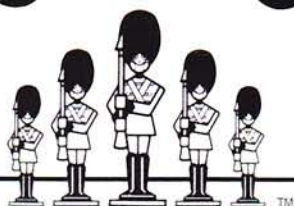


Summer  
2003

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 27 Number 2  
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# OLD TOY SOLDIER



**BRITAINS 'TAG' FIGURES**



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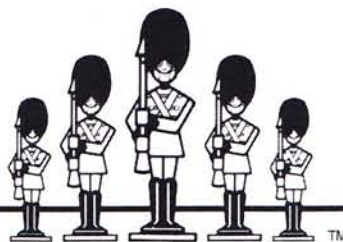
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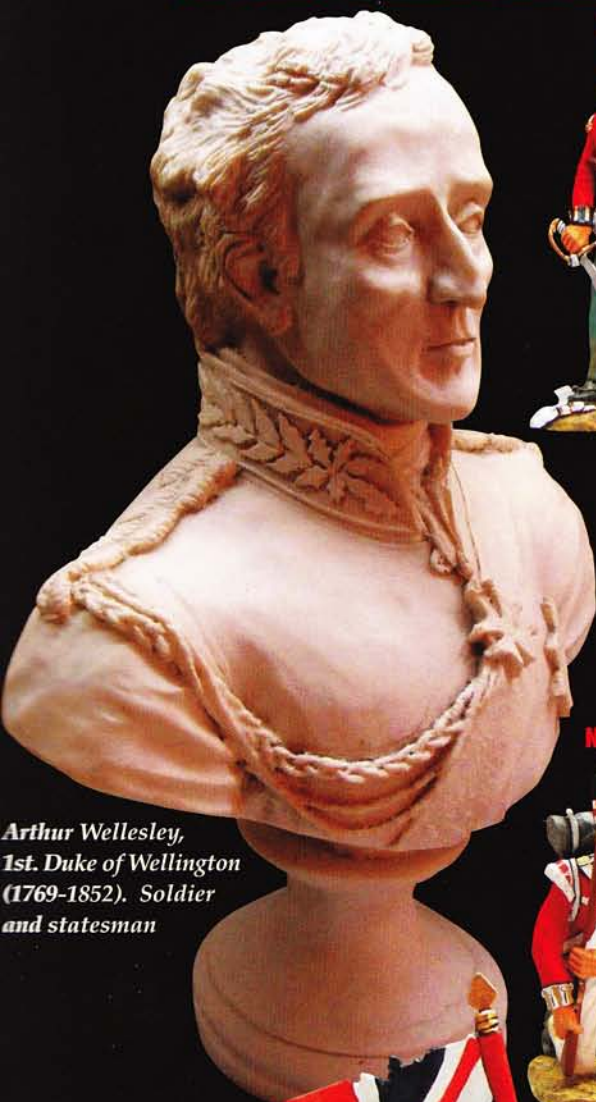
Britains Second Grade 3rd Hussar with Export Tag  
Photo courtesy of Philip Dean







# KING & COUNTRY'S "SCUM OF THE EARTH"



Arthur Wellesley,  
1st. Duke of Wellington  
(1769-1852). Soldier  
and statesman

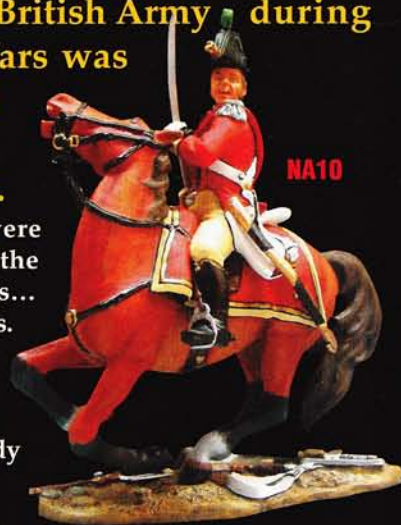


**W**ELLINGTON'S OFT QUOTED description of the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars was both damning and exaggeration in almost equal parts.

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# BRITAINS TAGGED FIGURES

by Philip Dean

For a short time, prior to 1930, it was a requirement of the US Customs that a metal tag signifying the country of origin, was placed on all unboxed figures exported to the US by Britains Ltd. There is no real or proven evidence as to why

this practice was required, as the 1920's were a time of financial uncertainty and economic depression, some tariffs were introduced to protect local industries. This could have been one. There is also a probability that a charge or tax was levied on all imported figures and this was a form of identification.

The requirement would not be necessary on any boxed sets as they were identified as "Made in England" on the actual box. It was eventually agreed the tag was superfluous as most individual civilian figures were cast with the declaration "Made in England". Indeed, with the garden seat (568) the tag is next to the legend, "Britains Ltd Made in England"

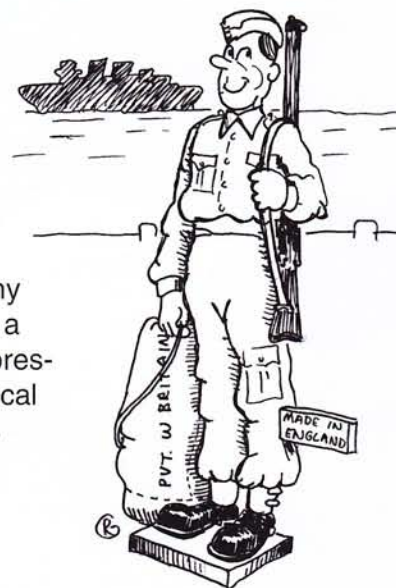
Figure #609, the huntswoman riding sidesaddle, with a red jacket was only ever made for the US market in the prewar period. Traditionally, ladies never wore the hunting pink, it is never called red!

With only two exceptions, all figures, since seen, have been prewar, as no civilian figures issued after 1929 have been found to have

export tags. The two are, girl with feeding bucket (747) and the Bushbuck (989). Both discoveries were shown in the OTS vol 24 #4 and are from the authors collection. One theory is that the figures were produced pre-war but their introduction was delayed until post war.

I have seen only two military figures with the tag and both were 2nd grade quality, these were not boxed and so needed identification, whereas all 1st quality figures were tied into Britains boxes. One figure, a 3rd Hussar, is shown on the front cover, and the other, a mounted officer of the US Cavalry, is shown in the accompanying photographs.

To ascertain the dates that export tags were placed on Britains 2nd Grade Military figures it becomes necessary to trace the production of the items, eliminating the dates that tags were not used or required.



609-Huntswoman, sidesaddle



747-Girl with feeding bucket - colour variations - Postwar



568-Garden Seat



989-Bushbuck Post War



506-Shire Horses - 1922



503-Farmer's wife - shown from rear to show tag 1922



508-1922-Cow, 573-1927-Bull



## BRITAINS TAGGED FIGURES (Cont.)

The 2nd grade mounted Hussar figure illustrated on the cover was formerly part of the Arnold Rolak collection auctioned by Christies as lot #88 in December 2000. The figure was originally introduced into the Britains line in 1902, available as an un-numbered boxed set of four (GBB-Opie page 83 # 140). After the success achieved by Britains, in 1925, in supplying the South American market with toy soldiers, a concentrated effort was made towards the US market. Second grade items were produced in vast quantities for export to the US, and several new items, depicting the military, were produced.

The 3rd Hussar was listed in the 1925 New Lines list as available in a set of five with a catalogue number 6A. They were also sold as individual items in the Bulk Line as item number 40L. The 2nd grade numbering system was changed by Britains in 1928 and the previously listed 40L

became a member of the "C" range with a new number 16C. At the same time, a new set, using the same combination as the un-numbered 1902 set was allocated the new set #13A. It is possible that the 3rd Hussar fig-



602 - Foal - 1928, 507 - Shire Colt - 1922



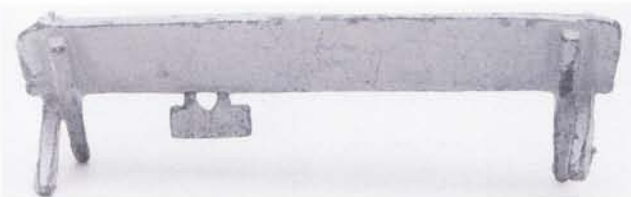
514 - Pig - 1922, 596 - Berkshire Pig - 1928, 514 - Pig - 1922



542 - Wheat sheaves, stacked - 1926



525 - Fallen Log - 1922



528 - Large Trough - 1922

ure, when issued as a single figure between 1925 and 1929, displayed the export tag, as by 1929 the practice appeared to have been abandoned. No figures were issued after 1929 bearing the tags. In 1936, the 3rd Hussar (2nd grade) was again renumbered, this time as 61N.

Originally introduced in 1926 as a further expansion of the output destined for the US market was set 41A, entitled "USA infantry with mounted officer". The officer was also used, with a paint downgrade, as a US cavalry figure in a number of sets

including, 46A, 47A, 48A, 54A and 55A. In 1927 the figure appeared in sets 72A, 74A, 85A and 88A. It was not until 1928, during the re-numbering of the 2nd grade range that this figure was issued



552 - Donkeys - 1926



576 - 605 - St. Bernard - Greyhound standing - 1928



561 - 556 - Farmers daughter  
Aged woman villager - 1926



597 - 601 - 597 - Exmoor ram - Hampshire Down sheep -  
Exmoor ewe - 1928



## BRITAINS TAGGED FIGURES (Cont.)



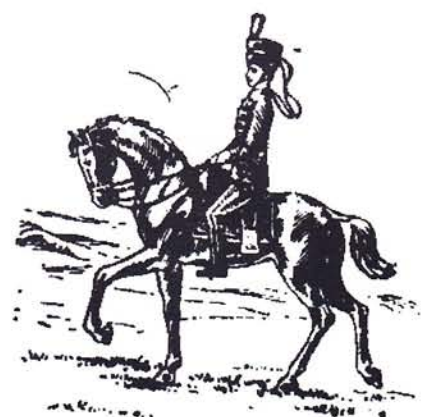
600 - Boy on Shetland Pony - 1928



608 - Huntsman - mounted 0 1929



610 - Huntsman, galloping - 1929



Line Drawing - Artist Impression 61N Hussar

singly as 17C. As the practice was discontinued in 1929, it would seem that 1928 was the only year this figure was produced with an export tag. The figure was again re-numbered (62N) in 1936 and continued in production until 1940 (GBB Opie page 358).

How many tags have been removed? Figures with tags are becoming increasingly difficult and expensive to come by. The tag was made to be easily removed by simply bending back and forth, any made with the tag and not intended for export, had the tag removed at source. Why do tags seem to be exclusive to Britains Ltd? Surely other figure makers sold their goods in the US, but why have none ever been found tagged? Different people have differing ideas as to the original reason for the tags, but none are sure or can provide evidence. So if you have tagged figures in your collection, just enjoy them, whatever the reason.



581 - Close-up of tag - 1927



581 - Close-up of tag - 1927



606 - Greyhound running - 1928

With the exception of the cover shot, which is courtesy of Christies, all figures and photographs are from the collection of Philip Dean.



US Cavalry mounted officer / calvaryman with tag



Second Grade Third Hussar with tag



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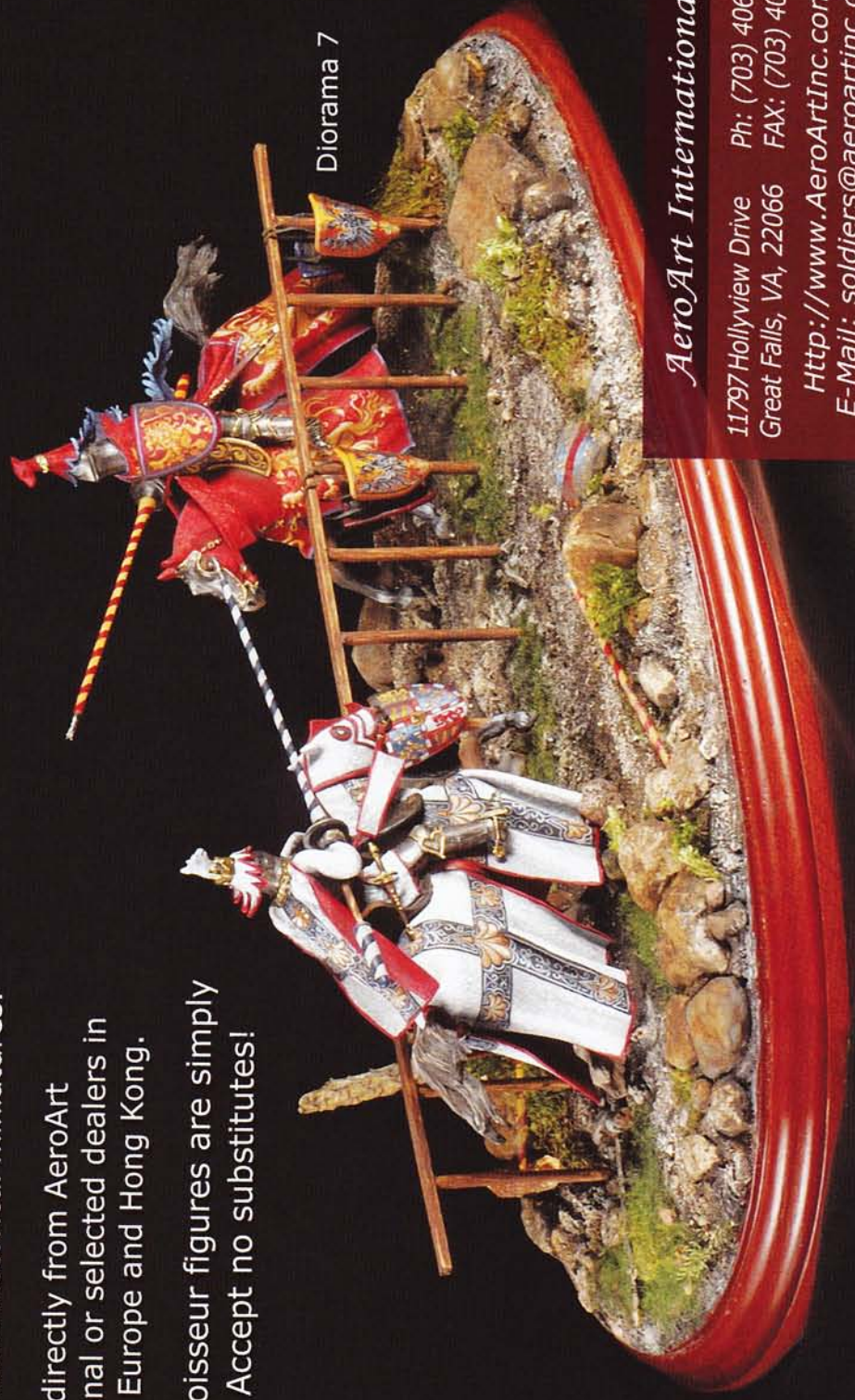
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# VOLUME 24

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



JANUARY

**NUMBER 1**

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HEYDE for F.A.O. Schwarz

**NUMBER 2**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



DIMESDALE DOGS OF WAR

**NUMBER 3**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



BRITAINS OFFICERS WITH BINOCULARS

**NUMBER 4**

**SOLD OUT**

# VOLUME 25

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THE BRITAIN FAMILY HISTORY

**NUMBER 1**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN?

**NUMBER 2**

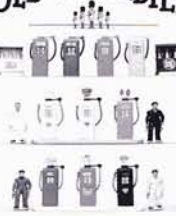
## OLD TOY SOLDIER



SOLDIER TO AMERICA

**NUMBER 3**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



BRITAINS ROAD SERIES

**NUMBER 4**

# VOLUME 26

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



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**NUMBER 1**

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STEAM TOYS - AT EASE

**NUMBER 4**

# VOLUME 27

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



DURSE COWBOY BANDITS

**NUMBER 1**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



BRITAINS 'TAG' FIGURES

**NUMBER 2**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



**NUMBER 3**

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**NUMBER 4**

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## VECTIS TO OPEN IN AMERICA

The world's largest toy auction house gets a foothold in the USA.

Vectis, the largest toy auctioneer in the world, with a turnover of £5 million, is to open in America.

Bryan Goodall who has owned the Teesside based company for seven years, has just acquired "Diecast Toy Exchange Auctions", a well-respected auction house based in York, Pennsylvania with over 20 years of diecast experience including the last 5 years of catalogued diecast auctions on a regular basis. The current Diecast Toy Exchange auction team will remain intact and are ready to assist collectors needs at 717-846-8097.

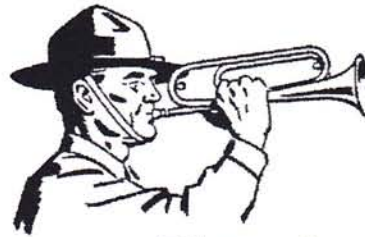
It is part of Vectis's ongoing expansion plans, which in the past has seen the company take over all toy sales for Sotheby's in the UK and purchase Barry Potter Auctions.

Bryan Goodall said: "This latest acquisition will be called Vectis USA, and we will be looking at all aspects of toy collecting, including toy soldiers, tinsplate and diecast, trains, dolls and teddy bears just as we do in the UK."

He added: "This is a natural expansion of our business. A large proportion of the collectors and dealers we cater to are based in North America and now we will be able to give them an even better service."

This year Vectis will hold five auctions in York, Pennsylvania, which is the home of toy collecting in the United States with many auction houses, dealers and collectors based in the area.

The company also runs the famous British Toy Soldier and Figure Show which is held at the Royal National Hotel in London three times a year.



# Attention!!!

## Dimestore Breakfast at the O.T.S. Show

The annual Dimestore Breakfast will be held at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield Conference Room, Schaumburg Illinois on Saturday September 27, 2003, 8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. This years speakers will be Ray Haradin and Joe Saine. The breakfast will be hosted by Peter and Kathy Paul. A limited production Dimestore reproduction commemorating figure will again be offered by Ron Eccles.

Admission is \$25 per person and includes hot breakfast buffet.

