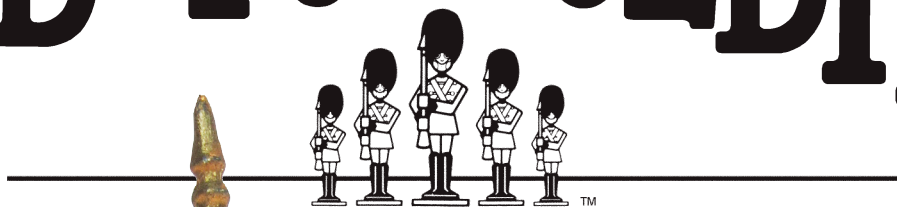


Winter
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The Journal for Collectors

Volume 47 Number 4
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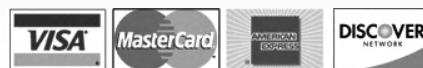
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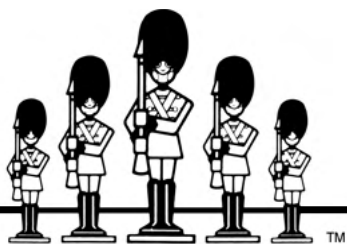
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IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 47 NUMBER 4 - WINTER 2024

ARTICLES

AUCTION REVIEW - THE COLLECTION

OF THE LATE JOHN RUDDLE 7-12

By Rob Wilson

NAVAL LANDING PARTY GUN TEAM:

WAS IT MADE BY REKA OR NOT? 15-20

By Richard Forrester and Norman Joplin

U.S. METAL TOY MFG CO. TIN-LITHOGRAPHED

WESTERN WAGONS 23-25

By Will Beierwaltes

FEIX AND THE GERMAN CONNEC1ON,

AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS 27-30

By Will Beierwaltes and Norman Joplin

with contributions from other collectors

COLLECTORS AND THEIR COLLECTIONS -

CHARLIE SINEL 33-36

By Rob Wilson

BRITAINS 1880 CATALOGUE 41-48

By John Franklin

BRITAINS IN THE BALKANS 51-55

By Bill Anderson

FEATURES

Subscriptions/Advertising 2

Editorial 5

Hobby News 6

Auction Preview 13, 49

Reconnaissance 21-22

Book Review 31

Show Reports 37, 39-40

Auction Reviews 57-60

Show Calendar 63

Readers' Messages 63

Toy Soldier Market Place 64

ON THE COVER

Britains in the Balkans -

Paris Office Turkish Standard Bearer



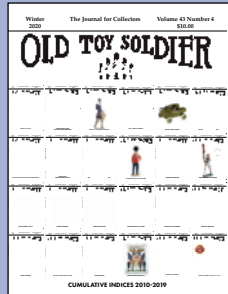
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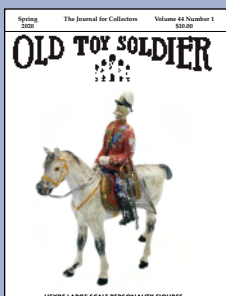
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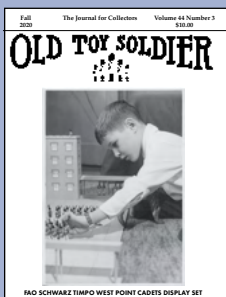
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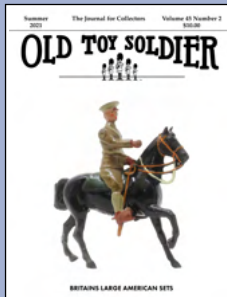
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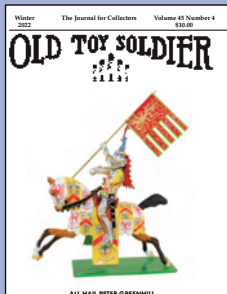
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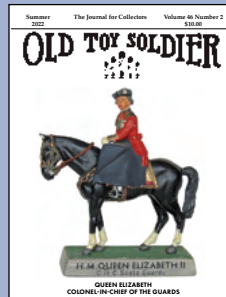
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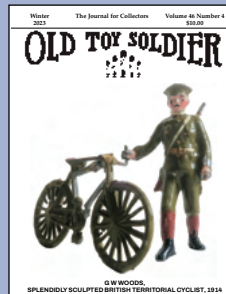
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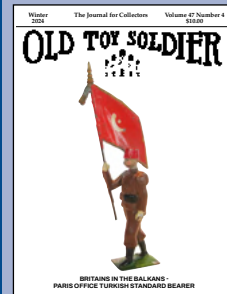
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EDITORIAL

How fast time flies. This is now the 5th year that I have been acting as Editor. We start the New Year with articles ranging from one on the earliest known Britains catalogues by John Franklin to a celebration of some late 1960s U.S. tinplate toys by Will Beierwaltes.

Bill Anderson chips in with his latest piece on Britains sets, focusing this time on the pre WW I conflict in the Balkans that set the road to the Great War.

Will Beierwaltes article in the previous issue generated a flurry of correspondence on Feix and the German connection, which has resulted in a followup article.



Richard Forrester and Norman Joplin, continue with their focus on early British hollowcast competitors of Britains, with a fascinating piece on

the Naval Landing Party previously attributed to Reka – but maybe not! Read on to find out more.

There is good news about Shows and similar events with the West Coaster, Kulmbach and Chicagoland confirmed for 2024. We have various reports on recent shows in Europe, but no one has stepped up to let us know what has been happening this side of the pond. Let's hear about what's been happening in your area so that we can help to encourage people to go along and join in the fun.



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WEST COASTER SHOW SAVED

Organiser Matt Murphy had been having real problems finding a venue for the next West Coaster event. However, we are pleased to report that he has found a solution! Matt has managed to find a splendid new location in a great historic building.

Book the date and put the details in your diaries now:

March 3rd 2024
West Coast Toy Soldier Show
Pasadena Elks Lodge #672
400 W Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91105
9AM-3PM



CHICAGO

Great news for Toy Soldier fans. Following a successful start in a new venue, the annual event in Chicago each September is set to continue for another year.

Mark your calendars for the
Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show
Sunday, September 22, 2024
10am-3pm
at the Schaumburg Marriott,
50 N. Martingale Rd.,
Schaumburg, IL.

For more details see:
<https://chicagotoysoldiershow.com/>

KULMBACH

It is also time for another event in Kulmbach – home of zinnfiguren. This biennial event was temporarily disrupted by the pandemic but is now back in its two-yearly cycle, with dates set for Kulmbach Zinnfigurenbörse 2024 9-11th August 2024.

While the main focus of this show is flat figures and models, it also attracts a wide range of other toy soldiers and figures and is probably the premier event in Europe. There is also plenty of beer for those so inclined, the fair taking place in the huge tent set up for the annual beer festival!

For more details see:
<https://www.zinnfiguren-klio.de/news/zinnfigurentage-b%C3%B6rsen/2024-kulmbach/>

AUCTION REVIEW - THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE JOHN RUDDLE

By Rob Wilson

The passing of John Ruddle was reported in the previous issue. In December 2023, C & T Auctions in Broadstairs, Kent were proud to auction his extensive collection. John's name and face will be familiar to many of our readers. He was one of the pioneer authors on the subject of Britains figures. His *Collectors' Guide to Britain's Model Soldiers* was first published in 1980 and predates the now famous works by James Opie and Joe Wallis. Although not as scholarly, or anywhere near as comprehensive as those later works, this book provided one of the first all colour guides to the Britains range. I was just starting collecting in a serious fashion, and John's book opened my eyes to the delights of such exotic items as Britains Paris Office figures and their special paints. I was especially taken with the mounted officer leading a small group of Cameronians, in extra fine detailed paint finish, which graced the cover.

Those who had the good fortune to visit John at his home would know that he also collected figures by other makers. Although John was probably most famous for his garden layout, he also had a magnificent display of toy soldiers hidden away in his attic. While there was not a great deal of space up there, once one had clambered up the ladder and settled down there was a marvellous display of toy soldiers, both on parade and in extensive dioramas, to be enjoyed. It was most of these figures that were now being offered for sale at the C&T auction.

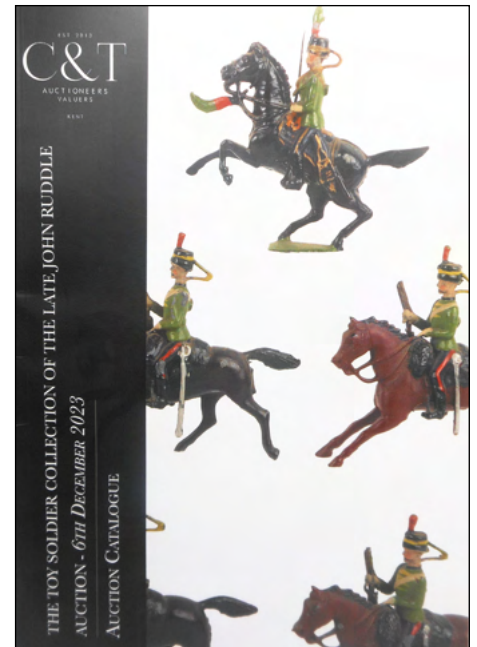
John was a prominent member of the British Model Soldier Society (BMSS), serving as Secretary for many years and also acting as Auctioneer at the society's annual auction. He also took on the onerous task of setting up and running the BMSS's National Collection for many years. He moved in to his then newly built house in Hampton in 1955, remaining there for



the rest of his life. He established his famous garden layout right from the start, and invited friends and fellow collectors to view it all at his annual open days in the summer.

John was a keen collector of Britains figures, which made up the bulk of his collection, although he also cast and painted his own figures, especially for his outdoor displays.

The auction comprised over 500 lots, predominantly Britains figures, many converted and repainted. There were many rare and sought after items, including ancient Britains, Paris Office types, special paints and much more. The accompanying images show some of the lots which caught my eye.



Ancient Britains - This set of 1st version, East Yorkshire Regiment at attention, oval based, paper labels, attracted a lot of interest, with the hammer price eventually settling at £520 (\$650), despite missing a couple of helmet spikes.

AUCTION REVIEW - THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE JOHN RUDDLE *(Continued)*



There were a number of examples of **Britains special paints** – This is a set of Cameronians with mounted Officer - note the extra fine detail on the trows. This set went for a modest £280 (\$350).



Other rarities included 3 counter-pack lying, firing figures wearing pith helmets. These went under the hammer for £580 (\$725), some of the most expensive figures in the whole sale!



Early Britains boxed sets – This rare set was issued to commemorate Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. It was available for just a year or so, with this box label. It continued as Set #72 in the Britains catalogue until 1916. This lot saw some of most competitive bidding, with the hammer eventually going down at £3,800 (\$4,750).



John also had a small but select collection of **Britains Paris Office** types, including these 4 rare single figures representing the British Army which went for £480 (\$600).

AUCTION REVIEW - THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE JOHN RUDDLE *(Continued)*



There were a number of examples of **steel helmeted horse drawn** sets, including Set #1440 which attracted a final bid of £1,650 (\$2,050).



Figures by other makers, such as these rare hollowcast Japanese and Russian figures, circa 1905, by Renvoize and others, also attracted a lot of interest, despite considerable retouching, eventually selling for £360 (\$450).

Foreign makers from Germany and France were also represented, such as Heyde and CGBG Mignot. These attractive, large scale Indian Army figures by Noris also tempted a number of bidders, eventually going under the hammer for £620 (\$775).



AUCTION REVIEW - THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE JOHN RUDDLE *(Continued)*



As noted above John was an inveterate maker and painter as well as collector. The next image is just one of many lots featuring John's own **conversions** based on Britains and other figures. This features British Forces: a Royal Engineers Observation Balloon with Winch Wagon and six horse team, Rifle Brigade Bugles Band and Escort, King's Royal Rifle Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Westminster Yeomanry. Despite being very attractive, many such lots were knocked down for peanuts. This lot of just under 100 pieces was knocked down for just £120 (\$150). It is interesting to note that many of these figures are already being re-offered for sale on eBay at much inflated prices!



This was another very attractive lot including superb Durbar elephants converted by John from Britains and other figures. This one attracted a lot of interest eventually going under the hammer for £1,050 (\$1,300).

AUCTION REVIEW - THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE JOHN RUDDLE *(Continued)*



John also collected a few "**New toy soldiers**", including example, of the work of Colin J. Burkill, such as this interwar artillery tractor which went under the hammer for £300 (\$375).



Connoisseur figures such as these by Greenwood and Ball also featured. This and similar groups all went under the hammer for around £400 (\$500) per lot.



John also had an extensive collection of **Freddie Green's work**, such as these Britains conversions of Papal States Swiss Guard and Noble Guard, Norwegian Royal Guard, Swedish Royal Gota Bodyguard, all with Officers and Colours. This lot was knocked down for £260 (\$325).

AUCTION REVIEW - THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE JOHN RUDDLE *(Continued)*



There were also many non military lots including cowboys and Indians, medieval knights and much more. One of the highlights of the **civilian items** was this Salvation Army Band, which went for a modest £480 (\$600).



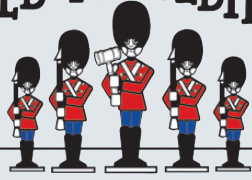
A rare **Corporation Ambulance** (Set # 1514), with its original box, attracted a lot more interest, with the hammer finally going down at £3,100 (\$3,875).



Perhaps one of the biggest surprises was how well **Crescent gun teams** went at the auction, outperforming their Britains equivalents. This boxed set went for £540 (\$675), despite being mismatched! In contrast, a fine first version of Britains set 39 in its original box went for just £420 (\$525).

AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

Winter Mix of Soldiers

FEBRUARY 23, 2024 ~ 10AM EST



Hedye U.S. Army Band With Music Box 58mm



Heyde First Sino-Japanese War



Mignot pre war Boy Scout Encampment



Mignot Very Early Hunting Scenes



Lineol German Camo Ambulance



Mignot Zoo & Gardens



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Mignot Early Hunting Set



Heyde U.S. Guards & Band 1900 65mm



Mignot #321 Combat Naval Battle RARE

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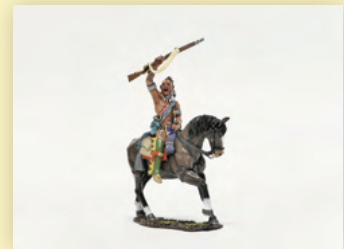
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NAVAL LANDING PARTY GUN TEAM: WAS IT MADE BY REKA OR NOT?

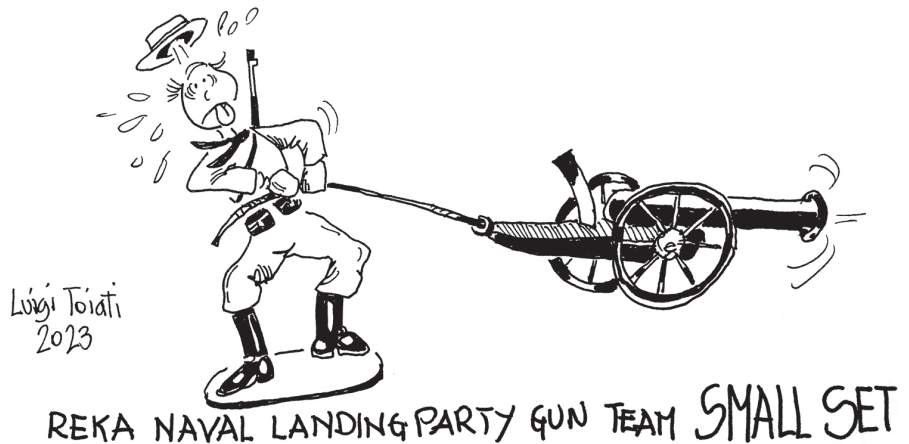
By Richard Forrester and Norman Joplin

According to our latest research, an early British naval landing party set with gun, initially identified by L.W. Richards¹ as having been manufactured by the REKA Company, may not now be a REKA set.

