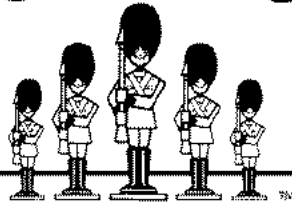


Winter  
2016

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 39 Number 4  
\$10.00

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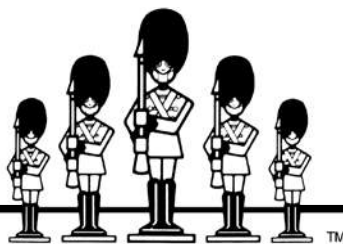
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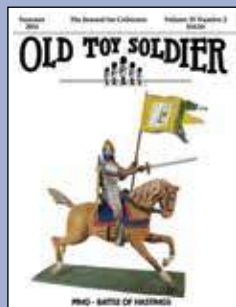
Rose Miniatures

Photograph courtesy of Norman Joplin

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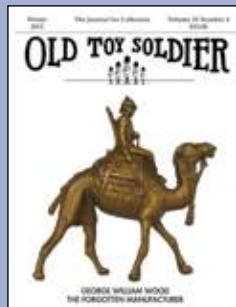
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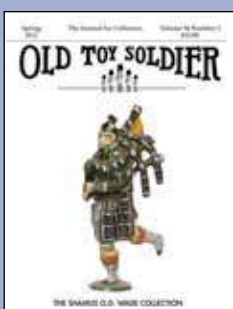


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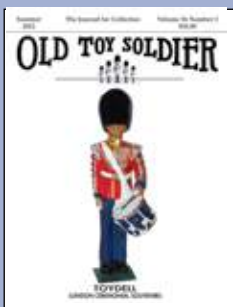


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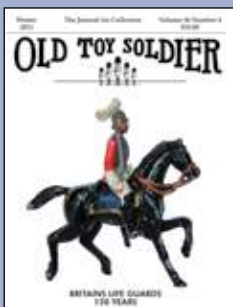
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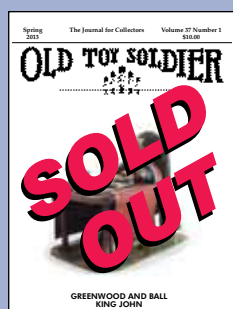


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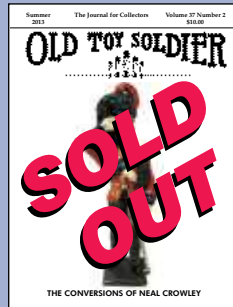


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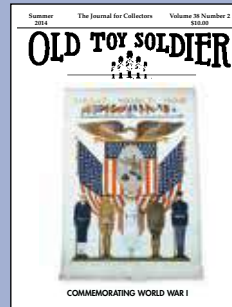


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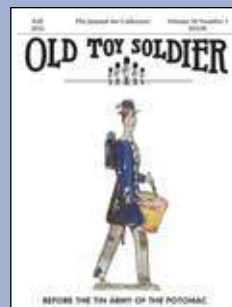
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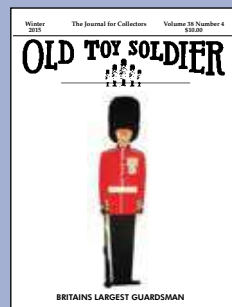
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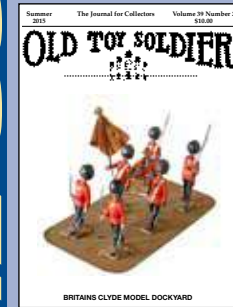


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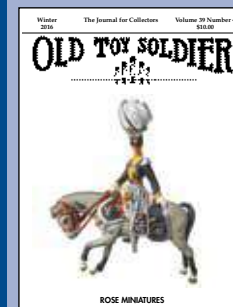
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## OBITUARY ~ ROBERT FREDERICK DENNY

March 21, 1931 ~ November 21, 2015



Longtime Vancouver, WA resident Robert Denny died Nov. 21st, 2015 at home with his wife Nancy by his side. Born on March 21st, 1931 to Edna Alberta Denny (nee Ricketts) and Melvin Albert Denny, Bob was the second of three sons. The family lived in Syracuse, then moved to the Village of Manlius, where he graduated from Manlius High in 1949. Bob was active in Boy Scouts; he particularly enjoyed climbing and hiking in the Adirondacks.

After high school, Bob entered New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University. Following two years at the university, due to dwindling finances and the onset of the Korean War, Bob decided to enlist with the U.S. Marine Corps, where he served with the First Marine Air Wing as a navigator from 1951 to 1954.

He returned to college after the war and graduated in 1957 with dual degrees in Forestry and Engineering. The commencement speaker was the junior senator from Massachusetts, John F. Kennedy.

Bob's careers were varied and many. After graduating from college, he worked briefly in engineering. Finding it boring, and missing his flying days in the Marine Corps, he accepted a job navigating for TWA. He went on to work for Fairchild Air and Space (Long Island, NY), which included R&D work developing the camera systems for the SR-71 Blackbird spy plane, then worked for CBS Labs R&D. Bob also worked for the Forest Service in between engineering positions. Following his move to the Pacific Northwest, he finished up his career working for 20 years as a hydraulic engineer for the Bonneville Power Administration.

Once Bob retired, he applied his considerable energy to expanding his hobby of buying and selling antiques and collectibles, including model trains, toy soldiers, and duck decoys. He and Nancy made many road trips to collectibles shows up and down the West coast. Bob was also a well-known expert in restoration of large model ships and was sought after by collectors all over the United States.

Bob enjoyed watching the kids marry and the grandkids arrive. He also loved to tell and share stories from his life. One favorite story was his boyhood disappointment when, at about age 10, he sold vegetable and flower seeds door to door, working diligently for the prize of a Red Ryder BB Gun. When he finally sold all the seeds, he sent payment to the seed company and awaited his wonderful prize. The letter from American Seed Company arrived. Excited, he opened it, only to find that because of the war effort no BB guns were being manufactured, so his substitute prize was a war bond. He was devastated and cried over it. Years later, his wife Nancy gave him a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 33 years, Nancy Charlesworth Denny; brother, Melvin (Pat); children, David Denny, Rob Denny, Jason Surface (Amy), Shane Denny (Mary), Lisa Surface Wilcox (Jack); grandchildren, Ashley Fox, Jagger Denny, Madeleine Surface, James Robert Surface, Jade Denny, Carson Robert Denny, Caleb Wilcox, Seth Wilcox, Luke Wilcox; nieces, Colleen Berry and Sandy Williams; and nephews, Mike Denny, Kim Denny, Ed Charlesworth, and Al Charlesworth.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Richard Denny; and niece, Kelly Denny Schwab.

With great appreciation, *Old Toy Soldier Magazine* editor Norman Joplin would like to acknowledge the photography of Philip Dean in the previous 2015 fall issue. Philip's photos appeared in the OTSN's CHICAGO TOY SOLDIER SHOW Report on pages 18-21. Thanks again Philip, we are always grateful for your contribution and toy soldier support!





## OBITUARY ~ BARRY CARTER



**October 21, 1943 ~ December 11, 2015**

**Barry Carter, longtime owner of antique mall, dies**

Dear Friends and Family,

After Thanksgiving Barry showed signs of vertigo, unsteady on his feet and nausea. In three days symptoms intensified. A tumor was found deep in the Cerebellum, growing rapidly, putting pressure on the spinal fluid canal. Surgery was successful and responses were strong. But the following day he had a stroke at the base of the brain stem that progressed quickly down into the spinal cord. Responses regressed and he fell into a coma. Barry passed away Friday, December 11, at 10:25 p.m. His family was with him to say goodbye. There will be a memorial after Christmas season. He wished to be cremated, only have immediate family present and his Legion Honor guard.

I am so blessed to have such supportive family and friends and two devoted children who are having their own struggles at this time. Barry and I were at peace with all the decisions we made at life's end. Not sure that makes it easier when the final moment comes. In our 47 years of sharing life together I can surely say we had no regrets and he will be continue to be with me everyday.

Love to you all and remember the true meaning of Christmas, Barbara

Barry L. Carter, 72, of Knightstown, passed away Friday, December 11, 2015 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. Barry and his wife, owned and operated the Knightstown Antique Mall for 23 years, retiring in 2010.

He was born October 21, 1943, in Indianapolis, the son of Earl Carter and Josephine (Dennis) Carter-Spitler. He married Barbara J. Davis on February 10, 1968, and she survives.

Barry is also survived by his daughter, Leslie Higer and husband, Matthew, of Eglin Air Force Base, Florida; son, Bradley Carter and wife, Jennifer, of Knightstown; sister, Susan Thompson and husband, Tom, of Carmel; brother, Dennis Carter and wife, Barbara, of Cicero; and two grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Barry graduated from Knightstown High School in 1961, he received his bachelor's degree in management and finance from Indiana University-Richmond.

He was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during Vietnam.

He was a member and past commander of American Legion Post No. 152, where he also served on the Honor Guard. They will be performing military honors. Barry loved MG's and he was a member of several MG



organizations. He was the promoter for Indy Toy Soldier show for 27 years.

He was very civic minded and served on many community and municipal boards.

Barry was a world traveler as well as an avid historian.

Private family services will be observed.

Services entrusted to Freeman Family Funeral Homes and Crematory, 819 S. Harrison St. in Shelbyville.

Memorial contributions may be made to Henry County Community Foundation, 700 S. Memorial Drive, New Castle, IN 47362.

Online condolences may be shared with the family at [www.freemanfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.freemanfamilyfuneralhomes.com)





## OBITUARY ~ COLONEL RALPH PUDNEY

MAY 13, 1927 ~ JANUARY 5, 2016



### In Memoriam



*A Celebration of the life of*

### Colonel Donald Ralph Pudney

*Who passed away  
on Tuesday 5th January 2016  
Aged 88 years*

*Funeral Service at the Exeter & Devon Crematorium,  
in St Paul's Chapel, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 6EU  
on Wednesday 20th January 2016 at 2:30pm*

### Colonel Donald Ralph Pudney

*13th May 1927 - 5th January 2016*

Lord of Hinderclay, Suffolk

Freeman of The City of London

Member, Most Worshipful  
Company of Scriveners

Past Master, Lodge of Loyalty  
No. 358 G.L.E. Bermuda

Permanent Secretary & Cabinet Secretary  
Government of Bermuda to 1987

Ambassador for Peace, Korea  
(by Government Proclamation, 2014)

R.I.P

Donald attended many of the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter shows in the early 1980's along with several other prominent British collectors.

