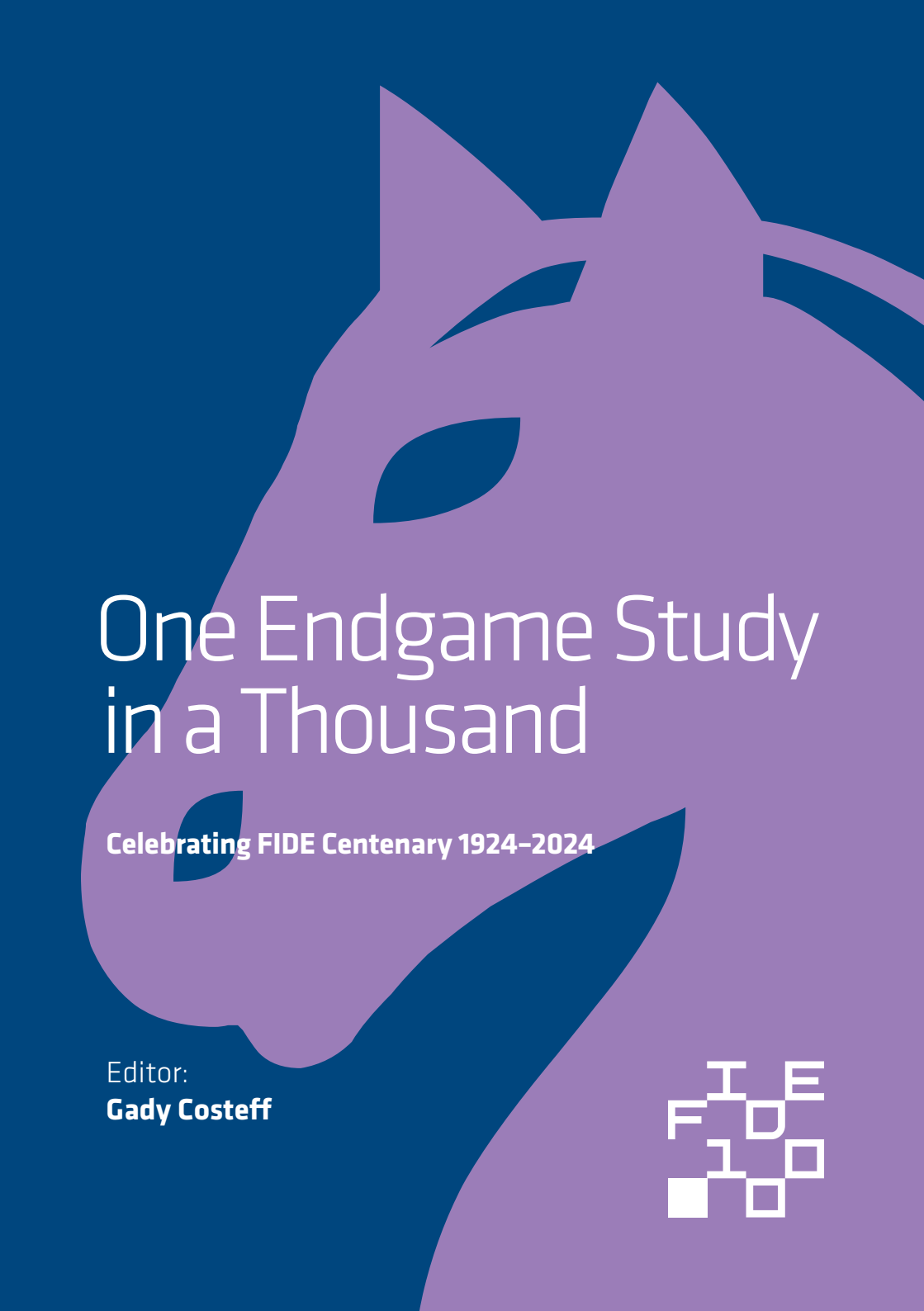
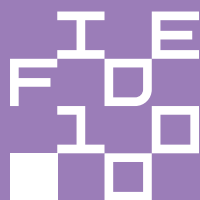




One Endgame Study in a Thousand

Celebrating FIDE Centenary 1924–2024

Editor:
Gady Costeff



Introduction

FIDE's motto, *We are one family*, is the central theme of this book.

The chess culture and knowledge composers possess has been absorbed from our predecessors through their studies, articles and books. When we develop their ideas, we are collaborating with them across time, and when we invent new ideas, they will be developed by those who follow us.

I selected a single study out of roughly one thousand published every year. I repeated this for every year of FIDE's existence, 1924–2024, resulting in a high-quality retrospective.

