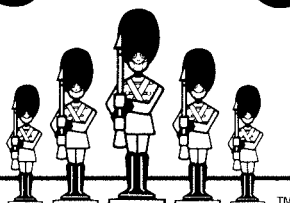


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THE CONVERSIONS OF NEAL CROWLEY
THE DUKE OF YORK

Photograph courtesy Neal Crowley

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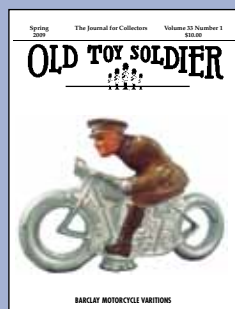
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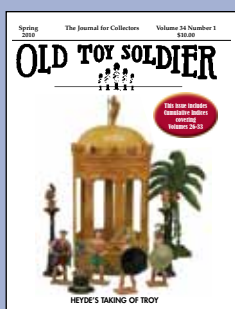


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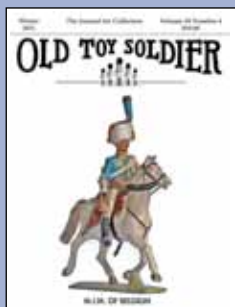
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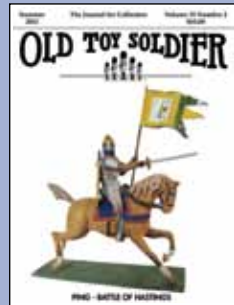


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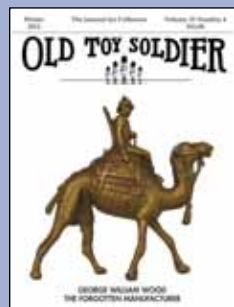
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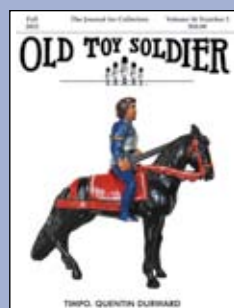
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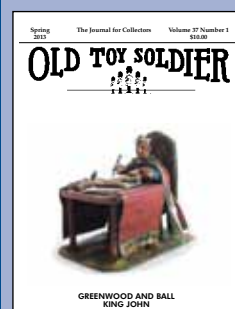


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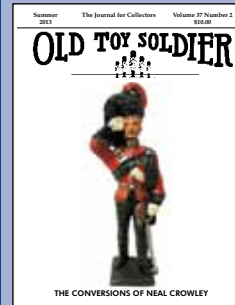


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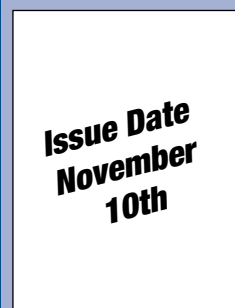
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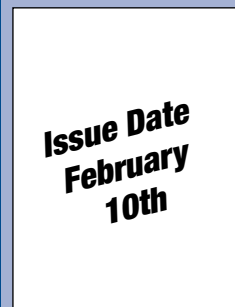
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BRITAINS ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY FIND AT THE LONDON TOY SOLDIER SHOW

By Rob Wilson

In previous articles I have written about Britain's various portrayals of the famous Royal Horse Artillery; *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* Volume 26 #1 and *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* Volume 27 #3. At the time of writing these articles I had in my possession an interesting but empty box for a double set of Royal Horse Artillery purchased at an auction. This contained partitions to accommodate two full gun teams, plus other compartments suitable for mounted gunners. The label was the standard RHA set 39 one, but it looked rather out of place on a much larger than usual box. With no reference to such a set ever having been produced I decided not to include it in the series of articles until I could find out more.

A full Battery of the RHA comprises 6 guns, each driven by 6 horses with three postillions and accompanied by 4 mounted gunners. A trumpeter and officers make up the full complement. The first Britains version of set #39 had the 5 gunners seated on the gun and limber, which was the practice in the early part of the 19th century, but which had been changed soon after Britains made the set. This

caused them to upgrade it with separately mounted gunners holding carbines in 1906, in line with their policy of striving for accuracy in depicting both uniforms and equipment. The standard sets never included a trumpeter although a few such figures have surfaced over the years (see my first article for a picture of a good example). These have been regarded as "on-off" specials.

My box would accommodate two full teams plus 9 mounted figures (an officer and 8 mounted gunners?). I packed the box away awaiting further information about what it should have contained. I was therefore more than a little intrigued to hear that another example had surfaced, and was delighted to find that Andy Morant, the well known London dealer, had brought it along to the London Toy Soldier Show in December 2012 to see what others thought of his find. He had acquired the set at another auction house to whom it had been delivered alongside a collection of militaria with an excellent provenance. The set, along with a few other figures and the militaria items, had been in the possession of the owner since



Figure 1: The box label – as used for set #39 but with no set number



Figure 2: The set contents – partitions for two full teams but what would have gone into the other slots?

BRITAINS ROYAL HORSE ARTILLERY FIND AT THE LONDON TOY SOLDIER SHOW *(Cont.)*

well before the start of the 2nd World War. The box did not feature in the auction pictures and was only mentioned in passing without details otherwise Andy might have had a bit more competition in bidding for it.

Unfortunately the contents were incomplete, and so we still cannot be sure what the original complement of figures might have been. It seems very unlikely that we are talking about a set in the standard Britains listing. Much more likely it was a special order for a store such as Hamleys, or one of the other major department stores. The figures that came with the box and which the vendor claimed were correct (albeit incomplete) included two first version gun teams with seats on both limber and gun, plus an officer. The gun teams fit neatly into the two large compartments as shown in the pictures but what would have been included in the other compartments? On either side of the main compartments are three square compartments suitable for a single mounted figure. Typically Britains supplied mounted figures in big display sets with just

a folded tissue cushion to protect them. In between the two main compartments are three equally sized rectangular compartments. These are not really quite big enough to accommodate two mounted figures side by side (although there is plenty of room for a single figure as shown in the picture).

This layout is exactly the same pattern as in my own box. The construction and size as well as the box label are also identical. Assuming that the sets did include 8 seated gunners to sit on the limbers and guns of the two teams, these could have been supplied on tie cards or based on tissue cushions in these large rectangular compartments. But if so that would probably have left room for just 3 mounted gunners for each team. Alternatively maybe they would have contained just the 1 officer and 4 mounted gunners for each team. We may never know for certain but if any reader knows better please let the author or editors know!

Rob Wilson 9th April 2013
(r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk)



Figure 3: The full set with box lid, including contents – with teams for seated gunners.



1.



2.



3.



4.

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MAKING A SCOTTISH GLENGARRY FOR DIMESTORE CONVERSIONS

By Roger Dubois

As a boy during the late 1940s and early 50s with an interest in the Western Front of World War I and a passion for Dimestore toy soldiers, I couldn't understand why the "Big-Four" Dimestore manufacturers didn't produce World War I European troops to compliment the American "Doughboys" that they had made prior to the Second World War. Where were the "Fritzes" to oppose my American troops? And where were the "Poilus" and the "Tommies" to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with my "Doughboys"?

Although 54 mm figures were too small and seemed too fragile for my taste, at times I envied kids who collected them. The manufacturers of these toy soldiers made "tons" of figures representing campaigns from around the world and throughout history.

And so what was the problem at Barclay, Manoil, Grey Iron, and Auburn? Why couldn't they just do it? When would we kids who collected Dimestores get our day to scrutinize some World War I European troops during a Saturday venture at a local five-and-dime store?

Alas, as some of us will recall, that day never came. It would be several decades later before this kid got his hands on foreign figures only because he decided to convert some of his Dimestores.

To be truthful, the only reason why I began converting Dimestores over twenty years ago was to counteract the sad memory of a childhood void, inadvertently created by the major Dimestore manufacturers. Had they made German, French, and British soldiers, I would have collected them, no doubt about it. And in turn, I might not have started converting Dimestores in later years. So in retrospect, I'm now glad they didn't because chances are I wouldn't be enjoying this wonderful hobby today.

In previous issues of *OTS*, I described how I make a German Picklehaube (v. 35, n. 2, 2011) and a French Army Kepi (v. 36, n. 2, 2012). In this article, I'll explain how I scratch build a Scottish Glengarry on the head of a Dimestore figure using two-part epoxy putty.

Before work begins, I locate a few pictures of a Scottish Glengarry from my military books as well as

from websites in order to get a good sense of what this bonnet looks like.

What follows is a description of the materials, tools, and steps that I use to make a Glengarry.

Materials: A & B epoxy putty; super glue; and a glass of water to wet the blade of a hobby knife and toothpicks so putty doesn't stick to them.

Tools: hobby knife and toothpicks.

Cutting and trimming of fresh putty will be done with a wet blade of a hobby knife while shaping will be completed with a wet toothpick or a hobby knife.

Making a Scottish Glengarry

Already painted as a British trooper, a Barclay Raiding (#763) figure was chosen to receive the bonnet after his tin helmet was removed. The first item on the agenda is to cap the hole on top of his head.

With my dust mask and safety glasses on my face, and remembering to wash my hands with a scrub pad immediately after kneading epoxy putty, I'm ready to begin.

1. A small amount of epoxy putty is kneaded, flattened, and shaped to the size a dime.
2. The putty is set over the head hole, flattened, and trimmed along the edges (Photo 1).



Photo 1. Barclay Raiding figure with capped head hole.

MAKING A SCOTTISH GLENGARRY (Cont.)



Photo 2. Fresh roll of putty on head.



Photo 3. Flattening out center of putty.



Photo 4. Extending putty downward onto head.



Photo 5. Reopening center.