For further details and reservations contact Charlie O'Brien 853 Edge Hill Road, Glenside, Pa. 19038 Telephone 215-517-5963 Evenings/Weekends Email: Charlie o brien@hotmail.com

## Editorials recently published of interest to Toy Soldier Collectors

Antiques and Arts Weekly May 23, 2003

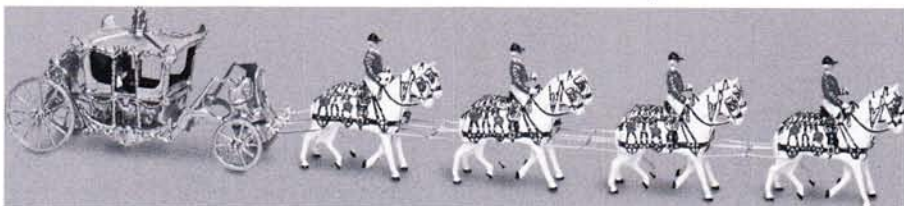
Featured a show report on the Westchester Toy Soldier Muster in Armonk, N.Y.

Real Estate Journal April 30, 2003

Workspaces/A look at where people work features collector Louis M. Dubin and his Toy Soldier Collection Fifth Avenue Office, N.Y.

King & Country have published issues 2 and 3 of their collectors magazine, their second collection magazine featuring the company's products. Details Andy Neilson - see this issue for The King & Country ad for availability

## Britains Coronation Coach Competition Winner



The winning Competition entry drawn at the British Toy Soldier and figure show in London was Dr. George Betts of New Brunswick, Canada.



## Obituary, Bill Bertoia

If there was a toy collector's hall of fame, Bill Bertoia was the Babe. A larger than life figure whose passion for life was only overshadowed by his sheer grace on the field. He was a master at the art of the deal with an uncanny ability to bring out the child in us all. On May 6th, at the age of 52 we lost a great player, William S. Bertoia.

For soldier collectors, the Bertoia name is relatively new, but to the toy and collectible world he was the Commander and Chief. From his lakeside Vineland, New Jersey home, he ran his toy empire. Collections from all over the world were bought, sold and brokered. His life story could be the making of a Hollywood movie. Born in Quilmes, Argentina to Hector and Ophelia, Hector knew that life in the town known for beer was not the life he wanted his children to live. In search of something better, he gathered what little money he could and came to America to put his one expertise to best use. Hector is a master of geometry and he quickly was able to prove his worth in the glass factories of New Jersey.

A little over a year later, Hector had made enough money to move his family to America. Bill, his younger brother Rich and Ophelia arrived in Millville, New Jersey in the early 60's with very little money

and very little English. They were rich in the knowledge that they were now in a country where anything is possible. Bill and Rich quickly demonstrated their entrepreneurial skills by rummaging through old dumps in search of early bottles. Hector would then drive the trio every Sunday to The Black Angus and Shupp's Grove--two of Pennsylvania's major antique markets--where they learned the ropes of the antique business. Bill graduated Millville High School in 1968 and realized that the business world was best suited for him. Antiques though, were not the venue he first chose. Blue jeans were the trend and Bill was best at reading and exploiting the trends. He opened a small retail shop with his then girlfriend and now wife Jeanne. The jean business was good but he never quit wheeling and dealing fruit jars and bottles. Then one day something profound happened--a friend of his brought in some old toys that he picked up at a market. Bill bought them with the notion of selling them and the antique toy world was never the same.

Although he did not know it at the time, Bill was going to take the objects of childhood's past and elevate them to art. He saw the beauty in the toys and was able to express that to others. The rest is history. From the mid eighties through today, Bill either brokered or auctioned through Bertoia Auctions the finest collections of the time--Atlanta Toy Museum, Perelman's Museum, Heagerty Collection, Norman Collection, Sax Collection and, most recently, the Ilyinsky Collection of Britains figures.

Bill was an enthusiastic fly fisherman, skier and master diner. He is survived by his parents, wife of 25 years Jeanne, daughter Lauren, son Michael, brother Rich and sister-in-law Trina.

## Obituary, Max R. Schulman

Max R. Schulman passed away on June 15, 2003. Born in 1935, Max grew up in Beverly Hills, Ca., and was a lifetime toy soldier collector. Truly a unique character to our hobby, he was the product of his colorful past, having been a Polynesian dancer, ambulance driver, engineer for the Fire Authority, and a civic leader in his community.

Max co-founded the West Coaster Toy Soldier Show and was creator and proprietor of his STE Ltd line of soldiers sculpted by Jack Duke of Ducal. His specialty was collecting and creating military bands of America and the U.K. Quick witted and a loyal friend, his heart of gold will be missed in the hobby.



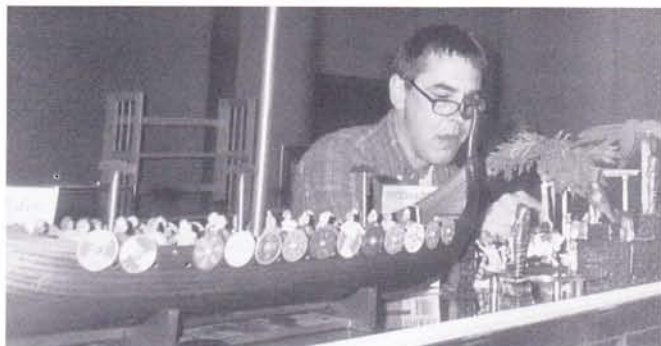


# SHOW REPORTS

## M.F.C.A Show

*Valley Forge, PA May 2nd & 3rd 2003*

Despite the conflict with the Wisconsin soldier show (see Joplin wedding report), the Miniature Figure Collectors of America host one of the grandest shows of them all. This is the only show that combines the figure modelers of the world with the figure collectors. Within an hour of setup, the hall was converted into a toy soldier Mecca.



**Rick Berry of the Michigan Toy Soldier Company assembles his Viking ship.**



**The crew from Real Miniatures (l to r) Brian Dougherty, Josie Dougherty and Richard Lucas display their Russian figures.**



**Paul Raczka with his Polish Warrior.**



**Peter Clark, avid castle collector, mans the Hocker booth.**



**Bud and Eleanor Born staff the castle of Dimstore figures.**



**Britains collector Ed Wilson of Cincinnati, Ohio downsizing his troops.**



**New England dealers-and pals-Bill Coakley and Ron Blais sharing a laugh.**

Paul and his friend Alan Kelsey (see West Palm Beach Show report V27 #1 PG 13) both took honors at the M.F.C.A. competition. Paul, from Point Charlotte, Florida, winning the old toy soldier category with his "War Chariot". This category is for figures assembled with the use of old castings. Alan, from Bradenton, Florida, won the best new toy soldier with his rowboat named "Michelle".



# SHOW REPORTS (Cont.)

## The Alternative Show Report Port Washington, Wisconsin Saturday, May 3, 2003

By Philip Dean

Port Washington, Wisconsin, will never appear amongst the venues for the great toy figure shows, but on May 3rd, 2003 (the same weekend as the Valley Forge MFCA Show) it was home to a collection of some of the most well known names in the toy figure collecting world. The reason, not a show, but to help celebrate the marriage of Susan Bialzik to Norman Joplin, an event which brought relatives and friends from across the US and the UK.

What a lucky man that Joplin is, a lovely



Can't stop buying - Ron Eccles trading toy soldiers in the church car park

O.T.S. Editor, Norman Joplin and his wife Sue

wife in Sue, who has three beautiful daughters, a son and an adorable grandson, and he deals in toy figures! Can life get better? His newly acquired family are amongst the most friendly and hospitable people I have ever met, even his mother-in-law drinks her beer straight from the bottle.

It was a wonderful occasion, a happy family event, and Oliver and I felt privileged to be a part of it. The following photographs show some of our memories of the wedding.



Toy soldier collectors and dealers attending the wedding (Sue and the toyboys) L to R Russ Bednarek, Rob Wilson, Verne Johnson, Hugo Marsh, Don Pielin, Arnold Rolak, Sue, Norman, Bob Bailey, Ron Eccles, Marvin Breitlow, Alan Ernst and Steve Sommers



Philip Dean, O.T.S. contributor "selling" the order of service to Arnold and Emma Rolak



OTS Web Master, Oliver Dean with Sue's daughters Pam and Kristy



William Hocker's special Wedding Set



## ***SHOW REPORTS (Cont.)***

### **Ohio Toy Soldier Show**

*By Michael Mattimore*

Sunday, May 18th, marked the 11th annual Ohio Toy Soldier Show & Sale in the small town of Richfield, mid-way between Cleveland and Akron. The show has been held each year in the ballroom of the Richfield Holiday Inn on Brecksville Rd., quite conveniently located near the Ohio Turnpike (I-80), I-77 and I-271. Show organizer Doug McClure said that, once again, the show was completely sold out as more and more dealers seek to participate in what is becoming one of the better small-scale regional shows. With the increase in dealer participation, Doug has decided to move the show to a larger venue for next year's event. This year there were 32 dealers at 78 tables (a considerable increase over past year's shows) with some dealers setting up in the lobby area immediately outside the ballroom. As usual, variety was the hallmark of this show; an enormous range of both new and vintage merchandise was on display. A collector could find everything from early Britains and Heydes to contemporary plastics, and from high-grade dimestores to exquisitely crafted Russian miniatures; all were on offer at the well-laden tables.

Many respected Midwest dealers were in attendance, including K. Warren Mitchell & Rod Chapman from central Ohio, Toledo's Joe Saine, Gail & Tony Teper of Cleveland's "The Toy Box," Indiana's own Barry Carter and John Hazlett from nearby West Virginia. But a number of East Coast dealers made the long trip to Richfield as well. Greenwich, Connecticut dealer Robert Helm, dealer and show promoter Ed Gries from Hackensack, New Jersey, and even the folks from the Hobby Bunker in far-off Malden, Massachusetts journeyed to Ohio for the event.

Most dealers indicated that this year's sales were markedly better than those at past years' shows, no doubt due to the significant upturn in attendance. Promoter Doug McClure estimated that over 225 people went through this year's gate. All in attendance agreed that this year's event was an unqualified success. The many smiles on the faces of dealers and collectors alike attest to their satisfaction with the day's proceedings. Some will, no doubt, be sorry to leave the Richfield venue, but Doug has promised an even better facility for the future. Starting with next year's event, all future shows will be held at the Holiday Inn, Hudson, Ohio, (approximately 15 minutes drive from the old location) and will occur annually on the third Sunday in May. Once again, easy accessibility is guaranteed as the new venue is located at state route 8, exit #180 of the Ohio Turnpike (I-80). Further details on next years show may be obtained by calling Doug McClure at (330) 722-6751 or by emailing him at: [dmclure@apk.net](mailto:dmclure@apk.net).



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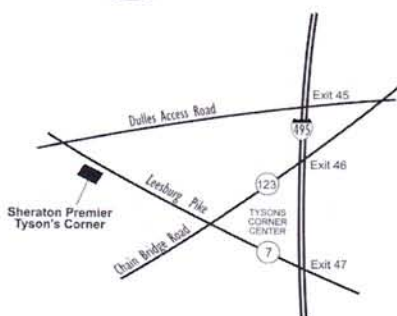
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### The Pacific Northwest TOY SOLDIER & MILITARY MINIATURE SHOW & EXHIBITION

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For Information contact Bob Bailey 425.867.9314



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- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
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| <b>August 23</b>           | Dan Morphy's Antique Toy,<br>Doll & Advertising Show.<br>York Fairgrounds, Pennsylvania. |
| <b>September 28</b>        | Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago.  |
| <b>October 16 &amp; 17</b> | Atlantique City Antique Show<br>NJ.  |
| <b>November 1</b>          | Allentown Antique Toy Show.<br>Allentown Pa.   |
| <b>November 2</b>          | East Coast Toy Soldier Show<br>Hackensack NJ.  |
| <b>December 6</b>          | British Toy Soldier and<br>Figure Show. London.  |

**See Calendar pages 92/93 for  
full details of these events**



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(North). Follow directions from NYC.

**FROM LONG ISLAND (WESTERN):**  
To through Bridge to Major Deegan Expressway to New York State  
Thruway (North). Follow directions from NYC.

**FROM CONNECTICUT:**

South on Merritt Parkway, Boston Post Road on Connecticut Turn-  
pike to Route No. 287 West to New York State Thruway (North).  
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## Check the OTSN Calendar this issue for our up-coming shows this fall in New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia

*On June 19, 2003, we lost a good  
friend and fellow dealer,  
Bob Griffin of Marabob County  
Our sincere condolences  
to his family.*



*Eddie and John*



# OTSN'S 23rd CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW

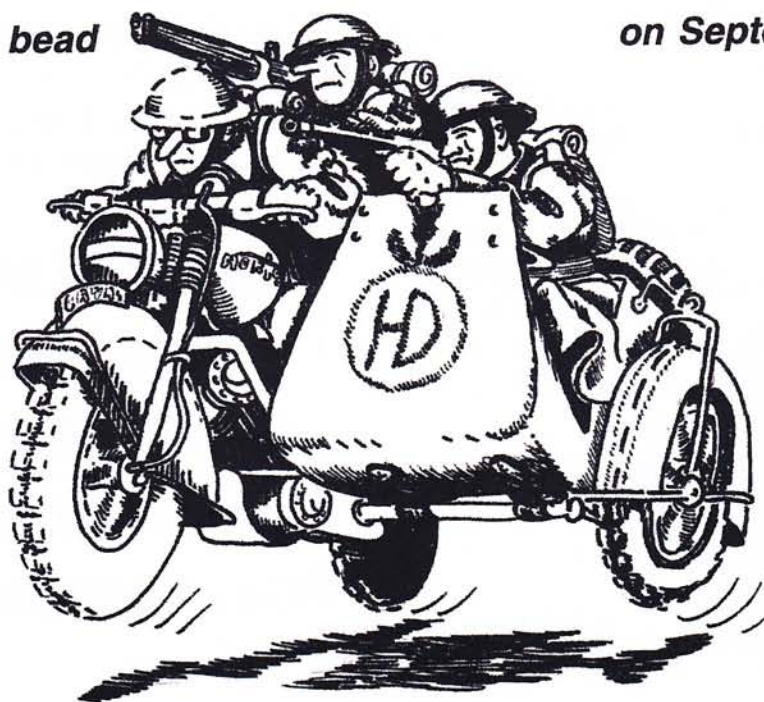
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\$5 Admission

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*on September!*



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# NORTHEAST TOY SOLDIER SOCIETY

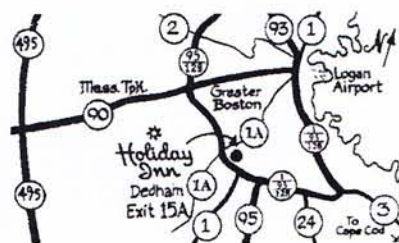
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9 AM to 3 PM



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*Note: a self-addressed stamped envelope must be enclosed for prepaid tickets.*

**Be sure to set aside Sunday, November 2. Remember to bring your tickets. No Refunds.**

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Or visit us on the Web At: [southfloridatoysoldier.com](http://southfloridatoysoldier.com)



# MY TANK

## A Reminiscence in Scale

By E. W. Fitzgerald

During 1966 I was the company commander of A Company 2nd Battalion 1st Training Brigade at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Our entire Battalion's mission was to provide advanced individual training in tank operations to young soldiers just out of basic combat training. In short, we taught them how to "move, shoot and communicate" using the best hands-on training techniques of those days of yesteryear.

The Battalion was equipped predominately with M48 A3 "Patton" tanks. These were powered with a 750-hp diesel engine that could propel the 104,000 pound M48 A3 at up to 30 mph. Its armament featured a 90mm main gun together with .50 and .30 calibre machine guns. The crew of four consisted of tank commander, driver, gunner and loader.

The picture above of "My Tank" with me in the tank commander's position was taken in April 1966 at a retirement review for the Master Sergeant at the far right of the reviewing stand. Shortly after the picture was taken all of our M48 A3 tanks were withdrawn for shipment to Vietnam (their diesel fuel would not explode). But that is another story.

I left the Army later that year to become a C.P.A. and thought I would never again "command" an M48 A3 tank. Then last year, much to my delight, while shopping at my local Toys-R-Us, I came across and purchased a beautiful, big 1/18 scale plastic model M48 A3 tank which is perfect in every detail, including working tracks and traversing turret (Fig. 1). This beauty was manufactured in China and imported to the U.S.A. by American Century Toys of Alameda, California. It's great for an old tanker to have such a fine model to show his grandson what he did in the Army almost 40 years ago. I have also acquired a 1/50 scale M48 A3 Patton tank manufactured by Corgi (Fig. 2) as part of their Fire Base 'Nam Series.

This article is dedicated to Col. Robert M. Carroll, my Battalion C.O., friend and mentor who taught me much about the Army and life.





# Britain

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17489

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17430

### 55th North Carolina Regiment

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[Brigadier General John Buford, July 1, 1863]



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17450

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## World War II



Version C/D  
Available: May 2003

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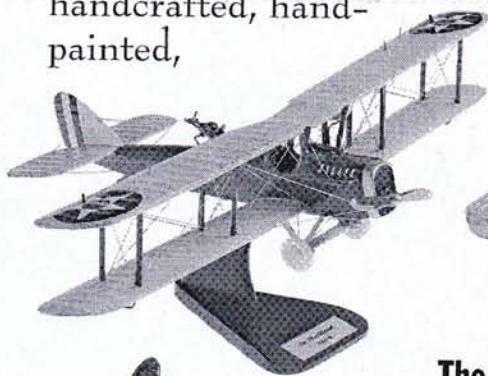


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## Surviving Christie's

by Joyce Newman Scott



A musty smell fills the air at Christie's Kensington on Old Brompton Road in London. I find a metal fold-down chair in the corner of the room-out of the way of the serious collectors-and hope that no one objects to my being here. My husband has a euphoric look on his face as he asks me, "Will you be okay?" Without waiting for an answer, (I swear to God) he scampers off. "I guess so," I answer to the empty air.

I had expected Christie's to be a little, if you'll excuse the expression, *pompous*. But I was wrong. A striking young woman with long black hair stands on the opposite side of the room. She is talking to two young men who look about twenty-five. She is wearing tall leather black boots and looks quite

chic, in spite of the green server's apron, a centuries old tradition for Christie's auction employees. I realize that I stand out in my American blazer, worn-only-for-travel-jeans, and comfortable walking shoes. Self-consciously, I cross my legs and try to look like I belong.

