

THE NOBLE GAME OF ELEPHANT AND CASTLE OR TRAVELLING IN ASIA

Combining amusement with instruction for youth of both sexes
1822

The Noble Game of Elephant and Castle was first published in 1822 as a hand coloured engraving by William Darton of London.

The game is played on a magnificent board depicting an elephant surmounted by a howdah with an Indian mahout. The mysteries of the Orient are discovered on a grand tour from the Frozen Ocean in the Arctic wastes of north Russia, thence south through Asia into India, China and Japan. The game was published at the height of the British Empire and outrageously describes the appearance, customs and culture of the region's peoples, comparing their way of life to that of the British.

The Noble Game of Elephant and Castle is one of a set of collectable, early nineteenth century board games from the archives of the Victoria & Albert Museum.



Printed in England at the Bethnal Green
Museum of Childhood, London

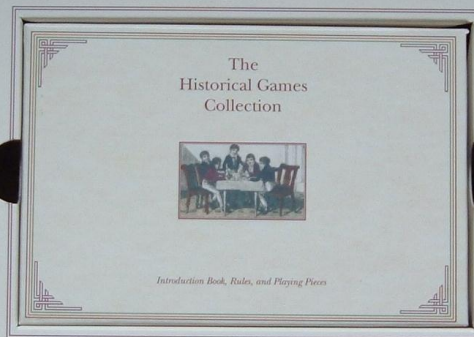


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The Historical Games Collection

Many early nineteenth century games were published by mapmakers who printed hand coloured engravings mounted onto linen which were folded and put into slip cases.

The playing boards were photographed from the Victoria & Albert Museum's collection at the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood and clearly show these original fold marks, together with the wear and tear created by early nineteenth century players and the patina of age which show as 'fox marks' caused by damp chemically affecting the original rag pulp paper.



Slip cases were generally made of rigid cardboard, often with a marbled finish, onto which was glued a hand coloured engraving extolling the games virtues. The illustrations on the sides of the box and the rules booklets are facsimiles of the original slip case designs.

Playing pieces, such as Teetotums and Travellers were originally made in bone or ivory, which is unacceptable today. They are now made in delicate and fragile mock ivory. Care should therefore be taken when playing. Counters were nearly always in cardboard and occasionally in ivory, bone or metal.



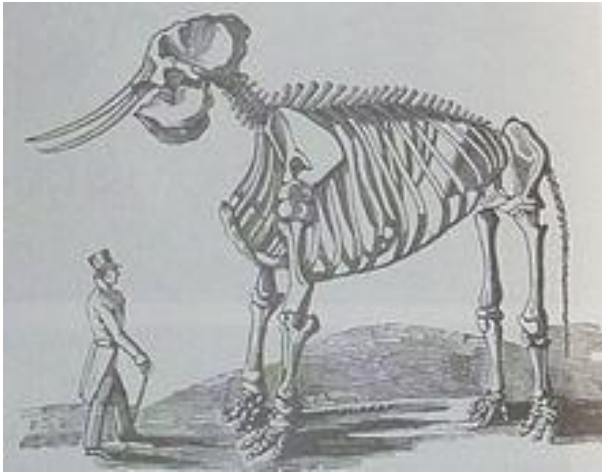
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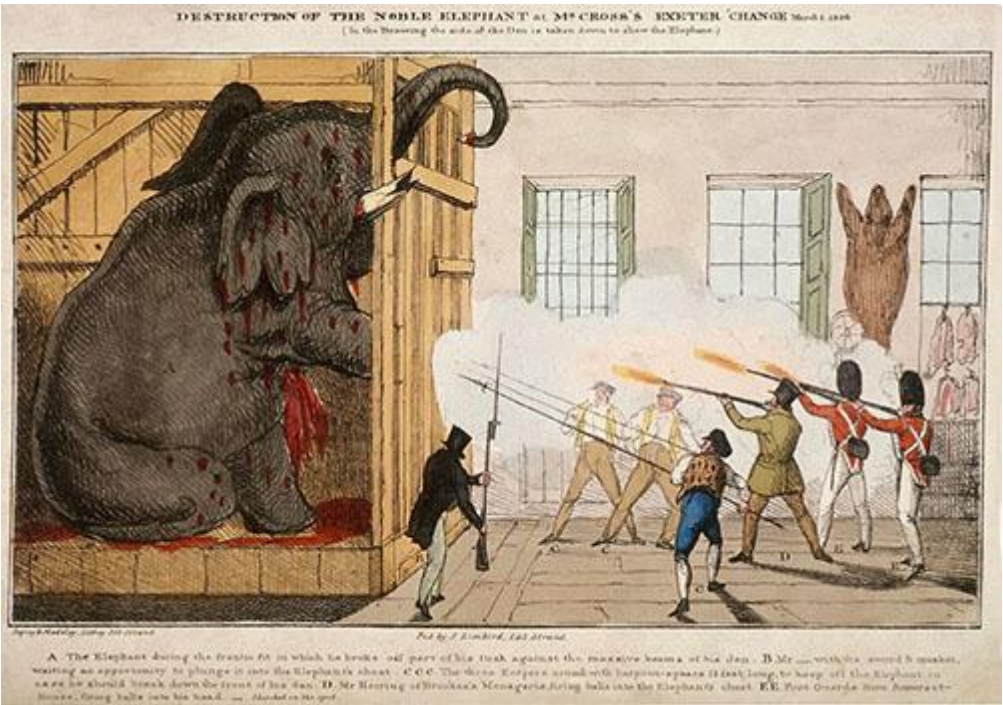
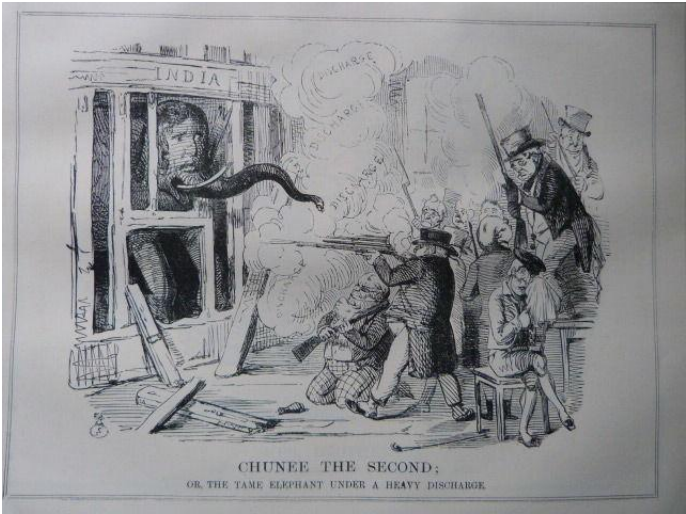
From originals at the
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, London