3. Once the putty is cured, the process of building the bonnet begins by kneading putty and rolling it back-and-forth on a clean hard surface to make a roll about 1/8-inch thick.

4. About 1/2-inch of the roll's length is cut and placed on the figure's head (Photo 2).

5. With a toothpick, I press down on the center of the putty to spread it across the top of the head (Photo 3).

6. Putty on the two outer sides is drawn down and edged with the knife blade (Photo 4).

7. The broad rounded front of the bonnet is changed to a sharpened crease by removing some putty and

shaping the rest of the putty with the hobby knife.

8. When performing step 6, the top edges move inward towards each other, and so once again using a toothpick, the top edges are spread apart (Photo 5).

9. At this time the two sides are too short and need to be elevated. This task is done by first placing a wet thumb against the outside edge of the bonnet and then drawing up the putty from the inside with a wet toothpick (photo 6).

10. Steps 6 through 9 are repeated until I'm satisfied with the general shape of the bonnet.

11. Attention now is directed to the back of bonnet

MAKING A SCOTTISH GLENGARRY (Cont.)



Photo 6. Elevating a side of bonnet.



Photo 7. Back view of bonnet after removal of some putty.



Photo 8. Top edges have been evenly rounded.



Photo 9. Ribbons for the bonnet.

where there is too much putty. Surplus putty is removed with the knife blade. From both sides of the bonnet, putty is now drawn back with the knife to form the back end of the hat (photo 7).

12. A small amount of surplus putty is rolled between thumb and finger into a small ball to form a toorie (pom-pom), which when cured will be glued in the center of the bonnet.

13. The bonnet is nearly completed (photo 8). The top edge on both sides is rounded smooth with the knife blade followed by some edge work where the bonnet meets the head

14. The putty is left to cure overnight.

15. The next day, a small amount of putty is spread along the inside of the bonnet to smooth out irregularities and to build up the center so that the toorie can clearly be seen when glued to the hat.

16. After the putty has cured, the toorie is glued in the center of the bonnet.

17. The two ribbons that hang from the back of the bonnet are made by cutting two strips of appropriate lengths from a small empty metal tube of eye ointment and gluing two ends together (Photo 9).

18. Finally, the figure head, bonnet, and ribbons are painted. When dried, the ribbons are glued to the bonnet, and the finished figure is shown centered in

MAKING A SCOTTISH GLENGARRY (Cont.)



Photo 10. Side view of finished Raider in foreground.



Photo 11. Rear-side view of Raider in background.

Photos 10 and 11. The backpack and water bottle are metal castings that I make.

As can be seen, scratch building of a Scottish Glengarry on the head of a Dimestore is not all that difficult. With some practice, a very respectable bonnet can be fashioned. And since we're dealing with Dimestores, which aren't replicas of reality, the results need not reproduce a genuine Scottish Glengarry in miniature but simply meet the approval of the maker.

Concluding Comments

Were you ever disappointed that the major Dimestore manufacturers never made a variety of World War I European troops to supplement your American "Doughboys"? If so, you can now do something about it. With the ability to make a German Picklehaube,

French Army kepi, and Scottish Glengarry, you can create the major combatants of the Western Front that have been missing from your collection all of these years.

On the other hand, if you have never tried converting a Dimestore, then perhaps these three articles will stimulate you to give it a try. Once you do, you could be hooked on to a great hobby that can last a lifetime. During later years "and speaking from experience" it's a wonderful way to spend some or a lot of your time during retirement.

Questions or comments can be sent my way at dimestore4u@verizon.net, or if you attend the Chicago Show, you can buttonhole me in my room or at my table on Sunday. In any case, I'm always glad to hear from you.

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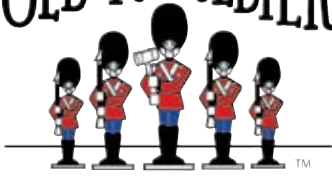
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Large scale Heyde

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



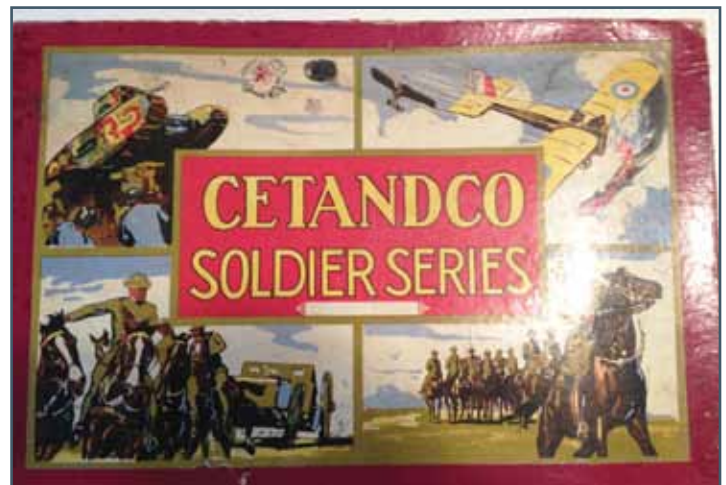
Collection of Early Britains Road Rollers and Steam Driven Equipment



Britains Set 154 Prussians



Britains Set 1437 Italian Carabinieri



Britains Set 33 16th Queens Lancers with Crossed Legs



Cetandco Medical Encampment



American Indians



Britains Chinese Infantry

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Set 2110 US Army Band
"Yellow Jackets"



Britains Set 1539 Mammoth Circus



Britains Set 2100 Venezuelan Display



Courtney and Courtney-Greenhill Knights



Wonderful Lineol and Elastolin Personality Figures



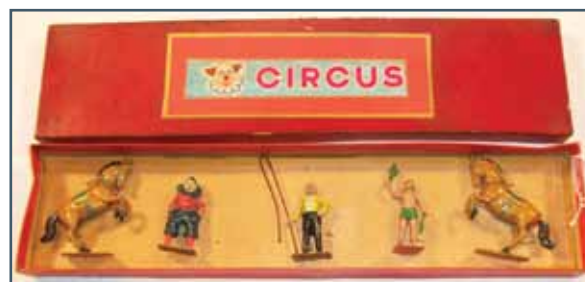
Britains Set 101 Life Guard Band in Red



Britains Set 101 Early Rare Life Guard Band in Blue



Britains Set 2172 Spahis



Charbens Circus



Rare Britains Set 148 Royal Lancaster Regiment
Knock-Down Game

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Hausser Prime Mover



Britains Set #1316 Salvation Army in Blue



Britains Set 19 West India Regiment First Version 10 Pieces with White Foot Officer



Britains Set 1913 Cameronians in Rare "Auchinleck Series" Box



Britains Set 16 The Buffs in Boer War Khaki, Extremely Rare



Britains Set 36 Royal Sussex Regiment First Version Round Bases



Exceedingly Rare Pfeiffer US Infantry in Montana Hats



Britains Set 1514 Corporation Motor Ambulance



Britains Set 38 South African Mounted Infantry with Fixed Arms



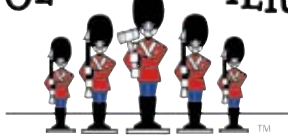
Britains Set 1415 Buck Rogers Set



Britains Eastern Peoples

AUCTION REVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

OTS USA Auction

Some of the highlights from the June 2013 OTS Auction.
Prices do not include 20% Buyers Premium.



Lot 1037 Frontline Glenn Miller's United States Air Force Band \$900



Lot 1171 Ducal The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) #431S With box \$1000



Lot 1118 Hausser/Elastolin Communications truck tinplate, communications. Complete with Morris Code Unit and operator. \$1300



Lot 1140 Hausser/Elastolin Caisson and cannon with riders 10cm \$800



Lot 1439 Mignot Coronation of Napoleon Diorama \$3800



Lot 1321 Star Soldiers Silk Road Bridge \$1100



Lot 1494 Mignot French Calvary Maneuvers (diorama)
Extremely rare 4 tier box \$2000



Lot 1469 Mignot Joan of Arc Storming the Castle (diorama) \$900



Lot 1421 St. Petersburg Russian War Elephant 70mm scale \$700



Lot 2032 Britains VERY RARE Set # 1431 Army Co-operation Auto Giro and Pilot with Original Box \$2300



Lot 2016 Britains Set # 211 Royal Field Artillery 10 Horse Gun Team with Original Box. \$2600.

AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)



Lot 1497 Mignot Moroccan Invasion Extremely rare 5 tier box \$2800



Lot 1498 Mignot Cook's Polar Expedition (diorama)
Extremely rare 4 tier box \$3700



Lot 2001 Britains EXCEPTIONALLY RARE Exploding Trench with Flag. Non Catalogued item without set number originally sold at Hamley's Toy Store Circa 1915. With Original Box. \$6000



Lot 2022 Britains RARE Set # 322 Coldstream Guards Drum and Fife Band with Escort with Original Box \$2000



Lot 2028 Britains VERY RARE Set # 1392 Cierva C30 Autogiro and Pilot Tied in Original Box \$2900



Lot 2058 Britains VERY RARE Set # 316 Kings Troop Royal Horse Artillery at Halt with Mounted Officer \$1600



Lot 2040 Britains Set # 1618 Territorial Green Uniforms, Empty Handed with Original Box & Retaining Card \$3900



Lot 2152 Graham Farish Coronation Series 1952. Exceptionally Rare State Trumpeter \$1300



Lot 2005 Britains Set # 6 Boer Cavalry \$1800



Lot 2006 Britains Set # 38 South African Mounted Infantry Pre War with Original Box and Retaining Card. \$1600



Lot 2019 Britains VERY RARE Set # 318 Royal Artillery Active Service at The Halt with Mounted Officer, Standing and Kneeling Gunners with Original Box \$1400



Lot 2036 Britains Set # 1521 Royal Air Force Bi Plane and Pilot with Hanger style Box with Original Box \$4400

AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)



Lot 2100 Timpo VERY RARE TARZAN and Hippopotamus with Original Illustrated Box. \$800



Lot 2095 Morestone RARE Gipsy Caravan with Horse, Gipsy and Steps to rear. \$800



Lot 2166 Courtenay # 8 Sir Thomas Wattenhale & Bertrand de la Tour - Duplex, Signed By Richard Courtenay. \$850



Lot 2157 Courtenay H11 King of France, Signed By Richard Courtenay. \$800



Lot 2188 Courtenay Greenhill # H8 William de Grenfield Archbishop of York, Mounted. \$1500



Lot 2119 Spenkuch Rare Set 1090 Frederick the Great Guards with two black drummer boys. \$1700



Lot 2079 Taylor and Barrett EXCEPTIONALLY RARE London Tower Bridge with Original Box. \$900



Lot 2252 Heyde Scarce Minstrel Band - Nodding Nippes / Souvenir items. \$2200



Lot 2175 Courtenay Capital De Bugh - Tournament Knight with RARE Original box as Purchased From Charles Morrell's retail establishment in Burlington Arcade, London, later Hummel's \$2100



Lot 2177 Courtenay Earl of Wiltshire Tournament Knight with RARE Original box as Purchased From Charles Morrell's retail establishment in Burlington Arcade, London, later Hummel's. \$1800



Lot 2222 Charbens EXCEPTIONALLY RARE Man pulling cart Horse in Tumbrel Cart, based on the famous advertisement for Guinness. \$1400



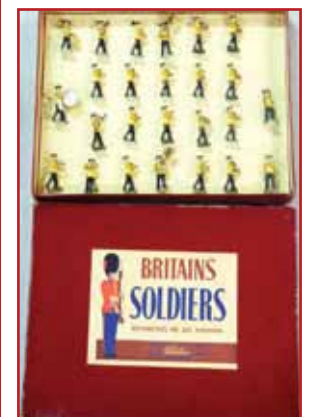
Lot 2417 Britains RARE Set # 143 Matelots Tied in Original Box. \$1000



Lot 2435 Britains Scarce Set # 2117 US Army Band Tied in Original R.O.A.N Box. \$800



Lot 3087 Britains Set # 2085 SCARCE Household Cavalry Musical Ride with Original Box. \$900



Lot 3001 Britains Set # 2110 SCARCE U. S. Army Band Yellow Uniforms. with Original R.O.A.N Box. \$1000



Lot 2232 Selwyn Miniatures EXCEPTIONALLY RARE The "missing" Cowboy for Otto Gottstein. \$900



Lot 2464 Heyde Exceptionally Rare Nodding U.S. Artillery Officer. 100 mm. Circa 1890 Made for U.S. Market Only. \$1700



Lot 3345 Les Miniatures - John Lesinski Set # L 23 Armoured Troop with Soldiers 48 mm. \$650



Lot 3173 Britains Set # 77 VERY RARE Gordon Highlanders Plug handed with Officer and 2 Pipers. \$600



Lot 3339 Les Miniatures - John Lesinski Set # L 4/16 Golden Howdah Elephant and Maharaja & Golden Chair and Maharani 48 mm. \$600

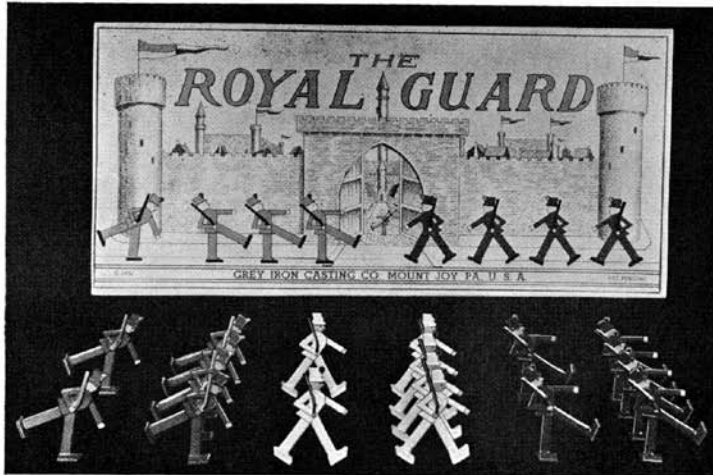


Lot 3510 King and Country Waffen WSS-2 1944, a soldier standing raising a weapon, a soldier crouching and shooting, a soldier crawling with weapons, a soldier with binoculars 4 pieces with Original Box. \$850

APRIL 1938 PLAYTHINGS

By Norman Joplin

A page from the April 1938 Plaything showing the very rare boxed set of Grey Iron and Co. Royal Guard containing 18 figures in red, white, and blue uniforms. All for the price of \$1 per set. Those were the days.



A New Toy Soldier Set Being Made by Grey Iron Casting Co.

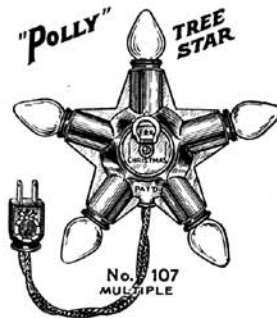
GREY IRON'S ROYAL GUARDS

Grey Iron Casting Company of Mount Joy, Pa., have recently added to their well-known line, a new toy soldier set called "The Royal Guards." Here is an amusing company of eighteen guardsmen, each three inches high, that assume three distinct positions—a stride, a strut and a run. This feature is, we feel sure, something entirely new in toys of this type. Each position, while dashing, is at the same time a bit ridiculous. Finished in various colored uniforms of red, white and blue, these miniature guardsmen present a gay, and

debonair appearance not unmixed with a touch of pathos—a veritable Parody of Pomp. Here is amusement, color and endless play value packed in a handsome display box that contains eighteen pieces to retail at \$1.00. Youngsters will be attracted by the gay colors and unique positions which these figures assume while the grown-ups will appreciate the striking and amusing manner in which they symbolize the futility of "front." The entire Grey Iron Casting Company line, including "Clever Clowns" and many other well-known items are on display at the New York showrooms of Riemann, Seabrey Company, 1107 Broadway.

NEW MAKE-UP KITS

At the Toy Fair—Miner's, Inc., of New York, will present three new items designed to win the approval of buyers. Their new "Gang Busters Disguise Kit," a \$1 retailer, contains make-up and accessories for at least 50 different characters of this nationally publicized feature of radio, screen and magazine. Also for the first time to be displayed will be "Miner's Foto-Matic Make-up Kit" for black and white photography, which contains their booklet "Making Up For The Camera." This \$2 retail item meets the need for the proper make-up material to obtain correct results in portraiture, and should sell as readily as any photographic supplies. And last, but by no means least, their new 10c retail unit of "Individual Character Make-up Kits" for youngsters which are the individual characters featured in their "Juvenile Movie Make-up Kit." These kits come in six different units, are attractively and colorfully packaged to win attention not only at Halloween and Thanksgiving time but for summer playlets, parties, masquerades, Scout Camps and Summer Camps. Created by Miner's, Masters of Make-up since 1864 for stars of stage and screen—these unique items are backed by a famous name that is a guarantee in itself for quality and acceptability. All units are beautifully packaged and offered with attractive display material.



POLLY CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Leo Pollock Corp., makers of the well known Polly Brand electrical Christmas decorations, emphasize that their entire line is American-made in every particular. Only Mazda lamps are used and the same quality standard goes for all the other parts. Shown in the accompanying illustration is their No. 107 Tree Star. Making a very effective looking ornament for the top of the tree, it has 5 C-7½-120-volt white Mazda lamps, which burn independently, so that if one burns out it will not affect the light of the others. The entire Polly line will be on display at the Hotel McAlpin Toy Fair.



FIRE DEPT. ONE OF NEW HUBLEY BOX ASSORTMENTS

The fire department—complete from chief's car and motorcycle cop to shiny axes and miniature ladders—is one of the many new box assortments the Hubley Manufacturing Company of Lancaster, Pa., will feature at the Toy Fair this year. All the Hubley assortments are smartly packaged and contain from 4 to 10 brightly colored toys. Many of the sets are showing on the market for the first time. In addition, Hubley is showing its regular line of die cast and cast iron toys—a line that has been bolstered with many new numbers. Smart streamlined trucks, trailers, tractors, transports, buses, and scores of others, all designed from authentic, real life models, will be on display at Room 324. Messrs. Rhone and Burgess, who are in charge of the Hubley show, feel that this is the finest collection of toys the manufacturer has ever displayed at the Fair.

FRED COWPERTHWAIT'S HERE

Fred Cowperthwaite, former toy buyer for The H. S. Pogue Co., of Cincinnati, has come to New York for the Toy Fair and will endeavor to make a connection with a retail organization, or become associated with a reputable manufacturer. During the period of the Fair he will stay with his daughter, Mrs. H. D. Wade, 3705 Seventy-ninth Street, Jackson Heights, L. I., N. Y. His home address is Rt. 8, Mt. Washington, Cincinnati, Ohio.

"WHIZ-O" . . . A NEW ACTION TOY

Stewell, Inc. announce that at the Toy Fair they will show Whiz-O, a new patented Action Toy and Game to be retailed at 10c. Whiz-O is a fascinating, mysterious game sensation operating on the gyroscope and boomerang principles. A feather-weight ring is projected into the air by means of the Whiz-O, the ring whirling as it soars upward and also as it returns to the player. One of the interesting features is to catch the whirling ring on the Whiz-O upon its return. The game offers mystery, thrill and healthful fun to boys, girls, and has a most fascinating appeal to grown-ups. An attractive colorful demonstrator will be furnished free to dealers.

