



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

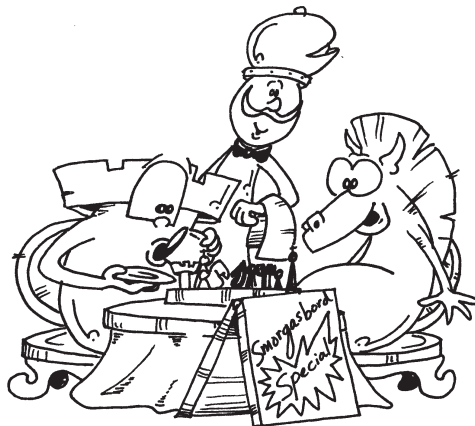
Jeff Coakley

SMORGASBORD XV: HAIL CAESAR

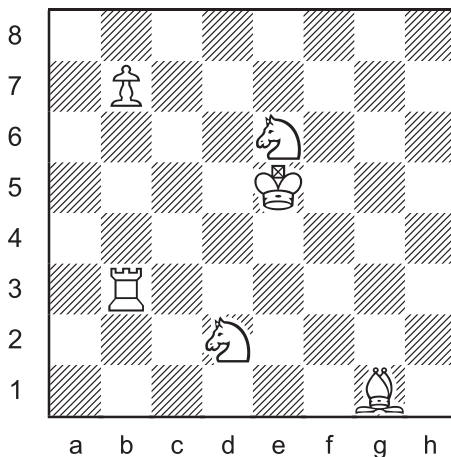
number 120

August 6, 2016

Smorgasbord time again. Our side theme is the month of August, and the man who named it after himself, Augustus Caesar. The featured puzzles are a loyd, whammy, goof, and maze.



Triple Loyd 57

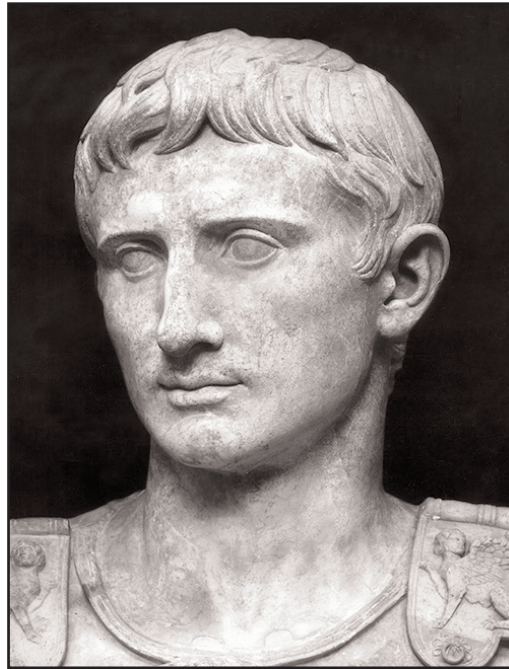


Place the black king on the board so that:

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

Augustus Caesar (63 BC - 14 AD), the first emperor of the Roman Empire, was the great nephew, adopted son, and heir of Julius Caesar. His name at birth was Gaius Octavius.

His many military victories included the defeat of Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, in 30 BC, which led to her suicide. Augustus then ordered the execution of Caesarion, her son by Julius Caesar. "Two Caesars are one too many."

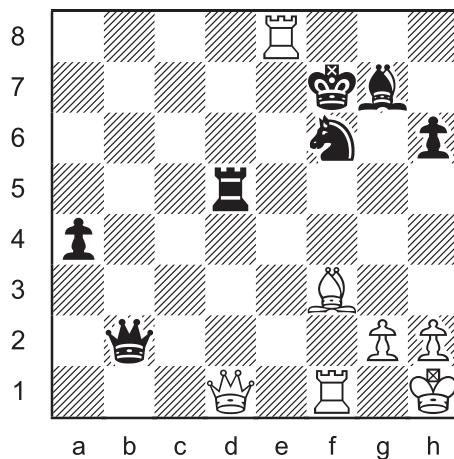


Augustus Caesar

"Make haste slowly."

