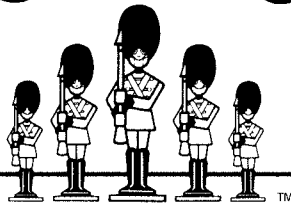


Winter
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The Journal for Collectors

Volume 36 Number 4
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Photograph courtesy Rob Wilson

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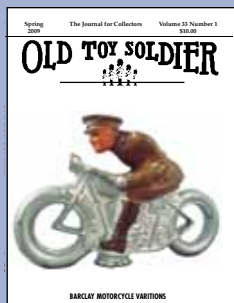
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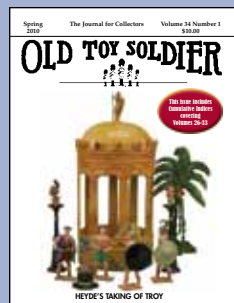
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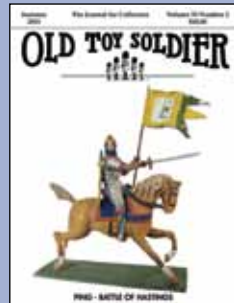
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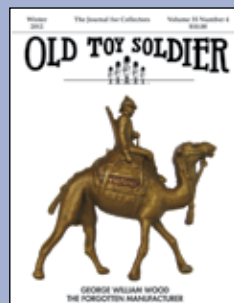
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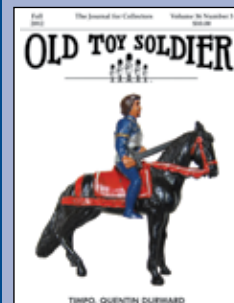
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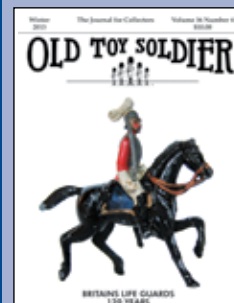
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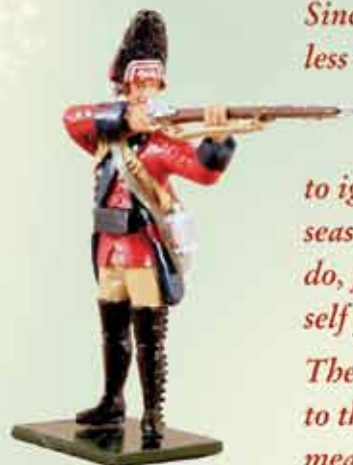
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No. 47048
British 60th Regiment
of Foot Grenadier
Standing Firing
1754-1763

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www.toysoldiershoppe.net
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FIRST GEAR®

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF ARTHUR FRY & THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY

By Norman Joplin

Important Announcement!

THE ERECTO TOY CO., LTD., beg to announce
that they have started to manufacture



**Lead
Soldiers**

and have now ready
for the market

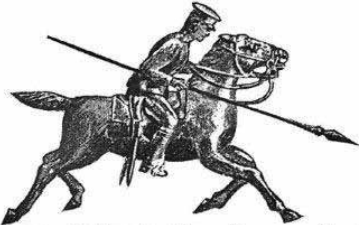
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CAVALRY MODELS, GUARDS,
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and various other models in course of preparation.
WHOLESALE ONLY SUPPLIED.**

Further Particulars and Quotations from--
ERECTO TOY CO., Ltd.
 3-4, Faulkner's Alley, Cowcross St., London, E.C.
 Telephone-HOLBORN 1879.
 Factory-GOURLY STREET, SOUTH TOTTENHAM.

Fry's first advertisement
The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader - June 28th, 1915

NEW SOLDIER MANUFACTURERS.

Although the past few months have given birth to many new participants in the toy trade, one of the most interesting departures is that made by the Erecto Toy Co., Ltd.,



of 3-4, Faulkner's Alley, Cowcross Street, E.C. This firm having taken a large factory in South Tottenham of roughly 115 by 30 ft ground area, and having equipped same with extensive machinery, have first concentrated their energies on the production of lead soldiers, with the result that they have now several models ready for the market.

After several months experimenting this firm have discovered the secret of manufacturing the hollow model, and their productions, samples of which we have already seen, are most creditable models in striking attitudes and normal features. Amongst these are featured the Territorial and Cavalryman, the latter of which is made with both sword and lance, whilst another good model is the Guard figured with red coat and blue trousers.

The output of these lines, already considerable, is expected to show a large weekly increase, while other models of popular regiments are already in course of preparation. The Erecto Toy Co. advise us that at some close date they intend turning their attention to the production of wooden toys, and have already one line in the nature of a constructional toy to retail at 1s.

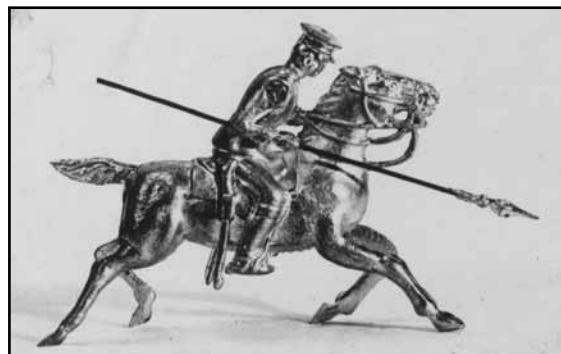
Article published in
Toy Shop and Fancy Goods Trader - July 28th, 1915

Following on from my research at the National Archives in Kew London, (see *Old Toy Soldier Magazines* Volume 35 #4 and 36 #1) I was hopeful that I would be able to locate more information on the firms of G.W Wood/John Hill and BMC, (Brushfield Manufacturing Company) to enhance my article, yet despite continuing from where I had left off, no further entries for those companies could be found within the records of 1915.

The 1915 records did however provide a surprise with an entry for Arthur Fry which led me to dig deeper into the archives, hence this article is a combination of previous research into Fry which was published in my book *Old Toy Soldiers 1900-1939 Four Decades of British Advertising* together with the newly discovered registration dates and design numbers found at the National Archives. Most illustrations are taken from the original designs submitted for registration.

Previous reference books and articles have referred to Fry and his Erecto Toy Company as being somewhat of a "Pirate" manufacturer and copying other companies products; this is however, far from the truth. Arthur Fry's designs were original and he was one of the few early makers to register his designs and copyright them. Little has been written on Fry in the past and no definitive record of what he produced has been available. He was however prolific when it came to advertising his products during the period 1915-1917 via the various British Toy Trade magazines including *Games and Toys*, & *The Toy Shop and Fancy Goods Journal*.

Fry attempted to register a design as early as October 1914. It is not known what this was but it probably related to one of his other products as he also manufactured children's wooden building blocks. Fry was listed in Kelly's Post Office Directory in 1911 as A. Fry and Company Electrotypers.



Khaki Lancer registered design #648051 - April 29th, 1915

ARTHUR FRY & THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY (Cont.)

The first toy soldier that seems to have been designed was registered in 1915 and it was that of a charging peak cap infantryman in khaki, this item being illustrated in the first known advertisement for the Erecto Toy Company in The Toys and Fancy Goods Trader of June 28th 1915. The address for the company being given as 3-4 Faulkner's Ally, Cowcross Street, West Smithfield, London EC (Which may have been Fry's home address) with the factory address being Gourlay Street South Tottenham London.

An article in the Toyshop and Fancy Goods Trader of July 28th 1915 carried details of the line of figures that Fry were producing at that time.

Fry's Fighting Soldiers (FFS) as they were known came as single items or in boxed sets including some quite large display boxes, Labels for boxes were illustrated and boxed sets were numbered, Single figures also carried a number in these illustrations from time to time, the following images taken from trade magazines show these. Figures were available fully painted or in gilt.



Khaki Charging, Peak Cap Putees Design #646519, March 2nd, 1915



Khaki Charging Full Trousers also issued in Red Coat and Blue Trousers Design #649257, June 15th, 1915



Shorten Arms Sketch from Military Manual



London Scottish Shorten Arms Design #649256, May 17th, 1915

Shorten Arms is a defensive military position in battle. The London Scottish style figure at shorten arms produced by Fry is believed to be the only toy soldier ever made with this stance.

FRY'S FIGHTING SOLDIERS,
Comprising the finest selling lines in
METAL SOLDIERS,
TREES, BARBED WIRE, MACHINE GUNS, DISPATCH RIDER & KHAKI MODELS.
Also made in Gilt.
Wholesale and Shipping only.
THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY, LTD.,
Gourley Street, South Tottenham, London, N.15.

