

## The First Chessplayer of the Empire

Ali-As-Shatranji Aladdin at-Tebrizi, a chaturanga master of the 14th-15th century, comes from the city of **Tebriz** \*, the historical capital of Azerbaijan. He was the strongest player in the Timurid Empire ( 1336 - 1405 ) and he could play blindfold games as well. Ali Tebrizi is an author of a treatise on chaturanga that carries also 60 mansubas, 19 of which are his own. It is namely in this treatise that, for the first time, the names of the authors started appearing above the diagrams.

The first mentioning of Ali Tebrizi can be found in 'Hebibus-siyer', by the 16th century historian Khandemir. He writes in his book: 'Ali Tebrizi knew the Qu'ran by heart, and recited the whole 'Sihah Bukhari' in the presence of Sheikh Shamseddin Mahammad. Ali Tebrizi was very knowledgeable in the science of hadis. He was so strong in chess that many studied his games. Ali Tebrizi always emerged as a winner in visavi and blindfold games. He often played chess games at the Emir Teymur ( Tamerlan ) gatherings, and as such, was known by the name of Ali Shatranji. Among his main rivals historians name Khoja Abdulvahab Tebrizi, Khoja Yusif Najar and Ustad Shamseddin Qazur. As we know from history, Emir Teymur would bring scientists and artists to the capital from the occupied lands. It is probable, that after Emir Teymur captured Tebriz he took Ali Shetrenji to Samarkand. The great commander liked chess very much. He is known to introduce a 144-squared chess board.

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\* **Tebriz** is the biggest city in the northern - western part of Iran, and, it is the capital of the Eastern Azerbaijan Province. The population is over 2 million. Being historically an Azerbaijanian city, Tebriz boasts its rich ancient history. Tebriz has been a capital of several ancient empires, like, the Ravvadis ( 1<sup>st</sup> half 10<sup>th</sup> century - 1116 / 17 ), the Eldegaz's ( 1136 - 1225 ), the Elxanis (1256-1357), the Qaraqoyuns (1410 - 1468), the Agqoyuns, the Sevefis under the Shah Ismail Khatai ( 1501 - 1760 ) and later, during the Qajar dynasty (1796-1925), it was a head-quarter of the heir to the throne.

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### Ali Tebrizi Shatranji (14th-15th century) MT, 2009

Provisional award: MAGAZINE OF THE AZERBAIJAN CHESS COMPOSITION COMMISSION.  
"Shahmat bestechiliyi" No10 April 2009.

Judge: Bakhtiyar Rustamov (Baku, Azerbaijan).

English translation: Rauf Aliovsadzade (USA).

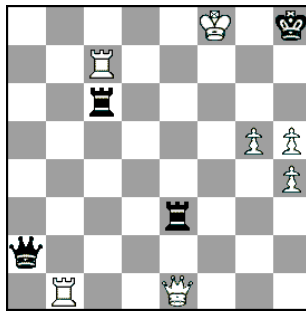
Check of mistakes and anticipations: Iuri Akobia (Georgia).

21 studies from 17 authors 8 cities of Azerbaijan.

**Sponsor:** "Maccabi -Azerbaijan" Culture and Sports Society. **Prize:** 200 USA dollars.

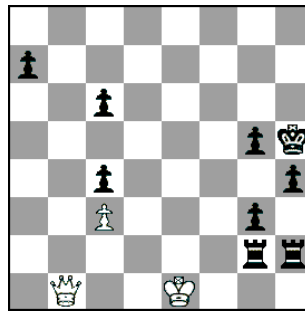
Incorrects & duals: **Araz Alammadov** (Kd8-Kf8) Duals 3.Kc8; 3.Bg2. **Araz Alammadov** (Ka1-Kf4) Cook 3...Nd6! 4.Bc5 Ra1+ 5.Kb3 Rxa6 6.Bxd6 Rc6 7.Bb4 Ke3 8.Nd7 Bxc7 9.Ka4 f5+-. **Fazil Shukurov** (Kh3-Kh1) [Dual 5.b4 Nc7 6.Qxc7 Be2 7.Qf4 Bf1 8.Qg3+-] [Dual 8.Qf4 Bf1 9.Qg3+-; Dual 8.Qb7 Bf1 9.Qc7 Be2 10.Qf4 (10.Qg3 Bf1 11.b4+-) 10...Bf1 11.Qg3+-] **Islam Kazimov** (Ka3-Kc5): Incorrect 1...d2!, 2...Kxd4 3.Nf3+ Kd5 4.Nxg1 d2 5.Ne2 d1Q 6.Nc3+ Ke6 7.Nxd1 Kf6=, 4...d2 5.Nc2 Kd3=. **Matlab Gadirov** (Kf1-Kh2) Cook 2...Rf6+! 3.Ke1 Rf8 4.b6 h3! 5.Re3 Kg2 6.b7 h2 7.c8Q h1Q+ 8.Kd2 Rf2+ 9.Re2 Qh6+ 10.Ke1 Qh1=) **Javid Shirinov** (Kf1-Kg8) Dual 5.g4 Kd4 6.b4 +- **Elbrus Kalbiyev** (Ke2-Kh1) -Incorrect 2...Kg1.

