


Arco & Iris do Europe

Montenegro and Germany





*Dear readers,
If you followed Arco and Iris on their trip to South America, you will remember how they wanted to begin a new adventure as soon as possible. Freedom is hard to let go of!*

For their new escapade, our two friends have chosen Europe, a huge continent with lots of different countries. So many different countries that they could not visit them all at once, so they made their choice according to suggestions that we hope our readers, young and not so young, will agree with.

On this trip, too, you will meet several of the money boxes from the collection of the Museum of Saving that have inspired the story.

Reading this new story of their escape from the Museum, you will learn how our two heroes have increased their ability to survive in the outside world, and not just to look after their money. There are so many things to think about, from the value of the difference between risk and return, what price inflation is and the effect it has on what your money is worth. All explained in simple terms.

In this story, we want you to use your imagination but above all we would like you to use the little "secrets" shared with Arco and Iris to help you make your dreams come true.

The adventures of Arco and Iris have been told to and faithfully written down by the director of the Museum, Giovanna Paladino, and the curator of the collection, Lilli Chiariglione.

On their return from South America, Arco and Iris had decided to save up all the money that the visitors to the Museum had donated for good luck. They had read the story of their previous adventure¹, and came to the Museum to see them in their lovely show case and, usually, they left a little coin in the hope of returning, just as the tourists do in the Trevi Fountain in Rome!



¹ https://www.museodelrisparmio.it/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Arco-and-Iris-in-South-America.ENG_.pdf

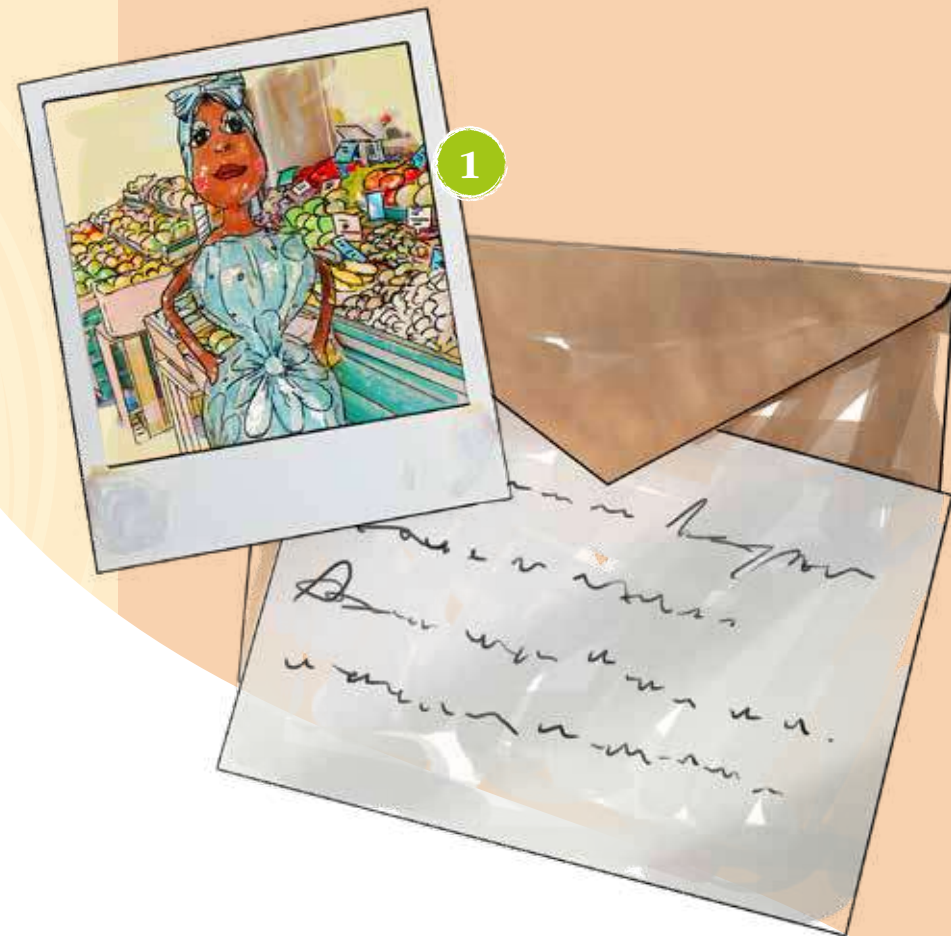


Brother and sister wanted to go off again to explore interesting places in a different part of the world... but where? It was not an easy choice... When you take an adventure, you have to face unforeseen situations that sometimes can be dangerous! Obviously, being careful is important, but as the proverb says, “*he who dares wins*” and the two children were ready to take a risk so that they relive the emotions of the life outside, travelling the world!