Together with his old pal Arnold Rolak they formed the Texas /Bermuda Toy Soldier Society (They were the only two members and in order to join you had to have 3 nominations from current members).

Donald will be well remembered for the mixture of alcohol that he and Arnold concocted and served at the shows hospitality event- Dark and Stormy (illustration below) Donald was also, together with Arnold the instigator of the Tommy Award, presented each year to a collector, dealer or author for their contributions to the toy soldier hobby.

From top, clockwise: Ron Cadieux at his table; Mignot-Lucotte Review's Don Grant; George Grant of Memorable Things; Ed Hakala; Don Pudney; and finally, Arnie Rolak displaying his favorite boxed set.



# UNDISCOVERED GEMS ROSE MINIATURES BY RUSSELL GAMMAGE

*By Dick Pielin*

---



PHOTO A – Early years [1953-1959]

Collectors of commercially painted military miniatures are familiar with such makers as Stadden, Lasset, Greenwood & Ball and Ping, among others. One manufacturer who has been largely unnoticed and undiscovered is Russell Gammage of Rose Miniatures.

Gammage got his start in the miniature field with his work on the Graham Farish figures issued for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. After his success with those figures, he decided to bring out his own line of figures just after this and Rose Miniatures came into being.

Rose Miniatures, under Gammage, had a wonderful run of over 30 years, 1953 to 1983. His range of figures covered almost every era of history from cavemen to British Commandos in the Falklands. No other figure maker had such a wide range of subjects and periods. His series of ancients was second to none; the middle ages were well represented along with many

periods of British history, including extensive listings of Indian Army figures. All told, Rose Miniatures produced over 750 different poses.

Like many of the manufacturers of the period, Gammage offered Rose Miniatures as unpainted, unassembled castings; to be put together and painted by the collector. However, like some of the other makers [Stadden and Lasset come to mind]; he also offered his figures studio-painted. These are the “Undiscovered Gems” mentioned in the title. Studio-painted Rose Miniatures had very limited production and limited distribution so that they are rarely seen in any quantity in shops or at auctions. The quality of the painting stands up to and, at times, exceeds anything else offered during the same period.

**Photo A** shows some of the earliest painted figures, circa 1954-59. The oval base figures were the first; British and Scottish

Napoleonic figures, along with a pointing Napoleon and a 1650s Musketeer, all one piece castings. The beautiful Pakistani Drummer had separate arms & drum. He adopted a small rectangular base shortly thereafter and production began in earnest. He tried his hand with moveable arms, like the Britains, but with little success. The French Zouaves showed some fine painting but were too toy-like and were dropped after a short period in production. His production of British County Regiments and Imperial Germans from the 1880-1914 period showed the quality of his painting; excellent tartans, uniform colors and consistent size. The English Civil War was represented with a pikeman, musketeer and officer. During this early period he also produced a Roman, a Greek Hoplite and a good line of French Napoleonic figures, including musicians. He continued to refine his craft and upgraded and re-designed any number of figures that he felt were not accurate or of a lesser quality.



## UNDISCOVERED GEMS ROSE MINIATURES BY RUSSELL GAMMAGE *(Cont.)*

---



PHOTO B – Ancient World

Several figures went through three generations until he was satisfied that they were perfect.

Some of Gammage's finest pieces were from the ancient world, as shown in **Photo B**. Beginning with the dawn of time; a small grouping of cavemen was produced, including a unique trio of females converted

from his basic female body. These three were used to illustrate a page in his 1965 catalog and are one of a kind. He also sculpted and painted a large variety of Egyptians, Assyrians, Romans & Greeks, each painted to a high degree of detail. Included in this period were the Cretan Bull Dancers, an Egyptian Chariot along with two chariots

for Boudicca and her Iceni allies. Rome's enemies were represented by Frankish, Germanic, Celtic and Caledonian tribesmen, each with its own tribal costume. The Egyptians & Minoans came right out of a National Geographic magazine special on the Ancient World. The designs on the Greek shields were beautifully painted in great



PHOTO C – Medieval Times



## UNDISCOVERED GEMS

### ROSE MINIATURES BY RUSSELL GAMMAGE *(Cont.)*

detail and the leopard skins on the Roman standard bearers looked almost real. Gammage didn't ignore the Assyrians, Babylonians or Persians either, producing a number of figures from each era.

He even added several Amazons to the mix.

Rose Miniatures covered the Middle Ages in **Photo C** with a good variety of Norman & Saxon knights, English and French Bowmen, and men-at-arms, and some Vikings. Some of the poses were quite unique; stringing a long bow, arming a crossbow and walking with a portable cannon on your shoulder. Japanese Samurai in several poses, Aztecs and Conquistadors, and a variety of nicely painted Landsknechts rounded out the era.

Shown in **Photo D** are the armies of the Duke of Marlborough [1701-1712] and George II, [1751-

1760] created in both dress and undress uniforms, in tricorne and mitre caps, Guardsmen and Line Companies. The intricate painting on the mitre caps is especially well done. George's Scottish troops in Black Watch tartans and nicely diced stockings were also represented. The Duke himself was mounted as was a 2nd Royal North British Dragoon trooper from the 1751-58 period. The era of Frederick the Great [1740-1786] included a Garde du Corps Fusilier, Standard Bearer, a Musketeer and several Hussars, both Prussian and Bavarian.

The largest area of concentration for Rose Miniatures was the Napoleonic Wars. The French had probably the most types and poses. Their line of hussars was extensive and included over 30 different uniforms and poses. Almost all types of arms were represented; dragons, lancers, cuirassiers,

gendarmes, artillery, chasseurs and grenadiers to name a few. The British Napoleonic section was also well represented; dragoons, life guards, horse guards, hussars, artillery, and a large section of regular infantrymen in a variety of poses, including standards. In addition to the French and British, Gammage also produced some of their allies – Russians, Bavarians and Prussians. **Photo E** gives some idea of the range of uniforms and subjects in the painted Rose Studio figures.

The British Empire was well represented in **Photo F**, covering the Zulu War, Afghan Wars, Colonial Troops from around the world and, perhaps, the largest group, the Indian Army. The Zulu War figures seem to be taken directly from the movie "Zulu" with all the major characters of the 24th Foot identified. The Zulu warriors are beautifully painted with



PHOTO D – 17th Century



# UNDISCOVERED GEMS

## ROSE MINIATURES BY RUSSELL GAMMAGE *(Cont.)*

---



PHOTO E – Napoleonic Era



PHOTO F – British Empire



PHOTO G – The World Wars



## UNDISCOVERED GEMS

### ROSE MINIATURES BY RUSSELL GAMMAGE *(Cont.)*

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PHOTO H – Personalities & The Ladies

authentic shields and nice action poses. The Afghan War segment features a six man heliograph platoon, including heliograph and operator. The uniforms of the Indian Army added much color and variety. This seemed to be a favorite subject for Russell Gammage as he sculpted over 60 different uniforms and poses. Most were from the 1870-1890 period, showing the rich color and variety of turbans, uniforms and ranks. He featured the pipes and drums of the Gurkha and the Pakistanis with several different issues. A very interesting set was an Indian Mountain Artillery squad with a Rose-made screw gun. A set of Skinner's Horse 1830, dismounted, was quite unusual as early Indian Army units are rarely seen. There was enough variety in the Indian Army section to comprise a whole collection in itself.

The World Wars and the modern era, up through early 1980s, are displayed in **Photo G**. His World War I was heavy into the British side which was to be expected; officers, privates in full gear, highlanders in their kilts and a very unique artillery team in

action. French military was heavy on officers with two marching infantrymen with a variety of arms, heads and packs. The Germans of World War I were short-changed with only two poses; officer and private, standing or marching. Enter World War II and the German Army exploded into 15 different poses. Finally the Americans arrived with seven poses, including a very nice Bazooka Team and an air-borne paratrooper. The Japanese had only three poses which were released much earlier and disappeared from the catalog in short order. He covered the Royal Navy with a series spanning the period 1767 to 1902. Modern era Rose figures included the Coldstream Guards, circa 1975 and a nice sampling of the British Troops in the Falklands, ca 1982.

Russell Gammage was one of the first manufacturers to offer individual historical personalities and female figures. From Napoleon & Josephine to Generals Rommel & Montgomery and all the famous ones in between; King George III and his queen, Duke and Lady Wellington, Lord Nelson and others. The Ladies were offered in period costume

beginning with a Stuart Lady of 1710 and ending with a Victorian Lady ca 1885. All were beautifully detailed in brilliant color as seen in **Photo H**. In the spring of 1983, Gammage embarked on a new series illustrating a whole new line of folk costumes with the issue of four figures representing workers from Belgium; an everyday wheelwright, cooper, carpenter and a Botteresse from the Waterloo era. Unfortunately, he never finished this series, stopping production shortly thereafter.

There were some periods that stood alone; American Civil War, American Revolutionary War and an odd period here or there that were also covered by Rose Miniatures. Billy Yank and Johnnie Reb were represented with Zouaves, horse artillery officers and infantry in a small edition on the subject. The American Revolution was covered more extensively. Many poses were the same but painted as Americans or British. American Militia, including two females, was represented, along with two British sergeants with halberds. An ensign with a beautiful Regiments color was added also. The odd periods



## UNDISCOVERED GEMS

### ROSE MINIATURES BY RUSSELL GAMMAGE *(Cont.)*

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PHOTO I – American Revolutionary & Civil Wars

covered some of the most colorful uniforms Rose ever painted. The Scots Guards Drummer 1792 is a prime example, simply beautiful. These are shown in **Photo I**.

Not to be forgotten, the Rose Miniature mounted figures [**Photo J**] were some of the most beautiful

ever made. Gammage horses were second to none when it came to anatomy and realism. The painting was superb with all the saddles, bridles, etc added and as authentic as possible. Napoleon & Murat, Polish Lancer & Trumpeter, Imperial German Standard Bearer and a French Cuirassier

mounting his horse are just some of mounted figures available from Rose Miniatures.

