

# British Endgame Study News

Special number 42

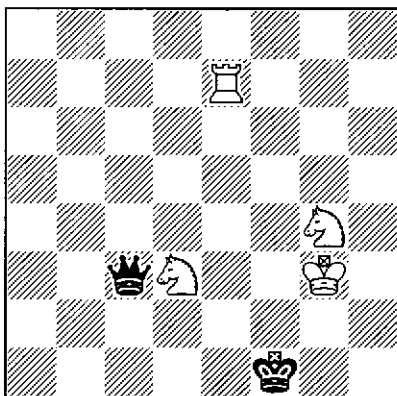
March 2005

*Edited and published by John Beasley, 7 St James Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 4NX*

ISSN 1363-0318

*E-mail: johnbeasley@mail.com*

## Some foreign studies from Tattersall (1)

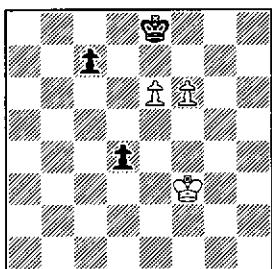


How can White win from here?

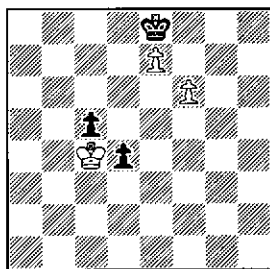
## Some foreign studies from Tattersall (1)

C. E. C. Tattersall does not have an entry in the *Oxford Companion*, but he was the *BCM* endgame correspondent for many years and his *One Thousand End-Games* of 1910-11 was one of the three major British study collections of the 20th century. His *BCM* obituary (November 1957) describes him as a Keeper in the Department of Textiles at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the British Library has books by him on Persian and Oriental carpets. Modern full-time professionals may be better at playing chess, but the old amateurs seem to have had more interesting lives.

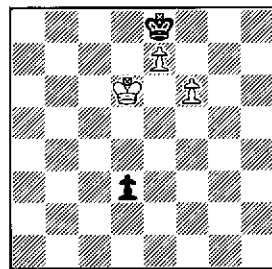
Over 40 per cent of the positions in *One Thousand End-Games* are British and these will be trawled for "Some British studies from ..." in due course, but the collection also contains the best foreign compositions then known and these greatly increase its value. A quick pass disclosed far more interesting studies could fit into a single one of our special numbers, so this will be a first selection only. The collection is arranged by material ignoring colour (so R v N and N v R are grouped together) and I simply started at the beginning and picked out anything that took my fancy, omitting studies that are in *Endgame Magic* or have already appeared in *BESN*.



1 - win



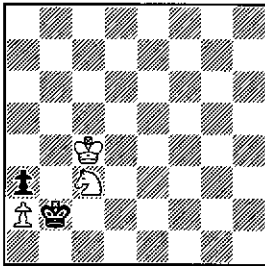
1a - after 5...Kc8



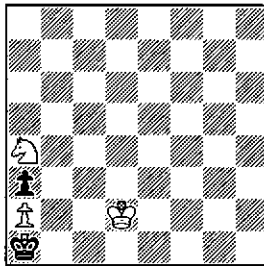
1b - after 7 Kd6

We have already featured many of Tattersall's best pawn studies (see for example the Reichhelm study in March 2003 and the Locoock and Lasker/Reichhelm studies in special number 40), but I don't think we have had **1**. I have always thought of this as a Behting study, but according to Harold van der Heijden's "Endgame study database 2000" the Behting brothers had the White king on f4 (*Rigaer Tageblatt* 1894), in which form the study is unsound (1 Kf3 and 1 e7 both work), and the present version was produced by Lasker in 1895. Tattersall gives no sources beyond authors' names and sometimes not even these, and I am normally relying on Harold.

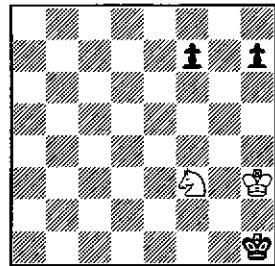
Be this as it may, the study is a little gem. Try 1 Ke4 c5 and it's drawn? Yes, it is, but if White plays **1 Kf4!** he can win. Suppose 1...c5 as before; then White has **2 Ke4 Kf8 3 Kd3 Ke8 4 e7! Kd7 5 Kc4 Ke8** (see **1a**) **6 Kxc5!** (but White can play this brilliant move only when the Black king is on e8, hence the loss of a tempo at move 1) **d3 7 Kd6** (see **1b**) and Black must choose between 7...Kf7 8 Kd7 promoting and 7...d2 8 Ke6 mating. Try 1...c6 for Black: no, 2 Kf3 hands the tempo back (or 2 e7 c5 3 Kf3). Try 1 e7 for White: no, 1...c5, and now 2 Kf4 allows 2...c4.



