+ 6.Ne3 Qb2+ 7.Kd3 Qb5+ 8.Kd2 Qb4+=.

2...ghQ 3.N:h1 K:h1 4.a7 Kg1 5.a8Q h1Q 6.Q:h1+. If 6.Q:h8? then Qd5+ 7.Kc3 Qc6+ 8.Kb4 Qd6+, and perpetual check again. **6...K:h1.** The

first phase is ended.



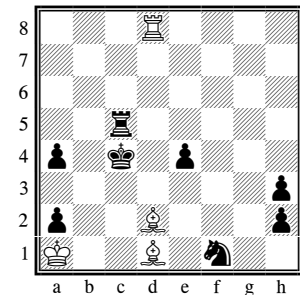
7.Ke3! It is early 7.a4? because of 7...f4! 8.a5 f3 9.Ke3 Kg2 10.a6 f2 11.a7 f1Q 12.a8Q+ K:h3 13.Q:h8 Qc1+ with a draw.

7...Kg2 8.Kf4! But not 8.a4? Ng6 9.a5 f4+, and Black is OK. **8...K:h3 9.a4 Kg2 10.a5 h3 11.a6 h2 12.a7 h1Q 13.a8Q+ Kh2 14.Q:h1+ K:h1 15.K:f5 Kg2.** The second phase is ended.

16.Kg4! Impulsive 16.Kf6? leave White devoid of winner's laurels: 16...h5 17.Kg5 (or 17.Kg7 h4 18.K:h8 h3 19.Kg7 h2=) 17...Kf3 18.K:h5 Ke4 19.Kh6 Ke5 20.Kg7 Ke6 21.K:h8 Kf7, stalemate.

16...Kf2. Helpless 16...h5+ because of 17.K:h5 Kf3 18.Kh6 Ke4 19.Kg7 Kf5 20.K:h8 Kf6 21.Kg8+-.

V. KICHIGIN (Russia), 2005
Commendation, XVIIIth
Z. Birnov memorial tourney



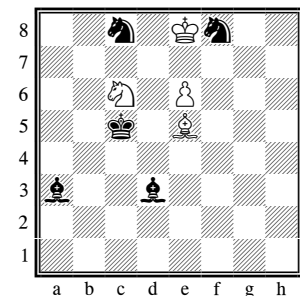
White to play and draw

1.Be2+ Kb3 2.Rb8+ Ka3 3.Bb4+ Kb3 4.Bd2+! It needs to guard c1 by the Bishop. Rush 4.Be1+? loses: 4...Kc2 5.Rb2+ Kc1 6.K:a2 Rc2+.

4...Ka3. Alas, there is no 4...Kc2?? because of 5.Rb2#. **5.Bb4+.** Peace.

In conclusion I offer to look at some interesting and edifying examples of defective studies that was sent for the tourney.

V. TARASYUK (Ukraine)



White to play and draw

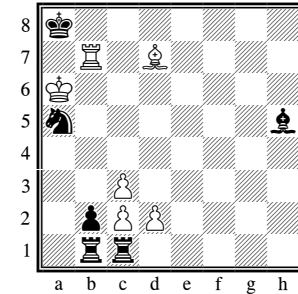
The author conceived the follow-

ing: **1.e7 Ng6 2.Kd7 Nc:e7 3.Bd6+ Kb6** (3...Kb5 4.N:e7 Nf8+ 5.Kc7!)= **4.N:e7 Nf8+ 5.Ke8 B:d6 6.Nc8+ Kc7 7.N:d6 Ng6 8.Nc4! (8.Nf7?? Bb5#) 8...B:c4,** ideal stalemate.

Plain 2...Bb5! refuses the opus with such a play: 3.e8Q B:c6+ 4.Kd8 B:e8+ or 3.K:c8 B:c6 4.Bf6 Kd5 5.Kd8 Ke6 6.e8Q+ B:e8+-.

By the way, 2...Be4!+- wins too.

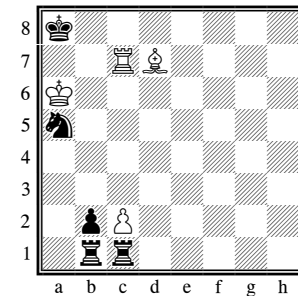
V. KOVALENKO (Russia)



White to play and draw

1.Rc7 Be2+ 2.d3! For 2.c4? there is 2...B:c4+ 3.Kb6 Ba6! 4.K:a6 R:c2 5.R:c2 Nc4! 6.R:c4 (or 6.Bc6+ Kb8 7.R:c4 Ra1+ 8.Ba4 b1Q+-) 6...Ra1+ 7.Ba4 R:a4+! 8.R:a4 b1Q 9.d4 Qb3 10.Ka5 Ka7, theoretical position where Black wins.

