



UNCLE MELEAGER'S CROSS WORD PUZZLE

Dorothy L. Sayers

In our Summer 2023 issue, Lord Peter Wimsey and his friends realized that the tiles in Uncle Meleager's impluvium made up a giant crossword puzzle. Using clues found in Uncle Meleager's attic, they completed the puzzle, which revealed the location of Uncle Meleager's missing will. As we explained in a footnote,

The crossword puzzle square and clues (and answers) are not essential to the solution of the problem of Uncle Meleager's will – indeed, they are not even relevant, except for one answer, and that one is stated and dealt with in detail on the next few pages. So, to prolong the whimsical fun, we will give you the puzzle square and clues (and answers) in the next issue of the *Green Bag*.¹

And here they are. On page 162, there's a reduced-to-unreadably-small reproduction of the complete clues and square from page 60 of the July 1925 *Pearson's Magazine*. To give you a chance to do the puzzle yourself, we've chopped the lot into pieces of readable size and spread them over pages 163-165. The solution (don't peek) is on page 178.

— *The Editors*

Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957), was a writer of extraordinary range – from advertising slogans to poetry to translations of The Song of Roland and The Divine Comedy to radio theater to detective fiction, and on and on.

¹ Dorothy Sayers, *The Problem of Uncle Meleager's Will*, 26 *Green Bag* 2d 57, 70 n.2 (2023).

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Here is the Cross Word Puzzle by means of which Lord Peter Wimsey, the amateur detective in our story, "The Problem of Uncle Meleager's Will," on page 27, discovers the whereabouts of the hidden will. The shaded squares are red, and these must be filled in as well as the white squares. It is printed here for the benefit of those readers who may care to solve it. The correct solution will be found on page 98.

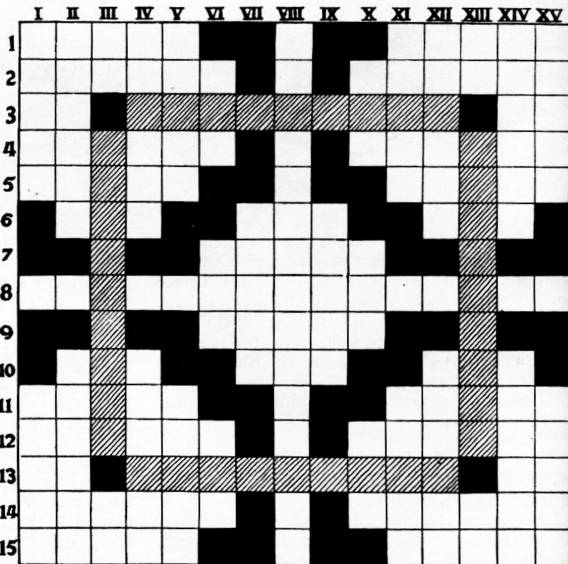
ACROSS.

