

**Volume 26 Number 3**  
**\$7.00**



# The War of 1812



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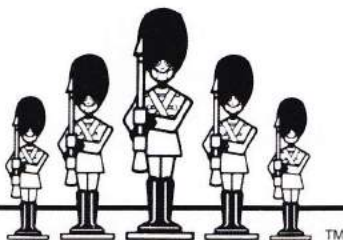
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## IN THIS ISSUE

### **Publisher**

Ray Haradin

### **Editor**

Norman Joplin

### **Advertising**

Ray Haradin

### **Circulation**

Nancy Haradin

### **Technical Production**

Banksville Express Printing

### **Staff Photographers**

Philip Dean

David Haradin

### **Staff Cartoonists**

Roger Garfield, Sue Bialzik

### **Show Reports**

Ray Haradin, Philip Dean, Michael Mattimore

### **New Product Reviewer**

Russ Bednarek

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### **Specialist Contributors**

Philip Dean, Britains and British Civilians

Don Pielin, Dimestores

Steve Sommers, Heyde/German Manufacturers

Joe Wallis, Britains Military

Correspondence, including Manuscripts, Trade and Toy Soldier Marketplace Advertisements and all general inquires, should be forwarded to:

Old Toy Soldier

P. O. Box 13324

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15243-0324

Telephone (412) 563-3499

Fax (412) 344-5273

E Mail: raytoys@aol.com

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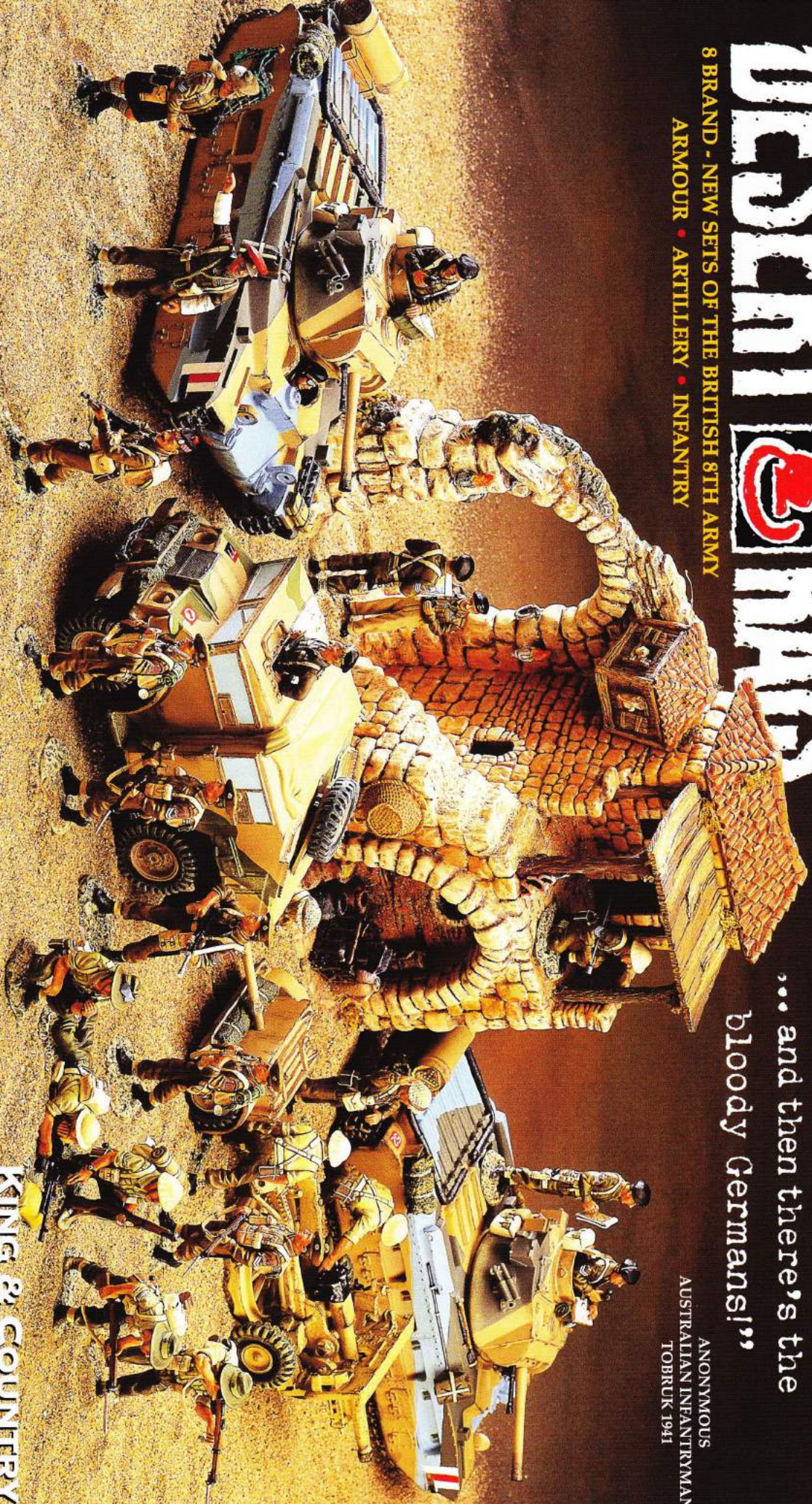
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sand in yer grub... dust up yer bum  
... and then there's the  
bloody Germans!”

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22H, Asian House, 1 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong. Tel : (852) 2861 3450 Fax : (852) 2861 3806  
E-mail : hongkong@kingandcountry.com

KING & COUNTRY SHOP

362, Pacific Place, Queenswy, Hong Kong. Tel : (852) 2525 8603  
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**KING & COUNTRY**

TOY SOLDIERS THAT LOOK REAL!



# WENDAL NATIVITY

*By Philip Dean*

With the season of goodwill almost upon us there can be no better time to show the only metal nativity figures made in the UK. Manufactured by Wendal, with some moulds imported from Quiralu of France, this colourful set has many colour variations as the factory painters were allowed free expression on non-military figures. Note how, in an effort to save on time and costs, the change, in the later models, from eyes and eyebrows to simple dots. The full range of Wendal and its beautiful boxes, probably the Britains Zulu Kraal was the first box of this type, will be reviewed in full in a later article. But for now, enjoy the nativity figures and... Happy Christmas!



Contents of the smaller of the two sets produced by Wendal



The larger and longer of the sets, with a larger background and a lying cow





Jesus, a single casting right and a two piece set



Mary, the later figure is on the left, the older figure shows a better paint style, quality suffered to cut costs, the newer eyes were just dots, the older castings had a more intricate paint job



Joseph, as with Mary, shows differing paint styles with the older one on the right, the eyes, cloaks and footwear all show a higher standard of work



Three Shepherds-color variations



The three photographs above show the color variations of each King



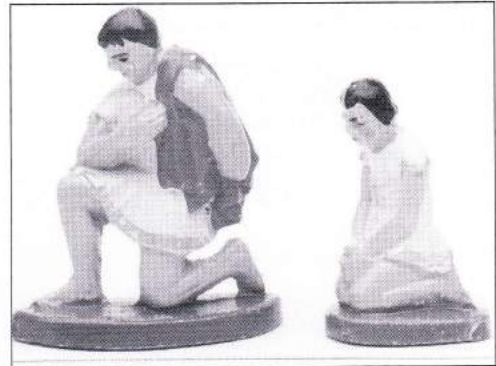
Shepherd boys, color variations



Rare praying female casting variants



Rare praying female child and male youth.



Rare kneeling Roman in toga and praying child



Colors and styles of donkeys



The lying cow, with and without bases, another cost cutting exercise.





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# HOBBY NEWS

THE THIRD ANNUAL DIMESTORE BREAKFAST WAS HELD ON SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 21st AT THE OLD TOY SOLDIER SHOW IN CHICAGO. Fifty of the world's most active collectors and dealers were in attendance. The speakers this year were Bud Born and Stan Alekna. Bud Born has collected figures since the late 1930's and had assembled a display in his toy soldier room. Attendees at the breakfast were treated to a slide presentation which amounted to a "personal" tour of Bud's collection. The collection encompasses nearly every Dimestore figure produced from the 1930's through the late 1950's.

Stan Alekna chose to speak on the rarest of the rare Dimestore figures. He had compiled a listing of the three major manufactures ie. Manoil, Barclay and Grey Iron which he has listed in order of rarity. When assessing the rarity of each figure, the following criteria were used. All figures examined were fullsize (3"), U.S. and Foreign Troops only, no civilian figures, generally accepted paint variants, and no mold-mark variations. In addition, Stan and his wife Sally added to this criteria the number of times they had actually seen each figure. Price and desirability of the figure was not a factor in compiling the list. The following lists rate each figures rarity.

## THE RAREST OF THE RARE DIMESTORE

### MANOIL TOP 20

O'BRIEN NO.	DESCRIPTION	# SEEN
1. M48A	SNIPER STANDING; SHORT, THICK RIFLE	0
2. ???	NURSE PUSHING SOLDIER IN WHEEL CHAIR	0
3. M88	PARACHUTIST IN GREY JUMP SUIT	1
4. M174A	PRONE, SKINNY MACH. GUNNER, SHORT BBL	1
5. M127a	PARACHUTIST, MOLD MARK & OTHER DIFF.	1
6. M22a	CADET IN DARK BLUE UNIFORM	1
7. M205	500 SERIES STRETCHER BEARERS	2
8. M206	500 SERIES WOUNDED ON STRETCHER	2
9. M58a	STRETCHER BEARERS, #32 & OTHER DIFF.	2
10. M7	PARADE, #8 & OTHER DIFFERENCES	2
11. M44	KNEELING, FOLDING RIFLE	2
12. M88	PARACHUTIST IN WHITE JUMP SUIT	2
13. M1	HOLLOW BASED FLAG BEARER	3
14. M18	PRONE MACH. GUNNER, MANY DIFFERENCES	3
15. M47	STANDING FOLDING RIFLE	3
16. M61	HOSTESS IN WHITE	3
17. M91	COOK W LADEL, WW II HELMET	3
18. M61a	HOSTESS IN KHAKI	4
19. M173	SITTING SKINNY MACH. GUNNER	4
20. M174	PRONE SKINNY MACH. GUNNER	5

### BARCLAY TOP 20

O'BRIEN NO.	DESCRIPTION	# SEEN
1. B37	CADET PAINTED AS WOODEN SOLDIER	0
2. B25a	OFFICER, KHAKI & BLUE, NO CHEST STRAP	0
3. B244A	PODFOOT AVIATOR IN RED	0
4. B255A	PODFOOT WOUNDED ON CRUTCHES, RED	0
5. B256A	PODFOOT WOUNDED, SLING IN RED	0
6. B18a	CHARGING, SLING AROUND HAND	0
7. B150	LEGIONNAIRE FLAG BEARER	1
8. B19	TALL, ADVANCING WITH RIFLE	1
9. B54a	NAVAL OFFICER, BLUE, TIN TOP TO CAP	1
10. B83A	NURSE, HAND ON HIP, BLUE	1
11. B120b	SEARCHLIGHT, SMOOTH LENS, BASE VAR.	1
12. B120a	SEARCHLIGHT, SMOOTH LENS, NO WHEEL	1
13. B120	SEARCHLIGHT, SMOOTH LENS, EL. WHEEL	1
14. B55A	NAVAL OFFICER, BLUE, SS	2
15. Bn	OFFICER ON CHARGING HORSE W SWORD	2
16. B75	TALL, GRENADE THROWER	3
17. B235A	PODFOOT OFFICER IN BLUE	3
18. B56a	NAVAL OFFICER, BLUE, LS	3
19. B28	OFFICER W SWORD, BLUE, CH	3
20. B149	LEGIONNAIRE	3

### GREY IRON TOP 15

O'BRIEN NO.	DESCRIPTION	# SEEN
1. G36	G34 CAVALRYMAN w 48-star? FLAG	0
2. G10A	U.S. INFANTRY, SHOULDER ARMS, NO TIE	1
3. G3	COLONIAL FLAG BEARER w 13-STAR FLAG	2
4. G106	U.S. CAVALRYMAN, EARLY EV	2
5. G103	RADIO OPERATOR w BOTH ANTENNAS	2
6. G113	FOREIGN LEGION (MARINE) OFFICER IN BLUE ON WHITE HORSE	3
7. G114	FOREIGN LEGION (MARINE) CAVALRYMAN IN BLUE ON WHITE HORSE	3
8. G107	U.S. CAVALRY OFFICER, EARLY EV	4
9. G100	AVIATOR	5
10. G102	GREEK EVZONE	5
11. G92	ITALIAN (BRITISH) OFFICER	5
12. G91	ITALIAN (BRITISH) INFANTRY SOLDIER	6
13. G21	AMMO CARRIER	7
14. G104	NURSE W WOUNDED SOLDIER	8
15. G105	DOUGHBOY HELPING WOUNDED SOLDIER	9





## **Wm. Britain acquires Charles Biggs Premier Line.**

William Britains is proud to announce its acquisition of the Premier Model Collection of World War I solid metal figures, guns and vehicles – designed, produced and brought to prominence by Charles Biggs, who is recognized as a leading expert in the design and manufacturing of metal miniatures. Biggs has produced metal miniatures since 1956, when he began with Britains Limited. The Premier Model Collection will be marketed under the William Britain name, and will retain the gloss paint finish by which they are recognized.

Biggs will continue assisting in developing new figures for this line. Britains will introduce 17 W.W.I items for 2003. These items will be available at all William Britain dealers beginning the first quarter of 2003.

## **Wm. Britain introduces James Dietz**

William Britain's Art of War Series precisely depicts battles that proved to be significant historical milestones, as seen through the eyes of the world's finest artists. The newest sets are inspired by the exceptional artistry of James Dietz, a new artist to Wm. Britain, who focuses on the human aspect of warfare, along with its weaponry. The sculpts are the first of their kind to depict his painting "Seize the Day," which portrays activity that took place June 6, 1944, as soldiers of the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment liberated and began defending the first French town liberated on D-Day, Ste. Mere Eglise.

The subtlest of details and nuances from his painting are captured and given three-dimensional form as striking miniature figures. These sets can be displayed alone, or used as focal points for full dioramas.

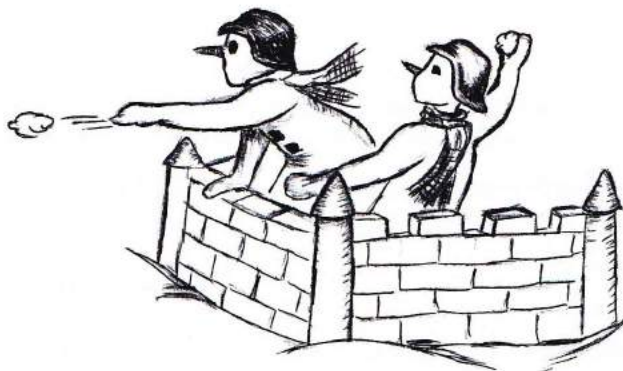
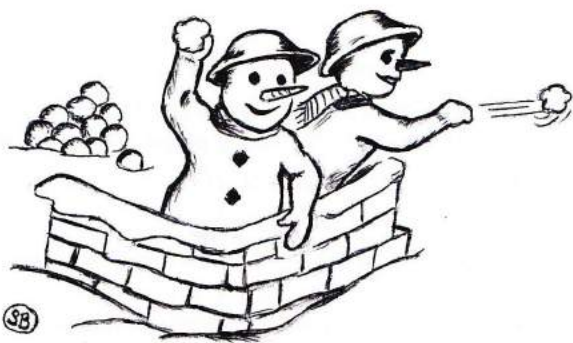
## **Wm. Britain Americana Series**

William Britains' new Americana Series will depict significant and poignant moments in American history from the pilgrims landing at Plymouth Rock to present day conflicts. Two new sets – the Alamo and the Battle of New Orleans - mark the introduction of the series, and the figures will be produced with a matte finish.

The Alamo set includes figures portraying David Crockett, Jim Bowie, Santa Ana and William Travis, as well as three-piece sets of Texans and Mexicans, and is scheduled to be available in spring 2003. The Battle of New Orleans includes figures depicting Andrew Jackson, Jean Lafitte and Major General Sir Edward Pakenham, as well as three-piece sets of Tennessee Volunteers, the English 93rd Rifles Regiment and the U.S. 7th foot regulars. The sets are scheduled to be available in late spring, early summer 2003.

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

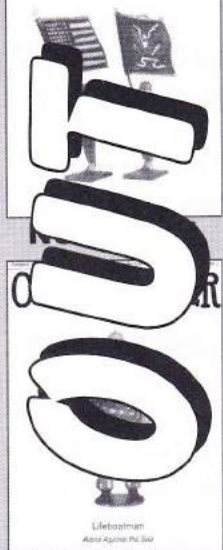
**from the staff of Old Toy Soldier Magazine!**





# VOLUME 21

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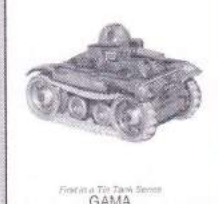
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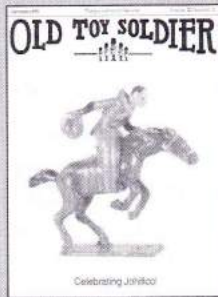
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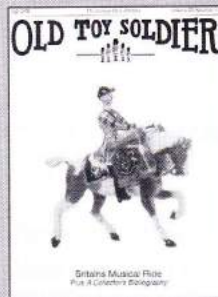
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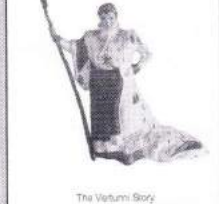
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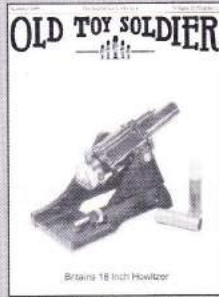
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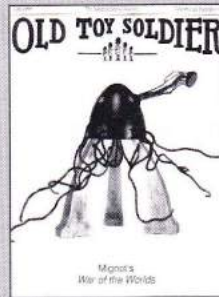
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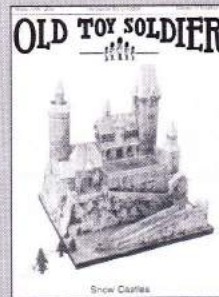
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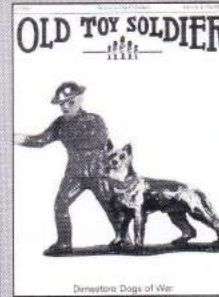
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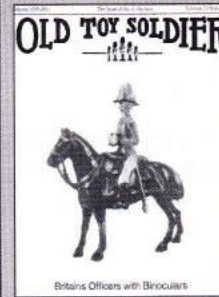
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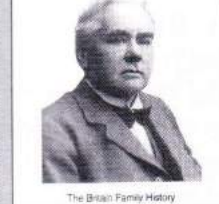
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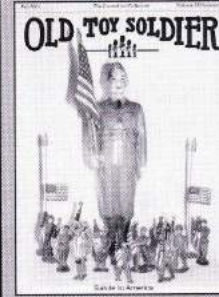
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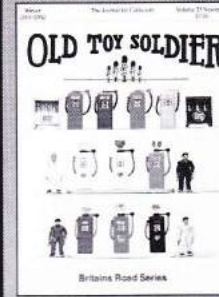
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# **SHOW REPORTS**

## **Sandown Park Toy Show England The Sandown Experience**

*By Philip Dean 8-11-02*

When I write an article, the hardest part is always how to start, the all-important first words. Once this is established, the rest is simple.

It was during the early morning drive from my house in Bournemouth to the Barry Potter toy fair venue at Sandown, I was listening to the radio, relishing the anticipation of the day ahead, trying to analyse what made the show so much more enjoyable than most of the others.

It was when I pulled into the car park that I realised what that extra something was, coming to Sandown was like coming home. Such is the friendliness and hospitality that you cannot help but feel at home.

When the doors open for the traders at 8:00am, the scene is reminiscent of a mass marathon start, everyone rushing to set up first. Who has the real deals, where will any bargains end up, on whose stall, what price increase, it's a game that all can play. There are always those dealers that seem to find special things, the more unusual items, and the rush is always to get those first.

One of the dealers to suffer the first onslaught was Bob Skinner from Wolverhampton, he had on offer set 3F from the farm series, a layered box with the original inserts and only missing a chicken, the box had seen better days but how often do you see this set? It was all to no avail as the deal was struck in the car park - a real feature at Sandown - leaving at least two potential buyers disappointed. From the same source, and lasting marginally longer, was the Britains paper mache cottage 44F, but with stuck on paper windows and door, not painted, and fitted with an original card base inset, an unusual piece.

Peter Rumsey, and his lovely wife Eileen, had their usual excellent mixture of lead, vehicles, and tinsplate. A beautiful Minic car and caravan set at £330, an immaculate boxed Timpo cowboy set, also at £330. The thatched cottage (503F), the cowshed (501F), and the garage (500F) all found a good home (mine!). Lord Strathcona's horse (#1629) galloped away at £950 and a superb six figure set of Bahamas police was very arresting at £550.

It was a real pleasure to welcome Roger Maryon, back again after an enforced medical holiday of six weeks. His stall, very capably run in his absence by son Steve, had the usual collection of first class, mint figures.

Even though, by the time you read this, it will be long gone, the Vectis auction was displaying the Mandarin tea drinker (circa 1883-84), a lot in a forthcoming auction. A brilliant piece, not wearing its original outfit, but it was present, safely sealed, in a glass frame to prevent further deterioration. Still complete with the original box and key. This will surely make somebody very happy.

Cococub collector, John Cupman, echoed every man's (and woman's) thoughts with a T-shirt bearing the legend.

"In every man there is a small boy - who wants to come out and play"

Taking to collector Ted Lane was most interesting, he was relating the story of circus set (#1444). In the days of the big travelling circus, Bertram Mills Circus would invite the local mayor and mayoress to the first night in their town, those that accepted were presented with this set as a memento of their visit. I wonder if they realised just what they were being given?

Even at Sandown you get good and better shows, this was generally a good show, but I defy anyone to come away disappointed.

The breakfast - very good. Idiots - I saw at least six, including one very nice grey one at £235.

Sandown, still is a very welcome experience, a home from home.



# SHOW REPORTS

## AN ENGLISH VIEW OF CHICAGO

*By Philip Dean*



*Left to Right: Philip Dean, Jo Sommers, Steve Sommers, Dr. Hans Henning Roer*

In England, just outside London, there is a famous palace, called Hampton Court. One of the attractions at the palace is the famous maze, where you can get lost for hours.

In America, just outside Chicago, there is a hotel, called the Hyatt Regency!

Even though this was my second year at the show and I had the map, it was still so easy to lose your way in the maze of corridors and rooms. Each floor should have a St Bernard rescue dog complete with brandy flask to aid lost collectors. Certainly it would not be possible to cover everything without the map and room list.

It is always a pleasure to visit the USA, to see all those who have become good friends, to talk 'shop' for hours on end, and have access to potentially the largest supply of figures in any one place at one time. I know that we all go to the show to add to our collections but, that aside, the greatest joy to me is the social life.

Other than Mongolia, where else in the world could you go to a Mongolian Stir Fry Restaurant (I thought they were joking!) and enjoy what you eat, or attend a 'dimestore' breakfast - bit tough on the teeth!

The highlight of the trip for me was my invitation to visit the home of Jo and Steve Sommers, a wonderfully friendly house owned by two lovely people. The cave of Aladdin would be hard pressed to match the wonders of the Sommers home and too short a time was spent wandering through the rooms. I hope, for their sake, that they never decide to move house. It is always an honour to be allowed into a persons private sanctuary but to be shown such hospitality and generosity is part of what makes me so fond of America and its peoples.

Where else in the world would you find a queue of people outside of a room full with empty boxes. The line, looking like rejects from the local soup kitchen, were all waiting patiently, until the appointed time, to buy from a selection of some 400 empty boxes on offer, but only five at a time, then back to the end of the line.

I felt obliged to make my pilgrimage to the hallowed room of Rolak, where he rules from his throne, attended by one Lenoir Josey. I think they put them together because only they understand their accent. Arnold always has candy and his jokes (you forget them after a year, so they seem new.)

During the days of prohibition there was "bathtub gin" but in the Pielin Emporium it was "bathtub beer", for the hospitality party on Saturday afternoon, a whole tub full to the rim with cold beers and sodas, it was in danger of overflowing so I felt obliged to do my bit to help lower the level.

I have so many fond memories of Chicago, when each year Don Pielin has collected me from the airport and each time has got lost when we are talking too much. The wonderful meals together on a Saturday night with my colleagues and friends. The renewing of last years acquaintances - where you carry on as though it was only yesterday you last met.

One day, during my short visit, I will actually get to see Chicago, but not this time. On this trip my money actually lasted into the SECOND day.

