

Champagne 2018 Award

Theme was Valladao.

I chose it, remembering that Gligor Denkovski wrote on this theme in Orbit.

This choice was criticised as Valladao was explored intensively in the past. This is true of many themes in composition...

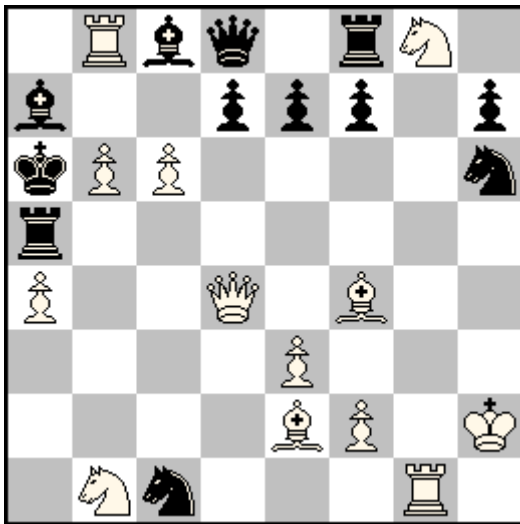
However, composer of 2nd Prize in Section B indicated that this tourney prompted him to compose Retros again after 35-years interruption! If only for this reason, I will not regret choosing this theme...

Section A (ProofGames)

11 entries by 16 composers ; 2 were cooked

1st Prize

Vidmantas Satkus (Lithuania)



SPG 23,5

(13+12) C+

1.b4 g5 2.b5 Lg7 3.b6 L×a1 4.b×a7 Ld4 5.**a×b8=T** Ta5 6.a4 La7 7.d4 g4 8.Lf4 g3
9.é3 g×h2 10.g4 **h×g1=S** 11.g5 Sé2 12.g6 Sç1 13.Lé2 Sh6 14.**0-0 0-0** 15.Kh2 Kg7
16.Tg1 Kf6 17.g7 Ké6 18.**g8=S** Kd5 19.ç4+ Kç6 20.d5+ Kb6 21.Dd4+ ç5
22.**d×ç6 e.p.+** Ka6 23.ç5+ b5 24.**ç×b6 e.p.+**

The 2 Prizes complete the « single » Valladao with extra special moves.

(4 « extras » in this one : 1 en passant, 1 castle and 2 promotions).

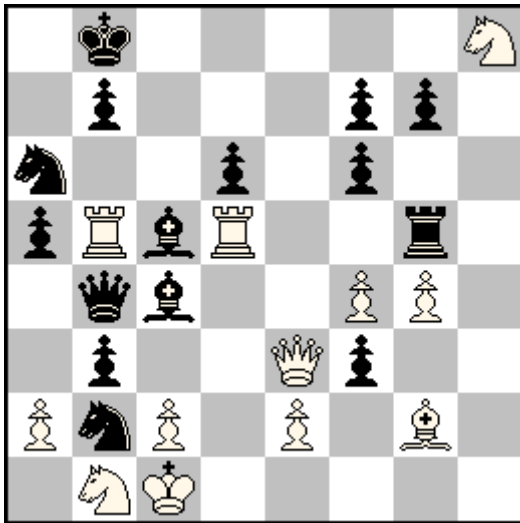
Both have no promoted piece apparent and their own qualities.

Here the long march of black King after castling is an attractive point.

The decisive element in the order was the number of « extras » (which has its weight in a thematical tournament), and also, of course, that there is an « extra » of each kind, so we can simply consider that the theme is doubled !!

2nd Prize

Ivan Denkovski (Macedonia)



