

Ball and Cup

The ball and cup is a traditional toy that has appeared in ancient times. It consisted of a cup and a ball attached to a string and the object of the game is to catch the ball in the cup.

At one time, a cup and ball toy was in Arlington House Museum that Robert E. Lee was supposed to have brought back from Mexico for his children.

This toy also appeared in a number of children's activity books in the nineteenth century.

From *The Girl's Own Book* by Lydia Maria Child (1833) there is this description which has some elements in common with the bilbo catcher but the illustration below shows a deeper cup.

"Cup and Ball

Here a wooden ball, with a hole in it is used instead of a bird. A stick is made with a cup at one end, and a point is at the other. The object is to catch it in the cup, or on the point. The cup and ball are fastened together with a string."