And in any case, they weren't two little inexperienced children anymore. On their return, they had learnt from all the events the Museum organises to understand *the best way to use their money* and they had listened to a series of podcasts recorded by **For e Mica**². One of these explained how to manage pocket money.



² <https://www.museodelrisparmio.it/i-nostri-podcast/> (only available in Italian)



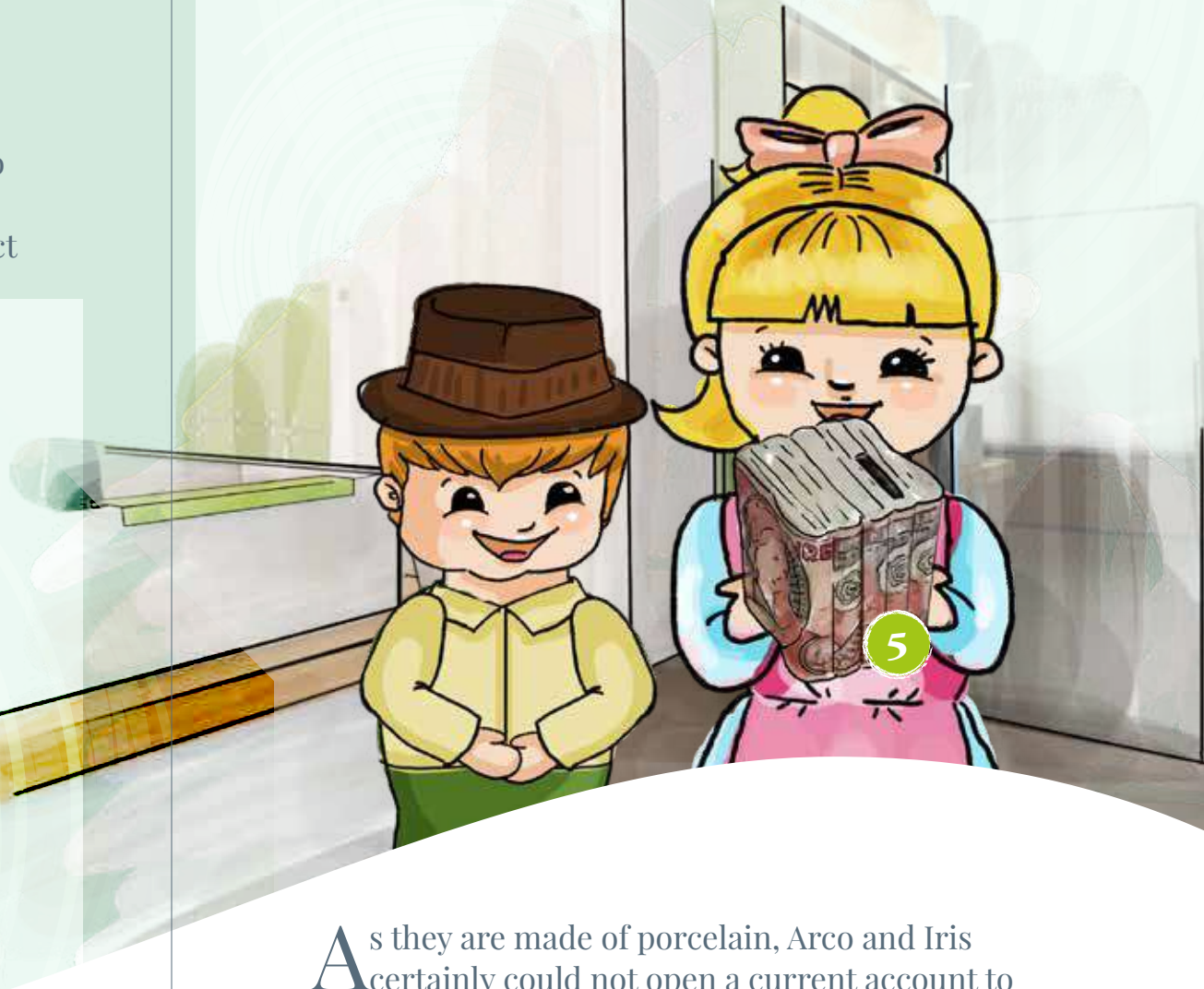
Arco and Iris learned a lot of things in South America, the most important being *how to plan and make good decisions*, that is draw up a plan each and every time you decide to do something and carefully assess the pros and cons of each decision. They met interesting people and one day, to their great surprise, they received a letter from Mrs. **Aurea (1)**, the fruit-seller they had met in Brazil.