**Ilham Aliev**  
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
**1<sup>st</sup> Prize**



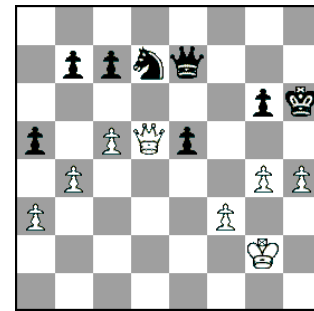
Draw 7+4

**Muradkhan Muradov**  
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize**



Draw 3+9

**Samir Badalov**  
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize**



Win 8+8

**Ilham Aliev (Sumgayit, Azerbaijan) 1<sup>st</sup> Prize.**

**1.Rh7+!** [1.Qxe3? Qg8+ 2.Ke7 Rxc7+ 3.Kd6 Qd8+ 4.Ke5 Re7+—; 1.Rxc6?? Qg8#] **1...Kxh7**  
**2.Rb7+** [2.g6+? Kh8 3.Qxe3 Qg8+ 4.Ke7 Qg7+ 5.Kd8 Qf8+ 6.Qe8 Rc8+—] **2...Kh8 3.Rh7+!**  
**Kxh7 4.g6+ Kh8** [4...Kh6?? 5.Qxe3+ Kxh5 6.Qg5#; 4...Rxc6 5.hxc6+ Kxc6 6.Qg1+! Kf5  
(6...Kf6? 7.Qg5+! Ke6 8.Qg8+ Kd6 9.Qxa2+—) 7.Qxe3] **5.g7+ Kh7 6.Qb1+! Kh6** [6...Qxb1?  
7.g8Q+ Kh6 8.Qg5+ Kh7 9.Qg7#] **7.Qxa2** [7.g8N+? Qxc8+ (7...Kxh5? 8.Qxa2) 8.Kxc8 Rg3+!  
9.Kf8 Rg7! 10.Qf5 Rcc7! (10...Ra6? 11.Qe6+! Rxe6 stalemate) 11.Qe6+ Kh7 12.Qf5+ Kh8  
13.Qe6 Rc8+! 14.Qxc8 Rg8+—] **7...Rf6+ 8.Qf7** [8.Kg8?? Re8#] **8...Rxf7+ 9.Kxf7 Rf3+**  
**10.Kg8! Rg3 11.Kh8! Rxc7** stalemate.

Picturesque study with consecutive sacrifices of white units: two Rooks (one sacrifice showing the WCCT-7 theme) and Queen, plus interesting play with a S-promotion and stalemate. In spite of the fact, that this stalemate position is not new, the whole play is just amazing.

**Muradkhan Muradov (Gobustan, Azerbaijan) 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize.**

**1.Qh7+ Kg4 2.Qe4+** [2.Qd7+? Kf3 3.Qxc6+ Ke3 4.Qc5+ Kd3 5.Qf5+ Kxc3 6.Qa5+ Kb2  
7.Qb4+ Kc1 8.Kf1 Rb2 9.Qe1+ Kc2 10.Qe4+ Kb3 11.Qb7+ Ka2 12.Qa6+ Kb1 13.Kg1 h3]  
**2...Kh3** [2...Kh5 3.Qh7+] **3.Qf5+** [3.Qe6+? g4] **3...g4 4.Qf1 a6 5.Kd1 a5 6.Kc1 a4 7.Kb1 a3**  
**8.Ka1 a2 9.Qd1!** [9.Qe1? Rf2! 10.Qg1 Rf1+! 11.Qxf1+ g2 12.Qf2 Rh1+ 13.Kxa2 g1Q—]  
**9...Rb2** [9...Re2 10.Qf1+= (10.Qg1!)=] **10.Qxc4+!** [10.Qf1+? g2—] **10...Kxc4** stalemate.

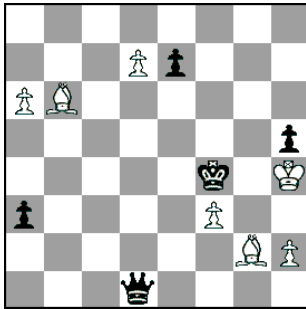
The fight between the wQueen and many black men ends in the wK's marching to a stalemate retreat. A correction of the author's earlier published position (Shahmat (Baku) No14 (105) 07.1985).

