

Solution to Puzzle #139 – December, 2012 "Hidden Treasure"

X	S	T	E	R	E	M	O	N	T	E
R	E	L	E	C	T	O	R	D	I	V
I	N	E	F	O	U	N	T	E	N	I
C	E	D	L	U	S	T	E	S	H	E
L	A	F	O	R	S	E	A	S	O	N
E	L	I	A	S	X	G	M	E	N	T
P	E	L	T	E	D	R	E	N	E	L
A	M	E	S	T	W	I	S	E	G	A
R	B	M	A	R	A	T	A	M	A	N
D	A	A	N	A	R	A	B	A	R	D
O	T	N	E	C	E	B	U	R	E	X

The letter sequence **AU** [in square brackets in the list below] must be compressed into one square, as shown by a red **X** in the grid above.

The omitted letters (in parentheses in the list below) spell **STRIKING GOLD**.

Across

1. [**AU**]STERE
2. MON(S)TER
3. ELECTOR
4. DIVINE
5. FOUNT
6. EN(T)ICED
7. LUSTE(R)
8. SHE(I)LA
9. FOR
10. SEASON
11. ELIAS
12. [**AU**]GMENT
13. PELTED
14. RENE
15. LAMEST
16. WISE
17. GAR(B)
18. MARAT
19. AMANDA
20. AN(K)ARA
21. BARDOT
22. N(I)ECE
23. BURE[**AU**]

Down

1. [**AU**]RICLE
2. PARDO(N)
3. SENE(G)AL
4. EMBATTLED
5. FILE
6. MANE(G)E
7. FLOAT
8. SANER
9. COURSE
10. TRACE
11. TUSS[**AU**]D
12. WARE
13. MONTE
14. GRIT
15. ABORT
16. EAMES
17. AB(O)UND
18. ESSENE
19. MARTIN
20. HONE
21. G(L)ARE
22. EVI(D)ENT
23. LAND[**AU**]

Kevin Wald solved the puzzle in 30 minutes.