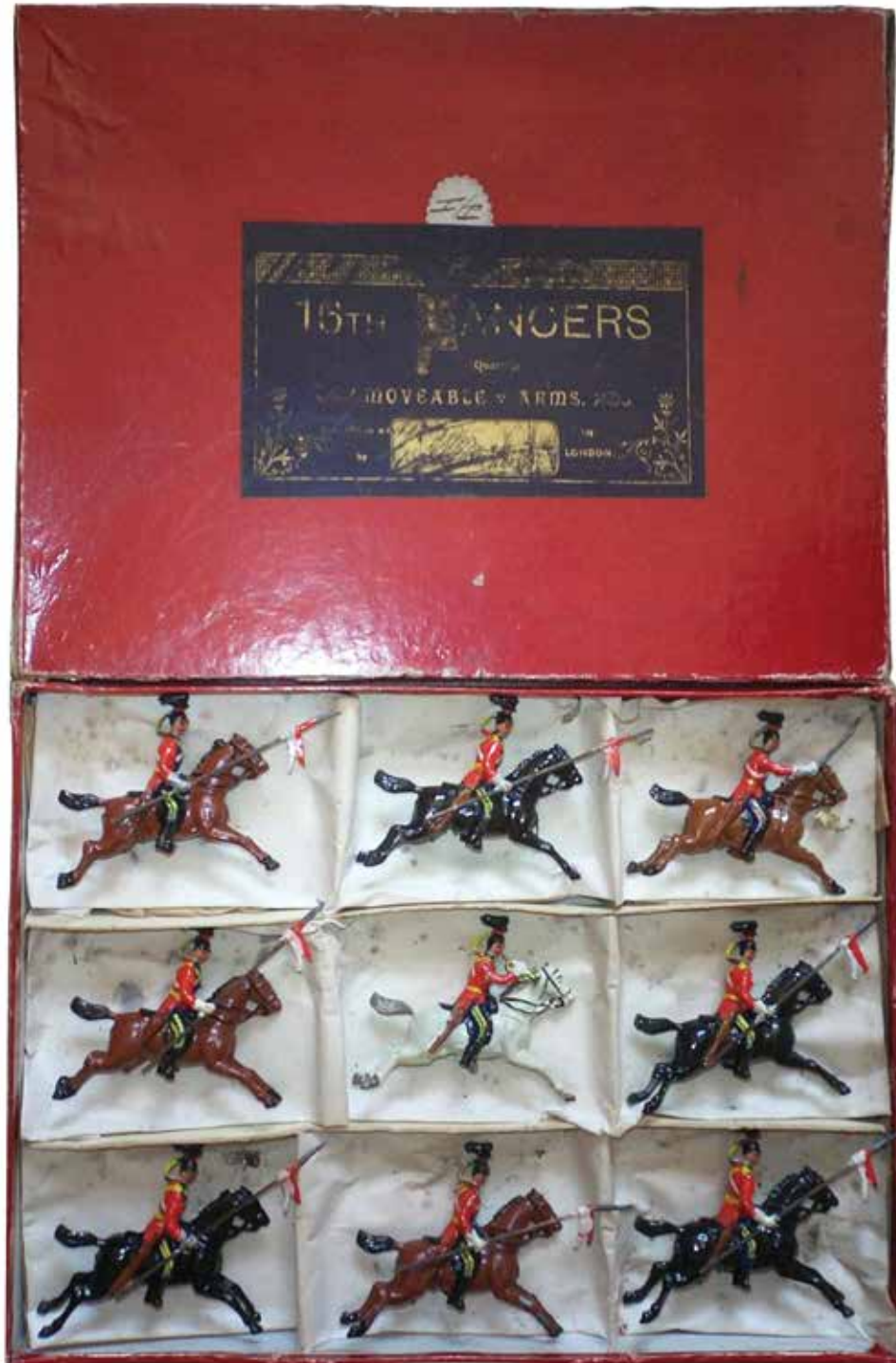
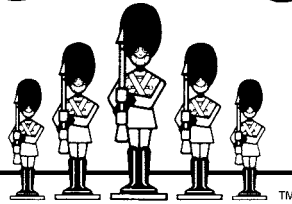


Winter
2014

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 37 Number 4
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Britains Plug Handed Lancers Set #10

Photograph courtesy of Rob Wilson

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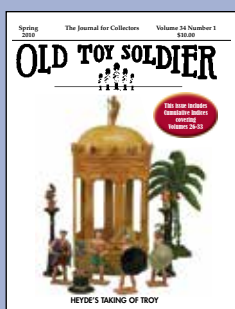


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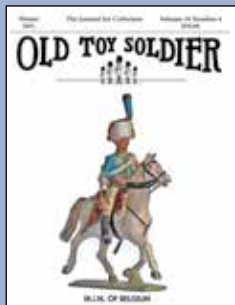
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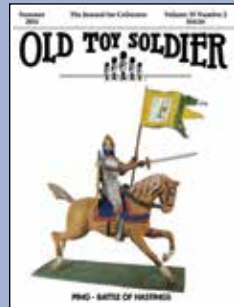


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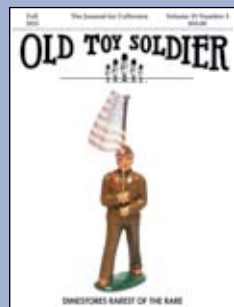
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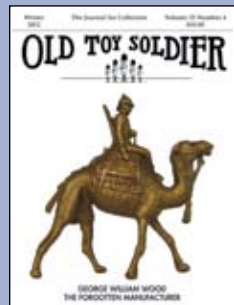
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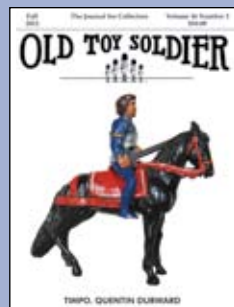
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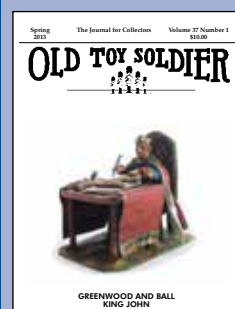


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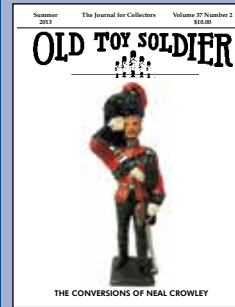


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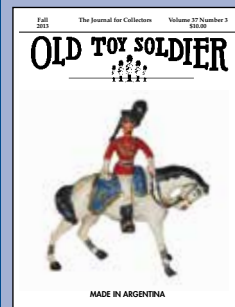
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THE BATTLE OF CAMERONE IN MINIATURE

By Henry I. Kurtz

During the French Intervention in Mexico in the 1860's, a company of French Foreign Legionnaires on its way to escort a convoy of munitions and gold was attacked by a strong force of Mexican troops. The 65 legionnaires under command of Captain Jean Danjou took refuge in the Hacienda de la Trinidad near the village of Camerone. There, on April 30, 1863, the legionnaires fought a day-long battle on April 30, 1863 against 2,000 Mexican soldiers. Even after Captain Danjou was killed, the embattled legionnaires fought on until most were either killed or wounded, and the rest captured. The delaying action enabled the convoy to reach the city of Puebla and the munitions proved decisive in the capture of that stronghold by French forces.

The Battle of Camerone soon achieved legendary status and propelled the French Foreign Legion into the forefront of an elite military unit whose soldiers were willing to fight to the death no matter what the odds. Napoleon III ordered the name Camerone added to the battle honors on the Foreign Legion banner. Even today Camerone is celebrated as the official Legion holiday with parades and other ceremonies.

As might be expected, the battle has drawn the attention of toy soldier companies. In the forefront of these, naturally, is the French firm of C.B.G. Mignot. Several special diorama boxes have been issued by Mignot, including a two-tier affair that shows Mexican troops attacking Legionnaires in the lower level and the aftermath of the fight on the upper level. (One of these dioramas sold recently at an Old Toy Soldier Auctions sale for \$1,300.) Another, perhaps more dramatic single tier diorama by Mignot, depicts Legionnaires and Mexican soldiers hotly engaged in a fierce fight at the hacienda (see photos one and two).



Illustration one: Mignot Battle of Camerone 1863 (2 tier diorama)



Illustration two: Mignot Battle of Camerone Diorama Box



Above: Two Legionnaires demonstrate the uniform worn in Mexico.

THE BATTLE OF CAMERONE IN MINIATURE (Cont.)



MEXICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

Box of 14 unpainted, officer painted
Brushes and paints included \$9.95

FL-350-K In action, Battle of the Camerone, 1863
FL-353-K At ease, Battle of the Camerone, 1863

Box of 15 painted
Special Matt paint \$37.50

FL-300 In action, Battle of the Camerone, 1863
FL-303 At ease, Battle of the Camerone, 1863



Painted figures . . \$2.50 each
Unpainted, assembled and
prime coated55 each

TRU-CRAFT MFG. CO., SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Illustration four:
True Craft's 55mm line, from a catalog it put out circa mid-1950's.