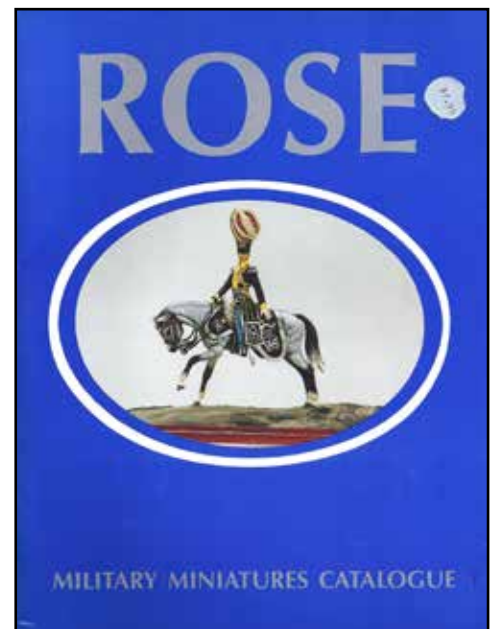
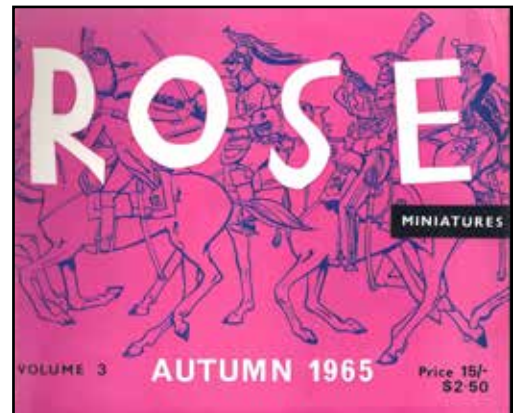
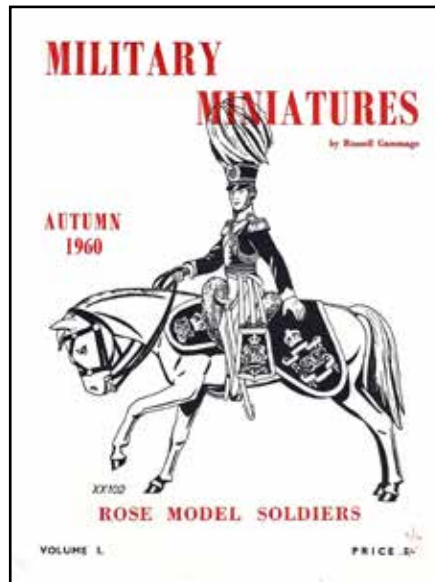
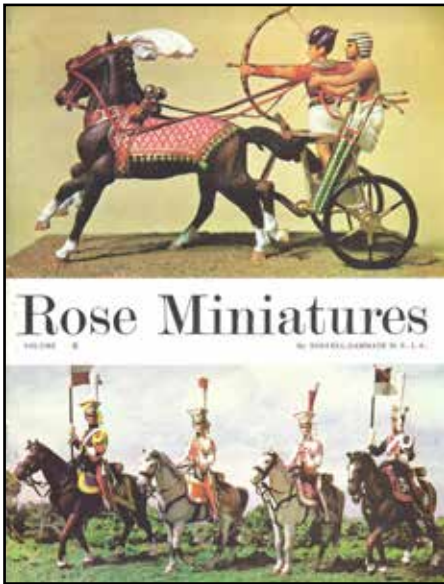
Gammage and his wife, Mary, probably did the painting themselves at the start but soon added local painters to their staff. As the business grew,



PHOTO J – Mounted Models

# UNDISCOVERED GEMS

## ROSE MINIATURES BY RUSSELL GAMMAGE *(Cont.)*



they added more painters as well as casters and production people. Evidently Mary handled the business end and Russell the figure sculpting and production end. In the beginning just listings of figures were printed and distributed to his customers, then line drawings of the figures in catalog form and, finally, in 1965, Gammage issued a multi-page, loose-leaf catalog with black & white photos of almost all of his production up to that time, then added twice-yearly supplemental pages for new products. In 1971, he issued a catalog with several full color pages and top quality black and white photos, adding supplements to this catalog also.

Russell Gammage's Rose Miniatures stopped manufacture sometime in the early 1980s when he retired, supposedly due to poor health. He was unable to sell the business until James Robinson of Fusilier Miniatures bought most of the molds in the late 1980s and began to re-issue selected castings as glossy toy soldiers under his own brand name, Fusilier. Later he also produced the castings to be assembled

and painted by the collector. According to information available, John Eden bought the molds in about 2001 and is still producing castings for sale under the name of "John Eden Studios" and "Rose Miniatures".

Russell Gammage pioneered many innovations in the hobby of military miniatures and toy soldier collecting. He was the first to provide basic nude male and female bodies with separate heads and arms. He had an extensive parts list which could be bought separately for conversions; heads, arms, headgear, weapons, etc. Gammage also put out his own paint, a perfectly flat finish used by many on their military miniatures. His catalog supplements, issued twice a year, kept his many customers aware of what was new on the market. He really cared about his customers and handled any problems personally. Russell Gammage was a genuine force in the world of military miniatures for 30 years.

Mary Gammage passed away in 1990 and Russell Gammage in 2001.

### *Author's Note:*

1. Studio-painted Rose Miniatures have three distinctive features; all bases are landscaped, the border of the base is painted gloss black and the figure is soldered to the base. At least two of the three features are present on all studio-painted figures.

2. All of the figures shown in this article are from the personal collection of Russell Gammage, now in the possession of the author. Any comments or corrections will be welcome; [rpelin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rpelin@sbcglobal.net)



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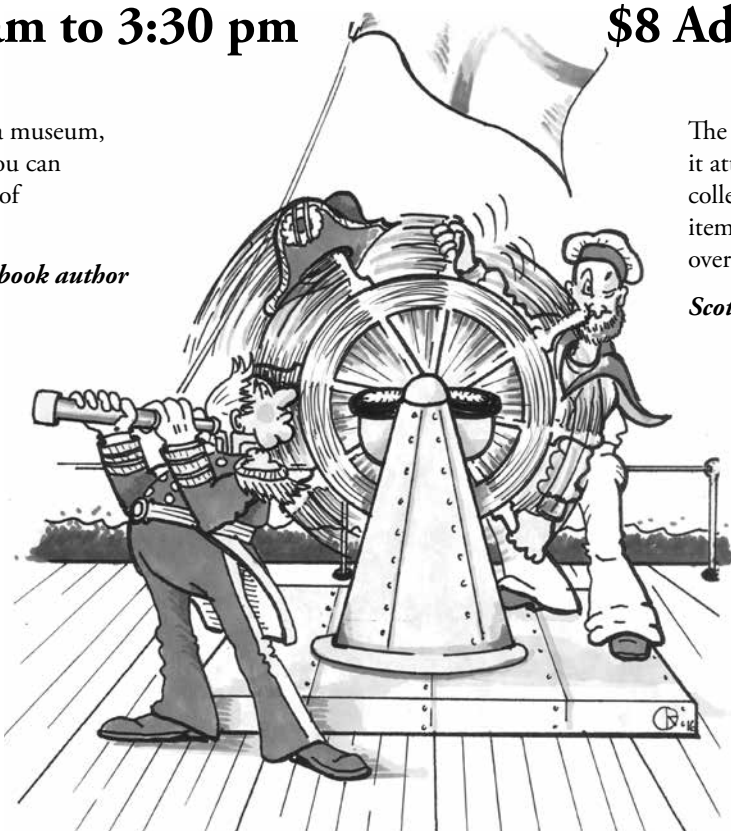
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# A NEW DIMESTORE VARIANT TO START THE NEW YEAR

*By Stan Alekna*

Most serious Dimestore collectors are aware of the super rare Barclay naval officers in blue; B55 short stride, B55a short stride, tin top to cap and B56a long stride (not listed in O'Brien), and the B83a nurse in blue, all of which are pictured below.



B55



B55a



B56a



B83a

No one, not even the late Richard O'Brien, ever suggested a plausible explanation as to why so few of these figures were painted blue. Well folks, a longtime friend and Dimestore collector, Rod Chapman of Alexandria, Ohio, sent me a B53 sailor flag bearer in blue and asked me to determine whether or not the paint was original.

Some of you may recall an OTS article that I wrote several years ago entitled **"HOW TO (almost always) DETECT A REPAIRED DIMESTORE"**. While the analysis techniques I suggested are still valid, I have since found that in

most cases, the most telling evidence as to whether a figure was repainted or not is the paint on the bottom of the base. All Dimestores were first completely painted with the paint color of the uniform. They had to dry before the flesh, weapons, base, mouth, eyes, etc. could be painted in subsequent steps. Figures were placed on drying shelves and these shelves contained a mixture of paint colors, some of them still wet, from previously painted figures, which resulted in the multi-colored paint found on the bottom of the base of many Dimestores. Figures with a green base will have the uniform color and green paint. Those with the base not painted green will likely only have the uniform color paint on the base. Check some of your figures to verify this. Even if the base only has the uniform color paint, the hue must match the uniform color of the figure. It may be glossier than the figure's uniform paint if the figure had been exposed to the sunlight but the color should match if it is original paint. Most re-painters, even the "artists", cannot perfectly match the original Dimestore makers paint colors.



B53a



## A NEW DIMESTORE VARIANT TO START THE NEW YEAR *(Cont.)*

While Rod's figure is missing a fair amount of paint, the style in which the stripes on the flag were painted, the eyes, the blue color of the uniform and the green color of the base all appear to be original Barclay to me. The blue paint on the bottom of the base, matches the uniform color and the base also contains some white paint that was used for the flag, hat, and yoke of the uniform.

Under high magnification, it is apparent that the white paint overlaid the blue paint which is the correct sequence. It is also evident that someone touched-up some paint chips on the back of the head and legs of the figure but the grayish color of the paint was not

even close to the original blue. This was done more than fifteen years ago because that's how long Rod has owned this figure.

In my opinion, Rod's figure is an original, B53 sailor flag bearer in blue (new number B53a) and it is the only one I have ever seen or heard of. If anyone out there has another one, please let me hear from you.

Stan Alekna; 732 aspen Lane; Lebanon, PA 17042.  
(717) 228-2361.

