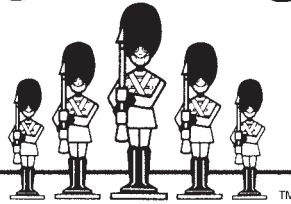


Fall  
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# OLD TOY SOLDIER



**THE KING THAT NEVER WAS  
BRITAIN'S EDWARD VIII**

# OLD TOY SOLDIER



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The King That Never Was Britains Edward VIII

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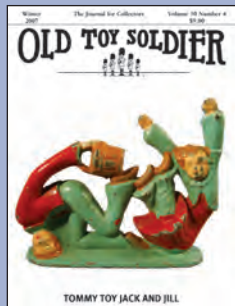
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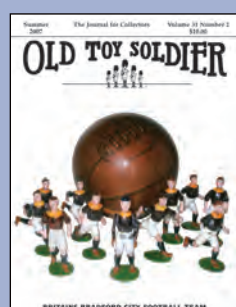


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NUMBER 2



NUMBER 3



NUMBER 4

# VOLUME 32



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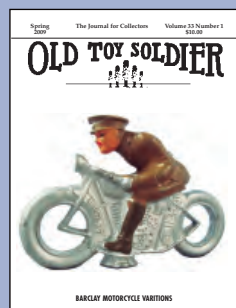


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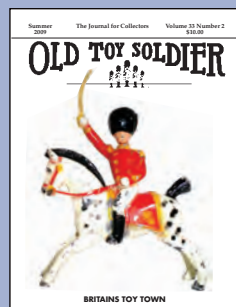


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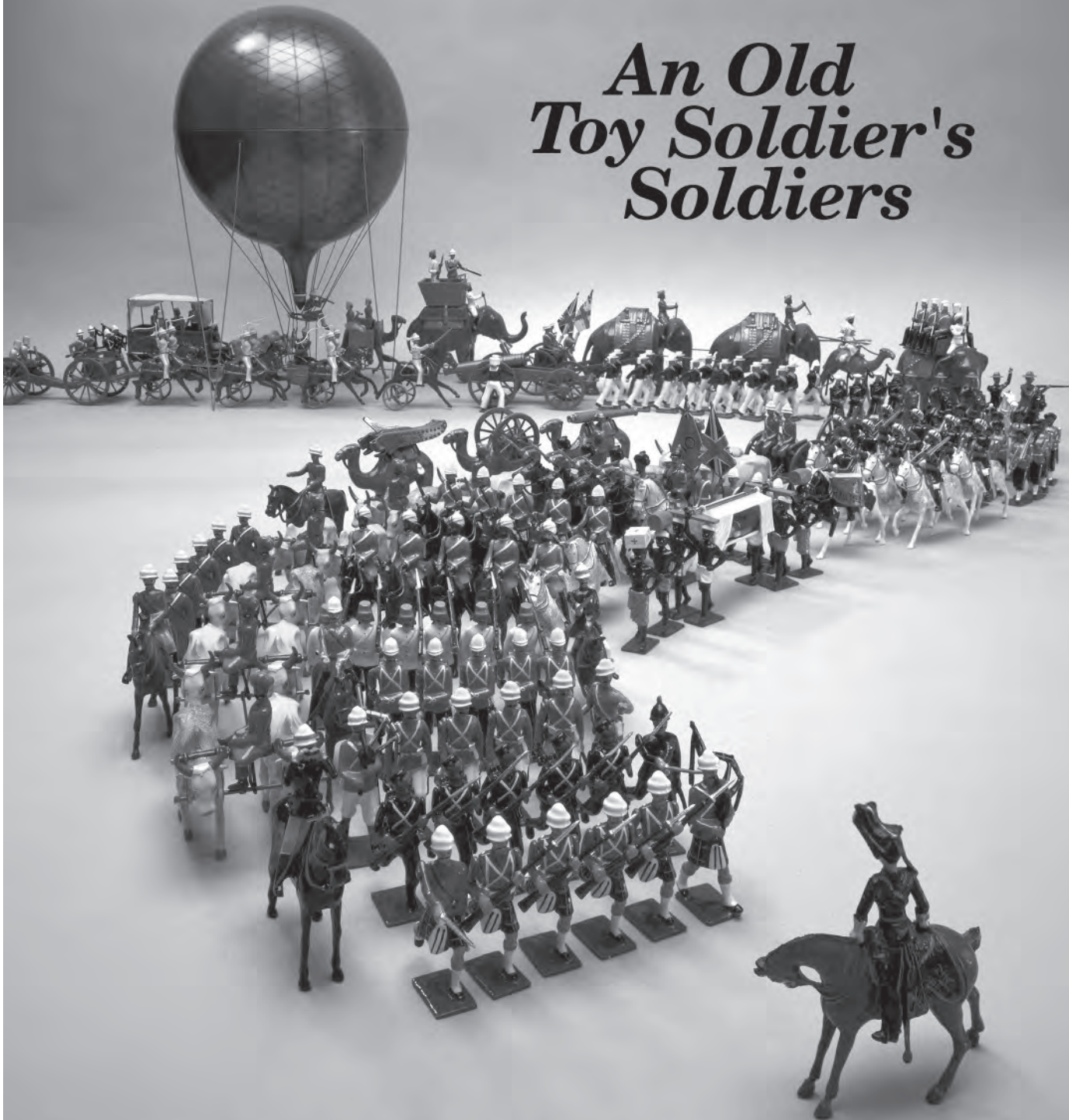
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# The King That Never Was