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NEAL CROWLEY PERSONALITY FIGURES

By Jack Matthews



Photo 1 The Kaiser's Ball

The late Neal Crowley, my very close friend for thirty years was renowned for several things. His pioneering of the US made "composition" resin figures, and for his training of others, the most well-known being the Rev. Dan Bohline. Neal always went out of his way to share his research, experimentation and techniques with others, spending many hours doing so.

Neal started out just as a collector of Lineol and Elastolin composition and over the years amassed a large collection, while he later sold to our mutual friend, the late Gene Johnson of Louisville, KY.

Since Neals' full time job of selling and managing the construction of new hospitals (that's right, hospitals, not hospital equipment) took him over months to the East Coast, Meriam and I saw him several times a year. We went to all the East Coast shows together, meeting with the small, dedicated band of advanced composition collectors. Meriam loved Neal. Both were gourmet cooks and made many a meal together, to my benefit, in our Maryland kitchen. Californian Neal even introduced us to the joys of sushi.

Neal's composition/resin production was marketed at the Chicago and West Coaster Shows under the Parade March label, singly and in boxed sets. Most were in the larger 10.5 cm scale, featuring Kaiser Regimental figures of the early 1900's. Many

collectors are proud owners of these terrific figures of German Regiments. I have over a hundred.

But what many Crowley admirers don't know is that Neal also made, by my count, some two dozen "personality" figures of actual historical, mostly



Photo 2 Fictitious Victoria Cross Award Ceremony

NEAL CROWLEY PERSONALITY FIGURES *(Cont.)*

military, personages, all but a few, (these latter reproducing the very rare 10.5 cm Pffeifer (Elastolin predecessor) figures, like Mohammad V, the King of Italy and Czar Nicholas of Russia) were major conversions of Elastolin figures or new ones, created from scratch.

Here they are:

Photo 1 illustrates perhaps Crowley's most creative set. It shows figures from a Grand Ball hosted by Kaiser Willhelm for his cousins. George V of Britain and Czar Nicholas of Russia, who were descendants of Queen Victoria. My set has these rulers and their aides-de-camp, the Kaiserian Empress of Germany and a Lady-in-Waiting. Neal made a bigger set for Gene Johnson with more musicians and dancers.

Queen Victoria was a Crowley favorite. Photo 2 shows a middle-aged Queen awarding the Victoria Cross to Roarke's Drift heroes. Lts. Chad and Bromhead (historically, that is inaccurate. Their medals were awarded in the field in South Africa). Next came a young Queen (3) and an aged Queen with her Indian servant. (4).

Crowley delighted in making unique figures as presents for collector friends. On several Christmas holidays, I received a surprise gift (Photos 5-6 show three of them. 7.5 cm figures of General Oberst Dietl, the ski-trooper commanding the German WWII troops who quickly conquered Norway. Its base is marked "JDM '97". JDM are my initials. Field Marshall Josef Pilsudski of Poland is marked "JDM - NC, for "North Carolina") as is the Duke of York (6,7)

Emperor Haille Selasie of Ethiopia was the subject of a rare 7.5 cm Lineol standing figures made briefly during the Italian-Ethiopian War. Not to be outdone, Neal put him on a horse! (Photo 8)

Also noteworthy are seated 7.5 cm figures of Benito Mussolini and King George V. Neal intended to put George V in a horse-drawn carriage but never got around to it (9).

Finishing out the Crowley love affair with figures of rulers, heads of State and senior military commanders we see 10.5 cm large, accurate representations of Emperor Franz-Joseph, Czar Nicholas, Kaiser Willhelm and Field Marshall Von Ludendorf, the German Army hero of WWI (10-12).

While a few German fellows such as Reiner Krock make 7.5cm conversions in solidcast (early Krock) and resin, Neal's are unique. I believe, in the number of historical, personality items he created.

Jack Matthews



Photo 3 Young Queen Victoria



Photo 4 Aged Queen Victoria and Indian Servant

NEAL CROWLEY PERSONALITY FIGURES *(Cont.)*



Photo 5 General Oberst Dietl



Photo 6 L-R: Duke of York (Later George VI),
Field Marshall Josef Pilsudski (Poland) George V (7.5 cm)



Photo 7 Field Marshall Pilsudski and Polise Cavalry (7.5 cm)



Photo 8 Emperor Haile Sellasie of Ethiopia (7.5 cm)

NEAL CROWLEY PERSONALITY FIGURES *(Cont.)*



Photo 9 L-R: Mussolini, George V



Photo 10 Emperor Franz - Joseph (10.5 cm)

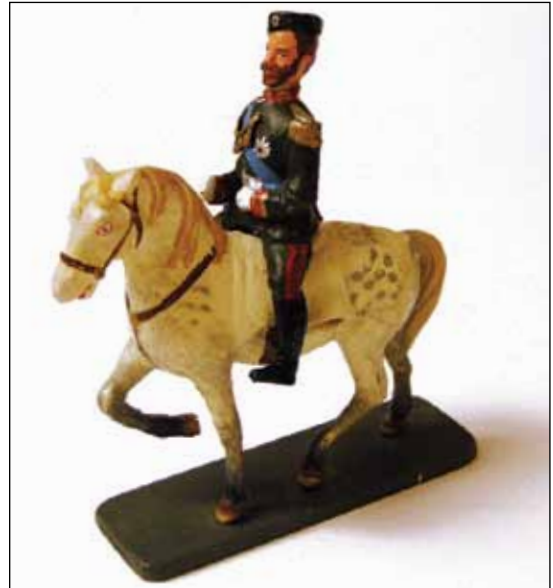


Photo 11 Czar Nicholas



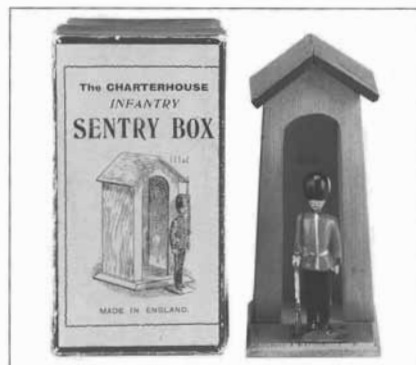
Photo 12 L-R: Field Marshall Von Ludendorff, Kaiser Wilhelm III (2) (10.5 cm)

Old Toy Soldiers and Figures 1900-1939

Four Decades of Advertising

Old Toy Soldiers & Figures 1900 - 1939

Four Decades of British Advertising



Norman Joplin & Philip Dean

Old Toy Soldiers and Figures 1900-1939 - Four Decades of Advertising is a unique record of Toy Soldier advertising from the World War 1 and pre World War 2 Periods.

Privately published and compiled by Norman Joplin and Philip Dean, it illustrates many advertisements never before available to Toy Soldier Collectors and is the result of over 40 years of research by Norman Joplin

The book also illustrates many individual rare single figures from the period and concentrates on over 30 manufacturers. Abel, Australian Hollowcasts, B.M.C., Chad Valley, Charterhouse, Cheerio Manufacturing Company, Crescent, EA Doran, Dunham White, CF Eckhardt, Exella, Faudel Phillips & Son, Fry, Erecto Toy Company, Godschalk, Hanks and Hanks Brothers and Sutton, A J Holladay, John Hill/Johillo, Kew, Laurie Hansen, Lord Roberts Workshop, Marlborough Manufacturing Company, Model Toys, Oliver Harper, Pixyland Manufacturing Company, Reka, Richards Art Company, Renvoize, Russell Manufacturing Company, Stoddarts, Wellington Toy Company, and G.W. Wood

While Britains are included to a certain extent the main focus is on the other makers of the period. Volume 2 which will be available in 2012 will concentrate solely on Britains advertisements of the same period and beyond.

Note: this book is only available directly from the authors, it will not be offered by Amazon or via any cut price on line merchant.

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Heyde-Hunters

Tony Borges / Florian Winckel

Florian and I have written this book not as a reflection of an ideal nor as an historical investigation of the manufacturer Georg Heyde. Others who are more qualified have already done that. Rather this is the story of collectors attracted by the Heyde name. Above all, our purpose is to picture as far as possible exceptional examples of Heyde not yet seen by the public, while concentrating especially on Heyde's civilian figures.



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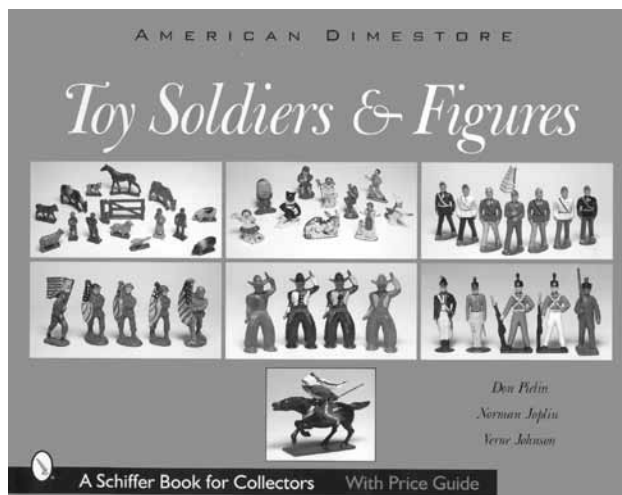
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Toy Soldiers & Figures



Reviewed in OTS Fall 2000.