Games and Toys Advertisement, January 1920

METAL SOLDIERS IN KHAKI.
FRY'S FIGHTING SOLDIERS
Trees, Barbed Wire, Machine Guns, Despatch Rider and Khaki Models. Also in Gift. Loose Soldiers supplied.
WHOLESALE AND SHIPPING ONLY.
We will deliver the above and all Khaki Lines subject to the Metal Content.
The Erecto Toy Co., Ltd., Gourley Street, Sth. Tottenham.

The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader Advertisement, January 1919

METAL SOLDIERS IN KHAKI
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FRY'S Fighting SOLDIERS
Trees, Barbed Wire, Machine Guns, Despatch Rider and all Khaki Models.
WHOLESALE ONLY
COPYRIGHT MODELS
If your factors do not stock them write to— WE WILL DELIVER THE ABOVE AND ALL USUAL SHIPPING LINES
The Erecto Toy Co., Ltd., Gourley Street, Sth. Tottenham.

The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader Advertisement, January 1917

METAL SOLDIERS IN KHAKI
GREATLY INCREASED SELECTION OF
FRY'S Fighting SOLDIERS
Trees, Barbed Wire, Machine Guns, Despatch Rider and all Khaki Models.
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The Erecto Toy Co., Ltd., Gourley Street, Sth. Tottenham.

The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader Advertisement, May 1917

ARTHUR FRY & THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY (Cont.)



Toy and Fancy Goods Trader Advertisement, March 1916. Stand No. 24 refers to Fry's Exhibition Booth at the British Industries Fair.



Lead Pincushion Lion Design #651280, September 8th, 1915



Royal Flying Corps Design #658225, October 30th, 1916



Belgian Bayoneting Downwards, probably made for BMC. Design #654908, March 16th, 1916



Belgian Kneeling, probably made for BMC. Design #652505, November 5th, 1915

Arthur Fry worked throughout World War One despite a restriction on lead being used for the production toys, which was from time to time lifted by the Ministry of Supply. Fry produced 21 different toy soldiers & figures plus Trench sections with trees and wire barricades during the period March 1915- 30th October 1916. In addition he made metal souvenirs, ashtrays and pincushions, a sample of which is illustrated with his registered design 651280 from September 1915.

Although research is ongoing it seems that the Royal Flying Corps Figure, design number 658225 in October 1916 was his final figure. It is possible that there were further designs made up to April 1921, but according to the London Gazette of April 22nd 1921 Fry was in financial trouble and a meeting of creditors was called by the liquidators. The same publication in August 1925 reported that the Erecto Toy Company was in voluntary liquidation and a final notice to creditors was issued in February 1934 giving a deadline of March that year for any further claims against the company.

During my research there did emerge a possible link between Fry and BMC (Brushfield Manufacturing Company) and G.W Wood/John Hill and Company in the form of two figure designs registered by Fry, the figures were of Belgian Troops and were 60mm in scale rather than 54mm which suggests that Fry made these either for BMC or G.W Wood and to fit in with the scale of those companies figures.

ARTHUR FRY & THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY (Cont.)

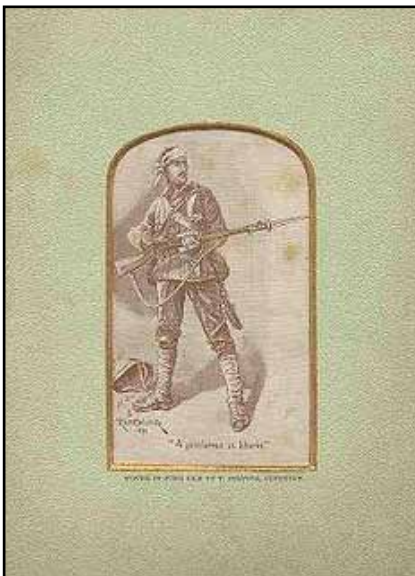
BMC (Brushfield Manufacturing Company) were still in existence in 1921, so these figures could well have been part of their range with Fry sculpting and registering the designs on their behalf.

The original designs are shown in the article dated 5th November 1915, Kneeling Belgian and 16th March 1916 Belgian Stabbing Downwards. Neither of these figures subsequently appeared in any of the Fry advertisements further suggesting that they were issued by one of the other companies above.

Fry's Gentleman in Khaki was influenced by Richard Caton Woodville's well known illustration of a British soldier.



Fry Gentleman in Khaki



Gentleman in Khaki Images: The Inspiration for Fry's Design



Gentleman in Khaki, Design #654911, March 16th, 1916

Nurse, design number 654909 of March 16th, 1916 was at first rejected and Fry was made to re- design the item as he was in contravention of the law prohibiting the use of the Red Cross Emblem to anyone other than the Red Cross. There are no known existing images in any advertisement for the nurse.



Red Cross Nurse Uniform



Fry Nurse



Fry Nurse Design #654909, March 16th, 1916



Hollowcast Fry WWI nurse with gilt Edith Cavell version on right

ARTHUR FRY & THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY (Cont.)

British Government papers of the time indicated the following: "Each Country is required to regulate the use of all protective emblems and names. In the UK, the British Red Cross is the only civilian organisation authorised by the government to use the red cross emblem, unauthorised use may be a criminal offence under the Geneva convention."

Fry's Metal Foundry: An illustration from the same period as Fry was producing showing a Bulldog as part of an advertisement for Fry's Metal Foundry was also used by Arthur Fry, although no concrete evidence is available to suggest Fry and the foundry were connected.

Fry's Fighting Soldiers

There are no other lines of Metal soldiers to compare with these.



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Painted Khaki. Boxed in 8's.

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Courley St., South Tottenham,
LONDON - - N.



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No. 25.
Painted Khaki. Boxed in 5's.

The Toy Shop and Fancy Goods Journal Advertisement, January 1st, 1917. Note the use of individual numbers assigned to items.



LIKE THE BRITISH BULLDOG,
FRY'S FIGHTING SOLDIERS
ARE SECOND TO NONE.



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THE ERECTO TOY CO., LTD.,
GOURLEY STREET, SOUTH TOTTENHAM.

The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader Advertisement, September 1917

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FOR
the manufacture of

TOY SOLDIERS, etc.

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Telephone: Hop 4250 (5 lines).
Telegrams: "Frymetals Priors, London."


Hargreaves Street,
Red Bank,
MANCHESTER.
Telephone: City 404.
Telegrams: "Frymetals, Manchester."

*Fry's Metal Foundry Advertisement using a Bulldog as in Fry's Soldier Advertisements.
The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader, April 1917*




MACHINE GUNNER.
No. 14.
Painted Khaki. Boxed in 6's.

Fry's Fighting Soldiers

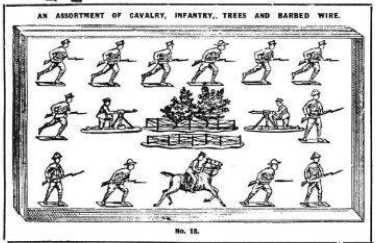


MOTOR CYCLIST.
No. 25.
Painted Khaki. Boxed in 5's.



TREES, BARBED WIRE, ETC.
No. 15.


are the Best, and sell easier than any other Metal Soldiers—they are made to correct models—painted in Khaki—the range is complete. Cavalry, Infantry, Motor Riders, Machine Gunners, and in different positions—they go with any other make of soldier and complete the outfit.



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No. 16.

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Gourley Street,
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LONDON, N.



CANADIAN.
No. 13.
Painted Khaki. Boxed in 5's.

The Toy Shop and Fancy Goods Journal Advertisement, December 1st, 1916

ARTHUR FRY & THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY (Cont.)



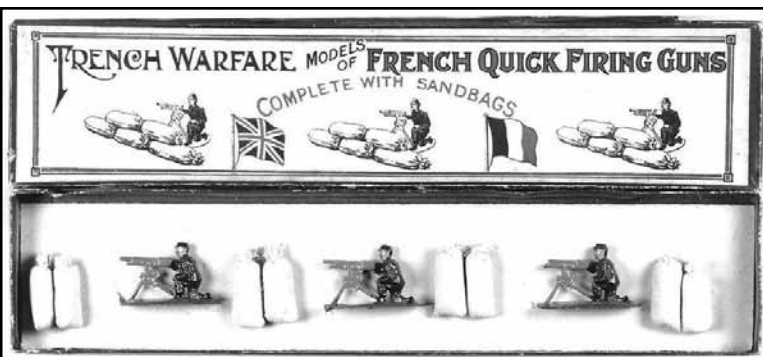
Boxed Set #17, Trees and Barbed Wire. Design numbers 653370/653371, December 23rd, 1915



Dispatch Riders with unusual colored label, original box.



