Froebel blocks

Block play is a fundamental aspect of kindergarten education. In the 19th century kindergarten teachers and children used table top block sets designed by Friedrich Froebel. Kindergarten manuals, mainly developed after Froebel's death outlined the progressions and activities associated with each block set. Very few block sets remain in New Zealand. In the early 20th century a range of larger blocks were introduced into New Zealand kindergartens.

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa's 's collection of Froebel Kindergarten Gifts: 3, 4, 5, 6, GH004084 [86, 87, 89, 90]

http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/search?searchTerm=Kindergarten+blocks&scope=all

Originally owned by the Wellington Free Kindergarten Association

Modern set of Froebel Gifts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Institute for Early Childhood Studies, Victoria University Wellington

A similar set is owned by the University of Otago College of Education

The Froebel gifts

Spielgaben are play materials for young children designed by Friedrich Froebel between May 1837 and 1850 for the original kindergarten at Bad Blankenburg in the principality of Schwarzburg Rudolstadt. The Froebel gifts were made by master carver Lohn, assisted by artisans and women of the village. Playing with Froebel gifts and craft occupations, dancing and singing and growing plants were each important aspects of this child centred approach to educated created by Friedrich Froebel. *The Sonntagsblatt* (1838-1840) published by Fröebel explained the meaning, and described the use of each of the play gifts (Spielgaben).

http://www.froebeldecade.com/sonntagsblatt/

http://www.froebelblocks.com

Norman Brosterman (1997) *Inventing Kindergarten*, Harry N. Abrams, p. 42

Rare photos of Froebel Gifts in action in New Zealand Kindergartens

Gift One - soft balls
Walker Street Kindergarten. Dunedin
Otago Witness, 16 July 1902

BABY'S FIRST LESSONS IN SPHERE, FORM, AND COLOUR.

Gift Three - blocks
Hill Street School Kindergarten, Dunedin
Otago Witness 24 December 1902

FREE-BUILDING IN THE YOUNGEST CLASS.

Dunedin kindergarten teacher trainees with Froebel blocks, c. 1914, noting too the portrait of Friedrich Froebel on the wall.
Semi-Jubilee 1889-1914, Dunedin Free Kindergarten Association

Myers Park Kindergarten c. 1916

Grey Collections, Auckland Public Library, NZMS1275 (27)

Ponsonby Kindergarten, 1934

Photo scrap book, ‘Our new kindergarten’ by Gwen B, Count
Grey Collections Auckland Public Library, NZMS 1275 (17)

Rachel Reynolds Kindergarten, Dunedin c.1920s

Hocken Collections – Uare Takoka o Hākena, University of Otago, MS1149/00 S13-540b