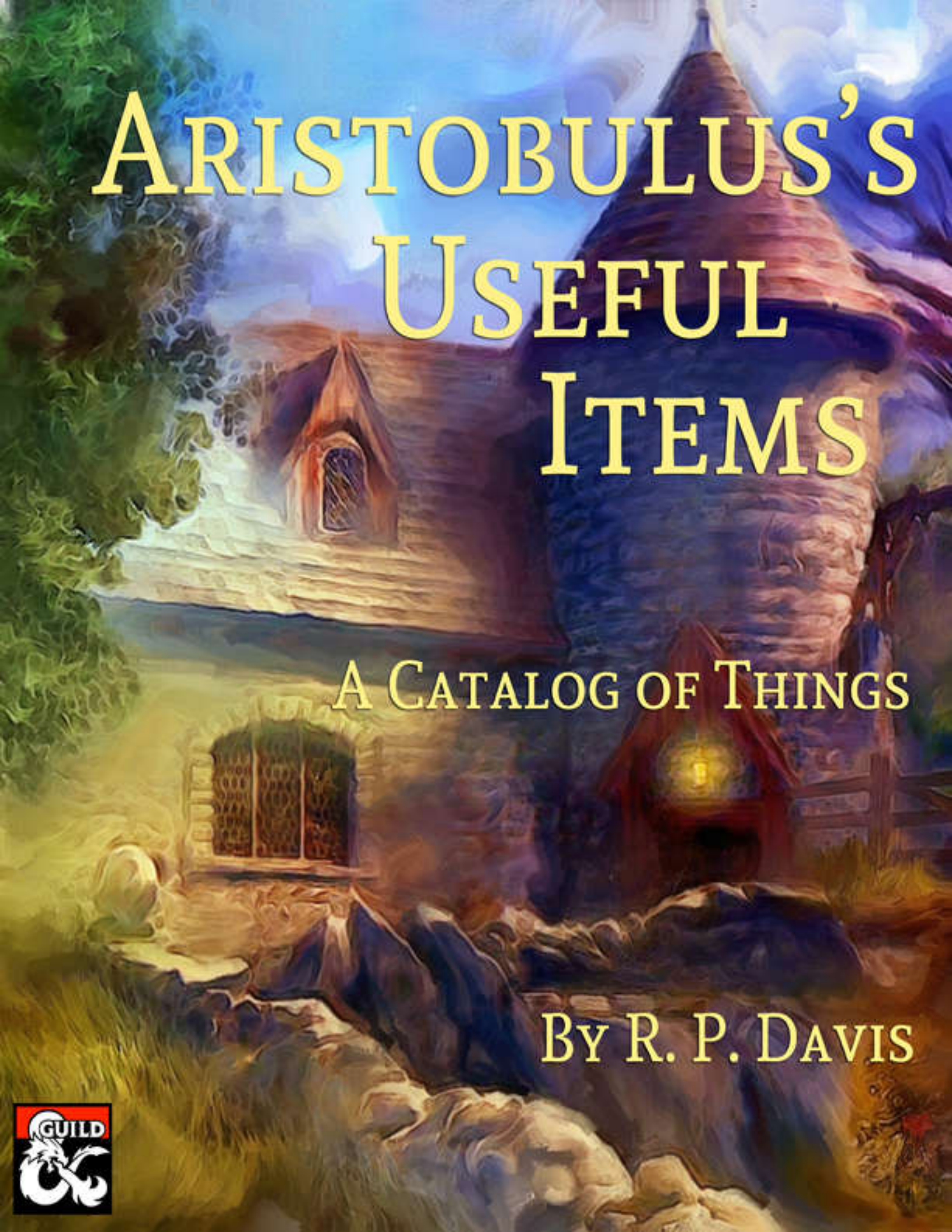




ARISTOBULUS'S USEFUL ITEMS

A CATALOG OF THINGS

BY R. P. DAVIS



ARISTOBULUS'S USEFUL ITEMS

Being a listing of magical items of interest to the interested party who wishes to make his life more bearable in his own home.

