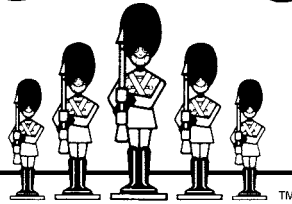


Summer
2014

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 38 Number 2
\$10.00

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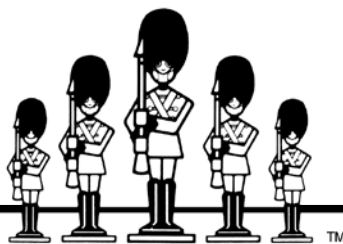


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Photograph courtesy of Norman Joplin and Mary Fischer

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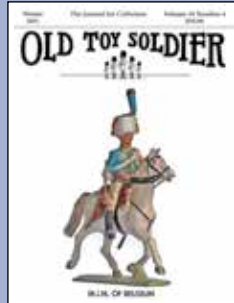
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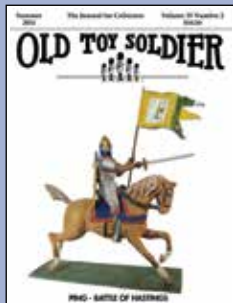


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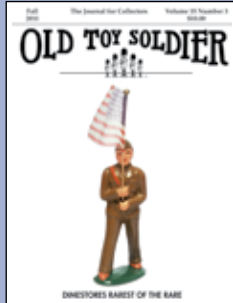
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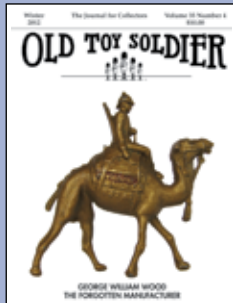
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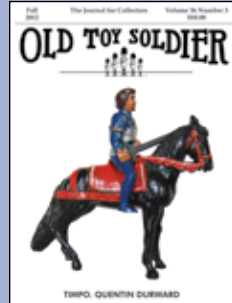
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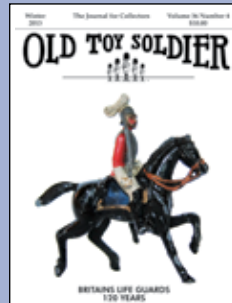
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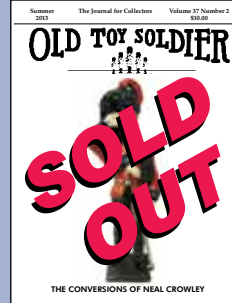


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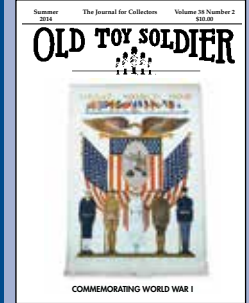


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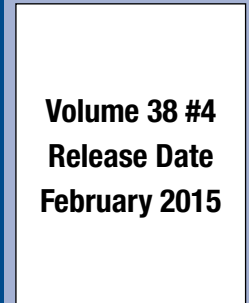
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CUSTER'S SEVENTH CAVALRY AND OTHER EARLY BUSSLER FIGURES

Text and photos by Henry I. Kurtz

During a visit to Polk's Hobby Shop in New York City in 1950, I came upon some early U.S. Cavalry figures by Dr. Ralph Bussler, a Massachusetts osteopath turned model soldier maker. The mounted and dismounted troopers looked as if they had just jumped out of a painting by Frederic Remington (such as the one illustrated here) or one of the John Ford cavalry films that had recently been released. Being an Indian Wars buff, I was instantly attracted to them. I was then in the early days of high school so my wallet was rather thin. Dismounted troopers cost \$1.00, with a guidon bearer retailing at \$1.25 and a standard bearer with the national flag at \$1.50. Mounted troopers were \$2.00 each, with .25 cents and .50 cents more for guidon and national flag bearers, respectively.

Despite financial constraints I managed over the next few years to accumulate a small detachment of Bussler 7th Cavalrymen, as they were designated. Although they were somewhat spindly legged, Bussler's cavalrymen very much resembled the frontier types I was used to seeing in Hollywood movies and contemporary drawings and paintings. Bussler was surely inspired by the art work of Frederic Remington. He even borrowed some of the poses in the aforementioned painting, entitled "On the Southern Plains," which shows cavalry charging with pistols at the raise or with arms extended with saber or pistol in firing position. Even Bussler's horses, either trotting or galloping as in a charge, can be traced to Remington.

Like director John Ford, Bussler was less concerned with complete accuracy of detail than recreating the look of those weather-beaten soldiers of the Western frontier army. Bussler's cavalrymen carry a red and white swallow-tailed guidon, when in fact an American flag guidon was used from 1863 to 1885. Similarly, the U.S. Cavalry of Custer's era did not carry the American flag. By some Congressional oversight, the U.S. cavalry was not officially granted the right to carry the national colors until 1895-although volunteer cavalry regiments frequently carried the American flag during the Civil War. Bussler's cavalry officers wear drab khaki campaign hats, but those were not introduced until the 1880's. Custer's 7th Cavalrymen wore floppy broad-brimmed black



A group of early Bussler Seventh Cavalry figures with inaccurate company guidon.



A closeup of Bussler Seventh Cavalrymen showing officer, bugler and flag bearer.



Seventh Cavalry by Bussler with figure of George Custer by contemporary maker Black Hawk Toy Soldiers.

CUSTER'S SEVENTH CAVALRY AND OTHER EARLY BUSSLER FIGURES (Cont.)



Mounted officer with detachable rider.



Another view showing upraised movable arm.

7th U. S. Cavalry 1870

W-1A	mounted	Chrg.,	saber extended	Officer	2.00
W-1B	mounted	Chrg.,	pistol at raise	"	2.00
W-1C	mounted	Chrg.,	pistol firing	"	2.00
W-2A	mounted	Chrg.,	saber extended	enlisted man	2.00
W-2B	mounted	Chrg.,	pistol at raise	"	2.00
W-2C	mounted	Chrg.,	pistol firing	"	2.00
W-2D	mounted	Chrg.,	bugle at raise	"	2.00
W-2E	mounted	Chrg.,	with Guidon	"	2.25
W-2F	mounted	Chrg.,	National Flag	"	2.50
W-3A	mounted	Chrg.,	pistol at raise	Scout	2.00
W-3B	mounted	Chrg.,	rifle on knee	"	2.00
W-4A	mounted	trotting,	saber extended,	Officer	2.00
W-4B	mounted	trotting,	pistol at raise	"	2.00
W-4C	mounted	trotting,	pistol firing	"	2.00
W-5A	mounted	trotting,	saber ext.	enlisted man	2.00
W-5B	mounted	trotting,	pistol at raise	"	2.00
W-5C	mounted	trotting,	pistol firing	"	2.00
W-5D	mounted	trotting,	bugle at raise	"	2.00
W-5E	mounted	trotting,	with Guidon	"	2.25
W-5F	mounted	trotting,	National Flag	"	2.50
W-6A	mounted	trotting,	pistol at raise	Scout	2.00
W-6B	mounted	trotting,	rifle on knee	"	2.00
W-7A	Dismounted,	Saber extended,	Officer	1.00	
W-7B	Dismounted,	pistol at raise	"	1.00	
W-7C	Dismounted,	pistol firing	"	1.00	
W-8A	Dismounted,	saber extended,	enlisted man	1.00	
W-8B	Dismounted,	pistol at raise	"	1.00	
W-8C	Dismounted,	pistol firing	"	1.00	
W-8D	Dismounted,	carbine at port	"	1.00	
W-9A	Dismounted,	saber extended,	Bugler	1.00	
W-9B	Dismounted,	pistol at raise	"	1.00	
W-9C	Dismounted,	pistol firing	"	1.00	
W-10A	Dismounted,	standing,	firing carbine, En. man.	1.00	
W-11A	Dismounted,	kneeling	firing	1.00	
W-12A	Dismounted,	Guidon,	saber to ground	1.25	
W-12B	Dismounted,	Guidon,	pistol at raise	1.25	
W-12C	Dismounted,	Guidon,	pistol firing	1.25	
W-12D	Dismounted,	Net'l flag,	saber to ground	1.50	

Front and back pages of early Bussler mimeographed catalogue sheet.

The following figures are the first, in a series of Bussler Deluxe miniatures, representing the Civil War. (These figures are knocked down, easy to assemble, no soldering necessary.) They are packaged in a small attractive box.

The figures represent Regular Union and Confederate Infantry. 1863 period.

They are standing at attention, dressed in parade uniform, and consist of Officers, Privates, Color Sgt's, Buglers and Drummers.