SPG 26,5

(12+15) C+

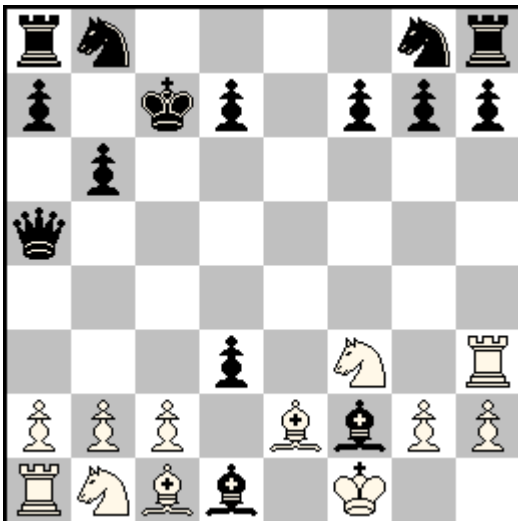
1.d4 c5 2.Lg5 c4 3.Lf6 e×f6 4.h4 Lc5 5.Th3 d6 6.Tb3 L6 7.Tb5 Da5+ 8.b4 c×b3 e.p.+
9.Sc3 Lc4 10.d5 Db4 11.Dd4 a5 12.0-0-0 Sa6 13.Sb1 0-0-0 14.Dg4+ Kb8 15.f4 T6
16.Sf3 T6 17.d×e6 S6 18.Td5 Sc8 19.e7 h5 20.e8=D h×g4 21.D63 g×f3 22.g4 Th5
23.Lg2 Tg5 24.h5 Sb6 25.h6 Sa4 26.h7 Sb2 27.h8=S

The 2 “extras” are 1 castling and 1 promotion.

The en passant embedded in the solution (not played at the end) is a positive point.

1st HM

Marek Kolcak (Slovakia)



SPG 12,5

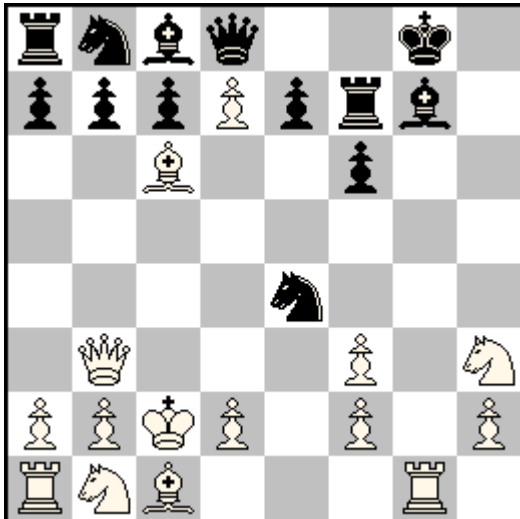
(12+15) C+

1.f4 c5 2.f5 Da5 3.f6 Kd8 4.f×e7+ Kc7 5.e8=T b6 6.T63 La6 7.Th3 L×e2
8.Sf3 L×d1 9.L62 c4 10.0-0 Lc5+ 11.d4 c×d3 e.p.+ 12.Tf2 L×f2+ 13.Kf1

The 2 first HMs use a similar mechanism (« Heinonen's trick ») to couple the embedded en passant with castling. In the first, the castling Rook is captured, and there is an « impostor » Rook (the promoted one) on diagram, making the castling more invisible, a better thematical choice.

2nd HM

Jonathan Mestel (England)



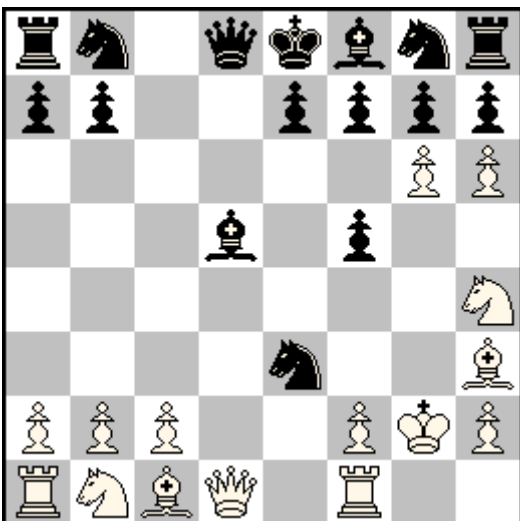
SPG 13,5

(15+13) C+

1.ç4 h5 2.Db3 h4 3.Kd1 h3 4.Kç2 h×g2 5.Sh3 **g1=S** 6.Lg2 Sf6 7.Lç6 Sf3 8.Tg1 Sè4
 9.T×g7 f6 10.Tg1 Lg7 11.é×f3 **0-0** 12.ç5+ d5 13.ç×d6 **e.p.+** Tf7 14.d7