DOMESTIC BLISS CAN BE YOURS!

Magic items are, in some worlds in this wondrous multiverse visited by your correspondent, plentiful. Plentiful such that they abound. Indeed, on some worlds physical shops exist wherein hardy souls may purchase magic items at whim.

I have seen many lists of such items. When one reads lists of magic items, one is astounded to learn that most if not all are if not weapons at least *weaponized*. Many are fell and dangerous, full of fury, useful only to a hardy soul who lives a life of constant danger and sacrifice.

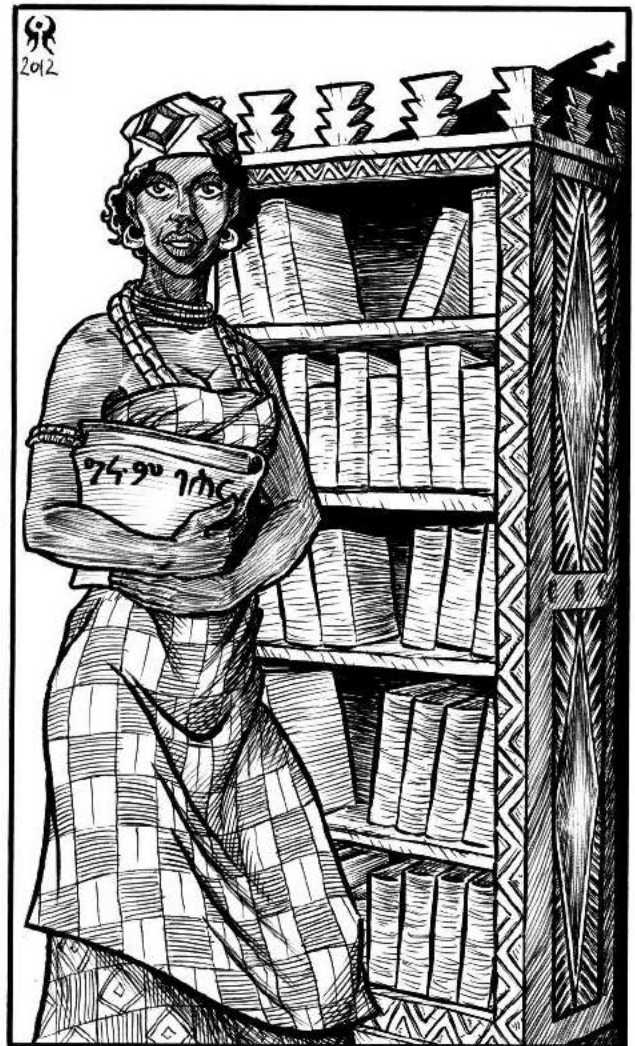
One of my many sojourns into hitherto unknown planes and worlds led me to a place wherein the folk were not unlike us, but had marvelous, wondrous things which, to my examining eye, were magic items of great power. But to them the devices were of entirely of artifice, devoid of magic at all, instead being clockwork or powered by lightning. While some of these were artifacts of great might of use to adventurers, the majority of them – and the number I personally observed was vast – were merely designed to increase the comfort of the lives of their users.

Having returned hither after many trials, sore beset by tribulation, upon my recovery I purposed to devise a manner in which magic can be harnessed for peaceful, benign, domestic uses. My devices, listed hereunder, are the result of many years of putting into practice that arcane art I learned on that other word, called by them "research and development." I can therefore personally guarantee them to work as intended. We – my partners, apprentices, assistants, artificers, and I – think your life will be eased by their use. If not, please return them to Aristobulus's Artificers, at the sign of the Blue Slipper, Mhaer's Alley, Trade Ward, Waterdeep. You will be given a full refund.

