

StrateGems 2012 Studies Award

By Iuri Akobia

19 EG studies were published in **StrateGems 2012**. Below are the **10** nominated studies. Other studies are excluded from the award, for various reasons:

E0220 (A.Skripnik & J.Mikitovics) - The final idea is known: (HvdH-IV #41804, Mitrofanov & Pogogyants, 1974);

E0225 (D.Zimbeck) - Anticipation (HvdH #75933, Zimbeck, 2009). Nothing serious has been added.

E0229 (M.Dore) - dual: 2.Nf2 Nd7 3.Kxa3 Kc4 4.Kb2=;

E0228 (P.Krug) - Requires very complex analysis after 1...Be6!/? Due to this "flaw", I cannot include the work in the award. I hope that the author will rework it.

I list here five works that I think do not satisfy the general requirements for artistic studies:

E0215 (P.Krug);

E0217 (R.Tomasevic);

E0230 (R.Tomasevic);

E0218 (D.Zimbeck);

E0226 (D.Zimbeck).

With slight annoyance, I note that this tournament is weaker than in the past 2-3 years.

<p>E0222 Alain Pallier (France) 1st Prize</p>	<p>E0223 Janos Mikitovics (Hungary) Anatoly Skripnik (Russia) 2nd prize</p>	<p>E0216 Peter Krug (Austria) 3rd prize</p>	<p>E0229 Peter Krug (Austria) 1st HM</p>
			
Win	Draw	Draw	Win

1st Prize - (A.Pallier - E0222)

1.Bd1! (Threat of the mate Ra1#) **1...Qxd1 2.Ra1+ Kc2 3.Rxd1 Kxd1 4.Ba1!!** (first refusal of capture)

Thematic try 4.Bxe7? Ne5! 5.h5 (5.Kg3 Ng6 6.h5 Nxe7 7.h6 Nf5+=) 5...Ng4+! 6.Kg3 Nh6 7.Bg5 Ng8!

8.Kf2 Kc2 9.Ke2 Kc3! =;

4.Bg7? Nf4 5.Kg3 Nh5+=

4...Nf4

4...Nf2 5.Kg3 Ne4+ 6.Kg4 /f4 6...Nd6 7.h5 Nf7 8.Kf5 Ke2 9.Kg6+-;

4...Ke2 5.Kg3 Ke3 6.h5+-

5.Kg3 e5 6.Kf3! (second refusal of capture)

Thematic try 6.Bxe5? Ng6 7.h5 Ne7! 8.Kf4 Ng8 9.Kg5 Ke2! 10.Kg6 Kf3 11.Kg7 Kg4 /Ne7=;

6.Kg4? Ng6! 7.h5 Ne7 8.h6 Ng8=

A) - 6...Kd2 7.Bxe5

7.Ke4? Ng6 8.h5 Ne7 9.h6 Ng8 10.h7 Nf6+=

7...Ng6 8.Bf4+! Kd3 9.h5 Ne7

9...Nh4+ 10.Kg4+-

10.h6+-;

B) - 6...Kc2 7.Ke4! (third refusal of capture)

7.Bxe5? Ng6 8.h5 Nxe5+ 9.Kf4 Nf7 /d7=;

7.Kg4? Ng6 8.h5 Ne7 9.Bxe5 (9.Kg5 Ng8 10.Kg6 e4! 11.Kg7 e3 12.Kxg8 e2=) 9...Ng8 10.Kf5 Kd3
11.Kg6 Ke4 12.Kg7 Kf5 13.Kxg8 Kg5=

7...Ng6 8.h5 Nf4 9.h6+- .

Interesting dynamic play with two equivalent main lines and tries. The main tactical idea is "refusal of capture". It's not easy to find the correct move for the wB, **4.Ba1!!**

2nd prize - (J.Mikitovics & A. Skripnik - E0223)

1.d7 Rh8+ 2.Kf7 Rh7+ 3.Ke8 Nd6+ 4.Kd8 Ka4!