The studies are accompanied by commentary about specific ideas, composers, and the general development of studies over time.

To make this book easy to use, I have limited each study to a single page. To underscore the family theme, I have limited composers to a single study.

Each study has at least three diagrams across the page. This allows the reader to see the progression of the solution in the diagrams, rather than try to translate text to moves and then visualize the result.

The solution is highlighted, and side variations have been largely removed. This was done partially for clarity, and partially by necessity to fit everything on a single page. If you wish to fully understand everything about the more complex studies, consult your phone, or at least a grandmaster.

I thank Alain Villeneuve, Lewis Stiller, Harold van der Heijden, Peter Gvozdják, Ľubomír Širáň, and Marjan Kovačević. There would be no book without their hard work.

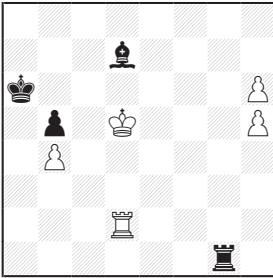
Gady Costeff

1924

Aleksey Troitsky

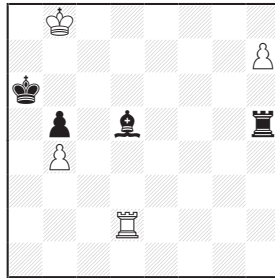
5th Prize

České slovo 1924

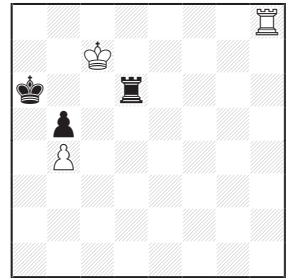


Win

1.h7 ♖g5+
2.♔d6 ♜xh5
3.♔c7! ♚e6
4.♔b8! ♚d5



5.♜xh5! ♜xh5
6.h8♞!
6.h8♞♞ ♜d8+!
7.♞xh8 stalemate
6...♜d6 7.♔c7!



White wins.

Troitsky's study is a variation on the famous Saavedra study, with the same rook promotion and final king move threatening both mate and rook capture.

Troitsky was the first composer to produce hundreds of studies, discovering and exploring many new ideas. He also proved that NN-P is a general win, if the pawn is not beyond the *Troitsky line*.

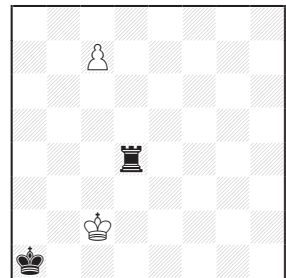
Fernando Saavedra

Georges Barbier

Glasgow Weekly

Citizen 1895

Position after move 5

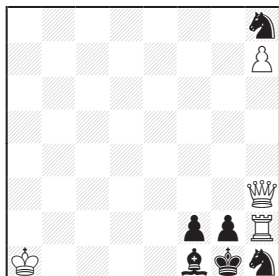


Win

6.c8=♞! ♜a4
7.♔b3

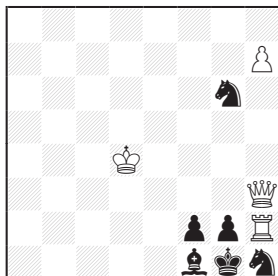
1937

Vitaly Chekhover
2nd Prize
Shakhmaty v SSSR 1937

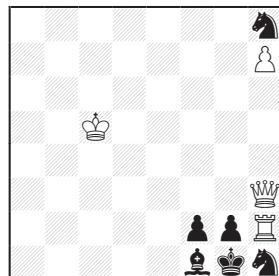


Win

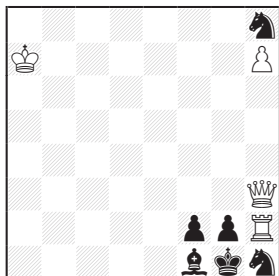
1. ♔b2! ♚f7
2. ♔c3
2. h8=♚ ♚×h8
3. ♚×h8 ♚e2
- 2... ♚h8
3. ♔d4 ♚g6



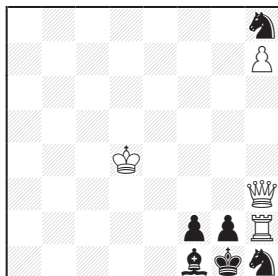
4. ♔c5
4. ♔e3 ♚h8 5. ♔f4 ♚f7
6. ♔e3 ♚h8 7. ♔d4 ♚f7
8. ♔c5 ♚h8 9. ♔d6 ♚g6!
- 4... ♚h8



