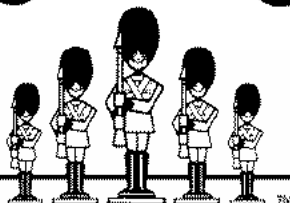


Spring
2016

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 40 Number 1
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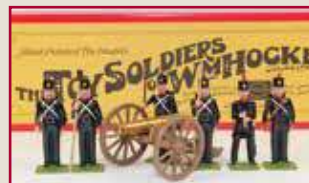
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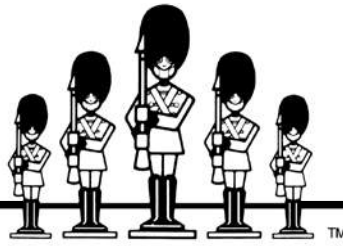


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Old Toy Soldier is published quarterly.

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Old Toy Soldier is printed by
Banksville Express Printing
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

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ISSN1064-4164

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Barclay Cuban Flag Bearer

Photograph courtesy Stan Alekna

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40 YEARS OF OLD TOY SOLDIER MAGAZINE

By Ray Haradin - Publisher

In the Spring of 1976, a revolutionary group of scholar collectors embarked on a project to document the world they loved – the world of toy soldiers! The Chicagoland group of Steve and Jo Sommers, Don Pielin, Roger Garfield and Britain's expert Joe Wallis created the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter. It was a humble start—16 black and white pages, hand typed on a typewriter, photos and text hand cut and pasted into position, mimeographed and then stapled at the upper left hand corner. This simple hand out was an instant success.



The founding group provided a voice for our toy soldiers. This new publication became the stage to engage collectors of all types. It is truly a magazine written by collectors for collectors providing a place to document every aspect of the toy soldier hobby. I am very proud of the fact that during our stewardship we have published 196 issues, 199 authors and 1182 articles, all contributing to this specialized world. It is our contributors who provide the backbone of the magazine and I personally thank every one of them.

The magazine has gone through many changes since its initial release. The most significant was its purchase 15 years ago in 2001 and bringing Norman Joplin in as Chief Editor. It was one of my best decisions. I had heard the magazine was being offered for sale and that most likely it was going to be bought and “absorbed” by a foreign publication. The magazine I grew up with, the magazine which in 1989 ran my very first advertisement for Ray Haradin Toys of Yesteryear was no longer going to be an American institution. I knew something should be done and I did it.

Norman drew on his considerable expertise and vast number of collector friends to move our magazine to the next level. Over our tenure we immediately initiated a color format so that we may see our soldiers in all their glory. We implemented a Perfect Bind spine for the magazines so that each issue could be shelved with promise of future research. And most importantly we made current and past issues of Old Toy Soldier available online at oldtoysoldier.com. Alane Wholey has been our creative director for both oldtoysoldier.com and oldtoysoldierauctions.com providing websites that are easy to use and highly informative. Breanne Day, our most recent addition to our soldier squad is quickly increasing our social media presence and is currently working with Alane to upgrade our website. Look forward to our new website next month with a fresh clean look, easy navigation and responsiveness, it will be easier to use on all of your mobile devices. You may now follow Old Toy Soldier on [facebook.com/oldtoysoldier](https://www.facebook.com/oldtoysoldier), on [twitter @oldtoysoldier](https://twitter.com/oldtoysoldier) and on [instagram @oldtoysoldier](https://www.instagram.com/oldtoysoldier).

This is our future, the printed word is quickly going out of fashion whether we like it or not. However, no matter what the medium, Old Toy Soldier will march into the future. I am firmly committed to publishing a printed magazine as long as we have subscribers who wish to receive one. I am even more committed to keeping Old Toy Soldier alive and well on the internet providing a research platform for decades to come.

This magazine is more a product of our love for toy soldiers than a business venture. Many people contribute to its life. Norman and Sue Joplin deserve the lion's share of accolades. They are the driving force behind each issue and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and commitment.

40 YEARS OF OLD TOY SOLDIER MAGAZINE (Cont.)

Mary Fischer also deserves a special thank you. She is the wizard behind the curtain. She has been personally laying out every issue of the magazine for the past fifteen years. She is a technical genius whom Norman and I agree is the key to meeting every deadline. She has been tested many times – but always comes through carrying the flag.

Rick and Diane Ozanick owners of Banksville Express Printing are also a major asset to the magazine. They have been the sole printer since its move to Pittsburgh in 2001 consistently producing a high quality magazine.

I would like to thank my mother, Roberta Haradin, my resident proof reader and copy editor. She is the wizard behind the wizard who makes me look good. I cannot thank her enough for carefully and

methodically checking, rechecking and often re-checking nearly every word I print. We have many proof readers but I can always count on my mother's proof on being the final proof.

Finally, my wife Nancy who always stands by me and supports my every decision. She is everything to me, together we hope that you enjoy Old Toy Soldier for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Ray Haradin



Ray Haradin



Nancy Haradin



Roberta Haradin



Bre Day



Norman Joplin



Sue Joplin



Alane Wholey



Mary Fischer

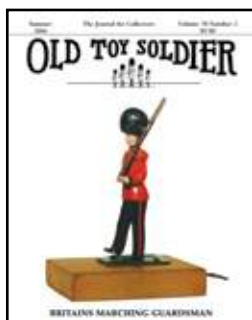


Diane and Rick Ozanick

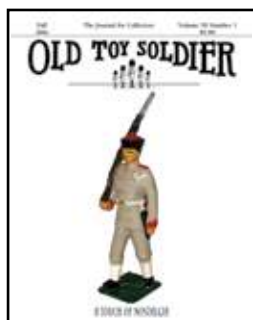
OLD TOY SOLDIER MAGAZINE SUMMARY OF EVENTS 2006 TO 2016

By Norman Joplin

Old Toy Soldier Magazine Volume 30 #1 printed a summary of important toy soldier related news. To mark the 40th anniversary of the magazine herewith an update covering the last fifteen years.



Volume 30 Number 2



Volume 30 Number 3



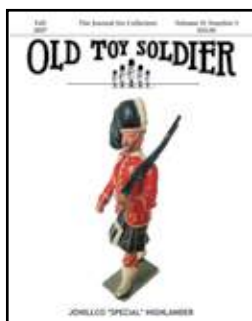
Volume 30 Number 4



Volume 31 Number 1



Volume 31 Number 2



Volume 31 Number 3



Volume 31 Number 4



Volume 32 Number 1



Volume 32 Number 2



Volume 32 Number 3

Volume 30 # 2 ~ August 2006

- Lucotte Trademark Sold by Madame Lynda Franceschi to Eduard Pemzec owner of CBG Mignot.
- Joplin's Dateline Old Toy Soldier Show moves to a new venue, Holiday Inn Bloomsbury. London.
- Christies Auction House London announce that they will end all toy soldier auctions in 2007. Auctions of the Charles Biggs collection of original Britains Plaster moulds and The prestigious Hank Sigournay collection.
- J. M Tisne publishes the first in a series of illustrated reference books on French manufacturers.

Volume 30 #3 ~ November 2006

- Britains First Gear open their first London Office.
- A Touch Of Nostalgia- the first part of The Complete Nostalgia Toy Soldiers authored by Gus Gardner.

Volume 30 # 4 ~ February 2007

- Christies Auction House London. The Mike Williams Civilian collection. March 2007.

Volume 30 # 4 continued

- Britains Down Under a summary by Philip Dean and Robin Yates of Britains products in Australia.
- Continuation of Britains SA (Special assortment sets) by Rob Wilson.

Volume 31 #1 ~ May 2007

- Ray Haradin and Norman Joplin announce the launch of OLD TOY SOLDIER AUCTIONS USA, First auction: The Dr. William Schneider Collection. May 2008.
- Under Two Flags St Christopher's Place London Toy Soldier Shop closes after 36 years.

Volume 31 # 2 ~ August 2007

- Christies London announce the closure of the Doll, Toy Soldier and Toy Department.

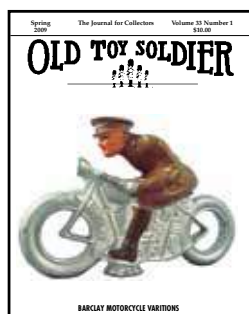
Volume 31 # 3 ~ November 2007

- Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA hold their first Saturday "Bargain Room " and empty box sale at the Hyatt Hotel.

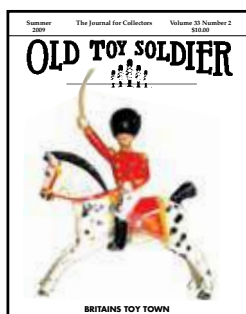
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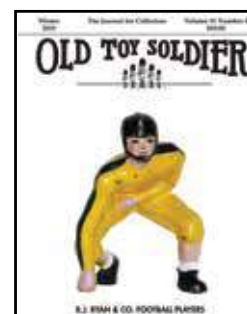
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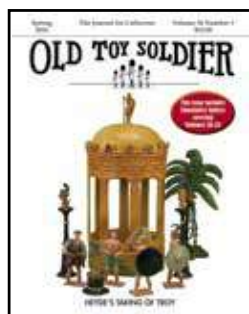
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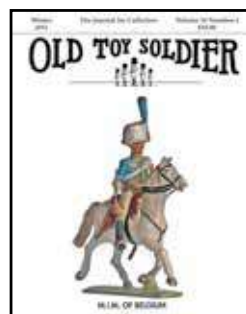
Volume 34 Number 1



Volume 34 Number 2



Volume 34 Number 3



Volume 34 Number 4



Volume 35 Number 1

Volume 31 # 4 ~ February 2008

- Britains New Toy Soldier Book 1973- Presented by Norman Joplin published by Schiffer Publishing.

Volume 32 #1 ~ May 2008

- Grover Van Dexter closes his world renowned Toy Shop, Second Childhood in Greenwich Village New York after 39 years.

Volume 32 # 4 ~ February 2009

- Old Toy Soldier Magazine becomes available on line.
- Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA introduce on line catalogues and Live Auctioneers live bidding May 2009.
- Cadbury Cococubs reference books published by British subscriber John Cupman.

Volume 33 # 1 ~ May 2009

- Reference Books on the King and Country Glossy Products produced.
- Old Toy Soldier Editor Norman Joplin visits Library of Congress and given access to all toy soldier related archives.

Volume 33 # 2 ~ August 2009

- Richard O'Brien publishes Researching American Made Toy Soldiers
- OTS Auctions USA auction the Toy Soldier Medical related collection of the late James Wengert.

Volume 33 # 2 continued

- Britains Paris Set Numbers article by Rob Wilson.
- Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA holds special sale of Toy Soldier empty boxes at 2009 Chicago show.

Volume 33 # 3 ~ November 2009

- Old Toy Soldier Feature article Britains King Edward 8th - The King That Never Was by Rob Wilson.
- Peter Greenhill releases Heraldic Sketchbook.

Volume 33 # 4 ~ February 2010

- Wollner Reference book by Robert Lonsing
- Feature article by Richard O'Brien. America's earliest know toy soldier company.

Volume 34 #1 ~ May 2010

- Old Toy Soldier magazine's 30th anniversary.
- Cumulative Subject and Author Index compiled by Joe Wallis.

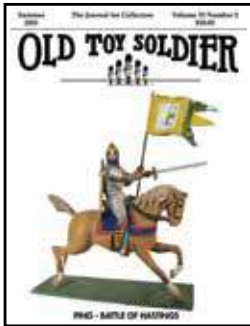
Volume 34 # 3 ~ November 2010

- Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA holds their first two day auction.
- First of occasional Heyde club meetings held at Chicago show hosted by Steve and Jo Sommers.

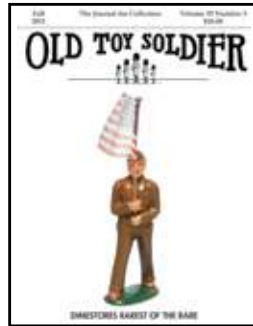
Volume 34 # 4 ~ February 2011

- MIM Minimus in Maximus feature article.

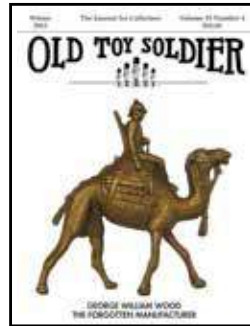
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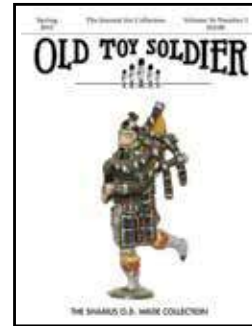
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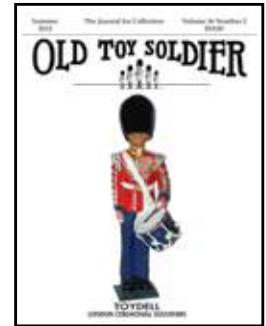
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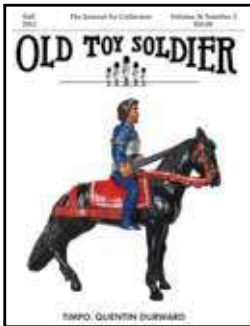
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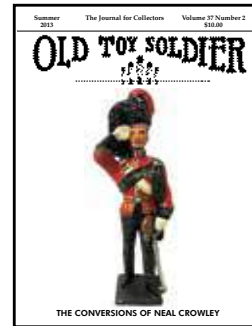
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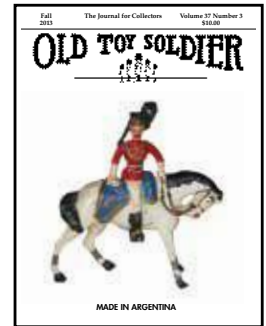
Volume 36 Number 4



Volume 37 Number 1



Volume 37 Number 2



Volume 37 Number 3

Volume 35 #1 ~ May 2011

- Special Auction Services, UK Auctions hold the Selwyn-Smith Reference Collection auction.
- Burlington Antique Toys Proprietor Steve Balkin closes in New York City.

