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« DIE BASLER FÄHRE – EIN NEUES KINDERSPIELZEUG

Traum vieler Kinder in Basel ist es, «Fährima» zu werden und im kleinen überdachten Weidling von einem Ufer des Rheins zum andern zu fahren. Heute werden noch drei Fähren zwischen den vielbefahrenen Brücken betrieben; zum Genussreichsten eines beschaulichen Spazierganges im Zentrum der Stadt gehört es, sich übersetzen zu lassen und von der Mitte des majestätisch dahinziehenden Stromes die Altstadt und das aufragende Münster zu betrachten. Die Basler Fähren überqueren das Wasser ohne Ruder und ohne Motor; es sind «Gierfähren» (Gier von niederdeutsch giren = wenden), die an einem zwischen beiden Ufern gespannten Seil von der Strömung bewegt werden.

Das technische Prinzip fasziniert grosse und kleine Kinder; kein Wunder, dass die Spielzeugfähre, die der Verkehrsverein Basel entwickelt hat, auch in Bächen und Kanälen – zum Entzücken der Basler Kinder – hin- und herpendelt. Photo P. und E.Merkle

LES BACS DE BÂLE – UN JOUET POUR PETITS ET GRANDS

Le rêve des enfants bâlois, c'est d'être un jour passeur et de conduire l'une des trois nacelles qui, malgré les nombreux ponts, vont encore d'une rive à l'autre. Quoi de plus beau qu'une traversée du fleuve majestueux, dans la seule rumeur du courant! Les bacs naviguent sans moteur; rattachés à un câble lancé par-dessus le Rhin, ils sont mus par le mouvement des eaux. Cette technique, si simple, si ingénieuse (et l'on ne sait combien de fois centenaire) fascine petits et grands. A tel point que le Syndicat d'initiative de Bâle a fait confectionner des modèles de ces bacs, qui fonctionnent fort bien sur l'un de nos ruisseaux. Il n'est aucun visiteur de Bâle qui ne cède aux tentations de cette romantique navigation. Contemplée du milieu du fleuve, la masse de la «Pfalz» et de la cathédrale laisse une impression inoubliable.

LA «CHIATTA DI BASILEA» – UN NUOVO GIOCATTOLO

A Basilea, i bambini sognano di diventare «Fährima» (voce dialettale che significa traghettatore), e di far la spola, col barcone coperto, dall'una all'altra sponda del Reno. Presentemente, nonostante i numerosi ponti, sul fiume fanno ancora servizio tre chiatte: quella nel cuore della città offre ai turisti l'occasione diletta d'abbracciare in un sol colpo d'occhio, dal centro del maestoso fiume, i quartieri antichi e la cattedrale. Le chiatte si muovono senza soccorso di remi o di motore: sono «Gierfähren» (dal basso tedesco giren = virare, girare), imbarcazioni, cioè, che – attaccate a un cavo teso fra le due sponde – si muovono sfruttando la forza della corrente.

L'ingegnosa semplicità di questo mezzo di trasporto affascina grandi e piccini: nessuna meraviglia, perciò, che la chiatte-giocattolo ideata dall'Azienda basiliense di soggiorno, ad imitazione di quelle che solcano il Reno, abbia incontrato molto favore e compaia ora in canali e corsi d'acqua minori.

THE BASEL FERRY—A NEW TOY FOR THE CHILDREN

The dream of many children in Basel is to become a "Fährima" (ferryman) and to ply back and forth across the Rhine in a small covered skiff. At the present time three ferries still operate among the busy bridges; one of the most enjoyable features of a promenade in the centre of the city is a ride on one of the ferries; from the middle of the majestically rushing river one has a splendid view of the Old Town and the towering Cathedral. The Basel ferries cross the water without rudders and without engines; they are "Gierfähren"—turning-ferries (Gier derived from Low German giren = to turn), which are attached to a cable suspended between the riverbanks and powered by the force of the river.

