

ANSWERS AND SOLUTIONS

KICKSHAWS by Dmitri Borgmann

"A" is for Acrostic: The category - cities of the United States with populations in the 1980 Census exceeding 250,000. There were 56 such cities in 1980. The solution - BUFFALO (New York), SAN JOSE (California), and WICHITA (Kansas).

Thinking Time:

1. Each of the twelve words can be converted into some sort of nationality or ethnicity by adding one letter to it: Avarian-Bavarian, axon-Saxon, cad-Chad, finish-Finnish, hind-Hindu, iris-Irish, man-Manx, Norma-Norman, nose-Norse, reek-Greek, roan-Roman, sots-Scots.
2. The word Slavic differs from the first twelve words in that you must add two letters to it instead of one: Slavic-Slavonic.
3. The word Arcadian differs from the first twelve words in that you must subtract a letter instead of adding one: Arcadian-Acadian.
4. I could have added the following examples to my list of twelve words: Iberian-Liberian, Iberian-Siberian, Russian-Prussian, sottish-Scottish. The case of Arcadian-Acadian is matched by that of germane-German; the case of Slavic-Slavonic, by that of Austrian-Australian.

Peculiar Acronyms and Code Words: Qwathi, a Bantu-speaking people inhabiting the eastern portion of Cape of Good Hope Province in South Africa (The New Century Cyclopedia of Names, 1954); and Qwinctunnetun, an Athapascan Indian tribe living in Oregon (The New Century Dictionary of the English Language, 1952, p. 2566).

A Foursome of Sixsomes: Each of the four word squares includes an adverb: almost, iterum, hereat, highly. Most word squares of the sixth order consist entirely of nouns, verbs, and adjectives.