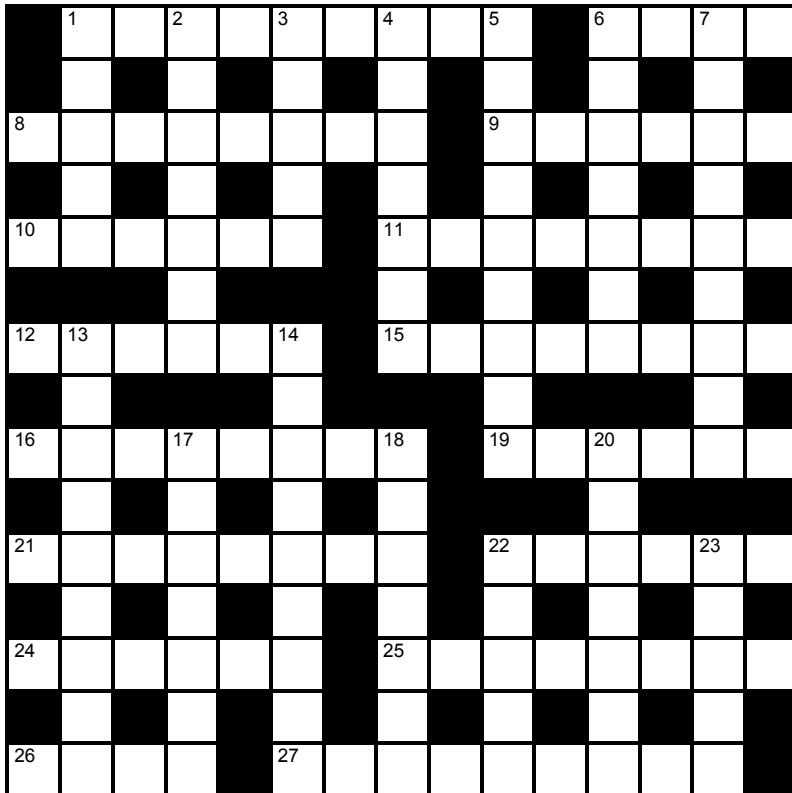


NTSPP - 112 by Hieroglyph



Across

- 1** 8s are found amongst crabs in the sea (9)
6 Shop around for spice (4)
8/9 Cryptic crossword with 6 ac., 12, 20, 23, and 24 briefly in prison (8,6)
10 Characterise evidence of shark dwelling in river (6)
11 Sin may be of 23's vocation (8)
12 Told to serve food for mass (6)
15 Arduous book about painting (8)
16 Weapon made from fissile material (8)
19 Starters of Northern Irish beurre blanc lobster, eaten in a bite (6)
21 Putting on idiot to

show hesitation in goal-mouth (8)

22 Poet often seen with economist in Buckinghamshire (6)

24 Girl's fellow catches fish (6)

25 Headphone echo's a recipe for disaster (8)

26 Airhead touching Rudolf's nose, following return of St. Nicholas? (4)

27 One who performs with pride (4-5)

Down

1 Love trouble - Romeo's head over heels, at heart (5)

2 6 ac. is into S&M - merciless character's an exemplification (7)

3 Snare 23, having picked up scent outside? (5)

4 Scribbled the I.O.U. around the start of Dragon's Den (7)

5 South American private investigator, caught one on the basis of investigation? (9)

6 Reads through applications (7)

7 Payment before golfer drops one at the last - top of leader-board's under par (9)

13 Actress - new 6 ac. in play for old people (9)

14 Instructive ablution - it's splashed when 20's absconded (9)

17 Separate, like a couple of foreign articles (7)

18 Artist's papers omitted from collection of Coleridge (2,5)

20 Country tramp pockets marbles, dropping an unknown number (7)

22 Revolutionary's hurt having a bath, letting out an expression of contempt (5)

23 Monster truck award? (5)