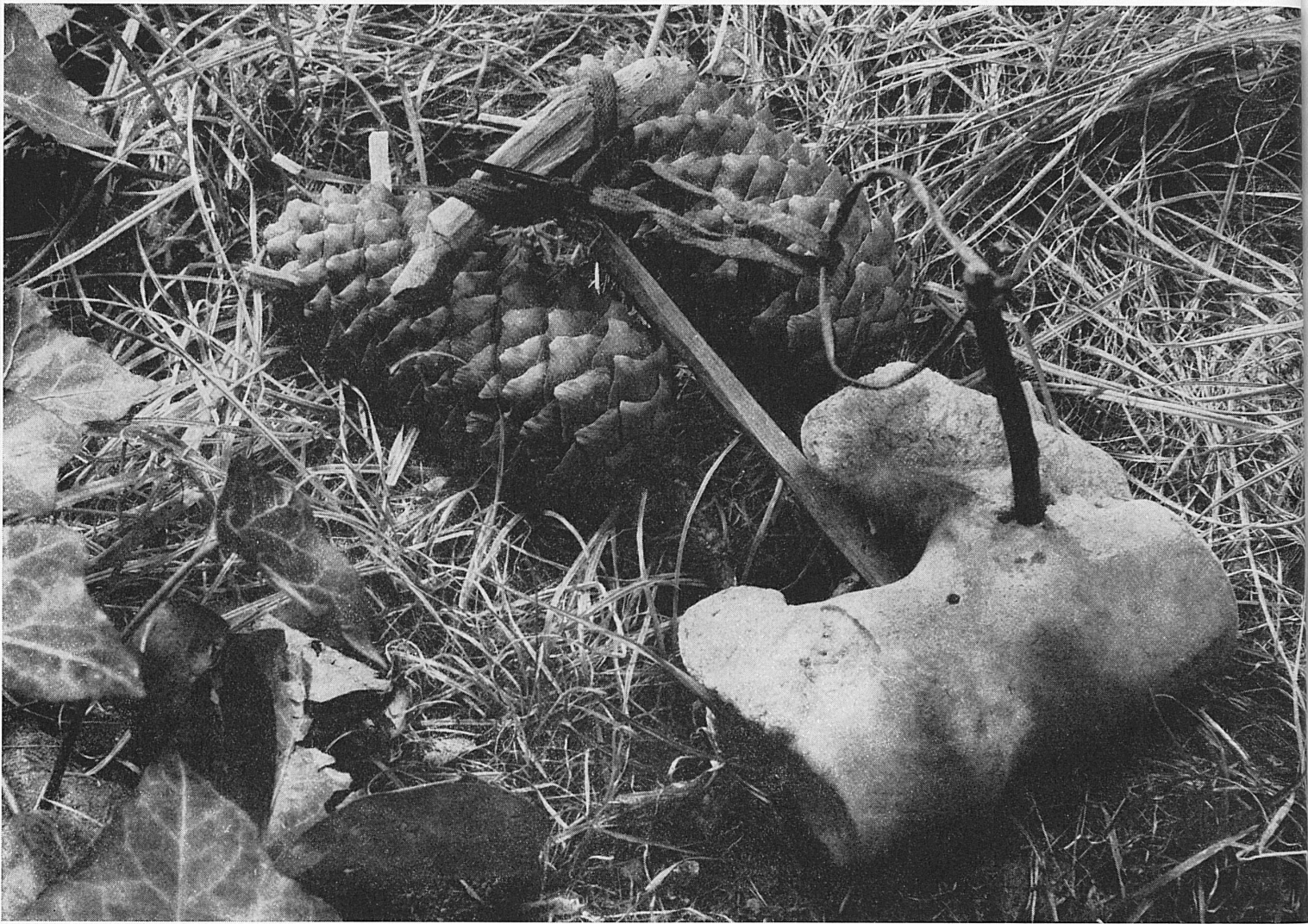
The technical principle involved fascinates children of all ages. No wonder the toy ferries, which have been developed by the Basel Tourist Association, can be seen plying even brooks and canals—to the delight of the Basel children.

ALPINES UND ANDERES SPIELZEUG

IM SCHWEIZERISCHEN MUSEUM FÜR VOLKSKUNDE
BASEL



Holzpuppe aus Tschierfs im Münstertal, Graubünden
Poupée de bois de Tschierfs, vallée de Münster, Grisons
Bambola di legno. Proviene da Tschierfs, in Val Monastero, nei Grigioni
Muñeca de madera, procedente de Tschierfs, en el Val Müstair
(cantón de los Grisons)
Wooden doll from Tschierfs in the Münster Valley, Grisons



Wagen mit Gespann aus Rofna im Kreis Oberhalbstein, Graubünden. Tannzapfen dienen als Kühe, ein Knochen wird Wagen und ein Hölzchen der Fuhrmann

Voiture avec attelage, de Rofna, cercle de Oberhalbstein, Grisons. L'imagination a transformé, comme dans les contes de fées, deux pommes de pin en vaches; un os est devenu la voiture et un morceau de bois le cocher

Carro con tiro. Proviene da Rofna, nel distretto di Oberhalbstein, Grigioni. Per virtù trasfiguratrice della fantasia, due pigne diventano mucche, un osso fa da carro, un pezzetto di legno da conducente

Carro con yunta, procedente de Rofna, en el distrito de Oberhalbstein (cantón de los Grisons). Las piñas representan las vacas, un hueso se convierte en carro y un trocito de madera es el cochero

Waggon with span from Rofna in the Oberhalbstein district, Grisons. Fir cones serve as cows, a bone becomes a waggon and a stick the driver

ALPINES UND ANDERES SPIELZEUG

Unsere Aufnahmen zeigen vor allem alpines Kinderspielzeug aus der eindrücklichen Sammlung des Schweizerischen Museums für Volkskunde in Basel, weisen aber zudem auf weitere Spielzeugbestände dieses bedeutenden Institutes hin. – Ein Stücklein Holz, ein Tannzapfen oder Tierknochen, Leder- und Stoffabfälle, ein geworfener Draht, Schnüre und Nägel, dazu ein Taschenmesser und vielleicht noch anderes Werkzeug aus dem Schopf, was braucht es mehr, um ein Spielzeug herzustellen; das übrige besorgt die kindliche Phantasie. In Spielzeugen überdauerten Urformen von Gebrauchsgegenständen die Zeiten, leben Pfeil und Bogen der Naturvölker in zivilisierten Zonen weiter. Das Kinderspielzeug der Alpenbevölkerung, wie wir ihm heute noch begegnen können, sieht wohl nicht viel anders aus als jenes, mit dem sich die kleinen Urbewohner schweizerischer Bergtäler die Zeit vertrieben haben. Die Kinder bauen ihre Pferche, ahmen die elterliche Arbeit im Stall und auf der Weide nach. Die Kolonnen der Saumtiere über Alpenpässe fanden ihre Nachbildungen von Kinderhand. Aus gegabelten Ästchen wird Hornvieh, Rindenabschürfungen charakterisieren Arten des Fleckviehs, und oft sind es auch nur bunte Steinchen aus

den Betten der Wildbäche, die zum Spielen anregen. Vielleicht tun das auch unsere Bildseiten im Dienste der Feriengäste; mögen sie grosse und kleine Kinder aus dem Plasticzeitalter mit seinen Massen-Spielzeugartikeln in eine phantasiefördernde Naturnähe zurückführen.

