



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

Jeff Coakley

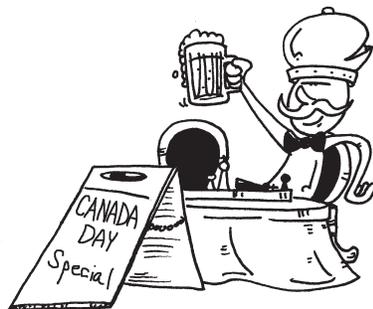
SMORGASBORD XIV: QUINTIL the 1st

number 115

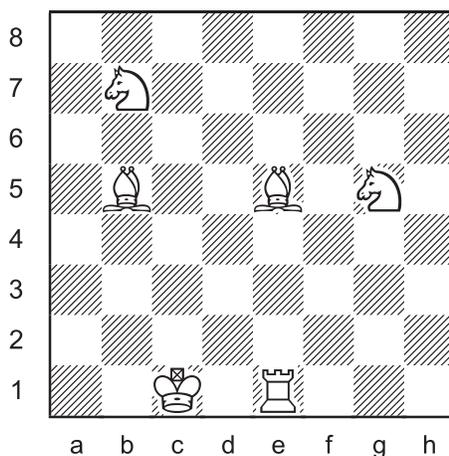
July 1, 2016

Happy Canada Day, everyone. That means it's July 1, and time for another chess smorgasbord.

Perhaps predictably, our side theme is the month July and the person it's named for, Julius Caesar. The featured puzzles are a loyd, a proof, a goof, and a maze.



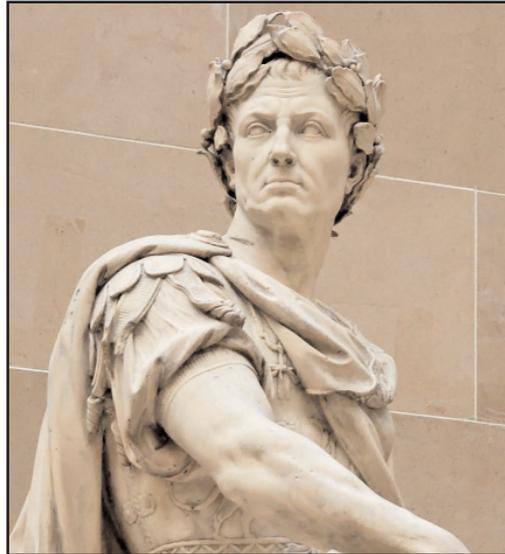
Triple Loyd 54



Place the black king on the board so that:

- Black is in checkmate.
- Black is in stalemate.
- White has a mate in 1.

Julius Caesar (100 BC - 44 BC) was a Roman general, statesman, and author. While ruling Rome, he made major changes to the calendar, bringing it close to the form we still use.



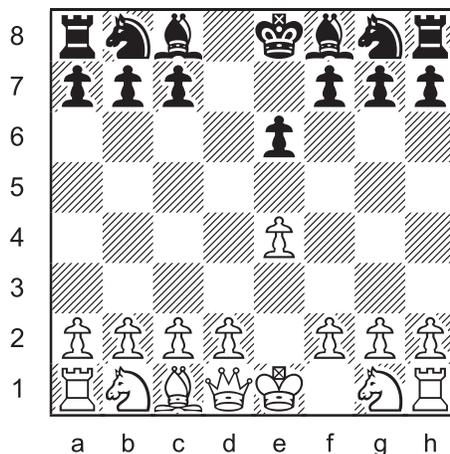
Julius Caesar

“I came, I saw, I conquered.”

Veni, vidi, vici.

In February 44 BC, Caesar was appointed “dictator in perpetuity”. A few weeks later he was assassinated. To honour him, the Senate changed the name of his birth month to *Iulius* (July). Previously it was called *Quintilis*. If the name had remained the same, we would be celebrating “Quintil the 1st”.

Proof Game 56 (4.0 moves)

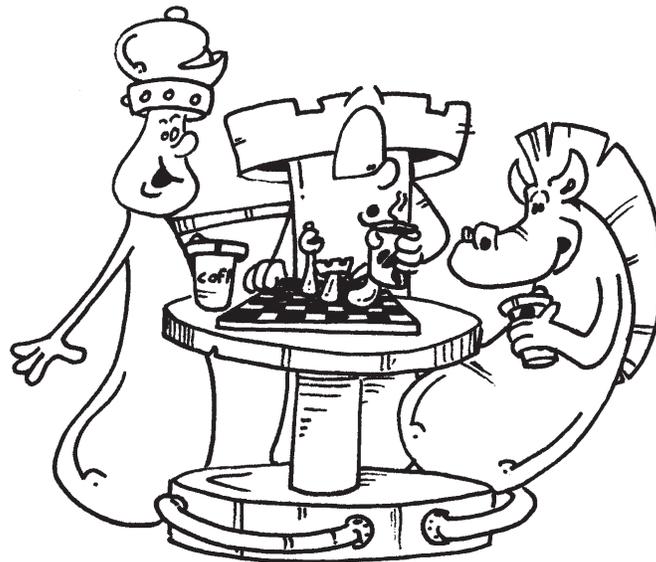


This position was reached after Black’s fourth turn. What were the moves?