The figures in this set are rarely seen in the market, and most examples have paint obscuring any markings on the base. As such it has been accepted on Richards' advice that the set was made by REKA. A poor-quality worn figure was recently found that showed a marking on the base of REG P.612934. This number refers to a Board of Trade design registration from 1913, and enquiries were made through the U.K. National Archives, who hold these records.

The information that came back from the National Archives was a complete surprise, in more ways than one!

The copy of the Board of Trade design registration ledgers showed that the registration number 612934 was attributed to Alfred James Holladay, rather than the expected name of



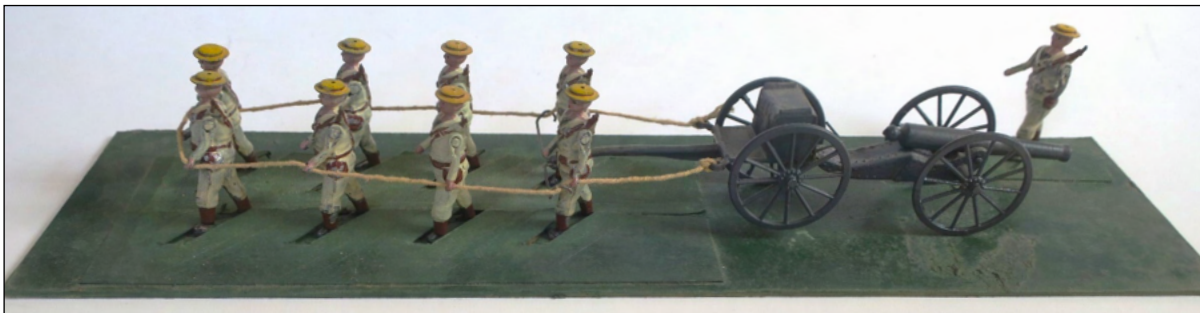
Charles Wheeler Baker, the Managing Director of the REKA Company, or some other person associated with REKA.

Alfred J. Holladay

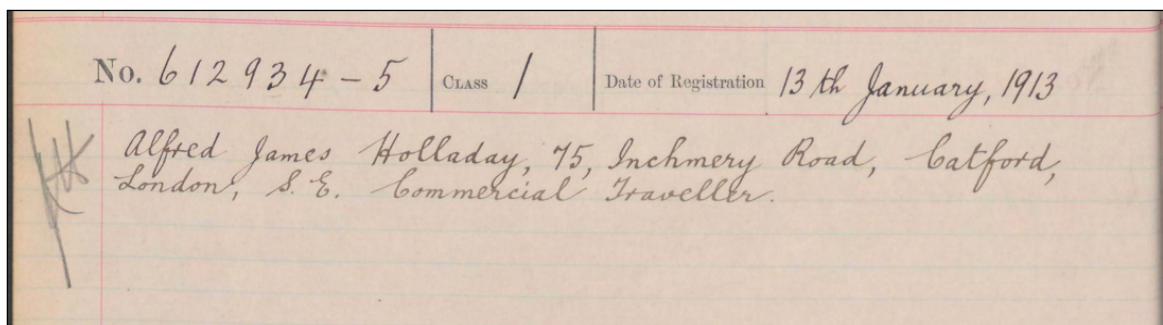
Holladay's name may be familiar to Britains toy soldier collectors. Having served with the 2nd City of London Volunteer Rifles through the Boer War, and while subsequently working for toy distributors C. F. Eckhardt as a travelling salesman, he is believed to have commissioned Britains in 1906 to create the very collectable Boer War

Supply Wagon Column set. This was for exclusive distribution through his employer to department stores such as Gamages.

In 1909 Holladay wrote the pamphlet *War games for Boy Scouts, played with model soldiers* which was later distributed as a boxed set named *The Great War Game*, with figures manufactured by Hanks Brothers. This boxed set was also distributed by C.F. Eckhardt and sold through Gamages department store. By 1914, Holladay had become a director of C.F. Eckhardt



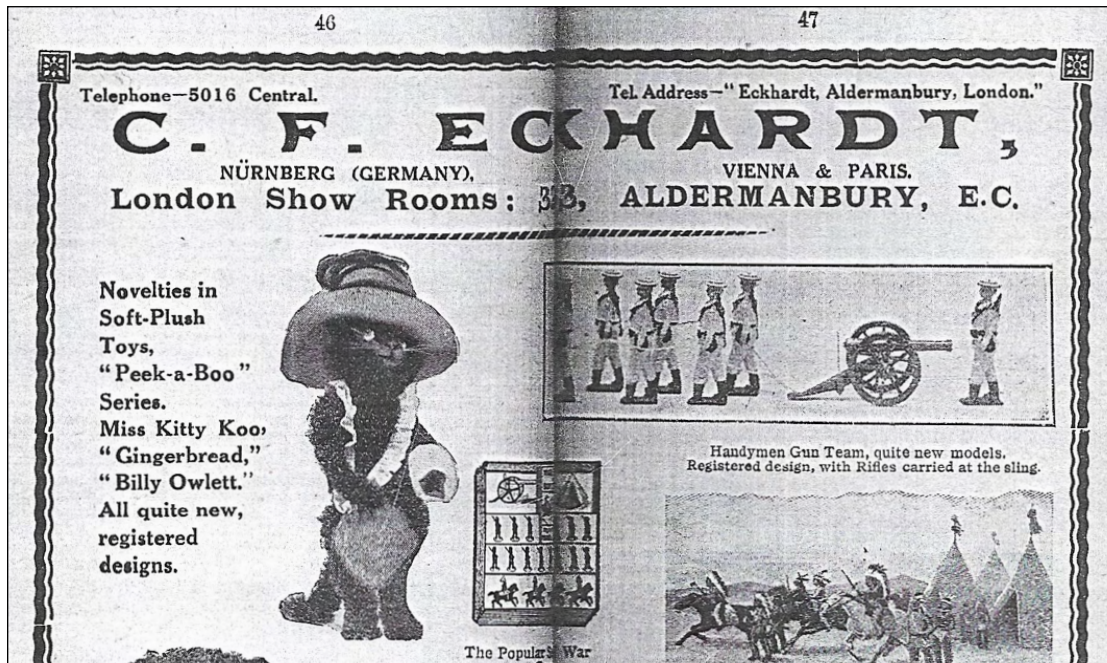
British Naval landing party gun team set. (courtesy Rob Wilson)



Extract from ledger of British Board of Trade design registrations.

¹ Richards, L.W. (1970) *Old British Model Soldiers 1893-1918: An Illustrated Reference Guide for Collectors*. Arms and Armour Press, London. Plate 24.

NAVAL LANDING PARTY GUN TEAM: WAS IT MADE BY REKA OR NOT? (Continued)



A.J. Holladay landing party set illustrated in a 1913 trade magazine for Holladay's employer, C.F. Eckhardt.

and by 1916 he had bought the company and changed its name to A.J. Holladay & Company. His company was for many years a prominent toy and fancy goods distributor in the U.K.

The Board of Trade design registration ledger therefore provides evidence that Alfred James Holladay was not only interested in the commercial benefits derived from the distribution of interesting sets of toy soldiers, but that he was also personally involved in the design of the figures as well.

Naval Landing Party – design vs. retail versions

A C.F. Eckhardt trade journal illustration from 1913 shows both *The Great War Game* (at centre) and the naval landing party gun team as examples of the products the firm had available for supply at that time. Collectors of early British made toy soldiers may be familiar with these naval figures with two movable arms and rifles slung across their backs.

It was therefore a further surprise to see that the design illustrations which accompanied the Board of Trade registration numbers 612934 and 612935 show figures that are

completely different to the set that was produced for the market. As can be seen from the illustrations, the original design for the gun party was for them to be simply standing with their rifles slung over their right shoulders.

It must therefore have been a late design change for the gun party figures to be sculpted, still with their two movable hands, but now walking with rifles slung in a more practical fashion across their backs.

This set is also distinct from most toy soldier depictions of the Royal Navy, because the figures are shown wearing

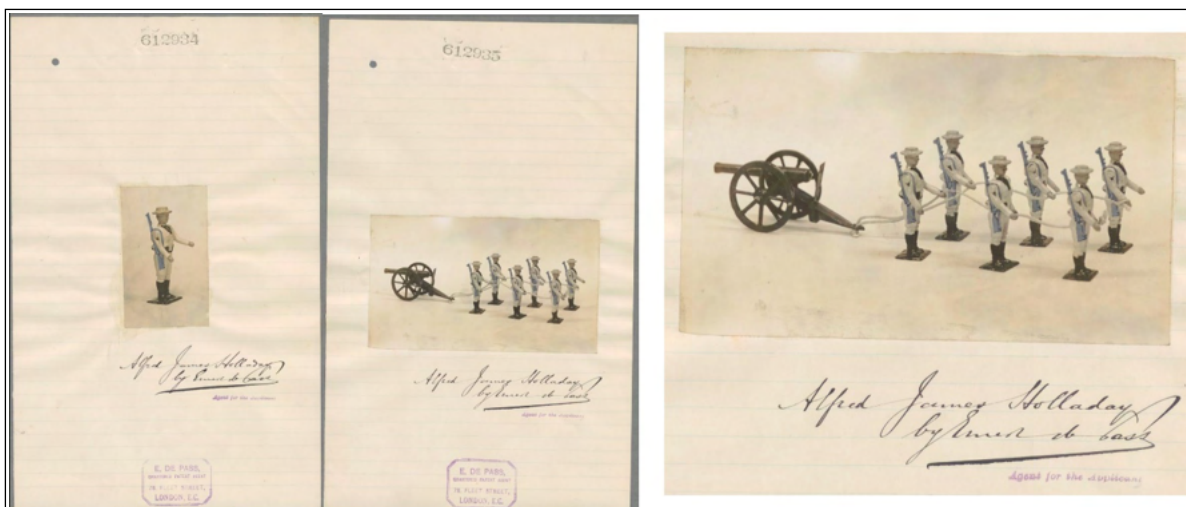


Illustration submitted with A.J. Holladay's 1913 British Board of Trade design registration.

NAVAL LANDING PARTY GUN TEAM: WAS IT MADE BY REKA OR NOT? *(Continued)*

the sennit, or sennet, straw hat that was part of the British Royal Navy uniform from 1857 until around 1921.

The reason why Holladay would want to have a set of Royal Navy sailors wearing straw hats rather than the cloth caps that Royal Navy sailors are usually represented wearing may have something to do with his Boer War experience, seeing sailors wearing the hats in the hot climate conditions.

The Navy List² from 1891 specifies that the standard naval uniform for Petty Officers and Seamen should not only include 2 caps but also a 'hat' and 'hat cover' with the hat being defined as:

40. Hat. – To be made of white sennet, with oval crown three inches high; brim to be straight, 3½ inches wide, inclined upwards 1½ inches, and bound with ¾ inch black braid... and that

50(5.) Hats are to be worn (a) During the summer season, weather permitting.. (b) Always with No. 6 dress. (c) At any time as a protection from the sun, if ordered by the Senior Officer present.

The 1907 Navy List confirms that the sennet hat was still being issued to Royal Navy sailors post-Boer War.

Another possible reason for Holladay choosing to represent the sailors this way is likely to be simply good marketing. From the point of view of a child looking at an affordable set of toy sailors wearing something different to the Britains version, then the tropical white dress and sennet hat looks quite appealing.

Whatever the reason, the sennit hat on the figure shown in the design representation has helped us to identify the manufacturer of the original set of figures illustrated in the Board of Trade photographs that accompanied the 1913 registration.



Comparison between 1911 Hanks Brothers scout (Richard Forrester collection) and A.J. Holladay illustrated naval landing party figure.

The naval landing party team illustrated in the Board of Trade design representations appears to be a slightly altered version of the Hanks Brothers Boy Scout figure first produced in 1911, with the only changes being new arms and a flattened top to the hat. The right arm on the figure illustrated has a nicely detailed rifle integrated into the mould and the hand was holed to allow the haulage rope to pass through.

The Hanks Brothers Boy Scouts figures, together with their trek cart, was featured in a 2015 Old Toy Soldier article³ by Rob Wilson. The article pictures the boy scout figures with a haulage rope passed through a hole cast in the hand.

Looking at the two figures it is possible to see that a completely different appearance is created, simply through the artifice of painting, with the

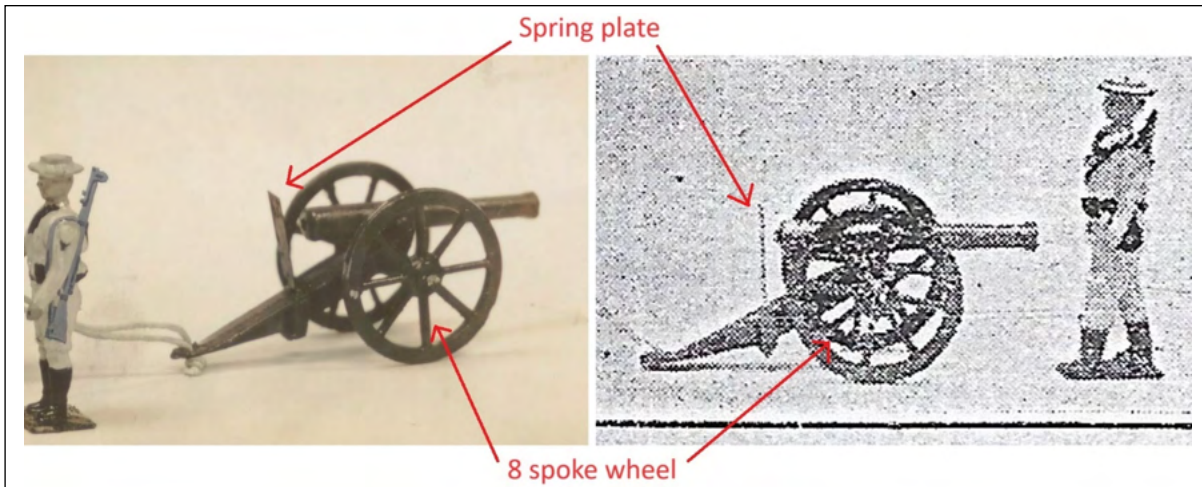


A.J. Holladay landing party figure, Whitejacket and Bluejacket versions (Norman Joplin collection)

² The Navy List (1891), HathiTrust <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015025891568&seq=9> Pg 576 – 577.

³ Wilson, R. *eBay Find – Rare Hanks Bros. Boy Scouts with Trek Scout*. (2015) V39 N3 Fall Pg9

NAVAL LANDING PARTY GUN TEAM: WAS IT MADE BY REKA OR NOT? (Continued)



Comparison of the image from the original patent application and the retail catalogue

neckerchief, belt and boots highlighted against the white of the uniform. On close inspection it becomes plain to see that the naval rating figure is actually wearing shorts, and the trouser folds above his boots is bare kneecaps on the scout figure.

However, the Hanks Brothers scout figure is only around 50mm in height which would make the set appear out of proportion with other 54mm scale figures. The scout figure was evidently abandoned for the final production set soon after the design was registered, and a completely new, larger, and more animated figure was created and used for the version which was distributed for sale.

The naval landing party figures for the set that was distributed by C.F. Eckhardt were produced in both whitejacket and bluejacket variations, however neither version of the figure is commonly found in the market.