Her business was doing rather well but she needed a little money to buy a larger stall for her produce. Since she had started selling better goods, she had more customers and her takings had increased so she had decided the time had come to *invest*. She could not use all her money as she needed it to buy quality **fruit (2)** and **vegetables (3)** from the local **farmers (4)**. She had therefore thought of asking Arco and Iris for a small *loan*, that she would *repay with interest*. This would give them more money for their next trip... But where would they go?



After much thinking and re-thinking, they decided to travel around Europe. Sure, it is a continent with so many countries. It would be impossible to visit them all! With their savings they couldn't just improvise; they must calculate how much it would cost to stay in each country for a few days, that is "living costs". In fact, there are countries where expenses are high and others where they are lower. In the end, they decided on Montenegro, Germany, France, England, and Portugal.

They reckoned on travelling in the off-season so as to avoid crowds of tourists and save some money. In the off-season, prices are lower to attract the few visitors and also, everyone is much more polite as they are not in such a rush.



As they are made of porcelain, Arco and Iris certainly could not open a current account to keep their savings safe. They had to travel with **cash (5)**, with the risk of losing it or having it stolen... They decided to divide up the money and hide it in different places. Arco would look after one half and Iris the other: a way to reduce the *risk* of losing everything if they were robbed.

The **old man (6)** who spent his days stroking his dog and smoking his pipe had been fascinated by the story of their first escape from the Museum and had bought some plastic bags to keep their money in. In this way, they could hide the money without damaging it, even in their **shoes (7)**. But it was no fun going around carrying so much money, the next time they would have to find a better solution.



Arco and Iris's trip began in Montenegro, a country with historic links to Italy, that was situated on the Adriatic Sea and where they could pay in **Euro (8)**. What a bonus to be able to use the same money: there was no need to change the money and it was simpler to understand what things cost!

At Ancona, they boarded a ferry to Bar. It was a night crossing and they asked if they help serve meals (9) to save a little. It was a great idea to visit Montenegro! A beautiful country rich in beaches, rivers in canyons, lakes, and majestic mountains.



And it was during a hike in the mountains that Arco and Iris went too deep into the woods looking for mushrooms (10) and when evening came they realised they were lost! They took their map out of the bag, but in the dark they couldn't see very well and, because there was only a poor signal, the gps on the cell phone given them by the Museum staff to keep in contact was not working.

Luckily, they had been careful to bring with them the compass loaned by **Davy Crocket³ (11)**. If they hadn't had these instruments to reduce the risk of getting lost, things would have been a lot worse! It was just as well they had learned the lesson of *diversification* they had heard so many times at the Museum, and this time it really had worked. Hooray!!!!

