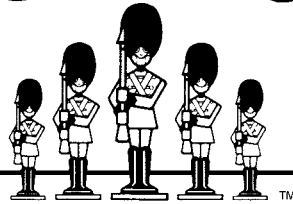


Fall
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The Journal for Collectors

Volume 44 Number 3
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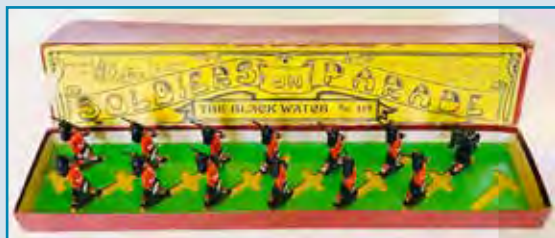
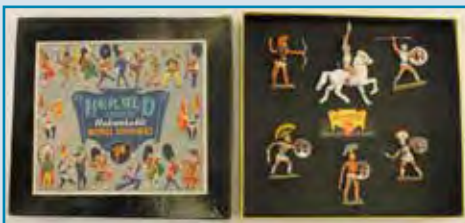
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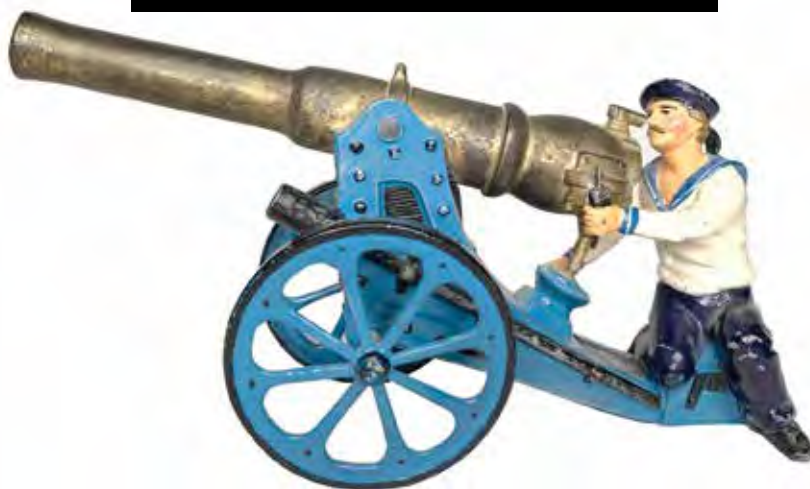
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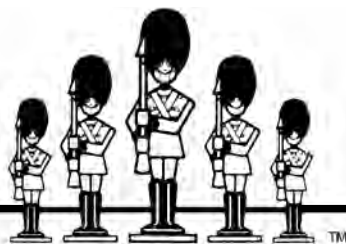
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**FAO SCHWARZ TIMPO WEST POINT CADETS
DISPLAY SET**

Photo courtesy: Jamie Delson

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HOBBY NEWS

~ Editorial ~

As I “put pen to paper” (metaphorically at least) to write this editorial it seems hard to believe that this is now my fourth issue as editor. Just over a year ago I was reflecting on a great summer, which had included visits to the Kulmbach biennial event in Germany, as well as my usual pilgrimage to the biggest and best show in the world in Chicago. Twelve months on, and how much has changed thanks to the COVID19 pandemic and its knock on effects. The 2020 Chicago show was planned as a celebration of 40 years since the first show was organised by Don Pielin in collaboration with Roger Garfield, Steve and Jo Sommers and Joe Wallis. Sadly the 2020 show had to be cancelled because of the pandemic, although Roger Garfield and his family were able to organise a virtual event (as described in more detail elsewhere in this issue.



Even more sadly, my good friend Don Pielin was not around to take part in that event. He passed away just a week before the show date after a long battle with ill health. Don had traveled to Kulmbach in 2019 and also enjoyed the 2019 Chicago show, released from the heavy responsibility of organising and managing this huge

event. In some ways it seems fitting that without Don there should not be an event this year. However, life goes on - “The King is dead, long live the King!” I am sure that Don will be looking down on us all and wishing us to continue enjoying the hobby, which for him was such a passion. Hopefully, 2021 will bring some return to normality and we can all join together to celebrate the Chicago show’s 40th event as well as the next Kulmbach Zinnfigurenbörse. I am sure the spirit of Mr Pielin will be at both events, encouraging us to down a few beers, as well as enjoying the thrill of the chase as we hunt down the next treasures to add to our collections.

OBITUARY

~ REMEMBERING MICHAEL HENRY AND CARL HOEGERMAYER ~

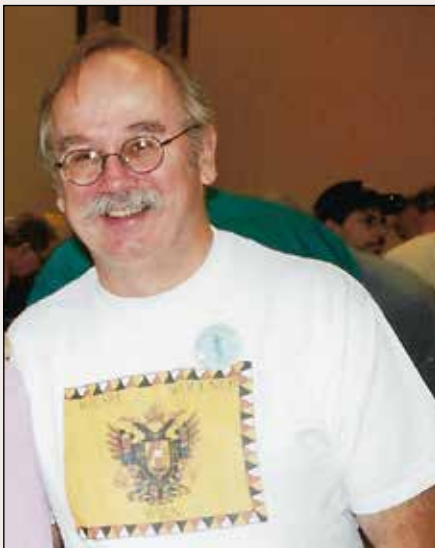
This past June 2 members of the Toy Soldier Fraternity passed on. I am privileged to have known them for many years. Carl was a fixture at our meetings for 4 decades, always available for a chat at his tables displaying his Quartermaster figures.

Michael and I both had backgrounds in architecture, so we had plenty to talk about in our

weekly phone calls, which I treasured over the years and surely miss. His trips to Vienna with wife Pat looking for the older figures that we both cherished.

Our special condolences to Adele Hoegermayer and Pat Henry, our thoughts are with you.

Steve Balkin, September 2020



Michael Henry



Carl Hoegermayer

OBITUARY ~ DON PIELIN ~

December 12, 1942 - September 19, 2020

Don Pielin and I were the best of friends for more than fifty years. We met for the first time at the old *Hobby Chest* in Evanston, Illinois. It was a magnet for figure painters and potential toy soldier collectors. Looking at the shop's cases I immediately missed my small boyhood collection.

Later Don told me about his memories of backyard toy soldier battles that he and his brother Dick had. Those figures were long lost, but he was replenishing his army with figures he named Dimestore soldiers. All the other military kid stuff he could rediscover at flea markets went into his collection as well. Like Don, I was hooked. Our ritual became Sunday night phone calls sharing that week's finds. A dollar was too much unless the Manoil or Barclay was mint. Don became the Dimestore collector, but he couldn't resist broadening his base to 54mm British civilian figures. Eventually, thanks to Ebay, he collected some of almost everything. This ranged from French hollowcasts to Timpo-looking figures from Argentina.

Don was quiet, but gregarious. In 1976 Don and four other collectors sat down to decide that our hobby needed a way to communicate; beginning the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter was our answer. It started as a modest publication that we quick printed, stapled and folded for mailing around the dining room table. The first issue we simple blind-mailed to 80 subscribers. Over the next four decades we reached almost 2000 subscribers, literally worldwide. That Newsletter became the magazine you are reading now.



Four years into publishing OTSN Don suggested our hobby might support a toy soldier **only** show. After some "are we crazy" discussions, the partners took the leap; our first show was held on September 27, 1981. Under Don's leadership and inexhaustible labor, the OTSN Show has become the world's oldest and largest old and new toy figure show. It is now owned and directed by another of our original partners, Roger Garfield, and known as the Chicago Toy Soldier Show (CTSS). From its small start the Show has become a week long, yearly celebration before its one day public event.

Knowing about what he was collecting was important to Don. He wrote and self-published the first Manoil and Barclay collecting guides. Twenty years ago his Dimestore collection was the basis for the color photos in

his hardbound book American Dimestore Toy Soldiers & Figures. What Don was most proud of were his years of remarkable research; they culminated in his visual biography of Chicago's J. Edward Jones entitled: The American Toy Soldier Art of J. Edward Jones, by Don Pielin with Kent Kline.

Don was a remarkable man. He had an exceptional memory; he seemed to know everybody by their first names. He taught Middle School Social Studies for 35 years, but if asked he jumped into any class or grade level effortlessly. This ability allowed him to teach college education classes, and after retirement lead history walking tours and extensively volunteer at the Elgin Historical Society. Walking through a museum with Don could become an all-day affair; amazingly he read and remembered what was written about every exhibit.

As a man Don was calm, generous, unflappable, and interested in everything and everyone. Maybe that is why so many of us thought of him as a best friend. And maybe we were all correct.

Don is survived by his loving wife, Linda, their daughters and their husbands, their grandchildren, his sister and his brother Dick.

Don was born on December 12, 1942; he died on September 19, 2020

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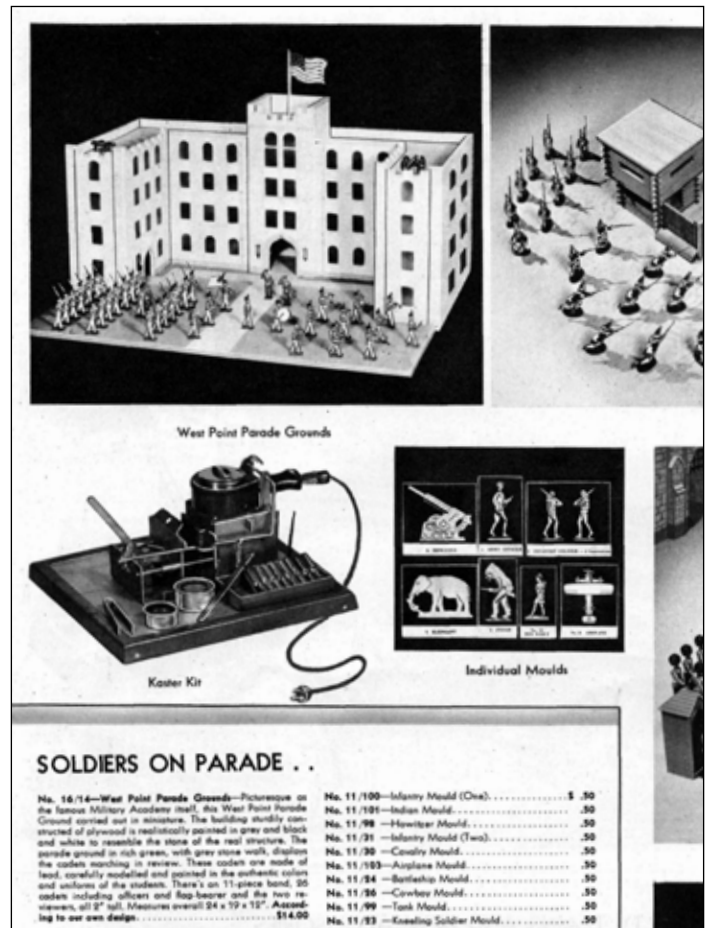
FAO SCHWARZ TIMPO WEST POINT CADETS DISPLAY SET

By Rob Wilson

In the Spring issue of this magazine Bill Nutting presented an excellent account of the various Western Forts and related display marketed by FAO Schwarz in the period after WWII. As he noted at the end of that article, Schwarz also sold many other similar sets which combined figures from various (often foreign) manufacturers with buildings and scenic accessories sourced in the United States.

