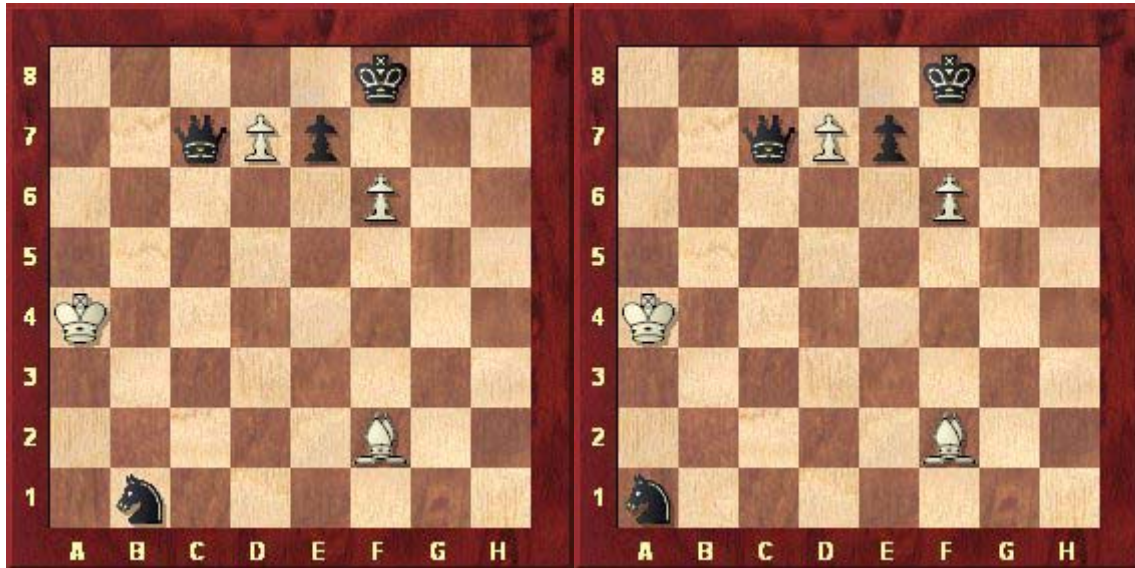


Solutions to the Christmas Puzzles

December 27, 2004

F. Kovác, Maroczy Memorial Tourney 1952



White to play and draw – Twin: a. diagram; b. bNb1-a1

a. White forces a stalemate with **1.fxe7+ Kxe7 2.d8Q+ Kxd8 3.Bb6 Qxb6** [3...Nc3+ 4.Ka5] ½-½.

b. **1.d8Q+ Qxd8 2.fxe7+ Qxe7 3.Bc5 Qxc5** ½-½. Astonishing how the small change in position of the knight can be met with a different stalemate.

December 28, 2004

Joachim Iglesias, France-Echecs Belgirate 2004



Proof game 5: Position after Black's 4th move

1.e3 h5 2.Qxh5 Rh6 3.Be2 Rh7 4.Qh6 Rh8. Black's moves are forced by the need to lose a tempo.

Lasker,Em - Loman, 1913



After **1.Rf8+ Kxf8 2.gxh7** Lasker's opponent had **2...Ra4+! 3.Kh3 Rh4+! 4.Kxh4 g5** [or **3.Kg5 Rh4 4.Kxh4 g5+**] and *Black* wins.

Oded Ross of Israel comments on this position: "It would have been really nice if the sequence in the Lasker-Loman game was one of trick and counter-trick, as it was in the way you set up that position, with the last black pawn deciding the issue. Unfortunately, according to your own Mega Database that not exactly the way it went..."

