

# Thinking about presents for the travelers on your list? Here are a few suggestions

For some reason, this particular Christmas season has managed to creep up on us, silently, and virtually unopposed. Slithering into our psyche and plopping onto our calendars.

A few parties. A quick trip to New York. Some family events. And then, bam, it'll be here.

Now, we know that not all families are into gift giving. And some take inordinate Grinch-like pleasure in announcing disdainfully, "Oh, we don't do gifts." Well, we do "do" gifts. And love it. We enjoy immensely taking the time to search out things that are practical ... or appropriate ... or fun. And sometimes, all of the above.

You probably don't want to know some of the bizarre items that have passed between us over the years. But our readers and their journeys are never very far from our minds ... and hearts, so here's a selection of possible gifts that might work for the travelers on your list.

Warning: This is a highly opinionated selection, based on our own travel styles. And budgets. And it doesn't necessarily represent the norm. We therefore accept no responsibility for any unhappy faces on Christmas Day!

That said, in no particular order, here's our 2003 list:

● **Miniature Electronic Puzzles.** Perfect for whiling away the hours in airports or on long flights, these pocket-size puzzles will appeal mightily to any word-loving travelers. Crossword puzzles, Scrabble or trivia quizzes, they're all available from the TravelSmith catalog, 800-950-1600. Costs range between \$29 and \$69.

● **Hiking Poles.** We bought our first collapsible hiking poles in Garmisch Partenkirchen before walking high into the Bavarian Alps 10 years ago. Thousands of miles later they're as good as new and we never travel far without those German-engineered Leki poles. They've saved our knees, aided balance in tricky situations, and they always give us a feeling of security. Note: Poles should telescope to a size that fits into checked luggage. Available at most outdoor gear stores.

● **Globes.** We've always had a soft spot for globes. And our 30-plus collection today ranges from the classic school tabletop numbers and pencil sharpener globes to a gorgeous number handcrafted from semi-precious stones. The most unusual are often found in antique stores and flea markets. Also check the Longitude Books catalog, 800-342-2164.

● **Travel diary.** A vital accessory on any trip is a notebook for recording thoughts, impressions, meals, prices, addresses, etc. Almost too good to be used are the moleskin pocket numbers used by Bruce Chatwin, Hemingway, van Gogh et al. Sturdily bound in black oilcloth with pages held in place via elastic band, these are now manufactured by Modo & Modo in Italy. We bought our last one in a Florence bookstore, but they are now available in the U.S. through the Longitude catalog (see above). Costs range between \$12 and \$18, according to size.

● **Travel book light.** There's never enough power for us in those bedside lights for proper nighttime reading. And it's not our age. But unless you want to carry your own higher-wattage bulbs, a travel book light is the next best thing. There are many kinds available, but a slim version from TravelSmith that clips onto books and magazines and provides 100 hours of light on a single set of four AAA batteries costs \$35.

● **Travel hair dryer.** One of the most critical items in any woman's luggage is undoubtedly the hair dryer. It's also the one item that seems to cause the most problems. We've seen them catch fire. Blow up. And melt. So when the experienced folks at Travel Essentials call the Voltage Valet the "world's best travel hair dryer," it probably is. Dual voltage, of course, it puts out 1,200 watts and still fits in the palm of your hand. \$29.95 from Travel Essentials, 800-521-6722.

● **Binoculars.** We never travel anywhere without our binoculars; we use them not just for spotting whales and birds and other wildlife, but also for studying items in poorly lit cathedrals and other urban settings. Pocket-sized, 10-powered, and weighing in at just 11 ozs, we've happily owned for many years a pair now offered in the Magellan catalog (800-962-4943); \$45.

● **Print Magnifier.** Trying to read the tiny letters on a road-map or find a subway station in our guide book schematic has become practically impossible. Now, thanks to various print magnifiers, we no longer have to ask small boys for help! A

pop-out magnifier in a protective case that features a bright light and 2X magnification is a lifesaver and available through Magellan for just \$6.85.

● **Swiss Army Knife.** You can never go wrong with a compact multi-function knife that incorporates a bottle opener and corkscrew. One that really caught our eye has 34 different tools ... and at one time or another, we could have used each of them. To fix our eyeglasses, adjust our brakes, cut fingernails, or whatever. The Swiss Army Multi Tool



**HOLLIDAY & FISCHER**

goes for \$75 in the TravelSmith catalog.  
● **Laundry Kit.** We were once

sent a braided rubber washing line by the people from Flexo-Line in Dunbridge, Ohio. We ALWAYS carry their product wherever we go. \$7.85. To make a really practical gift, you could add a flexible sink stopper that will work in all those inefficient foreign bathroom tubs and sinks. \$1.85. Magellan Catalog. Also consider daypacks, fanny packs, cameras, travel mag subscriptions, travel alarms, compact umbrellas, flashlights ... and happy shopping!