This continued a tradition that had started well before the war and which included farms, zoos, hunt scenes, forts and castles. The latter encompassed outposts of the famous Royal Canadian Mounted Police (a topic which Bill covered in an earlier article in the magazine, Summer 2008).

They also included a depiction of West Point with a complement of Cadets. Pre WWII this was a contingent of Heyde figures, including a band (see picture 1). They could have used Britains but their range lacked the band! Post WWII, Heyde were one of the casualties of the conflict and failed to regain their position as one of the premier suppliers of toy soldiers. Britains, in the early years following the war, had introduced their Band of the US Marine Corps (set #2114, 1948), but they had failed to step up to the mark to produce an appropriate West Point band.



Picture 1: Schwarz West Point with Heyde Cadets - image from the 1938 catalog.



Picture 2: West Point with Heyde cadets as displayed at the Frazier Museum

FAO SCHWARZ TIMPO WEST POINT CADETS DISPLAY SET

(Continued)

Step forward Timpo. By the early 1950s this British company had moved into making toy soldiers and other figures in hollowcast lead and had established a factory that was giving Britains "a run for their money". Their range included a comprehensive series of West Point Cadets, including mounted Officer, flag bearer and a band!

The Timpo range of figures are quite chunky and on the larger side of 54mm scale. The pre-war buildings would not come up to scratch, so Schwarz obviously had to go back to the drawing board to design an even bigger and better display.

Made in plywood with stencilled, painted on details the new building is large. The central building is 29" x 12" x 4.5", the two smaller sections are 13"x 3.5" x 12", the center entrance section is 15.25" tall, and the two small roof sections are 10.5" x 4" x 2". The Parade Ground base came in two sections, 19" x 19".

Although it is possible that the buildings were made in England, it seems more likely that these would have been sourced more locally, as was the case for the Western Forts described by Bill Nutting in his article.

I was aware of the existence of the Timpo set from a photograph I had come across online. This was a few years ago (after Don Pielin discovered the Heyde set shown in pictures 1 and 2). The online photo I had found depicted the

proud new owner of a similar set to Don's, but with Timpo figures. The caption mentioned Schwarz, Timpo and the date, 1955. I had assumed from the professional nature of the picture that this was a publicity / marketing shot. Subsequently, when finishing off this article I discovered that in fact it had been posted online (back in 2011 by the young lad himself, now a little older of course!).



Picture 4: Jamie Delson circa 2011

"That's me up there (in Picture 4), Jamie Delson. I'm now 71 and have been collecting, painting, animating and playing with toy soldiers since my father gave me my first set in 1952 – a Britains Herald Gordon Highlanders Marching Band. I was 4 years old and those beautifully sculpted, magnificently painted guys hooked me for life.

Some people like collecting stamps or coins, watching football or baseball, playing croquet or quoits. I have always had a singular passion for toy soldiers. The other photo (picture 3) is of me at age 7, playing with my F.A.O. Schwarz West Point set which featured Timpo cadets."

I asked Jamie for permission to use his picture and I am pleased to say he responded positively:

"I have always loved your magazine, so I am honored to be included in the article. The shot was taken on my 7th birthday, in 1955, when my Uncle Benjamin gave me the set. My parents had a professional shoot this, as was their custom."



Picture 3: Schwarz West Point set, circa 1955 with its new owner

Footnote No. 1: Jamie's website, www.toysoldierco.com, offers thousands of toy soldiers, plastic and metal, painted and unpainted, in scales from HO to 90mm. They also sell books and wargaming supplies, including the official Harold's Rangers rules.

FAO SCHWARZ TIMPO WEST POINT CADETS DISPLAY SET

(Continued)



Picture 5: The complete display

Fast forward to 2018, when trawling through eBay I found someone offering a complete set for sale, figures and all. I made an offer and a price was agreed. The condition of the set was described as follows:

"Condition is Good to Excellent, Original. No repairs or retouching to paint, some age cracks at top of entrance section and one battlement missing a little part. A few small chips and rubs here and there but generally nice hard to find original condition."

"The TIMPO West Point Cadets are Excellent Original condition with a few small chips and rubs here and there. I don't think they were every played with. All are complete except for four, two at parade-rest missing hat plumes, one at present-arms missing bayonet, and one marching missing most of rifle. The mounted officers are removable. There are a total of (48) figures – (18) musicians, (14) marching – one with U.S. Flag, (8) parade-rest, (4) rifle-salute, (2) standing saluting, (2) Mounted Officers."

Unfortunately, I have so far not been able to find a Schwarz catalog entry which shows the full complement of figures. I asked Jamie to rack his brains, he responded by saying:

"I still have all or most of the figures which came with my set. Very loved (beaten up) after nearly 7 decades of use. A band, mounted officer, cadets marching, presenting arms, at ease. I do not think there was a flag."

If any reader can help with this, or knows the correct composition, please let me know.

The pre-war set of Heyde figures included a band of 11 pieces, 26 other cadets including officers and a flag bearer and two "reviewers" saluting.

The remaining pictures show the complete Timpo set as it now exists (Pictures 5-12: Schwarz /Timpo West Point Academy set circa 1955). I think most would agree it makes a magnificent display!



Picture 6: details of the main towers with sentries

FAO SCHWARZ TIMPO WEST POINT CADETS DISPLAY SET

(Continued)



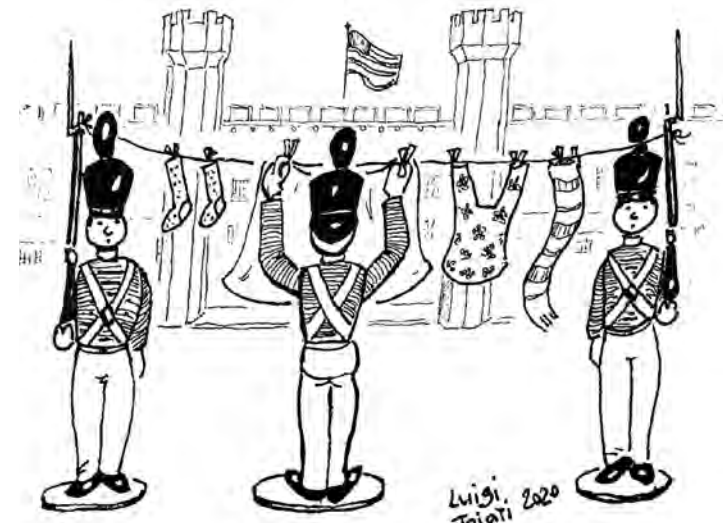
Picture 7: The band



Picture 8: On parade with drums



Picture 9: Ready for inspection



Picture 10: Real Cadets outside the main entrance

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AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

Old Toy Soldier Auctions have had the privilege of selling the Bill Jackey Collection of Britains toy soldiers over the past 3 years. This was the finest collection of Britains in the world. Presented here is the fourth offering containing some of the finest sets the collection had to offer. There are many world class figures which surely will excite the most seasoned collector.

In addition, we are pleased to present the Karl Schwarzbeck Collection of fine German made toy soldiers. Rarely does a collection from the turn of the 20th century remain in the original family's possession for over 100 years. The following is one of those rare occasions. This exceptional collection is composed of primarily large scale figures (70-80mm) made by the NORIS Company of Germany. The collection was inherited by the niece of Unkel Karl Schwarzbeck, born on September 9th, 1898. He built this amazing childhood collection between 1905 and 1908. He was the 3rd generation restaurant owner in the town of Fürth. The restaurant was established in 1866 and closed in 1957 at which time the collection was passed to his niece - Ingrid. This is a unique opportunity to own these exquisitely rare and desirable figures.

INVESTMENT RARITIES

The Bill Jackey Britains Collection Part IV
and The Karl Schwarzbeck Collection
of Fine German Toy Soldiers

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020 - 10AM EST



Britains #317 Royal Field Artillery At The Halt



EXTREMELY RARE Salco Black Mickey Fire Brigade



Rare Exella 3 Little Pigs & the Big Bad Wolf



Heyde Tin Cavalry Barracks with Troops



RARE NORIS Czar and Czarina with their General Staff 80mm



Issmayer EXCEEDINGLY RARE Staff Car



Fouille #142A Artillery
Pied 1st Empire



Rare Mounted Vertunni Garde
Francois Louis XIV

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AUCTION PREVIEW *(Continued)*



Vertunni Fusilier Battalion
Neochatel



Riffet Officer de Grenadiers a Cheval 1st Empire



Beiser American Infantry in Montana Hats
2.75" figures



Rare Courtenay #11/4
James of Bourbon



Britains Set #399 USA Marines



NORIS Mounted Lancer Band 80mm



Britains #422 Prussian Hussars Display Set



Britains #1872 Uncatalogued Historical Series



Brian Rodden MS 2 Guillaume de Martel with Oriflamme



Rare Britains Set #1439 Round-A-Bout
from the Britains Archive



Britains Disney Goofy

AUCTION PREVIEW *(Continued)*



NORIS Prussian Band at Attention with Stands 75mm



Britains Set #1859 Air Raid Wardens Post



Wonderful NORIS Saxon Band at Attention 75mm



Imperial Set #HS1 Special Paint Gordon Highlanders



Britains RARE #S.A1/14 1st Life Guards



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Very Rare Heyde German Naval Band



Exquisite NORIS Garde du Corps Display 80mm 23 pieces



Britains Set #3 5th Dragoon Guards



Spectacular NORIS Prussian Band with Lancers 80mm



Allgeyer A Day in the Park 40mm

AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

INVESTMENT RARITIES

The Colonel (Ret.) Sam W. Floca, Jr.
Collection of Britains Toy Soldiers with a
Collection of Heyde Size 2 Store Stock

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021 - 10AM EST

Colonel Floca was our leader. A military man who developed a love for Britains toy soldiers and their historical relevance. The recipient of the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and five Purple Hearts this highly decorated veteran was the ultimate collector. He loved his Pre War Britains and built one the greatest Britains collections in the world.