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USEFUL ITEMS

COZY SLIPPERS

These fine silk slippers will magically ensure your feet remain snug and comfortably warm even in the depths of the coldest winter. You'll be shocked that slippers this thin – really, they're like a second skin – can be this warm! **25gp**

BROOM OF TIDYING

Speak the command word and the *Broom* will sweep even the toughest dirt from your cottage's floor! Put your feet up (in your Cozy Slippers!) and save time. **100gp**

POULTICE OF POLISHING

Put this magic cream to work on your household silver! Simply wipe the paste onto your fine tableware and speak the command words, and you'll be ready for company in no time. One flask of the Poultice is sufficient for a metal table setting for six. **10gp per flask**

CHAMOIS OF SHINING

Magically smooth and bring to luster your fine woodwork, stone, leather, or ceramic household items! From your best boots to your boudoir mirror, the Chamois will bring out its inner beauty. Just drape the Chamois over the thing you want to shine and speak the command word. **25gp**

ARISTOBULUS'S STITCHEROO

The device that started it all! Simply put this device on your table next to your clothes that need mending, and speak the command word. Your torn trousers will be good as new before you know it! **250gp**

GARLIN'S GATHERER

The device which followed the Stitcheroo! After the first Stitcheroo prototype shot a box of pins onto the floor (don't worry, we've got that all sorted out!), we needed a way to magically gather those pesky pins back up. Second Apprentice Garlin came up with this whiz-bang device to do it – just speak the command word and specify what you want it to gather, and it'll magically collect every piece of that item into a heap next to the Gatherer. **125gp**

ELYON'S EXTERMINATOR

Who hasn't had fly trouble? Aristobulus's apprentice Elyon sure did, so he created this Exterminator! Just point it at any small pest – like a fly, beetle, wasp, or the like, even a nest of ants – and speak the command word. Zap! Good riddance! **150gp**

ARISTOBULUS'S SPICEROO

Everyone knows Aristobulus likes a good meal. Sometimes, though, it's not *just* right, and only needs a little of that special something to make it perfect. If you have a Spiceroo in your kitchen, you're set! Just hold it over the dish you wish to enhance, speak the command word along with the type of spice you want, and give it a shake. From allspice to za'atar, you'll have it in Aristobulus's Spiceroo! Each spied type requires one activation to invoke, and you'll need to reload it after 50 uses. Reload kits sold separately. **200gp**

GNYMMET'S COLORIZER

Colors too dingy? Have your reds faded to pink? Just point Gnymmet's Colorizer at them! All you have to do is speak the command word and specify the color you want, and the Colorizer will do the rest. A full month's worth of long-lasting color for only **75gp**

TONLAY'S SHOW IN A BOX

The life of a traveling bard is tough. Rough inns, jaded locals demanding popular but boring tunes. Aristobulus's old friend Tonlay asked for a whiz-bang device that any performer could use to take their act to the next level. When R&D was finished, they had this wondrous box. A sleek, wooden box, all the bard has to do is step on different areas to activate one of three different effects:

1. Colored lights. One or more globes of colored light spring into existence. Each activation brings forth two 6" diameter globes of random colors, which dance and swirl around the performer. The globes remain for one minute.
2. Mist. The immediate area of the box is filled with a foggy haze. Works best with the lights dancing through it.
3. Two-DeeLusion. An Aristobulus Exclusive! When the performer activates this effect, a two-dimensional illusion is cast on the wall or backdrop behind her. This illusion can be whatever she imagines or brings to mind when the Box is activated.

All of this entertainment for only **1000gp!?** Only from Aristobulus!

FIRELIGHTER

Our most popular item by far! When you need to light your fire, a candle, or your pipe, just pull out this carved bone tube, speak the command word, and a small flame will jet from one end. Households from Lyrabar to New Sarshel rely on Firelighters to do the small jobs for them! **10gp**

LOUDHAILER

Another early addition to the line, the Loudhailer is the easy, effortless way to get someone's attention. Just put this bone tube to your lips, concentrate on how loudly you want to whistle, and blow. That hansom cab that's all the way on the other side of the marketplace will surely come right over! **15gp**

