It was in the early 1970s that I (always during lunch time on sunny days) would visit the famous Amsterdam flea market “Het Waterlooplein,” located not far from my office. Always looking for something of interest, rarity, or humor (especially when it comes to games!) I strolled amongst the booths when something interesting caught my eye—some painted wooden blocks. Upon closer examination, I recognized some faces when they were properly laid together.

It was an enormous Block Puzzle! After some negotiation and a few guilder they were mine.

“It is a pity,” the seller said, “there were three of them in my storage area but a cabinet toppled over and damaged the other two. I burned them in my fireplace. They also had nice pictures—one with “pets” like a dog, cat, and a parrot, etc., and the other with images of buildings like a house, a farm, and a church. In fact, each set accompanied a small table. Children would sit on the blocks around the table. But the tables had also been damaged, thus they too ended up in my fireplace.”

With a few remarks on his loss of a good trade and thanking him for saving this one, I took my newly acquired puzzle with me back to the office where after a closer look, I had bought a complete family!

Back in February 2018 I was given a crate containing some old games. To my surprise, hidden in a puzzle box was one of the smallest block puzzles I had ever seen, measuring no more than 2 x 2 x 2 cm., and forming wonderful small pictures from the 6 little blocks.