By Rob Wilson

Five minutes to midnight, Monday January 20th 1936. King George V, head of the British Empire passed his last breath. "Long live the King!". The crown passed immediately to his eldest son "The High and Mighty Prince Edward Albert Christian George Andrew Patrick David. On the 22nd of January the Garter King of Arms read the official proclamation that Edward the VIII had succeeded his father as King of Great Britain and Ireland, Emperor (head of the British Empire).

Born on the 28th of June 1894 Edward had been groomed for the role for many years. He was invested as Prince of Wales in 1911, he served in various roles behind the lines in the "Great War" (1914-1918), including acting as a liaison officer for the Haig. He later went on to become Colonel (inter alia) of the Welsh Guards and the Scots Fusiliers as well as holding the rank of Admiral in the Royal Navy. After the war he acted as a general ambassador, travelling to various corners of the British Empire and Commonwealth, including Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa. Often wearing his Admiral's uniform on these tours, the "smiling sailor prince" was a world wide celebrity.

Britains, ever aware of a commercial opportunity, had probably been planning for some time to take advantage of the chance to exploit the enormous public interest in the new King and his ascension to the throne. In 1937 the company was at the height of its powers, its range of figures growing rapidly to include mechanised transport and aircraft, as well as military types from every corner of the globe.

Lots of other companies, including Hill and Crescent were also planning to produce figures and other items to meet the expected demand for souvenir items as well as toys. It was Britains who had the most ambitious plans. While other companies planned souvenir trinkets, Britains would produce a full scale model of the State Coach which would carry Edward to and from Westminster Abbey for his Coronation, plus a range of accompanying figures. The original coach dated back to 1761 when it had been built for the Coronation of George III. Britains complemented their quite accurate model of the coach with a full set of attendants to march alongside (including revised versions of the "Beefeaters"), as well as various new troops to provide an escort and to line the route of the procession, many of the latter at "present arms". In addition, a number of souvenir items, including a large scale figure of the King in ceremonial robes, were commissioned.

All was proceeding well until fate intervened to disrupt the best laid plans of Britains (and rather more importantly the future of the British Empire!) Edward, a bachelor, had fallen in love. Unfortunately the object of his affections was deemed unsuitable to sit on the throne beside the King of England. Mrs Wallis Simpson was an American divorcee. While many in the British establishment would probably have baulked at the thought of an American taking on the role of Queen, it was the fact that Mrs. Simpson had been married twice before that caused the constitutional crisis. If Edward insisted on marrying her he could not be crowned.