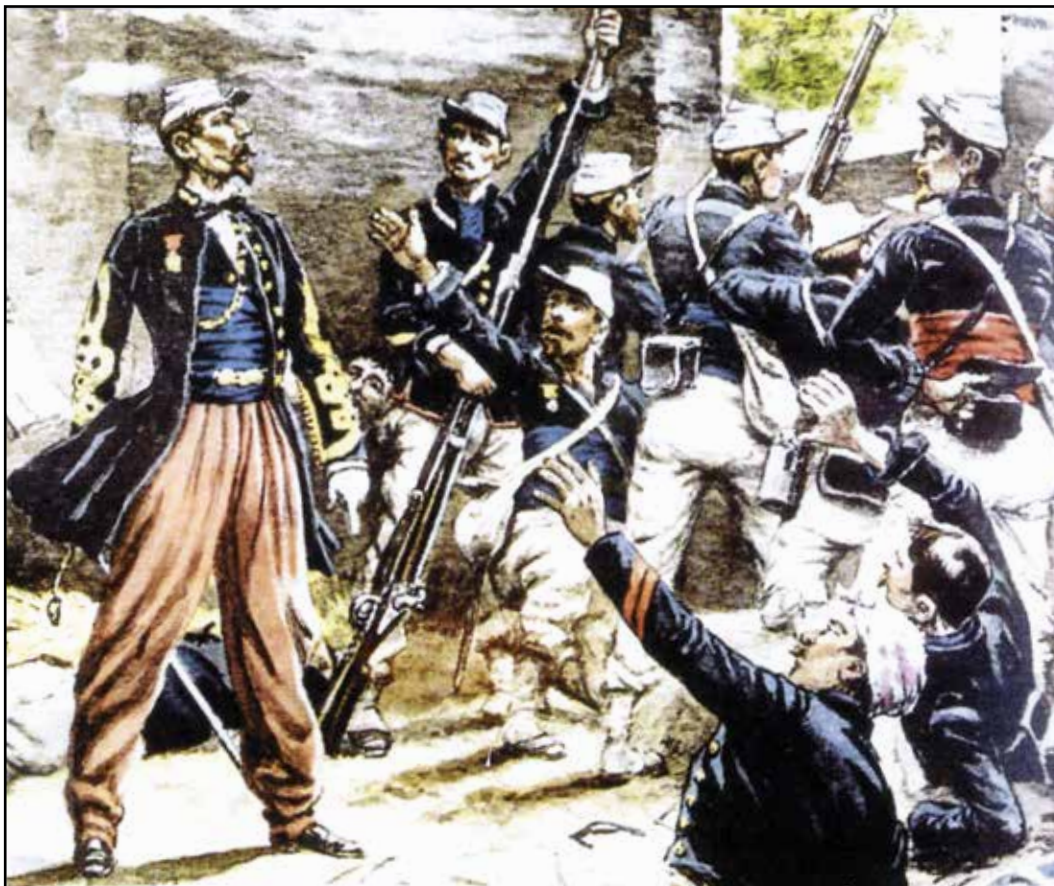


Illustration five

THE BATTLE OF CAMERONE IN MINIATURE (Cont.)

Mignot also produced conventional 12-piece infantry sets of Legionnaires in blue and red uniforms both with kepis and wearing straw hats, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

In the 1950's, the American firm of Tru-Craft issued a series of 55mm Legionnaires in what was dubbed the "Mexican Expeditionary Force." As illustration four (taken from a mid-1950's Tru-Craft catalogue) shows, the Legionnaires were in action poses, firing and loading, and standing at ease with slung rifles. There was also a figure of Captain Danjou in dramatic pose, no doubt inspired by a contemporary painting reproduced here as illustration five. The Tru-Craft figures could be had as individual pieces, priced at \$2.50 for a painted, or .55 cents unpainted and primed. There were boxed sets of 15 figures painted in matt colors for \$37.50; or 14 unpainted figures (brushes and paints included) with painted officer for \$9.95.

More recently, Tradition of London issued a series of nicely sculpted and brightly gloss painted figures of Battle of Camerone Legionnaires and Mexican troops in dramatic action poses (see illustration six). There are also a series of 28mm figures, available as castings, of Camerone Legionnaires, issued by Gringo 40s, which includes a six-piece set described by the maker as "a striking vignette of the Foreign Legion's most historic last stand against insurmountable odds."

Clearly, toy and miniature soldier firms have done their best to preserve the memory of Captain Jean Danjou and his gallant band of Foreign Legionnaires who upheld the Foreign Legion's code of honor and courage.

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



Tradition Battle of Camerone



Tru-Craft Figures

HOBBY NEWS

Obituary ~ Arnold J. Rolak 1933- 2013

Arnold Rolak died December 3, 2013 in Houston Texas, he is survived by his wife Emma of 36 years a Son, 2 Daughters, 7 Grandchildren, 2 Great grandchildren.



Arnold assisting with Britains Archive Catalogue.

A larger than life character he endeared himself to all in the Toy Soldier Hobby. He was kind hearted, generous, jovial, and had a happy knack of making everyone feel at ease with his outgoing personality. An enthusiast focused Toy Soldier collector, Arnolds resume in the toy soldier world was impressive to say the least. Arnold had toy soldiers as a child but only discovered Britains during his time in Bermuda and after first meeting his long time friend and fellow collector Colonel Donald Pudney.

Arnold soon became an avid collector and built up a huge collection of Britains and specialized in Britains early mechanical toys and prototypes with an emphasis on civilians as well as soldiers.

Arnold was a researcher and obtained joint ownership of the Britains Factory Records (Hopefully these documents, in book form will be published soon). Arnold also assisted with information from these records as consultant to Christies Auction House, London in 1993/1994.

Perhaps a little known fact is that Arnold always had visions of owning his own toy soldier company and entered into a brief partnership with the late Charles Biggs. The name Sceptre was adopted, it was eventually taken over by Charles Biggs, renamed Premier and introduced into the Britains range. As an author he co wrote Britains Civilian Toy Figures with me.

Probably one of the largest and most unique toy soldier auctions ever held at Christies in London was the Arnold Rolak Reference collection of Britains Toys in December 2000.

Arnold attended over 30 Chicago Old Toy Soldier shows and could always be relied on to entertain and share his vast knowledge of the hobby.

As close long time friends of Arnold and his wife it is of great personal sadness that I write this obituary on behalf of my wife Sue and myself, however in Arnold's own words his wish was that the memory of him be a happy one.



Arnold at home with his collection.



Meeting Dennis Britain at the Britains Centenary Dinner 1993.



Arnold with the Christies Display prior to auction in 2000.

The Practice of Enjoying Toy Figures

By Fred Wyman



Bill O'Brien's (O.B.) Stage Coach

I have been a collector of hollowcast lead toy figures both civilian and military for over 60 years. I first started "collecting" or should I say playing with toy soldiers when I was six. My first boxed set of Britains (firing Coldstream Guards) was a Christmas gift. These valiant combatants have long gone to toy soldier heaven. I use the word combatant because I would play "war" with them and shoot at them with my B-B gun.

During my childhood years I never entertained the notion of collecting my play toys, I just enjoyed playing with my troops. It wasn't until I came home after my first semester at the University of Florida when I noticed my mother had displayed some of my battle worn men on shelves in my room. My mother was merely getting my toys up out of the way. She was unaware that she was giving birth to a lifelong hobby. I never collected coins, stamps, etc. It dawned on me that maybe collecting toy soldiers would be a good hobby.

My collecting was rather sporadic during college, dental school and my three year stint in the Army. The reason being that by 1972 collecting lead miniatures was already becoming an expensive proposition and I did not have the money to spend on my new hobby, therefore for nearly 10 years my interest in

toy soldiers remained dormant. Essentially I took myself out of the hobby.

It was not until I accidentally came upon Dick Sossi's Annapolis Toy Soldier show that a man named Bill O'Brien rekindled my interest and enthusiasm in collecting. He convinced me that creating figures that Britains and other manufacturers never made was more interesting than just collecting boxed sets. Consequently with O'B's help and encouragement, for the past 30 years we have been taking discarded and damaged figures and giving them new life. I use original castings to create pieces that Britains, etc. never made but should have created.

That said I would like to share with you an example of that creativity. It is the centerpiece of my collection.

Britains, Ltd. made prairie schooners, tumbrel carts, open landaus, coronation coaches, military wagons, farm wagons, farmer's gigs and caissons; however they never made an honest to goodness metal stagecoach. The French and other British companies attempted to market their versions of the Wild West coach but most were not 54 mm. scale.

O'B took a souvenir piggy bank (made by Banthrico, Inc. Chicago, Illinois) and made an exact replica of

The Practice of Enjoying Toy Figures (Cont.)

a Wells Fargo stagecoach. It took over a year to complete this truly remarkable work of art.

The stagecoach has five passengers: two little girls (Taylor-Barrett), two ladies (Britains – young woman seated) and one old man (Britains from the farmer's gig) mounted inside the coach. A driver (French hollowcast) and a man riding "shotgun" (Britains young seated farmhand) sit atop the coach. The three two-horse teams galloping are Britains from the Prairie Schooner set. All of these figures were in bad need of repair when found in "junk boxes" at shows, flea markets, antique shops, e-Bay or collections sold at auction.

The traces and reins were assembled using hand twisted copper wire. The draught pole that is fastened to the coach was handcrafted and casted. The wheels came from Britains General Service Wagon.

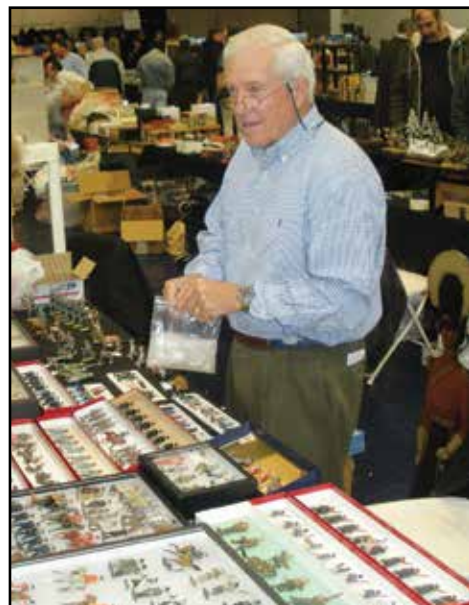
The hand detailing and painting of the coach and figures is exquisite. It is painted in the style of the English old toy soldier complete with the bright pink cheeks. Testors enamels create the shine reminiscent of an era that is "gone with the wind."

I could show you many more O'B originals however the coach is the ultimate and as O'B likes to say, "It's the only one in the world."

Creating the unique and unlabeled is much more challenging and rewarding than collecting the traditional boxed sets. It is a new trend in collecting. One that is affordable yet practical and exciting. Our current hobby of collecting hollowcast lead figures is in decline. There are very few young people entering the hobby, which is sad. This avenue of collecting might entice this age group and spark their creative genius.

The lesson learned from this exercise is that connoisseurship in collecting comes from looking past the names and brands and instead focusing upon the quality and uniqueness of the creation.

Editors Note: Fred Wyman is a practicing dentist and combines this with the practice of enjoying toy figures.



Bill O'Brien

Made in Argentina Part 2 E.G. Toys Miniatures

By Norman Joplin

In Part one of this series documenting the manufacturers of Argentine figures (*OTS Volume 37 #3*) I mentioned that although most Argentine manufacturers imitated the style of figures produced in Europe either by Britains or Timpo and that from time to time unique items were produced by a number of Argentina companies. E.G.TOYS was one such company.

Concentrating more on Civilian and non Military subjects E.G. Toys produced their own unique range representing people of Argentine culture during the pre and post war periods.

Gauchos, Folk Dancers, domestic animals and accessories were produced, with only brief forays into plagiarizing European items. An interesting

figure of the Nandu, a flightless bird native to the area and similar to an Ostrich was included in this range.

