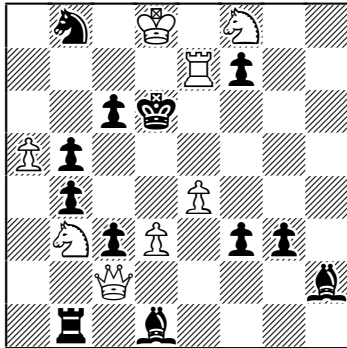


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N°1

The Problemist 2017



#3

(8+12)

1.Sd4! flight-giving key (2.Sf5+ Kc5 3.Re5#)

There are six additional moves to f5 by the same wS making it a total of 7 Lincoln Theme variations. Also, a multiple dual avoidance.

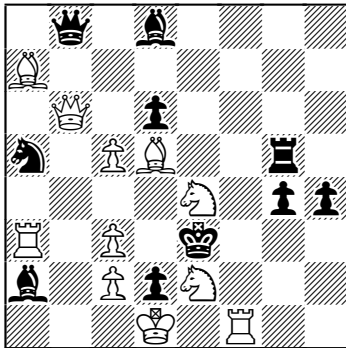
- 1...g2 2.Sf5+ (2.Qf2? c5! 3.Sf5+ Kc6!) Kc5 3.Qf2#
- 1...c5 2.Sf5+ (2.Sxb5+? Kc6!) Kc6 3.Rc7#
- 1...b3 2.Sf5+ (2.Qxc3? c5!) Kc5 3.Qxc3#
- 1...Sd7 2.Sf5+ (2.Sxe7? c5!) Kc5 3.Sxd7#
- 1...f6 2.Sf5+ (2.Re6+? Kc5! 3.Sb3+ Rxb3!) Kc5 3.Se6#
- 1...Kc5 2.Sf5 (3.Re5#) f6/Sd7/g2/b3 3.Se6/Sxd7/Qf2/Qxc3#

Lincoln Theme: White plays on the same square after different black defenses ending with different mates.
 A task!

N°2

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StrateGems 2017



#3√

(11+10)

Thematic tries:

1.c6+? Qxb6 2.Bxb6+ Bxb6!
1.c4+? Bb3 2.Rxb3+ Sxb3 3.Qxb3+ Qxb3!
1.Sf6? Bxf6! 2.c6+ Qxb6 3.Bxb6+ Bd4!

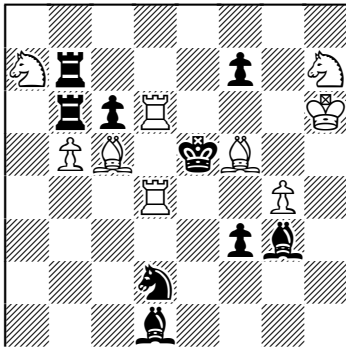
1.Sf2! (2.Sxg4+ Rxc4 3.Rf3#)
1...Qc8 2.c6+! (2.cxd6+?) Bxb6 3.Bxb6#
1...Bxd5 2.c4+ Sb3 3.Rxb3# (3.Qxb3+?)
1...Rxd5 2.Sxg4+ Ke4 3.Rf4# with a self-block on d5.

The try mates are protected by two black pieces. In order to succeed, White must deflect one of defenders. Dual avoidance. The threat 2.Sxg4+ reappears in the third variation with changed mate and a distant self-block by the Rook.

N°3

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StrateGems 2018



#3

(9+9)

Tries:

1..Sxc6+?[A] Rxc6 2.R4d5+ (2.R6d5+?) 3.Kf4!

1.Sg5! (2.Sxf7+ Rxf7 3.Re6#; 2.Sxf3+?[B] Sxf3 3.Re4#, but 2...Bxf3!) (guard removal)

1...Bf4 2..Sxc6+![A] Rxc6 3.R4d5# (self-block)

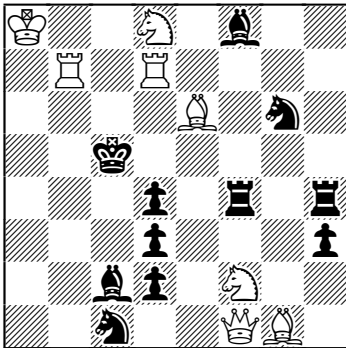
1...Bb3 2.Sxf3+![B] (2.Re4+? Sxe4 3.Sxf3+ Kf4!) Sxf3 3.Re4# (unguard + guard removal)

1...cxb5 2.R4d5+ (2.R6d5+? Kf6 3.Sh7#, but Rd6 is pinned!) Kf4 3.Sh3#

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N°4

4th Honorable Mention
StrateGems 2017



#3 (8+11)

1.Bh2! Ambush key (2..Se4+ Rxe4 3.Rc7#; 2.Qh1? Se7! 3.Bd6??)

In three variations, White's threat move plays again with different mates:

- 1...Se5 unguard 2..Se4+ Rxe4 3.Qxf8#
- 1...Se7 line-closing 2..Se4+ Rxe4 3.Bd6#
- 1...Bd6 unguard 2..Se4+ Rxe4 3.Bxd6#

Lincoln Theme quadrupled.

Other variations:

- 1...Rf7 2.Qh1! (3.Qc6/Qd5#) Rxd7/Se5/Rf3/Se7/Re4 3.Qc6/Qd5/Rc7/Bd6/Sxe4#
- 1...Rh7 2.Bxf4! & 3.Se4#
- 1...Ba4 2.Qxd3! Bxd7/Sxd3 3.Qa3/Sxd3#

Three side variations with three quiet second White's moves.