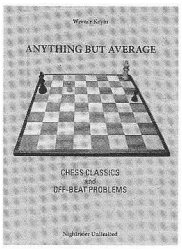
ANYTHING BUT AVERAGE – *WERNER KEYM*

Johan de Boer

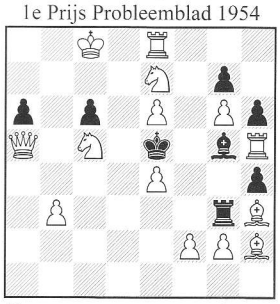


Recently I received the book *Anything but Average – Chess classics and off-beat problems* by Werner Keym. This book has 190 pages. At the back cover it explains what this book is about:

"A marvellous anthology of 375 chess games, endgame studies, problems and puzzles. Immortal games by Anderssen, Fischer, Kasparov, Carlsen, famous studies by Barbier-Saavedra, Lasker, Troitzky, Réti and classical problems of all kinds presented and explained with additional diagrams, moreover compositions with asymmetry, castling, promotion and 24 'Millennium' problems. A focus is formed by numerous 'extraordinary' problems: en-passant capture, rotation, adding pieces, retro puzzles, text problems, proof games, special stipulations, jokes etc. Dive into a fascinating, sometimes even bizarre world of subtle or spectacular chess surprises".

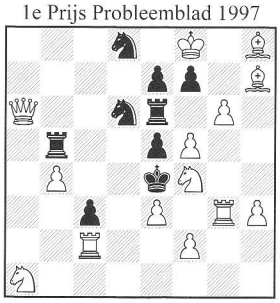
In the chapter about 'Millennium' problems (organized by the editors of Probleemblad in 2000) some problems of Dutch composers can be found:

352 **Eeltje Visserman**
1e Prijs Probleemblad 1954



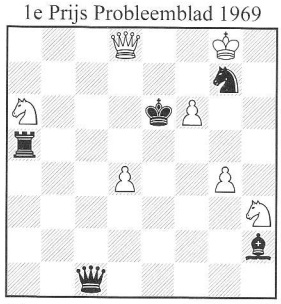
#2 vvvv (14+8)

356 **Henk le Grand**
1e Prijs Probleemblad 1997



#3 * (14+9)

357 **Gerard Bouma**
1e Prijs Probleemblad 1969



#4 (5+5)

Comments from 2000 quoted in this book:

352 Tries: 1.♔b7? ♚d6!; 1.♔c7? ♚f4!; 1.♔d7? ♚f6!; 1.♔d8? ♚d4! Solution: 1.♔b8! ♚d6 2.♘b7#, 1... ♚f4 2.♕c7#, 1... ♚f6 2.♘d7#, 1... ♚d4 2.♘xc6#.

356 Set play: 1... ♚xf5 2.gxf7+ ♖g6 3.♗xg6#; 1.♖g4! [2.♘e2+ ♚d3/♚f3/♚d5/♚xf5 3.♘c1/♘g1/♘xc3/♘g3#] 1... ♖f6 2.♘e6+ ♚d3/♚f3/♚d5/♚xf5 3.♘c5/♘g5/♘c7/♘g7#, 1... ♖xg6 2.♘xg6+ ♚d3/♚f3/♚d5/♚xf5 3.♘xe5/♘h4/♘xe7/♘f4#. "This Rösselsprung [movements of the knights] has been of great influence on the threemover. This is a problem that concludes a whole chapter with a maximum achievement."

357 The key 1.f7 [2.f8=♘#] is followed by 1... ♛a3 2.♘c5+ ♛xc5 3.♘g5+ ♛xg5 4.f8=♘#, 1... ♖f5 2.♘g5+ ♛xg5 3.♘c5+ ♖xc5 4.f8=♘#, 1... ♛f1 2.♘f4+ ♛xf4 3.♘c7+ ♛xc7 4.f=8♘#, 1... ♗d6 2.♘c7+ ♛xc7 3.♘f4+ ♗xf4 4.=f8♘#. "A contemporary problem that would also have been appreciated by our ancestors."

Other contributions by Dutchmen come from Harrry Goldsteen (two retro puzzles), Jan Hartong (adding a twin to a twomover), Harold van der Heijden (study) and Louis van Vliet (study).

If you are interested in this book then visit *www.berlinthema.de*