EG Toys catalogue of the early 1950s also lists many Farm and Wild Animals, with the Wild Animal series in particular looking almost identical to Britains.

Most of EG Toys farm animals were obviously inspired by Britains with the exception a model of an Argentinean Bull which was unique to them.

In part 3 of this series of articles I hope to show the unique attempts made by Argentinean companies in imitating the Timpo G.I. Series.

Photographs courtesy Don Pielin



Part of extensive line including the Flightless Nandu



Various accessories

Made in Argentina Part 2 E.G. Toys Miniatures (Cont.)



Cactus, Gaucho, Donkey



Different version of Gaucho Guitar Player.
The Seated Female is very similar to Britains or Johillco



Different versions of Female Dancer and Gaucho



EG Toys Bulls (unique casting)



Accordion Players showing Timpo version on left & EG Toys on right.

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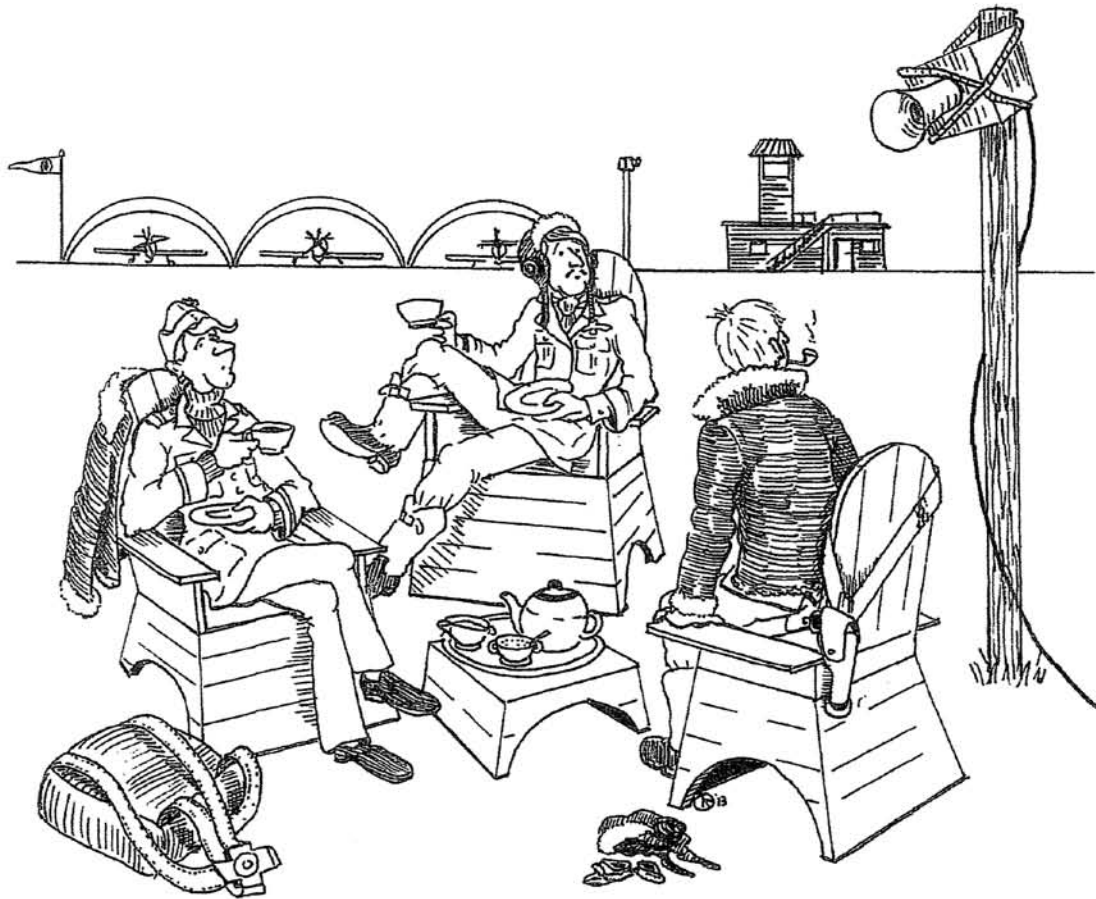
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On Facebook visit Chicago Toy Soldier Show

RECONNAISSANCE



Vereston box of plastic Hill Figures. Does anyone else own a Vereston product?



Ged Haley submitted these images of Fishermen in the style of Britains.
Do any subscribers have further information on them?

AUCTION PREVIEW

THE JAMES A. HENDERSON COLLECTION

JUNE 27TH, 28TH & 29TH, 2014

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

MANUFACTURERS

Britains Pre War Boxed
Britains Pre War unboxed
Britain Post War Boxed
Britains Post War unboxed
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Britains Special Paints

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British Bulldog
Carman
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Ducal
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Haffner

Harold Pestana

Heyde

Hocker

HM of GB

Imperial

Imrie & Risley

King and Country

Lucotte

Marlborough

Mignot

Monarch

Northern Ireland Toy Soldier Museum

Regimental Collectibles

Ruffles and Flourishes

Soldiers of the World

Spenkuch

Stadden

Steadfast

Tradition

Trophy

Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA are proud to give advance notice of an exceptional one-owner toy soldier collection to be auctioned in June 2014. The James A. Henderson Collection. Britains, Britains Paris Office, Heyde, Mignot, Lucotte, King and Country, Trophy, Ducal, Fusilier, Steadfast, William Hocker, Stadden, Monarch, Imrie & Risley, Imperial, Etc., Etc.

Many lots carry excellent Provenance i.e. Britains Archive, Ed Ruby Collection, Malcolm Forbes Collection, and The Property of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester.

The collection consists of representations of the above manufacturers products, over 250 of which are in their original boxes.

The provenance of some of the items is world class, Britains Archive Auction, Malcolm Forbes Sale, Ed Ruby Collection and property of HRH The Duke of Gloucester.



Britains items from the Great Book of Britains



Scots Guard Pipe Band



South African King



Britains Paris Office



King and Country

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Britains Special Paints



Forbes / Pestana Gun Boat



Britains Paris Office Figures



Britains Waterloo Winter Cloaks



Britains previously unknown Terrain Terrier



Britains Texas Rangers



Lucotte Napoleonic

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Mignot Flag Bearers.



German Hollow Cast Prussians.



Britains Traffic Police in Original Box.



Britains Aircraft.



Heyde Turkish Infantry.



Britains Italian Infantry Specials with Bugler.



Britains Paris Office Infantry De Ligne with foot and mounted officer.



Royal Marine Artillery Running Green



Britains Bahamas Police in original cellophane box.



Britains Unique Clyde Model Dockyard Displays -- Provenance The Ed Ruby Collection and Pictured in Opie's Great Book.



Britains R.A.F Colour Party.

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



Stadden Napoleonic Band.



Salvation Army Flag Bearers and Females.



Britains Mobile Police Car with Box.



Royal Marine Infantry Band with Box (Not shown).



Britains Special Berkshire Regiment Fifes and Drums Provenance Ed Ruby.



Salvation Army Blue Band.



Bahamas Police Band with box (Not Shown).



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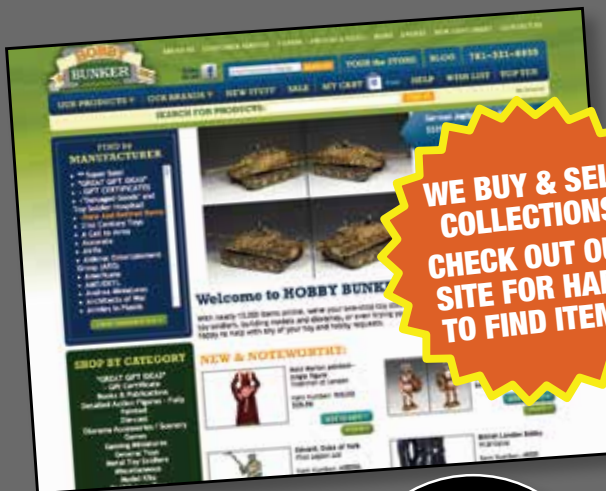


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IS THIS BRITAIN'S FIRST TOY SOLDIER CATALOGUE?

By Rob Wilson

In 1972 Dennis Britain signed his name to a reproduction of what was thought to be Britain's earliest known catalogue of their hollowcast range. Including all the sets up to Set #191 (Turcos), this has been dated to 1915. It contained a comprehensive listing of their military and other figures and accessories available at that time.

James Opie, in his *Great Book of Britains* (1993, p.156), argues that this was a descendent of the large format catalogues produced since at least 1880. The 1915 one, another from 1908, and one for 1880 (depicting Britain's earlier mechanical toys and in possession of the company at the time James was writing), were the only ones known to have survived.

James also presents (op cit, p.44) an image of what (he thought then) was the earliest known listing of Britain's toy soldier production. This was a single column of set numbers and titles stuck to the inside of a single row set box lid. Unfortunately the list is torn and incomplete. It is headed with the retailer's name and address ("Wisbey's Bazaar, 174, High Street, Stoke Newington"). It includes set #76 (the Middlesex Regiment), which James suggests dates it to 1897.

This kind of listing was probably included in boxes to advertise the full range, and to encourage further purchases. James notes (op cit, p.156) that it was commonplace to supply copy and engraved illustration printing blocks to retailers such as Gamages in order to enable them to include information about Britain's products in their own catalogues.

Later lists, such as that shown in Figure 1, continued to be produced for many years. This particular one runs to two columns and includes prices. It now also includes the b-sized range. This list also includes sets #127 and #128 from the standard sized range, enabling it to be dated to 1903. This list was contained in a single row box of Britain's soldiers, hidden behind the tie card!

In May 2005 I was fortunate enough to acquire a number of early sets from the Palinbourne estate in Scotland. This collection comprised a number of Britain's and other manufacturers' figures from the late 19th century. They were mostly still in their original boxes, 'straight out of the nursery'. All of the sets dated from around the same period and, given

their condition, appeared not to have been played with since!

On collecting the lots I had acquired from the Edinburgh Auction room, I was delighted to find in one of the boxes a similar list. However, on closer inspection this turned out to be much more than a list, including detailed illustrations of many sets. It appeared to be a pretty comprehensive list of items on offer at that time - a real catalogue displaying the full Britain's toy soldier range. Subsequent research suggests that this catalogue predates the Wisbey's Bazaar listing by a year or so, probably being produced in the first half of 1896.

It is interesting that Britain's name and logo appear only at the foot of the back page. The front page is headed by "Metal Soldiers" with a sub title "made in London" and an emphasis that these are designed and modelled by English artists and entirely produced by British labour.