**Samir Badalov (Baku, Azerbaijan) 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize.**

**1.c6!!** [1.Qg8? Nf8! 2.Qh8+ Nh7 3.g5+ Kh5 4.Qc8 Nxc5! 5.Qg4+? (5.hxc5 Qxc5+=) 5...Kh6  
6.Qxc5+? Qxc5+ 7.hxc5+ Kxc5 (7...Kh5) 8.bxa5 (8.c6 b6) 8...c6!—] **1...bxc6 2.Qg8 Nf8** [2...g5  
3.hxc5+ Qxc5 4.Qh8+ Kg6 5.Qe8+ Kh6 6.Qxd7+—; Mainline 2...Qxh4 3.Qh8+ Kg5 4.Qd8+ Nf6  
5.Qd2# Botvinnik-Kaminer.] **3.Qh8+** Rearrangement of 3-4 moves **3...Nh7 4.g5+ Kh5 5.Qc8**  
**Nxc5 6.Qg4+ Kh6 7.Qxc5+** [7.hxc5+? Kg7] **7...Qxc5+ 8.hxc5+ Kg7 9.bxa5** wins.

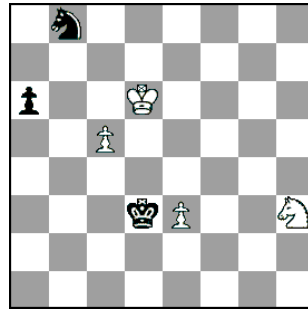
Nice opening move with anticipation effect. Motives by an M.Botvinnik & S. Kaminer study ((HHdbIII 58013- Shakhmatny Listok, 1925 ).

**Gennadiy Gelman**  
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
1<sup>st</sup> Honourable mention



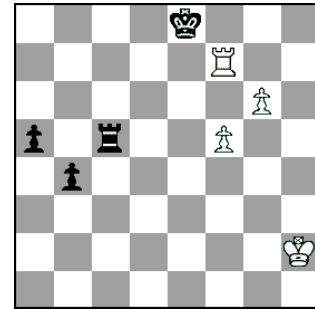
Win 4+4

**Samir Badalov**  
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable mention



Win 7+5

**Ramil Allajov, Rashad Hasanov**  
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
3<sup>rd</sup> Honourable mention



Draw 8+3

**Gennadiy Gelman (Baku, Azerbaijan) 1<sup>st</sup> Honourable mention.**

1.d8Q Qxd8 2.Bxd8 a2 3.Bc7+! [3.a7? a1Q 4.Bc7+ e5 5.Bxe5+ Qxe5! 6.a8Q Qf6+=] 3...e5 4.Bxe5+! [4.a7? a1Q 5.Bxe5+ Qxe5 6.a8Q Qf6+=] 4...Kxe5 5.a7 [5.f4+? Kxf4 6.a7 a1Q 7.a8Q Qf6+ 8.Kxh5 (8.Kh3 Qf5+ 9.Kh4 Qg4#) 8...Qg5#] 5...a1Q 6.a8Q! [6.f4+? Kxf4 7.a8Q Qf6+=] 6...Qxa8 7.f4+ Kxf4 8.Bxa8 Kf5 9.Kxh5 Kf6 10.Kh6 wins.

A series of tactical moves allows to seize the new-born bQueen. The first move had to be removed, as after 1.Bd8-b6+ Ke3-e2! Black wins.

**Samir Badalov (Baku, Azerbaijan) 2<sup>nd</sup> Honourable mention.**

1.Nf4+! [1.Nf2+? Kxe3 2.Kc7 Kd4 3.Nd3 Kd5 4.Kxb8 Kc6 5.Ka7 a5 6.Ka6 a4 7.Ka5 a3=; 1.Kc7? Kc4=] 1...Kxe3 [1...Kc4 2.e4 a5 3.e5 Na6 4.e6 Nxc5 5.e7] 2.Kc7 Kd4 [2...Kxf4 3.Kxb8] 3.Ne6+! [3.Nd3? Kd5! 4.Kxb8 Kc6!= 5.Ka7 a5 6.Ka6 a4 7.Ka5 a3 8.Ka4 (8.Kb4? a2) 8...a2 9.Nb4+] 3...Kd5 4.Kxb8 Kc6 5.Ka7 a5 6.Ka6 a4 7.Ka5 a3 8.Kb4 a2 [8...Kd5 9.Nc7+ (9.Nf4+ Kc6 10.Ne2 a2 11.Nd4+)] 9.Nd4+ wins, 9...Kd5 10.Nb3 (10.Nc2).