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CAT. NO.		
<u>OFFICERS</u>		\$1.00 ea.
CONFED. CRO-1-A	UNION URO-3-A	Infantry Officer at attention, parade dress, soft hat, carrying saber at right shoulder.
CRO-1-B	URO-3-B	Officer, saber to the front, and pointing to the ground.
CRO-1-C	URO-3-C	Officer giving the hand salute
CRO-1-D	URO-3-D	Officer holding pistol at raise
The above officers come also with Kepi's. Use the same code but add K after the last letter; e.g. CRO-1-AK, URO-3-AK		
<u>ENLISTED MEN</u>		\$1.00 ea.
CRE-2-A	URE-4-A	Infantry Private, at attention, parade dress kepi, rifle with bayonet attached at right side.
CRE-2-B	URE-4-B	Private with rifle at right shoulder arms.
CRE-2-C	URE-4-C	Private with rifle at present arms
CRE-2-D	URE-4-D	Private blowing the bugle
CRE-2-E	URE-4-E	Private giving the hand salute
<u>CONFEDERATE ENLISTED MEN</u>		\$1.25 ea.
CRE-2-F		Private drummer sounding a roll
CRE-2-G		Color Sgt. Carrying battle flag in socket to the front
CRE-2-H		Color Sgt. Carrying Stars and Bars flag in socket and to the front.
CRE-2-I		Color Sgt. Carrying Stainless Banner flag in socket and to the front.
CRE-2-J		Color Sgt. Carrying last flag of Confederacy in socket and to the front.
CRE-2-K		Color Sgt. Carrying plain flag to be painted as a regimental flag of choice.
<u>UNION ENLISTED MEN</u>		\$1.25 ea.
URE-4-F		Private drummer sounding a roll
URE-4-G		Color Sgt. Carrying National Standard in socket to front
URE-4-H		Color Sgt. Carrying Plain regimental flag in socket
The above figures come also in soft hats. Use the same		

CUSTER'S SEVENTH CAVALRY AND OTHER EARLY BUSSLER FIGURES *(Cont.)*

hats that wilted in the rain and were much disliked by the troopers. But again, the overall look was more important than by the book accuracy.

Early Bussler figures, though billed as model soldiers or "deluxe miniatures," retained some toy soldier features, chief among those being movable arms. The figures were painted in simple toy soldier style in glossy enamels, with no elaborate detail or color shading. In the 1950's Bussler began producing civil war figures in a similar style. Union and Confederate infantry were issued in a few basic poses, with officers, flag bearers, drummers and buglers. They could be had with kepis or slouch hats.

In his early catalogues, Dr. Bussler noted that he had turned a hobby beginning after World War I into a "hobby business" in 1948 to fill a void in the American market. "Until recently, most of the military miniatures came from Europe," he wrote, "Alas! These figures...

did not represent the great military history of this country, and there was always an empty space in both the cabinet and in the heart for some really nice American miniatures."

Dr. Bussler's later figures were of much higher quality, and included such dramatic dioramas (called Bussleramas) as Union and Confederate gun teams galloping into action. However, Bussler figures never quite reached the level of sophistication of Stadden, Mettayer and other outstanding European makers. But they did pave the way for American producers such as William Imre and Clyde Risley.

And they gave the author, as a child collector, many happy memories.

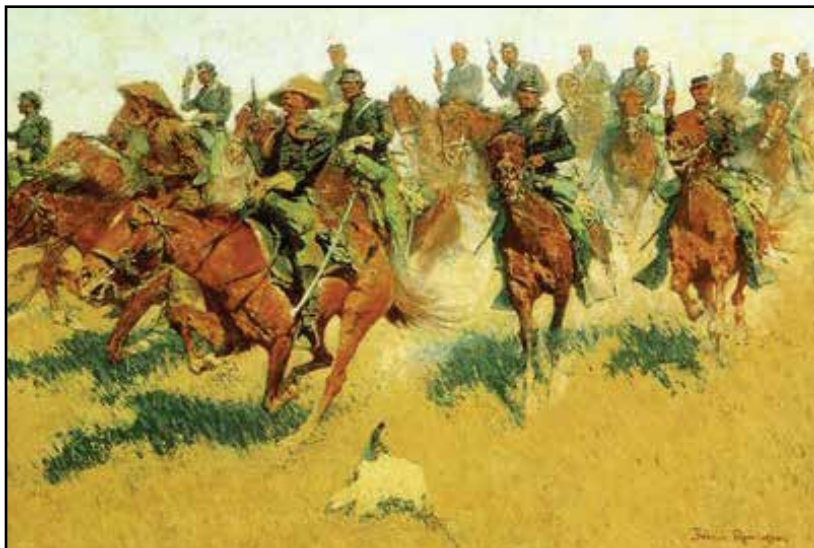
Henry I. Kurtz is the author of "the Art of the Toy Soldier" and a dealer and collector of toy and model soldiers.



Early Bussler Union Infantry with slouch hats.



Bussler Confederate Infantry with color bearer carrying Rebel battleflag.



Frederic Remington paintings like this one served as inspiration for Bussler's Seventh Cavalry figures.

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THE EUROPEAN TOY SOLDIER SCENE 2014

By Rob Wilson

There are a number of regular toy soldier and related shows that take place in Europe, and in particular in the UK, each year. This article highlights a few of these that have taken place over the last few months to give a taste of what the visitor can expect. The main focus is on UK events but there are many others held in other countries (which perhaps others can tell us about in future articles!).

EuroFigurines, Paris, March 2014

The EuroFigurines shows have now been going for many years. Linked to the EuroFigurines magazine, the group now holds two shows per year, currently based in Nanterre on the outskirts of Paris. I happened upon the latest show by chance on my most recent trip to Paris. I had arranged to meet up with François Beaumont at his excellently stocked shop close by the Eiffel Tower (see François's advertisement elsewhere in this magazine for location and contact details). Soon after I arrived two Belgian collectors/dealers arrived and the conversation turned to the main reason for their visit to Paris at the time – the EuroFigurines event.

Having obtained details of location and timing I readjusted my plans for Sunday morning to take in the show. Nanterre is a 10 minute journey by rail from the centre of Paris on the RER, travelling out towards La Defence (Paris's modern commercial/financial centre). A walk of a further 10 minutes gets you to the

venue, which is well served by hotels and car parking for those travelling by other means.

Entry is now free to visitors (tables cost just 15 Euros a half metre although you have to be a member of the Eurofigurines club to get one!). The room was heaving when I arrived at 8.30 (the scheduled opening time). Dealers and "early birds" had obviously got there a good bit earlier. The organisers have experimented with various charging regimes over the years, but the free entry certainly seems to encourage a large crowd. The show boasted around 100 two metre tables which filled the room to bursting. Every table was heavily laden with toy soldiers and related items. As well as François and the Belgians a number of other well know French dealers were present including Jean-Paul Tisné, and Jean Bernard Doublet (authors of the growing series of excellent books on Quiralu and French hollowcast lead figures). Harry Kemp (friend, collector and occasional dealer) was also there with a table. Unfortunately for me Harry had got here early and picked up many of the items I was most keen to find, (examples of Britain's Paris Office production) but I still managed to find a number of nice pieces.

The next show will be held on the 12th October 2014 in the same location (Google Eurofigurines for their web site which contains full details).

Eurofigurines finds:



XR Hollowcast Prussians from 1914



French hollowcast: Chasseurs d'Afrique

THE EUROPEAN TOY SOLDIER SCENE 2014 (Cont.)



French hollowcast Zouaves – manufactured by CS?



Britain's Paris Office Belgian infantry at the ready, with just subtle paint differences from the standard London offering



BF French 54mm hollowcast Prussian cavalry charging with officer and trumpeter

London Toy Soldier Show March and June 2014

The London Toy Soldier Show has now been held at its “new” location of the Islington Business Design Centre near the Angel Islington for a couple of years. The Show is held three times a year (in March, June and December). Now organised by Guideline Publications, the show was previously run by King and Country and Vectis at its former venue of the Royal National Hotel (having been established there by OTS Magazine’s very own editor back in the 1990s). Although complaints of some dealers about the difficulties in setting up can still be heard, the new venue has a number of advantages (including a spacious well lit layout and good catering and support facilities). The show continues to attract good numbers through the door.

The majority of dealers present nowadays are offering modern toy soldiers, but there is still a good number of dealers specialising in vintage figures, including a few from continental Europe. Some of the items I managed to find at the March and June shows are illustrated in the accompanying photos. This show remains for me one of the first things to go into my diary at the start of each year!

The next date is December 6th 2014. For more details google Toy Soldier Show London

Finds at the London shows, March and June 2014



Complete set of 3 G W Wood Camel Corps (previously attributed to BMC)



Sacul Crusaders - Mint and boxed

THE EUROPEAN TOY SOLDIER SCENE 2014 (Cont.)



Charbens black Gl's, including very rare motorcyclist



Fort by Carl Moritz Reichel (identified by Allen Hickling – see his forthcoming book for more details on this and many other manufacturers)



Rare CBG set 428/?? "b-sized", semi-ronde display of the French army on manoeuvres, c 1912



Various figures from a Mechanical Display created for the 1953 Coronation, all in No 1 Dress.