To all my friends, from America, from England and from Germany, thank you all for helping me feel part of the experience that is Chicago.

See you in 2003!



*Pre-Show Dinner Party*

*Back Left to Right: Peter Rumsey, Arnold Rolak, Lou Sandbote, Norman Joplin, Philip Dean*

*Front Seated Left to Right: Eileen Rumsey, Ray Haradin, Rob Wilson, Sue Bialzik*



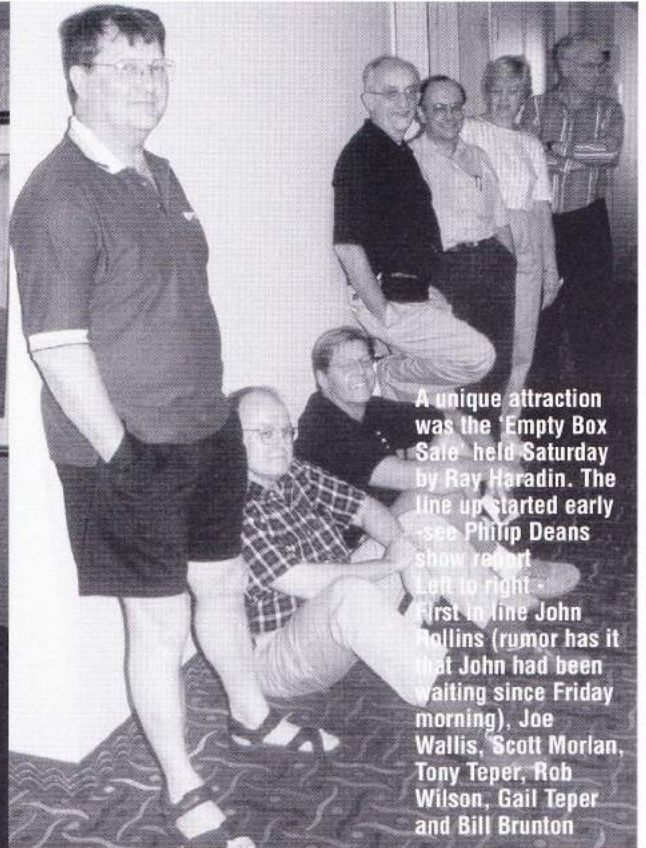
# SHOW REPORTS

## OLD TOY SOLDIER PRE-SHOW Photo Gallery

Pre show activity at the Chicago Toy Soldier Show each September has become legend. The following photos give a flavour of the events during the week in the Hyatt Regency Woodfield leading up to Sundays show.



Notice boards supplied by the hotel offer the facility for dealers to advertise their room numbers



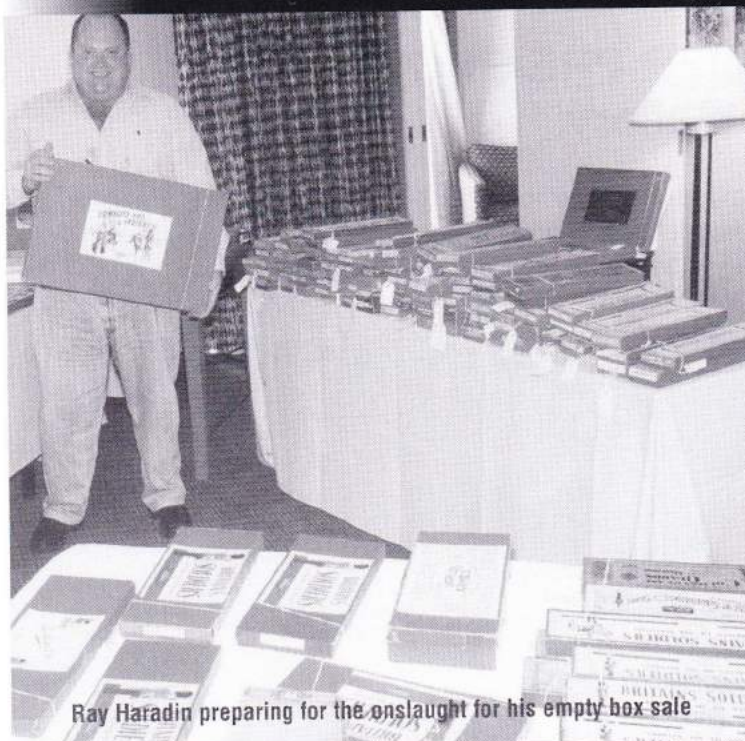
A unique attraction was the 'Empty Box Sale' held Saturday by Ray Haradin. The line up started early - see Philip Deans show report  
Left to right - First in line John Collins (rumor has it that John had been waiting since Friday morning), Joe Wallis, Scott Morlan, Tony Teper, Rob Wilson, Gail Teper and Bill Brunton



Hospitality suite social gathering



# SHOW REPORTS

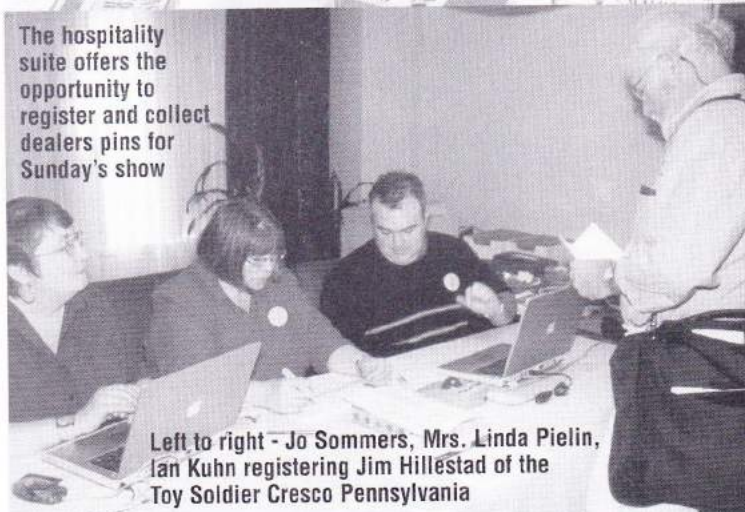


Ray Haradin preparing for the onslaught for his empty box sale

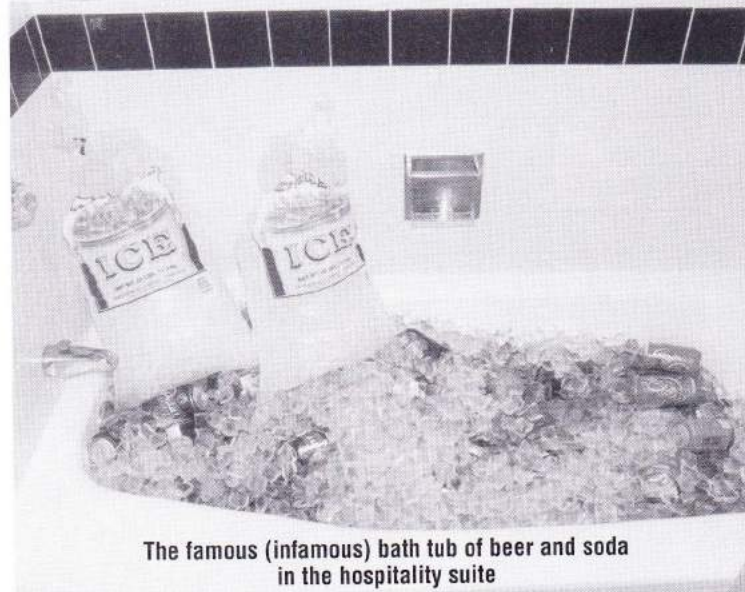


Luke Schwarz sifting through a multitude of plastic figures with hopes of finding that special item

The hospitality suite offers the opportunity to register and collect dealers pins for Sunday's show



Left to right - Jo Sommers, Mrs. Linda Pielin, Jan Kuhn registering Jim Hillestad of the Toy Soldier Cresco Pennsylvania



The famous (infamous) bath tub of beer and soda in the hospitality suite

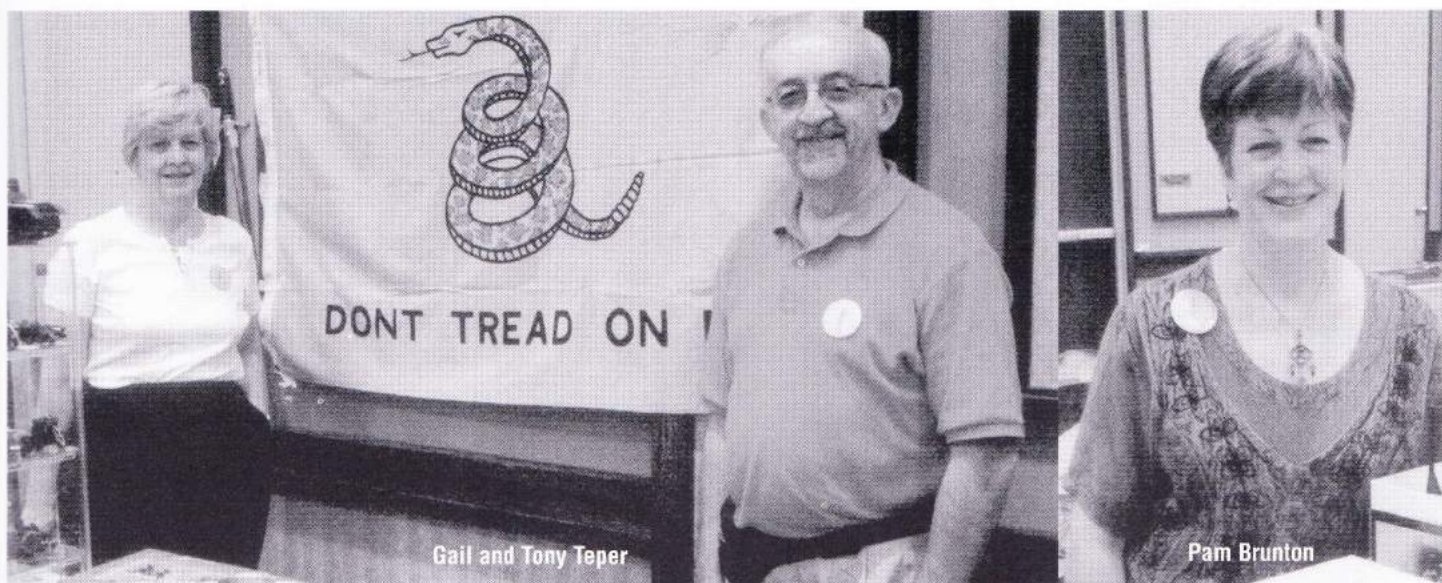


Show chairman Don Pielin with Mich Heinrich opening the pre show hospitality event Saturday afternoon



# **SHOW REPORTS**

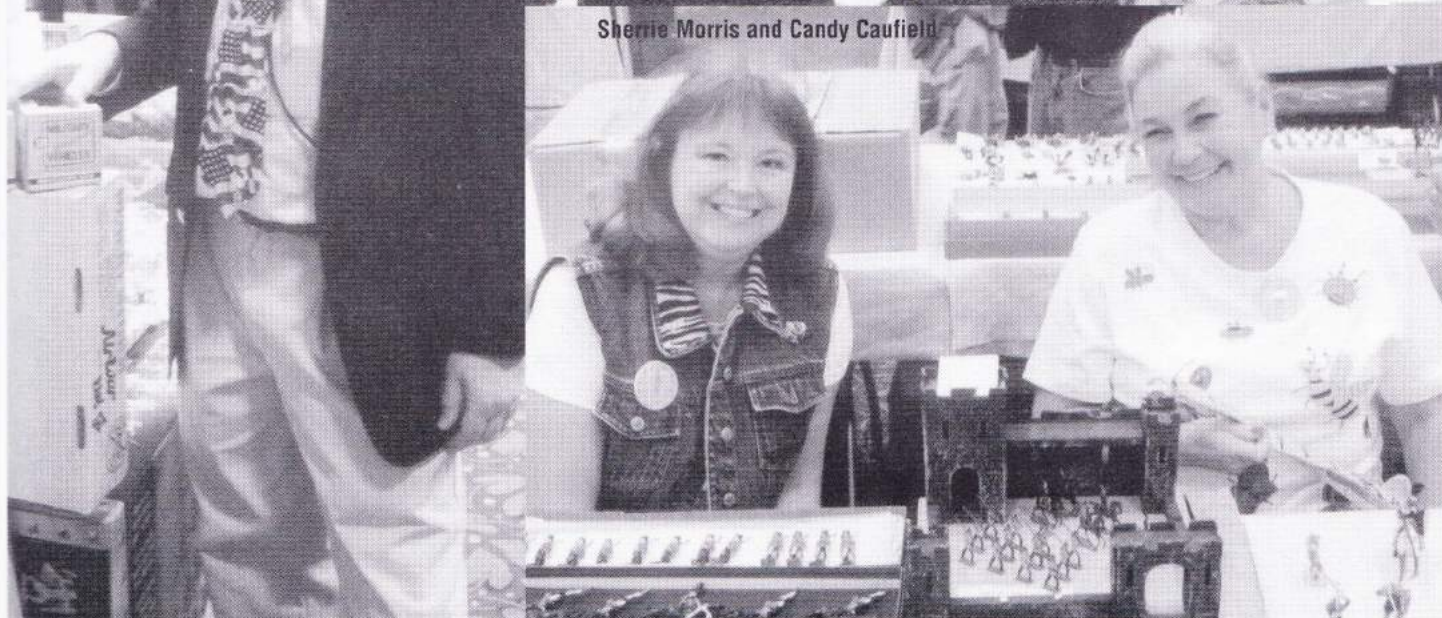
## **OLD TOY SOLDIER SHOW Sunday Show Photo Gallery**



Don Pielin  
Show Chairman



Sherrie Morris and Candy Caufield

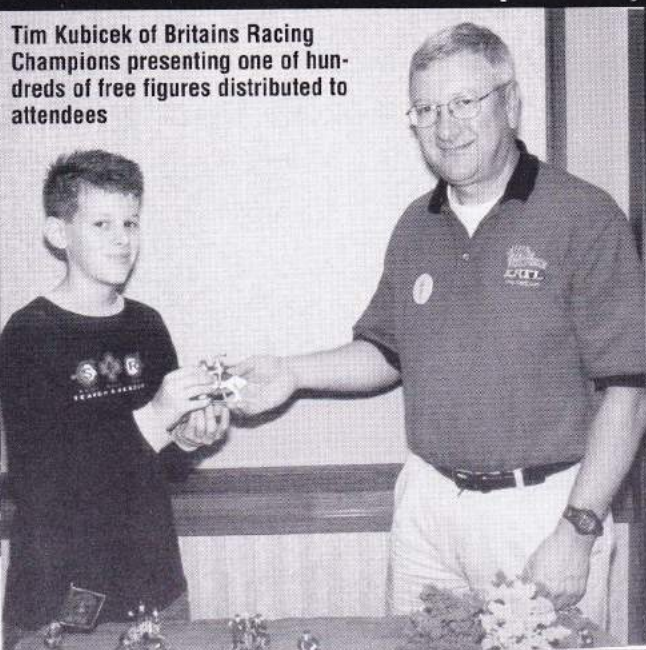




# SHOW REPORTS (Cont.)

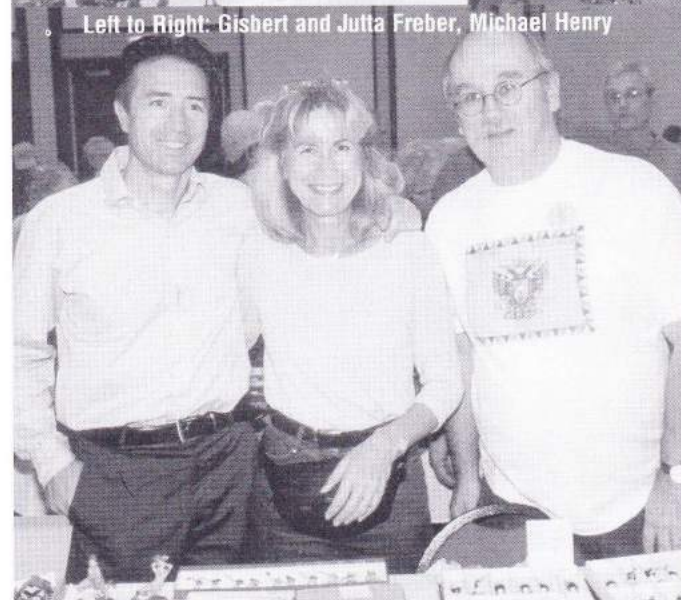
Ed and Laverne Miller  
Gettysburg  
Toy Soldiers, PA

Tim Kubicek of Britains Racing  
Champions presenting one of hun-  
dreds of free figures distributed to  
attendees



Lenoir Josey

Left to Right: Gisbert and Jutta Freber, Michael Henry



Kay Speer with here  
Royal Express Line



Phil Havers and Courtenay  
looking after Bob Bailey's table



Stan Alekna, Kathy Paul and Charlie O'Brien

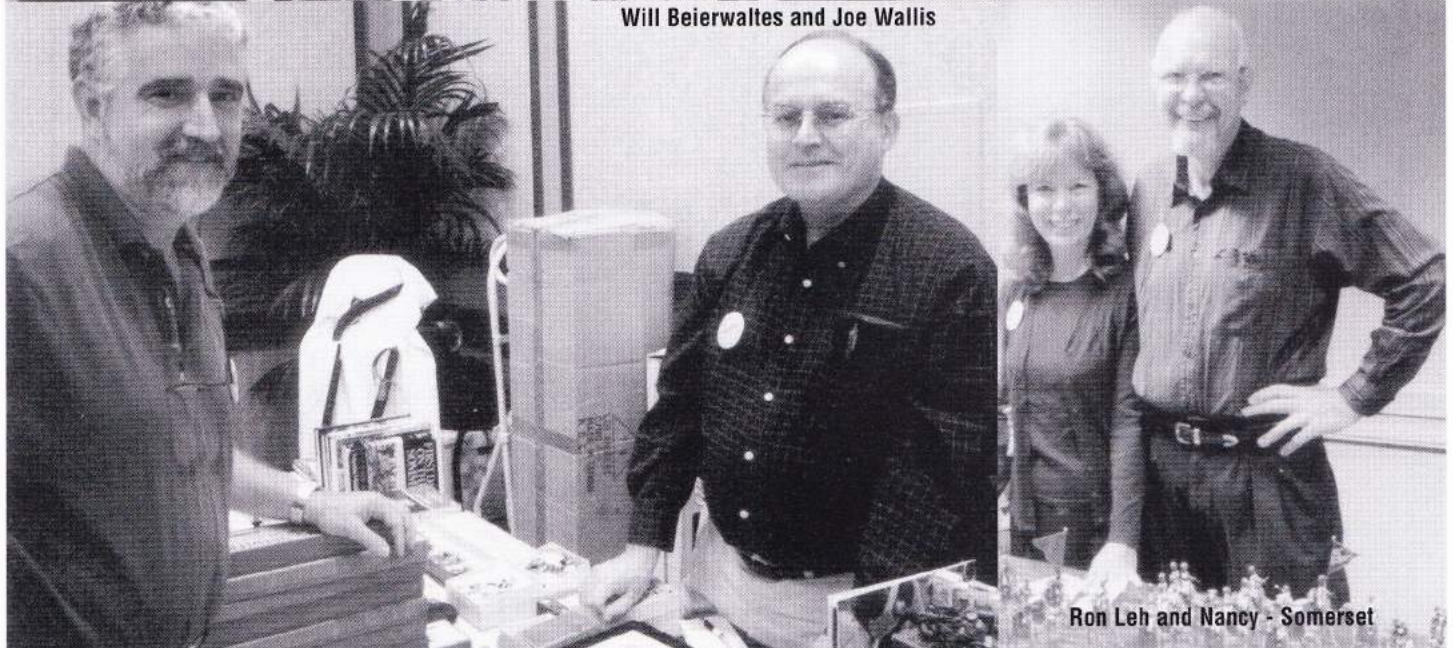


# SHOW REPORTS (Cont.)

Sunday's Old Toy Soldier Show



Will Beierwaltes and Joe Wallis



Ron Leh and Nancy - Somerset



Steve and Jo Sommers with  
Ralph Kimmich

Ani and Paul Kemkemian  
with the 'Ani' Line

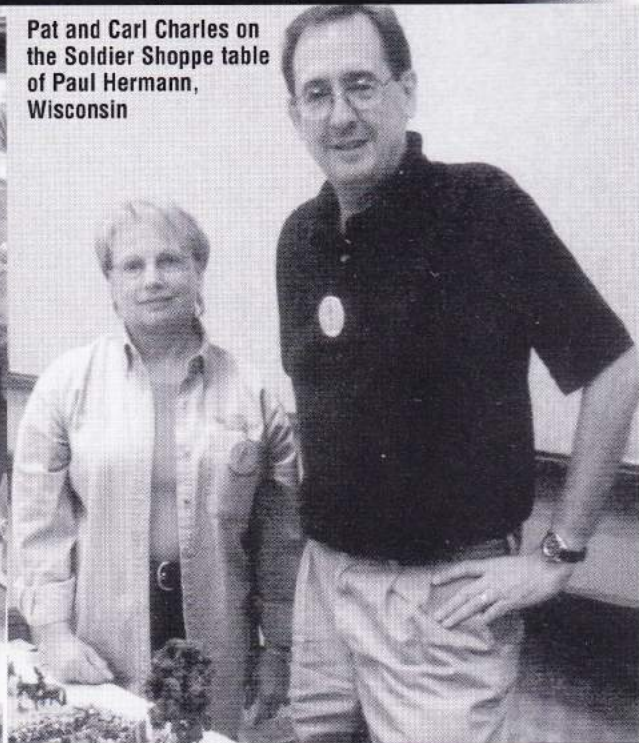


# SHOW REPORTS (Cont.)

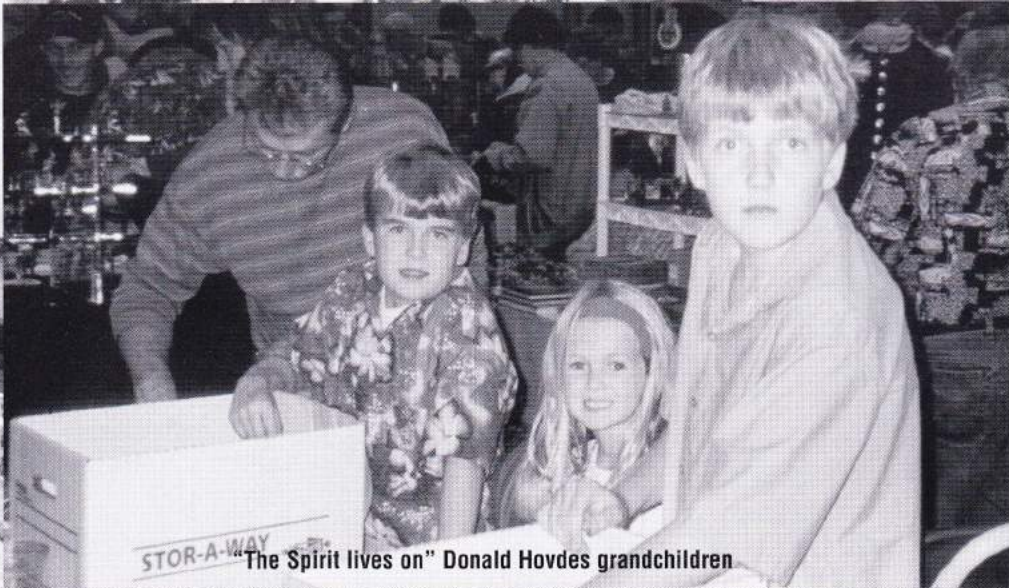


Eleanor and Bud Born

Pat and Carl Charles on the Soldier Shoppe table of Paul Hermann, Wisconsin



Elaine Cowan



"The Spirit lives on" Donald Hovdes grandchildren



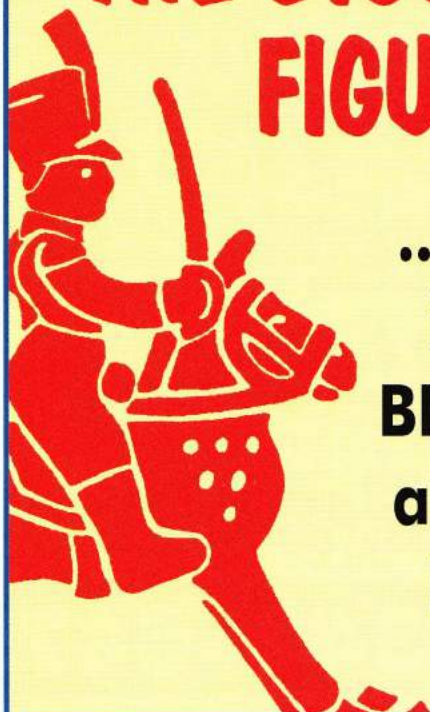
Richard Conte (center) with Ken Osen (right) Presenting one of the three free sets given to show attendees throughout the day



Jan and Roger Garfield



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**Details: Debbie Cockerill  
Vectis Auctions Ltd  
Tel: 0044 (0)1642 750616  
Fax: 0044 (0)1642 769478  
Email: [admin@vectis.co.uk](mailto:admin@vectis.co.uk)**

Admission £3  
Early entry from 6a.m. £15

## 2003 SHOWS

**29th March  
28th June  
6th December**





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**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

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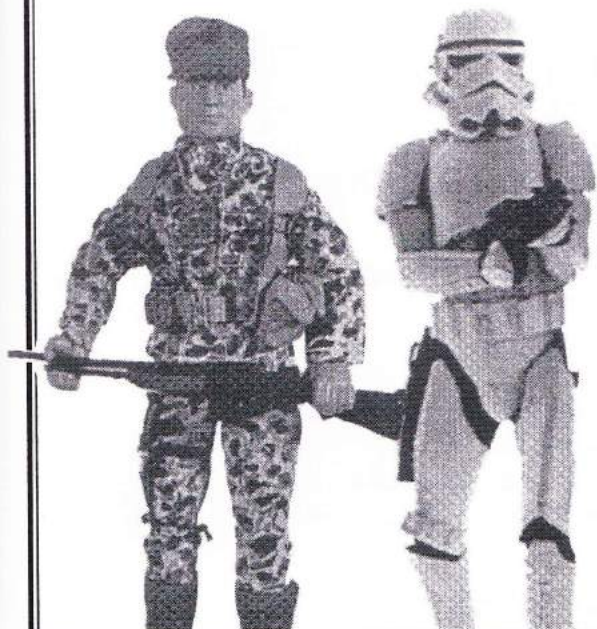
1301 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach

Admission: \$5; 12 & under: \$2; pre-show: \$10. Food available.

