CROSSWORD
No 17,490 Set by JULIUS

ACROSS
1 Macbeth cast, holding Oscar: “it was a huge sacrifice” (8)
6 Carp sent back, found to contain Australian drug (6)
9 Old King returns Austen novel, pronouncing it “lightweight” (6)
10 Remove hair from pâté deli sent out (8)
11 Boyfriend beginning to boil water in Paris (4)
12 Grim-sounding works of folklore? (5,5)
14 Kick boxing American referee without shoes (8)
16 Hate getting undressed — it’s a curse (4)
18 Reptile starts to climb right over carport (4)
19 Small-scale industrial production he cannot put to work (8)
21 Arranging brief drink which should stimulate the network (10)
22 Water to quench thirst son left out (4)
24 Headmaster is keen to embrace star sign (8)
26 Rio van driver regularly drops off a member of the band’s crew (6)
27 Shrewd, like boy king (Egypt’s first) (6)
28 Fielding work puts moonset roughly around 1st of June (3,5)

DOWN
2 Weird energy on one of the Great Lakes (5)
3 Security vehicle hit our ma on N Yorks racecourse (8,3)
4 Flood at an end, wolf heads north (8)
5 Provider of shuttle service? (9,6)
6 He liked to eat his spinach with olive oil, we’re told (6)
7 Member of Parliament known for wisdom? (3)
8 Genuine gold, later titanium clubs (9)
13 Getting drunk a lot, old man guzzles Iberia’s premier sherry (11)
15 With which luvvies greet Keira’s sis at play? (3,6)
17 Wolfgang’s trombone picks up a measure of radiation (8)
20 Set fire to brown coal Liberal chucked away (6)
23 King and knight originally inherited iron blade (5)
25 Seymour occasionally shot bird (3)

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