4...Nf7+ 5.Ke8! Nd6+ (5...Ka4? 6.Rc6!=) 6.Kd8=

5.Rc6!

5.Ra1+? Kb5--+

A) - 5...Nf7+ 6.Ke8! Ne5 7.Ra6+ Kb5 8.Ra5+!! Kxa5 9.d8Q++-;

5...Nb7+ 6.Kc8! (6.Kc7? Ka5 7.Kc8 b3! 8.Rc3 Nd6+ 9.Kb8 (9.Kc7 Nb5+ fork) 9...Rh8+ 10.Kc7 Nb5+ fork) 6...Kb5 7.Rg6=;

B) - 5...Rh8+ 6.Ke7!

6.Kc7? Nb5+ 7.Kb6 Rd8-- (7...Rb8+? 8.Kc5 Rd8 9.Ra6+ Kb3 10.Kc6 Kc4 11.Rb6 Nd4+ 12.Kc7=)

6...Nb7

6...Nf5+ 7.Kf6 Rf8+ 8.Ke5 Rd8 9.Rc7= (9.Ke6 Nd4++- fork)

7.Rc7!

7.Rc8? Rh7+ 8.Ke6 Rh6+ 9.Ke5 Rh5+ 10.Kf6 Rd5 11.Ke6 Rd6+ (Rb5)--+

7...Rh7+ 8.Ke8! Nd6+ 9.Kf8 and with:

9...Nb5 10.Kg8! Nxc7 11.d8Q Rg7+ 12.Kh8! =

12.Kf8? Ne6++ fork; or

9...b3 10.Ra7+ Kb5 11.Ra3 Kc4 12.Rxb3! Rh8+

12...Kxb3 13.d8Q Rh8+ 14.Ke7=;

13.Kg7= ;

13.Ke7? Nf5+ 14.Ke6 Nd4++- fork;

A study with sufficiently good play. It is necessary to note that there is very little "blood shed" in the play. The tactical idea of forking dominates, but it all occurs on the "second floor".

3rd prize - (P.Krug - E0216)

It is clear that White must prepare a fork on b3, but how?

1.Nec5! only move

Thematic try 1.Nac5? Nd5+ 2.Kc4 Nxe7 3.Nb3+ Kc2 4.Ned4+ Kb2 5.Nxf3 Nc6 6.Nfd2 Ne5+ 7.Kb4 c5+!
8.Kxc5 Nf3!-+;

1.Nd4? Bd1 2.Rd7 Ke1--+

1...Bd5

1...Nd5+ 2.Kc4 Nxe7 3.Nb3+ Kc2 4.Nb4+ Kb2 5.Nxa2=;

2.Rd7 Kc2 3.Nxc7 Bg8 4.N7e6

4.Rd8? a1Q 5.Rxg8 Qb2+ (b1)+--+;

4...a1Q 5.Rd2+! Kb1 6.Nb3 Na2+ 7.Ka3 Qf6 8.Rd1+ Kc2 9.Rd2+ Kc3 10.Nec5 Qf8 11.Rd3+ Kc4 12.Kxa2 Kb4 13.Kb1!

13.Kb2? Bc4 14.Kc2 (14.f3 Bxd3 15.Nxd3+ Kc4 16.Kc2 Qf5--+) 14...Qf5! zz and wins: 15.h4 Qg6 16.h5 Qh7 17.f3 Qf5 18.f4 Bxd3+--+;

13.Rd4+? Bc4! 14.Kb1 Kc3--+

13...Bh7 14.Kb2= .

The play takes place dynamically with only a little "blood", but the two white pawns are involved only as technical tools.