2 - win



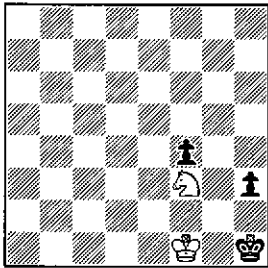
2a - after 3...Ka1



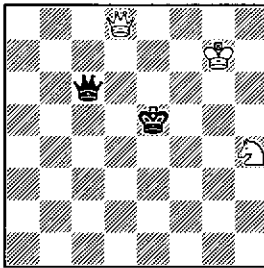
3 - win

2 is from Berger's *Theorie und Praxis der Endspiele* of 1890. White can win the Black pawn by 1 Kb4, but Black retreats into the corner by 1...Ka1 and the capture will give stalemate. Instead, **1 Kd3 Ka1** (1...Kc1 2-3 Nb4 and now White can indeed take the Black pawn) **2 Na4!** (maybe you were expecting this, but I wasn't) **Kb1** (2...Kxa2 3 Kc2 as below, so Black temporizes) **3 Kd2 Ka1** (see 2a) **4 Kc1!** (4 Kc2 Kxa2 and White has got the timing wrong) **Kxa2** (no choice now) **5 Kc2 Ka1 6 Nc5** and the rest is routine. Black is completely passive and there are duals (in particular, 2 Kd2 Kb2 3 Ne2 also works, if less tidily), but the surrender of the pawn on a2 is essential. Such finishes have occurred in play, for example Augustin-Macháček, Bratislava 1967 (they reached 2 with wK on d3, and White played 57 Na4+).

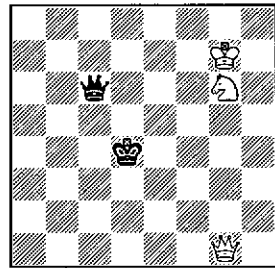
3 (C. Jaenisch, *Découvertes sur le cavalier* 1837) is tricky. White will play his king to f2/f1 and mark time, but Black can choose pawn-one or pawn-two and he can play to reach 3a with White to move (other defences allow White to meet Black's eventual ...h2 with a three-move knight mate). Now 1 Kf2 h2 is drawn; game over? No, **1 Ne5!** There follows **1...Kh2** (1...f3 2 Ng4 is a short cut) **2 Kf2 Kh1/f3 3 Ng4(+)** **f3/Kh1 4 Kf1 f2 5 Nxf2+ Kh2 6 Ne4** and White has had the last word.



3a - the toughest defence

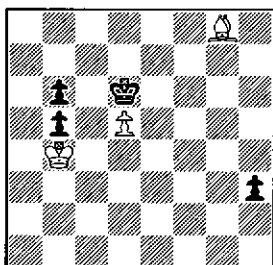


4 - win (after Black's 2nd)

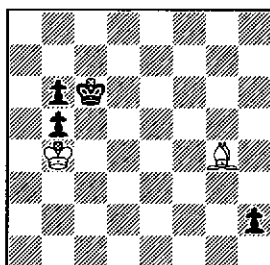


4a - after 6 Qg1+

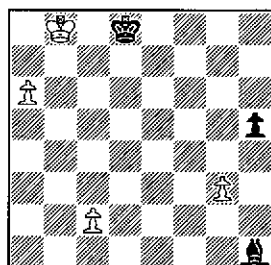
C. Heller's 4 (*Österreichische Schachzeitung* 1873) is given by Tattersall with White pawns on c6 and d6 and a Black pawn on c2 instead of the queens, but the introduction 1 d7 c1Q 2 d8Q Qxc6 is banal and I diagram the position after move 2. Now comes **3 Ng6+ Ke4** (3...Ke6 4 Qf6+ and a fork) **4 Qh4+ Ke3 5 Qe1+ Kd4 6 Qg1+** (see 4a) with a fork or a vertical or diagonal skewer: a lovely piece of geometry.