Stamped in red ink (after the Britain's trademark) on the back page is the name and address of Hart & Sons 23, Goswell Road, London E.C. According to the London Gazette, Hart & Son were warehousemen (presumably wholesale distributors). The Gazette for January 6, 1903, (p.139) reports that:

"NOTICE is hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between us the undersigned, David Hart and Montague Hart, carrying on business as Warehousemen, at 23, Goswell-road, in the county of London, under the style or firm of "HART AND SONS," has been dissolved by mutual consent as and from the 1st day of January, 1903. All debts* due to and owing by the said late firm will be received and paid by the said David Hart.—Dated this 1st day of January, 1903. DAVID HART. MONTAGUE HART."

Today 23 Goswell Road is now part of the University of London.

The catalogue is printed on one large sheet of thin, newsprint style, paper, folded to make 4 large pages. The overall size laid flat is 27.25" x 17" (roughly Foolscap Double in Old English measures). Each "portrait" page is roughly 17" x 13.6" (430mm x 348mm, somewhat larger than A3, which is 420mm x 297mm (16.5" x 11.7")). This compares with the 1915 catalogue which has "portrait" pages (425mm x 278mm).

IS THIS BRITAIN'S FIRST TOY SOLDIER CATALOGUE? (Cont.)

The highest set number mentioned is set #66, one of the newly introduced Indian cavalry sets, which also included both two and three row displays. Other multi row display sets (numbered in the 40s and 50s) are also given prominence.

Proudly displayed on the front page are the largest display set available at that time (set #29), together with set #39 the Royal Horse Artillery (RHA), with gunners and officer, which had just been introduced. The latter was by far the most complex model Britain's had produced to date. This was available at 6/- a pop. The /- symbols indicated 6 shillings, of which there were 20 to the £ (pound sterling). According to the UK Office for National Statistics (*Labour Market Trends*, March 2003, p. 141), the average weekly wage in 1902 was just 28/-, so these were all toys for quite rich boys! The price of the RHA set compared with 7/- for the then largest display set (set #29). Set #73, which was much larger, did not appear until 1897. The other four row displays (sets #21 and #22) were sold for 4/- each. These are also illustrated on the front page.

All these prices were identical in the 1903 listing shown in Figure 1. This was published some 6 years later (by which time sets #127 and #128 had just been introduced, as well as a large number of other items (including the b-sized range)). Altogether, this more than doubled the number of sets on offer.

The description of set #39 in the 1896 catalogue emphasises that the 4 seated Gunners may be removed to enhance play value, as can the seats on the gun, something modern day collectors rue as so many of them have since gone missing!

Checking through the set numbers covered in the catalogue, a number of gaps emerge. However it looks like these were simply not on offer at this time (rather than that the Catalogue is incomplete). It appears to cover the full range available in the first half (loosely defined) of 1896. This was a time of dramatic expansion of the Britain's range. Within 12 months a large number of additional items had been included in the range.

There is no mention in the catalogue of the larger size, plug armed Scots Greys and plug handed Fusiliers. According to James Opie these were discontinued in 1896. On this evidence they had been withdrawn by then. The catalogue emphasises on the front page that



Figure 1: Complete List of (Britains) Metal Soldiers (1903) – The Trademark here is up front

the whole range is to a constant scale, stating that:

“a Foot Soldier is the same size as a Horse Soldier, and the horses are in proportion to the men, whilst the Uniforms and Colouring have been most carefully considered, so as to give a correct representation of the various regiments”.

Many of the figures are still “Germanic”, including officers in the various cavalry sets on first version prancing horses, holding tin swords.

IS THIS BRITAIN'S FIRST TOY SOLDIER CATALOGUE? (Cont.)

Dr. Jameson's (set #38) and the South Australian Lancers in slouch hats (set #49) are both featured, but as yet there are no Boers. The Boer cavalry set was introduced in 1899, taking up the empty set #6 spot). Set #38 is listed but not illustrated (perhaps the engraving was not yet ready?). James Opie (op cit, p.31) shows a page from the March 1896 issue of *Athletic Sports, Games and Toys*, which uses an engraving of the set. It had been rushed into production to commemorate the famous raid, which took place around the turn of the year 1895/6. The Egyptian Camel Corps # 48 are proudly displayed, but the Bikanirs are absent, this set not being introduced until 1901 (although it just involved a simple head change).

The engravings used for the illustrations appear to be exactly the same as those used in later catalogues, such as the 1915 one (despite the fact that in the intervening years many of the figures had been upgraded and improved). Presumably the company did not think that the cost of having new engravings made was warranted.

There are a number of other interesting and notable gaps in the listing. Table 1 sets them out in order. Sets #67 and #68 (Madras and Bombay infantry respectively) must have been introduced after this catalogue was designed (as was set #64 the Indian Cavalry and Infantry display, which included the same infantry casting).

Also notable by their absence are any pipers. Set #69 Pipers of the Scots Guards must have been introduced just after this catalogue was completed. This also applies to the other sets of Highlanders which included the piper figure, such as the Gordons (set #77). The latter was introduced in 1897 (with 5 plug handed figures accompanied by two pipers). None of the sets pictured in the 1896 catalogue include pipers. The various sets including Highlanders all comprise an officer with sword and 6 running soldiers with plug handed rifles.

None of the b-sized series are mentioned, although as shown above they are covered in the 1903 list. Most of the b-size sets were given b suffixes but a few appeared in the main roster, including sets #57 and #58, but they are not mentioned here. Similar remarks apply to set #59, the two row display of Scots Greys. These appear to have been introduced too late to go into this catalogue.

Also missing is set #27 the 12 piece Band of the Line. The 21 piece band of the Coldstream Guards (set #37) had just been introduced. It required just a simple head change to create the Line band (introduced later in 1896). For those who wanted musicians to accompany their infantry, the catalogue offers only the smaller Drums and Bugles (set #30).

Other gaps include set #20 and #65 (which were used later for Russian and Japanese and Russian display sets respectively), and set # 35 the Royal Marine Artillery (introduced in 1897, including the new Valise pack marching figure). This casting, together with related officers, was also used for the Royal Fusiliers (taking up the vacated set #7 spot), as well as sets #9 (the Rifle Brigade), #75 (Scots Guards) and #76 (Middlesex Regiment) , which all appeared in 1897.

Perhaps the most interesting piece of information concerns the numbering of the sets of plug-armed lancers. Based on the evidence from this catalogue, the information in James Opie's invaluable price guide is not quite correct:

- Set #8 was NOT the 12th Lancers (the number was used for the 4th Hussars); and
- Set #9 was NOT 16th Lancers (the number was not used at this time but was taken up for the Rifle Brigade in 1897).

The correct numbering according to the 1896 catalogue is:

- Set #4 12th Lancers
- Set #5 17th Lancers
- Set #10 16th Lancers

The versions of these sets illustrated all have cap lines. The example of set #10 within which the catalogue has survived for over 120 years is shown in Figure 6. The other four figures illustrate the catalogue in full.

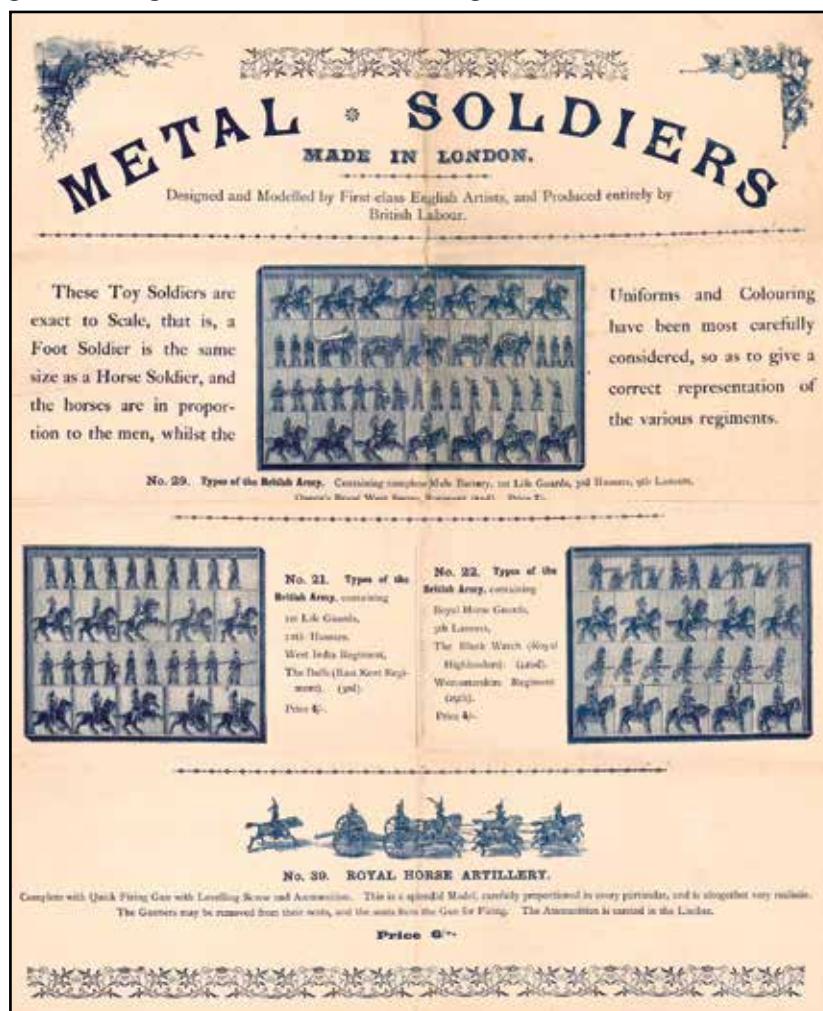
I am planning to issue a limited edition, reproduction copy of this catalogue in 2014. This will be printed on good quality paper and will be approximately the same size as the original. If readers are interested in reserving a copy they are invited to contact the author by email (r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk) or phone +(44)1926496062.

IS THIS BRITAIN'S FIRST TOY SOLDIER CATALOGUE? (Cont.)