Fry box art with Canadians included in Gilt



French Machine Gunners with original box and sand bags.

ARTHUR FRY & THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY (Cont.)



Khaki Officer Mounted with Sword, Design #647896,
April 26th, 1915



Khaki Lying Firing, Design #649457, June 22nd, 1915



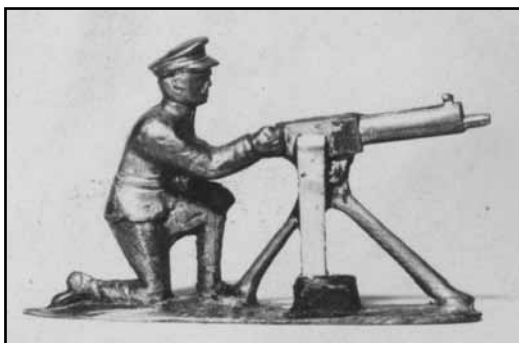
London Scottish Stabbing, Design
#648530, June 15th, 1915



Bersaglieri Design #650522,
August 3rd, 1915



Sailor, Design #649459,
June 22nd, 1915



Kneeling Machine Gunner, Design #652772,
November 19th, 1915



Lancer Full Dress, Design #652508,
November 5th, 1915



Canadians "Sons of the Empire"
Design Numbers 652506 & 652507 November 5th, 1915



Khaki Standing Firing,
Design #649458, June 22nd, 1915

ARTHUR FRY & THE ERECTO TOY COMPANY (Cont.)



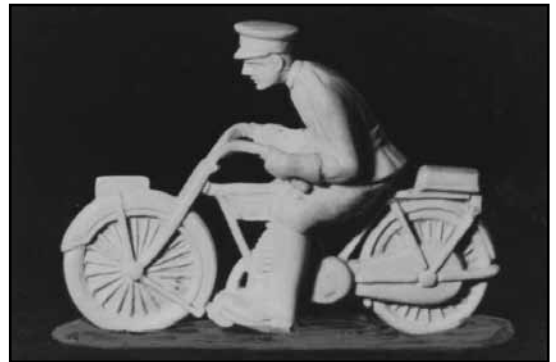
Khaki Steel Helmet Bomb Thrower,
Design #658075,
October 20th, 1916



US Charging, Design #657202
August 16th, 1916



French Machine Gunner, Design #654491,
February 23, 1916



Dispatch Rider, Design #654910,
March 16th, 1916

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Display Set Showing Trench Sections - Design Numbers 653781/653782, January 20th, 1916



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Advertisement and attempt by Fry to supply the US Market "Playthings" Magazine, July 1916. "Order now (July) to ensure for Christmas."



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AUCTION REVIEW

Old Toy Soldier AuctionsThe Arthur Pugliese Toy Soldier Collectionand Other Important Properties.November 16th, 17th and 18th, 2012



Lot 1039 Royal Express Ltd./Stadden Band of the Footguards 1815 Good condition (a number of loose missing drumsticks, swords, etc.) 20 pieces \$450



Lot 1010 Nostalgia Models Madras Artillery Band, c.1850 Excellent condition with boxes 33 pieces \$300



Lot 1075 Lucotte (modern) 5th Regiment of the De Cuiassiers Broken stirrup Excellent condition with box 6 pieces \$500



Lot 1100 Neil Rhodes Britains Custom Paint Russian Army Marching Band Soviet Era Excellent condition no box 33 pieces \$850



Lot 1328 Mignot Italians Invading Morocco Diorama Very good condition no lid 46 pieces \$2400



Lot 2045 Britains Set # 91 VERY RARE Version United States Infantry at Slope, round Base Valise Pack, with Original Soldiers of The World Box- Untied. Pre World War One. 8 Pieces. Condition Excellent. Box Good. \$4100



Lot 2005 Britains Set # 9 The Rifle Brigade at the Slope, Oval Based with Original Whistock Box- Untied. Pre War 8 Pieces Condition Very Good Box Good (Tape to strengthen corners and one corner of lid split) \$1300



Lot 2016 Britains Set # 26 RARE Boer Infantry at the Slope, Oval Base Valise Pack, with Original Box- Untied. Pre War 8 Pieces. Condition Very Good. Box Very Good \$1400



Lot 2539 Britains Extremely Rare Set #1317 Salvation Army Band and Flag Bearer, Pre War 24 Pieces Unboxed. Condition Very Good with minor paint chips. \$10,000

AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)



Lot 2047 Britains Set # 96 RARE York and Lancaster Regiment Running at the Trail, Pigeon Chested first version Oval Bases, First Khaki Version with Original British Soldiers Box - Untied. 8 Pieces Condition Very Good. Box Good (Two corners of lid split). \$2400



Lot 3509 Crescent Space Figures for Dan Dare Range including Treen, Dan Dare in Space Suit and a RARE Prototype Diver adapted for the series but never issued by Crescent in the Dan Dare sets. Unboxed. Post War. 3 Pieces. Condition Excellent \$550.



Lot 3510 Cherilea RARE Ballet Dancers, Nine Female and One Male Dancer. Post War 10 Pieces. Unboxed. Condition Excellent \$600



Lot 3391 Britains Set # 105 Imperial Yeomanry with Original Armies of the World Box and insert card. Pre War. 5 Pieces. Condition Excellent. Box Very Good \$350



Lot 2587 Britains Set # 2186 Very Rare Bahamas Police Band. Post War 26 Pieces. Unboxed. Condition Excellent \$3000.



Lot 2357 Heyde VERY RARE Zoo Tin Plate Cages Giraffe Cage, Cat House, Bear Enclosure, Entry Building and Kiosk. Fencing and Animals including Camel Feeding, Giraffe, Monkeys on Stands, Stags, Zebra, 2 Lions and Lioness, Crocodile and Grizzly Bear. Unboxed. Very good (some touch up to roofs). 29 Pieces. \$7500

AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)



Lot 2073 Britains Set # 135 RARE Japanese Cavalry in Dark Blue Uniforms with Original Whistock Box- Untied. Pre War 5 Pieces. Condition Excellent. Box Very Good \$1700.



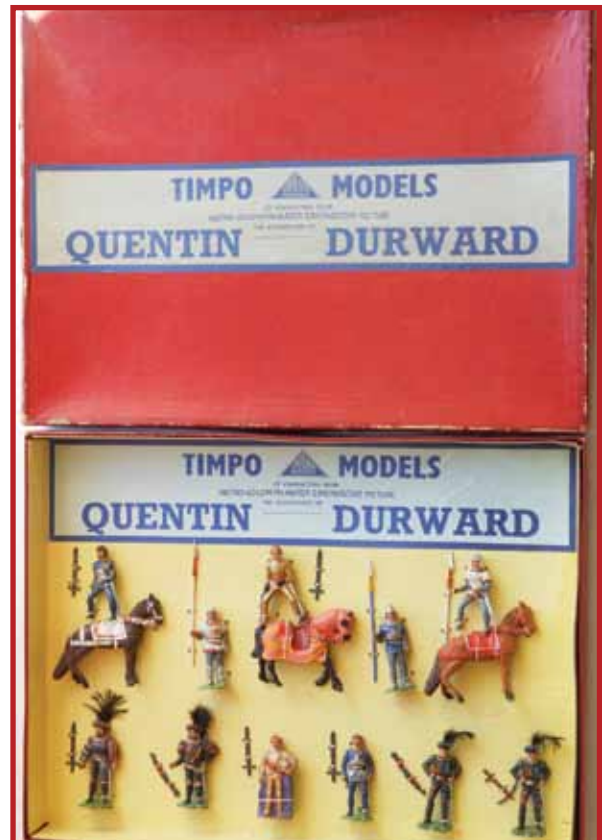
Lot 2096 Britains Set # 170 Greek Cavalry with Original Types of the Greek Army Box-and inner retaining card. Pre War 5 Pieces. Condition Very Good. Box Very Good. \$1300.



