Filipino Toys
How Our Young Island Wards Amuse Themselves

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Children shape toys after the implements, and games after the activities of their elders. Perhaps the most pronounced characteristic of childhood is the desire for activity. This desire can be directed and the mind and the hand of the child trained by the judicious use of suitable toys. They should be of such a nature as to instill in the child a knowledge of and desire for the activities with which he is the most likely to be connected in his after life. Toys which require no industry should be provided, to the exclusion of other toys and games of chance.

Although at present there is a large importation of foreign toys into the Philippines, one should not conclude that the habit of playing with toys was introduced by a foreign people. Long before toys were brought there were native toys in use; and from time to time new ones have been devised. While the Filipino child probably has as many playthings as have children of other countries, the native toy is much less noticeable, because it is seldom highly colored. The most numerous are the kites and tops, which may be seen almost any day during the dry season. In very common use also are other devices which will spin, contrivances for making a noise, whistles, and sticks. Fishers and curiously wrought animals are also sometimes seen. The toy wapans, arros, abas, hulab, fischporns, bow and arrows, stones, and cooling utensils are, of course, patterned after the implements and utensils used in the houses.

There is still a strong tradition, even among the youngest children, toward games containing the element of chance. This might be overcome to a great degree by a more widely extended use of interesting toys. It is notable that the chief differences between the Filipino toys and those of the Occident are accounted for by the differences in materials and in places of manufacture. The similarity existing between them and toys of other Oriental countries is brought about by the same influences. Likewise, the type is affected to a greater extent by the environment, the Occidental toy being more mechanical than is the Oriental. Oriental toys are largely manufactured in the home, generally by the child himself and from such materials as bamboo, seeds, and abaca, which are cheap and easily obtained, while the Occidental toys are more generally made of metals and in factories.

While many of the Filipino toys are quite simple, some require considerable skill in manufacture and dexterity in manipulation. The degree to which this skill and dexterity are shown by the average Filipino boy but tends to emphasize the educational value of any of the toys which have existed and the need of an extension of the use, and a diversification and increase in the number, of present designs.

Of course nothing definite as to the origin of most of these toys is known, much the people of Tbolg, Oriental Negros, tell the following story of the introduction of the top: A long time ago a Spaniard living in that vicinity had a discussion with the leading men of the town regarding the shape of the earth and in illustrating the rotation of the earth used a top. The top was such a novelty that the people copied it, and it became a popular toy at once. The whistling top is said to have been originated by a people called Ilocano, who, hundreds of years ago, were supposed to have drifted to the shores of Samar from the islands far out.

In the Pacific. Another story has been told concerning the introduction of stilts. The people desired to have some giants present in the town festival, so their priest bought two men to walk on stilts and exhibited them as giants. The boys, learning of the device, adopted it: and stilts have since become popular toys. In one section of the Philippines the sight of the boys playing with their tops is heralded by the old people as a sign of approaching hard times. But perhaps the prettiest story is one that has come up from the South. The Moros have a custom of teaching their children to call their doll's faces and princesses, and to treat them with due respect. When the doll is broken or has become unserviceable, it receives a fitting burial or is allowed to float to sea in a nally decorated toy vessel. The older people say this creates in the children the proper respect for the dolls and princesses.

As birds derive their names in this country from the sounds they make, so do also many of the toys: to name but a few, in the case of the names for puppets, mutes, and the various amusing tops. It will be seen, that as a rule, the name of a toy differs in the different provinces. Sampul (blowgun), pum (arrow), and yo-yo, however, are names very generally used throughout the islands. The word for a top is generally but a doubling of the word for the real thing. Such is the case with ino-sitka (toy-fish), badil-balit (toy-gun).

There is evidence of some commercial possibility in Filipino toys, for a patent was recently secured upon the yo-yo by a firm in the United States. This toy has been extensively manufactured in the Province of Rizal and in the Philippine School of Arts and Trades. More or less detailed descriptions of certain of these toys are given herewith. All of them are manufactured locally, and many of them are of original design.

Fig. 4.—(a) Toy guns; (b) used in the Bicol province; the lower is merely a noise producer popgun with squirt attachment b.

Fig. 5.—(a) Jews' harp; (b) Moro drum; (c) an Ilocano drum.

Fig. 6.—(a) The Barimbeeng; (b) the less elaborate Samba.