Email: salekna1936@yahoo.com



B53a eyes



B53a base



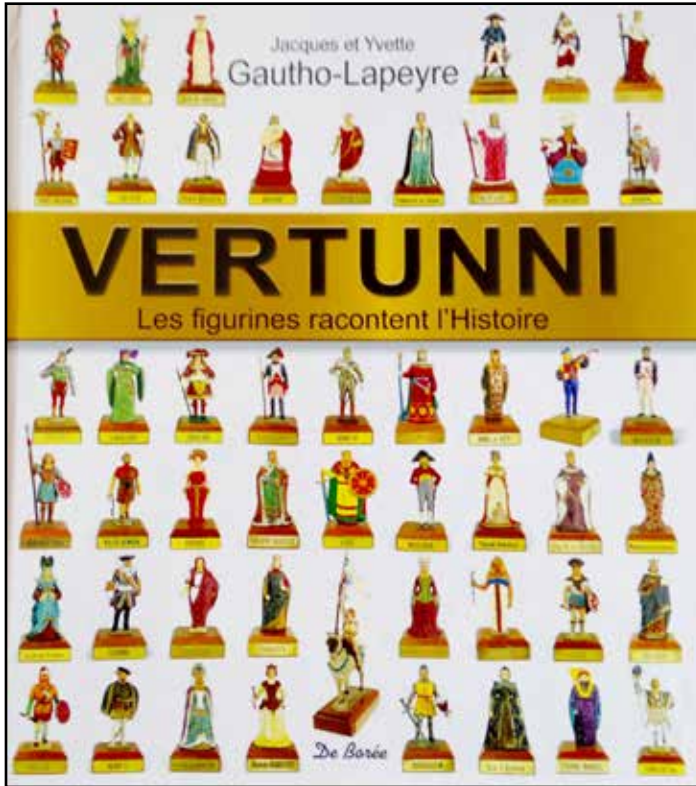
B53a

# BOOK REVIEW

## VERTUNNI

*By Jacques and Yvette Gautho-Lepeyre*

*Reviewed By Russ Bednarek*



A small group of exceptionally skilled sculptors and painters dedicated their efforts to produce and provide collectors with figures that exceeded the quality of mass-produced figures. This group of talented artisans comprised a "Who's Who" of toy soldier makers including but not limited to; Frederick Ping, Charles C. Stadden, Madame Metayer, Richard Courtenay, and Russell Gammage. Italian born Gustave Vertunni must certainly be included in this exclusive group. Vertunni is best known for his "Historical Representative of Uniforms and Costumes" line of figures.

Vertunni was an exceptional sculptor and was employed in 1912 by the Parisian toy firm of Francois Bertrand. Monsieur Bertrand had passed away in 1910 and the company was run by Bertrand's widow Zoe. After Bertrand's death, Vertunni would continue to produce the existing models of Bertrand in addition to creating his own solid-cast molds. In 1920 the firm relocated to Brussels and rebranded itself as "La Metallique", producing solid and hollow-cast pieces. Vertunni created the brand of "Bertrand-Vertunni",

all original pieces both in marching and action poses. The trademark was a "B/V" emblazoned in a heraldic style upon a shield. The majority of the range focused on the combatants of World War One. Both foot and cavalry figures were produced in solid-cast form and accurately painted. They were very "Mignot-like" both in pose and painting style. By the mid-1920's sales began to decline and by 1928 the molds were sold and "La Metallique" was out of business. 1928 was not all disappointing for Gustave Vertunni, for on June 23, 1928 he married Zoe.

In 1935 we find Vertunni working in Paris where he would remain until his death in 1953. This was truly the high-water mark of Vertunni's career as he created 550 molds and 1600 different figures. It was at this point where he created his "Historical Representative of Uniforms and Costume" range of figures. Initially the focus was on figures representing the royalty of the 13th to 15th centuries, expanding to the reign of Louis XIV, Louis XV and Louis XVI. Corresponding dignitaries and other related courtesans were also included. Female pieces were expertly done; their voluminous dress required that the pieces be hollow-cast and supplemented with plaster during the casting process to insure a minimum of damage. The combination of the high standard of painting and the variety of paints Vertunni employed resulted in exquisite pieces. The catalogue of 1941 announced the availability of figures including infantry, cavalry and corresponding bands representing the 1st Empire. The popularity of Vertunni's figures continued to grow and were sold in the prestigious Paris stores of Printemps, Lafayette and Louvre Galerie.





# BOOK REVIEW (Cont.)



After Vertunni's death in 1953, Suzanne Boenders a painter and close companion of Vertunni's who had worked for him since 1939, took over production. In an effort to increase the collection of figures, Boenders searched for another sculptor. She was able to enlist the efforts of Robert Dumesnil, a highly skilled maker of his own figures. Dumesnil created several pieces that were put into production, most notably Mirabeau Charles X and Napoleon III. By 1958 production declined to less than 100 pieces. The telltale sign of Vertunni production of this period was the chalky matte paint. Production was moved to Belgium in 1965 and by 1970 production was very low. Figures of this period are very easily identifiable by the excessively bright paints used and a less precise quality of painting workmanship. Sadly in 1986 production ceased.

In 1988 the molds were acquired by Jacques Gautho-Lepeyre and his wife Yvette and production began again. In 2012 the molds were in the possession of Jean-Claude Fournet and Jean-Louis Penel, both avid collectors of Vertunni.

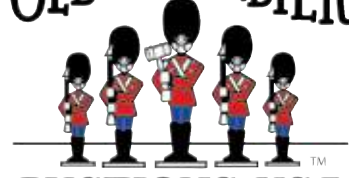
Jacques and Yvette Gautho-Lapeyre have decided to document the history of Vertunni's work by writing; Vertunni, Les figurines racontent l'Histoire. The result is mainly a pictorial work of Vertunni's post 1935 efforts, a much needed study that accurately identified the seemingly endless amount of women and civilian subjects. There is a brief written history of Vertunni followed by a very good explanation of the

casting process. In the opinion of this reviewer, the most important study is that of the horses Vertunni used. A two page study with twelve excellent color photographs each depicting the type of horse used for each historical period for which Vertunni created figures: Medieval, Bourbon and the Empire. This study is crucial for the collector as it will ensure that when considering a purchase your hussar will indeed be riding the correct horse. Also included is a helpful list of "les Doublons" figures that were used to create two distinct figures. Although the list is by all means not inclusive it will aid the collector in his efforts. The book then proceeds with a vivid pictorial examination of each historical period beginning with Rome and the Gauls concludes with figures of "modern times". Under each figure is a brief history of the historical person depicted.

The makeup of this book is of a very high quality. Hardback and 194 pages, there are 700 figures pictured in good quality photographs. A large number of pieces represent the period of Gautho-lapeyre's production, but the photographs are pleasantly large enough to allow a close examination making it easy to identify the figure. Due to the high price of Vertunni figures in general, there have been efforts of repainting and recasting to misrepresent figures. It would have been nice to have a section on how to identify these forgeries included in the book. The book is required for beginning and experienced Vertunni collectors alike. Copies are available via Amazon.

# AUCTION PREVIEW

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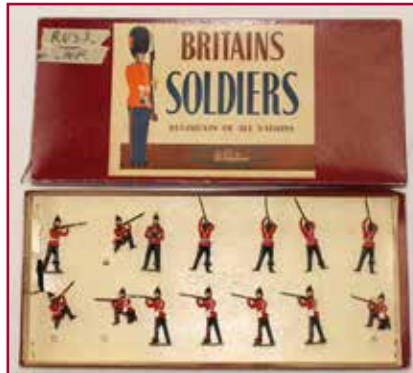
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# AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)



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Britains Set 2076 Twelfth Lancers

# SPACE ADVENTURES INVADERS FROM MARS – ITALY’S WEIRD AND WONDERFUL TEXAS SPACEMEN AND ALIENS

*By S. Mark Young with Daniel Lepers*

Italian space figures are some of the most imaginative of the 1950's. Companies like CO.MA, Alpia and Torgano covered in an earlier article (See S. M. Young, "Chasing the World's Most Elusive Space Figures," *Old Toy Soldier*, Fall 2013, pp. 12-15), produced some of most desirable and highly sought after figures for collectors.

Perhaps the most whimsical Italian space figures of the period were those produced by Italian toy company, APS Politoys (hereafter APS) headquartered in Milan. APS's production facilities were located in Chiari, Bescia a province in Lombardy, Northern Italy. Beginning in 1955, the company produced plastic toy automobiles later adding die-cast metal cars, model tanks, dolls, robots and plastic figures. Due to the similarity of its name with British toy company Palitoy (makers of *Action Man*), the company later became APS Polistil.

Of interest to figure collectors is the unusual line of soft plastic toys that APS manufactured. APS stamped the trademark, TEXAS on top of the bases of many of their plastic figures. The figures were sold individually and in header bags and were also included as giveaways in Italian products such as *Campo Dei Fiori* butter. According to Italian toy soldier collectors, Mauro and Orazio Di Mauro, although they produced pirates and modern army figures, their most successful line was a series of cowboys, Indians, and wagons (see M. Mauro and O. Mauro, *Soldatini Prescepi Figurini Italiani*, Self Published 2007). The name TEXAS was likely chosen to be consonant with the Western theme. Apart from the basic TEXAS stamp, APS used a variety of other markings including *APS Made in Ytaly TEXAS* (yes Ytaly with a "Y"), *LRB Made in Italy*, or just *APS*. For many collectors, though, TEXAS' crowning achievement was its line of space toys.

## The Space Toys

TEXAS produced spacemen, aliens, space vehicles and atomic age weapons. What brought the authors together was correspondence that began well over a decade ago when we discovered our mutual interest in the TEXAS space figures.

After reading an article by Peter Evans in *Plastic Warrior* (Issue 84), Daniel Lepers and Andreas Dittmann sent letters to the editor at *Plastic Warrior*

(Issue 86) providing more details about various aspects of TEXAS figures. Daniel followed-up with two more pictorial articles for *Plastic Warrior* (Issues 92 and 98) having recalled playing with the cowboys and Indians and space figures as a child in Belgium. Daniel has what we believe to be a complete set of spacemen and aliens -- 12 aliens and 12 spacemen. Since those early articles, he has now discovered several very rare spaceships and space weapons most of which are shown in print for the first time in this article.



Figure 1: The first grouping of TEXAS spacemen.  
Note the variation in helmets and animation.



Figure 2: The second group of the TEXAS spacemen showing different oversized weapons and peculiar space instruments.



Figure 3: Now that's a ray gun!



## SPACE ADVENTURES (Cont.)

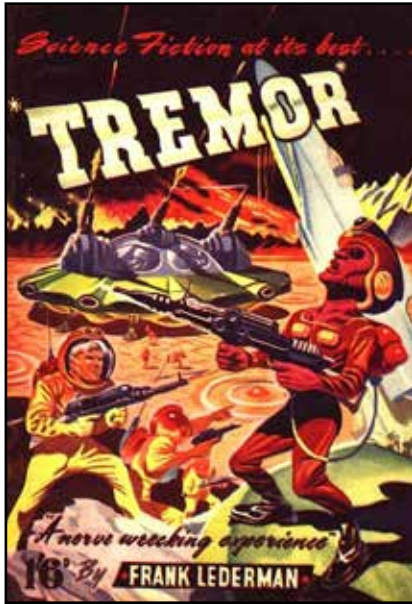


Figure 4: The 1953 Tremor Cover by Ron Turner. Was the space figure on this cover a possible inspiration for the TEXAS spacemen?