3rd HM

Rainer Kuhn & Gregor Werner (Germany)



SPG 9,0

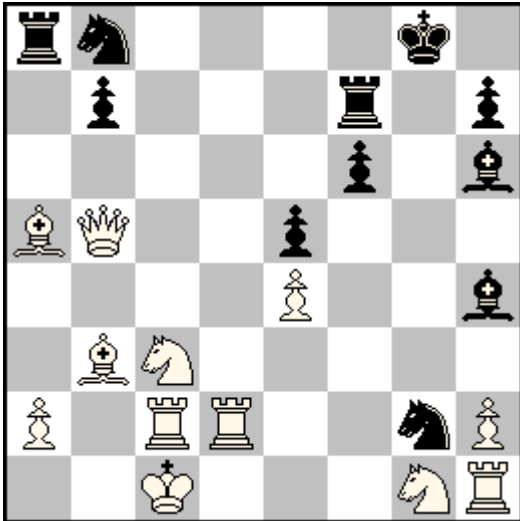
Annan

(15+16) C+

1.gh4 g3 2.Sh3 g2 3.hg6 **g1=S** 4.Sh4 Sh3 5.h6 Sf4 6.Lh3 df5 7.**0-0** Ld7
 8.Kg2 Ld5+ 9.éé4 **S×é3 e.p.+**

Very original : the en passant is played by the promoted piece, thanks to the fairy condition!
 (0-0 is “normal”). Would have been placed higher without 3 black Knights on diagram.

1st Com.
 Paul Raican (Romania)

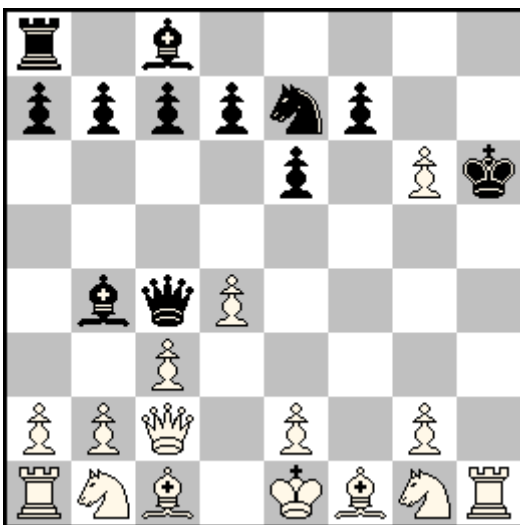


SPG 18,0 Glasgow (12+11)

1.é4 é5 2.Dé2 Lé7 3.Db5 Lh4 4.Lç4 f6 5.L×g8 a5 6.Lb3 a4 7.ç4 **0-0** 8.ç5+ d5
 9.ç×d6 **e.p.+** Tf7 10.**d×ç7=T** a3 11.T×ç8 **a×b2=L** 12.Tç2 D×d2+ 13.L×d2 Lç1
 14.La5 Lh6 15.Sç3 g5 16.**0-0-0** g4+ 17.f4 **g×f3 e.p.+** 18.Tdd2 **f×g2=S**

Bi-colored Valladao but the Fairy condition is weakly exploited and the en passant mechanism is orthodox (“Heinonen's trick”)

2nd Com.
 Ladislav Packa, Emil Klemanic, Ladislav Salai Jr (Slovakia)
 & Michal Dragoun (Czech Republic)



SPG 11,5 (15+12) C+

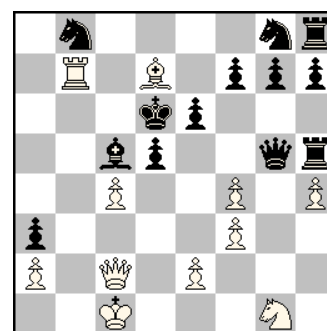
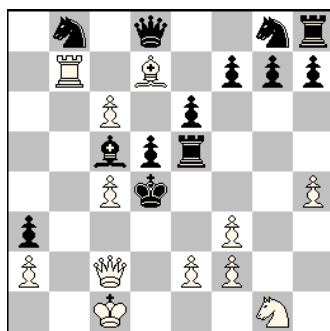
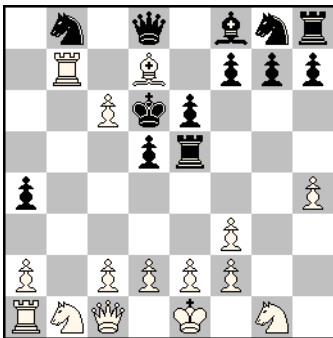
1.h4 e6 2.h5 Dh4 3.ç3 Dç4 4.f4 Lb4 5.f5 Sè7 6.f6 0-0 7.f×é7 Sç6
 8.é×f8=S Sè7 9.S×h7 K×h7 10.Dç2+ Kh6 11.d4+ g5 12.h×g6 e.p.+