5 - draw



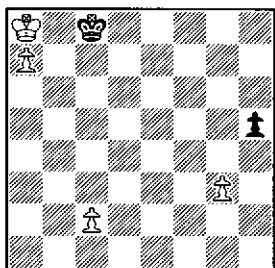
5a - after 4 Bg4



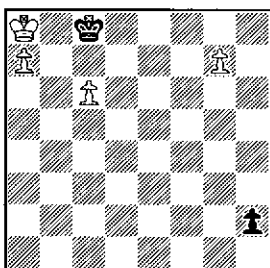
6 - draw

P. A. Larsen's 5 appeared in *Tidskrift för Schack* in 1897. 1 Bh7 threatens 2 Be4, and if 1...Ke5 then 2 d6 draws easily. 1...Kxd5, therefore, and 2 Bf5 apparently drives Black where he wants to go. But after 2...h2 White plays 3 Bc8 aiming for b7, forcing 3...Kc6, and now comes 4 Bg4! (see 5a). Black must promote now or never, 4...h1Q, and after 5 Bf3+ Qxf3 it is stalemate.

Ponziani's 6, from his book *Il giuoco incomparabile degli scacchi* of 1769, seems to have been the first appearance of an idea which many later composers have used. Nor is it merely a crude and unpolished first presentation, because the motivation is subtle and the key position is neatly built up during play. 1 a7 threatens 2 a8Q Bxa8 3 Kxa8 and it is Black who will have to fight for the draw, hence 1...Ba8, and now 2 Kxa8 can be met by 2...Kc8 shutting in the king. This has brought us to 6a below and of course it's going to be 3 c3 or the position would not have been set, but why?



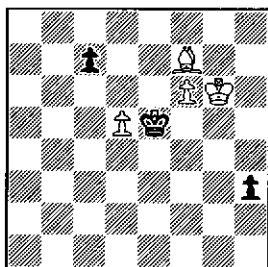
6a - after 2...Kc8



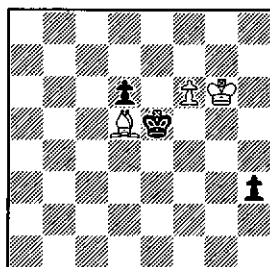
6b/6c - White's long-term and short-term targets

An immediate 3 g4 allows 3...h4 and Black will promote first and give check, but if White's c-pawn were on c6 Black's promotion would not give check, and if Black's king were also on c8 White's own subsequent promotion would give check and he would even win (see 6b). So White must aim to reach 6b, and to do this he must reach 6c with himself to move. Hence 3 c3! Kc7 4 c4 Kc8 5 c5 Kc7 6 c6 Kc8 (6c accomplished) 7 g4! and 7...h4 is duly met by 8-10 g7 h1Q 11 g8Q+. So Black has nothing better than 7...hxg4, and after 8 c7 he must give stalemate if he is not to lose. And of course if Black tries 2...Kc7, White replies 3 c4.

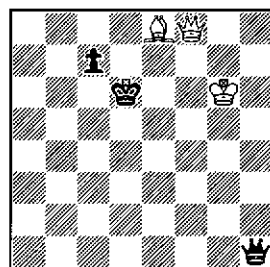
It is tempting to call this "a first-class piece of work for 1769", but that would be most unjust. It is a first-class piece of work, full stop.



7 - win



7a - 1...cxd6, after 2 Bd5

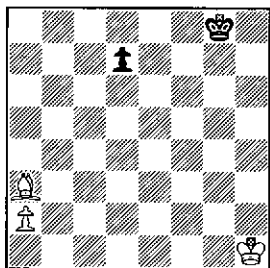


7b - 1...Kxd6, 4 f8Q+

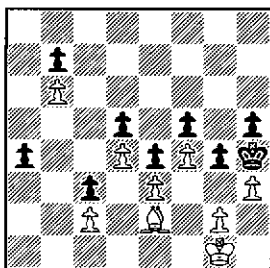
7, by the Platov brothers, shared 2nd-5th Prize in *Bohemia* in 1906. 1 Be6 h2 2 f7 h1Q 3 f8Q Qg1+ gives Black a forced draw and other bishop moves are no better, and the way to win is 1 d6. If now 1...cxd6 then 2 Bd5! (see 7a), and after 2...Kxd5 3-4 f8Q h1Q White will have the spear check 5 Qa8+.

But Black also has 1...Kxd6 leaving the c-pawn on c7, and now he can meet Qa8+ by interposing on c6; and if White tries 2 Be8 transferring the sacrifice square to c6, does not 2...h2 leave Black a tempo ahead? Yes, but it turns out not to matter. After 3 f7 h1Q 4 f8Q+ we have 7b, and White gets his skewer check anyway: 4...Ke6/Ke5 5 Qf6+ and 6 Bc6+, or 4...Kd5 5 Bc6+! Kxc6 6 Qa8+ echoing the previous line.

