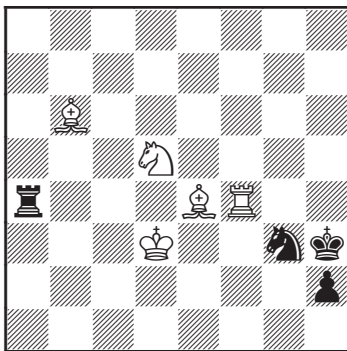


Chess Informant-50 AT 2016

The world-famous chess periodical *Sahovski Informator*, founded in 1966, celebrated its 50th anniversary by organizing an international composing tourney for endgame studies. Yochanan Afek, who edits an endgame study section in the *Informator* since a couple of years, was the judge. The tourney director, who also took care of soundness and anticipation checking, Gady Costeff, received 36 entries. The judge considered the overall level to be very good. In the final award, one study was eliminated because it had been sent to two tourneys (and should have been disqualified in both tourneys), and the solution of one study was extended by a (natural) move.

No 21293 M. Hlinka & L. Kekely
1st prize



d3h3 0424.01 5/4 Win

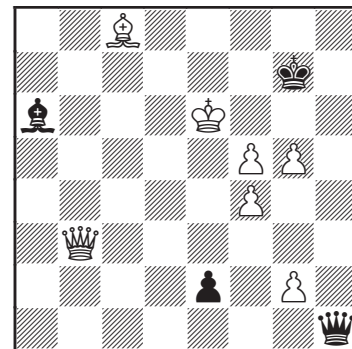
No 21293 Michal Hlinka & L'ubos Kekely (Slovakia). 1.Bf3 Ra3+/i 2.Sc3 Rxc3+ 3.Kxc3 Se2+ 4.Bxe2/ii h1Q 5.Bf1+ Kg3 6.Bc7 zz Qh8+/iii 7.Kb3 (Kc2? Qh7+;) Qh1 8.Ka3 Qb7 9.Rf7+ Kg4 10.Rg7+ Kh5/iv 11.Rh7+ Kg4 (Kg6; Bd3+) 12.Bh3+ Kf3 13.Rf7+ Ke2 14.Bf1+ Kd1 15.Rd7+ Kc2 16.Bd3+, and: Kc1 17.Bf4+ wins, or: Kd1 17.Be4+ (Ba6+) wins.

- i) h1Q 2.Bxh1 Ra3+ 3.Kc4 Sxh1 4.Rf8 wins.
- ii) 4.Kd2? Sxf4 5.Bh1 Sh5 6.Bc7 Sg3 draws.
- iii) Qb7 7.Rf7+ Kg4 8.Rg7+ Kh5 9.Rh7+ Kg4 10.Bh3+ Kf3 11.Rf7+ Ke2 12.Bg4+ wins.
- iv) Kf5 11.Bh3+ Kf6 12.Be5+ wins.
- vii) 17.Ba6+ Kc2 18.Bxb7

“Following the zugzwang after the quiet 8.Ka3! White’s rook and bishop create a second battery. By exchanging roles as the front and the rear pieces of the newly formed battery the thematic pieces change also the targeted half of the royal couple! Surprisingly, on the final move even two batteries are activated with the rook as the rear piece and this time both

bishops are the front ones! All this occurs with no need for extra material! A genuine chess miracle!”

No 21294 M. Minski
2nd prize



e6g7 4040.41 7/4 Win

No 21294 Martin Minski (Germany). 1.f6+/i Kh8 2.g6 e1Q+/ii 3.Kf7 Bc4+ (Qh5; Qb8) 4.Qxc4 Qe8+ (Qh5; Be6) 5.Kxe8 Qe1+ 6.Qe2/iii Qxe2+ 7.Kf8 Qxg2 8.g7+ Kh7 9.Bb7/iv Qg1/v 10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc5+ 12.Ke8/v Qc8+ 13.Ke7/vi Qxg8/vii 14.f7 Qg7 15.Ke8 wins.

i) 1.Qc3+? Kg8 2.Kd6 e1Q 3.Be6+ Qxe6+ 4.Kxe6 (fxe6 Qxg2;) Qxg2 5.Qc7 Qa8 6.Qf7+ Kh8 draws.

ii) Bc4+? 3.Qxc4 e1Q+ 4.Kf7 see main line.

