

3D Crossword June 2019 Newsletter 6

This edition covers the following items:

1. Review of the May 3D Crossword
2. July Puzzle by Qaos
3. 3D Crossword Award Presentations 2018

1. Review of the May 3D Crossword

May crossword set by and clued by Curmudgeon

The winner of this months puzzle was Robbie Etherington of Kennilworth

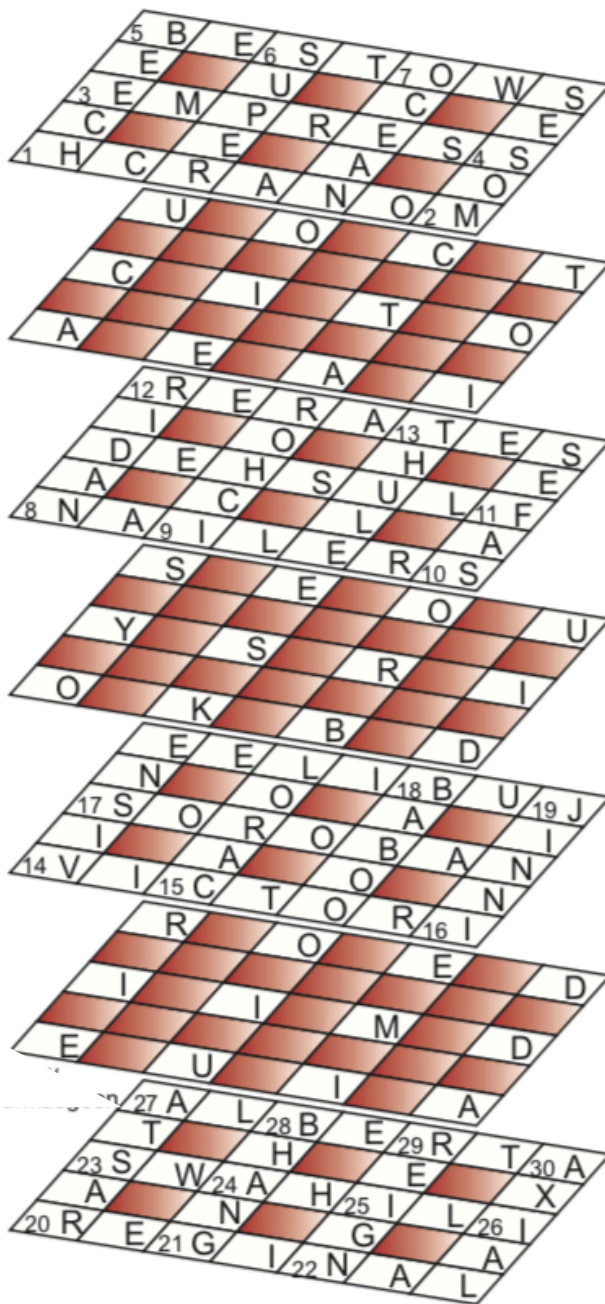
The crossword notes a 200th Anniversary. Clues are presented in alphabetical order of their solution.

This simple preamble and considerable previous experience of Curmudgeon's setting preferences suggest that this will be a straightforward solve with scrupulously fair clues and there are unlikely to be any unexpected twists. And so it proves to be.

One of the pleasures of this solve was the gradual emergence of the the themed solutions; MONARCH, HANOVER, JUBILEE, REIGN, VICTORIA and so on. We live on the Isle of Wight where Queen Victoria lived for much of her reign in Osborne House, just a stones throw from our own somewhat less grand apartment in East Cowes. At Osborne House, English Heritage, have just celebrated the 200th anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth. So this was a real Gi'Me as Rod Stewart's sings in one of his lyrics. Her own dear ALBERT was nicely concealed in a prairie province. EMPRESS OF INDIA fully nailed who the crossword was celebrating.