2...B:d3+ 3.c4! (3.cd? R:c3 4.R:c3 Rc1+-) **3...B:c4+ 4.Kb6 Ba6 5.K:a6.**

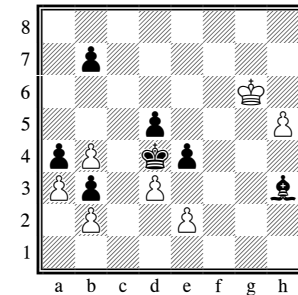


5...R:c2 6.R:c2 Nc4 7.Bc6+ Kb8 8.R:c4 Ra1+ 9.Ba4 b1Q 10.Rb4+! Q:b4, mirror stalemate with the pinned Bishop.

Effective 5...Nc6!! breaks the author's intention with variations:

- 1) 6.Kb6 R:c2 7.Rc8+ (7.B:c6+ R:c6+ 8.R:c6 Rc1+-) 7...Nb8 8.R:c2 N:d7+ 9.Kb5 Ne5 10.Rh2 Nc4+-;
- 2) 6.B:c6+ Kb8 7.Rb7+ Kc8 8.Bd7+ Kd8 9.Ba4 Ra1 10.R:b2 R:a4+, or 7.Kb6 7...Ra1 8.Rb7+ Kc8 9.Rc7+ Kd8 10.Rd7+ Ke8!+-.

A. BOTOKANOV (Kyrgyzstan)

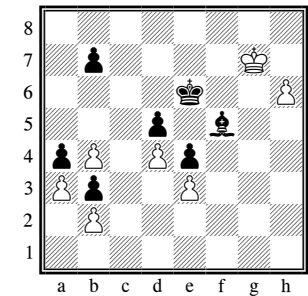


White to play and draw

1.h6. 1.de? is bad because of 1...K:e4 2.Kf6 Bf5 3.e3 Bg4 4.h6 Bf5

5.b5 b6!, zugzwang giving a victory to Black. **1...Ke5 2.d4+! Ke6 3.Kg7!** Not at all 3.e3? because of 3...Bg4! 4.b5 (4.Kg5 Bf5 5.b5 b6+-) 4...b6! Zugzwang again! 5.Kg7 (or 5.h7 Bf5+ 6.Kg7 B:h7 7.K:h7 Kf5+-) 5...Bf5 6.Kf8 Bg6 7.Kg8 Kf5 8.Kf8 Kf6 9.Kg8 Kg5 10.Kg7 Bf5 11.Kf7 K:h6 12.Kf6 Bd7 13.Ke5 Kg5 14.K:d5 Kf5, and White can lay down its weapons.

3...Bf5 4.e3! Not 4.b5? because of 4...e3! 5.h7 B:h7 6.K:h7 Kf5+-.



4...b5(?) (4...b6 5.b5=) 5.h7! B:h7. It seems Black has outwitted the opponent: the evident 6.K:h7 is followed by 6...Kf5+-, but suddenly... **6.Kh6! Kf5 7.Kh5! Bg8 8.Kh4!** Now the white monarch takes shelter at c3, any try by the black King to delete the Pawn e3 or came near the square b2 leads to a stalemate. Here the Bishop is nothing but a big Pawn. Draw!

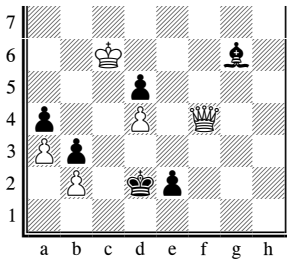
However, Black has the following cunning plan: 4...Ke7!! 5.b5! (much worse is 5.h7 because of 5...B:h7 6.K:h7 Kd6 7.Kg6 Kc6 8.Kf5 Kb5 9.Ke6 Kc4 10.Kd6 b5 11.Kc6 Kd3 12.K:d5 Kc2 13.Ke5 K:b2 14.d5 K:a3 15.d6 b2 16.d7 b1Q 17.d8Q K:b4 18.Qd6+ Kb3 19.Qd5+ Ka3 20.Qc5+ b4+-) 5...Ke6! 6.b6! Kf7 7.Kg8! Kf6 8.Kf8 Bg6! 9.Kg8 Kg5 10.Kf8 K:h6 11.Ke7 Kg5 12.Kd7 Kg4!!