INSTANT FINDER OF THINGS

If you're like Aristobulus, you're always mislaying important small things. From your keys to your coin purse, sometimes your mind wanders, and you need a sure-fire way to put your hands on your stuff. Add an IFOT to your key ring, and you're set! Just hold out your hand with a flourish and speak the command word. Whatever the IFOT is attached to - provided it can fit in your outstretched hand - will instantly appear. **100gp**

FEATHERS OF DUSTING

Fine, downy goose feathers set into a polished wooden handle, the *Feathers* are the perfect companion to the *Broom of Tidying*. The *Feathers* are also as simple to use. Simply give them a wave while you speak the command word, and the *Feathers* spring to life, removing all the fine dust and tiny particles of grime from your fine furniture. **50gp**

LEDGER OF LEGERDEMAIN

If you run a shop, you keep detailed records. Make your accounting easier with the *Ledger*! The *Ledger* magically and automatically tallies up each column on each page, with a running total the bottom of each page and a grand total on the last page. Recommended by many tax authorities along the Sword Coast, including Waterdeep, because it doesn't lie. **250gp**

CHILLINGSTICK

If you hate warm ale, you'll love the *Chillingstick*! Simply place the magical metal rod in your tankard and speak the command word. In seconds your drink will be at the perfect temperature. **10gp**

WARMINGSTICK

Tepid tea? Warm it to the perfect temperature in seconds with the *Warmingstick*! Simply place the magical metal rod in your tea mug and speak the magic words to activate it. **10gp**

ARISTOBULUS'S BAG O' GAGS

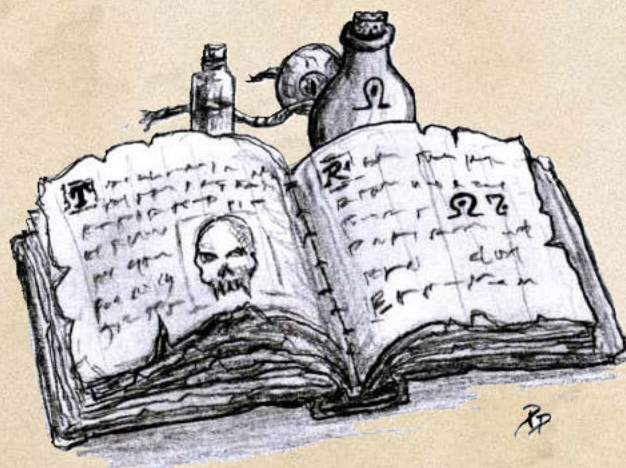
Make your next party a hilarious hit with the *Bag o' Gags*! Just put this cloth bag near the guest of honor's chair, start whispering magic words, and watch the fun. Effects include: Belch, blink, giggle, nod, sneeze, yawn, break wind. **200gp**

Note: some adventurers thought to try the *Bag o' Gags* on their trip to a lair of spell casters, thinking the effects would break their enemies' concentration. It didn't. Only one of them survived to tell the tale. See our Disclaimer.

Note: Aristobulus's Artificers cannot be held liable for any social gaffes arising from the use of the *Bag o' Gags*. If your father kicks you out of the dwarf clan for turning his chair into a whoopee cushion, it's your responsibility. See our Disclaimer.

WAND OF OPENING

Jammed jars and troublesome containers are a trial. Reduce your effort with the *Wand of Opening*! Simply point the *Wand* and your recalcitrant receptacle and speak the command words. Wine bottles, jars of preserves, stubborn knots on parcels, as long as it's not padlocked or *wizard locked*, the *Wand* will open it in no time. **50gp**



DIARY OF DISCRETION

Keeping a journal is an intensely personal affair. Protect your secrets with the *Diary*! The *Diary* is a leather-bound book with fine paper pages. The cover

is fitted with a metal clasp. When the *Diary* is attuned to its owner, the clasp will only unlock when touched by its attuned owner. Moreover, if someone uses magic to defeat the clasp, they will find that whatever is written in the *Diary* can only be read by its attuned owner; any unauthorized reader will see only gibberish. **500gp**

Note: The safeguards of the *Dairy* are not proof against more-powerful magic; therefore we cannot be liable for secrets lost from a *Diary*. See our Disclaimer.

