

"Tournikel" Game

Manufacturer: Replica, made in the LVR-Freilichtmuseum Kommern

Owner: LVR-Freilichtmuseum Kommern

Self-built games of skill were typical of the rather modest amusements offered at the small "Kirmessen" in the villages of the early 20th century. Often built by residents, they were only intended for the local fair.

Not much is known about the history of the tournikel game. It is one of the numerous variants of the skittles game and has been widespread since the High Middle Ages. It appears in textual sources in the context of courtly games and secular game prohibitions. The name "tournikel" is derived from the French term "tourniquer" (= to prowl around sth.).