Introduction by Jay Newman. Originally published in Uncle John's Factastic Bathroom Reader. Not for sale or reprint. Copyright © 2015 Portable Press.



## Uncle John's 28th Fact-troduction

elcome one and all to our 28th annual edition—*Uncle John's* FACTASTIC Bathroom Reader! Happy to have you with us. Now, in keeping with the book's theme, let me start off this year's introduction with a VSF (Very Special Fact):

The most valuable bathtub in the world is valued at \$5 million. It is solid gold.

That was our very first "running foot"—the little fact that ran underneath the very first article in the very first *Uncle John's Bathroom Reader*, published way back in 1988.

And the fact that we're still around 28 years later is a testament to the power of great facts. They truly are the building blocks of *Uncle John's Bathroom Reader*, the atoms that bind this whole series together. You'll find thousands of facts throughout this book on everything from anatomy to baseball to ballet to whatever else piques our curiosity.

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And to pique *your* curiosity, we thought we'd do something a little different this year and riffle through the manuscript and find some fascinating facts to share right here. (Because, after all, I'm not just the boss of the Bathroom Readers' Institute, I'm also a fan.) So here goes.

• Flipping to "3-D Printing" on page 191, you'll read that **NASA uses 3-D printers to make pizzas for astronauts.** 

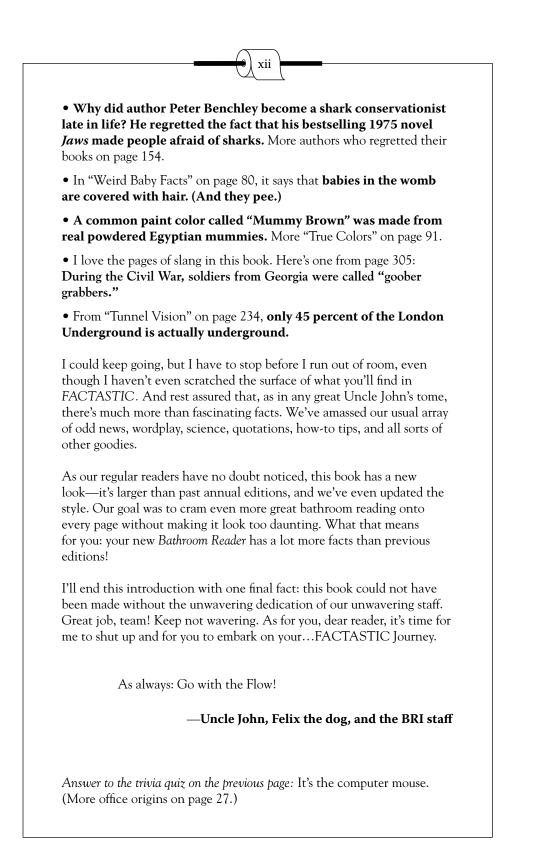
• From page 177, "The Only Two States": **The only two states** where you can't pump your own gas are New Jersey and Oregon. (Another fun fact: Uncle John's never pumped gas—he grew up in New Jersey and now lives in Oregon.)

• Trivia quiz: What ubiquitous piece of technology was patented in the 1960s as an "X/Y Position Indicator"? (Answer on next page.)

• The guy who invented the game Operation was so broke late in his life that he couldn't afford an...operation. More ironies on page 114.

• For history buffs, on page 131 is the inspiring story of J. E. Hanger the first Civil War soldier to lose a leg—who invented the modern prosthetic limb.

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