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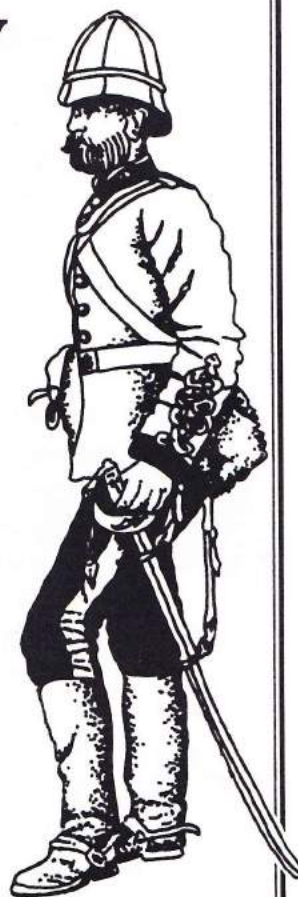
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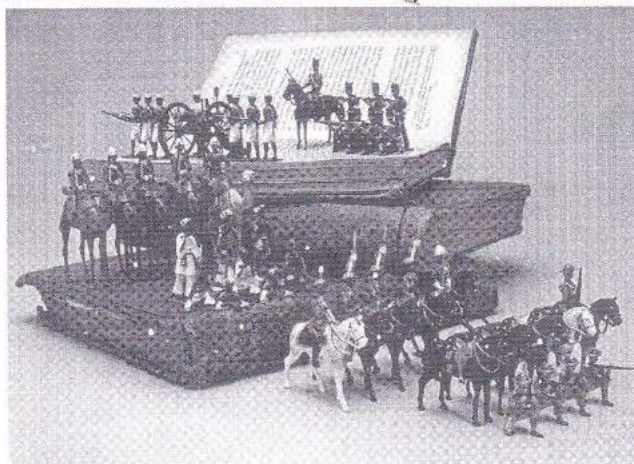
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# The Kiawah 2003 Toy Soldier Show

## Welcome South, Brother



Internet auctions and sales are great but they can't substitute for the *real live thing*. Come to a neat show, see real collectors and fondle the merchandise.

The **South Carolina Military Miniatures Society (SCMMS)** will hold its fourth annual Kiawah toy soldier show and exhibition:

- Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2003
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- Free admission
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- Low table charge
- Free shuttle-bus tour of major local toy soldier collections (early arrivals only)

Come! Enjoy our warm Southern hospitality - just ask the people who have been here before. They're coming back!

For more information and dealer contracts, please contact:

### DEALER CONTACTS ONLY

Jack Matthews  
13 Bufflehead Drive  
Kiawah Island, SC 29455  
843-768-1341 (SC)

or at  
828-884-6080 (NC)  
jmatth@mindspring.com

### GENERAL SHOW INFORMATION

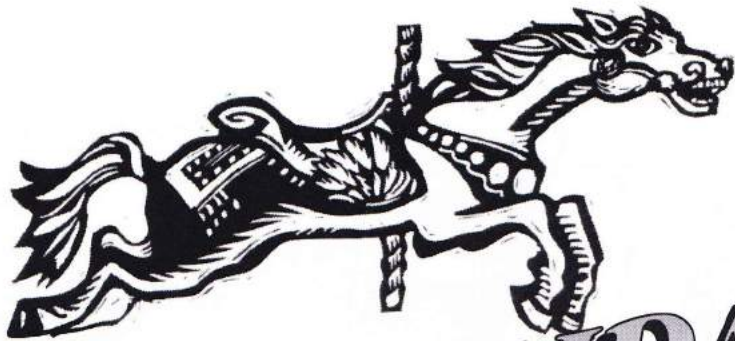
Ed Morgan  
158 Governor's Drive  
Kiawah Island, SC 29455  
843-768-1851

Russ Coggeshall  
281 Doral Open  
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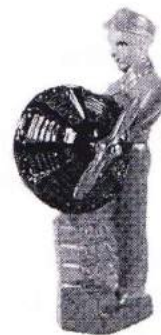
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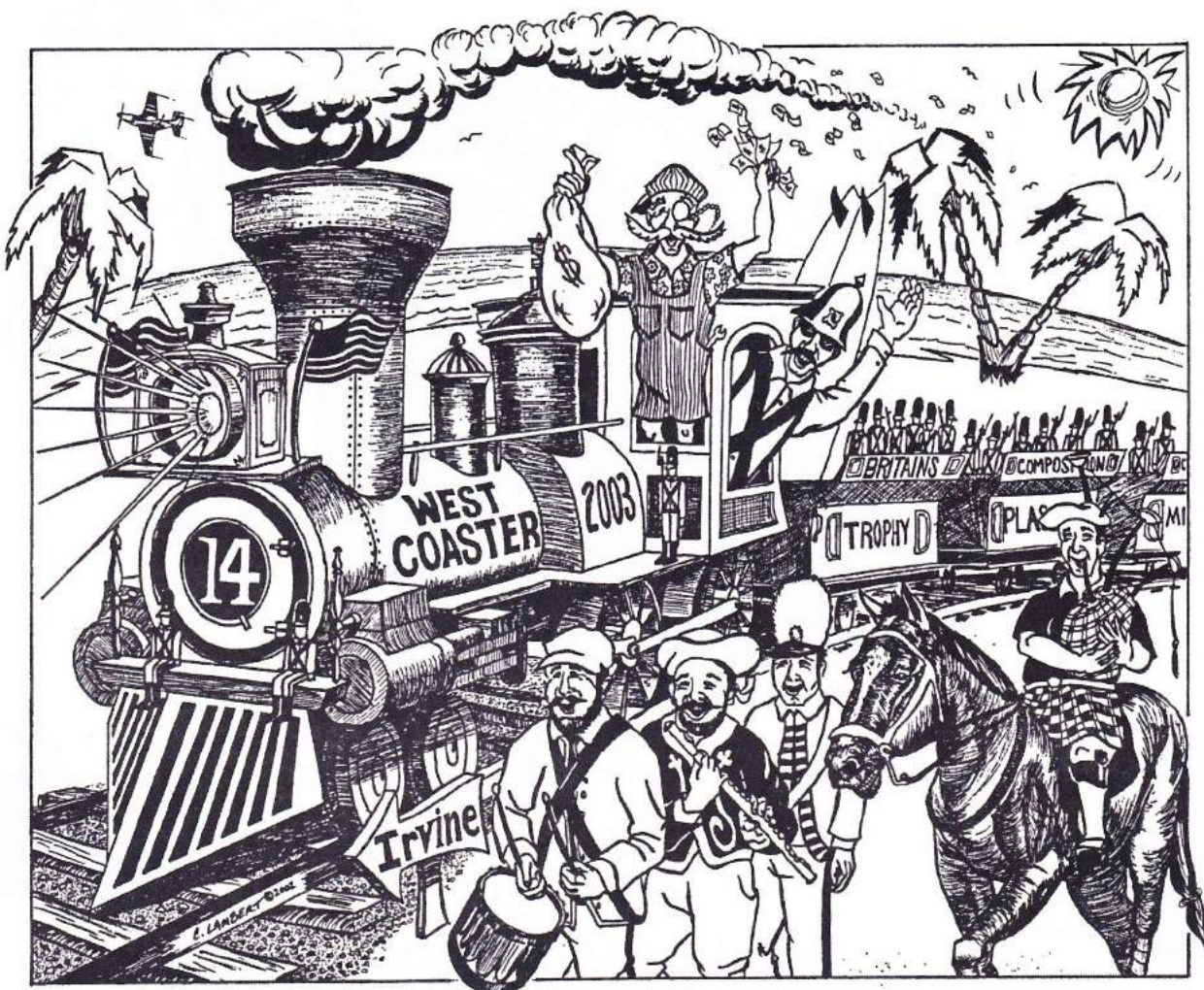
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*The World's Finest Toy Soldier and Collectable Figure Show*

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For room reservations call hotel direct at (949) 553-0100 or 1-800-228-9290. Be sure and mention **The West Coaster** and get the flat \$97.00 daily room rate (plus 8% tax), for the duration of your stay. The Hotel may also be accessed from Los Angeles International Airport by Super Shuttle.

**The West Coaster** is a Preview type show, with many dealers showing in their rooms on the preceding Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Sunday's gala event showcases the products of the world's premier manufacturers, the very best in collectible figures and accessories. Combine an outstanding show with a superb facility in the center of Southern California's vacation land, and you can count on a great time.

For further information, including limited dealer spaces remaining, write **The West Coaster** at P.O. Box 1755, Vista, CA 92085, or call/Fax (760) 724-7488.

Visit our Website: [thewestcoaster.com](http://thewestcoaster.com)



*Barry Carter presents:*

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The 14th Anniversary

## **Toy Soldier Show**

### **March 23, 2003**



### **INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

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Call (317)846-2700 for room reservations.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$4 admission

*for information:*

Barry Carter

Show manager

136 W. Carey Street

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(765)345-5665 or

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Capt. Don Maris RA18539985  
P.O. Box 210367 Dallas, Texas 75211  
donmaris@wt.net  
Tel. 214-339-2935





# OTSN'S 22nd CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW

September 28, 2003

10 am to 3:30 pm

\$5 Admission



*Take Aim,*

*You Merry Men!*

Hyatt Regency Woodfield  
1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois  
**847-605-1234**

Show Information: Don Pielin  
1009 Kenilworth; Wheeling, IL 60090  
**847-541-2439**  
email: [Dimestores@aol.com](mailto:Dimestores@aol.com)



# Tri-State Toy Soldier Show

Preview Style Show With Hotel Room  
Sales Before Show

( For Hotel Reservations, Call 1-800-489-8192 )

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10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Mountaineer Racetrack & Gaming Rest  
Chester, West Virginia

(Across Ohio River From East Liverpool, Ohio)

For more information, contact:

Doug McClure

P.O. Box 17

Medina, Ohio 44258

Tel: (330) 722-6751

E-mail: [dmclure@apk.net](mailto:dmclure@apk.net)





# A DIMESTORE CHRISTMAS... 1937

*By Stan Alekna*

I picked up this photo on Ebay because I was intrigued by both the volume and mix of Dimestore figures and accessories that it contained. The back of the picture had the following writing: "Xmas 1937 Norm's broken arm concealed". This helps place all of these figures in the "first wave" of the more popular Dimestores. Under a magnifying glass, I was able to identify the following:

BARCLAY – B87 Sharpshooter, B148 Soldier with dog, B67 Kneeling telephone operator, (2)-B71 Sentry in overcoat, B14 Soldier on parade, B47 Indian with rifle.

MANOIL – M34 Doctor, M52 Walking wounded, (2)-M57 Stretcher bearers, M52 wounded lying on a stretcher, #19 Action Cannon.

GREY IRON – G15 Red cross officer, (2)-G95 Stretcher bearers, (2)-G100 Pilots.

AUBURN RUBBER – several A1 Infantry privates in khaki and white, A3 Bugler, A21 Bomb thrower, AC1 75mm Field Piece.

EQUIPMENT – medical tent, Wyandotte pressed steel ambulance.



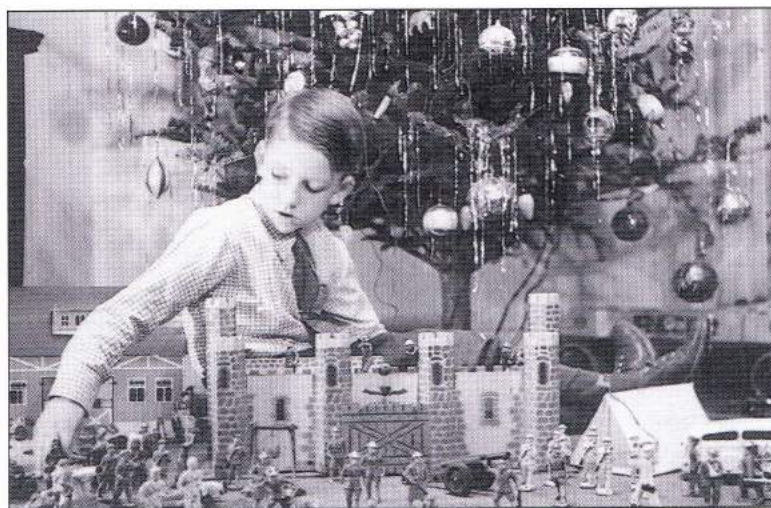
The motorcycle soldier is either Barclay or Auburn and the Indian Chief looks like either Manoil or Grey Iron. I have no idea who made the fort, barn, woman with wash tub, and I could not I.D. several soldiers on the fort and in the foreground.

Assuming "Norm" received all of these Dimestore items and the coaster wagon for Christmas in 1937, I would have to speculate that his family had recovered quite well from the effects of the Great Depression.

Sixty-five years after the above picture was taken, we photographed the son of some house guests who was captivated by the Dimestores in one of our display cases. It would appear that our hobby will continue to attract new collectors for some time to come.



Sixty-five years on 2002,  
photo courtesy of Mrs. Christine Pol



"Norm" - Christmas 1937



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**SIZE 54mm**



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L-2



L-3



L-4



L-1

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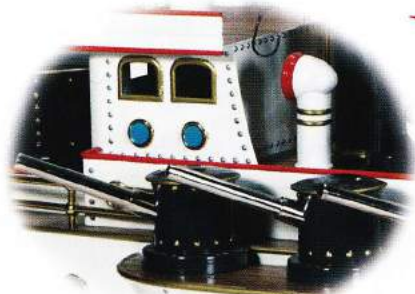
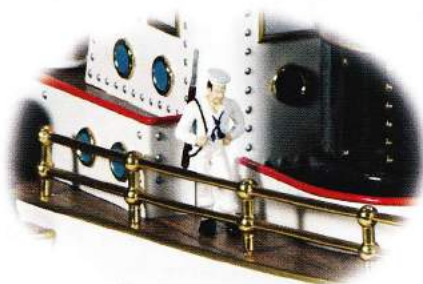
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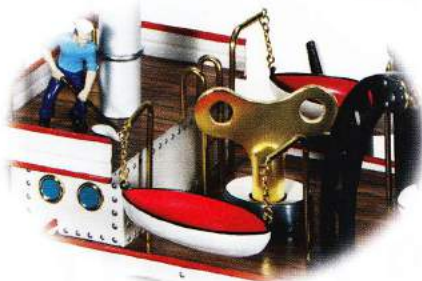
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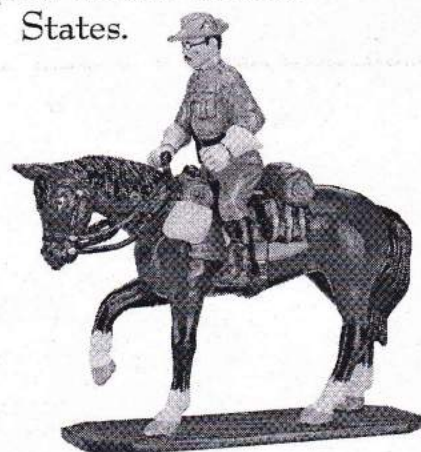
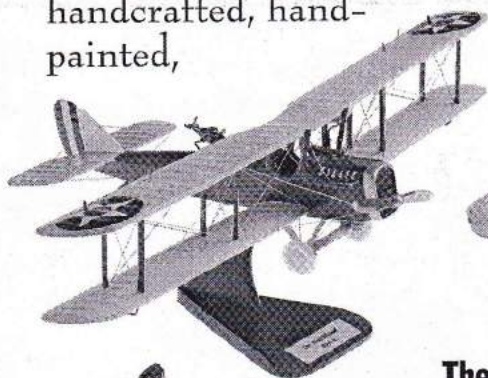


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# Britains Ltd. Master Models

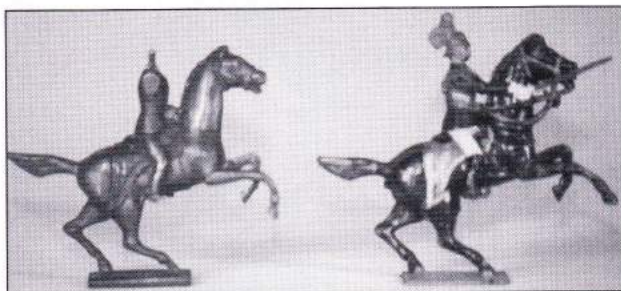
*By William J. Miele*

Among the more interesting items in the Britains Ltd. collecting pantheon are the original solid cast master models. Magnificently created and having tremendous detail; detail that can't be seen on a finished painted casting; they represent individual works of art. All told, only about 180 (pre-and post-war) of these original masters, in complete form, have survived. Another 100 or so partial masters and certain components also exist. They were rescued from the smelting pot by a then-Britains' employee and later sold en masse to three collectors. Reportedly, a few were maintained in the Britains' archives.

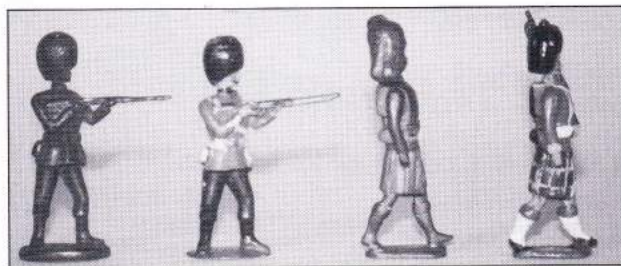
Charles W. Biggs, a Britains Ltd. employee for many years, in a copyrighted article described the steps necessary to create an original master model. Subject research and drawing must first be completed for a specific figure. A metal armature is made which will support wax-modeling material. The armature is affixed to a base. Wax is then applied to the armature skeletal structure and is sculpted into the desired figure. The wax model is brushed with a solvent to give it a high finish. The wax model is placed inside a cylinder form and filled with plaster. The wax is melted from the cavity and the plaster mold is allowed to cure. Lead is poured in to the mold and given time to harden. Later the mold is broken away from the solid cast. The solid casting is then hand-polished. Fine detail is added to the master by precise hand engraving. This becomes the slush-casting tool when fixed with handles, spring and a pouring cup. This tool will be used to make the production hollow cast models. The pre-war master models have a

beautiful rich dark patina. The completed master models all have a very thick base which is later reduced in the production process. Many body masters are designed to accept different heads, cast in two halves, to represent different figures.

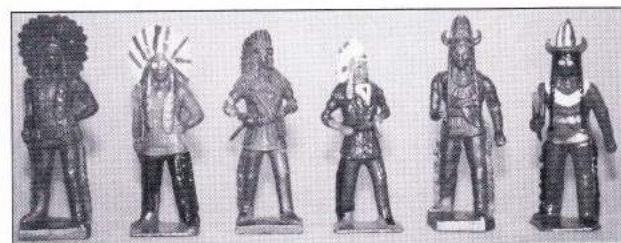
Created with incredible skill, some of the more extraordinary masters include the Officer on Rearing Horse used in sets #1, #2, and #3 first version. The trooper master for the Boer War Supply Column is quite unique. Set #11, The Black Watch Highlander's Charging in first version, has a round base as does the Guardman Firing in set #34. Set #77, Gordon Highlanders first version master, is magnificently refined and executed. Both first and second version Black Watch Firing set #122 masters have survived. Three Indian Chief masters from set #150 have incredible detail, each feather clearly defined, which cannot be appreciated on the painted production castings. The Prussian Infantry set #154, on its unique diagonal base, has an articulating arm fastened by a small screw. Master examples from sets #155 and #158, the Railway Staff, have to be seen to be appreciated. The Admiral Master from set #207 Officers & Petty Officers of the Royal Navy has amazing detail on braid and appaulettes. A few masters were painted by Britains such as sets #1517, Highlanders of the Waterloo Period, and #1758, RAF Firefighter. The Highlander is painted to a very high standard with much more detail than normal.