Figure 5: A TEXAS spacemen with many similarities to the spaceman on the Tremors cover

### The Spacemen

The sculpting on the twelve spacemen is spectacular. Spacemen brandish either a space rifle, ray gun or space device. Space helmets are romanesque (perhaps reminiscent of the Archer figures) with either a flat top, large spike or two spikes. The figures wear oversized boots and highly stylized spacesuits with a large v-shaped shoulder and chest plate. One foot of each figure has a small plastic tip that snaps into a circular base. The bases are embossed with stars and planets, and figures appear to be suspended in space once they are attached. All spacemen were produced in silver soft plastic and we have never seen any other color variations.

Most curious is the inspiration for the spacemen. In the universe of 1950's space toys, we know that plastic and lead figures, spaceships and vehicles produced by American companies such as Archer Plastics, AJAX, Premier, LIDO and Pyro were copied worldwide (see M. Young, S. Duin and M. Richardson, *Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys*, Dark Horse Books, 2001). In some cases, American firms such as Pyro loaned moulds to European companies such as Kleeware both of whom produced some of the finest lines of plastic spacships and cars. In other cases toy designs were simply appropriated.

Another strong influence on toy design were science fiction movies, comics, TV serials and boy's annuals. Many of the British Cherilea and Johillco lead space figures appear to have been copied from Archer Plastics, however Johillco also produced many original designs (see Blast Off!). Graphic artists such as Denis McLoughlin would purchase the lead space figures from Woolworth's and use them as models for their cover art on British toy annuals. Perhaps the most successful line of science fiction books in the 1950's were published by England's Scion Press with the most famous series edited by John Russell Fearn who wrote under the *nom de plume*, "Vargo Statten."

Since there is virtually nothing known about the origins of the space figures, we started to investigate whether Italian science fiction culture of the era could have been the driving force behind the TEXAS designs. During the 1950's and 1960's Italy did have a thriving movie industry producing the Peplum or "Sword and Sandal" genre of films like *Hercules in the Haunted World*. Sergio Leone also championed the Spaghetti Westerns such as *A Fistful of Dollars* but oddly Italy produced no science fiction films of note. Rather, Italy seemed to satisfy its science fiction interest by importing it from foreign countries.

We do know that whoever created Torgano's spectacular space figures was influenced by American science fiction as their figures were based on America's Flash Gordon movies and serials. We can now make some educated guesses as to some of the inspirational links for the TEXAS figures.

One of the most promising links was a 1953 pulp magazine (Gayword Press) penned by Frank Lederman called *Tremor* which was illustrated by well-known British artist, Ron Turner. The *Tremor* cover depicts a spaceman wearing a spacesuit

## SPACE ADVENTURES (Cont.)

and helmet that bears a striking resemblance to the TEXAS spacemen shooting a large space rifle. After an exhaustive search of hundreds of pulps and magazine covers of the era, we could find no other spacemen that looked quite like this one. We can hardly say that this is definitive proof of the origins of the TEXAS spacemen but rather just a supposition.

### The Aliens

The TEXAS aliens have large bug eyes and many have “lobster-like” hands. In distinction to the spacemen, they were produced in eight color variations (red, yellow, royal blue, brown, pink, teal, and yellow-green). These are truly fantastical, highly imaginative figures. As noted earlier, while Italian film makers were focused on other genres, American science fiction films were imported and dubbed in Italian. One possible link to the TEXAS aliens is the well known U.S. film, *Invaders from Mars* (1953) directed

by William Cameron Menzies. *Invaders From Mars* was released in 1958 in Italy as *Gli invasori spaziali*. Looking at movie posters and lobby cards for the film we note that the Mars invaders have large bug eyes and lobster hands and appear quite menacing. There are no other science fiction aliens of the era that share both of these characteristics and thus we believe that they could have inspired the design of the TEXAS aliens. We should note, however, that while they share similar characteristics, the TEXAS renditions of the *Invaders from Mars* are much more cartoon-like and campy perhaps to make children feel more at ease.

While we have tried to provide some possible direct influences for the design of the spacemen and aliens it could also have been the case that these figures were just the result of a creative individuals or team of people who were simply having fun. Until more direct information surfaces we will not know for sure.



Figure 6: This is the Italian version of the *Invaders From Mars* movie poster. The aliens' large bug eyes are clearly evident.



Figure 7: One of several lobby cards for the U.S. release of *Invaders From Mars*. Note the aliens' huge lobster hands.



Figure 8: The first group of wild and whacky TEXAS aliens. Note the many color variations.



Figure 9: The second group of TEXAS aliens. The aliens' weapons and instruments are easily broken and thus many figures are found incomplete.



## SPACE ADVENTURES (Cont.)



Figure 10: More detail on the alien's lobster hands and bug eyes.



Figure 11: Spaceman or Alien? This figure shown in the back row of Figure 9 looks more like a spaceman than alien, however, it has never been found in silver plastic like all of the other spacemen. Instead it has been found in the colors shown here. For this reason, we included it as an alien which also evens the count of 12 in each category but it could also be the case that someone at the factory used the wrong colored plastic for this figure.

### The Spaceships and Atomic Weapons

In total nine different spaceships and atomic weapons have surfaced. Three of the designs - The Rocket Tank, The Atom Cannon, Bomb Transport were clearly appropriated (or possibly licensed) from LIDO's Captain Video series produced in the United States and included in the Superior Space Port and window boxed sets beginning in 1952. Please note that the fourth and fifth designs, the Troop Transport and a fifth cylindrical vehicle are not illustrated in this article but can be seen in Mauro and Mauro's

book, (page 102). The Captain Video series was produced in both hard and soft plastic but the TEXAS copies are all in soft plastic with identical designs but different colors. The remaining designs are unique to TEXAS. We have given each a name since none currently exist. The "Atomic Rocket Gun" was embellished from a spring-loaded Nike Missile launcher used as a General Mills cereal premium but now mounted on a base. Two other designs appear to be variations of the Captain Video designs but are highly imaginative. -- the "Solar Fighter," and the "Interplanetary Destroyer." The final design, the "Galaxy Commander", is a large spaceship and is most spectacular. The spaceship has a silver base, large red fins and is about 5.5 inches long and 3 inches wide. While the ship appears to be missing a weapon it is the only known example.

For us, space toys like those produced by TEXAS are still as inventive and hopeful today as they were back in the 1950's. Certainly all of modern science fiction culture owes it legacy to the imaginations of the young men and women who pioneered the early development of these wonderful playthings. We can only hope that more and more of these kinds of toys continue to surface in the years to come.



Figure 12: This is a direct copy of LIDO's Captain Video "Atomic Cannon." One point of difference is the yellow propeller behind the rear gun.



Figure 13: Another direct copy of LIDO's "Rocket Tank" from the Captain Video Series. The front gun is missing.

## SPACE ADVENTURES (Cont.)

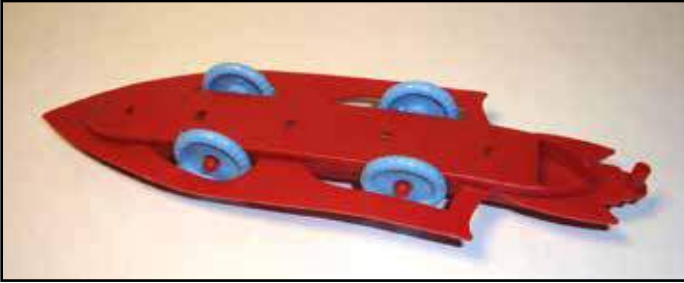


Figure 14: A soft plastic copy of LIDO's "Bomb Transport" that usually came in Captain Video window boxed sets.



Figure 15: TEXAS used a General Mills Cereal Premium of a Nike Missile Launcher and mounted it on a LIDO-type base for their "Atomic Rocket Gun."



Figure 16: One of the unique TEXAS designs, the "Solar Fighter" spaceship makes good use of Superior's attached weapon and radar dish

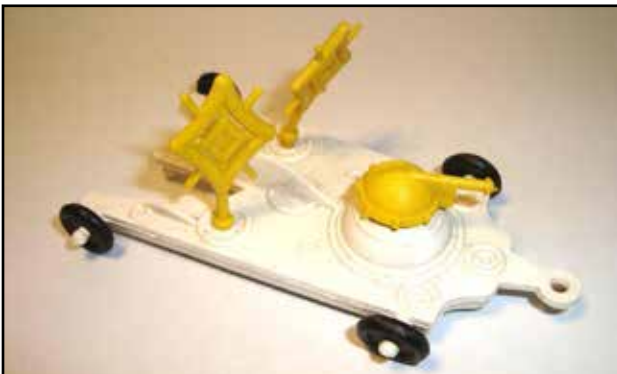


Figure 17: Another uniquely designed spaceship building on LIDO designs is the "Interplanetary Destroyer." Notable is the increased width of the ship which allowed for three plug in attachments rather than two.



Figure 18: This is the centerpiece of the TEXAS spaceships. The "Galaxy Commander" is much larger than all others measuring 4.5" x 3". The design of this ship is a departure from all others and the fins remind us of Playwell's Junior Design Engineer Construction Kit as shown in a subsequent photo. We believe that there is an antenna missing from the top of the silver ball. On the front of the ship are the APS logo and another stamp that says MOD. DEP which means that the design has been trademarked.

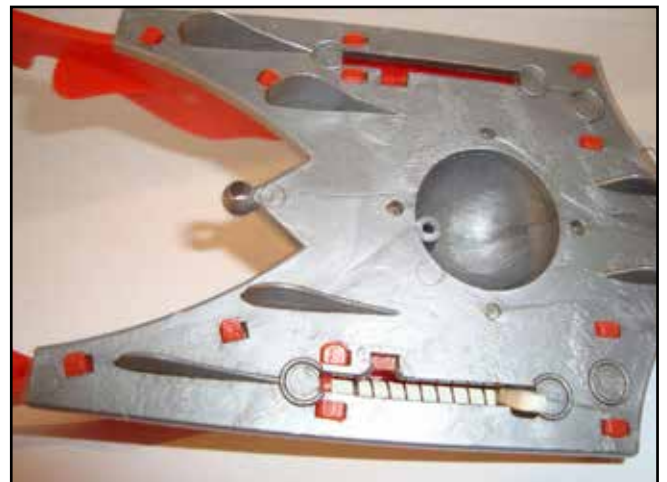


Figure 19: The underside of the Galaxy Commander. Both sides have slots for a spring to launch a rocket. One spring is still in place and the other is missing.