As if this collection is not enough -- how often have you seen fresh to the market store stock from the 1930's? Feast your eyes upon this outstanding collection of Heyde sets (mainly size 2, 48mm) which were stored in a New Jersey attic for over 85 years. Most have never seen the light of day! If you like your figures near mint -- this is the collection for you.



View this auction and purchase catalogs on our website: oldtoysoldierauctions.com



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AUCTION PREVIEW *(Continued)*



AUCTION PREVIEW (Continued)






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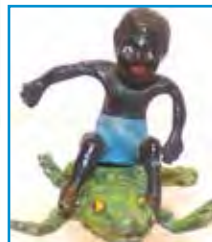
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THE ANTONINI DYNASTY IN ROME -A STORY OF ITALIAN TOY SOLDIERS FROM 1911 TO NOWADAYS

By Francesco Marchiandi



Kingdom of Sardinia, Army of 1720



Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, Neapolitan troops at the bivouac

When in 1838 Hans Cristian Andersen wrote "The Tenacious Tin Soldier" (original title "Den standhaftige tinsoldat"), he was already famous and his fairy tales and other literary works were known and printed all over the world.

He was of lower class origin, and born into the slum of a small Danish town in 1805. Around the same time, the French Grande Armée was extending its dominion over Europe.

Hans Cristian Andersen's father was a poor shoemaker who, to make ends meet, enlisted in the French Army, but he died soon after, leaving a widow and a orphan.

Andersen's fables were able to ignite emotions in young readers: the box with 25 toy soldiers, the dancer, the castle, the swans, the sewer rat and the hungry fish all became part of the long list of fairy tale heroes, the object of desire of thousands of children worldwide.

By the middle of the 1800s a box of toy soldiers had become the Christmas Eve dream



of many children. The production of tin and lead toy soldiers was by then providing jobs for many German designers, engravers and founders. By the middle of the 19th century the Germans has been dedicating themselves to this business for many years. Hilpert is known to be producing toy soldiers from around 1760, possibly earlier. This business increased and improved, day after day, over the next seventy years, well into the first half of the 20th century.

The toy soldiers from Germany soon spread across the whole of Europe, and shortly after into the New World. To satisfy the increasing demand, many local producers arose as competitors to the German firms.

As they introduced new styles and techniques, they created the variety and all that is fascinating to present day collectors.

In Italy, around 1910-11, Francesco Antonini accepted the challenge for local production of toy soldiers and began producing lead toy soldiers in Rome. First, he started the brand



Voloira (Horse) Artillery, mounted on small wheels

THE ANTONINI DYNASTY IN ROME - *(Continued)*



King Vittorio Emanuele II, escort and artillery, during the Wars of Independence



Sardinian and Garibaldi army, drummers, Wars of Independence

L.G.P., then in 1927 he developed a new small firm named F.I.G.I.R. to produce composition toy soldiers.

In the early 1960s his son Luciano extended the range aiming at the growing collectors' market. He created many new series with some unusual subjects such as the armies of the pre-unification Italian States. He also initiated the collaboration of some very capable model makers and by 1984 he had established in Rome the well known shop, "La Bottega del Soldatino".

Today, Francesco's grandson Lorenzo is still producing quality lead toy soldiers using the old moulds still owned by the family, as well as restoring old figurines.

Andrea Mancini and I decided to document this saga, writing a book to review the complete range of toy soldiers produced by the three Antonini generations as well as some of their prominent Italian competitors. There were already a few books about Italian toy soldiers and figurines makers, but these focussed on composition figurines by makers such as Confalonieri, Nardi, Rovello, SALPA, etc.

Until our book, nothing was published about the Antonini brand of Rome, even though the range was quite well known in the world. Antonini is the



Mass view of Italian cavalry from various periods and regiments



Italian Kingdom, the Army in 1900

THE ANTONINI DYNASTY IN ROME - *(Continued)*



Turkish army, Lybian war 1911



Italian-Turkish war, battle of Ain Zara 1911-12



Italian army during the Great War



Military life in Africa



A showcase of the La Bottega del Soldatino in Rome

oldest still active Italian manufacturer. The key aim of the book is to provide information on the oldest models, photographic documentation and useful details for the identification and dating of the pieces, or the recognition of different versions of a particular subject.

The book therefore tells the history of this Italian family of skilled artisans and shows their vast production, mostly dedicated to the pre-unitarian states, the Kingdom of Italy, the Republic as well as colonial troops. The accompanying images illustrate the colorful range of subjects portrayed over a period of production of well over 100 years.

The book has 206 pages illustrated with 280 all color pictures and bilingual Italian/English text, helpful to identify and date Antonini's figurines. It also offers an Internet connection via QR Code that allows access to a large photographic archive illustrating examples and catalogues of the Antonini brand.

The following images illustrate some of the wonderful range of figures and related materials covered in the book.

For further details see the Editorial Site

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SHOW REPORT

THE FIRST-EVER, CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER VIRTUAL SHOW!



Fort Dearborn presenter, Will Beierwaltes

Henry Ford is supposed to have said, "If I had asked people what they wanted, they would have said 'faster horses'!"

"We didn't create the Model T Ford, but I think we presented the toy soldier hobby with an innovation," said Roger Garfield, Chicago Toy Soldier Show (CTSS, Inc.) manager. "Our innovation was a well-attended weekend of live, interactive, virtual toy soldier events enjoyed by almost 300 registered attendees," Roger added.

Please note: The Garfields and CTSS family dedicated the weekend's virtual toy soldier show to the memory of long-time show manager Don Pielin, who passed away on September 19, 2020.

The Chicago Toy Soldier virtual Show included a live presentation on Chicago's Fort Dearborn and its connections to U.S.-made toy soldiers.

There was a live demonstration on toy soldier repair with interactive questions and answers.

"So many of our CTSS vendors responded to the opportunity to showcase their soldiers for sale, preview new products, books, videos, and services, that we created two separate sales events. These were also live and interactive. Viewers could ask the presenters questions and receive answers in real-time at Showcase LIVE! #1 and Showcase LIVE! #2," explained Roger.

"In keeping with a long-time CTSS tradition, we created a virtual version of our 'Happy Hour' for CTSS vendors to get together, visit, socialize, and of course, reminisce," said Roger.



Fort Dearborn presenter, Marc Gaynes

"Due to COVID restrictions, our vendors and Show attendees were feeling frustrated, isolated, and cut off from our favorite hobby, and so were we," shared CTSS co-owner, Jan Garfield.

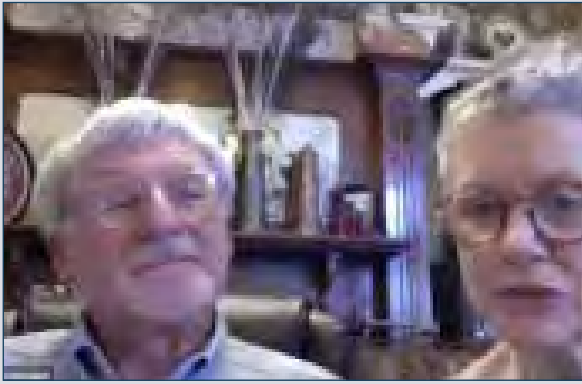
"When we were forced to concede that Covid-19 circumstances were going to make us postpone the 2020 Show—the celebration of our 40th Chicago Toy Soldier Show, the disappointment served as a catalyst to develop the virtual Show. We made that announcement at the end of May," Roger added.

"Our daughter (and Business Manager) Gillian Garfield, and our Consultant Kathleen Moco came to the rescue.



We appropriated Winston Churchill's "Never Give Up" attitude as well as his famous victory sign to promote our Chicago Toy Soldier virtual Show.

SHOW REPORT *(Continued)*



Jan and Roger Garfield hosting the virtual show from their Virginia home



Toy Soldier Doctor, Benjamin Zerbib, presented from his shop in Paris



Benjamin's handiwork applied to a broken Mignot soldier

They pointed us toward making lemonade with our lemons, as the saying goes," Roger said.

"People are so ready to have some toy soldier fun and so many people have been meeting virtually for work and socially, why not apply that opportunity to the Show?" Gillian and Kathleen shared.

Roger explained, "Zoom was the platform most people were familiar with, so we began with the premise that we would have a Zoom event. Expanding on the Show's name, we called the new event the Chicago Toy Soldier virtual Show or CTSvS. We decided to launch it on the Show's original scheduled dates of September 26 and 27.

Gillian and Kathleen became the technicians and our Zoom experts. They even became Zoom tutors as some of our brave presenters said they needed some help in preparing their Showcase Live! slots.

'Chicago's Fort Dearborn in History and in Toys' was co-presented by Marc Gaynes and Will Beierwaltes. Marc and Will had a very successful seminar at the 2019 Chicago Toy Soldier Show, and we asked if they would reprise it for the virtual Show," said Roger. "Well, we were blown away, as were the attendees, when Marc and Will created an entirely new presentation with much new research."

Benjamin Zerbib from Les Drapeaux de France, in Paris, together with his wife Helen, presented an extremely popular demonstration on toy soldier repair at the 2019 Chicago Toy Soldier Show. For our virtual Show, Benjamin did another spectacular presentation of the 'Toy Soldier Doctor' from the heart of Paris. You could hear people gasp as he showed us the exterior of his shop, on a beautiful, rainy Parisian night across from the Louvre. We gasped again as he demonstrated his dexterity with the soldering gun!

We received a wonderful email from one of our long-time vendors who said, 'I came away euphoric after weeks of melancholy. . .happy to have seen and talked to so many of my pals and even tablemates from the Show.'

We brought in people who had never been to the on-ground Chicago Toy Soldier Show and some that cannot attend in person. On the other hand, we think that we may have enticed some viewers to join us for the 40th Anniversary Chicago Toy Soldier Show on September 26, 2021."

Do you want to see what the virtual fun was all about?

Please go to: www.chicagotoysoldiershow.com/ctsvs/

To learn more the Chicago Toy Soldier Show:

www.chicagotoysoldiershow.com

To see Showcase-LIVE! videos:

www.chicagotoysoldiershow.com/2020-showcase-live/

To see galleries of past Chicago Toy Soldier Shows go to:

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THE MYSTERY DIMESTORE SOLDIER: SHOT OR GASSED?