It seems that 12...Be8+?! is weak because of 13.K:e8 (13.Kc7 Bc6+-) 13...Kg4 14.Kd7 Kf3 15.Kc7 K:e3 16.K:b7 K:d4 17.Ka8!! (but not 17.Kc6? e3 18.b7 e2 19.b8Q e1Q 20.Kb5 Qe4 21.K:a4 Kd3+ 22.K:b3 Qc4#) 17...e3 18.b7 e2 19.b8Q e1Q 20.Qb5! Qd1! 21.Q:a4+ Kd3 22.Qc6! with a vague play and good chance for White to draw.

13.Kc7 Kf3!! Fantastic position - now White is the first who gets the Queen! But the move 13...Be8? was absolutely useless because of 14.K:b7 Bb5 15.Ka7 Bc6 16.Kb8 Kf3 17.Kc7 Ba8 18.Kb8 Bc6 19.Kc7, positional draw.

14.K:b7 K:e3 15.Kc6 Kd2 16.b7 e3 17.b8Q e2 18.Qf4+. There is nothing better, after 18.Qb4+ the move 18...Kd1! wins +-.

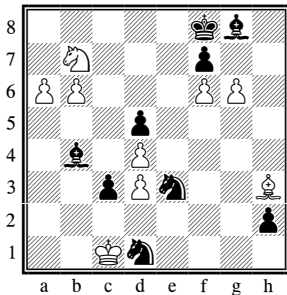




18...Kc2! It is difficult to believe but Black has a big advantage now!
 19.Qe3 Bd3! 20.K:d5 K:b2 21.Kc5!
 (21.Qd2+ Ka1-+) 21...Ka2 22.d5 b2
 23.Qd2 Ka1!! Not enough 23...Bc2?!
 24.Q:e2 b1Q 25.d6 Qg1+ 26.Kc6
 Qg6 27.Kc7 K:a3 28.Qe3+, perpetual check.

24.Qc3 Bf5!, now both 25.Kc6 e1Q 26.Q:e1+ b1Q and 25.d6 e1Q 26.Q:e1+ b1Q make the situation bad for White because the opponent has advantage of a Bishop in the Queen ending with the Pawns. I don't know Black wins here or not, but this is not important because existence of such a long 'crazy' variation in the study denies this opus a right to exist.

S. ABRAMENKO (Russia)



White to play and win

1.g7+ Ke8 2.Nd6+ B:d6(?)

Black saves itself by means of 2...Kd8! with variations:

1) 3.b7 Ba3+ 4.Kb1 c2+ 5.Ka2 c1N+ 6.Ka1! (but not 6.K:a3? Kc7-+) 6...Nb3+ 7.Ka2 (not falling into a trap 7.Kb1?? Nc3#) 7...Nc1+, draw by perpetual check;

2) 3.a7 Ba3+ 4.Kb1 c2+ 5.Ka2 c1N+ 6.K:a3 Nc2+ 7.Ka4 Nc3+! 8.Ka5 Nb3+ 9.Ka6 Nb4+! 10.Kb7 Na5+ 11.Ka8 h1Q 12.b7 N:b7 13.K:b7 Qa1 14.a8Q+ Q:a8+ 15.K:a8 N:d3 16.Bf5 Nf4 17.Bh7 Ne4! (Attention: trap! 17...B:h7? 18.N:f7+ Ke8 19.Nd6+, and White gets the Queen) 18.B:g8 N:f6! 19.B:f7 Ke7 20.Ne8 K:f7 21.N:f6 K:g7, full equality at the board.

3.a7! Ba3+ 4.Kb1 c2+ 5.Ka2 c1N+ 6.K:a3 Nc2+ 7.Ka4 Nc3+. Check from the second rank 7...Nb2+ does not change the situation: 8.Ka5 Nb3+ 9.Ka6 Nb4+ 10.Kb7 Na5+ 11.Kc8 h1Q 12.Bd7#.

8.Ka5 Nb3+ 9.Ka6 Nb4+ 10.Kb7 Na5+, here not 11.Kc7? Nb5+ 12.Kc8 Nd6+= but the neat 11.Kc8!+-.