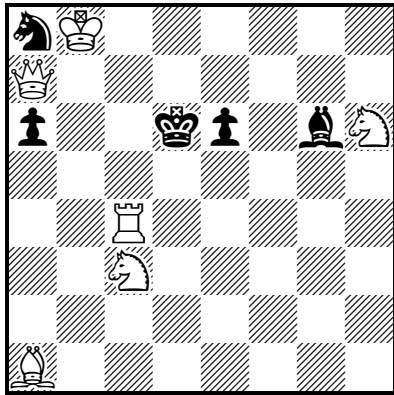# Facebook: Chess Endgame Studies and Compositions Solving Ladder
Leg 1, Round 6, November/December 2021
Solutions, Comments and Results

1) Mikhail Nazarovich Marandiuk
HM., Chepizhni-50 JT, 1985

Mate in 2

1.♔c8?	(2.♕c5#)
1...♔e5	2.♕d4#
1...e5	2.♕d7#
1...♘b6+!	
1.♘g8?	(2.♕d4#)
1...♔e5	2.♕c5#
1...e5	2.♕e7#
1...♗e4!	
1.♕b7!	**(5)**
1...♔e5	2.♘b5#
1...e5	2.♖c6#
1...♘c7,♘b6	2.♕(×)c7#
1...a5	2.♘b5#
1...♗e4,♗f7	2.♘(×)e4,♘(×)f7#
1...♗h5,♗e8	2.♘e4#
1...♗ else	2.♘f7#

The strong black moves in the diagram are the flight 1…Ke5, met by 2.Qd4#, and the flight-giving 1…e5, which is unprovided. The try 1.Kc8? repeats 2.Qd4# for the flight and 2.Qd7# for 1…e5, but is crudely refuted by 1…Sb6+, which is probably why no solver mentioned it. The second try, 1.Sg8? (given as the key by several solvers) provides new mates for the flight and 1…e5. Both these tries make no use of the wBa1, but they key, 1.Qb7, does. If a problem is well-constructed, all the white pieces will be used after the key and the only way for the wBa1 to be activated is to put another guard on d5. Only way to do that is with 1.Qb7!, after which there are changed mates after the flight and 1…e5. So, we have 2 mates changed in 3 phases, and this constitutes the **Zagoruyko** theme. It is very good that both thematic tries provide for the unprovided 1…e5, but a shame that the obviously-refuted 1.Kc8? serves to hide the theme of the problem from the solver. "Beautiful aristocratic problem a signature of a great composer!" (Ioannis Garoufalidis). "Quaint problem with 5 pieces providing mate." (Harry Scott).

The Ukrainian composer Mikhail Marandiuk was born in 1949 and has been one of the leading chess composers in the World for many years.
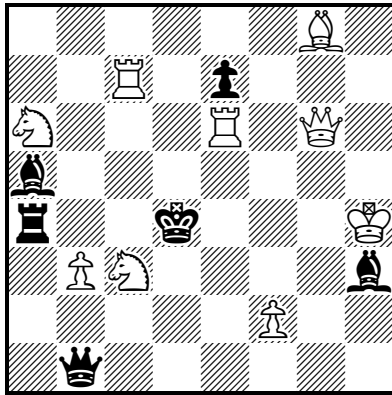
2) Givi Mosiashvili
Comm., *Praca*, 1993

Mate in 2

1...Qd3	2.Qg7#
1...Bxc3	2.Rd7#
1.Re3!	(2.Ne2,Nb5#) **(5)**
1...Qd3	2.Qxd3#
1...Bxc3	2.Qb6#
1...Be6	2.Qg7#
1...e6	2.Rd7#
1...Qe4+,Qf1	2.Qxe4#
1...Bf1	2.Rd7#