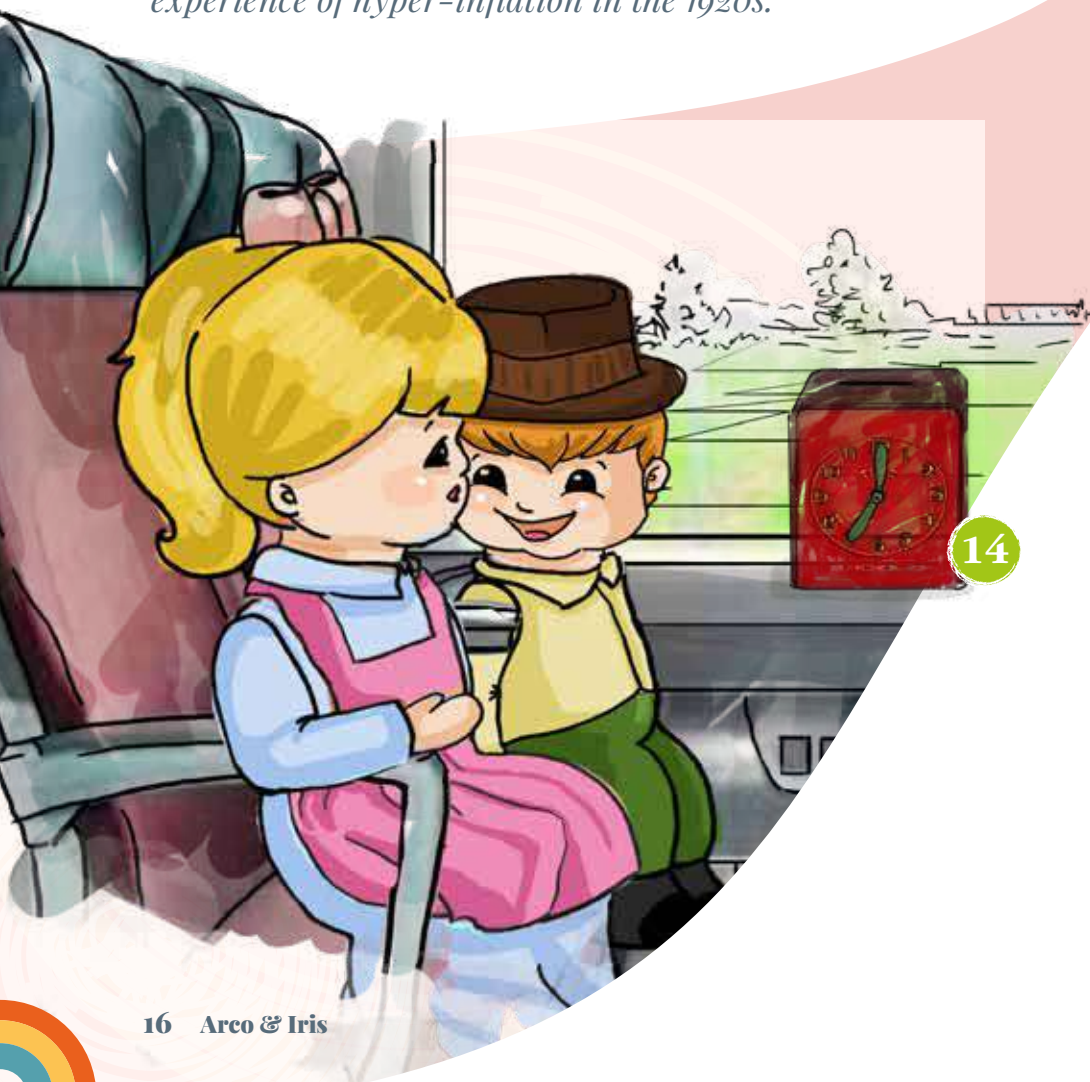


³ American pioneer, hunter, frontiersman, member of Congress renowned for his humorous rhetoric and warm rudeness of his manners; he was defeated in the 1835 elections and, discouraged and disgusted, he left Tennessee and joined the rebels in Texas. He died in the battle of Fort Alamo.



They had enjoyed their time in Montenegro and had spent very little money because the cost of living there is lower than in other European countries. They had spent only 10-20 euros each a day for food. They decided to send a postcard to their friends at the Museum to tell them they were fine, and they posted it in the **post-box (12)** at the station in Podgorica when they managed to catch a **train (13)** for Germany!

After twenty-six and a half hours in the train (14) Arco and Iris crossed the border into Germany. During the long trip, Iris had explained many things about Germany and the Germans: *“Arco, you should know that the Germans are famous for being very money-wise and careful to save their money in good times and bad times. People say it has something to do with their experience of hyper-inflation in the 1920s.”*



“Hyper what?” Arco asked.

“Hyper-inflation, that is very, very high inflation,” Iris explained, “it means that the cost of the same thing increases a hundred or even a thousand times. So, if people have the same money, they become poorer. Another time, I will explain to you why this happens, but there are various examples in ancient and modern history. You must remember that, normally, prices do not change drastically, it is an event caused by extraordinary conditions. Usually, prices rise only a little in a year and in that case inflation is not so scary. Some people believe that inflation is a good thing because people keep on buying – buy what you need today because tomorrow it will cost more...” Iris always seemed to know everything.

Then they took turns in sleeping as they were afraid someone might steal their money; even though there was a **gendarme (15)**, on the train, they preferred to be careful. They still had a long way to go and they wanted to be vigilant....



For a long way, the railway had run along the coast, then it entered Slovenia and from there to Austria before arriving at their next destination: Munich, in Bavaria. They wanted to find out the origins of a money box in the collection of the Museum of Saving in Turin and that came from that city. It was a monk in a black and yellow habit and a pair of red shoes sitting on a barrel of beer. A monk and a barrel of beer – a little strange to say the least!