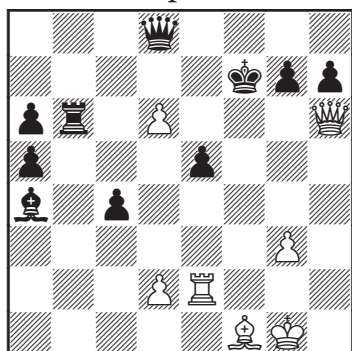
iii) 6.Qe6? Qxe6+ 7.Bxe6 stalemate. 6.Be6? Qxe6+ 7.Qxe6 stalemate. 6.Kf7? Qe8+ 7.Kxe8 stalemate.

iv) 9.Bf5+? Kh6 10.g8Q Qa8+ 11.Ke7 Qa3+ (Qxg8?; f7) wins.

v) Qg6 10.Be4 Qxe4 11.g8Q+ wins. Qg4 10.Be4+ Kh6 11.g8Q Qc8+ 12.Ke7 see main line.

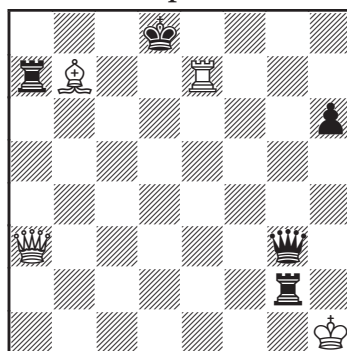
v) 12.Kf7 Qc4+ 13.Ke7 Qxe4+ (Qxg8?; f7) wins.

No 21295 M. Minski
& O. Pervakov
3rd prize



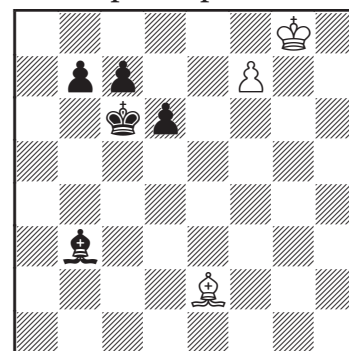
g1f7 4440.36 7/10 Win

No 21296 S. Hornecker
& M. Minski
4th prize



h1d8 4710.01 4/5 Draw

No 21297 P. Arestov
& V. Tarasiuk
special prize



g8c6 0010.13 3/5 Draw

vi) 13.Kf7? Qd7+ (Qc4+).

vii) Qc7+ 14.Ke6 Qc4+ 15.Bd5 wins.

“In the heat of the battle each side promotes to a second queen; however the side that sacrifices both his queens is the one to emerge the eventual winner against the remaining enemy queen. A breath-taking battle with plenty of quiet moves and subtle finesse”.

No 21295 Martin Minski (Germany) & Oleg Pervakov (Russia). 1.Rf2+ Kg8 2.Qg6/i Rb8/ii 3.Bxc4+ Kh8 4.Bd3 (Rh2? Qb6+;) Qh4/iii 5.Qf5 (gxh4? hxg6;) Qxg3+ 6.Kf1 Qxd3+ 7.Qxd3 Bb5 8.Qxb5 axb5 9.d4 exd4 10.Rc2 (d7 d3;) Rf8+/iv 11.Ke1 Kg8/v 12.d7 Rd8 13.Rc8 wins.

i) Threatens 3.Qf7+. 2.Bxc4+? Kh8 3.Qg6 Rxd6 wins.

ii) hxg6 3.Bxc4+ Kh7 4.Rh2+ Qh4 5.Rxh4 model mate. Kh8 3.Rh2 h6 4.Rxh6+ gxh6 5.Qxh6+ Kg8 6.Bxc4 model mate. Rb7 3.Qe4 Rb4 4.Qd5+ Kh8 5.Qxa5 Rb8 6.Qxa4 wins.

iii) hxg6 5.Rh2+ Kg8 6.Bc4+ Kf8 7.Rh8 mate.

iv) d3 11.Rc7 Rf8+ 12.Ke1 Rd8 13.d7 Kg8 14.Rc8 wins.

v) Rd8 12.d7 Rxd7 13.Rc8+ Rd8 14.Rxd8 model mate.

“Materially, Black seems to do well, yet White’s bishop and advanced pawn eventually make the difference. A game-like heroic sacrificial battle is decided by a subtle pawn move. The mutual quiet queen sacrifices are eye catching”.

