

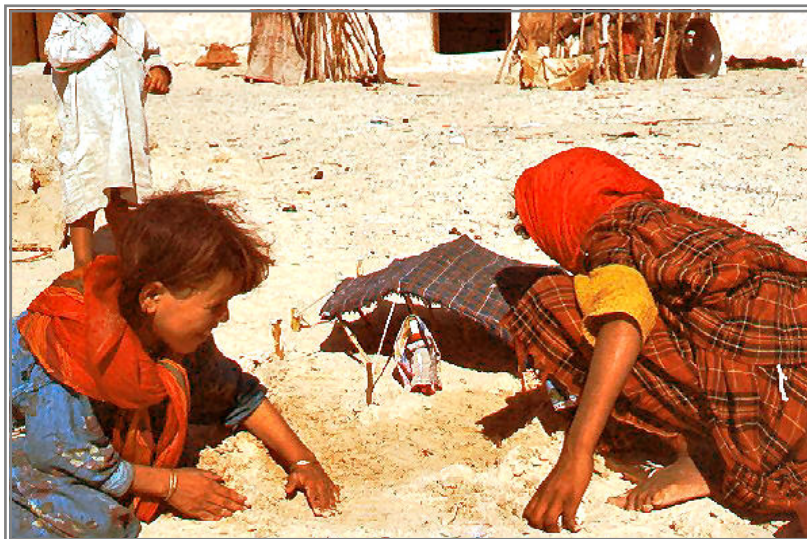
Jean-Pierre Rossie

The Toy Museum of Moirans-en-Montagne

In the centre of the 'Parc naturel régional du Haut-Jura', in the French capital of toys, one finds the 'Musée du Jouet de Moirans-en-Montagne'. This museum created in 1989 and controlled by the State from the beginning received the label *Musée de France* from 2003 onwards. It invites a voyage of discovery through 5 000 years of human history thanks to an exceptional collection of 16 000 objects from all over the world. The museum evokes and shows all kinds of toys through a large diversity of themes: dolls, soft toys, mechanical toys, scientific toys, toys linked to theatrical arts, construction toys, toys of the world's children, antique toys, fabrication of toys, etc.



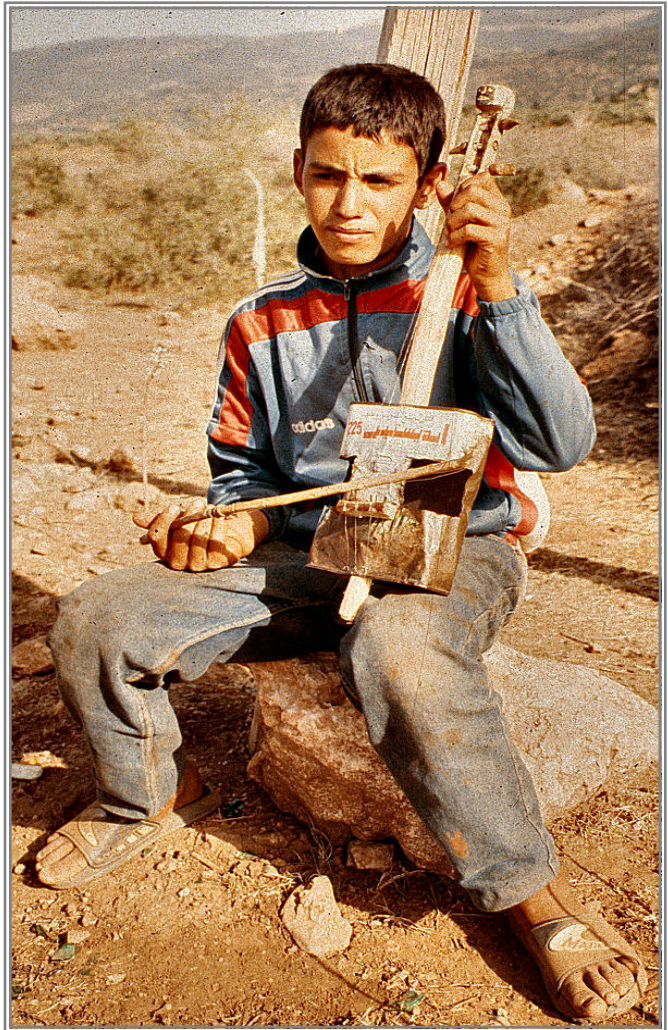
The Country of the Child joyfully opens its door and heart to you. Here a great project is underway that in 2009-2010 will create a children's cultural city with an entirely renovated and enlarged museum. Then you will discover a surprising, inventive and playful museum, totally renovated and expanded with new exceptional and unexpected collections. An invitation for dreaming, to enter the world's hearth and to enjoy an unforgettable visit. Lively museographical presentations with numerous interactive displays are proposed. New cultural and educational activities are to be created. The collections of the Toy Museum count among the richest and most beautiful of European toy collections and they



contain some treasures unique in the world (e.g. the toys from the Maghreb). Since its creation in 1989, the Toy Museum has welcomed about 47 000 visitors per year. Once the museum has been renovated about 80 000 visitors per year are expected.