They discovered an interesting fact. The city got its name from a 10th century monastery - more than 1,000 years ago, close to which a small village was founded called *Muniche*, that in Old German means “*the place near the monks*”. In the Middle Ages only monks knew the secrets of brewing beer and only they were authorised to produce and sell the amber drink. The coat of arms of the city of Munich contains these symbols: a **monk (16)** with a gold-edged black habit and red shoes – exactly the same as the one in the case at the Museum!!!!



They also saw some people in **traditional costumes (17)**, that were exactly the same as another money box. How funny!

What a lot of things you learn while travelling. They crossed almost all of Germany before arriving in the capital, Berlin. For 28 years, until 1989, the city was divided by a wall, 155 km long and 3.6 metres high that divided West Germany from East Germany. The two halves of Berlin used money with the same name, the Mark, but they had a different value. Each Western “Deutsche Mark” was worth 8 East German Deutsche Marks.



*“Iris, do you understand the differences in value?”
– asked Arco – “I remember something they said at the Museum talking about the nominal value and the real value of money, although I don’t remember very well what they were referring to...”*

“Well done Arco!” – Iris exclaimed happily – “You have listened to the museum’s courses very well! In fact, there is a difference between the two values: nominal, or face, value, is that printed on the coin or the banknote: 2 euro or 50 euro note; the real value indicates the purchasing power of the coin or the banknote, that is to say how many goods or services you can buy at a given time and in a given place. With 1 East German mark you could not buy the same amount of milk you could have bought with a West German mark, only much less!”



Arco couldn't believe that, for once, Iris had paid him a compliment. She always knew everything!!!, In any case, he was feeling tired and convinced his sister to let him go to sleep. Tomorrow would be their last day in the German capital.

They say that the early bird catches the worm, so our friends got up early and took a last walk around the city. They certainly couldn't leave Berlin without going to see the famous Brandenburg Gate, by far the city's most photographed monument – 26 metres high, it was built for the Prussian King Frederick William II and inspired by the Acropolis in Athens.

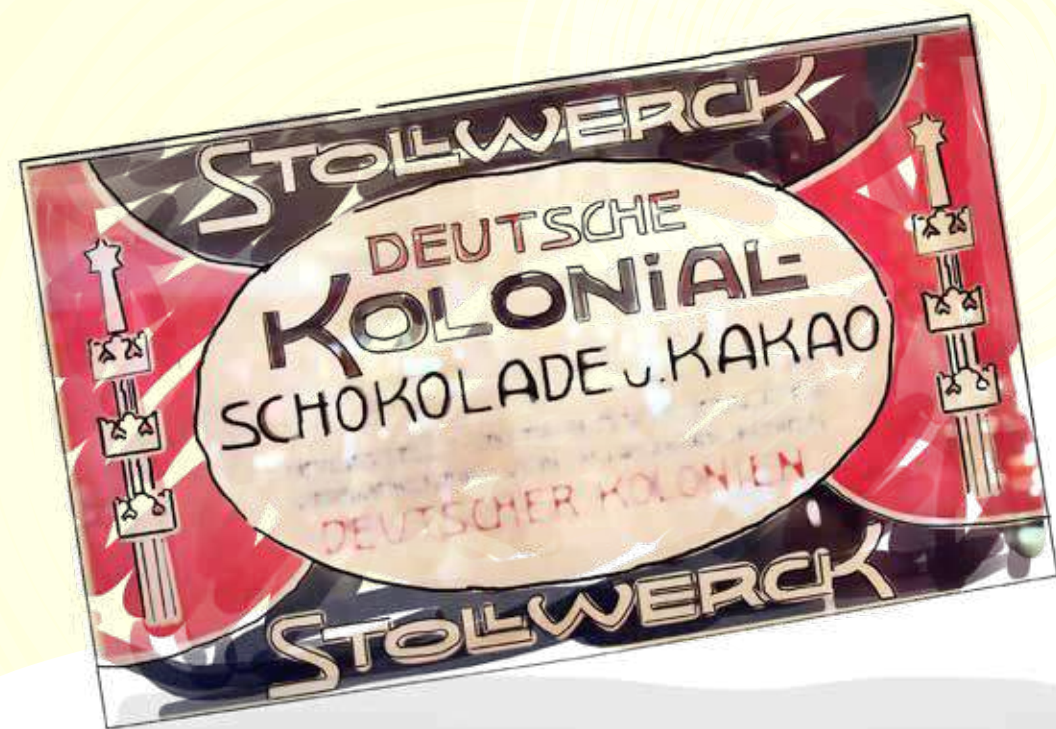


Before it got dark, they managed to go to the museum area, an enchanting area with an air of old Berlin. Unfortunately, they did not have time to visit the Pergamon, the famous museum housing the walls of Babylon. They were sorry and promised to return one day but now they had to go back and sleep.

