

Prizewinners explained

In the footsteps of Réti

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To commemorate the 120th birthday (and eighty years since his death) of the great player, thinker and study composer GM Richard Réti (28v1889-6vi1929), a composing tourney was announced by the Czech association of chess problemists in two sections:

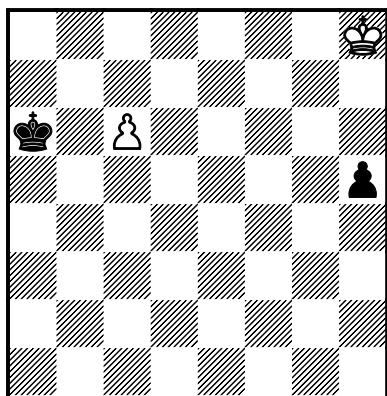
1) Composing introductory play to one of Réti's studies published in the book of Arthur Mandler: *Richard Réti: Sämtliche Studien*.

2) Composing an original study in which the author exploits one of Réti's themes.

The best known among Réti's creative ideas (also to many over the board novices) is naturally the following ever-green quartet:

A1 R. Réti

*Deutsch-Österreichische
Tageszeitung* 1921



Draw

1.Kg7 h4 2.Kf6 Kb6 3.Ke5 h3 (Kxc6; Kf4) **4.Kd6 h2 5.c7 Kb7 6.Kd7** draws.
1...Kb6 2.Kf6 h4 transposes.

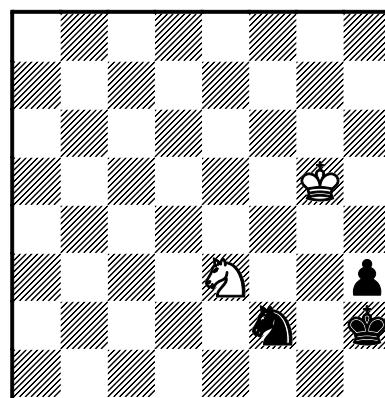
This study is often used by chess teachers to demonstrate a multi-purpose plan in the middlegame- selecting a plan that meets your own goals while diminishing those of your opponents.

No wonder that the basic manoeuvre was the main source of inspiration to many of the entries in both sections including the winners of the top honours.

Another classic of Réti is this Knight ending:

A2 R. Réti

Sämtliche Studien 1931



Draw

1.Kh4 Kg1 2.Sg4 Kg2 3.Se3+ Kh4 4.Sc2!

This remote control drawing manoeuvre is very aesthetic and the only one securing the draw. Not 4.Sf1+? Kg1 5.Sg3 Kg2 6.Sf5 h2 7.Sg4 Se4! queening. **4...Kg1** (the original source has 4...Sd3 5.Kg4 Se5+ 6.Kh4 Sf3+ 7.Kg4 Sg5 8.Se1 Kg1 9.Sg3+ Kg2 10.Sh4+ Kf2 11.Sf3, but it 5.Sd4 Kg2 6.Sf3! Se5 7.Se1+ Kh2 8.Sc2 is a dual) **5.Se1** draws.

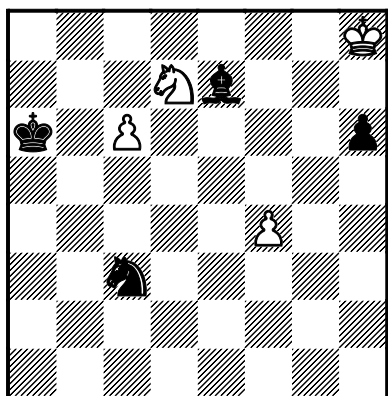
The Spanish composer combined both studies as natural separate main lines resulting from the same introductory play:

1.f5, and:

– **1...Se4 2.f6 Sxf6 3.Sxf6 Bxf6+ 4.Kh7 h5 5.Kg6 h4 6.Kxf6 Kb6 7.Ke5 h3 8.Kd6 h2 9.c7** draws, or:

– **h5 2.f6 Bd6 3.f7 h4 4.Sf6 h3 5.Sg4 Kb6 6.Kg8 (Kg7) 6...Kxc6 7.f8Q Bxf8 8.Kxf8**

A3) L.M. Gonzales
1st prize Réti MT 2009

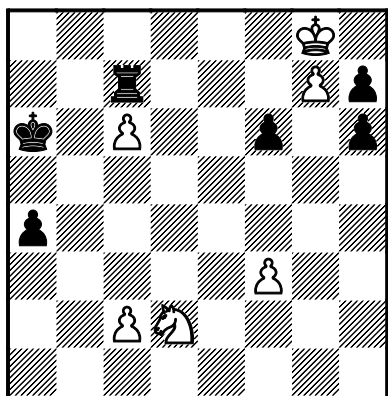


Draw

Kd5 9.Kf7 (Kg7) **9...Sd1 10.Kg6 11.Sh2** is equally good- a minor change in move order, a minor dual perhaps but still an unpleasant one. **10...Ke4 11.Sh2 Kf4 12.Kh5 Kg3 13.Sf1+ Kf3 14.Kg5! Sf2** And here we are in the second study. **15.Kh4 Kg2 16.Se3+ Kh2 17.Sc2!** draws.

The successful Ukrainian composer and current endgame study editor of *The Problemist*, demonstrates a long-run classic Réti manoeuvre (possibly the longest ever) by a modern long-run logical try.