KETTLE OF TEA MAKING

This simple yet elegant magic crock will bring one quart of room-temperature water to a boil in less than five minutes. For best results, use the *Kettle* with our *Warmingstick* to keep your tea piping hot for hours. **75gp**

SELF-CLEANING CHAMBERPOT

Let's face it - dealing with a chamberpot is nobody's idea of a lovely job first thing in the morning. Plus, getting the contents of a chamberpot dumped on your hat as you're walking down the street is decidedly unpleasant. How much nicer would it be for householders and pedestrians alike if every household had a *Self-cleaning Chamberpot*? Comes with it's own cabinet of easement, complete with comfortable padded seat. When you close the lid after easing your distress, your leavings are magically whisked away, leaving no mess, no odors, and no need to clean it. **500gp**

EVERLASTING BOG ROLL

Developed to accompany the *Chamberpot*, if you keep a *Roll* beside your cabinet of easement you need never worry about running short of sanitary paper ever again! Provides enough soft, cushiony paper for four human-sized beings to enjoy three trips to the chamberpot per day, so if you think you'll need more, get two; at these prices you'd be mad not to. **25gp**

Also makes great tinder for your fireplace or hearth!

RING AGAINST THIEVERY

After losing one too many coin pouches to pickpockets last Shieldmeet, Aristobulus set to work devising a simple way to secure his valuables. Now, with the *Ring*, you too can protect yourself!

While awake, wearing, and attuned to the *Ring*, whenever someone tries to cut your purse or pick your pocket the *Ring* will alert you by a sharp pinch on the finger on which you wear the *Ring*. This will

afford ample opportunity to confront your assailant and defend your property. **375gp**

RAIN-PROOF HAT

The last thing a busy person needs is to get drenched in a sudden downpour. Prevent this annoyance with one of our *Rain-proof Hats*! Wearing this broad-brimmed felt hat will protect the wearer from ten minutes of non-magical rain. Though all around you is soaking, sopping wet, you and whatever you wear or carry will remain dry, so long as you wear the *Hat*. **100gp**



PUDDLE-PROOF BOOTS

The only thing worse than a wet head during a downpour is wet feet after that downpour. Prevent that annoyance by donning a pair of our *Puddle-proof Boots*! These over-the-ankle boots are made of fine, hand-stitched leather by the finest cordwainers in Waterdeep, then taken to our shop where we magic them to stay dry even if you stand in a stream. **100gp**

SALE! Buy the *Puddle-proof Boots* together with a *Rain-proof Hat* and save ! **175 gp for the set!**

CRYSTAL OF MAKING SMALL THINGS LARGER

As we age, our eyesight can suffer. The ability to discern detail is a common ailment. This magical *Crystal* fixes that. Simply clamp the *Crystal's* wire suspension on the bridge of your nose and peer through it at the small thing you wish to see clearly. The magic of the *Crystal* will increase its size - to your eye - letting you examine it as closely as you like. Fast becoming popular with jewelers, too! **225gp**

NEW! VISITOR'S GUIDEMAP OF WATERDEEP

We are proud to introduce the newest Useful Item, perfect for those new to our great City of Waterdeep! Made of fine, exotic woods, the *Guide* appears to be a normal, mundane wax tablet. When opened by its attuned owner, the *Guide* magically springs to life, showing the owner where he or she is on a map of the City. When using the *Guide*, the attuned owner can ask it for information in the form of simple questions, such as:

- Where is the nearest Watch station?
- Where is the nearest dwarf pub?
- Where is the nearest temple of Chauntea? The *Guide* will show that location as well as your location, with the most direct route from you to there. The perfect companion to your visit, or to help you settle in after moving to our fair City of Splendors! **789gp**

Note: We cannot control the neighborhoods through which the *Guide* might send you. You assume all liability for following the *Guide*'s directions, including all losses to thieves and muggers. See our Disclaimer.