By James D. Spina, Ph.D.

On page 213 of the 3rd edition of Richard O'Brien's seminal work, *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers*, he shows a photo of a rare toy soldier grasping his throat as he raises his rifle over his head. He labels the American Metal piece (AM 6) as a mystery... Shot or Gassed? The answer is, "neither one"! The incident commonly mentioned as a factual basis for the production of the toy soldier never happened.

There is an intriguing backstory to this toy soldier mystery. According to the "old timers" who still collect Dimestore soldiers, the piece was made by Jones. To this day, the American Metal soldiers are still referred to by many collectors as "made by Jones" even though research shows they were not.

According to O'Brien, the confusion is a result of the American Metal founder, C. Raymond Pierson's decision to initially buy molds from outside sources rather than create them. Some molds were purchased from J. Edward Jones while others were obtained from sculptor Henry Kasselowski, who also worked for Jones from time to time. Kasselowski is credited with the design of the AM 6 "Shot or Gassed" figure which was produced by Pierson's American Metal company.

In the early nineteen eighties, I was fortunate to acquire the AM 6 in both the brown and grey versions. The pieces were very dramatic and seemed like miniature works of military art from a tragic war long ago. However, the question of "Shot or Gassed" presented a challenge that demanded to be pursued. What was the true origin of the figure? The first clue was the now famous photo of a soldier falling with his rifle after being shot during the Spanish Civil War in the 1930s. Robert Capra's photo gained fame after appearing in a copy of Life Magazine during the period. While the continued connection of the photo to the toy soldier seemed logical, it was not true.

Through pure luck, I stumbled across the mention of the piece in O'Brien's narrative on the history of the American

Metal company. A single mysterious line said that Kosselowski had based the American Metal design of the figure on a posed photo of a doughboy being gassed and not the Capra photo. If this was true, I wondered where in the world I would find this one photograph? It was a surprise, and my good fortune, to find a copy of a book containing official U.S. army photos of WW1 events at the York Train show a few years ago. Wow! The photo shown below, and the story behind it, popped up as I flipped through the hundreds of official photos. What luck! As you can see from the description of this official U.S. photo from WW1, the scene of a soldier portrayed as gassed, was staged as a training tool used to inform American troops of the danger of not wearing a gas mask in battle. The better trained soldiers shown around the poor victim, are wearing their masks and are safe.

Yale graduate and civil engineer (C.E.), Major Evarts Tracy was the man who created the illusion for the benefit of our fighters. A grave concern during that war was the fact that more than 20% of all casualties were a result of being gassed. The major difference between the actual photo and the American Metals toy soldier version is that the rifle is on the ground in the picture as he appeared being gassed. The AM6 toy soldier version stands, looking straight ahead and holding the rifle over his

head. This made for a more dramatic and production friendly stance.

The myth of the Signal Corp photo being authentic, and not staged, has carried on. Even the highly respected History Channel Magazine mistakenly used it in an article on the battle of the Meuse-Argonne showing it as a "plunge into a storm of shot and clouds of gas". (*Forged By Fire*, July/August 2007). More than twenty-five years of wondering and searching by the author have passed and finally the mystery has been solved concerning this very hard to find toy soldier.



The inscription reads: "Danger from gas attacks was impressed on our men by every means... This exhibition was staged for the benefit of soldiers by Major Evarts Tracy, C.E."



Here is a photo of a diorama, constructed by the author, showing the toy soldier being "gassed" as his companions carry on uninjured.



ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1913-1960

This book is already the 2nd photo guide on Hausser/Elastolin show-room dioramas. Represented are many of never before published original photographs of dioramas built for Hausser/Elastolin in the period between 1913 and 1960. The documentation's themes are ranging from military scenes and political events via zoological highlights and Wild West topics to certain examples of the early post-war period. The editors were able to share their treasure of high quality old original black-and-white photographs with the readers community on quite a high-quality standard and added also some more recent photographic documentations. 112 pages, hardcover, 21 x 30 cm. Price 39.00 Euro plus postage: within Germany 3.00 Euro; 5.00 Euro within the EU, Non-EU and World the real shipping costs.

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HISTORICAL MINIATURES AND JAMES MINIATURES

By Norman Joplin

OTS Magazine Summer 2018 Volume 42 #2, carried Part two of an updated article on Historical Miniatures (HM) who produced an interesting range of 3" figures. Part one, coauthored by Richard O'Brien, Bertal Brunn and Steve Balkin was first published in OTS Magazine February / March 1989 Volume 13 #1. The present article adds some further insights.

A number of pre World War Two US newspapers shed light on this subject.

Richard O'Brien in his *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers* # 3 book, page 256, showed a black and white newspaper article published on January 11th 1942 in the *New York Sunday Mirror* supplement. In order to try and locate a copy of the Newspaper I tried the old research standby of using eBay. Lo and behold, one copy was listed for auction in Florida by a baseball card dealer. The following image shows it in color.

A Newspaper feature from the *Detroit Free Press*, *Rotogravure* magazine dated August 10 1938, shows the James Brothers with their extensive toy soldier display. See also O'Brien *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers*, Edition Number 3, page 257 and *Researching American Made Toy Soldiers*, 32 years of articles pages 117-120.

The *Detroit Free Press*, *Rotogravure* magazine article was included in the Richard O'Brien ephemera archive, which is now owned by *Old Toy Soldier Magazine*. A reproduction of pages from the Detroit article is shown here.

Richard O'Brien speculated in his book *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers* that a model of Winston Churchill, closely resembling HM figures, was produced by James Miniatures. However, according to the widow of R E James there was no connection between the two companies.



Page from the *New York Sunday Mirror* supplement in color

HISTORICAL MINIATURES AND JAMES MINIATURES (Continued)



Image from *The Detroit Free Press*, *Rotogravure* magazine article showing one of the James brothers

The *Detroit Free Press*, *Rotogravure* magazine article was entitled "Armies of the past by Harry and Robert James". The dream of the James brothers was to create history in miniature by collecting the products available at the time. Close inspection of the newspaper photos shown here, shows Mignot, Britains and Jones in profusion, as well as Elastolin and Historical Miniatures figures.

The brothers had formed a strategy for assembling the collection, which was to depict World History by costume. A 3 page introduction to the collection and a 14 page typewritten listing of all the items, (presumably in the collection?), was given to Richard O'Brien. As far as is known, the document was never published.

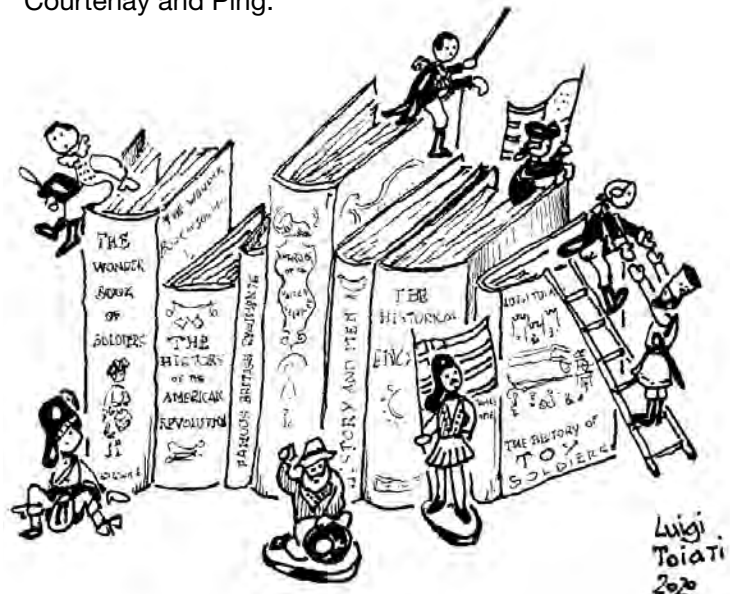
The document bears no date, the newspaper article was published on Sunday April 10th 1938 and the document states that the collection was started 25 years previous.

The scope of the plan compiled by the James Brothers is quite lengthy. Included here in the text box is a precis of the James brothers original text prepared by the present author (with a few notes in parentheses). Should any reader wish to have a photocopy of the full 17 pages,



Another brother at work on a figure for display

please contact the author (info@normanjoplin.com). The Britain's boxes shown in the newspaper images confirm that they used many figures from that maker. The James brothers inventory shown in the next image suggests that their collection contained a number of figures that sound like those made by famous makers such as Vertunni, Courtenay and Ping.



HISTORICAL MINIATURES AND JAMES MINIATURES (Continued)

Precis in italics of the Detroit Free Press, Rotographe magazine article entitled "Armies of the past by Harry and Robert James", (with notes by the present author in parentheses).

The Collection was started about 25 years ago when we were children (document date unknown). Since then we have been adding to it, securing new figures and subjects from various sources in Europe during our travels there, and abroad from our base in the United States.

The moulds of the figures (note the use of the English spelling for molds) themselves are made by various artists and by manufacturing companies in France, England, Germany and Sweden. (No specific manufacturers are mentioned in the text)

All moulds in the portrait figures of famous personalities of World History are authentic and correct in every detail, uniforms, facial characteristics, and costume. There are many private collections both here and in Europe and we believe our collection is one of the most comprehensive in the USA. There are also an increasing number of private collectors who are realizing the educational and cultural value of the figures.

We believe that many pieces increase in value when no longer made, for instance The Coronation of Haile Selassie of emperor of Ethiopia, (possibly by Heyde ?) Our interest in the collection does not center around the idea of militarism, but rather demonstrates to us the artistic and educational value of the world in miniature.

The collection numbers some 15,000 items and is a tangible history of civilization.

Warriors of all types, Soldiers, Regiments, Royalty Personalities, Famous moments in history, Events Pageants and Battles are depicted in the various scenes (Dioramas?) that make up the story of history from-2000BC to the present day.

The collection is listed as an exhibition of figures sized between from 1 inch to 5 inches. The text also mentions "interesting talks and lectures".

There are no details of where the collection is housed, or how it can be viewed. No charges for the viewing or lectures are mentioned.

There then follows 16 pages of intricate listings of individual figures and dioramas, numbering several thousand entries. An example page is included in the present article.

