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Flapjack

This modern name for the toy does not appear in period sources but is the common name today. In the nineteenth century it was known as a toy acrobat, toy gymnast, and Milton Bradley marketed it's version as the “Contraband Gymnast.” Very few extant examples of this toys are found today but one was found in the Springfield, Massachusetts, Museums along with an 1864 advertisement/price list by Milton Bradley. The price list contained the following entry:

“Contraband Gymnast.– A very comical toy.....2.25”

An 1865 *Scientific American* Milton Bradley advertisement also mentioned the toy.

Although the toy had been in existence for centuries, the first United States Patent was issued to Jacob Schwensen on June 11, 1872 (#127,927). Other variations of toy acrobats followed Schwensen's patent.

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