No 21296 Siegfried Hornecker & Martin Minski (Germany). 1.Re8+/i Kxe8 2.Bc6+ Rd7/ii 3.Bxd7+ Kf7 4.Be6+/iii Kg6/iv 5.Bf5+ (Bf7+? Kh7;) Kh5 6.Bg4+/v Qxg4 (Kh4; Qe7+) 7.Qe3/vi Rg3 8.Qxg3 Qxg3 stalemate.

i) Thematic try: 1.Rd7+? Kxd7, and either 2.Bc6+ Ke6 3.Bd7+ (Bd5+ Ke5;) Kf7 4.Be6+ Kg6 – position X with bRa7, or 2.Bc8+ Ke8 3.Bd7+ Kf7 4.Be6+ Kg6 – position X with bRa7. 1.Qxg3? Rxg3 wins.

ii) Kd8 3.Qf8+ Kc7 4.Qe7+ Kb6 5.Qb4+ Kc7 6.Qe7+ Kb6 7.Qb4+ draws.

iii) 4.Be8+? Kg8 5.Bf7+ Kh7 6.Bg6+ Qxg6 7.Qe7+ Qg7 8.Qe4+ Rg6 wins.

iv) Position X without bRa7.

v) 6.Bg6+? Kh4 7.Qe7+ Qg5 8.Qe4+ Rg4 9.Qe1+ Rg3 10.Qe4+ Qg4 11.Qe7+ Kh3 wins.

vi) 7.Qc5+? Qg5 8.Qf2 Rg4 wins.

“The aim of White’s sacrificial play is obviously to turn his remaining queen to a crazy one. Following a mutual rook sacrifice, an original systematic manoeuvre of the wB and bK prepares the ground by the quiet and powerful 7.Qe3!!”.

No 21297 Pavel Arestov (Russia) & Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Bf3+/i Kb6 2.Bd1/ii Be6 (Bxf7+; Kxf7) 3.Kg7/iii Bxf7 4.Kxf7 d5 5.Ke6 Kc5 6.Kd7 c6 7.Kc8/iv b6 8.Kc7 zz b5 9.Kb7/v, and:

— d4 10.Be2 b4 11.Ka6/vi b3 12.Ka5 b2 13.Bd3 draws, or:

— b4 10.Bb3 Kb5 11.Kc7 c5 12.Bxd5/vii c4 13.Kd6 b3 14.Ke5 b2 15.Be4 draws.

i) 1.Kg7? Bxf7 2.Kxf7 Kc5, or 1.Bd1? Bxf7+ 2.Kxf7 Kd5 3.Bf3+ Ke5 4.Bxb7 c5 5.Ba6 d5 win.

ii) Thematic try: 2.Kg7? Bxf7 3.Kxf7 c6 4.Ke6 Kc5 5.Kd7 d5 6.Kc7 b5 zz 7.Kb7 b4 wins.

iii) 3.Bg4? Bxf7+ 4.Kxf7 d5 wins, e.g. 5.Ke6 Kc5 6.Ke5 b5 7.Bh5 c6 8.Be2 b4 9.Bf1 b3 10.Bd3 b2 11.Bb1 Kb4 (Kc4).

iv) Thematic try: 7.Kc7? b6 zz 8.Kc8/viii d4 9.Be2 Kb4 10.Kc7 c5 11.Kxb6 c4 12.Kc6 d3 wins.

v) Thematic try: 9.Kd7? d4 10.Be2 b4 11.Ke6 d3 12.Bxd3 Kd4 13.Bc2 c5 14.Kd6 c4 wins.

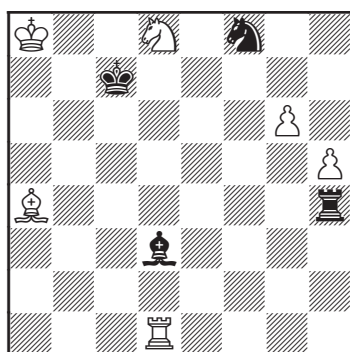
vi) 11.Bd3? b3 12.Ka6 Kb4 wins.

vii) 12.Kd6? c4 13.Bd1 d4 14.Kd5 b3 15.Kxd4 Kb4 wins.

viii) 8.Kb7 b5 9.Be2 b4 wins.

“A surprising discovery is behind this logical study based on a crystal clear reciprocal zugzwang. The special prize is also for the best theoretical contribution”.

