

Background information / pictures available online at:

<http://www.toy-worlds-museum-basle.ch>

Media, Password: phm

## **Christening and much more**

### **Special exhibition from 21 April 2012 – 7 October 2012**

From 21 April 2012 until 7 October 2012, the Toy Worlds Museum Basle is devoting itself to a special exhibition on the theme of "Christening". On display will be over 450 unique items connected with typical christening customs from the last three centuries. They provide fascinating insights into the various christening customs and traditions and how they came about. The exhibition will also include a competition in which three valuable Reborn dolls can be won.

The "Christening and much more" special exhibition presents numerous highly desirable collectors' items. Pride of place probably goes to the elaborate silver rattles with coral in countless shapes. A considerable proportion of the exhibition is devoted to christening gifts. The first evidence of the custom of godparent gifts comes from 13<sup>th</sup>-century Germany. The exhibition allows the development of this tradition to be traced over the centuries. Among the most popular gifts given by godparents to this day are money as well as mugs, cutlery and christening plates that accompany the godchild his or her whole life long. Another particularly interesting aspect is the wide variety of christening cards; the oldest in the exhibition dates from 1819. Numerous original photographs in very different styles provide an indication as to how a baby would be decked out for its christening in those days.

The wealth of examples is remarkable, in particular the christening gowns and finely made silk christening cushions with Brussels lace. The collection of beautiful old christening gowns shows impressively how elaborate and voluminous they were in those days. "Christening and much more" takes the visitor on an incomparable journey through time to discover the origins, history and meaning of this ritual. With their diversity and uniqueness, the exhibition objects provide a splendid impression of the importance of christening.

25 Reborn dolls dressed in the old christening gowns also help to convey an aura of bygone days in the exhibition. Reborn dolls is the name used for dolls made from vinyl intended to look as much like a real baby as possible. The price which can range from several hundred to several thousand Swiss francs, is determined by the quality of the doll.

Visitors to the special exhibition can train their memory with a special baby pairs game on an iPad. If you are successful, you will see the incomparable Evian baby commercial. (This unique pairs game has been made possible thanks to a cooperation with Evian Volvic Switzerland AG.) To accompany the exhibition there is also a competition in which the 25 Reborn babies on show are to be christened. Anyone entering the competition via the Internet or directly in the museum can win one of three valuable Reborn Babies.

## **Facts & figures**

Opening hours.  
Museum, shop and restaurant,  
from 10.00–18.00 daily

The Swiss and Upper Rhine Museum Passes are valid for the Toy Worlds Museum Basle.

Admission.  
CHF 7.00 / 5.00  
Children up to 16 years of age are admitted free of charge and only in the company of adults.

No additional charge for the special exhibition.  
The entire building is wheelchair-accessible.

## **Media contact.**

Further information is available from:

**Laura Sinanovitch**

**Managing Director/Curator**

**Toy Worlds Museum Basle**

Spielzeug Welten Museum Basle

Steinenvorstadt 1

4051 Basle

Telephone +41 (0)61 225 95 95

sina@swm-basel.ch

[www.toy-worlds-museum-basle.ch](http://www.toy-worlds-museum-basle.ch)