

UITSLAG COMPOSITIEWEDSTRIJD NEDERLAND - SAKSEN

Henk le Grand

Nederland heeft de compositiewedstrijd tegen Saksen met 66-44 gewonnen. De eerste aanzet tot deze wedstrijd werd door Dieter Müller gegeven tijdens de excursie van het schaakproblemisten congres in 2006 in Wageningen. In het Kröller-Müller Museum kwam hij met het voorstel een landenwedstrijd te houden. In relatief korte tijd is deze wedstrijd nu afgerond.

Thomas Maeder uit Zwitserland fungeerde als algemeen wedstrijdleider. De klassieke helpmatafdeling is gejureerd door Michal Dragoun uit Tsjechië en de fairyafdeling door John Rice uit Engeland. Zij hebben hun werk uitstekend gedaan. Ook op deze plaats willen we dit drietal graag bedanken voor hun werk.

Met uitzondering van een paar kleine correcties die ik heb aanbracht, ontving ik van Thomas Maeder het volgende verslag.

Helpmate section: The Netherlands 36 - Saxony 19

Judge: Michal Dragoun

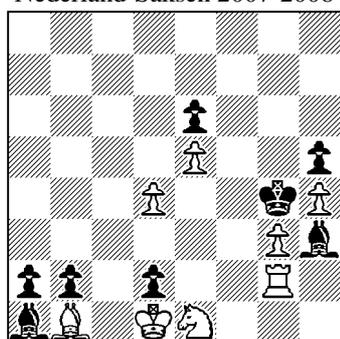
First, I would like to thank the organisers of this match for the invitation to judge this tourney. I defined the theme for this match as follows: Helpmate in two moves with three solutions or positions. In one solution White mates by double check, in the second and third solutions the pieces giving mate in the first one alternatively are captured. Promoting Pawn and promoted piece are considered as the same piece. Zeroposition is not allowed.

From the tourney director Thomas Maeder I received 12 anonymized entries, together with some problems sent for comparison. The overall level of the submitted problems was balanced and I can imagine very well, that another judge would rank the entries in quite a different way.

My ranking is as follows:

Gerard Smits

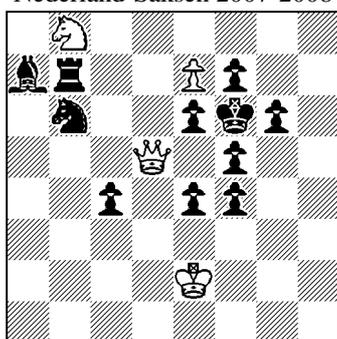
1st Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 3.1;1.1 (8+8)

Michael Schreckenbach

2nd Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008

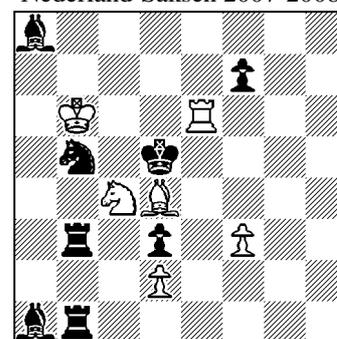


H#2 3.1;1.1 (4+11)

Piet le Grand

Ruud Beugelsdijk

3rd Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 3.1;1.1 (6+8)

1st place (10 points): Gerard Smits (The Netherlands)

I) 1. ♖xg2 ♗c2 2. ♜f5 ♗e3#; II) 1. dxe1=♗ ♗xa2 2. ♜f3 ♗xe6#; III) 1. axb1=♗ ♗f3 2. ♖f5 ♗h2#.

Two similar solutions show black promotions with correspondence of captured and promoted unit with subsequent block. The third solution adds a tempo-capture of the remaining white piece. The content is partly similar to the 10th place, but this realization is clearly much better.

2nd place (9 points): Michael Schreckenbach (Saxony)

I) 1. ♖xb8 ♖d8 2. ♖e5 e8=♗#; II) 1. ♗xd5 e8=♗+ 2. ♜e5 ♗c6#; III) 1. ♜xe7 ♗c6+ 2. ♜e8 ♖d8#.

The theme is combined with a white move-cycle. I appreciated the additional capture of the third white piece, and in comparison with the 3rd place the better white economy.

