MORE SPECIALTY DEFINITIONS

BERNARD G. COUVILLION
New Orleans, Louisiana

In the February 1970 Word Ways, Louis Delpino introduced Specialty Definitions, a hard-to-define activity best illustrated by examples such as SAWTURN (carpenter's wine) and LOXATIVE (smoked salmon cathartic). This game seems to be popular with a number of authors. John G. Fuller, in Games for Insomniacs (Doubleday, 1966), describes a search for foods suitable for whodunit stories: COP SUEY, SCRAMBLED YEGBS, THYME BOMB. Mary Ann Madden devotes two chapters of Thank You for the Giant Sea Tortoise (Viking, 1971) to this sort of wordplay: general definitions such as ADAMANT (the first insect) and BORDELLO (laconic greeting), and definitions involving names such as DINAH SHORE (a prehistoric animal) and EMANUEL CELLER (underground synagogue). Willard Espy, in The Game of Words (Grosset & Dunlap, 1972), restricts the game to animals: DOLLY LLAMA, ASIA MYNA, CUFF LYNX. James Fixx tapped the resources of Mensa in Games for the Superintelligent (Doubleday, 1972) to come up with items such as QUESTIONABLE (interrogation of a cow's husband) and SIR LANCELOT (a busy medieval surgeon).

Despite all this activity, there seems to be an inexhaustible supply of Specialty Definitions waiting to be discovered -- Mary Ann Madden reported over a hundred of them restricted to words beginning with A and B. I believe that the collection of Specialty Definitions below are all original -- my apologies to anyone who has been unintentionally plagiarized.

Filchers of smuggled goods: CONTRABANDITS
Russian 25 cent piece: QUADRUBLE
Sports caster's ticket fee: PRESSBUCKS
Entrance to hairdresser's: POMPADOOR
Angry toro: IRASCIBULL
Energy potion: GO POWDER
Chance poses: CIRCUM-STANCES
All-white social event: C-OCCASION
Parent in a Western film: CINEMAW
Jovial hound: HYSTERRIER
Fourth-term congressman: LEGIS-LATER
Famous milk plant: LEGENDARY
Amorous parasites: ROMANTICKS
Schwinn public-relations employee: SPOKESMAN
Needling inquiry: SocrATEASE
Quilting bee: SEW-CIETY
Trophy for policeman's wife: LOVING COP
Calm dried fruit: SEDATE
Prehistoric poet: HOMER SAPIENS
Promiscuous pipefishes: SEA WHORES
Splitting contest results: EXPECTOR-RATINGS
Seed catalogue flowers: MAGA-ZINNIAS
Slight of hand: COMPRESSED-TIDIGATION
Juvenile delinquent: CHILD HOOD
Suspicious wifely jealousy: ADULTERROR
German lager beer: TEU-TONIC
Ideological hunger strike: MANI-FAST-O
Lonely bath towel: SOLID-TERRY
Outcome of the Babel project: EDIFUSS
Escaping unreformed convict: IN-TRANSIT-GENT
Crowded matinee party: CAPACITEA
Backyard clothesline: LAWN-DRY-MAT
Mercenary's wartime expenses: BELLIGE-RENT
British colonial war triumph: VICTORY-AN
Propaganda printing machine: DUPE-LICATOR
Emperor Nero's psychosis: PY-ROME-MANIA
French revolutionary justice: GUILT-OTINE
Two-car head-on collision: DI-WRECK-TION
Undeveloped country: SUBORDI NATION
Oriental washerwoman's leg joints: SHINE-KNEES
Singles-only old maids' ball: PRUDE DANCE
Crop of the Vatican: POPE CORN
Letter-stuffing soldierettes: SEALING WACS
Trial room sergeant-at-arms: COURT MARSHALL
Billions of tons of garbage: GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT
Sidewalk vegetable stand: SELL-ERY
Eskimo charcoal bins: AL-ASHCANS
Hawaiian stomach cramps: LU-OWS
Final lexical item: DEF-FINISH-ION