Lot 2135 Britains Set # 316 VERY RARE Royal Horse Artillery at the Halt with Escort and Officer in Original Types of the British Army Box. Pre War 8 Pieces. Condition Excellent. Box Good (Two Corners of lid split and box bottom slightly frayed) \$3100.



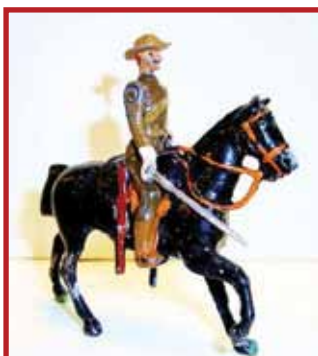
Lot 2562 Britains from Very Rare Set # 1915 US Infantry with additional Converted Bugle and Flag Bearer. Pre War. 21 Pieces. Unboxed. Condition Excellent \$1800.



Lot 2344 Timpo EXCEPTIONALLY RARE Quentin Durward Display Set. Post War Circa 1955 The last Lead Set issued by Timpo and based on the MGM Movie The Adventures of Quentin Durward Starring Robert Taylor. 11 Pieces including Quentin Durward Mounted and Foot, Philip De Creville Mounted and Foot, Dukes Guard Mounted and Foot, Royal Guard on Foot, William de La Marck, Gluckmeister, and 2 Landschnechts with Crossbows, all weapons are included and tied in box. Originally tied in Original Box \$2900.



Lot 2391 Courtenay Henry V Mounted. Signed by Richard Courtenay on the Base. Condition Very Good (Crest reattached to Horses Head) \$450.



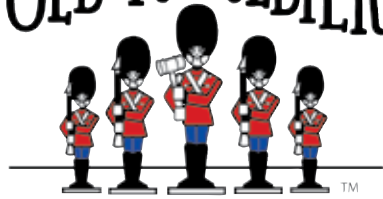
Lot 2474 Britains Exceptionally RARE Mounted Officer Boer War Supply Team Set as issued by C.F. Eckhardt Circa 1909. Unboxed \$900.



Lot 2472 Britains Set # 101 Mounted Band of the Life Guards Red and Gold First Slotted Arm Version. Pre World War One. 12 Pieces Unboxed. Condition Very Good \$2000.

AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

JUNE 21st, 22nd, & 23rd, 2013
THE PAUL A. GERMAIN TOY SOLDIER COLLECTION,
ARTHUR PUGLISI PART 2 COLLECTION
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New Toy Soldiers

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Old Toy Soldiers

BRITAINS MILITARY PRE AND POST WAR, BRITAINS FARM, BRITAINS ZOO AUTHENTICAST, CHARBENS, CHERILEA, COURTENAY, CRESCENT, ELASTOLIN, HEYDE, JOHILLCO, KING AND COUNTRY GLOSS, MIGNOT, NOSTALGIA, SALCO, SPENKUCH, STADDEN, TIMPO, WOLLNER, PLUS MANY OTHERS.
 MORE DETAILS IN MAY ISSUE.



Britains Royal Horse Artillery at Halt



Very Rare Flip the Frog



Britains Paint Sample Cards



Rare Cherilea Prototype National Darkens



Rare Felix



Charbens Man Pulling Cart & Horse



Selwyn Smith Cowboy



Britains Blue Bird Record Car



Rare Rex 1937 Coronation Lion Mascot



Britains Railton Wonder Record Car

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Very Rare Britains Exploding Trench



Britains Paint Sample Card



Britains War Time Waverly Series



Britains Machine Gunners



Britains Ski Troop



Britains Austin Champ & B.A.T.



Britains Boy Scout Signallers



Hocker Special Order
Elephant Drummer



Britains Austro Hungarian



Hocker Camel Drummer



Britains Uruguayan Display



Britains 9000 Series Royal Company of Archers

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Pre War Hunt Display



Britains Turkish Cavalry



Tommy Toy Nursery Rhyme



Tommy Toy Nursery Rhyme



Britains Musical Ride Household Cavalry



Britains Danish Hussars



Tommy Toy Nursery Rhyme



Britains Seaforth Highlanders Display



Britains Mammoth Circus



Britains Rare Foreign Legion and Arab Display

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Tradition Confederate Artillery



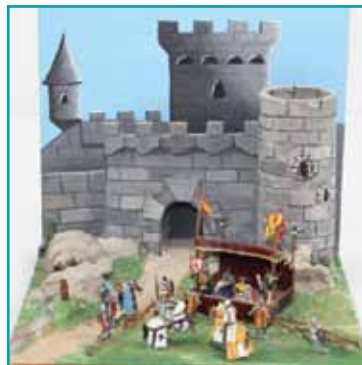
British S.E.5a Biplane



Dorset George & the Dragon



Holiday Cheer



20MM Medieval Castle Shelf Diorama



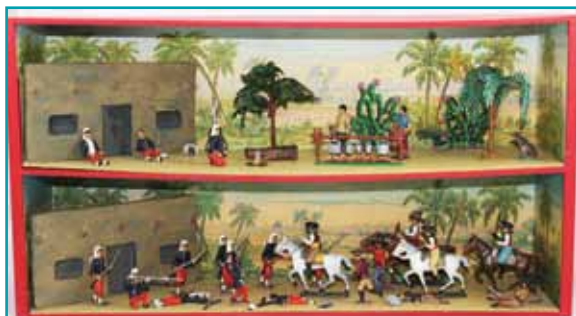
Edmunds Civil War



Mignot French Horse Drawn Ambulance



Elastolin Caisson & Cannon wBox



Mignot French Foreign Legion Diorama



20mm Battle of Lexington



William Hocker Boer War



Wm Hocker Cameron Highlanders

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Ohio State marching band



King & Country Great Americans



Dorset USMC at Attention



Trophy Zulu War



Marlborough Ft Henry Guard



Soldier Centre Steam Tractor



Star The Ladies Band



Somerset Lawrence of Arabia

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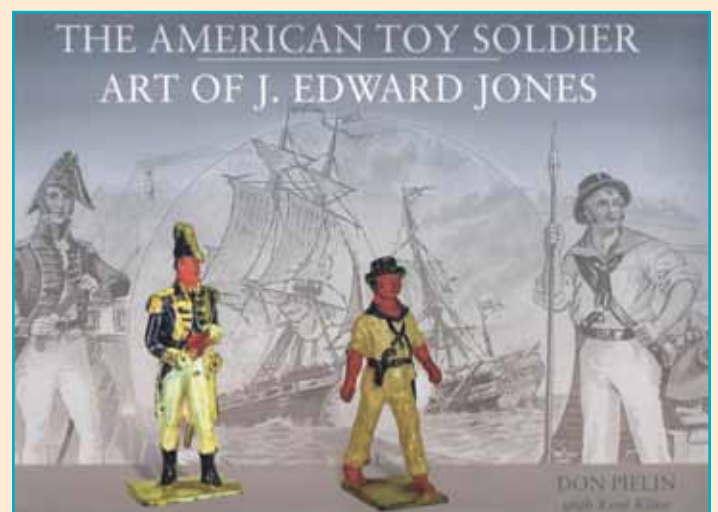
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BRITAINS 120th ANNIVERSARY LIFE GUARDS

By Norman Joplin



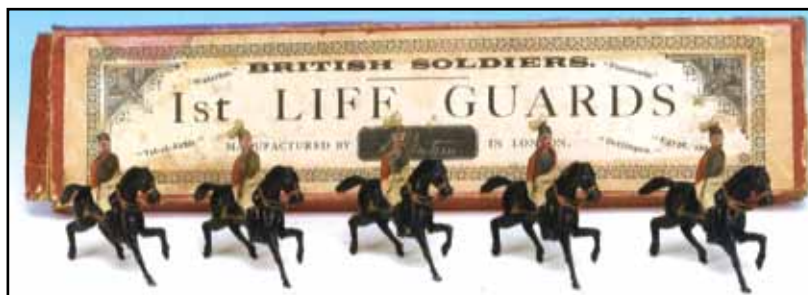
Britains Life Guard of 1893

Britains (Now W. Britains /First Gear) celebrate their one hundred and twentieth anniversary in 2013 and as part of their 120th celebration year they continue to maintain their "love affair" with the Life Guard by producing two versions of the 1893 Life Guard which are to be issued this year.