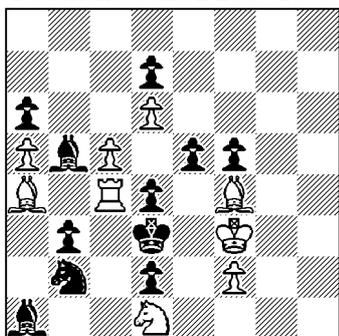
3rd place (8 points): Piet le Grand & Ruud Beugelsdijk (The Netherlands)

I) 1.fxe6 ♙c5 2. ♜e5 ♚e3\# ; II) 1. ♜xc4 ♜e4 2. ♚b4 ♙c5\# ; III) 1. ♚xd4 ♚e3 2. ♜e4 ♜xe4\# .

A cycle of white moves again. One quite similar solution in the problem by M. Gnatina, 2443 Chess Leopoldis 2008 has no relevance here, but the white Pawns are only partly used. For that reason this problem is lower ranked than the previous one.

Ruud Beugelsdijk Johan de Boer

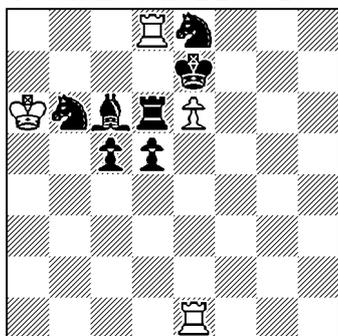
4th Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 3.1;1.1 (9+11)

Hans Schogt Hans Uitenbroek

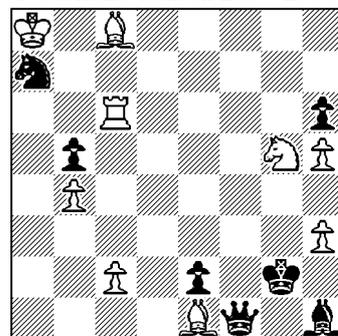
5th Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 3.1;1.1 (4+7)

Gerard Smits

6th Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 (9+7)
b) $\text{♚f1} \rightarrow \text{e3}$ c) $\text{♚f1} \rightarrow \text{h2}$

4th place (7 points): Ruud Beugelsdijk & Johan de Boer (The Netherlands)

I) 1.exf4 ♜xb5 2. ♚a4 ♜c3\# ; II) 1. ♚xa4 ♜c2 2. ♜c4 ♜xd2\# ; III) 1. ♜xc4 ♜xd7 2.exf4 ♜xf5\# .

A combination of the theme with a black move cycle, which may be more difficult than the connection with the white one. I like the two moves of white Rook and Bishop and one move of each of them in the single solutions. However, the motivation of the black moves is not homogeneous.

5th place (6 points): Hans Schogt & Hans Uitenbroek (The Netherlands)

I) 1. ♚d7 exd7+ 2. ♚d6 dxe8=♚\# ; II) 1. ♜d7 ♚b7 2. ♚xd8 e7\# ; III) 1. ♚d7 ♜f1 2. ♚xe6 ♜xe8\# .

Three moves to d7 on Black's first move and three King moves on Black's second move in a very economical setting.

6th place (5 points): Gerard Smits (The Netherlands)

a) 1. ♚xc8 ♜g6 2. ♚g1+ ♚f3\# ;

b) 1.hxg5 ♜b7 2. ♚f3 ♜f6\# ;

c) 1. ♚xc6 ♚e6 2. ♚xh3 ♚f4\# .

Three white pieces are cyclically captured, the non-captured pieces creating a mating battery. This problem is better than the composition sent for comparison, because in all solutions the black King arrives on the mating square, but unfortunately in (b) 1.hxg5 is not a pure tempo move.

7th place (4 points): Peter Sickinger & Michael Schreckenbach (Saxony)

I) 1. ♚d4 ♚b3 2. ♜e2 ♚d1\# ;

II) 1. ♚d3 ♚xe4 2. ♚xe4 ♚e5\# ;

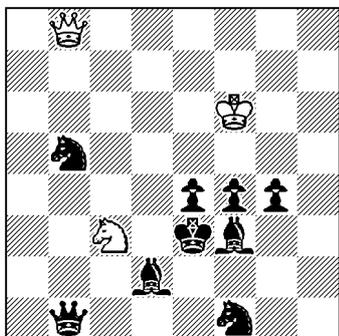
III) 1. ♚g3 ♚xf4+ 2. ♚xf4 ♚d5\# .