JOUETS DES ALPES ET D'AILLEURS

Nos photos représentent des jouets des collections du Musée ethnographique de Bâle, en particulier ceux qui font la joie des enfants dans les hautes vallées. D'aucuns les qualifieront de primitifs. Mais n'est-ce pas ceux qu'on aime le mieux? Un morceau de bois, une pomme de pin, un os, un chiffon suffisent; l'imagination fait le reste. Les jouets assurent la survivance d'auxiliaires de la vie quotidienne depuis longtemps disparus; l'arc et la flèche des peuplades primitives restent à l'honneur. Aujourd'hui encore, les jouets des enfants des hautes vallées ne diffèrent guère de ceux qui étaient en usage il y a quelques siècles. L'enfant continue à imiter le travail des parents: il construit des étables, des enclos, recrée les animaux

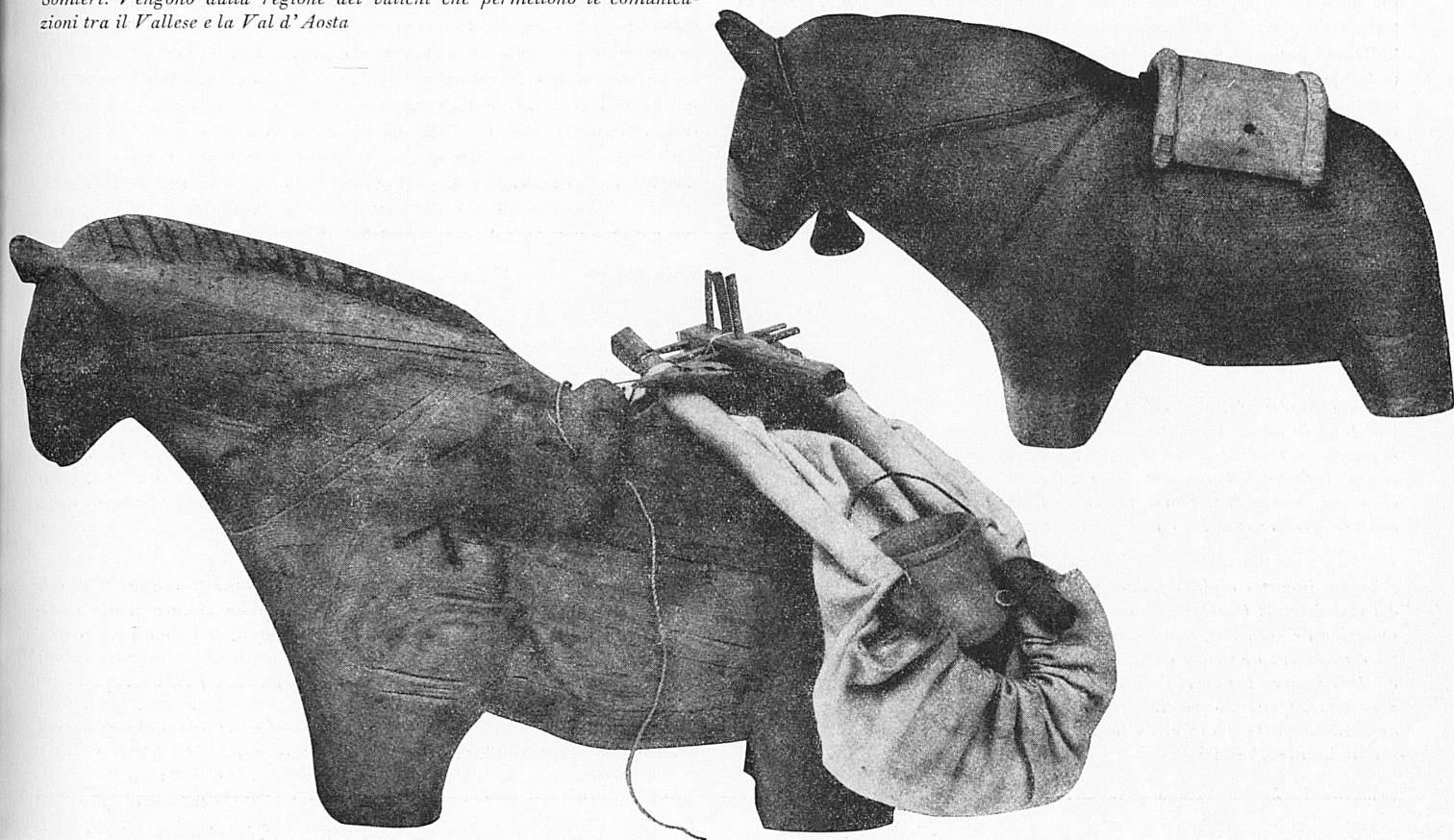
Saumtiere – ein Spielzeug aus dem Bereich der Alpenübergänge vom Wallis ins Aostatal

Mulets – jouets de la région des cols qui conduisent du Valais dans la Vallée d'Aoste

Somieri. Vengono dalla regione dei valichi che permettono le comunicazioni tra il Vallese e la Val d'Aosta

Mulas. Un juguete procedente de la región fronteriza suiza (cantón del Valais) de los puertos alpinos que atraviesan el valle de Aosta

Pack animals—toys from the region of the passes leading from the Valais into the Aosta Valley



qui l'entourent avec les moyens primitifs dont il dispose: des morceaux d'écorce ou de bois, les pierres colorées des torrents. Et toutes ces créations individuelles, fruits de l'imagination et de la poésie, exécutées avec amour et patience vivent d'une vie autrement intense que les jouets en matières plastiques, interchangeables et anonymes, que l'industrie lance sur le marché. Ces images ne sont-elles pas de nature à inciter à la réflexion?