The language of Rome was Latin. Although it is no longer spoken, its profound influence continues around the world.

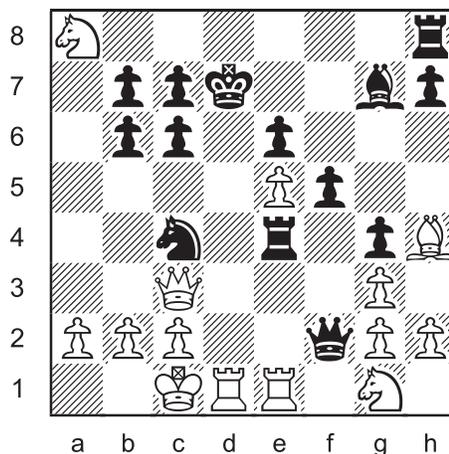
English is full of Latin words, phrases, and abbreviations. E.g., in chess we have *tempo*, *post mortem*, and *excelsior* (i.e., a pawn moving from the 2nd to the 8th rank on consecutive turns). We divide the day into *a.m.* and *p.m.*, we stand on *terra firma*, we sometimes go on *ad nauseam*, etc.

Here's a bit of *trivia* that you can quote *verbatim*. 'Audio' and 'video' are Latin for "I hear" and "I see."



The usual purpose of retrograde analysis is to determine what happened previously in a position. In *goof* problems, it is used to show why a position could not happen.

Who's the Goof? 32



Why is this position illegal?

Latin mottos are everywhere. Family crests, official seals, and national monuments. Since we're mentioning Canada more than usual this week, here is our motto: *A mari usque ad mare*. "From sea to sea."

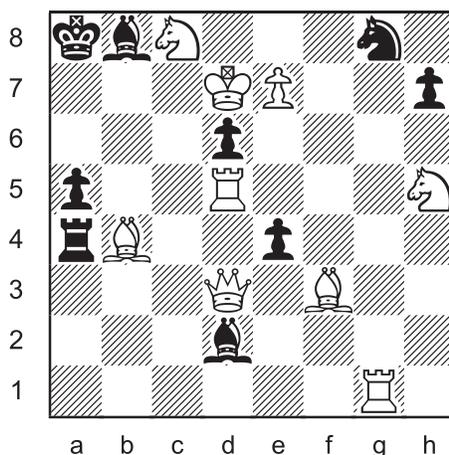
Nice enough, though not very inspiring and maybe not so correct. We actually have three oceans. Atlantic, Pacific, and Arctic. Has anyone suggested extending the motto? *A mari usque ad mare ad mare*.

And where's the beaver and moose?



The next puzzle is a *Toronto style* chess maze. Captures are not allowed. For more details, see the instructions below (and column 69).

Chess Maze 15



Pawn Maze

Which kind of promoted piece gets through the maze fastest?
Rook, bishop, or knight?

Rook, bishop, or knight?

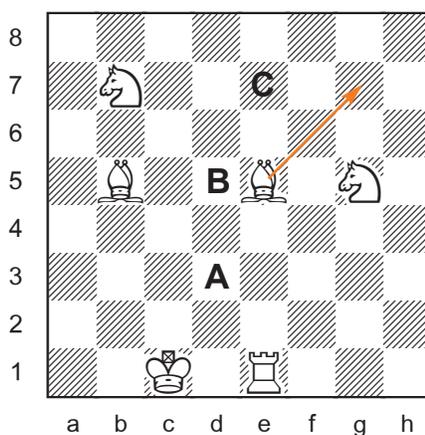
Only the white pawn moves. When it reaches the last rank, it may become a rook, bishop, or knight. But not a queen. After the promotion, only the promoted piece moves. Find the shortest path to capture the black king, without taking any pieces or moving to a square attacked by a black piece. It is possible to go through the maze with a rook, bishop, or knight. Figure out which piece has the shortest path, and which the longest.

SOLUTIONS

All problems by J. Coakley, *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2016).

PDF hyperlinks. You can advance to the solution of any puzzle by clicking on the underlined title above the diagram. To return to the puzzle, click on the title above the solution diagram.

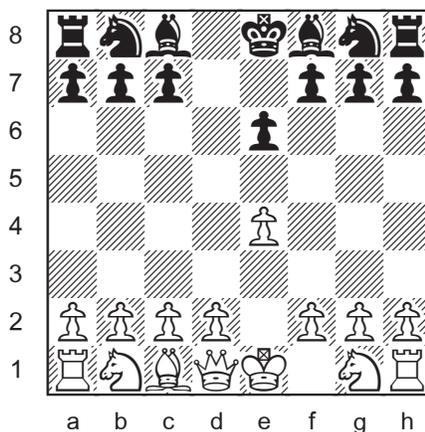
Triple Loyd 54



- A. Kd3#
- B. Kd5=
- C. Ke7 (Bg7#)

Discovering discovered check.

