

## ARCHAEOLOGY

# Toys Reflect Man's Culture

Scientists are able to measure the degree of culture attained by a people by studying the use to which dolls are put. American toy business is now enjoying a boom.

By WADSWORTH LIKELY

► LONG ago, primitive man bowed down to graven images, worshipped rudely carved idols. Then, when he began to grow more civilized and lost his fear-begotten respect for his idols, the images were handed to his children—and became the ancestors of the \$65,000,000 worth of dolls that will be found under this year's Christmas trees throughout the country.

Scientists find it possible to measure the degree of culture attained by a people with great accuracy by studying the use to which the images we call dolls are put. And not only has the use of dolls and other toys been a signpost on man's road from savagery to civilization. Toys have always reflected the culture and growth of a people.

## Toy Boom Unprecedented

The American toy business is now in an unprecedented boom. In 1929, the 36,205,000 children under 15 received about \$97,000,000 worth of toys. This year, there are only 4,000,000 more children under 15, but they are receiving toys which cost three times as much.

It would be interesting to see what some future scientist concludes when he comes across a doll whose hair can be washed and waved in the rubble of one of our cities.

It was very early after the change of status of the doll from an idol to a plaything that boys and girls began to branch out in different directions in the matter of toys. A girl's playtime orbit, through the ages, has revolved around the home and her mother's activities in the home, and the doll has remained the focus of her play. It is only recently, with the advances of women in science and industry, that girls have begun to invade the boys' domain in the matter of playthings.

Boys have always patterned their play on the lives of their fathers. Little wooden animals, and an ancient Greek prototype of the American express wagon were examples of the way the boys aped their fathers.

There has been the least change of all in toys for the youngest babies. The wooden crocodile with a movable jaw that delighted some Egyptian baby 3,000 years ago is not so very different from the painted arts and craft toys Santa Claus will bring this year.

Most of the ancient toys that have sur-

vived from early times were made of clay. The first dolls were probably rudely carved out of wood, but because wood is perishable, few have survived. We have, however, many little clay objects—rattles, small pots and miniature figures of animals.

## First Wheeled Toy

It was as far back as the eleventh century, B. C., that the first known toy on wheels was made. Archaeologists discovered in the foundation stone of a temple in Susa, Persia—built about that time—two little animals made of white sandstone. Both were mounted on little wheeled stands, with a hole through one end of the stand for a drawstring.

Young boys of ancient Greece had two-wheeled carts with a long pole and crossbar for a handle. It cost the equivalent of three American cents in the Athens market.

When the civilization of ancient Greece and Rome was forgotten in the dark ages, toys were largely forgotten too. In those

times, when living, even for the very rich, was crude and uncomfortable, toys weren't considered important. For that matter, neither were children. There are few pictures of children, except the Christ child, from that time. And only a few clay dolls, horses and armored knights survive that rough era.

## German Toymakers

There is evidence that toymaking first became an industry in Nuremberg in Germany. In the 15th century the demand for religious objects began to fall off, especially from northern Germany, and the hand workers around Nuremberg turned to toys. In the 16th century, when toys became fashionable among queens and duchesses, the medieval guilds began organizing the toymaking crafts. Each craft insisted on making its own part of the more complicated toys. For a time, this specialization prevented the establishment of toy factories in the modern sense of the word, but eventually, it was from the medieval guilds that the once-great German toy industry grew.

Dolls and toys were not very common among the North American Indians, especially among the eastern tribes. However, the Eskimos, perhaps because of the neces-



**TOY HORSE**—In the 11th century B. C. a little boy was pulling this wheeled toy around on a string.



**MEDIEVAL TIN SOLDIER**—This little tin knight from the Age of Chivalry is the forerunner of the tin soldier of our present day.

sity of providing something to keep the children amused during the long winter nights, carved exquisite toys out of ivory.

One of the first known articles imported to America from Europe was a doll, brought here in 1607 by the Sir Walter Raleigh expedition. There is a picture, drawn by the expedition's artist, showing a fluffy little doll, dressed in Elizabethan finery that must have seemed strange to the Indians, being presented to a little Indian girl.

### Mechanical Toys

Since man has been interested in things mechanical, boys have had mechanical toys. And the development of boy's playthings has kept pace with the scientific and industrial developments of their fathers. In the 19th century, the Germans and Swiss brought about a whole new era in the manufacture of toys—utilizing the scientific advances of the industrial revolution. Now the traditions of that era have passed to the United States, and with it the traditions of the earliest known toy—the graven image that became a girl's doll.