## The Blade's Sunday Crossword Puzzle

**COMPLETELY FINISHED**  
By Ed Volle, Gillette, Wyoming

**ACROSS**

- 1 Young bloke
- 4 Caesar's dog
- 9 Weepee
- 16 Recipe amt.
- 19 U.K. honor
- 20 Soap plant
- 21 Florentine painter Paolo
- 22 4th of July, e.g.
- 23 Zich
- 25 Tumor; suff.
- 27 "The Firefly" composer
- 28 Chinese post
- 29 Bnc-a-brac stands
- 31 Relevant; Lat.
- 33 Former D.C. hostess Perle
- 37 Gunshot
- 38 Denmark's islands
- 41 Descendant of Ham
- 43 Practice recycling
- 44 Med. asst.
- 45 Dudley Moore comedy
- 48 "Like a Rock" singer
- 49 Suitable
- 50 Mr. Moneybags

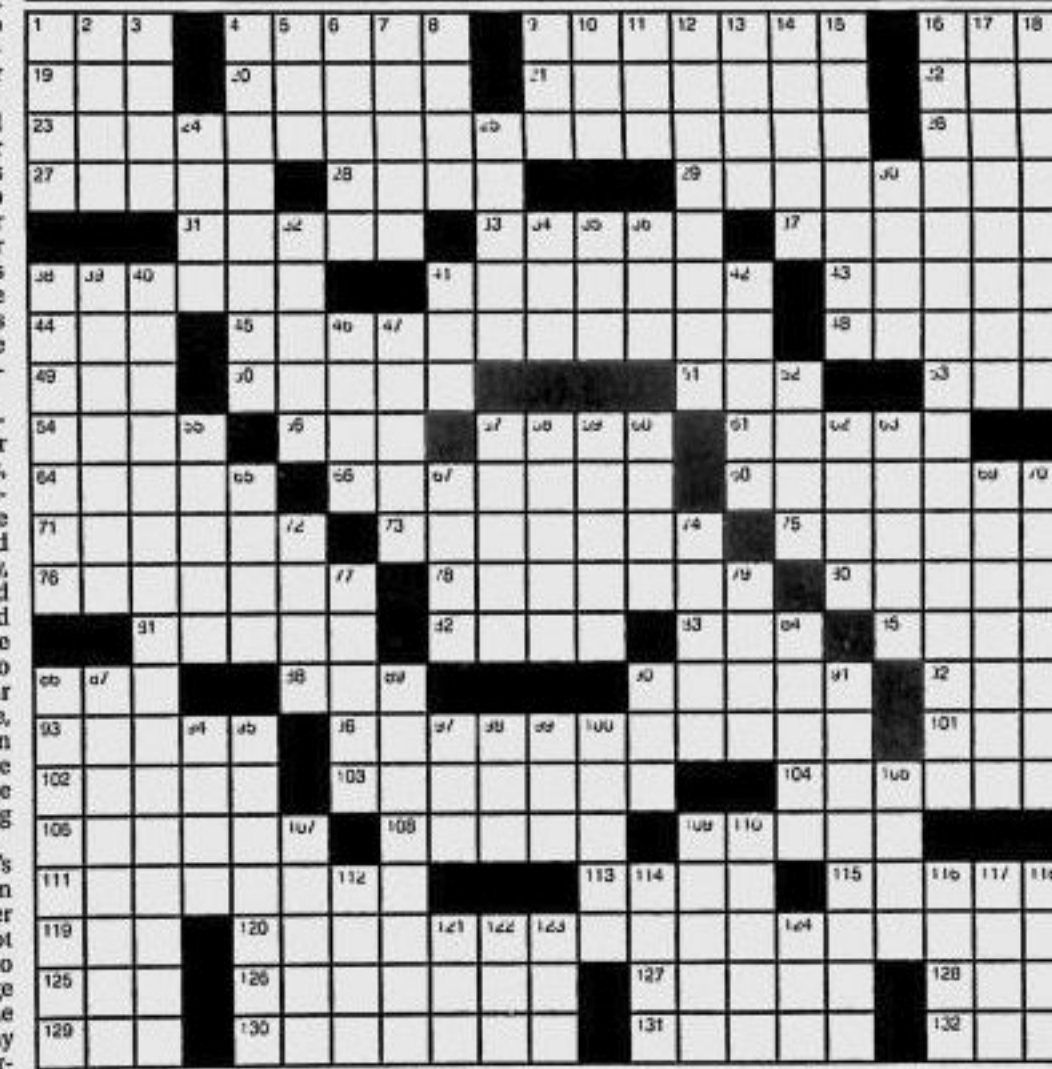
- 51 Letters before AA?
- 53 NYC's Crown or Washington
- 54 Speaker of baseball
- 56 Bic tip
- 57 Invoice stamp
- 61 Acoustic
- 64 Element #5
- 66 Completely
- 68 Closely related group of organisms
- 71 Get back to level
- 73 Name on cakes
- 75 Unanimously
- 76 Samson's undoer
- 78 Completely
- 80 Fairy-tale villain
- 81 Conference site of 1945
- 82 Level
- 83 Mighty long time
- 85 Creative spark
- 86 AOL, e.g.
- 88 The man just mentioned
- 90 Nine; pref.
- 92 & so on & so forth
- 93 Ermine in summer
- 95 Mr. Equipped to the max

