Note added in proof

Since acceptance of this paper, J.M. Valério de Carvalho has been kind enough to send me a preprint of his paper 'Exact solution of bin-packing problems using column generation and branch-and-bound' to appear in *Annals of Operations Research*. The paper reports on independent solutions of the five open problems obtained by computer-intensive methods, in contrast to the manual or very simple computer methods reported here.