Volume 35 #3 ~ November 2011

- Chicago History Museum visit to peruse the Edward K Jones Toy Soldier Collection
- Joe Wallis releases revised version of Regiments of All Nations- Hard backed.
- German Toy Soldier Magazine Die Zinnlaube first issue.
- Old Toy Soldiers and Figures - 4 Decades of Toy Soldier Advertising 1900-1939 private publication by Norman Joplin.

Volume 36 #1 ~ May 2012

- Discovery of an early English Toy Soldier maker G.W. Wood and his connections to Johillco. Feature article.
- Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA auctions the K Warren Mitchell collection.
- Special Auction Services UK Auction the Shamus O.D. Wade collection.
- Richard O'Brien publishes 2nd Barclay Catalogue book.

Volume 36 #2 ~ August 2012

- Old Toy Soldier Magazine Editor appears on PBS History Detectives.
- Comprehensive Reference book on Johillco privately published in UK by Philip Dean.

Volume 36 #3 ~ November 2012

- Don Pielin releases his long awaited comprehensive book on Edward Jones Toy Soldiers.

Volume 36 #4 ~ February 2013

- Britains/ First Gear Celebrate 120th Anniversary of Britains and re-releases a new version of Set Number 1 the Life Guards.
- Heyde Hunters Book published by Tony Borges.

Volume 37 #1 ~ May 2013

- Special Auction Services UK auction the collection of Peter Flatau, well known toy dealer and proprietor of Booth at London's famous Portobello Road.

Volume 37 #3 ~ November 2013

- Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA auction the prestigious James A Henderson Collection, their largest event to date.
- Britains Paris Office Boxes article by Rob Wilson.

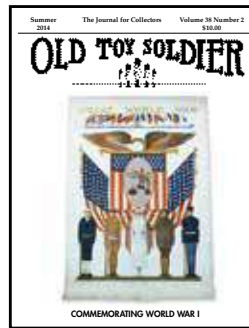
OLD TOY SOLDIER MAGAZINE SUMMARY OF EVENTS (Cont.)



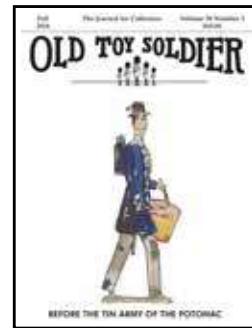
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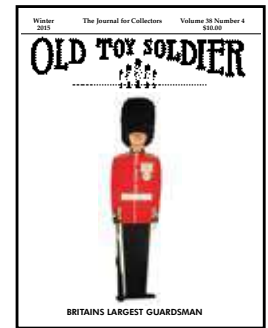
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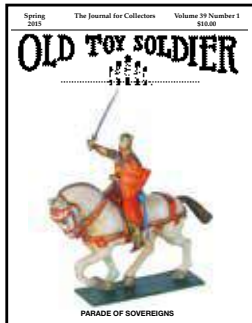
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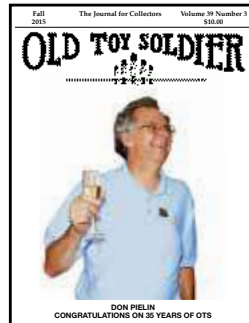
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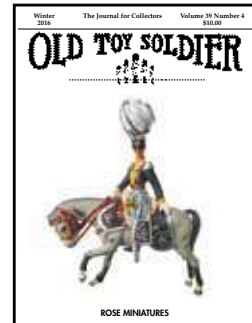
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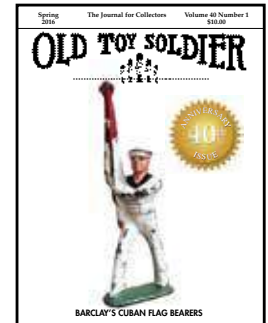
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Volume 39 Number 4



Volume 40 Number 1

Volume 37 # 4 ~ February 2014

- Discovery of possibly Britains earliest catalogue - Rob Wilson.
- The Great War Game, discovery of the original manuscript and letters from the author to Britains.

Volume 38 # 3 ~ November 2014

- First confirmed picture of Len Richards, pioneer researcher and past president of the British Model Soldier Society discovered.

Volume 39 # 2 ~ August 2015

- Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA first 3 day auction
- Old Toy Soldier magazine Feature article Britains Clyde Model Dockyard.

Volume 39 # 2 continued

- Don Pielin celebrates 35 years as Old Toy Soldier Chicago Show Chairman.
- Don Pielin retires and Roger Garfield, one of the original partners in Old Toy Soldier Newsletter takes over Chicago show. Now named CTTS'

Volume 40 #1 ~ May 2016

- Old Toy Soldier Magazine celebrates 40th year of publication.
- Stan Alekna article on the rarest Dimestore find in many years: Barclay Cuban Flag bearer.



BARCLAY'S CUBAN FLAG BEARERS

By Stan Alekna

I have confirmed the existence of Barclay's B8 Cuban flag bearer figure that Richard O'Brien listed in his Collecting American-Made TOY SOLDIERS and COLLECTING TOYS books as far back as 1985. To my knowledge, no photos of this figure have ever appeared anywhere before now. Here's how I came by this discovery.

Late last year, I was searching Ebay's on-line auctions for Dimestore soldiers which I do several times a week. I pulled up an auction of a group of eight Barclay soldiers, most in poor condition, that included a long stride, Barclay flag bearer with a pinned tin helmet, carrying what was obviously not an American flag.



First Group of Barclay Soldiers

I dismissed the figure as a repaint, of which there are hundreds on Ebay. A few days later, when I was again searching Ebay, I saw the same auction lot with the "re-painted" flag bearer, and a few listings later, I saw two more lots of Barclay soldiers being offered by the same dealer, each one with a Barclay tin helmeted flag bearer carrying what looked like the same strangely painted flag. I extracted photos from the three auctions, cropped the flag bearers out, enlarged the photos, printed them and studied them under a magnifying glass.



Barclay soldier Cuban flag bearers with tin helmets

I did not connect these figures to Richard's B8 because I did not recall that there even was a B8 but the fact that there were three of them really piqued my interest. Here's what I knew at this point:

1. Based on the location of the paint chips, I was positive that these were three different figures, not the same figure inserted and photographed in three different lots.

2. Upon careful examination of the perimeter of the chipped areas of the flags on the cropped enlargements, there were no telltale signs that the flags were overpainted i.e. there was no sign of red paint from the red striping of an American flag nor any blue paint where the blue field and stars would have been.

3. The flags were painted in the identical pattern and scheme, including the same positioning of the single white star, something that an amateur or casual re-painter would probably not think of doing. Each flag had the eagle at the tip of the pole and the cord painted with the same red paint as the red field to "hide" the fact that there was an eagle and cord there. Most American flags carried by military flag bearers have a gold eagle at the tip of the pole as well as a gold cord. A re-painter would most likely have left the American eagle and cord in gold if they were repainting an American flag. They did not appear to be repaints.

My next task was to determine if the flag represented the flag of a country or just some painter's concoction. By researching flags of all nations on my computer, I quickly found that the flag being carried by the three soldiers was Cuban, with a white, five-pointed star on a red field and blue and white stripes.



I viewed dozens of Cuban flags being carried by flag bearers on the internet, and not a single one had an eagle at the top of the pole which supported my theory that the eagle and cord had been deliberately painted red to hide them.

BARCLAY'S CUBAN FLAG BEARERS (Cont.)

I thought I had discovered a heretofore unknown, genuine, super rare, Barclay Cuban flag bearer so I immediately placed bids on all three auctions at amounts that I felt would "guarantee" that I would be the high bidder. But it was not to be. Another bidder, with a keen eye, and a better memory than mine, outbid me on all three auctions. I was dejected. All I had was the photos and no way to contact the winner to try to buy one of the flag bearers. I still did not realize that Richard had documented the existence of this figure some thirty years earlier and assigned the B8 number to it.

I kept searching for more information and located a Spring 1985 issue of Bill Lango's TOY SOLDIER REVIEW MAGAZINE that contained an article by Richard O'Brien entitled "The 10 Rarest Dimestore Soldiers". In it Richard wrote:

"Suffice it to say that such pieces as the Barclay detective in tan (I know of one), the Barclay short stride cadet painted as a wooden soldier (I know of two), and the Manoil hostess in tan (I've heard of three or four, but have never seen one) are rare, and are certainly hungered for by at least a few. Likewise, the Barclay Cuban flagbearer (none known), and the possible Manoil Cuban flagbearer."

Well that nearly clinched it although the "none known" commentary made no sense. Interestingly, neither the Manoil nor the Barclay Cuban flag bearers made Richard's list of the top 10 rarest Dimestore soldiers.

I sent the cropped photos of the three soldier flag bearers to several Dimestore experts and advanced collectors and asked for their opinion on the authenticity of the figures. The responses ranged from strong agreement that they were authentic to skepticism, yet not one of them made the connection to Richard's Barclay B8 Cuban flag bearer, probably because there was no photo of the figure in any of Richard's books or anywhere else for that matter. Bill Lango thought that they were Barclay originals and emailed me a computer link to an Ebay auction that had ended that featured a Barclay B53 sailor flag bearer carrying what looked likea Cuban flag.



Barclay sailor Cuban flag bearer

The seller of this figure was not the same person who auctioned off the three soldier Cuban flag bearers. Note that the flag is painted in the exact same motif as the soldiers' Cuban flags and that the eagle at the tip of the pole and the cord is again painted red to try to obscure these features. Back to the internet I went searching for more "Cuban" clues and I stumbled across the following listing of Barclays:

B5 "FLAG BEARER" Barclay
B6 701 Flag bearer, tin helmet, long stride Barclay
B7 701 Flag bearer, cast helmet Barclay
B8 701 Flag bearer, Cuban version Barclay
B9 702 Machine Gunner, kneeling, short stride Barclay
B10 702 Machine Gunner, kneeling, long stride Barclay

That was the first time I ever recalled seeing a B8 figure listed anywhere. I went to Richard's Edition No. 3 of Collecting American-Made TOY SOLDIERS, and there it was where it had been seen and forgotten, or just plain missed, by so many of us, for so many years. And I noted that O'Brien assigned the figure the B8 number, not B7a, which told me that he knew of it when he created his original numbering scheme. In

BARCLAY'S CUBAN FLAG BEARERS (Cont.)

his description of B8, in his 3rd edition, Richard states

“701 Flag Bearer, Cuban flag variation painted for 10 Woolworth’s in Cuba, cast helmet or pot helmet, none known....no price found”.

In his 1985 edition of Collecting Toys, Richard described B8 as

“705 Flagbearer, Cuban flag variation painted for 10 Woolworth’s in Cuba, not known if tin helmet, cast helmet or pot helmet...no price found”.

We can only speculate that one of Richard’s many Barclay contacts must have provided him with this information and that Richard never personally saw such a figure nor did he ever have of a photo of one.

Just as I was about to email this article off to Norm Joplin at OTS, I found yet another Barclay Cuban flag bearer on Ebay.



Barclay Cuban Flag Bearer with Cast Helmet

This one is a B7 with a cast helmet with the same Cuban flag as the other four but with the eagle and cord painted gold. I guess they forgot about hiding the eagle and cord on this version. I bid on and lost this auction too but the new owner sent the figure to me for authentication. It is an original cast helmet Cuban flag bearer.

I find it amazing that we had never seen a photo of any Barclay Cuban flag bearer for thirty years and now five of them appear in the last four months.

There you have it folks. It appears that someone at Woolworth’s, the top sellers of Barclay figures in the U.S., apparently thought that there might be a market for dimestore soldiers in Cuba in the late 1930’s. There was no incremental cost to test this market since no new molds had to be made. Barclay simply had the girls paint Cuban flags on what was otherwise standard B6, B7 and B53 figures and ship them off to the Woolworth stores in Cuba. Perhaps some of these Cuban flag bearers were painted and not shipped to Cuba or perhaps a few found their way back to the U.S., while this is less likely as toy soldiers would probably not be among the cherished possessions of a fleeing Cuban refugee.

Well now that we know what they look like, I wager that they will be “hungred for by more than a few”, to use Richard’s words, since we know that there are at least four soldier and one sailor Cuban flag bearers out there, somewhere.

Stan Alekna; 732 Aspen Lane; Lebanon, PA 17042.
(717)228-2361; email: salekna1936@yahoo.com

Editors Note:

Could it be that some enterprising collector has taken advantage of the relaxed travel regulations and uncovered these in Cuba?