Plastic Warrior Show 24th May 2014

Plastic Warrior held its 29th show in the Winning Post public house, Chertsey Road, Twickenham. This is the same venue as used previously in 2013. The usual venue, The Queen Charlotte Hall, in Richmond is closed for redevelopment until September. Consult the Plastic Warrior Magazine website for detail for the 2015 show.

As usual the show was full to bursting with British made plastic figures, but with collectors and dealers from many other countries present it retains an international flavour. This is definitely the place to come for high quality, as well as obscure, plastic figures. There were many excellent examples of Britain's Herald and Deetail ranges.

Barney [??] and Peter Cole were selling copies of their recent history of the Herald range highlighting

the brilliant sculpting skills of masters such as Selwyn Smith. For many plastic collectors they represent poetry in motion compared with the much more static parade ground poses that characterise Britain's early hollowcast lead figures.

Although primarily a collector of lead figures, I too find it difficult to resist the charms of the Herald and Swoppet range. Many other British manufacturers operating in the same period also produced fine figures although some shamelessly pirated Britain's figures. The British Combat infantry series is probably one of the most copied set of figures of all time. I am gradually building up a cameo collection of figures directly copied from the original Britains or close variations on a similar theme. The trade box of Speedwell figures pictured here is typical, but many other companies got on the same band wagon such as VP, UNA and Kentoys. This includes some examples in metal such as those produced by AHI in Japan in

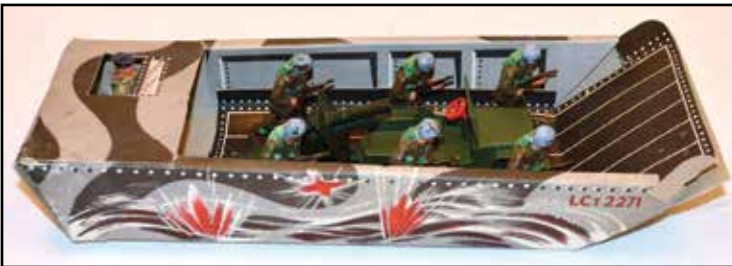
THE EUROPEAN TOY SOLDIER SCENE 2014 (Cont.)



Speedwell copies of Britain's Herald series - just one of many companies to pirate Britain's originals, adding a twist of their own - here we have a trade box of a soldier firing a bazooka.



Lone Star Desert war - Britains did not bring their range of 8th army and Africa Corps figures out until decades later as part of the Deetail series



Lone Star landing craft - innovative packaging - the landing craft serves as a box - there were at least two different variants on this theme, the other slightly smaller than this example



AHI Indian camp set - more copies of Britains but this time in hollowcast lead from Japanese producer AHI

the 1950s and early 1960s. The accompanying picture shows a metal version of Herald's indian camp scene! Other companies were much more original. I have a soft spot for Lone Star. This company first started making figures in hollowcast metal but soon switched to plastic, probably seeing the writing on the wall rather earlier than Britains. Their "War in the Desert" series is classic, predating Britain's detail series depicting Rommel and Montgomery's opposing forces by decades! The Lone Star series included vehicles and equipment (as show in the display set pictured here), albeit not quite to scale. Another example of their imaginative approach is the landing craft which also served as box (although here perhaps Britain's can claim the edge with their Noah's Ark form before World War 2!). They produced at least two types of landing craft, very topical given the recent commemoration

and celebrations around D-Day. The one show here has room for vehicles as well as troops.

Sandown Toy Fair May 2014

Although not a specialist toy soldier event, Sandown is the premier antique toy show in the UK and probably in the whole of Europe. Held 4 times a year at the Sandown Race course at Esher in Surrey, it has been developed by Barry Potter into major event over the past 25 years. It attracts dealers and collectors from all over Europe and beyond. A number of dealers specialise in toy soldiers and other lead figures. However, it is often on the non-specialist tables that the real treasure is to be found! Two Britain's adult giraffes, large scale Heyde race horses and some rare Green Howards were amongst my latest finds.

THE EUROPEAN TOY SOLDIER SCENE 2014 *(Cont.)*

For details of forthcoming show dates google Barry Potter Toy Fairs. The next date is September 12th 2014.

Sandown finds:



Pair of Britains adult Giraffes



Heyde large scale race horses

BMSS Annual show April 2014

The British Model Soldier Society (BMSS) lays claim to being one of the oldest established association of models soldier enthusiasts in the world. Established in the 1930s, the society is still going strong, celebrating its 70th anniversary in 2005. It holds regular monthly meeting in London as well as in other parts of the UK. The Annual show is its main interface with the general public. The 2014 show was held in the Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury (the same location as the Joplin Toy Soldier Show).

The prime focus is now on making and painting figures but there is still a strong interest in collecting Old Toy Soldiers. In the early days there was no real distinction between the two areas of interest. Converting and repainting Britain's hollowcast figures was the main way members developed their collections. The idea that the toys themselves could become collectable "antiques" had to wait until the post-war years and the development of a market for such items by auctioneers such as Phillips.

Nevertheless a number of dealers old figures ply their trade alongside those selling connoisseur figures, kits and related items. I picked up a rare Hill see-saw with boy and girl riders. Highlight of the show as far as I was concerned was the huge display of figures and equipment commemorating the 1914 -1918 War. Heyde, Mignot and various other makers showed how toy makers had attempted to depict the conflict that cost so many lives.

For details of forthcoming shows, Google BMSS.



