



IMAGES OF WORLD PLAY DAY 2012



The Toy Library of Sainte-Foy (Quebec) participated in this WPD celebration in **Canada**
The 2 photos were submitted by Rolande Filion



More on page 5



WORLD PLAY DAY

See more images and reports on World Play Day 2012 for Korea, South Africa, Mexico, Turkey, Cyprus, Ecuador and Canada at www.itla-toylibraries.org
Click on WORLD PLAY DAY, then 2012.

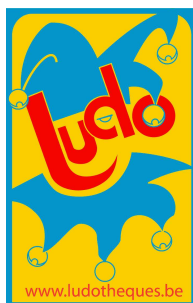
Send your images so ALL can enjoy them to news.itla@gmail.com

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LUDO ASSOCIATION TODAY

LUDO, the Belgian French speaking Toy Library Association, was founded in 1982. LUDO provides a support federation and information for toy libraries and all people or associations interested in play. A toy library is here understood as “a place organised with toys and games that provides a lending service, playing possibilities and/or play animations”. In 2011, our new definition could be “A collection of toys and games, thought and animated in order to be useful to the public interest”. The Belgian French community has today about 145 toy libraries (116 in Wallony and 29 in Brussels) for about 4.5 million people. Fifteen of them are specialised for disabled people and ten for adult players (game clubs).



OFFICIAL SUPPORT

LUDO was officially recognized in 1986 after the 3rd ITLA Congress (organised in Brussels in 1984). Having lost this recognition, the association has, however, signed a Convention of Financial Support with the Belgian French Community Government (Permanent Education Section of the Culture department) in 2008. This support is enough to finance most of our activities, but to be a member of LUDO's permanent team is, since 2000, no longer a professional activity. About 50% of our toy libraries receive financial support from their local government. 30% of our toy libraries also receive money from the French Community: those which are linked with a library. Last but not least, all toy libraries in Brussels are sustained by the regional government (COCOF).

OBJECTIVES

LUDO has five main objectives:

- Bring people together through play
- Improve access for everybody to quality toys and games
- Promote reflection about play
- Prove that play is culturally important and educate people through play
- Take care of our planet



A mobile toy library that visits villages near Florrenes

ACTIONS

- For the past 20 years LUDO has selected the best games of the year. Since 2004, the “Label LUDO” celebrates the best family board game of the year in Belgium. In 2010, the winner was “QWIRKLE” (by Susan Mc Kinley Ross) and in 2011, the game voted the best was “WATER LILY” (by Dominique Ehrhard)
- Every May we have a small publicity campaign about play and toy libraries (World Play Day) and a bigger one in November (our “playing fever” is called “fureur de jouer”)
- The two LUDO magazines (“Artichouette” and “Cahiers de LUDO”) have 4 issues each year. A web version of them is published after a few months on our website (www.ludotheques.be)
- Our center “LuCIFER” (Ludo Center of Informations, Formations – training - Education and Research) is located in the pedagogic department of the High School of Brussels. It is dedicated to a French library with hundreds of books about games, a toy library specialising in pedagogical board games, a small permanent museum of games, exhibitions and training.

In 2010, LUDO association organized a training course of 8 modules (each of 3 hours) for toy librarians (the last one happened in 2005, so it is not regular).

LUDO and “LuCIFER” centre address: 62 Av De Fré, 1180 Brussels. This is also the official physical address of ITLA as the association was registered as a non-profit organization in Belgium.



Ethe Toy Library

LUDO - l'association des Ludothèques
Haute Ecole de Bruxelles
62, Av De Fré, 1180, Bruxelles
Email: info@ludotheques.be
Website: www.ludotheques.be
Contact: Mr Michel van Langendonckt

The Conference took place in Bursa, Turkey from 27 - 29 July 2011. The theme was:

“ Toys and Learning in Different Cultures”

The **three day program** included about 70 presentations and several poster sessions related to the following topics:

- Toys and toy design in educational programs
- Toys in the global marketplace
- Learning with toys
- Learning about toys in different cultures
- Toys, play and gender
- Learning with toys as a method
- Toy safety

Three **symposia** were organized:

- “Found in translation: social science as a tool for idea development in design for play”
- “Benthik: an Indonesian traditional toy, its benefits for children’s growth and development”
- “To market, to market: to buy a folk toy: buying and selling handmade toys in machine-made times”.

A **workshop** on teaching and learning through toys also took place.

This broad approach to toys and play included topics on toys and play from western or consumer/high tech societies as well as non-western or developing countries and ranged from traditional handmade toys to video games.

The **participants** came from about 22 countries, especially from Asia, Europe and North and South America but this time there was no scholar from Africa. There was, of course, a large group of Turkish participants. Although female scholars were in the majority, many male scholars also attended. The age range varied from young PhD students to retired participants. It is good to see that the number of young scholars is growing from one ITRA conference to the next. As in the previous ITRA congress in Nafplion, Greece, two younger scholars received the ITRA-BTHA Prize.

According to the participants, myself included, the presentations were of good quality and many contacts have been made. This possibility for personal contact and for finding colleagues with similar interests and research topics is one of the most important aspects of such a congress. I also value strongly the possibility to create international and interdisciplinary contacts. Of course, the ITRA congresses are, for me, an occasion to meet old friends but, at the same time, also to make new ones.

The congress organizers also integrated into the congress program several **social and tourism programs** that were fine and interesting. The tourism activities were maybe a bit overloaded but this remark might be inspired by the fact that I belong to the group of retired participants.

On the last day of the congress a new ITRA board, with seven female and three male scholars, was elected.

The board appointed Eva Petersson, of Aalborg University in Denmark, as the new ITRA president to replace Cleo Gougoulis, who served two terms and continues to do so as vice-president.

