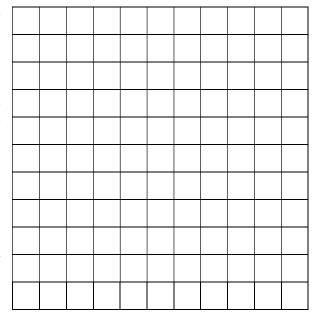
Guest Puzzle #54 – December 2013 "Is it I? It is I" (by Peter Green)

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from four to eleven letters, and two are capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Eleven across words and nine down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Those twenty letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell two three-word phrases related to the mystery entry. Thanks to Kevin Wald for editing and test-solving this puzzle.



Across

- 1. Threaten to talk about men
- 2. Steal a moment around a poplar tree
- 3. Remove top of seed to reveal a small opening
- 4. Ireland has flair
- 5. Push rod into bar
- 6. Birth scene can get weird
- 7. Communist decree ready for publication
- 8. Prime tree breached the outer limits
- 9. Revolutionary ship game
- 10. Color of lime crush
- 11. "Contain" is in clue about diameter
- 12. Mystery entry
- 13. Burden of child that's mischievous and so backward with English
- 14. Brew laced with a bit of vermouth for cete member
- 15. Raise the terminally dead
- 16. The Nile discovered to have a westward diversion
- 17. Meal is about over
- 18. The Spanish and French go for rock
- 19. One Roman embracing an emperor
- 20. Place dog's head in box
- 21. Boy's first *letter* letter from Athens
- 22. Shelley's having a terrible experience
- 23. Man with a supernatural power
- 24. Fashion mannequin's not quite finished

Down

- 1. Timeless secrets scattered in alcove
- 2. A lot of back talk beginning to exasperate
- 3. Consume popular hot beverage
- 4. Stand back
- 5. A Père partying in a city celebrated in song
- 6. Terror of bird trapped in computer
- 7. "Dawdle" is second of words appearing in volume
- 8. Clean dirtied weapon
- 9. To stand up in error is embarrassing
- 10. Daughter of nice person's made papa vote
- 11. Return record with unit to make further adjustments
- 12. Sausage in Paris à la mignonette
- 13. Tear top of rectus at finish
- 14. Bib is only to cover a wisent
- 15. Transporter's term finally ended
- 16. Charlie tried ineffectively to have faith
- 17. Stared and drew a sudden breath without beginning to speak
- 18. Head of cod left over for Herb
- 19. The first of May in a Spanish province bears fruit
- 20. Much troubled friend
- 21. To be a real lunatic is complicated
- 22. German article I have to take from a source
- 23. Hate being pissed off at Earl
- 24. Small in body but able to see, hear, etc.