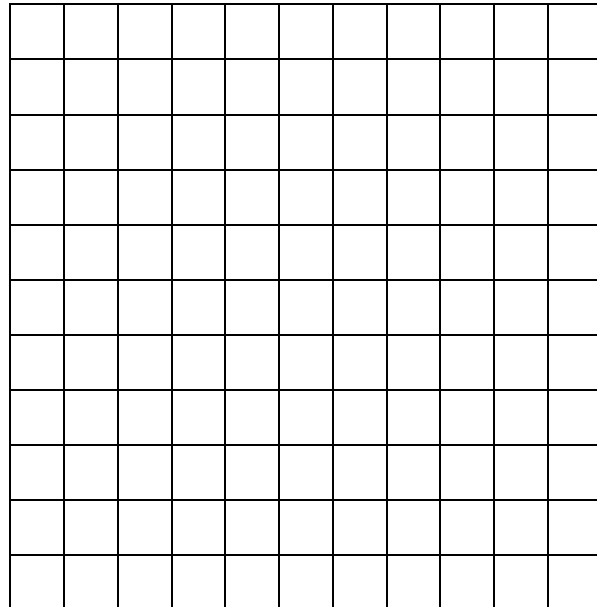


## Puzzle # 60 – May 2006 "The Buck Stops Here"

**Instructions:** Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (words vary in length from four to nine letters and include three 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 continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Nine across words and nine down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is removed. Those eighteen letters spell a three-word phrase related to the three mystery entries. As ever, I am indebted to Kevin Wald for help with the clues.



### Across

1. *Mystery entry*
2. Braid tossed from stage
3. Bird going in quickest, relatively
4. A piece of protective armor covering porthole on a ship, for instance
5. Returned money for instrument
6. Fresnel's revolving optical instrument
7. Rascal denies concealing burn
8. Nipple, unbound, left out for infant
9. Law's timeless monument
10. Fish around head of red fez wearer
11. *Mystery entry*
12. Write a series about comfort
13. Impression of sudden trouble
14. Here in Paris, endlessly absorbed by first-rate subjects
15. Dance in Madrid now without a lead
16. Stabilize everything with a cover of fibrous material
17. Detached note about a part in play
18. Run out of money for present
19. Crackle of stone in produce
20. Bill that includes essentially dry, firm meal
21. *Mystery entry*

### Down

1.  $500 + 144 - 1000 =$  rubbish
2. Pick of stock singled out
3. Out of form, not in shape
4. A lock restraining cabaret's lead performer
5. Microbiologist has time to track game
6. Barbarian's son becomes, finally, eager to pillage
7. Squirmy leech latches onto tail of black badger
8. Model talks about a letter
9. Information retained by keyboard operator
10. Boat safely holding back fleet
11. Latin child clutching end of shawl is a whiner
12. One carriage turned around by itself
13. Cook dropping cap in oven
14. Scenarist's opening
15. Support the ailing visionary
16. Smashed tablet in contention
17. French law essentially banning a cut of meat
18. A loyal leader leaving Atlanta for a city in Egypt
19. Swell benefit covers everyone
20. Note: the French dispense food or money
21. Giant painter loses one
22. Gradually running out of note paper
23. Gang member exchanges last of ham for large shellfish
24. Comic, right before your eyes, getting topless