The del Prado collection

All figures are 1/30th scale (about 2.25 inches/58mm tall*), hand-poured metal and hand painted with a matte finish to give them the realistic look of a military miniature. These items are a great value and priced to move, but some have limited quantities; they are available on a first come, first served basis. New figures and ranges are coming later in 2016 to the Del Prado Collection by History Works!

*Except where noted



SRM001 - \$19.99
*Carthaginian Cavalryman
Ancients*



SRM095 - \$9.99
*Marcus Junius Brutus
the Younger*



SAM001 - \$14.99
*General Maeda Toshiie,
Lord of Kaga*



SAM018 - \$14.99
Daimyo Mori Motonari



SME003 - \$19.99
*William The Conqueror
Medieval*



SME004 - \$9.99
*Viking Warrior, Norway 872
Medieval*



SNC019 - \$19.99
*Trooper, Brunswick Hussars,
1812, Napoleonic Cavalry*



SNC062 - \$19.99
*Prussian Leutzy Uhlán, 1815
Napoleonic Cavalry*



SNP004 - \$9.99
*Private, Coldstream Guards,
1815, Napoleonic Infantry*



SNP088 - \$9.99
*Velite, Imperial Guard, 1805
Napoleonic Infantry*



COM006 - \$19.99
*Lord Wellington
Napoleonic Leaders (90mm)*



COM034 - \$19.99
*General Louis M. Letort, 1815
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*Sergeant with Carbine,
North Carolina Cavalry
American Civil War*



GSC052 - \$9.99
*Confederate, Virginia Cavalry
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*Cherokee Indian
Wild West*



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Wild West*



NWW003 - \$9.99
*Panzer Commander
World War II (1/30th Scale)*



NWW008 - \$9.99
*Military Police, Feldgendarme,
1943, World War II (1/30th Scale)*



SOL035 - \$9.99
*Corporal Military Police,
9th Air Force, USA 1944
World War II*



SOL036 - \$9.99
*Sergeant, Airborne Troops,
UK 1944, World War II*



SOL077 - \$9.99
*Sergeant, Egyptian Camel
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W. Britain News

Dear Retailers and Collectors,

On September 20th 2005, William Britain was acquired by First Gear Inc. of Peosta, Iowa. During the decade of ownership by First Gear, the 123 year old brand has developed some of the best products the company has ever offered maintaining its place as a leader in the industry.

On February 5th of 2016, William Britain was sold to a new U.S. based company, The Good Soldier L.L.C. of Holland, Ohio. The Good Soldier L.L.C is owned by a small group of investors including John Lord Booth II, Scott & Holly Walter, Dave Youngquist and Kenneth & Ericka Osen. Each of the owners shares a passion for both history and miniatures with a mission to continue growing the W. Britain brand and W. Britain Collector's Club with a refocused energy and additional product offerings.

Certainly any change in ownership of W. Britain will generate a number of questions on the future of the brand and its products. The good news here is that any improvements you may have noticed during the past two years will continue without interruption. The current General Manager & Creative Director, Kenneth Osen will remain in that position as one of the owners, new dedicated staff members will be added and the current creative team will remain completely intact. Ken has been part of the W. Britain team since 2005 and will insure continuity of important ranges and quality.

In addition, the art of Don Troiani will continue to be serviced by W. Britain with expanded offerings and products, including limited edition sets based on Mr. Troiani's art. The first three sets will appear in the Spring catalog, followed by others in 2016.

Hudson & Allen Studio's range of scenic accessories and buildings established in 1991 and owned by Ken and Ericka Osen will also become a Good Soldier L.L.C. brand. We feel these three brands perfectly support each other in every way.

By March 1st, 2016, the entire operation will be moved to our new facility in Ohio, however during this time business continues from the First Gear location in Peosta, Iowa and we will continue to take and ship orders.

The very capable Jennifer Recker will be your contact person during this transition at her direct line: 1-563-690-1258. The staff at First Gear Inc. will work closely with us to minimize any inconvenience.

The website is being updated and will be fully operational as a separate site within days of the change of ownership.

In the meantime I can be contacted at: wbritaintoysoldiers@gmail.com and also at my First Gear address: kenosen@1st-gear.com

We value your continued support. Complete information will be sent to you very soon, thank you in advance for your patience during the transition.

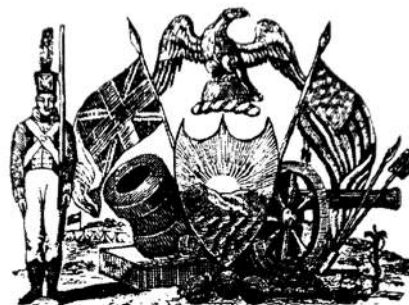
All the best,

Kenneth A. Osen
General Manager & Creative Director
W. Britain



W. BRITAINS - THE GOOD SOLDIER

As W. Britains again changes ownership, see previous page, Bluecoats and Redcoats series appears to be phasing out. Regiments, a new series, has been introduced and the following images reflect the continuing high quality Ken Osen's designs. Old Toy Soldier is grateful to Ken and Erika Osen for supplying the samples.



THE GOOD SOLDIER, LLC



10420 GEISER ROAD,
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OBITUARY ~ MARSHALL PARIS

Marshall Paris passed away Feb 11 at the age of 88. Marshall was a life long collector of Britain's toy soldiers as well as other makers. He brought to the hobby and those around him his childhood excitement and humor. Marshall frequented the toy soldier show in Chicago and auctions in London adding to his vast collection. He will be missed by many.

MARCH AS COMMANDED

A SURVEY OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY TOY SOLDIER DRILL FRAMES

By Earl Jorgensen



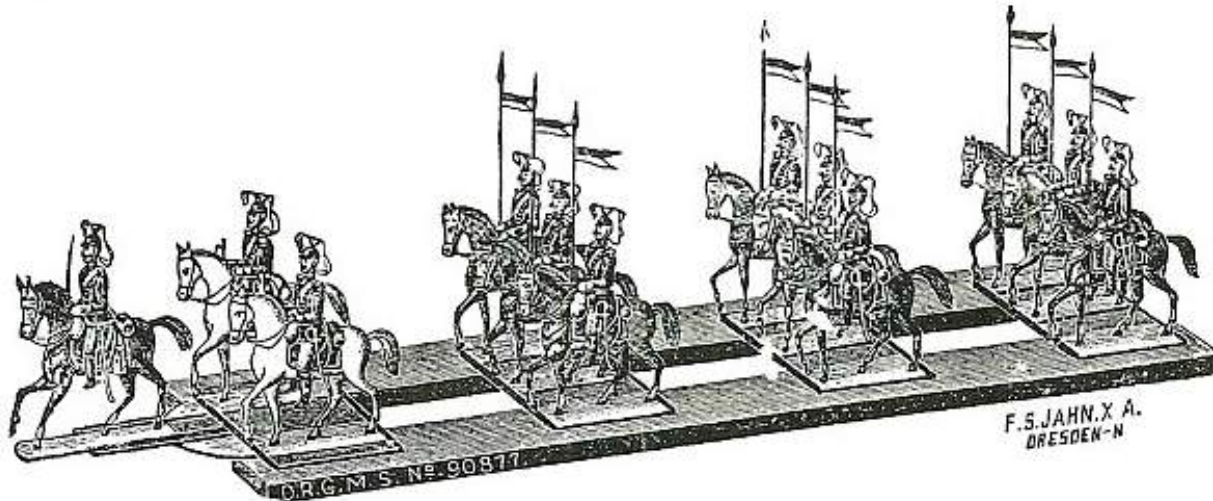
Examples of drill frame sets; (L) a "Bewegliche Soldaten" (Soldiers in Motion) set produced by the firm of Michael Wollner and (R) a Living Soldiers set distributed by L.S. Mayer & Co. (Photos by author)

What exactly is a toy soldier drill frame? A toy soldier drill frame is an appliance specifically designed to provide uniform movement to groups of lead soldiers enabling them to imitate basic military drill maneuvers. Much like the simple scissors or trellis toys of the 19th century provided the motion that allowed wooden and paper toy soldiers to perform basic marching maneuvers, the drill frame appliances of the early 20th century provided similar motion for toy soldiers cast from lead. Five such appliances are known to have been designed, patented and manufactured in Europe between the years 1902 and 1914. They were sold in special novelty toy soldier sets with imaginative titles such as Living Soldiers, Soldiers in Motion and Drilling Ground. Only a few examples of these sets are known to have survived. They are extremely rare and little known among today's collectors.



Both rare and controversial, examples of this drill frame appliance have been incorrectly attributed to the British firm of C.D. Abel. Research shows that the frame was designed and patented by an Austrian engineer named Artur Duffek. (Photo courtesy of Rob Wilson)

MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)

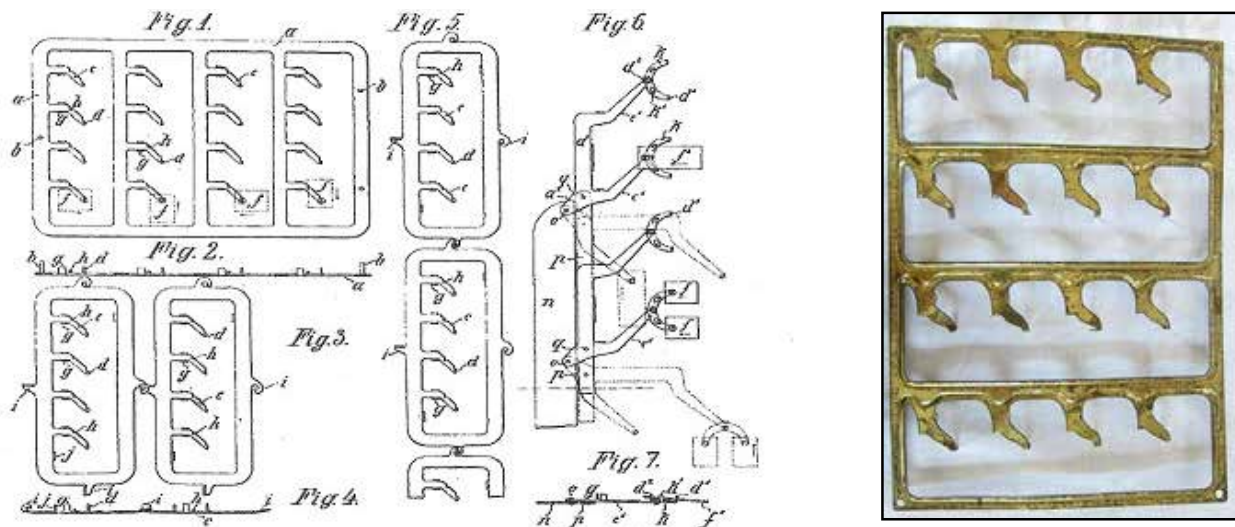


An illustration of a Heyde Drilling Ground frame found in the 1902 A.W. Gamage Ltd. Christmas Catalog.

Artur Duffek

The most prolific and influential designer of drill frame appliances was an engineer and inventor from Vienna, Austria named Artur Duffek. Although he designed two of the five known drill appliances you will not find any reference to him in toy soldier publications and the story is fascinating.

On April 25, 1902, Charles Denton Abel, a prominent London patent attorney, submitted a Great Britain patent application for an invention referred to as an "improved appliance or toy for imparting motion to objects such as toy soldiers in imitation of military movements."¹ He did so on behalf of his client, Artur Duffek. The text of the document clearly identifies C.D. Abel as an attorney representing Mr. Duffek: "I, Charles Denton Abel of Birkbeck Bank Chambers, Southampton Buildings in the county of London, Consulting Engineer and Chartered Patent Agent do hereby declare the nature of this invention (as communicated to me from abroad by Artur Duffek of VII Lindengasse, No 37, Vienna, Austria, Engineer) to be as follows."² But the patent drawings only display the name of C.D. Abel and herein lies the problem. When the original patent documents were rediscovered in the 1950's the researcher apparently did not look beyond the drawings and incorrectly concluded that C.D. Abel was the inventor of the device. Obviously this error needs to be corrected. So to set the record straight: Charles Denton Abel was a highly regarded attorney who co-founded the prestigious London legal firm of Abel & Imray which specialized in trademark and patent law. He did not invent, design or produce any toy soldier drill appliances in a factory located in London between 1898 and 1914 nor did he produce the hollow-cast British figures with the "distinctive inset brass bushing for marching machines."³ The "Abel frames" were designed and patented by Artur Duffek of Vienna and should correctly be referred to as "Duffek frames".