Looking now at the artillery piece shown in the original registration design representations, and then also shown in the 1913 C.F Eckhardt trade journal, we are again surprised.

The illustration shows that the cannon used for the set did not change when it was first released, however this gun is itself a puzzle.

Collectors of Britains B-scale sets may recognise this artillery piece as being identical to that used for Britains Royal Horse Artillery sets #125 (Review Order) and #126 (Service Order).

It is easy to understand why a B-scale gun would be used for the naval landing party set, because the scale is better suited to representing the 12-pounder 8 cwt, light field pieces used ashore by the Royal Navy.

The most likely manufacturer

Does the presence of a Britains field artillery piece suggest that the set was therefore manufactured by Britains, and not REKA or Hanks Brothers? The answer to that question is, it's not likely.

We already know⁴ that Hanks Brothers were sued by Britains in 1902 for copying one of their toy soldiers that

was marked with "W. Britain" and "1.6.1900", the creation date of the original mould. Despite losing the lawsuit, Hanks Brothers very likely continued to produce copies of earlier Britains figures which were not marked and dated, and it is therefore quite possible that if Hanks Brothers were the makers of the set, they may have simply produced a copy of the Britains B-scale Royal Horse Artillery canon.

A page from the 1913 Gamage's and Benetfinks department store Christmas Bazaar catalogue⁵ may give us some further clues. Here we see the Hanks Brothers Boy Scouts pulling their trek cart (picture item 1 in the following catalogue page) showing that this set was certainly available at the same time as the A. J. Holladay design was using these figures for registration with the Board of Trade.



⁴ Forrester, R. *Hanks Brothers Toy Soldier Manufacturers*. (2021) Old Toy Soldier V45 No.2 Summer. Pg17

⁵ Gamage's Christmas Bazaar, 1913 (reprinted 1974) David & Charles, Exeter.

NAVAL LANDING PARTY GUN TEAM: WAS IT MADE BY REKA OR NOT? (Continued)

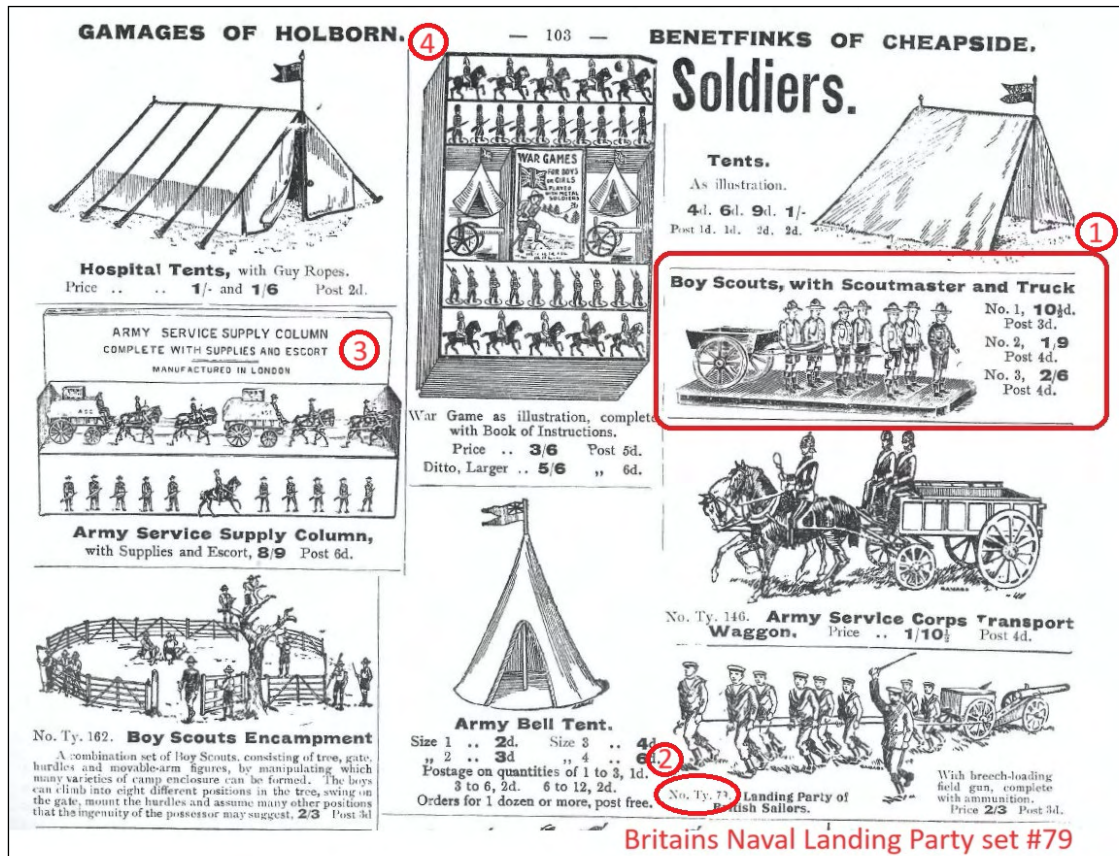


Image from a Gamages catalogue (see references in text to the red numbered items)

We also see No. TY 79 (picture item 2) – Britains Royal Navy Landing Party advertised and note that the TY 79 code corresponds to the Britains set number. Also pictured is No. TY 146 which number also corresponds to the Britains Royal Army Service Corps Set #146.

Illustrated on the catalogue page 103 but not pictured here are No. TY 93 British Army Presentation Case; No. TY 100 21st Empress of India's Own Lancers; No. TY 128 12th Lancers; and No. TY 161 Boy Scouts, all of which correspond to the Britains set of the same number.

Also suggestive, we can see illustrated the Army Service Supply Column (pictured 3), referred to above. This is the set generally believed to have been commissioned by A. J Holladay in 1906 for his employer C.F. Eckhardt, and manufactured by Britains. A very rare, boxed set was sold at auction as part of the Jim Cook Toy Soldier Collection by Old Toy Soldier in 2015 (Auction 23, 17 October 2015).

Additionally, we see the C.F. Eckhardt distributed War Game set (pictured 4) which was also produced for A.J. Holladay but this time the manufacturer was Hanks Brothers, and again is illustrated in the 1913 C.F. Eckhardt trade publication shown above.

The presence of the Holladay designed, and C.F. Eckhardt distributed, Army Service Supply Column and War Game set, but not the C.F. Eckhardt version of the naval landing party is a strong indication that the naval landing party set was not manufactured by Britains. In their Christmas Bazaar catalogue, Gamages proudly proclaim that "prospective customers should note that all GAMAGE'S "SOLDIERS" are the Best Make obtainable.... AVOID CHEAP IMITATIONS!" and if the artillery piece was a copy of the Britains gun then Gamages would not sell it. So, would the REKA Company make a copy of the unmarked and undated Britains artillery piece?

There is no indication that the REKA Company, which commenced

manufacturing toy soldiers around 1908 and therefore well after the 1902 court case that Britains brought against Hanks Brothers, produced direct copies of Britains figures.

Certainly, in their early years REKA produced mounted figures that were very similar to some Britains versions. For example, REKA produced cavalry figures mounted on a horse in a very similar but slightly different pose to Britains Life Guards Set #72, and it is very difficult to pick the difference between the later standard REKA fixed arm mounted figure horse, with the left foreleg raised and the bent neck, and the mounted officer from Britains 1895 Royal Artillery Mountain Gun set #28.

A possible scenario is that REKA took over producing the set for Holladay and C. F. Eckhardt from Hanks Brothers, either toward the end of 1913, or later in 1918⁶. The reason for this possibility is that at both of these specific times there was turmoil within Hanks Brothers, and they may not have been considered by Holladay to be a reliable supplier.

NAVAL LANDING PARTY GUN TEAM: WAS IT MADE BY REKA OR NOT? (Continued)

NAVAL BRIGADE LANDING PARTY.

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No. 708.

| No. | NUMBER IN BOX. | QUALITY OF BOX. | DISPLAY. | SIZE OF BOX. | | CUBIC FEET-per BOXES IN PARCEL. |
|-----|--|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | Inches. | Centimetres. | |
| 708 | 6 Naval Brigade and 1 Cannon | 11 | Standing (as design) | 13 x 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 | 33 x 8 x 5 1/2 | 8 |
| 709 | 10 Naval Brigade, Cannon and Amm. Limber | 11 | Do. | 16 x 3 1/2 x 2 1/2 | 40 1/2 x 9 x 6 | 10 1/2 |
| 710 | 26 Do. do. do. do. | 8 | 3 Rows Sewn and Standing | 15 x 9 x 3 1/2 | 38 x 23 x 9 | 40 |
| 711 | 8 Do. do. do. do. | 8 | 2 Rows Sewn | 15 x 7 x 1 1/2 | 38 x 18 x 3 | 11 |

In 711 the Cannon and Ammunition Wagon are boxed in sections for the boy to assemble. This is a very attractive line and appeals to the boy-of-to-day.

Illustration from the 1921 REKA catalogue, page 23.

In late 1913 Albert, one of the two Hanks Brothers, split from the partnership. Soon after, a new partner, Walter Samuel Sutton, bought into Hanks Brothers and the other Hanks brother, Orlando, left the business soon afterwards.

Later, in 1917, Sutton was called up for war service in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve and in June 1918 he was drowned when the ship he had been assigned to was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat, after which all 'Hanks Brothers' and 'Hanks and Sutton' branded toy soldier manufacturing ceased.

Since the design for the naval landing party set was registered to A. J. Holladay it is likely then that he also owned the casts for the figures.

It is quite plausible to think that Holladay took the casts to the REKA Company to produce, after having initially used

Hanks Brothers to produce both the design set and the first production version, and this is perhaps why the few complete sets are found with a REKA light field piece.

The REKA Company did later produce their own Naval Brigade Landing Party set, as the illustration from their 1921 catalogue shows. The sailors in this REKA set have the same holed hands to allow a hauling line to be fed through, and these toy soldiers are generally marked REKA and dated 10.3.15. The shade of the blue on the A.J. Holladay figure is, however, darker than the colour of these later REKA Company figures.

For reason of the fact there are very few examples of the sennet hatted version of the naval landing party, and the difference in blue paint colour, the most likely scenario is that REKA did take over production of the Royal Navy landing party set from Hanks Brothers in 1914

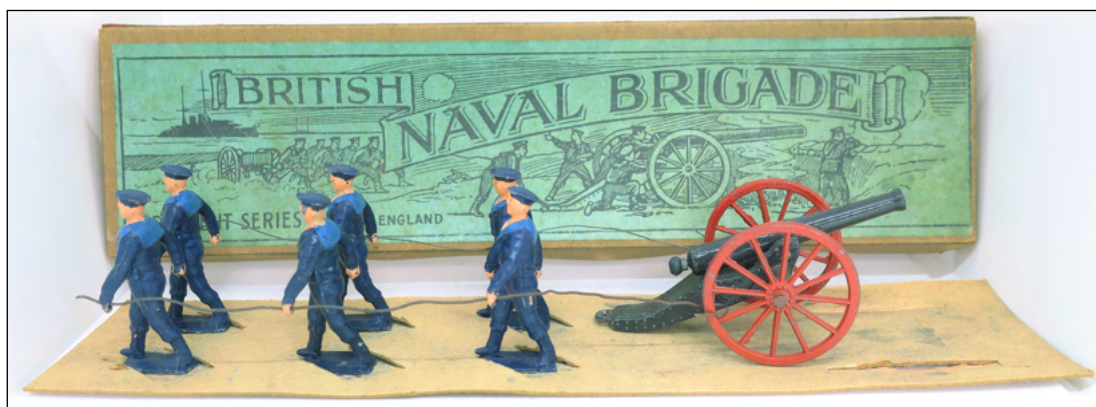
but they only produced the set for a few years using a light field gun of their own design and an ammunition limber which is similar, but slightly different, to the ammunition limber used for the Britains B-scale Royal Horse Artillery sets #125 (Review Order) and #126 (Service Order). Production of the Holladay set probably stopped when REKA began to produce their own Naval Brigade Landing Party set after 1915.

Summary

So, back to the question: who manufactured this very attractive set – Hanks Brothers or REKA or perhaps even Britains? While the evidence that we have considered above is less than conclusive, it suggests that the set was initially manufactured by Hanks Brothers in 1913, who likely created a copy of the Britains B-scale Royal Horse Artillery cannon to represent the 12-pounder light field gun used by the Royal Navy.

However, not long afterwards Hanks Brothers ceased production of the set because of the problems that beset the company in late 1913 through to mid-1914, and REKA became the manufacturer for possibly only one or two years.

If any collectors are fortunate enough to have a boxed set of these extremely rare figures in their collection, or have any other thoughts on this question, the authors would be grateful to receive photos or information through Old Toy Soldier.



Crescent version of the Gun Team, earlier Reka versions are found in 1st grade paint schemes

RECONNAISSANCE

CHARLES 3RD CORONATION COACH

Although Britains and other manufacturers failed to take advantage of the Coronation last year to release a new version of the State Coach, some enterprising, but as yet unidentified, individual decided to step into the breach.

This apparently “one-off”, but very professional looking, example was offered for sale by Jefferys in Lostwithiel, Cornwall in November 2023. It appears to be a marriage between Britains most recent team of 8 Windsor Greys and an earlier “hollow-

cast” period coach with additional paint details, all housed in a customised Blue box celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, May 6th 2023. Great fun!



SOLDIERS THAT SHOOT



A number of manufacturers have issued soldiers that have the additional play value of being able to fire their weapons in some way. Britains offered their Soldiers to Shoot (strictly Soldiers that will Shoot) in sets of 4 from 1905-1916. These had a very large bore rifle designed to fire a spring-propelled bullet. Heyde produced a rather more realistic large scale figure firing in a similar fashion. Other manufacturers produced similar toys, such as Charbens. They disguised the necessarily out of scale barrel as a machine gun.

Some rare examples of similar figures appeared in the December 2023 OTS auction. These were made by CBG Mignot as part of their Mignalu range. These had the additional novelty of firing caps as used in toy guns to imitate the sound of the weapon discharging. Three different examples went

under the hammer. Two simply used a simple spring mechanism to fire a single cap, while the 3rd, in the form of lying machine gunner also simultaneously fired a projectile. Complete with original caps and instruction leaflet, these were rare finds indeed!

Mignalu was a brand used by CBG Mignot for its aluminium figures, which it started making in the 1930s. The trademark was also used for various toys designed to shoot projectiles, including archers shooting arrows. The trade names of Tiralu and Arcalu were also used. Mignot ceased manufacturing in aluminium in 1955. These figures are NOT cast in aluminium but hollowcast lead. They probably date from 1955 to 1960, before the move over to producing plastic figures. However, if any reader knows better, please us know.

RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)

This section highlights a few recent finds that we could do with our readers' help in identifying!



Arab with rifle rather than the usual musket/jazail/moukahla, picked up at the Sandown show. Possibly another Paris Office find?



Previously unrecorded Britains b-size figure. It is fixed arm and at the halt. Is it a Scots Grey or an officer for Fusiliers or Guards?



Another Sandown find. Does anyone recognise this unusually painted New Zealander which Harry Kemp found at the last Sandown Show?

GRENADIER GUARDS OFFICER - DOES ANYONE RECOGNISE THIS FIGURE?

This figure was picked up in a job lot of officers with binoculars recently.

It looks like a Scots Guards Officer from Set 130, circa 1910, but definitely painted as a Grenadier. The paint style is early and fine with additional cuff detail.