Most toy soldier experts have concluded that the Life Guard issued by Britains in 1893 was probably not actually produced by them and that the fixed

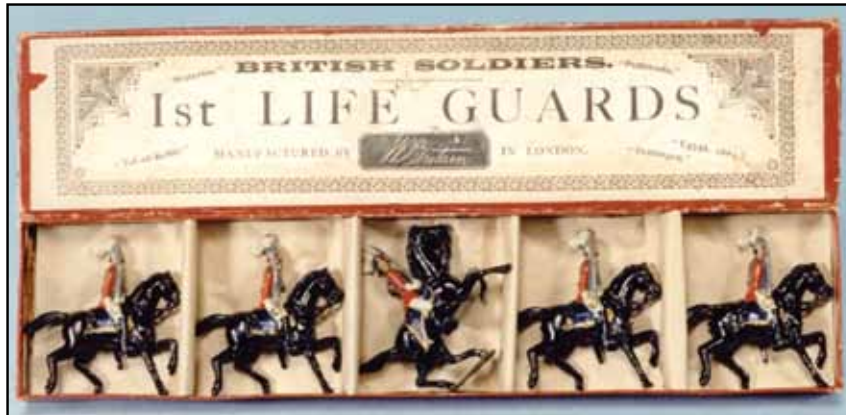
arm figure was either of German manufacture or that molds were made in Germany and sent to the UK for distribution by the firm. The Germanic appearance of the figure certainly lends itself to that theory.

Allocated Set # 1 in 1893 The Life Guards, the first set contained five figures with tin swords and fixed arms, the officer being the same casting as the trooper distinguished only by the addition of gold trappings.



Life Guards 1893 First Version with Second Version Box Label Indicating 1st Life Guards.

BRITAINS 120th ANNIVERSARY LIFE GUARDS (Cont.)



2nd Version with Officer on Prancing Horse.

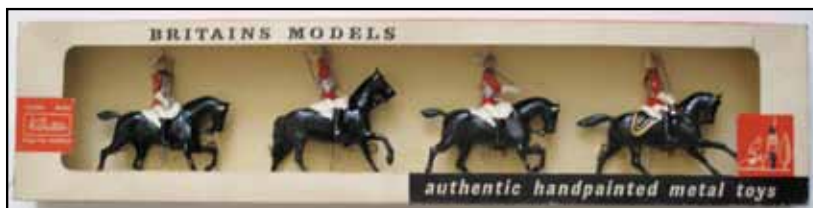


2nd Version with Officer on Prancing Horse with Incorrect Throat Plume Added.

In 1894 The Officer on Prancing Horse was Issued Replacing the 1893 Version.



Box Lid Variations and The Final Set of Life Guards Issued 1966 - The Last Hollow Cast Set.



BRITAINS 120TH ANNIVERSARY LIFE GUARD THE 2013 FIGURES

Britains / First Gear 2013 examples are a mirror image of the two issued 120 years ago and on January 25th this year OTS magazine obtained exclusive pre production images and information regarding both.

The images shown indicate the items to be in high gloss paint style, however Richard Walker of Britains /First Gear informs OTS Magazine that the figures will be finished in the traditional eggshell finish.

Catalog # 49032- 1893 Life Guards Officer, W. Britain 120th Anniversary Piece- 1 Piece Set - Limited to 300 Sets.

Catalog # 49033 -1893 Life Guards Trooper, W. Britain 120th Anniversary Set - 1 Piece Set - Limited to 500 Sets.

Available in Summer 2013 the retail price for each item in the USA will be \$50 and in the UK 40.99 GBP.

A Specially designed box has been produced for the 2013 issue and incorporates the British Soldiers picture and wording used on many of the original early boxed sets of hollow cast Life Guards .



The Trooper #49033



The Officer with Gold Sash #49032



Comparison 1893-2013

Images Courtesy of Richard Walker with Britains/First Gear



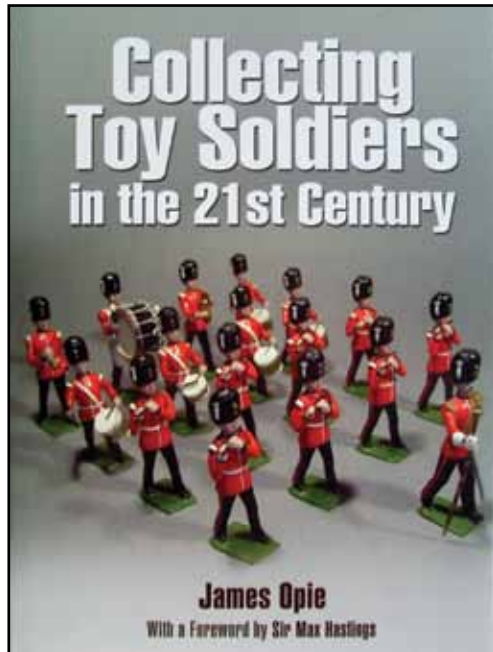
The Newly Designed Box for 2013



BOOK REVIEW

COLLECTING TOY SOLDIERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

By James Opie • Reviewed by Russ Bednarek



Surprisingly it has been 25 years since James Opie's "Collecting Toy Soldiers" was published in 1987. At that time "Collecting Toy Soldiers" served as a valuable guide to those entering the hobby of collecting toy soldiers. Readers benefitted from Opie's experience, expertise and recommendations on how to put together a quality collection. Chapters guiding future collectors on buying at auction, evaluating figures, detecting fakes and avoiding common collecting errors proved to be most helpful. Since 1987, toy soldiers, like any other commodity, have undergone numerous changes that have been impacted by economic, technological and social influences. Mr. Opie decided it was time to write "Collecting Toy Soldiers in the 21st Century" for the benefit of a new generation of toy soldier collectors.

Collectors should not expect "Collecting Toy Soldiers in the 21st Century" to simply be a re-hashing of Opie's first book. To begin with, the latest book has many physical enhancements of higher standards than its predecessor; it is a hardback with dust jacket, is 60+ pages longer, includes more color photographs and is printed on glossy paper. Every photograph is new as Opie shares some great pieces of his collection with the reader. The subject matter of several chapters does overlap with the earlier version, but this is only natural as many of the basic themes are the foundation of collecting and need to be explored and examined. Readers will find the chapter on identification and

research especially helpful. Mr. Opie provides a list of manufacturers by material, method of production, whether a catalogue was produced and if figure bases were marked. This is done for every type of toy soldier; flats, semi-flats solids, hollowcasts (pre WWI, interwar, postwar), Dimestores, composition, all type of plastics, aluminum and other materials. Current makers also receive their due in a "collectors models" section such as K&C, Del Prado, Britains, St. Petersburg Collection and classics such as Metayer, Courtney, Ping and Greenwood and Ball among others.

It is interesting to read Mr. Opie's opinions as to just what has changed in the toy soldier world in the last 25 years. Among the topics explored are; fewer shops, more shows, importance of the Internet, plastic figures are now considered "nostalgic" and the increase in reference materials. Fortunately many changes have benefitted the collector, the greatest being, in the opinion of this reviewer, the Internet. Unfortunately there are less and less toy soldier stores. We all have our own favorite shop that brings to mind many happy memories (waiting for the Polk's catalogue to arrive!), that is no longer in existence. Plastic figures receive more examination in the new book compared to the first. The author is a proponent of "cameo" collecting; i.e., grouping figures that tell a story. The themes for a collector's cameo are almost infinite. A cameo may be by manufacturer, type of toy soldier, historical period, specific regiment, historical person and so on. The advantage of a cameo collection is that it is usually much smaller (and less expensive) than collecting rows upon rows of Britains, Mignots and others.

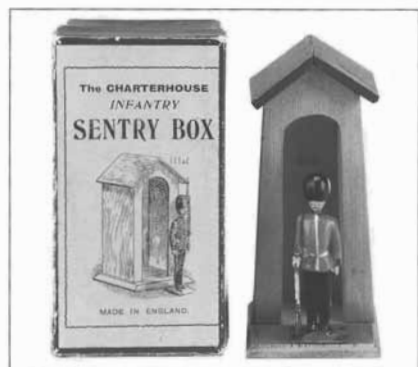
"Collecting Toy Soldiers in the 21st Century" would be an excellent gift for the beginning collector or someone who is contemplating entering the world of toy soldier collecting. Mr. Opie's information, suggestions, advice and opinions are spot on and will prevent the reader from being victim to many mistakes that beginning collectors make. Experienced collectors will find the new photographs refreshing to view and will enjoy Mr. Opie sharing with us his numerous collecting anecdotes. Collectors will find the book available at the usual Internet vendors or bookstores. Thank you to Mr. Opie who generously supplied a copy for this review.

