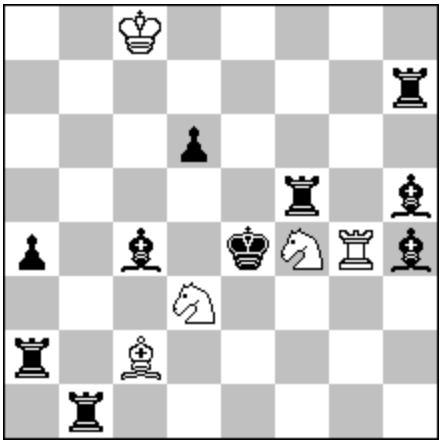
Problem no 1 – Section G (Fairies)

Vlaicu Crişan (Romania)

1st Prize 5th FIDE World Cup 2017



(5 + 10) 2 solutions hs#3.5

Take & Make

1...K:d3→c1 2.R:h4→d8 Bd1 3.B:f5→g5 Rc2 4.Sd3+ B:d3→f4#

1...K:f4→h3 2.B:b1→b8 Rh2 3.R:c4→b3 Bg4 4.Sf4+ R:f4→d3#

Judge's (Petko Petkov) comments: An extremely complex and interesting problem, composed in a hyper-modern style! With only four figures, the two white batteries show a paradoxical metamorphosis – these initial batteries are destroyed and new white batteries are created in the solutions! The black ones respond with the construction of two other batteries (vertically and diagonally), which give beautiful mates.

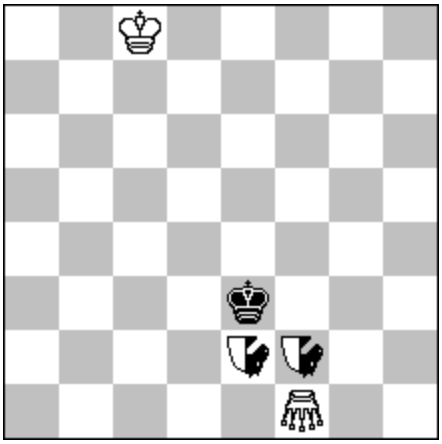
The play is extremely dynamic, as the black king in the two phases occupies the distant fields c1 and h3 where we see also in every phase two self-blocks realized by black figures! Full diagonal-orthogonal correspondence in a problem in which five (!) duets of thematic figures are played (Sd3/Sf4, Rg4/Bc2, Rb1/Bh4, Ra2/Rh5, Rf5/Bc4).

Of course, I accept that it is normal for a modern fairy – opus to use a "hyper complex" of orthodox figures – 4 black Rooks and 3 black Bishops! In the near future, most fairy problems will have similar material.

Problem no 2 – Section G (Fairies)

Vlaicu Crişan (Romania)

1000. 1st – 2nd Prize, Julia's Fairies 2016/I Section B



(2 + 1 + 2) 2 solutions h#4.5

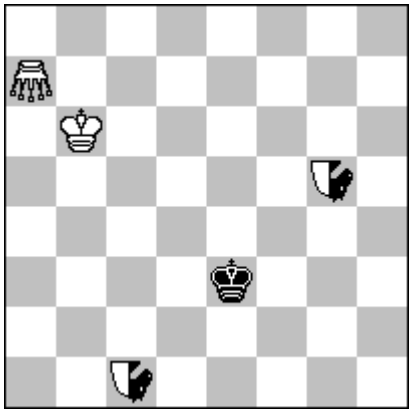
PWC

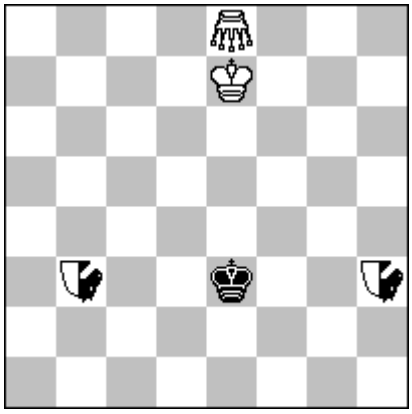
Contra-Grasshopper f1

Neutral Rose-Locuste e2, f2

1... CGd3 2.nLS:d3-c5(CGf2) CGd4 3.nLS:d4-e6(CGe2) Kb7 4.nLS:e2-c1(CGe6) Kb6 5.nLS:e6-g5(CGc5) CGa7#

