



PETITE METAPHYSIQUE DES JOUETS. ELOGE DE L'INTUITION ENFANTINE

By WITKOWSKI NICOLAS

LA MARTINIÈRE, 2011. Couverture rigide. Condition: Neuf. Dust Jacket Condition: Neuf. Les jouets sont-ils des objets futiles, tout juste bons à amuser les enfants ? C'est sans doute le cas pour la plupart des enfants, mais pas pour tous. Certains trouvent dans leurs jouets une puissante source d'inspiration capable d'engendrer, des années plus tard, les théories physiques les plus fracassantes. Simples amusements, les jouets sont aussi porteurs de vérités fondamentales sur l'espace et le temps. Chardin, ici pris pour guide, sut traduire les abîmes de réflexion où plongent les enfants qui font tourner une toupie ou édifient un château de cartes. Les grands secrets de la physique se sont ainsi révélés au XVII^e siècle à Isaac Newton, qui comprit la nature de la lumière avec un prisme de verre, lequel était à son époque un jouet, et au XIX^e à James Maxwell, qui trouva dans sa fine connaissance des toupies les analogies qui lui permirent d'unifier l'électricité et le magnétisme. Quant à Albert Einstein, il fait remonter ses premières interrogations sur l'espace et le temps aux châteaux de cartes, aux boussoles et aux machines à vapeur miniatures de son enfance. On comprend mieux dès lors pourquoi circulent tant de légendes...



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