The next morning, they got up early and made sure they had not left anything behind in the little hotel. With shining eyes full of curiosity, they took the underground to get to the train station on time. They headed west out of Berlin towards France. They stopped in Cologne, a city on the river Rhine where, in 1839, the Stollwerck chocolate factory was founded. Arco and Iris wanted to visit it because in one of the cases at the Museum there was a beautiful money box that was a real miniature chocolate machine (18).



18



They learned that the founder of the company, Ludwig Stollwerck, had wanted to teach children how to save for a purpose, in this case to buy mini-bars of chocolate. The bars were placed in their window and to eat them you had to insert a coin that remained in the money box.

Before taking the train that would take them to France, they stopped at a nice bar to gather their strength. They ordered fresh orange juice and were horribly surprised to pay 6 euros!!! Arco could not believe it but Iris, who had studied the question more deeply knew that the *price* of something depended on a lot of factors.



In fact, you had to remember that oranges do not grow in Germany and they have to be imported from abroad, maybe even from Italy. Transporting oranges is expensive because you have to consider the price of petrol, motorway tolls, drivers' pay... so the price of a product may vary from one country to another, and the price of oranges cannot be the same in Sicily and Germany.

The next time they would drink a **Coca-Cola (19)**, much cheaper... but certainly not as good for you! But this was not the time for the whys or the wherefores. They had to hurry if they weren't to miss their train, they picked up their luggage and hurried to the railway station nearby.



THE MUSEUM OF SAVING

The Museum of Saving is a unique and innovative site designed to spread financial education. Many people find it difficult to handle their capital due to a lack of basic economic-financial knowledge. The Museum aims to help these people to take rational and informed decisions that help them to achieve their priorities.

In the various rooms of the Museum of Saving, young children, adolescents, and adults follow a path that makes them aware of how to use money and to understand and experiment finance in an entertaining way.



Museum of Saving/Museo del Risparmio

Via San Francesco d'Assisi 8/a – 10121 Torino

Free phone 800.167.619

info@museodelrisparmio.it

www.museodelrisparmio.it

Open 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays

Booking required for groups and schools

Follow the Museo del Risparmio on:

 @museodelrisparmio

 @MdR_Torino

 @mdr_torino



MONEY BOXES

- 1 **Brazilian woman**, 1990–2000, papier maché, Brazil
- 2 **Lemon**, 1990s, clay, origin unknown
Pomegranate, 1920–1930, porcelain, origin unknown
- 3 **Carrot**, 1940–1950, painted terracotta, France
Red pepper, 1940–1950, painted plaster, France
- 4 **Peasant woman**, 1960–1970, cold-painted terracotta, France
- 5 **Bank notes**, 1970–1980, plaster and paper, Italy
- 6 **Old man in a rocking-chair**, 1960–1970, earthenware, GB
- 7 **Italia '90 Converse sneakers**, 1990, plaster, Italy
- 8 **1 euro coin**, 2000s, plastic, Italy
- 9 **Sandwich bread**, 1990s, paper and cloth, Oceania
Coffee maker, 1980s, hand-painted pottery, Italy
- 10 **Mushroom with fairy**, 1940–1950, plaster, origin unknown
- 11 **(11) Davy Crockett**, 1960–1970, wood and plaster, USA
- 12 **(12) Letter box**, 2000s, pottery, Montenegro
- 13 **(13) Locomotive**, 1980–1990, pottery, Germany
- 14 **Clock**, 1930–1940, tin, Australia
- 15 **Gendarme**, 1950s, porcelain, France
- 16 **Monk**, 1950–1970, porcelain, Germany
- 17 **Bavarian man**, 1960–1970, plastic, animal hair, cloth, Germany
- 18 **Stollwerk chocolate machine**, 1890–1902, sheet-metal, Germany
- 19 **Talking Coca-Cola can**, 1998, plastic, USA



MdR

MUSEO DEL RISPARMIO

Conoscere, capire, sperimentare.



www.museodelrisparmio.it