Figure 20: Playwell's Junior Design Engineer Construction Kit from the 1950s. This is just one of innumerable designs that a kid could put together from the same pieces. The red and blue fins on top of the spacecraft look very much like the fins on the Galaxy Commander



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# PECO FIGURES: UNIQUE CLASSIC TOYS FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

*By John Penzer*



**PECO Davy Crockett**



**PECO Tan Davy Crockett figure aka Hawkeye**

My PECO figures are old toy soldiers, other warriors and little women.

On a bitterly cold January morning in 1957, in the pre-Global Warming of the American Northeast, my parents and I trudge into Hughes's Market on Washington Street in Saratoga Springs, NY for groceries.

I am bundled in my snowsuit, mittens and hood, the snowbanks well over my head. I have always loved the cereal aisle, especially when the boxes contained premiums you could send for with 25 cents and two box tops - most notably the Kellogg frogmen with built in propulsion packs.

They took forever to come.

I get to pick out my cereal for the week - Frosted Flakes with a forgettable premium.

From the corner of my eight year old eyes, I spot a new rack in the market - toys I have never seen anything like before.

I will be blessed with toys and playsets, like the Captain Gallant Fort and a tin western storefront. I will also have painted metal soldiers and Marx toys, most notably the Fix-It Stagecoach.

But, these toys are unique. They are far more meticulous than any toys I have ever seen, sculpted in almost lifelike detail. Each figure is stapled to a 6 1/2" x 5" header card with five to eight beautifully

intricate removable accessories. There are soldiers - eight in all, in two series I would learn later. There are four western figures in a time when something like 50 black and white westerns ran in prime time and syndication - a Battling Miner, The Pecos Kid and two Indians.

That fateful day, my parents bought me one figure for 29 cents - a tan Davy Crockett figure. It would eventually become the center of my child's world. I was incredibly happy that day.

There were two sets of four toy soldiers: the Series One First Set contained a marching soldier, a running GI, one on his knees to hold a separate machine gun and one more poised to shoot a detachable rifle.

The second set of toy soldiers was considerably more developed than the first. You could see the wrinkles in their uniforms. One carried a belt with hand grenades and a .45 caliber pistol in a working flap holster.

A prone figure lay ready to fire a separate .50 caliber machine gun on a detachable tripod. Another was in a leaning position, ready to grasp a rifle with a bayonet. The third GI sat on a base ready to carry a removable machine gun. The last was similar - but did not have a base.

All eight GIs had helmets, rifles or machine guns and belts. The prone GI had a walkie talkie he could hold in either hand.

There are four Little Women figures with innovative



## PECO FIGURES (Cont.)



PECO Little Women



Little Women Boxed Playset

separable accessories, like a tennis racquet and sun visor for the Rally Queen, four separate hats for Hattie the Hatter and Spunky the Dog on a leash for Peggy Pigtails, who also carried a loose doll.

In Richard O'Brien's **Collecting Toy Soldiers**, author Bill Hanlon said that his favorite PECO figures were the pirates, and they seemed lifelike enough to talk. There were three pirate figures from history and one from children's literature: Blackbeard had a beautifully sculpted beard, a menacing scowl and a greatcoat that billowed out to catch the roar of the ocean wind. His accessories included a sword, sword belt, two pistols, a knife and a tricorn hat.

Captain Kidd was in a dueling position, ready for his detachable cutlass. He had detailed epaulets on the shoulders of his greatcoat, high boots and a pirate bandana. He had accessories similar to Blackbeard, including a parrot to perch on his shoulder.

Long John Silver, from the irreplaceable children's book **Treasure Island**, had a glazed look in one apparently injured eye and a peg leg that inserted into the stump of his missing leg. He carried a crutch under his arm and wielded a sword with the other.

You could see the hair on Henry Morgan's chest, the buckles on his shoes and the earring in his right ear. He also had a sword, belt, pistols and something that still fascinates me - a removable knife he could clutch between his teeth. He also had a telescope.

All of the figures were sculpted by the remarkable John Benneth of Tigard, Oregon who started sculpting models from clay for amusement on the farm he grew up on.

Blackbeard had a "B" sculpted on his wide base, Kidd a "K", Morgan an "M" and Silver an "S". None of the other figures had letters on their bases.



PECO Pirate Figures: left to right - Captain Kidd, Blackbeard, Henry Morgan, and Long John Silver



Henry Morgan - Note removable knife clutched between his teeth



## PECO FIGURES (Cont.)



Blackbeard



Captain Kidd



Henry Morgan

There were eight soldiers, four western figures, four Little Women and, what would become the Holy Grail of toys for me - a marvelously sculpted and individualized Davy Crockett figure. He was a tan, buckskin-like color and had red, unattached accessories: a coonskin cap, a long flintlock rifle, a pemmican bag, a powder horn, tomahawk, knife and pistol.

PECO is an acronym for Product Engineering Company of Oregon. The company had made gold carts and a most successful "Frontier Smoker" cap gun that Hanlon says sold out a million copies in the first ten hours of New York



Long John Silver



Example of PECO packaging



## PECO FIGURES (Cont.)



PECO packaging



PECO Gold Miner



PECO Chief Pa Ee Co



PECO packaging

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## PECO FIGURES (Cont.)



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## PECO FIGURES (Cont.)



PECO Western Figures with accessories



PECO Cowboy



Wild Horse



PECO Western Figures Boxed Set with paint

City's World's Fair. I have a Frontier Smoker that I found at a toy show in Albany, NY. I believe that makes me a hopeless PECO completist collector.

I was very sick as a young boy and had to stay home from school for months at a time. Under the watchful and healing eye of my mother, my toys became my world.

Using the myth-making imagination of a young boy, I gave each figure an identity that differed from the biography printed on each figure's card.

Most notably, Davy Crockett became for me "Hawkeye," based on the television show "Hawkeye and the Last of the Mohicans" I watched on Sundays.

Virtually every day, Hawkeye led his Rangers into battle: the Battling Miner became Jim Bowie from the television adventure series starting Scott Brady - he

resembled the actor. Pirate Henry Morgan became William Nelson, trusted aide to Hawkeye. I liked the name for the Pecos Kid and stuck with it; I forget exactly when I realized the name's marketing value. I named the tan shooting soldier from the first series of GI's "The Marksman." The green marching soldier became "Brother". The second series prone machine gunner I named "Doc", and he became the Rangers' medic. I used creased toilet paper doused with wet red pencil to dress their wounds.

They could be wounded but not killed - they had to see action again the next day.

I renamed Captain Kidd the Black Corsair. With his apparently shaven head and broad menacing sardonic smile, he became for me the epitome of evil. I customized all of my PECO figures with bits from other toys, like the brace of three flintlock pistols I gave the Black Corsair across his chest.



## PECO FIGURES (Cont.)



PECO Second Series GI's



PECO Second Series GI's



PECO Second Series GI's - Extremely hard to find



US Infantryman



US Infantryman



US Infantryman Combat Soldiers

## PECO FIGURES (Cont.)



Combat Soldier



Another green GI marching figure became the other "Brother". In my play world, the two hated each other and battled on a regular basis. He was one of the Renegades, commanded by the Black Corsair.

Blackbeard became another Renegade - one of the Black Corsair's trusted chiefs of staff.

Hawkeye had a single flintlock pistol in a black holder across his chest, a knife between his shoulder blades and another small knife in a sheath on his leg.

In O'Brien's classic book, author Bill Hanlon states that the first figure, the walking GI, was made of modeling clay. All subsequent figures were made from "Pyrocon", a clay - like substance that could be hardened in the oven and proved to be more durable for die making.

All figures were cast in actual size and were later cast in four cavity molds using a substance called "Vinylite", PECO's name for vinyl.

These figures had immense play value. Their level of minute detail now made other figures, such as the Multiple Products Corporation's MPC Ringhand Pirates figures seem crude. Accessories were taken off, put on and traded between figures. They appeared almost real in my child's hands and in my imagination, they formed an entire new world. They fought on land, at sea, even in the snow - which claimed too many accessories.

These figures could be found in Woolworth's and other similar stores.

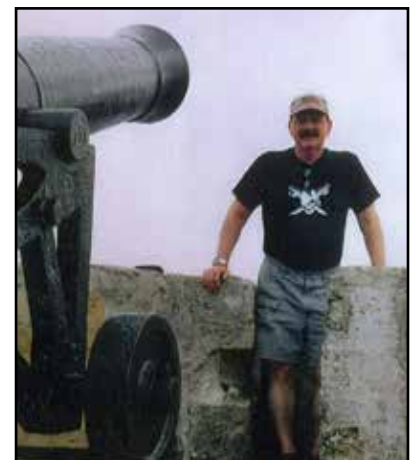
They can be found today on E-Bay and are also available from reputable dealers. At one time, during the 90's, the peg that inserted into Long John Silver's leg went for \$125!

I have written both a Kindle and an audiobook - *The Curse of the Golden Scorpion* - based on my PECO world. The Kindle is available from Amazon.com and the audiobook can be found on iTunes, audible.com and Amazon.com. If the reader is interested, visit these sites and enter my name - John Penzer - and these items will appear.

**As far as I know, this is the only book in existence based on toy figures from the 1950's.**

John Penzer has been published in **Antique Toy World** and **Playset Magazine**. He wrote an article for the former **Plastic Figure and Playset Collector**.

The retired college professor also has more that 2,500 logged scuba dives and has written for **Skin Diver Magazine**. He was inspired to dive by the iconic 1958-1961 television series *Sea Hunt* starring Lloyd Bridges.



Author John Penzer at Fort Montagu, where *Sea Hunt* episodes were filmed



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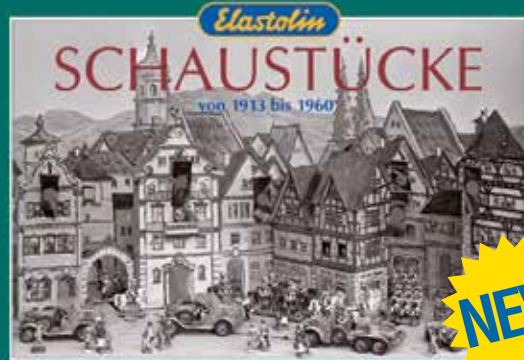


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# TOGOLAND WARRIORS AND "THE WHITE GODDESS OF WANGORA"

By William Nutting



KONKOMBWA AT ARCHERY PRACTICE

These people are still in the bow-and-arrow stage of martial evolution; nor are the bows they use remarkable for power or strength of construction. Their arrows, however, are invariably poisoned, and the slightest scratch from one means death.