- I. 1. Foolish or wise, yet one remains alone.
Twist Strength and Justice on a heavenly throne.
- XI. 1. O to what ears the chink of gold was sweet!
The greed for treasure brought him but defeat.
2. One drop of vinegar to two of oil
Dresses this curly head sprung from the soil.
- X. 2. Nothing (itself, it needs but little more
To be that nothingness the Preacher saw.
1. 3. Dusty though my fellows be,
We are a kingly company.
- IV. 3. Some like it new, though many think,
I'm told,
The new is not a patch upon the old.
- XIV. 3. Any loud cry would do as well,
Or so the poet's verses tell.
1. 4. This is the most unkindest cut of all,
Except your skill be mathematical.
- X. 4. Little and hid from mortal sight
I darkly work to o'er all light.
1. 5. The need for this (like that it's cut off short)
The building of a tower to humans laugh.
- XI. 5. "More than mind discloses and more than men believe"—
(A definition by a man whom Pussfoot doth grieve).
- II. 6. Backward observe her turn her way.
The way of wisdom, wise men say.
- VII. 6. Grew long ago by river's edge
Where grows to-day the common sedge.
- XII. 6. One of three by which, they say,
You'll know the Cornishmen away.
- VI. 7. Blow upon blow: five more the vanquished Roman shows:
If one be lost from each, on crippled feet one goes.
1. 8. By this Jew's work the whole we find,
In a clasp clearly, darkly in the mind.
- IX. 8. Little by little see it grow
Till cut off short by hammer blow.
- VI. 9. Watch him go, heel and toe
Across the wide Karroo!
- II. 10. In expectation to be rich
Here you reach the highest pitch.
- VII. 10. Of this, concerning nothing, much—
Too often do we hear of such!
- XII. 10. O'er land and sea passing on deadly wings
Pain to the strong, to weaklings death it brings.
1. 11. Requests like these, however long they be,
Stop just too soon for common courtesy.
- XI. 11. Caesar, we greet thee with the dead man's cheer,
Facing for thy delight tooth, claw and spear.
1. 12. One word had served, but he in ranting vein
"Lend me your ears" 'till mouth o'er Caesar slain.
- X. 12. Helical circumvolution
Adumbrates correct solution.
1. 13. One that works for Irish men
Both by word and deed and pen.
- IV. 13. Seven of the twelve this number makes complete
As the sun journeys on from seat to seat.
- XIV. 13. My brothers play with planets, Ciccio,
Master of words, my master is below.
1. 14. Free of her jesses let the falcon fly,
With sight undimmed into the azure sky.
- X. 14. And so you dine with Borgia? Let me lend
You this as a precaution, my poor friend.
1. 15. Friendship carried to excess
Got him in a horrid mess.
- XI. 15. Smooth and elastic and, I guess,
The dearest treasure you possess.

DOWN.

1. I. If step by step the Steppes you wander o'er
Many of those in this, of these in those yet more.
- II. I. If me without my head you do,
Then generously my head renew,

- Or put it to my hinder end—
Your cheer it shall nor mar nor mend.
1. II. Quietly, quietly, 'twist edge and edge
Jemmy or knife or thin end of the wedge.
10. II. "Something that hath a reference to my state"—
Just as you like, it shall be written straight.
1. III. If this you read, then give the world its due,
And never need the world read this of you.
4. III. Sing Nunc Dimittite and Magnificat—
But look a little farther back than that.
14. III. Here in brief epitome
Attribute of royalty.
1. IV. Lo! at a glance,
The Spanish gipsy and her dance.
10. IV. Bring me skin and a needle or a stick—
A needle does it slowly, a stick does it quick.
1. V. It was a brazen business when
King Phalaris made these for men.
11. V. This king of whom no ill is known,
By Heaven's mercy was o'erthrown.
2. VI. "Bid us Kai ME or farewell"? Nay, in this
The sterner Roman stands by that which is.
7. VI. This the termination is
Of many minds' activities.
12. VI. I mingle on Norwegian shore
With ebbing water's backward roar.
6. VII. I stand, a ladder to renown,
Set 'twist the stars and Milan town.
1. VIII. Highest and lowliest both to me lay claim,
The little hyssop and the king of fame.
9. VIII. This sensible old man refused to tread
The path to Hades in a youngster's stead.
6. IX. Long since, at Nature's call, they let it drop,
Thoughtlessly thoughtful for our nest year's crop.
2. X. To smallest words great speakers greatness give:
Here Rome propounded her alternative.
7. X. We heap up many with toil and trouble,
And find that the whole of our gain is a bubble.
12. X. Add it among the hidden things—
A fishy tale to light it better.
1. XI. Alas! poor souls, what arrows vex you so?
Hence and away! the cocks begin to crow.
11. XI. They stand, all robed in greens and yellows
While here we call them husky fellows.
Whole without holes behold me here,
My meaning should be wholly clear.
10. XII. Running all around, never setting foot to floor
If there isn't one in this room, there may be one next door.
1. XIII. Ye gods! think also of that goddess' name
Whose night two hours on end the mob proclaim.
4. XIII. The Priest uplifts his voice on high,
The choristers make their reply.
14. XIII. When you've guessed it, with one voice
You'll say it was a golden choice.
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I, at my birth, was clasped in iron arms.
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Loose all his oxen from the plough.
Without a miracle it cannot be—
At this point, Solver, bid them pray for thee!
11. XV. Two thousand years ago and more,
(Just as we do to-day),
The Romans saw these distant lights—
But oh! how hard the way!