Despite desperate efforts to find a solution, none could be found, and on 11th of December 1936 Edward announced his abdication. The Instrument of Abdication is illustrated in Figure 1. Note Edward's signature (including R and I at the end for Rx / Imperator). It would be his younger brother Albert, already married to Elizabeth, that would receive the crown instead. The shy and retiring Albert had not expected this honour but bravely stepped into the gap vacated by his brother. He became George the VI, acting as head of state

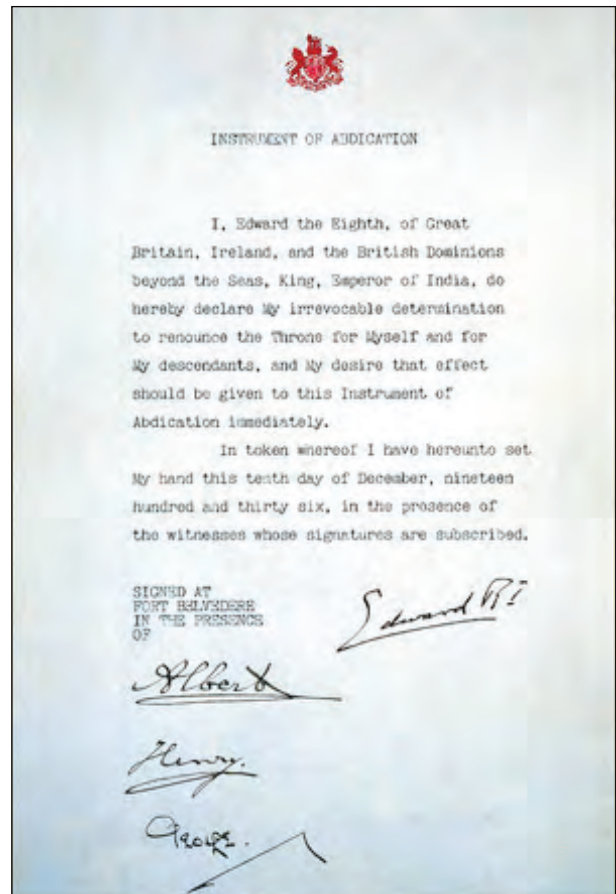


Figure 1: Instrument of Abdication  
(note the R & I after Edwards signature)

## The King That Never Was (Cont.)

for around 15 years, which include some of the most tumultuous events in British history. In contrast, his brother married Mrs Simpson and became a private citizen, spending much of the rest of his life in effective exile in France. He had been King for less than 11 months and was never officially crowned.

While the attendant publicity must have been music to the ears of Britains (and other companies set to cash in with Coronation related toys and souvenirs) it did pose them with a few immediate problems. Not least of these was that the careful work they had done to sculpt a good likeness of the new King was now wasted, since George would be in the coach accompanied by his wife. Work had to start immediately on producing a new mould for the passengers to be carried in the coach. Table 2 sets out some of the details from the factory records of the work involved in producing the various new moulds required for the coach and its passengers, as well as some of the other items. Some work was also necessary to change packaging. Although many of the sets were of a generic nature, a number referred explicitly to the King by name and therefore had to be reworked.

In particular, in addition to the State Coach, Britains had also produced a number of other items as set out in Table 1. These included the King in Coronation Robes (sets # 1471, 1472 and 1473). While the two brothers looked very alike, George was a good

bit taller than Edward. The factory records mention some additional work on the mould for this figure but it is not clear what this comprised. The main work involved as far as mould making was concerned was to produce a new figure of George's consort, soon to be crowned Queen Elizabeth (issued as sets # 1505, 1505 and 1506).

The Edward VIII version of the State Coach containing the single figure is well recorded in James Opie's *Great Book of Britains* and Joe Wallis's *Armies of the World*. However, it is not known how many were issued before the announcement of the abdication caused the need to redesign the model. It was probably very few, as only a handful are known. More seem to have surfaced in Canada and other reaches of the Commonwealth than in Great Britain. It is possible that a number were despatched for sale before the need to change the design became clear. Transport in 1937 was a much slower process than today!

I have seen versions of sets 1470 (the state coach alone), 1476 (the State coach with attendants) and 1477 (the largest display set, which also included escort and figures to line the route), each containing the single figure of Edward. In no case do the box labels contain any distinguishing markings. Such sets command a handsome premium. The most recently auctioned set 1476, in virtually mint condition, sold for over \$8,000 dollars (including commission) in England in 2008. This compares with a typical price for a standard George and Elizabeth set of \$800! Figure 2 shows the Edward the VIII version of the State Coach. Figure 3 compares Britains versions of the single figure of Edward with his successor George VI and his consort Elizabeth. Both Edward and George wear red robes here but I have also seen Edward in a purple robe, the same colour as that worn here by Elizabeth. According to Wallis (p 203) a crimson Robe of State was worn on the way to Westminster Abbey while a Royal Robe of purple velvet was worn after the coronation.