L) The patent illustration from the 1902 patent request submitted by C.D. Abel on behalf of Artur Duffek. Note the illustration designated as Fig.1 which depicts the first Duffek Drill Frame design as seen in the photo on the right. (Photo courtesy on Rob Wilson)

MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)

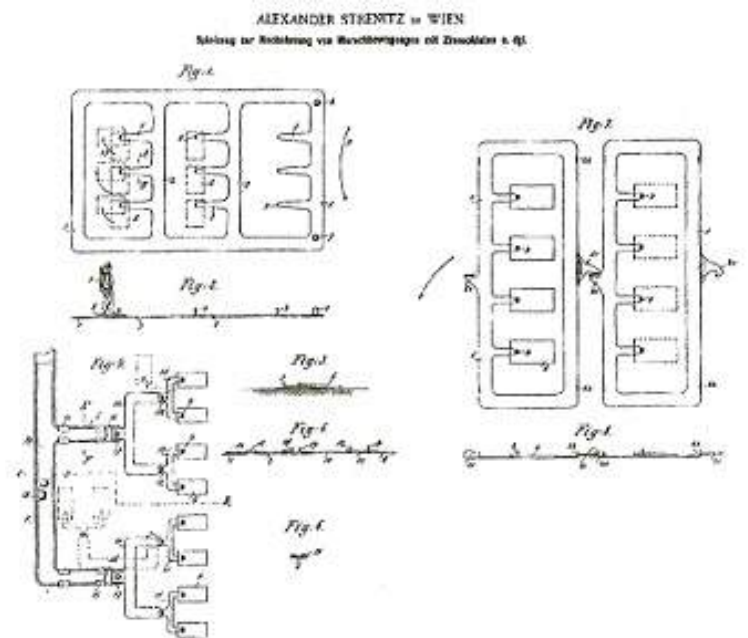


19th century scissors or trellis toys were produced in many shapes and sizes and shared the ability to make both wooden and paper toy soldiers march. They were made of thin strips of wood joined together with pivots and were set into motion by simply pushing, pulling or sliding the device over a surface. (Photo courtesy of Noel Barrett)

One may wonder why Mr. Duffek felt the need to retain such a prominent patent attorney to represent his interests for a simple toy. He was likely motivated by the fact that another resident of Vienna, Alexander Strenitz, had previously secured patents for very similar drill frame appliances in both Germany⁴ and Austria⁵ in 1899. Apparently they worked out their differences because on July 9, 1902, Alexander Strenitz submitted a patent application in the United States for “an improved appliance” with descriptions and drawings identical to those found in the Duffek 1902 patent request: “I, Alexander Strenitz, a subject of the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, residing in Vienna have invented certain new and useful improvements in appliances or toys for imparting motion to objects” but it also assigned “One half to Artur Duffek, Vienna, Austria-Hungary.”⁶ The patent application was accepted for publication in the United States on March 24, 1903.

The first Duffek drill frame design to reach production was modeled upon Fig.1 from the 1902 patent drawings ([Duffek Drill Frame Design 1](#)). The appliance consisted of a rectangular outer frame divided into four evenly spaced rows, each containing four connection tongues with the capacity to provide

motion for a maximum of sixteen figures. As described in the document the appliance was designed to provide a “means by which a number of objects such as toy soldiers, men on horseback, or the like can on moving the toy on a rough surface be made to move simultaneously upon their own axis or upon another axis and also move in straight lines....The toy is composed of thin bars provided with tongues that first project at right angles and then extend at an angle of about forty-five degrees, the extremities being adapted to carry the figures either directly or by means of suitable attaching devices....At the free end of the tongues are pins or small bent up pieces on which are mounted the figures by means of holes formed eccentrically to their bases so that the greater part of such bases rest on the supporting surface on which the frame is laid.”⁷ The request (GB19029614) was accepted for publication on November 27, 1902. Production likely started immediately upon notification. Early production quickly revealed a flaw in the basic design: the figures proved unstable and prone to tipping over.



The patent illustration from the 1899 Imperial German patent request submitted by Alexander Strenitz.

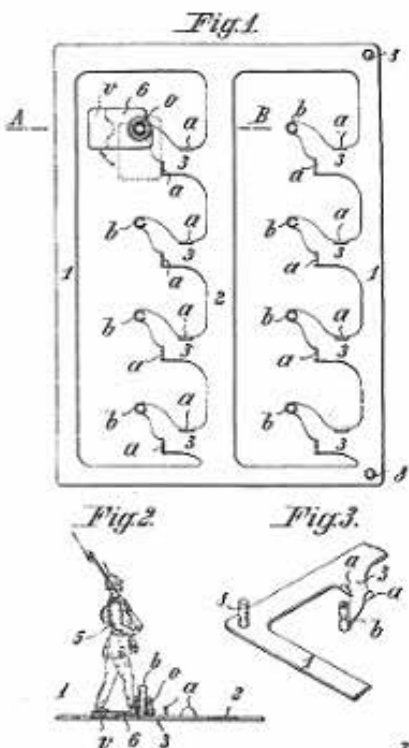
MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)



(L) A rare example of an original 1902 solid cast figure with a Duffek-designed base. The design proved unstable and an improved base design (R) was patented in 1903. Note the base conversion. (Photos courtesy of William Nutting)

ALEXANDER STRENITZ IN WIEN UND FIRMA L.S. MAYER & CO.
IN BERLIN.

Spielzeug zur Nachahmung von Marschbewegungen mit Zinnsoldaten o. dgl.



The patent illustration from the 1903 Imperial German patent request for "improvements to the appliance" which was submitted by Alexander Strenitz and the firm of L.S. Mayer and Co.

The problem was easily corrected but before the improvements could be implemented, a new patent was required. A request for improvements in the appliance for imparting motion referred to in Patent No. 9614 dated April 25, 1902 was submitted in Great Britain on March 23, 1903 by C.D. Abel, again on behalf of his client Artur Duffek. As described in the text, "The base-plates are provided instead of simple holes with eyes or tubular pieces by means of which the toy figures are mounted on the pins of the tongues of the toy-frame, said pins being also preferable formed of tubular pins. The base-plates of the toy figures are further provided on their bottom surface, which is in contact with the supporting surface, with a thickened part



An example of the improved Duffek base design in profile. (Photo courtesy of Rob Wilson)

MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)



Examples of hollow-cast figures with the modified bases patented in 1903. (Photos courtesy of Rob Wilson)

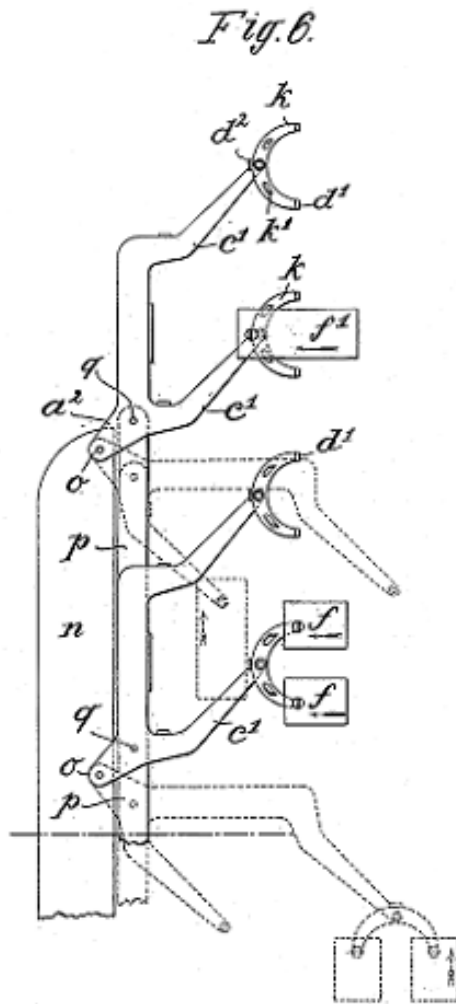
corresponding in thickness to that of the toy frame, so that the toy figures when placed perpendicularly to the supporting-surface are sliding upon the latter not only with their back edge, but with the greater part of their bottom surface.”⁸ The new patent request also contained drawings of a newly configured variation of Duffek’s original design featuring only two rows of connector tongues to provide motion to eight of the newly improved figures. The patent was accepted for publication on May 14, 1903.

Identical patent requests were also submitted in 1) France (#FR321587) on January 14, 1903 by Duffek assigning one half to Strenitz, 2) the United States (US773169A) on April 16, 1903 by Strenitz once again assigning one half to Artur Duffek and in 3) Germany (#140067) on February 23, 1903 by Strenitz and his new business partner, the firm of L.S. Mayer & Co. This newly formed partnership is of special interest. The firm of L.S. Mayer & Co was established in 1894 as a commission and export business with offices in Pforzheim, London, Paris and New York. The partnership combined the production rights for the Duffek designed drill appliances with an established international distribution system. The new German patent also extended the expiration date of the original 1899 Strenitz-Mayer patent to July 15, 1914.

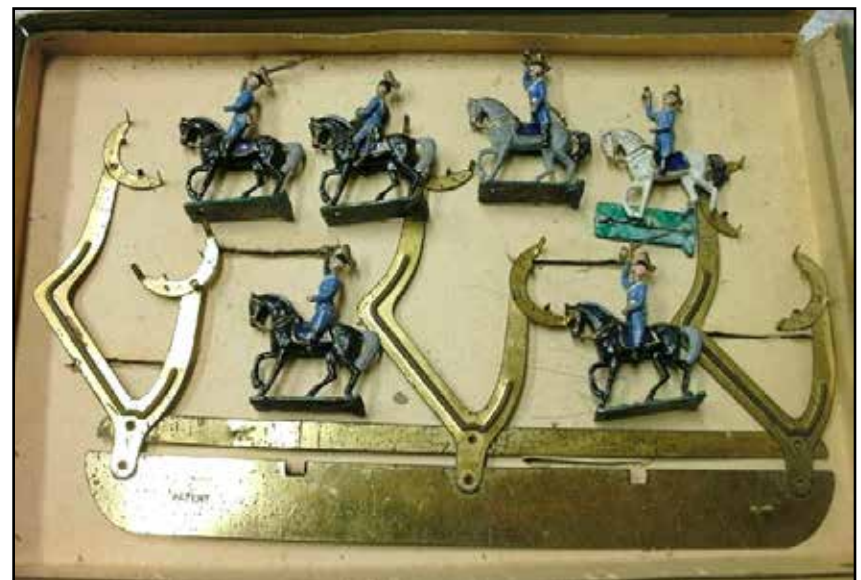


The mounted figures pictured above feature a unique base design that does not conform to any of the known patented Duffek base designs. The maker of the figures remains unidentified. (Photo courtesy of Rob Wilson)

MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)



A detailed image of Fig. 6 from the original 1902 Duffek patent request which represents the second Duffek drill frame design. It was produced in both two tongue and three tongue versions which were distributed by the firm of L.S. Mayer & Co. under the title of Living Soldiers. (Photos by author)



The second Duffek drill frame appliance (Duffek Drill Frame Design 2) was modeled upon Fig. 6 from the original 1902 Great Britain patent illustrations which Duffek described as “a plan and section of another mode of construction.”⁹ Unlike the first Duffek drill frame designs which were simply stamped from thin sheets of brass and pressed into the desired shapes by machines, the new appliance was a well-engineered mechanical device constructed out of two brass plates with multiple fingers and pivoted joints. The device was manufactured in two configurations: one with two pivoted tongues designed for four mounted or eight foot figures and the other with three tongues designed for six mounted or twelve foot figures. Based on surviving sets, the new Duffek frame was marketed under the title “Living Soldiers: March as Commanded” by the firm of L.S. Mayer. As seen in the photos, the label displays the flags of the United States, Germany and Great Britain along with an illustration of two hands manipulating a toy drill frame which does not represent the appliance contained in the set. Since there are no known surviving examples of boxed sets featuring the first Duffek frame we cannot compare the two labels but it is likely that both appliances were marketed by Mayer under the Living Soldiers title.

MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)

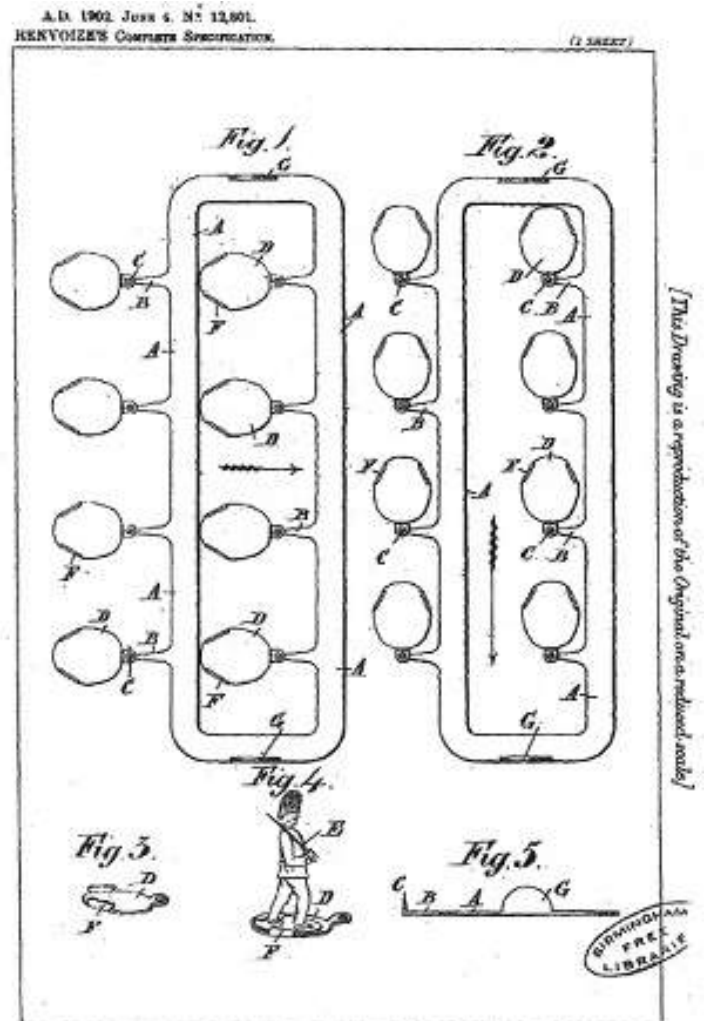


(L) An example of a Living Soldiers box label and (R) a detailed image of Living Soldiers bases. Note the L.S. Mayer trademark image.
(Photos by author)

All of the Duffek-designed figures are compatible with either drill frame design and are easily recognizable by their front-leaning stance and modified bases. Since there is no evidence linking either Duffek, Strenitz or L.S. Mayer & Co with the actual production of toy soldiers it is likely that the drill frame figures were produced by several toy soldier manufacturers under contract with the firm. This theory is supported by the fact that the overall quality of the figures varies widely from set to set.