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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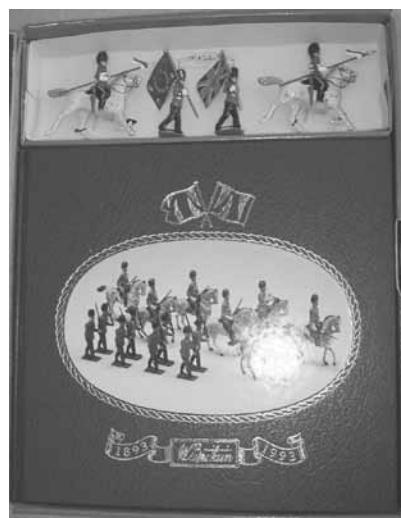
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Heyde-Hunters

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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Toy Soldiers & Figures

Reviewed in OTS Fall 2000.

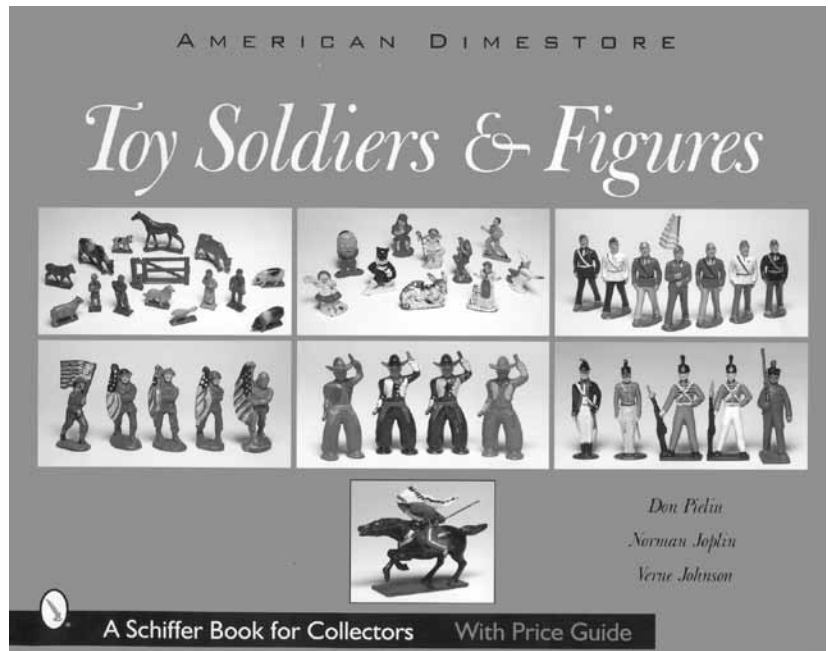
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DIMESTORE UPDATE

By Stan Alekna

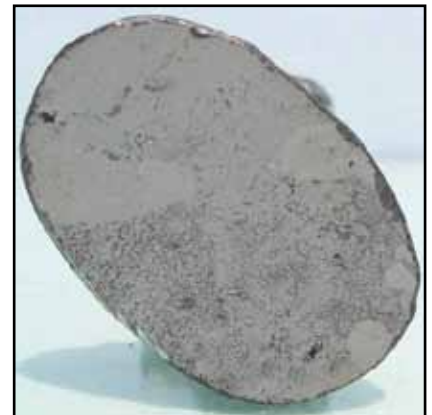
Pictured is an ad for Lincoln Logs home casting sets from an old catalog. I did not know that they sold such sets nor have I ever seen one. But this does explain why you sometimes find poorly cast and terribly painted Lincoln Log figures, especially their cowboys and Indians. The Merchandise Mart address in Chicago must have been their Corporate or sales offices while their factory was most likely in a more industrial part of town.



This RALSTOY military train is the only one I have ever seen although the cannon on a flat car is pictured in O'Brien on page 666. The bottom of the locomotive is marked "RALSTOY" as are most of the larger items made by them.



Dimestore dealer, Rodney Hopson, and I have both discovered some of the early Barclay figures with a completely flat oval base, while the vast majority of this early genre of Barclay's have a concave, oval or hexagonal base. Pictured is a flat-based 2B2 cadet and an unlisted Indian that we assume is Barclay. Anyone else seen any of these?



DIMESTORE UPDATE (Cont.)

Barclay's two inch cars from the 1960's have become quite popular with collectors and several variants have been discovered since I wrote an article on them for OTS, several years ago. Pictured are interesting variants of BV96 "POLICE" car and BV97 (Fire) "CHIEF" car. Previous to this discovery, it was thought that the sirens on this model of vehicle, which included a "TAXI" and a "U.S. ARMY" sedan, had been die cast integral with the roof of the car. Then the variants emerged with a separate slush cast siren that is inserted and glued into a hole in the roof of the car. By sheer coincidence, I noticed that the separately cast sirens were identical to the headlamps on the fenders of the little two inch antique vintage cars of this same 1960's series. My guess is that Barclay started issuing the BV96 and BV97 model cars with the separately cast sirens but found it to be too labor intensive and found that many sirens came loose in shipping and handling. This was the problem with the antlers on the Barclay reindeer which is why there are so many Barclay "does" and so few "bucks" to be found.

I frankly like the models with the separately cast sirens best but they are very hard to find. And the ones with the integrally cast sirens are not easy to find with all of their decals intact. Think about it folks. The 1960's were 53 years ago!



Did you ever wonder how Barclay shipped those man and woman skiers with their skis attached without having them bent or lost? If you ever tried to wrap and pack one of these figures you know how difficult it can be. By pure luck, I came across the pictured original packing box for shipping the man and woman skiers to retail stores. Pretty clever!



A good friend, long time collector and fellow former Marine, Ken Voll, acquired a boxed set of one of Barclay's earliest slush cast freight train sets in pristine condition, at the Chicago Toy Show. He shared the photo with me so I am sharing it with you. There is still some great stuff out there but you have to dig. In just the last year, I acquired a slush cast Barclay baby crib and the three Barclay Baseball players, all of which are super rare. Good hunting...





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BERTRAND AND VERTUNNI- A NEGLECTED FACET OF THE WORK OF GUSTAVE VERTUNNI

By Rob Wilson

The firm Bertrand and Vertunni (B&V) was first established in Paris in 1913 by a Monsieur Bertrand who was later joined by Gustave Vertunni (born in Rome in 1884). Vertunni served in the Italian Army during the Great War (1914-18). According to Christian Blondieau in "Petits Soldats" (p. 181)¹ following demobilisation, Vertunni was not able resume his affairs in France for lack of clientele to purchase his output!

After the war B&V installed themselves in a new company in Belgium (called "La Metallique"), and produced a series of figures representing the various combatants of the war.

Sometimes confused with CBG Mignot, the solid cast figures produced by B&V possess a particular character. The separately moulded heads are often not very firmly hammered into the torso, leading to the appearance of very long necks. More often than not the heads are loose and unfortunately many have lost their heads over the years!

The angled head of the soldiers aiming before firing is also characteristic. Arms were bent to fit particular poses as with the figures made by CBG Mignot. Packs, swords, rifles were moulded separately and soldered into place.

The figures produced were generally well sculpted and painted, as accurate and well done as those by Lucotte and CBG Mignot.

B&V produced a relatively small range of 50-54mm foot and cavalry figures in solid form (cast with a high percentage of lead to make them easily malleable). Some of the horses appear to be hollowcast (although whether this is by accident rather than design is hard to tell, since many appear to be solid). Mainly depicted in service dress, a few figures were also produced in Review order, including various arms of the Belgian Army (including the Chasseurs Cheval (Guides) illustrated here, as well as Grenadiers in full dress sold in Bonhams about 5 years ago.²

Flag bearers and musicians, as well as mounted officers, accompanied the troops. They were made

in both parade ground and action poses. Many of the types were created with a simple change of head, using bodies dressed either in greatcoats or short tunics. Some variety was also introduced by special bodies for types such as Chasseurs Alpains (in jodhpurs, as used for some officers), Zouaves and Turcos (at the trail and in other poses), "goose stepping" Prussians and Highlanders. Most of the main participants in the war seem to have been represented, including Turkey and the various Balkan states. Foot figures appear to be much more common than mounted ones. Some of these types are illustrated in the photos in this article. Others may be found in Blondieau's book, as well as in the archives of auction companies such as Bonhams, when these figures are correctly identified.³

Few boxed sets have survived. The boxes were made of relatively light card and the weight of the solid figures probably soon destroyed the original "homes" of the soldiers contained therein. The 4 row display set illustrated here is a rare exception. The brown paper covered box includes a generic B/V label, with a nice coloured illustration of a French Poilu in relaxed posed. The artist has signed it as Jean Droit. This is similar to the box for a much smaller 12 piece set pictured in Blondieau's book (page 222). Blondieau also illustrates some of the other types described above in his book. The current box has a small label on one of the lid edges containing "Marque B/V" on a shield symbol, as well as "FRANCAIS" in large letters, "déposée" and a typed or stamped code number (5049). All of this is in blue print apart from the code number stamped in a different shade of blue ink. The main label also emphasises "FABRIQUE PARISIENNE".