(Dear reader) You're probably asking yourself right now, *what's a nice girl like you doing at an old fuddy duddy's toy auction?* I asked myself that very same question in the cab ride over to Christie's. I'll try to explain. Last night my husband and I were having dinner at Giovonni's Italian restaurant. He asked, "Why don't you come with me tomorrow morning?" I cut into my medium-rare veal chop, savoring the olive oil, rosemary, and garlic taste in my mouth. "Why would I want to go?" I asked. He said, "Because you can write about it. How many times do you get to write about a toy auction in London?" After three glasses of Pino Grigio, his argument sounded perfectly sound. "Okay, you've convinced me." You see, I'm a beginning writer. I have just finished my first Creative Writing class at Florida International University, a late-in-life endeavor. (*I got a B+. Sorry, I just had to throw that in.*) But I am also a toy soldier widow. I am here in London for the May 8th auction. My husband, a collector, is reluctant to admit this fact, but he owns one of the world's finest toy soldier collections, a finely picked conglomeration of precious figures made by Lucotte, Heyde, Mignot, and countless other manufacturers.

Originally I hadn't planned on coming to London. It was supposed to be 'boy's week out,' something Tom and I (stupidly on my part) agreed to early in our marriage. Ergo, for that one week, I am a toy soldier widow; while my husband gallivants off to exciting, far-off places like Paris, Frankfurt, London, (and once Turkey) in search of the perfect find. When I realized that school wouldn't start again for another six weeks, I pleaded with him, "*If you take me along I won't get in the way. You'll enjoy the company. Hey, give a girl a chance!*" He bit... and here I am.

It is 9:00 A.M. on the first viewing day and the room is practically empty. Hundreds of boxes sit on table after table. Each box contains the lot number. Soldiers and toys fill two rooms. Selected lots have been placed in cases. These lots are the most valued of the toys. In order to view these lots collectors must request to inspect them under the scrutiny of the Christie's assistants.

A photographer enters the room and the woman with the long black hair speaks to him. She flashes a brilliant smile and flips her hair between manicured nails. Feeling like chopped liver, I glare at my Easyrider sneakers and wish that I had worn my more elegant Chanel.





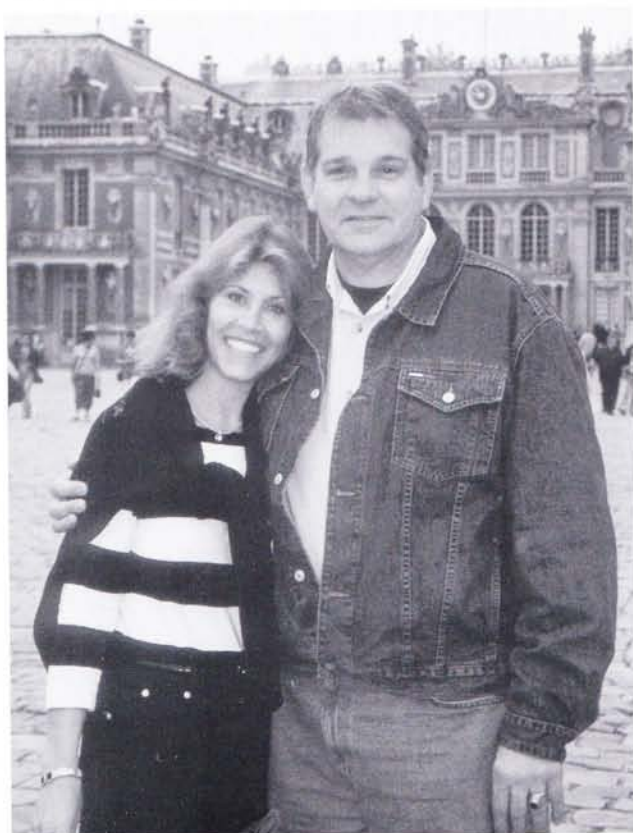
## Surviving Christie's (Cont.)

Tom races around the room with a wild-eyed look of child-like-elation on his face, as he inspects cartons filled with toys. Absorbed in his search, he is unaware of anyone else in the room. I have seen that same look on many other collector's faces. It's almost as if they go into some sort of trance-like state. The eyes seem to glaze over; and if you look hard enough, you can almost see the tongue hanging out.

Two of the Christie's employees enter into a discussion. I eavesdrop on their conversation: "Obviously expensive. Very, very rare, indeed." They are in agreement that the *Lineol ambulance* will go high at the sale. For some reason I am disappointed. I had expected to hear them discussing world economics, or Bush-Blair relations, or even last night's fish and chips dinner. Not, *shudder* toys. The room begins to fill with people. Very few are American; most are from the United Kingdom: a woman in an expensive looking gray-striped suit; a pot-bellied man wearing running shoes; and a bald headed man in an ecru sweater and ascot. Each carries their own copy of the Christie's catalogue. All have one thing in common. It is a fervor for collecting. They inspect the lots and smile knowingly at each other. As they walk around the room, each one is aware that the auction is a two-day jousting event. The bidding will be intense, at times over-whelming, yet each must keep his cool. The collectors must learn what is valuable, now, before the war wages.

Another young worker - this time, a pretty blond- walks over to my husband while he is standing inspecting a box. I feel a slight twinge of jealousy as my husband speaks to her. But Tom seems oblivious to her beauty; strongly focused, soldiers are his only interest. *My man*. By now the room is filled with potential bidders. My husband wanders around and finds a friend. "Yes, Francois Beaumont's shop in Paris has the best. But I always call first before going there. You never know what surprises he has in his shop." The other man shakes his head in agreement. "Have you seen lot 174?" the man asks. They seem to know each other. It becomes apparent to me that the collector's world is a finely knit group of 'friends.' A cell phone rings and breaks me out of my thoughts. Tom is frantically inspecting his 53rd box. Anxiously moving forward he addresses blondie, "Okay, let me see the next lot 182, the Krupp truck," he asks with a strong sense of urgency. A collector wearing jeans and a blue Ralph Lauren work shirt, plops down on the floor next to me. He inspects a box hidden under the table, taking out a pad he writes something. I read over his shoulder- *I know this is impolite, but I do it anyway* - on the condition of the toy inside. I watch his face as he smiles contentedly fingering a small airplane. *That boy-child-look again*. "Simply marvelous," he mumbles to himself "marvelous."

At noon, Tom tells me he has had enough. I know in my heart he is lying. *For the serious collector, there is never enough*. But I accept his decision and we head out for a light lunch at *Green's*. (I can almost taste the fried cod and mashed peas). After that we have tickets to see a matinee performance of 'Arsenic and Old Lace.' *Suddenly, I begin to realize that I am fond of this auction thing. Maybe being a toy soldier widow isn't such a bad thing. After all, some one has to write about it. Right?*



Joyce and Tom Scott



# PLASTICS ON PARADE

## Bergen Toy and Novelty Company Beton Plastics

### Did it pay to advertise?

*By Norman Joplin*

The history of the Bergen Toy and Novelty Company and its Beton Plastic Toy Soldier line is well documented in Richard O'Brien's book, *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers # 3*. The account ends with an interview given by Harold E Frutchey, General Manager of the company in which he states that Charles Marcak, Bergens owner, decided to sell the company having attended and participated in the New York Toy Fair at the McAlpin Hotel, NY in 1958. This decision was a result of a display of Japanese manufactured copies of the Beton line retailing for far less than the product he had produced post World War two.

During my research in New York City this year, I was fortunate enough to view many old issues of *Playthings Magazine*, the Toy Trade journal. The accompanying photographs show the great extent to which the Beton line was advertised during the early part of the nineteen fifties, given the deluge of imported figures from Japan, many of which carried no advertising during this time, perhaps the owners of the Bergen Company must have been left to ponder the statement "It pays to advertise".

Illustrations are courtesy *Playthings Magazine* and Reid International.

## Bergen Toy Plant Expansion Is Announced



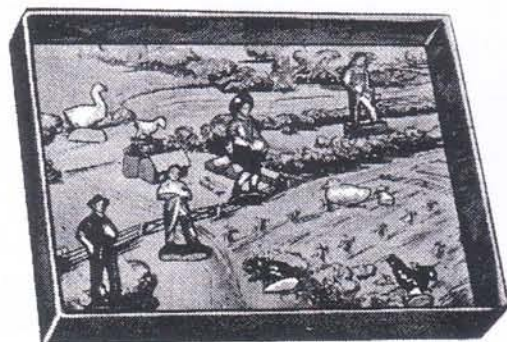
Harold E. Frutchey

**B**ERGEN TOY & NOVELTY CO., Hackettstown, N. J., designers and manufacturers of the famous "Beton" brand Plastic horses, soldiers, figures, farm animals and farm sets, announces expansion of its plant facilities to several times the previous capacity. In pointing out that this will

mean better quality and improved service to the trade, the company also announces that Mr. Harold E. Frutchey, formerly of Thomas Manufacturing Corp., has been appointed as General Manager.

Mr. Frutchey is a veteran in this field with long practical experience, preceded by thorough preparation in technical institutes. He has held executive positions with Consolidated Molded Products Corp., also with Ideal Toy Corporation. Mr. Frutchey also outlined plastics courses and taught this important subject for several years at Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. His acquisition by the Beton concern will undoubtedly strengthen this firm, which has heavily stressed originality, sound molding technique and over-all quality.

Beton items like the Farm Set here illustrated have gained tremendous popularity in the Toy field, principally through the exceptional realism of animal and human figures. The entire Beton line, including some arresting new horses, will be on display at the New York Toy Fair. Meanwhile, stores are invited to write for the complete Beton catalog.



Bergen Toy and Novelty Company announce the appointment of  
Harold Frutchey as General Manager in February 1951.



# PLASTICS ON PARADE

## Bergen Toy and Novelty Company (Cont.)

TOY FAIR, MARCH 5th to 16th, 1951

 <h3>THE HOTEL McALPIN</h3> <p>34<sup>TH</sup> Street and Broadway, New York</p>	
<p><b>BERGEN TOY &amp; NOVELTY CO., INC.</b> HACKETTSTOWN, N. J.</p> <p>PLASTIC SOLDIERS, INDIANS, COWBOYS, CADETS, FARM ANIMALS, RAILROAD AND CIVILIAN FIG- URES, GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE PLATED HORSES, ANIMALS AND FIGURINES</p> <p>A. Sandberg L. Sandberg</p> <p>Room 951 Hotel McAlpin (See Advertising Index for Display Advertisement)</p>	<p><b>THE CONESTOGA COMPANY</b> BETHLEHEM, PA.</p> <p>BIG-BANG CANNON RO-TO-SPINNER SETS FIELD GLASSES</p> <p>J. H. Wily K. M. Blouch</p> <p>Room 874 Hotel McAlpin (See Advertising Index for Display Advertisement)</p>



**Beton**  
*Lifelike* PLASTIC TOYS  
for Modern Girls and Boys

BERGEN TOY & NOVELTY CO., Inc.  
Factory and Office at Hackettstown, New Jersey

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COWBOYS  
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INDIANS  
FIREMEN  
POLICEMEN  
RAILROAD FOLKS  
HORSES  
MOUNTED FIGURES  
FORTS  
LANDING CRAFT  
P-T BOATS  
DAIRY FARM SETS  
WILD WEST SETS

New York Toy Fair advertisement and Beton Plastic Toys Trade Mark.

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DURING THE TOY FAIR  
ROOM **951**  
Hotel McAlpin

Beton Railroad Folks.

Playthings advertisement showing the lines that would be on display at the New York Toy Fair in 1951.



# PLASTICS ON PARADE

## Bergen Toy and Novelty Company (Cont.)

**Beton** Lifelike PLASTIC TOYS

*Infantry*

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Bergen Toy and Novelty Company trade leaflet for the 1951 New York Toy Fair.

**Beton** horses

horses

horses

Accurately scaled... colorful, natural, intriguing... never before such amazing realism in the Plastic field!

These horses are so true to life, you can almost fancy they're running and prancing about in some miniature animal kingdom! And the riders... we cannot begin to tell you how utterly thrilling!

Exquisitely sculptured cowboys and cowgirls, Indians, cadets, officers... prancing as in a great cavalcade, one more exciting than another!

For never-fading sales with profit, all months of the year. For ACTION!

RIDERS ARE DEMOUNTABLE AND INTERCHANGEABLE

Beton Horses flyer. Note the Mounted Cowboy with Guitar. The standing Horse is different from the example in Richard O'Brien's book.

OTS has previously published a number of articles on Beton Plastics.

See also -

- Volume 1 # 5 Beton West Point Cadets.
- Volume 2 # 8 Bergen Company History.
- Volume 5 # 3 Beton Pre War Plastics.
- Volume 5 # 4 Beton Update.
- Volume 7 # 1 Beton Inside the Factory
- Volume 13 # 6 Beton Farm in the Box.
- Volume 16 # 2 Beton Fortifications.
- Volume 18 # 5 " Betons" before Beton.
- Volume 21 # 1 Betons First Catalog.



# EBAY FINDS



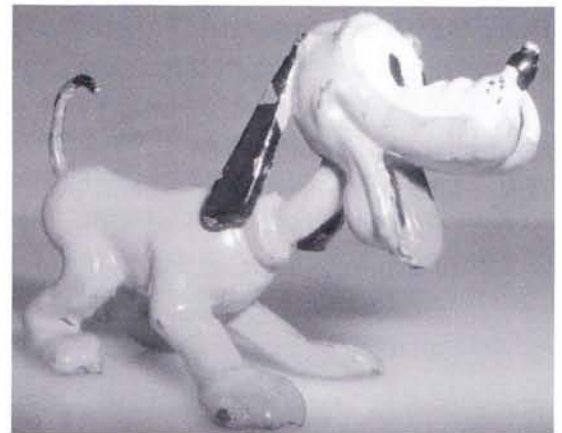
Britains King George VI in original box \$116



Britains Queen Elizabeth in original box \$76



Britains Coronation Crown Pin \$63



Britains Disney Pluto with moveable head \$363



Elastolin  
Composition  
School Room  
Scene \$687



Timco Beatrix Potter set in original box \$1000



## Further Insights into Britains French Connection

*by Rob Wilson*

Since the last issue various people have contacted the magazine with new information. Much of this is very exciting, providing further insights on the range of figures which Britains offered through their Paris Office.

The Indian Army seems to have been as popular in France as in England, with a number of new types coming to light. These include both cavalry, based on the standard Indian cavalry figure and infantry, using both the smaller and larger castings. The photo illustrates a variation on the Bengal cavalryman, but with a very different paint style to set 47. The casting is without a stamp. The uniform is a pale straw colour with red cummerbund and green turban. Variations with a black cummerbund have also been reported.

Infantry figures based on the larger figure have also come to light, although the paint differences compared to Britains normal offerings are less dramatic, with just subtle variations in the turban. The casting carries a "déposé" stamp, with no reference to being "made in England". According to Joe Wallis in "Armies of the World" (pp 45-47), the larger casting was introduced in 1925, which is after the Paris Office was closed. However, James Opie in "The Great Book of Britains" suggests an earlier date of 1916, which is consistent with the figures being available from the Paris Office between 1916 and 1923.

The magazine has also received some very interesting photographs from Mr. Campbell, whose father had contact with a worker from the factory. These include a number of previously unrecorded items. Unfortunately, Mr. Campbell did not leave a full contact address. It would be very much appreciated if he would contact the magazine or the author again in order to clarify various details.

Anyone else who has information on this fascinating aspect of Britains production is also encouraged once again to get in touch with the author, so that this information can be more widely shared in the collecting community.

Finally, regarding catalogue material, research and contacts with various museums and galleries in France are beginning to bear fruit. A considerable amount of general material has already emerged, which has thrown light on the kinds of sets Britains supplied to major French department stores. These were of a very different composition to what we have become familiar with. Sets of 6, 12 and much larger groupings contrast with the standard 8 infantry and 5 cavalry sets. There is also the possibility that someone may have some catalogue material relating specifically to Britains output. Watch this space!

Rob Wilson

Contact details: [r.a.Wilson@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:r.a.Wilson@warwick.ac.uk)  
(44)/(0) 1926 296062



Britains Paris Office Indian cavalry



## Another Dimestore Mystery Solved?

Lincoln Log Snow White and Seven Dwarfs have previously been featured in O.T.S. (see Volume 11, #3, 1987). Richard O'Brien also features examples of the figures in his book *Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers* #3, pages 836-837. The list in Richard's book gives no number for Snow White and an 'eighth' dwarf in the form of a duplicate Happy is illustrated.

Ron Eccles obtained a full set of The Lincoln Log Snow White and Dwarfs at the Antique Toy World Kane County Toy Show in Chicago, June 2003. Upon close inspection, Ron noticed that Snow White had a number 8 clearly cast on the back of her cape. It seems likely therefore that Lincoln Log made two different sets with and without numbers and possibly with and without names, as the O'Brien illustrated example of Happy bears no name. Perhaps Lincoln Log remade the set omitting the names and numbers to avoid paying Disney licensing fees.

The illustrations in this article are courtesy of Ron Eccles who will also have the set at The Chicago Toy Soldier Show in September as part of the "Show and Tell" feature of the annual Dimestore Breakfast (see Hobby News for details).



Lincoln Log Snow White



Lincoln Log Snow White showing number 8 on back



Lincoln Log Snow White and Dwarfs



Lincoln Log Snow White and Dwarfs rear view



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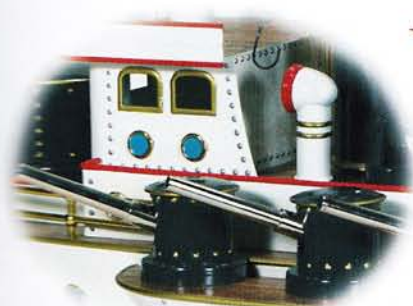
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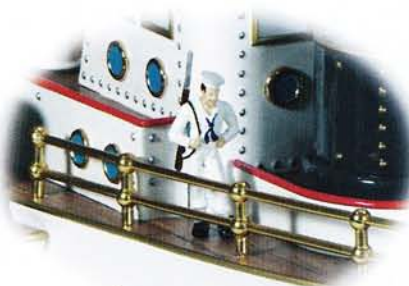
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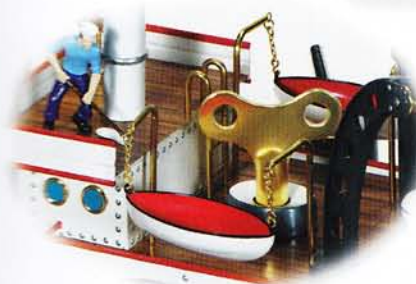
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# NEW PRODUCTS

by Russ Bednarek

## BRITAINS 50th ANNIVERSARY CORONATION SET

To celebrate the 1953 coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Britains has issued a wonderful seven piece set depicting the historic occasion.