Festina lente.

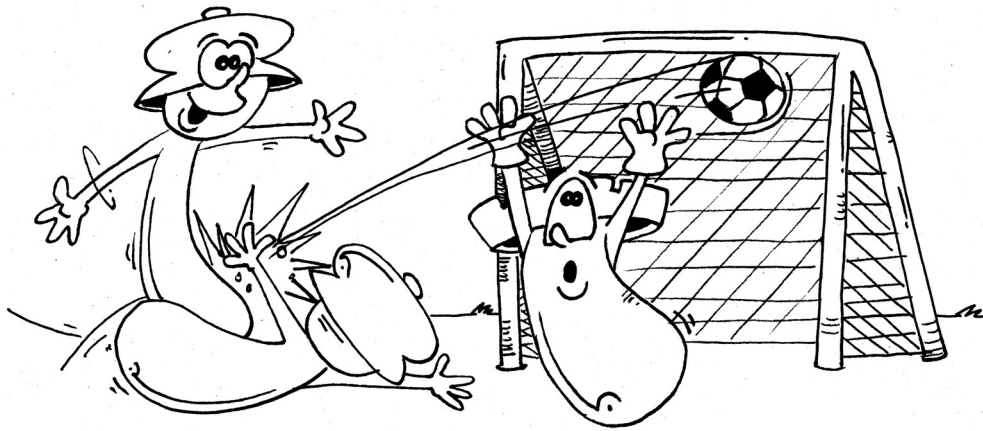
Double Whammy 65



White plays two moves in a row to mate Black.

Here are the special instructions for this type of problem.

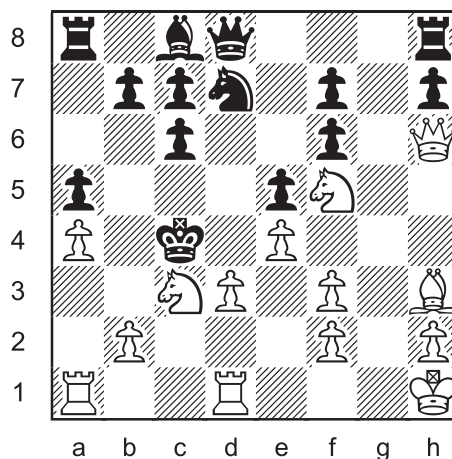
- a) White plays two moves in a row to mate Black.
- b) The first move may not be check.
- c) Either move may be a capture.
- d) Both moves may be with the same piece.
- e) Black does not get a turn.
- f) White may not place their own king in check on the first move, even if they get out of check with the second move.



Augustus ruled Rome from 27 BC until his death in AD 14. That's 40 years, not 41, because there is no year 0.

Unlike many common abbreviations, BC (*Before Christ*) is not Latin. This way of numbering years did not become the standard until the ninth century AD, which stands for the Latin *anno Domini* (year of the lord) and not for "after death".

Who's the Goof? 33



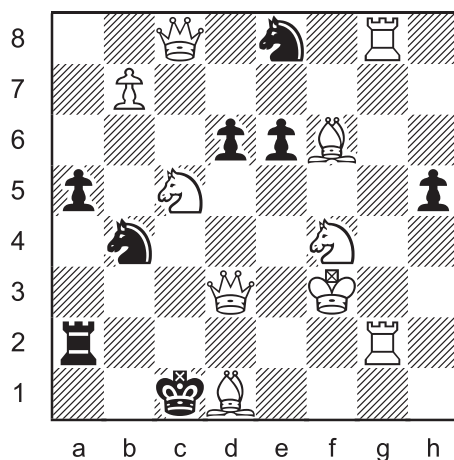
Why is this position illegal?

The original Roman name for the month after July was Sextilis (*sixth*). But in 8 BC, Augustus decided it was time to have his own month, like his great uncle Julius Caesar. And here we are today, two millennia later, still living in the month of August.



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 16



Pawn Maze

Which kind of promoted piece gets through the maze fastest?
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.

