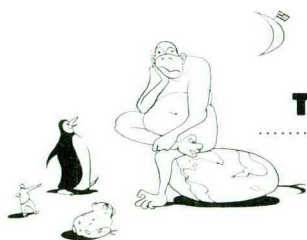


THE PUZZLER

by EMILY COX and HENRY RATHVON



Mysterious Island

Nine related entries, all going down, are unclued; each is missing one letter. Taken from their entries in order from left to right, the missing letters should be placed in the central island from left to right and top to bottom, where they will identify themselves. Although lengths are withheld, most clued entries are normal; in a few cases where clue answers cross, a letter is used in only one direction and should be ignored in the other direction. Half of these letters are used only by Acrosses and half only by Downs; when circled and read clockwise around the center from a spot to be determined, they will identify the mysterious island. Ten clue answers are capitalized.

Beginning with the March issue, the Atlantic Puzzler will be available online only, at www.theatlantic.com

Last month's Puzzler solution is on page 178.

ACROSS

1. Box, initially, for every one put ashore
4. Preserves harboring mean reptiles
9. Anti-art message from sponsors repeatedly brought back
10. Article I wrapped in red next to Persian poetry collection
11. Storied landing site for papyrus boat taken by a deserter
12. Agreeable resort on the Riviera
13. Pamphlets about Volume Five in crates
14. Noted Baptist I see in New Jersey flipped
15. Split about popular music insensitivity (*two words*)
16. *Babes*: It's about new lover
17. Greeting in misery, hug
18. Somewhat traditional opening for diggers
20. Jelly's cap is off
22. Magnificent suds seen from behind
23. Plant in wet ground and step on it
24. Small auto's signs of a mishap

25. Sulk after runner split (*two words*)
28. Rodent breaking rib, leg
30. Screen siren's given name intoxicating to an audience
31. Beginning to drink sherry in a mournful way
32. School record returned
33. Shelter slowly accepting adult
34. Assuming need to pay, tear fell
35. Show appreciation for cold drink
36. Former name for a Beatle button used by callers (*two words*)
37. Reggae dance held by Alaskan kids

DOWN

2. Coming before—that is, right after—peer
3. Situation for a tennis player with a racket (*two words*)

5. A pitch by one game company
6. Bird is ingesting bismuth
7. Only adapted neutral material
8. Instruments suit lens poorly
9. Crackers down toward the back
14. Wear green gemstone
17. Stag gathering that lady's offering the worst conditions
19. Legendary knight's start in novel
21. Vague, losing the first guessing game (*two words*)
26. I had it accommodating old jerk
27. Bag holding last of layer cake
29. Toss back a rope with balls attached
31. Mysterious island's final craft

Note: The instructions above are for this month's puzzle only. It is assumed that you know how to decipher clues. For a complete introduction to clue-solving, visit <http://www.theatlantic.com/issues/puzzclue.htm>.