Left to Right: #1 Life Guards IV Master, Painted Casting



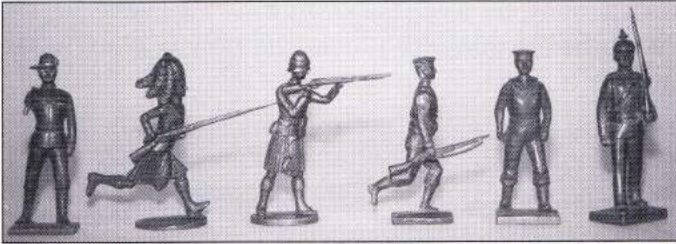
Left to Right: #34 Grenadier Guard IV Master, Painted Casting, #77 Gordon Highlander IV, Painted Casting



Left to Right: #150 American Indian Masters and Painted Castings



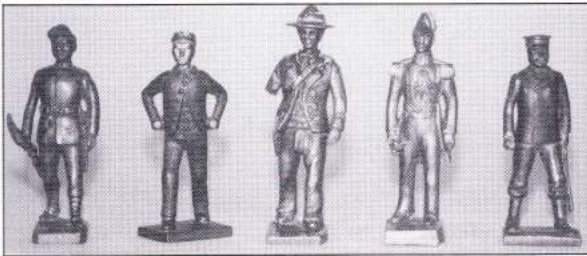
# Britains Ltd. Master Models



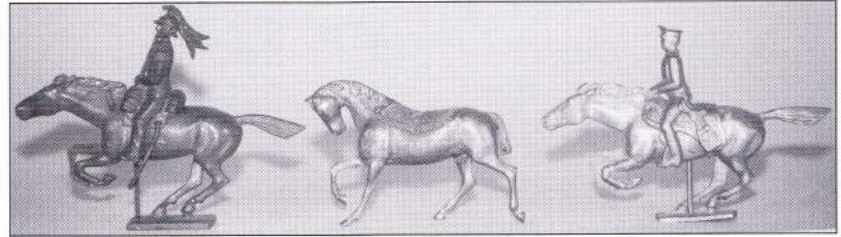
Left to Right: Boer War Trooper, #11 Black Watch Charging IV, #122 Black Watch Firing IV, #78 RN at Trail, #151 RN Volunteer, and #154 Prussian Infantry



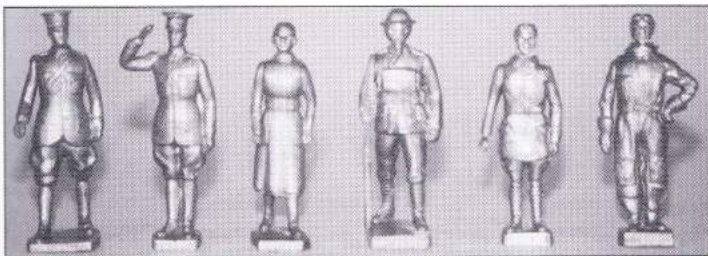
Left to Right: #198 Machine Gun Section, #169 Bersaglieri, #241 Chinese, #182 11th Hussar Dismounted, #196 Greek Evzones, #320 RAMC Nurse IV



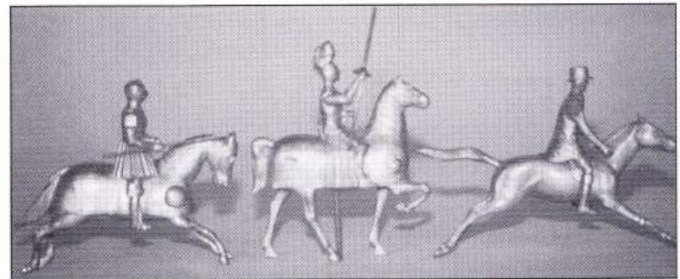
Left to Right: #197 Guhrka, #155 RR Station staff, #186 Mexican, #207 RN Officer, #207 RN Petty Officer



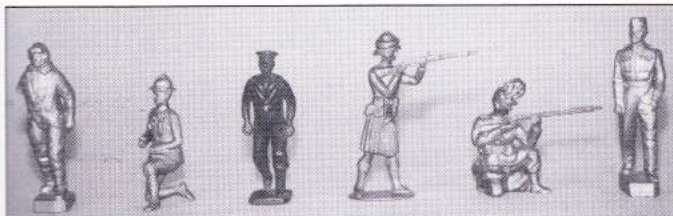
Left to Right: French Cavalry on Charging Horse, #40 Farm Horse, RHA Officer



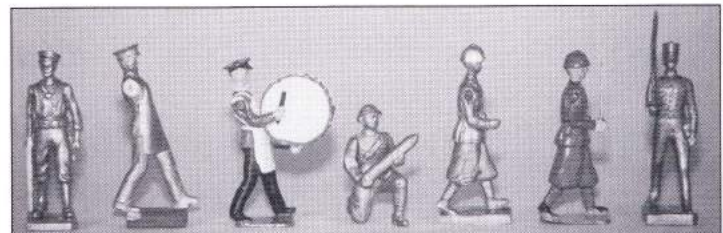
Left to Right: #239 A.A. Motor Patrol, #239 Same, #1426 St. Johns Ambulance, #258 British Infantry, #332 US Aviator, #333 US Aviator in Sidcot



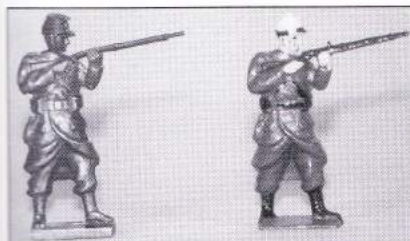
Left to Right: #1307 Knight, #1258 Knight in Armour, #235 Hunt Series



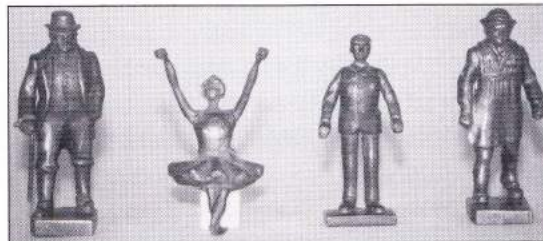
Left to Right: #1895 Luftwaffe, Gunner Kneeling, #79 RN Landing Party, #122 Black Watch Firing, French Infantry Firing, 1918 Home Guard



Left to Right: #1253 US Sailor, #1287 British Army Band, Same Painted Casting, #1730 RA Gunner, #1435 Italian, Same Painted Casting, #226 West Point Cadet



Left to Right: #2095 Foreign Legion Master, Painted Casting



Left to Right: #501 Farmer, #1441 Flying Trapeze, Cricketer, #504 Carter

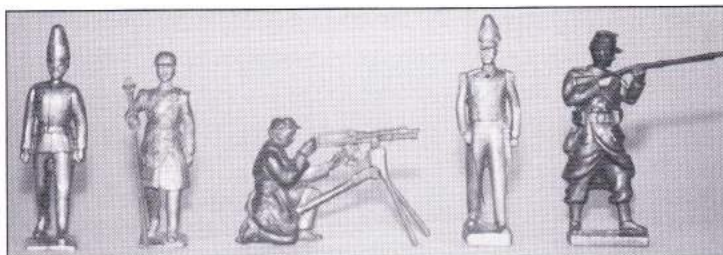


Left to Right: #1758 RAF Firefighter Painted Master and Painted Casting, #1517 Highlander Waterloo Period Painted Master and Painted Casting

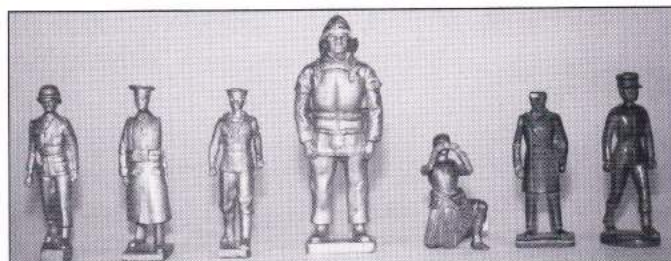


## Britains Ltd. Master Models

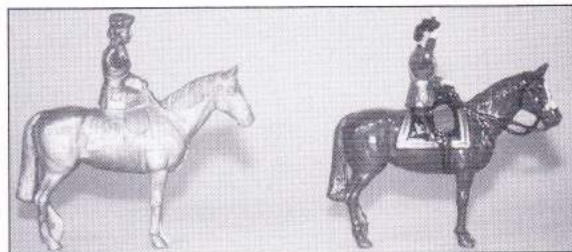
Occasionally a master would be augmented by use of clay such as that found on #40F, a Farm Horse. Some masters cannot be identified and evidently were never mass-produced as hollow blown castings. Post-war Masters also exist and have a different look than their pre-war kin. Generally they have just as much detail and a lighter patina. A few even appear to be cast in pewter. Some of the more unique masters that exist are set #2065, Queen Elizabeth II Mounted on Horseback, the officer from set #2079, The Royal Company of Archers, the drum major in state dress from the Grenadier Guards Band set #2113, and the officer from the Gentlemen at Arms set #2149. A number of farm and civilian figures exist including the Women's Land Army #745 and the Garage Hand #787.



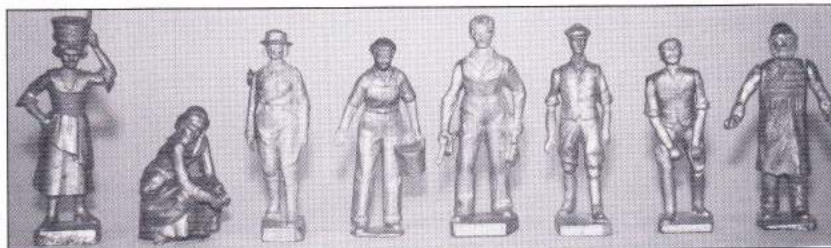
Left to Right: #2149 Gentlemen at Arms Officer Walking? (Never Produced), #2113 Grenadier Guard Band Leader in State Dress, #2079 Royal Company of Archers Officer Walking? (Never Produced), #2095 Foreign Legion Machine Gunner



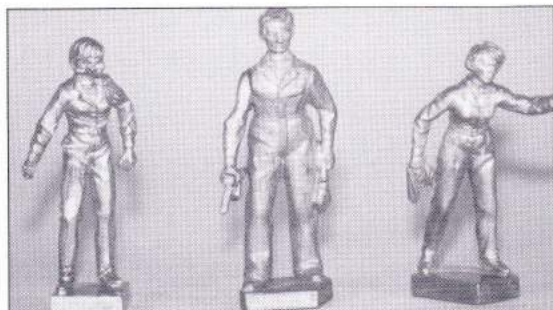
Left to Right: #2021 US Military Police, #2027 Russian Infantry, #2080 RN, Life Boatman, #118 Gordon Highlander Office IV, #158 RR Station Staff, French Medical Corps (Britain's Paris Office)



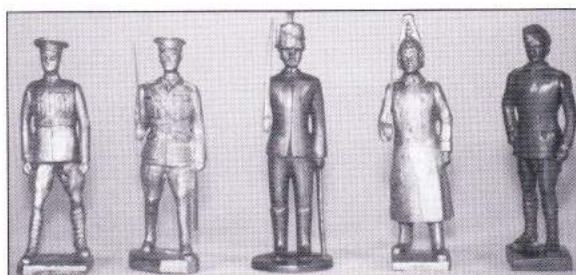
Left to Right: #2065 Queen Elizabeth II Master, Painted Casting



Left to Right: #531 Milk Maid, #537 Milk Maid, #745 Women's Land Army, #747 Girl with Bucket, #787 Garage Hand, #563 Stable Hand, #564 Man with Water Barrel, #591 Dairyman



Center: #787 Garage Hand with 2 Female Garage Attendants Produced in plastic but possibly intended to have been added to the Lead Garage Line



Left to Right: Unidentified Officer, Officer with Sword, Hussar Officer, Guards Officer in Greatcoat and Soldier in Soft Cap (Never Produced)

These rare and magnificent master models are extremely desirable and much sought after. They are considered to be the Holy Grail and form the centerpiece of any collection of Britains figures. Masters are occasionally found at auctions and at shows and are, based on rarity, reasonably priced. Every serious Britains collector should have a few representative masters in his collection.



Left to Right: Unidentified - listed in the factory record as Chinese Pirate and African Native



# GENERAL INSPECTION



## "New Products Reviewed" By Russ Bednarek

Gloss, matte, semi-gloss, shading, highlighting. Collectors have never before had such a dizzying array of painting and sculpting styles to choose from. Companies continue to improve upon the quality of painting and sculpting while increasing the range of their offerings. Small companies continue to emerge, offering their own interpretation of the toy soldier.

To help you, the collector, keep current of the newest releases in our hobby, *Old Toy Soldier* presents the premier "General Inspection" column. Hopefully the honest, objective reviews will help you wisely spend your collecting dollars.

### FORWARD MARCH !

**Forward March!** Company has chosen for their Civil War sets, regiments that fought at the battle of Bull Run. Current offerings from their "Stonewall" series are; 4th Virginia Command, 4th Virginia Charging, 69th New York Command, and 69th New York Charging. Personality figures of William Sherman and "Stonewall" Jackson complete the series.

The 69th New York Charging set is a three-piece group of charging figures depicting Company K in their distinctive zouave jackets. Each figure is in a different charging pose, with slight variations in their uniform. The most interesting figure of the set is barefoot and wearing a white Havelock over his kepi.

Attention to detail is readily visible in the painting of the unique Company K uniform. The braiding on the zouave jacket is superbly done as is the distinctive green sash and red leg seam stripe. All figures show subtle shading on the pants and jacket.

Sculptor William Merkley's unique style is distinctive and crisp in detail. Jackets and havelocks flying in the wind, and even the "US" insignia are clearly visible on the belt buckles. At first glance the figures appear to be on the thin side. However, the longer you study the figures the more they appear to be realistically proportionate.

**Forward March!** figures have a style all their own from the faux wood grain box to the figures themselves. It is a style which they are to be commended for, finely sculpted and painted, they are priced at \$50 per set.



### BRITAINS

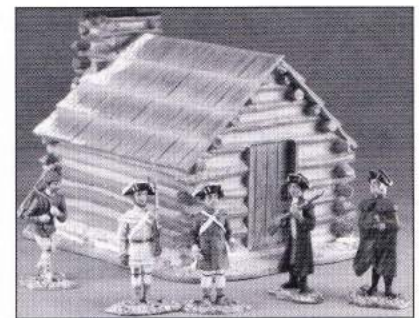
Everyone knows of the hardships the Continental Army endured at Valley Forge during the winter of 1777-78. It was also during this trying time that General von Steuben instructed the Continental Army in the manual of arms which he wrote.

**Britains** has done a wonderful job of depicting that winter of 1777-78 with their "Valley Forge Scene With Hut" set. The set includes a very nice log hut with chimney dusted with snow. Five figures complete the set, three Continentals in hunting frocks, one at shoulder arms, the other carrying firewood, and the last one standing empty handed. General Washington and General von Steuben complete the set.

Painting and sculpting on all the figures is up to the usual **Britains** high standards. Numerous small details, patches, scarfs, rag wrapped feet, gloves without fingers, all help portray the rag-tag appearance of the Continental Army. The General Washington figure is resplendent in his long dark blue cloak as it blows in the blustery winter wind.

There is even a small vignette within the set. General von Steuben with musket appears to be demonstrating to a Continental soldier part of the manual of arms.

"Valley Forge" would be a wonderful addition to one's collection, but is a "must have" if you collect the American Revolution.



### CONTACT INFORMATION

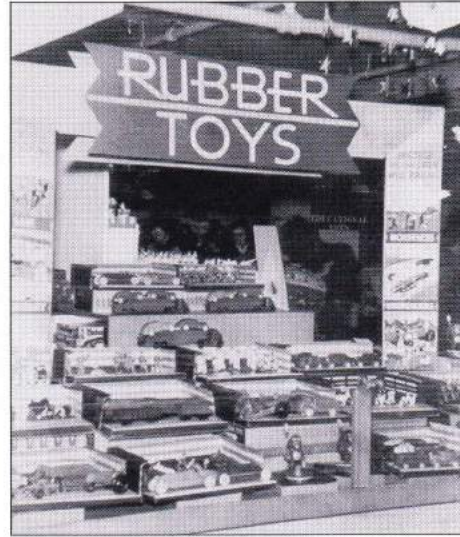
**Forward March !** [www.forwardmarchfigures.com](http://www.forwardmarchfigures.com) • **Britains** [www.ertltoys.com](http://www.ertltoys.com)



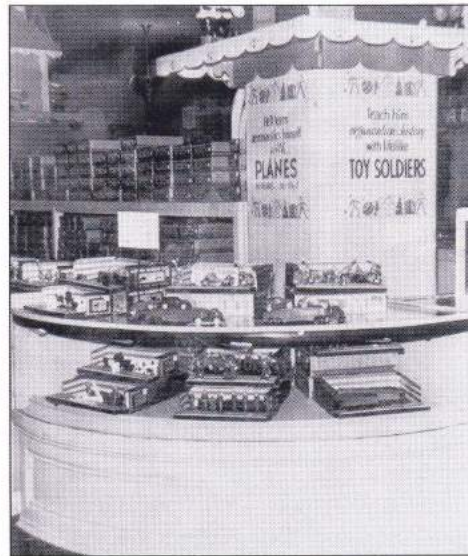
# RECONNAISSANCE

## AUBURN RUBBER

Donald R. Haberman submitted these photographs from 1940 showing store displays at A Polsky, Akron, Ohio and Higbee Cleveland, Ohio. Donald states that the two stores catered for the higher end of the consumer market.



A Polsky Department Store Akron, Ohio 1940



The Higbee Company Department Store Cleveland, Ohio 1940



Colored Auburn Rubber Christmas Window Ad 1940 ??



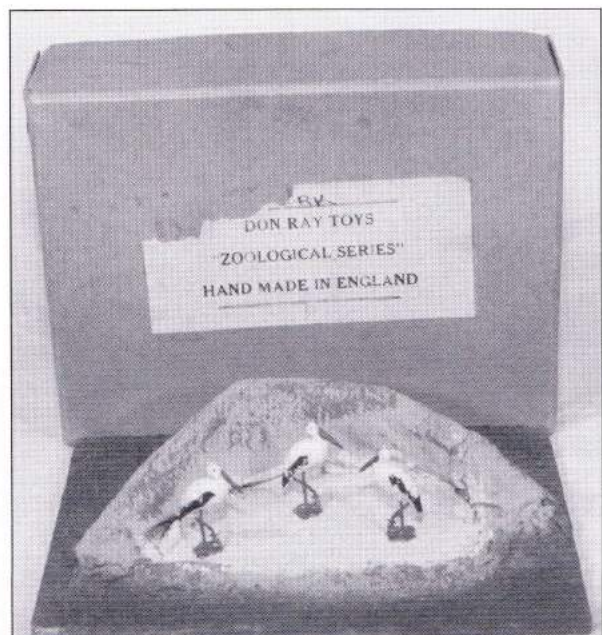
## BARCLAY WINTER SERIES

Rare set of Barclay Winter Scene in original box. Believed to be a previously unpublished photo, it fits well with the Christmas theme in this issue, with Barclay's "under the tree and table decoration" statement on the box. Courtesy Ray Haradin



## DON AND HONEY RAY

During the mid nineteen thirties, the husband & wife partnership of Don & Honey Ray, produced paper mache composition accessories and purchased in Britains figures to compliment the scenery that they manufactured. These zoo enclosures with original boxes are now very rare. A Tom Mix Cowboy Set was also produced using an unsaddled Britains farm horse and a walking cowboy. The Rays' added leather saddle and bridal to the horse and furnished the cowboy with real fur 'chaps'. Courtesy Janet & Peter Kirk





# EBAY FINDS

By Philip Dean

## PLASTICS



Cherilea Plastic Cleopatra  
Unsold at \$225 Reserve not met



Marx Blue and Gray Boxed Playset \$785



Cherilea Plastic Execution  
Set Elizabethan Series  
Unsold at \$225 Reserve not met



Britains Garden Folk \$525



Marx Plastic  
Nativity  
\$35



# PLASTICS ON PARADE

## “PUT IT TOGETHER AND PULL IT APART.”

By Roger Garfield

MARX

### PUT-TO-GETHER English Soldiers

Louis Marx and Company Prolific Manufacturers of Plastic figures during the 1950s and 60s made the proud boast in their advertising literature that they were “The Worlds Largest Manufacturers of Toys”

With factories in Germany, Hong Kong, Wales United Kingdom as well as New York the wealth of production supplied not only standard size figures but six inch high soldiers etc.

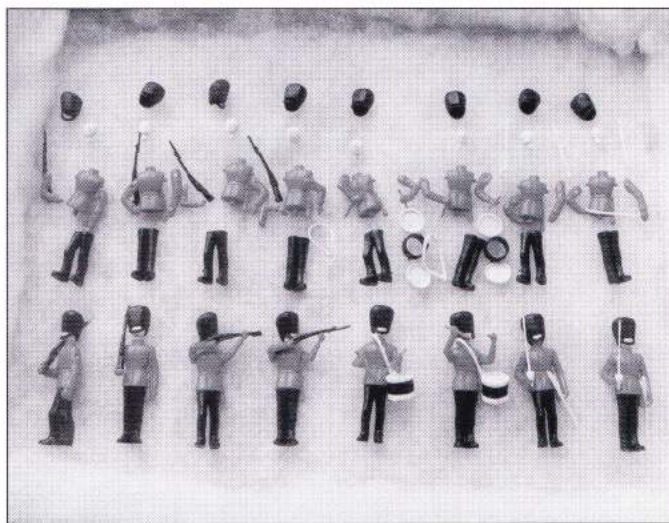
Advertising was the company's strong point and in a recent Plastic Figure and Playset Collector magazine a most interesting article appeared entitled “In her Majesty's Service” and described the Put Together 54mm English Soldiers produced by the company.

In later years, both Britains and Timpo along with many other European manufacturers adopted similar techniques when producing toy soldiers and figures with detachable parts.

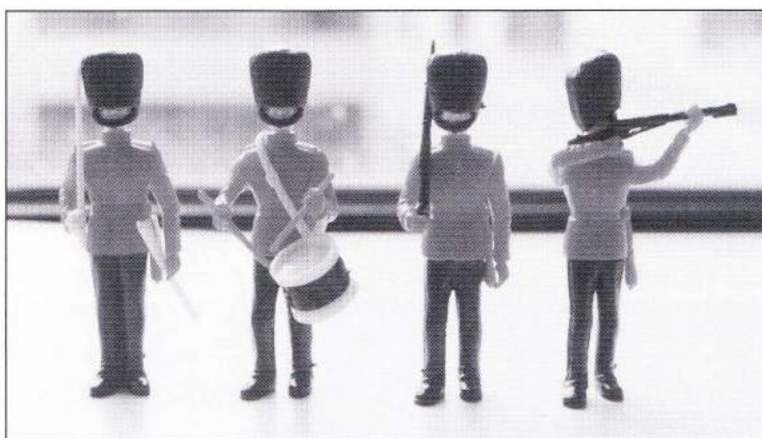
Marx however must be credited for the first of these figures as the accompanying photographs show.



Sears Toy Catalog  
Courtesy Bill Berghorn



Marx Put Together  
English Soldiers



Marx assembled Put Together Soldiers



## American Revolution



17421

### Valley Forge

Set includes George Washington, Friedrich Wilhelm Von Steuben, 3 continental soldiers, and Hut.



17443

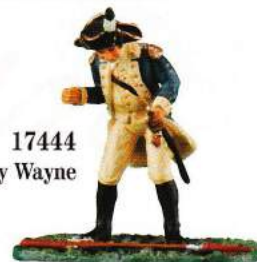
### Marquis De Lafayette



17451

### Molly Pitcher Set

Molly Ludwig Hays sat her pitcher down and took over for her wounded husband.



17444

### "Mad" Anthony Wayne

## Civil War



17464

### Crisis at Chickamauga

Despite the victory, the constant disagreements among Confederate Commanders resulted in missed opportunities before and after battle.



17463

### Vicksburg Command Decision

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## World War II

17456

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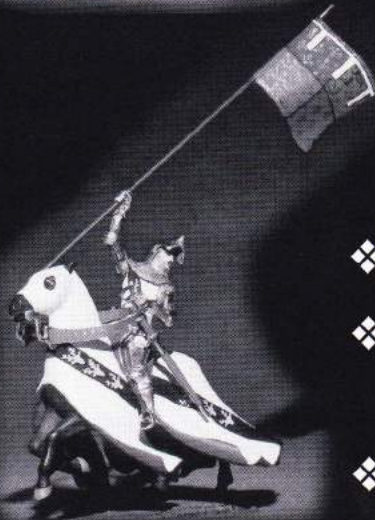
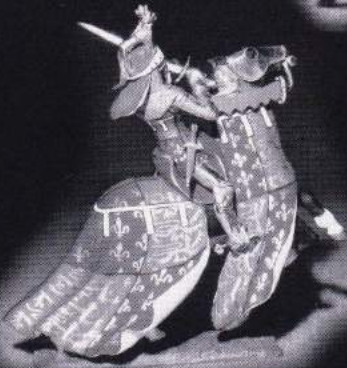
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# **AUCTION PREVIEW**

## **THE WILLIAM J MIELE COLLECTION**

Vectis Auctions are privileged to be arranging the sale of Bill Miele's collection of Britains military figures.

Well known throughout the US and beyond, Bill's collection was originally one of the finest ever assembled.

Bill's passion for lead soldiers goes back to his childhood in Cleveland when, as Christmas came around each year, he would be taken to Higbees department store and allowed to choose one set from the array on display. Inevitably, he came away with four or five sets!! As life, family and a successful business career progressed, his interest in the hobby never diminished. Deciding to specialise essentially with Britains Military Figures, he proceeded to amass a truly magnificent collection.

Offered for sale now are many rarities - special paints, "Pink Room" and Master Figures, prototypes and set variations.

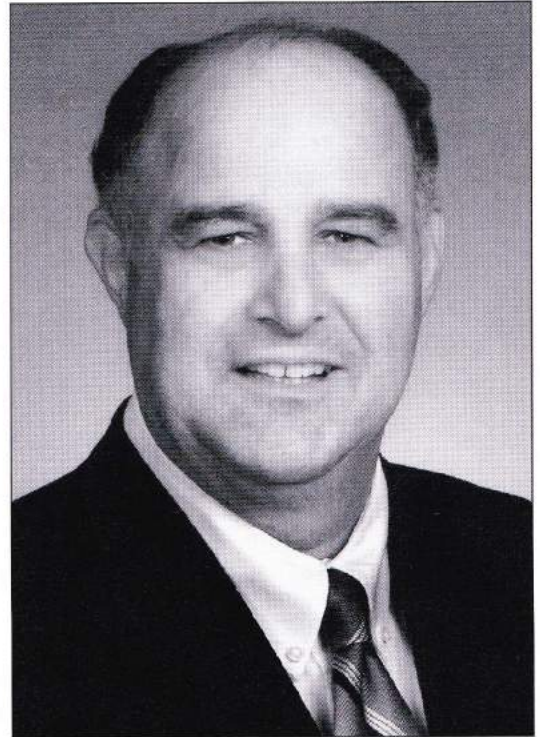
It is possible to list only a fraction of the collection here. Included are an extremely rare Short Flying Boat - boxed, a Beau Fighter Prototype, US Cavalry Spanish American War based on the Boer War cavalry figure, steel helmet versions of the RHA, RFA Pontoon Section, Military Bands, The Womens Army Corps from the Len Richards collection etc. Civilian issues have not been entirely excluded - Bill's collection of Salvation Army figures is superb. The bands include both silver and gold instrument variations.

Although Bill has gradually disposed of some of his collection over recent years, Vectis are now pleased to offer for auction approximately 300 boxed sets, 20 horse-drawn sets, 300 unboxed sets, 11 aeroplanes and autogyros and much, much more - adding up to a truly memorable sale of figures that rarely come to the market. The sale will take place at the Vectis Auction Gallery in Buckingham, England on Thursday the fifth of December.