Analogy can be found between types of blocking and mating pieces in the second and third solution. The black play consists of square-blocks, which is homogeneous, but simple too.

Peter Sickinger

Michael Schreckenbach

7th Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008

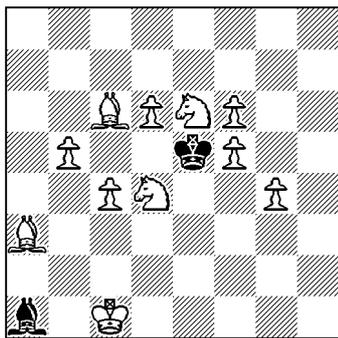


H#2 3.1;1.1 (3+9)

Michael Barth

Dieter Müller

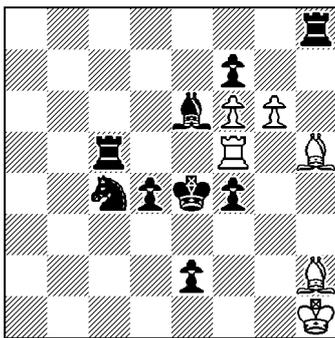
8th Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 (11+2)
b) + ♖b2 c) + ♖b1

Peter Sickinger

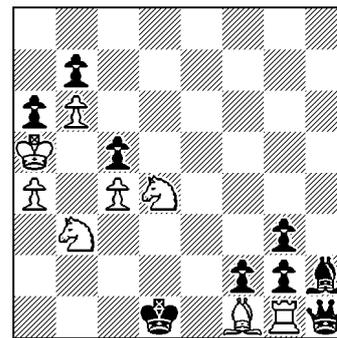
9th Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 3.1;1.1 (6+8)

Michael Barth

10th Place Helpmate section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 3.1;1.1 (8+9)

8th place (3 points): Michael Barth & Dieter Müller (Saxony)

a) 1. ♗xd4 c5 2. ♗b2+ ♗xb2#; b) 1. ♗xc4 ♗b2 2. ♗xd6 ♗f3#; c) 1. ♗xa3 ♗f3+ 2. ♗xd6 c5#.

An economically constructed cycle of white moves, but I like compositions without twins better.

9th place (2 points): Peter Sickinger (Saxony)

I) 1. fxg6 ♗xg6 2. f3 ♗e5#; II) 1. ♗e3 ♗f3+ 2. ♗xf3 ♗xf4#; III) 1. f3 ♗d5 2. ♗xd5 ♗xf3#.

Nice active sacrifices of the thematic white pieces without any capture of black units, but the repetition of the moves f3 and ♗f3 is a flaw.

10th place (1 point): Michael Barth (Saxony)

I) 1. ♗e1 ♗xh1 2. ♗d1 ♗e2#; II) 1. fxg1=♗ ♗d3 2. ♗e1 ♗c2#; III) 1. gxf1=♗ ♗xg3 2. ♗e1 ♗d3#.

The idea is similar as in the top placed problem, but the crude first white move in the 1. ♗e1 solution and the similar Rook blocks on e1 are serious drawbacks for me.

August 20, 2008

Michal Dragoun

Fairy section: The Netherlands 30 - Saxony 25

Judge: John Rice

Theme: h#2 in two phases with differing but closely related fairy conditions, e.g. Andernach/Anti-Andernach, Circe/Anticirce, Madrasi/Isardam, etc. Fairy pieces allowed but not essential.

I had a number of reasons for setting this theme, chief of which was the fact that such combinations are not common and therefore the risk of anticipation was small. Furthermore, having composed a few problems of this kind myself, I was aware of the interesting possibilities and the numerous challenges that the theme presents. I knew that both Saxony and the Netherlands possessed highly talented composers, and I was confident that they would be equal to the task imposed. The quality of the resulting problems, especially those occupying the top three places, indicates that my confidence was not misplaced. It was a pleasure to study all these problems in depth and to appreciate the ingenuity and artistry shown by their composers.

In my assessment I considered the usual artistic factors of unity, economy, clarity, interest of content, quality of construction and (as far as I could judge) solver-appeal, and in addition, given the nature of the theme, the matter of integration. In most cases composers had clearly realised the need to ensure that the two or more parts of their problem should not appear like separate works welded together. The entries that impressed most were those where integration had been achieved without any sense of strain.

