



2 down, 29 across , 21 down had an anniversary close to the date of the puzzle (27 November 1998). Six of his many books (though not a more famous seventh) appear in this puzzle. The six italicised clues lead to answers which are one word of a title, but another word (or words) from that title must be entered in the grid. So if ROMEO were a clue answer, JULIET would be entered in the grid. But Shakespeare didn't have an anniversary just then...

#### ACROSS

- 1 Fruit company acquired by dodgy Count (7)
- 5 Helps to catch very old ducks (6)
- 9 Some Italian boxer (3)
- 10 *Long trip gave out around outskirts of Oswestry* (11)
- 11 Creature laying eggs beside grass, on reflection (3-4)
- 12 *Rear of men in charge? That's where you'll find royalty!* (7)
- 13 Unexcited about argument originating with someone else? (8)
- 16 *Continue at the rear* (6)
- 18 *Trickster, raving maniac, imprisoning US soldier* (6)
- 19 What politicians want with the economy? It leaves one in the dark (5,3)
- 20 Optical scientist cut free optical device, making reflection (7)
- 22 Renounces one's beliefs about Church's first workers (7)
- 26 What could make Carey glum now – non-U female minister (11)
- 27 *Hero's unruly beast* (3)
- 28 Position works of art with no end of trouble (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 *Precious metal associated with fictional pirate* (5)
- 3 Gentle touch from naked person around middle of night (5)
- 4 Prevented skin blemish appearing in the dermis initially (8)
- 5 Some latticework displayed in upper room (5)
- 6 Exaggerate position of an autocrat? (9)
- 7 End of third act (I said wrongly) is like surrealism (9)
- 8 Time flew by – month taken to build part of church (8)
- 13 Living? To live's pleasant, when receiving sources of enough funds (8)
- 14 Mean salesman with grudge (9)
- 15 Time to follow hovering bats: between dusk and dawn (9)
- 17 It's not odd, private secretary making a bid (2-6)
- 23 Study American state dance (5)
- 24 Uprising in Middle East country, ousting an old inventor (5)
- 25 Holy man certainly identifies obstacles to seeing clearly (5)