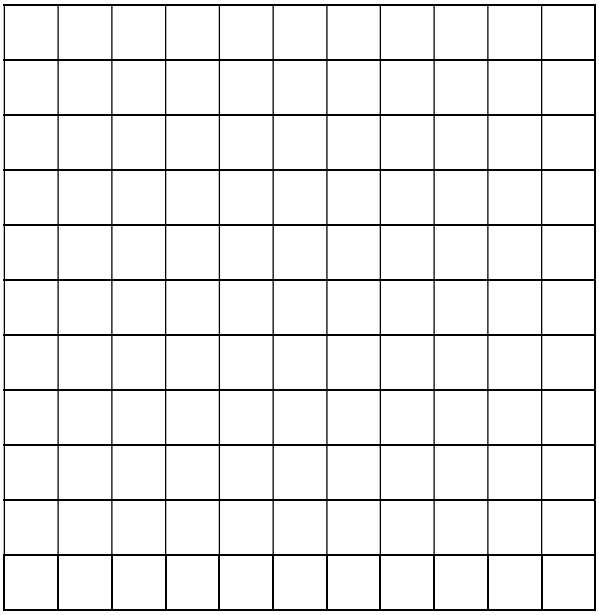
Puzzle #39 – August 2004 "What's Missing?"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from four to nine letters and include two proper names and one foreign word), 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 margin continue on the next line below; down words that don't end at the bottom margin continue in the next column to the right. Four words won't fit in the grid unless they are altered in a certain way; solvers are left to figure out how. Solvers are also invited to find another similarly altered word hidden in the completed grid and to answer the question posed by the title of this puzzle. As ever, I am indebted to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. Modest and distinct in speech
2. Fuel it with charged particle combination
3. Less emotional about a new utensil
4. Feline turned up with cellist
5. First of entries in document is replaced by article nearer the end
6. Historical text containing Old German
7. Mulled port again with flavoring agent
8. Started erratically with error and run for pitcher
9. Small, trim outer garment
10. Ring fee
11. Printer's device initially spooks horse
12. Oboe's core sound gets to a little shepherd
13. An entrance in marble
14. Desire in nautilus tested
15. Lowland servant killing time
16. Many holding up a plant
17. Real mad monarch
18. A father takes quiet aim
19. Vine turning around one unguis
20. Contend with core of mold at break
21. Superior kind of gambler
22. Hear political group speak persuasively
23. Land's end is intrinsically separate

Down

1. Crudely spliced by one adherent
2. Dad and tennis champ chat
3. Terminating power during a service interruption is a grievous offense
4. Sound of tin covering stripped tires
5. Lunch, for instance, includes scandium and peyote
6. Writer assumes singular air
7. Compartment left empty originally for conductor
8. John's fuel in the new year
9. Mixture of ethanol ions
10. One leaving new court proceeding at the back
11. Loud noise covers up start of sexual embrace
12. Gloomy, tense innocence
13. Unwilling tour leader replaces case of fish
14. Disarrange all the French
15. Take a few quick breaths right around noon
16. Clumsy me! upsetting all but end of spool
17. Defamatory writing turns up in double billing
18. Remove top of pipe added to drain
19. A Native American stronghold
20. Material to give in clothing Virginia
21. Small growths turning up in stalks
22. Initial drink is standard at start of entertainments of various kinds

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