Catalogues will be available from mid-November. All enquiries should be addressed to:

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## **BONHAMS AUCTION – SEPTEMBER 3RD 2002 – LONDON**

*By Robert Wiison*

The first of a new series of sales, catalogued by James Opie and based in Bonhams' Lots Road auction rooms in Chelsea, took place at the beginning of September.

Despite its less than convenient location, from the point of view of public transport connections, many keen collectors and dealers had been attracted to the viewing and sale by the prospect of a number of interesting lots. This included various items from the Ken Pizey collection, as previewed in the Summer 2002 issue of the OTS magazine.

Viewing took place on the morning of the sale and on the previous two days. For those who had left it to sale day to view, the fact that nearly all the items were not available without request proved a problem. Although the security of the vendors' property is obviously a prime consideration, it is also important to appreciate the needs of the potential buyer. Getting through some 600 lots, when each one requires a special request, puts a great burden on both the potential buyer and on Bonham's own staff. It is to be hoped that more efficient procedures can be developed for future sales.

If those in the room expected that the relatively small numbers present indicated the possibility of some bargains, they were to be largely disappointed. Many buyers had obviously viewed early and left bids on the book, and there was also active telephone bidding on many lots.

A small collection of mainly early Britains, not from the Pizey collection, at the start of the sale, were perhaps some of the best buys. A fair set of first version Middlesex Yeomanry in a fair-poor (but essentially complete) box at a hammer price of £190 (c. \$300) seemed a "steal" to this reviewer. A similar set in rather better condition went for well over £1000 in a recent Vectis auction.

One of the highlights of the Ken Pizey collection, a set of Plug-shouldered 16th Lancers in a box for the 12th Lancers version of the same set, made a more impressive £1900. A set of Indian Army Cavalry in khaki, produced in celebration of Indian Independence in 1947, went for £750. Not a bad price considering the rarity of these figures.

Another highlight of the Pizey collection was a selection of figures from the Britains Mechanical Coronation Procession of 1953. These were largely sold at around the lower estimate. This, again, seemed to the reviewer modest, given the unique nature of these figures. At an average of around £20-40 per figure, this is good value for a piece of both Britains and British "history".

The Pizey collection also included a number of retouched, repainted and other items as well as many empty boxes. Bidding was brisk on many of these lots, which made well above the estimates. The total sale realised £82,916 without commission.

All in all, a successful start to the new series of auctions. This reviewer is certainly looking forward to the next ones! A sale of mainly civilian items will already have taken place by the time this review is published, and the next soldier sale is planned to coincide with the Vectis London toy soldier show at the beginning of December.



# AUCTION REVIEW

## The Dmitri Ilyinsky Collection

Bertoia Auctions

Saturday 5th October 2002

By Philip Dean

The sale of the Dmitri Ilyinsky collection was an auction full of lots of unrivalled rarity and quality.

Releasing back into the world of collectors nearly 500 lots, superb sets and boxes, many unique, and all of them selling.

This no-reserve auction attracted over 80 buyers to the auction house, several from overseas, with many more bidding by telephone, mail or live on the internet.

The opening lot, Britains set 39, the 1946 version of the Royal Horse Artillery was sold for \$5225 and then followed over four hours of sometimes serious, sometimes lighthearted bidding, eventually finishing with Britains set 193, Arabs on camels, the 1916 first version at \$1100.

Even with an auction full of so many first quality items, it wasn't difficult to pick the star of the show, lot 992, Britains set 131, The British Army Presentation Case, first version from 1908. The bidding on this 275 piece set opened at \$17,000 and eventually it was left to two gentlemen in the room to fight it out, with the victor paying \$35,200 for the privilege of owning this enormous set.

The mint selection of Dimestore figures was a real pleasure to view, so good was the quality, and most sold for well above their estimates after competitive bidding. A mint figure of a Barclay American Legionnaire (lot 800), made for the 1937 New York Legion Convention sold for \$825. An almost complete set of the Manoil Happy Farm (lots 843-844) sold, in two lots, for \$580. The Barclays US Army planes (lot 811) flew up to three times their upper estimate to level out at \$410. Two lots, each of three Jones figures – 2 US and 1 German – made \$410 (lot 820) and \$715 (lot 822). Grey Iron were also well represented, a radio operator with two aerial poles (lot 829) selling for \$470 and some cowboys with fencing (lot 833) sold for the same price.

The Manoil aviator mechanic (lot 851) with the propellor turned \$660 and a grouping of six figures (lot 859), including the zany parachutist eventually landed at \$605.

A small, but elite group of Elastolin, Hauser and Lineol military vehicles excelled, with all reaching good prices. The Hausser Prime Mover (lot 607) manufactured about 1938, with eleven seated composition soldiers, sold at \$6050. Another Hausser transport (lot 609), this time with cannon and six seated soldiers, like everything else in wonderful condition, went for twice the high estimate at \$2475. A Lineol military transport (lot 608), still with the original box, twice the high estimate again at \$2475.

Vertunni was represented with 83 figures spread over 27 lots (875-904). A beautiful tableau of French royalty, aristocracy and military, generally averaging \$140 per figure. But viewed altogether a truly impressive sight.

Heyde had twelve lots on offer, amongst them three 7 inch figures of mounted Lifeguards (lots 788 abc), each selling for the high estimate of \$1980. Favourite for me amongst the Heyde was the British Guards Bandstand set (lot 787), the band with their music stands complete with paper sheet music and the bandmaster conducting on a clockwork dais, a very imaginative set which sold for \$3025. Six Heyde boxed sets (lots 779-784) sold very disappointingly at generally half the lower estimate.



Dmitri (Tim) Ilyinsky with Set #131



The Bertoia Showroom - Ilyinsky Preview



# AUCTION REVIEW

## The Dmitri Ilyinsky Collection (cont.)

The civilian items, my personal favourites, were, as usual, selling for very good prices. The auction offered some of the very best in civilian sets. A really incredible boxed set of Britains Civilians (set 168 – lot 572), as good as the day it was made, sold for \$3025 – worth every penny! The Complete Railway Station Set (158 – lot 569), unbelievable condition, sold at just below its estimate for \$2750. Selling for \$1760 was the Mammoth Circus (lot 521) and guess what? It was perfect. One of the rarest items in the civilian lots was the Britains 95f, the large barn and cartshed, made in 1939, difficult to find in any condition, but like this, perfect and in the box, I don't think you will find another of these anywhere, it sold for only \$1980.

For somebody, Christmas came early. Lots 659 to 663 were five of the Britains garden sets, looking as though they only flowered yesterday. Prices for the Miniature Garden sets were as follows 1MG \$275, 2MG \$385, 4MG \$495, 5MG \$715, 8MG \$825.

If you are a lover of the turf and horse racing, then the Britains Racing colours were for you; there were 27 different boxed figures to whet your appetite (lots 612 – 638) but what's this, one of them wasn't mint, it had a broken whip! Pride of place went to the ultra rare pre-war boxed Mr Hyman which romped home past the winners post for \$715. With the exception of the Duchess of Norfolk "Mickey Mouse" colours I think this is the highest price I have seen for a racing colour. (Unless you know differently?)

Something generally available at most major auctions nowadays is the Snow White cottage, this event was no exception, but this was extra special, the beautiful large Hugar cottage with the baseboard, complete with bridge (Hi-Ho Hi-Ho) - wait, as this is Tim's auction, it surely had to have the box. Of course, but what a box! Illustrated with images of Snow White, the Dwarfs and the Wicked Queen and showing the original price of eight shillings and eleven pence (that would be about a dollar, I think!) That's inflation for you, it sold for \$8250.



Britain's Snow White Cottage and Box  
Courtesy Bertoia Auctions



Britain's Royal Mail Van - Courtesy Bertoia Auctions

As rare as the cottage was the Britains Royal Mail van (1552-lot 943), one of these vehicles once held the record for the highest price paid for an individual vehicle. In excellent condition, with its box (would you expect less?) this was a real bargain at \$6050.

It would be very difficult to find enough superlatives to extol the virtues of the majority of the collection, that is the military lots. So many wonderful sets and figures I could not begin to do them justice here (try and buy the catalogue from Bertoia and see for yourselves). Here are just a few.



# AUCTION REVIEW

## The Dmitri Ilyinsky Collection (cont.)



Britain's Civilian Autogiro, Courtesy Bertoia Auctions

With the large amount of highest quality sets available at one time, and only a finite number of buyers, it was inevitable that there were bargains for some, several of the lots went for very low prices. The sale realised just in excess of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars.

When you are acquiring a collection of this quality it is sometimes necessary to pay higher than normal prices when buying, a luxury that is not always under your control when selling.

For Bertoia Auctions, Bill and Jeanne, ably assisted by their family and staff, this was their first venture into the world of lead figures, having already acquired a reputation for the quality of their toy, train, bank and doorstep auction sales.

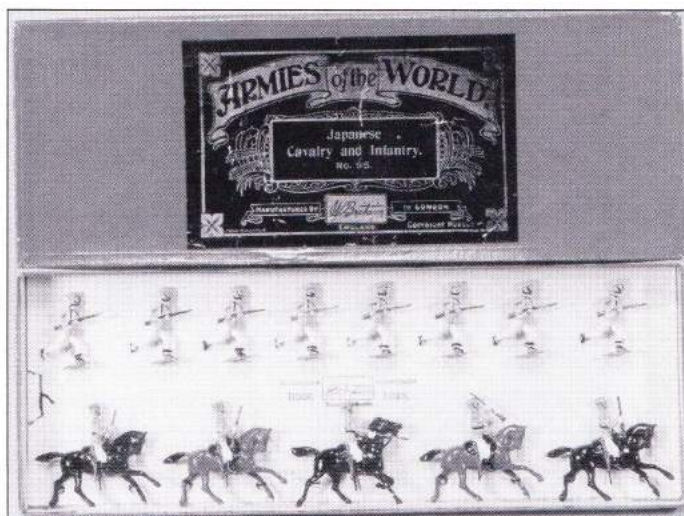
Their professionalism was immediately evident, from their purpose built premises with excellent viewing facilities to the hard back catalogue. Said Jeanne Bertoia, "We knew that the quality of Tim's collection would go hand in hand with the reputation we have earned for the quality of our auctions"

As an encyclopaedia of quality figures, try and get the catalogue – with prices realised – it really is worth it, and see for yourselves one man's dream.

The vision of Dmitri (Tim) Ilyinsky in putting together a collection of such quality has to be greatly admired. I know the pride he took in his acquisitions, and I sincerely hope that now his collection has been dispersed we have not lost him and his enormous friendliness as the the hobby will be never the same without him.

Tim, my friend, to the next time we meet.  
Philip Dean

- British Army Presentation Case – set 73 - \$3850
- Royal Horse Artillery ( long carbines) – set 39 - \$3300
- Japanese Cavalry & Infantry – set 95 - \$4400
- 11th Hussars – set 12 - \$3850
- Boer Cavalry – set 6 - \$4125
- Black Watch Highlanders – set 11 - \$3025
- Royal Marine Artillery – set 35 - \$2475



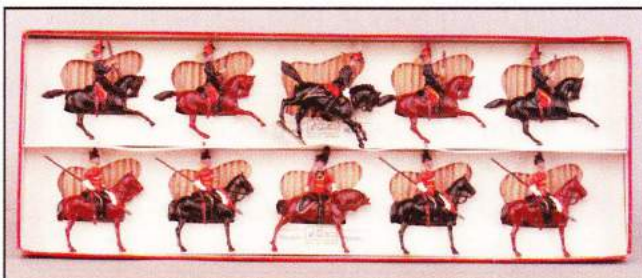
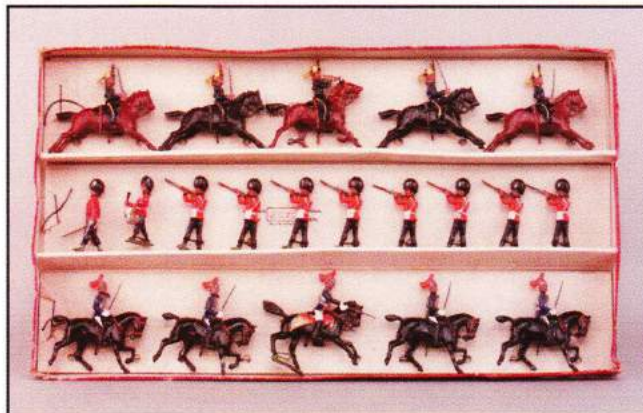
Japanese Cavalry and Infantry Set 95, Courtesy Bertoia Auctions



Elastolin Prime Mover - Courtesy Bertoia Auctions,  
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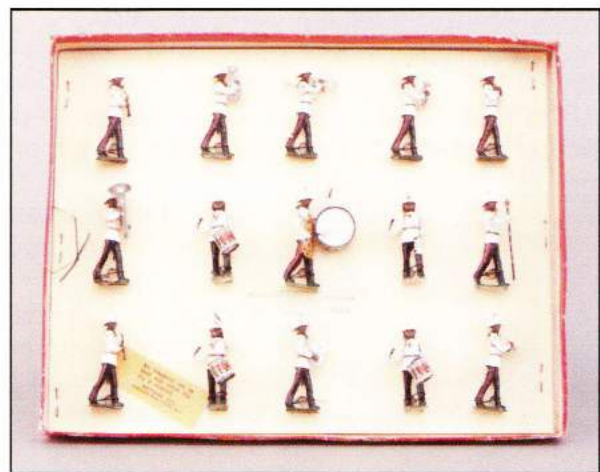




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# BOOK REVIEW

## THE NEW CAVENDISH SCRAPBOOKS

By Jack Matthews

Perhaps little known to American toy soldier collectors are a recent series of so-called "Scrapbooks" published by the outstanding British publishing house of New Cavendish Books which is known for its insistence on high-quality all-color collectibles books. It published, among others, the excellent volumes on Lineol and Elastolin composition figures by Colonel Dennis Fontana and Reggie Polaine.

These new scrapbooks are large 12" x 14" all-color hardbound collections of posters, songsheets, souvenirs, newspapers, comics, toys, games and all types of ephemera from various decades ranging from Queen Victoria to the 1960's.

With the exception of the latest in the Series, *America's Wartime Scrapbook*, from Pearl Harbor to V-J Day, all contain items from the famous Robert Opie Collection. Opie, the initiator and designer of the Series does a terrific job of selecting just the right eye-catching, interesting pieces. Approximately 1500 large and small color photographs are shown in each volume. They are arranged with minimal text, in a deliberate "scrapbook" format by general subject matter such as coronation souvenirs. The Series includes *The Victorian Scrapbook*, *The Edwardian Scrapbook*, and Scrapbooks from the 1910's, 1920's, 1930's, 1950's and 1960's. The 1940's are covered in a Volume entitled [England's] *Wartime Scrapbook*. There is an overall volume on British Royalty entitled, naturally, *The Royal Scrapbook*.



I have them all, except for the one dealing with the decade of the Sixties, having no real interest in that self-absorbed era.

Every collector of Britains toy soldiers should have at least the Victorian, Edwardian, 1910's and Wartime volumes, which feature thousands of items, some of which make terrific backgrounds. And these are not tiny little illustrations. Many are full and half-page size.

The latest in the Series is my personal favorite, dealing with WWII. *America's Wartime Scrapbook* contains about 1300 collectibles ranging from propaganda posters, postcards, stickers, magazines, comic books, figures, pinups, games and toys. In short, a wealth of WWII ephemera.



Most of the games, toys and books were from my personal collection. This book is a must-have for collectors of Dimestore figures and paper soldiers.

Copies of *America's Wartime Scrapbook* may be obtained via eBay "Buy It Now" directly from the author, Martin Jacobs, author of previous books on *V-For Victory* and *Remember Pearl Harbor Collectibles*.

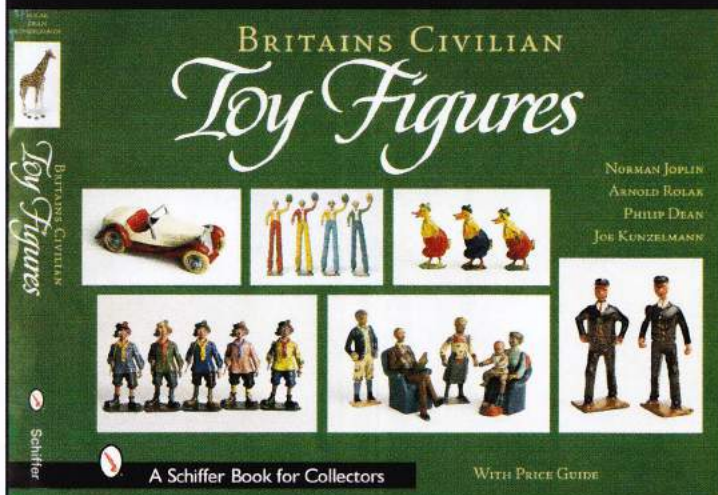
All of the others may be purchased via Amazon on the Internet or from regional or local booksellers. The price for each, under \$30, is quite reasonable.

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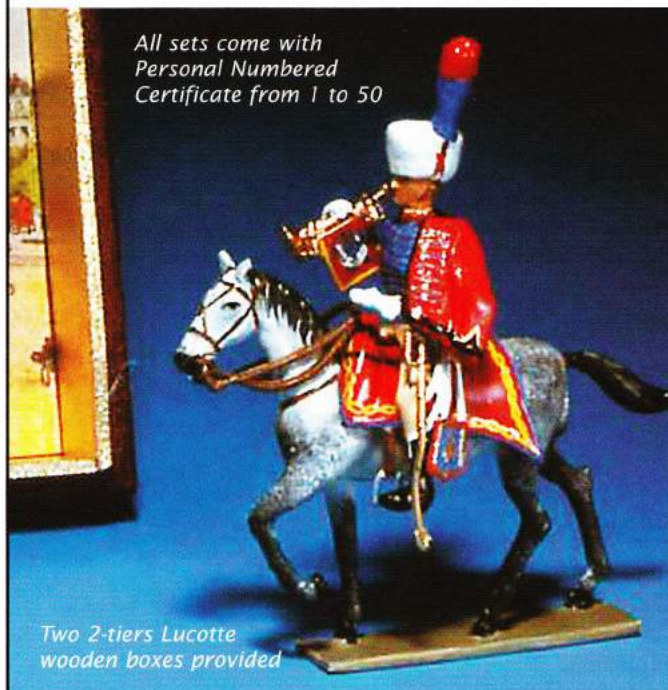
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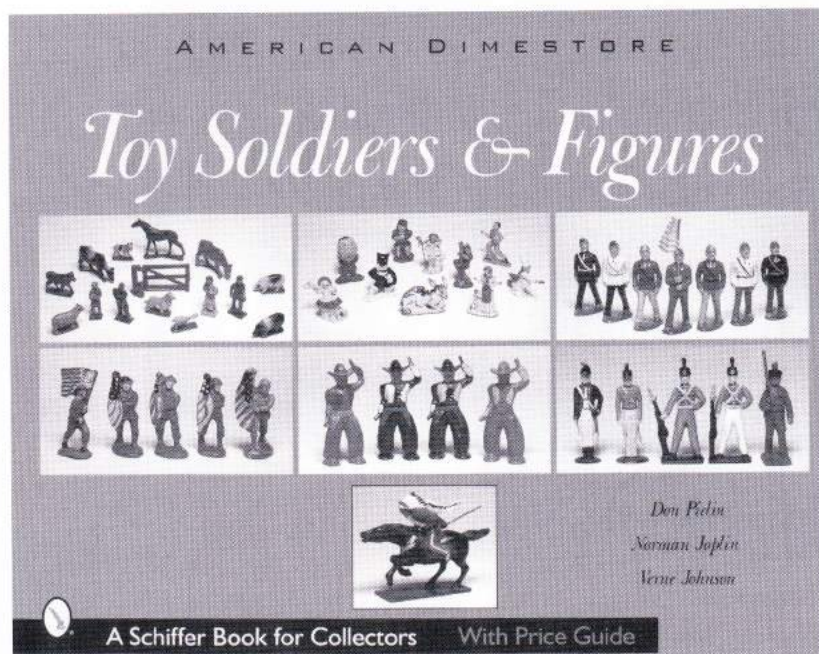
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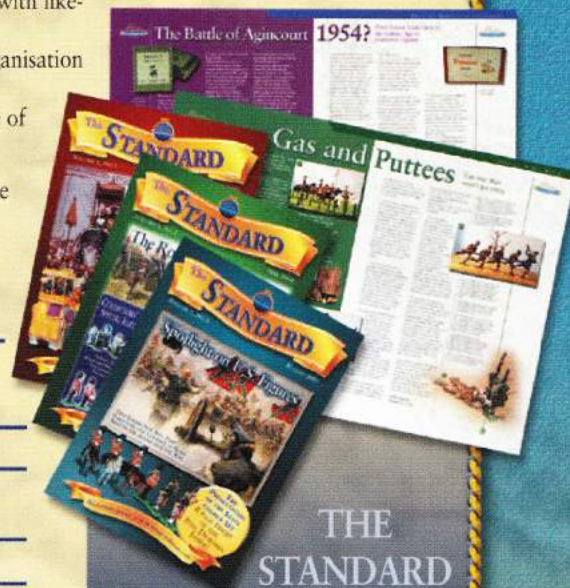
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# The Durso Company Nativity

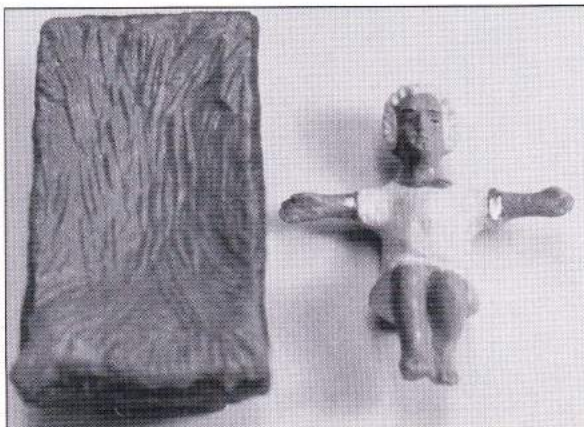
*By Vincent J. Russo and Patrice Servais*

As we have reported in previous articles, The Durso Company of Liege Belgium, manufacturer of excellent quality composition figures from 1938 until all production finally ceased in 1988, produced many groupings of figures, depicting a wide variety of "Themes", during this 50 year period.

Not the least among these was the beautiful Durso Nativity Set.



The Nativity



Baby Jesus and Manger



Angels

The upcoming production of this set was announced on the very last page of the 1947 Durso Catalog.

The figures were actually made and introduced to the world in 1948. This initial production, composed of approximately 9 cm size\*, were:

<u>Catalog No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
9100	Baby Jesus
9101	Manger
9102	Mary
9103	Joseph
9104	Melchior (Magi)
9105	Balthazar (Magi)
9106	Gaspard, Kneeling (Magi)
9107	Shepherd, Standing
9108	Shepherd, Kneeling
9109	Angel
9110	Arab Leading a Camel
9111	Camel Mounted by a Black Page

(\*The 1951 catalog listed a "new series" of 6.5cm figures, but to our knowledge, none have ever been seen.)



## The Durso Company Nativity (*cont.*)



Mary and Joseph

The figure of the "Camel Mounted by a Black Page" (9111), is extremely rare today, and was perhaps done so "by design", by Michel Klimov, the owner of the Durso Company. The initial 1958 price list had this figure valued at four times (4x) the cost of other figures.

Shortly after, Mr. Klimov decided to add a black horse, depicting the means of travel of one of the Magi (perhaps Gaspard). This follows the traditional belief in Europe that 2 of the Magi travelled by Camel and 1 by horse. This figure was never cataloged, but modern collectors have assigned No. 9112 to it.



The Black Horse



Camel Mounted By A Black Page

The Magi and their entourage (most beautiful figures), depict the traditional beliefs that the kneeling Gaspard, representing Africa, bore the gift of incense; Balthazar, representing Asia, bore the gift of gold; and Melchior, representing Europe, bore the gift of myrrh. All as presents for the Baby Jesus.



The Magi  
Gaspar (kneeling), Melchior (in green) and  
Balthazar (in red)



Arabs and Camels



## The Durso Company Nativity (cont.)

The Nativity "scene" was enhanced by taking figures from other Durso lines, i.e. sheep (in various poses), Rams and Goats for the Shepherd's flock, and, of course, the lying Ox and Donkey.



Ox and Donkey



The Flock



The Shepherds

The finishing touches to complete the scene were done by adding Palm Trees, Bushes and Rocks (all produced by Durso)

As for the "stables", Durso did not produce these, but since, at the time, there were many Belgian manufacturers who specialized in these types of structures (doll houses, castles, etc.), Mr. Klimov contracted with several to build stables for him. Thus the stables are all somewhat "unique" and rarely were exactly duplicated.

