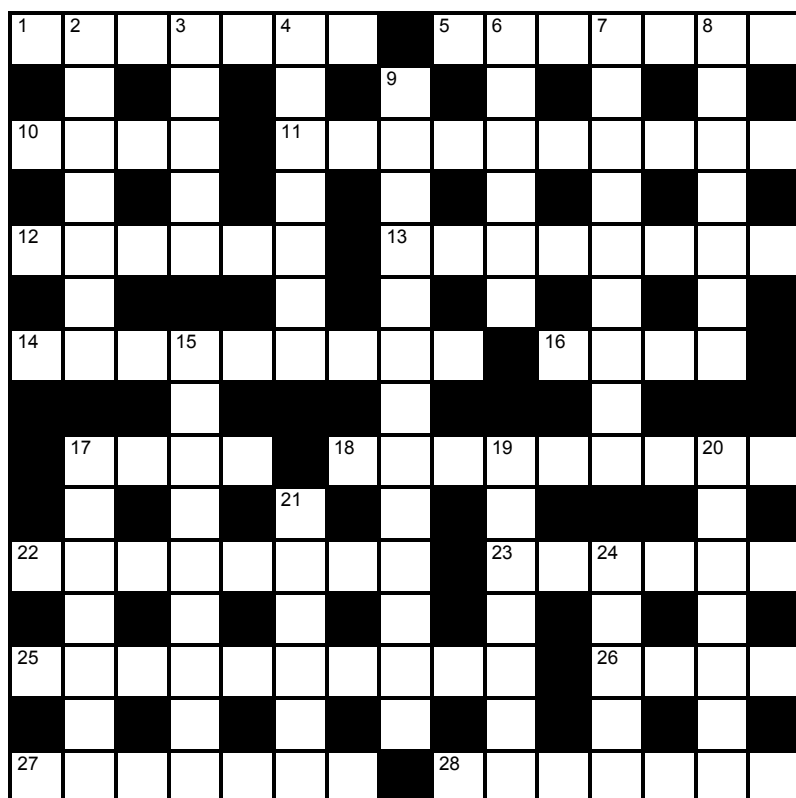


NTSPP - 139 by Hieroglyph



Across

- 1 Retiring after a party? (7)
 5 Hardly H₂O₃? (3,4)
 10 See 17 Down
 11 See 12
 12/11 24's struggle with volumes (6,2,3,5)
 13 See 4 Down
 14 Disdainful 'Hurricane' Higgins, tense, taking on novice (9)
 16 Girl hidden in answers? Yes! (4)
 17 Friend, if X = 0 (4)
 18 Smartest one involved in abuse? (9)
 22 Novelist breaking metatarsal in Germany (8)
 23 Conductor often seen on holiday (6)

- 25 Cold quality of nameless river to the east of Scottish water (10)
 26 A near-perfect notion? (4)
 27 Small fish starts rotting - foul! (7)
 28 From Glasgow, say: non-conservative and habitually drunk (7)

Down

- 2 Put out search for little green men around South American lake (3,4)
 3 Explorer's termination in arctic boat accident (5)
 4/13 24's advice: do pastoral poems perplex? (1,6,8)
 6 Dramatist's stunning victory supporting revolutionary (6)
 7 Proverbially, it cried cool tears (9)

- 8 Endlessly cook hot stuff for dessert (7)
 9 Magistrates sit about and write journals (13)
 15/20 24's bird is consuming clergyman over time, dancing with lust, oddly (9,7)
 17/10 Totally flipped, however a rival city volunteers 24's work (1,4,2,1,3)
 19 3 as cheeky sauce (7)
 20 See 15
 21 It's a sin, yes? (6)
 24 Satirist succeeded with independent newspaper (5)