Strong black moves in the diagram position can be listed (in no particular order) as flights, moves that grant flights, checks and captures of white pieces and they all need to have mates already provided in the set play or be provided with mates by the key. 1…Qe4+ is met by 2.Qxe4# and 1…Bxc3 by 2.Rd7#, but 1…Bxc7, 1…Bxe6 and 1…Qxg6 are not followed by mate. 1.Re3!, the key, provides for these moves, while changing the mate for 1…Bxc3 to 2.Qb6#. As several solvers point out, the lines 1…e6 and 1…Be6 constitute a P-Grimshaw. The pawn interferes with the bishop in the former while the bishop interferes with the pawn in the latter. But is this the only theme in the problem? The set play 1…Bxc3 2.Rd7# has already been mentioned, but there is also 1…Qd3 2.Qg7#. Both these black moves lead to changed mates after the key while the mates 2.Rd7# and 2.Qg7# also appear after different black defences after the key. Such a mixture of changed mates and transferred mates is the **Rukhlis** theme. No solver mentioned this and I presume this is because nobody looked at the set 1…Qd3, which isn't a strong black move. "The double threats 2.Sb5/Se2 can be parried in seven different ways (including a B and P Grimshaw), each of which allows a dual-free mate. Only 2.Rd7 occurs more than once." (Rhodes Peele). "Who can resist an unexpected Pawn Grimshaw?" (Matthew Reisz). "With a threat of 2.Sb5/Se2, 1…Bxc3 looked a good defence, but then I found 2.Qb6#." (David Whisstock).

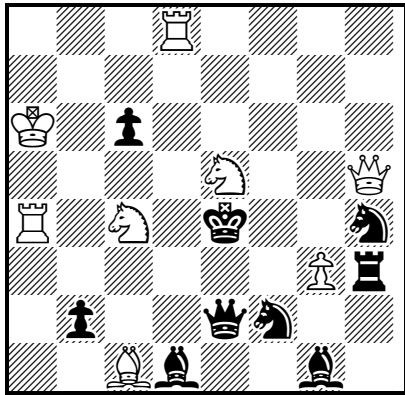The Georgian composer Givi Mosiashvili was also born in 1949.

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3) Percy Francis Blake
8th Prize, *The Puzzler*, 1933

1.♘f3!	(2.♖d4#)	**(5)**
1...♕×c4+	2.♖×c4#	
1...♕×f3	2.♕e5#	
1...♕d3	2.♖e8#	
1...♕d2	2.♘f×d2#	
1...♕e3	2.♘cd2#	
1...♘×f3	2.♕g6#	
1...♘f5	2.♘g5#	
1...♘g4,♘h1	2.♕(×)g4#	
1...♘d3	2.♘d6#	
1...c5	2.♕d5#	

Mate in 2

From the thematic complexities of the first two problems, we move onto an old-fashioned British two-mover composed to display a large variety of interesting play. 1…Qxh5 and 1…Rxg3 are the unprovided strong Black moves. The key stops the first and provides a mate (the threat) to follow the second. The play includes two unpins (one by interference and one by withdrawal) with self-block, a self-block followed by a White self-interference mate (1…Sf5), three more self-blocks and three unguards. Several solvers claimed 1.Qg5? (threat 2.Qf4#), but this is refuted by 1…bxc1=Q,B!. "It's obvious that bSf2 must play at d3 for some defence unpinning wSc4 and allowing a double-check mate … White builds a threat mate on d4 forcing Sf2 to move to d3." (Ioannis Garoufalidis). "I counted nine variations, but perhaps 1…Sd3 and 1…Qe3 are the most thematic, since these moves both unpin Sc4, allowing it do double-check while simultaneously closing a line that guards a square black has self-blocked." (Rhodes Peele) "Nine defences and nine different mates, if I'm not mistaken." (David Whisstock).

Percy Blake (1873 – 1936) was a leading exponent of the English School of chess composition, which specialised in well-keyed, dual-free problems showing a rich mix of strategy.
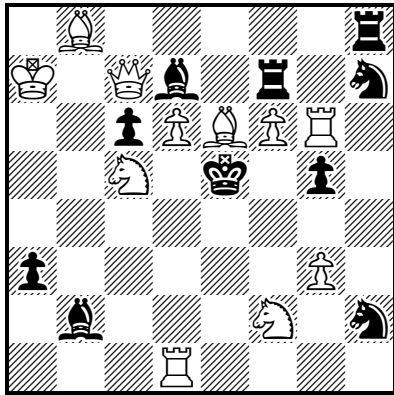
4) Arnoldo Ellerman
Club Argentino de Ajedrez, 1914

Mate in 2

1.♕a5!　　　(2.♕e1♯)　　**(5)**

1...♗×e6+	2.♘d7♯
1...♗c8+,♗e8+	2.d7♯
1...♘×f6	2.♖×g5♯
1...♗c1,♗c3	2.♕(×)c3♯
1...♗d4	2.♘d3♯
1...♘h any	2.♘(×)g4♯

