

"A Study Apiece" by Gerhard Josten and co-authors, 2010
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Gerhard Josten expands on the scope of his 2006 book (with Gerd Wilhelm Horning and Martin Minski) "Wege zu Schachstudien", which included material from exclusively German authors. The call for contributions went out to all composers of studies. Requested was one's best study along with analysis and commentary. No restrictions of any severity were placed the nature of the commentary.

The result is a very eclectic collection of vignettes. Many of the World's top study men discuss their favorite compositions. Unfortunately, a few of the top composers are absent. Many who contributed offer, to varying degrees, access to their composing processes. We also find much discussion of the nature of studies and, in particular, what makes for a good study.

I will mention three of my favorite chapters. Valery Vlasenko analyzes a difficult class of positions en route to composing an extremely subtle study. Harold van der Heijden's nice pawn study is solved in ten seconds by super GM Artur Yusupov. Later, Harold trips up Artur with a more difficult study. Sergey N. Tkachenko is inspired by the game Savchenko-Krivososov to compose an fine study. Sergey's attempt to find and thank Mr. Savchenko for the inspiration leads to some amusing confusion.

This very entertaining book is attractively produced with plenty of clear diagrams and a number of b/w photos. The photos are a boon to those who like to connect faces to familiar names.