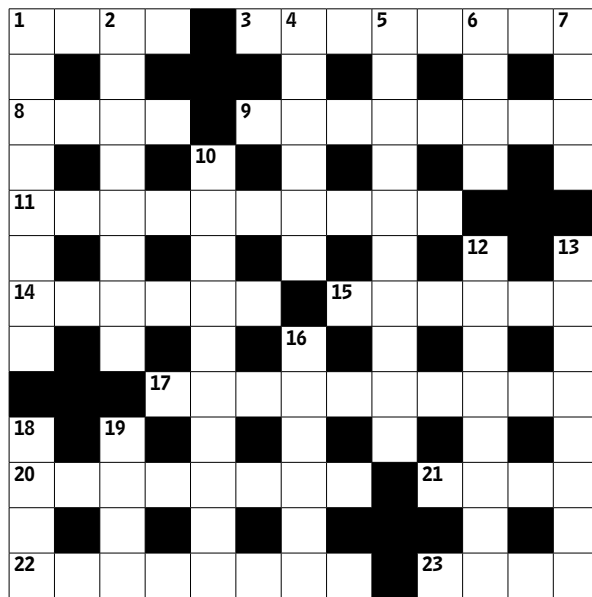


SPEEDY CROSSWORD NO. 973



SOLUTION NO. 972



ACROSS

- 1 Conceal (4)
- 3 High standing (8)
- 8 Inquisitive (4)
- 9 Praise, acclaim (8)
- 11 Put at risk (10)
- 14 Cancel (6)
- 15 Swimming costume (6)
- 17 Garment passed on (4-2-4)
- 20 Epitome (8)
- 21 Debatable (4)
- 22 Opening in floor or ceiling (4,4)
- 23 Small island (4)

DOWN

- 1 Cause of a mistrial (4,4)
- 2 Liquefy, melt (8)
- 4 Withdraw (6)
- 5 Imperfect (4-6)
- 6 Prayer leader (4)
- 7 Fencing sword (4)
- 10 Clumsy (4-6)
- 12 Nervous, fearful (8)
- 13 Short sketch (8)
- 16 Slow movement (6)
- 18 Quarrel (4)
- 19 Operatic song (4)