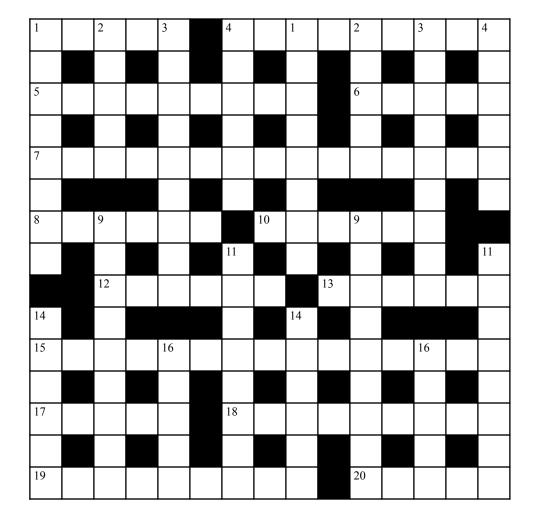
2. The 1640s ^{by}_{Ucaoimhu}

French Canada has been important to science fiction since the beginning. In Cyrano de Bergerac's *Histoire comique des États et Empires de la Lune*, his first attempt to reach the moon (by attaching vials of dew to himself) is unsuccessful; he rises with the dew in France and then comes down again in French Canada (which he at first mistakes for France) because the earth has rotated under him. Correspondingly, in this puzzle:

(1) All Across answers must be bedewed (changed to another answer that's wetter) before entry. (Six altered entries will be phrases, capitalized, or both.) To help in this, a sequence of consecutive letters in each clue can be rearranged to form the bedewed answer.

(2) Each Down clue is ambiguous, with two possible answers, to be entered in the two Down answer spaces with that clue number; its two enumerations are for the answers entered west and east (respectively) of the middle column of the grid (which, in the completed grid, will show an appropriate item).



In that same book, a later (dew-free) attempt to reach the moon is more successful. Read (in clue order) the letter in each Across clue *before* the sequence from (1) to see what features of the real-life Apollo spacecraft Cyrano presaged in his description of this successful attempt; read those *after* to see other features of the Apollo spacecraft Cyrano presaged in another way.

ACROSS

1. Unclad bunch that will grab us a juggled couple of edibles without gravy and such (8) [NI2]

4. Mother Purity uncovered Ace pirouetting in a country bordering Mali (10)

5. Arizona Ute that is to eat Hamilcar's last indigo-blue rock (7)

6. Abrade car's grosser inner parts in Topeka (6)

7. What folks need for Nimrod-like activities is C/NFLish gents who kick in seclusion, according to Spooner (77)

8. He (according to Obelix) reinforces Panoramix's largest large tablet (4)

10. Group of soldiers (e.g.) feeding the titular beast in a Roman-era drama of Shaw about Androcles (6)

12. Where you'll see Reno Grossman's right about a Kevin Kline movie (6)

13. Mold, e.g., used by hearthmakers (5)

15. What can be cot drawer at center-right, near oxygen gas you exhale (2-3)

17. Eats or consumes nothing after it takes top of enchilada (6)

18. Tethytherian group with big ears is in ennead from West Coast? Nah, Pelennor (9)

19. Many a gritty car, each exploring the street or yard — all badly (4 5)

20. Cyrano's seen little Tesla user senselessly desert fliers (8)

DOWN

1. Before Ucaoimhu's Euro dispenser in back, initially price turning opener (2 2 4)(8)

- 2. Even unfinished clothing left terminus in Rome with author referenced in Puzzle 1 (5)(5)
- 3. Biologist's holding thing right when capping off "ding" that gets Musial rounding the bases, maybe (9)(4 5)
 - 4. "Greatly wince, fundamentally" descried aboard back half of page (6)(4 2)

9. One sort o' redistributed Fistful of Dollars, perhaps all w/o (when changing directions) one change, outwardly (9)(9)

11. Twistedly order closer to encompass (excellent!) a bit of surf with crimson organisms (5 3)(3 5)

14. Say, what's chiefly disorganized enthralls cot-ranking Enterprise engineer (6)(6)

16. Moving one's cross at the start of torrential outbreak (5)(5)