

## Acknowledgements

This book, incomplete as it still is, has been many years in preparation. Having been publishing articles about chess problem tasks and records in *The Problemist* and other specialized magazines since 1962, I started with the simple notion of collecting these articles and stitching them together in a more permanent and accessible form. However, I soon found that I needed to rearrange my material in a logical order, and this in turn showed that there were important gaps in it. Hence more articles, challenging problemists to fill those gaps with published or original compositions. As these articles spread knowledge of my project through the problem world, I received other contributions and help from many quarters.

Much of this help is acknowledged in the book itself, by the inclusion of problems or in the text. But it would be impossible to mention all my helpers and correspondents by name. So I hereby thank them collectively, and recognize that this has been a collaborative project between myself and my fellow problemists, to whom the book is gratefully dedicated.

I should also record some special debts of gratitude, and first and foremost to my wife. I had originally intended to put off the whole work until my retirement. She persuaded me otherwise, saying that in that case it would never get done. Looking back now, I am sure that she was right. Furthermore, she showed me the way by publishing two books of her own, and has never ceased to encourage me in the work.

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The bald recital of all these services cannot do justice to their value or to the friendly readiness with which they were supplied. They have enormously improved the book, and its remaining deficiencies are attributable solely to myself.

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