Figure 2: Britains EXCEPTIONALLY RARE VERSION OF Set #1476 Coronation Coach CONTAINING a SINGLE FIGURE OF THE UNCROWNED EDWARD THE 8th with Footmen Grooms and Yeomen 1937



Figure 3: Edward VIII compared with George and Elizabeth

# The King That Never Was (Cont.)

**Table 1: Britains sets related to the 1937 Coronation**

Set no.	Title	Notes
1470	State Coach of England	First version with single passenger Second version with two passengers
1471	King George VI, copper	First version labelled Edward VIII
1472	King George VI, gilt	First version labelled Edward VIII?
1473	King George VI, painted	First version labelled Edward VIII
1474	Coronation chair	
1475	Attendants to State Coach	
1476	Coronation display	# 1470 + 1475; first version Edward VIII
1477	Coronation display	# 1470 + 1475; first version Edward VIII (plus mounted escort and figures to line the procession)
1478	Miniature State Coach	4 horses only
1503	Miniature State Coach	2 horses only
1504	Queen Elizabeth, copper	
1505	Queen Elizabeth, gilt	
1506	Queen Elizabeth, painted	

## Other Coronation related sets

1510	Sailors Regulation Dress	
1511	Mounted Police	
1515	Coldstream Guards at the slope	
1537	Territorials at the slope (blue)	
1538	Territorials at the slope (green)	
1540	Territorials at the present (blue)	
1541	Territorials at the present (green)	
1542	New Zealanders at the slope	First version with small heads
1543	New Zealanders at the present	
1544	Australians at the slope	
1545	Australians at the present	
1554	RCMP dismounted	First version with small heads



**King George the VI and Queen Elizabeth with original boxes**



## The King That Never Was (Cont.)



Figure 4: Britains set 1473, Edward VIII in Coronation Robes



Figure 5: Britains set 1473, George VI in Coronation Robes



Figure 6: Britains set 1473, Edward (left) and George compared



Figure 7: Britains set 1473, Edward VIII in Coronation Robes, 2nd example

An Edward the VIII version of set 1473 with painted robes is mentioned in Opie's *Pocket Price Guide* but no picture is offered in the Great Book of Britains. In over thirty years of collecting I had until recently never seen an example. Then in the space of a few months three examples of the single figure in Coronation Robes have surfaced, two in the US and one in England. The first came into my possession as part of a small country auction, "job lot" of coronation related figures. The figure is in mint condition, in a good box with a blue label and is illustrated in Figure 4. The inner label is also stamped with Edward the VIII rather than George VI. Figure 5 shows the corresponding figure and box for the George VI version. As far as I can tell the casting is identical, only the box labelling is different. The paint style is also virtually the same the only difference being that the robe in Edward the VIII version is slightly darker in shade. Figure 6 shows Edward and George side by side.

Having contacted OTS Magazine to announce my find I was amazed to hear that two other examples had just been reported. The first of these appears to be identical to that in Figure 4, the only difference being that the box has a yellow label. This is shown in Figure 7. The second is an example of set # 1472, in gilt finish. This is shown in Figure 8 and in the article by Michael O'Donnell, see pages 58 and 59 in this issue.

In common with a number of their competitors, Britains also issued souvenir miniature models of the State coach. These comprised: set #1478 (1937 only), drawn by 4 horses (rather than the regulation 8), and set #1503 (drawn by just 2 horses!). I am not aware of whether these coaches included "Edward" and "George" variations in terms of the passengers on board. Readers with more information are invited to report back if they know any more about this topic.



Figure 8: Examples of gilt, bronze and painted King. See Michael O'Donnell's article in this issue regarding the gilt King Edward the VIII.

## The King That Never Was (Cont.)



Figure 9: Edward, Prince of Wales, Canada 1919

As noted already, Britains were not alone in making toys to celebrate the 1937 Coronation. In general these were not of outstanding quality, and as far as I am aware did not differentiate between Edward and George. Perhaps the best efforts were by Hill who produced a number of small scale figures (roughly 25mm), including a large display set, roughly equivalent to Britains set 1477. The coach in this set has 2 passengers. It was reissued with new packaging for the Coronation of Elizabeth II in 1953.