Theme with Ceriani-Frolkin promotion.

Hors Concours

Submitted by composers not present in Ohrid.

Andrey Frolkin (Ukraine) & Chris Tylor (England)



a) A=>B(SPG) 11,5 (15+13)
 #R Chess

b) B=>C 6,0 (12+13)

c) C=>D 4,0 (12+13)

#R Chess is a fairy form invented by Andrey and Chris a while ago.

The piece directly delivering mate is removed from the board and the play continues. It ends only if the mate is "final." This happens when removing the mating piece results in self-check.

This can be tested with Jacobi, solving program by François Labelle (the problem is C+)

a) 1.h4 a5 2.Th3 a4 3.Tb3 Ta5 4.T×b7 Té5 5.b4 d5 6.La3 Lg4 7.Dç1 Lf3
 8.g×f3 Kd7 9.Lh3+ Kd6 10.Ld7 é6 11.b5+ ç5 12.b×ç6 e.p.(‡, -La3!)

b) 1.Kç5 d4+ 2.K×d4 Sa3 3.L×a3 ç4 4.Lç5 Dç2 5.a3 0-0-0(‡, -Rd1!)

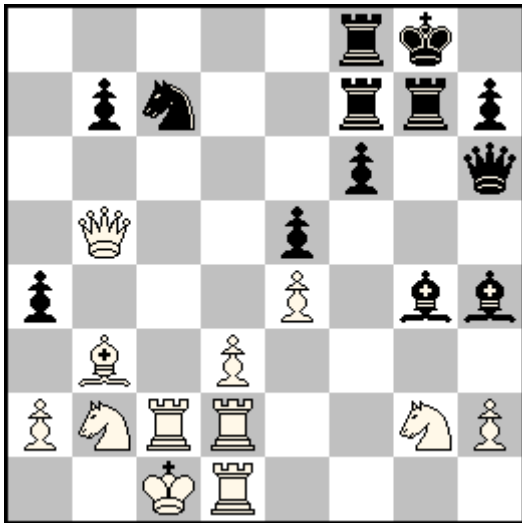
c) 1.Th5 ç7 2.Ké5 f4+ 3.Kd6 f3 4.Dg5 ç8=S(‡ -Sç8!)

The 3 special moves are concluding the 3 parts!

Annex

Unto Heinonen

2nd Prize, Die Schwalbe 1993



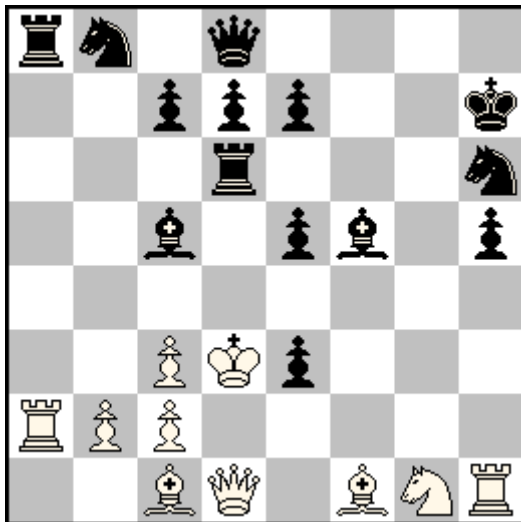
SPG 23,0

(12+13) C+

1.é4 é5 2.Dé2 Lé7 3.Db5 Lh4 4.Lç4 f6 5.L×g8 a5 6.Lb3 Sa6 7.ç4 **0-0** 8.ç5+ d5
 9.ç×d6 **e.p.+** Tf7 10.d×ç7 Dd4 11.d3 D×b2 12.Sç3 D×ç1+ 13.Sd1 Dh6
 14.Sb2 g5 15.**0-0-0** g4+ 16.f4 **g×f3 e.p.+** 17.Td2 f×g2 18.Sf3 **g1=T+**
 19.Sé1 Tgg7 20.Sg2 Lg4 21.Thd1 Taf8 22.ç8=**T** a4 23.Tçç2 Sç7
 Bi-colored Valladao

