



THE PUZZLING SIDE OF CHESS

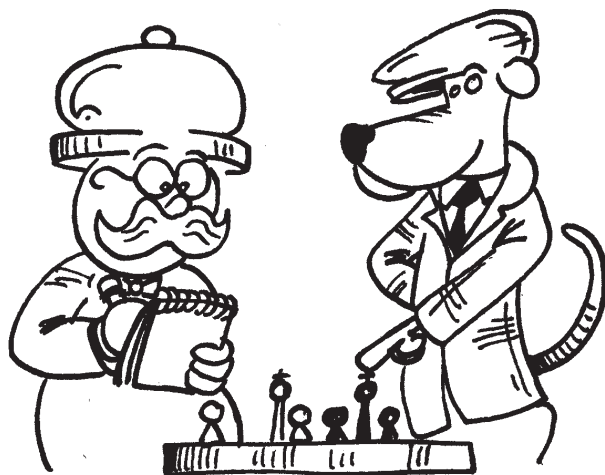
Jeff Coakley

PROVING GROUND

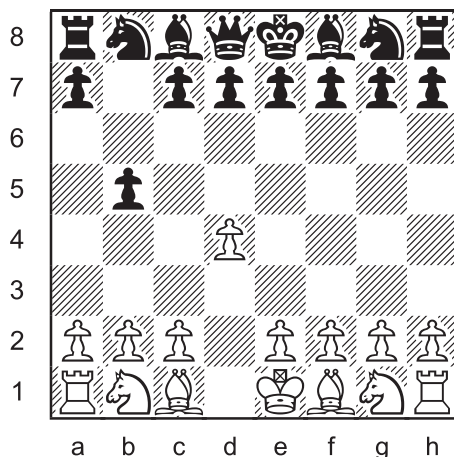
number 224

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This column presents six puzzles to test your deductive skills. Will you prove up to the challenge? Yes or no, hopefully you'll enjoy trying.



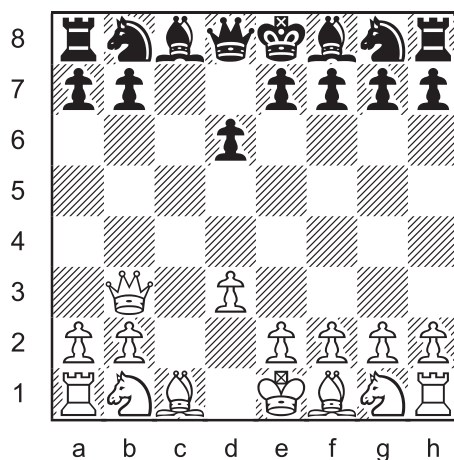
Proof Game 100



This position, with White to play, was reached in a game after each player made exactly four moves. What were the moves?

The general aim of a proof game is to *prove* that a position is legal by showing that it could happen in an actual game. In most puzzles of this type, the goal is to reach the given position in a precise number of moves. No sooner, no later. The positions may be funny, and the strategy befuddling, but the moves are legal.

Proof Game 101



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

A DAY IN CHESS COURT

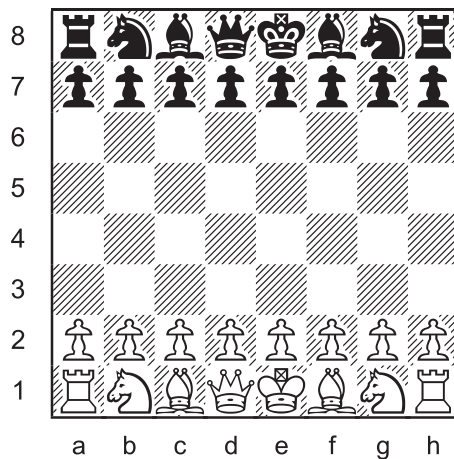
Harmonius Hound, star witness for the prosecution.



“Tell us, Mr. Hound, where did you first catch a scent of the defendant?”

The next puzzle is a *synthetic game*. Similar to a proof game, but instead of finding the move sequence that leads to a given position, the task is to compose a game that ends with a particular move.

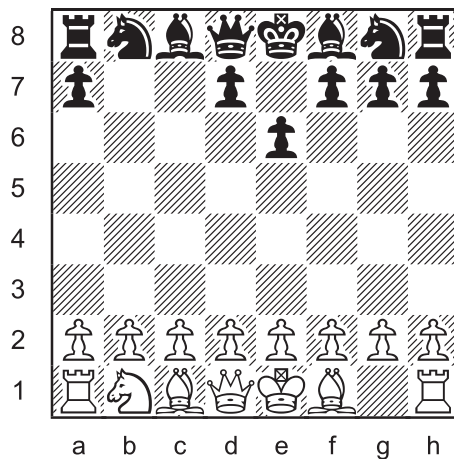
Synthetic Game 51



Compose a game that ends with 4...Bc5#.