Table 1: Set numbers missing from the Hart & Son catalogue

Missing from the full ordering of sets #1-66	
6	previously used for the plug armed Scots Greys, later used for Boer cavalry
7	previously used for the plug handed Fusiliers, later taken up for the Royal Fusiliers)
20	unused, later taken up for Russian & Japanese 4 row display set
27	Band of the Line (introduced after the Coldstream Guards band set #37)
35	unused, later taken up for the Royal Marine Artillery
57	unused, later taken up for the b-sized British army display
58	unused, later taken up for the b-sized British army display
59	unused, later taken up by the two row display of Scots Greys
64	Indian Cavalry and Infantry display
65	unused, later taken up for Russian display set
Set numbers yet to be taken up	
67	later taken up for Madras Indian Infantry
68	later taken up for Bombay Indian Infantry
69	later taken up for Pipers of the Scots Guards

Figure 2: Page 1 of the 1896 Catalogue – no mention of Britains!



IS THIS BRITAIN'S FIRST TOY SOLDIER CATALOGUE? *(Cont.)*

Figure 3: Page 2 of the 1896 Catalogue – new displays sets and the Guards band



Figure 4: Page 3 of the 1896 Catalogue – Indian Cavalry galore!



IS THIS BRITAIN'S FIRST TOY SOLDIER CATALOGUE? (Cont.)

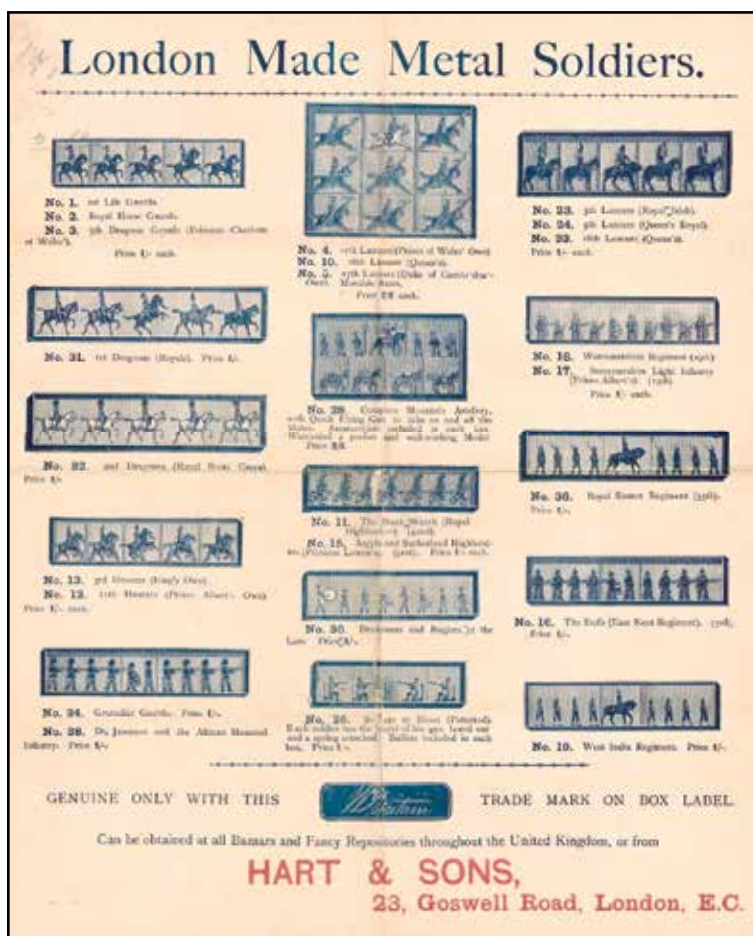
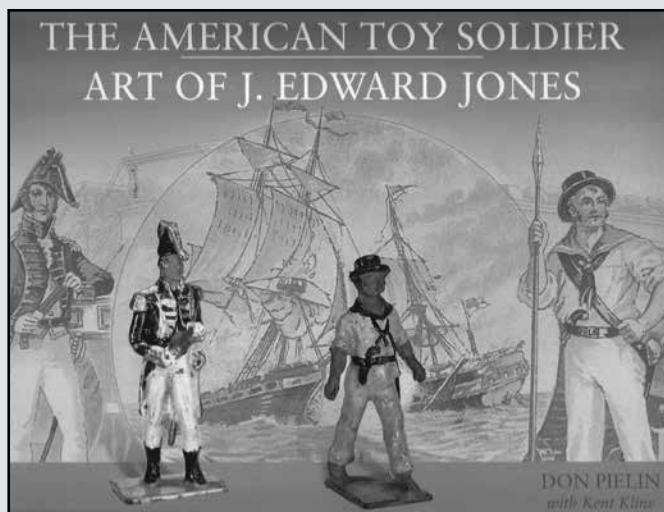


Figure 5: Page 4 of the 1896 Catalogue – the last charge of the plug-armed Lancers

Figure 6: The box of plug-armed lancers in which the Catalogue survived the passage of over 120 years!



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The Appeal of Ramon Labayen's Most Recent Figures: Singular and Special

By José María Sanz-Hermida

In 1961, Labayen's Workshop was set up, a mythical establishment whose production of miniature military men is universally known, and it is still in business in 2013.

The latest stage in the creation of these figures by the world-acclaimed and magnificent miniaturist, Ramon Labayen, comprises the period from 2005 to 2013. During this time Labayen has devoted himself to the modeling and painting of unique new figures that will not be commercialized, at least for the moment, in 54 mm. In addition, he has again taken up, many years later, the modeling of figures in 30 mm for war games, using them to illustrate an episode in the military history of the Spanish army: the Battle of Camposanto that took place on 8 February 1743 between the army of Philip V under the command of Juan Gages and the allied troops of Austria and Sardinia. The work is still unfinished at this time since only the figures of the Spanish infantry and cavalry are ready, and the artillery and the Austrian troops still remain to be made. To make the uniforms of the different units he used as a source the collective work *El ejército de Fernando VI* (Madrid: Defense Department, 1993). These figures were modeled between 2007 and 2008. At that time Labayen had a large group of more than one hundred figures in his collection representing the different battalions that fought in the battle and whose infantry included fusiliers, grenadiers, officers, standard-bearers and drums (Picture 1). All the figures are



Picture 1

extraordinarily painted in groups of five using alkyd oil paints. They all have individualized faces and the most outstanding element is the cloth of the colonel color flags (a surface of 4 x 4 centimeters), on which Ramon paints with incomparable skill the complicated designs of their shields (Picture 2). Sculpting these tiny figures is very laborious and complicated work. Mr. Labayen says that painting only one of these miniatures takes him almost as much time as decorating a figure of 54 mm.



Picture 2

In these two years he only made one 54 mm. figure, that of Leopold I, Prince of Anhalt-Dessau (der alte Dessauer) based on Antoine Pesne's famous portrait, which he was already finishing at the end of 2007 (Picture 3). Dessauer joins the production of Prussian figures, a subject that Labayen is enthusiastic about. With his deep interest in the uniforms of the 18th century, he has devoted himself to researching the uniforms of several countries, the center of attention being one of the prominent historical figures he finds most attractive: Frederick II.



Picture 3

My friendship with Ramon has allowed me over the years to follow closely the process of creation and modeling that goes into his figures. This process always begins by taking models of naked bodies fused in metal and then adding with modeling paste the successive elements that will constitute that soldier's uniform. It is a slow and meticulous procedure. In the 54 mm figures the torso and the legs are frequently made in one piece, and then the head, arms and supplies (weapons, swords and bayonets, rucksacks, cartridge belts, sabretaches..) that will join the figure are modeled separately, before moving on to the stages

The Appeal of Ramon Labayen's Most Recent Figures: *(Cont.)*



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7



Picture 8



Picture 9

about an hour. The number of pieces that go into each figure varies and depends on the figure's technical complexity. One of the most fascinating figures is the third version of Cosme Damián Churruca, hero of Trafalgar, represented with a jacket with open lapels. It is made of sixteen pieces besides the base. Here Labayen has separately fused in tin each of the ten buttons arranged on the front of the jacket, which adds tremendous realism to the uniform. The pieces forming this figure are: the head with the body, the arms, the hands, the sheath of the sword, the guard and the naked sword that he has in the hand. His reasons for making this figure were twofold; Churruca was from Guipuzcoa, like Labayen himself, and 2005 was the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. He made six different figures of Churruca in diverse attitudes and variations. The explanation that Ramon gives for this unusual creation of models of the same person is that he wasn't satisfied with any of them. (Pictures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)

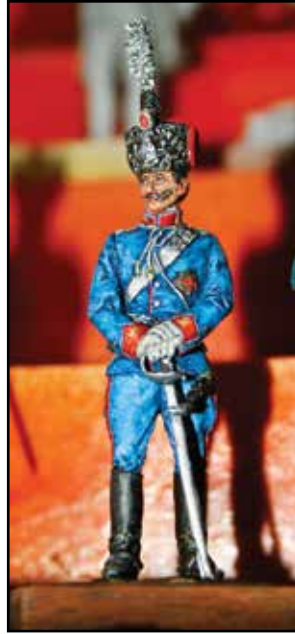
of priming and then painting. This way the figure can adopt a natural position, in which the head can turn to any side, be more or less straight or inclined, and the final result is perfect. Labayen is very much a perfectionist and in this process of modeling, which can go on for several months, he often modifies his work until he is completely satisfied with it. After assembly and painting he checks whether the figure is in line with his expectations or whether it has some kind of defect. If it is not perfect, he will remodel the parts until he is completely satisfied with the figure. The process of painting a figure takes Ramon Labayen approximately 16 hours, but of course not in one sitting! The head is painted first, and this takes him

With the manufacture and painting of the figure of D. Fadrique de Toledo, Ramon Labayen marked a milestone in his production of military miniatures. This figure represents the individual who was the "Admiral of the Ocean Sea" under the reign of Philip IV in the recovery of San Cristóbal Island, according to the picture painted in 1634 by Félix Castelo for the "Salón de los Reinos" of the Buen Retiro Palace in Madrid. Modeling of the figure began in 2005, but it was left and taken up again on different occasions, until it was finished between 2010 and 2011. Chronologically it is the oldest uniform represented by Ramon and it is undoubtedly my personal favorite (Picture 10). The

The Appeal of Ramon Labayen's Most Recent Figures: *(Cont.)*



Picture 10



Picture 11



Picture 12



Picture 13

painting of the different fabrics, golds, satins and cuirass with alkyd oils is nothing if not spectacular. The treatment of Flanders lace on the neck resembles the “veladuras” or glazing that Velázquez used in his pictures. The fact is that Ramon often uses the faces in paintings from the great painters in the history of art, such as Frans Hals and others, as a reference for the faces on his figures.

