

3. The 1790s by Ucaimhu (Solve only after solving Puzzles 1 and 2.)

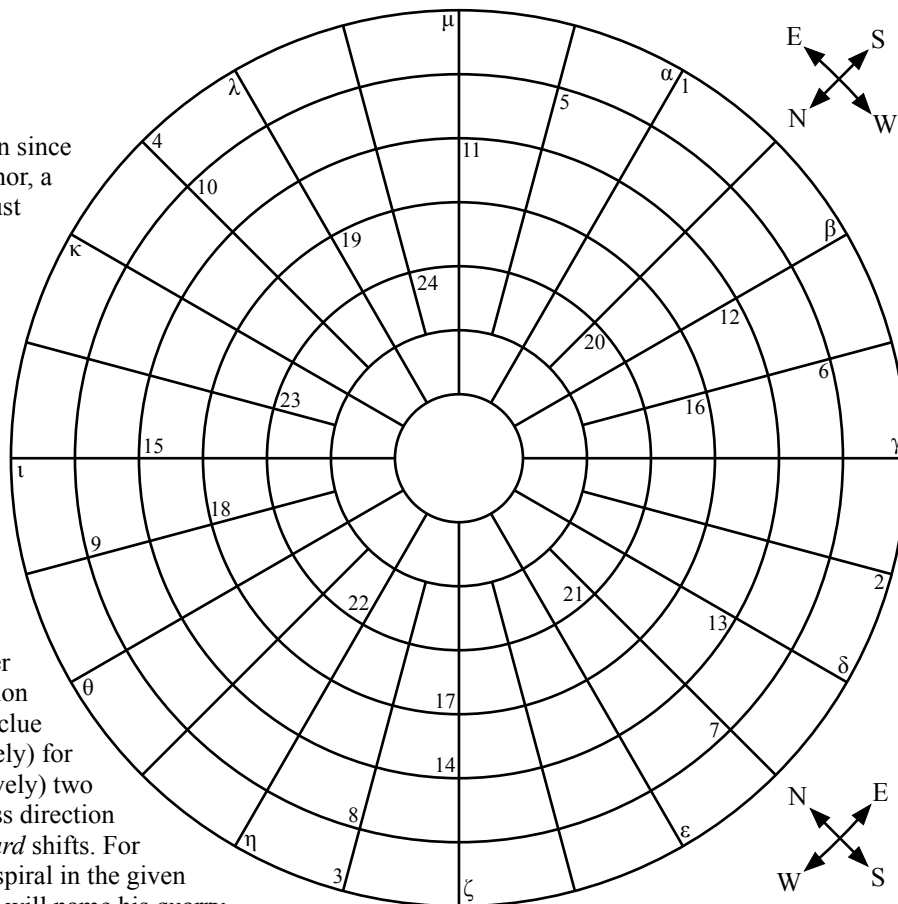
French and Canada have been important to science fiction since the beginning. In one work by a well-known English author, a ship captain on an expedition to the Arctic realizes he must return home to England before ever encountering one of the objects of his quest, roaming around Canada. Here:

(A) Each There-And-Back “clue” is actually 1–3 clues; enter its answers in order in the indicated eleven-space in-and-out path, with two letters put on *arcs* instead of in spaces, one on the way in and one on the way out. (Answers are not tagged, and include four phrases.) Letters on arcs will label the twenty-four five-space “spokes” in the grid, according to a real-life system not used in the 1790s, but used in modern times.

(B) Eighteen Clockwise clues show his quarry roaming. A certain letter (always the same one) must move (1) in one word in nine clues before solving, and (2) in the other nine’s answers before entry; if it *moves into* the *x*th position in its clue word/answer, note the *x*th word in the clue. In clue order, the words from *leftward* shifts for (1) and (separately) for (2) clues will indicate (based on Puzzle 1 and 2, respectively) two three-letter words, each consisting of a two-letter compass direction plus a spoke label; the same is true of those from *rightward* shifts. For each of these four three-letter words, read the five-letter spiral in the given direction that ends in the given spoke; put together, these will name his quarry.

