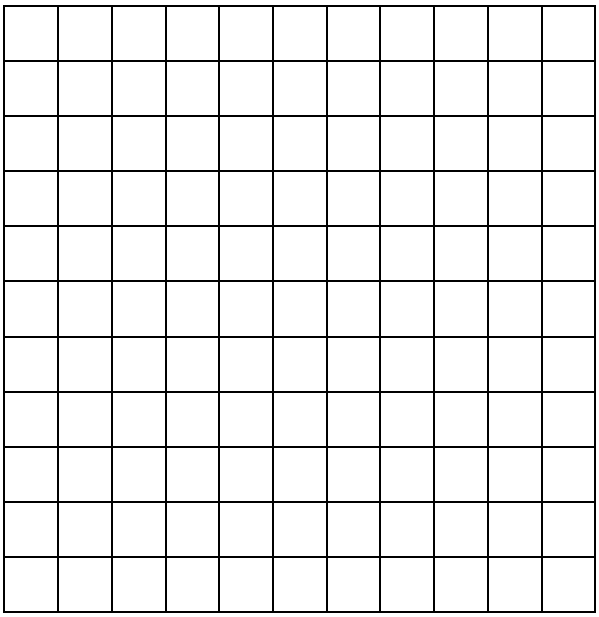
Puzzle #208 — October 2018 "Early Bird"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eight letters; two are capitalized and two are foreign) 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. Seven across words and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those thirteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a word related to the title and the mystery entry. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. The facts of early confusion about it
3. Insensible mark found in core
4. Mixed claret with ecstasy and molasses
5. Assembles copies, about 1000 + 50
6. Task involving Chinese mineral
7. Verified that pole wandered
8. Repair a metal dish
9. Harsh criticism upset Astor
10. Torque in shape deformed flower part
11. Mock tense relative
12. Cock gives up egg for roll
13. Dream of new praise
14. Fryer prepared for shuttle
15. Carhop's letter
16. Inspire bird companion
17. Identical disguise as me
18. New Latin in soprano vocals
19. Fleas thrive ingesting minimum
20. Impassioned about sexual overture
21. Mother only will embrace a wader
22. Stoop in cramp or chill
23. Got a tub made into a vessel

Down

1. Mad pilot discombobulated ambassador
2. Pause in ceremony involving second sight
3. Appraiser's *terra infirma*
4. Tony's strangely unemotional
5. Speed: not having it characterizes Herb
6. Eleanor Parker holding up a smock
7. Stop ever having to drink
8. Mom in cart roving around paved surface
9. Ancient country's one-moon season
10. Sharer divided a slice of meat
11. Mop has roughly zero soap
12. Group once gathered at a specific time
13. Remnant of small bucket
14. Revival around a town in SC
15. Spanish boy in no trouble
16. Ridley, e.g., gets high for a time to rush
17. Attempt awkwardly tries to include Victor
18. Cupidity of unbridled and endless degree
19. Wicked tormentor not removed in quake
20. Animal fiber containing energy
21. Mass of armor covering couch
22. Myrna and Capp are faithful
23. Fellow to roughen up
24. Single existing instrument