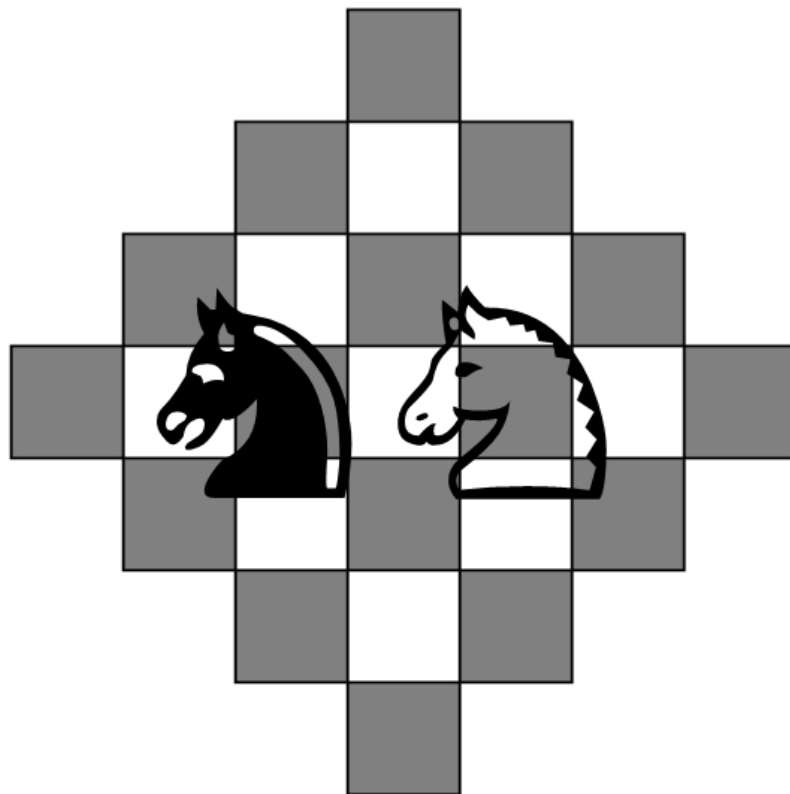


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PROBLEM

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Book Review: *My Favorite Genre* – Vadim Vinokurov

by Mike Prcic

My participation in an important Russian tourney as a selfmate judge was rewarded with, among other things, two interesting books. One of them is *My Favorite Genre* by Vadim Vinokurov (Вадим Константинович Винокуров, 1954-2018). Vadim wrote the book but died before the book was published. Thanks to his sister Nadezhda (Надежда), the book was published last year.

Vadim was very accomplished. He was a FIDE Master for Chess Composition as well as a FIDE International Judge for Chess Composition. His successes include: Winner of more than 60 international competitions, three-time winner of the Moscow Open Championship, and winner of other prestigious competitions. He published over 1000 problems in all genres, many of which are included in FIDE albums.



His sister Nadezhda recalls the following: “Vadim became acquainted with chess in elementary school, studied in the chess circle of the Palace of Pioneers in Ivanovo, did not give up his hobby, and when he studied at the Ivanovo Power Engineering University, he successfully participated in student competitions. From 1970 onward he was interested in chess composition, preferring helpmates. He once admitted that helpmates attracted him with the opportunity to create a beautiful composition in a field that is narrow enough for creativity, where there are already many masterpieces. This difficult search attracted him by the value of the result - the more difficult the road, the sweeter the victory. He was such an adamant fighter, not choosing the easy paths in life. Direct and honest, unable to lie and pretend, true to the word, always ready to help. Vadim devoted a lot of effort to popularizing chess and especially chess composition in his hometown of Ivanovo.

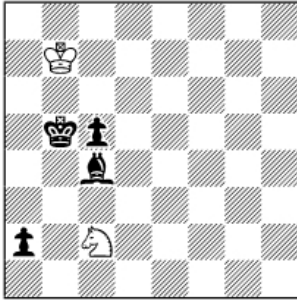
Vadim passed on his knowledge and passion for composition to children, coming up with interesting forms of study for them, acquainting them with and gradually instilling in them a taste for solving and composing problems.

It is necessary to tell you how Vadim worked with children. For the first time in world practice, he tried to make chess composition not just for individuals who come to it independently and by accident, but to bring its poetry up to the level of an academic discipline. He opened a school of chess composition in Ivanovo, where everyone could study, absolutely free. Students studied the topics, then made up tasks on the given topics, then passed the tests. Another interesting project implemented by Vadim was "Chess All-Around", the purpose of which was to combine chess composition and chess”.

Selected Compositions.

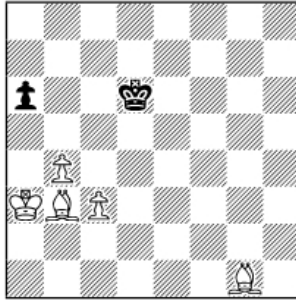
The first six compositions were selected and commented by Valery Gurov. Many thanks Valery.

