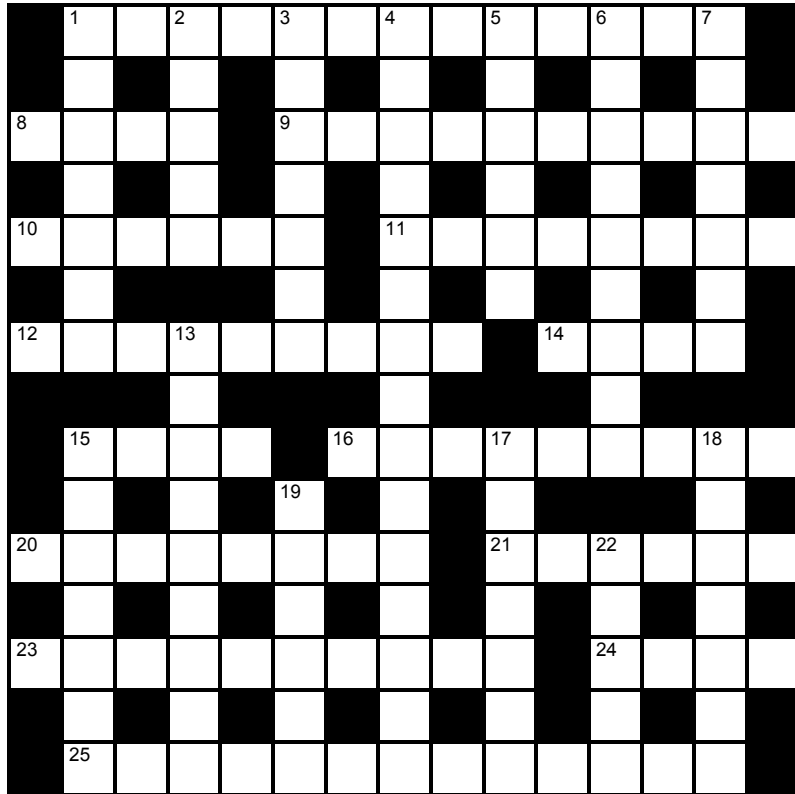


#26 by Rupert Morrish
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Across

- 1** Pens directive out of Naval Observatory (4,9)
- 8** Rebuffed, it follows monster (4)
- 9** Complete spectacle makes terminal mistakes (10)
- 10** Pygmy, oddly, taller after burning (6)
- 11** Part exchanges hands finally after cast trained (5-3)
- 12** Pages (white, extremely acidic) smell fine (5,4)
- 14** Coordinate bits in odd sack (4)
- 15** Together, we make soup without essential herbs (4)

- 16** Unpopular lamp polisher speaks about best part of youth (5,4)
- 20** This part is a meaty role, and maybe comes from Riva (8)
- 21** Passer sacked - incomplete (6)
- 23** Boot is partly sealed with paste (10)
- 24** Enjoying popular review of books (4)
- 25** Plane decoration a conspicuous success (6,7)

Down

- 1** Mogul's heart is coated with varnish, outside-in (7)

- 2** Went slowly, holding back 8% (5)
- 3** Quietly spin up intake of saw (7)
- 4** Described by Max, well exciting, game not played inside (15)
- 5** Three Cardinals I'm describing from crotch to ankle (6)
- 6** Perceptive journalist describes agreement about musical show (5-4)
- 7** Ship in the way of Saturn (7)
- 13** In war games, the only winning move is putting a penny into any lotto scheme (3,2,4)

- 15** Court official heard of aromatic herb (3,4)
- 17** Varys isn't leaving Lannisters a supply of weapons (7)
- 18** Absolutely is turned into snowmen (3,2,2)
- 19** Blind revolutionary enabled writer of 18 down (6)
- 22** Farewell, Araucaria. Crossword cognoscenti salute you at the end (5)