My only slight disappointment came from the fact that half the entries displayed constructional weaknesses, though in most cases these were only slight. Overall, the world of fairy chess is the richer for the existence of these problems, and that fact in itself is a justification of the match. I should like to express my thanks to the organisers for having invited me to act as judge.

1st place (10 points): Gerard Smits (The Netherlands)

- aI) 1. ♖h3 h8=♙ 2. ♖xh8[♙g1] ♙xe2[♗e7]#;
 aII) 1. ♔d5 g8=♔ 2. ♔xg8[♔d1] ♔xd6#;
 bI) 1. ♙xf6[♙f8] gxf8=♙[♙g1] 2. ♗a8 ♙h3#;
 bII) 1. ♗xg2[♗g8] hxg8=♔[♔d1] 2. ♙a2 ♔d2#.

This outstanding problem has been planned and executed with the utmost precision and artistry. The correspondence between the four solutions is well-nigh perfect. Black's first move involves vacation of a diagonal BK-flight by a unit which either captures a promoted white unit (Circe) or, after capture and rebirth, is itself captured by a promoting white unit (Anticirce). The same two white Pawns promote, each to a different piece, and end up on their game-array squares, from where they are able to give mate, on different squares because of the initial square-vacation. In the Anticirce solutions the motivations of Black's second moves are not identical: in one case (2. ♗a8) a black rebirth-square is blocked, and in the other (2. ♙a2) the potential block of a white rebirth-square is avoided. To compensate somewhat for this slight disparity, the composer has arranged that the two moves should both be to a square on the a-file. That sort of refinement is the hallmark of the expert composer. The position may look rather clumsy, with the cluster of white Pawns top right, but all are needed (g6 is a cookstopper), and overall the construction is faultless.

Congratulations to the composer on a stunning composition!

Gerard Smits
 1st Place Fairy section
 Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008

H#2 2.1;1.1 (9+11)
 a) Circe
 b) Anticirce

2nd place (9 points): Sven Trommler (Saxony)

- aI) 1. ♙a7 ♙b5+ 2. ♖xb5[♗a8] ♗d5#;
 aII) 1. e2 ♙c2+ 2. ♔xc2[♔d8] ♔d3#;
 bI) 1. ♙d3 ♔xd3[♙c8] 2. ♗f4 ♙c2#;
 bII) 1. ♙c5 ♗xc5[♙f8] 2. ♗f6 ♙b5#.

A well-known configuration of white units is here used to produce beautifully integrated solutions in which White's first moves in one phase become mating moves in the other. In Madrasi Anticirce the black R or Q must be captured and reborn out of harm's way, whereas in Madrasi Circe the R or Q's guard of the mating square is interrupted by the move of the initially paralysed white R or Q to a square closer to the paralysing black piece so that mate can be given on a square lying beyond the range of this piece. The correspondence between Black's second moves in part (b) is fine: in each case a black S must move away (to a single f-file square, thanks to a couple of blocking Pawns) to ensure that it is unable to cause paralysis of the mating unit. No doubt the composer tried to find a way to replace 1.e2 in part (a) by a move by the Bf1, so that all four black first moves would be made by Bishops, but one unavoidable cook then arises. Altogether the problem is a splendid piece of work, only unlucky that the previous composition prevents it from taking the top position.

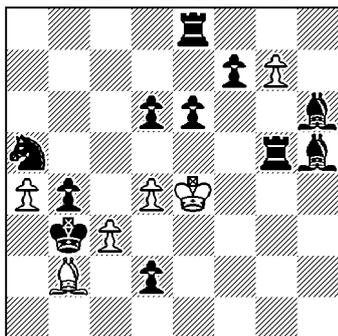
Sven Trommler
 2nd Place Fairy section
 Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008

H#2 2.1;1.1 (5+14)
 a) Madrasi Anticirce
 b) Madrasi Circe

Sven Trommler

3rd Place Fairy section

Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



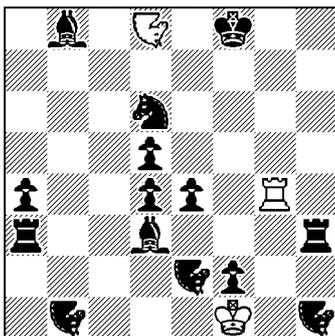
H#2 2.1;1.1 (6+11)