No 21298 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
1st honourable mention



a8c7 0444.20 6/4 Win

No 21298 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.Be8/i Be4+/ii 2.Ka7 Rxh5 3.Sb7/iii Bxb7 4.Rc1+ Bc6 5.Rxc6+ Kd8 6.g7/iv Rh7 7.Rc8+ Kxc8 8.Bd7+ Sxd7 9.g8Q+ Sf8+ 10.Ka8/v wins.

i) 1.g7? Rxa4 mate. 1.Bb3? Be4+ (Rxh5) 2.Ka7 Rxh5 3.Rc1+ Kxd8 4.g7 Rh7 5.Rc7 Rxc7, or 1.Rc1+? Kxd8 2.g7 Rxa4+ 3.Kb7 Rb4+ 4.Kc6 Be4+ 5.Kd6 Rb6+ 6.Ke5 Re6+ 7.Kd4 Re8 draw.

ii) Rh3 2.Rc1+ Kxd8 3.g7 Sd7 4.Rc8+ Kxc8 5.Bxd7+ wins.

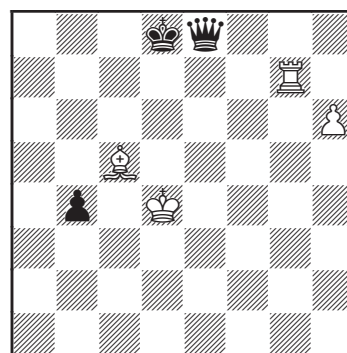
iii) Try: 3.Rc1+? Kxd8 4.g7 Rh7 with no Bb7 this secures Black a draw.

iv) Try: 6.Rc8+? Kxc8 7.g7 Sd7 8.Bxd7+ (Bxh5 Sf6;) Kc7 draws.

v) 10.Kb6? Rh6+ 11.Kc5 Rf6 draws.

“All three white pieces are sacrificed in the course of a fierce struggle to keep the seventh rank closed in order to secure promotion”.

No 21299 M. Miljanić
2nd honourable mention



d4d8 3110.11 4/3 Win

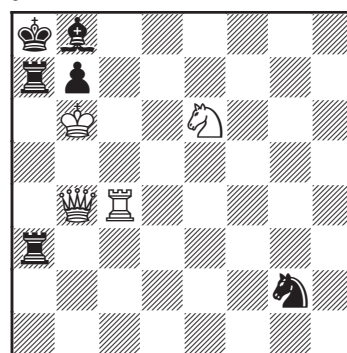
No 21299 Mirko Miljanić (Serbia). 1.h7 Qh8 2.Bf8 Ke8 3.Ke4/i Kxf8 4.Rc7/ii b3 5.Kd3 zz b2 6.Kc2 b1Q+ 7.Kxb1 Qe5 8.Rc8+ wins.

i) 3.Kd3? Kxf8 3.Rc7 b3 zz.

ii) Thematic try: 4.Rb7? b3 5.Kd3 b2 6.Kc2 b1Q+ 7.Kxb1 Qe5 draws. 4.Ra7? b3.

“This very attractive logical miniature displays an original reciprocal zugzwang”.

No 21300 Á. Ruzs
3rd honourable mention



b6a8 1734.01 4/6 Win

No 21300 Árpád Ruzs (Rumania). 1.Sc7+/i Bxc7+ 2.Kxc7 b5+ 3.Kc6/ii R7a6+/iii 4.Kxb5 R3a5+ 5.Qxa5 Rxa5+ 6.Kb6/iv Kb8 7.Re4 Ra6+ 8.Kxa6 Kc7 9.Kb5 Kd6 10.Kc4 wins.

i) 1.Rc8? R3a6+ 2.Kb5 Rxe6 3.Qf8 Re5+ 4.Kb4 Re4+ 5.Kc3 Re3+ 6.Kc2 Re2+ (Ra2+?;

Kb1) 7.Kd1 Re1+ 8.Kc2 Re2+ 9.Kd3 Re3+ 10.Kc2 Re2+ draws.

ii) 3.Kc8? Rh3 4.Qb2 Se3 5.Rc7 Sd5 6.Rxa7+ Kxa7 7.Qa2+ Kb6 8.Qxd5 Rh8+ draws.

iii) bxc4 4.Qf8 mate. R3a6+ 4.Kxb5 Rb7+ 5.Kxa6 Rxb4 6.Rxb4 wins.