Rare Hill see-saw



World War I display of various toy soldiers and related equipment
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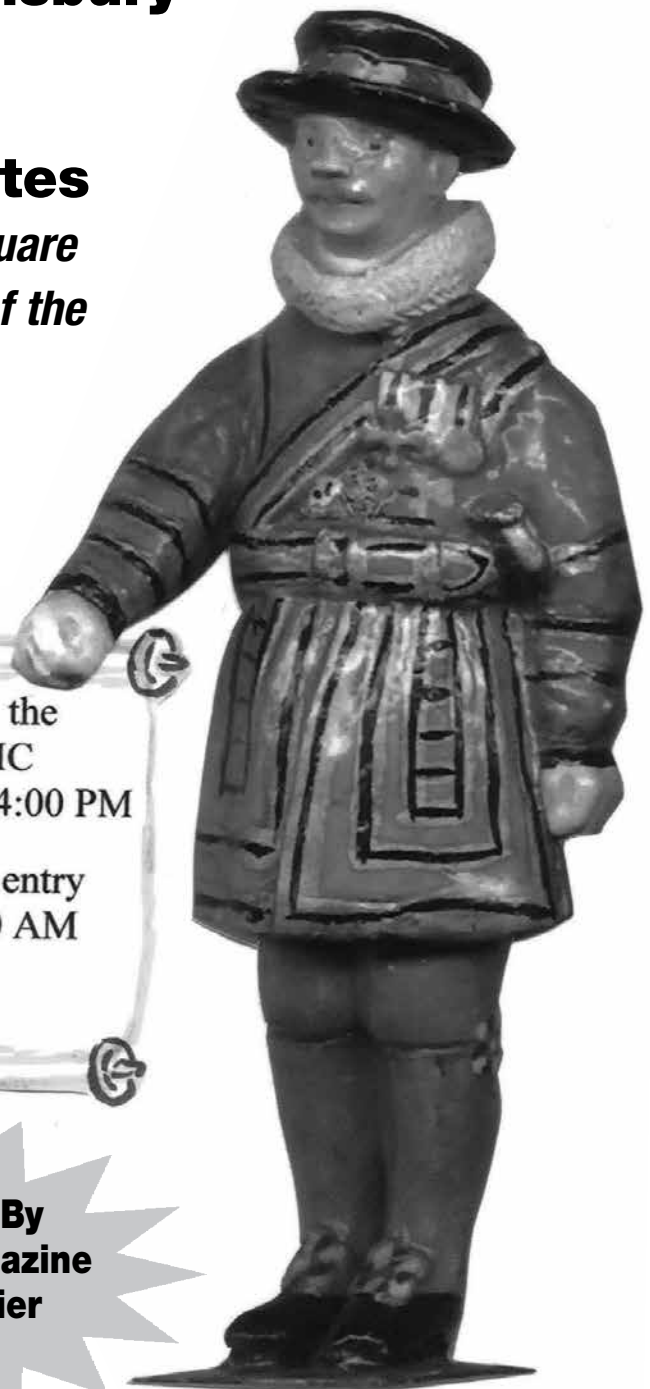
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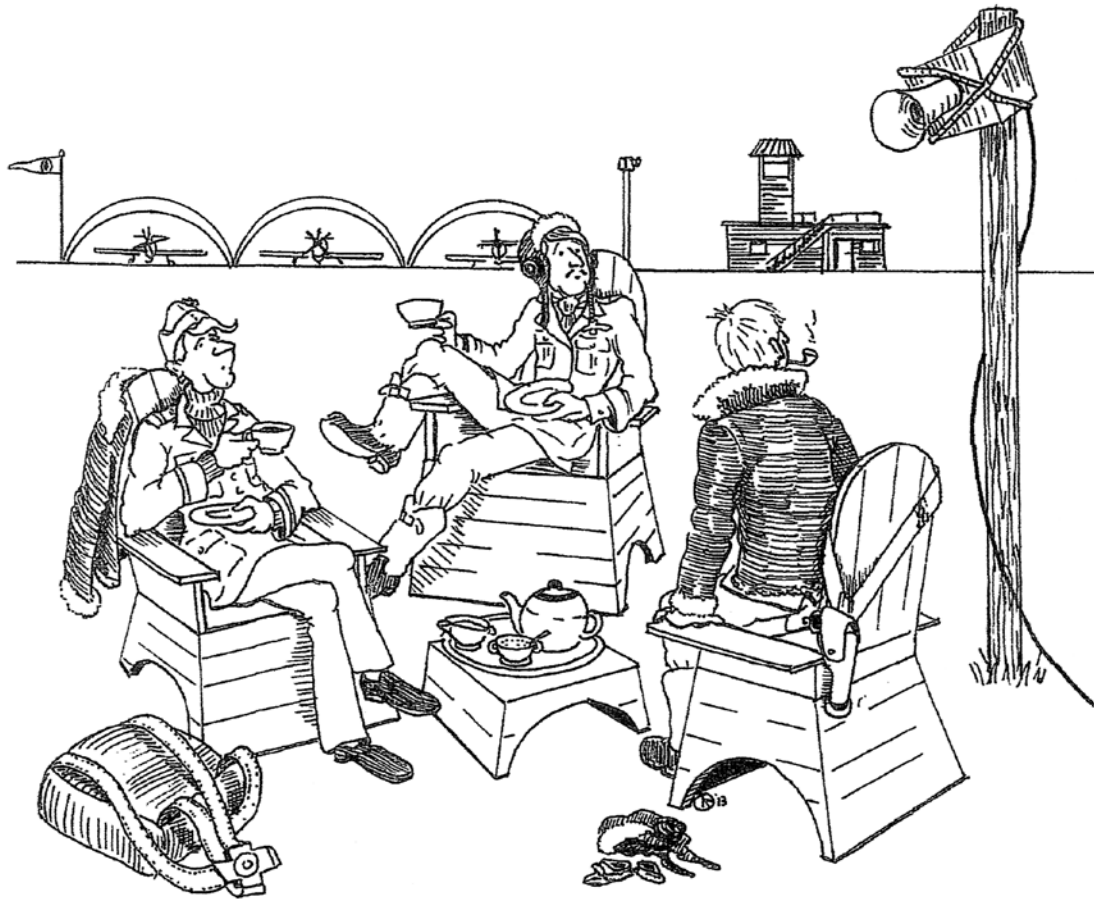
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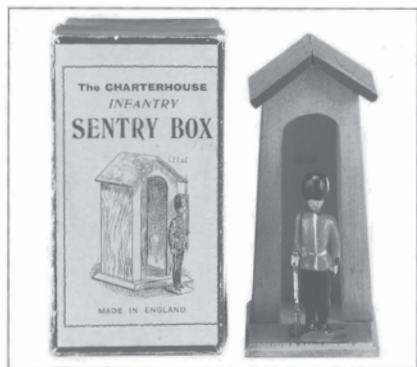
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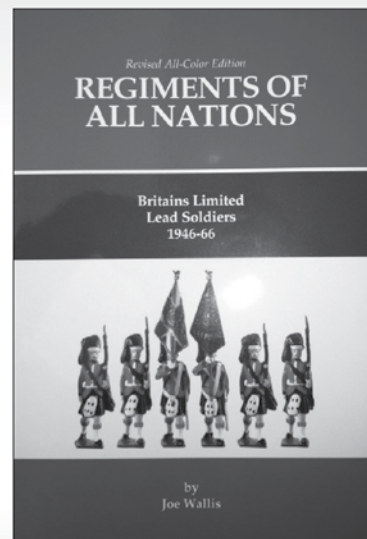
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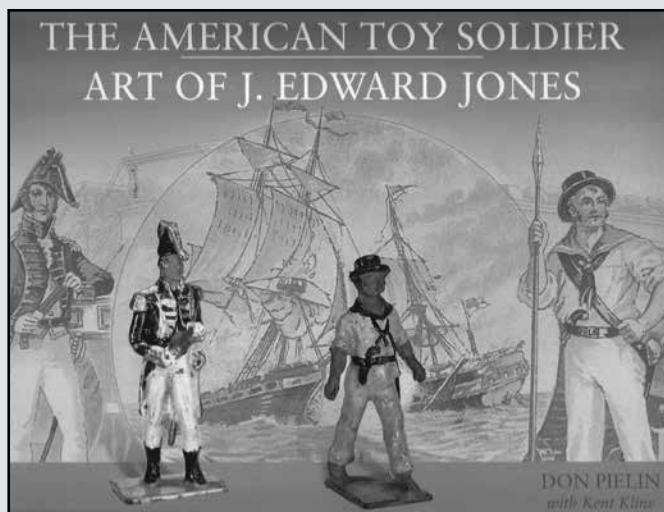


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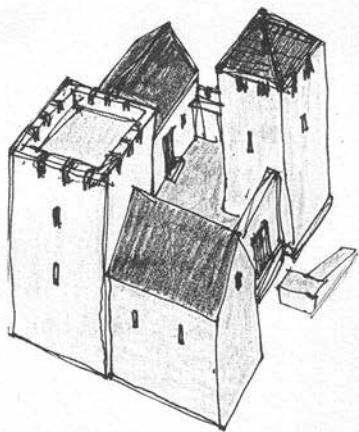
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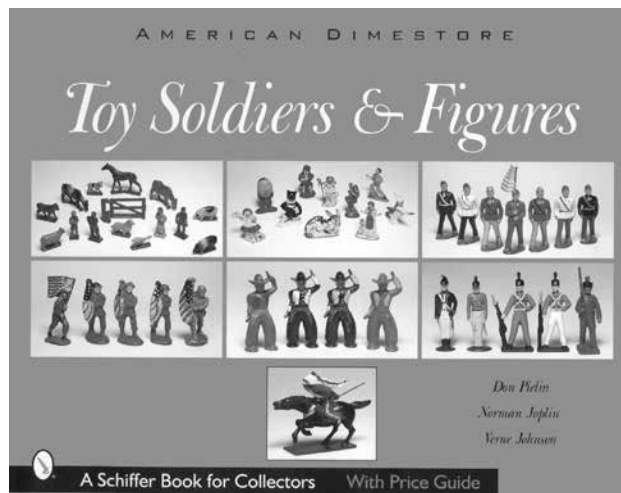
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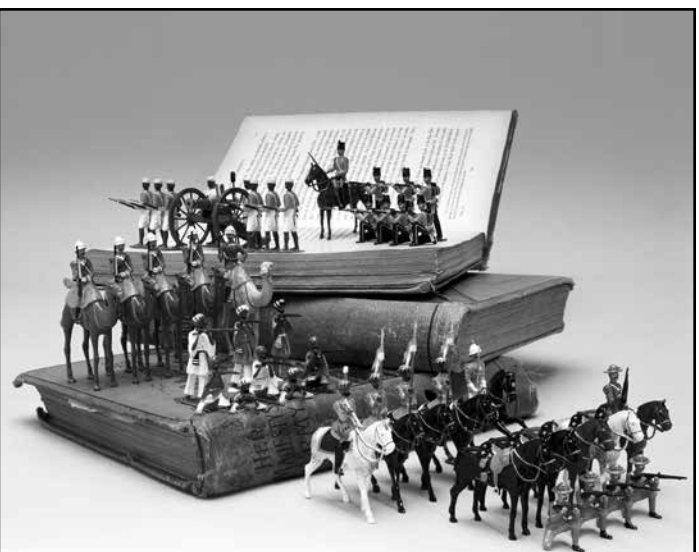
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A SALUTE TO TODAY'S DIMESTORE GURU STAN ALEKNA

By Louis S. Steinberg

Aside from the generally acknowledged “Godfather” of toy soldiers, Richard O’Brien, not many have contributed more to the Dimestore niche of toy soldiering over the last twenty-five plus years than Stan Alekna.

