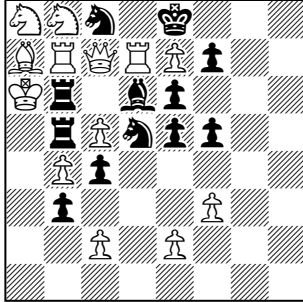


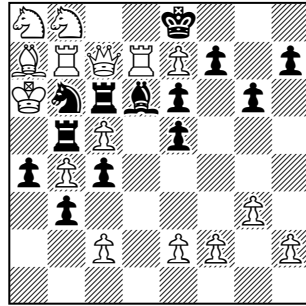
H16. Dmitrij Baibikov
1st Pr. StrateGems, 2003
dedicated to Aleksej Troitzky
and Luigi Ceriani



Can the position 13+12 exist without the possibility of en-passant?

H16a

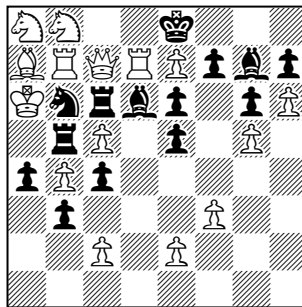
1st critical position: after 1.a3xb4



Genesis: 1...a3 2.f3 a2 3.g4 a1 ♖4.h3 ♜b2 5.h4 ♜c1 6.h5 ♜g5 7.h6 ♜f6 8.g5 ♜g7 and we see 2nd critical position

H16b

2nd critical position: Before 9.hxg7



Now 2 variants:

a) 9.hxg7 h5! (White have possibility en-passant) 10.g8 ♖ h4 11.♖h6 h3 12.♖f5 h2 13.♖d4 h1 ♖ 14.♖f5 ♖g3 15.♖h4 ♖h5 16.♖f5 gxf 17.g6 ♖f4 18.g7 ♖g6 19.g8 ♖+ ♖f8 (this move is not possible with 9...h6) 20.♖g1 ♖g6 21.♖a1 ♖f4 22.♖a2 ♖d5 23.♖a5 ♖c8+ 24.♖b6 ♖c:b6+ and we see position on diagram.

b) 9.hg h5! (White have possibility en-passant) 10.g8 ♖ h4 11.♖h6 h3 12.♖f5 gxf 13.g6 h2 14.g7 h1 ♖ 15.g8 ♖ ♖g3 16.♖h6 ♖e4 17.♖g4 ♖f6 18.♖f2 ♖e4 19.♖d1 ♖f6 20.♖b2 ♖d5 (this move is not possible with 9...h6) 21.♖a4 ♖c8+ 22.♖b6 ♖c:b6+ and we see position on diagram.

So, the position can't exist without the possibility of en-passant

Themes: Retrograde analysis, Variation Retro Analysis, En-passant possibility, Capture of promoted men, Check protection, Impossibility to lose tempo by promoted men