After the death of Bertrand, Vertunni moved on to develop his more well known 60mm historical personality series around 1930, returning to France around 1935.

There are probably many more types produced by B&V. Readers who know more are encouraged to contact the author (r.a.wilson@wrawick.ac.uk) or the editors. Photographs are especially welcome.

¹ Christian Blondieau (1996) *Petits Soldats*. Le Képi Rouge : Paris

² See: <http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/15238/lot/1723/>

³ See for example : <http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/13640/lot/1224/> or <http://www.bonhams.com/auctions/15238/lot/1727/>

BERTRAND AND VERTUNNI- A NEGLECTED FACET OF THE WORK OF GUSTAVE VERTUNNI (Cont.)



Typical B&V Figures marching at the slope, here depicting French *Infanterie de Ligne* in horizon blue service dress, wearing kepis. Note the officer's elongated neck which is typical. He wears a short tunic and jodhpurs as opposed to the greatcoats and normal trousers for the other ranks.



B&V Similar figures in action charging with fixed bayonets. The same officer is used.



B&V This group, kneeling firing, take careful aim.



B&V A closer look at the firing figure. Note the head cocked at an angle which is a characteristic feature of B&V's figures firing.



B&V Rear view of the kneeling firing figure showing two different back packs used.



B&V Turkish infantry in action. The brown uniforms are typical of the way French manufacturers portrayed the Turks.

BERTRAND AND VERTUNNI- A NEGLECTED FACET OF THE WORK OF GUSTAVE VERTUNNI (Cont.)



B&V Turkish infantry marching. Note that the flag bearer is not wearing jodhpurs.



B&V German/ Prussian infantry here wearing the pickelhaube.



B&V British Highlander marching at the slope. A completely new body and head casting have been used, but the rifle is the French rather than British pattern. It is however on the left shoulder.



B&V Group of British Highlanders. Again the elongated necks are typical. The loose heads have the advantage that they can be used to show "eyes right", as at least some of the party here are doing!



B&V A rare large 4 row display set, of French Infanterie de Ligne.

BERTRAND AND VERTUNNI- A NEGLECTED FACET OF THE WORK OF GUSTAVE VERTUNNI (Cont.)



B&V The box lid from the display set.



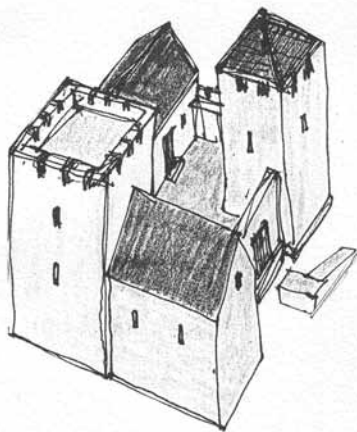
B&V Detail of the B&V label

B&V Lid edge label, emphasising that this is made in France and with a set(?) number



B&V also made figures in Review order. Here we have large group of Belgian "Guides" (Chasseurs à Cheval), including flag bearer and trumpeters. The flag is identical to that used in the infantry sets.

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SOREN BRUNOE; DENMARK'S MASTER MODEL SOLDIER MAKER

By Henry Kurtz

In the early 1980's, while on a press tour of the Scandinavian countries, I had the great pleasure of meeting and becoming friendly with Soren Brunoe, who reigned supreme at the time as Denmark's master model soldier maker and creator of brilliantly crafted and painstakingly researched dioramas of historical events. John Garratt, who was the dean of model soldier authorities for many years, considered Brunoe (who used the trade name "Rollo") "one of the leading model figure makers of the world."



Soren Brunoe in his studio. Photos: Henry Kurtz and Ole Jaeger

Admirers of his work point to mini-masterpieces such as his "Richelieu on the dike at La Rochelle." Based on a painting by Henri Matte, it shows Cardinal Richelieu standing on the dike he had built to prevent an



Cardinal Richelieu on the dike at La Rochelle

English fleet from reinforcing the city of La Rochelle, a stronghold of the rebellious Huguenots. From the perspective of the cardinal, the enemy fleet, a painted backdrop by Brunoe, can be seen foundering in the rough seas. Near the cardinal stands his clerical staff.

Many of Brunoe's dioramas were inspired by period paintings. A particularly stunning grouping depicts the Battle of Fontenoy (1745), as seen from the French lines, and closely duplicates a painting by French artist Paul Philoppoteaux, whose most famous work is the massive Cyclorama of the Battle of Gettysburg. Both the painting and Brunoe's three-dimensional rendering of it shows the moment when the commander of the French royal guards - seen lifting his hat - refuses the British offer to let his troops fire the first volley. Legend has it that the French officer replied, "Oh no, sir, you may fire first." The British obliged, decimating the French lines with their musketry.



Battle of Fontenoy

Of course Brunoe also worked from his own ideas. As a case in point we have an 18th Century drawing room scene that features two brilliantly costumed ladies in the midst of a quarrel. A gentleman has intervened and is trying to separate them. Off to the right a chambermaid is so startled that she drops her tray.

What follows is a sampling of some of Brunoe's individual pieces and small groups, all showing the characteristics of a fine painter and sculptor (he was a portrait artist and Denmark's leading painter of maritime subjects.) First we have a solo figure of a semi-nude "Marianne" drumming into battle her fellow French revolutionaries. Next is a figure of Piper Findlater of the Gordon Highlanders, sprawled

SOREN BRUNOE; DENMARK'S MASTER MODEL SOLDIER MAKER *(Cont.)*



18th Century Drawing Room Scene

on the ground wounded in both legs, piping his comrades to victory at Dargai Pass in India in 1898. Following that is a vignette of English troops resting after the 1706 Battle of Odenarde. Another masterful small diorama that fuses painted backdrop, scenic props and figures shows Madame Du Barry, mistress of French King Louis XV, being denied access to the royal grounds by guards instructed to detain her by the Dauphin.

So we end this small catalogue of Soren Brunoe's work. Sadly he has passed from the scene, but happily his work lives on in the collections of those fortunate to have examples of his unique model figures.



Piper Findlater at Dargai Northwestern Frontier 1898



After the Battle. Odenarde 1706



"Marianne" French Revolution



"Arretez, Madame" Mme. Dubarry

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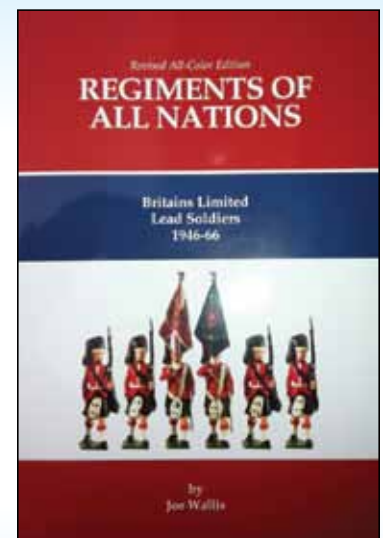


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BRITAINS SET #2011 ROYAL AIR FORCE DISPLAY BOX

By Joe Wallis



Set 2011 was one of Britain Limited's most imaginative and well-designed display boxes. The first announcement of this set appeared in the 1948 New Lines List, as the firm tried to sustain its prewar status as one of Great Britain's most successful toy manufacturers.

