

Variantim 2013 - studies - preliminary award (published in Variantim nr. 63 - August 2014)

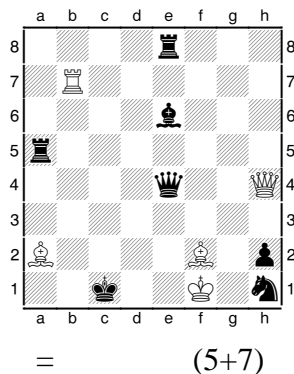
Many thanks to editors of Israeli chess magazin *Variantim* for oportunity of judging annual study tourney here.

I received from Mr. Ofer Comay *20 entries from year 2013* without names of authors. Level of this competition was satisfactory. At first I checked soundness. In nr. **2450** was no solution after 2.- Rc8! - this fact I sent to Mr. Comay and later he sent me author's correction.

Herein I want again to say thanks to *Siegfried Hornecker* for anticipation checking of 8 selected entries - candidates to award.

And here is my order of selected studies (already with additionally added names of authors):

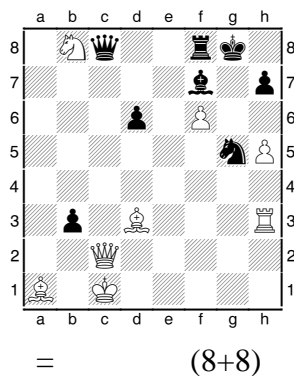
Prize - nr. 2443 - Peter Krug (Austria)



1.Rb1+! (1.Qh6+? Kd1 2.Rd7+ Bxd7 3.Bb3+ Qc2) **1...Qxb1**
2.Be3+ Kb2+ 3.Bxb1 Ng3+ (3...Bh3+ 4.Ke2 Ng3+ 5.Kf2 Rxe3!
 (5...h1=N+ 6.Kg1 Rxe3 draw e.g. 7.Qb4+ Rb3 8.Qd2+ Kxb1
 9.Qd1+ Kb2 10.Qd2+ Ka1 11.Qd4+! Rb2 12.Qa4+ Rxa4 stalemate)
 6.Qb4+! (6.Kxe3? Re5+ 7.Kf4 h1=Q 8.Kxe5 Qe1+ 9.Kf6 Qc3+
 10.Kg6 Bf1 11.Bf5 Qg7+ 12.Kxg7 Nxf5+) 6...Rb3 7.Qd2+!
 (7.Qxa5? h1=N+! 8.Kg1 Kxb1 9.Qd5 Rc3 10.Qb5+ Kc1 11.Qa5
 Rc8!) 7...Kxb1 8.Qe1+ Kc2 9.Qd2+! (9.Qd1+ Kc3) 9...Kxd2
 stalemate) **4.Kf2 h1=N+ 5.Ke1!** (5.Kg1? Ne2+ 6.Kh2 (6.Kxh1 Rh5)
 6...Bb3 7.Bd4+ Nxd4 8.Qxd4+ Kxb1 9.Qd3+ Bc2 10.Qf1+ Kb2)
5...Ra1 (5...Bb3 6.Qd4+ Kxb1 7.Qd3+ (7.Qc3 or) 7...Bc2 8.Qxc2+
 Kxc2) **6.Qb4+ Bb3 7.Qc3+ Kxc3** stalemate

Solution passes very naturally. Good insert is minor black promotion. And surprise at the end - ideal double pin stalemate - very good work!

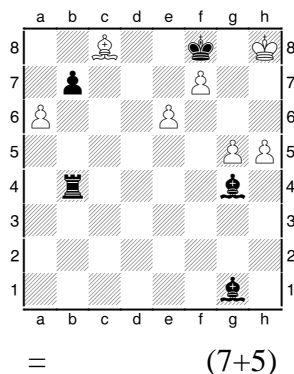
1st hon. mention - nr. 2407 - Peter Krug (Austria)



1.Bxh7+ Nxh7 2.Nc6 bxc2 3.Ne7+ Kh8 4.Ng6+ Bxg6 5.hxg6
Rf7 6.Rxh7+ Rxh7 7.f7+ Rg7 8.Bf6 (8.Bd4 d5 { zugzwang}
 9.Bc3 Qf5 10.Kb2 Qf2 11.Kc1 Qg1+ 12.Kxc2 Qxg6+)
8...d5 9.Bd4 Qf5 10.Kb2 Qc8 11.Kc1 {zugzwang, draw}

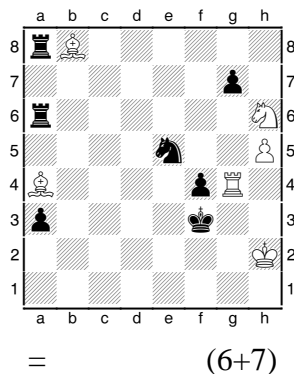
Unconventional play. After bishop sacrifice it goes unexpected 2.Nc6! and 4.Ng6+! Also black tries strong 5.- Rf7! As result is original positional draw with bishop versus queen in which is important also black pawn c2 as king shield. It could not be prize cause white queen did not move.