- 101 Map abbr.
- 102 Martin's partner
- 103 Tiny moles
- 104 Griffin and Irena
- 106 Author of "Northanger Abbey"
- 108 Plucked sound
- 109 Mode
- 111 Grow without sunlight
- 113 Inter- (among other things)
- 115 Jungian soul
- 119 Ad follower?
- 120 Forever in your debt
- 125 Part of NY's S.I.
- 128 Shiny cotton fabrics
- 127 Marching drum
- 128 Plane ride; abbr.
- 129 Haggard novel
- 130 Went by sleigh
- 131 Storm turns
- 132 Affirmative vote

- 3 Bandleader
- Amaz
- 4 Rapinmand
- 5 Daya River
- 6 Night in Naples
- 7 End of the small intestine
- 8 Ego
- 9 Very large barrel
- 10 "Foucault's Pendulum" writer
- 11 Perform of the Spider Woman
- 12 Warmed up
- 13 Float like a butterfly
- 14 Of an arm bone
- 15 Lumberjacks
- 16 Like Julie's cinematic Milla?
- 17 W. Maugham
- 18 Wall coatings
- 24 Sharif or Epps
- 25 Scrumptious
- 30 Fencing foil
- 32 Actress Ada
- 34 Bookkeeping
- 35 Theater sign's letters

- 36 "My country ... of ..."
- 38 Open truck
- 39 Give thumbs up
- 40 Quite likely
- 41 Clerical vestment
- 42 Cornerstone abbr.
- 46 Final bio?
- 47 Gray wolves
- 52 Business outfit
- 55 Braga of "Kiss of the Spider Woman"
- 57 Book div.
- 58 Winged
- 59 Socker
- 60 Color changer
- 62 Origin
- 63 Video-game name
- 65 Invalid
- 67 Showing strain
- 69 Board of painters
- 70 Intertwines
- 72 Trail
- 74 "Maria ..."
- 77 Center of Bahai faith
- 79 "Cassius has a lean and hungry look"
- 84 Down-and-out

- 86 Shamir and Rabin, e.g.
- 87 Somewhat fat
- 89 Spoke
- Indistinctly
- 90 Dawn goddess
- 91 Fawns over
- 94 Regarding
- 95 Not dressed for success?
- 97 Base
- 98 "Little Women" initials
- 99 Yang partner
- 100 Authorized by law
- 105 Alpha State bird
- 107 Birth-related
- 109 Placards
- 110 "Bulba"
- 112 Head of France
- 114 Disappear, as symptoms
- 116 Doubtful
- 117 Slip-on slipper
- 118 Ski resort near Salt Lake City
- 121 Reverse pic
- 122 Sue Langdon
- 123 Dr. Tim's drug
- 124 Exit



### Answers to Quote-Acrostic Puzzle on Page 2

(Edgar S.) BRIGHTMAN: INDOMITABLE MAN: No totalitarianism, no wars, fears, famines or perils of any kind can really break man's spirit until he breaks it himself by surrendering. Tyranny has many dread powers, but not the power to rule the spirit.

- A. Briolotte
- B. Rob Roy
- C. Indwail
- D. Guanoosy
- E. Harrow
- F. Topiary
- G. Mawwash
- H. Aquathly
- I. Nattur
- J. Inettible
- K. Nurse
- L. Dry run
- M. Officors
- N. Military
- O. Indult
- P. Tashkent
- Q. Apartments
- R. Brnk
- S. Loath
- T. Ensmans
- U. Marooned
- V. Assassin
- W. Nippors



### Answers on Page X

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