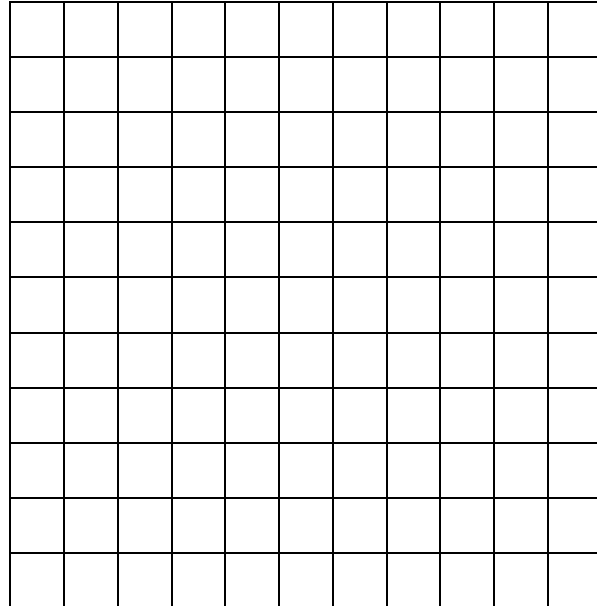


Puzzle #77 — October 2007 "Polly Voo"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to twelve letters; seven 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. Six across words and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those twelve letters, taken in order, spell a three-word phrase related to the mystery entries. I thank Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. Change number in secret
2. Inventor, after making a penny, is primarily a financier
3. Union nurse uncharacteristically in doubt
4. Mom embraced by Tai magician
5. *Mystery word*
6. Vehicle to keep moving
7. Rebel embankments surrounding Brazilian port
8. Matter with impulse to rise again
9. Manic affectation about Roman ristretto, maybe
10. Best at everything, including pomp
11. Fatal avalanche carries molten rock
12. Make merry without beginning to tell
13. Cherry unit made over
14. More than one dimension of masculine nature seems outlandish
15. *Mystery word*
16. Extend the Mexican working pass
17. Sinful lass has time for pickles
18. Flier starting again by way of hill
19. A closure disrupted a conveyor belt
20. *Mystery word*

Down

1. Help to arrive mostly by post
2. Extract bone that's been turned around by error
3. Fruit order sounded excellent
4. Negation of bargain involving nickel
5. No one called for sister
6. Take time to have a place
7. Testament contains an expression of assent
8. Rope cannot encircle a hickory tree
9. Mongolian in front at a retreat
10. Too bad about morning's greetings
11. Pain-wracked rotter gets up
12. Sensory organ of fish held by iron rod
13. Discriminating about theatrical cloth
14. Strips and moves, not quietly at first, but with volume
15. Asteroid sequence is reported
16. Think rationally about a descendant
17. Raise wild ram
18. Left in Howe's tavern
19. Deranged nut, ancient beyond description
20. Pure calculation begun with speed
21. Rustle busily for effect
22. It's drunk by Nicaraguans
23. Real estate—rent free