James Renvoize

On June 4, 1902, James Renvoize, a London toy importer and manufacturer, submitted a patent request for an invention described as "an appliance for actuating or moving toy soldiers in any direction of travel, the figures adapting themselves to face the line of travel at each movement."¹⁰ No examples of this appliance are known to have survived. The only proof of its production consists of three printed references. A 1903 London business directory includes a listing which reads "Renvoize, James S Ltd. Manufacturers of English leaden toy soldiers, guns, field pieces and Drill Frames, all regiments represented. Living Soldiers is our latest production." A similar posting in 1906 informs the readers that the toy is "commanding enormous sales."¹¹ The third reference is actually a description of figures incorrectly attributed to the firm of C.D. Abel as "a small collection of 45mm. hollow-cast models of poor quality with bases which could be inserted into trays."¹² It is uncertain whether Renvoize actually produced figures or if he simply "arranged for the production of hollow-cast figures by his German suppliers."¹³



MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)



(L) An illustration of a Heyde Drilling Ground Company of Infantry found in the 1902 A.W. Gamage Ltd. Christmas Catalog and (R) a Reed Royal Guards scissors toy. Note the frame similarities. (Photo courtesy of Noel Barrett)

Based on the patent drawings the Renvoize design (Renvoize Drill Frame) consisted of two bars, each supporting four equally spaced connector tongues extending back at ninety degree angles. The oval-based figures were secured by tabs to metal sleds which were then connected by pivots to the connector tongues. Once connected, “the soldiers may be made to move in twos, in columns, echelon order, or to perform the evolution of wheeling.”¹⁴

Georg Heyde

The drill appliance produced by the firm of Georg Heyde & Co. also presents a unique research challenge: the original Imperial German patent filed by Georg Heyde no longer exists. It is believed to have been destroyed during the Allied bombing raids of WW2. Only a few examples of the Heyde drill frame are known to have survived and the only known printed description is an illustrated listing found in the 1902 A.W. Gamage Ltd. Christmas Catalog. According to the description the Heyde Drill Frame was marketed under the title Drilling Ground and described as “an automatic arrangement which enables the soldiers to be placed at about any angle.”¹⁵ The Drilling Ground set was produced in two variations: 1) a complete twenty-three piece company of infantry consisting of “nineteen men, two drummers, one officer mounted and one dismounted” or 2) a complete twelve piece company of cavalry consisting of nine lancers, one officer and two buglers.”¹⁶ Based on the accompanying illustration it appears that the Heyde design was simply an updated version of a basic 19th century scissors toy utilizing early 20th century technology and materials.

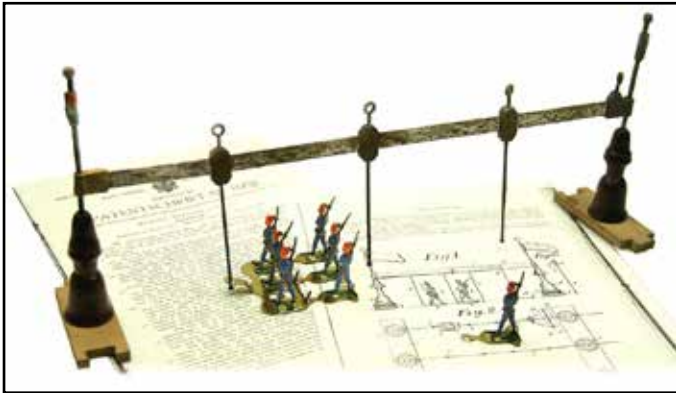


Rare photos of a Heyde Drilling Ground Company of Infantry set.
(Photos used with the permission of Blogger Kevin [Guns N Soldiers] www.tintoytrains.com)

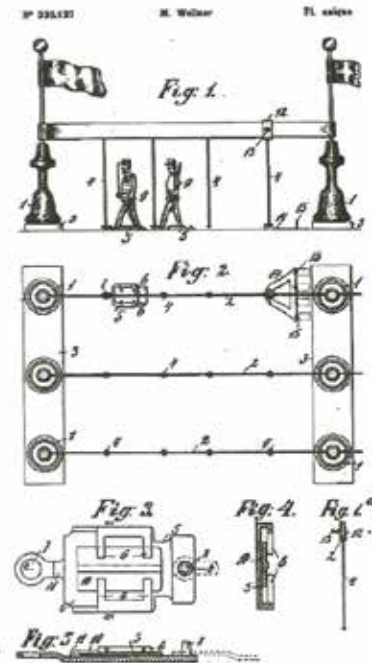
MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)



(R) A “Bewegliche Soldaten” box label. (Photo by author)



An example of the flexible frame design introduced by Michael Wollner in 1904. (Photo courtesy of Robert Lonsing)



The patent illustration from the 1904 French patent request submitted by Michael Wollner. Note the sled detail in Fig.3.

Michael Wollner

On July 16, 1903, Michael Wollner of Vienna submitted a patent request to the Austrian Imperial Patent Office for a device described as a “toy frame made of horizontal bars associated with rotatable figures”¹⁷ which was approved on December 1, 1903 “in Austria and most of the States.”¹⁸ A second patent request with minor design modifications was submitted in France on November 14, 1903. The Wollner Drill Appliance bore little resemblance to the previously described drill frame designs and provided several distinct advantages: 1) it did not require modifications to figure bases, 2) it could accommodate figures in a variety of scale sizes, and 3) its carrying capacity was not restricted by the dimensions of a physical frame so it could provide motion to a theoretically unlimited number of figures. The sets were marketed under the title “Bewegliche Soldaten” (Soldiers in Motion). Commercial production of the sets is believed to have started in 1904.



A boxed set of Wollner Soldiers in Motion. (Photo by author)



A demonstration of Wollner figure sizes. (Photo courtesy of Robert Lonsing)

MARCH AS COMMANDED (Cont.)



A demonstration of the Wollner drill frame appliance.
(Photo courtesy of Robert Lonsing)



A rare example of a Wollner drill frame boxed set.
(Photo courtesy of Robert Lonsing)

As seen in the photos, the Wollner appliance design replaced the previously described connector tongues with an ingenious system of interconnecting brass plates/sleds which were produced in three styles: 1) for individual figures, 2) for one or two mounted figures which was available in two sizes, and 3) for three foot or two mounted figures side by side. Each plate/sled had a front connector hole and one or more connection tabs at the rear. Individual figures were secured on the plates/sleds by tabs and set in motion with a brass rod with a ring which connected to the first plate/sled. As seen in the accompanying photos, motion was provided for the smaller, less expensive sets by simply pulling the brass rod by hand while the larger, more expensive sets provided a flexible frame constructed from a bar and two towers. Wollner drill appliance sets included representations of infantry, cavalry and navy which were offered in four sizes ranging from 40mm. to 55mm. in scale.

I would like to thank the following individuals for their invaluable assistance in gathering the information for this article: Noel Barrett, Rich Bertoia (Bertoia Auctions), Gisbert Freber, Guns N Soldiers blog (www.tintoytrains.com), Michael Henry, Norman Joplin, Robert Lonsing, William Nutting, Bernhard Schwarz (www.zinnfiguren-bleifiguren.com), Steve Sommers and Rob Wilson.

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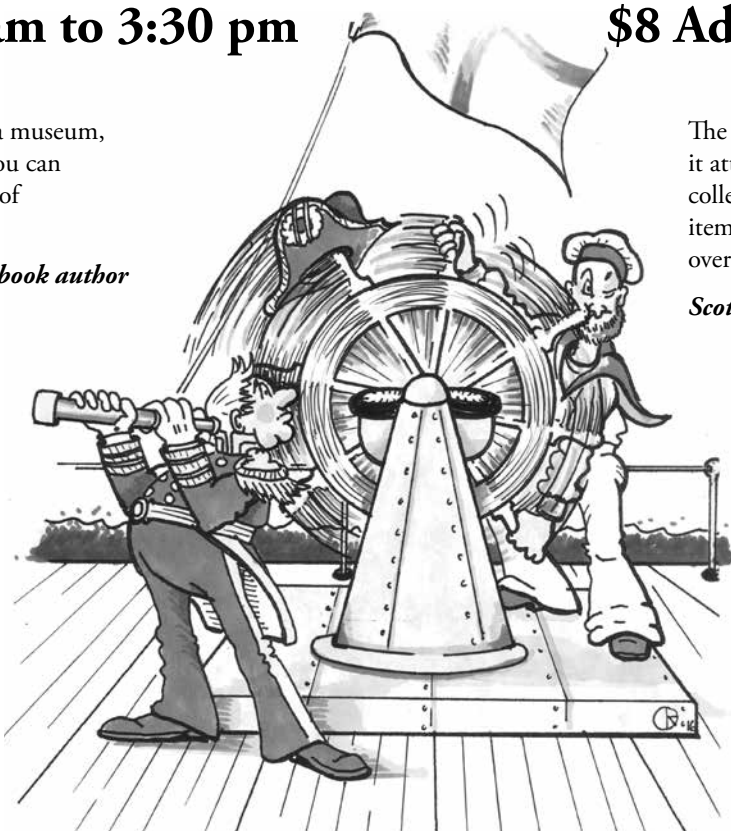
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SHOW REPORT

CALIFORNIA'S WEST COASTER 2016

By Noel Schlageter & Scott Morlan

Craig McClain & Woody Lambirth again put on a stellar affair at California's 2016 West Coaster Toy Soldier Show. Room trading activity, 48 rooms strong, was brisk, spanning Thursday through Saturday, & the hospitality suite on Saturday afternoon offered heaps of scrumptious food & live music. One 9 year old showed up Wednesday excitedly gripping his W.C. reminder postcard, and, when asked if he'd come back Sunday, gave an emphatic "Yes I will!" Sunday morning a long line formed awaiting Woody's bagpiping to begin the flood of shoppers descending on the 58 vendors on 170 tables laden with new & old metal, plastic & composition soldiers of all sorts. Again this year, Andy Neilson's King & Country provided custom fabric shopping bags, Ted Deddens of Britains Ltd. had a figure for every patron at the gate, & Jim Spellmire sculpted the 2016 West Coaster figure. Dealers Gene Abravaya of Paragon, Gerald Prime of Frontline, Mike O'Donnell of Nostalgia Toys & Craig McClain's Old Toy Soldier Home provided door prizes. With notably more youngsters in attendance this year, young Xavier Chang won the grand prize, a Star Wars Millennial Falcon, which was almost as big as him! All week there existed a more robust buzz of electricity than in 2015. Sunday's gate was up, the ballroom was full all day & most everyone's bags were brimming with treasures by day's end.

I was personally enchanted by 2 items from a plethora of sets & items on offer; Mark Young snapped up a huge 12 cm Heyde crawling Arab with jezail, circa 1905. Andres Flores, a young man in his early 20's from Greeley, Colorado, had fabulous dioramas on offer, most notably a mammoth creation of East End London during the Blitz featuring working lights & dry ice generating smoke from the building ruins.

Post-show Woody Lambirth intimated that a novice to the hobby had asked "Why Collect? What is the draw & the insatiable attraction all about?" Woody's response is that he personally is honoring his heroes & ancestors in collecting, & that for his entire life these were more than just simple plastic & leaden figures. Indeed, this is his great-great grandfather fighting his way up to those Seccessionists on top of Lookout Mountain, or his great granddad in Britains Sussex regiment attacking the Boers. Closer still to his heart was his Uncle Ken at Battle of the Bulge, or Uncle Earl in Tarawa, or his Dad at Suribachi fighting the Japanese. As a child he relived the stories he heard, & now he cherishes the memories of those heroes. It is an apt tie-in to the magic of the West Coaster toy soldier show. We anticipate finding that special treasure and we revel in the comraderie of old friendships renewed year after year.



Bob and Judi Ann O'Connell



Mr. and Mrs. Roy Easton

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



Show organizer Woody Lambrith (right)



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Michael O'Donnell and a happy customer



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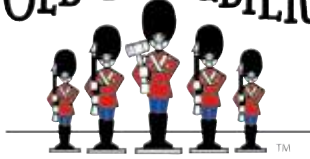
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AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



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Heyde Large size Camel and rider



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Britains Jaipur Kettle Drummer

ANOTHER BRITAIN'S UNCATALOGUED SET AND SETTLING A LONG RUNNING MYSTERY

By Rob Wilson

Just over a decade ago I spotted an unusual looking set on eBay. It comprised 6 Britain's White Jackets, running at the trail accompanied by a Petty Officer, but (and this is what had caught my eye!) also wearing a white jacket rather than the usual dark blue. The figures were all in what appeared to be mint condition. The standard set #80 normally included an officer dressed in a navy blue blazer, plus 7 ratings wearing white jackets. My first impression was that the officer had probably been repainted, but closer inspection of the set of large, good quality images provided by the vendor showed no obvious sign of overpainting. The US based vendor was also selling various other Britain's items, in similar condition, all dating from around 1940. This was a period when Britain's were still trying to keep up their export trade. I decided to have a modest punt and eventually secured the lot for \$20 per figure.

