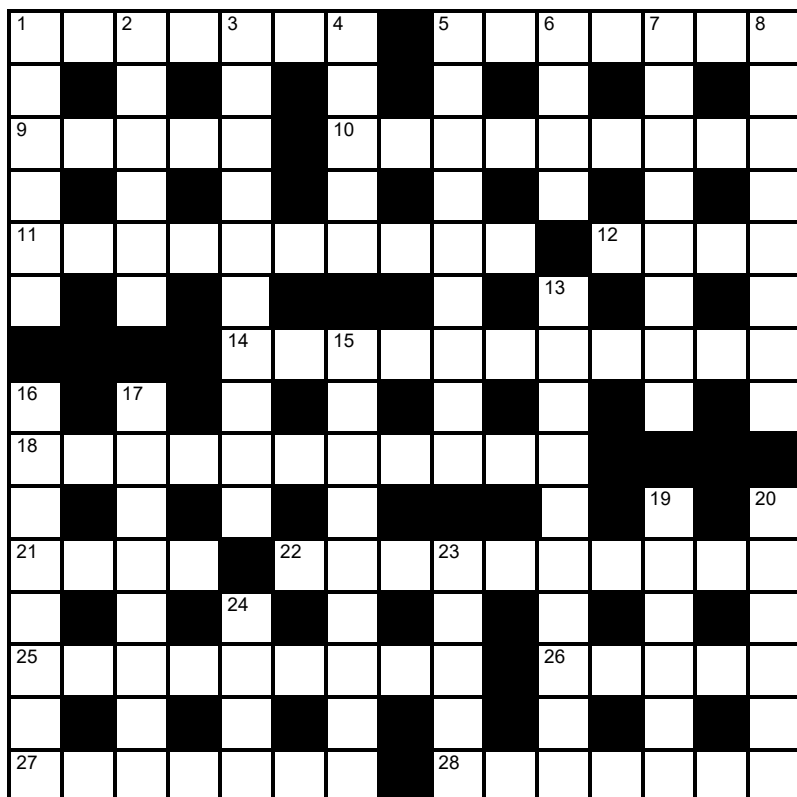


Punctilious



Across

- 1 Star Republican writer is bitter (7)
- 5 Workplaces desserts are rotten? (7)
- 9 Mark agreed, reduce one to zero (5)
- 10 Restricts area where scales tampered with and oil upset (9)
- 11 Essentially with me inside empty tunnel in New York (10)
- 12 Half times over without tea (4)
- 14 Mark sudden outburst (11)

- 18 Punishment for breaking building regulations perhaps (5,6)
- 21 Obscure show (4)
- 22 Solidly Catholic, exclusively around Greek island (10)
- 25 Horrible misanthropist not part of Japanese creed (9)
- 26 Home soil (5)
- 27 Piper developed ploy for impressive range (7)
- 28 Expert painter doesn't finish article (7)

Down

- 1 Account left clear (6)
- 2 Capitals of each part of country have stood for ages (6)
- 3 Groggy? Delay beery mayhem (6-4)
- 4 Components of fiasco - long list follows (5)
- 5 Local site moving from one extreme to the other (9)
- 6/24 American period of complete prohibition (4,4)
- 7 Alien in universal war paint (8)
- 8 Noises decline around sorcerer's first secret spells (8)

- 13 Confusion, not very loud, about bike race defence (10)
- 15 Tom's death caused by antique? (9)
- 16 Green light wrecked bus in crash (6-2)
- 17 Mark particle after search (8)
- 19 Desires, without me, somewhere cool to live (6)
- 20 Connection found in noteworthy phenomena (6)
- 23 Bullets return after Capone's initial pause (5)
- 24 See 6