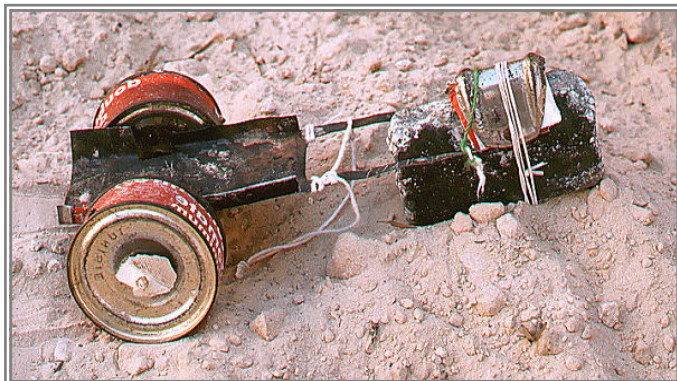
The Chantal Lombard Collection: toys of the world's children

This is an important collection of about 700 games and toys from all over the world (33 countries and 4 continents) donated to the Toy Museum in 2001. This exceptional collection has been assembled and studied by the ethnologist Chantal Lombard. It contains among other things toy animals, musical instruments, rattles, miniature technical objects, games of skill and open-air games. Created by the children themselves with waste material or made by artisans, these toys are a unique witness of children's cultures and children's creativity. Chantal Lombard's collection offers indisputably a concrete illustration of the universality and the individuality of human culture and of the notion of childhood throughout the world.



The Canet Collection: an exceptional collection of 3500 objects

The Toy Museum acquired in 2003 an extraordinary collection of 3 500 objects coming from the Musée du Jouet of Canet-en-Roussillon. All fields of play, games and toys are represented in this collection that covers about 5 000 years of history. Some really remarkable toys belong to this collection, e.g. a car of Günthermann from 1897, a planisphere puzzle from the eighteenth century, a



three-wheeled horse of 1822, and fashion dolls in wax created in the eighteenth century. A series of objects from the ancient world (Sumerian chariots in clay, glass knucklebones from the Roman period, Egyptian and Coptic dolls) enrich the museum's ancient toys collection.

The Jean-Pierre Rossie Collection: North African and Saharan toys

The Toy Museum received in 2005 about 700 toys from North Africa and the Sahara donated by Jean-Pierre Rossie, a Belgian socio-cultural anthropologist. This collection is unique in the world and fits in completely with the museum's new scientific and cultural dynamism centred on the "cultures of the world". The donation also contains the books and articles on children's play and toy cultures of these regions written by this researcher, related scientific documentation and many photographs. J.P. Rossie will continue to enrich the museum's collections through his current researches.



Exhibition "Deserts: Saharan and Atlas Mountain Children"



Wood, rags, leaves, cans, grains, fruits, clay, wires..., everything the children find around them is found again metamorphosed in moving and unexpected forms. This is a world full of dreams, surprises and discoveries that at the same time reveals the North African children's dexterity, curiosity and inventiveness. All these toys propose and unveil to the visitor unexpected traditions and approaches. Yet, they also refer to changes and today's new challenges.

The displayed toys are related to 28 remarkable pictures by the photographer Xavier Richer, taken from the book "Maroc: Lumière Berbère" (éditions Vilo, 2003). In counterpoint to the toys and photographs many often astonishing proverbs and short stories have been placed around the museum. So doing an unexpected encounter with an age-old oral literature is presented.



This exhibition was opened on June 30th 2006 and can be visited till December 2008, possibly even longer (ask for information).

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List of photos:

Game of nomadic life, Ghrib girls, Tunisian Sahara, 1975, photo Rossie

Herdsboy playing his self-made violin, region El Ksiba, Middle Atlas, Morocco, 1999, photo Rossie

Cart pulled by a mule, Ghrib boy, Tunisian Sahara, 1975, photo Rossie

Mother and baby, Lahfart village girl, region Sidi Ifni, Anti-Atlas, Morocco, 2002, photo Rossie

Toys for playing household, Igisel village girl, region Guelmim, Pre-Sahara, Morocco, 2005, photo Rossie

Game of ploughing the fields, village Douar, region Tan-Tan, Sahara, Morocco, 2007, photo Khalija Jariaa