In 2011, the year in which we celebrated the 50th anniversary of his workshop, he completely remodeled an old figure of the Vallet Series, based on the work of A. Travers l'Europe, Croquis de la Cavalerie by that author, and created an Officer of the Cazadores of Victoria Eugenia from the reign of Alfonso XIII. It is an elegant figure in which the arms rest on the saber in a position of rest. Around this time Labayen frequently remodeled figures proceeding from the time when Fermín Galarreta was the sculptor of the workshop (Picture 11).

The year 2012 was one of intense creative activity. The figures of the Lancer of Navarre and of the Chistolari and Fusilier of the Cantabrian Volunteers of 1745 – 1762 were made, the last two based on the prints of Michel Petard's work (pictures 12 and 13). They are harmonious and colorful figures, represented in very natural attitudes, with uniforms in which the combat jackets are predominantly blue. Ramon is planning to model all the figures of this company from the work of Pétard, but for the moment they have not been given continuity.



Picture 14



Picture 15

The appearance of the work by Daniel Hohrath, Friedrich de Grosse und die Uniformierung der preussischen Armee von 1740 bis 1786, with its splendid documentation, among which are photos of original uniforms, reactivated the interest that Ramon never entirely lost in Prussian uniforms and as a result he created a figure of a 1786 cuirassier, a process that we documented in several photographs from its initial modeling until the final painting (Pictures 14, 15, 17 and 18). The cuirassier is made up of twelve pieces: the head, the feathers of the three-cornered hat, the ponytail, the body, the arms, the spurs, the sabretache, the cartridge-belt, the saber and the saber guard.

The Appeal of Ramon Labayen's Most Recent Figures: *(Cont.)*

It is clear that the material used by Ramon has changed from the first figures in which gouache was used with acrylic glaze to achieve greater fluidity. But he has also changed his way of painting. In the beginning he used a technique he invented himself, which he calls "filleting", in which the texture of the different components of the figure ensue from the confluence of numerous long brushstrokes that gradually emphasize each of them. The use of quick-drying alkyd oils led to a change in his painting technique. Using thousands of tiny brushstrokes he defines the texture of the skin on the face and hands, the cloth of the uniforms, and the metallic or wooden elements.

In his latest figures a naïf style predominates, with the application of paint spots, a broadening of the palette of colors and the use of tonalities. Just a few lines serve to define the facial expression, which, after all, is the soul of the figure. (Pictures, 19, 20 and 21)

The Prussian cuirassier is the last piece modeled by Labayen until the next figure that he promises to create: Der junge Fritz, which all his admirers are looking forward to seeing soon.

José María Sanz-Hermida
kichtner@usal.es



Picture 17



Picture 18



Picture 19



Picture 20



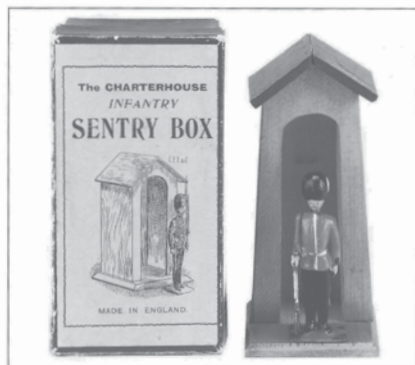
Picture 21

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/Johilco, 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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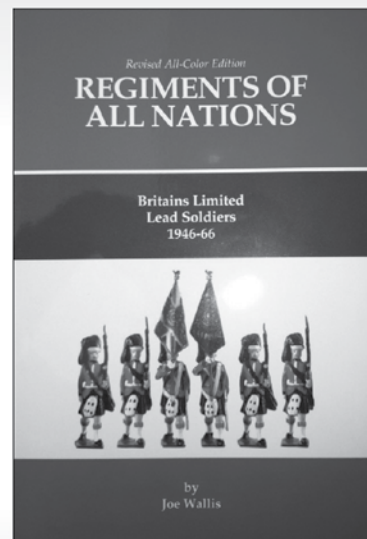
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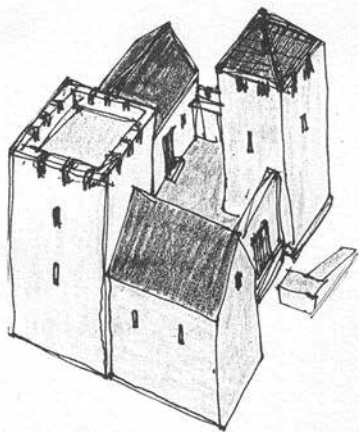


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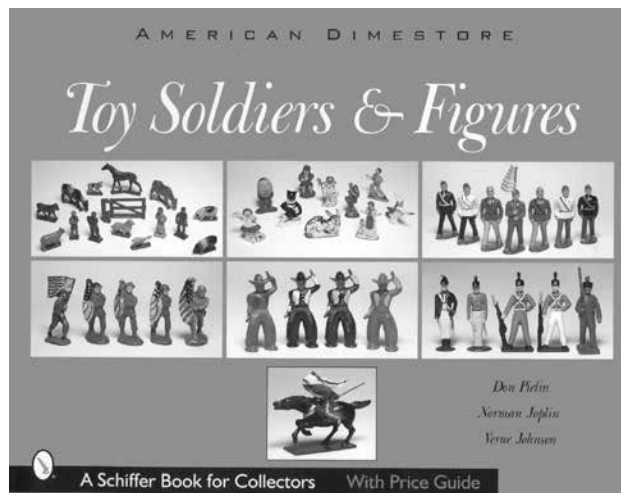
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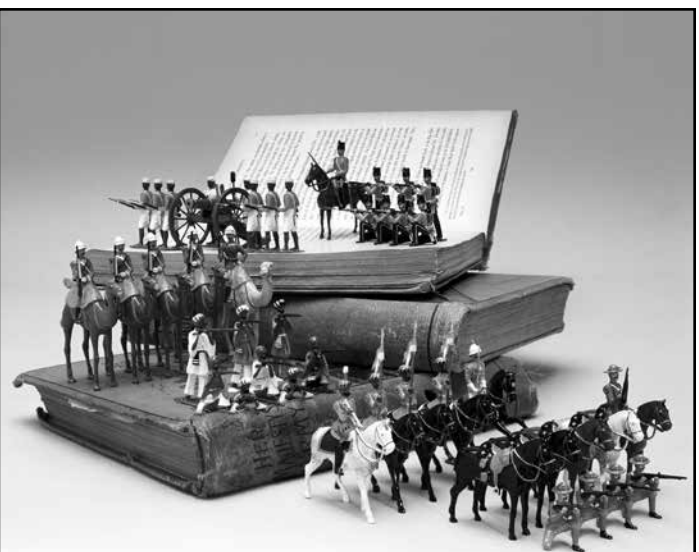
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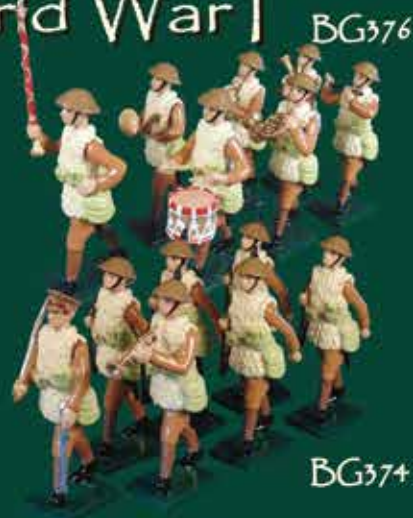
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THE GREAT WAR GAME

By Norman Joplin

H. G. Wells is known for his two books on War Games, *Little Wars* and *Floor Games*, the following possibly long forgotten publications however deserve a place in the history of War Games with *Toy Soldiers*.

THE GREAT WAR GAME, a publication issued by Britains in 1909 is shown and the contents described in James Opie's *Great Book of Britains*, Page 127. James sites the author as C.P.H.

The recent discovery of an original letter dated November 30th, 1908 sent by Charles P. Hobley from Newcastle Upon Tyne in reply to Britains, accepting an offer from the company to publish the book verifies that C.P.H was in fact Charles P. Hobley.

Mr. Hobley wrote-

"Re War-Game Book, I herewith accept the offer as contained in your letter of November 26th (1908). I agree that it is a fair one to both. Like you I shall not make any profit on the first twenty thousand as my expenses have been some thirty pounds. but if the work sells freely it will no doubt repay us both and I am quite prepared to stand or fall by the public verdict. You might however let me know whether you will pay the royalty monthly, quarterly or otherwise. I suggest quarterly as being a convenient term.

Will you kindly send me a copy of the book when you get it complete from the printer?"



Cover of the Great War Game

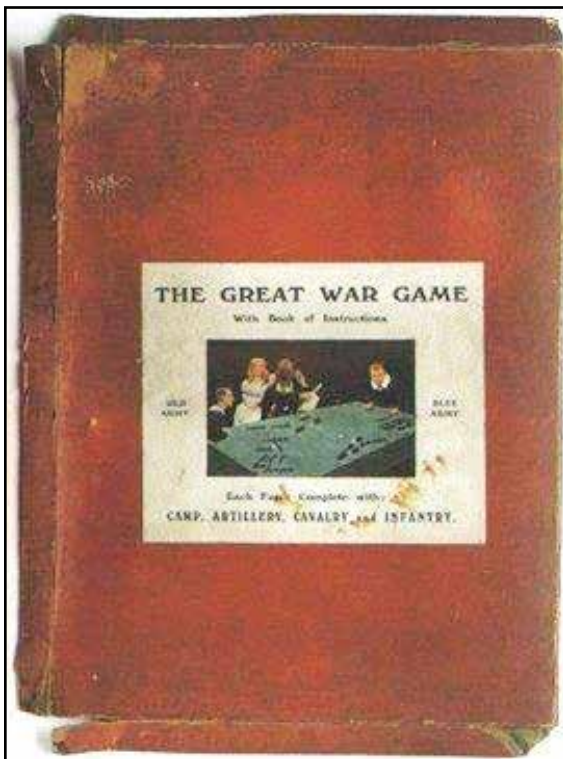
THE GREAT WAR GAME (Cont.)

The letter goes on to mention Charles P. Hobley's brother who had completed some "very fine drawings of Grenadiers of Napoleon's Imperial Guard" with the suggestion that Britains may like to consider producing them.

The letter continues- "*Trusting you will have a record season next year and that you will sell a million copies of the War- Game Book*".

Fred Britain is credited with the photographs of Britains figures in the book.

The final page of the book credits Edward G. Hobley of Penrith (Charles' brother?) as the cover designer of the Great War Game Book. A Google search revealed Edward to be an accomplished artist during the period.