One interesting piece that is worthy of mention was Hill's bust of the "Smiling Prince". This seems to be based on a picture of Edward while on a Royal tour of Canada in 1919. See Figures 9 and 10. Readers with other examples of Edward VIII related figures are invited to contact the author or the magazine.

Rob Wilson, Tel: +(44) 1926496062;  
email: r.a.wilson@warwick.ac.uk



Figure 10: Hill bust of "the Smiling Prince"

BRITAINS Ltd Record of work 1932-1938, Smallwood Notebooks sold at Phillips Auction Company New York 1984

More commonly referred to as the Britains Factory Records, this document compiled by G Smallwood who was in charge of the Engineering, Machine and Tool room Department was contained in two hardbound notebooks with a total of 240 pages.

The books were arranged in columns with the following headings

1. New Moulds
2. Repairs and Alterations to Old Moulds.
3. Factory Maintenance and Other Work.
4. Hours taken to complete.
5. Date.
6. Remarks.
7. Workers name.

The entries in the notebooks are fairly basic and it must be assumed that the listings in each column were made when moulds for new items were delivered to the Britains factory.

H.B Sale of Birmingham are thought to have made the majority of Britains moulds pre and post WW2.

Master Mould numbers given here are from a cross referencing of the master factory lists which contained model and mould numbers, these were not recorded in Smallwood's notebooks.



# The King That Never Was (Cont.)

**Table 2 Time Line.**

Record of work related to the 1937 Coronation.

The column numbers from the notebooks are listed after each entry in parenthesis see above.

May 20th 1936. Patterns for Coronation Coach. (3)	September 23rd 1936 Coach Groom (1) Groom Attendant (6) Mould # 505. Arms (1)
May 22nd 1936. Coronation Coach Sides, two Moulds #1094 and # 1095 (1)	October 1st 1936 Coronation Coach Attendants (6)
July 22nd 1936. Coronation Coach Top. Mould #1179 (1)	October 18th 1936 King Sitting (1) for Coach (6) Mould # 970.
August 14th 1936 Coronation Coach Festoon. Mould # 1186, (1) Two in one Mould (6)	November 11th 1936 New Slope arm for Beefeater Originally designed as a walking figure in Set # 1257
August 14th 1936. Coronation Chair Seat. Mould # 1058 (1) Coronation wood seat (6)	December 16th 1936 King and Queen Seated (1) Mould # 539. No remarks in column 6.
August 31st 1936. King Standing. Mould # 540/1 (1).	December 23rd Queen Elizabeth (1) Mould # 542/1
September 15th 1936. Coronation Coach Horse (1) Trace Horse (6). Mould # 96.	March 4th 1937 King, Second Mould (1) Mould # 540/2.
September 15th 1936. Coronation Coach Horse (1) Postillion (6) Mould # 97	March 4th 1937. No remarks in Column 6. It must be assumed that this was a re tooling of the existing mould which was replacing the original worn mould and not a new sculptured figure
September 21st 1936 Coronation Chair (1) Mould # 1057.	March 4th 1937 Queen Elizabeth (1) Mould # 542/2
September 21st 1936 Stone of Scone (1) Mould # 1059.	March 4th 1937. No remarks in Column 6. It must be assumed that this was a re tooling of the existing mould which was replacing the original worn mould and not a new sculptured figure.
September 21st 1936 Coach Front.(1) Mould # 1181.	
September 21st 1936 Coach Front Chassis (1) Mould # 1185.	
September 21st 1936 Coach Side (1) Mould # 1180.	The factory records did not include details of paint variations or alterations to packaging.
September 21st 1936 Coach Axle (1) Back Chassis (6) Mould # 1182.	Miniature Gilt models of the Coronation Coach, Set # and Set # were also made in 1936,however these models did not contain figures within the Coach.
September 21st 1936 Coach Wheels (1) Mould # 1183.	
September 21st 1936 Coach Top Centre Piece (1) Mould # 1184.	
September 23rd 1936 Coach Attendant (1) Walking Outrider (6). Mould # 506.	



## IN MEMORIAM



**Edward Ryan**  
**Feb. 20, 1919-Aug. 29, 2009**

Edward Ryan, 90, author and pre-eminent collector of paper soldiers, died August 29 at his home in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Mr. Ryan's wife, Edna Coufal Ryan, died in 2004. Survivors include a daughter, Cordelia Chamberlain, a sister, and four grandchildren.