- a) Circe
b) Anticirce

Gerard Smits

4th Place Fairy section

Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



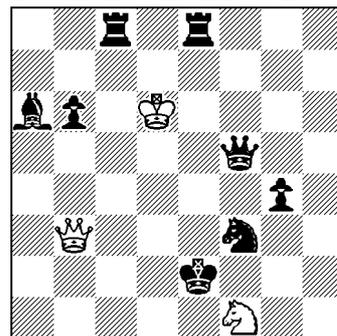
H#2 (3+14)

- a) Madrasi b) Isardam
c) = (a) + ♖a4 → h4
d) = (b) + ♖a4 → h4
♞ ♞ = nachtruiiter / Nightrider

Hans Uitenbroek

5th Place Fairy section

Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008



H#2 (3+8)

- a) Monochrome chess
b) Bichrome chess

3rd place (8 points): Sven Trommler (Saxony)

- aI) 1. ♞xa4[♖a2] g8=♞ 2. ♞xg8[♞f1] ♞b5#;
aII) 1. ♞c4 g8=♞ 2. ♞xg8[♞b1] ♞xd2[♞d7]#;
bI) 1. ♞c2 g8=♞ 2. ♞g6+ ♞xg6[♞d1]#;
bII) 1. ♞a2 g8=♞ 2. b3 ♞xg5[♞a1]#.

I was immediately impressed by this excellently integrated problem, with its BK star-flights and white AUW. The differentiation of the captures by black Rooks on g8 (Circe) is one of many good features. A white Pawn b2 would be adequate in the Circe solutions, but a Bishop is needed in Anticirce as a cookstopper. However, one constructional refinement has been overlooked: the black Pawns d6 and e6 can be replaced by a single black Pawn e7. In a closely fought contest this kind of lapse may cause a problem to be downgraded.

4th place (7 points): Gerard Smits (The Netherlands)

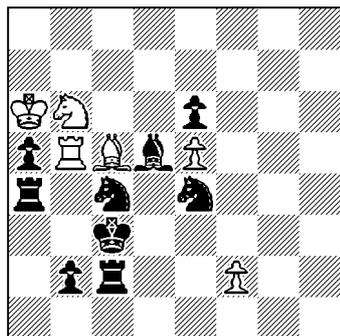
- a) 1. ♞e8 ♞g7 2. ♞f4 ♞e6# (1. ♞f7? ♞c6 2. ♞g3 ♞g8+ 3. ♞h8);
b) 1. ♞f7 ♞c6 2. ♞g3 ♞g8# (1. ♞e8? ♞g7 2. ♞f4 ♞e6+ 3. ♞h4);
c) 1. ♞f7 ♞c6 2. ♞g3 ♞g8# (1. ♞e8? ♞g7 2. ♞f4 ♞e6+ 3. ♞a4);
d) 1. ♞e8 ♞g7 2. ♞f4 ♞e6# (1. ♞f7? ♞c6 2. ♞g3 ♞g8+ 3. ♞a8).

The only entry to make use of fairy units, and the only one to contain further parts on top of those required by the set theme. To be fair to the other entries, I have judged this problem on the merits of parts (a) and (b). In fact, I am not convinced that (c) and (d) add much value: they serve to reverse the tries and solutions of (a) and (b), which is intriguing in a way, but no new play is introduced, and the mechanism requires a whole piece (Ra3) to make it work, a piece that has no function in the other two parts. What happens in (a) and (b) depends on Black's ability to parry mate through observation of the mating unit (Madrasi) and of the BK (Isardam). The three black Nightriders are strong pieces requiring control by means of the Bd3 and sundry Pawns. However, one of these Pawns (e4) can be saved if the Bd3 is moved to c4.

5th place (6 points): Hans Uitenbroek (The Netherlands)

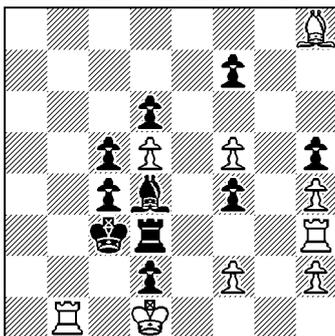
- a) 1. ♞b1 ♞c7 2. ♞xf1 ♞c2#; b) 1. ♞e1 ♞e6 2. ♞f2 ♞e3#.

