

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

DOLL STROLLER

Portugal, 20th cent. (1950's)

Wood, wicker and metal

H 70 x L 67 x W 34 cm

MAH20181501

This particular dolls trolley was acquired by the Angra do Heroísmo Museum at Terceira Island, in February 2018 and, since then, is part of its Toys and Games collection, and it's in evidence as a piece of great, artisanal, aesthetic and anthropological value.

The trolley body, fixed over a wooden base, was built with wicker, also used in the wheels spokes, that are fitted in iron rings. Despite of the sophistication and the handiness resulting from the springs system, its small size is indicative of its toy function, which is confirmed by the testimony of its former owner, Patrícia Cristina Gaspar Carvalho, who revealed that the piece was bought by her grandfather in the last century fifties.

Well built, balanced and good looking, this trolley documents the high quality of the local wicker craftsmanship at that time and, in the sense that shows the affection of a grandfather for his granddaughters, it also shows the change that occurred in the childhood concept, between the end of the 19th and the first decades of the 20th centuries. Till then, the child was faced as a miniature adult, submitted to the same duties and social behaviours. Later, she becomes the core of the family social investment and this purpose of caring, supporting and preparing is carried to the toys, that would represent the desirable social roles of each gender, being the motherhood in evidence, in this case.