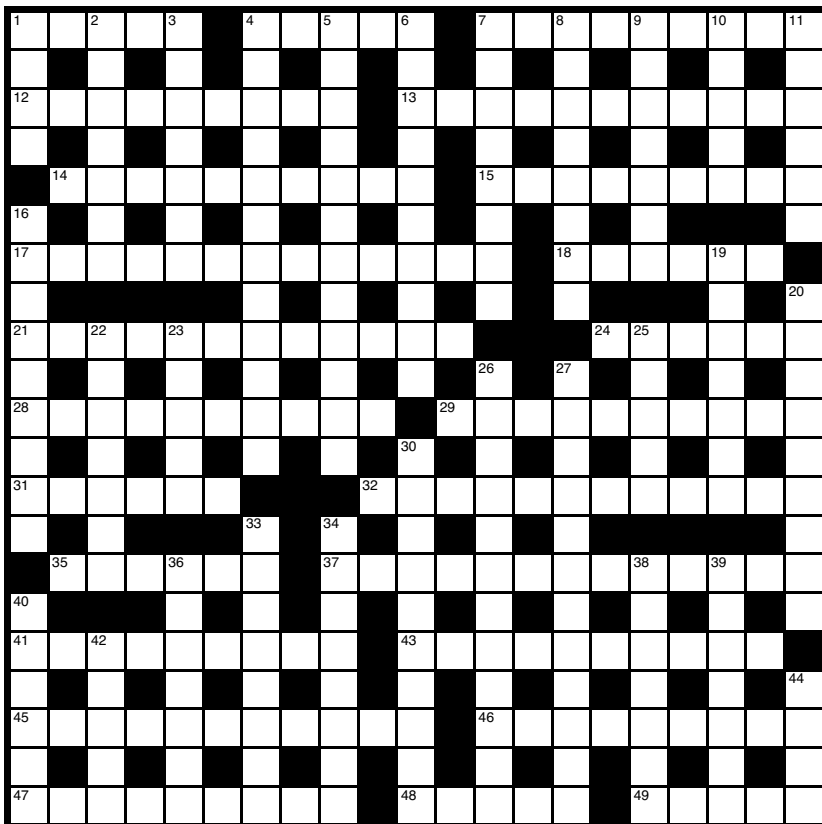# The generalist by Didymus

A baker's dozen of the clues can be arranged in ascending order and may be clued obliquely

ACROSS

1 Meadow or tree passerine (5)
4 Hymnwriter of "O God, our help in ages past" (5)
7 Includes Knype (4,5)
12&44 Final pint (3,3,3,4)
13 The Just (5,6)
14 Song from *Show Boat* sung by the black dock-worker Joe (2,3,5)
15 Bull-runnings, such as that at Pamplona (9)
17 Song adapted from *Clari, Maid of Milan* with music by Sir Henry Bishop (4,5,4)
18 Includes Germaine amongst the men (3,3)
21 Australian national rugby union team (3,9)
24 Racine's drama of 1677 set in the royal court of Trézène (6)
28 May bumps (6,4)
29 Location of Gilbert's "lowly air" (5,5)
31 Isca Dumnoniorum (6)
32 Ladies' Singles champion at Wimbledon in 1977 (8,4)
35 see 34 Down

37 Aerobatic manoeuvre, "roll-off-the-top" (9,4)
41 Rose Bowl cricketing county or former Yorkshire batsman (9)
43 Shakespeare's unmoving (5-5)
45 The dabchick (8)
46 One of Bianca's suitors in *The Taming of the Shrew* (9)
47 A break (9)
48 Small chap—suggesting Freeman (5)
49 Mountain nymph (5)

DOWN

1 A homemade Scottish firework (4)
2 Cork (7)
3 Deputy PM (3,4)
4 Formerly, a blower supplying a blast for furnaces (5,7)
5 Brass laws (6,6)
6 Home-heating source (5,5)
7 Him and his glasses (4-4)
8 A small cavity or sac (8)
9 Includes Everton (5,2)
10 Spin with a humming noise (5)
11 ... cobalt, smaltite (6)