(C) Number the six remaining Clockwise clues in clue order, and in the *n*th clue note the four-letter sequence consisting of the *n*th and *n*th-from-last *bigrams*. All the first letters of these sequences and then all the second letters will say what the quarry was near when this novel was written; all the third and then all the fourth will give the (little-known) name of the captain.

(D) The captain meets a pair of French-speakers, one named in the inner grid ring (starting next to a relevant spoke named by the first letters from (C)) and one on a spoke going into that ring. For any There-And-Back “clue,” if the letters on arcs are the *p*th from the start and *q*th from the end of the answer sequence, take the *p*th letter from the start and *q*th from the end either of (a) the whole “clue” if it has one or two clues, or (b) the middle clue if it has three clues. For (a), all the *p*th and then all the *q*th letters (again *starting at the “relevant spoke” above*) will describe this closely-interacting pair; for (b), they will describe the members of the expedition, as well as those who (in real life) assigned the spoke labels. The last words of these (a) and (b) descriptions will name two spokes, which are where the first French speaker ends up here, and where the captain’s quarry was through all the time periods of these three puzzles; they also (if interpreted another way) will indicate yet another individual following along with this expedition.



THERE-AND-BACK “CLUES”

- α. Some 1,001,101 Italian pals cut Duke lecture if not fed stew stirred clockwise
- β. Overlong sound that censors Lee in live piano spot keeps number unpleasant
- γ. Polish lady in view aces this guy Arthur on the court Boleyn forbade stripping
- δ. Stops him dancing where dancers might be silly, low, and outwardly noodgy
- ε. To oblige Mr. Astley, who sings line out loud, call pot “vile stuff — like Bitcoin”
- ζ. UN’s exponents forget viewing twisted-iris app icon Kal-EI has to note and drag
- η. Badgers emptying city’s inn and well of your mind-warping teas are stunning
- θ. Go with new robe Alfred — a neighbor of *Zulu*’s Caine — makes in ’55 to split
- ι. Title of a film where one sees Spalding Gray and *Monday’s Miracles* actress Garr arrest a plow-pulling beast
- κ. City’s old men and I see Anka’s odd script for the Japanese metal star
- λ. Twisted, hot Os filled with glowing gas illuminated curb water, I hear
- μ. Foam-rubber fern playing a role in *Thor is Subdued* mentioned an error by (e.g.) reflective actress Davis

CLOCKWISE CLUES

- 1. Poem characteristic of Gray Elf’s first year describes keen location (5)
- 2. Vitality-free place in front of weird, rogue, off-kilter W (6)
- 3. Know Diddley, who used his guitar to cover (e.g.) “Unlimited Condos” (2 4 2)

- 4. Evil one’s son, left of Alton Brown (5)
- 5. Dig up partly sodden, impure rolls (4)
- 6. Missign the 12th letter sot changed (4)
- 7. Excellent new word in Latin for “bone forming Adam’s grandson” (4)
- 8. Guianans up front behold blue, round object whose structure is inchoate (4)
- 9. Grand is frittered away in poker or craps before noon? Indeed (4)
- 10. Circularity in Nebraska’s denials (4)
- 11. Penultimately shows trait defines Deutschland or Österreich’s capital (4)
- 12. Lye, scientifically speaking, is made by Noah in a terrible way (4)
- 13. Pagan’s or Christina’s celebration of actor Brynner at three, finally (4)
- 14. Poses, at some studios, as a Nash that has undergone detailing (6)
- 15. Never making Violet A run less far (6)
- 16. Empire’s moldily venturesome affair (7)
- 17. A letter sequence eccentric Nat uses as text to follow “Costa” or “Puerto” (5)
- 18. Evelyn interspersed insiders in Laos and the Nevada lake (5)
- 19. In short, Lech put in sobriquet Lauder used for character west of Medina (7)
- 20. Of a stage parent’s foremost no-good chais (6)
- 21. Wash fruit skins less Down East (5)
- 22. Part of dressmaker’s stock answer about zip fasteners on the inside (1-4)
- 23. Fourth letter before un-upsetting French translation of yours (1 3)
- 24. Medley of every other part written when writing to Albion (4)