Longer Proof Game 109 (5.0 moves)



This position was reached after Black's fifth turn. What were the moves?

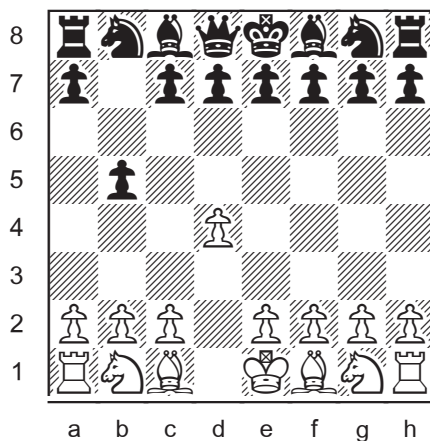
SOLUTIONS

All problems by J. Coakley. Proof game 111 is from the 2022 *Cherished Outcast Tourney*. Others are *Puzzling Side of Chess* (2023).

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.

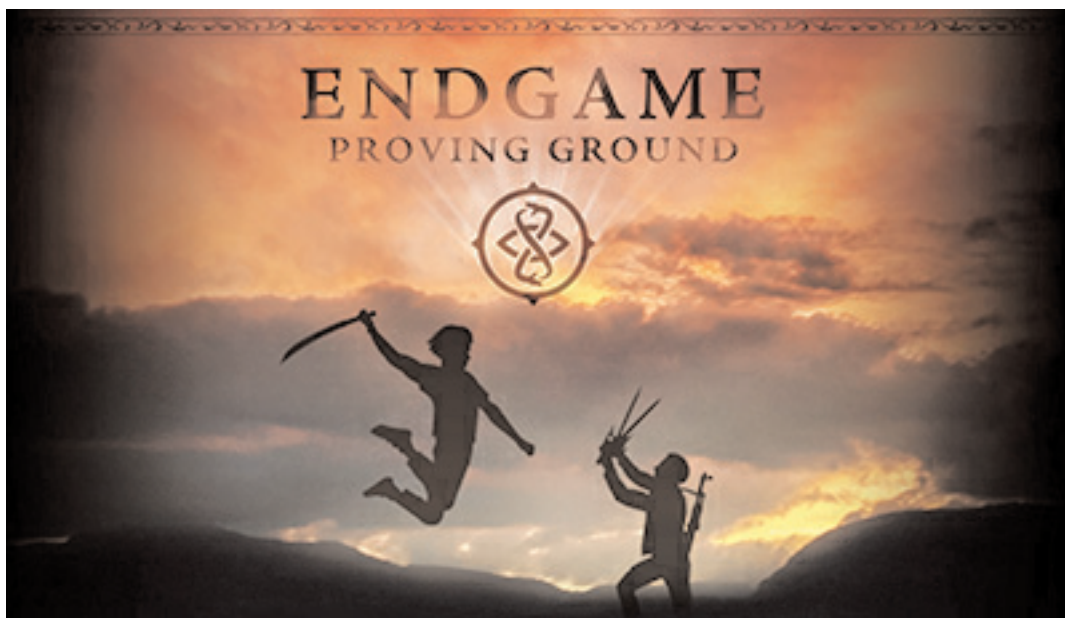
Archives. Past columns are available in the *Puzzling Side* archives.

Proof Game 100

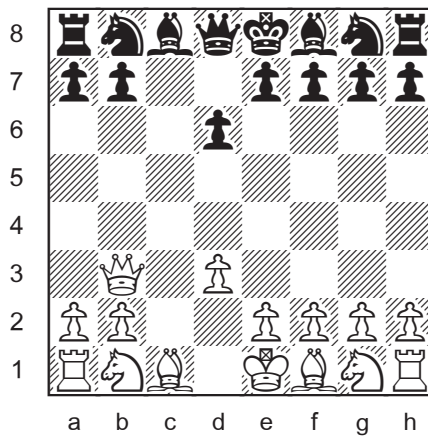


1.d3 b6 2.Qd2 b5 3.Qh6 Nxb6 4.d4 Ng8

Tempo moves by white and black pawns.
Switchback black knight.