Joe Wallis kindly searched through his files and could find only one small trace of a standing Grenadier Guards officer with binoculars: in L.W. Richards' series of articles that appeared in the BMSS circa 1960, he described Set #34 as sometimes containing such an officer. Joe has not seen one before. Have any of our other readers ever come across this figure?

As Joe notes this example is half-booted, which narrows the field down to sets made prior to 1933! The rectangular base suggests a date from 1908 onwards.



U.S. METAL TOY MFG CO. TIN-LITHOGRAPHED WESTERN WAGONS

By Will Beierwaltes

Along with my treasured Marx Fort Apache and Mineral City western playsets, I had two marvelous accessory pieces that complemented all the cowboys and Indians that filled my imagination and my time. Although I didn't know it then, these were the western stagecoach and the Conestoga covered wagon produced by the U.S. Metal TOY MFG Company of 149-57-33rd St. in Brooklyn, New York (see Figure 1).

They advertised themselves as Manufacturers of Lithographed Metal (Tin) Goods. They even had a commercial New York showroom at 200 Fifth Ave (room 205). Very little is known about the company and numerous searches have not turned up much, despite their prolific production over 30 years. The New York Historical Society says they existed from the mid-1930s into the 1960s, and it is in this last phase of their existence that we find some uncharacteristic but delightful tin-litho vehicles, totally geared for the toy soldier enthusiast.

U.S. Metal Toy was known for producing cheap tin-litho noise-makers, Halloween-themed toys, spinning tops, rattles, clickers, sand buckets with shovels and party favors (Figure 2). This was their primary production, but it became evident in the 1950s that plastic was quickly overtaking metal as the material of choice in the toy industry. They began incorporating plastic accessories into their line, like a plastic shovel to go with a tin bucket, but their expertise was tin lithography so these items were outsourced.

Around 1960, they began trying some different tin toys. One of these was a set of three different buildings (Figure 3); a church, a train station and a dude ranch. These were probably geared toward the expanding toy train market, but they also had a coin slot in their roof so they could be used as a bank. All three used the same basic structure but with different lithography.

But here is where it gets fun. The other area they tried out was making horse drawn vehicles to go with toy soldiers.



Figure 1: The commercial logo of the U.S. Metal TOY MFG. CO.



Figure 2: Examples of the early tin lithography production of cheap rattles and noisemakers by U.S. Metal Toy.



Figure 3: The 3 tin-lithographed buildings.

U.S. METAL TOY MFG CO. TIN-LITHOGRAPHED WESTERN WAGONS *(Continued)*



Figure 4: The Roman Chariot with original box featuring flat horses and charioteer.



Figure 5: The "Tip Top Circus" wagon.

These included a marvelous tin Roman Chariot (Figure 4), a Circus Wagon (Figure 5) with a variety of animals lithographed on the sides and a lithographed driver. There was also a western Covered Wagon which was actually lithographed in 4 different permutations (Figure 6), all similar but with a different logo draped on the side of the tin canvas top. These included the "Chisholm Trail," the "California Trail," the "Santa Fe Trail," and the

"Forty Niners." Finally, in a tour-de-force of lithography, they produced a perfectly wonderful yellow stagecoach (Figure 7), covered with lithographed cowboys defending the coach with rifles and pistols against some unseen attackers. It is so complex, in all the excitement of playing as a child, I would just get lost looking at all the lithographed actors in this life play and imagine stories of the wild west unfolding along the stage route. Both

the stagecoach and the circus wagon sometimes came with a coin slot in the top so it could also serve as a bank, though there was no way to retrieve coins once deposited.

The quality of the lithography on these later items was far superior to the cartoonish images used in their early production. Each of these vehicles was drawn by 2 or 4 horses which look like the classic Beaton plastics

U.S. METAL TOY MFG CO. TIN-LITHOGRAPHED WESTERN WAGONS *(Continued)*



Figure 6: The 4 different lithographed versions of the Conestoga covered wagon.

horse but made of soft plastic rather than the typical Beaton hard plastic. That is because Beaton had already sold out to Rel Plastics in 1958 (because they could not compete with the Japanese producing identical figures to their own for a fraction of the cost).

U.S. Metal apparently started producing these vehicles between 1959 and 1961 and outsourced their plastic wagon wheels, horses and trails to Rel. Rel probably found the soft plastic either cheaper, maybe less likely to break or more pliable when plugging the hard plastic trail into the sides of the soft plastic horses. Regardless, each of their wagons was a tin-lithographed vehicle pulled by 2 or 4 plastic horses. No figures were made to go with these wagons, though Rel could have supplied them.

An unusual permutation of the horse can be seen with the Roman chariot, in that the Beaton horses have been flattened into 2-dimensionsal hard plastic, as has the Roman charioteer. Our example of the Circus wagon also has these odd two-dimensional "flat" horses, though I would guess this might have been a later permutation and you can find each vehicle with either the standard Rel/Beaton full horse or the two-dimensional flat horse teams. They both used the same hard plastic trail that plugged into a

small tin flange off the front of the wagon with protrusions that plugged into the horse flank. There may have been more than these 4 vehicles produced, but I have never seen them.

Apparently, the "writing was on the wall" for a company totally committed to tin-litho toys, as U.S. Metal toys did not last beyond the 1960s. These wagons were probably part of a diversification effort that came too-little, too-late to keep them afloat. However, the fine lithography and the scale (about 1:35) makes these under-appreciated toys perfect additions to the tin lithography of the buildings and figures of classic Marx playsets; especially the western towns, Fort Apache or even the Alamo. It certainly worked for me as a child, as the stage coach in particular was always one of my favorite toys.

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Bob Hornung, Beaton Plastics: a guide for collectors Self-published buy the author in Cincinnati, Ohio, 1987.

New York Historical Society.
www.nyhistory.org. 2023.



Figure 7: The Stage Coach with its original box art.

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FEIX AND THE GERMAN CONNECTION, AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

*By Will Beierwaltes and Norman Joplin
with contributions from other collectors*

Norman Joplin was intrigued by Will Beierwaltes' article on Feix in the Fall 2023 issue. He wrote in to the magazine, pointing out that on page 56 of the Feix article, the Japanese Officer has his sword in the same position as the Russian officer in the picture he had found in the O'Brien Archive. However, note that the left arms are quite different. The Japanese officer has a fixed arm, pointing, whereas the Russian apparently had a movable left arm, according to information reported to O'Brien. This information came from Donald Haberman. Donald was a regular supplier of information to O'Brien and would include notes with photos.

Page 57 of Will's article shows the spiked helmet Officer figure has both arms in a different position. This figure is a different casting in comparison to both the Russian and Japanese officers.

The Feix images sent in by Steve Balkin on page 48 of Vol. 46, No. 2 (reproduced in full here, without apology) shows that the Russian and Japanese officers are quite clearly different castings, but it is hard to tell if the Russian's arm is



Feix Russian infantry with officer from the O'Brien Archive

movable. It certainly could be, but not enough of his left arm is showing to be sure! It is definitely not pointing like the Japanese officer.

Will notes the difference in reference to his Figure 12, but does not mention that the Russian and Japanese officers (as shown in the Balkin photos) both have their swords pointing downwards. There seem to be at least 3 distinctly different body castings used for officers by Feix!

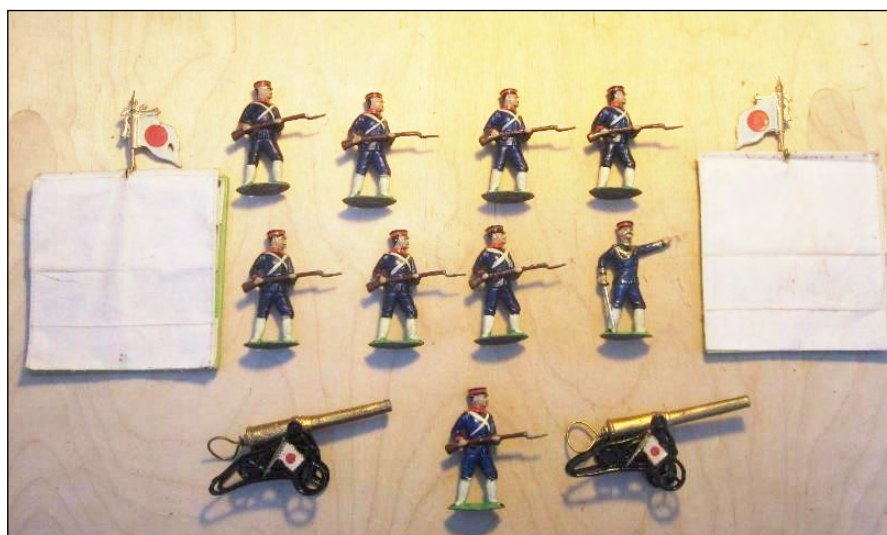
Are these alternative officer castings hollow-cast or solid cast figures? We know that Feix's neighbor CW Beiser supplemented his imported knock-

down sets from Britains with lesser quality solid cast officers and buglers. Could Feix have also done so?

Do any of our readers have examples of the Russian figure to confirm that it has a moveable arm?

Norman also sent in more poor quality, but interesting, images from the O'Brien Archive, showing both red and blue coated US Infantry with officers, plus an original mold for the officer pointing, with sword across his body.

The Pearlytoys Soljertoys Officer mentioned by Will in his earlier article, and shown in his Figure 12 compared



Images of complete Feix Russian and Japanese sets from Steve Balkin's archives

FEIX AND THE GERMAN CONNECTION, AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS *(Continued)*



Feix US Red-coats; image from the O'Brien Archive, courtesy of Norman Joplin



Feix US Blue-coats; image from the O'Brien Archive, courtesy of Norman Joplin



Feix Officer pointing; image from the O'Brien Archive, courtesy of Norman Joplin

to the Feix officer, is different to all three Feix examples, but sharing some features with them all.

Will's focus on Artillery sets marketed by Feix also raised some other interesting questions. The set illustrated here was recently sold on eBay. This was attributed there to Heyde. It appears

identical to one of the items featured in Will's article.

Previous discussions in this magazine (Vol. 45, No. 2, pp. 29-30), including exchanges with Heyde expert, Markus Grein, have suggested that many figures previously attributed to Feix may have been made and painted by Heyde.

The difference in paint quality noted by Will, pre- and post-WW I, may simply reflect the difficulties of importing finished figures after the U.S. entered WW I. Given that castings appear to be identical, it is otherwise difficult to distinguish the two makers.

In the previous correspondence Markus argues that many of the cavalry figures attributed to Feix were made by Heyde, exported to the USA, and sold in plain boxes by various retailers. The same also applies to some infantry figures (as discussed below).

Will recognised this possibility in his article (p. 54, third column), noting that Feix was working "strictly as a wholesaler". Could it be that much of the Feix range, including the cavalry figures and the gun teams, were simply imported and repackaged rather than being manufactured in the USA, especially prior to WW I?

As another example of such behavior, see the mint in box, hollowcast set of Belgian Infantry, which was attributed

FEIX AND THE GERMAN CONNECTION, AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS *(Continued)*



Pearlytoys Soljertoys Officer pointing,
courtesy of Norman Joplin



Heyde hollowcast artillery, courtesy of Bob Phillips

to Heyde by the auctioneers (set #407), but which contains a list of available items sold by "World-War Toy Soldier Co. 429 Lincoln Ave., Brooklyn N.Y.". It should be noted that the New Jersey-based Eureka toy soldier company was importing rectangular-based hollowcast Heyde figures, (as well as Britains figures) marching, shoulder arms for their knock-down game sets as early as 1908, as described in a previous OTSN article on CW Beiser (Will Beierwaltes and G. Scott Morlan. Britains Ltd. and Beiser Games. Old Toy Soldier Newsletter. Vol 6, No. 6, 1982.

Pages from the Heyde 1911 catalog, courtesy of Bob Phillips, show the fixed arm cavalry figures and infantrymen, all hollowcast and 55mm scale (Size 1c). The 2nd page lists the various artillery sets produced in the same scale. These are so called 2nd quality, horse without base, "Hollow cast, very light, especially proper for exportation". This supports the presumption in Will's earlier article that these horse artillery sets were imported and not produced in the U.S.

In correspondence, Bob Phillips suggests that one way of distinguishing Heyde-made examples of cavalry figures may be that they had swords,

trumpets or whips soldered to the rider's hand, whereas the Feix-made figures lacked this refinement (see Figure 15 in Will's previous article, which provides supporting evidence).

The boxed set shown contains fixed arm infantry figures in the same scale. The box is plain with no label on the outside, just a small set No. (407) on the lid edge. This corresponds to the Heyde 1911 catalog, which describes it as containing 10 figures. The label on the back of the lid, listing all the sets marketed by "World-War Toy Soldier Co.", appears to adopt a different numbering system.



Three different examples of Heyde hollowcast second-grade figures found in a box of Eureka/Beiser figures, along with imported Eureka/Britains figures for their knock-down game sets requiring rectangular bases

Will mentions in his previous article that the horse-drawn gun team was most likely from Germany as the tinplate caisson and gun were not part of the Beiser skill set, and were probably in the catalog only in the early days. The gun team pictured here is painted differently from the three in Will's collection and the one in the Detroit Historical Museum. It is definitely German production.

The horses pulling the gun team are also unique, like Will's examples, but are quite rare and may have been cast in, and imported from, Germany, (although it is possible they were made in the U.S. using German-supplied "molds". We just do not know.

While some of the very early production may have come from Germany, it is unlikely that this continued, especially

FEIX AND THE GERMAN CONNECTION, AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (Continued)

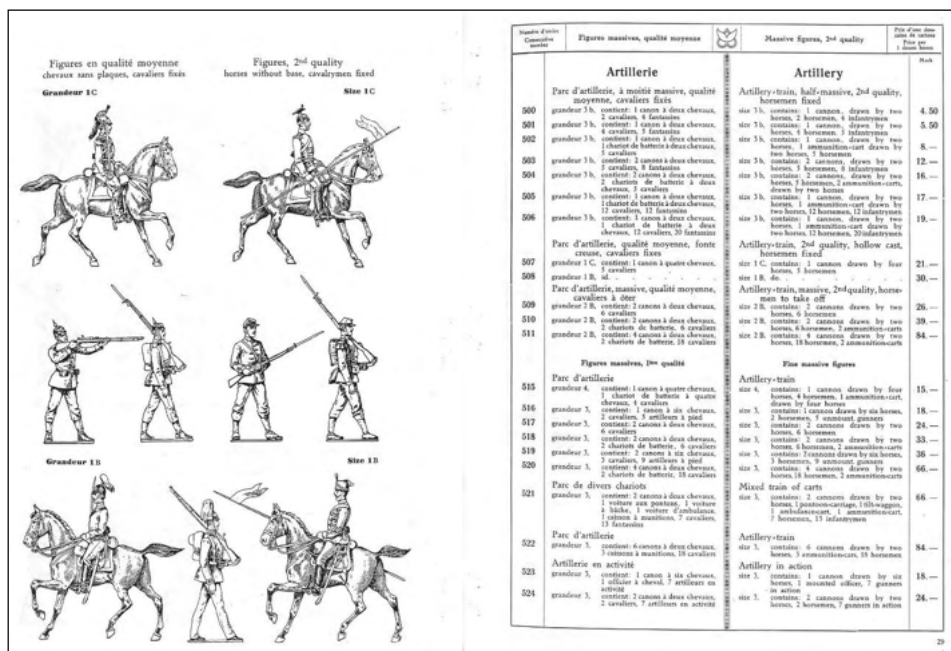
after 1914, because of the war going on in Europe between 1914 and 1918.