Proof Game 56

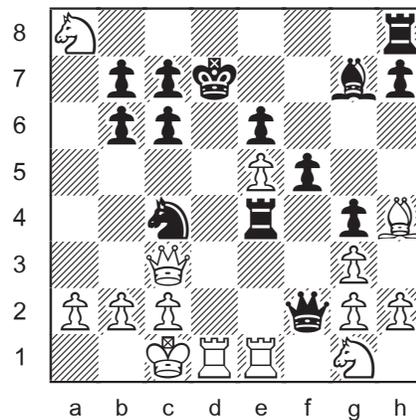


1.e4 e6 2.Bb5 Ke7 3.Bxd7 Qe8 4.Bxe8 Kxe8

French Defence, Orbán Variation.

Hungarian composer Tibor Orbán (1956-1981) would have celebrated his 60th birthday this week. See column 3 for more information on him and the world's most famous proof game (3...c6 4.Be8 Kxe8).

Who's the Goof? 32



The position is illegal because the black king is in an impossible check. Other unusual features in the position are legal. The knight on a8 could have moved there before ...a7xb6 was played. The black doubled pawns on the b- and c-files could occur this way: Black captures the white light-square bishop on c6, then the white d-pawn promotes on d8 and moves to b6 where it is captured.

The black king is in check from the white rook on d1. The last move was not Rd1+ because the rook would already be checking the king from along the d-file. The last move was not Kd2-c1+ because the white king would be in an impossible double check on d2. The last move was not d4xe5+ because White would have made two captures on dark squares (g3, e5) and Black is only missing two pieces, a knight and a light-square bishop. Therefore the check is illegal.

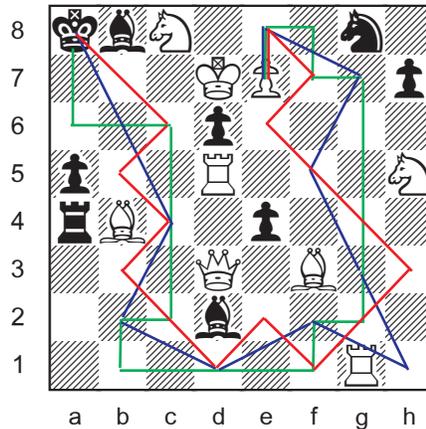
QED (*Quod erat demonstrandum* = 'which was to be proved')

[If the black bishop were on the light square f7 instead of g7, the position would still be illegal because if the last move was d4xe5+, then the black doubled pawns would be impossible since there could be no promotion on d8. See above.]

Here's a brief list of abbreviations from Latin. Put it in your briefcase for easy reference.

- e.g. *exempli gratia* "for the sake of example" = for example
- i.e. *id est* "that is"
- etc. *et cetera* "and the rest" or "and other things"
- et al. *et alii* or *et aliae* (*feminine*) "and others"
- ibid. *ibidem* "in the same place"
- CV *curriculum vitae* "course of life" = resume
- M.O. *modus operandi* "method of operating"
- vs. *versus* "against"
- a.m. *ante meridiem* "before meridian" = before noon
- p.m. *post meridiem* "after meridian" = after noon

Chess Maze 15



A knight wins the race. 11 moves.
e8=N-g7-f5-g3-h1-f2-d1-b2-c4-b6xa8



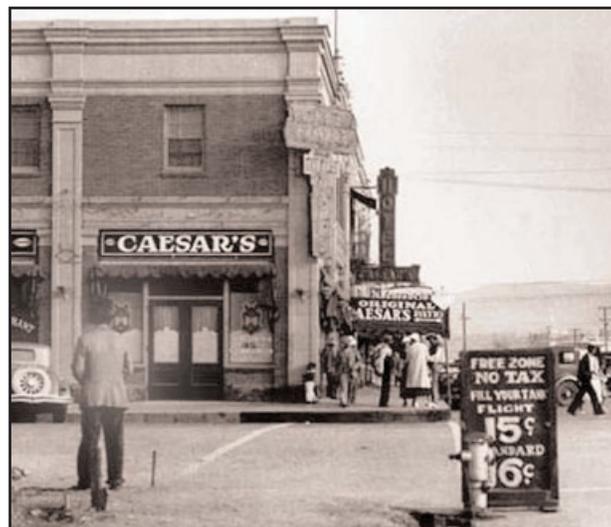
A bishop comes a close second. 12 moves.
e8=B-f7-e6-h3-f1-e2-d1-b3-c4-b5-c6xa8



A rook brings up the rear. 13 moves.
e8=R-f8-f7-g7-g2-f2-f1-b1-b2-c2-c6-a6xa8

(A queen only needs 5 moves. e8=Q-d8-b6-c6xa8)

Did you ever wonder if Julius Caesar invented the Caesar salad? Well, he didn't. It was actually Caesar Cardini, an Italian immigrant to the United States who lived in San Diego in the 1920's but ran a restaurant across the border in Tijuana, Mexico, where he could serve alcohol during the crazy years of "Prohibition".



Tempus fugit.

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