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### PSYCHIATRY

## Secretary Substitutes Baby for Typewriter

➤ THE perfect secretary is likely to be a bad mother. Her child, especially her first-born, becomes more or less a substitute for her typewriter, Dr. Leo Kanner of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, declared at the meeting of the American Medical Association.

A moderate emotional climate, he pointed out, is best for children. But many

mothers veer to one or another extreme of emotional climate. Some find it hard to like and approve of their children the way they are. Others find it hard to do their "mothering without overanxious and oversolicitous smothering."

Much of the trouble mothers have with their children, and children with their mothers, comes from the fact that young women are "no longer reared for the main purpose of becoming wives and mothers."

"Most girls nowadays are prepared for a vocation," Dr. Kanner said. "This mode of living prior to marriage can be a major boon to the stable woman who comes to married life enriched by the responsibility, activity and association which the job affords her.

"But very often the job puts a premium on punctuality, meticulousness and perfectionism which it often becomes impossible for the mother to shake off when dealing with her children.

"Especially the first-born child of the secretary, the salesgirl, the factory piece-worker, the laboratory technician, the librarian or the nurse gets the whole brunt of this tense perfectionism, being more or less a substitute for the typewriter, the cash register, the machine, the test tube, the book shelf or the medicine cabinet."

Baby doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists did their share of mechanizing and frightening mothers in the first quarter of this century, Dr. Kanner charged. In the effort to teach mothers generally to apply valid principles of feeding and hygiene to their babies, these specialists turned many into "mechanical robots" who dared not depart an iota from the prescribed rules for calories, sleeping hours and other regulations.

"Fortunately," said Dr. Kanner, "there were may calm, stable, fond mothers who didn't allow themselves to be swayed by all those cultural assaults on their common sense."

Mothers who themselves have been hurt by their own life experiences, however, still are likely to follow rigidly rules and regulations on child rearing because doing so meets emotional needs of their own.

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### WILDLIFE

## Thousands of Elk to Starve This Winter

➤ DEATH by starvation is in store for thousands of Yellowstone Park elk this winter unless quick action is taken to allow hunters to "harvest" the excess animals.

Biologists of the National Park and Forest Services in Washington, D. C., as well as rangers in the Park, are deeply concerned over the growth of the elk herd to 11,000 on a range that can not properly sustain more than 5,000.

They have proposed that hunters be

allowed to kill 5,000 animals this year. The remainder, while greater than the desirable maximum, would be able to survive on the available forage, without either starvation of the animals or destruction of the plant cover.

The decision rests with Montana game officials who control licenses and bag limits. No shooting is allowed in the Park itself.

The current elk hunting season will result in a take of some 2,000 of the excess animals. Federal biologists are waiting to see whether the Montana State Fish and Game Commission will authorize an extension of the hunting season so that the herd can be reduced to healthy proportions. If action is not taken soon, they point out, it will be too late because after the first of the year the cows start to become heavy with calf and the flesh becomes stringy and undesirable as meat.

The Montana Fish and Game Commission was scheduled to take up the matter of the additional elk kill on Dec. 12 and 13 at Helena. They deferred action at the November meeting in order to weigh the arguments of groups that object to extending the kill.

Chief objectors are labor groups, notably the International Association of Machinists at Livingston, Mont.

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### ARCHAEOLOGY

## Pre-Columbian Furnaces Pronounced Lime Kilns

➤ OLD furnaces dug up near Chillicothe, Ohio, by Capt. A. H. Mallery, Washington engineer, and believed by him to be pre-Columbian iron furnaces (*See SNL*, Nov. 12, p. 309) were pronounced by Dr. Ralph Solecki, of the Smithsonian Institution, to be 19th century lime kilns, it was announced in Washington, D. C. Dr. Solecki visited the site at the invitation of Capt. Mallery to aid in evaluating the archaeological importance of the find.

Nothing of archaeological interest was found in the site, Dr. Solecki said.

The iron bar found by Capt. Mallery in one of the furnaces and believed by him to indicate that the furnaces were used for iron making, may be explained as being a bar in a grate of the lime kiln, Dr. Solecki said.

Capt. Mallery has for many years pursued a hobby of tracing evidence for Viking or perhaps even earlier cultures in America before the time of Columbus. Iron specimens uncovered previously at the Ohio site by Capt. Mallery have been pronounced by metallurgists as not of modern manufacture.

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Apples treated in a calcium chloride solution remain firmer and have superior baking qualities without impairing taste or flavor.