Comprising an assortment of 22 pieces tied into three rows in a ROAN labeled box, Set 2011 retailed for \$5.95 at first, eventually increased to \$6.50 by 1954. There was an officer walking with a document. The casting was from the Militia/Home Guard figure and his arm was the same as the Home Guard officer from Set 1918, but his uniform was RAF blue and he wore a peak cap. The motorcycle dispatch rider employed the same casting as the Royal Corps of Signals motorcyclists from Sets 1791 and 1907, but in an RAF blue uniform. There were two pilots walking with parachutes on their backs and two Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF) in skirts from Set 1894. Two firefighters in white asbestos suits came from prewar Set 1758, while the aviator standing with arm akimbo in an olive-drab Sidcot suit was first issued in prewar Set 333. In addition, there were two flight sergeants in long overcoats from prewar Set 331, along with three aircraftmen in short tunics with side caps—that one is an officer can be seen from the light blue cuff rings on his right

arm—all from prewar Set 330 and the final prewar version of Set 240. Many of the aforementioned pieces also appeared briefly in prewar Set 1906, but the final eight pieces consisted of six of the Royal Air Force Regiment with berets marching with slung rifles, one marching at the trail holding a Bren gun, and an officer with a swagger stick. They were based on the Airborne Infantry of Set 2010 that was also introduced in the 1948 New Lines List. (For more on the history of the RAF Regiment that was formed to defend airfields, see my article in *The Old Toy Soldier*, Volume 10, issue 3, pages 7-9.)

17 of the 22 figures in Set 2011 were dressed in RAF blue; only the two firefighters, the two olive-drab pilots, and the pilot in the olive-drab Sidcot suit were not. While no new castings were used, the variety offered in Set 2011 was exceptional. This diversity was underlined by the fact that no fewer than seven of the pieces were also included in the Picture Pack Series when that line was offered between 1954 and 1959. The RAF Picture Packs were: 66-B Pilot in Sidcot Suit, 587-B Firefighter in asbestos suit, 1054-B Pilot walking in full equipment, 1055-B Women's Royal Air Force, 1149-B RAF Regiment officer with baton, 1150-B RAF Regiment airman with slung arm, and 1151-B RAF Regiment Bren gunner marching at the trail.

BRITAINS SET #2011 ROYAL AIR FORCE DISPLAY BOX *(Cont.)*



It is mystifying why Britains did not incorporate Picture Pack 1081-B, the RAF Air Commodore standing with his coat over his arm, into Set 2011, but they never did. Britains also never bothered to produce a single-row box with just the RAF Regiment.

Even though Set 2011 was a first-rate display box with great appeal and play value, it was only produced from 1948-1959. Its logical companion, Set 2052 Anti-Aircraft Unit, also lasted just eleven years, from 1951-1962, even though it was more expensive than Set 2011. Plastic would triumph over lead, but there was never again a Britains set containing such a wide and interesting assortment of figures as Set 2011.



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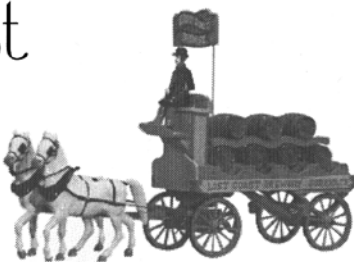
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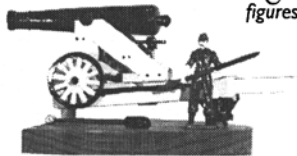
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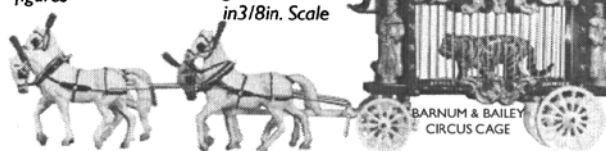
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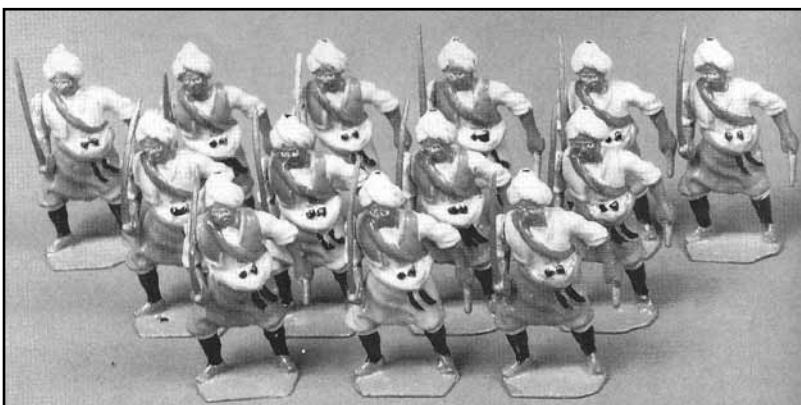
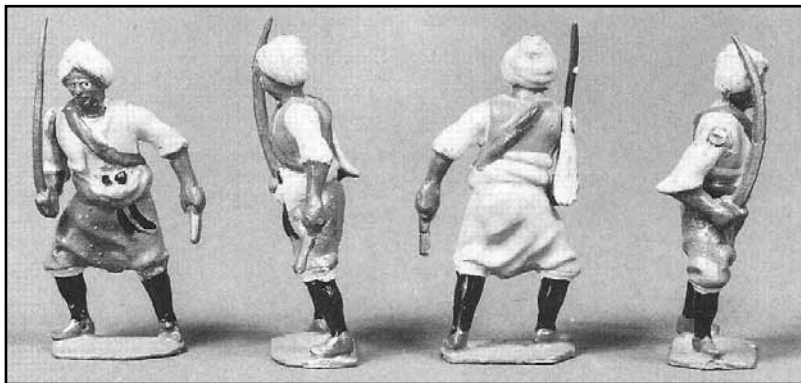
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BRITAINS CORSAIRS - INDIAN BANDIT

AN UPDATE FROM THE OLD TOY SOLDIER MAGAZINE ARCHIVES

By Norman Joplin

Old Toy Soldier Magazine carried the following illustration and report in the April/May 1995 issue Volume 19 # 2.



Britains Paris factory is notable for many models and paint styles not sold in the British catalogue, but it has been many years since I have seen a totally new Britains figure, not derived from known Britains castings.

Such a figure has now come to light, in the shape of the Britains Corsair. He is a sturdy Barbary Coast pirate with a turban and waistcoat, wielding a long scimitar on a moveable arm and holding a short knife (or possibly a pistol) in the other fixed arm. The pose is reminiscent of the Britains Chinese with the knife, thus giving a possible origin for that figure, having been designed late in the Paris production period and never issued in Paris before the 1923 shutdown.

The Corsair is presented in three color schemes, combinations of the red or white waistcoat, the red or yellow sash, and the green or blue skirt in which he is attired. Two wicked curved knives are tucked into the sack at his waist. The face and forearms are dusky brown, with the eyes white with a black dot in the centre, as with the King's African Rifles, another set contemporary in origin.

The newly discovered Corsairs, a group of thirteen figures, go on sale at Phillips Bayswater on 27 June 1995, estimated at £2,500-£4000.

The eventual hammer price was £4485.

UPDATE 2013

Several new pieces of information have come to light since this article was published.

The Phillips Bayswater London auction of 1995 described the illustrated Corsair as being a Britains Paris Office item, although no substantiating evidence was given in the press release or the catalogue. It was likened to a Barbary Pirate but no mention of the figure bearing a *Depose* mark was included in the press release.

Several years ago whilst in conversation with the late K. Warren Mitchell, it transpired that Warren had received a gift from a prominent US Collector of the solid Master Figure of the Corsair. The weapons were not attached to the figures, see front and back images below, showing that the items has moveable arms. Since no Master



BRITAINS CORSAIRS - INDIAN BANDIT (Cont.)

Figures of items made in by the Paris Office have come to light. It seemed unlikely that the Corsair was part of the French factory's output.

While researching for my forthcoming book-*Behind the Scenes at the Britains Toy Soldier Factory* I came across an entry in the Britains Factory Records under the master mould list heading which described the item as an Indian Bandit with the mould number of 424. As these records in my

possession only refer to items made in the London Factory it seems unlikely that the Corsair was a Paris office figure. As correctly stated in the Phillips article from 1995 the Corsair does resemble the Chinese Infantryman from Britains Set # 241, for which the records further state that the "working" name for that figure was Chinese Bandit, Mould Number 610, an illustration of the Chinese figure is shown here for comparison.



A similar Barbary style Pirate by the French company of G.M. is also shown next to the Corsair.

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