Don Pielin’s contributions to the hobby have been many and his publication, “THE AMERICAN DIMESTORE SOLDIER BOOK”, staked-out and named that segment of the toy soldier collecting community. Certainly the Sommers’ early publication of the OLD TOY SOLDIER (OTS) magazine, the many contributions of Hank Anton, Doc Poole, Jack Mathews, Bill Lango, and many other pioneers



Here is Stan, Dimestore's Exemplary Expert

played a major role in establishing the hobby. These people formed the backbone of the hobby and without them, it would never have taken root.

But in the last nearly three decades, Stan has been a force like no other in collecting, researching, and sharing his knowledge of Dimestores by providing information and photos to Richard for inclusion in his last two editions of Collecting American-Made TOY SOLDIERS, and by his prolific articles in OTS. His unending quest to discover yet undocumented Dimestore figure and vehicle variations, and to clarify confusing and sometimes erroneous information about figures caused me to dub him “The Variant King” in a previous article. His enthusiasm and contributions to the hobby has unquestionably added years to its life.

But how and why did Stan become who he is? Stan was born on Armistice Day, November 11, 1936, in Akron Ohio, growing up in a typical lower middle class neighborhood. Stan relates “In the years immediately following WW II, every boy had a cigar box of three-inch, lead, toy soldiers. I’m telling you we had wars that would rival Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima but the battles caused many Dimestore casualties. Most were so badly “wounded” that they could never qualify for any collection in later years. Not one of my own soldiers made it into my eventual Dimestore collection.”

Stan forgot about toy soldiers, went on to become an Eagle Scout and after graduating high school at the age of 17, and influenced by relatives and neighbors who had been in WW II, and having seen many WW II movies, he asked his parents to sign papers allowing him to join the Marines. They said “no” so he unenthusiastically enrolled at the University of Akron, played a season of football, and two weeks before his 18th birthday, he told his team mates that he was joining the Marines. “I could not believe that my announcement was met with cat calls and disbelief from my mates. I left campus and went straight to the U.S. Marine recruiting office where my enlistment was forward-dated to my 18th birthday. I returned to campus where I proudly displayed my enlistment papers and two team mates went down and enlisted in the Corps that same day. I never told my parents or my girlfriend what I had done until a week before I was to be inducted which certainly caught everyone by surprise.”



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Rare Barclay 60's Fire Chief Car with Separately Cast Siren



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A SALUTE TO TODAY'S DIMESTORE GURU STAN ALEKNA (Cont.)



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**Barclay Naval Officer
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**Rare Barclay Short
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Marine Sergeant Stan Alekna was honorably discharged in 1957; returned to Akron; re-enrolled at the University of Akron, this time with a purpose, and received his B.S. in mathematics in 1961. He was hired by IBM and spent a very rewarding 20 year career with the company which involved frequent relocations between field and headquarters assignments. In 1973, while living in Connecticut and working in White Plains, New York, he was attending a local antique gun show hoping to find another addition to his collection of U.S. military magazine loaded rifles and carbines. He came across a dealer at the show who had three Barclay soldiers for sale for the total price of \$5.00. Stan said "I had no idea that my purchase of these figures for purely nostalgic reasons, was the beginning of what would become an avocation. I didn't even know that old toy soldiers were collectible.

"Soon thereafter, I came across a dealer at another gun show who had a display case filled with Dimestores and I bought several from him. I was hooked! The dealer told me how the hobby was growing and suggested that I subscribe to *Old Toy Soldier* magazine which I did. I also acquired a copy of Richard O'Brien's COLLECTING TOYS that had a section on toy soldiers. That was when I set my sights on collecting one of every toy soldier, civilian figure, animal, and vehicle made by the major American toy soldier companies." And he came very close to reaching that goal.

Stan began attending toy soldier and antique shows and antique markets all over the country and his collection rapidly grew. During the 1970's and '80's, several toy soldier dealers sold figures by issuing

periodic, mail-order lists. In recalling those days, Stan said "The dealer with the largest Dimestore mail order list by far was Warren Mitchell and I bought hundreds of soldiers from him over the years. We became good friends and I was saddened by his passing as were so many." Stan would eventually become one of Warren's biggest competitors when he too began issuing mail order lists of Dimestores which he has continued to the present. Stan said, "My first list contained around 30 items as I recall. My last list in May of this year was 34 pages long!"

As Stan's collection grew, he was discovering variant figures and vehicles that had not been documented in any literature. So, in 1987, Stan wrote his first of what became 31 articles for OTS and began sharing his findings with the Dimestore community. He said, "Of all the articles I have written, I do have some favorites. The piece on the Barclay, two-inch, 1960's, die cast vehicles was fun because only half of this series was contained in Richard's books so I was able to document the rest. Clearing up the confusion surrounding Barclay's BV39 cop/soldier motorcyclist variations was interesting, especially once I had all of the bikes in front of me and found that there was a 4th variant. This article produced many kudos from the Dimestore community. Discovering and writing about B54a, the short stride naval officer in blue with a tin top to his cap, and finding the 3rd variant of the smooth lens searchlight were also pretty exciting. When I discovered M24a, the Manoil sailor in blue, I called Richard and asked why it was not in his book. He replied that none had ever been seen and it was too late to make the 3rd edition. Richard, Warren Mitchell and I speculated many times about why there were so

A SALUTE TO TODAY'S DIMESTORE GURU STAN ALEKNA (Cont.)



Rare Barclay Wounded Pod Foot On Crutches



Rare Barclay Wounded Pod Foot with Arm in a Sling



Rare Barclay Pod Foot Aviator



Rarest Dimestore Figure of All the Grey Irons



Grey Iron's Gatling Cap Gun Is Its Scarcest Piece



Very Scarce Barclay Siren Car with Original Factory Tag Tied to Back Wheel, Not Shown



Barclay Military Vehicle Khaki Cannon Car is Rarely Found with Cannon Intact



Stan Discovered This Variation That Shows a Different Casting On the Section Between the Searchlight and the Soldier

few Dimestore naval figures painted blue but we never came up with a good rationale. I enjoyed building the chronology of Barclay's trains from 1920 to the 1960's and gathering the super rare items for the article on Barclay's vehicles with a working headlight. But the most challenging and most rewarding was the article that Norman Joplin goaded me into writing, wherein I listed and pictured what I considered to be the 20 rarest Barclay, Manoil and Grey Iron 3-inch soldier figures. It certainly produced the most feedback from OTS readers".

All of Stan's discoveries were forwarded to Richard and were included in successive editions of Collecting American made TOY SOLDIERS, as evidenced by the dozens of photo credits to Stan.

After Richard sold the publishing rights to his Collecting TOY CARS & TRUCKS to Krause Publications, Krause asked Stan to update the Dimestore sections of this publication. He did so in consultation with other Dimestore vehicle collectors and added thirty never before documented Barclay vehicles along with their photos to the 4th edition.

In 2005, Stan sold his personal collection which had grown to over 2,200 figures and vehicles. He had come within twelve figures of his goal of obtaining one of every figure made by the major Dimestore soldier makers.

While reminiscing, Stan said, "Many of the icons of our hobby have past-on and are dearly missed. As our hobby moves into the winter of its life and is being superseded by other interests, I hope that we "Mohicans" stay in touch and keep sharing the joys of our hobby. God, I love this hobby and the many, many friends I have made over the years. It has been a huge part of my life and still is."

Over the years Stan Alekna, the consummate collector; dealer; researcher and author, has been a major force in the Dimestore community. Many have benefited from and will long remember what he has accomplished by his truly unparalleled devotion to our toy soldiering hobby and his selfless willingness to share his information with others.

Stay well Stan and may future OTS Magazines offer many more of your interesting discoveries.

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FILLING THE LINE - SET # 1419 US (?) INFANTRY IN GAS MASKS

By Rob Wilson

According to Joe Wallis in *Armies of the World*, set #1419 was uncatalogued but probably contained an eight piece set of US infantry. Joe suggests the contents might share some of the pieces included in set # 1251 (US infantry in grey doughboy hats in firing positions).

A recent eBay find suggests a different story. The accompanying pictures suggest the set was in fact figures in British style steel helmets, marching at the trail and wearing gas masks. The set appears to be identical to the contents of set # 258.

Such figures also appeared in the large Display box of US Forces (set # 324) and the smaller set of US infantry in Action (set # 1626).

The figures appear to be in close to mint condition.

They wear khaki/ brown webbing and puttees and grey steel helmets. Their boots are black.

The **Armies of the World** box has the set number stamped on the right hand side of the label on the lid in the "box" designed for that purpose. The words "Gas Masks" are hand written in the corresponding "box" on the left hand side. There is no tie card but the alternative corrugated backing card and slotted card to hold the figures in place are both present. Of course, it is possible that this may not be the original contents of the box, but the label and slotted card fittings are fully consistent with what is stamped and written on the label, and with Joe Wallis's previous research.

Another gap filled?