Lasker,E - Loman,R [C84]

USA tour sim USA, 1903

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 0-0 8.e5 Ne8 9.Bb3 Na5 10.Qxd4 Nxb3 11.axb3 d5 12.b4 c6 13.b5 cxb5 14.Nc3 Nc7 15.Be3 Bf5 16.Qd2 Qd7 17.Nd4 Bb4 18.Rad1 Rac8 19.Qe2 Bg6 20.f4 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Be4 22.Qf2 f6 23.exf6 Rxf6 24.Nb3 Ne6 25.Nd4 Rxc3 26.Rd2 Rg6 27.f5 Nxd4 28.fxg6 Nxc2 29.Bc5 Rxc5 30.Rxe4 Rc8 31.Rf4 Qc6 32.Rxc2 Qxc2 33.Qxc2 Rxc2



34.Rf8+ Kxf8 35.gxh7 Rc1+ 36.Kf2 Rc2+ 37.Kg3? [37.Ke3 Rxc2 (37...Rc3+ 38.Kd2) 38.h8Q+-] 37...Rc3+ 38.Kg4 Rc4+ 39.Kg5 Rh4 40.Kxh4 g5+ 41.Kxg5 Kg7 **0-1**.

As you can see, Lasker's rook sac was good (even though Rf8+ one move earlier was simpler), but instead of going with the king towards the black rook and probably winning (maybe Black can build a fortress, but that is beside the point), he blundered and missed Rh4! altogether.

F. Köhnlein, Deutsches Wochenschach 1903



White to play and mate in four moves

There is only one way to mate in four moves, and it involves all four promotions (it's an example of an "allumwandlung" – promotion to all four pieces in one position): **1.f8Q Kb4 2.h8B Kxc5 3.b8R Kd6 4.e8N mate.**

December 29, 2004

John Nunn, Original 2004



Helpmate in four moves
Two solutions

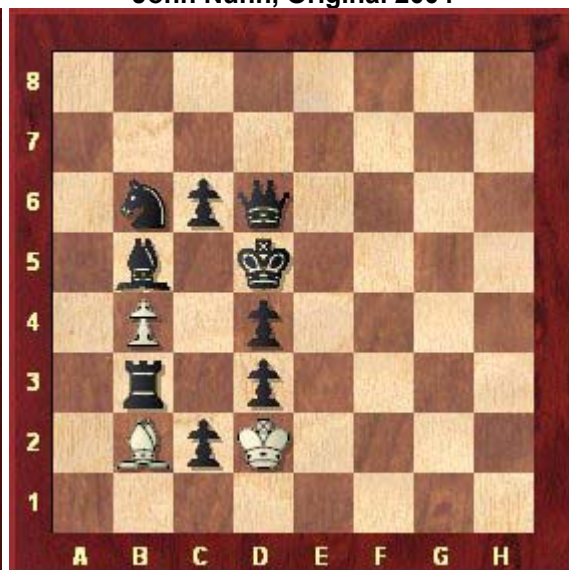
Problem one:

1.Rg5 Bxh3 2.Re5 Bxg2 3.Kf5 Kf3 4.Bg5 Bh3#
1.Qc3 Bxg4 2.Qe5 Bh5 3.Kf5 Kf3 4.Bg5 Bg4#

Problem two:

a. 1.Rxb4 Bxd4 2.Rb2 Bxb2 3.Kc5 Kc3 4.Qd5 Ba3#
b. 1.Kc5 Ba1 2.N4d5 Bc3 3.Nc4+ Kxd3 4.Rb4 Bxd4#

John Nunn, Original 2004



Helpmate in four moves
a) Diagram; b) black knight on b4

Michel Caillaud, Messigny 1997



Proof game 6: Position after White's 6th move

1 c4 c5 2 Qa4 Nc6 3 Qxc6 dxc6 4 Nc3 Qd5 5 Nxd5 cxd5 6 d4. The symmetrical position can only arise as a result of distinctly unsymmetrical play.

December 30, 2004

Dr. Erich Zepler, Die Schwalbe 1929



White to play and mate in four moves

White would like to play 1.Qd6 and threaten 2.Qe7 mate. But unfortunately Black has the defence 1...0-0-0. White must destroy the castling right: **1...Ra4+** **2.Ke5** (threatens 3.Qb8/c8#) **2...Ra8** Now Black can no longer castle, so the original plan may be executed: **3.Qd6 Kd8 4.Rh8#**. The defence 1...Bc4 does not help: 2.Qxd7+ Kf8 3.Qe7+ Kg8 4.Qg7#