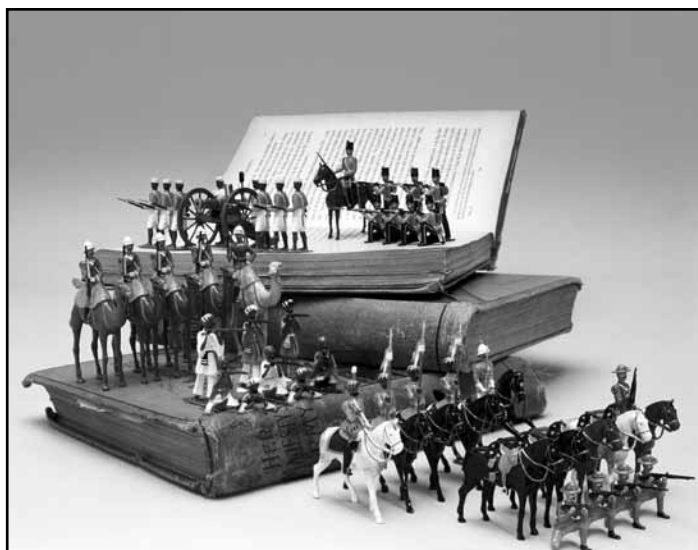
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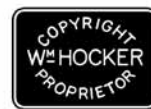
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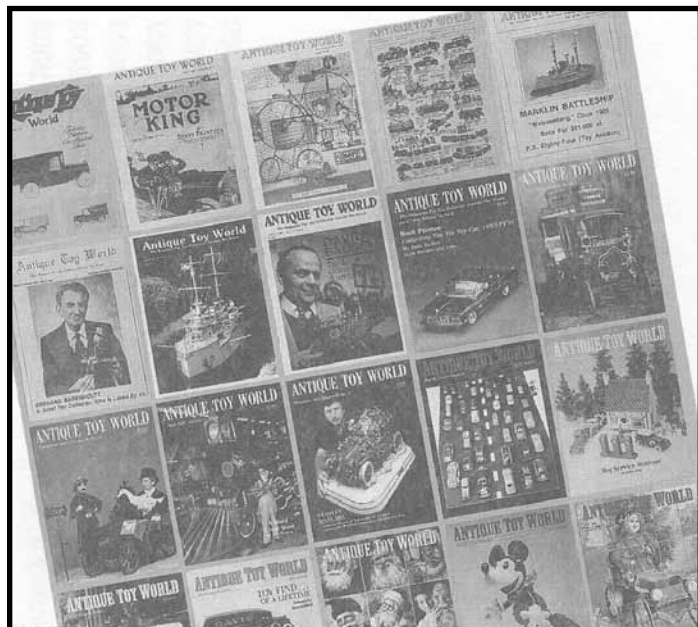
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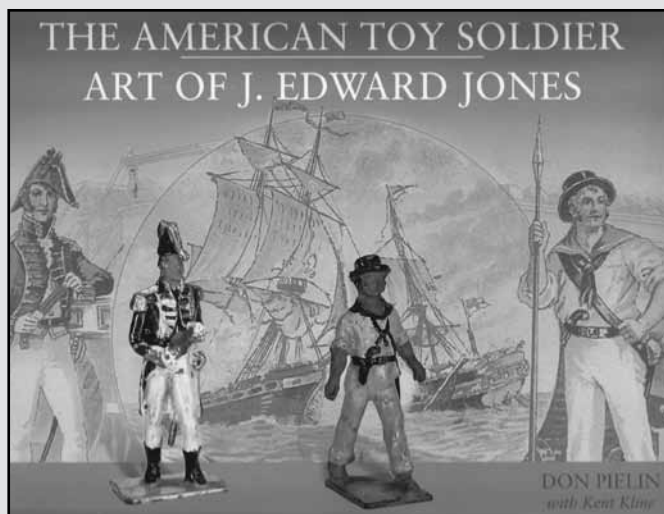
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FIGUREN-MAGAZIN

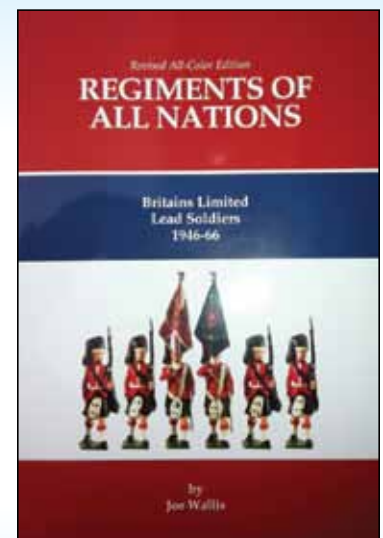
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by Joe Wallis

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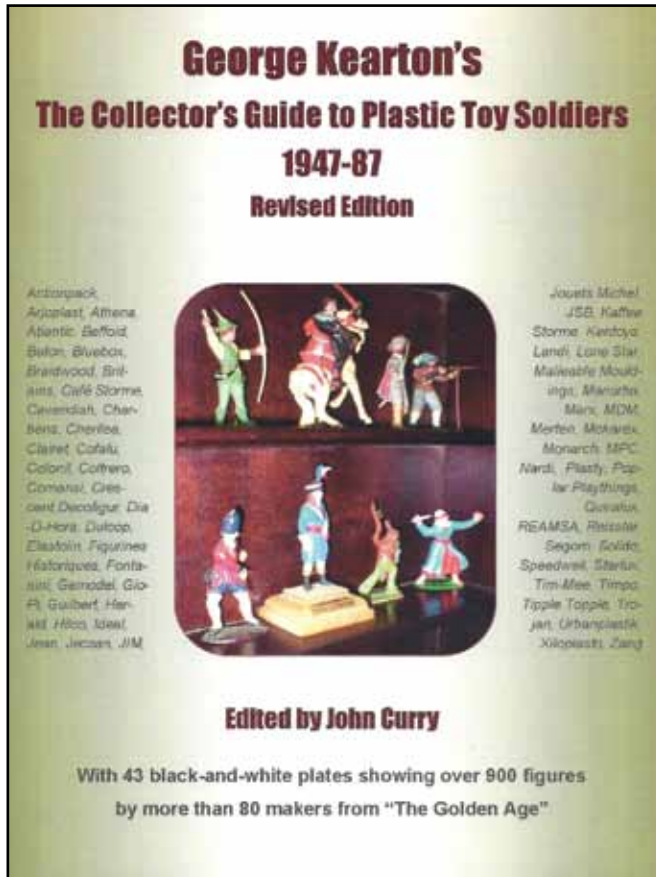
The text describes the items produced in an easy-to-use format with color photos on the facing pages. The book details the roster of military sets, picture packs, and civilian lines (Farm, Hunt, Zoo, Circus, and Racing Colors), including color schemes, the dates of production, and changes in the composition of sets.



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BOOK REVIEW



The Collector's Guide to Plastic Toy Soldiers, 1947-87 was the first-ever book to illustrate the tremendous range and scope of plastic toy soldiers from across the World.

Published in 1987 in a limited edition of just 1,000 signed copies it sold out very quickly and, since then, has become a "Holy Grail" publication for collectors. Twenty five years later it remains the only single-volume study of plastic toy soldiers from "The Golden Age".

This newly-scanned reprint includes not only the whole of the original book but also new material; an article by George Kearton written for "Plastic Warrior" magazine several years ago, a new introduction by him and an extract from "Old Toy Soldier Newsletter" with details of his Toy Soldier Museum in Lancashire which was open from 1983 to 1986.

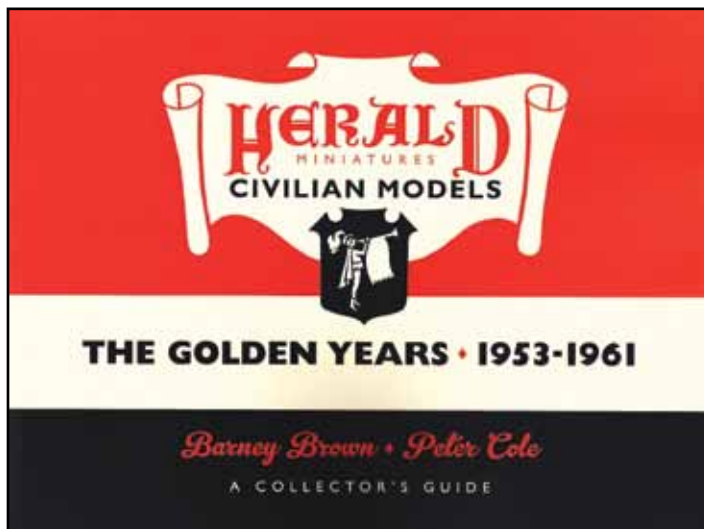
Also included is an early example of George Kearton's mail order listings as well as reminiscences of collecting plastic toy soldiers before the Internet and toy soldier shows specially written by Peter Cole, co-founder of English toy soldier makers "Replicants".

George Kearton was bought his first plastic toy soldier in September of 1955 to compensate for his first day at school!

He has been a serious collector since 1972 and started dealing in toy soldiers in 1975 after serious injuries in a hit-and-run accident in 1974.

Now retired, after a lifetime career as a Fundraising Manager in the voluntary sector, he lives in Cornwall with his wife Norma and their family of gorgeous cats.

He is currently working on another book about toy and model soldiers which should appear in 2013.



Herald books and collectors guides to be published soon. Written by Barney Brown and Britains plastic authority, Peter Cole. Published by Plastic Warrior



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MODEL SOLDIERS FOR THE WAR IN EAST AFRICA 1914-18

By William (Bill) Grant

I was extremely interested to read James Hillestad's article in *The Standard* (Vol.2, No.7) recently, describing some of the happenings in East Africa during World War I. This was especially so as I had just finished work on three units that fought in that conflict: the King's African Rifles (KAR), East Africa Mounted Rifles and a group of Maasai scouts. These figures were designed using information from Abbott and Ruggeri's, *The War in East Africa* and Moyse-Bartlett's, *History of the King's African Rifles*, plus conversations with several knowledgeable people in and around Nairobi. I thought it might prove of interest to OTS readers to give a brief account of the figures I made and to suggest a few ways these units may be mobilized through conversion of hollowcast Britains figures.