We hope that we have shown that the Durso Nativity Set deserves a place of honor with the most elite of producers of this scene.

**Acknowledgement:** Photos by Peggy Steisel and Veronique Servais

**Web Site:** The Authors invite our readers to visit the Durso web site at: <http://users.skynet.be/DURSO>

**Editor's Note:** See the advertisement for the book "Composition Figures of Belgium - The Durso Company", by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Bruun, and Lucien Maris in this issue



King Baudouin on Horseback

### **CORRECTION**

In our last article, (Volume 26 Number 2), on page 99, the picture of King Baudouin on Horseback, was incorrect. (It actually was of King Leopold III, also shown on page 98)

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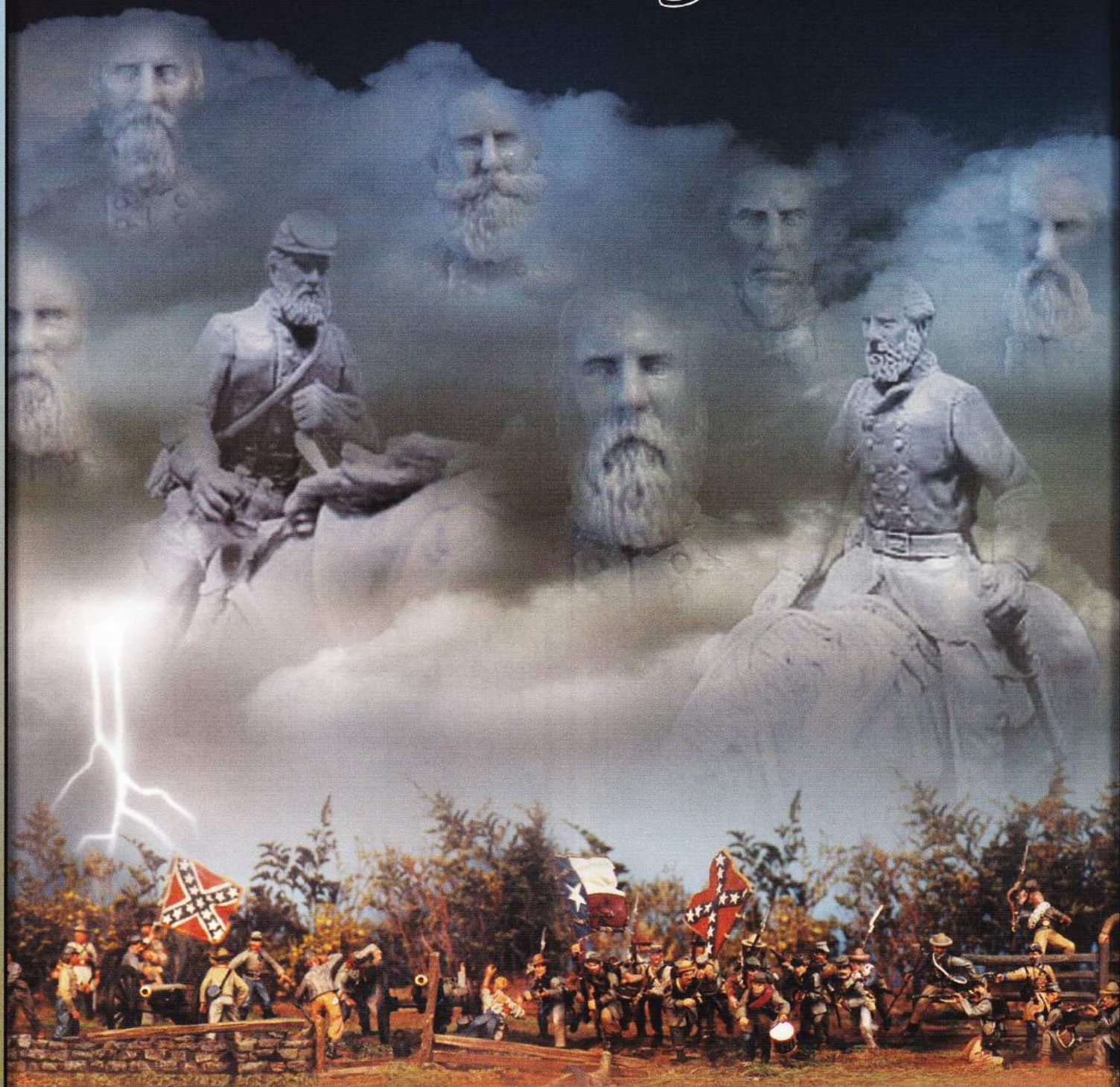
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# From F.W. Woolworth to CBG Mignot (One Man's Love Affair With Mignot)

Jack Carlson

When I was a boy my parents' home was only one block from a dime store. On my weekly visits I was drawn to the open bins of "dime store" soldiers. This was, after all, just seven years after the end of WWII so there was a very wide assortment of khaki painted "dime stores". My all time favorite was a man with a bazooka.

But several places in town had Wm. Britains' soldiers. In those days we would go downtown and the store windows would have soldiers displayed, with their trains for Christmas. So from an early age, when asked what I would like for Christmas or my birthday, I always asked for Britains.

Behind our house there was a tool shed and we were allowed to dig in the dirt and set up mock battles. Most often these battles were fought with dime store soldiers but, more than once, some of the Britains made their way onto the battlefield. Few troops survived that kind of a skirmish intact. About this time my mother read an article in *Town & Country* with a picture of Douglas Fairbanks Junior's study in London. Guess what? He had an extraordinary collection of "toy soldiers". From that point I was not allowed to play with the Britains anymore. They were billeted in bookshelves. Early in 1954 my older sister had a part-time job at "As You Like It" which carried Britains. She brought me the 1954 catalogue and I was able to order anything from the catalogue and she got a 20% employee discount. That's when I got my own first part-time job... to try and amass a wide range of Britains.

Around that time I saw an ad in a comic book for Polk's Hobby shop in New York. For 25 cents they sent me an extraordinary catalogue-slick cover with purple ink and such delights to be found within...beyond the Britains, there were Courtenay knights at \$20 a piece on foot-ten times the \$2 for a complete set of Britains! This was my introduction to CBG Mignot where a set sold for \$5-two and a half times that of Britains. It was very difficult for my young mind and limited pocket book to come to grips with how Mignot could possibly be worth two and a half times Britains. A compromise was reached when I resolved that the standard bearers, also at \$5 a piece, were worth it. After all, no other manufacturer, of my experience, was producing standard bearers at that time. So my first purchases were, over a period of time, three standard bearers. Few items were pictured in the Polk's catalogue but the Mignot (pronounced MEAN - YOH) Vercingetorix, with battle axe and shield on a charging stallion, was pictured at \$5. That strained my budget but he captured my imagination and was worth every centime.

Soon my older sister got married, left her job and with it I lost her discount. High School activities kept me away from toy soldiers but as a freshman in college I did get to New York during the winter break and



The Atelier



Edouard Pemzec

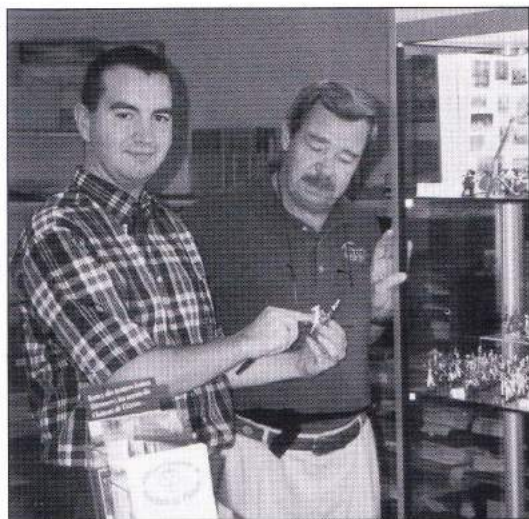
got to visit Polk's Hobby shop. Much to my chagrin, in 1961, Polk's no longer carried Mignot or Courtenay. They did have a few Britains but the most interesting pieces were some Spanish made Napoleonic on horseback, on plastic bases with titles. These figures, horses, and accoutrements were highly detailed but the painting left a bit to be desired-still a nice souvenir of my only visit to Polk's. After college came the Marine corps and then the establishment of my work career. In 1974, on our honeymoon, we stopped in Paris and I got to add another Mignot standard bearer to my collection. I was thrilled to find out that Mignot was still in production. But newly married and just getting a career off the ground, Mignot was not in my budget.



## From F.W. Woolworth to CBG Mignot (*cont.*)

Work took me to New York, a couple of times each year, and I attended a Phillips Auction to bid on Courtenays. In the late 70's a Texas collector was cornering the market. So I contented myself with getting the odd 54 mm Stadden and a few Mignot foot personality figures. Then with the dawn of the 80's a childhood friendship was rekindled with Bill McMahon who had become known as the Armchair General. Bill had a few Mignot but also handled Britains and Steadfast, he took some of my old Britains in trade for Steadfast. I was still having trouble with the price difference on Mignot when Bill learned that we were going to France for a few weeks. He asked that I visit the atelier (it has always been a "studio"/ not a factory) in Paris and try and expedite delivery of some orders that he had placed by fax over the preceding months. My wife speaks fluent French, having taught English in Paris for a couple of years prior to our marriage.

We arrived at this austere looking building with two-story royal blue wooden doors. Fortunately someone was just entering as we arrived so we were admitted to the lobby area. There we found the direction to the atelier which was just on the inner courtyard. No one spoke English and they were reluctant to deal with us until my wife got through to M. Pelle who understood that we were from the Armchair General. With Bill's approval, in addition to expediting his orders, I set about to purchase whatever was available that struck my interest. This was my first introduction to French business. There did not seem to be any rhyme or reason to why they would sell me certain things and not others. To begin with, I wanted to buy one set of everything they did in the Napoleonic range. They could not comprehend an order of that magnitude but I was convinced that this opportunity might never again present itself. (In fact we never did get back to the atelier while it was still in Paris). They insisted on cash payment (thank goodness for American Express) so I agreed on condition that everything would be packed in 72 hours time to go to the airport with us.



Show case at the Atelier - Loic and Jack

Talk about a kid in a candy store. We were taken into this storeroom dimly lit where different horsedrawn carriages were set up cheek by jowl but at least I was able to get most of the Napoleonic horsedrawn vehicles. Then the French attitude asserted itself and when I tried to get the Napoleonic marshalls, which had just been introduced, I was allowed to buy only three Lucotte marshalls of the set of twelve. I bought the balance at Sloan's Auction during last year's Palm Beach Toy Soldier Show. There were as many of the other nine but they just refused to sell the other nine. Do not get the wrong idea here, I had not inherited a fortune nor had my career prospered to a great extent. Most of the sets were made up of three or four cavalry and usually only four infantry. If the Napoleonic Eagles were available then, I did not see them. Because I had to concentrate my limited resources on one era and since, most of us would agree, the Napoleonic era has the most beautiful uniforms, I concentrated my efforts on that portion of their range.

When we came back and Bill received his order shortly thereafter, he asked that we continue to deal with Mignot on his behalf. We agreed to do so as long as we could become part time dealers at the same time. He suggested that we go to the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter Show, in Chicago, to see what dealing was all about. I guess our first show must have been about 1985 and we took a good deal of the Mignot Napoleonics with us. That's when I first met Gus Hanson and learned from several different attendees that Hanson was virtually synonymous with Mignot in the U.S. How well I remember walking into his Mignot hotel showroom and seeing perhaps four or five sets of twelve infantry and the same number of six cavalry. It became apparent that I would be foolish to compete with this man who had done so much to expand the recognition of Mignot in this country. He himself loved older Britains, more than the Mignot, but he had become "Mr. Mignot".



Jack Carleton seated at M. Henry Mignot's desk with Loic Pemzec



## From F.W. Woolworth to CBG Mignot (cont.)

Bill Hocker had the room next to us and I bought a lot of Hockers for my personal collection. At our next OTSN we became interested in King and Country and Somerset miniatures and generally pursued whatever was of interest, including some Russian connoisseur figures. In the meantime our auction pursuits had gone overseas and we were much more successful in buying things from Phillips of London than we ever had been with Phillips in New York. At this time we started buying some Mignot at auction, but always tried to buy complete sets. We were early patrons of Peter Greenhill and Brian Rodden Knights, as well as Jock Coutts of Under Two Flags, London, where we were first introduced to the early Plantagenet Series of knights.



Jack Carleton and Loic Pemzak examine the finished product

In 1994 our oldest son had a semester abroad at the Ecole Supérieur du Commerce en Dijon, France and then a summer internship at the OECD, Paris. We visited him that summer in Paris and he took us by Drapeau de France, in the Palais shops, just across the rue de Rivoli from the Louvre. This is toy soldier heaven - three or four different store fronts crammed with all manner of toy soldiers but one small store exclusively devoted to Mignot. There I saw, for the first time, the Papal Coronation coach, which is even rarer than Napoleon's Coronation coach. I also saw the ALVF 400, "Big Bertha" railroad gun in a diorama box. It was priced at about \$450 and is in O'Brien's book for more than \$2,000! There were all manner of WWI figures and that's when I learned that, despite the width and breadth of Mignot's Napoleonic range, their strongest range is actually turn of the century through "The Great War". In this latter range, they have all manner of action poses, pre-WWI transitional uniforms which tend to be almost as colorful as Napoleonic, as well as the khaki and blue horizon uniforms. For the first time we were exposed to some of the smaller Mignot dioramas.

As fate would have it, M. Pemzec, and his partner M. Grand-Dufay, had just rescued Mignot from the latest of three consecutive bankruptcies. They had moved the atelier to the southern end of the Loire Valley. We called from Paris and my wife spoke French with M. Pemzec. Time did not permit us to visit that summer, but we began doing business immediately.

The following summer we visited the atelier and were exposed to the virtually complete range of larger dioramas. These come in two, three, four and five tiers as well as broad tabletop versions and free standing structures such as the Cavalry Barracks from 1900 and the firehouse (complete with brass fire-pole!) Many battles and scenes are represented from pre-history, straight through the early days of WWI. Some other makers have produced free standing battle scenes, of late, where you can buy figures to go with the buildings but to the best of our knowledge no one is producing, even today, the complete diorama a la Mignot. The smaller child's shoebox size diorama costs less than any larger new set of Britains! Yet it is a complete scene with backdrop and trees and shrubs and amazing action for such a small price.

We spent three full days at the atelier on that first visit and were charmed and delighted at every turn. In order to do that visit, and subsequent visits justice, we will cover them in a future article. Suffice to say for this purpose that we were truly amazed at the extraordinary range of figures that were, and are today, still available.

Au revoir.



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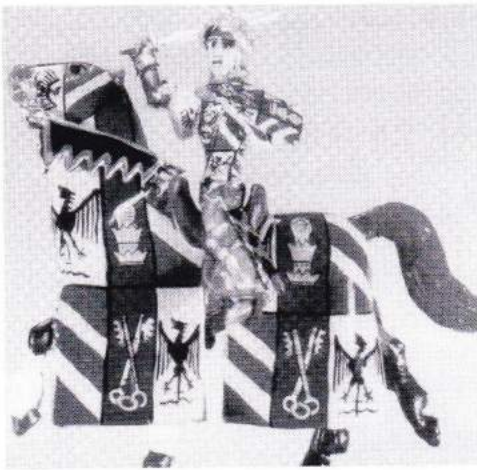


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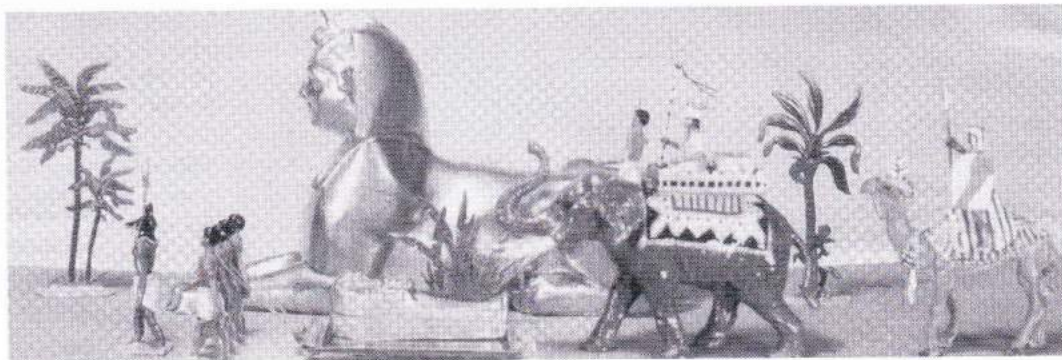
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# 1:6 SCALE THE NEW FRONTIER

By E.W. Fitzgerald

After collecting 1/32 (54mm) figures of many makers for more than 40 years, I discovered a new frontier of toy soldier collecting at Toys R Us of all places. Let me explain with some history first; then we will look at the big toys.

It all started back in 1964 just six years after Mattel's pulchritudinous Barbie hit the scene, Hasbro's (Pawtucket, Rhode Island) G. I. Joe 12" (300mm) "action figures for boys" invaded toy store shelves all over the country. The boys could act out many adventures with the 2" = 1 foot figures featuring authentic uniforms, weaponry and assorted props such as a miniature nuclear reactor to be recovered by the bearded G. I. Joe stalwarts.

The situation in Vietnam seemed to put toys featuring military themes out of favor. But G. I. Joe staged a comeback in the 1990s following the Gulf War. By the late 1990s, G. I. Joe had been joined by the "Ultimate Soldier" produced by 21st Century Toys (Alameda, CA). The Ultimate Soldier line includes an array of troops from many countries and periods such as German Wehrmacht and British SAS.

Then, as the new millennium dawned, both Hasbro and 21st Century Toys began importing from China exact 1:6 scale models of perfectly detailed military vehicles from World War II, the Vietnam era and modern day. Tracks move and wheels turn, hatches open, weapons/turrets traverse and, of course, the vehicles nicely accommodate the 12" action figures (sold separately) attired in their uniforms appropriate for the period. These 1:6 scale vehicles are not cheap kid stuff ranging from \$50 for the M151 to \$250 for the M2 Bradley fighting vehicle. But what a fine display they make if you have room-the M5 tank measures 30" long x 15" wide x 18" high (4.7 cubic feet!). The following pictured models are representative of what's available at Toys R Us with brief technical data for the prototypes.

M5 Light Tank



8,900 produced 1941-1944 by Cadillac Division of General Motors for fast reconnaissance role. Top speed was 36 mph. The 37mm main armament was not conducive to fire fights but automotive reliability made it popular with the four-man crew. Used by British Forces as the Stuart VI.

Motor Carriage T-19



This vehicle was based on the M3 Halftrack. 324 of these were produced by Diamond T to carry the M2A1 105mm Howitzer and six-man crew.

M8 "Greyhound" Light Armored Car



From 1943-1945, Ford produced 8,523 of these 6x6 vehicles sporting a 37mm gun and one machine gun in the turret. Four-man crew.

Truck, 1/4 Ton M151



From 1960, this vehicle replaced the M38 Series Jeep as the standard light vehicle of the U.S. Forces until replaced in 1983 by the Hummer. It could carry weapons, personnel and radios in a reconnaissance or transport role. The M151 was produced by Ford with a unitary body by Fruehauf. It was nicknamed the "Mutt"-Military Utility Tactical Truck.

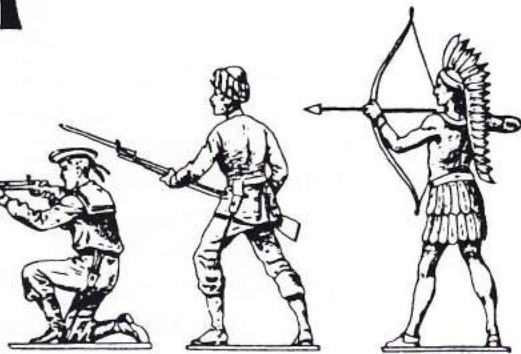
Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle



The Bradley was developed in the 1970s as a MICV (Mechanized Infantry Combat Vehicle) to replace the aging M113 armored personnel carrier. The Bradley entered U.S. Army service in 1982 providing armored protection for up to six infantrymen while packing quite a punch with its 25mm Bushmaster chain gun and TOW anti-tank missiles. The Bradley crew consists of a driver, gunner and commander. The M2 depicted here has firing ports for the Infantry section.

So consider crossing the New Frontier into 1:6 scale vehicles-they are waiting for you at your local Toys R Us!





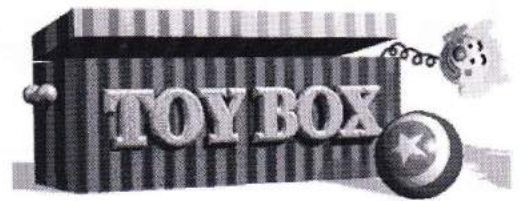
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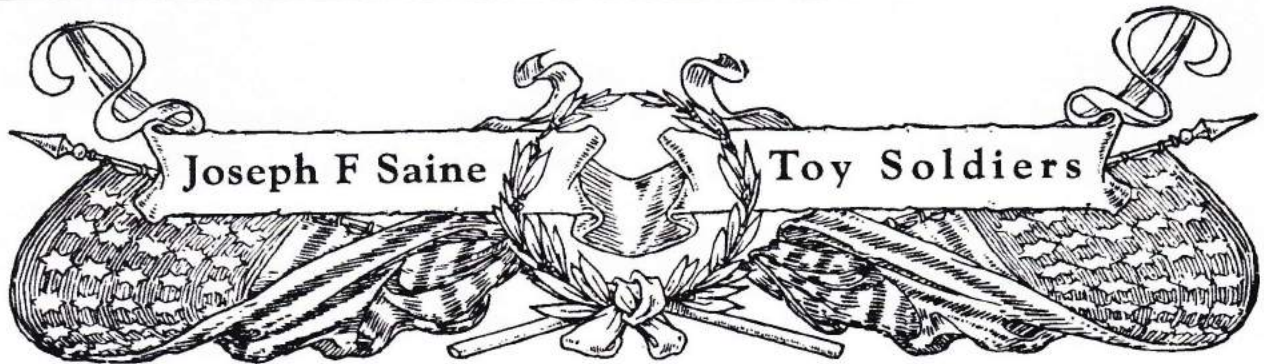
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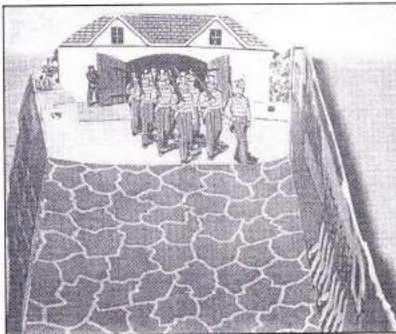
# A 'NEW' BARCLAY, RARE BETON BOX, MORE SHACKMANS, AND...1941 GREY IRONS!

by Richard O'Brien

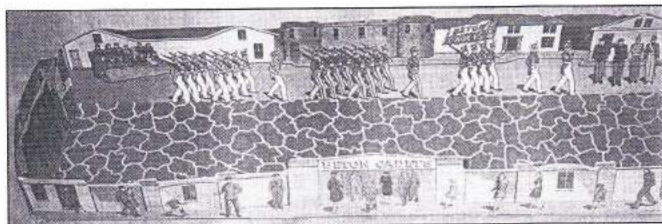
Every once in a while, we need to find out about a "new" dimestore soldier, and this time it's New Jersey collector John Stetson who's found it for us. Years ago, when I was buying pieces from George Fall, longtime head of the shipping department at Barclay, George showed up at my house one day with, among other things, two of the Barclay short-stride cadets painted as wooden soldiers, in mint. As far as I know, it was the first time any of us had seen one. Since then, a few others have turned up, but never the officer. It hadn't even occurred to me that the officer might have been painted that way. But painted that way he is, and John says the fellow who sold him the one I've illustrated has a second one, in much lesser shape.

I'd always assumed the Barclay wooden soldier would have dated back to the middle 1930s, but, oddly, the officer has the number "743" on its underbase, suggesting much-later production. Well, I'm not 100% great at predicting eras, as we shall see later in this article.

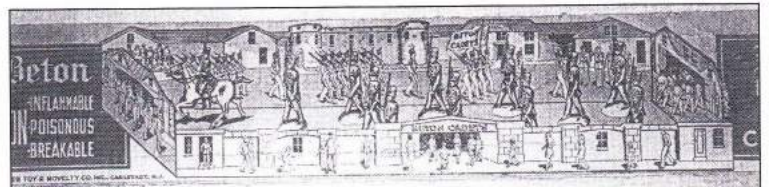
Is this Beton box the most interesting and colorful of all toy soldier boxes? I'm no expert, but it seems so to me. In any event, it's as rare as anything in existence can be. When Phil Savino put it up for auction it was wholly new to me, and I've yet to come across another one. Unfortunately, Phil had trouble fitting the whole box into his photo, so I'm also enclosing a picture of the sleeve that contained it. As you'll see, cadets march across the parade ground past a reviewing stand while an assortment of civilians stand outside. At one end, cadets are emerging from a building. The box is rich with various colors, but alas, there's no indication anywhere of when this was offered. Since it says "Carlstadt, N.J." on the sleeve, it's almost certainly pre-war, and since some other Beton box sleeves state "copyright 1941", my guess is that it predates 1941. I'd stab at 1939.