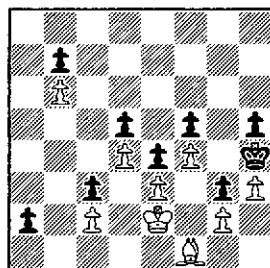
And if 1...h2, 2 dxc7 and 2 Bd5 Kxd5 3 dxc7 both lead to wins with care.



8 - win



9 - draw

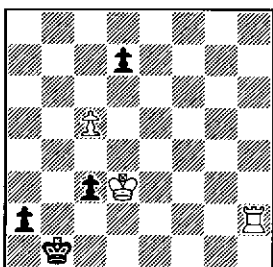


9a - after 4 Ke2

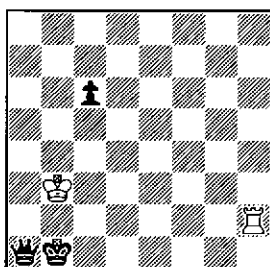
Oldřich Duras's 8 (Sp Pr *Deutsche Schachzeitung* 1908) is a favourite of mine. White must stop Black reaching a8, so 1 Bb4! Kf7 2 a4 and either 2...Ke6 3-4 a6 Kc6 5 Ba5! or 2...Ke8 3-4 a6 Kc8 5 Bd6. Have I really not quoted this before?

Duras's early 9 (*Šachový listy* 1901) is an amusing grotesque. The pawn is out of reach, but White has a resource: 1 Kf2 a3 (1...g3+ 2 Ke1 leads to the same thing, and 1...gxh3 allows mate) 2 Bf1 g3+ (else mate) 3 Ke1! (3 Ke2 a2 and White has to move) a2 4 Ke2! (see 9a) and White has boxed himself in: 4...a1Q/R will give stalemate.

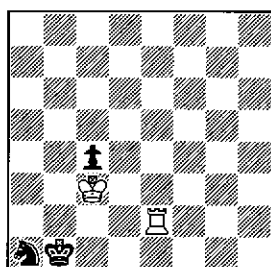
Duras's surname is normally given without an accent and there is none in the signature in Prokop's 1944 book *Duras vítězí*, but Bernd Gräfrath has sent me photocopies of pages from the *Wiener Schachzeitung* of 1907 and 1909 in which his signature clearly shows an accent "ů" which lengthens the vowel. I must find out about this from my Czech friends.



10 - win

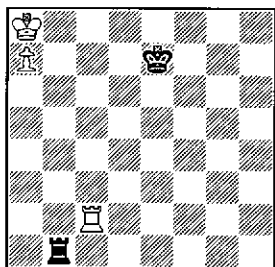


10a - main line, after 3 Kb3

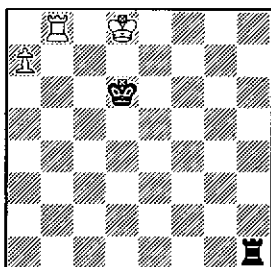


10b - 2...a1N, after 4...c4

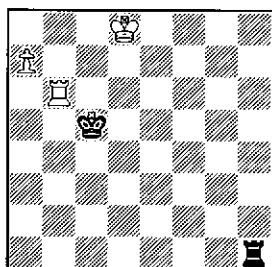
There are several other fine minor-piece studies, but in the interests of variety let us leave these until next time and pass on to the rooks. J. Behting's 10 appeared in *Rigaer Tageblatt* in 1893. White can threaten mate by playing 1 Kxc3 a1Q+ 2 Kb3, but Black has 2...Qa8 commanding the mating square. Hence 1 c6! and if 1...dxc6 then 2 Kxc3 a1Q+ 3 Kb3 and Black is helpless (see 10a). Other moves lead to book wins: 2...a1N 3 Rg2 c5 4 Re2 c4 (see 10b) 5 Kxc4 Nc2 6 Kc3 Na3 7 Ka3 etc, or 1...c2 2 Rh1+ c1Q 3 Rxc1+ Kxc1 4 c7 a1Q 5 c8Q+ and a standard win with K+Q against K+Qa1 (the pawn on d7 makes no difference).