Mr. Ryan was a 1936 graduate of Yale University and a decorated Navy veteran of World War II receiving the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. After World War II, Mr. Ryan was working for the Office of Naval Intelligence when, in the late 1940's, he was transferred to the newly created CIA. During his career, Mr. Ryan was stationed in Vladivostok, Helsinki, Stockholm, Paris and Berlin. Near the end of World War II he was studying Russian at the Navy Language School and was fluent in French, German, Swedish and Finnish.

Upon retiring from the CIA in 1980, Mr. Ryan received the Intelligence Medal of Merit and the Distinguished Intelligence Medal. Mr. Ryan worked for defense contractor Rockwell International until 1985, when he offered his services to the CIA. He worked for the CIA another 12 years, where they were only too happy to again utilize his skills.

Edward Ryan is best known in our hobby for his ground breaking, monumental work, "Paper Soldiers: The Illustrated History of Printed Paper Armies of the 18th, 19th & 20th Centuries" (1995). Prior to Mr. Ryan's Herculean effort, little was known regarding the origin and history of paper soldiers. "Paper Soldiers" is the history of literally every known paper soldier editor, printer and painter in the world. The massive 580 page book contains hundreds of superb color photographs of paper soldiers from throughout the world.

As a child, Mr. Ryan and his brother collected metal and wood toy soldiers in addition to creating their own figures. It was a set of paper soldiers his father bought for him in 1928 during a family trip to Paris that sparked his interest in the world of paper soldiers. Mr. Ryan's collection grew slowly through the years, but it was when he was living and working in Europe his collection greatly expanded. France and Germany are known as the birthplace of the paper soldier. Living in both countries provided Mr. Ryan the opportunity to conduct research in the many local museums that housed collections of local paper soldier artisans. The result of Mr. Ryan's research was not only a mountain of information, but it provided him the chance to network with local collectors and researchers.

Mr. Ryan's second book, "Napoleon's Elite Cavalry" (1999), was enthusiastically embraced by Napoleonic fans of the French military artist, Lucien Rousselot. Edward discovered, in the archives of the Anne S.K. Brown collection, 90 original Rousselot watercolors depicting cavalry regiments of Napoleon's Imperial Guard. This series of artwork had been commissioned from Rousselot in the 1950's by Anne S.K. Brown, a prolific collector of historical military information. A persistent Mr. Ryan convinced Greenhill Books to publish all 90 plates in a lavishly oversized book, with the text written by himself. Mr. Ryan's final literary effort, "Napoleon's Shield and Guardian" (2006), documented the fascinating life of French General Daumesnil.

I was fortunate to have communicated with Edward Ryan over the past 15 years. I considered Edward my mentor when I first began my collecting venture into the world of paper soldiers. It was he who encouraged me to join the French society of paper soldier enthusiasts *Patria Familia*. Edward always found the time to answer, what I'm sure seemed to him at times, a never ending stream of questions and inquiries from me. He freely shared his invaluable knowledge with me, mailing me copies of sheets of paper soldiers and addresses of fellow collectors. Edward possessed a high degree of artistic talent as he painted not only paper soldiers but flat figures. To encourage my artistic endeavors, Edward sent me copies of unpainted sheets of paper soldiers so I too could paint an army of paper soldiers for my collection. We often discussed items which were offered in future auctions and later talked about the results of those auctions. In recent months I was only too pleased to send Edward copies of paper soldiers housed in the *Musee de l'Armee*, which appeared in a publication I received. I knew Edward was no longer collecting, but I also knew how much he would enjoy receiving my parcels. It was the best way I could think of to thank my mentor. Edward always demonstrated qualities which today are all too rare; honesty, integrity and sincerity. I am proud to have called Edward my friend and shall greatly miss his guidance and encouragement.

RUSS BEDNAREK

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## NEW EUROPEAN BOOK RELEASES

By Russ Bednarek

*Old Toy Soldier* has just learned of the release of two new books which will be of interest to our subscribers. Both volumes will explore the production of European makers who have never before been researched.

"Les Figurines en Plomb Creux" Tome 1, by Jean Bernard Doublet and Jean Michel Tisne examines several makers of French hollow-cast figures. The production history of French hollow-cast manufacturers is an extremely intertwined history. Makers often merged, split up or were sold making the documentation of their work very difficult. In "Les Figurines" Monsieur Doublet and Tisne study the figures of; BF, CL, GM, HR, and JF.