1st HM - (P.Krug - E0229)

1.c7 Ra8 2.Nd5

2.Nbd3? Nec6! (Not 2...Rc8? 3.Nxe5+ Kf5 4.Ncd3 hxg3 5.Rf1+ Ke4 (5...Ke6 6.Rc1 Nb5 7.Rc6+ Kf5 8.Rc5+--) 6.Rc1 Nb5 7.Rc4+ Kf5 8.Rc5 Nxc7 9.Kg1 Ke4 10.Rc4+--) 3.Ne5+ Kh3 4.Nxc6 Nxc6=

2...Ne6 3.Nb6

3.Rb4+? Kf3 4.Nb6 Rh8 5.c8Q Rxc8 6.Nxc8 hxg3=

3...Nxc7 4.Nxa8 Nxa8 5.Rb8 Nc7 6.Rg8+ Kh3 7.g4! [7.Ne2? hxg3 8.Nxg3 Kh4 9.Nf5+ Kh5=] 7...Nxg4 8.Rf8! (threat of mate Rf3#)

8.Rc8? Nd5! =

8...Ne5 9.Rc8!

9.Rf5? Ng6! 10.Nd3 (10.Rg5 Nf4=) 10...Kg4=;

9...Na6 10.Re8! Nf3 11.Rg8

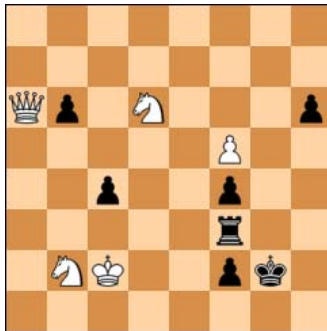
11.Nd3? Kg4! 12.Re4+ Kg5 /h5 13.Kg2 Nd2 14.Ra4 h3+ =

11...Nc5 12.Ne2 Nd3 13.Rg2 Nd2 14.Ng1# .

The precise maneuvers of the wR lead to mate.

E0224

**Pavel Arestov
(Russia)
2nd HM**



Win

E0221

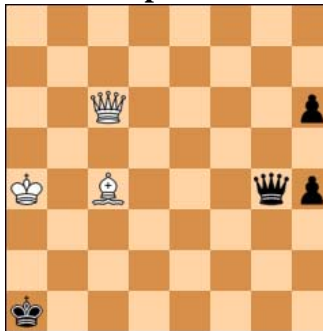
**Zoran Mikhajlovski
(Makedonia)
Commentation**



BTM, win

E0231

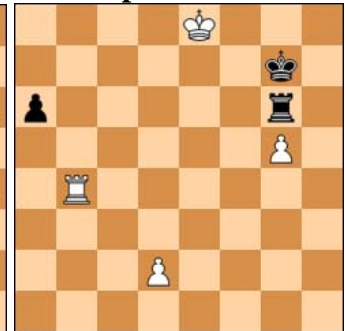
**Richard Becker
(USA)
1st Spec. Prize**



Win

E0232

**Yohanan Afek
(Israel/Neth.)
Spec. HM**



Win

2nd HM - (P.Arestov - E0224)

1.Qa1!

1.Qxc4? f1Q 2.Qxf1+ Rxf1 3.f6 f3 4.f7 f2 5.f8Q Rc1+ =

1...f1Q 2.Qxf1+ Rxf1

2...Kxf1 3.f6 Ra3 4.f7 Ra8 5.Ne8+--;

3.f6 f3!

3...Ra1 4.f7 Ra8 5.Ne8+-;

4.f7!

4.Nf5? Ra1=;

4...f2 5.Nf5!

5.f8Q? Rc1+! 6.Kxc1 f1Q+=;

5...Rc1+!

5...Ra1 6.f8Q f1Q 7.Ne3+-;

5...Re1 6.Nd1! Re2+ 7.Kc3! f1Q 8.Nfe3+-;

6.Kxc1 f1Q+ 7.Nd1! Qf4+

7...Qxf5 8.Ne3+-;

8.Nde3+ Kf3 9.f8Q+-.

Not a bad work with good counterplay by Black. However, the first two moves give nothing to the study. Also, the technical pawns are not pleasing.

