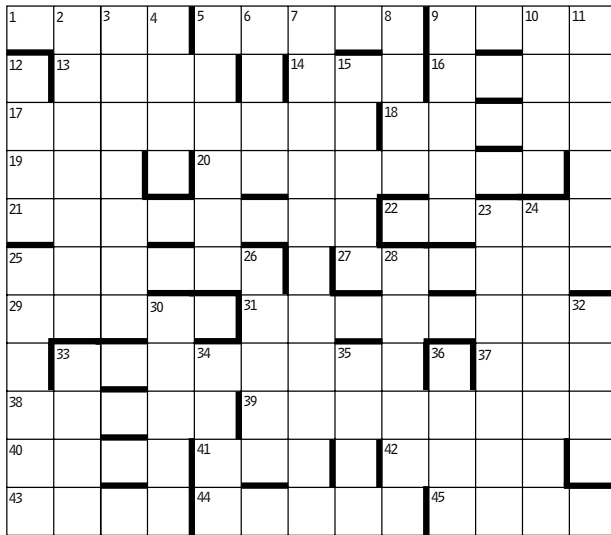


AZED No. 2,137 'Spot the Theme'



Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

All but one of the unclued entries are thematically related.
7 provides a (transatlantic) clue to the theme.

ACROSS

- 14 Item (as once) for nothing (3)
- 16 Accepted present, fairly old (4)
- 17 Unmotorized US tram (as formerly) without turn of speed (8)
- 18 Yoghurty dish, we hear, in old cups (5)
- 19 Doctrine indeed abandoned by one religion is followed by millions (3)
- 20 Salt: wee portion coating palm nuts initially (8)
- 21 Endless rumour once going round about remarkable old courtesan (8)
- 22 Deserted heap of old brewery refuse (5)
- 27 Indian set meals, line consumed by some orientals (6)
- 29 Long period in service broadcast a second time (5)
- 31 A chianti, say, excessive for starters? Piccolo is what you want (8)
- 33 Reserves left and right having to accept cut back (8)
- 37 One helps to drain fenland in the autumn (3)
- 38 Heraldic colour, universal in objets d'art (5)
- 40 Dispute like that involving learned cleric in retreat (4)
- 42 Bridge system closing gap in a mountain defile (4)
- 44 I got rid of misguided diesel failure from Ford (5)

AZED 2,134 Solution & notes

C	H	E	S	T	R	E	G	I	S	T	E	R
H	A	V	E	R	H	E	N	S	P	O	D	E
L	U	G	G	I	E	P	A	T	R	I	O	T
O	S	P	R	A	X	I	S	L	M	L	Y	I
R	A	Z	E	D	I	T	H	E	A	T	E	R
O	C	L	A	S	S	A	C	T	I	O	N	E
P	R	I	N	K	U	P	O	S	L	E	W	D
L	I	P	T	O	R	H	U	M	B	A	H	N
A	T	O	M	I	S	E	C	O	O	T	I	E
S	H	O	R	N	U	R	O	K	A	I	L	S
T	O	T	I	E	S	Q	U	O	T	I	E	S

Across 1, anag. in Chester; 12, spod + E; 14, luggage with l for Ag; 18, 'raise'; 19, t(op) + heater; 20, anag.; ref. notorious 1920 US trial of supposed anarchists Sacco & Vanzetti; 22, rink in pup; 26, dwell(l) (rev.); 30, ls. in a tome; 32, s + horn (qv); 34, to ties + l in quotes.

Down 1, p(up)l in anag.; 2, ha(s) + USA; 3, s + an in egret; 4, tried with a for E; 9, (at) tire in redness; 13, do yen; 20, crit + H; 21, i.e. cou(s) cou(s) 23, OK (rev.) in E; 25, k in smoo(thing); 27, whole with i for o.

PRIZERULES

£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to

AZED No. 2,137, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU

DOWN

- 2 What Pauline describes, suggesting open country? (7)
- 3 Senior steward, one traveller twice holds up (7)
- 4 Central phase of plague's letting up, or this may constitute a threat (4)
- 6 See Orwell's famous room for book references? (4)
- 9 Mudflow heads for level area holding alluvial residue (5)
- 10 No.1 coming off, composed for early stringed instrument (4)
- 11 Noted septet? Forwards leaving other ranks floundering (6)
- 12 Greek letters, as omitted in verbal communication (4)
- 15 Art worshipper rambling on art (5)
- 23 Person transferring property, one who's possibly prone to accept refusal (7)
- 24 Jockey getting horse into line (7)
- 25 Joyful cry from old drinkers introduced to fluid – a rare trifle (6)
- 26 Instruction from gran on boating lake, place for oldies? (5)
- 28 One stops work, hard, with variable weights (6)
- 30 Nervous as some holding whist up? (5)
- 32 Expel group of rebellious teenagers (4)
- 33 Date wrapped in yards of worsted, my lover was unrecognizable! (4)
- 34 Dandy strip without end, without end (4)
- 35 Command (historically) decapitation of wretched old freeman (4)
- 36 Essayist's trollop, once exquisite to the ear (4)

All answers may be verified in *The Chambers Dictionary* (2011), except two proper names.