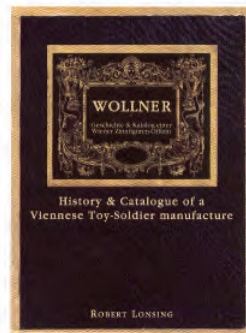
I was fortunate enough to view a proof copy of "Les Figurines" at this year's OTSN Show, courtesy of Francois Beaumont. The format of "Les Figurines" is the same as Monsieur Tisne's volumes on the figures of Quiralu. Each page is loaded with pictures of individual pieces. The text which is minimal, will be French.

The second book is titled "Wollner". Wollner was an Austrian maker of several types of *zinnfiguren*; flat, semi-round and solid. All types of Wollner's *zinnfiguren* will be examined along with boxes, painting and catalogue. Text will be German with English translation.

It is the intent of *Old Toy Soldier* to acquire copies of both volumes so that we may provide you with a review of each book. *Old Toy Soldier* is committed to providing you with the most accurate and unbiased reviews possible so that you may make a well informed choice when deciding to make a purchase.

More than 300 pages, richly illustrated  
with far more than 800 pictures, offer  
interested collectors of toy soldiers the  
opportunity to find out everything worth  
knowing about the manufacture Wollner.

In extenso, the history of this old Austrian  
manufacture is documented and a catalogue  
of produced figures and vintage boxes  
is presented for the very first time.



ISBN 978-3-200-01575-3  
Price: €70,- / CHF 107,- / USD 100,- / GBP 60,-  
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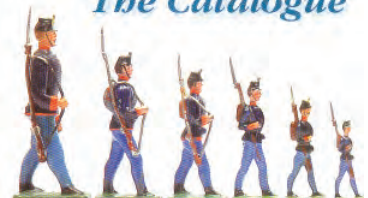
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*The History  
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The Catalogue*





## BRITAINS NEWS - COLLECTORS CLUB

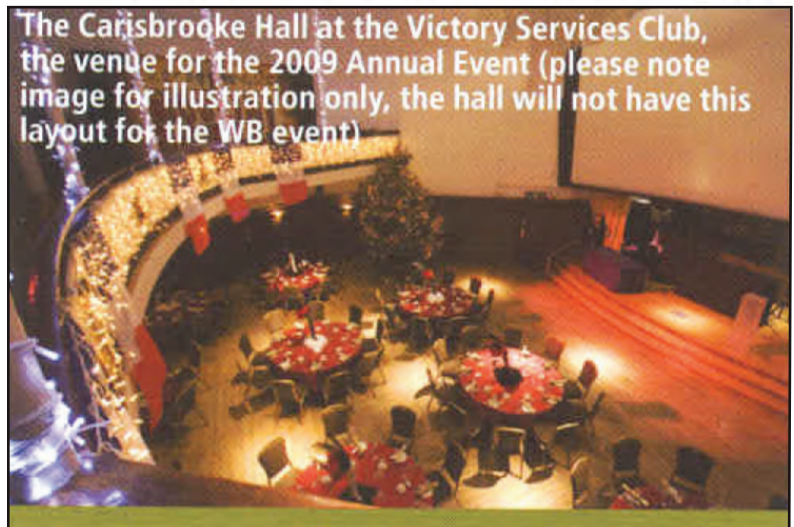
W. Britain has made some changes at the W. Britain Collectors Club with the departure of Mark Avery, Editor and UK manager of the W. Britain Collectors Club. Mark did a wonderful job for the club over the last few years. In our never ending drive to keep costs of the club and our figures reasonable we have had to look for ways to save money, and with the duplication of some duties between Mark and our UK office the difficult decision was made to consolidate many of Mark's duties into the office. Sandra Olinski, our UK Administrator, will be handling the day to day operations of the UK club and Dave Smalley, the weekend editor of a local US newspaper and toy soldier collector, will come on as the part time editor of The Standard. All of our US and UK writers will stay on board and continue to provide great articles for The Standard.

Dave Smalley has taken the helm at The Standard, known as "the exclusive journal of the W. Britain Collectors Club." Dave has worked at a number of different positions in the media field, including roles as youth editor, op-ed editor, and currently as entertainment editor for a daily newspaper in Virginia. In addition, he has served as a military reporter, and done some freelance music writing, too.