11 - win



11a - after 5...Rh1

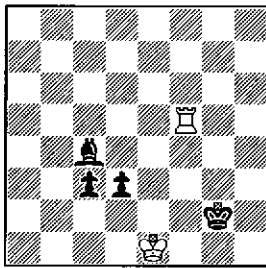


11b - after 6...Kc5

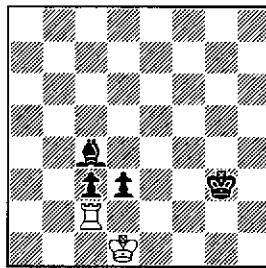
Max Karstedt's 11 appeared in *Deutsches Wochenschach* in 1909. White's natural thought is 1 Rc7+ intending 2 Rb7 and 3 Kb8, but Black has 1...Kd6 2 Rb7 Rh1 meeting 3 Kb7 with a mate (or 1...Kd8 2 Rb7 Rc1 similarly, if he prefers). Instead, 1 Rc8 intending 2 Rb8 and 3 Kb7, and if Black plays the simple 1...Kd7 White has 2 Rb8 Rh1 3 Kb7 Rb1+ 4 Ka6 Ra1+ 5 Kb6 Rb1+ 6 Kc5 coming down the board.

Black can improve on this by 1...Kd6 guarding c5, but now White can hide on the eighth rank: 2 Rb8 Rh1 3 Kb7 Rb1+ 4 Kc8 Rc1+ 5 Kd8. However, 5...Rh1 again threatens mate (see 11a), and if 6 Ke8 then 6...Rh8+ 7 Kf7 Rh7+ and the pawn falls. So White must drive Black back, 6 Rb6+, and if 6...Kd5/Ke5 he can play 7 Ra6 and eventually hide on the a-file (7...Rh8+ 8 Kc7 Rh7+ 9 Kb6 Rh6+ 10 Ka5). Black can try 6...Kc5 (see 11b), since now 7 Ra6 Rh8+ is drawn, but 7 Rc6+ K-- 8 Rc8 settles matters. This last flourish is not strictly necessary, since 7 Rb1 and even 7 Rb2/Rb3 (threat 8 Ra2/Ra3) Ra1 8 Rb7 also win, but it is a nice way to finish.

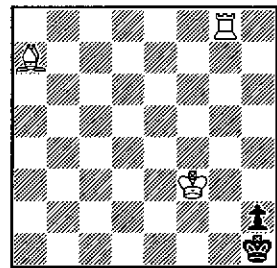
All right, it's textbook stuff, but it was studies like this that wrote the textbooks.



12 - draw



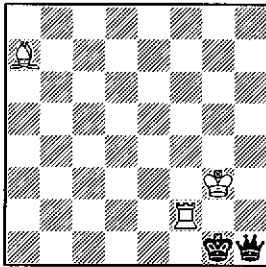
12a - 1...Kh3, after 3 Rc2



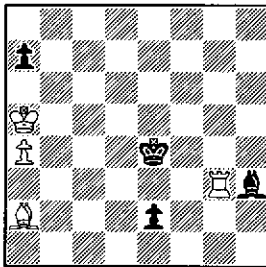
13 - win

Otto Dehler's 12 (*Deutsche Schachzeitung* 1909) is a famous double-stalemate study. White starts **1 Rf2+**, and if **1...Kg3** then **2 Rc2!** and **2...dxc2** gives us the first stalemate. Black can avoid this by playing **1...Kh3**, but White continues **2 Kd1**, and after **2...Kg3** he can again play **3 Rc2** (see 12a). Black has **3...Bb3** pinning, but so what? White continues **4 Kc1**, and either capture will give a second stalemate; a beautifully elegant piece of work.

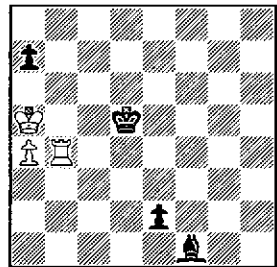
F. Amelung's 13 (*Düna Zeitung* 1902, version) is a study for gentle solving. **1 Kg4** releasing the stalemate is immediate, but what does White do after **1...Kg2**? It is natural to give check and hope to reposition his men to better advantage, but neither **Kf4+** nor **Kh4+** leads anywhere, and the way to win is **2 Rf8** allowing Black to promote; after **2...h1Q** **3 Rf2+ Kg1** **4 Kg3** the queen will fall (see 13a). Black can try **4...Qa8** when a direct attack on her will fail, but **5 Rf7+** forces **5...Qxa7** because **5...Kh1** will allow mate. I have moved the bishop from c5 to cut out an alternative win by **2 Kh4+ Kf1** **3 Rf8+ Ke1** **4 Bb4+** etc.