GIOCATTOLI DELLE ALPI E D'ALTRI SITI

Presentiamo ai nostri lettori alcuni esemplari della collezione di giocattoli del Museo etnografico di Basilea, da noi scelti con particolare riguardo a quelli provenienti dalle zone alpine. Un pezzetto di legno, una pigna, un rimasuglio di cuoio o di stoffa, con l'aiuto, se occorre, d'un po' di spago, due spilli, un temperino, son più che sufficienti per dar forma e vita a un giocattolo: la fantasia infantile supplisce generosamente ad ogni particolare e rifinitura. In giocattoli di tal genere si continuano tuttora le forme d'utensili quotidiani altrimenti da gran tempo scomparsi, quali, ad esempio l'arco e le frecce.

Nelle regioni alpine, i fanciulli odierni costruiscono giocattoli sostanzialmente identici a quelli che divertirono i loro coetanei in epoche passate: traendo ispirazione dall'ambiente e dall'attività degli adulti, essi costruiscono stalle e recinti, raffigurano animali. Ad imitare le corna si presta naturalmente un ramicello forcuto; a suggerir l'idea della screziatura del pelame bene convengono opportuni intagli nella scorza. Spesso, anche le pietre colorate del torrente sono incentivo alla fantasia ludica infantile. Invero, ai giocattoli di plastica prodotti in serie e gettati sul mercato dalla civiltà industriale manca l'intensità di vita e di poesia propria di quelli rustici, ottenuti con mezzi semplicissimi, ma frutto di spontanea creatività

e di paziente, amoroso lavoro. Riproducendo alcuni di questi ultimi nel nostro fascicolo, abbiamo voluto suggerire ai nostri lettori ed ospiti d'ogni età un ravvicinamento alla natura, altrice perenne della fantasia.

JUGUETES ALPINOS Y OTROS

Nuestras fotografías presentan ante todo juguetes alpinos procedentes de la impresionante colección del Museo Suizo de Folklore de Basilea y dan, además, una idea de la existencia de otros juguetes en este importante Instituto. — Un trocito de madera, una piña o el hueso de un animal, restos de cuero o de tela, un alambre viejo, hilos y clavos, amén de una navaja de bolsillo y tal vez todavía de alguna herramienta del taller de la granja, no hace falta más para crear un juguete; lo demás, lo suple la fantasía infantil. Ciertas formas prístinas de objetos de uso de tiempos remotos, sobreviven en los juguetes de las zonas civilizadas, como por ejemplo el arco y las flechas de los pueblos primitivos. Los juguetes de la juventud alpina, que podemos encontrar todavía en la actualidad, no tienen probablemente otro aspecto que aquellos que sirvieron de pasatiempo a los pequeños habitantes primitivos de los valles suizos. Los niños construyen sus rediles e imitan el trabajo de sus padres en el establo y en los pastos. Manos infantiles dibujaron las recuas de mulas que franqueaban los puertos alpinos. Ramas ahorquilladas servían para imitar las reses vacunas; trozos de corteza de árbol representan las manchas del ganado y, a veces, unas piedrecitas de colores encontradas en los torrentes, bastan para incitar a los niños a jugar. Tal vez logremos este mismo efecto con nuestras ilustraciones, puestas al servicio de los huéspedes. Deseamos establecer, con estas fotografías, el contacto de la naturaleza con los niños, grandes y pequeños, de la era del plástico con sus juguetes fabricados en serie.

TOYS FROM THE ALPINE REGIONS

Our views show mainly children's toys from the Alpine regions, to be found in the impressive collection of the Swiss Folklore Museum in Basle, but they also contain examples of other types of toys exhibited in this outstanding museum.—A little piece of wood, a fir cone or animal bone, scraps of leather and cloth, a discarded wire, strings and nails, and then a pocket knife and perhaps other simple tools from the shed—what more is needed to fashion a toy; an unspoiled imagination will take care of the rest. The aboriginal types of objects of daily use survive through the ages in the shape of toys; bow and arrow, so typical of primitive cultures, live on in the midst of civilization. The children's toys produced in the Alpine regions, and still to be found to this day, probably do not look much different from

the toys the original inhabitants of the mountain valleys made to amuse their children. The children build their cattle pens, and in other ways imitate what their parents are doing in barn and pasture. Children have given us their versions of strings of pack-mules going over Alpine passes. Forked branches become horned beasts: bark when scraped in different ways represents the various kinds of spotted cattle; and often enough all that is needed to fire the imagination is coloured pebbles from the beds of the mountain torrents. Our illustrations may perhaps have a similar effect on holiday visitors; children of all ages who have grown up in the plastic age with its mass-produced play articles can here contemplate the creations of people who live close to nature and whose imaginations are still uncorrupted.