Will argues that most of the figures recognized as Feix are American-made, although often very similar to the Heyde production, for the following reasons:

1. Feix ran a metal shop, so clearly had the expertise to make his own castings. Also, importing fully finished figures would have undercut the ability to sell at a cheap price. Also, the wider variety of the Heyde figures (running horses, lances, hussars, etc, mentioned by both Marcus and Bob, and as shown in figure 15 in Wills' earlier article) would have found their way into the Feix catalog had they just imported them. But this does not seem to have been the case, given the admittedly limited documentation we have. Will's view is that Feix could have brought paint examples back to the US, or maybe even painters to train his folks. Paint and also casting quality certainly decreased over time, (that would not have happened with German production).

2. The fairly uniform and limited range of castings suggests Feix had only a few molds to work with, and the deterioration of the quality of the castings over time reinforces the idea that the molds were used in the U.S. They could not get new metal molds (let alone metal military figures) from Germany during or after the war.

3. The "World War Toy Soldier Company" was a post-WW1 phenomenon, where in the late 1920s and early 1930s Heyde was able to again import to the U.S. to companies like Marshal Fields and FAO Schwarz, but the new name hid the fact that these were German made toys. This was to combat the anti-German sentiment that lingered after the Great War. Obviously, the name "World War" could not have existed before 1918 as naming such a war had not yet taken place. Joe Wallis and Will mention this in the FAO catalog article they wrote for the magazine several years ago (Beierwaltes, Will. Toy Soldiers in the 1931 FAO Schwarz Catalog *Old Toy Soldier; Journal for Collectors*. Vol 44, 2021).



Pages for the Heyde 1911 catalog, courtesy of Bob Phillips



Heyde hollowcast Belgians in World War Toy Soldiers packaging

4. Ultimately however, we really do not have any good documentation that proves one idea or another, on Feix production (as reflected in Will's previous article). There is no question that the entire line was inspired by German technology but the degree of Heyde's involvement, especially over 25 years of production, must be speculative, so cautious conclusions should always be noted, not as

factual, but best guesses given the circumstances and limited cataloging evidence we have.

THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE FICTION AND ITS TOY FIGURINES

By Luigi Toiati

Luigi Toiati will be a name familiar to most of our readers, both as an author and the creator of the Garibaldi range of toy figures, as well as the guest illustrator/cartoonist for many of our articles. Like his previous book on Toy Soldiers (reviewed in Vol 43, No 3),¹ this is a very personal take on this particular topic. Like the author, I had never thought of Sci Fi Figures as an especially large subject area. Indeed, this material was originally intended as a chapter within Luigi's previous book. However, rather like Dr Who's Tardis, once you get into it, there appears to be much more to see than seemed to be the case from the outside.

As an avid consumer of Science Fiction in my youth, voraciously consuming the works of Isaac Asimov, Robert Heinlein, Frank Herbert, Philip K. Dick and Ursula Le Guin, I was looking forward to reading Luigi Toiati's latest book, not just as a toy figure collector but as a Sci Fi fan. I was not disappointed.

It has turned out to be an enormous undertaking, requiring herculean efforts! I never really got into collecting space figures, despite enjoying film and TV series such as Star Trek, Star Wars, Dr Who and many more. Luigi's book has opened my eyes to a whole new world! The problem now is where to begin!

This is a scholarly and personal work with many literary references. Anyone just expecting a picture book, will find their "little grey cells" stretched! The book is divided into two distinct parts. The focus in *Part 1 - A Short History of Sci-Fi* is on the definition and history of this literary genre.

This may not be to everyone's taste. But, as the author points out, those buying the book have effectively purchased two books for the price of one! And at just under \$35 (£25), if someone chooses to read only one part, there is no great financial disincentive to prevent them from doing so.

Chapters 1-4 deal with the history and morphology of science fiction, in order to give the reader an overall view of this literary genre (if it can be so called, as the author discusses in detail). These chapters are more about Sci Fi than Sci Fi figures. The term science fiction was coined by publisher Hugo Gernsback almost 100 years ago, to refer to the predominantly 'space' adventures covered in his magazines. Others have since debated exactly what falls under the Sci Fi heading and Luigi airs these debates in some detail. At the end of the day, he comes back to the focus on space-related themes. As the author himself puts it:

"So, we can say, 'in the beginning was the space toy figurine'! Designed and built for children to play with, either by making them relive the adventures they had read, heard of or seen, or by allowing their imagination to run wild through the routes of space."

Part 2 *Sci-fi Figurines and Other Trifles* does not start until page 204. However, the next 300 pages provide a joyous and colourful guide through the worlds that a huge number of manufacturers, from many different countries, have tried to conjure up to bring Sci Fi to life in the playroom. While the author does not claim to

have provided a comprehensive coverage of the subject, it is hard to spot any serious gaps. As the author emphasizes, this book is not intended as an encyclopaedia, nor a complete catalogue of all existing figurines (almost certainly an impossible task). Rather it is a guided tour or promenade through the amazing worlds conjured up by authors and materialised by figurine makers. Luigi encourages us as readers, to pause and reflect; to enjoy the walk and take in the scent of the roses along the way.

Lavishly illustrated, with almost 500 photos, the book covers the full range of Sci Fi figures produced across the planet since such figures were first produced!

What the author refers to as the Golden Age, when such figures were first introduced in the 1930s, through to the 21st century focus on the latest blockbuster movies (and all the merchandising associated with them), are all covered in this volume. Britains of course were one of the early pioneers in this area, with their highly sought after Buck Rogers series. But for them this was a sideline. Other British hollowcast makers took up the baton with rather more success in the 1950s. Britains more recent forays into Space were less successful, as the book makes clear.

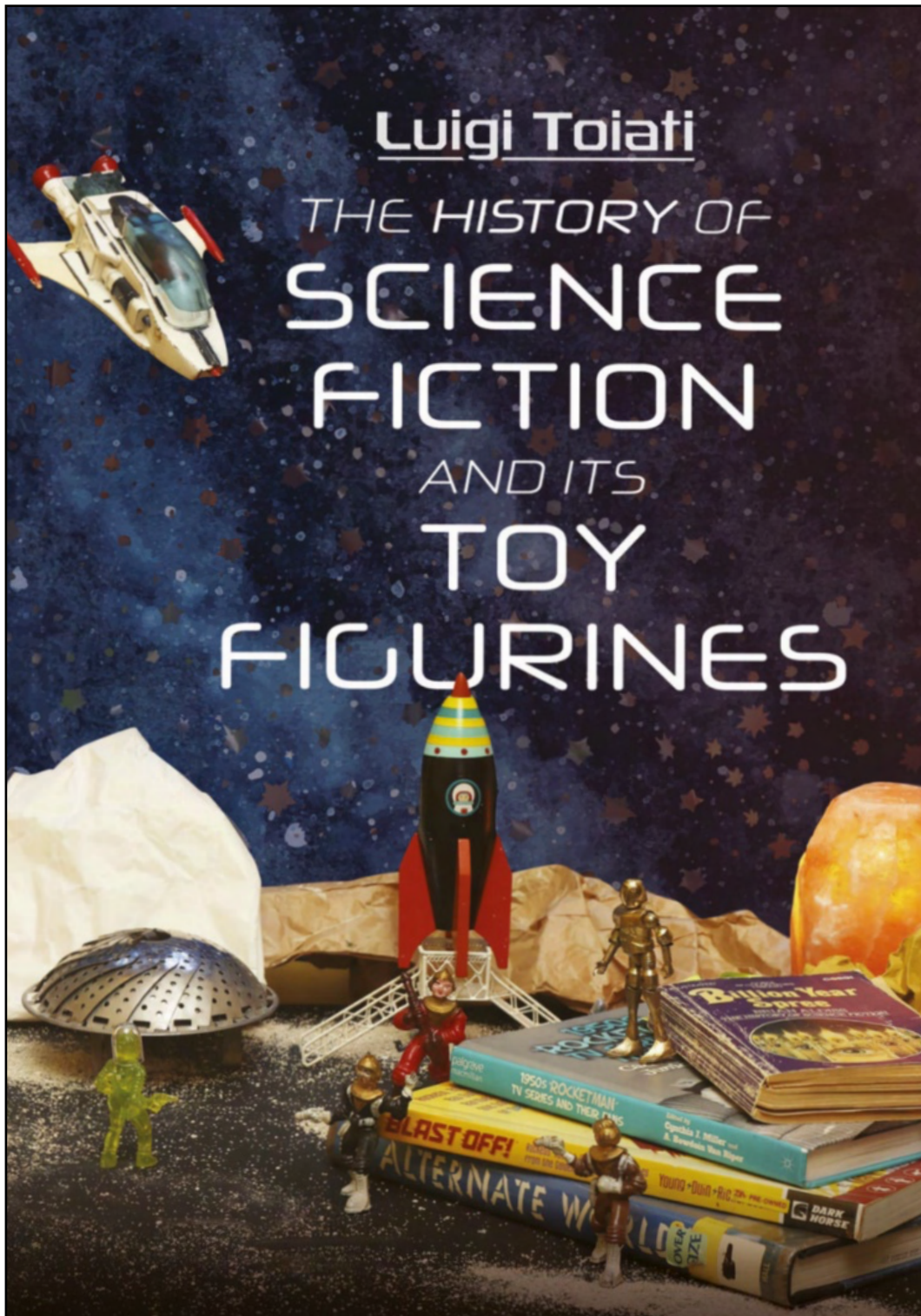
Star Wars didn't just change Hollywood, it changed the way toys were made and marketed. This is an ongoing tale of merchandizing associated with Sci Fi themes such as Transformers, etc. This has been dominated by U.S. manufacturers.

BOOK REVIEW *(Continued)*

All this is covered in the book, but Luigi attempts to give a flavour of such toys worldwide, focusing on many other countries that will be less familiar to an English-speaking audience. It will serve as an excellent reference work for those interested in starting a collection or building on

an existing one, but also provides a thought provoking and entertaining read. It contains a useful index of makers, with links back to the main text as well as a comprehensive bibliographies covering both Sci Fi as well as Sci Fi figurines. The latter is rather idiosyncratically ordered

to someone used to the academic author, data system, but fit for purpose once you get the hang of it. If you have any interest in Sci Fi and Sci figures this is a must buy.



COLLECTORS AND THEIR COLLECTIONS - CHARLIE SINEL

By Rob Wilson

Beginner's luck

Charles Sinel's serious toy soldier collecting began with a slice of luck. He spotted an advert in a local auction for a wild west display set which piqued his interest. Could this be an example of an unknown Marx Playset, like the other ones he had played with as a young boy? He was not exactly sure what he was looking at, but it was definitely not a Marx Playset as pictured in the Sears & Roebuck Christmas Catalogues from the 1950s. The huge box contained not the plastic Marx figures, but instead lead figures including Buffalo Bill and a myriad of cowboys and Indians all in action poses, scenery which oddly enough seemed indigenous to a South Sea Island, and a host of other accessories. Charlie decided to have a punt. Fortunately for him, no other bidders turned up and he acquired the set for a song.

Later research, including an invitation to take part in TV's Antique Road Show, established this was one of Heyde's largest display sets, containing 70mm scale figures depicting part of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Circus. That was back in 1984 and Charlie has been collecting ever since, focusing especially on German makers such as Heyde.

Build your own museum!

As the collection grew, Charlie became increasingly frustrated that he was only able to display a small fraction of his figures in his family home. Fortunately, he was in a position to work out a possibly unique solution - Build your own museum: When a suitably sized house came up for sale just around the corner, he put in an offer and the rest as they say is history! Having confused real estate agents, who did not understand his lack of interest in the normal facilities such as kitchens and bathrooms, he also baffled neighbours, who for months could not figure out what was going on in this particular house. Conventional fixtures and fittings were removed and customised cabinets fitted in their place. It helped that Charlie was in the scrap



Charlie with his Pride and Joy – keep reading find out what this huge box contains!



The "Museum" – housed in a normal family home in the suburbs of Providence, RI



Linda holding a rare pre war combination CBG Mignot Set



Haile Selassie meeting European dignitaries (Rare Heyde, size 2, set No. 1401)

COLLECTORS AND THEIR COLLECTIONS - CHARLIE SINEL (Continued)



Heyde Indian village scene with original playmat

metal business and was able to find many items that others were disposing of that would fit just nicely into his master plan. This included various cabinets and tables as well as trench art and similar items to display alongside the growing collection of toy soldiers.

A good pair of eyes

Charlie clearly had a good eye for such things, as well as a clear vision of how best to display his burgeoning miniature armies. These are now neatly laid out in ordered ranks or in battle and more peaceful scenes, including all manner of parades. In this he has been assisted by his patient and understanding wife Linda, who has helped cast an artistic



American Revolutionary Army



Face off against their British adversaries



Spenkuch, semi-ronde medieval set in two layer box

COLLECTORS AND THEIR COLLECTIONS - CHARLIE SINEL

(Continued)

eye over the whole affair.

The collection:

Spread over 3 floors, in many separate rooms, the collection is now organised into a number of different themes.

The core of the collection is Heyde, standard No. 2 size sets, especially large display sets. These include such delights as:

- o The Siege of Troy
- o The Triumph of Germanicus
- o Famous battles and campaigns (Waterloo, Franco Prussian War, the American War of Independence, etc)
- o Many other military and non-military events and activities, including parades, camp scenes, polar exploration, early flight, etc.

Most of these still have their original boxes, although many of these have been consigned to cupboards so that the figures can be displayed to full advantage.

All the figures are displayed in large glass cabinets, with good lighting and excellent and well thought out captions and information boards explaining the significance of the figures and the scenes they are re-enacting.

Not just Heyde

This is not just a Heyde collection however. Many other German makers are also represented, including Haffner, Krause, Noris, Spenkuch and many more.

All of the main makers are covered:

- Elastolin composition
- CBG Mignot and other French makers, including hollowcast/dimestore
- American Dimestore, including many conversions and accessories.
- Marx and other plastics – many of these were childhood playthings for Charlie
- Space toys
- Paper soldiers



CBG Mignot 35mm scale boxed diorama battle scene



Britains and other zoo figures



Space toys too

COLLECTORS AND THEIR COLLECTIONS - CHARLIE SINEL (Continued)

- Civilian scenes
- Lead Shed
- Britains too
- Recognition models, by Dale and Frambug, including ships, aircraft, tanks

My personal favourite in the collection was not even a toy soldier and almost falls into this last category! These were two magnificent museum quality models of battleships from the "Great White Fleet". At around two metres long, the model of the USS Alabama scales out at around 1/75 of the original (a picture of which is also shown here)! Charlie discovered the two ships in another local estate sale, which had been poorly advertised. Not recognizing the museum quality of the models, the auctioneer decided to offer the second ship for the same price as the first one to clear them quickly. With no other serious bidders present Charlie picked up the two for around \$300 plus commission and related charges. What a snip!

Finally, we return to the one that started it all! The magnificent Heyde large scale display set, shown in its huge original wooden box at the start of this article. This, opens up to reveal a marvellous collection of Cowboys and Indians from Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, including a stage coach, covered wagon and enough buffaloes to constitute a small herd.

All in all, a visit to Charlie's museum is an overwhelming experience. We spent the best part of a day taking it all in. Visits are however strictly by appointment, so if you wish to enjoy the experience contact Charlie at: charles sinel <csinel@hotmail.com>. You won't be disappointed!



USS Alabama just one of two magnificent museum class models of battleships from the Great White Fleet



USS Alabama in 1904 – the real thing



Heyde large scale Buffalo Bill's Wild West playset

SHOW REPORT

EUROFIGURINES PARIS SHOW, OCTOBER 2023

By Harry Kemp

I really like the Eurofigurines show at Nanterre on the outskirts of Paris. Starting at 8 am on a Sunday morning for the public (7am for traders) and finishing by 1 pm, means it can easily be combined with a long weekend in Paris. There are two hotels within a 30 seconds walk of the venue.