The set is comprised of figures representing Her Majesty, King Edward's chair, The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Bishop of Durham, The Bishop of Bath and Wells, The Dean of Westminster and the Marquess of Salisbury. A nice seven page, full color booklet that provides a brief history of all the participants is included.

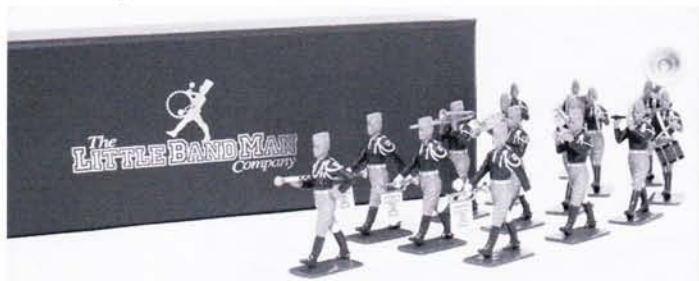
Sculpting and detail on all the pieces is nice, crisp and well proportioned. The King Edward Crown held by The Archbishop of Canterbury is very well done. The red and gold cushion, complete with fringe and tassels upon which the Crown rested, is held by The Dean of Westminster, another excellent figure. The most imposing piece of the set has to be The Marquess of Salisbury holding the 50 ft", 8 pound Sword of State.

What really makes this set is the excellent painting. The vestments and robes of all the clergy figures are very well detailed, each with its own color scheme and motif. Holding the Sceptre with the Cross in her right hand, and the rod of Equity and Mercy in her left, the Queen is the highlight of the set. Resplendent in her gold robe, the heavily embroidered Coronation dress is visible.

With limited production, why not treat yourself and buy two sets-one for display, the other for the future!

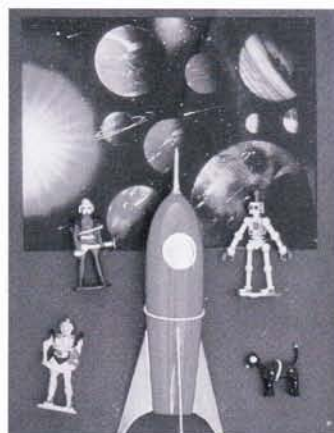


## Collegiate Bands by The Little Band Man



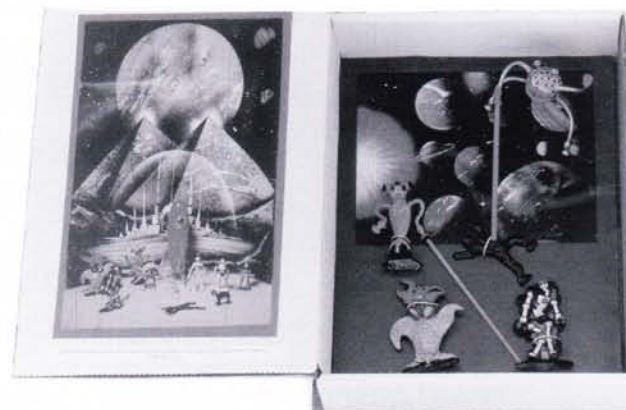
The Little Band Man Company is proud to present officially licensed, 54 millimeter, white metal, hand-painted figures of today's College marching bands.

July 2003 marks our company debut as we proudly roll out Texas A&M University's Fightin' Texas Aggie Band! Our 15 piece band features one drum major, three bugle rank cadets, one piccolo, one clarinet, one saxophone, one trumpet, one French horn, one trombone, one baritone, one sousaphone, one cymbal, one snare drum and one bass drum. The 15 piece marching band is beautifully packaged in our signature maroon box. All of the cadets in the band are featured in senior boots and "Midnight" uniforms. A smaller "Bugle Rank" set is also available for purchase that includes one drum major and four bugle rank cadets. We are also proud to let you know that The Little Band Man is owned and operated by a Texas A&M University former student; Jady Regard '95!



VINTAGE SPACE: ROCKETSHIP by Eccles Bros., Ltd. FIGURES by Jacques Cuypers Made in U.S.A.

Ron Eccles and Jacques Cuypers have collaborated to produce the first in a series of space figures. Both sets illustrated will be available in limited quantities at this year's O.T.S. Show. Advance orders recommended. Contact Eccles Brothers LTD. 319-752-3840



ALIEN SPACE SET: FIGURES by Jacques Cuypers. GRAPHICS by Eccles Bros., Ltd. Made in U.S.A.



## **NEW PRODUCTS (Cont.)**

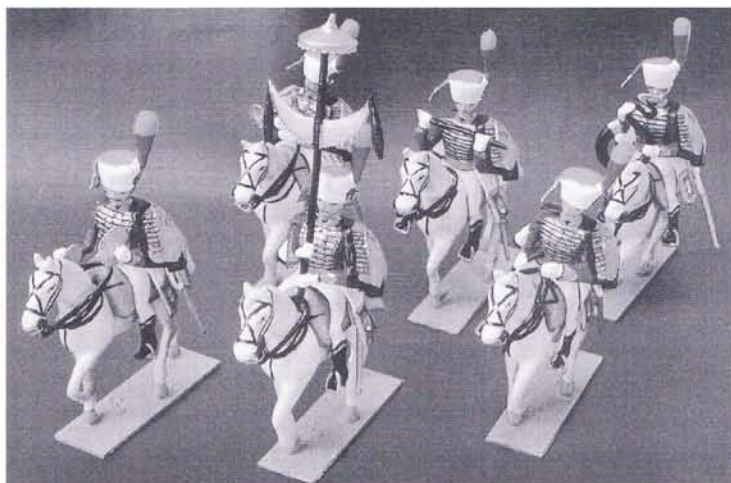
*by Russ Bednarek*

### **LUCOTTE MUSIQUE DES CHASSEURS A CHEVAL**

Napoleon called them the "Invincibles". As part of the Imperial Guard they were entrusted with Napoleon's safety and welfare from Marengo to Waterloo. The Chasseurs a Cheval were a vital component of the Imperial Guard cavalry. They were granted special privileges, one of them was the formation of a mounted band.

It is this mounted band that is the newest set issued by the French firm Lucotte, as part of the Lucotte Collectors Club.

The complex history of Lucotte, which began producing toy soldiers in 1840 would be an article in itself. Readers are referred to Lenoir Josey's superb three part series, (OTSN Vol.19, No.1,2,3), regarding the history of Lucotte and their figures.



This is the first of two six piece sets which will comprise the mounted band. The first set contains a trumpet, fife, cymbals, serpent, triangle and chapeau chinios. Additional figures in any quantity may be ordered to complement the basic set if desired. The figures are simply breathtaking in brilliantly colored uniforms, from their red and blue plumed white colpack, (fur headgear), to their hussar styled boots. Astride white horses with red schabraques, (saddle blanket), and adorned with a red pelisse, (jacket), over their blue dolman, (waistcoat), and ochre pants they are truly one of the most colorful Lucotte sets ever produced.

The quality and historical accuracy of painting is of the highest standard. The intricate braiding on the uniform's, schabraques and sabretaches, (suspended pocket), are stunningly executed. Superb craftsmanship is obvious in the quality of detail in each casting. Over 12 individually cast pieces are required to create one figure. When complete, the figures radiate a unique lifelike appearance, as opposed to figures where these details are simply sculpted on the figure. To insure the highest quality possible, each figure is entirely painted by the same artisan. As a result of this great attention to detail, it takes 3-4 times longer to produce a Lucotte figure. When the set meets the Lucotte standard it is then placed inside the traditional Lucotte red wooden box adorned with the same label used in the 1920's. This superlative set is available only to members of the Lucotte Collectors Club. Upon receiving the announcement of a new set, members are offered a "subscription", (order), which must be placed prior to the published deadline. Once the deadline has expired, the set will never be issued again. A unique feature of the Club is that besides the basic set, additional individual figures may be ordered in any quantity desired.

The partnership of Edouard Pemzecz and Lynda Franceschi are responsible for the production of Lucotte figures. Edouard Pemzecz, owner of Mignot, prominent toy soldier collector, author, (a review of his book will appear in the next issue of OTSN), and Lynda Franceschi, owner of Maison Lucotte are a perfect team. It is their combined skills of production, research and passion for Lucotte that insures exciting future releases.

Joining the Lucotte Collectors Club is easy. Simply contact the Club and request a membership application that will provide you with all the details you need. Don't delay as the subscription for this set will be September 2003.

Once you own a Lucotte set you will see for yourself what are arguably the finest toy soldiers produced today.

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

PHONE: 33 143 543 206 • FAX: 33 143 268 492

EMAIL: [platdetain.lucotte@wanadoo.fr](mailto:platdetain.lucotte@wanadoo.fr) • WEBSITE: [www.Lucotte.com](http://www.Lucotte.com)

MAIL: Au Plat d'Etain, 16, rue Guisarde, 75006 Paris, FRANCE





**LUCOTTE COLLECTORS CLUB**  
**To issue another exceptional set!**

Recently, the LUCOTTE COLLECTORS CLUB has issued, to celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a set of twelve Trumpets chosen among the most colourful Napoleonic regiments : first figure (the one shown on OTSN ads - see our previous issues) was the Trumpetter of the **Chasseurs à cheval de la Garde**.

To satisfy its Members' request, the Club will give this Trumpet his band-fellows : twelve magnificent horse-mounted figures in the same marching uniform - probably the finest Band ever issued by Lucotte.

As every set issued by the LUCOTTE COLLECTORS CLUB, this new one will be issued only once and never again afterwards, and only through a subscription opened to the sole Members of the Club - to retain the highest possible value among Lucotte figures (The 'Lucotte' Trademark is owned by Au Plat d'Etain, which has all figures made by CBG-Mignot as they have always been).

With their sets, subscribers get the official **Personal Certificate** attesting its authenticity and limited issue.

Each figure is stamped underneath with the **Club's Mark** (the famous Lucotte 'Napoleonic Honeybee')  
Figures are presented in two wooden caseboxes made after the traditional red Lucotte box, bearing a reprint of the famous 'Au Plat d'Etain - Maison Lucotte' label used before World War One.

LCC has been set up over twenty years ago to provide collectors with Lucotte series never seen before among past Lucotte production - or nowhere to be found for decades, such as this new set.

If interested, please fill in the form below and mail/e-mail or fax it to Lynda Franceschi, manageress of Au Plat d'Etain. You will get back full information on Membership application, the figures and the subscription process.

-----  
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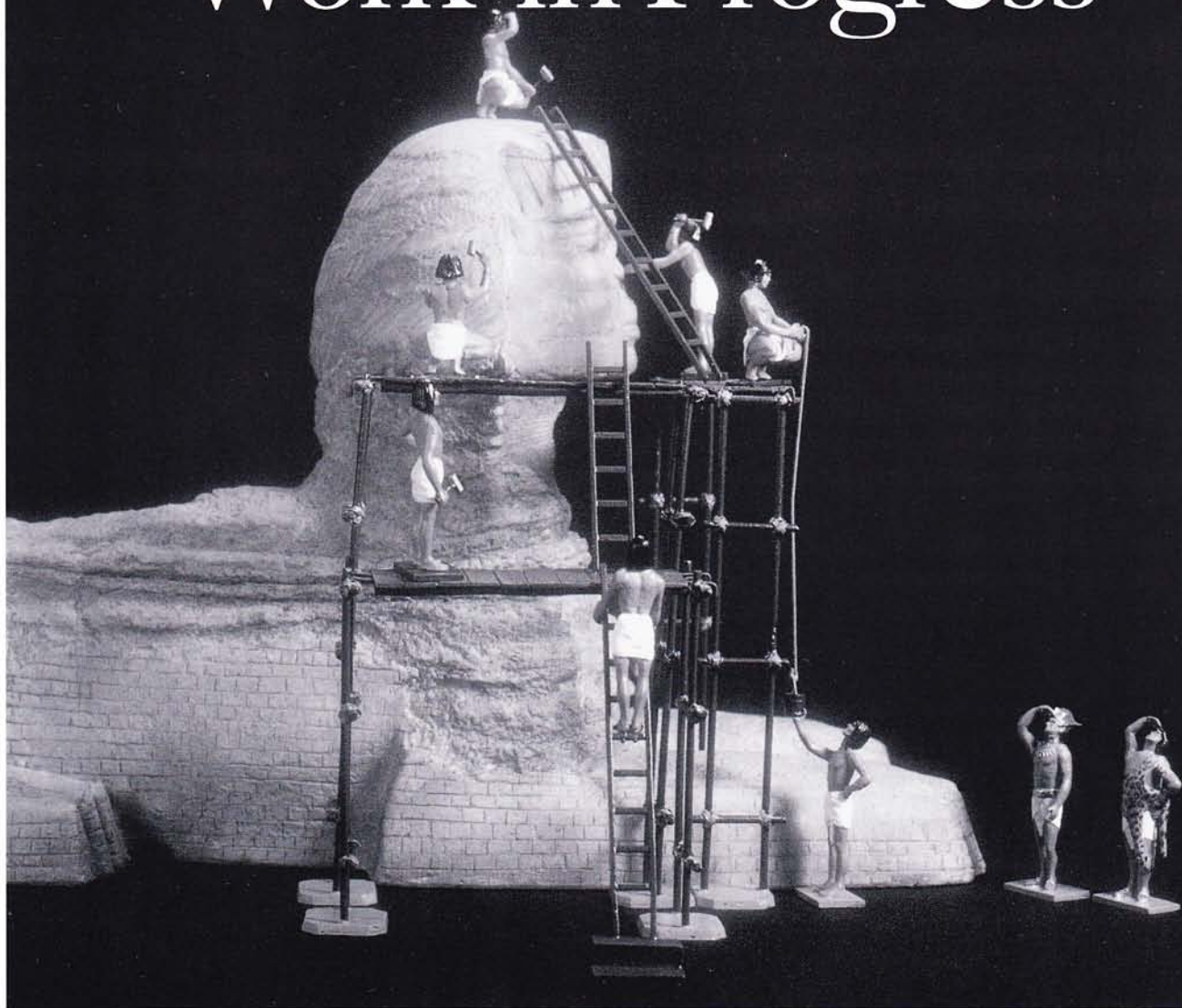
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Come tour The Toy Soldier Museum and Shop—less than two hours from New York and Philadelphia in northeast Pennsylvania. Or, if you can't come in person, take a virtual tour at [www.the-toy-soldier.com](http://www.the-toy-soldier.com)—hundreds of photos and figures, display ideas, regimental drums, and more. And to help you enjoy your collection, write for a copy of *Collecting Toy Soldiers*, our 20-page full-color guide to displaying, photographing and preserving your toy soldiers. Send \$15 (\$20 outside the U.S.) to Jim Hillestad, The Toy Soldier, 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA 18326 • Phone 570-629-7227





## TOY SOLDIERS SELL BRISKLY AT RALSTON-KURTZ SPRING SALE

Britains and Mignot toy soldiers and miniature figures by Richard Courtenay and Peter Greenhill scored equally well at the Lloyd Ralston-Henry Kurtz Spring Toy Soldier and Figure Auction held on April 26 at Ralston's Stratford, CT. Gallery.

The highlights of the sale included a rare Britains Volunteer Corps Ambulance (right), issued post war only from 1948 to 1956, which sold for \$880.00 after spirited bidding (all prices quoted include the 10% buyer's premium). Among the other highs of the day were a Courtenay mounted figure of the Black Prince (below), which sold for \$825.00; and a Mignot three-tier diorama box of French troops in action during World War I, which also fetched \$825.00.

A wide assortment of pre-World War II and post war Britains Ltd. Toy soldier sets were offered at the sale. A prewar boxed set of the 17th Lancers (estimated at \$300 to \$400), sold for \$605.00; while a postwar Britain's display set featuring the Royal Fusiliers, The Seaforth Highlanders and The Royal Sussex Regiment went for \$550.00 (pre-sale estimate \$350 to \$450). A Belgian Infantry display box (circa 1950) sold for \$485.00, and a pre-war-boxed set of Motorcycle Dispatch Riders went for \$375.00 (estimate \$225 to \$275).

Other Britains sets that fared well included a Self-Propelled 155MM cannon on a Centurion Tank Chassis, which was purchased for \$395.00 (estimate \$250 to \$350); a boxed prewar set of the Irish Guards firing went for \$355.00 (presale estimate \$200 to \$250); a postwar boxed set of Argentine cavalry brought \$330.00 (estimate \$200 to \$300); and a boxed set of the Duke of Connaught's Lancers (circa 1950), which sold for \$300 (estimate \$150 to \$200). An 18-inch Heavy Howitzer mounted for garrison duty (postwar and boxed) went for \$230.00, far exceeding its presale estimate of \$80.00 to \$100.00.

In other categories, a Courtenay-Greenhill special figure of the Comte D'Entempes, (estimated at \$400 to \$500) actually sold for \$740.00; while an original Courtenay figure of the Earl of Nassau went for \$440.00. An unusual World War I period Bosnian Infantry Band (estimate \$150 to \$250) fetched \$310.00; and a Mignot French Alpine Chasseur Mountain Artillery Diorama was bought for \$285.00. Another Mignot set of the Royal Guard of King Louis XVI (estimate \$200 to \$250) sold for \$350.00. In the Dimestore figure category, a pair of rare army boxers soared past its estimate of \$75 to 100, selling for \$220.00.

Lloyd Ralston Gallery and Henry Kurtz Ltd. will hold another toy soldier sale in the autumn. Those wishing to consign items or to be placed on the mailing list can contact Henry Kurtz Ltd. at (212) 642-5904; or the Ralston Gallery at (203) 386-9399.





## VECTIS AUCTIONS - UK 21 May 2003 Record Price For Empty Britains Box

An empty cardboard box from the early 20th century that once contained a set of British toy soldiers fetched 1,265 pounds (including commissions) when it was auctioned by Teesside auction house. Vectis, as part of the Potsdam collection, which saw over 80,000 toy soldiers, sold on May 21st.