P.S. I must just re-
mind you that the
plain red back of the
book should have been
to the left of the Pictorial
front instead of to the
right - but the Printer
will easily be able to
put this right. —

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Newcastle-on-Tyne
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hand re War-game Book.
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as contained in your letter
of November 26th.
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it is a fair one to both.
Like you, I shall not
make any profit on
the first twenty thousand
as my expenses have
been some thirty pounds.
but if the work sells
freely, it will no doubt
repay us both - and I

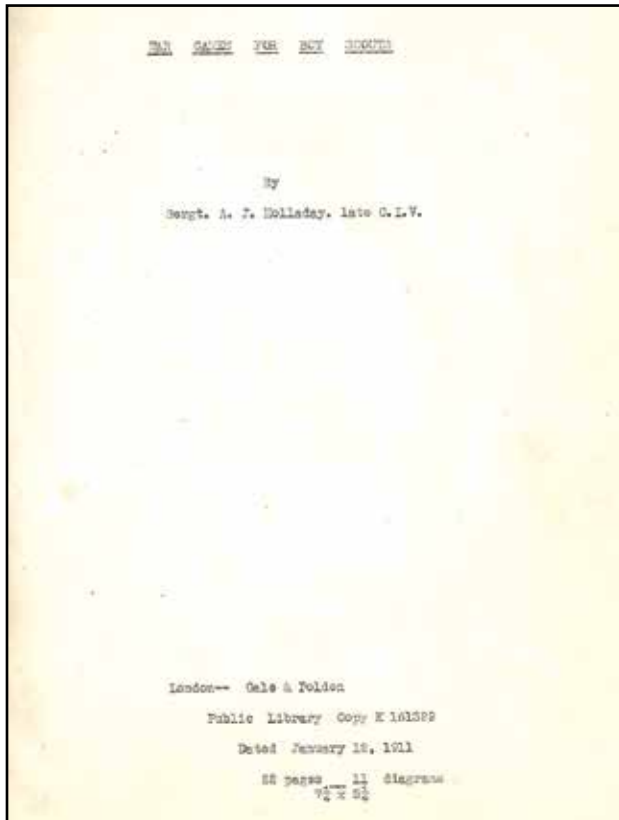
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stand or fall by the
public verdict. You
might however let me
know whether you will
pay the Royalty monthly,
quarterly, or otherwise.
I suggest a quarterly
settlement as being a
convenient term.
Will you kindly send me
a copy of the Book when
you get it complete
from the Printer?
I had an idea of
suggesting to you as a
novelty for next year,
that you should manu-
facture model soldiers
of the Grenadiers of
Napoleon's Imperial
Guard; they are very
picturesque and I think
would sell well.
My brother is doing
me some very fine draw-
ings of these troops &
if you wish it, I will
send them on for you to
see when they are com-
pleted.
Trusting you will have
a record season next
year, and that you will
sell a million copies
of the War-game Book.
I remain
Sincerely yours.
Charles Hobley.

Charles Hobley Letter

THE GREAT WAR GAME (Cont.)

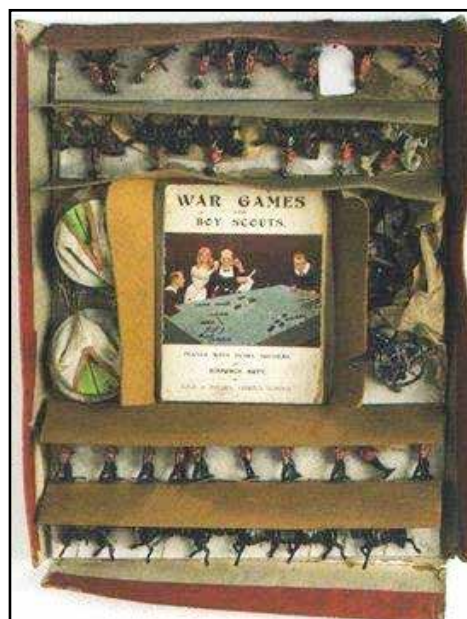
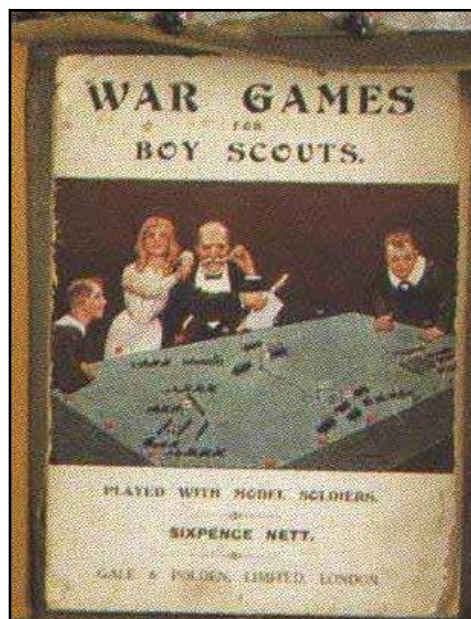
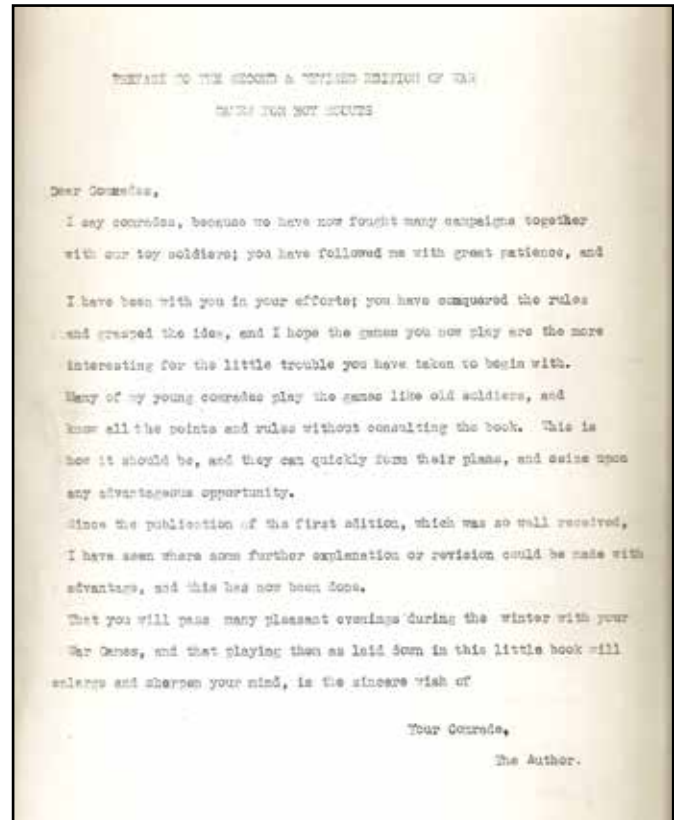
WARGAMES FOR BOY SCOUTS

War Games for Boy Scouts written by A. J. Holladay late of the City Imperial Volunteers and published by Gale and Polden was included in booklet form in a set of small size soldiers possibly made by Britains or one of their early competitors, The box lid mentions War Games for Boy Scouts played with Model Soldiers and shows a family at a table participating in the game.



A Harrods of Knightsbridge department store catalogue of 1911 shows this set but with a different boyscout cover to that included in the *The Great War Game*.

Mr. Holladay was a toy wholesaler and distributor using the trade name GIVJOY and amongst the items offered though his business was a boxed set of BMC/G.W Wood Scouts as advertised in *The Toy and Fancy Goods Trader* of June 1921.



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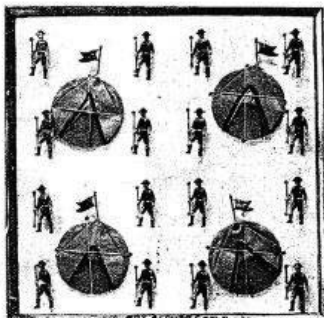
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TY 1185. 1st Life Guards, well mounted and accurately painted, 12 by 10 in., 10/6

TY 1186. 1st Life Guards, well mounted and accurately painted, 12 by 10 in., 10/6

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TY 1198. 1st Life Guards, well mounted and accurately painted, 12 by 10 in., 10/6