Alpines Kinderspielzeug aus Graubünden, dem Wallis und dem Berner Oberland in allen Abstufungen bis zur wohl naturalistischen, aber auf das Wesentliche konzentrierten Tierdarstellung früher Holzschnitzerkunst. In seinen einfachsten Formen stellen gegabelte Zweige und Äste Spielzeugtierchen und -hirten dar. Durch teilweises Entfernen der Rinde oder Anbrennen von geschnitzten Holzstücken (rechts unten im Bild) entsteht Fleckvieh.

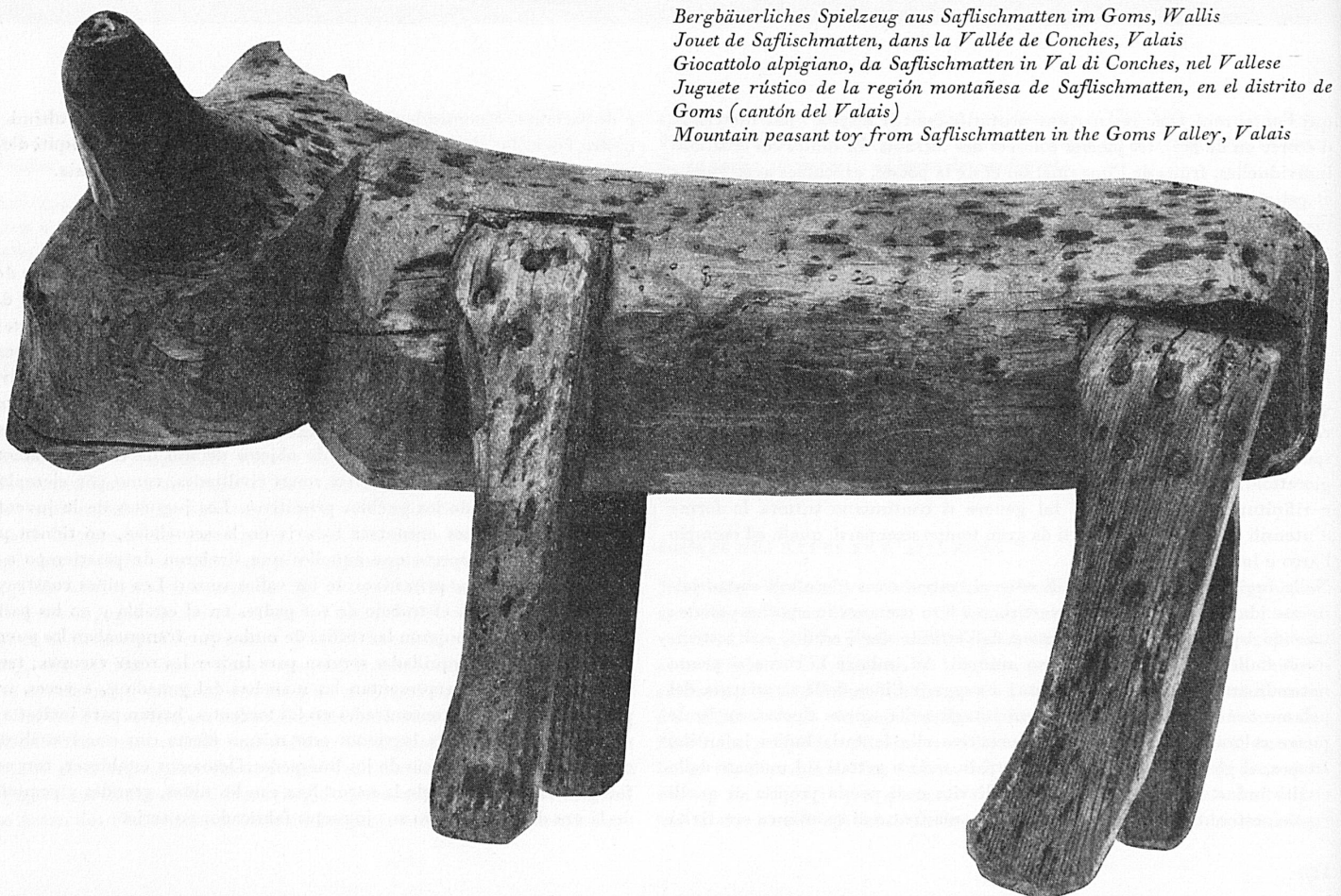
Diversos juguetes alpinos procedentes del cantón de los Grisones, así como del Valais y del Oberland bernés, que ofrecen todos los matices de la representación de animales, tanto naturalista como concentrada, por medio de la talla primitiva de madera. En sus formas más sencillas, unas ramas ahorquilladas hacen las veces de juguetes que representan a animales astados o a pastores. Quitando parcialmente la corteza o quemando trocitos tallados de madera (a la derecha, en la parte inferior de nuestra fotografía), se imitan las manchas del ganado

Jouets des vallées des Grisons, du Valais et de l'Oberland bernois. Si les uns sont primitifs, les autres témoignent d'un art achevé. Les fragments de branches fourchues deviennent, pour l'enfant, des animaux et des bergers. Il suffit d'écorcer partiellement un morceau de bois ou de le marquer au feu pour évoquer quelque vache tachetée (à droite en bas)

