

Puzzle #171 — August 2015 "Autodidact"

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to nine letters, eight are capitalized, and one is 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 omitted. Those thirteen letters, taken in order as they occur in across and down words, spell a word related to the mystery entries. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.

Across

- 1. *Mystery entry*
- 2. Canoe foundering in pond
- 3. Moving drama about one large butterfly
- 4. Relative degree and type
- 5. Song or elegy played without end
- 6. Fish or fly led Sam astray
- 7. Collapse of demon vein
- 8. Undressed in cabaret
- 9. Memorandum about a syllabic unit
- 10. Ermine robe covering digger
- 11. Form a new kind of orbiting space tie
- 12. Father holding head of hackney horse
- 13. Long tormented, he ran about 1000
- 14. Sound producer is going without one
- 15. Act uncertainly to make changes after start of festivities
- 16. Least active rising at first is less fresh
- 17. Parisian thug loses Henry fast
- 18. Babu Jawaharlal embracing prayer ritual
- 19. Three notes for a city in Texas
- 20. Certain about tones, make a guess
- 21. If Dante turned truculent . . .
- 22. *Mystery entry*

Down

- 1. Tennis team upset after losing a feeling
- 2. Writer's unusual candor
- 3. Ridicule brother's taking Charlie for nephew
- 4. Stinger rendered inactive
- 5. Runner Gordon cast sun god out of prairie
- 6. Slight prod and a bit of needling
- 7. Everyone in California gets a flower
- 8. Pianist Schnabel in departure
- 9. Assistant's bad idea
- 10. Last love game replayed
- 11. *Patna's* first mate is initially judged immoral & malfeasant
- 12. One fought with vines
- 13. Sail off with love for Sicilian island
- 14. River of South America beginning at Rosario
- 15. One in need becoming nasty and base
- 16. Helen sulking about a light bender
- 17. Wild mare eats black resin
- 18. Greece gets a two-fold liturgical book
- 19. Sign near broken trap
- 20. Far Eastern travel
- 21. Wild card judge misinterpreted kore
- 22. Change of phase and form
- 23. Glib line about air conditioning
- 24. Champion of boy in distress