SCEPTER A COLLECTORS DREAM COME TRUE - PART 1

By Norman Joplin



Scepter Set # 120 Vickers Maxim Anti Aircraft Gun

The late Arnold Rolak was totally committed to his hobby of collecting the best in Britains Toy Soldiers and Figures, his world class collection was auctioned at Christies in London in 2000. Arnold was also a researcher, author and dealer for many years.

His dream had always been to have his own Toy Soldier Company and his dream came true in 1993. Charles Biggs a long standing friend and one time Director of products for Britains Limited agreed to help Arnold achieve his ambition or "fantasy" as Arnold called it. Charles and Arnold gathered around them the best in the UK hobby to produce the line. At first they found difficulty in coming up with a name. Sovereign, Ceremonial and Royalty were all suggested, but SCEPTER was eventually adopted. as the brand name.

Ronald Cameron N.D.D a well known British sculptor created the master figures, Captain Roy Dilley and his son Tony both international model soldier experts were recruited to advise on painting techniques and under the supervision of Charles Biggs researched Military Uniforms in order to ensure that the Scepter range was the best that could be produced.

Borbur Enterprises best known for producing the Steadfast range of items were employed to manufacture the wagons and cannons required for the horse drawn figures.

The Scepter company and its first 15 sets were first introduced to the collecting public in London at my British Toy Soldier and Figure show in 1993. The subject matter was geared towards offering, probably for the first time, a comprehensive collection of toy soldiers and figures depicting WW1 with a strong emphasis on Medical items.

The 100th anniversary of WW1 provided an opportunity to tell part one of the Scepter story. Part two, "How Scepter became Premier" will be published in OTS November 2014.



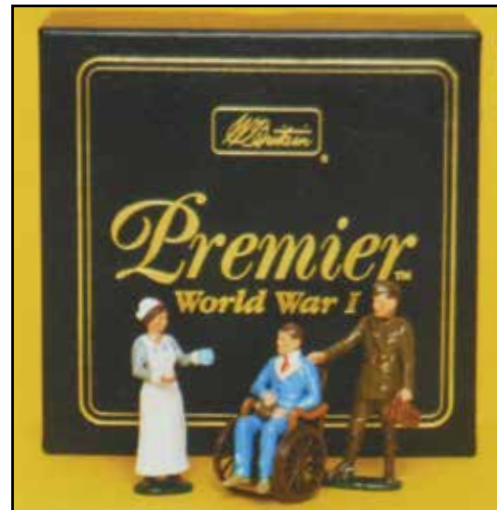
The above Ephemera was used as inspiration for Scepter.

SCEPTER

A COLLECTORS DREAM COME TRUE - PART 1 *(Cont.)*



Premier WW1 Nurses and Doctors



Premier WW1 Hospital Wheelchair set



Premier WW1 Pup Tent, with Wounded and Orderlies



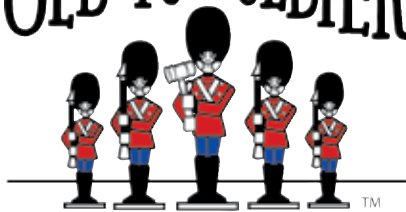
Premier WW1 Dodge Ambulance

All above were added to the Premier line after the cessation of Scepter.



AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

SNEAK PEEK

The Arnold Rolak Collection

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Britains Set 1622 Royal Marine Light Infantry Band



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Britains Village Idiots



Britains Military

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Military



Britains Military



Britains Military



Britains Military



Mignot



Britains Royalty Busts



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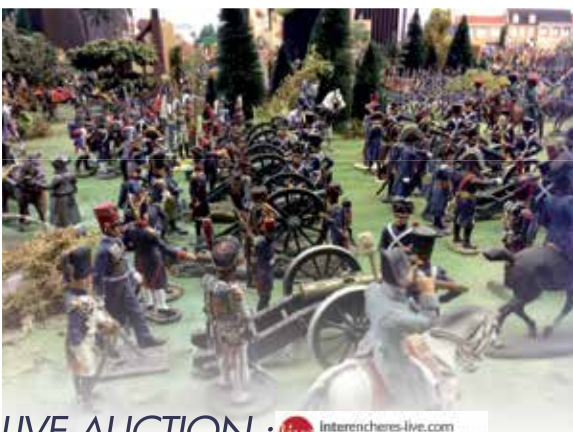


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For further advance information contact either Ray Haradin raytoys@aol.com, telephone 412 343 8733 or Norman Joplin info@normanjoplin.com, telephone 262-692-3913



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Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA will present the Jim Taylor Collection of Replica Britains, Lucotte and Markin at the Old Toy Soldier Show in Schaumburg, Illinois. Thursday, September 25th, 2014 12 Noon

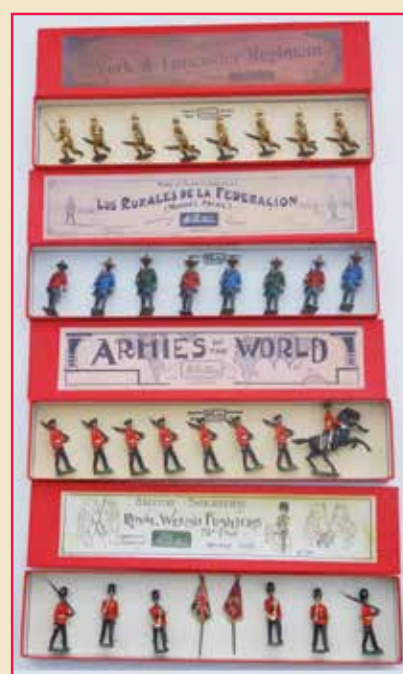


Jim Taylor was the long time proprietor of the Old Tin Soldier Shoppe in Houston, Texas. Mr. Taylor passed away in 2012 leaving behind his personal collection of beautiful replica soldiers. These highly detailed, exquisitely painted figures are almost as good as the real thing – only being different in the fact that they are solid cast. Mr. Taylor had this unique collection specially commission for himself during the early 1980's in the United Kingdom. They truly are wonderful figures!

The soldiers will be offered for sale starting on Thursday, September 25th at noon on the 4th floor of the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, Illinois. Our goal is to sell them ALL! Flyers detailing the sale will be distributed at the hotel! Plan on being there at NOON! It is a terrific opportunity to purchase the dream sets you have always wanted at a mere fraction of the original's price.

Look forward to seeing you all there.





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DB FIGURINES – SOME INTERESTING “OLD” NEW TOY SOLDIER SETS MADE IN AUSTRALIA

By Lieutenant Colonel Paul Simadas And Bill Anderson
Photographs By Roger Scott

In 1901, the then six British colonies in Australia were federated to create the Commonwealth of Australia, and a new nation. Prior to this, each colony was responsible for its own defences. A myriad of regiments and battalions existed to protect each colony. Often, these soldiers were volunteers or partially-paid militia. A small number of permanent staff administered the small defence forces. These units followed British organisations and uniforms. What does this have to do with toy soldiers?

During the 1980's and early 1990's a small number of Australian toy soldier makers existed and each produced a series of gloss toy soldier sets that represented, amongst other subjects, the soldiers and sailors of the colonial and early-Federation military forces of Australia. These makers included DB Figurines, CP Miniatures, Tasmanian Figures and Brigadier. For a short time the toy soldier industry flourished. However, this was not to last and most makers had ceased production by the end of the 1990's.

Derek Brown of DB Figurines was a leading force at this time in the hobby, and produced the “*Soldiers of the Queen*” series of toy soldier sets. That is the subject of this article.

These sets were produced in the classic 54mm size with a gloss-painted finish. Derek had come to Australia from England in the mid 1970's and, during the decade and more he spent “Down Under”, he produced an extensive range of sets and some individual figures. He operated his own shop at 224 Clarence St in down-town Sydney for a while during the 1980's. He eventually returned to England and continued the production of sets there. This article concentrates on his Australian period of production.

Several DB Figurine sets are shown here, presented for the first time in many years. Together, they constitute a wonderful series of toy soldier sets that are now scarce and difficult to find. The authors have only seen them in Australian collections, and they



Fig 1. Set S5 Victorian Horse Artillery

COVER STORY

The Victorian Field Artillery

The cover of the April issue shows the Victorian Horse Artillery of 1890, by D.B. Figurines. This magnificent set contains the 15 pdr Breech loading field piece which was in use at that time by Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. The gun provides seats for two of the crew on the axle with foot rests projecting below.

The gun is complemented by the two wheeled limber which also provides seating for two gunners. The trail of the gun attaches to the limber and the whole is drawn by six horses with three riders. The team is accompanied by a battery Officer mounted on a trotting horse.

The uniform is similar to that of the Royal Horse Artillery but with the tropical helmet replacing the busby. The jacket and breeches are navy blue with red collar and shoulder straps and red stripes at the outside seams of the trousers. The men's frogging is yellow braid with Austrian knots at the cuffs and yellow braid seaming at the back. The Officers' uniform has gold braid frogging, cuff knots and back seams.