In 1914, The King's African Rifles, in review order, wore the same uniform depicted in Britains set #225, i.e. khaki tunic and shorts, red fez with black tassel and dark blue leg wrappings. The feet were bare. In service dress the tunic was replaced by a dark blue jersey. The fez had a khaki cover with visor (usually worn up) and havelock. Armament was the Martini-Enfield rifle. Two blanket rolls were carried. My figures of the KAR are in the above service attire. In August, 1914 the KAR, its four battalions now designated regiments, numbered over two thousand. By July 1918 it had grown to seven regiments of over thirty thousand men.

Although they were designated rifles, the KAR were never trained or uniformed as such. Review order uniforms for rifle regiments throughout the British Empire were usually dark, rifle green (Ghurkas, Napier's Rifles, R. Canadian Rifles, etc.) Officers wore specially designed dress uniforms that more closely resembled those of dismounted hussars than infantry. Rifles were carried at the trail with a loose sling and march time was a brisk 160 paces a minute. In the KAR, the uniform was khaki, rifles were carried at slope arms and the pace was that of regular infantry at 120 per minute.

At the beginning of hostilities in 1914 local volunteers flocked to the Colours throughout the British Empire. One such group of volunteers was the East African Mounted Rifles. It was composed of farmers, game hunters and other English colonists, mostly from Kenya. My figures show the regiment in its early days when the troopers brought much of their outfitting from home. The blue shirt with rolled up or cut off sleeves was ubiquitous although officers tended to wear regulation tunics. Breeches were corduroy or twill. Slouch hats were common and usually worn with pugris of animal skin and feather hackles. However, some troopers wore general issue, tropical helmets as did most officers. Cartridge belts were either worn over the shoulder or, more frequently, hung around the neck of the horse. The short magazine Lee-Enfield was provided but many troopers chose to



East African Mounted Rifles and Kings African Rifles (KAR) service dress circa 1914.

MODEL SOLDIERS FOR THE WAR IN EAST AFRICA (Cont.)

carry their own rifles. My troopers carry either double or single barreled game rifles.

Their rigid code of honour endeared the Maasai peoples to the British and Maasai moran (warriors) were often employed as scouts in east Africa during the first World War. The Maasai lacked a tight, military organization with regular units and chains of command. They tended to fight in extended, family groups with a loose leadership provided by respected elders (mzees) and renowned combatants. In this way they were more like the American Plains Indians (minus horses, of course) than such militant, African nations as the Zulu and Matebele.

The dress of the Maasai scouts was variable, although the traditional, red cloak or shuka was usually worn. Today, shukas often have a tartan-like pattern but at the time of World War I they were mostly plain red. They were often of cotton, woven in India but many were fashioned, in the traditional way, from dyed hides. The headdress varied from ochre and clay braided hair to elaborate ostrich feathered affairs encircling the face, design being dictated in part by personal taste rather than code. A lionskin headdress was only worn by those who had killed a lion in single combat but such moran often chose wisely to wear simpler head gear. Most scouts carried the lion spear that had a wood shaft to which a long, steel blade was attached at one end and a spike at the other. It reminds one more of the Roman pilum than the Zulu assegai. There is some controversy over the designs on the cowhide shields carried by the scouts, as to whether they represented clan associations or were more a matter of personal choice. My hunch is that it was a little of both. Throughout their service, Maasai scouts were loyal and brave to a fault. However, as they came and went at will, a commander seldom knew exactly how many scouts were on hand for duty.



East African Mounted Rifles. Left figure has zebra skin pugri, double barreled rifle and cartridge belt over shoulder. Right figure has feather hackle, single barreled rifle and cartridge belt around the neck of the horse.



Kings African Rifles. From left to right. Britains KAR converted to service dress, Britains KAR in original paint, master KAR figure in service dress and completed, painted figure.



Left to right, Britains original RCMP figure and a conversion of this figure to a trooper of the East African Mounted Rifles.

MODEL SOLDIERS FOR THE WAR IN EAST AFRICA (Cont.)



Various Maasai figures....Note left figure in ostrich feather headdress and right figure in lion skin headgear. Central figures are in the more common braided hair and dye coiffure.



Britains original Zulu figure (right) and its conversion to a Maasai moran (left).

I used metal and various epoxy materials to make master models of figures from which silicone rubber molds were formed. The figures were then cast in lead free alloy. Depending on one's abilities and available materials, conversions from existing Britains figures to East African units can be accomplished. The conversion of Britains, standard KAR (#225) to a rifleman in service dress is reasonably easy. Paint the tunic dark blue and the fez, khaki. A small bit of foil can be used to make a visor and havelock. Blanket rolls can be fashioned from some common epoxy putty and glued on. East African Mounted Rifle conversions are a bit more difficult to pull off. The best figure to work from would be that of the Boer Cavalry, if it were not so rare, precious and not to be messed about with. However, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police figure (#1349) or its earlier manifestation as U.S. Cavalry (# 276) can be used. It is necessary to file down the crown of the hat a bit and to file off the sword. In all cases cartridge belts should be provided. Take a narrow strip of soft metal sheet (approx.2mm wide) and file grooves across it at regular intervals to suggest ammunition pouches. Then paint it brown or black, bend it and hang it over a trooper's shoulders or around a horse's neck.

About the only option as a base for Maasai scouts is Britains Zulu figure (# 147). Unfortunately the Togoland warriors (#202) are too engaged in archery for the purpose and the second grade Zulu is too robust. Fashion a shuka of foil for the warrior, narrow down the blade of the assegai he wields and cut off the blades of the assegais in his left hand as moran carried simple, stout staves as back-up weapons.

Now furnish the scout with a headdress of epoxy putty and paint his shield in typical Maasai pattern. This calls for a fairly simple but symmetrical design painted in white, black, earth colours and red. It is ironical that while the Britains shield is much too small for a Zulu, it is just about right for a Maasai moran. Add silver or coloured earrings, bracelets and anklets to taste. Now, one has a figure that is very presentable. Unfortunately the war in East Africa has largely been ignored by makers of toy soldiers but with a bit of daring do the determined collector can work to redress the balance. Good luck to all who try.

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Abbott, P. and R. Ruggeri (2002): *Armies in East Africa 1914-18*. Osprey Publishing, Oxford.

Moyse-Bartlett, Lt. Col.H. (1956): *The King's African Rifles*. Gale and Polden Ltd., Aldershot.

Note: All figures pictured, unless referred to as Britains, are original models or conversions by the author.

CANDY TOYS OF WWII

By Jack Matthews

From the seemingly endless former treasure trove of Edward K. Poole, M.D., Commandant of the Five & Dime Corps and other nefarious endeavors, comes a surprising discovery. Buried deep in a large box of my beloved WWII cardboard items I received from my lifelong friend, Dr. Poole, was the heretofore unknown Fannie Farmer Candies Tank 714 (photos 1 and 2)! Ten inches long and colorful, it is in as fine shape as the day it was made. Deep inside is an eight-inch receptacle for the treasured candies, shape and flavor unknown. (photo 3)

It reminded me of the “candy” WWII cardboard toys I had. Marketed by an unknown company, these ten inch long colorful items were attached to the box (photo 4) “America’s Defenders” “For Victory - Buy War Bonds” came in a set of six; planes (photos 5-6), soldiers, pilot, Army Truck and Machine Gunner. Unlike Fannie Farmer’s product, we knew that “America’s Defenders” contained molasses toffee.

So here we are, two old geezers, Matthews and Poole, sharing another delight with you.



Photo 1



Photo 4



Photo 2



Photo 5



Photo 3



Photo 6

AND NOW THERE IS JOHN ROTH A DIMESTORE SOLDIER CONVERSIONIST PAR EXCELLENT

By Louis S. Steinberg



*John Roth Ready to Rustle
up Some New Conversions*

First, great credit must be given to Dennis Socha, collector of the more modern produced Dimestore Toy Soldier figures. It was Dennis that brought to my attention the conversion talent and artistic workmanship of Mr. John Henry Roth, that thus with his own and Dennis' impassioned contribution, evolved into this article.

When one thinks you know all the players even within the proximity of a very narrow creative community,

disbelief is yet experienced as someone new becomes discovered.

It is especially a true bonus in knowing that person, like yourself, addresses the altering of and/or reconfiguring the looks of older Dimestore Toy Soldiers we cherished as children. The strong desire for us to make something new and different is forever mentally boiling.

From off on the distant horizon rose the likes of Big Great John! Here is his story.

John was born in 1945 to John Henry and Eleanora Roth on their chicken farm in Macomb County near Detroit, Michigan.

By the age of eight he had found his love and enjoyment in playing with Dimestore Toy Soldiers.

John recalls, "I tried to collect as many toy soldiers as I could. I would use my Tobacco cards when trading for soldiers with my buddies. I didn't

want to give up my own soldiers. Many I even painted to my liking. Guess this was when I started doing basic modifications."

He vividly remembers his Mom giving him a Nylint Electronic Cannon. Then, his friends soon stopped playing toy soldiers with him when John began using the cannon against their troops on the battlefields. Such a secret weapon was always breaking their soldiers and equipment!

Soon John moved to Roseville, Michigan where he graduated high school and lettered in baseball and football. Two years were spent at a community college then another year and a half at Wayne State University. John stated, "I worked many different industrial jobs. As a young adult I spent time in a plastic factory; a polishing shop; a furniture store; and many other places.