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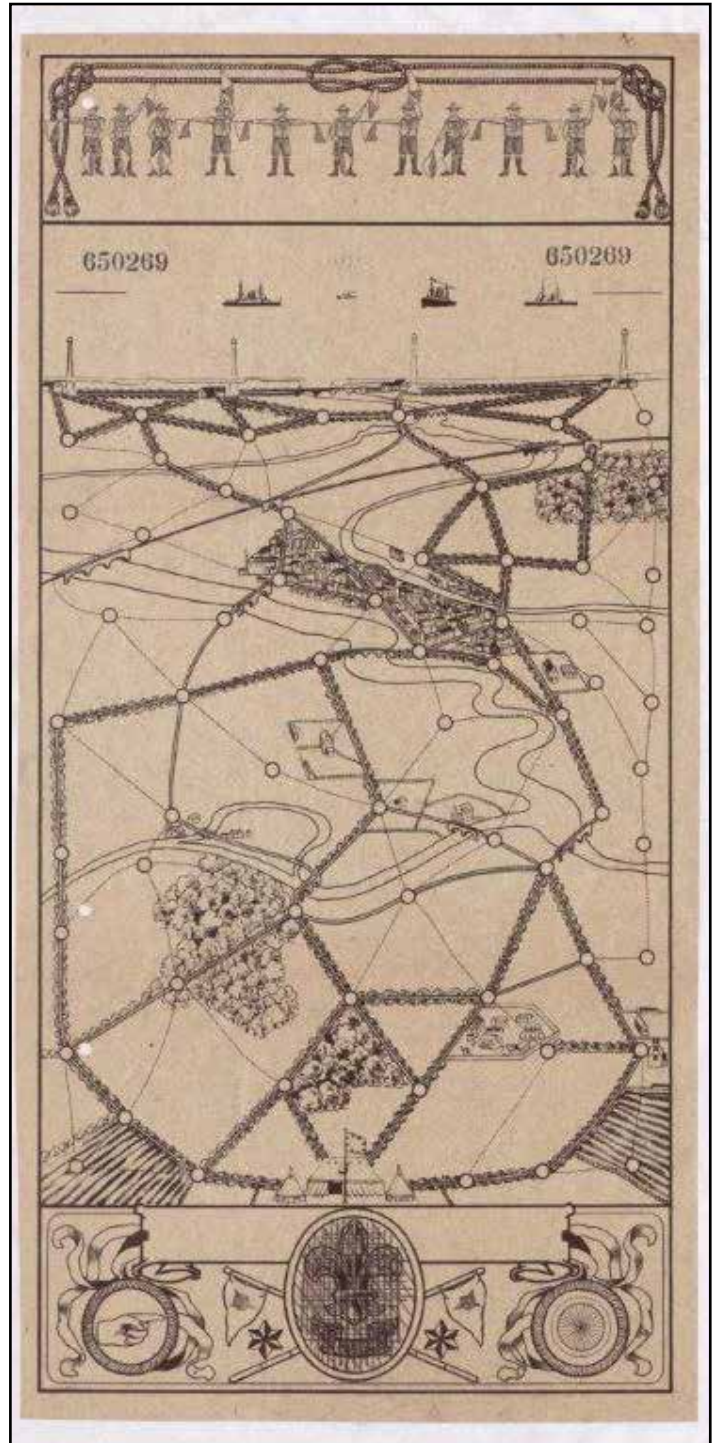
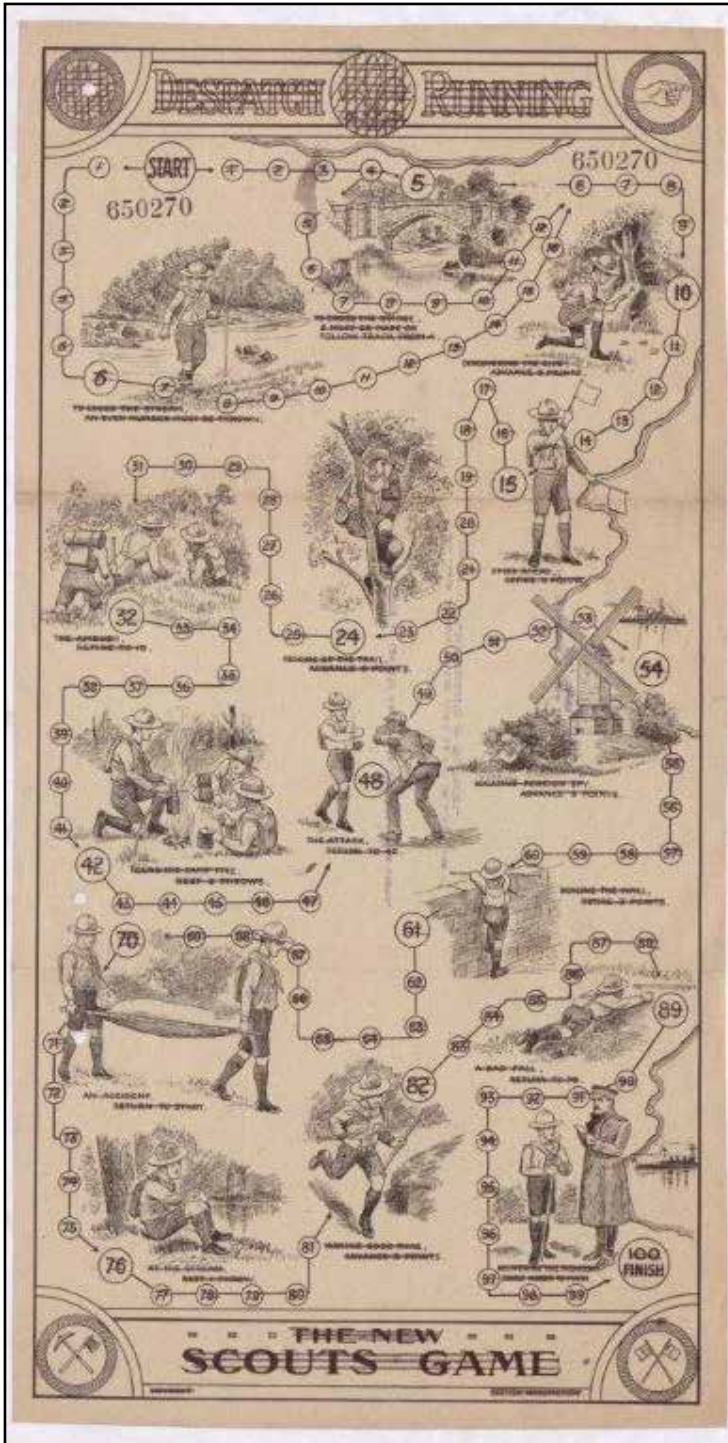
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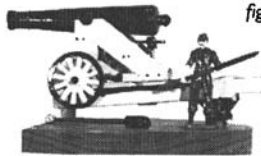
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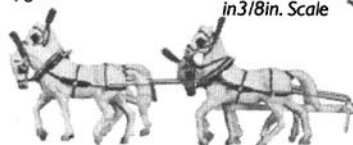
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2014

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March 9 - Sunday West Coaster Irvine Marriott, California. Contact Woody or Bubba 760-758-5481.
www.oldsoldiershome.com

March 23 - Sunday. LA Plus Grande Bourse Internationale, Paris, France Contact Tel 06 14 61 16 18
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March 28 - Friday. Vectis Auctions UK. Contact Tel 011-44-1642-769478 www.vectis.co.uk
Email admin@vectis.co.uk .

April 5 and 6- Saturday and Sunday. Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA. On Line only Toy Soldier Auction.
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or info@normanjoplin.com .

April 13 - Sunday. Indianapolis (Indy) Toy Soldier Show. 10am- 3pm. Indianapolis Marriott East
7202 East 21st Street. Contact Barry Carter Tel 765 345 5665. indytoysoldiershow@hotmail.com
www.playsetmagazine.com

May 9 and 10 - Friday and Saturday 73rd M.F.C.A. Show and Mart. Valley Forge Casino Resort. King of Prussia
PA Contact www.mfcashow.com

May 24th and 25th - Saturday and Sunday. Texas 2014 Toy Soldier Show, Menger Hotel Rate \$125.00 (Free
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July 19 - Saturday Toy Soldier Extravaganza Auction. Holiday Inn Livonia Michigan. Contact Joe Saine
Tel 419-662-8697. www.josephsaine.com

July 20 - Sunday Toy Soldier Extravaganza TOY SOLDIER SHOW. Holiday Inn Livonia Michigan.
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August 30th - Saturday Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London
Contact Adrian Little mercatortradingltd@gmail.com Telephone 01635 30535.

September 27 - Saturday Old Toy Soldier Auctions BARGAIN ROOM. 10 am 4th Floor Hyatt Regency,
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September 28 - Sunday OLD TOY SOLDIER SHOW CHICAGO Hyatt Regency Woodfield, 1800 East Golf Road,
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October 12 - Sunday LA Plus Grande Bourse Internationale Paris, France Contact Tel 06 14 61 16 18
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*Dates and times are correct at the time of printing; however, it is strongly advised that before traveling,
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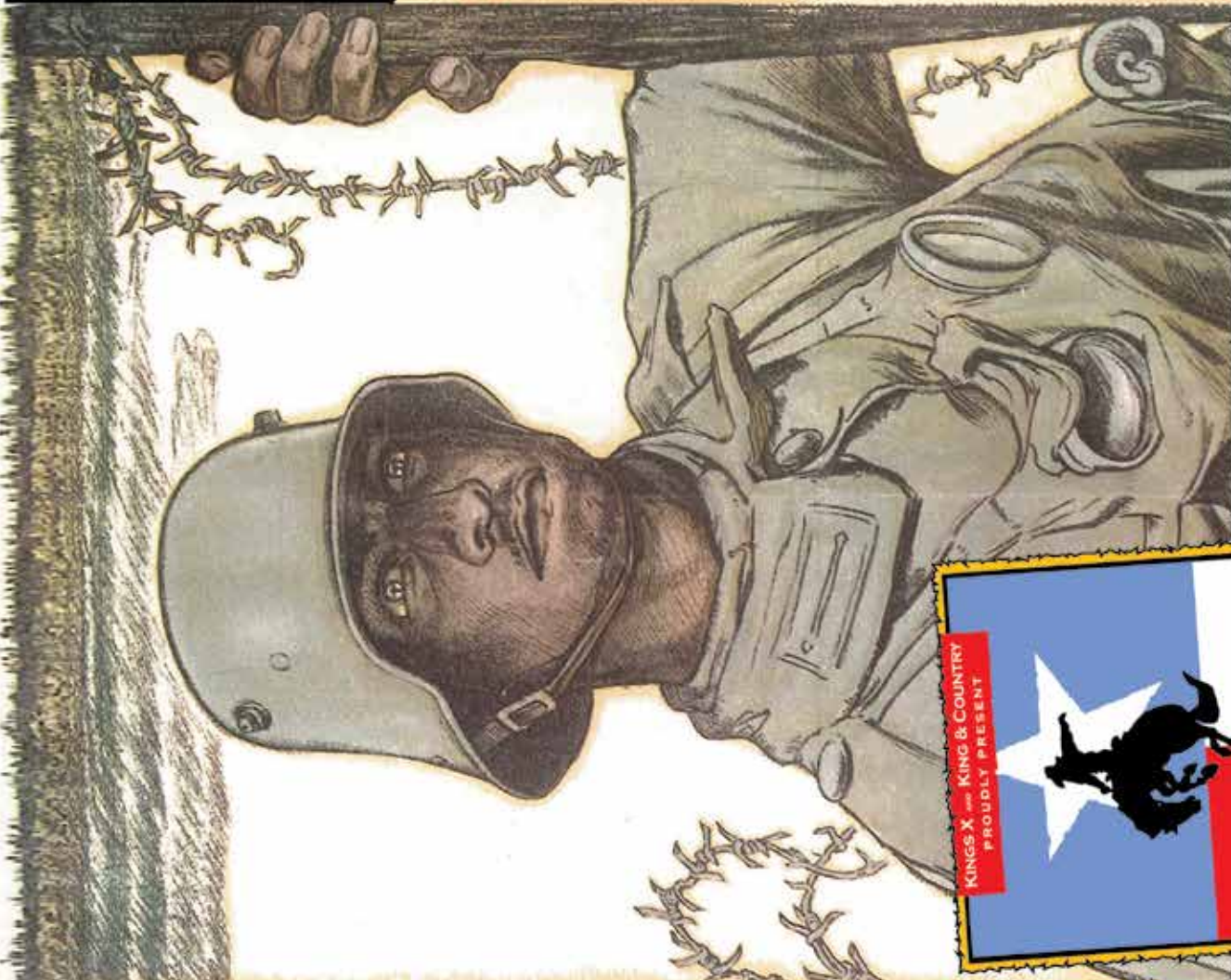
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