

Preface to the third edition

This book was first published in 1995, and in 2001 a revised edition appeared in which errors were corrected and a number of records updated. With the passage of a further 15 years, it is time for a more substantial revision and enlargement, reflecting not only new advances in task composition, some of them stimulated by the book itself, but also deeper research into past achievements with the help of on-line data-bases. As a result this third edition contains more than 960 problems by some 400 composers from over 40 countries.

The collaborative exercise with my fellow problemists described in my original Acknowledgements has continued unabated. In addition to the debts there recorded, I must express my special gratitude to Ernesto Ferrón for his labour of love over recent years in testing and improving the two-move records, and to John Rice for his invaluable continuing support as editor of *The Problemist* and in other ways. Among the many who have sent important contributions, I would particularly mention Michael Lipton, Dragan Stojnić and the late Milan Velimirović.

For this edition, which is also available in e-book form, I have moved from Fabers to a new publisher and printer. I owe a huge debt to Brian Stephenson, who has used his remarkable combination of problem and computer skills to prepare this edition for publication. Caroline Dudley has once again done the necessary typing for me, and my son Andrew Morse has designed the front cover. My warm thanks go to all of them.

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