From the comments a number of solvers were unhappy with the parsing of SOROBAN since the clue also led to SOROBON. The clue read 'In due course carry off an Asian abacus'. Both SO and SOON can be defined as 'in due course'. Thus pinching from Adam Saille's hints and tips "This clue is formed of three small components (one provided en clair) to derive the solution:

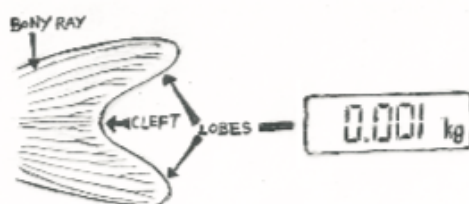
Japanese abacus = Indue course (2) + carry off (3) + AN"



**May Solution
set by
Curmudgeon
Grid by
Curmudgeon**

Queen Victoria was born in May 1819. Themed solutions included: VICTORIA, MONARCH, REGINA, EMPRESS OF INDIA, ALBERT (her consort), HANOVER (the Royal House she came from), JUBILEE and REIGN

EMPRESS OF INDIA: ESPRESSO, with an M (for "medium") instead of an S (for "small"), becomes EMPRESSO, followed by FIN DIAGRAM minus GRAM.



3D May Crossword Clue Explanations

Clue No	Word	Direction Clue	Explanation
1	ADJUSTS (7)	30up Makes slight changes only in public announcements (7)	JUST in ADS
2	AIRSHIP (7)	24up Displays in flying machine (7)	AIRS + HIP
3	ALBERTA (7)	27ac Surprisingly ratable prairie province (7)	RATABLE*
4	AXIAL (5)	30to A line pursuing a team's form of rotation (5)	A XI + A L
5	BABOO (5)	18to Title in India of degree accompanied by sound of disapproval (5)	BA + BOO
6	BEECH (5)	5to Tree to haul onto the shore, we're told (5)	"BEACH" heard
7	BESTOWS (7)	5ac Gives most effective hogwash from time to time (7)	BEST (h)O(g)W(a)S(h)
8	BHANG (5)	28to Narcotic sounds like a sudden success (5)	"BANG" heard
9	BOLEROS (7)	28up Touchy lout upset dances (7)	SORE LOB<
10	BURSERIA (7)	5d Tree genus's woody excrescences are turning up (7)	BURS + ARE<
11	CAROL (5)	15aw Motor, look, returning for girl (5)	CAR + LO<
12	ECDYSIS (7)	3d Foul discourtesy, quitting fudged tour, shedding coat (7)	DISCOURTESY* less TOUR*
13	EMPRESS OF INDIA (7,2,5)	3ac,4d,26to-2 Impassioned ref revised thematic person's title (7,2,5)	IMPASSIONED REF*
14	FLUSHED (7)	11ba Elated - contagious viral infection cast off (7)	FLU + SHED

15	GUCKIER (7)	21up Filthier with goo principally, not mud (7)	MUCKIER - M + G (&lit)
16	HANOVER (7)	1d German city's after-effects of alcohol not good (7)	HANG-OVER less G
17	ICHOR (5)	9aw Rich ores revealing divine fluid (5)	Hidden
18	IMBRUTE (7)	25up Degrade long ago with poet's stain restricting hint of trust (7)	IMBRUE round T(rust)
19	JINNI (5)	19to Spirit of Japanese hostelry with sushi ultimately (5)	J + INN (rsush)l
20	JUBILEE (7)	19ba London tube line's celebration (7)	Double definition
21	MISDIAL (7)	2d Incorrectly type number of dreadfully dismal institute (7)	DISMAL I*
22	MONARCH (7)	2ba On penetrating military music for sovereign (7)	ON in MARCH
23	MOSES (5)	2aw Grandma who painted biblical figure (5)	Double definition
24	NADIR (5)	8aw Collapsed drain's lowest point (5)	DRAIN*
25	NAILERS (7)	8ac Carpenters, perhaps, initially changing direction of ships (7)	SAILERS with N for S
26	NIOBEAN (7)	22up Tearful granny receiving one order of chivalry (7)	NAN round I OBE
		Like tearful goddess granny receives one order of chivalry	
27	OCEAN (5)	7to Canoe abandoned here? (5)	CANOE*
28	OCTOBER (7)	7d Month to hunt for Soviet sub? (7)	Double definition
29	RASTA (5)	20aw African despot comes back, member of group rejecting western values (5)	A + TSAR<
30	REGINAL (7)	20ac Actually existing, swallowing drink of a queen (7)	REAL round GIN
31	REIGN (5)	29to Rule in warfare ignored (5)	Hidden
32	RERATES (7)	12ac Revalues residence housing muse briefly (7)	RES round ERAT(o)
33	SAFES (5)	10aw On board ship are iron strongboxes (5)	SS round A + FE