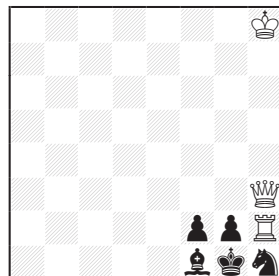
5. ♔b6
5. ♔d6 ♚g6! 6. ♔c7 ♚h8
7. ♔d8 ♚g6!
- 5... ♚g6
6. ♔a7 ♚h8



7. ♔a8!! ♚g6
8. ♔b8 ♚h8
9. ♔c7 ♚f7
10. ♔b6 ♚h8
11. ♔c5 ♚g6
12. ♔d4 ♚h8



13. ♔e5 ♚g6+
14. ♔f6 ♚h8
15. ♔g7 ♚g6
16. h8=♚ ♚×h8
17. ♔×h8



White wins.

♚h3 must immobilize ♚f1 and the wK is limited to black squares. To reach h8 it must lose a tempo, which can be done on a8, the only square immune from a ♚f1 check. The entire board is in play and all the pieces are controlled as if on a string. It is reminiscent of Simkhovich's 1927 study.

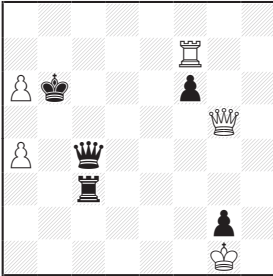
1981

Yehuda Hoch

1st Prize

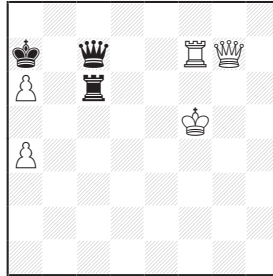
Mandil MT 1981

A

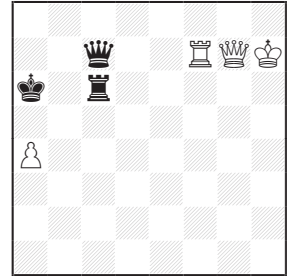


Win

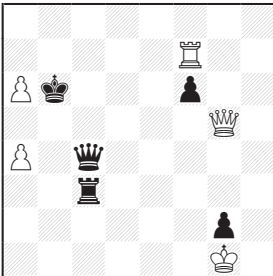
Try: 1. ♖xf6+ ♔a7
2. ♕g7+ ♕c7 3. ♖f7 ♖c1+
4. ♔xg2 ♖c2+ 5. ♔f3 ♖c3+
6. ♔e4 ♖c4+ 7. ♔d5 ♖c5+
8. ♔e6 ♖c6+ 9. ♔f5



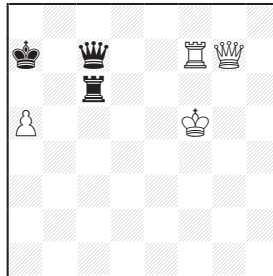
9... ♖c5+ 10. ♔g6 ♖c6+
11. ♔h7 ♔xa6!



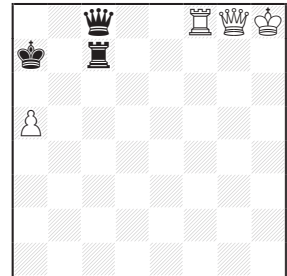
12. ♖xc7 ♖xc7
13. ♕xc7 stalemate



1. a5+! ♔xa6 2. ♖xf6+
♔a7 3. ♕g7+ ♕c7
4. ♖f7 ♖c1+ 5. ♔xg2
♖c2+ 6. ♔f3 ♖c3+
7. ♔e4 ♖c4+ 8. ♔d5
♖c5+ 9. ♔e6 ♖c6+
10. ♔f5



10... ♖c5+ 11. ♔g6 ♖c6+
12. ♔h7 ♔a8! 13. ♕g8+
13... ♕c7 14. ♕xc7
15. ♔h8 ♔a7!
15... ♔b8 16. a6! wins

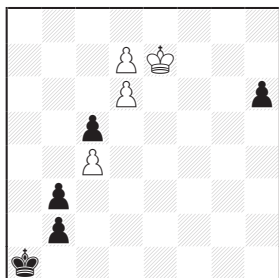


16. ♖xc8 ♖xc8
17. ♕xc8 stalemate.
Compared with A, the
position is one rank
higher, which allows:
16. ♕g1+!! wins.

The difference of a single rank creates a decisive new move 15 moves later.
A monumental logical-graphical achievement.

Ladislav Salai Jr.
2nd Prize
Československý šach
1998–1999

1999



Win

1.d8=♔ b1=♔

2.d7!

