Polymath 949 Set by Gozo

ACROSS
1 Small triangular shortbread cakes (9,5)
10 Lens with a long focal length for obtaining large images of distant objects (9)
11 Musical direction meaning “briskly” (3,4)
12 Monetary unit of Thailand, one hundredth of a baht (6)
13 Creator of the detective Roderick Alleyn who first appeared in A Man Lay Dead (5,5)
15 Stage-name surname of the comedian, Charles Alden (3)
16 Maths-based studies whose results are precisely measurable (5,8)
18 Fear of good news (8)
20 Elijah by Mendelssohn, for example (8)
22 Sir Topham Hatt, the head of the railway on Sodor (3,10)
23 Three of GB’s species are noctule, serotine and Leister’s (3)
24 Novel which portrays real people under fictitious names (5,1,4)
26 An overcoat with no shoulder seams but with sleeves extending up to the neck (6)
28 Country in the Horn of Africa, capital Asmara (7)
29 The only species of gull that is exclusively cliff-nesting (9)
30 Bronx-based baseball team for whom Babe Ruth and Joe DiMaggio played (3,4,7)

DOWN
1 An Australian businessman-owner of an agricultural holding who takes profits from it but rarely visits it (4,6,6)
2 Russian novelist who wrote Anna Karenina (7)
3 Lyric poem on melancholy by John Milton (2,9)
4 Silver coin of ancient Greece worth one sixth of a drachma (4)
5 English translation of Pensees by Blaise Pascal (8)
6 Line at 66 33 North (6,6)
7 Surname of the host of Countdown after Richard Whiteley’s death (5)
8 Aggressive young driver at inappropriately high speeds (3,5)
9 Rounded masses of rocks smoothed and striated by ice (6,10)
10 Government by the worst (12)
11 Surgical removal of an organ (11)
13 Military leader of the Russo-Turkish War (1768-1774), and favourite of Catherine the Great (8)
14 East German Communist leader, the successor of Walter Ulbricht (8)
15 Ancient Celtic festival with a sacrificial fire on May Day (7)
16 What residents of Tromso and Kirkenes call their homeland (5)
17 English artist (1787-1849), noted for his paintings of nudes (4)

The first correct entry drawn on Wednesday January 3 wins a copy of The Chambers Dictionary. Entries should be addressed to Polymath No 949, Weekend FT, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. The solution and winner’s name will be published on January 6.

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.