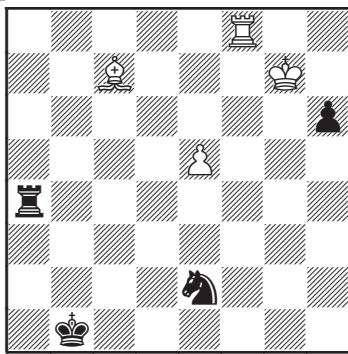
iv) 6.Kxa5? Kb7 7.Kb5/vi Se3 8.Rf4/vii Sd5 9.Rf7+ Sc7+ 10.Kc5 Kc8 11.Kc6 Se8 12.Ra7 Kd8 13.Rf7 Kc8 draws.

vi) 7.Re4 Kc6 8.Kb4 Kd5.

vii) 8.Rd4 Kc7 9.Kc5 Sf5.

“The surprising capture refusal 6.Kb6!! allows the single tempo required for dominating the bS. A pleasant discovery!”

No 21301 J. Polášek
Special honourable mention



g7b1 0413.11 4/4 Win

No 21301 Jaroslav Polášek (Czech Republic). 1.e6/i Ra7/ii 2.Rf1+/iii Kc2 3.Rf7 Sd4 4.e7 Se6+ 5.Kg6 Sxc7 6.Rf8 Ra6+ 7.Kf7 Ra7/iv 8.Rc8, and:

— Kd3 9.Kg6 Ra6+ 10.Kg7 Ra7 (Rc6; Kh8) 11.Kxh6/v Ra6+ 12.Kg7/vi Ra7/viii 13.Kh8 wins, or:

— Kb3 9.Kg6 Ra6+ 10.Kg7 Ra7 11.Kh8/viii h5 12.Rxc7 Rxc7 13.e8Q wins.

i) 1.Rf1+? Kc2 2.e6 Sd4 3.e7 Se6+ 4.Kg6 Sxc7, or 1.Bd6? Rg4+ 2.Kf6 (Kxh6) Sd4 3.Bc5 Rf4+ 4.Kg6 Rg4+ 5.Kxh6 Se6 draw.

ii) Sd4 2.e7 Se6+ 3.Kh8 Sxc7 4.Rc8 Rc4 5.Rxc7 Rxc7 6.e8Q wins.

iii) Logical try: 2.Rf7? Sd4 3.e7 Se6+ 4.Kxh6 Sxc7 5.e8Q Ra6+ draws. 2.Rc8? Sd4 3.e7 Rxc7 4.Rxc7 Se6+.

iv) Sb5 8.Rc8+ (e8Q Sd6+;) Kb3 (Kd3; Rd8+) 9.Rb8 wins.

v) Logical try: 11.Kh8? Se8 12.Rxe8 Ke4 13.Kg7 h5.

vi) 12.Kh7? Sd5 13.Rd8 Ra7 14.Rxd5+ Ke4 draws.

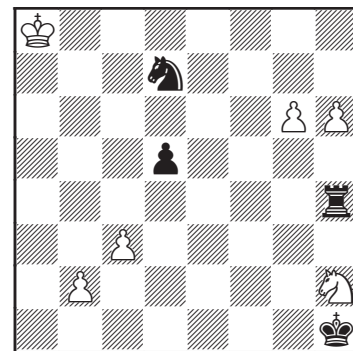
vii) Rc6 13.Kg8 Sd5 14.Rd8, or Rg6+ 14.Kf7 Rc6 15.e8Q Sxe8 16.Rxc6 wins.

viii) 11.Kxh6? Ra6+ 12.Kg7 Rc6 13.Kh8 Rh6+ 14.Kg8 Sd5 15.e8Q Sf6+ draws.

“This is a fine improvement on H. van der Heijden, 4th Prize Olympic tourney Dresden 2008 (EG#17345) in which I acted as the judge. Here we witness two additional logical tries, upgrading the original version that should naturally still be regarded as a partial anticipation”.

HH: Polášek was unaware of the forerunner!