"White needs to control the fifth rank because of the possible capture of the e6 bishop, creating flight squares on d5 and f5. The queen can do this from a5 and it turns out that Black replies including discovery cross-checks." (Colin Thiodet). "1...Bxe6 gives the game away as 1.Qa5 is the only way to cover f5." (Hugh Gilbert). "The key move creates a battery for black and a new one for white (or two maybe, depending on how you look at it). White's batteries fire only if Black's does! So Black gets in first, but it does him no good, just like a 'western' movie." (Rhodes Peele) "Key allows three checks so quite easy to spot." (David Whisstock). "The key allows a discovered check on the white king, but beautiful discovered checks by White to close line again." (Gerry Enslin). "Quiet, obvious key which exposes white king to checks and presents cross-checks. White Bb8 indicates that white queen must move to evacuate square and create a bishop pawn battery." (Ioannis Garoufalidis) "Problem 4 was very different, more a question of inspiration – Qa5 seemed obvious and appears to work." (Gill Blanden).

The Argentinian composer Arnoldo Ellerman (1893-1969) specialised in two-move problems and was one of the most successful and prolific chess composers of his day.
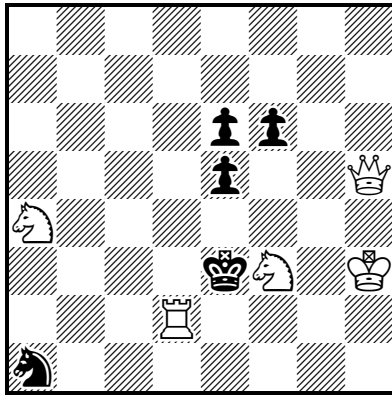
5) Cecil Alfred Lucas Bull
Morning Post, 1887

1.♘d4!			
	(2.♕h6+ @	♔e4	3.♘c3 #)
1...♔×d2	**2.♕e2+** @	♔c1	3.♕e1 #
1...e×d4	**2.♖e2+** @	♔d3	3.♕b5 #
		♔f4	3.♕g4 #
1...f5	**2.♕e2+** @	♔f4	3.♘×e6 #

@: 1/1.0, 2/2.5, 3/4.0, 4/5.0

Mate in 3

"Spectacular old-time key which sacrifices two pieces." (Ioannis Garoufalidis). "A little gem. Nf3 must surely move to open up the Q diagonal, then don't flinch!" (Hugh Gilbert). "In the Bohemian style, with attractive model mates in three of the variations. However, in every case White's second move is a check, which makes the problem rather easy to solve." (Chris Shephard). "Nice sacrificial key with some lovely echoes and model mates." (Matthew Reisz). "A spectacular key leads to an attractive set of variations. If I had to choose one of the six problems to show a chess player who is new to composed problems, I would choose this one." (Rhodes Peele). "I wasn't sure that the black knight contributed much to the problem." (Joe Franks). The bSa1 stops a dual mate (3.Qc2#) in the 1...Kxd2 variation. Pulling its weight, in my opinion.

Cecil Bull (1869-1935) was a British composer who emigrated to South Africa in 1892, where he resided in Durban. In 1960, his friend Donald McIntyre edited a selection of his problems titled *Sonatas in Chess.* This volume is warmly recommended but is a rare book these days and will probably demand a high price.
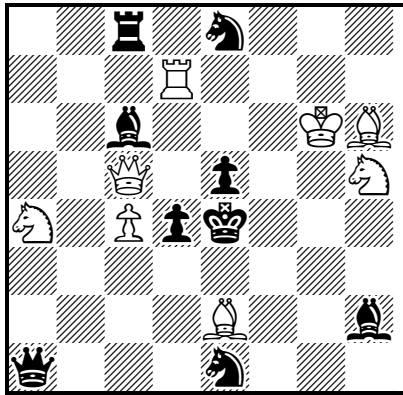
6) Aleksandr Feoktistov & Leonid Makaronets
1st Place, USSR Championship, 1988

1.♖d5!