Antichi giocattoli di legno provenienti dalle vallate dei Grigioni, del Vallese, e dell'Oberland bernese. Offrono una raffigurazione d'animali assai varia, che va dall'abbozzo rudimentale al pieno dominio della forma, colta realisticamente nella sua essenzialità. Nelle rappresentazioni più elementari, rami e bastoncini forcuti esprimono pastori ed animali. L'ablazione parziale della corteccia e la bruciatura del legno consentono d'imitare il pelame maculato dei bovini (immagine a destra, in basso)

Children's toys produced by mountain people from the Grisons, the Valais and the Bernese Oberland; these examples range from the completely naturalistic to the highly stylized, some of the more stylized animals suggesting the concentrated vision of woodcarvers of early times where only the salient feature of the animal is singled out for representation. In the simplest kind of toy forked twigs and branches represent beasts and herdsmen. If the bark is scraped away in patches or if carved pieces of wood are slightly charred (below right, in picture), the result is the spotted cow

*Bergbäuerliches Spielzeug aus Saflischmatten im Goms, Wallis
Jouet de Saflischmatten, dans la Vallée de Conches, Valais
Giocattolo alpigiano, da Saflischmatten in Val di Conches, nel Vallese
Juguete rústico de la región montañesa de Saflischmatten, en el distrito de Goms (cantón del Valais)
Mountain peasant toy from Saflischmatten in the Goms Valley, Valais*







▲ Eisenbahn im Winterwald, Rekonstruktion nach einem englischen Ausschneide-
modell aus dem Anfang des 19. Jahrhunderts. Ehemals Sammlung His

*Chemin de fer dans la forêt enneigée: reconstruction d'un découpage anglais
du début du XIX^e siècle (provenance: collection His, Bâle)*

*Un treno nella foresta nevosa. Ricostruzione d'un lavoro inglese di ritaglio,
dei primi anni del XIX secolo. Appartenne alla collezione His, di Basilea*

*Bäuerliche Spielzeugkeramik aus der Schweiz und aus Süddeutschland
Jouets rustiques en céramique (Suisse et Allemagne du Sud)*

Giocattoli rustici di ceramica (Svizzera e Germania meridionale)

*Cerámica rústica de juguetería, procedente de Suiza y del Sur de Alemania
China peasant toys from Switzerland and South Germany*