2.♔a8+ ♔a2

3.♔h1+ ♔b1

4.♔×b1+ ♔×b1

5.d7 b2

6.d8=♔ ♔c2!

2...b2

2...♔e4+ 3.♔d6 b2

4.♔a5+ ♔b1 5.d8=♔

3.♔a8+!

3.♔a5+ ♔a2

4.♔c3 ♔a7!

5.♔e8 ♔a4!

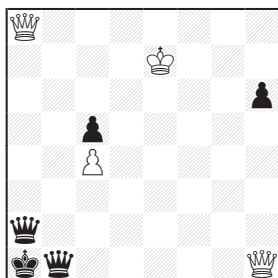
3...♔a2

4.d8=♔ b1=♔

5.♔h8+ ♔b2

6.♔h1+ ♔b1

7.♔a8+ ♔a2



8.♔d6! h5!

8...♔×a8

9.♔×a8+ ♔b2

10.♔b7+ ♔c2

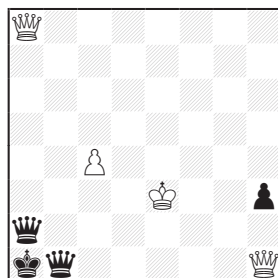
11.♔×b1+ ♔×b1

12.♔×c5

9.♔×c5 h4

10.♔d4 h3

11.♔e3



11...♔×h1

11...h2 12.♔×b1+ ♔×b1

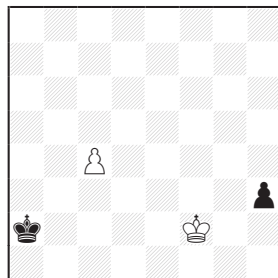
13.♔h1+ ♔c2 4.♔×h2+!

12.♔×h1+ ♔b2

13.♔h2+ ♔b3

14.♔×a2+ ♔×a2

15.♔f2



White wins.

With four queens paralyzing each other, the white king walks all over the board as if it was a pawn endgame. Black counters by advancing the h-pawn, but once it reaches h3 it can no longer advance due to a tactical trick.

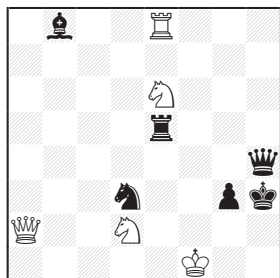
Ural Khasanov

1st Place

Youth Chess Composing

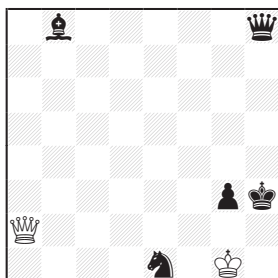
Challenge 2024

2024

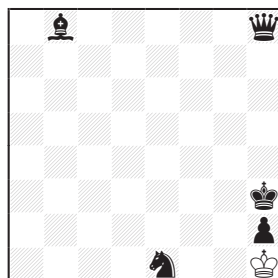


Draw

1. ♖f3 ♜e1+
2. ♖×e1 ♜f6+
3. ♖f4+ ♜×f4+
4. ♔g1 ♜d4+
5. ♔f1 ♜f6+
6. ♔g1 ♞×e1
7. ♞h8+!! ♜×h8



8. ♜h2+!! g×h2+
9. ♔h1



Black to move –
draw.

Youth Chess Composing Challenge (YCCC) is an annual tournament organized since 2016 to attract young composers (U23). Several YCCC compositions, whose authors were between 12 and 15 years old, have already been included in the FIDE Album, the anthology containing the best compositions of each 3-year period.

Alexander Alekhine, the fourth chess world champion, complained that his opponent played an inferior move that avoided his beautiful combination. The amazing studies in this book show the beauty that results when great imaginations like Alekhine's work freely.

The **101 studies in this book** are extraordinary, each in their own way. Incredible mate, stunning sacrifice, astonishing foresight, shocking capture avoidance, mind-boggling depth, humorous maneuvers, and many more delightful surprises await you. Taken together, these studies show the **development of the endgame study over the period 1924–2024**.

The studies are presented with up to six sequential diagrams. Each highlight gets its own diagram so **the reader can follow the action from start to finish** much like they would follow a chess game. The commentary includes insights on the studies, their history, and the composers whose work is presented.

Gady Costeff is a leading endgame study composer famous for his extraordinary ideas. He writes a column about study composition in **Variantim** magazine, provides the commentary for the **FIDE Album** study section, and is the author of **How I became a great composer**. Gady has written extensively about studies, their ideas, their historical development, what makes a study beautiful, the impact of computers, and many other aspects of study composition. Gady lives in San Francisco.

