

# Baccarat, Etc.

by Ucaoimhu

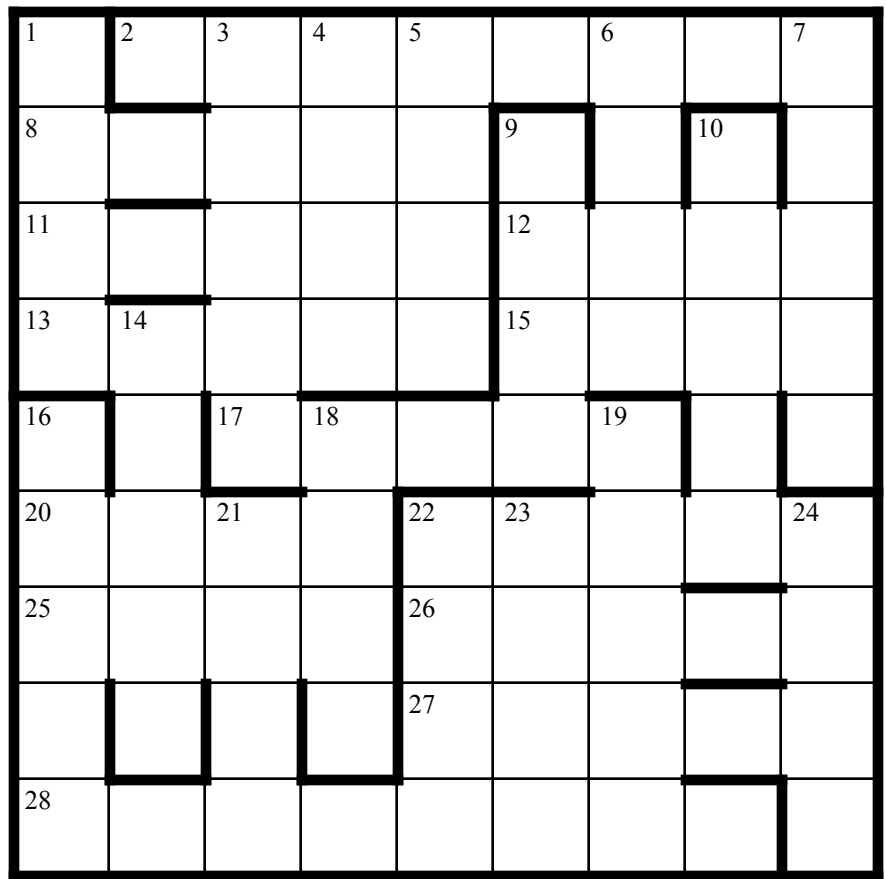
Appropriately for the current (9th) month, this puzzle depicts a “coup” (round) of baccarat (a game in which the hand whose total score’s last digit is closest to 9 wins). Specifically, the cryptic part of each Across clue yields a sequence of letters that has an extra letter at the start or at the end or both; the extras at the start (in clue order) will spell out your hand, and those at the end will spell out the banker’s hand.

When the grid has been filled, you will see there, in two different forms, what the banker (also appropriately) suggests for the next round. In each Across clue involved in spelling out one of your cards of value *n*, circle the *n*th non-space character from the *start* of the clue; do likewise for the clues spelling out the banker’s cards, but take the *n*th non-space character from the *end*. Then read all the circled characters in clue order to see where in the grid to find the banker’s next hand.

To see how you yourself do, note that in every Down clue there is an extraneous word that must be removed before solving; these words form the clues (without enumeration) for a cryptic word square. In each clue, where the *n*th word is the extraneous one, circle the *n*th letter; these letters, in clue order, will describe this word square, and also describe your hand as initially dealt. If you want to draw another card, you can just find it in the word square grid. Good luck!

## ACROSS

2. Upset TASS when describing how Mr. Diddley is an attention-seeker (8)
8. Garlic mayonnaise is to the right of nutty Iola (5)
11. More sober actress Dunne, when hugging Oakland ball-players, rotated (5)
12. Fluids, um, within an instrument hepcats play (4)
13. Verse that laments about yellow-green half of elevator (5)
15. Tone upended and interrupted by one Proustian word like *madeleines* (4)
17. Actor Rogen assumes Thomas evacuated more than one badger den (5)
20. Hideous firearm turned superficially lovely (4)
22. Ponder small bit of wood worn by excellent horse (5)
25. A queen keeps working for a span of time — which is terrific (4)
26. Granted poet-style poet Whitman a gardening tool (5)
27. A wheat product of our captivating land (5)
28. Real summer at the Sorbonne obtains 6 over .02 times 500 (8)



## DOWN

1. Principals in southeast Vancouver see bottomless container of flowers (4)
3. Gets more of sharp Havarti, primarily with dollars (5)
4. Designer Cassini’s limb, retreating when Oscar lands on it (4)
5. Having strength derived from imaginary radical enemies in Wyoming (4)
6. Balinese grunt finally filling in Spaniard’s gold, black and white cookie (4)
7. Acknowledge that one is grateful to topless actor Hawke (with a k) internally (5)
9. About one tin that initially has no reality (3’1)
10. Warren’s nose tattoos sounded twisted (5)
14. Odd Nevada gent supporting little army officer, briefly (2 3, *abbr.*)
16. Shake as king hits earl’s head audibly (5)
18. Archaic peepers appearing within Disney shows? Never (4)
19. Fail to expose truncated rock concealing one sin (3 2)
21. Thespian leader in Ontario obstructs 50,101 centers of activity (4)
22. Breezily move Ione back under water (4)
23. French fashion destroyed magazine seller with no clothing (4)
24. Hot or normal brass instrument keys (4)