Commentation - (Z.Mikhajlovski - E0221)**1...Bxb6**

1...Bf2+ 2.Kh5 Qe5+ 3.Nf5+-;

2.h8Q+

2.g5 Bf2+ 3.Kh5 Qg7 4.gxh6 Qe5+ 5.Kg4 Qe6+ 6.Kh5 Qe5+

2...Qxh8 3.axb6 Qd8+ 4.Kh3 Qxb6 5.c7 Qxc7 6.Nb5 Qb7! 7.Nd5!!

7.Na6? Qxf3+ 8.Kh2 Qf2+ 9.Kh1 Qh4+ 10.Kg1 Qxg4+;

7...Qxb5 8.Nc7+ Kxa7 9.Nxb5+- .**1st Spec. Prize - (R.Becker - E0231)****1.Qf6+**

Thematic try 1.Ka3? Qf5! 2.Qa8 Qc2! 3.Kb4+ (3.Qh8+ Kb1 4.Qd4 Qc1+ 5.Kb3 Qc2+=) 3...Kb1 4.Qh1+ Kb2 5.Qe1 h3! 6.Qe3 h2 7.Qa3+ Kb1 8.Bd3 h1Q 9.Qb3+ Ka1=

1...Kb1 2.Ka3 Qg3+

2...Kc2 3.Qb2+ Kd1 4.Qb1+-;

3.Bb3 Qg2 Now, White performs surgery for winning of tempo **4.Qf5+!**

4.Bd5? Qg3+ 5.Bf3 Kc2! 6.Qb2+ Kd3=;

4...Kc1 5.Qf4+ Kb1 6.Qf6! and now the problem is solved! **6...h5**

6...Qe2 7.Qg6+ Kc1 8.Qxh6+ Qd2 9.Qc6+ Kb1 10.Qe4+-;

6...h3 7.Bd5! Qg3+ 8.Bf3 Kc2 9.Qb2+ Kd3 10.Qe2+ Kd4 11.Qe4+ Kc3 12.Qe3+ same position as in the main line, but with a difference in the locations of black pawns.

7.Qf5+ Kc1 8.Qf4+ Kb1 9.Qf6! again, White forces Black to move the bPh4.

9...h3 10.Bd5!

10.Qf5+? Kc1 11.Qf4+ Kb1 12.Qf6 h4! =;

10...Qg3+

10...Qe2 11.Be4+ Kc1 12.Qc3+ Kd1 13.Bf3+-;

11.Bf3! Kc2 12.Qb2+ Kd3 13.Qe2+ Kd4 14.Qe4+ Kc3 15.Qe3+- .

Main final idea is well known: HvdH-IV #2945– Bridgewater, 1885; #67422– Vandiest, 2000 and others. However, the author has demonstrated how the idea can be revived in "up to date" form.

Spec. HM - (Y.Afek - - E0232)

1.Rb7+

1.d4? Rxc5=;

1.Rg4? Rb6 2.d4 a5 3.Rg1 Rb5 4.Rd1 a4 5.d5 a3 6.d6 a2 7.d7 Re5+ 8.Kd8 Rd5 9.Ra1 Rd2=;

1...Kg8 2.d4 Rxc5

2...Rd6 3.Rb4? a5 4.Rc4 Rd5 5.Ke7 Rxc5 6.Ke6+-;

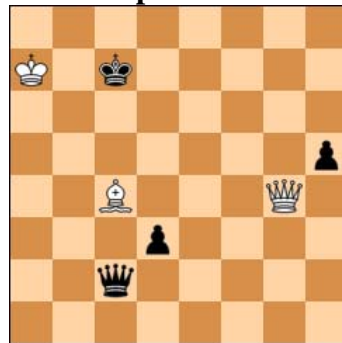
3.Rd7!

