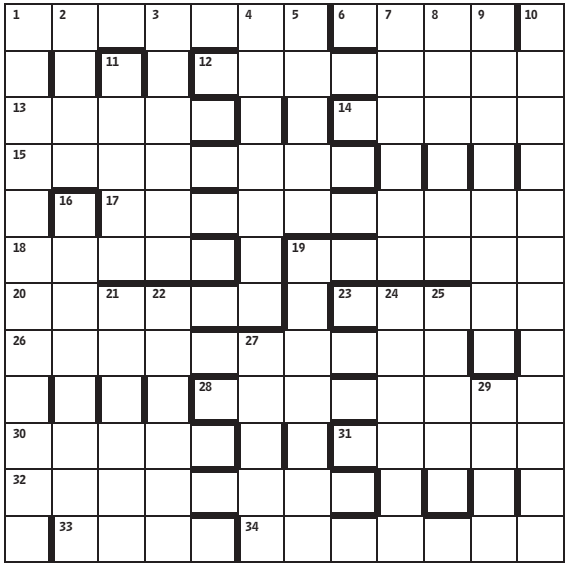
Azed No. 2,436 'Billets-doux'



Name

Address

Post code

Each vaguely amatory couplet contains both a definition (one word or more) and a mixture of the letters (beginning at the beginning or ending at the end of a word in the clue) of the two answers indicated by the clue numbers (in the correct order). Both indications of the first answer precede both indications of the second. Definitions and letter mixtures never overlap. In each case the definition or the letter mixture may come first.

Across

1 Most loving thoughts I send to fairest Maud,
6 Whose causerie at Christmas I adored (7, 4)
12 What strange aroma, source of flavours, fanned
13 Thy breath — a bay reared in exotic land? (8, 5)
14 Sluggish in winter? Rather, I'd be there,
15 Rent-free and happy under Pippa's care! (5, 8)
17 Whose wares are ready-made? Dolores' spell,
18 Well-known to end in tears, I know too well (10, 5)
19 To ignorant foreigners doubtless we'd seem
20 Lassie and dotard, thick as clotted cream (6, 6)
23 As pensively mum waits her bairn to wean
26 So Nina, rich mother, has ne'er jarring been (5, 10)
28 To oust my rivals, pants pulled up, I'll be
30 First to the fruit on Sara Jane' s tall tree (8, 5)
31 Houris I praise, the harem their abode,
32 None more than Lily, skin in sexy mode (5, 8)
33 Your features, Susie, form my destiny —
34 The turner's lathe can't pass such symmetry! (4, 7)

Down

1 Fastened in urgent vows of courtly love
2 I honour thine and mine neath heaven above (12, 4)
3 As once enfeebled in my heart I bleed
4 Lest opportunity may stem the flow, Candide (6, 7)
5 I'm wasting away as Beth my love still spurns
7 A lot, then languishing till sanity returns (5, 6)
8 Since ancient times a lodge for lovers true —
9 Dishes serene tread hither, two by two (6, 8)
10 My Connie tires; to crossroads I have come —
11 Stark stony ground awaits, a prospect glum (12, 5)
16 Fool that I am no other fool can match
19 And yet I love you, clasp thy tufted patch (8, 7)
21 Sweetheart, I give you pounds, euros and such,
22 Most tantalising things to claw and clutch (6, 6)
24 How cap my love? My pulse is racing fast —
25 With Erica a yearning to father mites at last (6, 5)
27 O pax vobiscum, harmony I seek
29 And nothing else, fair Danae, fair Greek (5, 4)

Every word is in The Chambers Dictionary (2014).

Azed No. 2,433 solution & notes

1 A	N	2 G	3 S	4 T	5 G	6 A	7 B	F	8 E	9 S	10 T
11 F	L	A	P	E	A	R	E	D	O	T	A
12 F	A	R	A	N	13 D	14 V	E	L	L	O	N
I	15 S	J	N	D	16 R	I	P	P	I	N	G
17 C	H	A	C	O	U	C	S	18 S	T	E	Y
19 H	O	N	E	Y	M	O	N	20 T	H	L	21 G
E	R	22 A	L	A	B	L	A	S	23 T	E	R
24 S	E	R	F	25 O	L	I	26 B	I	R	S	Y
27 P	L	A	Y	P	E	N	28 S	G	U	S	E
29 R	I	B	B	E	D	30 E	L	A	E	I	S
O	N	I	31 P	R	O	C	O	N	S	U	L
32 D	E	C	L	A	R	E	33 B	E	T	T	Y

Across 5, bf in anag.; 16, rip ping (qqv); 18, 's + yet (rev.); 19, n + anag. in hot h; 22, à la blaster (qv); 24, fres(h) (rev.); 26, rib (rev.) + s, y; 27, i.e. one penning plays; 30, a + i.e. (rev.) in (Ernie) Els; 32, anag. incl. c;33, B + (William) Etty (1787-1849).
Down 1, anag. incl. h; 6, anag. incl. c & r; ref. *The Wind in the Willows*; 10, ng in tay; 20, gist (rev.) + ane(w); 24, alternate letters; 25, e in a RPO (rev.); 28, L in s.o.b.

Rules and requests
£25 in book tokens for the first three correct solutions opened.
Solutions postmarked no later than Saturday to:
Azed No. 2,436, The Observer, 90 York Way, London N1 9GU.