"Heck, I even sold nylons for the E. J. Korvette Department Store!

"These various experiences, knowledge and skills have proved beneficial for what I am presently doing in my later years."

It was 1966 when Uncle Sam received John's enlistment. As a Specialist 5th Class his Military Occupation Specialty was in Ordinance Turret Artillery. He became an Honor Graduate having excelled at the U.S. Army Ordinance Center and School in Aberdeen, Maryland's Proving Grounds. John was Honorably Discharged in late 1968.

However, during that tour of duty he found out his liking for the State of Texas while being stationed for a time at Fort Hood in Killeen. He vowed, "If ever I get a chance, I will return to Texas."

Well, upon saying farewell to his Uncle's service and arriving home, to his monumental surprise, he found his toy soldiers were gone! I mean really gone!

John blurted, "My Mother sold all my possessions! Now, I'm older and have to start all over rebuilding another army!"

It was 1972 when John returned to Texas. Houston became his stomping ground in Cowboy Hats and Boots. John also wore a number of different hats as a business owner and did roofing and house remodeling, but specialized as a custom cabinet maker.

His precision, craftsmanship and attention to detail, in creating his present Dimestore toy soldier Conversions, are undoubtedly a transfer of the skills he employs from his other trades.

The ROTH RANCH was established in 1982 when John moved to Dripping Springs, Texas not far, 26 miles, from Austin. It must be really fantastic, because John still resides there.

AND NOW THERE IS JOHN ROTH (Cont.)



WWI Soldier Running with MG & Ammo Box



WWII German Officer on KP Duty



WWII Doughboy on Walkie-Talkie

One day while on a return trip to Michigan, John met his perfect mate Ellen Jessee-Boyes and has been now married for eight wonderful years. Interestingly Ellen is also a collector of old copper music boxes and miniature pencil sharpeners. They support, encourage and take soulful interest in each other's hobbies.

John does not hear things like, "Don't you have enough?", or "WHAT did you pay for THAT!" or even, "And where are you going to put it!" Instead they are equally thrilled and excited when one of them finds something new.

Ellen helps John in his efforts and John is always looking for things which might be of an interest to his loving wife. He beholds with a twinkle in his eyes, "My wife enjoys the little soldier troops as much as I do. Nothing leaves the shop without her inspection and approval."

She calls herself the "Official Nitpicker." What a perfect marriage!

"Roth Ranch" had ample space for another structure nearby the house. A large heated and air-conditioned building to house his cabinet making and production machinery was soon completed. The front third was made into an additional two rooms.

John says, "After all, I do need space for my hobbies and, of course, working on my soldier conversions. For a long time my collection was kept in boxes. Ellen suggested I put them at the curb for the trash pick-up!"

She said, "You keep promising you are going to build a display cabinet. You never do and you are a professional cabinet maker! So, why not just get rid of them?"

"Naturally, Ellen was not serious, John comments. "A few weeks later she helped me put the little fellows into our beautiful new 8' by 6' display case that she did the finish work on it. Pandora's Box was now open! My once meager collection soon outgrew that large display cabinet...plus, including other areas of our home."

"I began doing conversions while repairing busted-up Dimestores. I felt they all had a story and their yarn had not yet ended. They deserved a new life. I often did catch flak from purists that would have just as soon thrown the defunct soldier figures in the trash. To them my efforts were a travesty," mused John.

Dennis Socha remembered, "At that time, John's toy soldier collection was pretty much limited to buying Barclays and Manolis in good or better condition. About seven year ago he completed his first major conversion set.

"It took him almost three weeks from conception to finish. The set is composed of a surgeon, attending nurse and wounded soldier on an operating table. As with his carpentry, he found that the best teacher is experience from which you definitely learn short cuts, simpler methods and techniques to improve the quality of your work."

AND NOW THERE IS JOHN ROTH (Cont.)



**WW I Doughboy Rifle
with Bayonet**



Converted from Manoil Paymaster



Doughboy at Switchboard



**WWI German High
Command**

John mused, "As soon as I finished the operating room scene, I packed them up and sent them to Dennis in Illinois. The greatest pleasure in creating something is sharing your efforts with someone who appreciates your skills. Every couple of days I would talk on the telephone with Dennis and I would describe where I was at on each individual conversion. We would go back and forth with different ideas.

"Having someone share a common interest and give praise and encouragement is the reward that keeps me going and wanting to continue in my hobby of converting older toy soldier pieces."

John further relates, "The next milestone in my phases as a bona fide Conversionist came when I attended my first toy soldier show in San Antonio. My friend spotted a seller that had a few soldier molds on his table. But, he had four large boxes under the table! I made an offer and the boxes were mine. Then, I asked my friend if he had any extra cash!"

"I was so excited to go through what I had purchased that we immediately packed the boxes in my truck and headed home. I now had molds from which to make my own figures....but, they were mostly 54 mm.

"From a meeting of my friend's fishing club he was able to buy a lead pot with a bottom spout that I mounted on a post next to my work bench. I was now ready to be a re-caster!"

Fortunately, John learned from "Brit" Britton a lot about the properties of lead, the correct mix, and the many cautions to take.

His next big break came when he bought from Rodney Hopson two hundred Ed Burley RTV molds made from original Dimestore size figures, not like the 54mm metal ones from San Antonio. These molds gave John the ability to produce different Barclay and Manoil figures rather than searching for and buying older worn-out ones.

John remarks, "Just this past year I feel I mastered the techniques of mold making. As with anything, you get better with practice. I took the Manoil Soldier Running with Cannon and cut off the cannon and "doctored" up the soldier. I used this one figure to make a series of three different runners.

"It wasn't as easy as you might think. In working with one of Burley's molds, Doughboy Thrusting with Bayonet Rifle, I was excited to give a try to pour a mold. About ten try's later, I had success in casting the figure with the full bayonet.

"Barclay knew more than I. Soldiers with bayonets on rifles would not last long in the hands of children. Anyway, patience is a necessity in pour-casting all molds. Expect some flaws and breakage, as well as shipping breakage, even when marked fragile.

"Finally, that I now have the ability to make the soldiers I need for reconfiguring, I may possibly extend to making production molds of some of my best converted work."

After collectors witnessed what John was able to do with conversions, the next thing that followed was asking him for special requests. One person had

AND NOW THERE IS JOHN ROTH (Cont.)



All Three WWI Converted from Manoil Pulling Cannon



Stretcher Bearers Retrieve Wounded from Gas Attack



Holding Auto Rifle & Ammo Box



WWI Marching German Bugler



Asian Tommy Gunner



Korean with Auto Rifle

seven tin WWI aircraft and needed pilots. John made the seven pilots with one being German. He was sent the exact cockpit measurements.

Another collector asked for forty marching sailors.... twenty in blue uniforms and twenty in white. John said, "I have since received numerous requests from others in need of specially designed figures."

He then noted to me how, today, it seems that the number of lead-Dimestore-soldier-casters and/or converters has declined to the point that he only knows of several who might be able to do specialty pieces. A dying breed, that's what we are!"

You're telling me, John!! For over three years I have been writing about and documenting in this OTS quarterly such Dimestore conversion producers. I'm honestly running out of folks.

John further mentioned to me some of the equipment he uses in fabricating and painting his conversions. He said, "I use a lighted magnifying glass, dental tools, Dremel and alligator clip holders as these tools are a tremendous help. As a bonder, I use JB weld. It has the fastest setting time."

"I like to choose my own colors with Dimestore figures. Historical prints and books are used for research. Studying some anatomy cannot hurt! I also read past articles in copies of *Old Toy Soldier* magazine; use the internet; and watch How Tos' on YouTube."

John feels that word-of-mouth has been his best means of exposure, and many friends have been made through his eBay sales. He points out, "Do not be discouraged by the less than one percent who knows only how to criticize."

AND NOW THERE IS JOHN ROTH (Cont.)



Giving Wounded Doughboy a Needed Drink



WWII German Surveying with Dog



WW I Doughboy with Unit Flag

"Sorry to say that many people do not understand or appreciate the research, work- time, money and effort that goes into casting, assembling, and detail painting for a New Miniature Soldier Conversion. However, word does get around if you try your best, are honest and fair."

It is a real delight for John to show off his soldier collection to people who have no idea of what collecting is all about or have never seen a before-and-after altered and reconfigured old Dimestore piece.

The same satisfaction is displayed when John talks about his and Ellen's "Roth Ranch."

Over the years they have nurtured three domesticated buffalos, two cows, two calves, a bull named "Sir Loin," goats, plus a couple of donkeys. Now the Ranch is only the temporary home for all of the many other transient visitors of the wild.

In a relative short period of time John Henry Roth, has grown from simply a collector of Dimestore figures to a master craftsman of conversions, now ranking his work with the best.

He reflects, "What I wish to express through my considerable efforts in revamping a figure is to try to have the converted product capture and impart a particular feeling."

John added, "In this venture, I have been fortunate in making many new, helpful and wonderful friends. Sincerely, it truly has been my honor to be associated in this Toy Soldier Hobby with such a special group enjoying our common interest."

Much thanks again to Dennis Socha for his extensive help in gathering background information and especially his contribution of photos, some one-of-a-kind figures, from his own trove of John Roth's Dimestore Conversions. And, many mountains of thanks go to John for conveying his most effective story and provocative thoughts.

