



Vic Skeptics December 2020

Famous Skeptics (3)

by Ken Greatorex

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ACROSS:

1. & 3 across: American writer, producer and host of the *Skeptoid* podcast [5, 7]
3. See 1 across
11. In Britain, a ticket scalper; in America, a professional racing tipster [4]
13. Distinctive pronunciation of a language, often related to one's geographical or social origins [6]
14. & 17 across: British evolutionary biologist; author of *The Selfish Gene* and *The Blind Watchmaker* [7, 7]
17. See 14 across
18. City in Nevada famous for "quickie" divorces [4]
19. A whole number greater than one with factors only of itself and one [5]
20. French paramilitary police [9]
22. French friend [3]
25. & 27 across: British writer, lecturer, broadcaster, and Visiting Professor at the University of Plymouth. She researches into memetics, parapsychology and consciousness [5, 9]
27. See 25 across
29. Colour [3]
30. & 31 across: Australian entrepreneur, record-breaking aviator, philanthropist and political activist.; one of the co-founders of the Australian Skeptics [4, 5]
31. See 30 across
33. Deceleration using applied friction [7]
36. May mean "other"; "in addition"; "if not"; "otherwise" or "at an alternative place or time". [4]
37. A sealed metallic container [3]
38. Founder of *Quackwatch* [7, 7]
39. See 38 across
42. Rostrum [4]
44. & 46 across: "The Amazing" ____ ____, magician and debunker extraordinaire [5, 5]
46. See 44 across
47. Novel [3]
48. The opposable digit [5]
51. Infernal river in Greek mythology [4]
53. & 54 across: Award-winning science communicator, (widow of Carl Sagan) [3, 6]
54. See 53 across
58. & 59 across: Australian Comedian, actor, writer, musician, and songwriter whose prodigious output includes the poem *Storm*, a skeptical critique of alternative medicine [3, 7]

59. See 58 across
62. Highly successful, unexpected act [4]
63. Foreign, strange [5]
66. Strong, durable polyester polymer used in packaging, and electrical and heat insulation [5]
68. The condition of being married to two different people [6]
70. Was; lived; had being [7]
71. Portent [4]
73. Surround; confine; encompass [7]
75. Tirade [4]
77. & 78 across: American astronomer, writer and originator of the *Bad Astronomy* blog [4, 5]
78. See 77 across
81. Beetle regarded as sacred in ancient Egypt [6]
82. Clarified butter [4]
83. Abbreviated form of "that is" [2]
85. The fuzzy end of fibres; important, for example, in governing the characteristics of the surface of a billiard table [3]
87. Deviating from a straight line; roundabout [8]
88. & 89 across: American special effects expert and former co-host (with Jamie Hyneman) of the Australian-American television series *MythBusters* [4, 6]
89. See 88 across
90. Japanese version of Buddhism with many adherents in Western society. It emphasizes the value of meditation and intuition over ritual or study of scriptures [3]
92. & 93 across: World famous magician, escapologist and debunker of fraudulent spiritualists [5, 7]
93. See 92 across
94. Forebear [8]

DOWN:

1. & 20 down: British physician, academic, and author of *Bad Science, Bad Pharma* and *Do Statins Work?* [3, 8]
2. The mixture of gases that makes up the Earth's atmosphere [3]
4. "Sensory": transmit impulses of sensation to the brain or spinal cord; "Motor": transmit impulses from brain and spinal cord to muscles and organs [6]
5. Pronoun which does not specify sex [2]
6. Point of intersection; junction [4]
7. One of the four main bases found in DNA; it pairs with cytosine in double-stranded DNA [7]

8. Kingdom of living things broadly described as being multicellular, capable of locomotion and responsive to their environment, and feeding on other organisms [6]
9. Skirmish; scuffle; minor battle; confused fight [9]
10. One time only [4]
12. The lowest example of 19 across [3]
13. Savoury jelly [5]
15. & 35 down: Prolific American author and science populariser; creator of the Three Laws of Robotics. [5, 6]
16. Industrial cannabis fibre [4]
18. Impetuous [4]
20. See 1 down
21. a.k.a nicotinic acid and Vitamin B3 [6]
23. & 40 down: Mentalist, magician, writer, psychic entertainer. Involve in 2017 in *Operation Pizza Roll*, the debunking of TV medium Thomas John [4, 6]
24. & 49 down: English mentalist, illusionist, painter, and author of books for magicians. He has hosted many TV series and specials since the year 2000; a typical TV special being *The System* in 2008 in appears to demonstrate a fool-proof betting system [6, 5]
26. Eminence; halo [4]
27. & 57 down: British philosopher, mathematician, historian, writer, social critic, pacifist, and Nobel laureate. Books include *Why I am Not a Christian* [8, 7]
28. Exhibits a speech defect whereby "s"s sound like "th"s [5]
32. (American spelling) African carnivore which hunts in packs [5]
34. Meanings include: the ninth letter of the Greek alphabet; a dot; an insignificant amount [4]
35. See 15 down
39. & 60 down: British particle physicist, science populariser, TV presenter former keyboardist for a popular musical group [5, 3]
40. See 23 down
41. Small insectivorous songbird [3]
43. The Jewish Holocaust [4]
44. Short crowbar often associated with break-ins [5]
45. & 69 down: American skeptical activist. She is the founder and leader of the Guerrilla Skepticism on Wikipedia [5, 6]
46. & 61 down: This noted critic of parapsychology, along with James Randi, Martin Gardner and Paul Kurtz, is one of the founders of the modern skeptical movement. He is the founder and leader of the *Skeptic's Toolbox* and serves on the Executive Council for the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry [3, 5]
49. See 24 down

- 50. Inventive humour [3]
- 52. Roman forty-one [3]
- 56. & 81 down: British popular science author, theoretical and particle physicist. Books include *Trick or Treatment? Alternative Medicine on Trial* (with Edzard Ernst) and *The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets* [5, 5]
- 57. See 27 down
- 59. The court case which in 1992 established native title in Australia for the first time [4]
- 60. Adjustable ring-shaped membrane behind the cornea which controls the amount of light entering the eye [4]
- 61. See 46 down
- 62. See 39 down
- 64. & 79 down: Nigerian activist who campaigns against witch-hunting and other practices based on supernatural belief [3, 4]
- 65. Organ of sight [3]
- 67. Representation of a god used as an object of worship [4]
- 69. See 45 down
- 70. Collective shorthand for such claimed paranormal abilities as telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition [3]
- 72. Fable [4]
- 74. Lusher; more verdant; having more or denser foliage [7]
- 76. Brass instrument [4]
- 78. Validated; verified; substantiated [6]
- 79. See 64 down
- 80. Penn's professional partner [6]
- 81. See 56 down
- 84. Engrave; inscribe [4]
- 85. Heinrich Himmler, for example [4]
- 86. Utterance in Jewish, Christian and Islamic worship, which means "verily", "truly", or "so be it" [4]
- 91. Symbol for element 28 [2]

SOLUTION

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