- 2 -

Richard Coeur de Lion	Henry II, King of France
Queen Berengaria	Henry III, " " "
Robin Hood	Catherine de Medici, Queen of France
Little John	Henry IV, of Navarre
Frier Tuck	Etien Marcel
Will Scarlett	Pope Leo, Borgia
Alan-a-Dale	Marguerite de Valois, Queen of France
William the Conqueror	Henry VIII, of England
Harold King of Saxons	Catherine of Aragon - Wife of Henry VIII
Edward III of England	Anne Boleyn " " "
Queen Philippe	Jane Seymour " " "
The Black Prince	Anne of Cleves " " "
Robert the Bruce	Catherine Howard " " "
David King of Scots	Catherine Parr " " "
John II, King of France	Lady Jane Gray, Queen of England
Earl of Wesmore	Cardinal Wolsey
Sir John Chandos	Elizabeth, Queen of England
King of Fortunate Isles	Sir Walter Raleigh
Earl de la Mare	Sir Francis Drake
Earl of Warwick	Mary, Queen of Scots
The Dauphin of France	Francis II, King of France
Barons of England: Sir Hely Loring	Duke de Guise
Earl of Suffolk	Admiral de Coligny
Earl of Rochefort	Duke of Orleans
Sir Thomas Mollard	Charles I, of England
Sir Quiscard D'Angle	Charles II, " " "
Sir Roger la Strange	Nell Gwynn
Oliver de la Roasy	Louis XIII, King of France
Sir Miles Stapleton	Anne of Austria, Queen of France
Talbot	Cardinal Richelieu
Earl of Salisbury	D'Artagnan
Earl of Nassau	Athos
John, Duke of Brittany	Fortnes
John, Lord of Beugnot	Arenis
Joan of Arc	Marshall Conde of France
Dunois - - - Captains under Joan of Arc	Marshall Turenne of France
La Hire " "	Louis XIV of France
Xontrailles " "	1. Anne de Montepan
Richemont " "	2. Anne de Montesson
Charles VI, King of France	Madame de Sevigne
Marguerite de Provence	3. Anne de La Valliere
Louis XI of France	4. Villars
Duke of Burgundy, Philip the Bold	Racine
Marguerite, Princess of Burgundy	Rosset
Marguerite of Scotland	Colbert
Agnes Sorel	Louvois
Duchess Claude de France	Villars
" de Joyeuse	Louis XIV of France
" de Provence	Madame de Maffry
" Touchet	Madame Tenepeur
Charles V King of France	Louis XVI of France
Gaston de Foix	Marie Antoinette
Chevalier Bayard	Robespierre
Charles VII King of France	General Bonaparte
Charles VIII " " "	First Consul Bonaparte
Charles IX " " "	Emperor Napoleon
Francis I, King of France	Empress Josephine
Louis XII " " "	John Bonaparte

Page 2 from the James brothers inventory

The remainder of the present article aims to "Fill in the Line" using O'Brien's numbering system. It presents images of Historical Miniatures figures previously not shown in color in O'Brien, or in the OTS volume 42 #2. Numbers are as allocated by O'Brien. Also included are images of the James Miniatures figure of Winston Churchill.



HM # 5 Lafayette.

HISTORICAL MINIATURES AND JAMES MINIATURES *(Continued)*

Marquis de Lafayette, in full Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette, was born September 6, 1757, in Chavaniac, France and died May 20, 1834, in Paris. He was a French aristocrat who fought in the Continental Army with the American colonists against the British in the American Revolution.



HM #6 Nathan Hale

Nathan Hale (June 6, 1755 – September 22, 1776) was an American soldier and spy for the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. He volunteered for an intelligence-gathering mission in New York City but was captured by the British and executed. Hale has long been considered an American hero and, in 1985, he was officially designated the state hero of Connecticut.



HM #11 Simon Bolivar

Simón José Antonio de la Santísima Trinidad Bolívar y Palacios Ponte-Andrade y Blanco, (24 July 1783 – 17 December 1830) is generally known as Simón Bolívar. He was the first President of Gran Colombia and a Venezuelan military and political leader. He is regarded as

a liberator, who led what are currently the countries of Venezuela, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Panama to independence from the Spanish Empire.



HM #15 Steuben

Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand von Steuben (born Friedrich Wilhelm Ludolf Gerhard Augustin von Steuben; September 17, 1730 – November 28, 1794). He is often referred to as Baron von Steuben. He was a Prussian and later an American military officer in the revolutionary war.



HM #16 Gold Miner

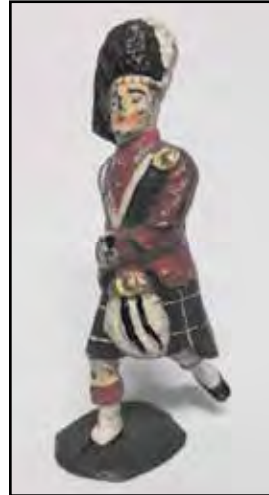
The figure of the Gold Miner is generic rather than being modelled on a particular individual. Nevertheless it certainly has personality! Panning is mostly a manual technique of separating gold from other materials. Wide, shallow pans are filled with sand and gravel that may contain gold. The pan is submerged in water and shaken, sorting the gold from the gravel and other material. As gold is much denser than rock, it quickly settles to the bottom of the pan. In a recent Old Toy Soldier auction, where a number of Historical miniatures were offered, the Gold Miner figure was much sought after.

HISTORICAL MINIATURES AND JAMES MINIATURES *(Continued)*



HM #17 George Washington Mounted
(an original horse has not yet been found!)

George Washington and his grey horse "Blueskin". This was one of Washington's two primary mounts during the American Revolutionary War. The horse was a half-Arabian breed.



HM # 25 Charging Highlander, rifle missing.

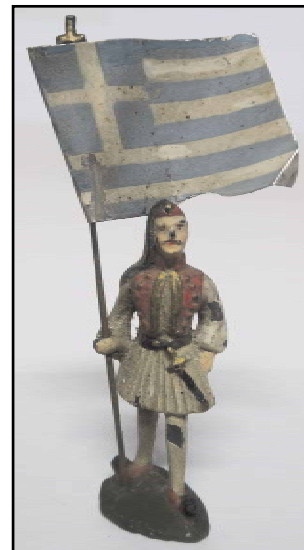


HM # 30 Pułaski.

Kazimierz Michał Władysław Wiktor Pułaski, of 'Slepowron, was a Polish nobleman, born in Warsaw. He was a soldier and military commander in the revolutionary war who has been called, "the father of the American cavalry".



Spirit of "76" (Left to right HM # 19 Drummer Boy. HM # 21 Drummer. HM # 22 Flagbearer. HM # 20 Fifer)



HM # 35 Greek Evzone Flagbearer.

The Spirit of '76 is a patriotic sentiment, typified by the zeitgeist surrounding the American Revolution. It refers to the attitude of self-determination and individual liberty made manifest in the U.S. Declaration of Independence.

HISTORICAL MINIATURES AND JAMES MINIATURES (Continued)

The Evzones is the name given to several historical elite light infantry and mountain units of the Greek Army. Today, it refers to the members of the Presidential Guard, a ceremonial unit that guards the Greek Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



HM # 37 Cossack, (note that this example has no cast hole for a rifle on his back).



HM # 37 Cossack in blue (note that this example has a hole cast to hold the rifle on his back).

The Cossack is again a generic figure. The Cossacks were a group of predominantly East Slavic-speaking, Orthodox Christian people, originating in the Pontic steppe (north of the Black Sea). They formed a key cavalry arm of the Russian army. After World War II the Soviet Union disbanded the Cossack units in the Soviet Army.



Around 1941 a late edition was made to the range by James Miniatures. This portrayed Winston Churchill. A memo from Bob James', son of R.E James, part of the Richard O'Brien Archive, gives an indication of the number of Winston Churchill figures produced. The memo is dated June 22nd but the year is not shown. It states that approximately 500 were made and at the time of writing 350 had been sold, with 150 remaining in Bob James possession.

James also made a figure of Cleopatra and a couple of other personality figures that were never issued.



From Richard O'Brien collecting *American Made Toy Soldiers* #3, page 257.



The inscribed and dated base from the James Miniatures figure.



James Miniatures Winston Churchill.

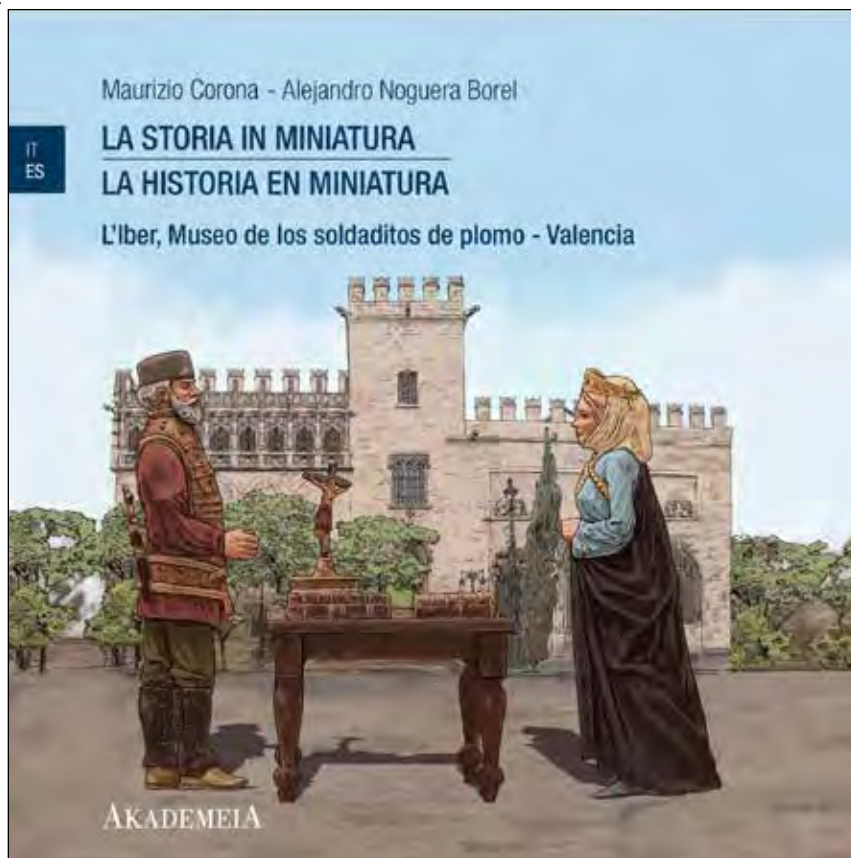
BOOK REVIEW



La Storia In Miniatura-Valencia

By Maurizio Corona and Alejandro Noguera Borel

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek



Author and toy soldier enthusiast Maurizio Corona continues his around the world trip exploring toy soldier museums with his latest book; *La Storia in Miniatura L'Iber Museo de los soldaditos de plomo-Valencia*. This is Mr. Corona's second title in the "La Storia In Miniatura" series, the inaugural tome examining the Musée de la Figurine Historique located in Compiègne, France. Co-author Alejandro Noguera Borel has several advanced degrees in history and has taught at many of the public and private universities in Valencia. He is the director of the Libertas 7 Foundation that is charged with the stewardship of the museum. My review of "Compiègne" appeared in *Old Toy Soldier*, (Vol.42 Number 3) and I am pleased to inform our readers that "Valencia" is every bit as informative and enjoyable to read.