Britain's Togoland Warriors have always been one of the most exotic sets -- so off the beaten track that often collectors don't even know what to make of or how to display the figures. (In Britains Toy Soldiers 1893-1932, James Opie paired them whimsically against a colonial sandbag square. As I boy, I added them to Egyptian toy soldier displays.)

The basic story of Togoland in WWI is well-enough known -- at least among toy soldier enthusiasts. British and French troops invaded the German colony August 9, 1914 to eliminate the "wireless telegraph" station important for the German South Atlantic fleet, and the "Togoland Campaign" ended with German surrender seventeen days later. (The war in Africa overall continued until the German commander surrendered in 1918 -- ten days after the Armistice was signed in Paris.)

While Britains often responded to military/political events of the day with sets of soldiers, it's hard to sort out exactly why and when someone at Britains felt this minor West African skirmish might merit a box of soldiers. Although modest, the campaign probably featured

the first rifle shot fired by any British soldier in the Great War -- and certainly the first British victory of the war. There were headlines and stories -- albeit small and short.

And if Togoland -- why these figures? The source of the



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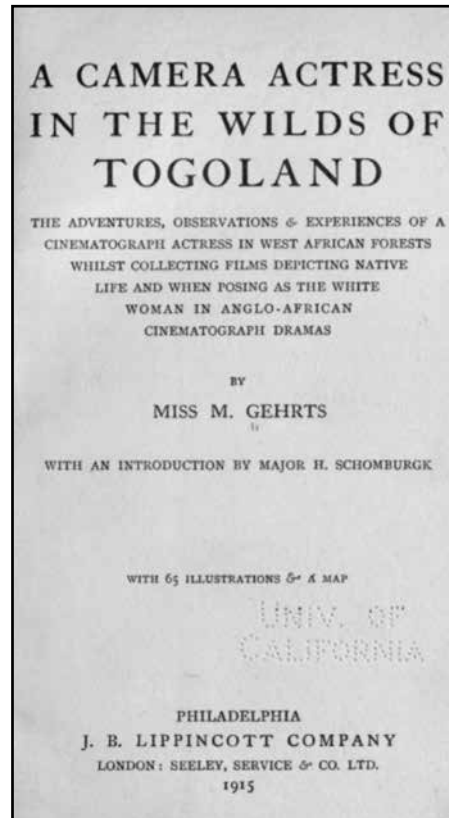
Maj. H. Schomburgk, F.R.G.S.

PLAYING AN "INTERIOR" SCENE IN A NATIVE DRAMA

The authoress is reclining on a leopard-skin rug, and is supposed to be sleeping, while a "slave-girl" -- really a native "super" -- fans her with a feather fan. Taken at Kamina.

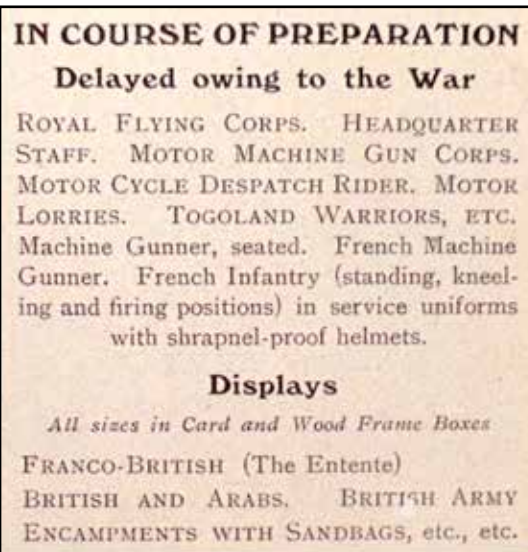


# TOGOLAND WARRIORS AND "THE WHITE GODDESS OF WANGORA" (Cont.)



and his 22-year-old movie star ("cinematograph actress") / big game hunter companion.

Summarizing the story, a Major Hans Schomburgk -- who had published his discovery of the Pygmy Hippo in the New York Zoological Society journal in 1910 -- set off to Africa to make films that would be part documentary and part sensational adventure narrative. He and his companion Meg Gehrts traveled in German Togoland exploring and filming. She wrote a travelogue of the trip -- A Camera Actress in the Wilds of Togoland -- published first in London in 1914. As Schomburgk says in the introduction (dated London, July 9, 1914), the "book possesses the distinction of being the first published record of a journey through Togoland ever written by anybody, man or woman, black or white." (Given the trouble big game hunter women are getting into today, it's interesting to look back at one of the originals.)



"uniform" has stumped collectors for years. Certainly Harry Payne and Richard Simkin -- the usual sources for uniform details -- didn't venture into tribal warriors.

Looking back now with the aid of some digitized books and some

recent writing, it's easy to argue that the design for the Togoland Warriors figure -- and Fred Whisstock's box sketch -- was clearly based on photos taken during the travels of a colorful team of adventurers -- a German big game hunter/explorer/promoter

We've all wondered what the Togoland Warrior is wearing. The caption for the frontispiece photo (above) in the book explains that "[t]he helmet is a calabash, elaborately ornamented with cowrie shells, and surmounted by a fine pair of roan antelope horns. . . Note the beautifully ornamented quiver filled with poisoned arrows." (The fact that the toy model has one horn is something I can't account for, but the gold and the different colored loincloths -- red, blue, green, and yellow -- are likely just a Britains invention -- in the later instance probably copying the painting approach used for the popular zulus. The painting details varied a bit -- first just with

## TOGOLAND WARRIORS AND “THE WHITE GODDESS OF WANGORA” (Cont.)



different shades of brown for the straps and then with different pairings of colors for the loincloth/belt/straps -- yellow/yellow/brown (pictured), yellow/green/green, etc.)

“The White Goddess of Wangora” (in which Gehrts, raised as a ‘white goddess’ by Togoland tribesmen, is discovered and rescued by a big game hunter) premiered in London on July 30, 1914. Other similar movies were made, but this one seems the most emblematic of this self-promoting couple who explored Togoland -- and publicized it wildly -- on the eve of the Togoland Campaign.

Whenever Britains started in on designing the set, the Togoland

Warriors fell into the group of sets later (in the 1916/1917 catalog pages pictured in Opie’s Great Book of Britains) described as “IN COURSE OF PREPARATION -- Delayed owing to the War.” It seems clear that when Britains wanted to make a set of soldiers from Togoland, they turned to likely the only reference source available -- a pre-War travel book by an actress/explorer -- and found these exotic tribal bowmen pictured. Perhaps it was the other way around -- that the photos themselves led to the idea to make a set. I haven’t ever been able to find any evidence that these particular archers participated in any way in either the Togoland Campaign or in the battles in the rest of the continent, but they

-- given Schomburgk’s detailed photos -- were certainly authentic representatives -- in “full gala dress” -- of the country.

Ultimately this mix of unlikely events led to Britains set 202 -- and the toy soldier archer has kept the memory of Togoland alive for the past century.

A digital copy of the 1915 American edition of A Camera Actress in the Wilds of Togoland is available online at [archive.org](http://archive.org), and all the images reproduced here are from that site. A facsimile of the Official History of the Great War, Military Operations: Togoland and the Cameroons 1914-16 (1931) has been republished by the Naval & Military Press.







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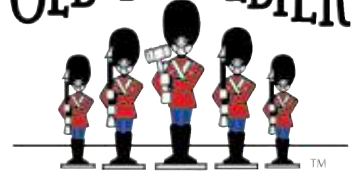
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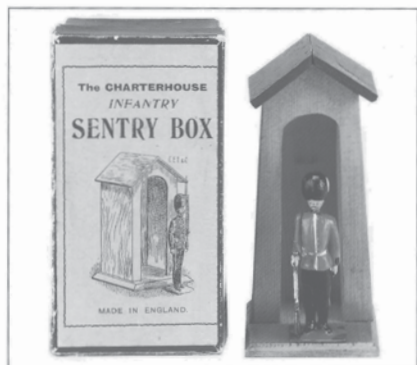