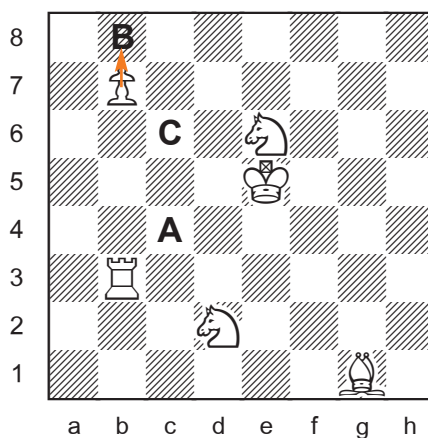
SOLUTIONS

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.

Archives. Other columns with similar problems can be found in the Puzzling Side archives.

Triple Loyd 57



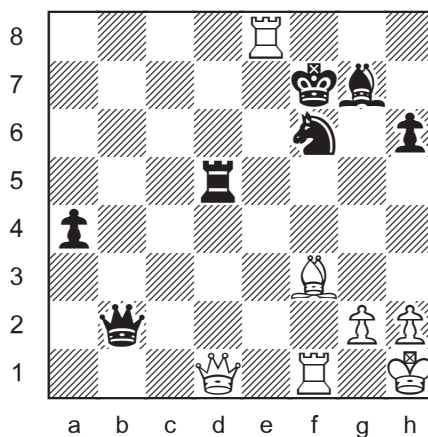
A. Kc4#

B. Kb8=

C. Kc6 (b8=N#)

Promotional gimmick.

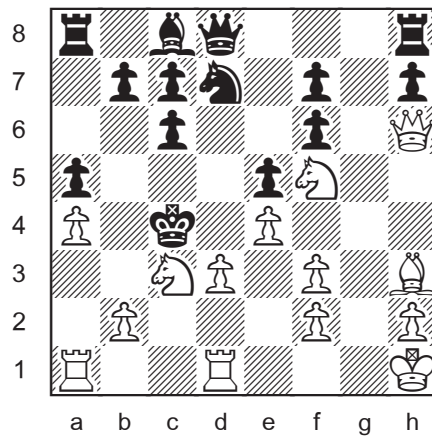
Double Whammy 65



1.Qb3 2.Bh5#

The pinning of the guards.

Who's the Goof? 33



The position is illegal because the black king is in an impossible check.

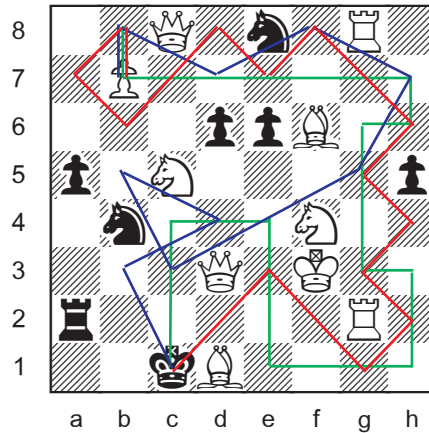
If the last move was $cxd3+$ or $exd3+$, then White made two captures on light squares (d3 and f3). But Black is only missing two pieces, a knight and a dark-square bishop.

If the last move was $d2-d3+$, then the white dark-square bishop must have been captured on c1, since it could not have moved from c1 with white pawns on b2 and d2. Black has made two captures with pawns (on c6 and f6). White is only missing two pieces, the c-pawn and the bishop that was captured on c1.

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



Chess Maze 16



A knight is the fast guy. 11 moves.
b8=N-d7-f8-h7-g5-e4-c3-b5-d4-b3xc1



A rook is average joe. 12 moves.
b8=R-b7-h7-h6-g6-g3-h3-h1-e1-e4-c4xc1



A bishop is a slow poke. 14 moves.
b8=B-a7-b6-d8-e7-f8-h6-g5-h4-g3-h2-g1-e3xc1
(A queen only needs 4 moves. b8=Q-b5-c4xc1)

Cogitamus, ergo sumus.

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