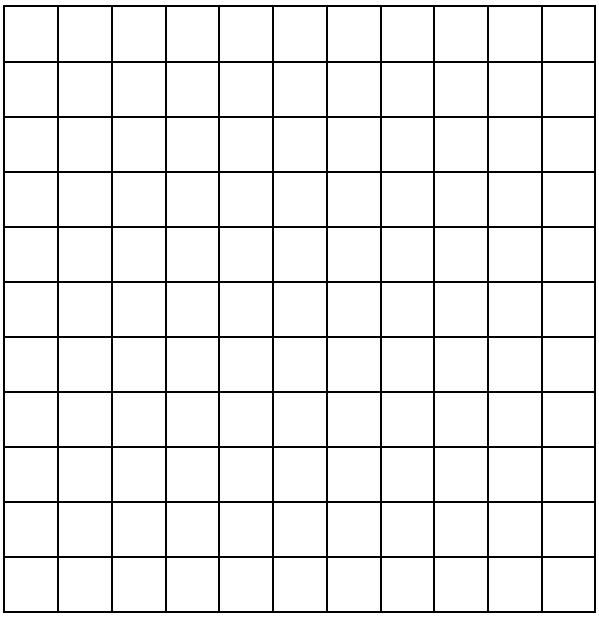
Puzzle #78 — November 2007 "Not!"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from three to ten letters; six of them are capitalized, one is foreign, one archaic, and one obsolete), 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. Three across words and three down words won't fit in the grid unless some of their letters are omitted. The omitted letters are related to the title of this puzzle. I thank Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. Pious, mute, flighty, and rash
2. Intellectual servant takes time for me
3. Check an acrobatic performance
4. One finally valid note about esteem
5. Spike holds small engine part
6. Borodin's baton
7. Space surrounding top of cedar tree
8. Bosses held in check in England
9. Tear in damaged light-detecting membrane
10. Football player's in shape legwise
11. Not violating propriety with love for English teacher
12. Labeling error invalidated memoirs about Newton
13. Realize I've broken down in pain
14. Choose one-centimeter lens
15. Watch maker loses time getting right agent
16. Get in touch with color of wine in Spain
17. Wind turning in circles
18. Dance a *rond de jambe*, maybe
19. Scope of action sounded excellent
20. Jane's part of key rehearsal
21. Fly around one wreck
22. Sweat through sharp-looking top
23. Clumsy writer turned around in it

Down

1. One box held by escort may be different
2. Element found in hair only
3. Broken reel covered by long cape
4. Intemperate gorgon coming back to embrace lexicographer
5. Exhausted swan in street
6. Competitor grabs head of poisonous snake
7. Nautically barricades ancient city
8. Seen back east to blow violently
9. Truly America's composer
10. Much about gold is bad
11. Boat's run ended in place
12. Messy unit, initially neat, held about a thousand
13. Flower of Fair Isle
14. Fabric of unfinished dress
15. Row about metal stopwatch, perhaps
16. Mark takes brother's place in line, in a way
17. Have kids with relatives in bed holding middle of spread
18. *Crimson* document ready for publication
19. You enjoy embracing a French Archbishop
20. Room rent 200, and nothing extra for leather
21. A strong current pried it loose
22. Knight planned to talk about Henry being cool