The Sun top(s) are often painted black, green, red, and yellow. It is doubtful if the children of any country use tops to a greater extent or handle them more skillfully than do Filipino children. Whistling top: barimba, manning (Pangasinan), sagalalala-piece (Samar), Fig. 6. e. It is made of either a bamboo tube or the hardened end of a wild squash.

Dumase—barimba, upos (Pangasinan) (Fig. 6. c). The large size is made to rotate and produce a sound of a high, quick pulse which causes the wheel to twist and revolve. Yo-yo (Fig. 3. c.—Materials: hard wood and cord. This toy is thrown in such a manner as to cause the wheel to unwind and rewind the cord as it leaves the hand and returns. Considerable skill is required to operate it well.

Fig. 2.—(d) Diabolo; (e) wind wheel.

Fig. 3.—(f) Aerial whirligig; (g) beetle merry-go-round.
Windheels (Fig. 2, c) — pildåoa (Moro). This is used more often as a means of frightening away birds and their nests than for the sake of food. Before being taken into general use, these wheels were used in starting fires.

Avial Whirligigs—halie-belle (Pangasinan) (Fig. 3 f). This toy is operated by revolving the handle back and forth between the hands. Upon being released the toy rises in the air. It is generally admitted to be a imitation of a Japanese toy.

Beetle’s Merry-go-round—silisung (Tung), ab-ab ab (ilocano) (Fig. 3 g). Two beetles are stuck to the softest ends of two tarps which are fastened to opposite sides of a medium-sized shell. These, although illustrated here, a merry-go-round of this type is not recommended.

Windlass—Filipino children are as susceptible as are children of other countries to the charms of a toy whistle. The whistles are made from a number of different materials, but those made from a joint of rice straw or the underside of the jayapa leaf are perhaps, the most common.

Gun—Filipino children have for their amusement all sorts of toy guns, three of which are shown in Fig. 4. The upper two are both known in Ilocano as bعبدlal. The squid gun and the popgun are variously known as latian in Visayan, pulison in Ilocano, polipolop in Pangasinan, sartarp in Pampanga, and rimbiek in Moro. A wand of leaves is often used to serve the purpose of a cork for the popgun. In addition to the guns shown in the illustration are the blowgun and the lantaka (Samar Visayans). The latter is more like a real cannon than a toy. It is fired by igniting the gas given off from heated substances.

Jew’s-sharp (Fig. 5 a)—cuting (Moro), abafa ( Igorot), carlimbo (Ilocano). These are used by both young and old in the more remote districts, where they are frequently the only musical instruments. They are usually made of bamboo, though the abafa, the Igorot jew’s-sharp, is often made of brus. It differs from those of other sections in size, shape, and manner of operation. The abafa is made the length of a large-calibre cartridge, usually of a shape resembling a slipper sole, and has a spring attached at each end.

Bamboo drums—Two types of these drums are in use. One (Fig. 5 b) is made by notching one side of a bamboo tube. This is the kagpi. The other type takes it to the rice fields when they are guarding the rice against birds. It keeps the boys from going to sleep. While a stick is rubbing up and down on the notches, the other end of the tube is lightly struck with another stick. To understand better how difficult it is to play this instrument, take one pencil in your right hand and one in your left; move the right hand back and forth on the edge of the desk and with the leftest up and down, trying to keep time. Another type (Fig. 5 c) is made by raising three strips of the outer part of the bamboo and placing a bridge under each end. If a narrow opening is made in the tube, just under the raised strips, a loud sound is produced when the strips are struck with the small sticks. Unless much care is taken, the strips will break at the ends. A cord is often wound around the bamboo at the ends of the strips, just outside the bridges.

Barabeng, barabecor, banabere (Pangasinan) (Fig. 6 a, b, sunhigh (Ilocano) (Fig. 6 b, g). The handle is fastened by means of a cord, usually to a joint of wood, though sometimes to merely a doubled segment of a palm leaf. When this piece is made to revolve around the handle, a humming sound is produced.