(2.♖×e5+ ♗×e5 3.♘g3+@ ♗×g3 4.♕f5 #

1...♘d3 2.♖×d4+ ♕×d4 3.♘c3+@ ♕×c3 4.♕e3 #
1...♘f3 2.♕×d4+ ♕×d4 3.♘c5+@ ♕×c5 4.♗d3 #

@: 1/1, 2/3, 3/5

Mate in 4

In the threat and the 1…Sd3 variation, White captures an inconvenient pawn by sacrificing his rook, forcing a black recapture. The capturing black piece is then decoyed away by the sacrifice of another piece, leaving the road clear for the white queen to mate by moving through the line once occupied by that inconvenient pawn. The 1…Sf3 variation is similar, but the d5 to d3 line is cleared, not for the rook to move through but for it to gain control of d3 enabling the white bishop to mate there. Incorrect claims by solvers included 1.Qd6?, refuted by 1…Qa3! and 1…Sd3!, and 1.Qa7! defeated by 1…Bd5!, 1…Bxa4, 1…Qa3, 1…Bf4 and 1…Sd3! "In both threat and solution, you have the capturing black piece having to retreat away again for another capture on move 3." (Gerry Enslin) "The complementary mates depending on Black's 1…Sd3/Sf3 resulting in Q/R capturing on d4 followed by the white Sc3+/Sc5+ deflecting the black queen was particularly pleasing." (Joe Franks). "I could see that 1.Re7 fails because after 1…Sd3 there will be a subsequent inconvenient check with this knight on e5 or f4, so I analysed with black moving first with 1…Sd3 in the starting position, and then saw the idea of sacrificing on d4. Of Black's two defences 1…Sf3 blocks a black king flight, and 1…Sd3 blocks a defence of the black queen from c3 to e3." (Chris Shephard).

The talented Russian composer Aleksandr Feoktistov was born in 1948. Leonid Makaronets, born in Ukraine but now resident in Israel, was born in 1948 and is currently one of the World's most prolific composers of three and more-movers.

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Facebook Chess Solving Ladder, Leg 01 2021, Final Results

Name	Ascents	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Leg Total	Cumulative Total
Hugh Gilbert	0	30.0	25.0	25.0	30.0	25.0	25.0	160.0	160.0
Geoff Brown	0	30.0	23.5	20.0	30.0	30.0	25.0	158.5	158.5
Rhodes Peele	0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	23.5	30.0	153.5	153.5
Ene Florian	0	28.0	15.0	30.0	21.0	21.5	20.0	135.5	135.5
Chris Shephard	0	-	-	24.0	30.0	30.0	25.0	109.0	109.0
Ioannis Garoufalidis	0	-	-	30.0	-	25.0	25.0	80.0	80.0
Colin Thiodet	0	-	-	-	26.0	16.5	20.0	62.5	62.5
Steven Dowd	0	-	-	-	30.0	15.0	-	45.0	45.0
Chris Carew	0	-	-	-	-	-	30.0	30.0	30.0
Christian Westrapp	0	30.0	-	-	-	-	-	30.0	30.0
David Whisstock	0	-	-	-	-	-	30.0	30.0	30.0
Gerry Enslin	0	-	-	-	-	-	30.0	30.0	30.0
Joe Franks	0	-	-	-	-	-	30.0	30.0	30.0
Alex King	0	29.0	-	-	-	-	-	29.0	29.0
Chris Worthington	0	-	-	-	-	-	29.0	29.0	29.0
Stanislas Loiret	0	29.0	-	-	-	-	-	29.0	29.0
Matthew Reisz	0	-	-	-	-	-	25.0	25.0	25.0
Harry Scott	0	-	-	-	-	-	24.0	24.0	24.0
Geoff Haddow	0	-	-	-	-	-	19.0	19.0	19.0
Alan Bradnam	0	-	-	-	-	-	15.0	15.0	15.0
James, Brown	0	-	-	-	-	-	15.0	15.0	15.0
Dennis Chivers	0	-	-	-	-	-	14.0	14.0	14.0
Gill Blanden	0	-	-	-	-	-	14.0	14.0	14.0
Nigel Pilkington	0	-	-	-	-	-	10.0	10.0	10.0

The final results of the first leg of our solving ladder are above. Congratulations to our three prize-winners. Hugh Gilbert in first place, Geoff Brown in second place just 1.5 points behind and Rhodes Peele in third.

I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the many solvers who joined in for this round: Chris Carew, David Whisstock, Gerry Enslin, Joe Franks, Chris Worthington, Matthew Riesz, Harry Scott, Geoff Haddow, Alan Bradnam, James Brown, Dennis Chivers, Gill Blanden and Nigel Pilkington, nearly all of whom I remember from my time as controller of the Winton British Chess Solving Championship. Many thanks to the BCPS for supporting this event by supplying their contact details.

In a week or two we will start the second leg, which, to start at least, will continue with just directmates. However, I know that some of you also enjoy helpmates, selfmates and even reflexmates, so please do tell me your preferences when sending your first set of solutions.