The board also accepted Eva Petersson’s proposal to plan the next ITRA congress in Denmark in the summer of 2013. This will be in two years instead of the normal three years because of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the International Toy Research Association and the growing number of participants and presentations.

Finally, I express my personal thanks to the Turkish congress organizers and to Cleo Gougoulis, the former ITRA president, for the energy and time invested in making this congress a success.

Jean-Pierre Rossie, Istanbul, August 6, 2011

As can be seen from the topics included, this Conference would be very beneficial for anyone involved with toys and toy libraries.

This is especially true now that a Research Group has been formed that has a meeting at every ITLA Conference.

It has been difficult to attend the ITRA Conference because it has always been held in the same year as the ITLA Conference. Fortunately, this cycle has been changed as the next ITRA Conference will be held from 3 - 5 July 2013 and not in 2014.

Please think about research that you can present about toys & toy libraries. ITLA will notify you as soon as more information about the ITRA Conference becomes available.

92 YEARS OLD AND STILL PLAYING STRONG

When we were young, my father entertained my brother and me with wonderful stories of the games he played as a young boy in Potchefstroom, a town in South Africa.

His later skill and creativity as an internal plastic surgeon supports current popular theories that early free play is essential to the development of creativity in adulthood. He used to practice on ox hearts in the kitchen at home. My Mom would be nurse and my dad would delight us by saying, "Nurse, scalpel." After the operation, the ox heart would be cooked and fed to the dog.

In his doctoring days my dad did not have a lot of time for playing but he and my mom were keen social bridge players and kept up the weekly bridge games for as long as I can remember. Soon after his retirement, it became clear that he was suffering from Alzheimer's.

His disease progressed very slowly so there has been ample time for him to catch up with the playing he missed as a busy doctor. He played bridge, with my mother's support, until very recently. Even though he was at an advanced stage of his illness, he could play out a hand with skill and enjoyment, though she had to help with the beginning part of the game.

He has now forgotten most things: that he was a doctor, that he has three children and what their names are. He is often not clear what city he is living in or what is going to happen next. A Russian scientist who is a fairly recent immigrant to Israel (my parents live in Jerusalem) and who has not been able to get a job in his field works for social services and comes every afternoon to play cards with my father. My father cannot get enough card games. My mom plays with him after supper and offers him a game whenever he seems to be dropping off to sleep during the day. He might have forgotten just about everything about his life but he plays a very good game of cards. I won't play with him. He does not know who I am but he wins any card game he suggests and is very critical of my inability to win!

I think that when he is no longer able to play, his end will be very near.

Submitted by Maxine Fine, Johannesburg, South Africa

Marion and Harry playing cards



THE DECALOGUE OF TOYS

- 1) Should be geared not to changing fashions, but to needs.
- 2) Should not stimulate ideas of violence that make you accustomed to the violence that surrounds you.
- 3) Should not teach you to see yourself as male or female but as a youngster who enjoys play.
- 4) Should not be easily broken, to prevent the habit of buying, throwing away and buying again.
- 5) Should not be expensive, because playing is a necessity not a luxury.
- 6) Should stimulate both mind and body.
- 7) Should help you understand that play is fun but playing together is better.
- 8) Should give pleasure, not teach roles.
- 9) Should be bright, strong and easy to use.
- 10) Should make you feel, while playing, that the toy is working for you and your enjoyment.

William Garagnani - Translation by Sharon Kivity

The "Decalogue of Toys" was written by William Garagnani who, together with Giorgio Bartolucci, founded the first Italian toy library in Florence (Italy), in 1977.

He felt the need to define qualities and characteristic all toys should have, especially those in toy libraries. This was so that they would meet the demands of those who play with them, whether adult or child, rather than those of manufactures and salesmen.

WORLD PLAY DAY IN SOBOUM, DOUALA, CAMEROON

Last year saw the establishment of a community-based toy library located in the district of SOBOUM (Douala city, Cameroon) belonging to the network of our French NGO C.I.E.LO.

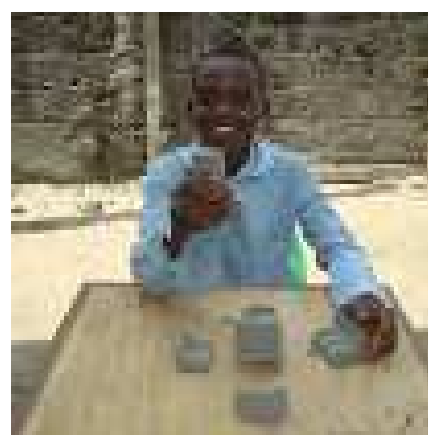
This year, with the help of the supporting club created within the framework of the project, the grassroots toy librarian, **Guylaine NYASSIN**, organised a local event on 26th May, on the occasion of the World Play Day.

The event was free of charge for the participants and was self-funded.

The pictures below allow us to share with you the efforts developed at the local level by the Cameroonians themselves.

Patrick BERNARD

Director and co-founder of French NGO C.I.E.LO



Our ITLA Newsletter has changed over the past few months:

- ❖ We no longer have a printed copy, but send out an e-Newsletter to members and also put the Newsletter on the Noticeboard of the website for others to enjoy. Soon past copies will be available to members in the "Relevant Articles" section.
- ❖ Articles from other publications are put on the Noticeboard of the website. Our aim is for the Newsletter to contain original material. For this to happen, we need you to send us:
 - reports of relevant conferences you have attended (like the report of the ITRA conference in **this** Newsletter)
 - book and toy reviews; stories about how your toy library has benefitted members
 - news about your national associations, events you have organised including training courses and workshops, statistics about toy libraries in your country and so on
 - descriptions with a photo of your own toy library
 - anything else you think would of interest to international toy library colleagues