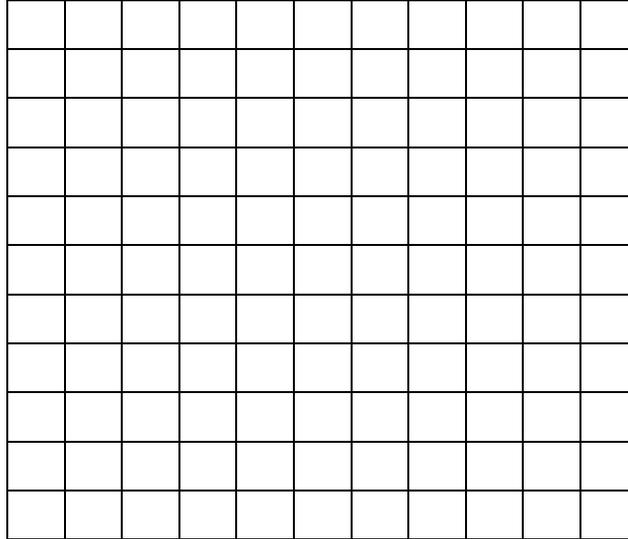


Puzzle #44 — January 2005 "and the . . ."

Instructions: Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from four to nine letters and include four proper names), then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right margin continue on the next line below; down words that don't end at the bottom margin continue in the next column to the right. Six across and six down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those twelve letters, taken in order, spell a two word phrase related to the two mystery entries. As ever, I am indebted to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



Across

1. Poet, losing finally, captures heart of alluring historian
2. Seven in Paris University initiated meeting for partition
3. Southern borders are mistakes
4. Everything found in damp billfold
5. Sound of vexation from summit
6. Inexperienced boss gets the works
7. Hawk entangled in gossamer line
8. Small wallop making loud noise
9. Standard weapon, in a manner of speaking
10. Lightly tap container and reel
11. *Mystery entry*
12. Composer drops note for a bet
13. Speak ill of hair being upset
14. Permit return of the Spanish poison
15. At this point in the reading
16. Win turn in vessel
17. Hate having time for society notwithstanding
18. Harder reform in store
19. Really interested in admission by day
20. Pot with earth in the City of Perfume

Down

1. Obstruct by means of control mechanism
2. Joker holds singular variety of quartz
3. Employer in trousers
4. Ampler beer has richer head
5. Rosario's dress
6. Wing-like part of phalarope
7. Writer determined to hide error
8. Absorbent cloth surface applied to relative
9. Garment that supports very old assassin
10. Securely concealed skull inside terminal
11. Group forbidden by proclamation
12. *Mystery entry*
13. Yellow bird with tip of wing clipped
14. Prophet has penny for celebratory feast
15. The Spanish and the French scatter
16. Sibling has no right to be annoying
17. A lead in France displaying poise
18. Pancake recipe is incorrect without starting ingredient
19. Rising waters causing worry
20. King in supporting structure is a stingy person
21. Speak ill of starting life in defective units
22. A large number begin nesting in May
23. Stabilize head of steam before boiler blows its top