

Strange Decorations

This holiday season, I've had to make do with some strange decorations. Every "external" clue -- one where the entry's front or back appears to be the border of the grid -- will extend some distance outside of the grid, decorating it with extra letters. These will show you where I intended the original decorations to go.

These extra letters will cause extra words to appear outside of the grid; these are clued by the "Elsewhere" clues, in an unknown order.

Almost every non-Elsewhere clue must have one letter substituted with another before solving; in the Across clues, read the letters to be replaced *backwards* to see one standard holiday decoration I couldn't find, and the letters replacing it *forwards* to see what I substituted it with. The Down clues will do the same, but for a different standard decoration and my replacement for it.

Each Elsewhere clue has been "decorated" with an extra word. One Across or Down clue has no replaced letter; instead, it has no definition given. The solution to this clue will tell you (indirectly) how to interpret the first and last letters of the Elsewhere clues' extra words, after those clues are sorted alphabetically by their answers. This interpretation will give you the specifications I gave for these replacements. (If you need more details on the interpretation, read the nth letter of the nth Elsewhere clue after sorting.)

Finally, in the process of locating the words outside of the grid, you may have noticed that one word is not quite fully formed: some of its letters do not come from words extending outside of the original grid. Express my preference and the two replacement items I used more concisely, and decorate them with these extra letters, to form an even stranger decoration than anything mentioned so far!

Across

- Office of "Small Street" venture getting rid of a doubted character
- Regarding letters from Lisbon's tourists (2 wds)
- Expose big toe (near the ground)
- Form of truly awful cash drawer
- Potentially hungry animal's fashionable palmetto-using hula
- Murmur after Horatio kerns "vapid" (hyph.)
- Yorkshire river lords' short signal "chip" means "type of drug"
- Mao replans losing hip hop music's point of view
- Stan Ray content with Taj Mahal location
- Mistake shipper and adman, bizarrely

Down

- Slabbed noxious container
- See participating institute

1	2	3	4	5	6
	7				
8	9		10	11	
12			13		14
15					
16				17	
18	19			20	

- Funding for American low-income schools' fencing (3 wds)
- Unconventionally, repeatedly struggle, caving for the gold (3 wds)
- Saint's aiding party of gamers with bias
- Those near chases of a revolutionary leftist are radical
- Elves of Oxlip Utopia's work of art
- Small part of Tory nation without borders
- Paint Al Gore with papier-mache animals
- Thighs, etc. slashed, like a Queenslander (hyph.)
- Moan with king, "Stop!"
- Old Scottish funeral vehicle hired by a Cockney

Elsewhere

- Arrangement of lightning altars and ankle-length robes (obs.; Collins dict.)
- Astroturfing malicious AI for deploying nets around Kentucky
- Austro-Hungarian capital's lavish by having edgeless penny
- Bad money from Gehrig and Mad Dog reportedly
- Concern grand revolutionary with electrifying connective tissue
- Fulfilled Yankovic and Capone, and J Iron and the like
- Local boy that is tailless waits
- PS3 / Wii / Xbox 360 baseball game, with the pansexual goth girls
- Resurrect an employee in the middle of a hike