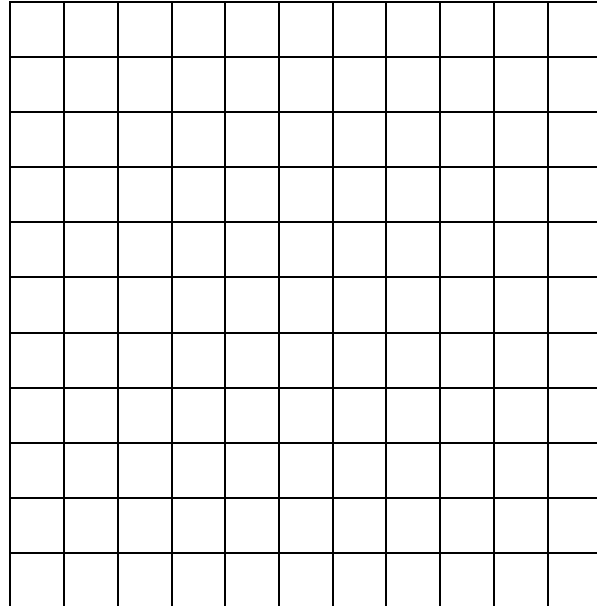


## Puzzle #163 — December 2014 "Bouquet"

**Instructions:** Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to twelve letters, two are capitalized, two are foreign, and one is hyphenated) 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. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.



### Across

1. *Bouquet*
2. Mark on small disk
3. Encourage dance and physical therapy
4. Author and alien get together
5. Decree attack must include head of army
6. Symbol etched around trunk
7. Our DNA has mutated backwards
8. Reduce tension in most of frame
9. It's turned red at first in agitation
10. Start every day enjoying new garden
11. Fish breached armor covering head of eel
12. Schiller covers that in Latin
13. *Bouquet*
14. Deal to capture energy
15. Wool spinning in Rome
16. Mark, Oscar, Rod, and Judas
17. Article I read about an opera house
18. Timeless wait gets Henry in distress
19. Small metal element beginning to yield
20. Straight part of telephone attachment
21. Gem arrived the first of October
22. Wardrobe mistress takes part in Padre's service
23. *Bouquet*

### Down

1. Infamy of traveling to orient before your leader
2. Amount barely activated to produce an unstable lepton
3. Not many said the Spanish will get food
4. Bits of nothing in broken stem
5. Ned's lip gets bruised turning rod
6. Part of mysterious river in Brazil
7. Commiserate about body fluids
8. River run for sambar, for instance
9. One doing badly is blue
10. The part of christening that comes after nine
11. Shame of devotion without a bit of empathy
12. Beat to a pulp after cutting the top off and extract the juice from
13. Loins of beef and heart of aurochs stored in building
14. Many men end up capturing foe
15. Lack of range in writing leads to affectation
16. Reported total is an unspecified number
17. Nuanced blues dancing includes tango
18. Story of this author's father, essentially
19. Take on a mess, struggling to keep up
20. Philosopher's call for help about rattletrap
21. Shrub tapped initially as a source of nourishment
22. Sound coming from right propeller
23. Erratic nonsense about intransitive rules
24. Peter's angry in crib