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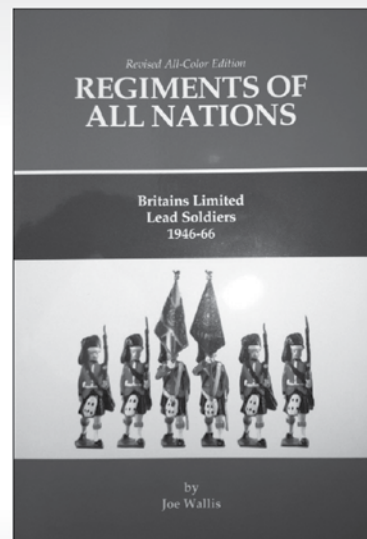
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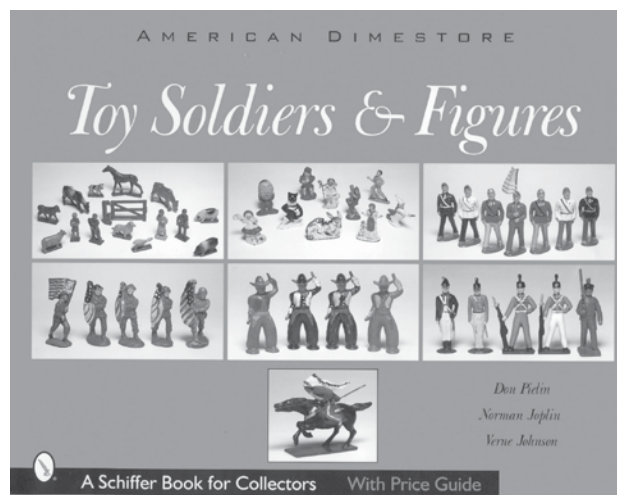
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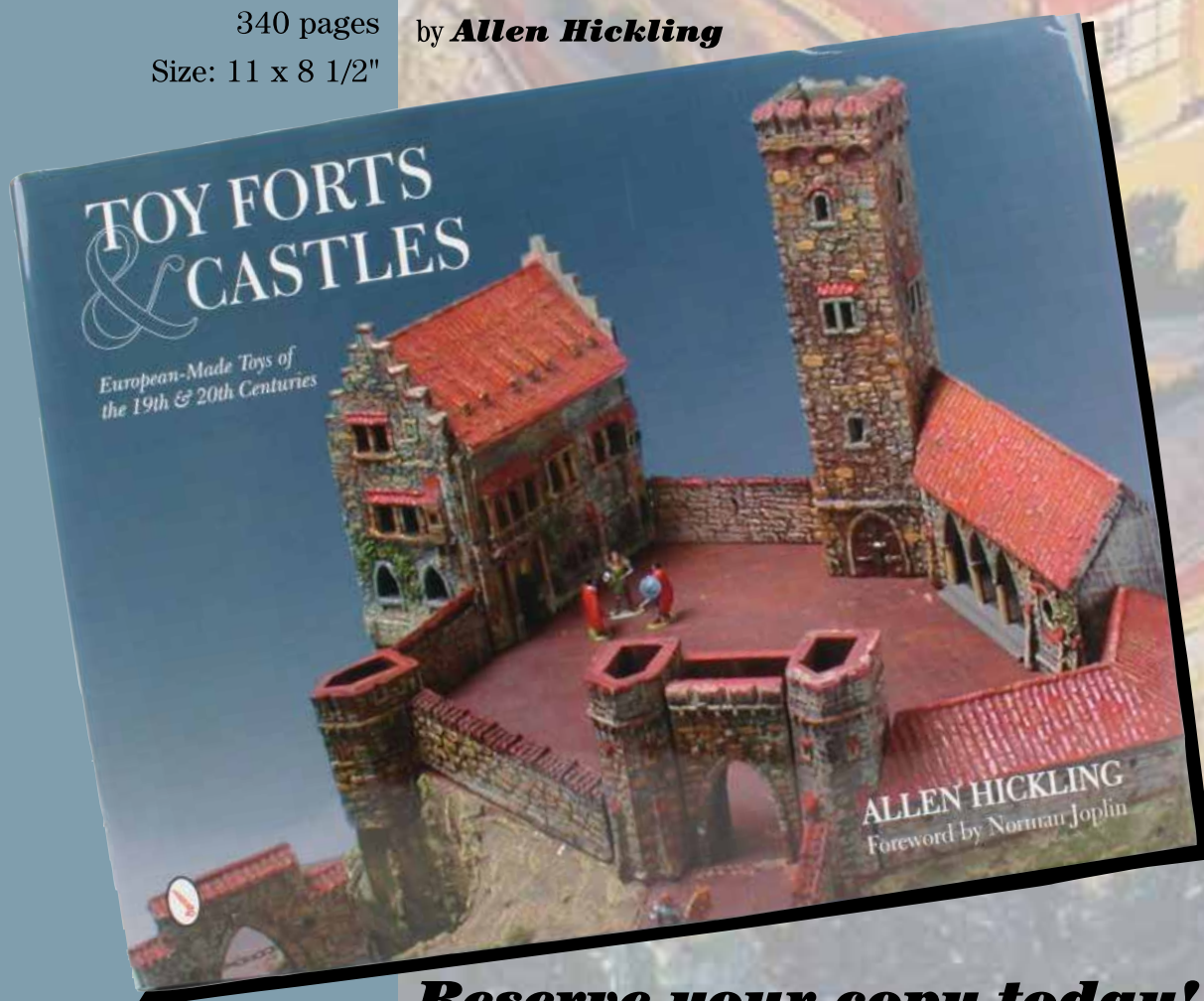
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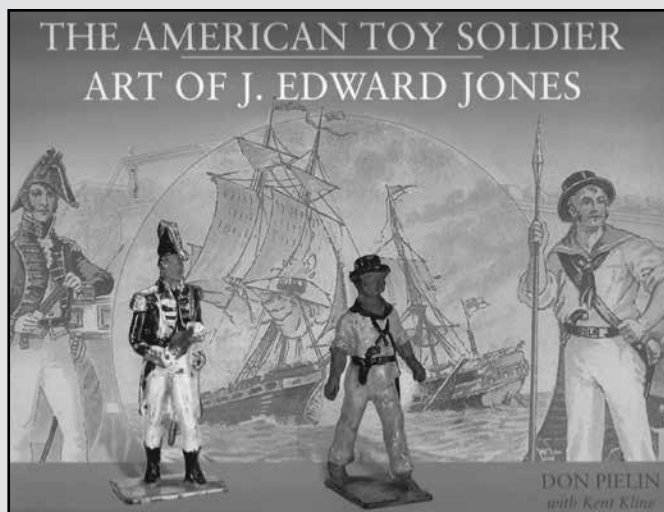
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# THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT

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Mr. Perrin I believe was from the Liverpool area and a newspaper article during the late nineteen forties carried the story of his proposed enterprise. During my 50 some years of research I have only ever seen



one Perrin item, that of a Clergyman, solid and obviously taken from the Johillco Curate figure, the Milkmaid is obviously taken from Britains, but all items are solid cast.

This is the house that Jack built.

This is the malt that lay in the house  
that Jack built.

This is the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cat that killed the rat  
That ate the malt that lay in the house  
that Jack built.

This is the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the man all tattered and torn  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the judge all shaven and shorn  
That married the man all tattered and torn  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the rooster that crowed in the morn  
That woke the judge all shaven and shorn  
That married the man all tattered and torn  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the farmer sowing his corn  
That kept the rooster that crowed in the morn  
That woke the judge all shaven and shorn  
That married the man all tattered and torn  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

This is the horse and the hound and the horn  
That belonged to the farmer sowing his corn  
That kept the rooster that crowed in the morn  
That woke the judge all shaven and shorn  
That married the man all tattered and torn  
That kissed the maiden all forlorn  
That milked the cow with the crumpled horn  
That tossed the dog that worried the cat  
That killed the rat that ate the malt  
That lay in the house that Jack built.

**Some versions use "cheese" instead of "malt", "priest" instead of "judge", "cock" instead of "rooster", the older past tense form "crew" instead of "crowed", or "chased" in place of "killed". Also in some versions the horse, the hound, and the horn are left out and the rhyme ends with the farmer.**

**The Nursery Rhyme first appeared in print until it was included in Nurse Truelove's New-Year's-Gift, or the Book of Books for Children, printed in London in 1755. It was printed in numerous collections in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. [Randolph Caldecott produced an illustrated version in 1878.**

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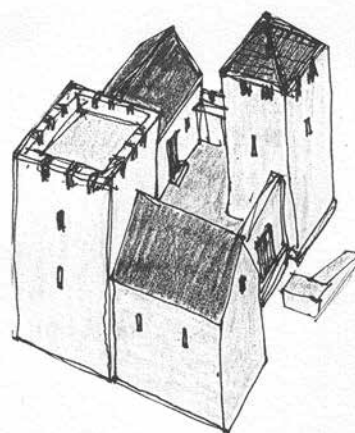
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# BRITAINS CHRISTMAS PART 2

*By Norman Joplin*



**50013C** A British officer and his family are together again for Christmas at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. The Foot Guards officer carries packages under his arms from a shopping trip to buy holiday gifts. His wife is bundled in her best winter coat and matching fur muff and shawl with their son leading the way beating on his new toy drum.



Britains Christmas Collectors Club Special Limited Editions continued between 2008 and 2011. No further sets have been issued since and the limited quantity of the Soldiers in these 3 sets, will make them much sought after by collectors in future.

50003C Under the Mistletoe (2008). Limited to 250 Sets

50013C The Little Drummer Boy (2009/2010) Limited to 300 Sets.

50022C A Spot of Mulled Wine (2010/2011) Limited to 300 Sets.



**50022C** Two of the King's finest a Lifeguard and Grenadier Guard share a tot of cider and drink to the New Year (One no doubt free from the scourge of Europe and Napoleon) while a woman street vendor joins in.



**50003C** The Coldstream Guardsman tries his very best to remain focused, eyes forward, at attention while the eye catching young lady with basket full of holly, teasingly holds a sprig of Mistletoe over his head. Which will win out ; discipline or desire ?



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# TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2016

## 2016

**January 31st - Sunday** 2016 Florida Toy Soldier Show Scottish Rites Masonic Hall, 2000 North D St., Lake Worth, Florida Contact 954-699-6040

**February 20th - Saturday** Annandale Show Contact: Eddie Greis 201-342-6475

**March 6th - Sunday** The West Coast Toy Soldier Trade and Collector's Show - 'The West Coaster' 9:00am to 3:00pm - 18000 Von Karman Ave, Irvine, CA 92612 Contact Phone: 760-758-5481 Email: oldtoysoldierhome@att.net

**March 11th, 12th, 13th - Friday, Saturday and Sunday** Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA Spring Sale. Contact Ray Haradin 1-800-349-8009 412-343-8733 raytoys@aol.com

**dimanche 3 avril 2016** à Nanterre (92) FRANCE de 8h30 à 13 heures - Espace Chevreul - 97/109 av de la Liberté - Entrée libre - 60 exposants - 160 mètres de tables consacrés à la figurine - (à 10 minutes de Paris, près de la Défense) - Parking gratuit, accès RER, hôtels à proximité. Réservations, renseignements Philippe Albaret - tél: 01 48 03 33 43 ou 06 14 61 16 18 email: geode5@hotmail.com

**April 10th - Sunday** Midwest Toy Soldier Show. Best Western Executive Plaza & Conference Center, 4343 S.R. 26 East, Lafayette, Indiana 47905. Contact Rod Chapman 740-924-2531 or Steve Connell 734-455-0724.

**April 10th - Sunday** 55th North East Toy Soldier Society Toy Soldier Show and Sale Crowne Plaza, 15 Middlesex Canal Park, Woburn, MA 9AM-3PM

**May 14th - Saturday** 14th Annual Toy Soldier Show Saturday 9AM-4PM Virginia War Museum Contact www.warmuseum.com.

**May 15th - Sunday** Grande bourse aux figurines de Bressols. 08:30 AM-13:00 PM. Contact Mr. Bruno Espinasse - 00 33 0677106762 - mail ebrubru@wanadoo.fr

**May 20th, 21st - Friday and Saturday** MFCA 75th Annual Show and APG Fundraiser. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA 19406 Contact: 610-337-2000 www.MFCAShow.com Radisson Show Room Rate \$124

**June 4th - Saturday** Annandale Show Contact: Eddie Greis 201-342-6475

**August 20th - Saturday** Norman Joplins Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London Contact 44 1635 30535 Or Mercator Trading see ad in this issue.

**September 10th - Saturday** Annandale Show Contact: Eddie Greis 201-342-6475

**September 25 - Sunday** CTSS/OTSN Contact Roger Garfield Roger@chicagotoysoldiershow.com www.chicagotoysoldiershow.com

**October 16 - Sunday** Columbus Ohio Toy Soldier Show. Tall Timbers Banquet and Conference Center, 1381 National Road SW, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068. Contact Rod Chapman 740-924-2531.

**December 3rd - Saturday** Annandale Show Contact: Eddie Greis 201-342-6475

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



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