Kostas Prentos, Andrey Frolkin, dedicated to Werner Keym

1st Prize, Die Schwalbe 2006



SPG 23,0

(12+13) C+

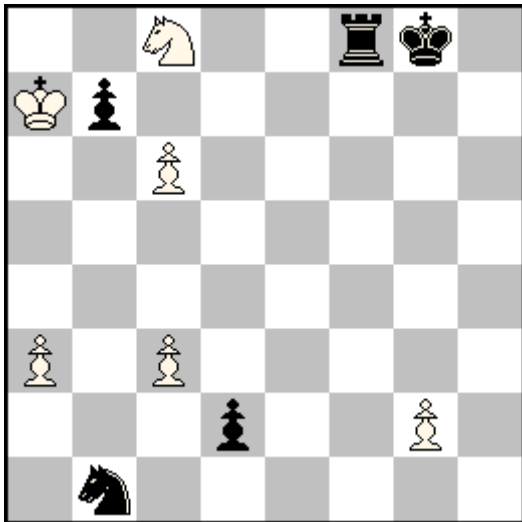
1.h4 a5 2.h5 a4 3.h6 a3 4.h×g7 h5 5.g4 Sh6 6.**g8=L** Lg7 7.g5 Ld4 8.g6 f6
 9.Ld5 Lç5 10.Lç6 **0-0** 11.g7 Kh7 12.**g8=T b×ç6** 13.Tg5 La6 14.Té5 **f×é5**
 15.f4 Tf6 16.f5 Td6 17.f6 Lç4 18.f7 L×a2 19.**f8=D** Lé6 20.Df3 a2 21.Dd5 **a×b1=S**
 22.Ta2 Sç3 23.**d×ç3 ç×d5** 24.Kd2 d4 25.Kd3 Lf5+ 26.é4 **d×é3 e.p.+**
 Valladao including AUW Ceriani-Frolkin

Section B (other kinds of Retros)

6 entries by 11 composers. One was cooked and one anticipated.

1st Prize

Vlaicu Crisan & Paul Raican (Romania)



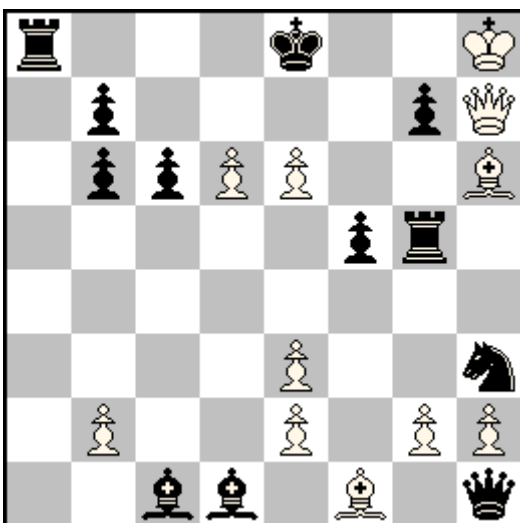
Proca-Retractor -4 & s±1 (6+5)
Anticircé Assassin

-1.f5×g6 e.p. (wPg2,-wDg2) g7-g5 -2.Ka8-a7 0-0+ -3.Kb8-a7 b2-b1=S+ -4.Dd5-g2
& 1.Dg8+ T×g8(Ta8)‡

Every special move uses the fairy condition!

