

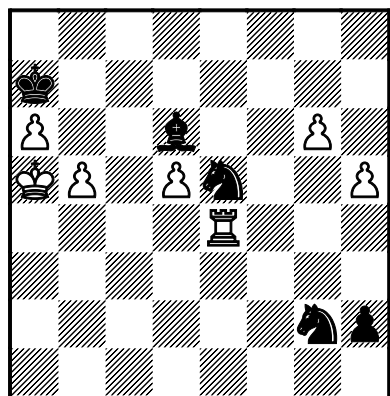
Prizewinners explained

The cherry: Qg5!!

YOCHANAN AFEK

Exactly 20 years ago, on 26xi1992 to be precise, the great Russian composer Leopold Mitrofanov passed away in St. Petersburg. He was just 60 but left us some 250 player-friendly studies and dozens of tourney victories. His most memorable one is no doubt the following diamond:

A.1. L. Mitrofanov
1st prize Rustaveli MT 1967
Correction: Mitrofanov,
Vecherni Leningrad 1971.



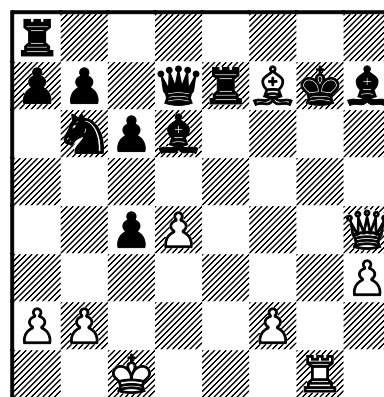
a5a7 0136.51 7/5 Win

1.b6+ Ka8! 2.Re1! Sxe1 3.g7 h1Q 4.g8Q+ Bb8 5.a7! Sc6+! 6.dxc6 Qxh5+ 7.Qg5!! (Ka6? Qe2+;) **Qxg5+ 8.Ka6 Bxa7 9.c7!, and** e.g. **Qa5+ 10.Kxa5 Kb7 11.bxa7 Kxa7 12.c8Q** wins.

The astounding **7.Qg5!!** has become known ever since as the *Mitrofanov Deflection*. In the 113th issue of the well-known Serbian chess periodical *Šahovski Informator*, Garry Kasparov praises this motive commenting the following game:

At the conclusion of some highly sacrificial play the Indian IM played what seemed the only move **24...Kf8??** and was duly mated by the Philippine GM. Had he been familiar with

A.2. Paragua – Debashish
New Delhi 2012



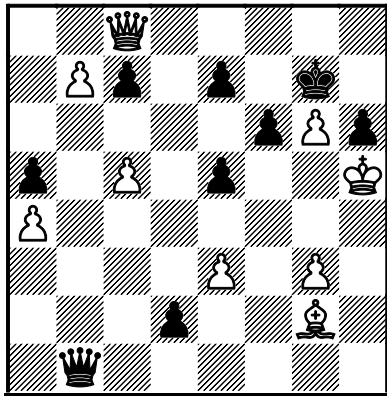
Position after 24.Rg1+

Mitrofanov's evergreen he would have possibly saved the day and established his name for eternity with 24...Qg4!!

Milu Milescu (1911-1981) was a highly respected Israeli chess author and editor who dedicated his long and successful writing career to explore the linkage between over the board chess and the art of chess composition. Publishing his pieces in the Romanian *Revista Româna de Sah*, the German *Deutsche Schachzeitung*, the French *Europe Echecs* and in his last twenty years, also in the Israeli monthly *Shahmat*, Milescu had become a great populariser of chess art to generations of chess enthusiasts. To commemorate his centenary an international composing tourney was organized last year. The judge Amatzia Avni was looking for especially combative studies and the top prize winners indeed provided plenty of action. Though not thematically related still they have one important detail in common: they are both highlighted by a stunningly neat queen sacrifice on g5 just out of the blue.

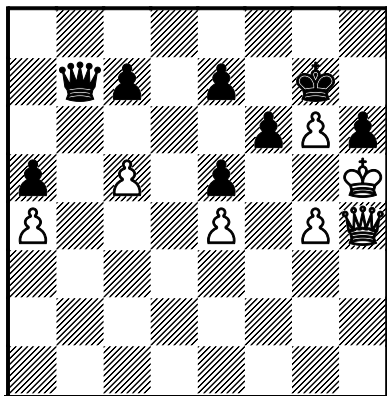
A.3. Sergiy Didukh

1st prize Milesco-100 MT 2012



h5g7 4010.67 9/8 Draw

1.Bf3 Qf1 2.Qg4 d1Q 3.Bxd1 Qh1+ 4.Qh4 Qxd1+ 5.g4 (5.Qg4? Qh1+ 6.Qh4 Qxb7 wins) Qb1 6.e4! Qxb7

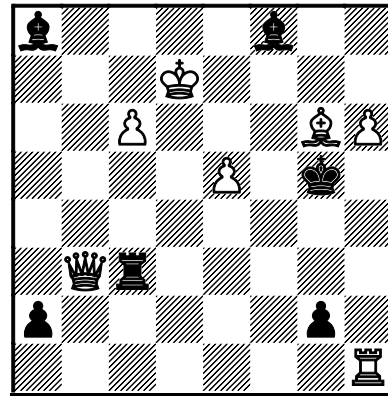


7.Qg5!! hxc5 8.c6 Qb5 9.axb5 a4 10.b6 a3 11.b7 (11.bxc7? a2 12.c8Q a1Q mates) a2 12.b8Q a1Q 13.Qb1 Qa8 14.Qb8 Qa2 15.Qb2 Qg8 16.Qb8 Qh8+ A black queen appears in all four corners during the solution! 17.Qxh8+ Kxh8 18.g7+ Kh7 (18...Kxg7 stalemate) 19.g8Q+! Kxg8 20.Kg6 Kf8 21.Kf5 Kf7 stalemate!

The judge: “Excellent sacrificial tussle, with high tension and surprising blows in abundance. White must constantly defend against mighty threats. 7.Qg5!! is a great move; a black queen (albeit not the same queen) visits all four corners during the solution, yet this proves insufficient to escape from white's stalemate nets”.

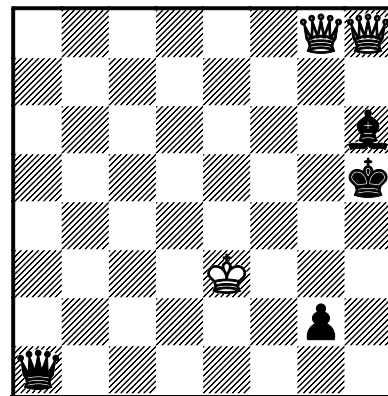
A.4. Yochanan Afek

2nd prize Milesco-100 MT 2012



d7g5 1470.32 7/6 Win

1.Rh5+! Kxg6 2.Qg8+! Kxh5 3.h7 Bxc6+ 4.Ke6 Bd5+! 5.Kxd5 Rc5+ 6.Ke4! Rxe5+! 7.Kd3 Re3+! 8.Kxe3 a1Q 9.h8Q+ Bh6+



10.Qg5+!! Kxg5 11.Qxa1 wins.

“Black forces the white king to the diagonal c1-h6, so that a promotion with check (9.h8Q+) will be met by a counter-check (9...Bh6+). At this very juncture, when we are led to believe that Black is saved, comes the astounding rejoinder 10.Qg5+!!, settling the issue in White's favour”.

Both prizewinners resemble their great predecessor in just one detail and don't pretend to belong to the same league. Nevertheless we dare to hope that the deceased composer would have still released a smile of approval ...