

1. Odd Characters by Ucaoimhu

Many local sites contain *petroglyphs*, glyphs formed from stone; here, you will deal with these and other odd symbols. In almost all clues, the wordplay yields a letter sequence that is incorrect in one of four ways:

([˘]) **Diacriticals:** The sequence is missing *part* of a letter (leaving a named character which is *not* an English letter); in the grid, circle the letter *before* the incomplete one.

(æ) **Ligatures:** The sequence has an extra consecutive *pair* of letters; in the grid, circle the letter *after* them.

(^ˆ) **Variant forms:** The sequence has one *wrong* letter; in the grid, circle the letter that is replaced.

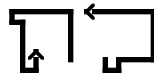
For each of ([˘]), (æ), and (^ˆ): Read the first, second, or third letters of its clues (respectively) to get a type of odd character, and assemble the parts, pairs, or wrong letters (respectively) to see what non-stone medium such characters may be executed in.

Now, in the grid, erase the circled letters and replace them with their counterpart characters of the appropriate kind (putting the “pivot point” in the center of the square), and connect them with lines in the obvious way. The result will be three figures that *are* (technically) and *represent* (in distorted fashion) something stony. Which leads us to the last type of sequence:

(s) **Final forms:** In the sequence, one letter has been *moved to the end*; in the chart to the right, write the clue’s last letter next to the letter that moved. The 20 letters you write will say (depending on the choice that is marked off with gaps) either how you produce such figures, or how one produces true petroglyphs.

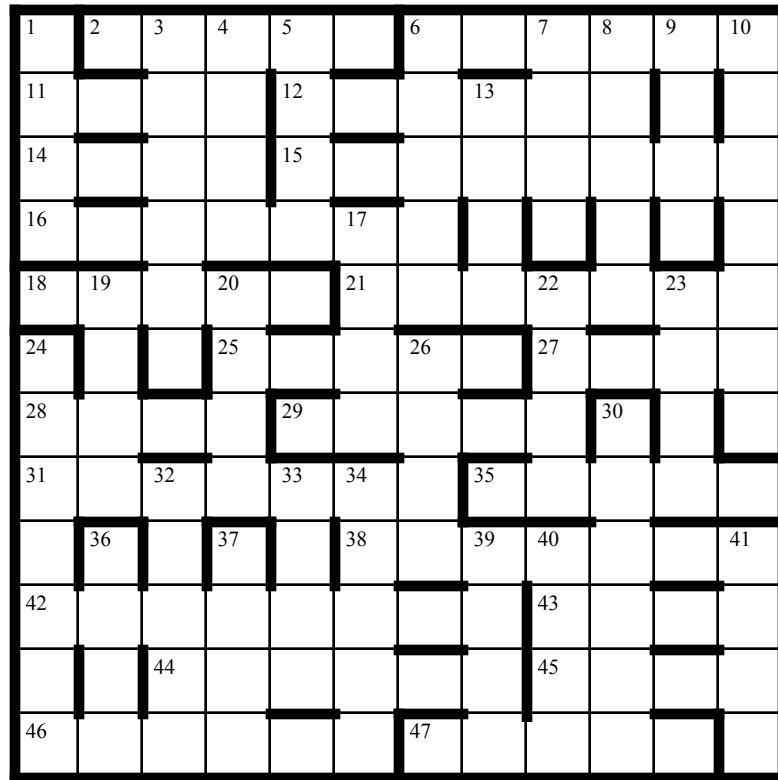
Six clues do *not* fall under ([˘]), (æ), (^ˆ) or (s). Instead, one word in each such clue has 1–3 extraneous copies of a letter (always the same letter), which must be deleted before solving. The “notches” in the three stony figures, read as per the left-hand symbol below the chart, will give the rule for adding these letters; read as per the right-hand symbol, they will say what the two symbols below the chart are, in relation to all the other odd characters seen so far.

A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
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G	
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L	
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T	
U	
V	
W	
X	
Y	
Z	



ACROSS

- App by Arizona musician Frank who sang “In France” (5)
- Novel items presented by evergreen Tess without error (6)
- We spun hollow tops displaying juvenile amphibians (4)
- Are alongside 2000-lb Celt (6)
- Name held by actress Gabor and author Ferber (4)
- Ms. Andrews, who sings about my rabbi with greater confusion (8) [NI3]
- Some stuff seen by those inclined to wadded and torn mats of captivating lady (7)
- Topographical feature of Norway resembling an F-string (5)
- Again petition agent with energy-filled body (7) [NI3]
- Performer Uta starts to haul hollow gateaux in (5)
- How someone who’s dodged says one has a date to cancel (4)
- Very gooey, rind-free lipid from, say, Gr., It., or Sp. (4, *abbr.*)
- Hut 3 from Velasquez, in a state that PA is east of (5)
- Five, returning, cease to embrace real clothing designer (7)
- Idiot goes after Roscoe the German’s middle tumbler (5)
- Went across with new wife and disheartened Fido (7)
- Rafter thanks 1050, including Kevin and Bea (4 4) [NI3]



- Fever externally affecting European Union (4)
- Anatolian city Short Mike and Rod vote against (6)
- A big Vietnamese city in which I’ll emulate JJ’s pilgrimage (4)
- Going back, aliens request pieces of a steer (6)
- Flower ring #59 bedecking the middle of Capri (5)

DOWN

- Bede touching Faraday’s meat (4)
- Then vacuous Oona says when many will eat their lunches (2 4)
- Sap takes 1/3 of the test given to jrs. in high sch. (4, *abbr.*)
- Baht brought in by place’s legume-filled sandwiches (4, *abbr.*)
- Woman from incomplete Austen novel Jeff laid bare (5)
- Friday, *SNL* dork stripped bottom-to-top for massage (4)
- Satisfactory, semi-nimble poem with a sly, disparaging tone (5)
- Unkosher center section of white Frito (4)
- Curtailed sermon about force, drive, and bondmanship (7)
- Goofy bots supplying a (compressed) half ounce (4, *abbr.*)
- Directed towards good old Jason’s ship (4)
- Grabbing Picasso’s keys, Jack and he talk nonsense (4)
- Greek characters Hugh superficially loves (4)
- Hide free pluots before long, long inactive period (4)
- Flipped over sextet of UCSD PhD advisor’s sums (4)
- Dedicates evening clothing to North and South Dakota (7)
- Red-codded “streams” up where Doc’s (chiefly) vacationing all the time (4)
- Bloke who was prophetic, gaga loony is devoured by aphid before the end (6)
- Unwrapped eraser I increase the height of (5)
- One by British advice-giver whose byline is pseudonymic (4)
- People radioing Connecticut hospital, re beheaded seers (5)
- Eater of dots and ghosts eats orc, overturning agreement (4)
- Godred, who preceded Cheney, my Québécoise mater’s predecessor (4)
- Neglecting alternative items, film bangers Esau the Wretch was noshing on, using a large-screen format (4)
- Read reflective, outwardly hopeful author Roald (4)
- Record player inscribed with each word that, with “vu,” denotes an eerie feeling (4)