Excellent use is made here of the properties of the two fairy genres to produce a problem quite unlike any of the others competing in this match. The two solutions are well matched, with in each case a block arranged by Black and shut-off of a black Rook by the white K. In Monochrome chess a Knight is useless, though the Sf3 provides a necessary block, but both Knights have a valuable function in part (b). Not a profound problem perhaps, but a neat illustration of the properties of the two genres.

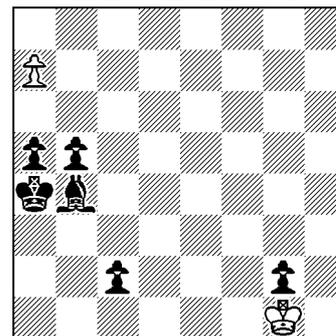
Michael Barth6th Place Fairy section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008

H#2 1.1;2.1 (6+9)

a) Circe b) Anticirce

Hans Uitenbroek7th Place Fairy section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008

H#2 2.1;1.1 (9+10)

a) Andernach chess
b) AntiAndernach chess**Bas de Haas**8th Place Fairy section
Nederland-Saksen 2007-2008

H#2 (2+6)

a) Circe b) Anticirce

6th place (5 points): Michael Barth (Saxony)

- a) 1. ♖xe5[♘e2] ♘e3 2. ♜c4 ♘a4# / 2. ♜c4 ♘d5#;
 b) 1. ♖e3 fxe3[♘e2] 2. ♜c4 ♘xd5[♘b1]# / 2. ♜c4 ♘xa4[♘b1]#.

The reversal of mates through a switch from Circe to Anticirce is already known, yet here it is combined with an Antizielelement (an effect that appears to run counter to the solution) on Black's first move, the black Knight vacating a square that must be blocked in the mate. The divergence of the solutions on Black's second move is not an ideal way to present the composer's idea, but it is hard to see how else it could have been done without recourse to a good deal of extra force, which would then have led to unsoundness. The one feature of the problem that is truly open to criticism is the fact that the WPF2 functions only in the Anticirce solutions. This entry started off quite low in my estimation, but eventually I came to appreciate its merits.

7th place (4 points): Hans Uitenbroek (The Netherlands)

- aI) 1. ♜f3 ♜xf3=♜ 2. ♜xf2=♜ ♜f3#;
 aII) 1. ♜f6 ♘xf6=♜ 2. ♜xh4=♜ ♘f6#;
 bI) 1. ♜xh3 f3=♜ 2. ♜g3=♜ ♜xf3#;
 bII) 1. ♜xh8 f6=♜ 2. ♜g7=♜ ♘xf6#.

Something very like the diagonal part of this problem has already been shown, and in miniature (JMR, The Problemist 1997), which makes it a pity that the addition of the orthogonal part requires a further 12 units. The play in each solution lacks excitement, yet there is a satisfying cohesion about the problem as a whole, and the composer has done well to incorporate four solutions, albeit with a fair number of cookstoppers. Andernach and AntiAndernach are not as different from each other as e.g. Circe and Anticirce, which means that the composer of a problem like this one has a rather easier time of it than some of his colleagues attempting more challenging combinations.

8th place (3 points): Bas de Haas (The Netherlands)

- a) 1. c1=♜ a8=♜ 2. ♜b3 ♜xa5[♜a7]#;
 b) 1. c1=♜ a8=♜ 2. ♜ca3 ♜xg2[♜d1]#.

Mixed-colour AUW with only 8 pieces, neatly done. Yet this sort of idea demands to be set in miniature, and it could have been. Remove Pawns b5 and g2, shift WK to c6 add a black Knight on a suitable square (e.g. h8), and there you have it. Perhaps the composer thought the extra Knight, unused in the Circe phase, could not be justified. But to my mind this was a missed opportunity, the achievement of a miniature setting outweighing any other consideration.

Madراسi: A unit (not a King), if and so long as it is observed by a similar enemy (or neutral) unit, is paralysed and loses all powers except that of paralysing.

Monochrome chess: Any move from a white onto an black square (or vice versa) is illegal.

Nightrider: A Rider along a straight line on squares lying a Knight's move away from each other.

Platzwechsel-Circe (PWC): When a capture is made, captor and captive exchange squares. A Pawn which finishes on its promotion rank immediately promotes. A Pawn on the bottom rank has no powers whatsoever.