When the package appeared I was delighted to find that the Petty Officer was not a repaint nor retouched but an original Britain's paint finish, perfectly matched to his squad. I thought it might possibly be a special order, or maybe a Friday factory job when they need to get something out quickly. In any event it was a "keeper" that went into my personal collection classified under amongst the other oddities and unidentified figures. I just needed to find another matching rating to complete the set; easier said than done of course!

Flash forward to the spring of this year. While surfing on eBay I spotted the set that is the main focus of this article and illustrated in the accompanying images. On sale from a UK based, general antiques dealer, it was not very well described or illustrated. Further communication with the vendor lead me to think that it was worth going for. I was obviously not the only one to have spotted it. Subsequent correspondence with Joe Wallis confirmed it had not escaped his eagle eye. Joe had decided not to go bid on it. Despite some competition from another would be buyer, I managed to secure the lot for (what seemed to me at least) a very reasonable price. It appeared to contain exactly the same 7 piece set I had acquired a decade, earlier including the very same white coated officer, (plus two other sets, each of 7 figures).

When the package arrived I opened it up with some trepidation, but was delighted to find a set of 21

figures, all in mint condition, and contained in a very nice Armies of the World box, with tie card for 3 rows of 7 figures. The contents included 3 "short" sets, including:

- Set no. 80 White Jackets running at the trail, with Petty Officer in a white blazer;
- Set no. 1510 Sailors in Regulation Dress, marching empty handed; and
- Set no. 240 Royal Air Force, in side caps.

Each row was like the standard Britain's set, but short of one figure.

Set 80 "White Jackets" was first introduced in the oval based version in 1897, initially running at the slope. The square based variant was introduced in 1910, by which time the ratings were carrying their rifles at the trail. Embossed base versions were introduced in 1933 and continued up until 1941. In all cases the officer accompanying the ratings wore a Royal Navy blue blazer. It was not reissued after WW II.

The standard set 1510 "Sailors in Regulation Dress" was a much later addition to the Britain's range, comprising 8 ratings, marching empty handed, wearing dark blue uniforms, with bell bottomed trousers. There was no officer. It was first introduced in 1937, and produced through to 1941. The post war variant (produced 1946-1959) was virtually indistinguishable. James Opie, in his *Great Book of Britains*, (page 305, picture 517) shows pre-war versions with a white top to the hat comparing this with the second version with a blue top to the hat that was used on the 1946-1959 issue.

Set 240 "Royal Air Force" was introduced in 1926, the 8 figures wearing a peak cap were virtual identical with 1 or 2 given badges of rank on their sleeves and neck ties. Opie (*op cit.* page 211) page 337 refers to the figures with collar and tie Officers. In 1940 the set was updated to include the figure in short coat and side cap used in the US Air Force sets, but painted in RAF blue rather than the olive green /khaki uniforms used for the US types. The set ended in 1941 and did not appear post WW II.

The paint finish and the box all suggest the display set was a very late pre WW II production (1940 or 1941). Unfortunately the main Armies of the World box label is generic, with no distinguishing marks. If there ever

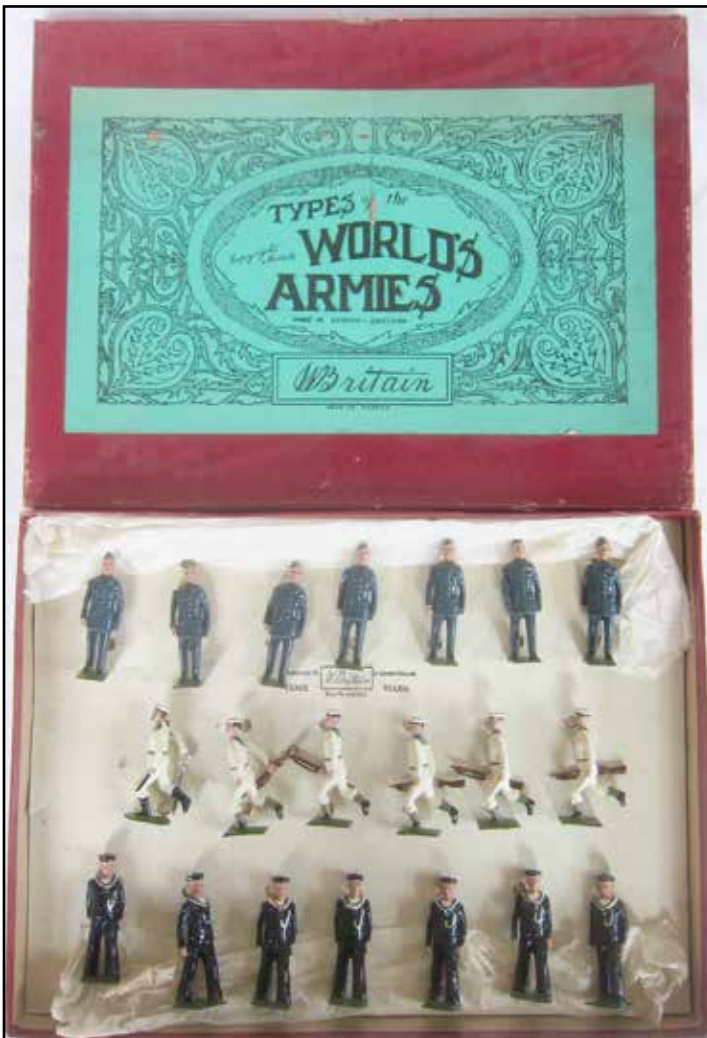
ANOTHER BRITAIN'S UNCATALOGUED SET AND SETTLING A LONG RUNNING MYSTERY *(Cont.)*

was a side label containing more detailed description of the contents, it has long since disappeared. Close inspection suggest that one may never have been attached.

Subsequent correspondence with Joe Wallis, confirmed that he had not seen such a set previously, and that it does not appear in the Factory Records. So, it remains a mystery, possibly a special order for one of the big Department stores such as Hamleys or Gamages. There are many other examples known of special combinations made for UK, US and other countries' retail /wholesale distributors. Sometimes these boxes have end labels giving a more detailed description, but often there is none.

As this three row display set was not tied in we cannot be certain that the contents were as originally sold, but the provenance suggest that it has not been through the hands of any collectors, but came directly from the household who bought it as a childhood toy. The existing composition is somewhat odd, comprising two navy sets and the RAF. One might have thought a set including the Army to represent all three services would have been popular. But we may never know.

If any other reader knows more or has seen similar sets please contact the author at:
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Picture 1: Britain's uncatalogued three row display set 1940/1941



Picture 2: The Petty Officer in whites

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THOUGHTS ON REPAIRED DIMESTORES

By Roger Dubois

During the past twenty-five years or so, I've bought hundreds of Dimestores in fair to poor condition with the intent of converting them. Because of condition, the costs of these pieces were low, and in turn, I hardly spent time examining them before making purchases. It was only at home when ready to convert did I scrutinize each one of them.

Most of the time inspections reveal nothing of significance. Now and then, a figure comes apart at a joint where it was once mended; in such instances, it appears that the adhering property of a bonding agent that kept the figure intact deteriorated with the passage of time. In a number of cases, the reason why a figure broke in the first place is because a manufacturer produced a thin-wall casting that made it easy to break. Some casting walls are so thin that pressure applied by a fingernail can penetrate them.

Using epoxy putty, brass rods, and epoxy glue, I restore these damaged pieces and then move on to convert them. But a few years ago, I decided to keep some of these figures that had come apart in my hands and not restore them, at least not for a while. I became fascinated by the materials used to mend these Dimestores and by the fact that someone took time to mend what were once inexpensive toys.

After having studied four repaired pieces that I view as interesting, I would like to share my thoughts with you regarding what I've taken away from these rehabbed figures that came undone in my hands.

In the following descriptions of the damaged figures, there are brackets that enclose manufacturers' identification numbers followed by dates as to when figure types were first produced. These numbers and dates were taken from Richard O'Brien's 1997 book on "Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers".

Breakage In The Leg Area:

Based on my experience, figures frequently break near an ankle or knee. In Photo 1, which shows Barclay Sharpshooters, Prone Position (751, by 1937), the figure on the right has had its right foot repaired. Somehow the foot broke from the ankle, but along the way it was skillfully restored.



Photo 1. Two Barclay Sharpshooters in prone position.



Photo 2. Barclay Sharpshooter with broken foot.

Repair work appears to have begun by someone cutting off the head of a medium-size woodscrew (Photo 2), bending the tip sideways, and gluing the shaft to the inside wall of the leg cavity. After the glue dried and using what appears to be epoxy putty, a foot was fashion around the bent screw-tip and then painted red.

THOUGHTS ON REPAIRED DIMESTORES *(Cont.)*

Whoever did the work did a professional job; the person even sculpted a heel for the shoe. All in all, it took the repairer a bit of time to mend this figure. This was not a quick fix. And chances are the foot was rebuilt before the rifle broke (Photo 1) and when there was more paint on the figure, otherwise, why spend such effort on a figure in poor condition?

The left figure in Photo 1 came apart at the knee, and in turn, a novel repair was implemented to restore it. As seen in Photo 3, a bobby pin was glued inside the thigh cavity; then the head of the pin was glued to the rest of the leg below the knee. Presto, job done.



Photo 3. Barclay Sharpshooter with broken leg.

Origin Of Thin-Wall Castings:

Before describing the restoration of two broken thin-wall castings, I'd like to offer my thoughts on how thin-wall castings might have been manufactured.

How castings were made at Barclay is clearly described by Richard O'Brien in an OTSN article (v. 8, n. 4, 1984): "With the slush molds, generally only one mold was made for a figure, and one man could cast up to five gross a day. Every three or four castings the mold would have to be dipped in water, or the mold would become so hot the lead would pour right out again, making the soldier too thinly fragile, if not completely nonexistent." He goes on to add ("Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers", p. 62, 1997) that "... about 1940, injection molds came into full use. With these, the piston would push lead up into the automatically water-cooled mold and then suck most of it back

out." (I'm assuming that Manoil used these same casting techniques at about the same time.)

And so it appears that the third or fourth casting of a particular type of figure could have been a thin-wall Dimestore, but not so thin that it could not have been painted and sold. Thousands of these thin-wall figures must have been sold before the water-cooled casting process began around 1940; thereafter, thin-wall castings should have been eliminated.

Breakage of Thin-Wall Castings:

The Manoil Machine Gunner (12, by 1940) in Photo 4 was manufactured with a thin wall. The figure broke just below both hands, thereby separating the body from the machine-gun (Photo 5). For this figure as well as for the following figure to be described, the wall thickness around the broken edges is less than 0.03 of an inch (0.76 mm).



Photo 4. Manoil Machine Gunner with crack running through arm.



Photo 5. Manoil Machine Gunner patched with a Popsicle stick and wood putty.

THOUGHTS ON REPAIRED DIMESTORES *(Cont.)*

The Manoil was rehabbed by filling in the body and machine-gun with wood putty that dried a yellow ochre color, like the color of Plastic Wood that I recall seeing on my father's workbench in the late 1940s. A Popsicle stick was inserted all the way into the gun; then the body was slid across the stick to join with the gun. I suspect the piece was set aside until the wood putty hardened around the stick and the casting. This job was a quick and inexpensive way of repairing a Dimestore.



Photo 6. Barclay Machine Gunner.

Finally comes the Barclay Machine Gunner (728, 1936) seen in Photo 6. It has a fascinating repair job. This figure quickly came apart in two places: at the machine-gun grip and at the waist.



Photo 7. Barclay Machine Gunner with broken gun.

When I was inspecting this figure, it was the machine-gun that came apart first (Photo 7). It became clear how this part had been repaired: one end of a piece of wood was whittled into the shape of the gun cavity while the other end was whittled to fit the gunstock. Once shaping was completed, glue was applied to the wood that was then slid into the gun barrel and the gunstock, thereby reuniting the body with the gun.

With the machine-gun set aside on my workbench, I continued to examine the rest of the piece. It wasn't long before the figure came apart at the waist. Slowly, I slid the legs away from the torso and discovered (Photos 8-9) that the restorer had filled the body cavity with a bundle of small round pieces of wood. It appears that the pieces of wood were carefully selected and/or whittled so that when glued together, they tightly filled much of the figure cavity. The bundle was then glued in the cavity. This work must have taken some time to complete as well as required a great deal of patience.



Photo 8. Barclay Machine Gunner broken at the waist.



Photo 9. A bundle of sticks that tightly fits into the torso cavity.

How Were The Figures Broken?