Interesting trajectory of White pieces' moves. The King makes evolutions around the Pc5, while the Knight moves in a symmetric, wave-like, pattern. ]

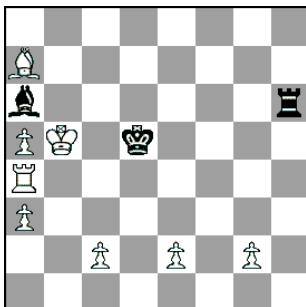
**Ramil Allajov, Rashad Hasanov (Sumgayit, Azerbaijan) 3<sup>rd</sup> Honourable mention.**

1.Kh3!! [1.Kg3? b3 2.Kf4 (2.f6? Rg5+) 2...b2 3.Rb7 Rc4+ 4.Ke3 Rb4 5.g7 Rxb7 6.g8Q+ Kd7 7.Qe6+ Kc7=] 1...b3 2.f6 [2.Kg4? b2 3.Rb7 Rc4+ 4.Kf3 Rb4 5.g7 Rxb7 6.g8Q+ Kd7=] 2...Rg5 [2...b2 3.Rb7 Rg5 4.g7] 3.Re7+ Kf8 4.g7+ Kg8 5.Re8+ [5.Kh4 loss of time 5...Rg1 6.Re8+ Kf7 7.Rf8+ Ke6 8.g8Q+ Rxc8 9.Rxc8] 5...Kf7 6.Rf8+ Ke6 7.g8Q+ [7.Kh4 loss of time 7...Rg1 8.g8Q+ Rxc8 9.Rxc8] 7...Rxc8 8.Rxc8 wins.

Sympathetic first move with alternative squares.

**Elmar Abdullayev**

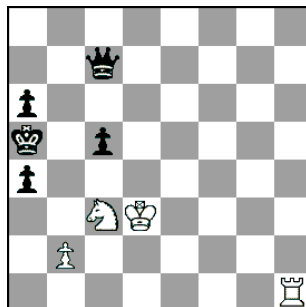
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
1<sup>st</sup> Commendation



Win 4+5

**Alakbar Tahmazov**

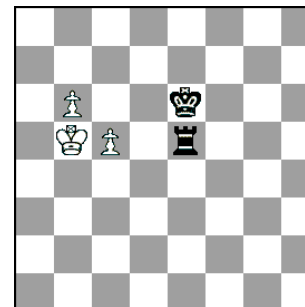
Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation



Win 3+2

**Misraddin Isgandarov**

Ali Tebrizi Shatranji MT  
3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation



Win 7+5

**Elmar Abdullayev (Shirvan, Azerbaijan) 1<sup>st</sup> Commendation.**

**1.Kb4 Rh4+ 2.g4!** [2.Kb3? Rxa4 3.Kxa4 Kc4 & 4...Bb5#] **2...Rxc4+ 3.e4+!** [3.Kb3? Rxa4 4.Kxa4 Kc4+] **3...Rxe4+ 4.Bd4!** [4.Kb3? Rxa4 5.Kxa4 Kc4+] **4...Rxd4+ 5.c4+!** [5.Kb3? Rxa4 6.Kxa4 Kc4 7.c3 Bb5#] **5...Rxc4+ 6.Kb3 Rxa4 7.Kxa4 Kc4** stalemate.

Getting rid of all the pieces leads to a stalemate. Nice, but forceful, rather.

**Alakbar Tahmazov (Lachin, Azerbaijan) 2<sup>nd</sup> Commendation.**

**1.b4+! axb3** e.p [1...cxb4 Main 2.Rh5+ Kb6 3.Nd5+ Kc6 4.Nxc7 wins; 1...Kxb4 Main 2.Nd5+ Kb3 3.Nxc7 wins; 1...Kb6 Main 2.Nd5+ Kb7 3.Nxc7 wins] **2.Ra1+ Kb6 3.Nd5+ Kb7 4.Nxc7** wins. 'Shorty' with forks involved.

**Misraddin Isgandarov (Sumgayit, Azerbaijan) 3<sup>rd</sup> Commendation.**

**1.b7 Re1 2.c6** [2.Kc6? Rb1 3.Kc7 Kd5=] **2...Rb1+ 3.Kc5!** [3.Kc4? (3.Ka6?) 3...Kd6] **3...Rc1+ 4.Kd4!** [4.Kb6? Rb1+ 5.Kc5 loss of time(5.Kc7? Kd5=) ] **4...Rb1 5.c7 Rxb7 6.c8Q+** wins.

Rook 'baby'. The wK's moves are clear-cut.