

# a poem for europe



**MARK HAWORTH-BOOTH** served as a curator at the V&A 1970-2004 and is also an award-winning poet. His website is [www.markhaworthbooth.com](http://www.markhaworthbooth.com)

Picture: Tessa Traeger

## THERE WAS NO CHOICE

There was no choice, now only flight was left.  
I found a Captain and we made a bargain.  
I fetched your mother, her sister and my niece.  
The others' fear was stronger than their hope.  
We lodged for some days with a drunken Pilot.  
The man's imprudence placed us all at risk.  
We waited in suspense until word came.  
We must be ready to leave the next day.  
Our merchantman would pass close by the mainland.  
We should be waiting, hidden, in the sand dunes.  
A boat would come ashore to pick us up.  
We went at night, two horses with our baggage.  
Fifty assembled in the dunes next day.  
The Curé somehow heard about our plans.  
He had the Custom House detain our ship.  
Soldiers with dogs were sent to capture us.  
Fishermen drew the men and dogs away.  
We found a safe house but soon had to leave.  
Fear got the better of humanity.  
Informers everywhere, raids and arrests.  
The fishermen's wives helped us, not the rich.  
A father and his son agreed to take us.  
There were great dangers sailing to the ship.  
A frigate watched the bay for escapees.  
They stowed us under canvas as their ballast.  
The signal was to raise our sail three times.  
The son behaved as drunken as a hog.  
He hauled and dropped and hauled the sail three times.  
We went aboard the British ship at twilight.  
Contrary winds, eleven days at sea.  
We suffered from our shortness of provisions.  
We dared not put into a port for water.

On 1st December 1685 we landed at the port of Appledore, a small town in the Bristol Channel below the River Taw, and paid our passage. With only 20 golden pistoles left we feared that we might perish out of hunger but good folk welcomed us into their houses and treated us all with the greatest kindness. Thus, God raised up for us fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters in a strange land.

Source: *A Tale of the Huguenots or Memoirs of a French Refugee Family* by Jacques de la Fontaine, translated by Ann Maury of New York (1838).

A poem for Europe is edited by Briony Bax, Poetry Editor. Submit your poems to [poetryeditor@theneweuropean.co.uk](mailto:poetryeditor@theneweuropean.co.uk)

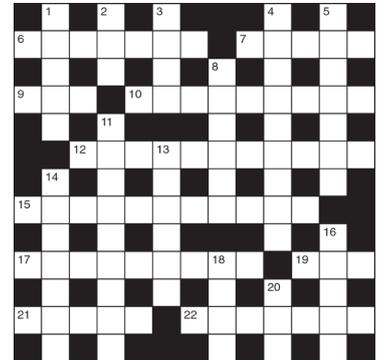
## Cryptic Crossword

### Across

- 6. Glass in a set? (7)
- 7. Intelligent like Sting? (5)
- 9. Dry for a short time (3)
- 10. It's off-putting when Edward returns to the Queen torn (9)
- 12. Is he the sole specialist? (11)
- 15. It's arrogant to get one dime ring out (11)
- 17. Is suspicious about the girl's investment schemes (9)
- 19. Biblical occupation? (3)
- 21. I call out for a syringa (5)
- 22. Like cereal from S.W. England? (7)

### Down

- 1. Quick to change fibre (5)
- 2. Like a quiet snake (3)
- 3. Save up for an urn (4)
- 4. Unwise to be cheeky without a right (9)
- 5. Aridity of a waterless loch (7)
- 8. A condiment to sprinkle liberally (6)
- 11. Religious mutineer? (9)
- 13. Regretful when running out of fuel after a right turn (6)
- 14. South American country where a bighead takes a girl (7)
- 16. Lift up the house first (5)
- 18. Tory reform of a system of weights (4)
- 20. Gun down a wildebeest (3)



(Solution below)

## Sudoku - medium

				5	7	1	2	
	6	8			3			9
		5		9		3		
6								5
	3		1	2	5			4
5			3					7
		6			1	8		
8			9					7
	7	9	2	4				6

## Sudoku - hard

5		6	4	7				
				2				4
7	1					5		
3			1					
2	5						1	6
					8			4
		9				6		8
	6			9				
				3	6	4		5

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### Sudoku solutions

Medium

6	8	3	9	5	7	1	2	4
2	5	7	1	4	3	8	6	9
4	1	9	6	2	8	3	5	7
3	7	5	2	1	4	6	8	9
8	2	6	4	9	3	7	5	1
1	4	2	3	7	5	9	8	6
5	9	8	7	6	1	4	3	2
7	6	4	8	3	2	9	1	5
9	3	1	5	8	6	2	4	7

Hard

5	6	4	7					
			2					4
7	1					5		
3			1					
2	5						1	6
					8			4
		9				6		8
	6			9				
				3	6	4		5

### Crossword solution

Across: 6. Glass 7. Sting 9. Dried 10. Edward 12. Specialist 15. Dime 17. Suspicious 19. Occupation 21. Syringa 22. Cereal

Down: 1. Fibre 2. Snake 3. Urn 4. Cheeky 5. Loch 8. Condiment 11. Mutineer 13. Regretful 14. Argentina 16. House 18. Reform 20. Wildebeest

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