THE ABC OF PLACE-NAMES

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Here are words (all beginning with A, B or C to make things a bit easier) which have been derived from place-names around the world. We give you the definition, along with a hint concerning the place; you provide the word and the place-name from which it is derived. For example: a French cloth used in blue jeans = denim (de Nimes, from Nimes, in France). Or calico from Calcutta, and millinery from Milan (but we stray from our ABCs). Answers will be found in Answers and Solutions at the end of this issue.

1. a tapestry curtain from France
2. a kind of seaweed from Ireland
3. a collection of islands in the Aegean
4. a small gold coin from Constantinople
5. a fine sword from Portugal
6. an orange liqueur from the Antilles
7. a dog from the West Riding of Yorkshire
8. a dark beer from Hanover
9. an invalid's chair from an English spa
10. a short piece of ordnance from Scotland
11. a misplaced gypsy
12. a green liqueur from a French monastery
13. a new element from America's West Coast
14. a light cask from medieval France
15. a furniture protector from the Far East
16. a sodomist from heretic parts
17. a small fowl from northwest Java
18. a wax candle from Algeria
19. a kind of lettuce from Greece
20. a spaniel from the Duke of Newcastle's estate
21. a four-wheeled carriage from Germany
22. a kind of fungus that Dioscorides attributes to this place
23. an aromatic oil (or tapestry) from Lombardy
24. a tackle block for tightening a ship's rigging, from France
25. a kind of leather from Spain
26. a kind of printed cloth from Normandy
27. an Indian songbird from Gujerat
28. counterfeit or shoddy merchandise from England
29. foul language from a London market
30. dried seedless fruit from Greece
31. fine straw
32. a melee fr
33. a card gan
34. a red dye-
35. a nut from
36. a kind of s
37. a mathema-
38. a violin m-
39. a gallinace-
40. a canopy f

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31. fine straw for hats from the Philippines
32. a melee from an Irish fair
33. a card game like whist from Massachusetts during the Revolution
34. a red dye-wood from Mexico
35. a nut from a country named for red dye-wood
36. a kind of squirrel from Italy
37. a mathematical term from the birthplace of an Arabic mathematician
38. a violin made in Italy
39. a gallinaceous bird of Central and South America named for a place already mentioned
40. a canopy for an altar or throne from the East, via Italy

A NEW TRANSPOSAL DICTIONARY

The Word Game Winning Dictionary, compiled by Bruce Wetterau and published by The New American Library (A Signet Book) for $2.95, is one of two transposal dictionaries to appear recently (the other will be reviewed later in Word Ways). This paperback contains more than 50,000 words of two through twelve letters (no capitalized or hyphenated words) with their alphabetically reduced forms (escort to CEORST, amber to ABEMR, etc.) arranged alphabetically for each word-length. A book such as this is of inestimable value in games like Scrabble; it is of considerable use also to members of the National Puzzlers' League in solving certain puzzle types: Transposals (and special cases Metatheses and Reversals), Transdeletions, and single-word Anagrams. To assess the book's usefulness, I checked 50 eligible transposals in The Enigma (January - September 1980), finding that this book fully solved 36 and partially solved 9 more (the five it completely missed are jihad-hadji, melonist-telonism, remuneration-renumeration, acierage-acerage, and graupel-plaguer).

One especially valuable feature of the dictionary is its attempt to include derived forms of words -- plurals, past tenses, participles, comparatives and superlatives, etc. Because it does include these forms, it actually did better on The Enigma transposal set than my computer printout transposal dictionary based on boldface words in Webster's Second (about six times as large): 33. (However, a different computer printout of Webster Second words augmented by Pocket Dictionary word past tenses, plurals, etc., yielded a score of 45.)

However, Wetterau omits a number of common derived forms -- had points, coteries, brides, prides, attendee, corpses and flutters been included, the score would have been raised to 43. (In passing, I noted other missing plurals, such as coatings, contains and crevices.) My only other criticism of the book is the compact typography, which makes it difficult quickly to sort out words with transposals from those with no transposals.