34	SOROBAN (7)	17ac In due course carry off an Asian abacus (7)	SO + ROB + AN
35	SUPER (5)	6to Delightful prince missing from light evening meal (5)	SUPPER less P
36	SWAHILI (7)	23ac Language was muddled at first having imprecise local idioms (7)	WAS* + first letters
37	THULE (5)	13to University Lecturer in the northernmost land (5)	UL in THE
38	VICTORIA (8)	14ac,16d-2 Royal carriage (8)	Double definition
39	VISNE (5)	14aw Somewhat apprehensive about legal venue (5)	Hidden reversed

3D May Crossword Solvers Comments

The puzzle was easy enough but I'm baffled by the picture clues (as usual!). Ah no just got it by blowing the pdf up to 500%; ESPRESSO with S replaced by M + FIN DIAGRAM - GRAM. Clever! AW

Thanks to Curmudgeon for a challenging but entertaining puzzle. It was interesting to learn more about Queen Victoria, born on 24 May 1819. I really loved finding ALBERT, cleverly hidden in Day 3, 27 across. JA

I await your questioning for Day 34. I parse it as SOON with ROB inside but can find no reference to a SOROBON so SOROBAN it is MM

Curmudgeon led us in very gently and kept some sharp spikes for the end. ET

I felt this month was definitely at the top end as far as quality of grid- and clue-construction is concerned. I think you know my grid-construction "requirements" by now: as few snakes as possible, upwards and towards and backwards acceptable - all leading to being able to look at the grid and work out what a particular entry is. And in almost all of those "requirements", Curmudgeon came up trumps. And I found the clues to be top-class. Excellent surface readings, and some clever use of misleading words. HE

Another enjoyable month. Just my level of solving. PD

A nice selection with some unusual words. I guess its Victoria bicentenary. Visual clue incomprehensible as usual MJ

More obscure terms than theme words this month, but as usual, I learnt a lot. Thank goodness for Wikipedia. JT

Here's my solution - no problem in identifying the theme, though I couldn't quite work out how Frank Paul's gives the required answer. PM

Quite a lot of thematic material in the grid including an appearance by the royal consort. Very entertains thanks to Curmudgeon EL

Straightforward satisfying cluing - some weird words, but not too weird for trusty Chambers JH

A lovely puzzle. Majestic and imperial are words the come to mind SW

Attached is my May solution, with any luck all properly aligned this time! I found this much more straightforward than April's very challenging puzzle, and once the penny dropped with the theme, there was plenty of immediately recognizable cross-referencing going on (unlike the April puzzle!), and a few new words learned in the process! So thank you for that. MS

Thank you Curmudgeon and all involved for this most enjoyable and satisfying puzzle. I was definitely amused JB

A nice balance of difficulty on this one. For Day 34 I came up with SOROBON which fits the clue better, but the only acceptable spelling seems to be SOROBAN so I have gone with that. GB

Unlike Queen Victoria we were amused particularly by 16 (German City) N&SI

A fair challenge with a good blend of easy clues and head scratchers. My favourite was SWAHILI. MLJ

2. July 2019 Puzzle by Qaos

Sirius writes; I am most grateful to those solvers out there on the pioneering front bravely tackling the 3D puzzles before the more sedate of us have yet to meet the test.

The July puzzle has more than one way to complete the grid. Conscious of the dilemma facing Sirius every morning, of which sock to put on first, and that's assuming he can find a matching pair

... we have updated the instructions:

Originally:

Fit solutions jigsaw-wise where they will go in the grid. Directions are either across, down or away. Clues with thematic answers do not have a definition. Clues are presented in alphabetical order of their solutions.

And now:

Fit solutions jigsaw-wise where they can go in the grid. Directions are either across, down or away. Clues with thematic answers do not have a definition.

Clues are presented in alphabetical order of their solutions.

(There is more than one way to complete the grid.)

Thanks to Adam Saille for the alert.

3. 3D Crossword Award Presentations 2018

The 2018 award presentations were made at a convivial lunch on 18th May in York attended by some of the 3D Crossword team and two of our top setters Enigmatist and Puck. Sirius has crafted the explanatory photograph captions.