The cardboard box which was described as in fair condition once contained a "Charterhouse Sand Bag Encampment" which would have included a supply of sandbags, cannons, tents, soldiers, Union Jack flag and enemy. The enemy in this case, according to an illustration on the front of the box, being a group of the Mahdi's warriors.



"It was very rare and is almost certainly the highest price ever received for an empty toy soldier box" said Peter Rumsey, Vectis's toy soldier expert. "The set would have been made around the late 1930's by C E Turnbull under their Charterhouse range.

The sale itself made over 128,000 pounds and the second half when the rest of the collection goes on sale October 15th is likely to make even more.

"The Potsdam" collection of miniature figures was founded in 1928 by Frederick-Wilhelm Meisner, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Imperial guard in Berlin.

Over the next 70 years the collection grew to one of the largest and most important collections of its kind in Europe.

Eventually it comprised of hundreds of thousands of figures, including conventional toy soldiers to flats and semi-flats. These were incorporated into groups and dioramas as well as single regiment displays.

Managed by the same family for three generations, the collection was moved following the reunification of Germany in 1990, to Potsdam, the former seat of the Prussian Kings. An historic 18th century building became the new home for the collection and it was named "Potsdamer Zinnfiguren Kabinett."

The owner of the collection, Dietrich Garski was born in Potsdam in 1931 and he organized and designed several remarkable toy figure exhibitions including "The white men and the other world", a colourful and fascinating demonstration of undiscovered countries by the Europeans. Also the "History of the Theatre in Tin", showing dioramas of the first Egyptian Theatre until the newest prospects of the Salzburg Festspiele 1994.

The centerpiece of the exhibition was a miniature theatre owned by English actor Peter Cushing which included many set changes and figures depicting various well-known plays.

Peter Rumsey the Vectis toy soldier and figure expert said: "This is an exceptional collection of toy figures and interest was received from all over the World. The collection included many unusual items including German sets by Heyde and French sets by Mignot that very rarely come up for auction.

The Chairman of Vectis, Bryan Goodall said: "This is one of the most important collections of toy soldiers ever to come up for auction."

Other high prices included 380 pounds for a Heyde set of Balkan cyclists, 2,300.00 pounds for a Heyde German S.A. band, 800.00 pounds for a set of Heyde large-scale German Uhlans regiment figures and 6,600 pounds for a Heyde civilian boxed playground set, complete with children, parents and nannies. It was made in 1906.

*The above report is Vectis Auctions official press release.*





## ***AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)***

### **Special Auction Services April 2003 Berkshire England**

Twenty nine lots featuring a recently discovered collection of Britains Cococubs animal characters and other figures owned by Mrs. Dorothy Kipping were auctioned by S.A.S. Mrs. Kipping's cousin was an employee of Britains Ltd. in the 1930's and acquired the figures during his employment at the factory. The Cococubs figures were in near mint condition and were outstanding examples, the colours fresh as the day which they were produced as they have never seen the light of day since the mid 1930's. The Cococubs were produced from 1930 in association with Cadburys Chocolate and used as a promotional item, issued as a gift with every tin of Cocoa. Offered as individual lots prices ranged from \$35-\$90 per Cub.



## ***AUCTION PREVIEW***

Bonhams London 19 November 2003.

Toy Soldier Auction Consultant James Opie announces that the Bonhams November Auction will feature a collection of early Mignot and Britains Paris Office Figures, Lots are still being accepted and James can be contacted directly on (44) 207 794 7447. See OTSN Fall issue for Bonhams advert and Calendar for further contact details.

Christies London.

Hugo Marsh Christie's Toy Department Director has announced a major collection of Heyde and Britains Toy Soldiers will be a feature of their December 5th Auction.

Telephone (44) 207 752 3274 .See advertising in OTS Fall issue or Calendar for further details.

Lloyd Ralston / Henry Kurtz Ltd Auctions Stratford CT. have a tentative date penciled in for their next Toy Soldier Auction - 25 October 2003. Contact lrgallery@aol.com  
Telephone 203.386.9399.

Vectis Auctions U.K. Potsdam Collection. Part two of this major Toy Soldier collection takes place on October 15 2003. See this issue of OTS advert and calendar for further contact details or view the auction on line [www.vectis.co.uk](http://www.vectis.co.uk)



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## BOOK REVIEW

### THE CRUSADES

By Yli Remo Vallejo

Published by AeroArt International

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

When one hears the words "AeroArt", one immediately thinks of the Saint Petersburg Collection figures. Historically correct and painted to the highest standard, these miniatures are in a class of their own.

AeroArt's first literary venture, THE CRUSADES, is also in a class of its own. Written by Yli Remo Vallejo with artwork by Russian historical artist Igor Dzis, THE CRUSADES is a wonderfully written, beautifully illustrated history of the Crusades.

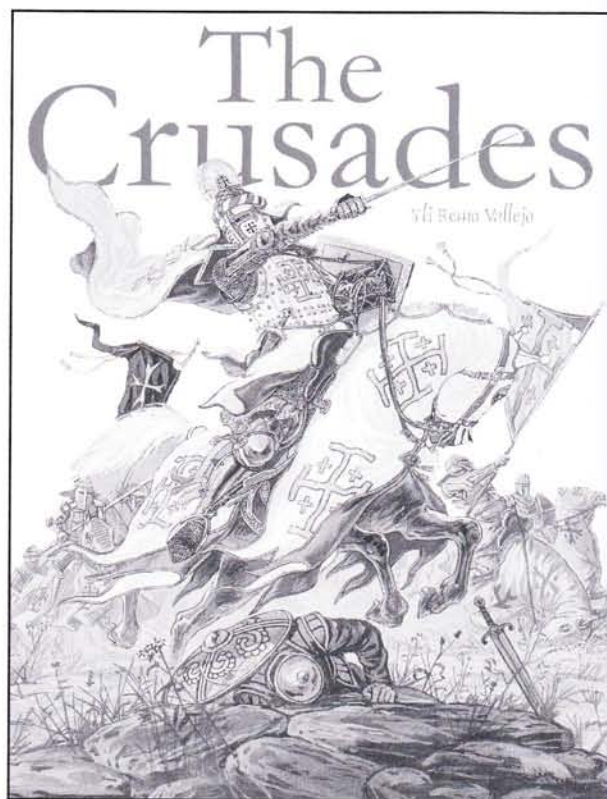
Vallejo's text is nice and concise, a daunting task as the Crusades encompassed 200 years! The author does an outstanding job describing each Crusade and its dizzying array of characters. Enhancing the text are what I call "story boxes". Typically, these consist of a half page or column in a different color containing, for example, the biography of a prominent leader or explaining The Military Orders. Vallejo's seamless transition from campaign to campaign results in a smooth flowing text that is easy and interesting to read.

Russian artist Igor Dzis is the perfect match for Vallejo's text. Illustrations are brilliantly executed with flowing action and dazzling color helping to convey the intense nature of combat. Each chapter begins with a full color double page illustration, followed by numerous smaller renderings. Beyond the 60 color illustrations, (19 full page), 6 battle maps, (in color), there are 6 double page plates depicting the arms and armor of both sides with a descriptive text.

The final 6 pages are comprised of 23 color photographs of Crusader and Saracen figures from the Saint Petersburg Collection.

Given the large format (8"x10 1/2"), 116 pages with 60 magnificent illustrations and superlative text, THE CRUSADES belongs on the bookshelves of anyone interested in this period. At \$30, this quality softcover represents an excellent value.

One can hardly wait for AeroArt's next publication.



## BOOK REVIEW UPDATE

Bob Catchpole informs O.T.S. that since publication of the Honorable Henry N. R. Jackman Collection of Toy Soldiers book review in our last issue, the Royal Ontario Museum gift shop has closed. The book is still available by contacting University of Toronto Press 1-800-565-9523 or 1-416-667-7791.



# AMERICAN DIMESTORE

## *Toy Soldiers & Figures*

Reviewed in OTS Fall 2000.

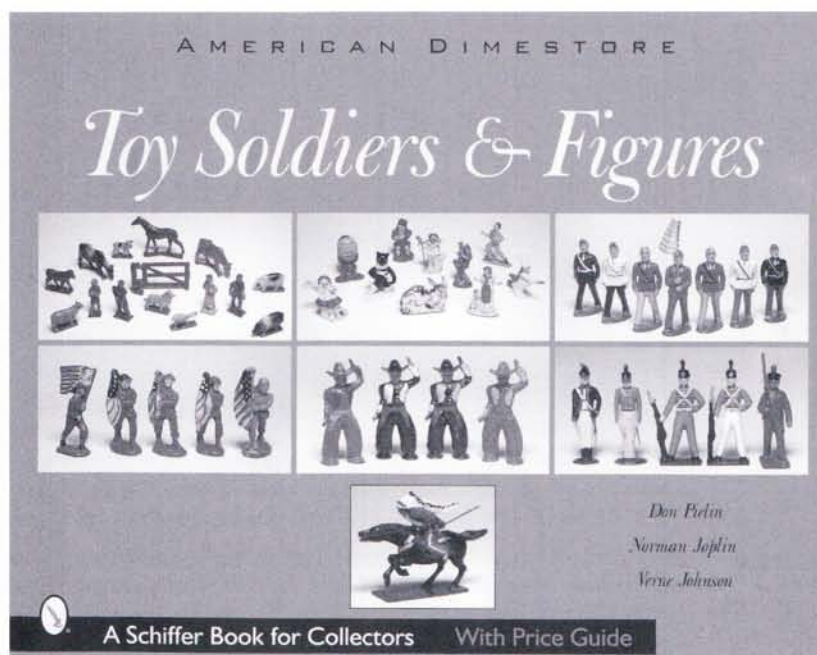
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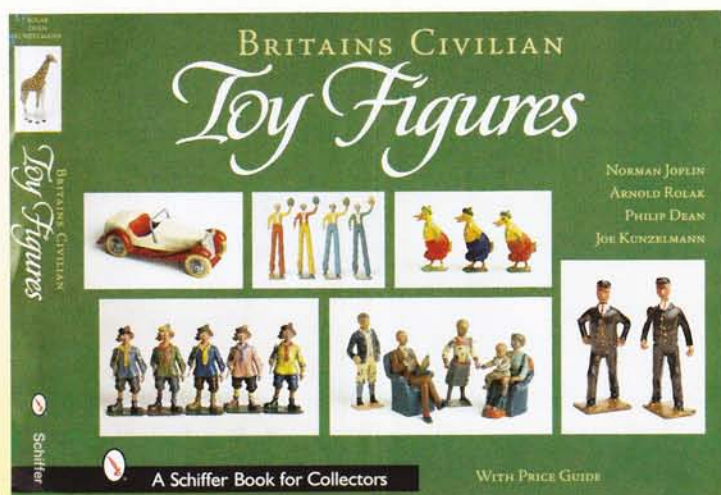
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# PINPOINTING BRITAINS LTD. CHRONOLOGY

By Joe Wallis

What is instructive about the accompanying notice of price reductions for civilian pieces?

The fact that it includes a specific date of September 28, 1931, confirms that: (1) the contents had been produced prior to that time, (2) a prewar catalog that shows a higher price for these items precedes that date unless it is the 1940 catalog, and (3) any listing that agrees with the prices shown for these items was issued subsequently during the 1930s. (Checking several catalogs reveals that these revised prices held through 1939.)

The practice between 1930 and 1935 was for Britains Ltd. to publish separate Farm, Zoo, and Garden catalogs, with the military lines in a main catalog. The pricing can help somewhat in narrowing



September 28th, 1931

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down the publication date if you run across one of these separate catalogs for the Farm or the Zoo Lines.

The price list reductions also show that Britains Ltd. was taking steps to mitigate the effect of the Great Slump or Great Depression. Military sets were reduced in 1931 from a retail price of one shilling nine pence to only one shilling seven and one-half pence (a seven percent drop). The selected Farm and Zoo pieces included on the accompanying notice include price decreases amounting to as much as one-third. Such adjustments were undoubtedly necessary to maintain sales, and to compete with competitors such as Johillco, Crescent, and Taylor and Barrett.



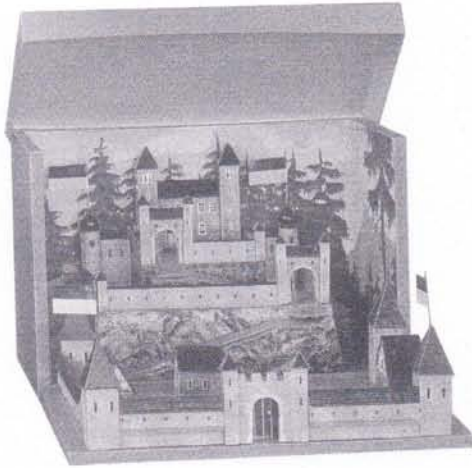
# FROM DOLLHOUSE TO 'FORTRESS'

## The military aspect of Moritz Gottschalk's toy world

by Allen Hickling

### Part 4 : From Father to Son (for the second time) The end of the third era - or the beginning of the fourth?

This last article in the series focuses on the closing years of the partnership of Lina and Kurt Wagner at the head of the Moritz Gottschalk toy manufacturing empire. They had steered the business successfully through the trials and tribulations of the early 1920s, and continued through to 1934 - at which point they handed over the leadership to Kurt's son Alfred.



An illustration of a No. 6319/2 from Gottschalk's own catalogue for 1927.

understood), it must have come out somewhat earlier - probably about 1925. On the other hand, quite a lot is known about the 6300 series, examples of which were featured in the Gottschalk catalogues of 1927 and 1929 (2), and appeared in the Gamages' catalogues of 1928 and 1929 (3). It is therefore reasonably safe to

Towards the end of their reign in the second half of the 1920s two new series came on the scene - the 6000 and the 6300. The production history of the first of these is a bit of a mystery and, in fact, the only documentation available is in the 1929 catalogue of Hamley's (1) - the famous toy shop in London. Actually, continuing with the assumption that the Gottschalk numbering system reflected the passage of time (although that relationship is not well

assume that it was launched about 1927.

Both are of particular interest because, in their different ways, considerable attention was paid to the immediate environment in which the forts were set. The 6000 series displays some of the 'film set' character of the range of Elastolin composition forts, which was being developed about the same time by O & M Hausser, while the 'fort-in-a-box' style of the 6300 series is more reminiscent of what one might expect to find on a theatre stage.

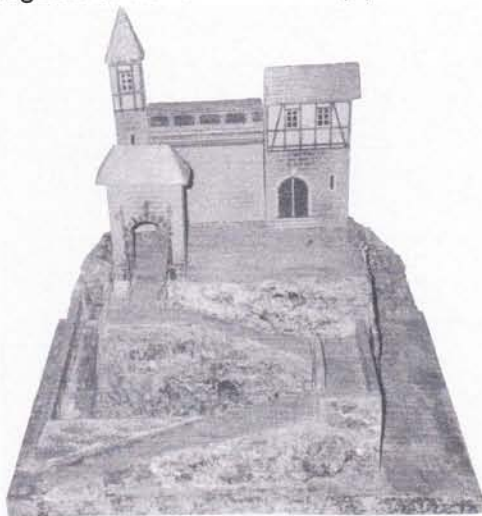
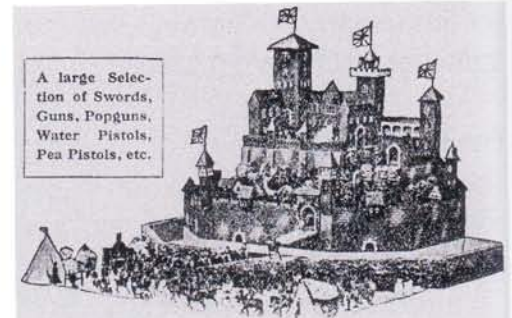
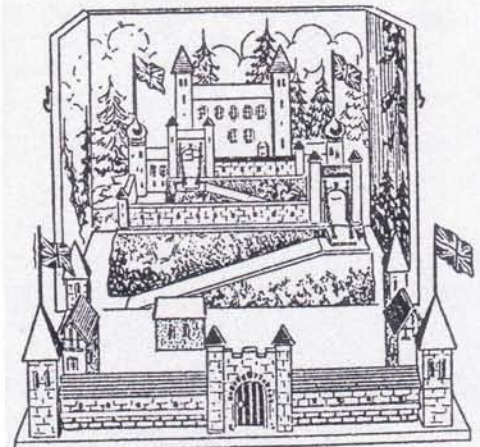


PHOTO: KYNDRIA HONOROF  
No. 6204: one of the smaller forts using 6000 series components at an estimated 13" high x 16" wide x 12" deep. It has beige/gray masonry, with yellow/brown courtyards and red roofs. It is missing all of its courtyard walls. The base is covered with bark. Note how the ramp doubles back on itself on a bridge over the built-in moat.



KT 234: MODEL FORTS. Medieval rather than modern, they gain interest in pictures-passes over the present-day version, for every boy needs in towers, moats and draw-bridges. Attractively finished and of strong construction. In every case the superstructure can be dismantled and packed inside the base. Various designs. Prices 5/11, 9/9, 17/6, 37/6, 44/6, 72/-.

An unknown number from the 6000 series as featured in Hamleys Bros Ltd catalogue for 1929. This looks likely to have been the top of the range - and then some!



MODEL FORT  
As illustration. Beautifully finished in colours. Strongly made. Size 24 x 29 1/2 x 23 ins. Price 27/6  
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An illustration of a No. 6319/2 from Gamages catalogues for 1928 and 1929. The size shown here is somewhat larger than the known example - was there an even wider range, or was this a bit of exaggerated sales talk?



PHOTO: ALLEN HICKLING  
No. 6087: one of the largest in the 6000 series at 30 1/2" high x 38 1/2" wide x 16 1/2" deep. The many buildings have reddish brown masonry, with yellow courtyards and red roofs. It is missing a piece of the courtyard front wall and a small supporting gatehouse building. It has an "O" gauge train tunnel running across under the back, which has a modern arched entrance made of cardboard.



# FROM DOLLHOUSE TO 'FORTRESS' (Cont.)



PHOTO: ALLEN HICKLING

Number unknown: one of the larger forts in the 6000 series. It measures 25" high x 19" wide x 21" deep including the separate ramp. The masonry is a rich creamy yellow, with gray/brown courtyards and red roofs. It is missing its drawbridge and a small circular penthouse from the large circular tower.

underneath capable of taking "0" gauge toy trains (see OTS, Vol 14, No 4, p 6).