I never know quite what to expect, but I always turn up a few finds on the day and a few dealers have usually put aside some figures for me.

Finds of the day were fairly lean this trip; a very nice group of Noris Cuirassiers, some small size CBG cavalry on springs and a Heyde paper weight trinket of a pointer dog sniffing a lady bird being the highlights. (All these sold at Sandown two weeks later).

As usual my table is randomly positioned and today, I was on the same aisle as several dealers of composition figures, and there were truly more than I have ever seen before in one place. Not my thing, but great to see such a variety, although demand and prices in this category of collecting seem to have been going down recently.

Unexpectedly, behind me is an English plastic dealer who has driven 700km from his holiday home in the south of France! Great effort.

Of more interest to me were the Paris office figures that I had arranged deals on beforehand.

Kneeling Officer in Khaki with binoculars. This figure in horizon blue is iconic, but this is the first time I have seen it in Khaki, and the two examples I acquired are in excellent condition. Which set did this go with? Belgians or Turcos?. My feeling is the latter. Or possibly sold singly?

I also found some B-size Cameron highlanders, Set 23b, second version. These look like Paris office to me, but very similar to London production. They are dated and marked depose (not that that depose is in anyway conclusive). These are very hard to find even as London made examples in 1sy grade paint finish (not to be confused with the post WW1 second grade version same casting but less paint detail), I am happy either way.

Another good find was a Uhlan lancer in 'grey'. This is a well-known Paris office figure that will join a growing number of compatriots in my cabinets. Based on the Prussian Hussar set 153. Very nice.

Last, but not least another Paris Office find – a German (or possibly Austro-Hungarian) Lancer in 'exotic' blue uniform again based on set 153. This is a wonderful and enigmatic figure. These turn up from time to time and were undoubtedly sold by the Paris Office, but to my knowledge no one has yet identified the regiment it is meant to depict. I have a quite a few, including the magnificent officer which might just be my all-time favourite figure.

My own stall is a modest affair, as I don't bring much. But sales of a couple of hundred Euros is fine, considering I spend 90% of my time out on the hunt. This show is friendly, very lovely and highly recommended, next one is March 17th 2024. Maybe I'll see some of you there.



One of the Cuirassiers picked up at Eurofigurines



Two rare Paris Office figures picked up at Eurofigurines

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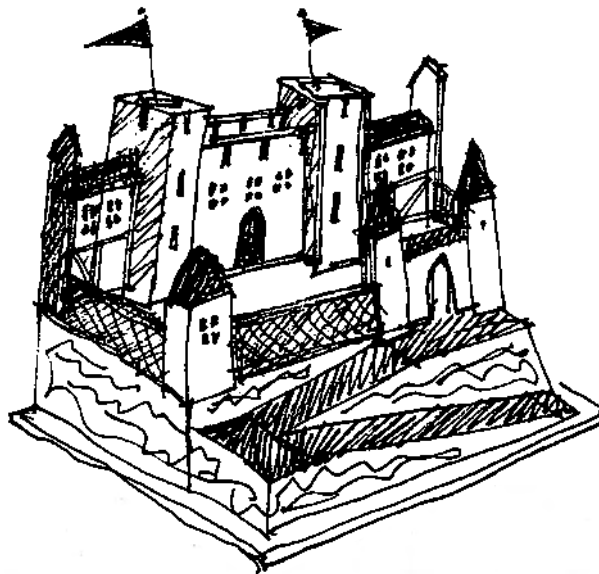


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SHOW REPORT

SANDOWN PARK TOY FAIR, NOVEMBER 2023

By Harry Kemp

I might be guilty of repeating myself, but this is my favourite show in England. Most visits result in a few good finds and today was no exception.

A good selection of soldier dealers were present including Adrian Little, Steve Vicars, Andy Morant, plus many more stalls with either a few or a lot of soldiers. The first phase of this show is always about 15 dealers trading on the stands outside (in what is essentially the car park) before we are let into the venue at 8.00am.

In this pre-trading I was lucky enough to find a much sought after figure being a Britains mounted Arab with a rifle rather than jazail (see the Reconnaissance

section for photo). This is the first time I have owned this figure and although one hoof is missing it is a fine addition to my collection. Myself and others speculate that this might have originally been a Paris Office variation, but this certainly looks like London production c.1925. Could it be surplus Paris office castings returned to London and were painted there? I suspect we will never know.

It seemed buyers of Britains were not here today, I sold mainly German and French made figures and sales were modest. Andy Morant, next to me, had a large quantity of excellent oval base early Britains but barely sold any. Listed on eBay, I suspect all would have sold

well and quickly. Perhaps this explains why you can make great finds by attending shows.

Other finds on the day were:

1. A beautiful Scout Master, the larger square base second version but embossed on the base with an oval stamp, dated with depose. This mark, and an unusual paint style (colour of hat etc and style of moustache), makes me think this is Paris Office c. 1912).

2. A New Zealand infantry figure, large head, but in an unusual colour uniform and base. Not my one of my specialist areas, so maybe this is not as unusual as I think. Perusing various reference



1 Andy Morant and other dealers stands heavily laden with goodies



2 More dealers and their stands

SHOW REPORT (Continued)

books, I think this could be a figure from set 1872 or 1888, both of which are from Historical Collectors Series issued in 1940/41. Again see the Reconnaissance section for a photo of this figure.

3. A round base Officer of the Black Watch with binoculars, a particular favourite of collectors.

4. On guard figure with khaki home service helmet. An often seen oddity presumably sold as single figures over the counter. Another one for my cabinets.

Another great show, I'll be sure to be back in February 2024!



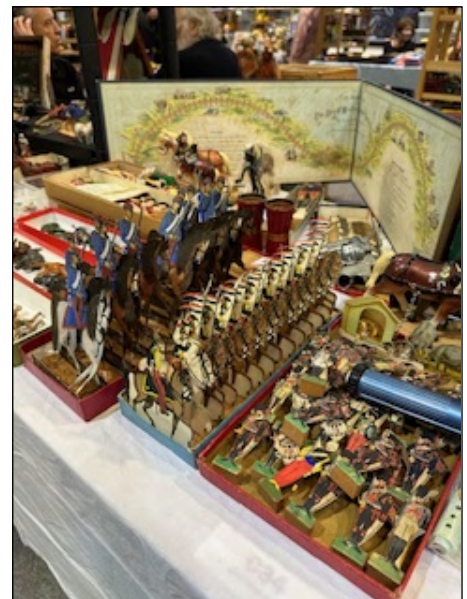
3 Various Heyde novelties



5 The Scout Master – Pars Office?



4 Hank and Silver King and paper soldiers



6 More dealers and stands

BRITAINS 1880 CATALOGUE¹

By John Franklin

I acquired a copy of Britains 1880 catalogue in a bundle of other toy soldier paper items from an auction, no chance of discussing with the seller if there was any background. I have taken the copied four pages as authentic, with a clear Senior Britains signature similar to that seen on various occasions elsewhere.

The copy was not the clearest for all descriptions to be read in full, so a strategy has been adopted to try and show each of the four sheets and then provide a clear set of words alongside.

The copy is annotated with the handwritten date of 1880 and with the Britain's family member's signature, presumably to denote his copy – do not pinch! The signature is that of L D Britain. I have accepted these handwritten additions at face value. Also, I judge that the date is about right, reflecting what might seem like the level of ingenuity and skill in these toys as might have been achieved in 1880.

L D Britain was the author of the article published in the August 1969 issue of the British Model Soldier Society Bulletin entitled 'A Brief History of Britains'.²

What is clear is that a lot of these 1880 toys have moving parts and clockwork systems to animate them. Also, a fair number appear mounted on a wooden box for the clockwork motor, but there must be levers, axles and cogwheels coming up from the box inside the figure to operate the moving parts as described in the catalogue. I would guess that with Britains originating in Birmingham they had ready access to other manufacturers, skilled in using metal, who were producing motors, whether clockwork or electrical, as well as instrument and clock makers and



THE DISCOVERY OF AN EARLY
BRITAINS CATALOGUE

Luigi Toiati
2024

the like making cog wheels, spindles, rods, etc, etc.

These working toys would also have to be hollow inside to accommodate the levers and rods coming up legs or gowns, which suggests either hollow castings or bodies cast in two halves. For the latter, after the inner workings have been assembled, the second half body is affixed and then painted. This aspect does suggest that Britains were thinking about hollow bodies and figures at least 10 years before they launched their soldiers in 1893.

Britains did not stop their range of mechanical toys (as shown in the catalogue here) at the onset of toy soldier production, but continued with them in parallel as is evidenced by such mechanical toys still being shown in the Britains catalogue ascribed to 1915.

The first toy in the catalogue is the Mechanical Foot Race. Reference is also made to the Mechanical Bicycle Race (not illustrated). The words read:

THE MECHANICAL FOOT RACE

This justly celebrated walking match consists of a handsomely got up stand designed to represent a tent which two men (9 inches in height) richly dressed in silk and satin, are made to walk rapidly and pass and re-pass one another in such a manner that it is quite impossible for anyone to predict which will be the winner at the close of a number of predetermined rounds. The action of the men's legs is quite natural, in fact a fair heel-and-toe race.

Packed in strong wooden box, carriage paid, 40/-.

THE MECHANICAL BICYCLE RACE (not illustrated)

This consists of the same stand and mechanism as the Foot Race, but instead of the men walking they are made to ride bicycles.

Packed in strong woode (sic) box, carriage paid, 45/-.

This is followed by descriptions of The Mechanical Dog and Bear. The words read;

¹ Editor's Note: The 1880 date has never been confirmed. According to Norman Joplin, the date was simply a guess made by Dennis Britain when he was caught off guard by Arnold Rolak (who presented it to him without notice at the Christies Britains Archive Sale on June 27th 1994). There have been a number of articles relating to this early catalogue published in previous issues, for example: Vol 5 # 6, Vol 11 #4, Vol 24 #3, Vol 42 #2, Vol 43 #1. Thanks to Norman Joplin for all this information.

² The article is reproduced (with permission) in the Introduction to my book 'Britains and other Interesting Toy Soldiers' (currently with the publishers). The full ascription to the article was L D Britain, OBE DFC.

L. & Britan.

J. C. Thakur
Sch. Master.

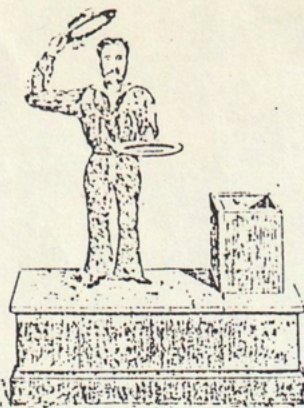
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HORNSEY RISE, LONDON, N.

Carefully packed. Post free 24/-

BRITAINS 1880 CATALOGUE (Continued)

W. BRITAIN & SONS' DESCRIPTIVE PRICE LIST.



THE SAILOR MONEY BOX.

This is a figure of a Sailor, 9 inches high, dressed in satin, and standing on a handsome polished mahogany box, always ready to receive subscriptions, either as a children's money box or for charitable purposes. On placing a penny in the plate which he holds in front of him, he will immediately transfer it to the box at his side, at the same time raising his hat with his right hand and bowing gracefully.

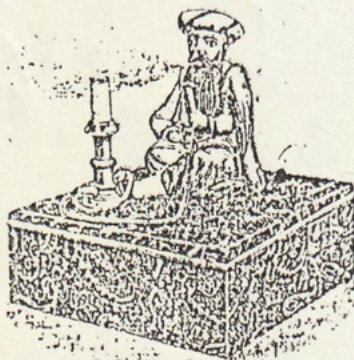
Strongly recommended for bazaars or collecting purposes. Packed in strong wooden box. Carriage paid, 27/6.



THE MECHANICAL CHINAMAN.

The Chinese Mandarin is a very clever and pleasing mechanical figure, richly dressed in satin and gold lace, and stands 12 inches in height. In his right hand he holds a cup, and in his left a saucer. On winding the figure up he will raise the cup to his mouth, and, after first tasting, will drink the whole cupful right off, throwing his head back with evident satisfaction. It is very strongly made and will go for half an hour with once winding. This figure has achieved great success as a window attraction for shops, particularly grocery stores.

Packed in strong wooden box. Carriage paid, 21/-.



THE KHEDIVE.

THE LATEST AND BEST SMOKING FIGURE.

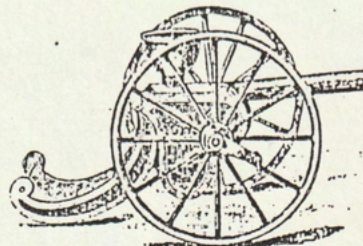
This strongly made figure goes by clockwork, and smokes cigarettes or a pipe in the most natural manner possible, puffing out the smoke in clouds, and being made on a new principle, without valves, is not likely to clog with the juice from the tobacco or herbs which it may have to smoke. It is a novel and attractive present, or if introduced at Christmas parties, is sure to excite much admiration, and cause considerable amusement. Post free, 3/6.



THE MECHANICAL SCOTCHMAN.

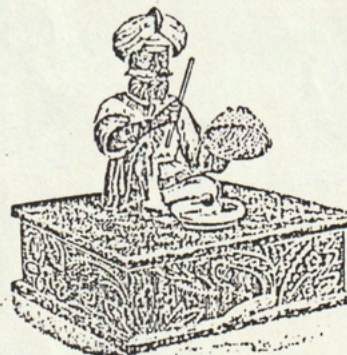
This is a larger and better article on the same principle as the Chinaman. He stands 16 inches in height, and is dressed in velvet coat, plaid, kilt, shawl &c., and moves both arms. In his right hand he holds a bottle, and in his left a glass. He first pours out a glassful from the bottle, and then drinks it off, throwing his head back at the same time. This movement also goes for about half an hour with once winding.

A capital figure for Wine and Spirit or Grocery Store Windows, as an attraction. Packed in strong, wooden box. Carriage paid, 35/-.



THE MACHINE GUN.

This makes a capital toy for a boy, as with this weapon he can put to rout brigade after brigade of toy soldiers, as fast as they can be formed. The Gun is well-made, and is capable of firing 200 shots per minute. The action is as follows: the cup on the barrel of the gun is filled with peas, and the handle turned rapidly until the peas are all discharged, when it can be re-filled, and the Gun is ready to resume operations. Carefully packed, post free, 3/6.



THE INDIAN JUGGLER.

PERFORMER OF THE WELL-KNOWN BASKET TRICK.

This represents a turbaned Indian, one and a half times as big in proportion as the Khedive, sitting on a box, handsomely covered in silk plush, with a basket in front of him, holding in his right hand a wand, and in his left the basket lid. On winding the figure up he proceeds to tap on the top of the basket with his wand, after which he raises the basket lid and a child is found sitting in the basket, after a while he re-covers the basket with the lid, taps again with his wand, raises the lid, and to the surprise and astonishment of everyone the child is transposed into a horrid looking snake, and so on through a number of changes.

This is the very latest novelty for the Christmas season, and as such is sure to please. No pains have been spared in its production, so that we can safely say that no better or more handsome article has ever been offered at so low a cost. Post free, 10/6.

28, LAMBTON ROAD, HORNSEY RISE, LONDON, N.

BRITAINS 1880 CATALOGUE (Continued)

THE MECHANICAL DOG

This is a handsome white poodle, that runs about or stands still at will and forms, a most interesting and amusing present for a child being strongly made and not likely to get out of order; goes by clockwork, and is also capable of carrying any little figure on its back, such as a doll.