No 21302 V. Tarasiuk
special honourable mention



a8h1 0304.41 6/4 Draw

No 21302 Vladislav Tarasiuk (Ukraine). 1.Sg4/i Rxc4 2.h7 Ra4+ 3.Kb7 Rh4 4.g7 Rxh7 5.g8Q Sf6+ 6.Qxh7+ Sxh7 7.Kc7/ii Sf6 8.Kc6 zz Kg2/iii 9.b4 Se4 10.b5 Sxc3 11.b6 d4 12.b7 d3 13.b8Q d2 14.Qb2 wins.

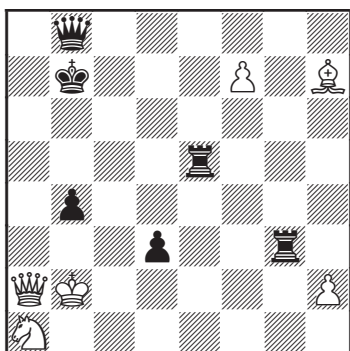
i) Try: 1.h7? Sf6 2.Sf3 Rh6 3.Sg5 Sxh7 4.gxh7 Kg2 5.b4 Kg3 6.b5 Kg4 7.b6 Kxg5 8.b7 Ra6+ 9.Kb8 Rh6 10.Ka8 Ra6+ draws.

ii) Thematic try: 7.Kc6? Sf6 zz 8.b4 Se4 9.b5 Sxc3 10.b6 d4 11.b7 d3 12.b8Q d2 13.Qh8+ Kg2 draws.

iii) Kg1 9.b4 Se4 10.b5 Sxc3 11.b6 d4 12.b7 d3 13.b8Q d2 14.Qg3+ wins.

“This is another significant improvement on an earlier study by V. Tarasiuk, 4th prize FIDE Cup 2015 (EG#20508), in which I acted as the judge”.

No 21303 P. Arestov
1st commendation



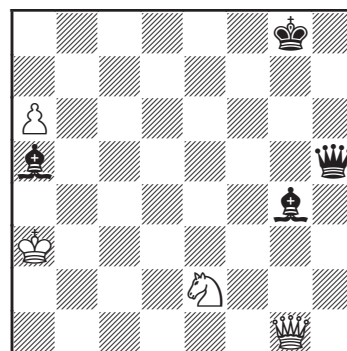
b2b7 4611.22 6/6 Draw

No 21303 Pavel Arestov (Russia). 1.Be4+ Rxe4/i 2.Qd5+ Kb6 3.Qxe4 Qh8+ 4.Ka2 Qxh2+ 5.Kb3 d2+ 6.Kxb4 Rb3+/ii 7.Sxb3 Qd6+ 8.Ka4 d1Q (Qd7+; Ka3) 9.f8Q/iii Qxf8 10.Qe3+ Kb7 11.Qb6+ Kc8 12.Qc5+ Qxc5 stalemate.

- i) Kb6 2.Qc4 Rxe4 3.Qxe4 see main line.
- ii) d1Q 7.Qe6+ Kc7 8.Qe5+ draws.
- iii) 9.Qe3+? Kb7 10.f8Q Qg4+ wins.

“The final pin stalemate is not new – Kasparyan, 1st hon. mention *Shakhmaty v SSSR* 1938 (HHdbV#65769) – but the tactical play leading to it is well constructed”.

No 21304 S. Slumstrup Nielsen
2nd commendation



a3g8 4061.10 4/4 Draw

No 21304 Steffen Slumstrup Nielsen (Denmark). 1.a7 Qh3+ 2.Sg3 Bf3 3.Se4+ Bg2+ (Bg4+; Ka4) 4.Kb2 Bc3+ 5.Kc1/i Qc8 (Qh6+; Kb1) 6.Qxg2+ Bg7+ 7.Qc2 Bh6+ 8.Sd2/ii Bxd2+ 9.Kb2 Qb7+/iii 10.Qb3+ wins.

- i) 5.Kc2? Qc8 6.Qxg2+ Bg7+.
- ii) 8.Kb2? Bg7+ 9.Sc3 Qc6 (Qa6) 10.Qb3+ Kh7 draws.
- iii) Qa6 10.Qb3+ Kg7 11.Qg3+, e.g. Kh7 12.Qh4+ Bh6 13.Qe4+, or Qa8 10.Qb3+ Kg7 11.Qb8, or Bc3+ 10.Qxc3 Qb7+ 11.Qb3+.

“Two black Q+B batteries, unleashed against the white monarch, are unable to tame the advanced pawn owing to White’s accurate play”.