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Anniversaries by Phi

Two five-letter theme-words each have three variations unclued in the grid: one set is the unclued across entries, the other the unclued down ones.

In each of five rows and five columns, one entry is formed by omitting a letter from the defined answer; wordplay in the clue refers to the entry. The latent letters in row order give the theme-word linked to the unclued down entries; the latent letters in column order give the theme-word linked to the unclued across entries.

Where neither entry is unclued nor Letters Latent (nor 5 down), clues to symmetrically opposite entries are paired. These clues are clues for the two entries run together, either coming first. The clues are separated by a redundant word: initial letters of these words spell out a familiar name less one letter. 10 across is in ODE.

Competitors were asked to submit a similar paired clue to the two theme-words, either coming first, joined by an otherwise redundant word starting with the letter missing from the familiar name.

## ACROSS

- 1/38 Playboy, say, or hunter departed without first considering common sense, item worth developing (9; 9, 2 words)
- 7 Variation A1 (4)
- 10 A despot's follower imprisoning American, Native American (7)
- 11 Surprised comment interrupting refusal by Queen? One hasn't a chance (7)
- 13/34 Remote sea surrounding a place to meet in New Zealand has stormy river entering it between beginning and end of day (5; 5)
- 15 Upright characters coming round to damage porcelain (5)
- 17 Are lithest active in this? (9)
- 18 Quantity of Coors, chilled, knocked back - low in alcohol, right? (9)
- 20 Almost willing to back call for reduced form of rail transport? (6)
- 23 Variation A2 (6)
- 27 Passages written about a lot of dainty religious gear (10)
- 30 Variation A3 (8)
- 33 Improve specialised group, putting European first (6)
- 35 Privy to keeping military force available (8, 2 words)
- 36 String of verses one's penned with skill (6)
- 37 Phone? English not absent in phone message (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Weary Judge to sum up about case's conclusion (5)
- 2 Variation D1 (4)
- 3/28 Lightly brown recipe for fish, acknowledging weight, avoiding drink when tucking into food in Auckland (5;5)
- 4/31 Bouncer half upset with currency converted to euro, likely no longer easy in queue at Heathrow (4;4)
- 5 In the meantime, final soldier will come round late in the evening? (11, 2 words)
- 6/22 Sorcery in Virginia heading for Utah to finish on Kansas, taking no responsibility for debt chapter contracted during Christmas (6)
- 7 Seed-pods a worrying sign in US city (7)
- 8 Local alarmed about European's rare savagery (6)
- 9 Dismal old fabrics finally in stock (6)
- 12/26 Lady with regrets over twisted pose exercised at the right time on hard course (4)
- 14/24 Baleful native clutching bone you thought I had eaten away initially (4)
- 16 Top manager upset about litre of oil (5)
- 19 Repair work elevated row (5)
- 20 Beer put in audio equipment? That's mischievous (7)
- 21 Hostile uprising not good for the ordinary person? (6)
- 25 Source of a long nap is endlessly criticised (5)
- 29 Variation D2 (5)
- 32 Variation D3 (4)