Puck presents Nick and Sarah Inglis with the BBC Children in Need Appeal 3D Crosswords World Championship 2019 Trophy. Nick and Sarah not only designed an excellent 3D grid with impressive thematic content but also composed a great cryptic clue. eminently useable. It is not easy to do either of the tie-break tasks. To do both with flair and imagination is rare making them most worthy winners at their

second attempt. Well done! The Championship trophy by Sirius is entitled "It's not a piece of cake." The stunning amethyst geode looks for all the world like a mouth-watering piece Swiss patisserie. But with reference to Magritte's "C'est ne pas une pipe", the image is treacherous. Winning the marathon of twelve challenging 3D cropsswords set by eleven of the best setters in the UK and beyond, is clearly not a piece of cake. Nick and Sarah retain the engraved salver as amethyst and cake stand-dome move on to the next trophy



Enigmatist presents Lynn Goddard, acting as proxy for Ben Lovering, with the RPM Trophy 2017 which crystallised in the Sirius workshop in early May after several years delirium and illness with various unconnected bits appearing at Winchester presentations. Having been unable to realize the ideas it was thought that perhaps the RPM Trophy could remain a conceptual entity with only virtual presence. Then suddenly three trophies appeared at once, like London buses. Ben's trophy is a light sculpture. Ben will hold this first edition in perpetuity, recognizing his grid designs that

have set the 3D crossword world alight, just as those of Ray Parry-Morris did a few years ago. The award also recognizes Ben's incredible patience.



Enigmatist presents Mang, acting as proxy for Keith Williams, with the RPM trophy 2018, entitled "stacks of 45's for Keith's terrific achievement of designing a grid with 100% thematic content arrived at thematically.

The Creation of the RPM Trophy



The trophy features the seven dials grid by '45' (Ray Parry-Morris) clued by Enigmatist, the classic combination, in the March 2015 3D puzzle with an Eric Clapton theme. Under each printed puzzle layer there is a vinyl 45 record, some referred to in the puzzle itself eg 'Spoonful', 'I Feel Free'. It is intended that the trophy holder might play the records which are in pristine condition and several with original sleeves. Of the five Cream records, the top is 'Sunshine of you Love'. There are two Pink Floyd singles including 'See Emily Play'.

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Hence two stacks of 45's. The acrylic cube represents RPM's more usual orthogonal 3D format, covering and fitting exactly a record platter. Also fitting exactly are colourful alphabet bricks in the four corners. As well as the engraved plaque, KW in bricks honours the winner 2019, Keith Williams. ABC is a reference to the brilliant ABC Murders grid where all solutions started with A, B or C but required decapitation before grid entry. RPM and 45 honour Ray Parry-Morris. Colour and precision.



Enigmatist presents Bozzy, acting as proxy for Aramis, for their wonderful designs over a number of years, including the Zodiak and 2D/3D Christmas Tree grids with an RPM trophy entitled 'Sock Drawers' by Sirius. The title refers to a euphemism between Sirius and RPM of clearing the brain during 3D grid design sessions, to promote fresh thinking.



Bozzy applauds as Sirius presents Lynn with a token of thanks. May 2019 York

Belated Re-presentation of the 2017 RPM Trophy to Ben Lovering



Sirius managed to crawl into 'The Chambers' in Winchester and met up with Ben to re-present his RPM Trophy 2017 and discuss the preparations for the 2020 series. Photo attached.

Ben won the trophy in the 2017 Tie-break competition for his fabulous 'Noughts & Crosses' grid which appeared as the June 2018 Extra. Ben contrived jigsaw solutions to reproduce a finished

game on the second layer. Absolutely brilliant.

The trophy itself has a torch shining light onto a microscope mirror reflecting light into a 20cm acrylic cube and on to a pink heart in Waterford crystal with diamond etching, sitting on a 10cm acrylic cube containing a diamond carbon allotrope molecular model. It's a light sculpture in the cryptic conceptual art tradition by Sirius. The trophy refers to the amazing 'heart transplant' grid by '45' as well as his appreciation of the music of Pink Floyd. It resonates with diamond stylus perhaps and the measure of esteem with which we hold Ray. Ben is a most worthy winner and one who has been very patient as each year Sirius has not been well enough to complete the construction.

The title of the piece is 'Shine on RPM' and derives from a Pink Floyd track.