CROSSWORD  
No. 15,499 Set by AARDVARK

ACROSS  
1  Repeatedly nick steps (6)  
4  Old pile passed on and acquired easily (2,1,5)  
9  Vehicle in space requiring one-off permit around Italian river (6)  
10  Con small person to get in drink (6,2)  
12  Shaving, brother heard rodent (8)  
13  Musician's slowly procuring a building alongside house? (4-2)  
15  Some commuter hurried around industrial region (4)  
16  East Sussex resident maybe caught aquatic transport – and another type (10)  
19  Perhaps wedding ring found somewhere in California (10)  
20  Competent learner sitting in Lincoln (4)  
23  Pump up a cycle – flat tyre, at rear (6)  
25  Surely deviating from the correct route, one fellow's lost (2,6)  
27  Hound extremist during work in US (8)  
28  Tie problem for the head after schoolkids protest in principle (6)  
29  Wild beast occupies land? Refuse to go here (5,3)  
30  Creative work to maintain animal home's impassioned (6)  

DOWN  
1  Old poet's writing, say, after seeing two churches lined with gold (7)  
2  Period at sea once, with books welcome on board (9)  
3  After father picked up, see doctor's self-confidence (6)  
5  Final Tyneside races (4)  
6  In The Crown, it's nice playing game on one's own (8)  
7  Very pale, like woman at pre-nuptial event (5)  
8  Take advantage of policeman when losing daughter in "way out" (7)  
11  Rising reserve wins corner in game (7)  
14  Drive back and act like an aristocrat (4,3)  
17  Vegetable outstanding soldier keeps in pannier regularly (9)  
18  Vehicle with A-reg vacated in the ancient city (8)  
19  Bird rolls about in mud perhaps, tail first (7)  
21  The day before holiday peak (7)  
22  Bobby, I'm surprised, embraces social science course (6)  
24  Puzzle found on public transport (5)  
26  Anyone raging repeatedly inside needs this spiritualist? (4)  

Solution 15,498  
LYTHAM BALLATER YALBA AEAUJI NANTES MCKINLEY MGERHDLA OVIEDO HOREFORD UEEE VANNWH TARBES LCH HSNOVISADZPX WF MEXICO IBP TAWLMI BORDEAUX TARGET AEIX WAI DUMFRIES HAMBLE AEDERRWR NUNEATONEVERS