How the foot broke from the Barclay figure is difficult to say because the original foot is missing. But for the remaining three castings, it appears that the pieces snapped at the point of breakage; the thin edges are irregular where failure occurred, but the broken pieces fit perfectly when joined together (Photos 1, 4, 6). The two figures with thin walls show no metal bent into a cavity as would have happened if an object – like a fingernail – had been pushed through.

THOUGHTS ON REPAIRED DIMESTORES *(Cont.)*

At the time of breakage, I suspect that each figure sat on top of an object – like a Lincoln Log – that was resting on a floor or the ground; part of a figure extended into midair. Then someone stepped on it, and a figure snapped into pieces.

When Were Figures Repaired?

This is very difficult to say. There is no direct evidence that shows when any one of the damaged Dimestores was repaired. Therefore, what follows is my best effort to explain when the figures might have been restored.

I believe the Dimestores were repaired within the time range beginning around the late 1930s and extending into the early 1950s so as to put smiles on children's faces during the passage of some difficult times. Throughout the course of the 1930s' Depression, money was tight for many people, and so if something broke, there was a strong tendency to fix it; that would have included toys.

After World War II began in earnest, money was less tight, but many consumer goods, such as Dimestores, disappeared from store shelves as metal, rubber, and other raw materials were diverted to the war effort. Although Dimestores reappeared shortly after the end of the war, I suspect that the cultural habit of repairing broken items, including those that were inexpensive, carried into the early 1950s. (This was the case in my family; as I recall, rarely was anything thrown away during the 40s and into the early 50s. By the late 1950s, however, inexpensive broken items were regularly discarded.)

Excluding epoxy putty, the commercial materials employed to repair the figures would have been available starting at least by the early 1940s. Online research reveals that the production of Popsicles began in the 1920s, and so their sticks would have been accessible during the 30s and thereafter. And in regards to wood putty, I have a "Life" magazine dated April 12, 1943, that shows a small ad for Plastic Wood. Woodscrews and bobby pins (popular in the 1920s) were also available when Dimestores were being manufactured.

I would venture to say that from about the mid-to-late 1950s through the mid 1970s, the number of Dimestores that were repaired was relatively small. I can't see a reason why people would have

wanted to fix them; most kids weren't playing with Dimestores any longer (plastic was in), and I don't believe that there were many people collecting them.

Moving forward, it's my understanding that collectors started acquiring Dimestores in earnest beginning in the late 1970s. From that time onward, some people have collected figures that rate from good to mint while others have acquired Dimestores in need of repair. I suspect that collectors who have repaired Dimestores for themselves or for other collectors have done so using more modern and more costly materials such as epoxy putty, metal rods, and epoxy glue instead of bobby pins, wood putty, Popsicle sticks, and twigs.

It is likely that the work done to sculpt a foot from putty was undertaken during more recent times, say the 1980s. Epoxy putty was available during this time. (Online research reveals that the Milliput company, maker of epoxy putty, was established in 1968.) The craftsman who skillfully repaired the broken foot could have done so to please a child or to add the Barclay to someone's collection. Then along the way, the rifle broke; in time, the figure was tossed in a box with other figures in poor condition where it rattled around losing paint before being sold to me.

Concluding Thoughts:

Relying on some research, bits of evidence, and followed by some deductive reasoning, I believe that at least three of the four Dimestores described in this article were repaired long ago, and that they in turn give us some hints of what was happening during those days when these figures were made and restored. Thin-wall figures can be seen as products of a manufacturing technology that at times yielded less than satisfactory castings during the early years of Dimestore production. And the repair jobs give us a glimpse of the restorers' creativity, mending materials, and some cultural values from bygone years.

From this sample of only four pieces, there is a relatively broad variety of ordinary materials that were used to mend the figures: a headless woodscrew, wooden peg, bobby pin, Popsicle stick, wood putty, a small bundle of twigs, and glue. Makes one wonder what other common items were cleverly used to repair Dimestores long ago.

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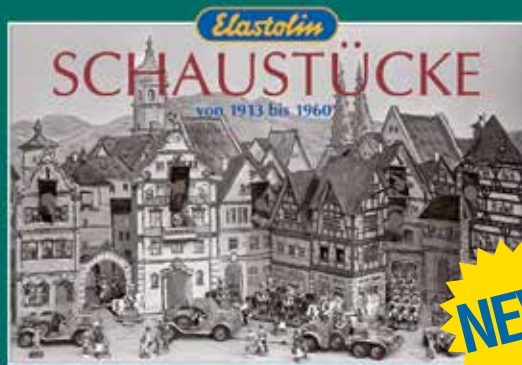
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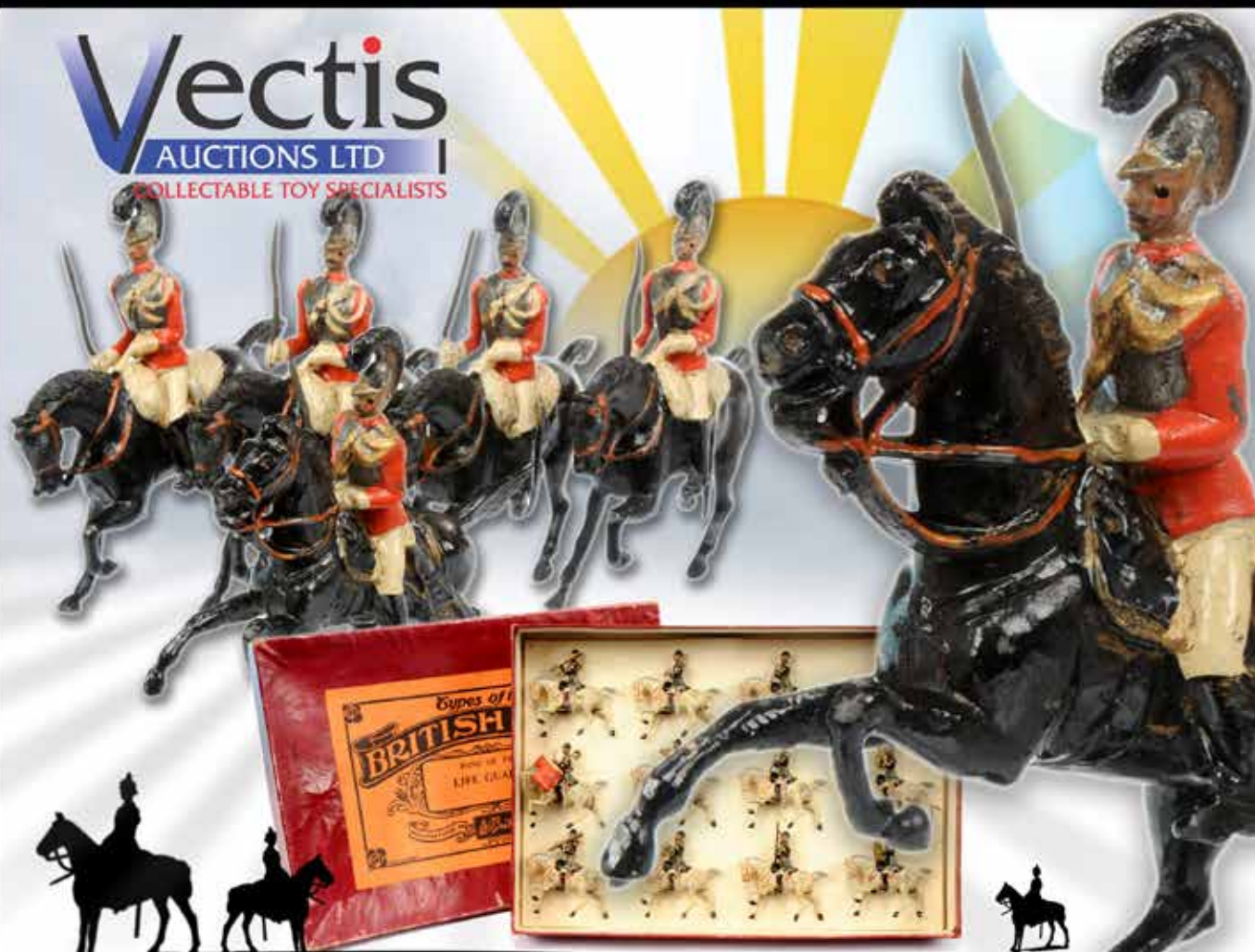
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A number of regiments appear in different forms, e.g. both review order and foreign service order, or on different horses than usual, or with different weapons. Such departures from the norm added variety to the overall group, and nicely complemented their standard versions. The date given below each figure indicates when that figure was first introduced, and when it would have been removed from production.

Included on the bottom row, in addition to the Field Marshal found in some of the larger display sets, are seven examples of Britains' small size figures, the "B series". These figures are of 48mm size, rather than the standard 54mm, and were issued in that quality point style. They were produced from 1890-1914.



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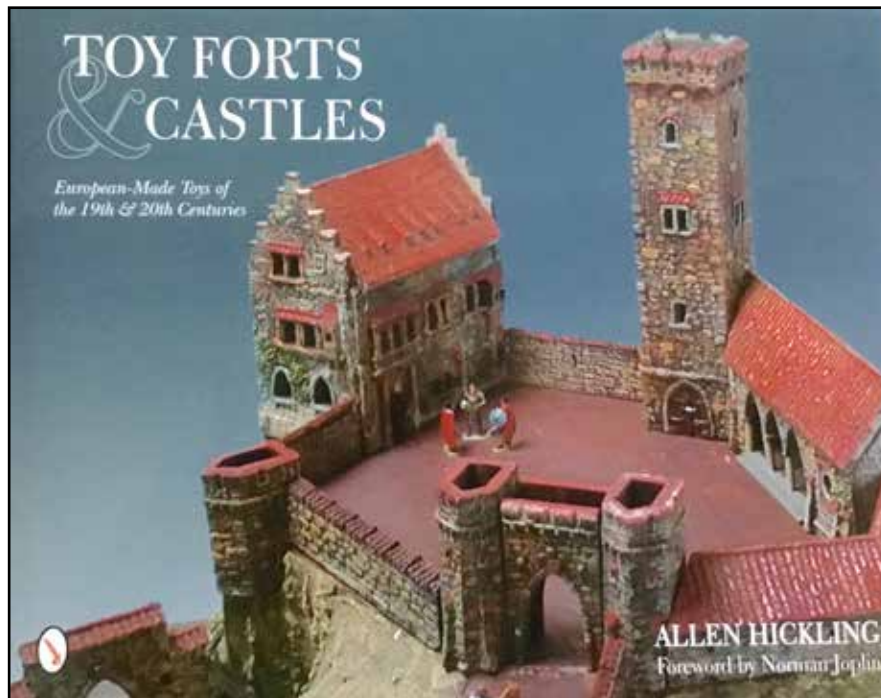
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BOOK REVIEW

Toy Forts & Castles

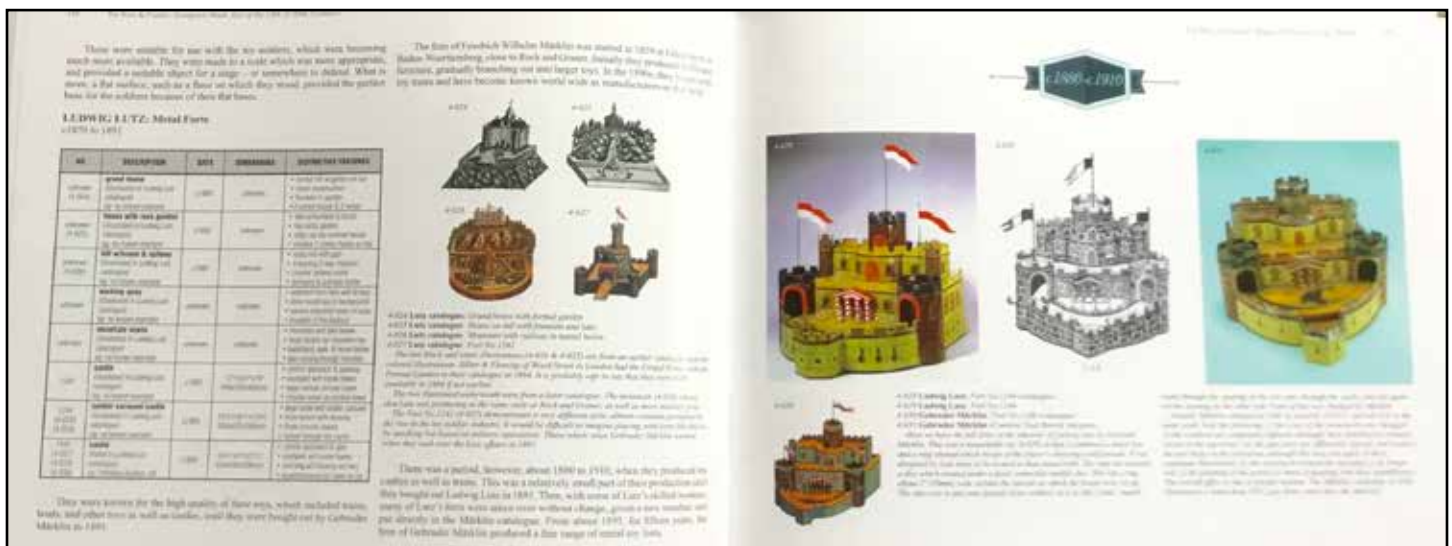
By Allen Hickling

Reviewed By Russ Bednarek



Toy castles and toy soldiers share a very parallel history in many regards. Excluding flat figures, whose origins may be traced to the late 1700's, toy soldiers and toy castles started to be commercially produced by 1870. At this time the Germans dominated the toy industry and consistently pushed the boundaries of technical innovation regarding production techniques and materials. The commercial evolution toy soldiers and toy castles mirror each other when we examine how

they were made and what materials were used. Toy soldiers were first solid cast, then hollow cast. Toy castles were made of wood, then metal. Metal was the material of choice for toy soldiers, but figures were also made of composition, aluminum, plaster and various types of plastic. Castles evolved along similar lines as tin, composition, Masonite and finally plastic were utilized. In each case, the manufacturers were constantly pursuing the most effective, efficient and profitable methods to produce



BOOK REVIEW (Cont.)

and market their product. The number of toy soldier books continues to grow covering almost every imaginable aspect of the hobby. Curiously enough there has not been one book written exploring the world of toy castles and forts.