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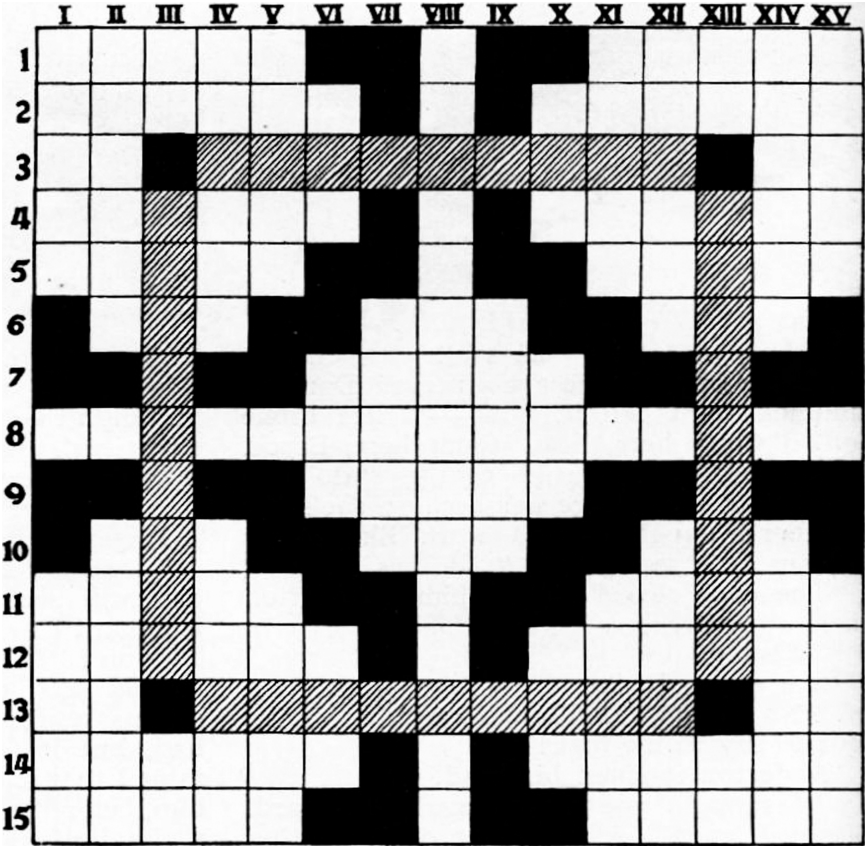
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1	V	I	R	G	O			S				M	I	D	A	S
2	E	N	D	I	V	E		C			V	A	N	I	T	A
3	R	S			T	E	S	T	A	M	E	N	T			H
4	S	E	C	A	N	T		R			L	E	A	V	E	N
5	T	R	A	N	S			L				S	C	E	N	T
6		T	N	A				S	E	G			T	R	E	
7			T					I	C	T	U	S			S	
8	S	P	I	N	O	Z	A			A	U	C	T	I	O	N
9			C					E	L	A	N	D			C	
10		A	L	T				A	D	O				F	L	U
11	P	L	E	A	S				M				A	R	E	N
12	L	I	S	T	E	N		E			T	W	I	S	T	S
13	A	E			T	H	I	R	T	Y	O	N	E			E
14	U	N	H	O	O	D		U			B	E	Z	O	A	R
15	D	A	M	O	N			S				D	E	R	M	A

This is the solution to Uncle Meleager's Cross Word Puzzle, which enabled Lord Peter Wimsey to discover the missing will.—See the story on page 27.

Editors' note: The story was first published on pages 27-35 of the July 1925 *Pearson's Magazine*. You might have an easier time finding our republication of it on pages 57-75 of the Autumn 2023 *Green Bag*.