There were some medium and small (7,8) examples which were simpler, but even these were more imaginative than their earlier models of comparable size. Most of the smaller ones boast at least a small amount of landscaping, and sometimes a moat with a ramp crossing it by means of a bridge (4,9).

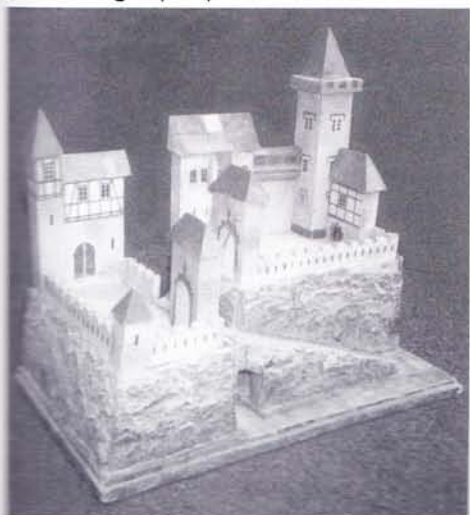


PHOTO: ALLEN HICKLING

Number unknown: one of the medium size forts in the 6000 series, measuring an estimated 19" high x 18" wide x 12" deep. The masonry is a rich creamy yellow, with yellow/brown courtyards and red roofs. The base

## The 6000 series.

The 6000 series is not as easily recognizable as other Gottschalk series. There is scarcely any documentation, and the tell-tale number underneath all earlier examples is most often absent. The only two numbered examples known are a quite small one (6204) (4), and a very large one (6087) (5). The others can only be identified as part of the series by their overall style and the use of particular components.

The series is best known through its very large (in size, if not so much in scale), quite complex creations - irregular shapes reflecting natural landscape forms, several levels and usually a number of 3-D buildings (6). The two largest known to this author are more than a yard across and over two feet high, and both use this great volume to accommodate tunnels



PHOTO: TIM OEI

Number unknown: one of the medium size forts in the 6000 series, measuring 17" high x 19" wide x 14" deep. The masonry is a rich creamy yellow, with yellow courtyards and red roofs. The base is covered with tree bark. Note the relatively thick crenelated walls.



PHOTO: PETER CLARK

Number unknown: one of the smaller medium size forts in the 6000 series, measuring an estimated 14" high x 14" wide x 12" deep. It has beige/gray masonry, with rich yellow courtyards and red roofs. The base is covered with bark. Note how the ramp doubles back on itself on a bridge over the built-in moat.

The buildings, in an architectural style which can be best described as early medieval, appear to be made to a scale slightly larger than any of the series after 3200. However this did not stop the retention of several elements common to other series - in particular the second store open gallery, with both the arcaded and the solid masonry lower levels; the ubiquitous small square tower first used in the 4700 series; the large circular tower of the 5200 series; and the medium sized square tower of the 5700 series (see OTS, Vol 25, No 2, pp 36-39, and No 4, pp 28-31).

The larger scale also makes for some buildings to be three dimensional, constructed in the manner of some of the very earliest series like very small dollhouses but without floors inside. There is a consequent greater attention to detail and, while the clever use of stencils to create it remained the same for most of it, some architectural features were now three dimensional - there are examples of exter-



## FROM DOLLHOUSE TO 'FORTRESS' (Cont.)

cular towers and some roofs. The bases of the larger castles were covered with quite large chunks of craggy cork, while tree bark, which was the standard before the first World War (after which it was replaced with moulded cardboard), was re-introduced for the smaller ones.

### The 6300 series

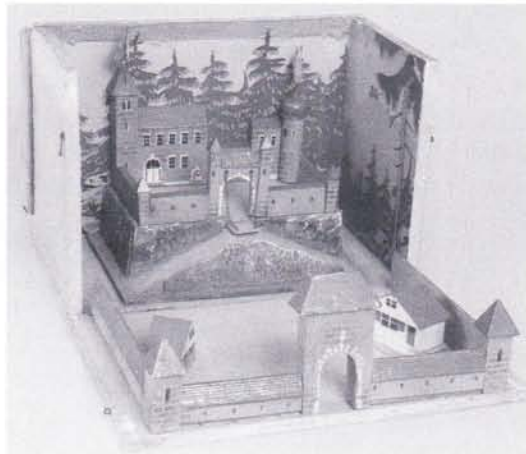


PHOTO: ALLEN HICKLING

No. 6319/1: this is the smaller of the two known examples at 11" high x 16" wide x 19 1/2" deep (9 1/2" closed). The buildings have reddish brown masonry, with yellow courtyards and red roofs. The buildings forming the castle are from No. 5730, and those at the front are from the 6000 series. The little houses are of unknown heritage.

two sides and the back formed a setting for the fort (somewhat in the nature of a set in the theatrical sense). The top was really to keep the dust off in storage and folded over behind the backdrop playing no part in the proceedings.

The only two examples known are numbered 6319/1 (11) and 6319/2 (12). The castle part of these creations were mostly quite small scale, much smaller than other series, and re-used the components which went to make up a much earlier production - No. 5730 (13). It is not known whether this low 5700 number was an isolated example or one

of a series yet to be identified. However its small scale provided an opportunity, grasped by the designers, to put buildings from their regular forts in the foreground - thus using the perspective effect so created to provide a sense of great depth (14).

Perhaps cashing in on the success of the first in this series, the Gottschalk catalogue of 1929 features another type of castle - in a box with sides which fold out to make it even more theatre-like - which utilizes pieces from the 6000 series (15). This probably made sense in terms of mass production and repetition of compo-



PHOTO: PATTY COOPER

No. 5730: this castle is of a smaller scale than most contemporary Gottschalk offerings, and measures only 13" high x 17" wide x 13" deep. The buildings have reddish brown masonry, with yellow courtyards and red roofs. It is not known if this was one of a series or a 'one-off'. Its components went to make up the forts on the 6300 series.

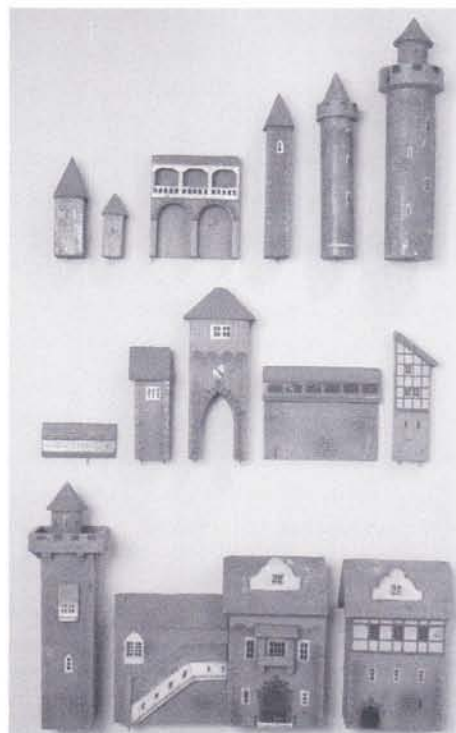


PHOTO: ALLEN HICKLING

Some components of the 6000 series. The top row contains those components 'inherited' from earlier productions such as the 5200 and 5500 series. The middle and bottom rows are comprised of components created for the 6000 series. The middle row are those which were used frequently on many models, while the bottom row are some specifically designed 3-D buildings each one of which may have been unique.

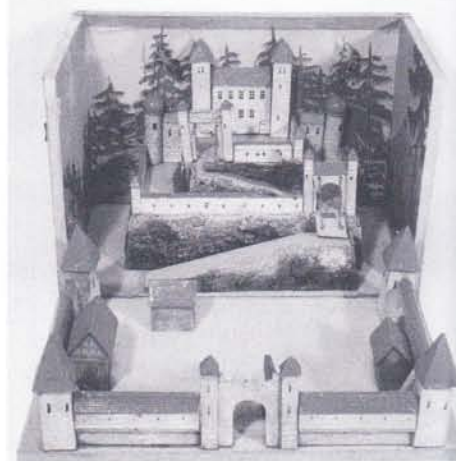


PHOTO: JIM OSBORNE

No. 6319/2: this is the larger of the two known examples at 13 1/2" high x 20" wide x 25 1/2" deep (12 1/2" closed). It has beige/gray masonry, with yellow courtyards and red roofs. The buildings forming the castle are from No. 5730, and those at the front are from the 6000 series - the walls being higher than those on the larger castles. The small houses at the front are finished with sand. The gate at the entrance is open in this photograph.

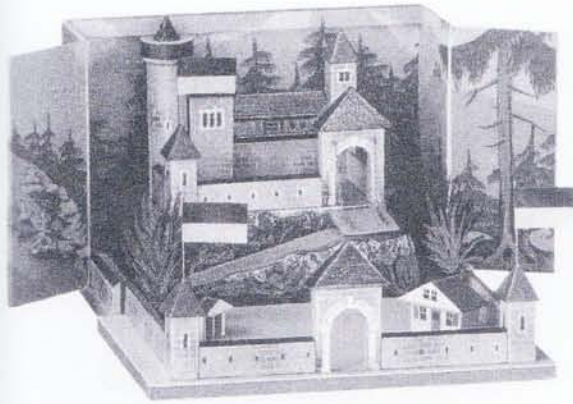


## FROM DOLLHOUSE TO 'FORTRESS' (Cont.)

nents, but it created a much cruder effect, and lost the benefit of artificial perspective. Its size and number are not known.

### The end of the story

These two splendid series appear to have been the 'last hurrah' for the Gottschalks' supremacy in the production of toy forts - at least outside Germany. In Britain and America examples of their products diminished rapidly as new companies entered the market - such as Lines Bros Ltd of London with their Tri-ang line of toy forts which first



An unknown number from the 6300 series as featured in Gottschalk's own catalogue for 1929. This one utilizes components from the 6000 series.

appeared in 1933, or Rich Toys of Clinton, Iowa and Keystone of Boston, Mass.

Regrettably, little is known by this author about how it all took place - other than this was the time of the depression in Europe and America - including massive socio-economic change in Germany with the rise of the Third Reich. What is known is that thereafter the company continued through to the early war years and its closure as a private enterprise in 1942.

All in all a depressing end to what had been a glorious seventy years. One wonders what Moritz - the first of the Gottschalk toy fort makers - would have thought about it all.



PHOTO: ALLEN HICKLING

This is a photograph of a No.6319/1, taken to illustrate the 'enhanced perspective' effect which was achieved by the use of the larger scale 6000 series buildings in front of the smaller scale castle inherited from No.5730.

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*Paris 1935-1953*







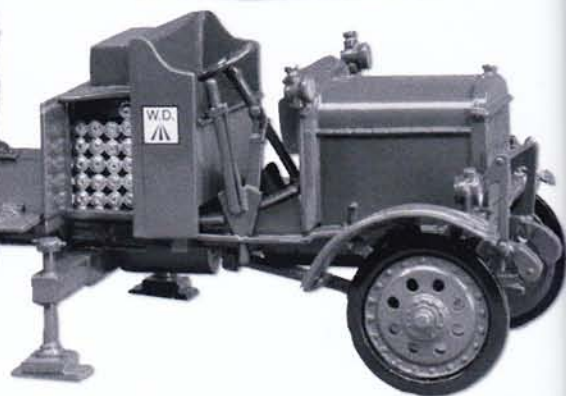


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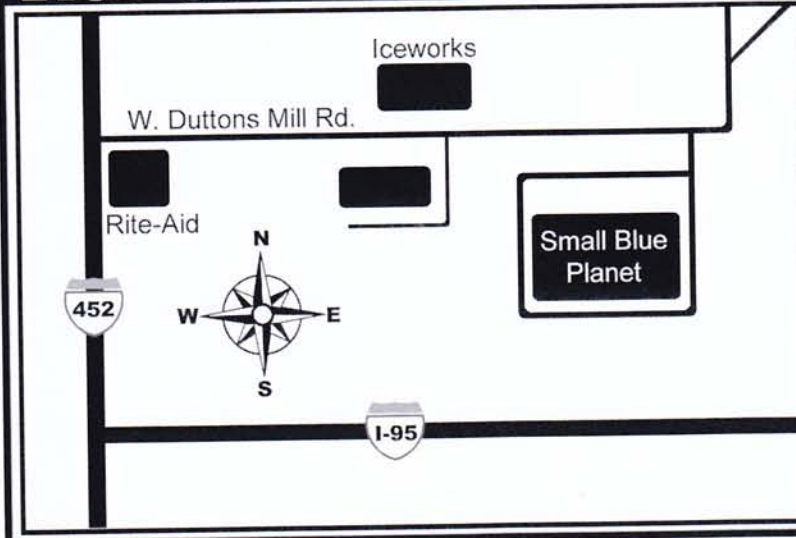
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# Toy Soldier Manufacturers Inspirations

## "The Idea for a Toy Soldier" (Part 1)

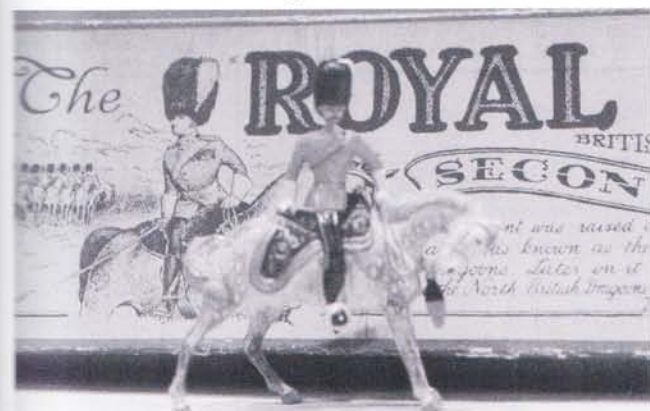
by Bill O'Brien

When looking through military books, old prints or post cards, we occasionally come across an illustration of a figure that has actually provided the inspiration for the creation of a toy soldier. One only has to review the work of the English military artists Richard Simkin or Harry Payne to discover the uniforms, equipment and poses that inspired so many of the molds of the early British hollowcast makers-Hanks, Fry, BMC, John Hill and William Britains. The artistry of H.A. Ogden also served as the inspiration for the depiction of the American soldier in miniature via his "Pagent of America" illustrations which obviously influenced Edward Jones and his metal art creations. (See future OTS article on this subject.)



**Gentleman in Khaki by Fry**

One of my favorite examples is the illustration of Caton Woodville's statue of "Gentleman in Khaki" which was inspired by Rudyard Kipling's poem and which became the symbol of the British troops during the Boer War. This figure, standing heroically at the ready with bandaged head was made by Fry and sold individually.



**Royal Scots Grey Officer Turned in Saddle created by Bill.**

Throughout 75 years of the production of hollowcast toy soldiers, William Britains used illustrations in their catalogs and on box lids to promote the sale of their figures. From 1908 to 1930, Fred Whisstock produced some wonderful label art for Britains. On rare occasion Britain's featured the illustration of a figure that was never produced. My conversion of an Officer of the Royal Scots Greys, turned in the saddle to represent the figure on the label for set # 32 is illustrated above.



**Raphael Tuck postcard providing inspiration for Bill's 21st Lancers**

The Tuck's Post Card featuring Harry Paynes "The Four o'clock Parade at the Horse Guards, Whitehall, provides another example for the creation of a toy soldier. If you look carefully at the far right front rank, you will see two dismounted troopers from the 21st Lancers. These figures inspired the creation of the set shown left.

The next time that you are reviewing a book, painting or print you might look for the illustration of a figure that inspired the creation of a toy soldier. Better yet, you may find an illustration that will prompt someone to create a wonderful new figure.

Editors Note: Bill O'Brien, long time toy soldier devotee delights in making and converting toy soldiers, he states "my toy soldiers are my passion and hobby" created for enjoyment and to fill those gaps left by commercial manufacturers. Part two of this article featuring Bill O'Brien's work will be published in a future issue of O.T.S.



**21st Lancers with Officer - Bill O'Brien**



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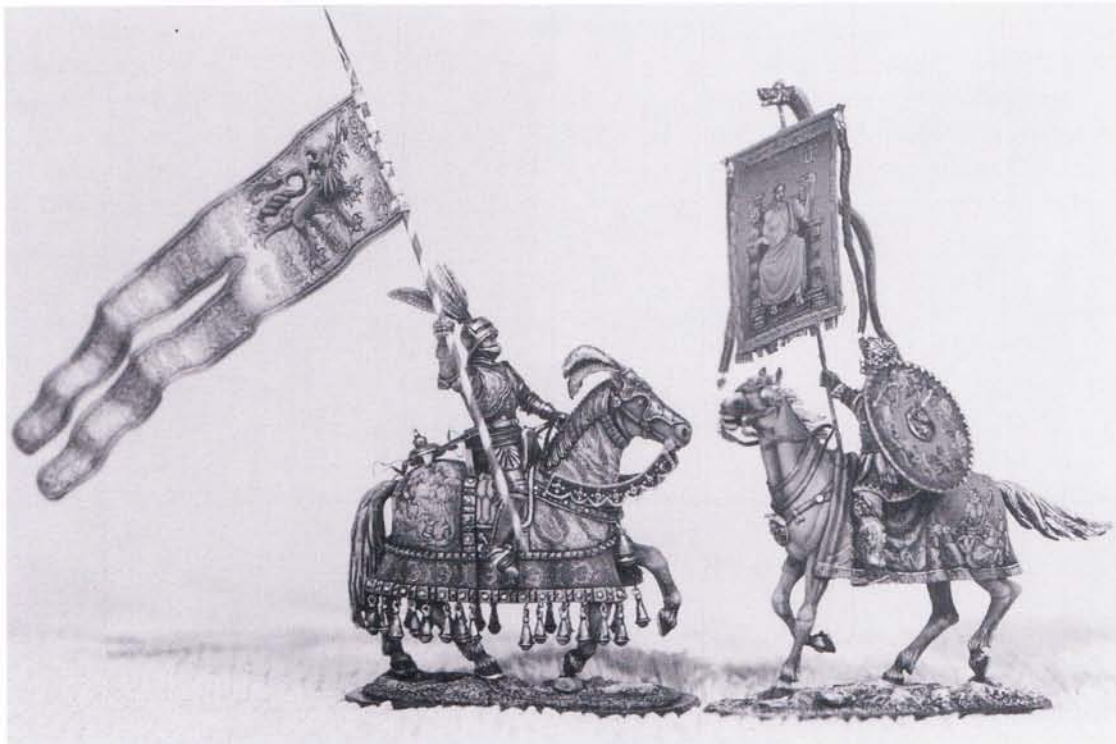
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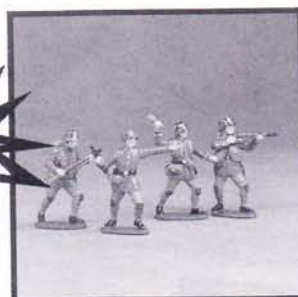


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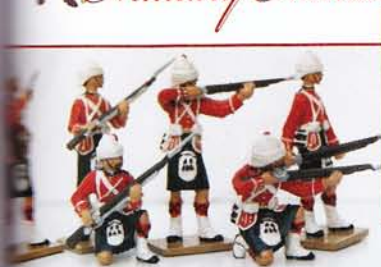




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# A PILGRIMAGE TO THE ATELIER DE CBG MIGNOT

by Jack Carleton

We had spent a few days in Paris and collected our rental car from Hertz at the ever so convenient Carillon du Louvre. At about 10:00AM we left Paris and, after the pre-requisite traffic snarls on the Peripherique, we were on the main highway south toward Tours. Virtually, the entire area between Orleans and Angers is known as the Loire Valley, and if you have not done this area before, we strongly urge that you give yourself a couple of days, at the very least, to catch the top chateaux: Chambord, Blois, Chenonceau, Loches and Azay le Rideau. Depending on time, stick to the Michelin Green Guide three star rated Chateaux. A straight drive, as we did it, takes about three hours to get from Paris to Tours, and then another hour to get to our favorite chateau hotel-Chateau Rochecotte. This beautiful Italianate chateau, with an excellent restaurant, beautiful grounds and pool, even has its own chapel, once belonging to Napoleon's Foreign Minister, Talleyrand. The great man probably only spent time here in the company of a mistress but the connection is nonetheless valid. All the rooms are decorated in different themes, many with period pieces. The price varies according to accommodation ranging from roughly \$100 per night, per couple up to \$300 for a suite, with very nice accommodations being available in the \$150 range. Do not miss dinner if you stay here as it is some of the finest cuisine in the region.