Rattle carabataet (Ilocano) (Fig. 7 a). Materials: wood, bamboo, and coconut shell. By moving the hand in a circle, the bamboo cylinder is made to revolve while the notched wheel remains stationary on the handle. As the springs on the side pass from cog to cog, the sound produced is a noise produced. This toy is a common use during the week before Easter, though it is sometimes used at ball games. As a noise producer it has few equals. The sunditch (Pamp.), shown in Fig. 7 b, is another kind of rattle similar to the above, but is operated by alternating pulling and loosen the cord, thus causing the spindle to revolve and wind the wheel around the cord. The cutting-out illustrated in Fig. 7 c. Small sea shells are suspended by cords from a bamboo ring. This is hung in the window and the wind causes the shells to strike together and rattle. This toy is common in many parts of Luzon.

Dolls (Fig. 8)—These dolls have made of black cotton yarn, eyes and noses, and black threads and hair ornaments of tin. Whatever the reason may be, Filipino children seem to spend less time with dolls than do children in America. It is believed that the number of homemade dolls is greater than formerly.

Figures (papua and arrows (baos)) are fast disappearing as toys except among the mountain people. Pana is the common term for both bow and arrow.

Fishia (bela-bida) and animals.—The fishes are often carved out of wood and appropriately decorated. The fish is kept in position in the water by means of a stick passed through the fish, perpendicular to its side. A cord, by which the fish is caused to dart through the water, is attached to each end of the stick. See Art. 30. The body is made of coconut branch, while the head and fins are made of the shell. It is a Moro toy and is used in a dance of the same name. The object of the game, which is a fight, is to dash the prongs of the opponent. The nose of each candidate must be kept on the ground during the fight. Toy animals, such as dogs and eagles, as shown in Fig. 5 a, are made of a bamboo framework covered with paper, and are often completely covered with horse manure which is piled up and mounted on wheels. This toy has been given the name of "conc-bag," the Spanish for rabbit, and is to be seen only on Christmas Eve. A great variety of toy animals made in this way bear the same name.

Silting—balingbaling (Pangasinan). These vary as to material and appearance. The smallest are half-coconut shells through the tops of which are passed strong cords long enough for the child to hold when standing erect. The others are usually of bamboo, though forked sticks are sometimes used.

Action of Periodic Forces on Drops

Tint inventions hydrodynamical experiments which the late Professor C. A. Bjerrnes, of Christiania, brought before the Royal Congress held in connection with the Paris Exhibition of 1878, and which the late Mr. Augustus Stroh modified in an equally instructive and beautiful manner, have recently been found a sequel. Bjerrnes, placed drums, covered with elastic membranes, in viscous liquids, and made the membranes vibrate by connecting the drums to reciprocating pumps. With improved similar experiments in air, and obtained the same apparent attractions between membranes vibrating in the same sense, and repulsions between membranes vibrating in opposite sense, in a manner similar to the phenomena. Now K. Boedeker, of Söttsgen, has extended these researches to drops of one liquid floating in another liquid, and the same density (Annalen der Physik, Vol. xlvi, page 500). The results are such that the drop's behavior under periodic forces has partly been investigated by Bayley, by S. Webb in 1878, and by Kirchhoff. Experimental little had been done on the subject of the phenomena, and the phenomena have been new to the science of acoustics. The apparatus used were electric (intermittent currents from an induction coil) apparatus or mechanical. In the latter case a pin attached to a galvanic membrane was dipped into a drop of water, the drop moved up and down, and then the same time undergoing changes in shape. The shape changed from spherical to elliptical, conical or doubly conical, according to the frequency of the oscillations. The general rule was confirmed that two drops attracted one another when vibrating in the same phase, and repelled one another when in opposite phases; but for drops much larger than the capillary length, then between the two drops were between two plates, the one drop below the other, the pulsations would bring them to the surface, and then the vibrations would make the drops at rest start oscillating. Furthermore, interest attaches to the experiments made with very small drops of emulsions. These drops of 0.00001 centimeter diameter, were examined under the microscope, the boundary between two plates was between two plates, the one drop below the other, the pulsations would bring them to the surface, and then the vibrations would make the drops at rest start oscillating. Furthermore, interest attaches to the experiments made with very small drops of emulsions. These drops of 0.00001 centimeter diameter, were examined under the microscope, the boundary between two plates was between two plates, the one drop below the other, the pulsations would bring them to the surface, and then the vibrations would make the drops at rest start oscillating. Furthermore, interest attaches to the experiments made with very small drops of emulsions. These drops of 0.00001 centimeter diameter, were examined under the microscope, the boundary between two plates was between two plates, the one drop below the other, the pulsations would bring them to the surface, and then the vibrations would make the drops at rest start oscillating.