Left end of the Beton Box.



Beton Box (only one known) Courtesy Phil Savino



Sleeve for the Beton Box. This includes a drawing of the actual plastic cadets. Courtesy Phil Savino

I recently picked up several new Shackman catalogs. Shackman, as I've noted in the past, carried Barclay for years, perhaps from its beginning. The 1929-30 page I was sent offers nothing of note, nor does the 1934-35 catalog, so I won't reproduce those here. However, the 1940-41 catalog presents quite a few new items. Among them are a number of civilians. However, since most or all of them were available by 1939 (which I've seen in George Fall's dated Christmas display photos), there's nothing much there. This does suggest that the "Masked Rider on Horse" may not have emerged until 1940. For the record, figures on view in Fall's 1939 photo are: American Legionnaire, walking minister; Santa with holly; Skiing Santa (which is listed under "Santa Claus Figures" in this catalog as "51/160 Santa Claus on Skis"; it sold at a surprising—to me—fifteen cents, retail); bride and groom; old man; elderly woman; red cap, porter, engineer, man passenger, Boy Scout signaling, postman, and what looked like the little girl with doll.



Barclay B35A,  
West Point Officer  
painted as a  
wooden soldier.  
Courtesy  
John Stetson

**METAL NOVELTIES SOLDIERS, Etc.**  
ABOUT 2 1/2 INCHES EACH.  
NICELY PAINTED METAL.

51/148	Soldier with signal flag	51/131	Soldier with gun, assorted
51/147	Soldier with hand grenade	51/130	Soldier with large shell
51/134	Cowboy	51/129	Aviator
51/142	Pirate	51/144	Soldier with machine gun
51/125	West Point Cadet	51/150	Soldier with great coat
51/135	Soldier with drum, bugle and baton, assorted	51/150	Dress Uniform
51/143	Marine Officer	51/126	Marine, blue
51/127	Knight	51/138	Marine, white
51/169	Army Doctor	51/137	Naval Officer
51/167	Boy, Street Clothes	51/133	Indian
51/169	Conductor	51/168	Boy Scout with signal flag
51/173	Engineer	51/167	Traffic Officer
51/166	Girl, Street Clothes	51/171	Man in Street Clothes
51/174	Indian on Horse	51/175	Masked Rider on Horse
51/158	Fireman	51/168	Red Cap with Luggage
51/128	Soldiers with U. S. Flag	51/172	Woman in Street Clothes
51/130	Soldier with gun	51/170	Porter
51/156	American Legion Soldiers, assorted. 3 1/2 inches.		

60

FOR PRICES SEE PAGES 129 - 145

1940-4 Shackman Catalog No. 86R



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## UNUSUAL BRIDES AND GROOMS

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51/177	Bride 2 3/4 inches. Made of metal. Well painted in white.	DOZEN \$ .48
51/176	Groom 3 inches. Made of metal. Well painted in black and white.	48
47/902	Bride. Made of white chenille has painted face, bridal veil, flower and white silk ribbons. On oval base. 2 3/4 inches.	1.05
47/903	Groom. Chenille, painted face, high hat, cloth coat, holds ring. On base. 3 inches.	1.05
47/905	Best Man. Like 47/903 with walking stick.	1.05
47/904	Bridesmaid. Made of chenille, has painted face, net dress, flower with silk ribbon. Various colors. On oval base. 2 3/4 inches.	1.05
51/177	Minister. Made of black chenille. Has painted face, white silk ribbon and holds prayer book. On oval base. 3 inches.	1.05

Barclay's Bride and Groom again, in the 94-2 Shackman Catalog No. 88



46/356 46/357 51/177 51/176

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51/176	Groom 3 inches. Made of metal. Well painted in black and white.

Barclay's Bride and Groom as seen in the 1940-41 Shackman Catalog No. 86R

## METAL NOVELTIES SOLDIERS, Etc.

If metal unobtainable we will substitute with ceramic soldiers



About 2 1/2 inches Each. Nicely Painted Metal at 45¢ DOZEN



51/149	Aviator	51/138	Marine, white	51/128	Soldier with U. S. Flag
51/145	Army Cook	51/171	Man, Street Clothes	51/130	Soldier with Gun
51/167	Boy, Street Clothes	51/137	Naval Officer	51/131	Soldier with Gun ast.
51/165	Boy Scout with signal flag	51/179	Nurse	51/151	Soldier with Large Shell
		51/142	Pirate	51/144	Soldier with Machine Gun
51/134	Cowboy	51/170	Porter	51/152	Soldier with Great Coat
51/159	Army Doctor	51/144	Parachute jumper	51/150	Soldier Dress Uniform
51/107	Conductor	51/153	Soldier Peeling Potatoes	51/135	Soldier with Drum
51/173	Engineer	51/139	Soldier with Pigeons		Bugle and Baton ast.
51/158	Fireman	51/141	Soldier with gas mask	51/180	Sailor
51/104	Girl, Street Clothes	51/155	Soldier with searchlight	51/125	West Point Cadet
51/131	Indian	51/129	Soldier with Triples	51/168	Red Cap with Luggage
51/127	Knight		Barrel Gun	51/172	Woman, Street Clothes
51/143	Marine Officer	51/148	Soldier with Signal Flag	51/157	Traffic Officer
51/124	Marine, blue	51/147	Soldier with Hand Grenade		

DOZEN

41/355	British Soldier with rifle. Nicely colored metal. 3 inches.	.48
41/354	British Soldier with gun. Metal. 3 inches.	.48
41/353	African Soldier. Nicely painted metal. 3 inches.	.48
41/352	Greek Soldier. Nicely painted metal. 3 inches.	.48
51/189	Cannon, silver with red trim. 3 1/2 inches long. Resembles illustration 51/136.	.45
51/136	Cannon, silver with red trim. 4 1/2 inches long.	.90

1941-42 Shackman Catalog No. 88

pattern for the soldier with rifle indicates ("British Soldier" is its description). The color Grey Iron catalog that shows the Ethiopians (and NO Italians) indicates their bases are green. The British Soldiers and the "African" (a somewhat different paint job on the "Ethiopian") all have sand-colored bases. My guess is Grey Iron's descriptions for these four pieces were the same as Shackman's, or very close to it.

George Fall once wrote me that Barclay, "in the 1920s" made a set of six (only) pieces for a Japanese Garden. I've been searching catalogs for them for years, without luck. I assumed if I'd find them it would be in the 1920s and at least not much after 1937, because of anti-Japanese feeling that began building about then. So where have I finally found a "Japanese Garden" listed? In the 1941-41 catalog, just a few months before the war began! Are these Barclays? Well, they have a "51" prefix, like other Barclays in the Shackman catalogs, but those all run under 200 in the suffix department, and other companies are listed with 51 prefixes over 200. Still, if Shackman felt it couldn't fit all the Barclay Japanese pieces into the under-200 category (and it's obvious it couldn't), it may have used this ploy. I called Daniel Shackman Jacoby, who was with Shackman from 1935 on. Since it was over sixty years ago, and he's 88, he understandably didn't remember for sure, but he couldn't remember any other company that would have offered something like this. In any event, this section, with its wholesale prices, gives us an idea what Barclay's pieces might have sold for. And by the way, Jacoby remembers having dealt with Grey Iron, though has no specific member of the four soldiers above. He was obviously not one of us.

As you'll see, the bride and groom are shown in a photograph; the only photograph of Barclays I've seen in a Shackman catalog. They're listed on a separate page and retailed at a nickel apiece. As for the soldiers listed, the Indian on Horse and Masked Rider on Horse both retailed at a dime each. All the rest are priced at a nickel apiece, including, oddly, the American Legion Soldiers". Was this a Shackman mistake, or a closeout price? George Fall thought they were manufactured only during late 1937. Either he was wrong, or Barclay or Shackman were overstocked.

Now to the piece de resistance; the 1941-42 catalog. There are four Barclays I'd particularly like to know the Barclay descriptions of; the ski soldier, the detective, the robber, and the "falling" soldier. Shackman's descriptions don't always match Barclay's, but at least it would have given me some kind of answer. Unfortunately, since Shackman only sold a small portion of the Barclay range, they don't appear here. However, we do get a couple of probables on other pieces; since a 1941 Butler Bros. catalog also lists a "Parachute Jumper" we can assume this was Barclay's designation too. "Soldier with Searchlight" also sounds like a Barclay description.

That does it pretty much for the Barclay soldiers, aside from the curious designation, "Marine, white", especially since "sailor" is listed as well. Was there a white Barclay marine, just as there were white Auburn and Molded Miniatures marines? Not likely, but just remember that Wooden Cadet Officer!

Even more important, look just below the Barclay listings on this page and check out 41/355-41/352. The use of a prefix means these are U.S.-made. At first I assumed they might be Comets, despite the 3-inch size, since Shackman was so inaccurate in this regard (check out the height they show for the Barclays just above). But that 48-cent wholesale price seemed wrong for Comets; too low. Finally, it hit me. This was a catalog appearance I'd been searching for for years: new, 1941 Grey Irons!

Take a gander. "British Soldier with rifle"; "British Soldier with gun"; "African Soldier"; "Greek Soldier". The only item missing from the Grey Irons new in that year is the Ski Soldier (as it's called on its Grey Iron pattern). I think it's time now to ditch the "Italian Soldier" designation forever. There's no indication in any catalogs that Grey Iron ever sold these pieces in their shorts and tropical helmets as anything but British, as the

## METAL FIGURES, ANIMALS FOR JAPANESE GARDENS

	DOZEN		DOZEN		
51/665	Bridge, red. 1 1/2"	\$ .42	51/652	Stork, long metal prongs. 1 1/2"	.75
51/667	Bridge, red. 2 3/4"	.90	51/677	Stork. 4 1/2"	1.35
51/656	Bird Bath, white. 1"	.45	51/642	Temple, gilt. 1 3/4"	.80
51/649	Bird House, brown. 2 1/4"	.75	51/659	Temple, white. 2 1/4"	.85
51/674	Fish, red. 1"	.38	51/653	Trellis, white. 1 1/2"	.42
51/663	House, white. 2 1/4" wide, 1 1/2" high	1.10	51/655	Well, white. 1 1/4"	.80
51/661	Japanese House, red. 1 1/2" wide, 1" high	.75	51/673	Water Carrier, blue. 1 1/4"	.60
51/664	Japanese House, red.	1.25	51/668	Penguin. 3/4"	.38
51/671	Japanese Lady with fan. 1"	.60	51/675	Doe, brown. 2 1/4"	.90
51/670	Monkey, brown. 3/8"	.50	51/676	Fox, brown. 3"	1.10
51/660	Pagoda, red. 3 1/2" high.	1.10	51/657	Park Bench. 1 1/2"	.42
51/651	Flying Stork with prongs. 1 1/4"	.60			
51/654	Fence and Gate in sections assorted.	.50	Each section about 1 1/4 inches long, 2 1/4 inches high.	Dozen Sections	.50

1941-42 Shackman Catalog No. 88. Was this Barclay's "Japanese Garden"?



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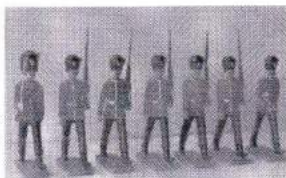
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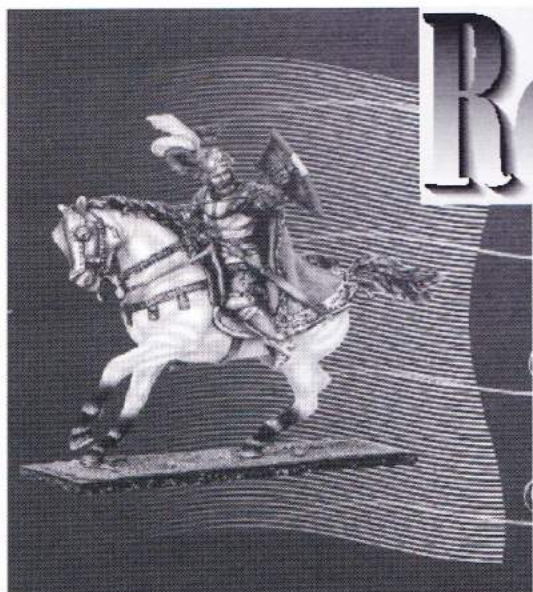
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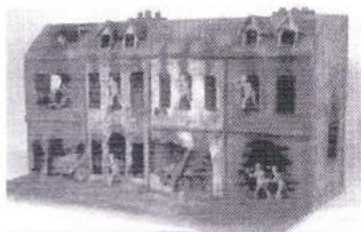
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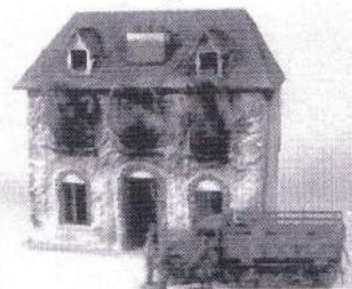
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# Not just a Zoo Animal Fascination

Blancherie Frères

*By Richard Lewis*

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As a child growing up in England in the early 1950's I was fascinated with all animals, but especially wild animals. Animals from the Zoo -

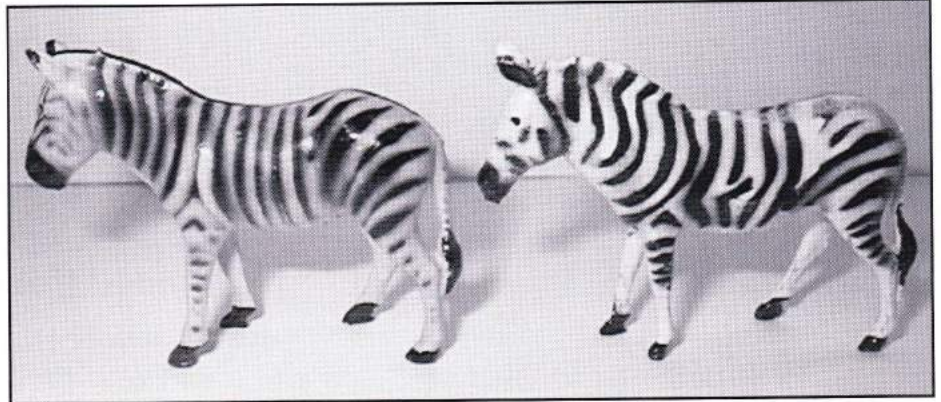
## "Zoo Animals"

During my many years collecting, every now and then I would come across a "mystery" figure about which I knew nothing. One such figure was a zebra. On first glance it appeared to be a normal Britains figure but the dealer selling it said "have a closer look, it's not what you think". On examination of the animal I realized the difference in size, this figure was wider in proportion and the painting was more detailed than that of Britains. The under side bore the words Made In France and the two letters "BF" were prominent.

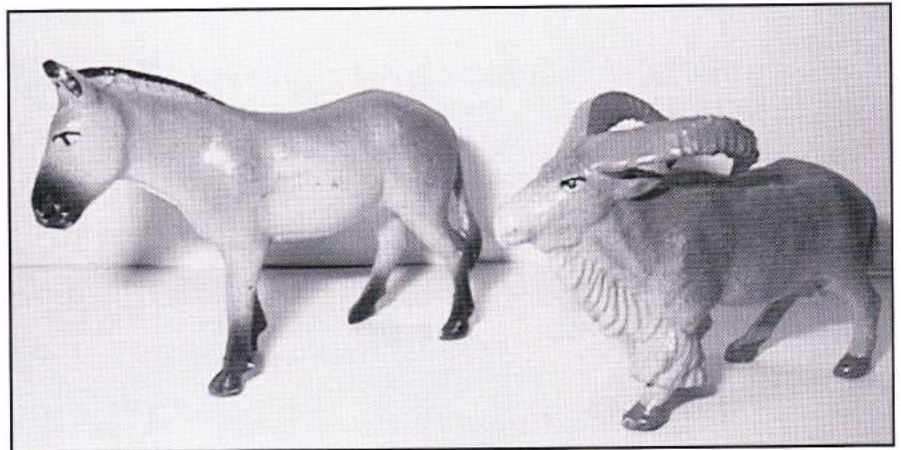
This was a fascinating find that led to me wanting to find out more about the makers and the other animals, which they must have made.

I did much research and eventually I discovered the lead animals were made by a firm in France called Blancherie Frères.

The Blancherie brothers set up a Company making hollowcast lead figures around the time of the first World War.



The differences between the BF Zebra (left) and The Britains Zebra (right)

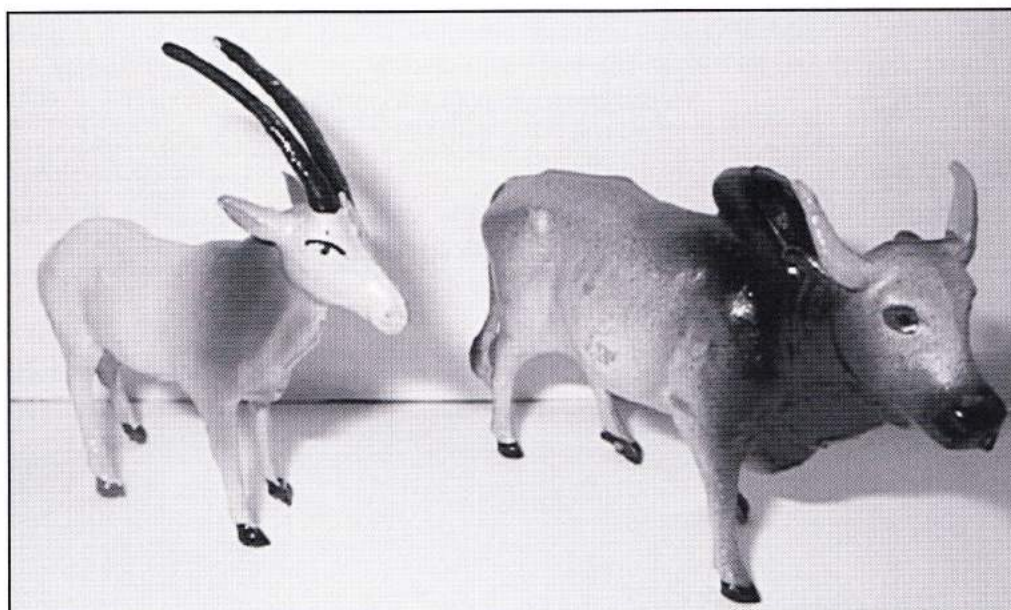


Prezwalski Horse and Mouflon





Gnu and African Buffalo



Oryx and Zebu

The Company made Toy Soldiers, which are quite rare as not many were made, farm figures and equipment, which are fairly common and of course Zoo animals. However they never issued a catalogue. The Company was very successful and exported to the United States, Canada, Australia and South Africa.

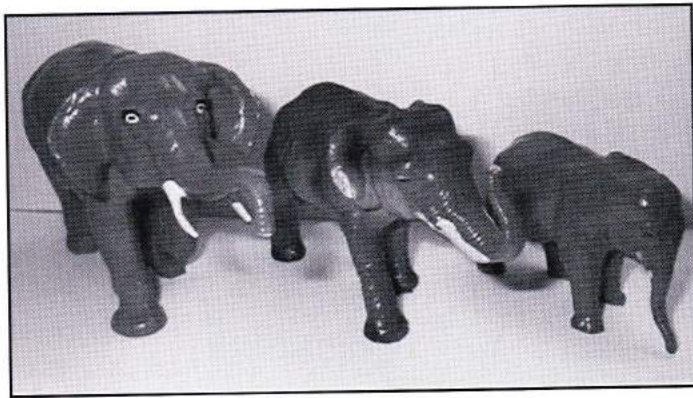
The letters BF stamped underneath identifies some figures but some are unmarked. Others can only be identified by similarities in production and paint style.

After handling many of these figures one can learn to recognise these in the same way a Britains figure collector can identify pieces without the need to look for a name.

After the war it seems sadly the Company, after approximately 30 years of trading, made the decision to close as plastic items began to appear on the scene. The Blancherie brothers, by now quite old, decided the days of making lead figures was nearing its end - they didn't want to get involved in the more "modern" plastics.

The animals are the most wonderfully made and beautifully painted lead animals figures I have ever seen. The early figures were spray painted to a very high and realistic standard, the later ones were brush painted by hand.





Since putting my collection up for viewing on the web I have had e-mails from other collectors wanting to know more about these wonderful figures and start a collection of their own. They are very hard fought for at auctions and Toy Shows - even on E-Bay they fetch very high prices.

We rarely come across them at Toy Shows here in England and quite frequently travel across the waters to France in search of more. Everyone who knows me knows that one of each animal is never enough! If you would like to visit the site to see more of these wonderful figures, please feel free to do so. The site can be found at

[www.thetoybox.4t.com/Blancheriefreeres1.htm](http://www.thetoybox.4t.com/Blancheriefreeres1.htm)

Alternatively if you would like to e-mail me with any questions I am always happy to 'talk' to you  
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The species vary from the more common chimp to the very unusual Mouflon, Prezwalski Horses, Oryx and Zebu figures. The Zoo/Wild Animals also included :

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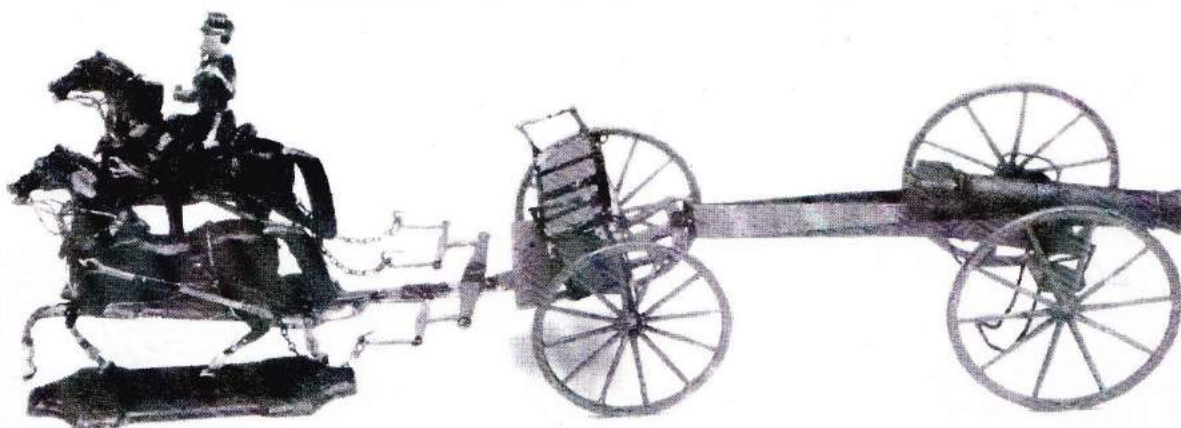


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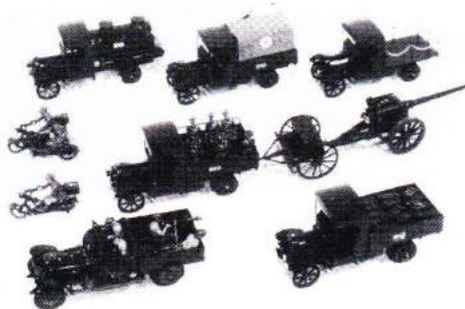
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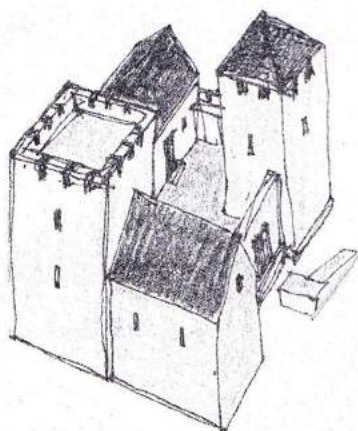
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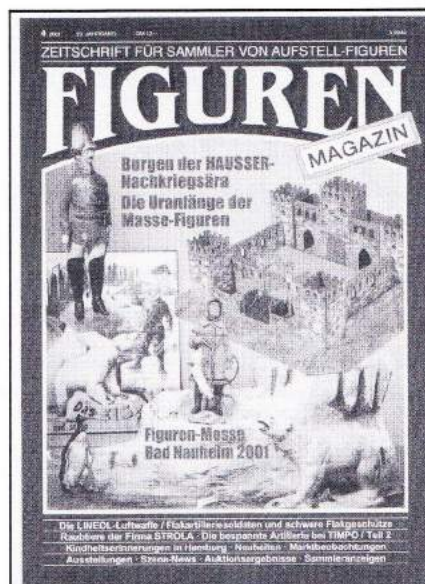


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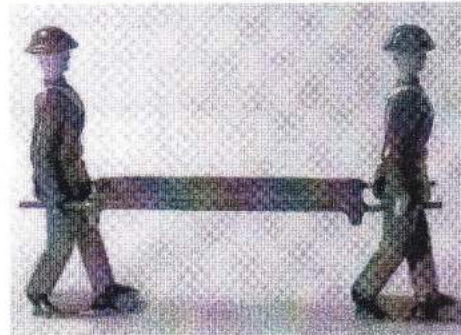
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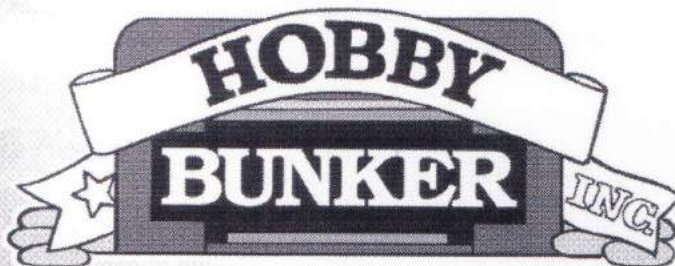
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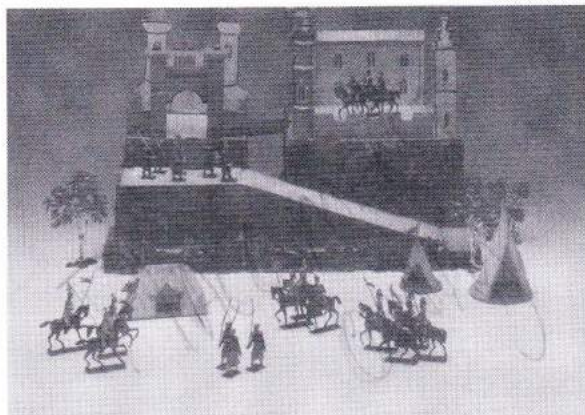
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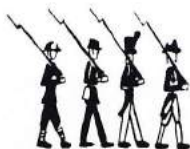
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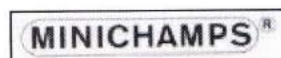


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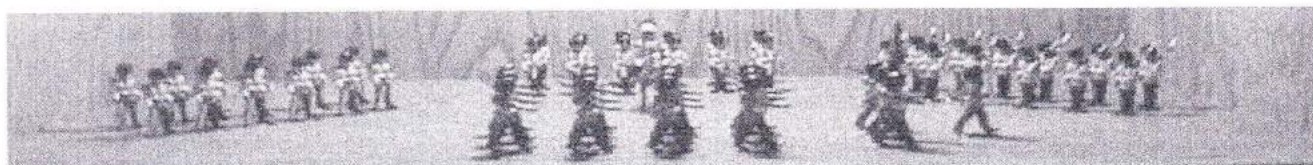






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## ***TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2002/2003***

**November 2 – Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Open House and Cellar Sale. 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA. Contact Jim Hillestad. (570) 629 7227 E-Mail jimhill@pdt.net www.the-toy-soldier.com

**November 3rd - Sunday.** The East Coast Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Rothman Center, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack, NJ. Sponsored by Vintage Castings. Contact: Bill Lango (973) 831-8900; Fax: (973) 831-8912. E-mail: bill@vintagecastings.com.