13a - after 4 Kg3

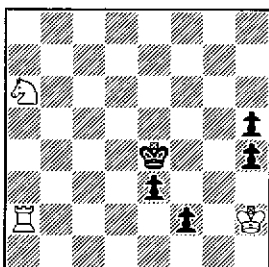


14 - draw

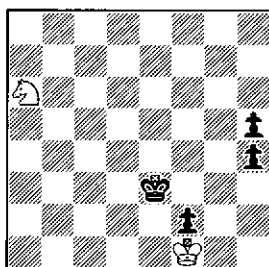


14a - after 4 Rb4

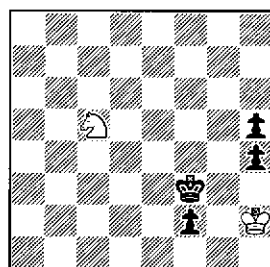
14 (J. Sehwers, *Rigaer Tageblatt* 1909) is another famous double-stalemate study. **1 Bd5+** prepares the bishop for sacrifice, though not at once because Black naturally plays **1...Kd4** to keep the rook from e3. Now comes **2 Rg1 Bf1** **3 Rg4+ Kxd5** (else **4 Re4**) **4 Rb4!** (see 14a), and **4...e1Q** will be stalemate. And if Black plays canny and underpromotes, **4...e1R**, White has **5 Rb1** with a second stalemate. This second line is slightly dualized because White also has **5 Rb7** and if **5...a6** then **6 Rb1** stalemating one move later, but this alternative is far less tidy and opinions will differ as to its importance.



15 - draw



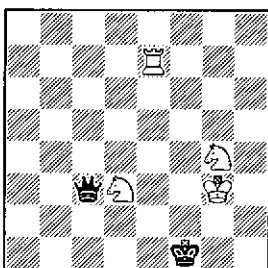
15a - 1 Rxf2, after 3 Kf1



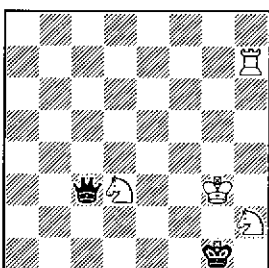
15b - main line, 2...exf2

15 (*Novoye vremya* 1898) also raises a technical point, but let's solve it first. Try 1 Kg2: no, 1...h3+ 2 Kf1 h2 and White is overwhelmed. Try 1 Rxf2 exf2 2 Kg2: still no, 2...Ke3 3 Kf1 (to stop 3...Ke2, see 15a) h3 and again White is overwhelmed. But if White plays 1 Nc5+ Kf3 2 Rxf2+ exf2 (see 15b) 3 Ne4! Kxe4 4 Kg2 Ke3 5 Kf1 we have 15a without the knight, and 5...Kf3 and 5...h3 both give stalemate.

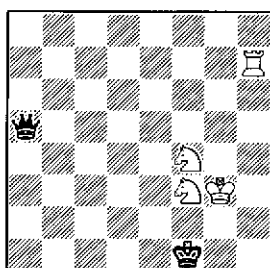
The technical point: please will somebody tell me why the pawn on h5 is needed? It spoils the final position, and my computer thinks the study is still sound without it.



16 - win



16a - after 2 Rh7



16b - 2...Qa5, after 4 Nf4

And how did you get on with our front page study (Johann Berger, *International Chess Magazine* 1888)? 1 Nh2+ Kg1 is easy enough, but 2 Rh7! (see 16a) most emphatically is not. Surely White cannot simply throw a knight away? But he can, because 2...Qxd3+ is met by 3 Nf3+ Kf1 4 Rh1+ Ke2 5 Re1 with a peach of a five-man mid-board mate, the Black queen blocking her own king.

And there is more, because of course Black doesn't have to take the knight in 16a. A nondescript move such as 2...Qc8 allows 3 Nf3+ Kf1 4 Rh1+ Ke2 5 Nf4+ Ke3 6 Re1 and again mate, but 2...Qa5 keeps an eye on e1, and the answer to it is not immediately obvious. In fact it demands another quiet move from White: 3 Nf3+ Kf1 4 Nf4 (see 16b). This imprisons the Black king and threatens mate on the inaccessible square h1, and Black's queen sacrifices on g5, h5, and e1 can each be met by a stalemate-releasing capture.

*More next time. For source details, I am indebted to Harold van der Heijden's "Endgame study database 2000" and to the BCPS Library. - JDB*