John may be contacted via
Email: jhroth07@yahoo.com.au



John and wife Ellen

PROFILE OF A COLLECTOR - NIGEL WILLIAMSON

By Norman Joplin

“See you in Chicago” is probably the most used phrase in the U.S. Toy Soldier Hobby whenever collectors and dealers get together, it of course refers to The Old Toy Soldier Show held in Schaumburg, Illinois and now in it's 33rd year. Schaumburg being some 9 miles from Chicago's O'Hare Airport.

It has become the Mecca for anyone interested in Toy Soldiers and over the years all of the major dealers and die hard collectors have made the trip, many come from overseas, many have only dreamed of attending, but gradually the pull of the Chicago show tempts most who enjoy the hobby and for some, distance is not problem.

British Collector Nigel Williamson will be making the trip from the UK for the first time, Nigel is no stranger to Toy Soldiers Shows having attended all of the London shows since 1991, Nigel's toy soldier tastes are many and varied and Chicago will surely be the source of many additions to his collection. A former Primary School Head, 65 year old Nigel recently retired from his second profession as Garden designer and builder, thus at last finding time to make the trip to the show.

Like most collectors his collection grew out of his childhood toys with many originally being purchased in the late 1950s as Birthday gifts, he recalls his early possessions as being Cellophane fronted boxed Royal Scots Greys and a Britains Motor Cycle Machine gunner inherited from older cousins. Later Herald English Civil War Plastics by Herald were added along with Swoppets that Nigel remembers as being fun to reassemble. His adult collection stated after he was married and was instigated when his parents were clearing house and presented back to him the remnants of his childhood collection.

Nigel is interested in Britains English Regiments, Bands, Cavalry, Artillery and is keen on restoring the earlier harder to find “ancient “ Britains. Courtenays, Selwyn Knights and Lucottes are amongst his favorite together with Early Holgar Ericsson and Carman figures, although Nigel admits to not being too focused.

Nigel is pictured here with his collection and dog, along with what is possibly his rarest figure, the Britains Moveable leg Guardsman, never thought to have been put into production.

So as the old saying goes “See you in Chicago” Nigel.



Nigel Williamson and his collection.



Britains ultra rare moveable leg marching guardsmen.

SHOW REPORT

London Toy Soldier Show March 9th and June 8th 2013

By Rob Wilson

The London Toy Soldier is now settling it to its new venue in the Business Design Centre near the Angel Islington. Some had feared that when the show moved from the Royal National Hotel in Russell square in December 2012 that it might be problematic.¹ But these fears appear to have been misplaced as successful follow-ups have now been held in both March and June of 2013. The show, originally established by Norman Joplin back in 1991, had been running continuously in the Royal National Hotel up until June 2012. Some questioned whether customers would be able to find their way to the new venue. Others expressed concerns about logistics. Of course, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. As it turned out, the December show was very well attended, although many dealers found the restrictions on setting up (imposed by the venue) problematic.

In March a large new neon sign welcomed in another big crowd. Many dealers had feared numbers would be down but in fact the new venue seems to have brought in extra customers, (coupled no doubt with the advertising effort connected with the launch in the new venue). Although there were still some concerns about setting up (and breaking down after it is all over) the organisers (Toy Soldier Collector magazine) reacted quickly to the concerns expressed by dealers on this issue. By allowing Friday night setup, as well as other changes, they have managed to resolve the main teething problems experienced by dealers (within the constraints imposed by the venue). Further refinements and improvements were introduced for the June show. According the organisers attendance in March was close to 800 and the shows are gaining popularity, with numbers attending steadily increasing since taking over the show from King & Country. The June and forthcoming December shows for 2013 are both already fully booked. The organisers are promoting the show World Wide and are hoping for influx of visitors from the USA in December.

Most members of the public, as well as dealers that I have spoken with, like the venue as an exhibition space. The facilities are great and there is plenty of room. The main concerns remain the less convenient situation regarding parking for dealers,



Figures 1 and 2: Neon sign welcoming the faithful to the latest London Toy Soldier show emphasising that it now extends to two floors. Regis Auckland and helper welcome visitors to the June show

¹ The change of venue was forced by the Royal National hotel withdrawing use of one of the halls at very short notice.

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

and the difficulties of setting up and breaking down, with the bottleneck caused by the limited elevator/lift capacity.

The show provides a splendid array of toy soldiers, old and new, to please all tastes. King and Country (the previous organisers) continue to support the event with a large bank of tables laden with their very popular ranges. Many other dealers who have supported the show since it was initiated by our editor (such as MKL) sit alongside the more recent newcomers.

Personally, I regret the declining numbers of those dealing in older figures. Although a few stalwarts (such as Mercator Trading, Bill Kingsman and Andy Morant) still offer a good range of old hollowcast and other antiques figures the hall is now dominated by current manufacturers rather than older ones.

Despite this I managed to find a few treasures in both the March and June shows, as well as sharing the delight of other collectors who bring along their unusual finds. The pictures in the article include some of these. A separate article describes a particularly unusual find that turned up at the show in December 2012. I have always enjoyed hearing about such finds. Of course, this can lead to feelings of envy and jealousy - but that way lies madness! My philosophy has always been to try to enjoy other people's good fortune. Of course luck comes into

it "being at the right place at the right time", but my personal experience suggests the harder I work at it the "luckier" I get, and I am sure others have worked hard to find their treasures.

My highlights at the March show included two rare Crescent Australians and some Model Toys French Cuirassiers that I had never seen before (see Figures 5-8), but I was also delighted to see some other items, even though they were not for sale. In June I



Figure 5: Crescent Australian



Figure 6: Crescent Australian #2



Figure 7: Model Toys Cuirassiers



Figure 8: Cuirassier Officer by Model Toys

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

tuned up a Paris Office Dragon trumpeter and some very nice figures by Charles Stadden.

Friend and fellow collector Harry Kemp, with similar tastes to my own, had brought along some figures and a box picked up on his French travels - "strictly not for sale just for discussion!". A b-sized figure that I had not seen previously immediately caught my eye (although I had assumed it must have existed from other figures in my possession). This was a Prussian cavalry officer in grey service dress wearing a spiked helmet. I have now seen many examples of b-sized cavalry produced by the Paris Office. From previous research I know that they were sold (typically) in sets of 12 (with 10 fixed arm figures, accompanied by 2 with movable arms to provide an officer and trumpeter). As well as Prussian/ German cavalry, I have seen sets for French Dragons, Chasseurs, Hussards and Cuirassiers, all in review order, as well as British cavalry in khaki service dress and Scots Greys in review order (but riding brown and black steeds!).

Other items brought along by Harry included a rare box, again for b-sized figures, sold by Britains from their Paris Office in the period 1905-1923. Unfortunately the box was empty, but the stamped label (characteristic of many others I have seen) provides some clues. The word Infanterie is clearly legible but whether French or some other nation is indiscernible. In the second line is the start of what might be the word Tenue which probably would have indicated the type of dress (review order or service dress). The box tray has punched tie holes for a set of 10 foot figures.

Who knows what treasures will show up next time? The next show date is the 7th December 2013. I for one certainly plan to be there!

Rob Wilson
June 9th 2013

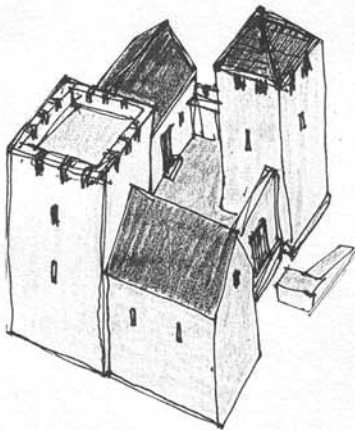


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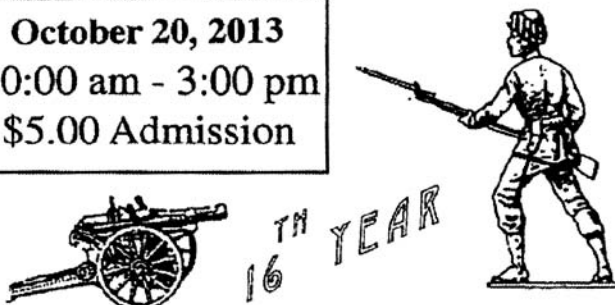
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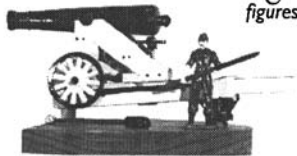
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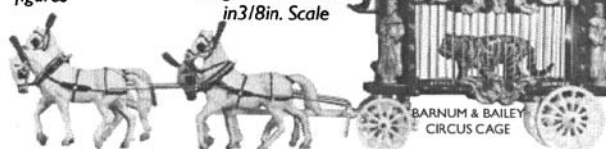
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November 2 - Saturday The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale Cresco, PA
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November 3- Sunday Cantigny Toy Soldier Show Wheaton Illinois Contact Nick Albanese 920-261-1323

November 3 - Sunday 31st Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show, Hackensack, NJ
Contact Bill Lango www.Eastcoasttoysoldiershow.com

November 22 - 24 - Friday - Sunday Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA. Important Early Britains from the late Richard Appleby Collection with the George O. Gillespie Collection of Toy Soldiers and Exquisite Additions. Contact Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com 1-800-349-8009 or Norman Joplin 262-692-3912 info@normanjoplin.com www.oldtoysoldierauctions.com

December 5 - Thursday Bonhams Auctions, Oxford Contact Leigh Gotch +44 (0)208 963 2839 leigh.gotch@bonhams.com, James Opie +44 (0)208 963 2836 james.opie@bonhams.com, Catalogues: +44 (0) 1666 502200 bonhams.com/collectors

2014

January 26th Sunday 20th Annual Toy Soldier Show. Scottish Rites Masonic Hall, Lake Worth, Florida.
Contact 561-582-6794

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

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