H. Mattison, Atputa 1930



White to play and win

The problem is that both white bishops are hanging, and 1.Rxd3 Rxe6 is a theoretical draw, as is any R+B vs R that White may have on the board. So White must find a clever mating threat: **1.Rd5!! Rxd5 (forced) 2.Be3!!** [threatens 3.Bf7#. But careful: 2.Bd2 Rf5! 3.Bxf5 is draw by stalemate!] **2...Rg5 3.Bf7+ Kh6 4.Be8! d2 5.Bxd2** and Black is in deadly zugzwang. **1-0.**

- [Click here to replay and download all the solutions](#)
-

ChessBase Christmas Puzzle Contest

Now to our puzzle contest. We have not given the solution to five of the problems from the Christmas Puzzle week. These are the ones you need to solve in the contest. Well, actually not all of them. The exact conditions are given at the end. There you will find a printout sheet, so you can carry the positions around with you to solve on a real chessboard or show to other people. With each problem we also give you the link where it appeared in the puzzle week. Usually there is a more extensive description, and perhaps broader hints, to be found there.

Puzzle 1 – [Dec. 27](#)



Proof game 4: Position after White's 7th move

In this example it is important to remember that the position must arise after *White's* seventh move (there are a number of solutions after Black's seventh). [[December 27](#)]

Puzzle 2 – [Dec. 30](#)

Recently a friend told me the following story about the death of his grandfather: "My grandparents used to go to church on Sundays. One day during the sermon, which was long and dry, my grandfather fell asleep. That week he had been reading a novel about the [French Revolution](#) and began to dream that he was a rich aristocrat living in a beautiful chateau in France. Suddenly there was a commotion outside. A mob of peasants appeared, stormed the house, grabbed him and tied him up, dragged him to the market square, where there was a platform with a [guillotine](#) set up. My grandfather was led up the stairs, a priest muttered a few words to him and then his head was placed in the cradle of the guillotine. A hooded executioner approached and reached up for the lever that releases the blade. At that moment my grandfather was snoring quite loudly, so my grandmother reached out and pinched him on the back of his neck to wake him up. This was such a shock to my grandfather that he suffered a heart attack and died on the spot."

My reaction to the story of my friend: "I don't believe a word of that. You made it up." Why did I react in this way, how did I know the story is not true. [[December 30](#)]

The solution is not, as some have suggested, that one cannot dream while one is snoring (people can). It is also not the fact that the executioner reached up for the lever, which is much too high for him to reach. Inaccuracies in a dream do not constitute a logical fallacy that invalidate the story – if the grandfather had been reading Star Wars he could have easily dreamt that he was about to be decapitated with a laser sword. There is a more basic and elementary reason why we know that the friend's story is not true

Puzzle 3 – [Dec. 30](#)



Proof game 7: Position after Black's 8th move

Puzzle 4 – [Dec. 31](#)



Proof game 8: Position after Black's tenth move

Puzzle 5 – [Dec. 31](#)

W. Pauly, 1913



White to play and mate in two (white pawn missing)

In the above position there is a white pawn missing. You are required to replace it and mate in two moves. We are not sure we should be telling you this, but there are four different solutions, each with its own little point.

The Contest Conditions

- To enter in the Puzzle Contest you should use the feedback form given below.
- Do not change the subject line ("2004 Puzzle Contest") as your reply may otherwise be deleted by our mailserv as spam.
- You have two weeks – until **January 16** – to submit your solutions. The order in which the solutions are received by us is irrelevant, so there is no reason to hurry. Please do not send multiple solutions.
- In order to qualify for a prize you must solve – or plausibly attempt to tackle – at least two problems. The prize winners will be drawn from all messages received that fulfil this criterium.
- We welcome your comments, which we may quote as feedback. But please do take a little care with orthography. For instance we appreciate messages that do not completely eliminate capital letters, but of course abhor those that use nothing else.
- There are three prizes in this contest. They consist of a copies of our new DVD training programs, personalized with autographs of the author. One prize will be a program signed by top player in the Wijk aan Zee tournament. Please note that you can only win a prize if you give your full name and a correct email address.
- [Click here for a printer-friendly version of the problems](#)
- [Click here to submit your entry](#)

Frederic Friedel