1... CGf4 2.nLS:f4-e6(CGe2) CGe4 3.nLS:e4-c5(CGf2) Kd8 4.nLS:f2-h3(CGc5) Ke7 5.nLS:c5-b3(CGe6) CGe8#



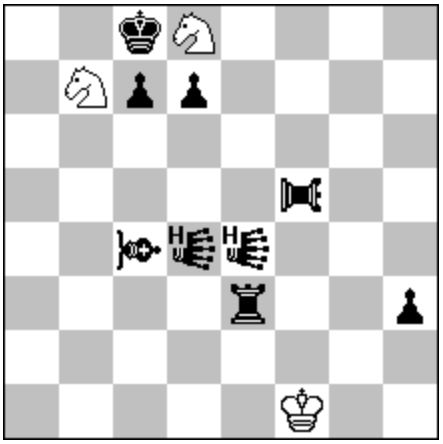


Judge's (Petko Petkov) comments: This beautiful problem was described by the author as "Ideal mirror mates after intensive PWC specific play with diagonal-orthogonal correspondence." I'd like to explain that a very important component of the thematic content here is the active play of the white king. Although to a large extent PWC is a restrictive condition, the play in this problem is quite long, making the solutions difficult. The originality of this problem was already noted on the website. The comparison of this work by Vlaicu Crișan with the helpmate in two by Didier Innocenti (1st Prize J. Bertin MT 1989 – 1991) is possible, but also abstract at the same time. Such an analogy in no degree reduces the value of Vlaicu's idea, which is expressed in great aristocratic Tanagra form!

Problem no 3 – Section G (Fairies)

Vlaicu Crişan (Romania)

FB1601. 3rd Prize StrateGems 78/2018



(3 + 9) b) bBe3 hs#3.5

Rook-Lion f5

Bishop-Lion c4

Lion d4, e4

Half Neutral d4, e4

a) 1...hnLIg6=n 2.Sc5 hnLIb6=n 3.hnLIa6=w RLb5 4.Scb7+ BL:a6#

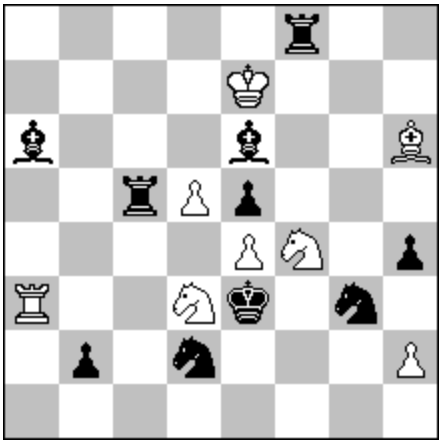
b) 1...hnLIb4=n 2.Se6 hnLIe7=n 3.hnLIf8=w BLf7 4.Sed8+ RL:f8#

Judge's (Pierre Tritten) comments: Another help-selfmate using half-neutral pieces and showing an intense interplay, in a well-managed twinning. Three pairs of pieces fully interchange their play, creating reciprocal hurdles and anti-batteries, playing switchbacks and more. A perfectly designed artwork.