16 Thornton Burgess's Red Squirrel (9)
19 Location of a county Marion and a county seat Marion (7)
20 Eastern cambric with a coloured printed pattern (9)
22 Artist who painted *The Burial of the Count of Orgaz* (2,5)
23 Pilasters either side of a doorway (5)
25 Snake of the Lernaean marshes of Argolis (5)
26 Wild West topper (3-6,3)
27 An astringent medicine from a Greek isle (7,5)
30 Event seen as an indication of underlying attitudes (6,4)
33 Spenserian attacks intent on capture (8)
34&35 Shepherds' draughts (4,4,6)
36 Tea, in rhyming slang (4,3)
38 Spenser's never no more (7)
39 ... and how he removed ties (7)
40 Village in the Stiperstones with a charter for a mediaeval market (6)
42 Regulus (5)
43 see 12 Across

Last month's solutions

Solutions across: 1 Karlsbad 6&35 Le Tombeau de Couperin 13 Asseverated 14 Souscrire 15 Andalusia 16 Sea 17 Imprest 18 Chloë 20 Gaspard de la Nuit 22 Incept 24 Bois de Marolles 27 Ottava alta 28 Ma Mère l'Oye 32 Infante Défunte 34 Mexico 36 Deo, Optimo, Maximo 38 Malmö 39 Assault 40&16 Red Sea 41&18 Daphnis et Chloë 43 Ahasuerus 44 Incarvillea 45 Shéhérazade 46 Rondavel *Solutions down:* 2 Assad 3 La Valse 4 Bird's egg 5 Dittays 6 Ladislaus 7 Tosca 8 Maurice Ravel 9 Encephalocele 10 Unisexual 11 Edentates 12 Maraschino 19 Lacet 21 Die-cast 23&32A Pavane pour une Infante Défunte 25 On the go 26 Lake Victoria 29 Oriel 30 Exodontia 31 Cunard Line 32 Indianans 33 Fool's mate 35 Couperin 37 Indy car 38 Mandira 40 Rusma 42 Salve *Explanation:* the subtitle of the puzzle refers to the PIECES of music composed by Maurice Ravel, the solution at EIGHT Down.

Enigmas & puzzles
Weight of evidence
Ian Stewart

"Aaargh!" said Basil.

"What is it this time?" asked his wife Sybil.

"You know I'm giving the same Christmas present to each of our five grandchildren?"

"Yes, I recall thinking how unimaginative that was."

"I thought I'd make each parcel identical too—same toys, same box, same wrapping paper. But now I've remembered I put two of the toys in the same box. I'll have to unwrap them all and start again."

"Why don't you weigh them? Three will be identical, one heavy, and one light. Then you'll only have to rewrap two parcels," suggested Sybil.

"Of course!" said Basil. He fetched the balance from the kitchen. "Where are the weights?"

"You threw them in the pond to scare off the birds."

"OK—I can weigh the parcels against each other. But what would be the quickest way to do that?"

What is the smallest number of weighings that works?

Last month's answer

A and C are false, B and D are true.

All four statements can't be true because that contradicts A. So at most three are true. If B is false then all statements are false, but then A is true, a contradiction. So B is true. It can't be the only true statement because that would make A true as well.

If A and B are true, the number of true statements must be 3. So either C or D is true as well. But if C is true then there must be three true statements excluding C, so all four are true—already eliminated. Similarly, if D is true, all four are true.

Therefore A is false. So there are 2 true statements in the list: B and either C or D. If C is true then D is false, so the number of true statements, excluding D, is 0 or 4. This is inconsistent with 2 statements being true. Therefore C is false so D is true. This combination is consistent, so it gives the answer.

Competition