Author Maurizio Corona treats readers to the extraordinary toy soldier collection of Alvaro Noguera (1939-2006) housed at the L'Iber Museum in Valencia, Spain. Alvaro Noguera was one of Valencia's most

important businessmen involved in real estate and the banking industry. A history enthusiast and passionate about toy soldiers, Mr. Noguera's collection was an ongoing venture throughout his entire life. His



BOOK REVIEW (Continued)



collection is a measured balance of military and civilian subjects. Family and friends encouraged Alvaro to open a museum to share his collection with the public. In 2007, one year after the passing of Mr. Noguera, through the hard work of his family and the Libertas 7 Foundation, the L'Iber Museo de los Soldaditos de Plombo was opened.

La Storia In Miniatūra's first chapter explores the history of the city of Valencia. Photographs of important landmarks and pictures of prominent individuals are provided in addition to the text. The second chapter deals with the history of The Palace of Malferit, the site of the L'Iber Museum. The third chapter is devoted to a brief biography of Alvaro Noguera. Chapter four provides a brief overview of the 16 rooms that display 95,000 items of the 1.2 million piece collection.

Each of the remaining chapters is devoted to a specific time period; Antiquity, Middle Ages, Napoleonic, etc. Within each chapter are numerous high-quality color photographs depicting figures who were relevant to the time period. All types and makers of toy soldiers

are utilized in both static displays and dioramas. It is not unusual to find in the same room, for example, vintage pieces and on the next shelf figures of current manufacture. Naturally there are many Spanish manufacturers; Alymer, Almirall Beneito, Sanquez among the more recognized makers; Britains, Heyde, CBG Mignot and more. But this is one of the beauties of this book, it provides the reader with wonderful photographs of figures many of us have never seen before, much less even knew existed. Displays are not limited to toy soldiers. The figures of Rose, Le Cimier and Andrea Miniatures among others also grace the shelves throughout the museum. Well known pieces of art are used to supplement the descriptive text describing the historical background of a diorama. For example, in the Napoleonic room, there is a diorama of the Battle of Austerlitz. Among the pictures of the diorama are photographs of famous paintings, *The Battle of Austerlitz* by François Gerard, and Lejuene's *Napoleon on the Eve of Austerlitz 1805*. Contemporary artists and their work(s) are also included. Giuseppe Rava's dynamic depiction of a Carthaginian war elephant at the

Battle of Zama is one of many works shown. Not all displays are of a military theme. There are numerous vignettes and scenes of civilian life, Roman market scenes, coronations and famous scenes of history.

La Historia en Miniatūra is soft bound, priced at 30 Euros, with 405 pages complimented by over 180 photographs. The quality of the photographs is outstanding allowing, in many cases, the opportunity for the reader to examine figures from a close-up perspective. The text is dual Italian/Spanish but the photographs convey the true meaning and spirit of this book. This is Maurizio Corona's second exceptional book examining a toy soldier museum that will be of interest and value to all toy soldier collectors. Thank you to the author who generously supplied a copy for this review.

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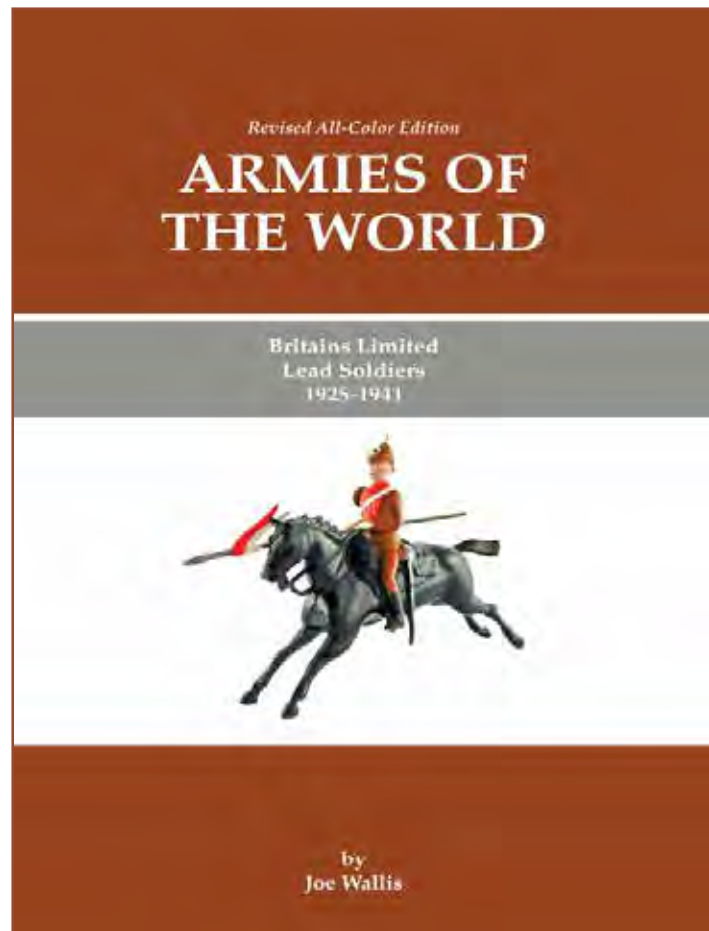
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SMS EMDEN AND EARLY US TOY SOLDIERS

By Ed Poole

In the Fall 2019 issue of this magazine Norman Joplin wrote a piece about early US toy soldier manufacturers, involving aliens, sea warfare and lawsuits. Richard O'Brien would have loved it.

This inspired the present follow up. I have some personal interest in that I gave Richard some minor aid in researching Loebel, Widmann & Co. for his 1989 OTSN article. More recently my son Ed came across an excellent example of a model of the SMS Emden which he sold on eBay. This article presents our thoughts about its origins.

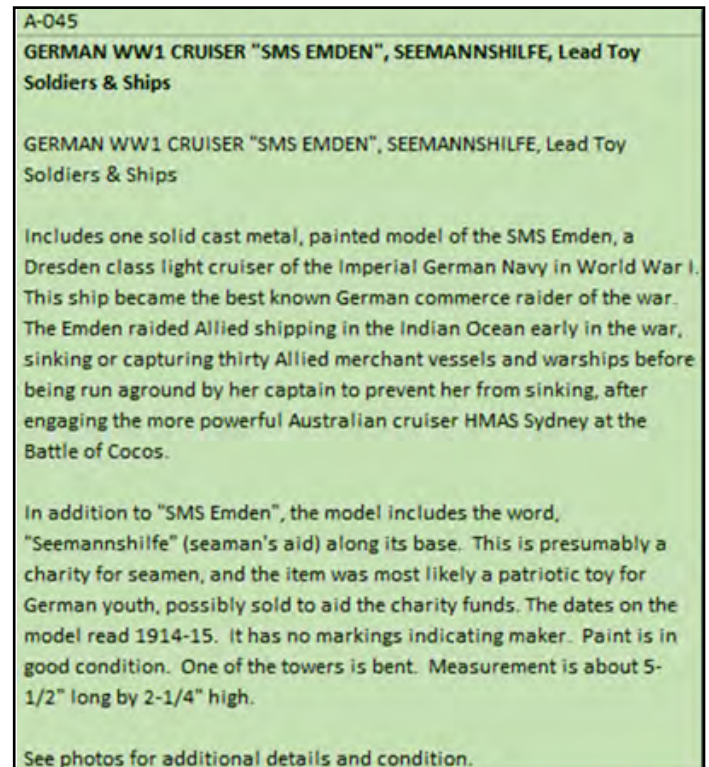


Seemannshilfe 1914-15 S.M.S Emden metal ship figurine

Lot # 1364



Picture 1: *Playthings* ad showing the SMS Emden with figures



Pictures 2 and 3: SMS Emden model with flags and auction description

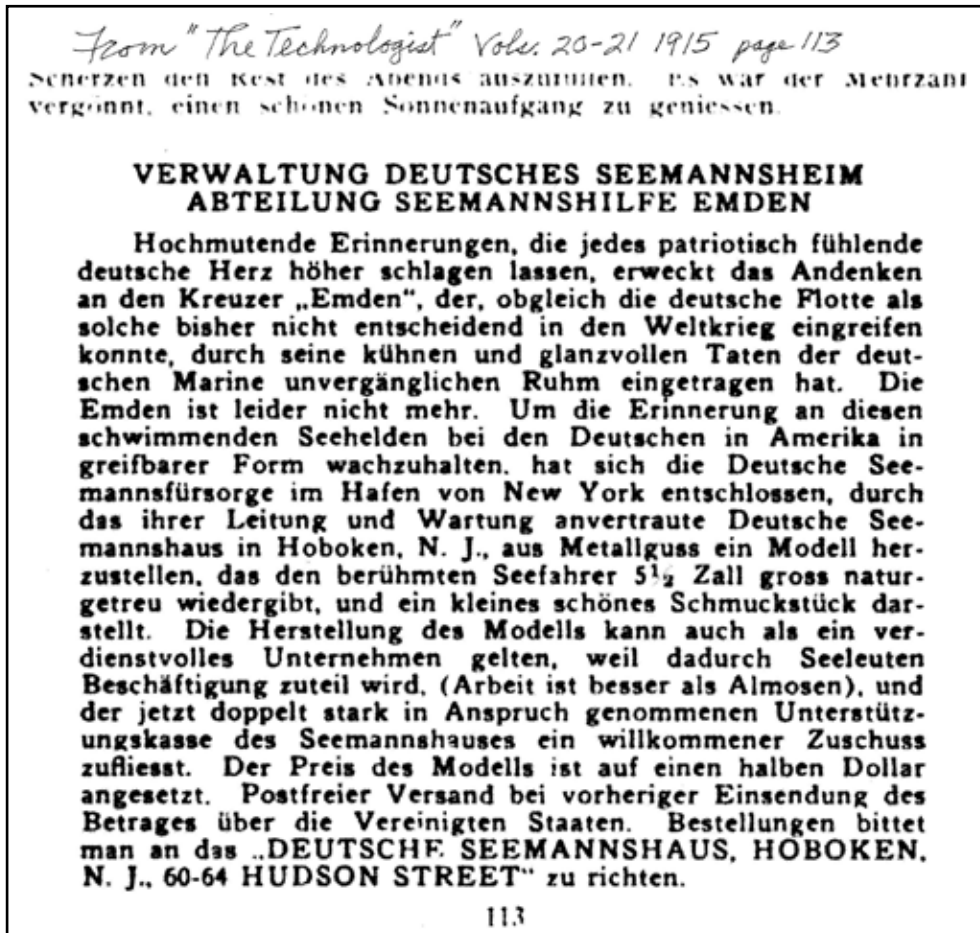
There is absolutely no doubt that the Emden model was included in a Loebel, Widmann set but it was best shown in a 1916 *Playthings* magazine ad, also from the O'Brien archive and shown in Picture 1. In that ad is an intact specimen flying flags from both masts; Ed's was missing the flags but we've seen Emden model photos online that are flying them (see Pictures 2 and 3).