2nd Prize

Marko Klasinc (Slovenia)



(-1 & 2‡)*

(11+12)

White has set mate : 1.Dg8#

First idea is to retract a tempo retro-move for -1 & 1#

-1.X & 1.Dg8#

But such available retro-moves are illegal :

-1.f2xg3?? leaves Dh1 in illegal position

-1.f2xe3? implies Bishop promotions **a7xb8=L** and **c2-c1=L** but the resulting position is illegal as it requires too many black captures (original wLc1 is not available for them).

So, white has to retract a move that destroys the set mate, then to play it forward to threaten again the set mate :

-1.X and 1.X threatens 2.Dg8# but black escapes with 1...**0-0-0!**

White has to choose carefully the retracted move so as to prove that castling is illegal.

By retracting en passant, one of black Bishop is proved promoted and idea is that number of black captures will imply wPa having to promote on a8.

Try :

-1.dxe6 e.p.? & 1.dxe6 e.p. (2.Dg8 #)

but 1... **0-0-0!**

Bishop c1 is promoted. If it would be by **c2-c1=L?**, castle could be proven illegal, but the possibility **f2xTg1=L!** doesn't imply promotion of wPa and castling stays legal!

Solution :

-1.cxd6 e.p.! & 1.cxd6 e.p.! (2.Dg8 #)

1...gxh6 2.De7 #

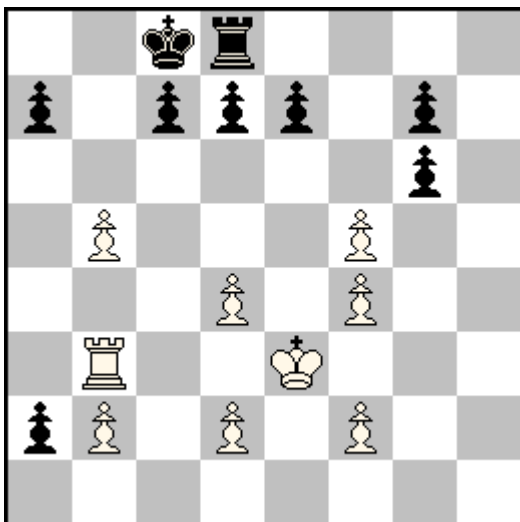
1... 0-0-0? illegal!

Bishop d1 is promoted. It can only be by **d2-d1=L !**; the number of black captures implies promotion of wPa on a8 and castling is illegal!

The retro elements are classical, but the overall presentation is quite satisfying.

HM

Ladislav Packa, Emil Klemanic, Ladislav Salai Jr (Slovakia)
& Michal Dragoun (Czech Republic)



White to move.

White en passant capture before 11 single moves (9+9)

-1.**0-0-0** a4xDb5 -2.Db8-b5 g4xLf5 -3.Dd8-b8 Tb8-b3 -4.Ld3-f5 **b7-b8=T**

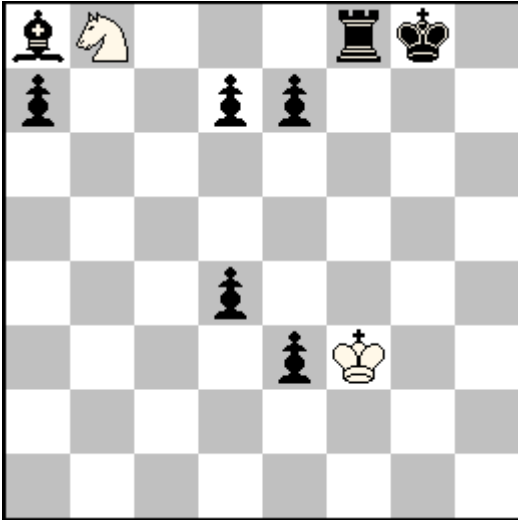
-5.La6-d3 b6-b7 -6.Lc8-a7 **c5xb6 e.p.** -7.b7-b5

Quite neat.

(Some similar elements than in the Champagne 2017 problem by first 3 composers!)

Commended

Andrey Frolkin (Ukraine) & Igor Vereschagin (Russia)



Help-Retractor -3 & h#1 (2+8)

-1.f4×é3 e.p.+ é2-é4 -2.d5-d4+ b7-b8=S -3.0-0 & 1.Kd8 b8=D‡

Well-known retro elements.

Michel Caillaud

Ohrid, 7 September 2018.