Carefully packed. Post free, 18/6.

THE MECHANICAL BEAR

This is a similar article to the Mechanical Dog, but in addition to running along, it lifts its head up and down, and moves it from side to side, opening and shutting its mouth, and showing its teeth all the while in a most savage manner.

Carefully packed. Post free, 25/-.

Page 2 follows with 6 more toys: The Sailor Money Box, The Mechanical Scotsman and Chinaman, The Machine Gun, The Khedive and The Indian Juggler.

The text for each of these is as follows:

THE SAILOR MONEY BOX

This is a figure of a sailor. 9 inches high, dressed in satin and standing on a handsome polished mahogany box, always ready to receive subscriptions, either as a children's money box or for charitable purposes. On placing a penny in the plate which he holds in front of him, he will immediately transfer it to the box at his side, at the same time raising his hat with his right hand and bowing gracefully. Strongly recommended for bazaars or collecting purposes.

Packed in strong wooden box.

Carriage paid, 17/6

THE MECHANICAL SCOTCHMAN

This is a larger and better article on the same principle as the Chinaman. He stands 16 inches in height, and is dressed in velvet coat, plaid, kilt, shawl etc, and moves both arms. In his right hand he holds a bottle, and

in the left a glass. He first pours out a glassfull from the bottle, and then drinks it off, throwing his head back at the same time. This movement goes for about half-an-hour with one winding. A capital figure for Wine and Spirit, or Grocery Store Windows, as an attraction.

Packed in strong wooden box.

Carriage paid, 35/-.

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Carriage paid, 21/-.

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Carefully packed, post free, 5/6.

THE KHEDIVE

The Latest and Best Smoking Figure. This strongly made figure goes by clockwork, and smokes cigarettes or a pipe in the most natural manner possible, puffing out the smoke in clouds, and being made on a new principle, without valves is not likely

to clog with the juice from the tobacco or herbs which it may have to smoke. Handsomely got up, and sitting on a carpeted box; it forms a novel and attractive present; or if introduced at Christmas parties is sure to excite much admiration; and cause much amusement.

Post free, 5/6.

THE INDIAN JUGGLER

Performer of the Well-known Basket Trick. This represents a turbaned Indian, one and a half times as big in proportion as the Khedive, sitting on a box, handsomely covered in silk plush, with a basket in front of him, holding in his right hand a wand, and in his left the basket lid. On winding the figure up he proceeds to tap on the top of the basket with his wand, after which he raises the basket lid and a child is found sitting in the basket, after which he re-covers the basket with the lid, taps again with his wand, raise the lid, and to the surprise and astonishment of everyone the child is transposed into a horrid looking snake, and so on through a number of changes. This is the very latest novelty for the Christmas season, and as such is sure to please. No pains have been spared in its production, so that we can safely say that no better or handsome article has been offered at so low a cost.

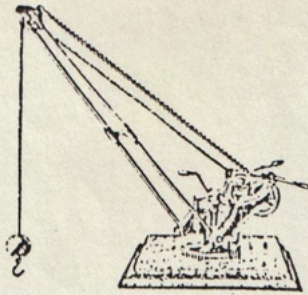
Post free, 10/6.

Page 3 continues with 6 more toys: The Model Crane, The Walking Elephant, The London Road Roller, The Miniature Road Roller, Don Quixote and the Windmill, and the Equestrienne

THE MODEL CRANE

A solid and instructive toy for boys, having all movements the same as the largest cranes now in use, and well and strongly made.

Post free, 2/6.



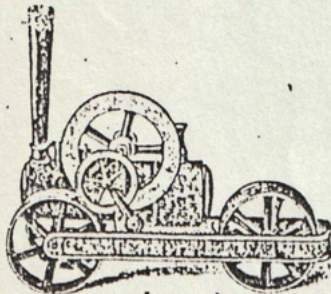
THE MODEL CRANE.

A useful and instructive toy for boys, having all movements the same as the largest cranes now in use, and well and strongly made. Post free, 2/6.



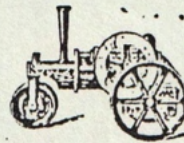
THE WALKING ELEPHANT.

This is a well-made model of an elephant with a rider on his back. On spinning the parasol, which the rider carries, and placing the elephant on a smooth table, he will walk along, moving his legs in a natural manner. Post free, 2/6.



THE LONDON ROAD ROLLER.

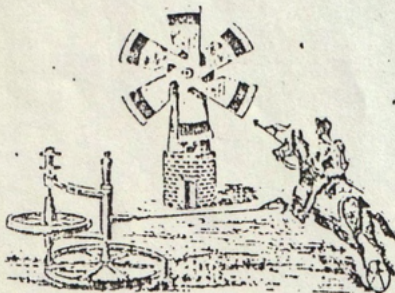
This is an exact model of the large and heavy rollers used for rolling the London roads, and is as heavy for its size as the powerful engines from which it is copied, it is made of solid castings, and not stamped tin, like most of the foreign rubbish that is now sold. In strong box, post free, 3/.



THE MINIATURE ROAD-ROLLER.

Is a cheaper form of Road Roller, and is a model of the smaller rollers used to roll suburban streets. Will run a long distance with one spinning.

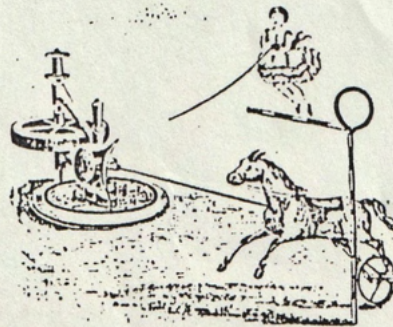
Post free, 1/3.



DON QUIXOTE AND THE WINDMILL.

This pleasing toy illustrates the old story of Don Quixote and the windmill, representing a knight clad in armour, and mounted on horseback, who gallops round and attacks a gaily coloured windmill with his lance.

This forms an amusing game by counting the number of times, or the different coloured fans of the mill he strikes, each player having chosen his colour beforehand. Post free, 1/3.



THE EQUESTRIENNE.

This, as the name implies, consists of a horse galloping round a ring, as at a circus. Standing upon the back of the horse is a fairy, who, as the horse passes under the bar, stoops and then jumps, clearing the bar in a most clever manner, alighting upon the horse's back and stands, balancing herself until the horse reaches the bar, when she again jumps, continuing to ride and jump until the horse stops.

Post free, 1/3.

28, LAMBTON ROAD, HORNSEY RISE, LONDON, N.

BRITAINS 1880 CATALOGUE (Continued)

W. BRITAIN & SONS' DESCRIPTIVE PRICE LIST.



THE FOUNTAIN TOP.

This consists of an elegant top which is wound up and spun in the ordinary way, but instead of placing it on the table it is stood in a saucer-full of water. It immediately throws up a magnificent jet of water, varying in height according to the strength of the spinner.

Post free, 1/3.



THE MIKADO

Is a pretty little ornament for the mantleshell, always amusing. When the umbrella is spun the figure will vigorously fan himself with the fan that he holds in his left hand.

Post free, 1/3.

THE CLOWN.

This makes a charming companion ornament to the Mikado, being a well-finished model of a clown balancing a plate and bottle upon his nose, and when spun taps the edge of the plate with a wand which he holds in his right hand.

Post free, 1/3.

THE WALTZING COUPLE

Represents a soldier and his lady waltzing. When spun and placed on a tray, or other smooth surface, the figures run about, turning round and round all the while. If spun strongly they dance most vigorously, causing much amusement.

Post free, 1/3; smaller size, 74d.



THE BOOMERANG TOP.

This is a top which will throw up any number of fliers into the air. The top has simply to be spun in the ordinary way and the flier put on, then touch the trigger underneath and the flier is released and rises rapidly into the air. Another flier is then put on and released in a similar manner, and so on until the top is down.

Post free, 1/3.



THE FOUR-HORSE RACE

Consists of a stand supporting four jockeys on horses who, when the race is started, race round and round, passing and re-passing one another in such a manner that it is positively impossible to tell which will win until the race is over. With this game children can be kept amused for hours. It is strongly made and not likely to get out of order. Post free, 3/9.

Smaller size, with only two horses, post free, 1/3.



THE GENERAL.

This is a figure of a soldier, mounted on a hobby horse, and carrying an umbrella over his shoulder, which, when it is set spinning, causes the soldier to run rapidly along, and to use his sword vigorously as he goes.

Post free, 1/9.

28, LAMBTON ROAD, HORNSEY RISE, LONDON, N.

BRITAINS 1880 CATALOGUE (Continued)

THE WALKING ELEPHANT

This is a well made model of an elephant with a rider on his back. On spinning of the parasol which the rider carries, and placing the elephant on a smooth table, he will walk along, moving his legs in a most natural manner.

Post free, 2/6.

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In strong box, post free 3/-.

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Post free, 1/3.

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Post free, 1/3.

Page 4 concludes with 6 more toys: The Fountain Top, The Boomerang Top, The Mikado, the Four Horse Race, The Clown (not illustrated), the Waltzing Couple and The General. The latter two represent Britain's very first toy soldiers!

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Post Free, 1/3.

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Post Free, 3/9.

Smaller size, with only two horses, post free, 1/3.

THE CLOWN (not illustrated)

This makes a charming companion ornament to the Mikado, being a well finished model balancing a plate and bottle on his nose, and when spun taps the edge of the plate with a wand which he holds in his right hand.

Post free, 1/3.

THE WALZING COUPLE

(not illustrated)

Represents a soldier and his lady waltzing. When spun and placed on a tray, or other smooth surface, the figures run about, turning round and round all the while. If spun strongly they dance most vigorously, causing much amusement.

Post free, 1/3; smaller size 71/2d.

THE GENERAL

This is a figure of a soldier, mounted on a hobby horse, and carrying an umbrella over his shoulder, which, when it is set spinning, causes the soldier to run rapidly along, and to use his sword vigorously as he goes.

Post free, 1/9.

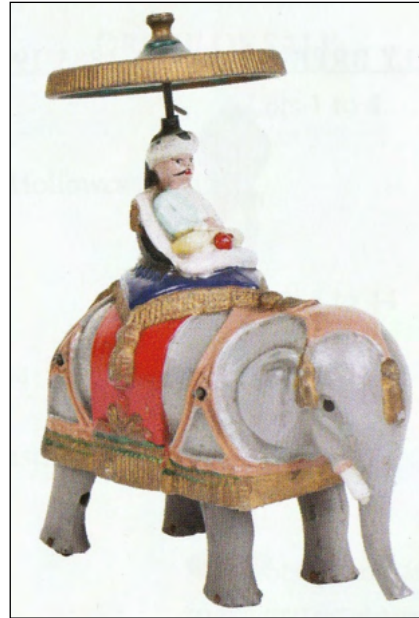
Some of these early Britains toys come onto the market from time to time. The four pictures P 1 - P4 below were offered in 2017 at C & T Auctions in the UK and were a legacy from Jeanne Burley's collection.

Those readers who would like to see more of these 1880 early Britains toys should refer to the November 2006 auction catalogue from the Christies South Kensington sale of Fine Toys and Toy Figures, which included pictures in colour.

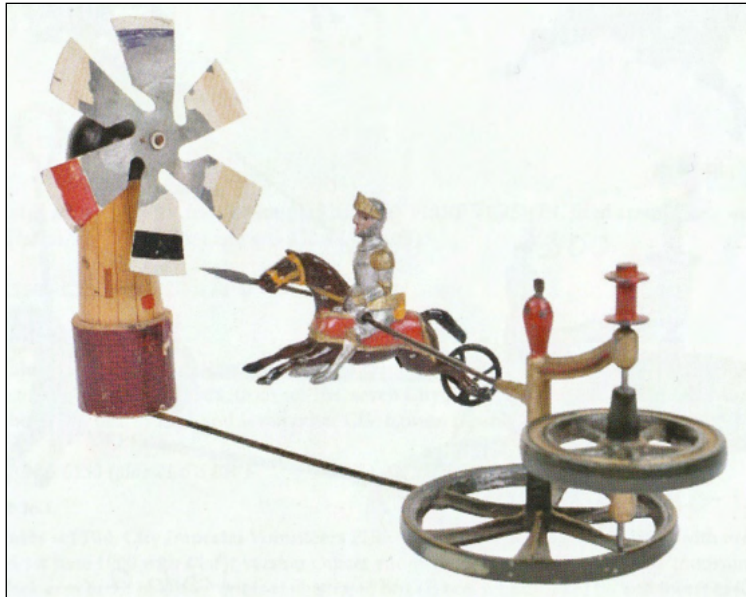
BRITAINS 1880 CATALOGUE (Continued)



P1 The Fountain Top



P2 The Walking Elephant



P3 Don Quixote and the Windmill



P4 The Equestrienne

AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

Luck of the Soldier

MARCH 15TH, 2024 ~ 10AM EST

Auction includes Britains Rare Salvation Army Band, Fouille and Vertunni.



Lot 112 Britains RARE #1317 Salvation Army Band Estimate: \$5000 - \$10000



Lot 117 Britains Set #1287 British Military Band Estimate: \$400 - \$800



Lot 141 RARE Britains For Beiser American Knock Down Set
Estimate: \$1000 - \$3000



Lot 154 RARE Britains Paris Office Coldstream Guards
Estimate: \$800 - \$1600



Lot 180 Vertunni RARE
Jeanne d'Arc Mounted on Horse
Estimate: \$350 600



Lot 182 RARE Georges Fouille
"Eugène de Beauharnais" Estimate: \$1000 - \$2000



Lot 183 Courtenay RARE Sir Richard Fitz-Simon K.G.
Estimate: \$400 - \$800



Lot 181 RARE Georges Fouille
"Trompette des Gardes"
Estimate: \$1000 - \$2000



Lot 114 Britains #161 Boy Scouts with Scout Master Estimate: \$500 - \$1000

Ray Haradin
raytoys@aol.com
412-343-8733
Fax 412-344-5273



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ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1913-1960

This book is already the 2nd photo guide on Hausser/Elastolin show-room dioramas. Represented are many of never before published original photographs of dioramas built for Hausser/Elastolin in the period between 1913 and 1960. The documentation's themes are ranging from military scenes and political events via zoological highlights and Wild West topics to certain examples of the early post-war period. The editors were able to share their treasure of high quality old original black-and-white photographs with the readers community on quite a high-quality standard and added also some more recent photographic documentations. 112 pages, hardcover, 21 x 30 cm.

Price 39.00 Euro plus postage: within Germany 3.00 Euro; 5.00 Euro within the EU; Non-EU and World the real shipping costs.

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Bestimmungsbuch und Preiskatalog

ANDREAS PIETRUSCHKA

VERLAG FIGUREN MAGAZIN · H. LANG · A. PIETRUSCHKA · BERLIN

ELASTOLIN

Plastic figures and accessories.

All items are listed in a price chart.

This book is a completely reviewed and extended edition of the standard publication from 1993 about the Elastolin figures and accessories (4 cm to 7 cm and other sizes) of the company Hausser. All hard-plastic themes are compiled together in one volume. All items are listed in a price chart and in pictures. Many almost unknown models are documented. Exact description of various versions. The themes range from ancient Romans, Normans and Vikings, Medieval Knights and Wild West to soldiers from the periods of the 18th and 20th century, as well as castles, camps, African Safari, domestic and wild animals, farms, zoos, circus, tales figures, advertising and special edition figures, mechanical toys and Bild-Lilli (the proto-type of all Barbie dolls). For the first time and only in this publication one can find 15 additional Elastolin dioramas and scenic arrangements from various historical series. Size 21.5 x 29.8 cm, 208 pages, more than 1,000 objects whereas 500 are in color photographs. Price 45.00 Euro. Shipping: EU 5.00 Euro. Non-EU and World the real costs.