I have just found online a 1915 article in the *Technologist* magazine that ties the Emden model casting to the German seamen's charitable aid organization in NYC and its associated German seamen's hostel in Hoboken, NJ. The latter actually handled mail-order sales, 50 cents postpaid within the United States (see Picture 4). The original material is all "auf Deutsch".

My translation is as follows:

Excerpt from "*The Technologist*", *Journal of the National Association of German-American Technologists* Vols. 20-21 1915 page 113, Translation by the present Author

(The) MANAGEMENT of DEUTSCHES SEEMANNSHILFE (German SailorsHome) SEEMANNSHILFE (SailorsHelp) EMDEN DEPARTMENT (Is) proudly producing a fundraising souvenir memorializing the cruiser "Emden" (which), even though the German fleet as a whole has not yet been able to go into action decisively in the World War, has, through its own boldness and splendid feats honored the German Navy with incomparable glory. The Emden is unfortunately no more. (But) memories of this seagoing hero are fervently held by the Germans in America. The German SailorsCare in New



Picture 4: Article from the Technologist, 1915

York Harbor have, through their managing and service affiliate German SailorsHome in Hoboken, N.J., produced a true to life metal casting of the famous seafarer 5-1/2 inches long and have crafted a beautiful little gem. The production of the models can also be commended because sailor employment is given. (Work is better than a handout). And now doubly strong demand has brought a welcome cash flow to the Seamen's House. Models are priced at one half dollar, postpaid within the U.S. Send order request to DEUTSCHE SEEMANNSHAUS, 60-64 HUDSON STREET HOBOKEN, N.J.

It seems that German sailors were in need of help in foreign ports as well as homeland, including hostels with food, beds, mailing and telephone facilities. Indeed a reorganized Seemannshilfe social welfare organization still functions in Germany today, though concentrating chiefly on needy merchant marine personnel and their families. One wonders whether Loebel, Widmann & Co. were contracted to cast the Emden models for the seaman's aid charity and then were permitted to include some of the ship models in their own soldier sets.

The Technologist article makes no mention of interned sailor prisoners, nor should there be since all this so far is pre-entry of U.S. into WW I.

About the Emden model, I believe we can now say, combining my research with Norman's earlier researches:

1. It was commissioned and produced by German-speaking charitable organizations for fundraising purposes in 1915, before the U.S. had entered WW I.
2. Production and sales facility was a German Seamen's shelter on Hudson St. in Hoboken, NJ.
3. Price was 50 cents, postpaid in the U.S.
3. Needy German merchant seamen sheltering in the facility aided in the production (at least until the U.S. entered WW I in 1917 when thousands were sent to internment camps).
4. In the Dec. 1916 issue of Playthings magazine, a pictorial ad by Loebel-Widman & Co. shows, included in a large toy soldier set, two ship models, one of which is the Emden model as described above
5. In Nov. 1917 Isadore Goldberg, now doing business with Arthur Loebel and Arthur Widman as the Sailors' Toy Manufacturing Co, testified in a Boston courtroom "that he had arranged for the purchase of toys made by interned German sailors and sold them over again". (By November 1917 the German sailors may well have been interned in a camp).

SMS EMDEN AND EARLY US TOY SOLDIERS (Continued)



Pictures 5-8: "Young Ed's" Model without Flags

6. In July 1918 the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that the Sailors' Co. was not financed by the German government nor did Germany benefit by the profits and that the plaintiffs were not German alien enemies. See "German Aliens" by Norman Joplin in Fall 2019 OTS for more details of the lawsuit!

7. Between the two court appearances, Loebel-Widman & Co. had merged with Maiden America Doll Co. to form the Maiden America Toy Mfg. Co. Inc.

8. A Maiden ad in Playthings for February 1918 shows some ship models, but definitely not the Emden and probably Japanese composition (despite disingenuous protests about being "made-in America").

One last note: as an old sea dog myself (one year with Desron 20 out of eight in the USN) I must point out that Captain Von Muller does not qualify as a pirate though his exploits were both dashing and destructive. SMS (German for "His Majesty's Ship") Emden was part of the Imperial German Asiatic Fleet and therefore had legal combatant status. Muller and Emden might better be called commerce raiders.



Reference: "German Commerce Raiders 1914-1918" Noppen & Wright, New Vanguard paperbound, 2015 provides a concise and nicely illustrated summary.

Ed Poole September 2020 (ekpoole@austin.rr.com)

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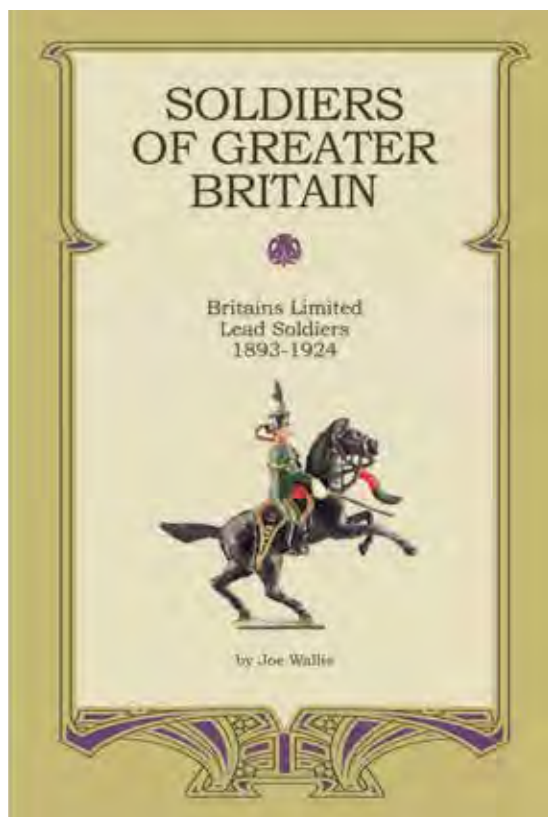


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BRITAINS LARGE DISPLAY BOXES - PART 2

By John Franklin

4. Set 130

Whilst this set designation in the catalogue, Large Presentation Box, Display or Types of the British Army, is the same as many other large boxes, it is a single Regiment set, the Scots Guards, but the box label doesn't say so. It contains a splendid display set of the Scots Guards comprising 118 pieces.

In some early auctions in the 1970s I acquired a number of matching lots of Scots Guards comprising various groups, running, attention, marching, buglers, pipers, etc, but none firing. In due course I realised these 70 or 80 figures comprised the body of set 130 but without the firing figures. Whether the firing figures were in those auctions and/or I wasn't enamoured with firing figures in full dress, I cannot remember. About 10 years later the opportunity arose, which I seized, to acquire a battered set 130 box, (see P 7a-c). Again, a black printer's label with a faint, hardly discernible number 130 in the rosette at the top RH corner. So, I had the start, indeed the main core of my set 130 with box. It took me until about 2012 to find some good matching full dress firing figures, all in full trousers dating them to the middle to late 1930s. Lo and behold, I then had a complete set 130! The box has a wooden carcass, with card lid, 25" by 17". There is no set title on the box, nor insert cards. Still, this is pretty acceptable.



P 7c) Collected contents for box number 130



P 7a) Box for set 130, The Scots Guards

At about the same time as acquiring the firing figures for the set above, a lot came up at a provincial auction house of guards figures, many half booted. These turned out to be virtually complete sets 102 and 130 in an overall job lot, but an earlier version, being nearly all half booted. Pipers were the larger figures but with glengarries rather than feather bonnets. The attention figures have the first version rifle arm with the rifle held away from the body. Shortly after, on eBay a lidless box with no insert cards was offered of the classic large size, 25.5 inches by 17 inches, a two layered type. So there I had the basics for an earlier version set 130 (P 7d)¹. A suitable large red card cut to size and folded down at the edges provides an acceptable lid.



P 7b) Battered printers black label for set 130.
Set number half present top RH corner

¹ Editor's note. The very first version of set 130 contained figures with oval bases and the smaller pipers when introduced in 1906. The square bases and larger pipers with glengarries dates John's set to the 1912-33 period.

BRITAINS LARGE DISPLAY BOXES - PART 2 *(Continued)*



P 7d) Set 130 Scots Guards Display, earlier version

5. Set 1267

i) This set has another chequered history and story, also in two parts. I came across a set 1267 box for sale in the mid 1970s, not in the best of condition, but it would do nicely for storing some British Army sets. As it happened, there were a few figures for sale with the box, notably the Middlesex Regiment contingent, which included the colour bearer with his draped colour. The box was mediocre; the majority of the set label in the centre of the lid was missing. However, what was still there on the fragment of label remaining was that important, inch long, rubber stamped number - 1267. Over the years I have found contents of a reasonable standard to complete the overall set. Interestingly enough this original empty box from a 1960/70s auction still sports its auction number sticker (P 8a), with a date of 25 April 1969.

Knight, Frank & Rutley had started toy soldier auctions in London the previous December. (I bought one lot then and I still have the figures!). Knight, Frank & Rutley's second toy soldier sale (based in Hanover Square London), was on the 25 April 1969. That is where my first set 1267 box came from, including all the cavalry insert cards. In due course, a second set 1267 box came my way, with a full lid label. I then transferred my collected figures to date for set 1267 to this better box, (P 8b and P 8c). This second version, see below (P 8e), seemingly from a single owner,

has all the insert cards. Both boxes are 26 inches by 17 inches, with wooden carcasses.