2nd hon. mention - nr. 2441 - Andzej Jasik (Poland)



1.g6 (1.Kh7? Bxh5) **1...Bd4+ 2.Kh7 Be2!** (2...bxa6 3.e7+ Kxe7
 4.Bxg4 Rb8 5.g7 Kxf7 6.h6 a5 7.Bh5=; 2...Bd1 3.a7 Ra4 4.h6 Bc2
 5.e7+ Kxe7 6.Bf5! Bb3 7.Bc2! Bxc2 8.a8=Q Rxa8 stalemate, or:
 4.Bxb7 Rxa7 5.h6 Bc2 6.e7+ Kxe7 7.f8=Q+ Kxf8 stalemate) **3.a7!**
 (3.Bxb7? Bd3; 3.h6? Bd3 4.e7+ Kxe7 5.Kg8 Bc4) **3...Ra4 4.Bxb7!**
 (4.h6? Bd3 5.e7+ Kxe7 6.Bf5 Bc4! 7.Bd3 Bxf7; or 5.Bd7 Rxa7
 6.Bb5 Bxg6 7.Kxg6 Ra3) **4...Rxa7 5.h6! Bd3 6.e7+! Kxe7 7.f8=Q+! Kxf8** stalemate!
 Pleasant play leads to pin stalemate.

3rd hon. mention - nr. 2450 (correction) - **Gady Costeff** (Israel/USA)
dedicated M. Velimirovic in mem.



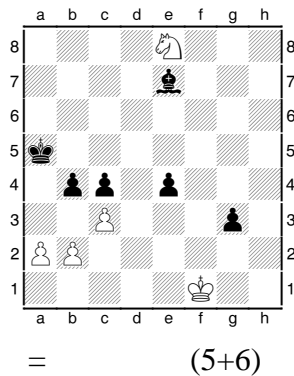
1.Bd1+ [1.Bxe5 Rxa4 2.Rxg7 Rh8 3.Rg6 Rh7] **1...Ke4 2.Bc2+ Kd5 3.Bb3+ Nc4 4.Bxf4**
with:

4...gxh6 5.Bxc4+ (5.Be3 Rc8 6.Rd4+ Ke5 7.Rxc4 Rxc4 8.Bxc4 Ke4 9.Bd2 a2 10.Bc3 Rc6 11.Bxa2 Rxc3 wins DB) **5...Kxc4 6.Bxh6+ Kd5 7.Rg5+ Ke6 8.Rg6+ Kf7 9.Rg7+ Kf8 10.Rg6!!+** with perpetual check

4...a2 5.Bxc4+ (5.Nf5 a1Q 6.Bxc4+ Kc6 7.Rg6+ Kc5 8.Bxa6 Rxa6) **5...Kxc4 6.Bb8+!!**
(thematic try 6.Bc1+ Kb3 7.Rg3+ Kc2 8.Rg2+ Kb1!! wins) **6...Kd5 7.Rg5+ Kc6 8.Rg6+ Kb7 9.Rxg7+ Kxb8 10.Rg8+** with perpetual check

Original synthesis of two perpetual checks. Also good moment is bishop sacrifice 6.Bb8+ with switchback.

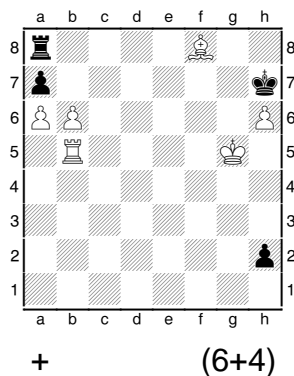
4th hon. mention - nr. 2442 - **Mario Guido Garcia** (Argentina) & **Peter Krug** (Austria)



1.Kg2 (1.Ng7? Bf6 2.Nf5 Be5 3.Kg2 Ka4 wins) **1...b3** (1...bxc3 2.bxc3 Bb4 3.a3! Bxc3 4.Nd6 Ka4 5.Nxc4 Kb3 6.Ne3! =) **2.axb3 cxb3 3.Kxg3 Ba3 4.Kf4** (4.Nf6? Bxb2 5.Nxe4 Bc1! wins) **4...Kb5** (4...Bxb2 5.Kxe4 Bxc3 6.Nd6 b2 (6...Kb4 7.Kd3 =) 7.Nc4+ =) **5.Ke3!** (Thematic try : 5.Kxe4? Kc4 6.Ke3 Bxb2 7.Kd2 Bxc3+ 8.Kc1 Be5! Domination; or 5.c4+? Kb4 6.c5 Kxc5 7.Kxe4 Kc4 wins) **5...Kc4 6.Kxe4** zz (Try : 6.Kd2? e3+! (not 6...Bxb2? 7.Nd6+ Kd5 8.Nb5! e3+ 9.Kd3! Bc1 10.Nd4! b2 11.Kc2 Ke4 12.Ne2 Kf3 13.Nd4+ =) 7.Kxe3 Bxb2 8.Nd6+ Kxc3 9.Ne4+ Kc2 10.Nd2 Bc1! wins) **6...Bxb2 7.Nd6+ Kxc3 8.Nc8 Bc1 9.Nb6 Bd2 10.Nd5+!** (10.Na4+? Kb4! 11.Nb2 Bc1 12.Nd3+ Kc4 13.Ne5+ Kc3 14.Nd3 Ba3! 15.Ke3 Bd6 16.Ke2 Bb4 17.Nf2 Bc5 18.Ne4+ Kc2 wins) **10...Kc2 11.Nb6 b2 12.Nc4 b1=Q 13.Na3+ =**