Representaciones de Chune

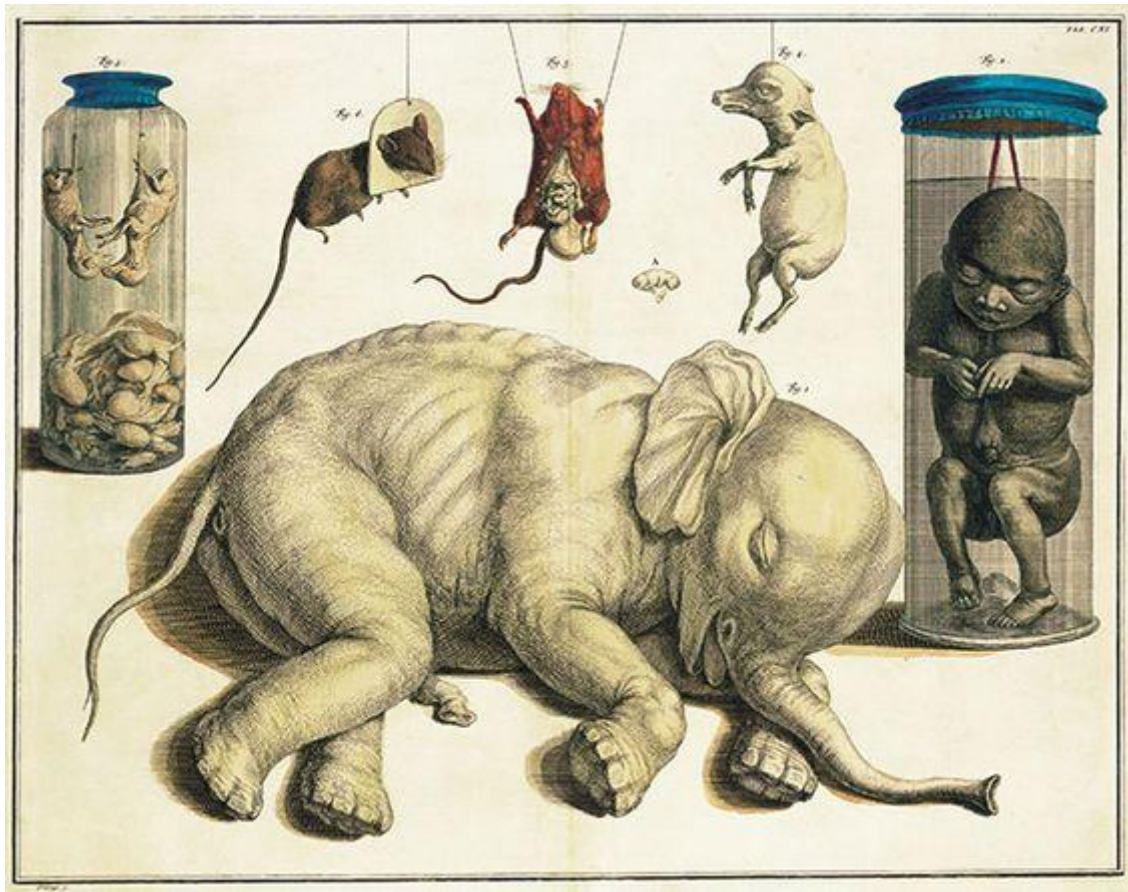


Dibujo del esqueleto de Chune





Elefante Africano en la sala del Natural History Museum, Londres. Siglo XX



1 Asiatic elephant foetus (*Elephas maximus*); 2 human foetus (*Homo sapiens*) 3 sheep embryo (*Ovis*); 4 pig embryo (*Sus*); 5-6 mouse (*Mus*)

Albertus Seba's Cabinet of Natural Curiosities-siglo XVIII, dibujos de gabinetes de curiosidades (1665-1736)