

ACROSS:

4. Author James _____ , inventor of Shangri La in 1933's *Lost Horizons* [6]
7. & 8 across: Confidence trick, and best-selling book by James Randi [4, 4]
8. See 7 across
10. & 11 across: Vicious marsupials cryptids designed to scare those touring Australia [4, 5]
11. See 10 across
12. General term for any "two headed" muscle, but usually used for the well-known flexor muscle in the upper arm [6]
14. "Cheese made backwards" [4]
15. According to Oscar Wilde, the lowest form of wit, but the highest form of intelligence [7]
17. Unsolicited, unwanted but ubiquitous email [4]
18. Epic bard of ancient Greece [5]
21. Egg [4]
22. Nostradamus's favourite form of versifying [9]
23. Come before
25. Divination through tealeaves [11]
27. Infernal river [4]
28. Venue for the curation, storage and display for items of cultural, historical or scientific interest [6]
29. Depriving of life [7]
33. Female oracle [5]
35. Prophet [4]
37. Cunningness; craftiness [5]
38. Devotees of Haile Selassie as The Lion of Judah [9]
40. A group of words which have evolved by usage to mean something other than the individual words might suggest (e.g. *Fred kicked the bucket, I spilled the beans*) [5]
42. Opposite of "Yea" [3]
43. State of matter [3]
44. Nervous Twitch [3]
45. Strength [5]
49. French love [5]

50. Possess [3]
51. Catholic organisation largely composed of lay people, given a bad press by Dan Brown [4, 2]
52. See 51 across
53. The smallest particles of a chemical element that can exist [5]
54. Relating to a different culture or nationality; (not necessarily to little green beings with antennae) [5]
55. Data storage device or Roman 400 [2]
56. Hahnemann's pseudoscientific system of alternative medicine [10]

DOWN:

1. One who has a congenital absence of pigment in the skin and hair [6]
2. &15 down: Scarpomancy: Divination using _____ [3, 5]
3. Natural dark-brown pigment [5]
4. V-shaped receptacle used by individual construction workers to carry building materials on site [3]
5. Category or class of people or things having common characteristics [4]
6. Divination through cheese [9]
9. Religious military order founded about 1118, suppressed in 1312, still going strong in conspiracy theories 2019 [8]
11. _____ *Relief* : Shallow sculpture of a surface to simulate three-dimensional representation [3]
13. & 41 down: Property of a device that would continue to operate indefinitely in defiance of the Second Law of Thermodynamics [9, 6]
15. See 2 down
16. & 35 down: There is nothing more uncommon than this, according to Frank Lloyd Wright; however Einstein considered it merely "*the sum of all prejudices gained by age 18*" [6, 5]
19. & 34 down: Widely used personality test of doubtful validity [5, 6]
20. Famous French mathematician also famous for his wager concerning the existence of God [6]
22. Pretence to special knowledge and skill in the medical field [8]
24. Reservoir forming barrier [3]
26. "Peering" into the future using some apparatus, such as a crystal ball [7]
30. Irish paramilitary organisation [3]

31. His wife was turned into a pillar of salt [3]
32. The study of handwriting; claims of its effectiveness as an indicator of personality have been debunked [10]
33. Marks like those those left on Jesus's body by crucifixion [8]
34. Marks like those those left on Jesus's body by crucifixion [8]
35. See 19 down
36. See 16 down
39. A god imported into the Roman Empire by, and a favourite of soldiers [7]
41. Collection of strange or weird objects; also the collective name for those cards in a Tarot deck which do not belong to one of the four suits [6]
44. See 13 down
46. Cassandra (the 100% accurate seer whom nobody believed) was a princess here [4]
48. Ancient Celtic religious functionary [5]
52. Perform unpowered flight [5]

SOLUTION

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