KETTLE OF SUSTENANCE

It's not easy to feed yourself while traveling. Heavy pots and pans, carrying the raw materials for cooking, foraging for food; all that time, effort, and space wasted. Make life on the road in your merchant caravan a life of ease with a Kettle of Sustenance! Just put it on the fire, add water, and speak the command word. As soon as it comes to a boil you'll have enough tasty porridge to feed six people! **350gp**

P.S. - If the Kettle's porridge is too bland for you, kick it up a notch with Aristobulus's Spiceroo!

ARISTOBULUS'S COOKEROO

Finally, a help to every household! And - don't look now - the only thing in this catalog that *isn't* actually magic. But you'll *think* it is, because it's a wonder!

Perfected by the finest craftsgnomes on the Sword Coast, the Cookeroo consists of a metal apparatus and a series of lamp wicks. Simply suspend the Cookeroo over a bucket of lamp oil, using the supplied mounting kit. Put your pot on the included cooking grate, and you'll have a steaming boil in no time!

And what a way to regulate heat! No more scorching yourself moving hot ironmongery around your hearth! If your recipe calls for *ßimmer*, all you need to do is snuff out a few wicks using the included snuffer. That's it!

Perfect for town or country dwellings. **100gp**

Add a year's supply of lamp oil (10 gallons) for only **10gp**

Add a traveling frame for when you're on the road for a mere **50gp**

Note: This product is a fire hazard. Aristobulus's Useful Items is not responsible for the result of accidental or intentional misuse! See our Disclaimer, above.



UNBREAKABLE CIPHER

Used by organizations across the settled lands of Faerûn, from Neverwinter to Calimport, from Mintarn to Uthmere! Governments and guilds alike enjoy secure communications with our Unbreakable Cipher. Comprised of a pair of wooden boxes, each magically keyed to the other - and no other - all you have to do is write your message on a sheet of paper, place it in your box, and speak the command word. When you remove the letter, the message will have been scrambled into unbreakable gibberish which can only be

read after the recipient puts the letter into his copy of the box and speaks the command word. **1000gp**

RING OF TEMPERATE COMFORT

Are you on the road for tendays at a stretch? The roads of Faerûn are long, and many are the times you won't be able to find an inn in which to find lodgings. But who really *enjoys* camping? It's either too cold or too hot. That's why we developed the Ring of Temperate Comfort! As long as you're attuned to and wearing the Ring, you'll feel like you're enjoying a warm spring morning - neither too cold nor too hot. It even works while you're asleep! **100gp**



INSTANT RUST REMOVER

Did your maille get moist? Sword get soggy? Getting rid of those pesky little spots of rust is a trial, and if you don't, soon your valuable metalwork will fall apart! Say "Enough!" to elbow grease and barrels of sand. Get our Instant Rust Remover! Just pile all your metal in one place like the picture, put the

elegant wooden box containing the Remover in the middle of the pile, open the lid, and speak the command word. Overnight, the Remover will take care of the rest!

10 uses for only **25gp!**

HOW TO ORDER

You can find Aristobulus's Useful Items all over the Sword Coast! The best place to browse our wares is in our Waterdeep showroom and manufactory, at the sign of the Blue Slipper, Mhaer's Alley, Trade Ward, Waterdeep.

We have representatives and franchisees from Neverwinter to Calimport, as well as from Suzail to Tel-flamm, who will be happy to take your order. In fact, if you're reading this, there's bound to be one close by! That person's details are written below.

Your order, payment, and personal details will be magically and securely transmitted to our headquarters and manufactory in Waterdeep, where your item(s) will be made by hand and dispatched to your AUI representative, from whom you can collect it in six to eight tendays.

Just seek out the person below and **start making your life easier with Aristobulus's Useful Items!**

Your Representative:

Name:

Location:



THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING ARISTOBULUS'S USEFUL ITEMS! HAVE A NICE DAY!

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