A4 S. Didukh
1st/2nd prize Réti MT 2009



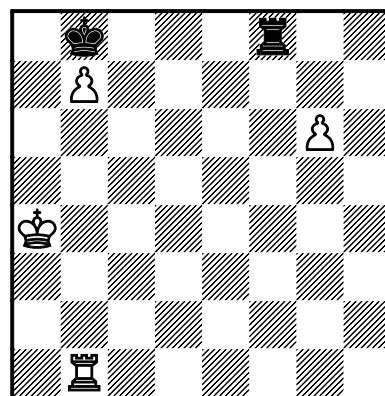
Win

1.Kh8!! The logical try **1.Kxh7? h5 2.Kg6 Rxb7+ 3.Kxg7 h4 4.Kxf6 Kb6 5.Ke5 Kxc6 6.Kd4 h3 7.Sf1 a3 8.Kc3 Kd5 9.Kb3 Ke5 10.c4 Kd4 11.Kxa3 Kxc4 12.Kb2 Kd3 13.Kc1 Ke2 14.Sh2 Kf2 15.Kd2 Kg3 16.Ke3 Kxh2 17.Kf2 Kh1 18.f4 h2 19.f5** would obtain no more than a stalemate! It takes 19 moves to spot the difference!; **1.Sc4?** fails too after **1...Kb5 2.Kxh7 h5 3.Kg6 Rxb7+ 4.Kxg7**

Kxc6 5.Kxf6 h4) 1...Rc8+ 2.g8Q Rxb8+ 3.Kxg8 Kb6 4.Kf7 (4.Kg7) **4...h5** (White wins after: **Kxc6 5.Kxf6 a3 6.f4 a2 7.Sb3 h5 8.Kg5 Kd5 9.Kxh5 Ke4 10.Kg4 h5+ 11.Kg3 h4+ 12.Kg4 h3 13.Kxh3 Kxf4 14.Kg2 Ke3 15.Kf1) 5.Kxf6 h4 6.Ke5!** Réti manoeuvre **6...Kxc6 7.Kd4 h3 8.Sf1 a3 9.Kc3 Kd5 10.Kb3 Ke5 11.c4 Kd4 12.Kxa3!** (12.Sh2? h5 13.Kxa3 Kxc4 14.Kb2 Kd3 15.Kc1 Ke3 16.Kd1 Kf2 17.f4 Kg3! Réti saves Black) **12...Kxc4 13.Kb2 Kd3 14.Kc1 Ke2 15.Sh2 Kf2 16.Kd2 h5 17.f4 Kg3 18.Ke3 Kxh2 19.Kf2 Kh1 20.f5 h2 21.f6 h4 22.f7** with mate **22...h3 23.Kg3 Kg1 24.f8Q h1Q 25.Qf2** mate.

The third Réti miniature inspired the co-winner of the second section:

A5 R. Réti
5th hon. mention *Zadachy i Etyudi* 1929



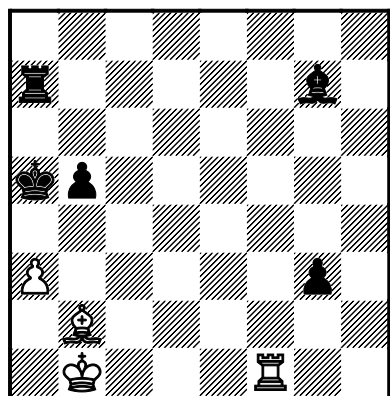
Win

1.Rb5! (1.Ka5? Rf2 2.Rg1 Rf8 3.Ka6 Rg8 4.Kb5 Kxb7 5.Kc5 Kc7 6.Kd5 Kd7 7.Ke5 Ke7 8.Kf5 Rf8+) **1...Rf1 2.Rg5 Rf8 3.Kb5! Kxb7 4.Kc5 Kc7 5.Kd5 Kd7 6.Ke5 Ke7 7.Rf5!** wins.

The Czech composer turned a modest concept into a true masterpiece:

1.a4! (1.Rg1? Bxb2 2.Kxb2 Rg7 3.Rg2! Kb6 4.Kc3 Kc5 5.Kd3 Kd5 zz wins) **1...Rb7! 2.Bxg7 bxa4+! 3.Bb2 a3 4.Rf5+** (Réti's winning idea is used here in the thematic try: **4.Ka2? axb2! 5.Kb1 Rb4! 6.Rf3 Rg4 7.Rf1 Kb4! 8.Kxb2 Kc4 9.Kc2 Kd4 10.Kd2 Ke4 11.Ke2 Rf4** wins) **4...Ka4 5.Rf4+ Ka5 6.Rf5+ Ka6 7.Rf6+! Ka7 8.Ka2! axb2 9.Kb1 Rb3!** (More challenging than **9...Rb4 10.Rf3 Rg4 11.Rf1 Kb6 12.Kxb2 Kc5 13.Kc3) 10.Rf4!!**

A6) E. Vlasák
1st/2nd prize Réti MT 2009



Draw

(Not 10.Rc6? Rb6 which is a reciprocal zugzwang position! 11.Rc2 Kb7 12.Rg2 Rb3 wins) **10...Kb6 11.Rc4!** positional draw as the bK cannot cross the c file.

They tell about Réti that while playing a serious over the board game an artistic idea popped up in his mind and he rushed to his room to work on it. He later returned to the tournament hall just to realize that he had lost his game on time... Whether it's a true story or just a legend, the life-long dedication of the Czech giant to the art of the endgame study remains as an ultimate model to be followed and remembered.



*Michael Pfannkuche,
winner of the ARVES Study Solving Competition
(Nunspeet, 14 March 2010).
A complete report will follow in EG181.*