Polymath 967 Set by Sleuth

ACROSS
1 Italian noblewoman and wife to Henry II of France (9,2,6)
10 French impressionist whose 1872 work “Impression, Sunrise” gave rise to the movement’s name (5)
11 A conjecture (11)
12 An illicit liquor shop (7)
13 Elite group of US universities formally organised in 1956 (3,6)
14 Sergio, Italian film director noted for spaghetti westerns (5)
15 Predominantly German speaking area of the old Czechoslovakia annexed by Hitler in 1938 (11)
18 Christian community in Macedonia to whom Paul wrote two epistles (13)
21 Commercial practice whereby shareholders get the chance to buy shares in an existing company (6,5)
22 A Hindu religious instructor (5)
24 A region in the Caucasus along the north-east shore of the Black Sea (9)
27 An official language of the Philippines (7)
28 Towed canal boats (11)
29 Grand -----, US national park in Wyoming (5)
30 Speech delivered by Abraham Lincoln in Pennsylvania in 1863 (10,7)

DOWN
1 An under-bodice with thin shoulder straps (8)
2 A hybrid fruit (7)
3 Laying waste to lands by cutting down trees (11)
4 Norwegian playwright whose works include Hedda Gabler (5)
5 Thinking of a witty retort after the opportunity to make it has passed (6,2,9)
6 A hard wood that is usually black (5)
7 Banishment (5)
8 A gelatine made from the air bladders of fish, used as a clarifying agent and adhesive (9)
9 A malicious subtle reference (8)
10 Japanese dish of cold cakes of rice topped with fish, vegetables etc (5)
11 Myopic (4-7)
12 A 1974 hit by the glam rock band Mud (5,4)
13 A label indicating cost (5,3)
14 Ancient Greek cynic philosopher (8)
15 A plate of armour for the shoulder (7)
16 To determine the proportion of metal in an ore (5)
17 Opera by Puccini featuring the police chief Scarpia (5)

The first correct entry drawn on Wednesday May 9 wins a copy of The Chambers Dictionary. Entries should be addressed to Polymath No 967, Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. The solution and winner’s name will be published on May 12.

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.