Polymath 957 Set by Gozo

ACROSS
1 French novelist who wrote the short stories Colomba, Carmen and La Venus d’Ille (7,7)
10 Annual plant, also known as euphrasy (9)
11 Canadian term for the bulrush (7)
12 Oratorio first performed at the Birmingham Festival, in 1846 (6)
13 Ann Cleeves’ Shetland detective (5,5)
15 Ynys ---, Anglesey, in Welsh (3)
16 Grammatical term for “will” in “He will go” (9,4)
18 Works such as Brahms’ German, Tavener’s Celtic and Penderecki’s Polish (8)
20 Performer of an Argentinian dance with long steps and pauses (8)
22 The trademark stammering sign-off at the end of Looney Tunes cartoons (5,3,5)
23 The cat in Judith Kerr’s children’s books (3)
24 Longest-serving post-war Italian prime minister (10)
26 Robert, author of the Cicero trilogy Imperium, Lustrum and Dictator (6)
28 French verse form of ten lines with only two rhymes throughout (7)
29 Richly decorated Japanese porcelain (5,4)
30 Sovereign body of the Dutch republic during the 16th to 18th centuries (7,7)

DOWN
1 Capital of the former province of Natal from 1843 to 1994 (16)
2 Area of the skull where the sagittal suture meets the parietal foramina (7)
3 Trademark name for easily transported buildings used at outdoor exhibitions (11)
4 Port on the mouth of the Daugava river, member of the Hanseatic League from 1282 (4)
5 The largest town in the Rheingau and birthplace of the countertenor Andreas Scholl (8)
6 Matchless (12)
7 In law, to hinder (5)
8 Italian composer of Sacrae symphoniae, which includes Hodie Christus Natus Est (8)
9 Victorian novelist who wrote North and South, Mary Barton and Wives and Daughters (9,7)
14 For example (7,5)
17 Tito’s nationality (11)
19 Instrument with an arc of 90 degrees for taking altitudes (8)
21 Pre-euro German coins – one hundred in a Deutschmark (8)
23 High-ranking steward (7)
25 Drug-addicts (5)
27 Imperial Chinese dynasty from 618 to 907 AD (4)

The first correct entry drawn on Wednesday February 28 wins a copy of The Chambers Dictionary. Entries should be addressed to Polymath No 957, Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. The solution and winner’s name will be published on March 3.

The 13th edition (2014) retains the much-loved features of The Chambers Dictionary, including the unique quirky definitions for certain words. There are more than 1,000 new words and meanings, and there is also a new Word Lover’s Ramble, showing how English words and definitions have changed over the history of the dictionary.