3.Rb1? a5 4.Rd1 Rd5! 5.Ke7 a4 6.Ke6 Rh5 7.d5 Kf8 8.d6 Ke8=;

3...a5 4.d5 a4 5.d6 a3 6.Ra7 switchback **6...Re5+ 7.Kd8! Re3 8.d7 Kf7 9.Rc7! a2 10.Kc8 a1Q**

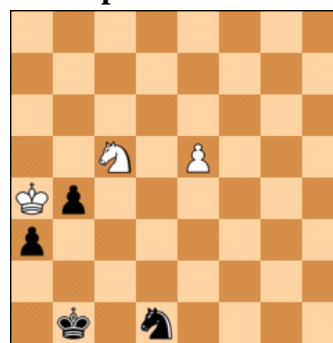
11.d8Q++-. Excelsior. Beautiful rook study with practical value. Nice moves: **3.Rd7!** and **9.Rc7!**

E0219
Richard Becker
(USA)
Spec.HM



Win

E0214
Franjo Vrabec
(Sweden)
Spec.Comm.



Draw

Spec.HM - (R.Becker- E0219)

1.Qg7+!

1.Qf4+? Kc6 2.Qe4+ Kc5 3.Qd5+ Kb4=;

1...Kc6 2.Qb7+ Kd6

2...Kc5 3.Bb3!+-;

3.Qd5+ Kc7 4.Qe5+ Kd8 5.Qd4+! Ke7

5...Kc7 6.Be6!+-;

5...Ke8 6.Kb6! Qe2 7.Qf6! Qe3+ 8.Kc6+-;

6.Kb6! Qe2 7.Qg7+ Kd8 8.Qc7+ Ke8 9.Qf7+ Kd8 10.Qd5+ Ke7 11.Qd4! h4 12.Qxh4+ Kd7 13.Qd4+

Ke7 14.Qg7+ Kd8 15.Qc7+ Ke8 16.Qf7+ Kd8 17.Qd5+ Ke7 18.Qd4 Qe1

18...Qf3 19.Qe5+ Kf8 20.Kc7=;

19.Qg7+ Kd8 20.Qc7+ Ke8 21.Qf7+

21.Bb5+ Kf8 22.Qf4+ Ke7 23.Qg5+ Kf8 24.Qh6+ Kf7 25.Bc4+ Ke7 26.Qg5+ loss of time

21...Kd8 22.Qd5+ Ke7 23.Qg5+ Kd7 24.Bb5+ Ke6 25.Qg6+ Kd5 26.Qc6+ Kd4 27.Qc5+ Ke4

28.Qe7++-. The final idea was implemented in 1922 (HvdH, #13832–Perelman), a study of only 6 moves.

In this study, there is a substantial development of the play. Apart from great introductory play, we see some of the modern tactical elements, too!

Spec.Comm. - (F.Vrabec - E0214)

1.Kb5!!

1.e6? a2 /Nc3+-;

1.Kxb4? a2 2.Nb3 Kb2—+;

1.Nb3? Kb2 2.Kxb4 a2—+;

1...a2!

1...Kb2 2.Nd3+ (Kxb4)=;

1...Kc2 2.Kc4 a2 3.Nb3=;

1...Nc3+ 2.Kxb4=;

1...b3 2.Nxb3 Kb2 3.Ka4 (Kc4, e6)=;

2.Nb3 Kc2 3.Kc4!

3.Kxb4? Kb2—+;

3.Ka4? Kc3 4.Na1 Nb2+—+;

3...Kb2 4.Kxb4 (e6) Ne3 5.e6 Nf5 6.Kc4!

6.Ka4? Nd4!—+;

6...Ne7 7.Kb4 Nc6+ 8.Kc4 Ne5+ 9.Kb4 Nd3+ 10.Kc4 Ne5+ 11.Kb4 Nc6+ 12.Kc4 Na5+! 13.Kd5!!

13.Kb4? Nxb3—+;

13...Nc6! 14.Kc4!

14.Kxc6? Kxb3 15.Kd7 a1Q—+;

14...Ne7 15.Kb4 Nf5 16.Kc4 Ng7 17.e7 Nf5 18.e8N! Ne3+ 19.Kb4 Nc2+ 20.Kc4 Nd4 21.Nxd4 a1Q

22.Nd6 Qa2+ 23.Kc5= .

A development of the same authors study from SG-2010.

Many thanks to Iuri for this timely award which remains open for three months. Please send comments to Franjio Vrabec.