**November 10 – Sunday.** Kalamazoo Toy Soldier Show. 10am-3pm. Holiday Inn West, 2747 South 11th Street, Kalamazoo, MI. Contact Donald Case (248) 335 5626. E-Mail dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

**November 10 – Sunday.** 3rd Annual Toy Soldier Show. Visitors Center, Cantigny Park and Museum, Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois. Contact Nick Albanese (920) 261 1323.

**November 17th - Sunday.** Westchester Toy Soldier Muster Show and Sale. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ramada Inn, 94 Business Park Drive, Armonk, NY. For directions, contact (914) 273-9090. Promoter: Daniel Karppinen (718) 219-4919.

**November 23 – Saturday.** Long Island Miniature Model Show. 9am-5pm. Freeport Recreation Center, Merrick Road, Freeport NY. Presented by The Long Island Historical miniature Collectors Society. PO Box 118 Wantagh, NY 11793. E-Mail lihmc@optonline.net Contact John Jefferies (516) 379 4464 or Val Kraut (516) 799 8396.

**November 24th - Sunday.** Annual Pennsylvania Toy Soldier, Militaria and Miniature Figure Show & Sale. Sheraton Bucks County Hotel, 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorne, PA. (201) 342-6475.

**December 5 – Thursday.** Vectis Auctions Limited - The William J. Miele Collection of Toy Soldiers, Buckingham, England. Contact Peter Rumsey +44 1642 750616 Fax: +44 1642 769478 Email: admin@vectis.co.uk. Internet: www.vectis.co.uk

**December 5 – Thursday.** William Britain Collectors Club Golden Jubilee Dinner. Imperial War Museum, Kennington, London 7pm for 7.30pm. (Club Members only) Contact Lynn Kenwood. PO Box 32, Wokingham, Berkshire, UK RG40 4XZ. (44) 1189 737080. Fax (44) 1189 733947. www.wbritaincollectorsclub.com

**December 6 – Friday.** Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Lots Road Chelsea, London. Contact Leigh Gotch (44) 207 393 3951 or James Opie (44) 207 794 7447.

**December 7 – Saturday.** British Toy Soldier and Figure Show. 10pm –4pm. Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way ( off Russell Square), London. Contact Debbie Cockerill, Vectis Auctions (44) 1642 750616. Fax (44) 1642 769478. E-Mail admin@vectis.co.uk

**December 7th - Saturday.** Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show & Sale. Annandale VFD Community Center, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. (201) 342-6475.

**December 8 – Sunday.** Tri State Toy Soldier Show. 10am-3pm. Mountaineer Racetrack and Gaming Resort, RT3, Chester, West Virginia. Contact Doug McClure, PO Box 17, Medina, Ohio. (330) 722 6751. E-Mail dmclure@apk.net

**December 15th - Sunday.** The Empire State Toy Soldier Show & Sale. The Hotel Adria, 221-17 Northern Blvd, Bayside, NY. Contact: John Stengel (718) 418-9439.



## **TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2002/2003 (cont.)**

### **2003**

**January 12 – Sunday.** New York Toy Soldier and Antique Toy Show. 10am-3pm. Plattduetsche Park, 1132 Hempstead Turnpike, Franklin Square, LI. New York. Contact Daniel Karppinen (917) 864 4755.

**January 26th - Sunday.** 4th Annual Kiawah-Charleston Toy Soldier Show. East Beach Conference Center, Kiawah Island, South Carolina. 10am- 4pm. Admission Free. Sponsored by South Carolina Military Miniatures Society. (SCMMS). Contact Jack Matthews for dealer information. (843) 768 1341 or (828 ) 884 6080. Russ Coggeshall for general show information (843) 768 9688.

**February 2 – Sunday.** 9th Annual Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show. 9am-3pm. Sponsored by the South Florida Toy Soldier Club Inc. Airport Holiday Inn. 1301 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, Florida. Contact Tony Angelora (561) 790 4765 E-Mail ettubrute@adelphia.net

**February 15 - Saturday.** Dan Morpheys' Antique, Toy, Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show .9am - 3pm. York Fairgrounds, West Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. Contact information (717) 335 3435.

**March 2nd - Sunday** "The West Coaster" . Irvine Marriott Hotel, (Orange County Airport). 18000 Von Karman Avenue. Irvine .California. Show Information. PO Box 1755 Vista California 92085. Telephone / Fax (760) 724 7488. Hotel Information (949) 553 0100 or 1-800-228-9290.

**March 2 – Sunday.** Westchester Toy Soldier Muster, Show and Sale. 10am-3pm. Ramada Inn, 94 Business Park Drive, Westchester Business Park, Armonk, NY. (RT 684 exit 3S to RT 22S –left at first light ). Contact Daniel Karppinen (917) 864 4755.

**March 2nd - Sunday.** 14th Annual West Coaster Toy Soldier & Miniature Figure Show. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Irvine Marriott Hotel (Orange County Airport), 18000 Von Karman Ave., Irvine, CA 92612. For table information, phone/fax: (760) 724-7488. Web site: [www.oldsoldierhome.com](http://www.oldsoldierhome.com). Hotel reservations: 1-800-228-9290. Hotel direct: (949) 553-0100.

**March 16 – Sunday.** Indiana Toy Soldier Show. Venue and times to be announced. Contact Barry Carter, 136 W Carey Street, Knightstown, Indiana 45748. (765) 345 5665.

**March 22 – Saturday & 23 – Sunday.** "Atlantique City " Spring Festival – The largest indoor collectibles show in the world. Atlantic City Convention center, One Ocean Way, Atlantic City NJ. Contact 800 526 2724.

**March 23rd - Sunday.** Indy Toy Soldier Show. Sheraton Inn North, Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis. Contact Barry Carter (765) 345 5665

**March 29 – Saturday.** The British Toy Soldier and Figure Show. 10am-4pm. The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, (off Russell Square) London. Contact Debbie Cockerill, Vectis Auctions, (44) 1642 750616. Fax (44) 1642 769478. E-Mail [admin@vectis.co.uk](mailto:admin@vectis.co.uk)

**April 6th, 2003 - Sunday.** Northeast Toy Soldier Society - 29th Toy Soldier Show. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Holiday Inn, Dedham, MA. Contact: Arly Pett (978) 283-2612. Fax: (978) 283-2496. E-mail: [apett92117@aol.com](mailto:apett92117@aol.com). Hotel reservations and show directions: (781) 329-1000.

**April 6, 2003 Kalamazoo Toy Soldier Show.** 10-3. Holiday Inn West, 2747 South 11th Street, Kalamazoo, Mi. 49009. Donald Case 248-335-5626 or [dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com](mailto:dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com)

**May 2nd & 3rd - Friday and Saturday.** The Miniature Figure Collectors of America (MFCA) 62nd Annual Show and Mart. Friday Noon -5pm. Saturday 9am - 5pm. Valley Forge convention Center, King of Prussia, PA. Hotel reservations (610 )337-2000. Show and Vendor information Verne Minkwitz / Brad James (302) 239 3884.

**May 4 – Sunday.** Connecticut Toy Soldier Muster, Show and Sale 10am-4pm. Ramada Inn Bradley, 5 Ella Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, CT. Located at juncture of RT 20 & Rt 75 off I-91 (Exit 40). Contact Daniel Karppinen (917) 864 4755



## **TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2002/2003 (cont.)**

**May 10, 2003 Springfield Toy Soldier Show.** 10-3. Holiday Inn Express, 6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, Va. 22150. Donald Case 248-335-5626 or dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

**June 28 – Saturday.** The British Toy Soldier and Figure Show. 10am-4pm The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, (off Russell Square) London. Contact Debbie Cockerill, Vectis Auction, (44) 1642 750616. Fax (44) 1642769478. E-Mail admin@vectis.co.uk

**June 28 – Saturday.** The British Toy Soldier and Figure Show. 10am-4pm The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, (off Russell Square) London. Contact Debbie Cockerill, Vectis Auction, (44) 1642 750616. Fax (44) 1642769478. E-Mail admin@vectis.co.uk

**July 12th and 13th - Saturday and Sunday.** Dallas Big "D" Show. Mesquite Hampton Inn/Convention Center, Dallas, TX. 10am - 5pm Contact Don Maris (214) 339 2934 email donmaris@wt.net  
Hotel Information (972) 329 3100.

**August 24 – Sunday.** Westchester Toy Soldier Muster, Show and Sale. 10am-3pm. Ramada inn, 94 Business Park Drive, Westchester Business Park, Armonk, NY (RT 684 exit 3S to RT 22S left at first light. Contact Daniel Karpinen (917) 864 4755.

**September 28 – Sunday.** Connecticut Toy Soldier Muster, Show and Sale 11am-4pm. Ramada Inn Bradley, 5 Ella Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, CT. Located at juncture of RT20 & RT75 off I-91 (exit 40). Contact Daniel Karpinen (917) 864 4755.

**September 28 - Sunday.** OTSN Inc's 23rd Annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show. Hyatt Regency Woodfield. Schaumburg, IL Contact Don Pielin (847) 541 2439.

**October 4, 2003 Springfield Toy Soldier Show.** 10-3. Holiday Inn Express, 6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, Va. 22150. Donald Case 248-335-5626 or dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

**October 19th, 2003 - Sunday.** Northeast Toy Soldier Society - 30th Toy Soldier Show. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Holiday Inn, Dedham, MA. Contact: Arly Pett (978) 283-2612. Fax: (978) 283-2496. E-mail: apett92117@aol.com. Hotel reservations and show directions: (781) 329-1000.

**November 16 – Sunday.** Westchester Toy Soldier Muster, Show and Sale. 10am-3pm. Ramada Inn, 94 Business Park Drive, Westchester Business Park, Armonk, NY. (RT 684 exit 3S to RT 22S –Left at first light. Contact Daniel Karpinen (917) 864 4755.

**November 16, 2003 Kalamazoo Toy Soldier Show.** 10-3. Holiday Inn West, 2747 South 11th Street, Kalamazoo, Mi. 49009. Donald Case 248-335-5626 or dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

**December 6 – Saturday.** The British Toy Soldier and Figure Show. 10am-4pm The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, (off Russell Square) London. Contact Debbie Cockerill, Vectis Auctions, (44) 1642 750616. Fax (44) 1642 769478. E-Mail admin@vectis.co.uk

**December 6, 2003 Springfield Toy Soldier Show.** 10-3. Holiday Inn Express, 6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, Va. 22150. Donald Case 248-335-5626 or dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

Dates and times are correct at the time of printing; however, it is strongly advised that before traveling, contact is made with show organizers to confirm date(s).

## **SEE US AT THE FOLLOWING SHOWS:**

**O.T.S. Representatives will be at  
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British Toy Soldier Show ~ December 7th**



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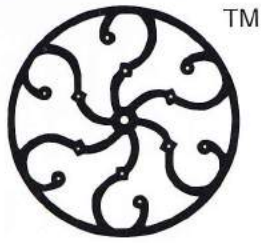


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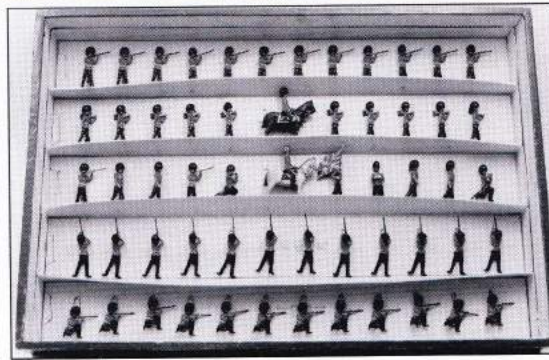
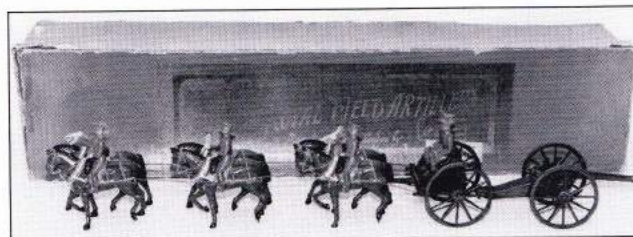
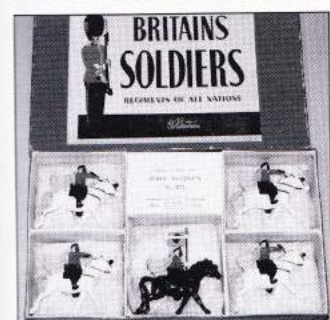
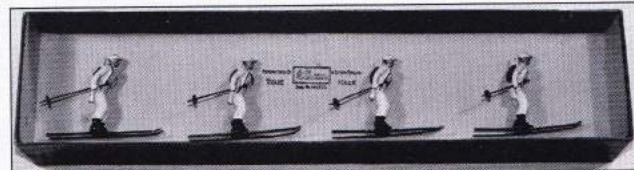
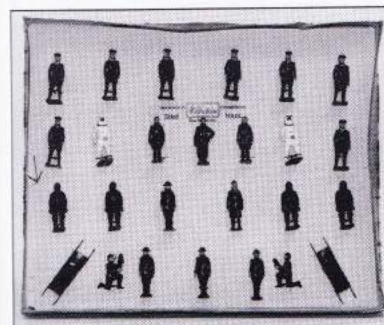
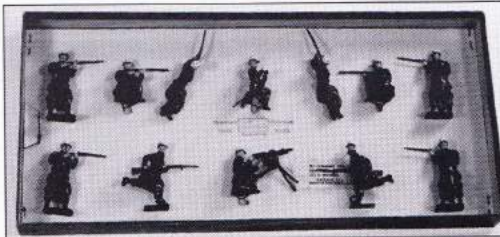
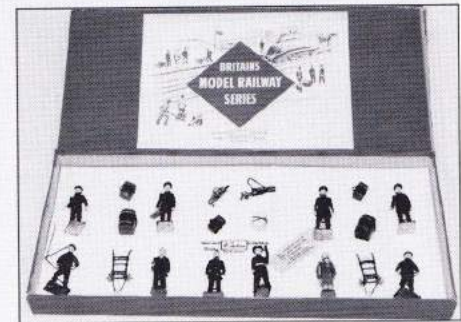
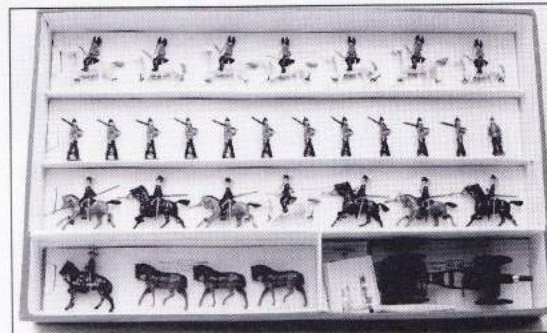
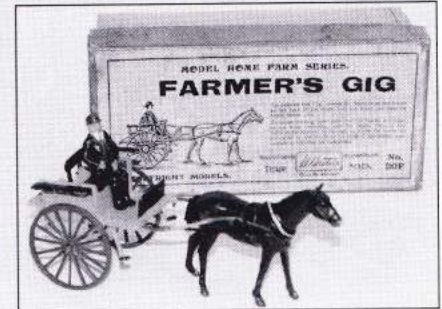
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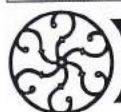
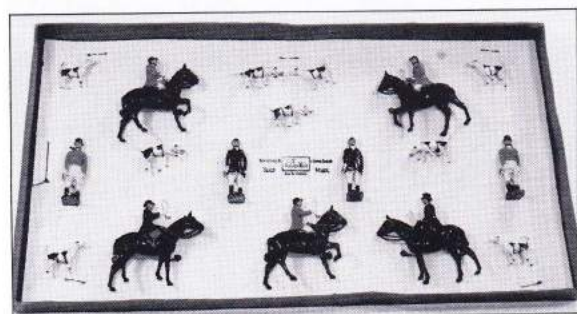
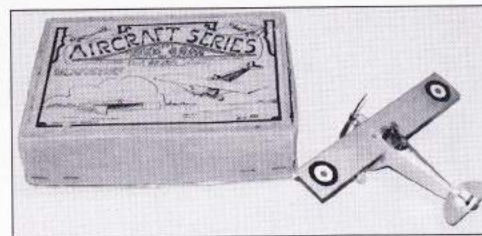
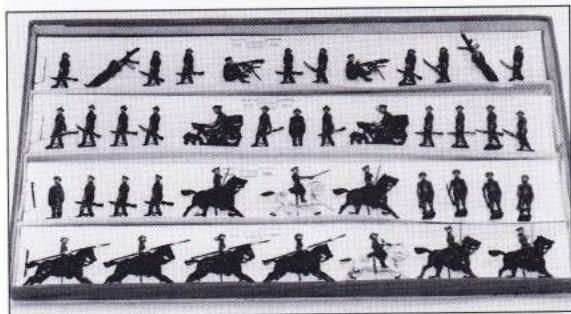
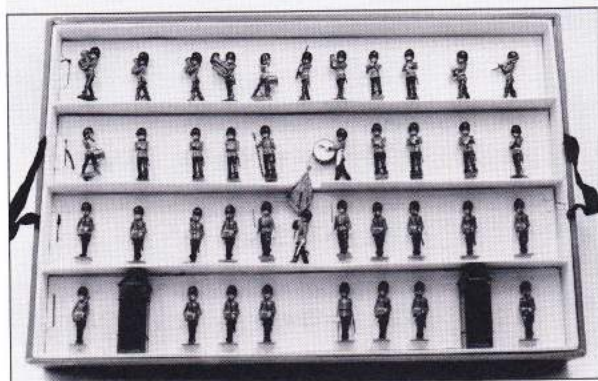
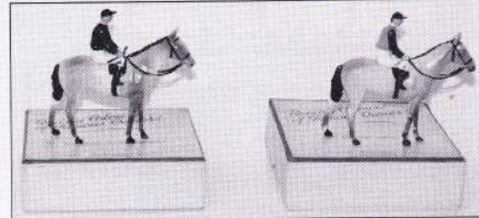
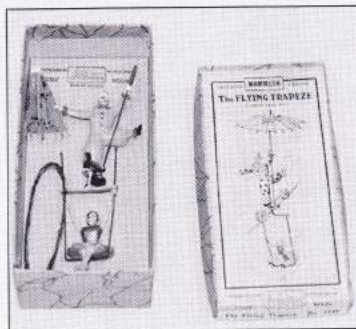
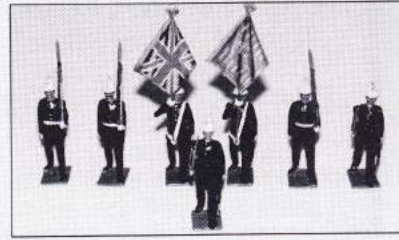
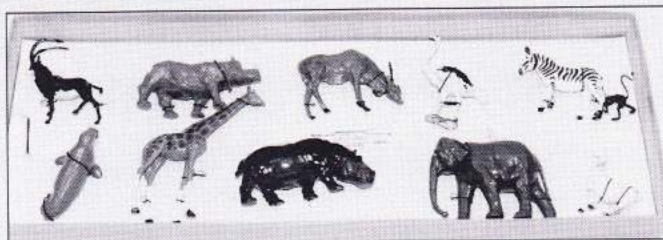
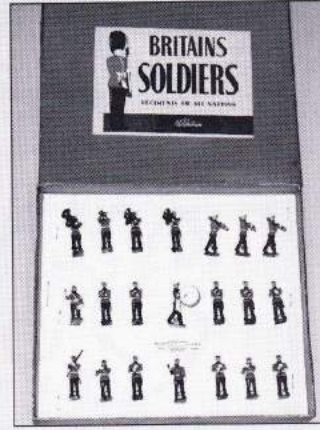
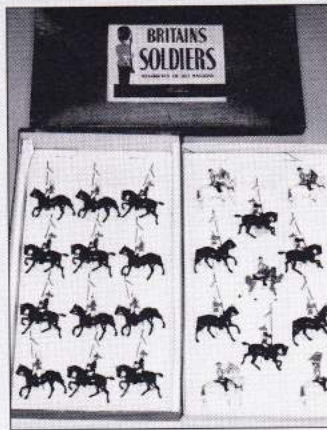
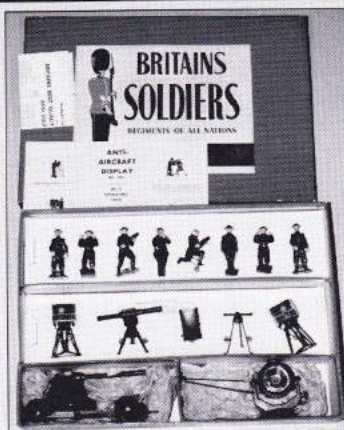
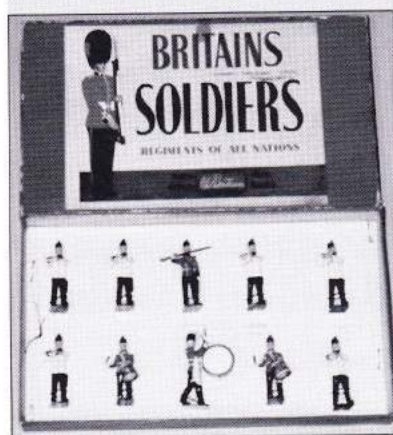
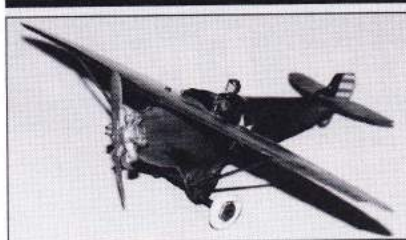
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