

We send your luggage in all directions.

From the *Globe and Mail*, Sept 22, 1990

Public notices posted in various countries for the benefit (or consternation) of English-speaking visitors. [My own commentary is added in square brackets.]

Hotel in Bucharest: The lift is being fixed for the next day. During that time we regret that you will be unbearable.

Hotel elevator, Belgrade: To move the cabin, push button for wishing floor. If the cabin should enter more persons, each one should press a number of wishing floor. Driving is then going alphabetically by national order. [I guess this must have been one of Slobodan's national orders.]

Hotel, Japan: You are invited to take advantage of the chambermaid.

Hotel, Moscow, opposite an Orthodox monastery: You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Soviet composers are buried daily except Thursdays.

Restaurant menu, Switzerland: Our wines leave you nothing to hope for. [And then some.]

Hotel menu, Poland: Salad a firm's own make; limpid red beet soup with cheesy dumplings in the form of a finger; roasted duck let loose; beef rashers beaten up in the country people's fashion. [Basil Fawlty himself could not have said it better.]

Dry cleaners, Bangkok: Drop your trousers here for best results.

Dress shop, Hong Kong: Ladies have fits upstairs. [Yes, and sometimes downstairs, too, I'll bet.]

From the *Soviet Weekly*: There will be a Moscow exhibition of arts by 15,000 Soviet Republic painters and sculptors. These were executed over the past two years. [The Soviet system may indeed have been more prodigious than we had previously given it credit for.]

Detour sign in Japan: Stop. Drive sideways.

Hotel, Vienna: In case of fire, do your best to alarm the hotel porter. [Wake him if necessary.]

Hotel, Zurich: Because of the impropriety of entertaining guests of the opposite sex in the bedroom, it is suggested that the lobby be used for this purpose. [They should get some Japanese chambermaids to sort this out. Mind you, they don't object to entertaining guests of the same sex in the bedroom.]

Advertisement for a Hong Kong dentist: Teeth extracted by the latest Methodists. [Do Anabaptists get two extracted for the price of one?]

Advertisement for a furrier shop, Sweden: Fur coats made for ladies from their own skin. [Sorry, only one per customer.]

On the box of a clockwork toy made in Hong Kong: Guaranteed to work throughout its useful life. [And not a minute longer.]

On a box of Christmas tree lights: Only for use indoors or outdoors. [Strictly nowhere else!]

Mountain inn, Switzerland: Special today--no ice cream. [Yes, we have no bananas today.]

Hotel, Moscow: if this is your first visit to the USSR, you are welcome to it.

Bar, Norway: Ladies asked not to have children in bar. [Hey, I know a hotel in Zurich where you can do that in the lobby!]

Zoo, Budapest: Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.

Doctor's office, Rome: Specialist in women and other diseases. [Sometimes they have fits upstairs, or so I'm told anyway.]

Rental car brochure, Tokio: When passenger of foot have in sight, tootle the horn. Trumpet him melodiously at first, but if he still obstacles your passage, then tootle him with vigor. [And if that don't work, beat him up in the country people's fashion.]

And finally, this sign was seen in a UK restroom which was being cleaned: WET FLOOR (this is not an instruction). [Do not obey this notice.]