The set was first produced in 1990 and the first issue of twenty five sets quickly sold out. Priced at \$380 the set is available boxed as Set No. 5 5.

Planned for 1992 is an action set of Victorian Horse artillery gunners operating the gun and to follow later in the year a set of New South Wales Field artillery personnel using the same field piece and limber.

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Fig 2. Extract from *Toy Soldier World* No 1 advertising the new Victorian Field Artillery set for \$350! This was quite a sum in 1991.

DB FIGURINES – SOME INTERESTING “OLD” NEW TOY SOLDIER SETS MADE IN AUSTRALIA (Cont.)



Fig 3. NSW Lancers. Single mounted figures and two sets of A1.



Fig 4. Old colonial military postcard with Set A1 NSW Lancers to the fore! An old colonial post card provides a unique background for these toy soldiers! Roger Scott's skill with the camera is evident here.

rarely appear for sale, either on eBay or at the US and UK toy soldier shows. The sets were produced in small numbers, and not always allocated catalogue numbers. The sets shown here are contained in our two collections and have been purchased from the original owners of them. Many were purchase from Derek's own shop or from Peter Nathan's Sydney toy soldier shop in the 1990s.

The sets varied in size. The largest was the 12 figure Gun set for the Victorian Horse Artillery (fig 1 and 2). There were also a number of boxed sets and single figures portraying the troopers of the New South Wales Lancers (fig 3 and 4). The mounted lancers may well be the first modern mounted figures produced in Australia, as no one else was moulding this type of figure at the time. A special set portraying the infamous Australian bush ranger and outlaw Ned Kelly was also produced (Fig 5).



Fig 5. Set S1 The capture of Ned Kelly. Ned was a famous outlaw and bank robber. He wore a specially made set of steel body armour that offered a little protection from bullets.

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Set No A6	Permanent Artillery of South Australia, 1860	1 Officer & 5 Men	49.00
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✓ Set S3	Queensland Mounted Infantry	John Galt, his Cavalry, 'Murphy' and wounded men, Galt, Officer and two men	55.00
✓ Set S4	Liverpool Volunteer Rifle Regt, British Detachment	John Galt, his Cavalry, 'Murphy' and wounded men, Galt, Officer and two men	55.00
Set S5	Volunteer Horse Artillery 1860 (Goulet - 8" x 10" x 12")	John Galt, his Cavalry, 'Murphy' and wounded men, Galt, Officer and two men	200.00

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DB FIGURINES – SOME INTERESTING “OLD” NEW TOY SOLDIER SETS MADE IN AUSTRALIA (Cont.)

be catalogued. This includes an ambulance wagon set with khaki soldiers (Fig 7), and a special set of Governor Macquarie’s bodyguard (Fig 8), the latter produced for Peter Nathan’s toy soldier shop (and clearly marked so on the box).

The UK *Military Modelling* magazine reported in its August 1992 issue that a number of the Special Boxed Sets listed above were now available from PO Box 12, Spit Junction, New South Wales, including the Launceston Volunteer Rifle Regiment Bicycle Detachment at A\$58. Stuart Asquith, writing in the magazine, reported that “the company claims to be the largest supplier of Australian regiments and I

can well believe it, for their range is quite extensive. By its very nature, the subject matter for the figures is decidedly different and their inclusion in any collection would widen its scope.” This continues to be the case!

As readers may know, a small number of Australian-themed sets were also produced by Imperial of New Zealand, Nostalgia in the UK and some Australian makers such as CP Miniatures. However, the ‘*Soldiers of the Queen*’ range by DB Figurines remains the most extensive range of gloss toy soldiers produced to date on Australian military subjects.



Fig 7. Boer War ambulance wagon set. A rare set!

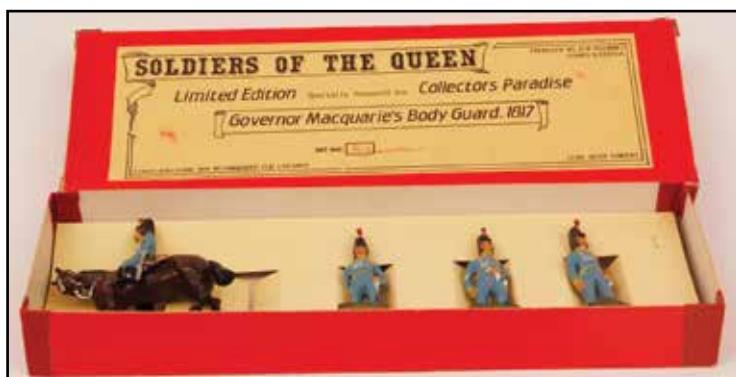


Fig 8. A limited edition set for Peter Nathan’s toy soldier shop (Collectors Paradise). Macquarie was colonial governor of New South Wales in the early 19th



Fig 10. The two types of boxes used for the sets. Early sets were packaged in red. Later boxes were black, and occasionally green in colour.

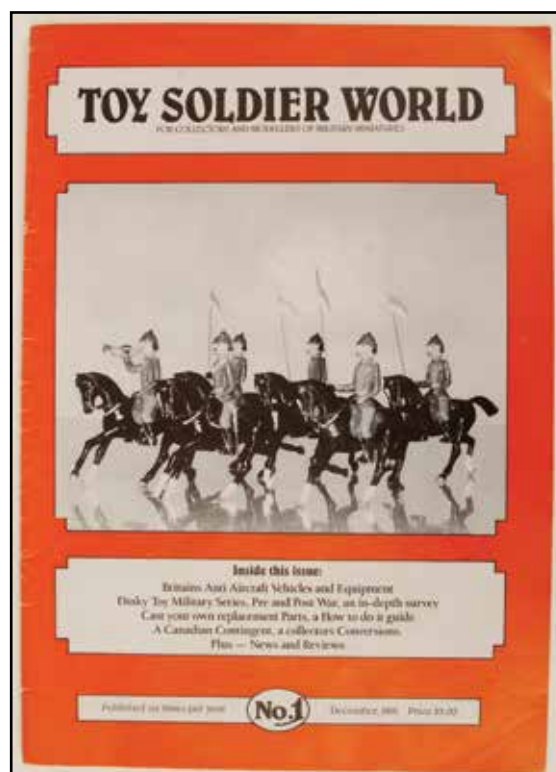


Fig 9. The cover of Derek Brown’s first edition of *Toy Soldier World*. Unfortunately, there was only one further edition.



Fig 11. Queensland Scottish sets B5, B6 and B6A. Each Australian colony maintained a Scottish Regiment on its establishment.

DB FIGURINES – SOME INTERESTING “OLD” NEW TOY SOLDIER SETS MADE IN AUSTRALIA (*Cont.*)

Derek also produced a magazine to promote the hobby in Australia. “*Toy Soldier World*” lasted for two issues (Fig 9). In this short time, he both increased awareness of Toy Soldiers in Australia, and encouraged collectors to contact each other (and purchase his sets!). The magazine contained articles on old toy soldiers, especially W Britains, and general information about the hobby at this time.

Each of the sets came in its own box with a yellow label on its lid. Often, the set’s title was handwritten

on the box (Fig 10). Some later sets were issued in black boxes, but most early sets came in white, red and even grey cardboard boxes. The black boxes continued in use when Derek returned to the UK, and suggest that some of the Australian-themed sets continued to be made and sold from the UK.

In the opinion of the authors, Derek’s figures appear well researched and accurately reproduce the uniforms worn by the original soldiers. The figures are a delight to display and are very attractively painted in the classic “gloss” style. The photos in this article are a tribute to Derek Brown’s skill and talent and shine new light on this little known period of toy soldier production in Australia in the late 20th Century.



Fig 12. Set S3. Queensland Mounted Infantry Gatling Gun Crew. The Australian colonies joined Canada and New Zealand in fighting beside the Mother country in the Boer War in South Africa.



Fig 13. Two sets add firepower!



Fig 14. Launceston Volunteer Rifle Regiment, Bicycle Detachment. The set was available for A\$58 (US\$ 55) in 1992, a considerable sum in those days.



Fig 15. Set 4. NSW Field Artillery 1900. We have placed the set in front of an old military post card showing the actual artillery on parade outside Victoria Barracks in Sydney (where one of the authors, Lieutenant Colonel Simadas, serves as an Army Reserve officer).



Fig 16. Set B7. NSW Naval Brigade 1900. The NSW Naval Brigade was part of the Australian contingent to the Boxer Rebellion in 1900 (but did not appear in the movie *55 Days in Peking*!)

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SECOND WORLD WAR ID TANK MODELS AND THEIR ADAPTATION TO OLD TOY STYLE

By Steve Sommers and Ed Poole

Britains Ltd. ceased toy production in mid-1941, metal having become a “strategic material”. The venerable British toy maker turned to war work for the duration of The Second World War. The only tank in their last pre-war catalog was #1203 — not a real tank at all, but really a machine gun carrier, and already obsolete by 1939. The company never was able to produce a true tank until their fine model of the Centurion, a machine that never saw action in WWII, entered their catalog in 1957.