Chateau Rochecotte, once owned by Napoleon's Foreign Minister Talleyrand.



Jack Carleton (Right) with prominent Mid West collector Dr. Steve Ham outside the Atelier.

The atelier is situated here because Monsieur Pemzec, tiring of the congestion in Paris, bought a small 11th century convent here some years ago. As his renovation of the convent proceeded, he moved his technical instrument factory to the nearby village. A few years later, he sold that business to a German dental instrument manufacturer and subsequently bought Mignot out of bankruptcy with his long time friend and accountant Monsieur Grand-Dufay. So it is in this idyllic setting with the convent on the small rise and the road between it and what could have

The next morning we meandered over small country roads for about half an hour to reach the atelier. As you roll down the final hill and come out of the woods you embrace a beautiful pastoral valley, complete with sheep on the hillsides and a babbling stream down the center. This is the setting for the atelier in La Breille - SEG 075 Volume 26 #3 Page 68 les Pins, France. A map is available on [www.cbgmignot.com](http://www.cbgmignot.com) website. If you do not want to drive down, you can take a train from Paris to Tours for Saumur, and rent a car for the hour drive to La Dreille les Pins.



Mignot Trademark & Logo



## A PILGRIMAGE TO THE ATELIER DE CBG MIGNOT (Cont.)

been one of the convent's original outbuildings, what is in fact now the atelier, this long low story and a half with mansard roof and oval gabled windows to the second floor in the French style. Primary construction is the local field or sandstone. Across the back and the second floor, obscured from the road are great picture windows overlooking the small stream.

As you enter the main door, you find yourself in an office area which has a spectacular color copy machine which is capable of reproducing some of the backgrounds that you see in the dioramas. This is where the younger Pemzec, conducts the primary business of Mignot. To the right is the elder Pemzec's private office which houses the original desk from Henry Mignot from the mid 1800's. See OTS Volume 26 #3 Fall 2002 Page 69. M. Pemzec's passion extends not only to Mignot and Lucotte, but he also owns the name and molds for the Belgian manufacturer MIM. Today M. Pemzec's primary interests lie in the Lucotte line where he is responsible for two or three sets that come out each year for the Lucotte Collector's Club through Madame Franceschi and her shop, Au Plat d'Etain.

If we may be allowed a little license to divert our attention here, Madame Franceschi's father was the long time production manager for Mignot. Through one of the previous bankruptcies, he purchased and subsequently bequeathed to Lynda, the Lucotte name and label and Napoleonic bee with entwined LC

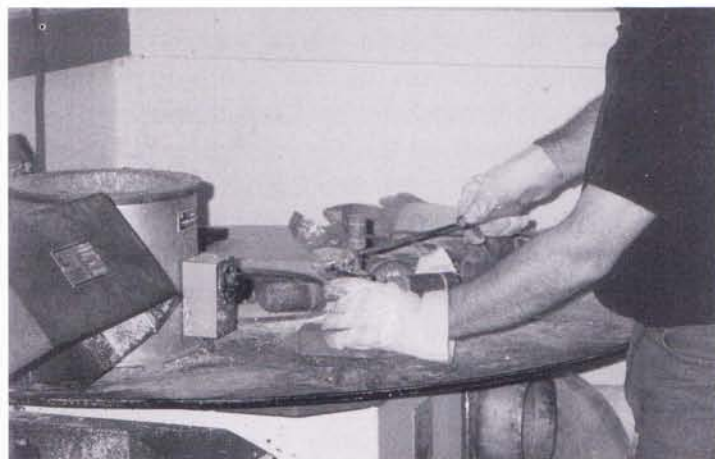


Loic Pemzec shows Jack some of the Molds in the Mold room, some of which date back more than 225 years.

trademark. But from that and subsequent bankruptcies, Monsieur Pemzec obtained all of the molds for the Lucotte figures. So the two are entwined for production purposes. Mme. Franceschi can't produce anything without M. Pemzec's molds and M. Pemzec can't sell anything with the Lucotte label and trademark without Mme. Franceschi's approval.

As we go to the left we encounter Sylvie, who is the primary expeditor. Although she only works three days a week, it is Sylvie who virtually does all of the tying in the box of figures for sets, assembles sets and dioramas, and boxes virtually everything for transshipment to the US and the rest of the world. Just beyond Sylvie is the new showroom which has some of the figures on display but they are usually in incomplete sets and are really meant more as painters' models than to show dealers what's available.

To the right of Sylvie is the mold room where all the molds for Mignot are kept. It is fascinating to see these molds, some of which are literally almost two hundred years old. Until recently, the newest molds were those that were made for the 1947 Israeli troops but now that we have entered what one collector refers to as "The Golden Age" of Mignot, they are producing new prototypes every three or four months. In front of the showroom is



Molding in progress.



Finished casting in Mold.



## A PILGRIMAGE TO THE ATELIER DE CBG MIGNOT (*Cont.*)

the casting room. Here the mixture of pewter and other metal alloys is heated in an ancient cauldron. A ladle scoops this molten mass out of the cauldron and pours it into the butterfly mold. Almost instantaneously, upon contact with the cold metal of the mold, the butterfly can be opened and out pops the figure. The room beyond this one houses the desk where the molds are cleaned of any residue from the seams and the appurtenances are hand soldered to each piece. If the particular piece is complicated, it could have a separate torso, separate head, separate arms, you name it. While the metal is still soft, the arms can be bent into the appropriate position. Now the figure goes across the little country road to another building which houses the Rube Goldberg paint primer apparatus. This is a system of bicycle chains and pulleys that dangle the figure on a hook and it's turned around while primer paint is sprayed on it. Most of the painting, incidentally, is done back in Paris by an especially highly skilled "tribe" of Vietnamese immigrants. Many traditionalists are happy to learn that the paint used today is of the higher gloss variety than was used in the 70's and 80's.

Since the whole does actually function as an atelier, sets are only made to order. There are no sets available for sale at the atelier. An American collector could pick up an odd piece or two, as long as he has French Francs in cash to pay for it. We might suggest that the best souvenir might be trees or shrubs or actual building facades which are difficult, if not impossible, to portray verbally or by photograph. Prices are higher than in the US because anything sold from the atelier is only sold at a retail level and must include VAT (value added tax).

The real treat is yet to come as we ascend the stairs to the second floor of the main building. Here you will find a painter at work to touch up odds and ends that may have been missed by the Vietnamese painters in Paris. But most importantly, this is where the vast majority of full size dioramas are set up. Arranged down both sides of this second level half story, under a peaked roof, with the French oval side windows, are every manner of diorama. Here you will find the large Gruss Circus, with great canvas Big Top, and over two hundred figures that were produced for the European circus manager at the turn of the century. There is the French fort, reminiscent of a chateau turned into the Maginot line...there is a moat, great battlements, but then you have a wonderful huge turret gun and French 1890's figures completing an exercise. They are wearing their blue/red uniforms and kepis. Some rush to the front on bicycles while others defend the fort. There is the five tier French Foreign Minister, at the turn of the century, Felix Faure visiting Tzar Alexander in Russia. Now the five tier Franco/Turkish war, with scenes on both land and sea-this was Malcolm Forbes' favorite and brought over \$12,000 when they auctioned his collection from Tangiers. Now a great polo scene with the colonials (in this case probably French) playing the Indian Maharajah's team. A great school house with school yard and the sisters with the little children at play next to a five tier "Jardin d'Acclimation" or children's zoo-a favorite for all ages. Here's a great French Boy Scout Camp diorama with a stream running diagonally across it and tents and trees and camp fires next to a three story firehouse with a brass pole and horsedrawn vehicles, next to a cavalry barracks, also three stories with the horses stabled on the ground floor, the Cuirassiers barracks on the second floor, and hay and oats and barley stored in the attic. Now we have a two tiered Joan of Arc diorama next to a table model Joan of Arc attacking a fort. Then we have Marie Antoinette's Procession to Trianon on two tiers and Henry IV entering Paris, also two tiers. We have single and two tier religious processional dioramas...in the late 1800's Mignot made all manner of miniature religious accessories-dollhouse size altars with priests and choirboys and small saints. There is a French Foreign Legion fort being attacked by Touregs and then a wonderful two tier Crusades diorama with Saint Louis IX. There is a three tier naval battle at Port Arthur next to a four tier "Chasse a Courre" hunting diorama that shows



Paint priming apparatus



## A PILGRIMAGE TO THE ATELIER DE CBG MIGNOT (Cont.)

men hunting everything from land to sky. A large Algerian oasis complete with a nomad bride arriving on her camel under a gauzy multi colored tent. There is the "L'Attaque sur la Diligence" or American Indians attacking a stage-coach. When I first saw that listed in the catalogue, I thought it was a naval battle and, boy was I surprised when I went back to the atelier and they showed me my Diligence-STAGECOACH! The very rare five tier Cavalry on Manoeuvres and four tier Infantry on Campaign. Some of the newer production dioramas on display include the Napoleonic Ball at Malmaison, two tier Battle of Rivoli, and Egyptian Campaign; table top Battle of the Pyramids. The original 1910 Napoleon camped at Boulogne, and the new two tier Napoleon crossing the Alps into Italy. Two versions of the Cuirassiers Charge at Friedland-one smaller, and one larger version; and the extraordinary Self Coronation of Napoleon at Notre Dame. Over there is the Prehistoric Landscape next to the four tier Gallo/Roman diorama. There is a four tier Sports diorama with everything from snow skiing to motor boat races, La Plage-which is a beach resort that could be in England or France, at the turn of the century. We could go on and on but you get the idea that there is tremendous variety and probably several hundred dioramas, large and small, in every genre imaginable.



The Paint Room.

As we reluctantly leave the atelier, we again encounter the permanent grass trimming goats and sheep. But before we leave the region, it really is a good idea to go by a local winery, built up into the cliffs (in Troglodite territory) where M. Pemzec's major collections are beautifully displayed. In addition to wide ranging antique Mignot and Lucotte displays, you will also find a complete collection of Vertunni, together with the original Vertunni Paris shop sign. There are even sets of figures that were played with by King Ludwig of Neuschwanstein fame and the Last Emperor of China. Perhaps the real prize are some ancient Lucotte figures that were supposed to have been used by Napoleon I to plan battles... of course they ended up as play things for his son, the King of Rome. Incidentally, this winery produces a sparkling burgundy that is not exported outside of France. In fact, the entire region is loaded with small wineries and if that is to your taste, there are many diversions readily at hand.

As a final note, before you leave the region, you would be well advised to visit the 19th century Cavalry barracks in Saumur and the world's largest Tank Museum, also in Saumur. There is something about seeing captured German tanks, in a French museum, on French soil! This museum even houses Russian tanks. Even if tanks are not exactly your thing, a couple of hours spent here can be very entertaining. The town of Saumur itself is very attractive and if you have traveling companions who are not into militaria, they can have a very pleasant lunch in a sidewalk cafe in Saumur while you ramble around the tank museum. The Cavalry barracks will always have officers or cavalry men exercising their horses, in full uniform. Another sight not to be missed just driving through town. Next time we'll delve a little further into the recent history of CBG Mignot and attempt to dispel some of the myths that have surfaced over the past thirty years.

Au Revoir.

### Editor's Note:

This is part two of Jack Carleton's article on his return visit to CBG Mignot in France. Part one was published in O.T.S. Volume 26 #3, Fall 2002. O.T.S. would like to apologize for the incorrect spelling of Mr. Carleton's name in this issue. Jack is owner of Le Petit Soldat (See advertisement in this issue).





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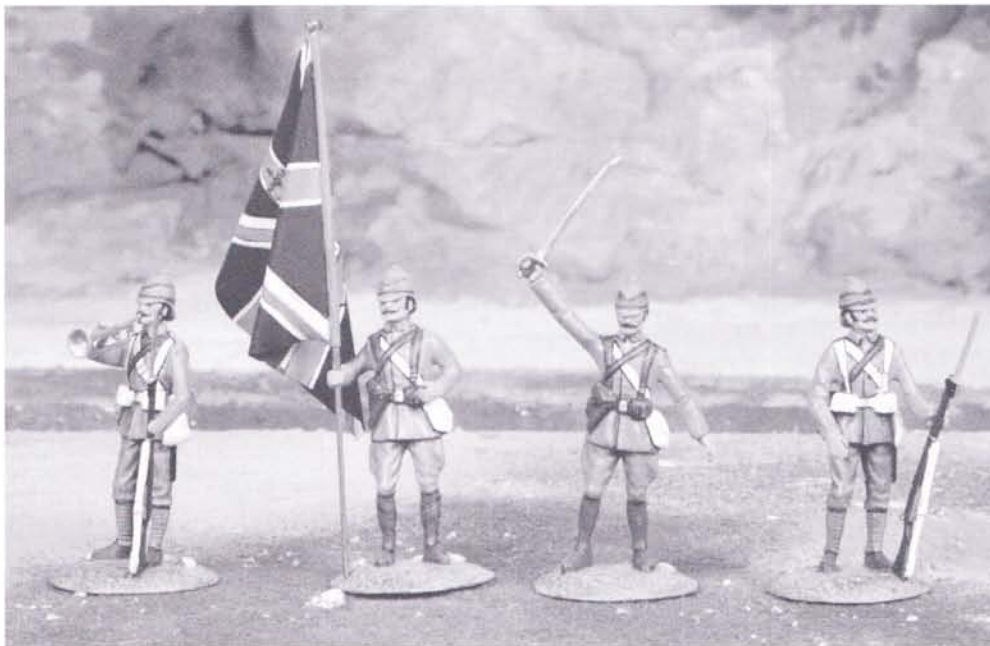
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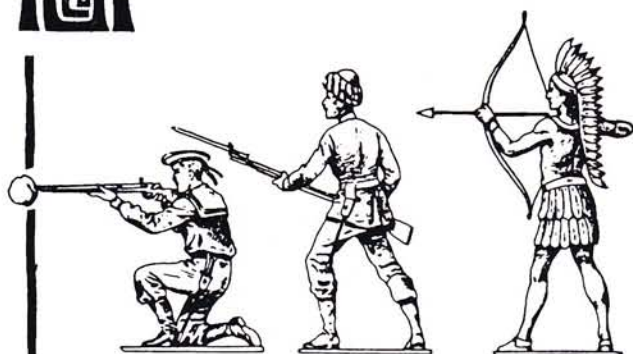
  
