CROSSWORD
No. 15,665 Set by MONK

ACROSS
8 Horologer put out by a tendency to verbosity (10)
9 Excellent results at risk, even when “firsts” are considered (4)
10 Chap getting short tart to go round Roman building (8)
11 Retaliate about relocating grand European city (6)
12 Culmination of self-inflicted damage in a slash? (6)
14 Difficult to believe credit will be cut, or hard to swallow? (8)
15 Now dating, Ian’s heady, all in a flutter (2,4,3,3,3)
18 Duke standing by national PM (8)
20 Very little gun clip? (6)
22 Whipped top off and proceeded with caution (6)
23 Gratuitous enmity, extremely seditious (8)
25 With which dials can be fine-tuned on screen (1-3)
26 Hung out with old spies tailing fool they’d regularly missed (10)

DOWN
1 Area south of an island state (4)
2 Loves to have energy flowing slowly (6)
3 Is Robert recycling space junk? (8)
4 Ordered militants to adopt song in advocacy of tyranny (15)
5 Wrangle over goods with robust packaging (6)
6 Mad extremist interrupting Liberal Democrat, missing answer (8)
7 Somehow alter Vogue article re passage (10)
13 Writers backed chief out to retire with deal? (7,3)
16 Almost let US state host Tokyo’s first emperor (8)
17 Escape into fresh flora in the open air (8)
19 Please destroy organ (6)
21 Tree-lined part of Dracula’s birthplace (6)
24 Left out of stylish attempt (4)

Solution 15,664

FACTOR FLOTILLA
OUT MCIRIR
BURNISH BOARDER
WET TEE AFROI
AFAR FEET OF CLAY
TILKIIAO
CANYON VOLCANO
HCWNJDP
BANSHEE FACILE
SLPSREMNE
WELLINEVERAGAR
ERTARAGIL
AIRCRAFT COMPARE
TUTLHAMAS
SINISTER MORRIS