Similarly, in the U.S., metal toy production ceased soon after the Pearl Harbor attack on December 7, 1941. Paradoxically, two companies started production of metal tanks and military vehicles in a 1/36 scale; these were very near the size of Britains Ltd. toys. They were intended, however, as recognition or identification (ID) models for the military, to allow soldiers and airmen to tell “friendly” American and British vehicles from those of the German and Japanese enemy. Early war vehicles, through 1942, were represented.

Apparently the US production of recognition models began within days after Pearl Harbor. Previously, Navy Commander Louis DeFlorez had come back to the States from England where he had seen the British use of 1/72nd scale black airplane recognition models; he was impressed with these three dimensional teaching tools over more traditional silhouette cards and photos. DeFlorez promoted the model production program and after a good deal of experimentation with different materials from wooden kits to cast plaster, a solid black, hard plastic form of Bakelite was settled on for the airplanes. Ultimately, American companies made recognition models of over 200 aircraft. Hundreds of types of highly detailed, three dimensional waterline ship models were also produced. Government contracts were also awarded to companies to make tanks and other military vehicles in 1/108th and 1/36th scale; it is these 1/36th scale tanks that are probably most interesting to toy soldier collectors. The M3 medium tank General Lee is a typical recognition model. (Photo1)

Comet Metal Products of New York won a bid to make a range of nine 1/36th scale British and seven Japanese tanks. Identification model Daimler and Humber armored cars were typical of Comet’s 1/36th scale vehicles. (Photo 2) Comet had experience molding miniatures. Before the War they cast Brigadiers toy soldiers using rubber molds and a centrifugal casting machine they had invented. The other contract for ID



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3

vehicles went to H.A. Framburg of Carroll Avenue, Chicago. Framburg made twelve German vehicles. They shipped their German models, wired to plywood, in cardboard boxes. (Photo 3) Their U.S. models included at least sixteen in 1/36th scale, a 1/48th scale 6x6 amphibious “Duck”, and a 1/24th scale metal jeep. (Other 1/24th scale vehicles in metal and plaster appear in Army records, but only the jeep is commonly seen.)

ID MODEL TANK TO “OLD TOY STYLE” A COMMANDANT MINIATURES CONVERSION (Cont.)

Both manufacturers had distinct molding techniques. Like the lamp bases they had made before the war, Framburg's tanks were slush cast. Body and turret were typically all one thin metal piece; the excess metal was poured out a large hole on the underside of the vehicle. Comet's tank hulls were similarly cast but they seemed heavier; Comet's turrets were separately cast. Both makers used some add-ons like machine guns.

During the War, both the Slonin brothers' Comet Metal Products and Framburg's company were family run “shops”, operating out of one story, flat-roofed, factories. Postwar, Framburg returned to casting lamp parts at a new larger location. In August 1960, the New York Times reported that Comet's Authenticast line had been bought by Industrial Models, Inc. Their new affiliate would be called Authenticast, Ltd. 1/108 scale vehicles would continue to be produced into the mid-1960's.

The ID models were not really toy-like; they were painted in uniformly single dull colors, usually olive drab, and carried no insignia or other markings. Nevertheless, after the war they began to appear in toy departments as well as souvenir and collectibles venues, post exchanges, war surplus stores and gun shows. Seven Framburg American models were modified for sale under the name of Dale Co. of Chicago; for greater “play value” Dale added rotating turrets, wheels or rollers and sold them in illustrated blue boxes. (Photo 4)

It seemed that filling in the gap of absent WW II tanks in the ranks of Britains Ltd. and their contemporaries would enhance displays of toy soldiers of that era. Such displays were rapidly becoming the purview of adult

collectors. And so Commandant Miniatures began a line of ID model replicas, in old toy style. One example is Commandant Miniature's Daimler armored car pictured with Britains soldiers. (Photo 5) Another example of this is the adaptation of the U.S. M3 “General Stuart” light tank ID model; this will be detailed in a separate OTS article. Other examples are described in the computer ready CD format “The Commandant Miniatures Story” which includes an illustrated history of ID vehicle models. (See the advertisement in this OTS issue.)



Photo 5

The Commandant Miniatures adaptations were made with the knowledge that the majority of early WW II tanks were not as serviceable as those that became available later in the war. The U.S. Sherman and the British Churchill (Photo 6) were two exceptions in that they were well developed. But from the beginning there were enough brave men manning these imperfect vehicles to stem the Axis aggression and allow ultimate victory. It is this that makes models of these machines worthy of interest to history buffs and collectors.



Photo 4



Photo 6

REFERENCES

- Mikesh, Edward. “Recognition Models—Miniature Air Force”, *Fine Scale Modeler*, May/June, 1984, pp. 46-53.
Sommers, Steve. “Comet's Authenticast”, *Old Toy Soldier*, Vol. 3 and Vol. 5, 1979.
Von der Porten, Edward P., “Ship Models Go to War”, privately published article.



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COURTENAY VIGNETTE INSPIRED BY PAINTING OF THE EXECUTION OF LADY JANE GREY

By Henry I. Kurtz

One of famed model soldier maker Richard Courtenay's more unusual groupings was a vignette depicting Lady Jane Grey before the block as the Royal Executioner stands ready to behead the ill-fated grand-niece of King Henry VIII, who kept the headsman busy during his reign.

Famous mainly for his Fighting Knights of the Hundred Years War, Courtenay also produced a series of personality figures from English history, as well as a group of ancient warriors. The vignette of Lady Jane Grey facing the executioner's block was inspired by the French artist Paul Delaroche's painting entitled "The Execution of Lady Jane Grey," which was completed in 1833.

Lady Jane Grey was the 16-year-old cousin of King Edward VI, son of Henry VIII. She briefly reigned as queen when Edward VI died and his sister Mary was passed over. But after only nine days as queen, she was deposed by Mary's supporters who argued that as the daughter of Henry VIII and the sister of Edward VI, she had the greater claim to the throne. Jane and her husband and father were charged with high treason and sent to the Tower of London. There, on February 12, 1554 Jane and her husband were executed, as was Jane's father two days later.

The Delaroche painting shows a blindfolded Jane being gently led to the block by the solicitous Sir John Brydges, Lieutenant of the Tower. Two grief stricken ladies-in-waiting are in the background, while the executioner stands off to the side awaiting the signal to perform his unhappy task. Underneath the block is a pile of straw to soak up the blood of the victim.

Richard Courtenay no doubt viewed the painting at the Tate Gallery, where it was on display from 1902 to 1973. (It was then transferred to the National Gallery where it remains a popular attraction.) Courtenay's vignette consists of three pieces: the headsman, the block, and a figure of Lady Jane Seymour. The executioner is formally garbed in black with royal emblems emblazoned in gold and holds his axe at the ready, which is different from the way Delaroche portrayed him. However, Courtenay's figure of Lady Jane in a white dress seems to be taken directly from the Delaroche Painting. Both Courtenay's rendition and the Delaroche painting are stark depictions of a tragic event.

Henry I. Kurtz, the author of "The Art of the Toy Soldier" is a dealer and collector of toy and miniature soldiers.



"The Execution of Lady Jane Grey" by Paul Delaroche



Courtenay Vignette of Lady Jane Grey



Courtenay Vignette of Lady Jane Grey

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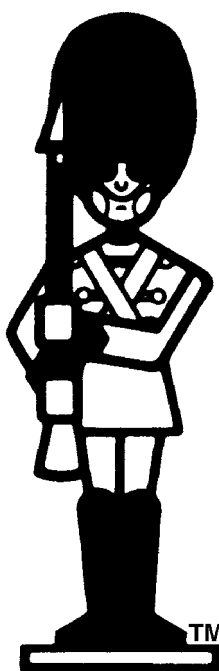
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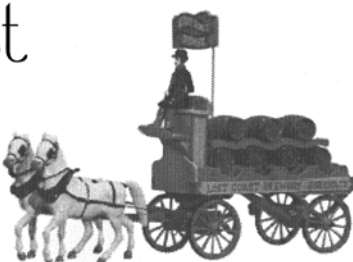
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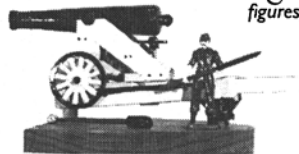
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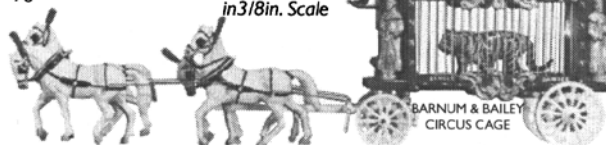
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