Allen Hickling has written the first book examining the history of European toy fort and castle production. An architect by trade, Mr. Hickling has spent over thirty years collecting, examining and researching toy forts and castles of European production. Through the years Mr. Hickling has written fifteen articles that have appeared in various issues of *Old Toy Soldier*, in addition to other publications. Mr. Hickling's book *Toy Castles & Forts* is the result of five years of work. This book demonstrates his expertise regarding the subject and provides a wealth of information to the reader.

Six of the eight chapters in *Toy Castles & Forts* deal specifically with the commercial manufacturers of Germany, Great Britain, France, Belgium and Denmark. Each chapter follows the same informative format; a chronological examination of production and the materials utilized during specific periods of time. The informative text is supported with numerous charts providing essential information for each type of structure. These charts provide the reader with the following data as they pertain to each fort; Serial Number, Description, Date, Dimensions and Distinctive Features. To further enhance the reader's knowledge, current color photographs and extensive use of original catalogue black/white line drawings are utilized. When available, original catalogue photographs are also provided.

I found Mr. Hickling's text refreshing as it is not just a litany of facts and figures, but delves into the marketing and production strategy of the makers during different periods of time. Regardless of the manufacturer's nationality, they all faced periods of economic depression, recession or armed conflict and Mr. Hickling does an excellent job of explaining the strategies employed to lift each company out from their economic woes. One example of this is the German firm Gottschalk. After World War I and surviving the rampant inflation in Germany in 1922-

23, they realized that growth and development was essential for them to not only maintain but to increase their market position. Hickling discusses the Gottschalk's strategy of reverting to where they were prior to the War, but also how and what they did to improve their new product.

Mr. Hickling devotes three chapters to German makers, one each for the manufacturing giants Moritz Gottschalk and the Hausser brothers, with the final chapter being devoted to other German makers. Two chapters examine the makers from Great Britain. The Three Lines Brothers, (Tri-ang), have their own chapter while the rest of British makers are discussed in a separate chapter. The final chapter of manufacturers discusses the work created in France, Belgium and Denmark.

Given the long history of toy castle production it is surprising that it has taken this long for a book to be written on the subject. The combination of pictures and text provide a groundbreaking insightful examination of toy castle production for collectors. The hardback with dust jacket edition is another example of the high quality publication one comes to expect from Schiffer Publications. Contained within the 340 glossy pages are 772 color photographs that effectively enhance the story of toy castle production. *Toy Forts & Castles* is indispensable for anyone with an interest in the genre. Mr. Hickling is to be commended for providing collectors and those wishing to further explore the history of toy forts and castles with a solid bedrock of information for further research.

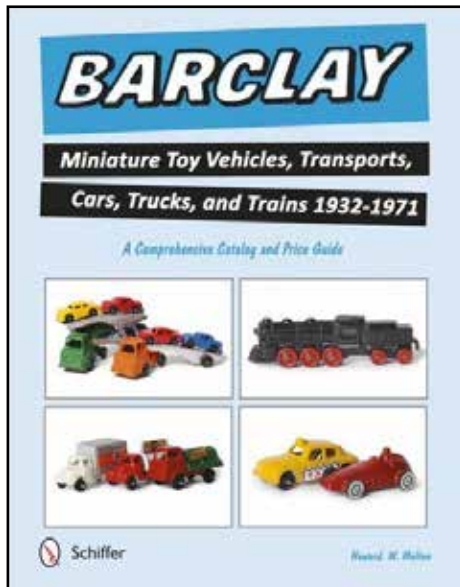
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BOOK REVIEW

BARCLAY Miniature Toy Vehicles, Transports, Cars, Trucks and Trains 1932 -1971

By Howard W. Melton - Reviewed By Stan Alekna



If you are a serious collector of the Barclay Company's toy auto transports, small cars and trucks from the 1960's, or Barclay's toy trains, Howard Melton's newly published book BARCLAY Miniature Toy Vehicles, Transports, Cars, Trucks, and Trains 1932-1971 is an absolute must.

The auto transports and trains date back to the late 1920's and early 30's and are highly sought after collectors of civilian dimestore vehicles. Barclay's little 2-inch vehicles depicting military, commercial, civilian and racing vehicles came along much later in the 1960's but still hold a strong attraction to a segment of dimestore collectors.

I personally collected all three of these segments of Barclay vehicles and have published several OTS articles on each segment over the years. Krause Publications asked me to edit the Barclay and Manoil sections of their 4th edition of Collecting TOY CARS AND TRUCKS in 2005 which I did, so I have some first-hand experience with the amount of time, research and attention to detail and accuracy that is required to create such a reference book. It is against this background that I offer my commentary on Howard Melton's new book.

His latest work is the most detailed and definitive piece ever produced on these three Barclay vehicle groups. It provides enormous detail and documentation, far beyond that contained in my OTS articles or that contained in Richard O'Brien's books. Howard not only offers over 700 beautiful photographs of the

vehicles, he goes to great lengths to describe details of the variations between the vehicles, many of which have never been documented before. In addition to extensive narrative in support of the photos, each section contains numerous tables that summarize and classify distinctive features of each vehicle type such as basic casting differences, trailer hitches, wheel and tire type, and of course paint color and paper decal variations. How many of you have ever seen a Barclay 1960's tractor trailer rig with a Barclay decal on the trailer? I never had until it appeared in Howard's book.

If you collect any of these three categories of Barclay vehicles, I guarantee that this book will add dozens of new items to your "want list" and that you will never go off to a toy show again without this treasure under your arm. If you don't collect these vehicles now, you may start collecting them after you peruse Howard's book.

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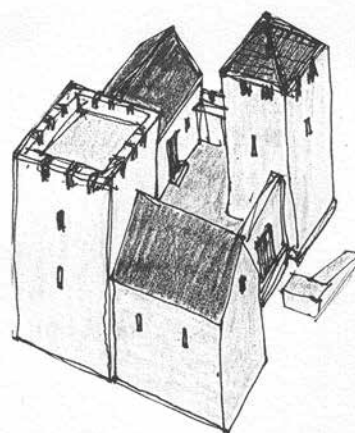
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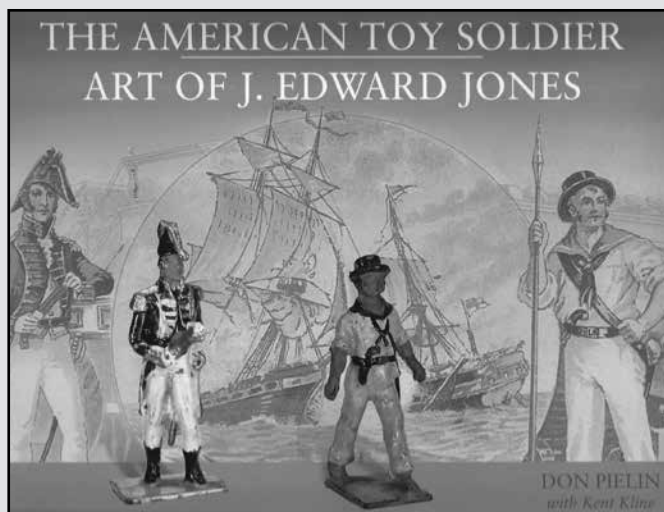
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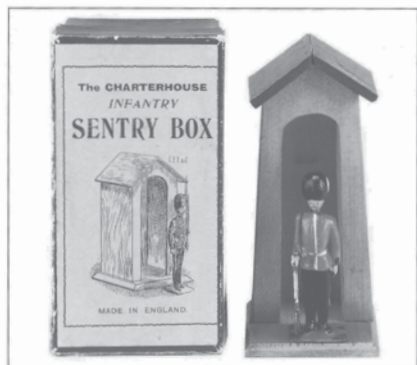
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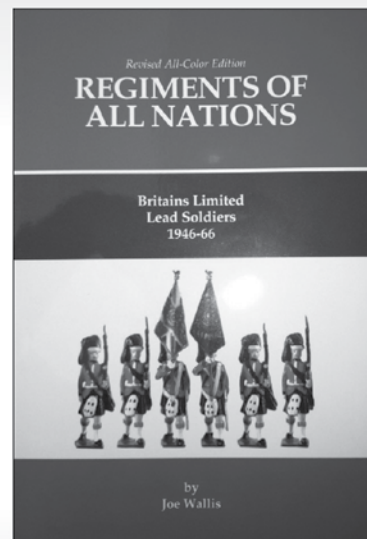
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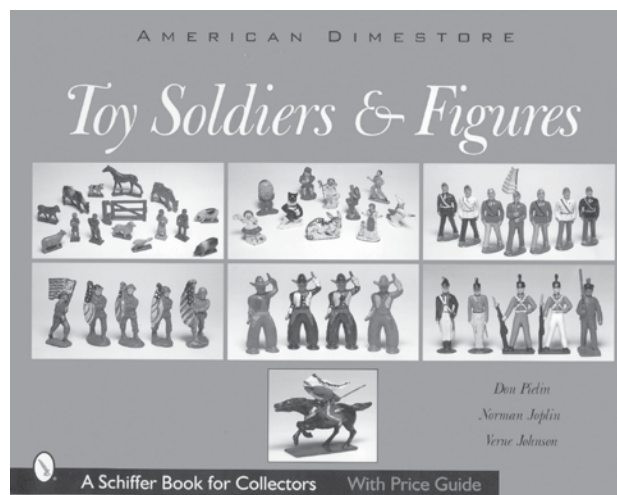
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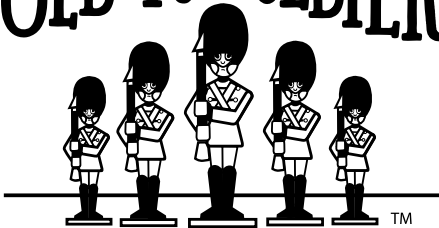
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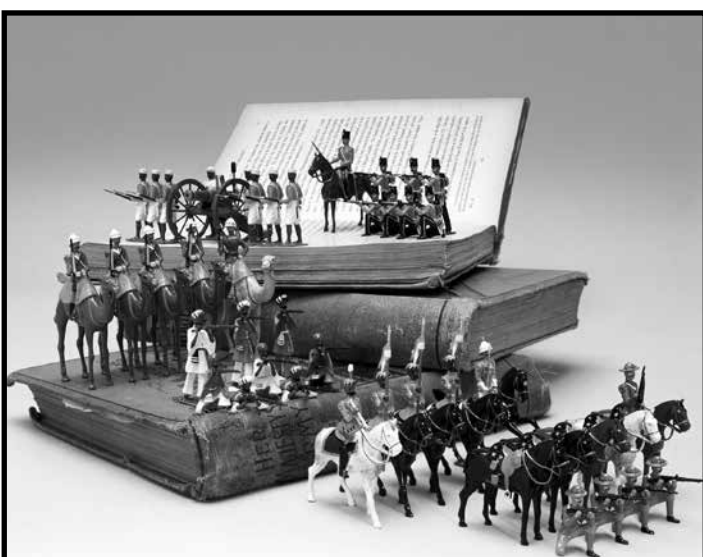
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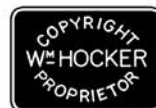
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May 20th, 21st - Friday and Saturday MFCA 75th Annual Show and APG Fundraiser.
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May 28th, 28th - Saturday and Sunday The Texas Toy Soldier Show. The Menger Hotel -
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June 3rd, 4th and 5th - Friday, Saturday, Sunday Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA Contact Ray Haradin
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July 30th - Saturday Toy Soldier Auction Livonia MI contact Joe Saine 419-662-8697 See advertisement in
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July 31st - Sunday Toy Soldier Extravaganza Show Livonia MI contact Joe Saine 419-662-8697
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August 20th - Saturday Norman Joplins Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London
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September 10th - Saturday Annandale Show Contact: Eddie Greis 201-342-6475

September 25th - Sunday CTSS/OTSN Contact Roger Garfield Roger@chicagotoysoldiersshow.com
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September 26th - Monday Frazier Museum Reception for the opening of the Charles Stewart Toy Soldier
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September 27th - Tuesday Official Opening of The Charles Stewart Toy Soldier Gallery ,Louisville Kentucky
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October 16th - Sunday Columbus Ohio Toy Soldier Show. Tall Timbers Banquet and Conference
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