Fight against material and also positional disadvantage. Point is zugzwang after 5.Ke3!

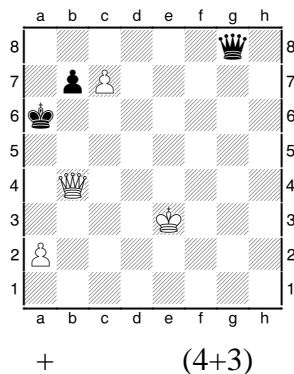
Special hon. mention - nr. 2404 - Martin Minski & Gunter Sonntag (both Germany)



1.b7! [1.Rb1? axb6 2.Bg7 (2.Rh1 Rxf8 =) 2...Rxa6 =] **1...h1=Q**
 [1...Rxf8 2.Rb1] 2.**bxa8=Q Qxa8** [2...Qxh6+ 3.Kg4! (3.Bxh6?
 stalemate; 3.Kf5? Qxf8+! 4.Qxf8 stalemate)] **3.Rb7+ Kg8**
4.h7+ [4.Be7? Qe8! =] **4...Kh8 5.Bg7+** [5.Be7? Qd8!/Qf8!
 6.Bf6+ Qxf6+ 7.Kxf6 stalemate; 5.Bd6? Qd8+! =] **5...Kxh7**
6.Be5+ Kg8 7.Bb8! [7.Rb8+? Kh7! 8.Rxa8 stalemate; 7.Kf4?
 Qf8+! =; 7.Rg7+? Kf8 =] **7...Kf8 8.Kf4!!** [8.Kf5? Ke8 9.Bxa7
 Qc8+! =; 8.Kf6? Ke8 9.Bxa7 Qd8+! =; 8.Kg6? Ke8 9.Bxa7
 Qc8! (9...Qd8? 10.Rb8 Kd7 11.Rxd8+ Kxd8 12.Bb8!) 10.Rb8
 Kd7! =; 8.Bxa7? Qd8+! =; 8.Bd6+? Ke8 9.Rb8+ Qxb8 =]
8...Ke8 9.Bxa7 [9.Ke5? Kd8 10.Kd6 Kc8 11.Bxa7 Qxb7 =]
9...Qc8 10.Rb8 1-0

Various temporal queen blockade is known - therefore special award. Here blockade is reached by battery. After this white must play precisely - nice move is 8. Kf4!

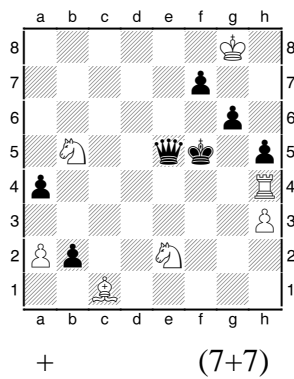
Commended - nr. 2444 Yochanan Afek (Israel/Netherlands)



1.Qa3+! Kb6 (1...Kb5 2.Qb3+ wins) **2.Qd6+ Ka7 3.Qc5+ b6** and
 now:
 a) **3...Ka6 4.c8=R!!** and wins
 b) **3...b6 4.c8=N+! Kb8** (4...Kb7 5.Nd6+ wins) **5.Nxb6 Qxa2**
6.Qc8+ Ka7 7.Qa8+ Kxb6 8.Qxa2 and wins

Known motives - in this two antistalemate minor promotions in miniature.

Special commended - nr. 2338 - Peter Krug (Austria)



1. Ned4+ 1.Nbd4+? Kf6 2.Bxb2 Qb8+ (2...g5 3.Kh7)
 3.Kh7 Qxb2. **1...Kf6 2.Bxb2 g5 3.Kh7 gxh4 4.Nc3 a3 5.**
Ba1 Qe8 5...Qxd4 6.Ne4+ Ke5 7.Bxd4+ Kxd4 8.Nd6 f5
 9.Nxf5 wins **6. Nd5+ Kg5** 6... Ke5 7. Nb5+ (7. Ne6+ Kd6)
 7...Kxd5 8.Nc7 wins **7.Nf3+ Kf5 8.Nxh4+ Kg5 9.Bf6#**
 Special award for intro to study - H. Rinck, L'Echiquier, 1928.

15th of April, 2014, Ľuboš Kekely, Slovakia, international judge of FIDE