

Glorious Fourth

by Ucaoimhu

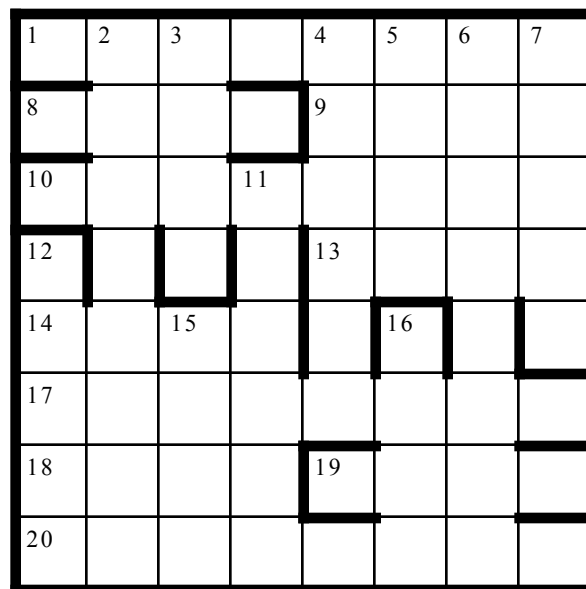
A certain number of years ago a particular event took place that we celebrate today. In honor of this, a certain number of squares in the grid will contain a certain letter sequence. Two pairs of these “special” squares will determine two diagonal lines that converge at a point outside the grid; the word there, and the contents of the special squares, both occur in the official title of a specific work. For each entry containing a special square, where that square is the *m*th from the start and the *n*th from the end, circle the *m*th letter from the start and *n*th letter from the end of the *clue*; all the *m*th letters followed by all the *n*th letters will give an alternative title for that work, and also say what you should be doing now that you have finished this puzzle.

ACROSS

1. Thick black tress is hot
8. Biblical character’s tasks
9. One heard Ms. Hathaway
10. Puller of plow claiming lover Rip Torn is given to speaking too long
12. Actor Rob sounded sad
14. Exploits American rivals when playing bridge
17. Rue flexing naughtily for Oscar’s roomie (2 wds.)
18. Lovely, loud song
19. Case has back I’ll throw a monkey wrench into
20. Miscalculated G/R’s tenth power

DOWN

2. Don’t succeed in carrying very English sofa (2 wds.)
3. Gaul in a comic about Mark stripping Riley outside of bordello
4. Actor Gabe ultimately took a map
5. Upended gold, nickel, and lacquer box attached to an obi
6. Currently live with lady in state



7. Coils items from the *Harry Potter* books around bits of liver
11. Deletion of unusually rare U’s
12. Seabird’s less fashionable pants
15. An alchemical product a Yalie radical inscribed with a Greek glyph
16. Before this German is excited