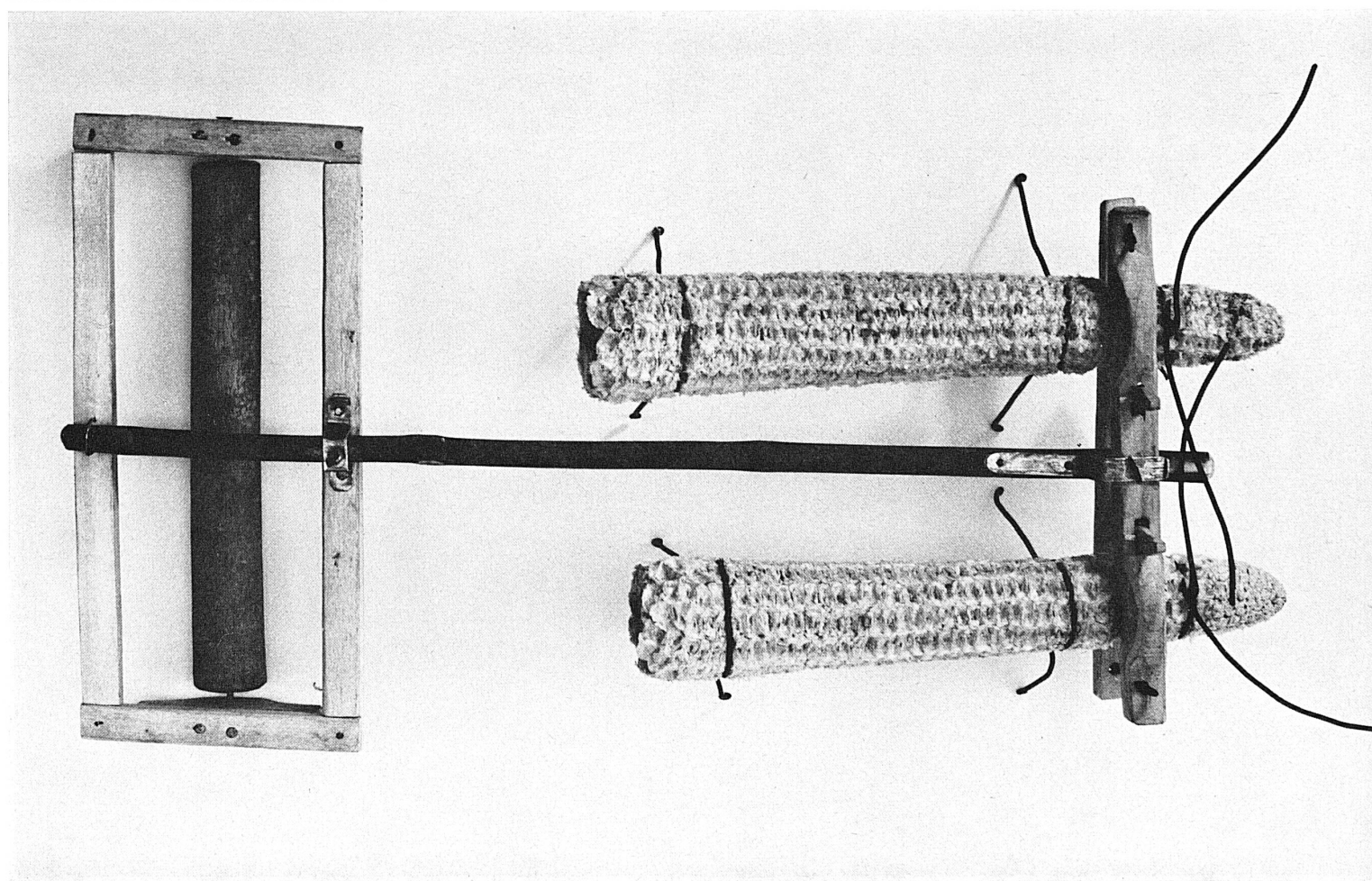
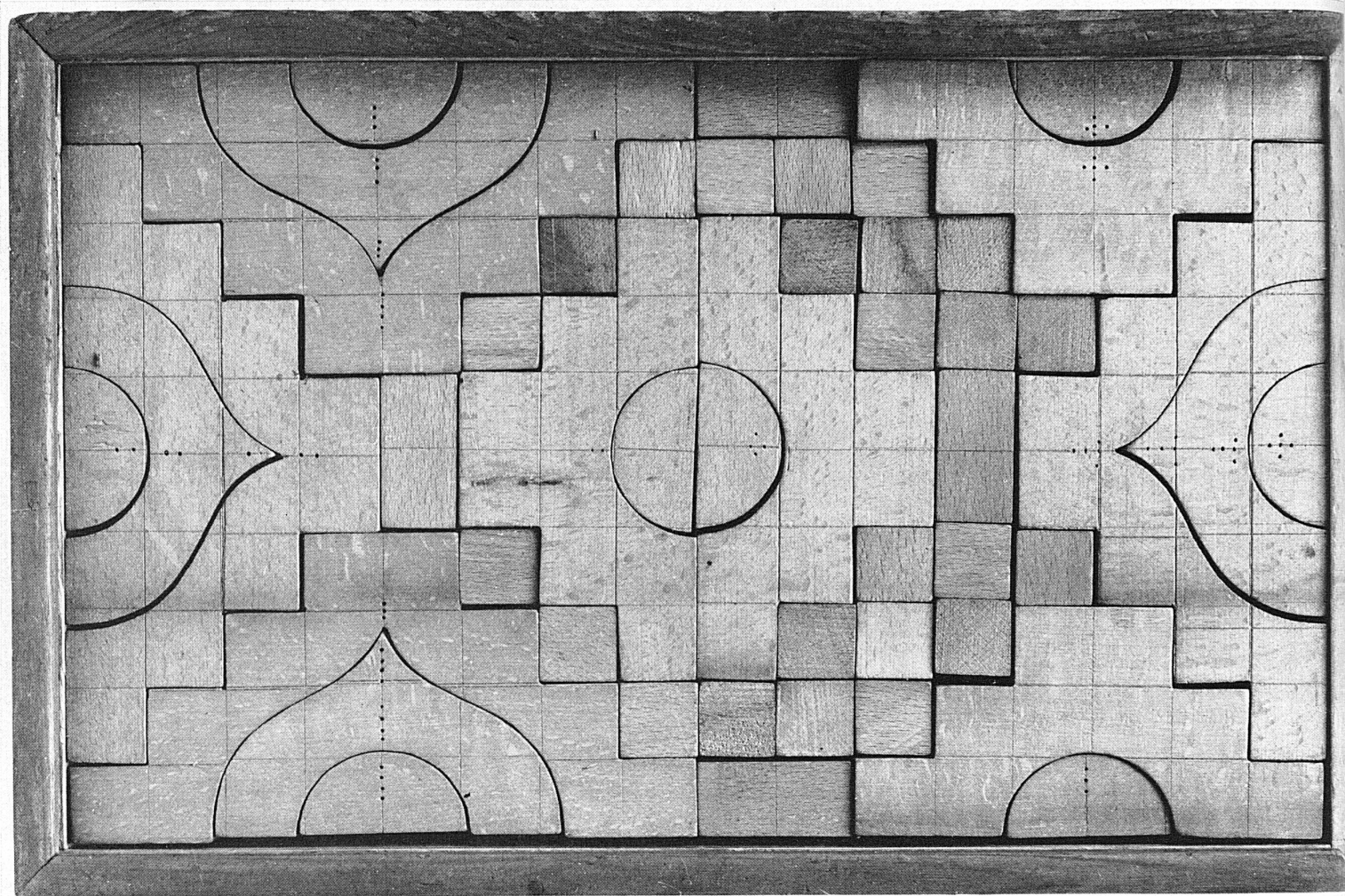




*Weihnachten in einer Basler Puppenstube. Ehemals Sammlung His
Noël dans une maison de poupées (provenance: collection His, Bâle)
Natale in una casa basiliense di bambole. Fu già parte della collezione His
Fiesta navideña en una casita de muñecas, de Basilea. Antigua colección de His
▼ Christmas in a Basel dolls' room. Formerly His Collection*

*Ferrocarril en el bosque nevado. Reconstrucción de un modelo inglés de ▲
estampa para recortar, de comienzos del siglo XIX. Antigua colección de His
Railway train in the wintry forest. Reconstruction from an English cut-out
model dating from the beginning of the 19th century. Formerly His Collection*





LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND

EUGENE V. EPSTEIN

Switzerland is not a country of momentous events. It has a fairly stable form of government, and demagogues find little following—and a great deal of resistance—in any part of the country. Hence political coups, military juntas, torchlight parades and all the other items which make front-page news everywhere else are noticeably absent in Switzerland.