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FIGUREN MAGAZIN

is Germany's outstanding magazine on composition and plastic figures and related accessories. Each issue is packed with information on old and recent productions, and contains articles written by authors not only from Germany but also from other countries.

FIGUREN MAGAZIN's main focus is on "Lineol" and "Elastolin", but also refers to other German and foreign manufacturers.

The themes range from ancient Romans, Normans and

Vikings, Medieval Knights and Wildwest to soldiers from the period of the 20th century. Beside toy soldiers there also are vehicles and other accessories, especially for WW II scenarios, as well as civilians, animals and much more. Each issue is very well illustrated. There are four issues per year.

Editors: Helmut Lang and Andreas Pietruschka

Subscriptions rates: Europe 33.00 Euro, Overseas (Air Mail) 39.00 Euro (prices include shipping and postage). Contact:

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VERLAG FIGUREN MAGAZIN · HELMUT LANG · ANDREAS PIETRUSCHKA · BERLIN

ELASTOLIN DIORAMAS 1960-1983

The most beautiful original dioramas of the famous German toy figure company Hausser. This book on Elastolin will delight both modellers and diorama builders. Due to the great collection of impressive photographs any knowledge of German language is not required. The book is nothing less than a pictorial tour de force of dioramas. All shown dioramas are products of the artist Josef Tonn. Their themes and topics range from the times of Romans, Vikings, Normans, Huns, medieval knights and the Wild West to the battlefields of soldiers from the 18th and 19th century. Castles, farm and zoo scenarios are shown as well as Safari settings. "Elastolin Schaustücke" has 144 pages, mostly in full colour (some double paged photos!). Size 23 x 30 cm. Price 39.00 Euro. Shipping: EU 5.00 Euro. Non-EU and World the real costs.

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BRITAINS IN THE BALKANS

By Bill Anderson

1. The cockpit of Europe - the Balkan Wars, 1912-13



The First Balkan War lasted from October 1912 to May 1913. It involved actions of the Balkan League, consisting of Bulgaria, Serbia, Greece and Montenegro against the Ottoman Empire. In the ensuing conflict the Balkan states overcame the Ottoman armies.

The Tsardom of Bulgaria was a constitutional monarchy, established in 1908. In 1912 a secret treaty was signed between Bulgaria and Serbia. A similar treaty was signed by Greece and Montenegro. After the Ottomans refused to implement reforms in disputed Macedonia and Thrace, the First Balkan War broke out. The 4 allies had astonishing victories over the Ottomans and advanced against Constantinople, while the Serbs and



Greeks took control of Macedonia. The Ottomans then sued for peace, but negotiations broke down and fighting resumed in February 1913. A second armistice followed in March, with the Ottomans losing all of their European possessions west of the Midia-Enos line, not far from Constantinople. The Serbs and Greeks took control of Macedonia and the Bulgarians gained most of Thrace.

2. The Armies Involved

Contemporary illustration from the French "Le PetitsJournal" showing the opposing armies

Bulgaria: This was the most powerful of the four Balkan States with a large, well-equipped army. Initially, it mobilized around 370 thousand men, rising to a total of almost 600 thousand out of a population of just 4.3 million according to information on Wikipedia.

Serbia: The Serbian Army totalled around 250 thousand, out of a population of just under 3 million.

Greece: With a population of just over 2½ million, Greece was considered the weakest of the three main allies, fielding a small army of around 125,000.

Montenegro: This was even smaller, but it was the only Balkan country never to be fully conquered by the Ottomans. With an army of around 45 thousand it did not have huge influence.

The Ottoman Empire: In 1913 the empire had a large population of around 26 million, of which 6 million lived in its European part, only 2.3 million being non-muslim. The regular forces were well trained and equipped but the reserve forces that reinforced it were ill-equipped and badly trained. Initially the army numbered around 4-500 thousand. It was later significantly reinforced, out-numbering the Balkan League Allies by the end of the conflict.



BRITAINS IN THE BALKANS (Continued)

3. Representations of the armies involved in toy form – Britains London Factory



There was considerable variation in the uniforms of the Allied States, as well as differences between the actual uniform as worn during wartime conditions and their parade/dress uniforms. Typically, it was the latter represented by Britains, who created various sets in response to the (then current) conflict, in their usual style, covering all the combatants - after all, they were toy soldiers. Turkish cavalry had been in the catalogue for a few years, but most of these sets appeared in 1912-13.



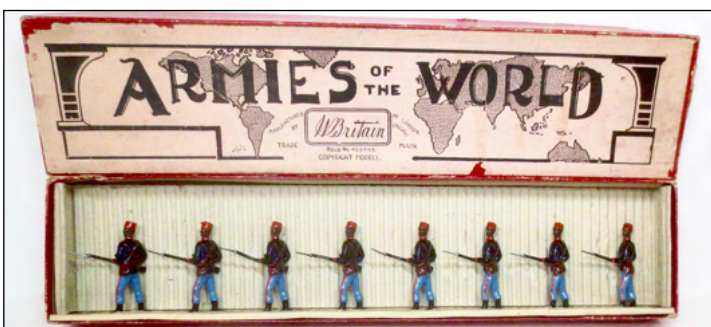
Set Number 71, Turkish Cavalry - produced 1897-1941.

The Ertoghrul Cavalry Regiment of the Ottoman Imperial Guards was named after the father of Osman [1299-1326] the founder of the Ottoman Empire. This rare early label was later replaced by a Whisstock designed, illustrated label.



Set Number 167 Turkish Infantry produced 1912-1941.

This was one of the first sets issued in response to the conflict. A Whisstock label was used on the early boxes, but the set is occasionally found later with the Armies of the World label. The original set contained an officer, marching with sword, wearing a fez. The next configuration of the set saw the officer removed and replaced with another figure standing, on guard, with fixed bayonet.



BRITAINS IN THE BALKANS (Continued)



Set Number 170 Greek Cavalry produced 1913-1941.

The officer rides a grey, cantering horse and is armed with an extended sword. Troopers are armed with carbines.



Set Number 171 Greek Infantry, produced 1913-1941.

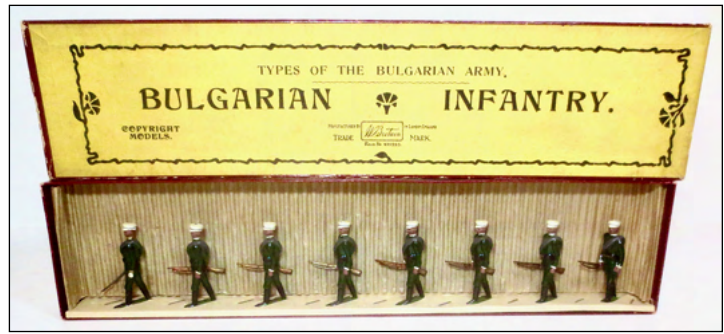
The first version of the set had a pigeon-chested figure running at the trail, mounted on an unstamped square base. This was replaced in 1914 with a more realistic figure. The uniforms were originally light brown and later changed to a khaki shade.



Set Number 172 Bulgarian Infantry, produced 1913-1941.

The first version of this set came with figures marching at the slope. Later versions introduced figures marching at the trail. Some early sets were found with a mix of both. The sets came in a box with a printers decorated label.

BRITAINS IN THE BALKANS (Continued)



Set Number 173 Servian Infantry, produced 1913-1935.

This set was composed of eight charging figures with no officer. The set was deleted in 1935 as the state of Serbia no longer existed. It had become part of Yugoslavia after World War One in 1918.



Set Number 174 Montenegrin Infantry, produced 1913-1935.

Two variations were offered, either marching at the slope or at the trail, each set had a sword carrying officer. The boxes had a printers decorated label.



BRITAINS IN THE BALKANS (Continued)

4. Britains Paris Office

In 1905 Britains established their so called "Paris Office" to manufacture figures in France. This lasted until 1923. The figures they produced are often difficult to identify and document, as no catalogues or price lists have so far been found. The few sets, single figures and empty boxes that have shown up probably represent only a fraction of the factory output, which appears to have been much less regimented than the London Office. Incomplete lists have been published.

The majority of the figures cover First World War subjects of the major powers. However, sets of various other "foreign" troops were also produced, often probably to special order.

In order to enjoy the same protection for the range, as was the case in Britain, the word Depose was put under the figure when the design was registered. However the presence of the Depose stamp is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition to establish that a Britains figure was made in France. They produced many interesting figures, including the flag bearer that graces our cover." The other sets presented here are probably "one-off" Special Orders and as such, would not have been recorded in any catalogue. The Paris Office was closed in 1923 due to a "failure to run properly".



Turkish Infantry marching at the slope. Circa 1914.



Greek Infantry marching at the slope. A special order Circa 1914.



Bulgarian Royal Guards at the slope. A special order- undated. In 1908 Ferdinand proclaimed independence from the Ottoman Empire, becoming its first Tsar. The country had been virtually independent since 1878.



Paris Office Serbian Infantry. Serbia and Montenegro shared the same/similar flag. A simplified version was used by Britains.



A Gathering of the victorious allies.



Paris Office. Montenegrin Infantry.

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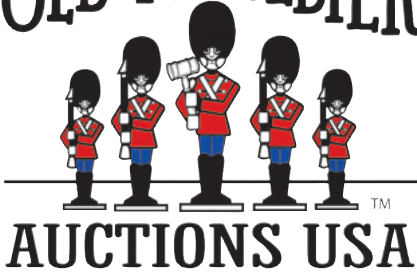
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AUCTION REVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTION # 88

THE R. ANDERSON PEW SOLDIER COLLECTION

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10TH, 2023
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11TH, 2023



Lot 87 Britains set #1392, Civilian Autogiro \$2100



Lot 119 Britains set #1899, US Military Autogiro \$9000



Lot 558 Britains set #73, Display set, British Regiments \$2200



Lot 328 Britains set #1521, British Biplane with pilot \$1600



Lot 130 Britains set #2020, Portuguese Infantry \$3500



Lot 681 Britains, Royal Marines Colour Party \$6500



Lot 122 Britains set #1903, Indian Army Mountain \$2100



Lot 75 Britains set #435, US Monoplane with pilot \$1900



Lot 556 Britains set #49, South Australian Lancers \$6500



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AUCTION REVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



TM
AUCTIONS USA

AUCTION # 89

EXPLORING TOY SOLDIERS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST, 2023
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 2023



Lot 3055 Heyde Polar Expedition Set No 905 \$15000



Lot 3060 Britains No. 15th Plug Armed Lancers \$4500



Lot 2254 Britains RARE #31 1st Dragoons \$3900



Lot 3054 Heyde Buffalo Bill Cavalcade \$15000



Lot 1111 Richard Courtenay King
Edward III H6B \$1700



Lot 3056 Heyde's Little America \$4600



Lot 3027 Selwyn Miniature Sir
William de Thorpe \$4600



Lot 3058 Heyde Playground Set \$6500

AUCTION REVIEW (Continued)



Lot 3009 DesFontaine Bonaparte Premier
Counsul 1802 \$1900



Lot 2177 Britains #29 RARE Types of the British
Army \$2000



Lot 3007 Berdou General Pully 1813
\$1600



Lot 3029 Courtenay Extremely Rare H9 Sir
Thomas Kingston \$3800



Lot 2237 Britains RARE Paris Office 3rd Hussars \$4700



Lot 1087 Selwyn Miniatures Sir James Audley
K.G. \$2800



Lot 2173 Britains RARE #96 York & Lancaster Regiment \$1800



Lot 3061 Britains No. 38 Dr. Jameson Mounted Infantry \$6500



Lot 1088 Selwyn Miniatures Sir Nele
Loring \$2500



Lot 3057 Heyde Winter Hunting Set \$1700



Lot 3010 Berdou 6th Hussars in
Campaign Dress \$1900



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AUCTION REVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER



AUCTIONS USA

AUCTION # 90

BRING OUT THE BANDS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2024



Lot 614 Bill the Bandsman University of Michigan Band \$600



Lot 666 Ducal Bahamas Police Band \$1800



Lot 665 Martin Richie Colors, Escort and Band of the US Air Force \$550



Lot 625 Beau Gest No. 168 Full Band of the Imperial \$1000



Lot 621 Martin Richie (USA) Parade of Colors of the US Air Force Academy \$750



Lot 635 Ed Burley Full Band and Colors of the French Foreign Legion \$800



Lot 602 Britains No. 40239 Band of the Royal Marine Light Infantry \$900



Lot 660 Ducal Merchant Marine Academy Marching Band \$1400



Lot 653 STE US Army Band; Pershing's Own \$550



Lot 622 Ducal US Naval Academy Midshipmen \$650

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#oldtoysoldier





SAVE THE DATE!

THE CHICAGOLAND TOY SOLDIER SHOW

SUNDAY, SEPT. 22, 2024! 10AM-3PM

At the Schaumburg Marriott

50 N Martingale Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173

Plus Room trading leading up to the show!

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Show Info: (781) 321-8855

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29th Annual Show

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TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2024

Saturday, February 24th, 2024

Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale

7128 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003
9AM-3PM

Info Ed Gries (201) 342-6475

Sunday, March 3rd, 2024

West Coast Toy Soldier Show

9:30AM-3PM Admission \$8.00,
Early admission 8AM \$20.00
New Location: Pasadena ELks Lodge
400 W Colorado Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91105
Contact: matt@hobbybunker.com Matt (781) 321-8855

Sunday, March 17, 2024

New Jersey Toy Soldier Show and Sale

1 PAL Drive - Wayne PAL
Wayne, NJ 07470
9AM-3PM
Info Ed Gries (201) 342-6475

Sunday, March 17, 2024

The Midwest Toy Soldier Show - Lafayette, Indiana -
Contact Steve Connell 734-455-0724 or Rod Chapman
740-924-2531

Sunday, April 21, 2024

The Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show - Gettysburg, PA. -
Contact Steve Connell 734-455-0724 or Rod Chapman
740-924-2531

Sunday, May 19, 2024

The Ohio Toy Soldier Show - Wadsworth, OH. -
Contact Steve Connell 734-455-0724 or Rod Chapman
740-924-2531

Sunday, September 22, 2024

Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show, 10am-3pm,
Schaumburg Marriott, 50 N. Martingale Rd.,
Schaumburg, IL.
Info: <https://chicagotoysoldiershow.com/>

Sunday, October 20, 2024

The Columbus Toy Soldier Show - Columbus, OH. -
Contact Steve Connell 734-455-0724 or Rod Chapman
740-924-2531

READERS' MESSAGES

Norman Joplin enjoyed Bill Anderson's piece on the West India Regiment in the last issue. Bill presented an image of the first version of Set 21 containing that regiment taken from an early Britains catalogue. Norman has gone one better by supplying an image of an exceptionally rare 1st version of the set, in pristine condition.

Will Beierwaltes article in the previous issue also prompted a flurry of messages about Feix and their connection with Heyde. We have collected these together in a separate article.



Norman Joplin also wrote in to mention that, although Will mentions in the main body of the text the company of Loebel Widman as an early American maker, no reference was made in the bibliography to the article which Norman wrote in Volume 43 # 3 of OTS magazine, pages 20-22.

TOY SOLDIER MARKETPLACE

NOTICE:

New EMAIL & POSTAL ADDRESS
Regarding the book "The Toy Soldier
Artistry of Holger Eriksson –
Authenticast, S.A.E. and Malleable
Mouldings: Military History in Miniature"
Contact lou.sandbote@gmail.com or
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