Problem no 4 – Section G (Fairies)

Vlaicu Crişan (Romania)

Special Prize, FIDE Olympic Tourney Batumi, 2018



(8 + 10) b) bPe5 → g4 hs#3.5

Take & Make

a) 1...K:d3→c1 2.R:a6→e2 R:d5→d6 3.K:d6→d3 R:f4→h3 4.R:d2→f1+ S:f1→f4#

b) 1...K:f4→h3 2.B:f8→f2 B:d5→d6+ 3.K:d6→f4 B:d3→c1 4.B:g3→f1+ S:f1→d3#

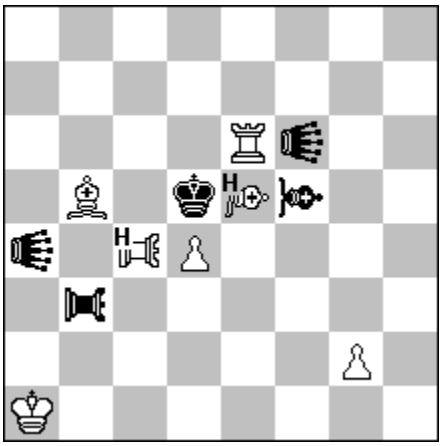
Judge's (Petko Petkov) comments: In the starting position there are white batteries S/R and S/B. On the first move the black King destroys these batteries by capturing the forward pieces (Knights). This operation leads to the formation of new white batteries and beautiful finishes in which we see white and black "double check against double check – mate". An excellent concept, realized by play of five pairs of thematic pieces in full diagonal-orthogonal correspondence, with activity of the two Kings and optimal use of the fairy condition! Remarkable!

Similar batteries and initial king's moves (captures) exist in the well known problem by the Romanian maestro Vlaicu Crişan (5th World Cup, 2017, 1st Prize)

I do not want to say that the old problem is a predecessor of the new one, but still, to some degree, I am disturbed by the quoted analogy. On this basis, I award a special prize to the new problem, which is much better than the previous.

Problem no 5 – Section G (Fairies)

Vlaicu Crişan (Romania)
17206. Die Schwalbe 287/2017
Dedicated to bernd ellinghoven



(7 + 5) b) wKa1 → h4 hs#3.5

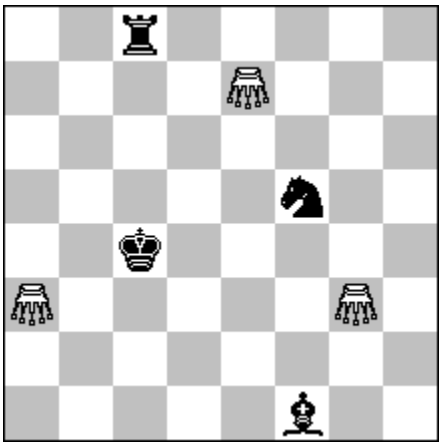
Leo a4, f6
Pao c4, b3
Vao e5, f5
Half Neutral c4, e5

a) 1...LEf7!! 2.hnVAb8=n LEa:d4 3.hnPAc7=n PAd3 4.Re5+ hnVA:e5=b# [5.hnPAc3=w??]
b) 1...LEa5!! 2.hnPAc8=n LEf:d4 3.hnVAc7=n VAd3 4.Bc4+ hnPA:c4=b# [5.hnVAf4=w??]

Giegoldesque keys, unpinning a white piece and creating an indirect triple masked royal anti-battery. Four pairs of pieces mutually change their roles (Re6/Bb5, PAc4/VAe5, LEa4/LEf6, PAb3/VAf5). Meredith with lots of anti-battery play in diagonal-orthogonal correspondence.

Problem no 6 – Section G (Fairies)

Vlaicu Crişan (Romania)
FB1728. StrateGems 83/2017
Dedicated to Dinu-Ioan Nicula



(3 + 4) 2.1.1.1. h#2

b) bKc4↔bSf5

Lortap

Locuste a3, e7, g3

a) 1.Bd3 L:d3-e3 2.S:e3 L:e3-d3# [3.K:d3??] & 1.Rc5 L:c5-d6 2.S:d6 L:d6-c5# [3.K:c5??]
b) 1.Sb2 L:b2-c1 2.Rc7 L:c7-c8# [2.Rc4? L:c4-c5#??] & 1.Sa5 L:a5-a6 2.Be2 L:e2-f1# [2.Bc4 L:c4-d3#??]

HOTF in miniature, with diagonal-orthogonal correspondence.
All four solutions specifically exploit the fairy elements used.