Even crime, which appears to be gaining in popularity throughout the world, has a hard time gaining acceptance among the Swiss, for not only do they dislike violence in any form, but they also resist change—and crime represents change, among other things. With both crime and political excess so unpopular, what, then, remains for the country's newspapers to report?

There is, of course, enough happening outside Switzerland to slake the thirst of any good Swiss citizen in search of vicarious experience in his daily newspaper. Wars and assassinations, riots and revolutions: everywhere, but not in Switzerland. Some people consider it almost shameful, but Switzerland has not experienced a major labor dispute or strike for as long as anyone can remember.

Now, on to the news of the month as it might be reported—in German, French or Italian—in a local newspaper. Incidentally, Switzerland enjoys the highest per capita newspaper readership, and the largest number of newspapers per capita, in the world—or so one is told. Latest figures show that there are 1.37 daily or

- ◀ Holzbaukasten, Basel-Stadt, um 1850
Plots de bois, Bâle-Ville, vers 1830
Cassetta per costruzioni di legno, 1850 ca., Basilea Città
Caja de construcciones, de madera, Basilea-Ciudad, allá por 1850
Building-blocks, Basel City, around 1850
- ◀ Ochsesgepann mit Ackerwalze, ungarischer Herkunft, aus Maiskolben, Holz und Draht hergestellt
Attelage de bœufs et émotteuse, Hongrie (épis de maïs, bois et fil de fer)
Coppia di buoi e rullo per i campi. È d'origine ungherese. Materiali: pannocchie di granturco, legno, fil di ferro
Yunta de bueyes con el rodillo, de origen húngaro; construido de mazorcas, madera y alambre
Yoke of oxen with land roller, Hungarian origin, fashioned of corn cobs, wood and wire
- Sämtliche Aufnahmen der Reportage «Alpines und anderes Spielzeug»: Giegel SVZ

weekly newspapers per healthy Swiss citizen, not including women or foreign workers. Though the economics of supporting so many journals would seem problematical to the outside observer, it is worth noting here that every Swiss—including the women—reads an average of 14 papers each day, only some of which he actually subscribes to or purchases, but the majority of which he peruses over coffee and *pâtisserie* in his neighborhood tea-room. Now, on —once more—to the news of the month!

WORLD FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS WILL HOLIDAY IN APPENZELL
Appenzell (U&I)—Enthusiasm for the World Championship football match in England extended even to Appenzellerland, the two demi-cantons of Appenzell Inner-Rhoden and Appenzell Outer-Rhoden in Northeastern Switzerland. Using the Northeast Swiss Tourist Association and the Swiss Football Federation as go-betweens, the enterprising owner of the largest hotel in the town of Appenzell has

invited the entire British team, the 1966 World Champions, to spend a winter holiday in the attractive village at the foot of the Säntis. The reply was surprisingly fast in coming—and it was positive. But the Secretary of the British Football Association asked that the generous host be patient until June or July of next year, since the team, hurrying from one match to another, has no chance to think about vacations during the busy winter season.

The above release is a good example of what must go into a news story in Switzerland. Note the humanitarian approach: an enterprising hotel owner invites the British team for a winter holiday. This shows signs of typical Swiss generosity and compassion for the plight of our fellow men, or at least the plight of our fellow football players. What happens? The team, too busy to take a winter holiday in January or February, accepts the kind invitation to take their winter holiday "in June or July of next year." This sounds as though it could be a slap at Britain's fabled summer climate, but it must have been unintentional.

NEWLY ANNOUNCED NUMISMATIC SOCIETY NAMES NEWCOMERS
Geneva (A&P)—The International Numismatic Society, meeting at nearby Cointrin, announced today that it was according full membership to delegates of all countries where coins are accepted as official currency. Remington J. Mint, president of the society, referred the question of what constitutes a coin back to committee for decision during the society's next meeting. Delegates of the West Archipelagian Republic walked out of the meeting when it was decided that small discs cut out of old oil drums were not acceptable under the generic definition of a coin, i.e., "a piece of metal stamped and issued by the authority of the government for use as money." Mr. Mint regretted the decision taken by the West Archipelagense and promised to place the weight of his office behind an early and equitable solution of the question. The delegate of Southern Liboomia suggested that a coin be flipped to decide the matter. Standing before the committee, he stated unequivocally, "Heads I win, tails you lose," in support of the motion, but his proposal was rejected. The flipping of coins, said Mr. Mint, was beneath the dignity—to coin a phrase—of so august a body, and could not be considered a reasonable, civilized method of arriving at important decisions in the modern world.

Here we have an excellent example of Switzerland as a focal point for international cooperation and discussion. There are so many meetings and conventions taking place each year in Switzerland that a special newspaper, the Zurich *Tagungsblatt*, was established to maintain a record of what is happening all over the country. The following story is typical of another of Switzerland's major interests: health and the Swiss climate.

NEW ZEST FOR THE NERVOUS SYSTEM:
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE MEDICINAL EFFECTS
OF THE ALPINE CLIMATE MEETS IN LUGANO
Lugano (B&B)—The empirical views which were held as early as 1860 on the influence of high-altitude climate on the human body, have subsequently been confirmed by experimental research, with particular emphasis on the salutary effect which such climate has for sufferers of bronchial asthma. During the last century, the practical and empirical realization became widespread that people from the lowlands undergo certain fundamental changes during a lengthy stay in the Swiss Alps. In 1862, J. A. Weber wrote: "When a wan-