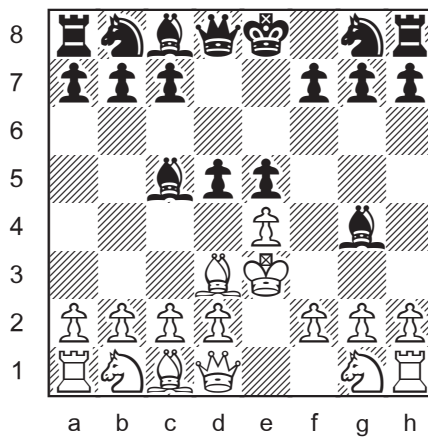
Proof Game 101



1.d4 c5 2.Qd3 cxd4 3.Qb3 d3 4.cxd3 d6
Hidden happenings on d3.



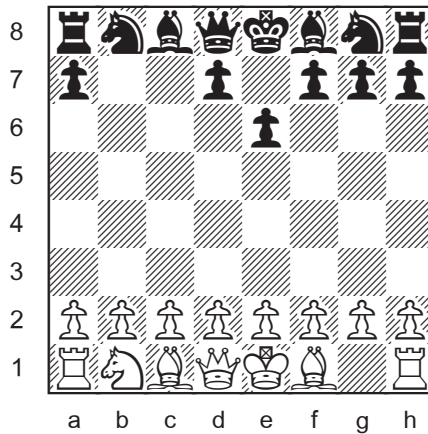
Synthetic Game 51



1.e4 e5 2.Ke2 d5 3.Ke3 Bg4 4.Bd3 Bc5#

The moves can be played in different orders. Black could also use the queen to control e2 and f3. For example, 2...Qh4 3.Ke3 Qh5.

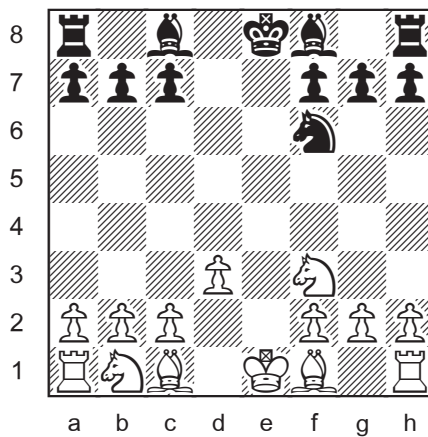
Longer Proof Game 109 (5.0 moves)



1.Nf3 b6 2.Nd4 b5 3.Nxb5 e6 4.Nxc7+ Ke7 5.Ne8 Kxe8
 Black pawn tempo. Black king switchback with *Orbán effect*.



Longer Proof Game 110 (5.5 moves)



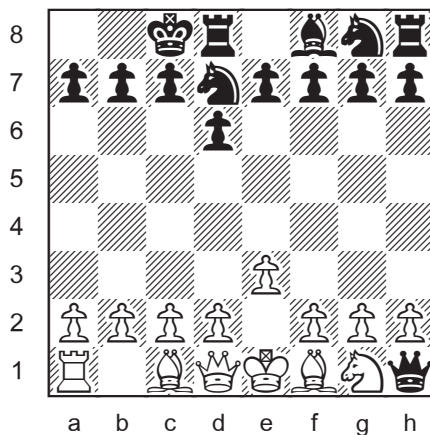
1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nf6 3.Qxd7+ Nbx d7 4.exf6 Nxf6 5.Nf3 Qd3 6.exd3
 Deceptive queens.

Longer Proof Game 111 (10.0 moves)

J. Coakley 2022

Cherished Outcast Tourney

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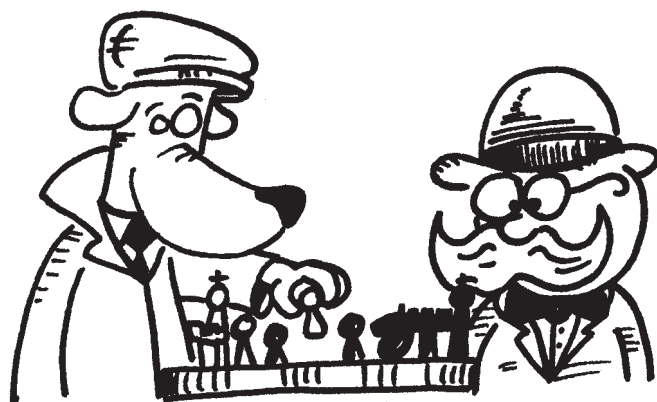


1.e3 d6 2.Ba6 Qd7 3.Ke2 Qb5+ 4.Kf3 Qf1 5.Nc3 Qxg1
6.Bf1 Qxh1 7.Ke2 Bg4+ 8.Ke1 Be2 9.Nxe2 Nd7 10.Ng1 0-0-0

Entombed black queen.

Switchback white king and bishop.

Impostor white knight.



Until next time!

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