N°1 Vadim Vinokurov
1st Prize
Seven Chess Notes 2017



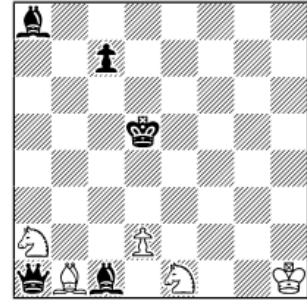
h#2 zero position (2+4)
a) +Sb1, b) +Bc1
c) +Sg1, d) +Rh1

N°2 Vadim Vinokurov
Seven Chess Notes 2016



h#2 see text (5+2)

N°3 Aleksandr Semenenko,
Vadim Vinokurov &
Valery Semenenko
1st Honorable Mention
Kopyl-50 JT 2007



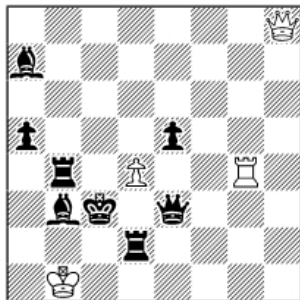
h#3 b) Qa1↔Bb1 (5+5)

N°1 a) 1.Ka4 Kb6 2.Bb3 Sbc3#; b) 1.Bb3 Bd2 2.Ba4 Sa3#; c) 1.a1R Se2 2.Ra5 Sec3#; d) 1.Ka4 Rh3 2.Bb5 Ra3#. The Ivanovo twin is defined as follows: The twin is formed by adding a white piece on the square of its origin in the chess game. There must be at least two twins.

N°2 Here we have Batumi twins. The mating piece changes color and the twin starts from the mating position. This composition shows cyclic Zilahi. a) 1.Kc6 Bd5+ 2.Kb5 c4#; b) White Pawn on c4 becomes black Pawn. 1.a5 Bc6+ 2.Ka6 b5#; c) White Pawn on b5 becomes black Pawn. 1.c3 Bd7 2.c2 Bc8#.

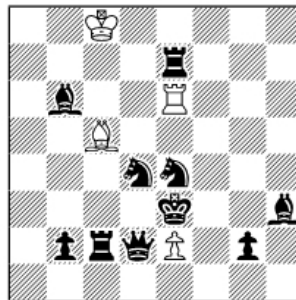
N°3 a) 1.Qe5! (Kd4?) Be4+ (d3?) 2.Kd4 d3 3.c5 Sc2#; b) 1.Qf5! (Ke4?) Be5! (d4?) 2.Ke4 d4 3.Be3 Sc3#. Two critical moves by the black Queen and the white Bishop. The two white Knights exchange functions. Mirror mates. Beautiful composition.

N°4 Vadim Vinokurov
5th Honorable Mention
Lermontov-200 MT 2015



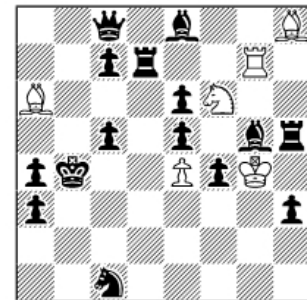
h#2 3 solutions (4+8)

N°5 Vadim Vinokurov
1st Prize
Archakov-70 MT 2009



h#2 b) Pe2→g3 (4+10)

N°6 Vadim Vinokurov,
Aleksandr Semenenko &
Valery Semenenko
1st Prize
Shakhmatnaya poezia 2009



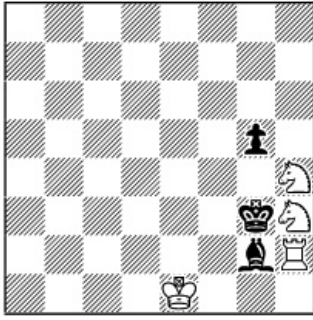
h#3 2 solutions (6+15)

N°4 1.Rdxd4 Qh2 2.Rd3 Qb2#; 1.Rbxd4 Qd8 2.R4d3 Qxa5#; 1.exd4 Rg7 2.d3 Rc7#. In three solutions three different black pieces capture on d4-square and then self-block on d3-square. A complex idea with an easy implementation in a Meredith setting.

N°5 1.Rd7 Re8 2.Bc7 Be7 3.Sf2 Bg5#; 1.Bc7 Ba7 2.Rd7 Rb6 3.Se2 Rb3#. Beautiful tactics executed in perfect harmony.

N°6 1.Bxf6 Rg5 2.c4 Rxe5 3.Bg5 Rb5#; 1.Rxg7 Sd7 2.Sb3 Sxe5 3.Rd7 Sc6#. A tremendous composition.

N°7 Vadim Vinokurov
 1st Prize,
 Moscow-1941 Jubilee Ty. 2006



h#2 3 solutions (4+3)

N°7 The last entry is my own selection. It shows cyclic Zilahi in a miniature. It has received a number of accolades including an entry into FIDE Album. 1.Bxh3 Rf2 2.g4 Sf5#; 1.Kxh2 Sf3+ 2.Kh1 Sf2#; 1.Kxh4 Sf2+ 2.Bh3 Rxh3#.

I extend my thanks to Vadim's sister Nadezhda and also to Oleg Efrosinin for helping me with this article.