P 8a) Box for set 1267 with date label from Knight, Frank & Rutley's second London Auction in 1969



P 8b) First version set 1267



P 8c) Box for set 1267 with full lid label, rubber stamped set number, yellow printers style label

BRITAINS LARGE DISPLAY BOXES - PART 2 *(Continued)*

ii) The set 1267 reported and pictured above in (P 8b) might be deemed a first version. At a local Auction house about 2 years ago a second version 1267 was offered for sale. (P 8e) shows this set. The box lid is missing most of the white label. However on the underside of the lid are some hand written notes. These indicate that it was set 1267 and that it was given to a named 7 year old boy for Christmas in 1939. In the same hand are details of some other Britains sets and soldiers acquired by the owner from auctions in the 1980s. By this time of course the boy has advanced to be in his 50s! But it looks like a single owner, eventually reaching the Auction house in the 2010s. (I believe those other soldiers as listed on the underside of the lid were in the same auction but were fairly common items, so not of particular interest to me.)

The second notable feature was the contents, being of a very good paint standard, which had kept well. The contents of the set had been reorganised by Britains and the numbers were adjusted to allow the incorporation of some khaki troops, (see P 8e). All figures sport moustaches. The Seaforth Highlanders shown in (P 8b) have been replaced by Gordon Highlanders. This box is the usual 25" by 17", wooden carcass with all 10 insert cards present.

The contents of this second version are;

- 12 flat capped, khaki infantry at the trail
with officer
- 9 Royal Scots, trews now with red and
yellow tartan lines
- 9 Scots Guards
- 9 Gordon Highlanders
- 9 Middlesex Regt
- The cavalry are the same as the first version,
7 each of:
 - 2nd Life Guards
 - 11th Hussars
 - 12th Lancers
 - Royal Scots Greys
 - 5th Dragoon Guards.

There is no Middlesex Regiment colour bearer in this 2nd version set.²

² Editor's note: According to Joe Wallis an officer with furled flag was normally provided in late versions of set 1267 but this was omitted in the final version. The boxed set in the Editor's possession includes such a figure, but is otherwise similar to the one described by John.



P 8e) Set 1267 second version; the box lid for this set has an incomplete white label

6. Set 1350 Large Presentation Box

Another of the large two layered display boxes is set 1350 (P 9a). This box measures 22 inches by 13 inches. It followed on quite quickly behind the issue of the larger display set 1267. One wonders at Britains philosophy here, other than to guess they wanted a display box somewhat less expensive than set 1267 and hence possibly more marketable. Again, the contents were nearly all from single row boxes. No out of the ordinary issue figures here.

I had already collected one empty set 1350 box but again this was fairly battered and worn. The second one acquired was of a better standard and thus provided an incentive to locate suitable contents over the years. (P 9a) shows this box and its collected contents, a smaller display layout but still attractive. The set number is again just a small rubber stamped number at the bottom of the Printers Flowers label. In some later issues the firing Cameron Highlanders in (P 9a) were replaced by firing Gordon Highlanders (P 9b).

To be continued...

BRITAINS LARGE DISPLAY BOXES - PART 2 *(Continued)*



P 9a) Set 1350 with firing Cameron Highlanders



P 9b) Set 1350 box lid and upper layer with firing Gordon Highlanders replacing Camerons



P 9c) Set 1350 Printers Flowers box lid label and stencilled set number





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A STUDY OF GREY IRON RARITY AND VALUE

By Stan Alekna

In a previous issue of OTS, I provided an analysis of rarity and value of Barclay and Manoil Dimestores based on thirty years of actual sales data on their figures and vehicles. Several collectors asked if I would conduct the same study of the Grey Iron Casting Company, so here it is.

The Grey Iron Casting Company, formerly of Mt. Joy, Pennsylvania (twelve miles from my home), was one of the earliest producers of American Dimestore figures and the only major company that made them out of cast iron. However, toy soldiers were just a small part of Grey Iron's broad range of products as shown in this ad from an old *HARDWARE BUYERS CATALOG*.



GREY IRON AD IN AN OLD HARDWARE BUYERS CATALOG



**OLD GREY IRON 9" X 6" PICTURE FRAME WITH YOURS TRULY
AS AN 18-YEAR OLD U.S. MARINE**

Grey Iron produced far fewer toy soldier figures than Barclay or Manoil, but it nonetheless is a favorite of many Dimestore collectors.

Grey Iron produced a total of 180 Dimestore figures, seventy of which were the two-inch Family series which included the Family at Home, Traveling, on the Ranch, on the Farm, and at the Beach. These sets of civilian figures are sought after by Dimestore collectors as well as by train collectors for their layouts, because their scale fits the most popular gauge trains.

Their earliest line of soldiers was the 1-3/4" tall, nickel plated, semi-full figure Greyklips, that were produced in 1917, based on the date on the back of the display cards for these sets.



GREYKLIP DISPLAY CARD with 1917 DATE

Their Uncle Sam's Defenders were of the same size but were painted khaki. In 1933, Grey Iron launched their 3-inch figures.

The following is a list of the sixteen Grey Iron items that have sold for \$200 or more based on actual sales records. Most of the items were in 95% or better paint condition.

- G3 Colonial Flag Bearer ~ \$750, add \$150 for original 13-star flag
- Gatling cap gun ~ \$575. It came mounted on a carriage with wheels and on a base that could be affixed to a bench or a board.
- 14-inch long farm wagon with driver and team of horses ~ \$475
- 14-inch long stagecoach with driver and team of horses ~ \$475
- 14-inch long Conestoga wagon with driver and team of horses ~ \$475

Note: Add \$100 to each of above three items if in original box.

- G59 Mounted masked cowboy ~ \$425
- G51 Mounted Indian firing pistol ~ \$375 (I did not know Indians used pistols!!)
- G103 Radio operator with both original antennas ~ \$360
- G104 Nurse attending wounded soldier ~ \$325
- G105 Doughboy helping wounded soldier ~ \$318
- G92 British officer in desert uniform ~ \$275
- G107 Early cavalry officer ~ \$250
- G91 British infantryman in desert uniform ~ \$242
- G3a Colonial flag bearer with musket drilled out to hold flag ~ \$230 (I once saw a G3a figure carrying a 48-star flag!)
- G106 Early cavalryman ~ \$200
- Model A Ford ~ \$200

A STUDY OF GREY IRON RARITY AND VALUE *(Continued)*

Here are photos of most of the above items:



G3 COLONIAL FLAG BEARER



GATLING CAP GUN



STAGECOACH & TEAM



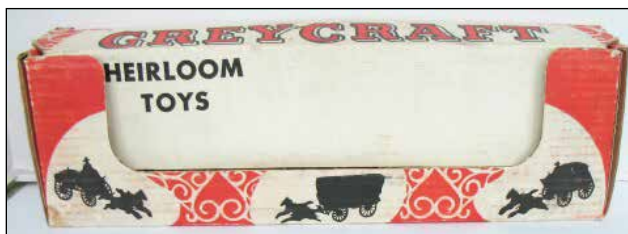
FARM WAGON & TEAM



CONESTOGA WAGON & TEAM



BOX FOR G.I. WAGONS



G104 NURSE ATTENDING WOUNDED SOLDIER



G105 DOUGHBOY HELPING WOUNDED SOLDIER



G92 BRITISH OFFICER IN DESERT UNIFORM



G107 EARLY CAVALRY OFFICER



G91 BRITISH INFANTRYMAN IN DESERT UNIFORM



G106 EARLY CAVALRYMAN

A STUDY OF GREY IRON RARITY AND VALUE *(Continued)*

The following Grey Iron Items sold for \$100 to \$199:

- G113 Foreign Legion cavalry officer in blue ~ \$190
- G113 Foreign Legion cavalryman in blue ~ \$180
- G56 Bandit with hands raised ~ \$175
- Palace Guard (came in red, white, and blue) ~ \$165
- G21 Ammo carrier ~ \$155
- Grey Iron cardboard trench in mint condition ~ \$145
- G102 Greek Evzone soldier ~ \$135
- G20 Soldier with range finder ~ \$105

Baseball players 1-1/2" tall; in nickel-plated finish or painted sets of batter, pitcher, catcher and seven fielders. Individual figures at \$100 each and a complete set of ten at \$1,200; add \$150 if on original card.

The 1-1/2" long vehicles (coupe, sedan, roadster, van, pick-up and racer) in nickel-plated finish or painted. Individual vehicles at \$60 each and the set of six at \$425.

Here are photos of some of the above items:



THREE OF THE FOUR BASEBALL PLAYER FIGURES



SIX LITTLE VEHICLES in NICKEL-PLATE



CARDBOARD TRENCH



FIVE of SIX LITTLE PAINTED VEHICLES

In summary, six of the sixteen highest priced Grey Irons were not military figures but most of the Grey Irons that sold for \$100 to \$199 were military items.

The remainder of Grey Iron's three-inch figures sold for an average of \$43 which is a little higher than Barclay's, and 34% less than Manoil's figures, in the under \$100 category.

The average per figure price of the 2-inch American Family series (in 98% or better condition) was as follows:

- Family Travels ~ \$19
- Family on the Farm ~ \$22
- Family at Home ~ \$21
- Family on the Beach ~ \$80
- Family on the Ranch ~ \$74

(Three chickens and three ducks are \$275 each)

COMPARATIVE TABLE

	Barclay	Manoil	Grey Iron
Total no. of individual Dimestore items produced *	700	350	180
No. of items sold for \$200 or more	45	13	16
No. of non-military items sold for \$200 or more	24	0	6
No. of items sold for \$100-199	106	46	10
No. of non-military items sold for \$100-199	51	10	3
Avg. price of items sold for Less than \$99	\$34	\$65	\$43

* The total number of individual Dimestore items produced will vary depending on the number of mold and paint variations one chooses to include in the count.

Hopefully, these value and rarity studies will serve to update some of the prices of the "big three" Dimestore makers in O'Brien's 3rd edition of *Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers*, published in 1996, since I doubt that there will ever be another comprehensive Dimestore identification and value guide published.

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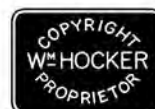
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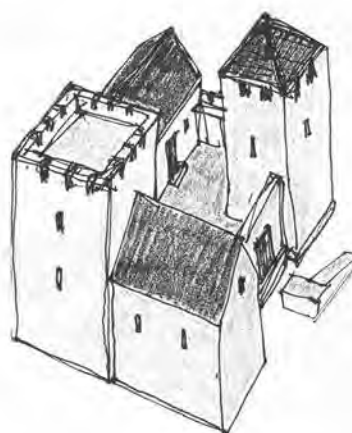
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