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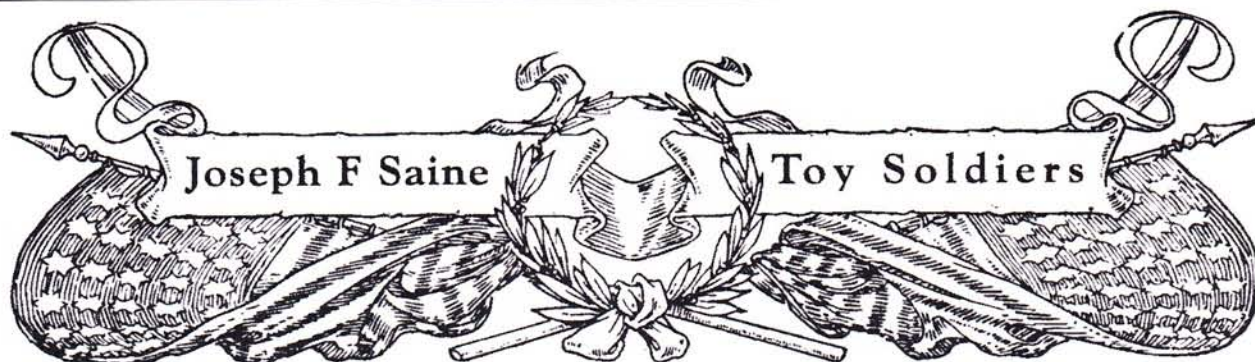
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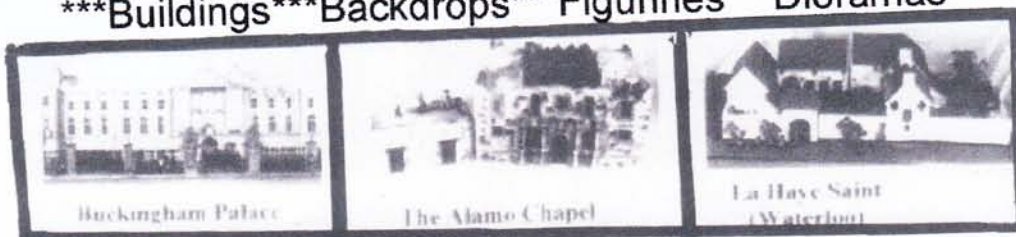
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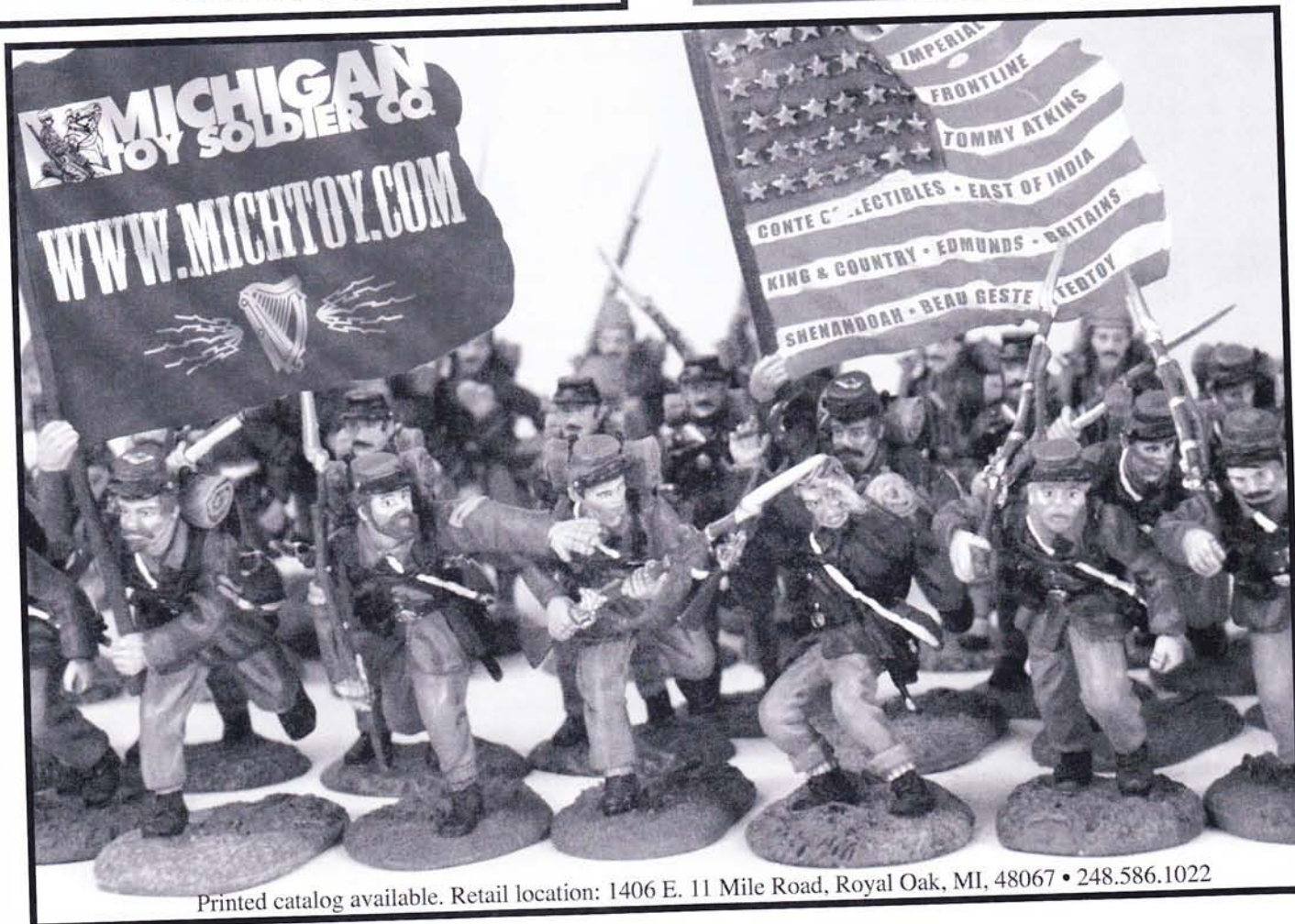
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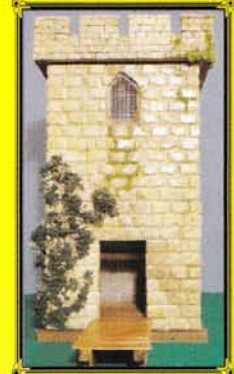


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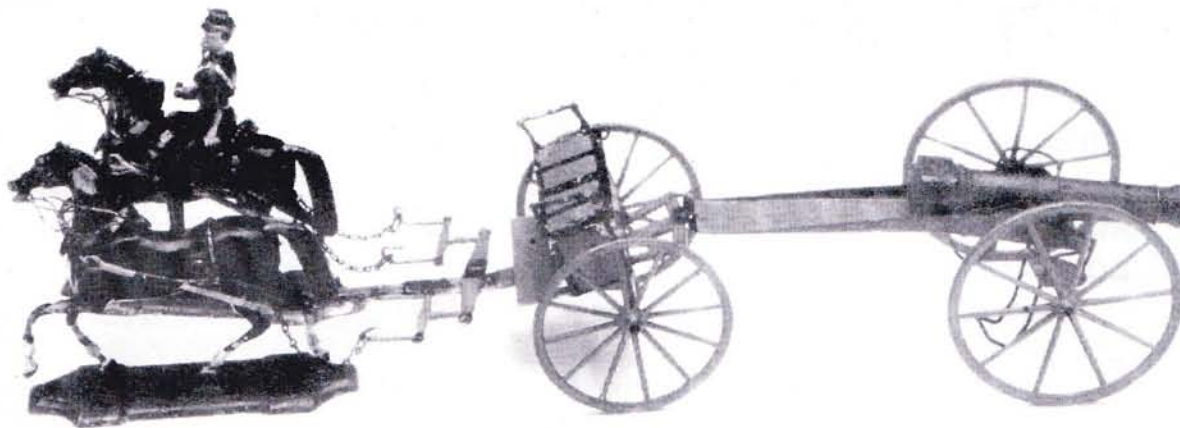
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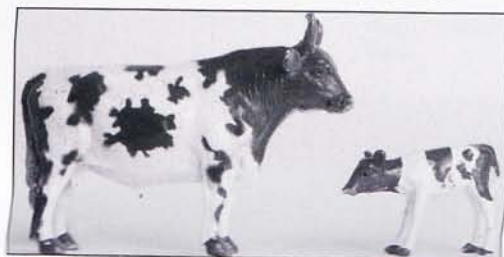
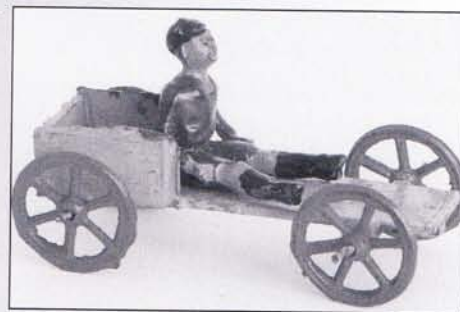
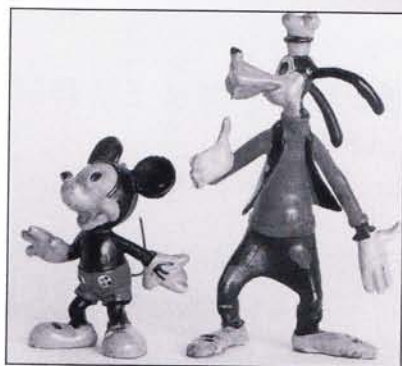
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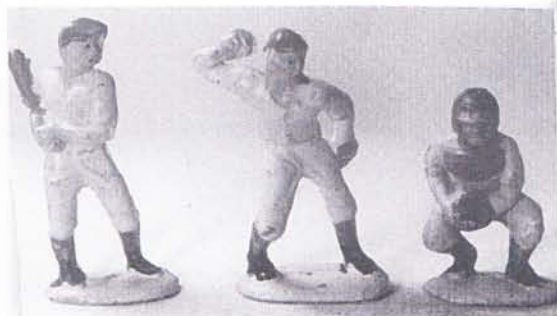
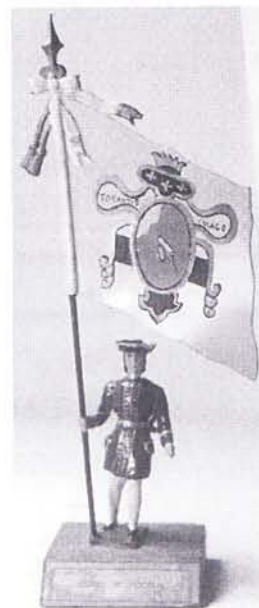
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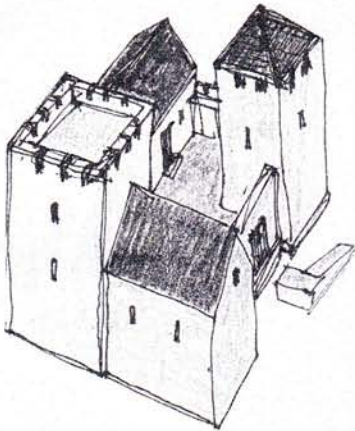
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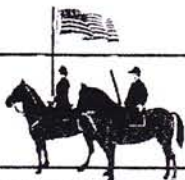
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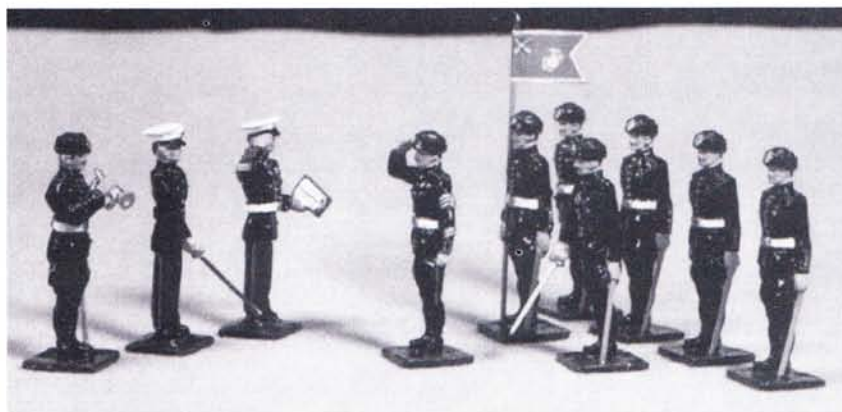
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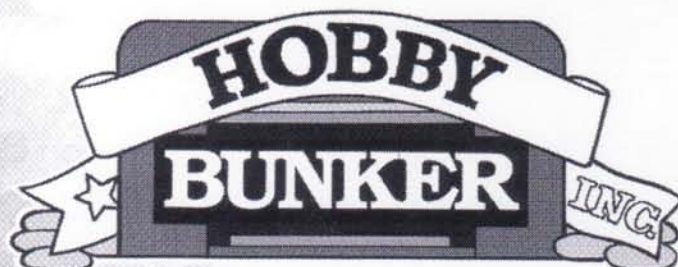
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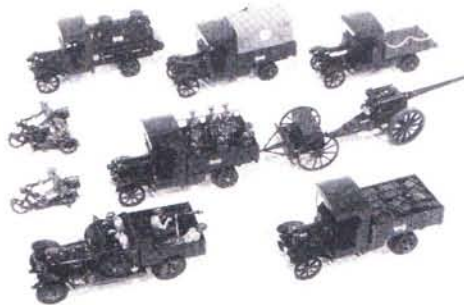
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**August 16 & 17 - Saturday & Sunday.** All American Collectors Show. Glendale Civic Auditorium. 1401 N. Verdugo Road. Glendale California. Contact 818.980.5025.

**August 23 - Saturday.** Dan Morphy's Antique, Toy, Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show. 9am-3pm. York Fairgrounds, West Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. Contact information (717) 335-3435.

**August 24 - Sunday.** The Hudson Valley Regional Toy Soldier, Military and Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am -3pm The Tarrytown Hilton Hotel, 455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, New York. Contact John Stengel (718) 418 9439

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

**September 5 - Friday September 6 - Saturday.** The 42nd Annual Washington Show presented by the National Capital Model Soldier Society. Sheraton Premier, Tysons Corner, McLean, VA, Steve Page 703-737-3943, John Penderville 540-668-7037, Jim Evans 703-960-0251

**September 7 - Sunday.** The Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Adria Hotel 221-17 Northern Blvd. Bayside. New York. Contact John Stengel (718) 418 9439.

**September 14 - Sunday.** Columbus Toy Show. 10am - 4pm. Veterans Memorial. 300W Broad Street. Columbus. Ohio Contact telephone 614 577 0220 E Mail jamesford73@yahoo.com

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

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

**October 14 - Tuesday.** Christies Toy Soldier Auction. South Kensington, London Contact Hugo Marsh 011 44.201752 3274. hmarsh@christies.com

**October 15 - Wednesday.** Vectis Auctions. Potsdam Collection of Toy Soldiers and Military Figures Part 2. Buckingham Community Centre England Contact. EMail admin@vectis.co.uk Telephone 44 (0) 1642 750616 www.vectis.co.uk <<http://www.vectis.co.uk>>

**October 17 - Friday and October 18 Saturday.** Bad Nauheim Toy Soldier Show. Park Hotel. Bad Nauheim. Germany. Contact Andreas Petruschka or Helmut Lang (030) 392 9490

**October 18 and 19 - Saturday & Sunday.**

Atlantic City "Atlantique City" Antique show. Atlantic City New Jersey. Contact Krause Promotions 609.926.1800

**October 19 Sunday.** North East Toy Soldier Society - 30th Toy Soldier Show. 9am- 3pm Holiday Inn Dedham MA. Contact Arley Pett (978) 283 2612. Fax (978) 283 2496. E Mail apett92117@aol.com Hotel Reservations and show directions (781) 329 1000

**October 26 - Sunday.** Antique and Collectible Toy and Doll World Show. 30th year. (The "Chicago" Toy Show). Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, Illinois. Contact (847)0526 1645 [www.chicagotoyshow.com](http://www.chicagotoyshow.com)

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**October 26 - Sunday.** Birmingham. England . Central Toy Soldier Fayre. 10.30am -4pm. The Clarendon Suite. 2 Stirling Road. Edgbaston. Birmingham. England . Contact David McKenna (44) 121 628 1397 Email dave\_mckenna20@hotmail.com

**October 25 - Saturday.** ( Tentative date) Lloyd Ralston / Henry Kurtz Toy Soldier Auction. Contact 203 386 9399. E Mail lrgallery@aoj.com [www.lloydralstontoy.com](http://www.lloydralstontoy.com) <<http://www.lloydralstontoy.com>>

**November 1 - Saturday.** 25th Allentown Antique toy Show and sale. Agricultural Hall, Allentown Fairgrounds, Allentown PA. Contact Linda Webber (610) 691 3468

**November 1 - Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Open House and Cellar Sale, 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco PA Contact Jim Hillestad (570) 629 7227 jimhill@ptd.net



## **TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2003/2004 (cont.)**

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**November 9 - Sunday.** 4th Annual Toy Soldier Show. Cantigny Park & museum. Winfield Road. Wheaton. Illinois. Contact Nick Albanese 920.261.1323 E Mail camprandall@charter.net

**November 16 - Sunday.** Westchester Toy Soldier Muster Show and Sale 10am - 3pm. Ramada Inn.94 Business Park Drive. Westchester Business Park.Armonk NY. Contact Daniel Karpinen (917) 864 4755

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

**November 19 - Wednesday.** Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Knightsbridge London. Contact James Opie 44(0) 207 794 7447. EMail lgotch@bonhams.com  
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**November 23 - Sunday.** Annual Pennsylvania Toy Soldier, Militaria and Miniature Figure Show and Sale 9am-3pm. Sheraton Bucks County Hotel. 400 Oxford Valley Road. Langhorne, PA Contact Ed Gries (201) 342 6475.

**November 23 - Sunday.** Connecticut Toy Soldier Muster, Show and Sale 11am-4pm. Ramada Inn Bradley, 5 Ella Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, CT. Located at juncture of RT20 & RT75 off I-91 (exit 40). Contact Daniel Karpinen (917) 864 4755.

**November 29 - Saturday.** 2nd Bloomfield Toy Soldier Show 10-Marriott (Centerpoint) 3600 Centerpoint Parkway, Pontiac, Michigan 48341 Contact Donald Case (248) 335-5626. dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

**December 5- Friday.** Christies Toy Soldier Auction. South Kensington .London  
Contact Hugo Marsh Telephone 44(0) 207 752 3274. Email hmarsh@christies.com

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

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

**December 6 - Saturday.** Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9 am -3pm Annandale VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Park. Annandale Virginia. Contact Bill Harlowe (703) 878 2922. Ed Gries (201) 342 6475

**December 14 - Sunday.** The Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Adria Hotel 221-17 Northern Blvd. Bayside .New York. Contact John Stengel (718) 418 9439.

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**February 8 - Sunday.** South Florida Toy Soldier Show. 9am- 3pm. (New Location) Fort Lauderdale Plantation Holiday Inn. 1711 North University Boulevard. Plantation. Florida.  
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**March 7 - Sunday.** "The West Coaster" Irvine Marriott Hotel.  
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**March 27 - Saturday.** British Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way (Russell Square) London. Contact Debbie Cockerill at Vectis Telephone 44(0) 1642 750616.  
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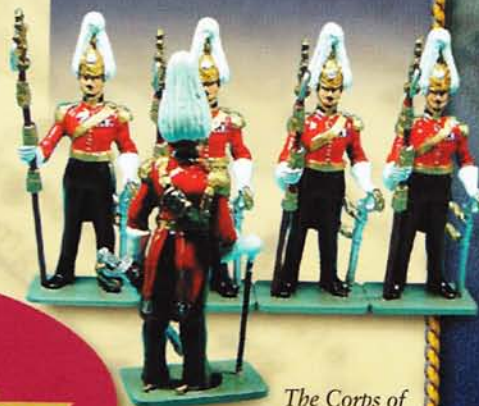
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