Dave loves history, particularly the American Revolution and Civil War, and toy soldiers. His introduction to, and lifelong love of, Britains came as a small boy in Virginia, when he began collecting Deetail soldiers, including figures from the American Civil War, knights, the French Foreign Legion, WWII and more. He still has his collection from those days, and has passed along the passion for Britains figures to his sons.

He has a B.A. in Communications from Boston College, and an M.A. in political science from Cal State, Los Angeles. He is married with four children.

## The 2009 Annual Event



**IF YOU** have been a Club member for more than six months then I am fairly certain you already know what the Club Annual Event is, for those of you that don't however it is an annual 'get together' the Club holds in central London every December. Each year W. Britain makes an exclusive figure which is only available to those members who purchase a ticket for this special evening.

For the last three years the event was held at the Guards Museum, and prior to this we were at the National Army Museum. Due to the expansion of the Club, and in particular the growing popularity of the Annual Event, we are once again on the move. Although originally we had planned for the 2009 event to be held at the Guards Museum the event will now take place in the Carisbrooke Hall at the Victory Services Club in Seymour Street, London between 7pm and 10pm on Friday December 4 (please note there will be no admittance prior to the 7pm opening time). If coming on the tube the nearest station to the VSC is Marble Arch.

Over the last few years the number of tickets made available has grown from 150 to 300, and this year it became apparent fairly quickly that 300 was not going to be enough! Many members signed up at the beginning of 2009 to the Premium membership scheme, which includes a ticket for the event, so a couple of months ago we decided to move the event to the larger VSC venue and increase tickets to 400, suffice to say all 400 tickets still sold out in record time!



Drum Major, 2nd (Coldstream) Foot Guards, 1815 (44028) which will be given to all members who purchased a ticket for the 2009 Annual Event



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# STEINBERG'S CONVERSIONS...

## Part II...A HOW-TO UPDATE

### The Making of a Red Cross Combat Rescue Ski Squad

By....Louis S. Steinberg

"Conversions  
of Toy Soldiers  
Are Real Fun"



The first thing I shall write is to thank those who dropped me an E-mail after having read my article in the last OTS issue and glanced at the Dimestore conversions I made throughout the past few years. It was indeed pleasing to hear your comments.

In the original submission of the text for the former article I tried to make an effort to keep it minimal by thinking that would then lend more space for the images I could later forward. But, what do I know about text editing or photo layout placement??

Well, the problems developed when I sent the editor and the publisher's layout department over fifty pictures from which to pick and choose. Obviously, that was some kind of overkill on my part.

Most of my photographs were taken in series. That is, vehicles and rolling field equipment were a grouping. Nurses with wounded were another as were pictures of the ski troops.

A lot never saw printer's ink, especially my latest effort, the skiers. I had offered way too many photos. The

skiers had been the last sent. All this made selection and image placement more than confusing since only several photos had been referenced within the entire text.

None-the-less, that single frontal picture of the five ski figures did generate interest. I thought this present article could offer a behind-the-scene read on how they evolved from concept to the most favored spot in my own display cabinet.

I have never authored a "how- to" type article. However, at the request of the editor I will try my best to bring forth my recent Dimestore Ski Troop Conversions. So...Let's Build a Squad of Skiers.

From a few Es received from the readership, the group shot of the "Red Cross Combat Rescue Ski Squad" in the last issue stirred the most interest. Its frontal picture is repeated here for updated reference. More than several people questioned what kind of loads the skiers were backpacking, since no images were shown. A few wanted to know the historical background of their Unit.



The Red Cross Combat Rescue Ski Squad Readies for Its Mission



No Matter How Tough the Task



Daily Training with Full Gear Keeps Us Always Skiing, Fit for Action



We'll Take a Break Over There



## STEINBERG'S CONVERSIONS...Part II (Cont.)



Rework of Original MG Barclay



This Load Sure Can Use a Rest



The Slopes are Calling



Tools to Seek & Save

The idea to make the Squad as Dimestore conversions first occurred to me after reading about WWI Italian Bersaglieri ski patrols fighting the Germans and maneuvering heavy artillery through the snow-impacted Italian mountains. My concept was reinforced by the dearth of production by the toy companies of the '30s and the newbie's of the 50s through the 90s.

A little research uncovered several American Units of partial likeness in our two World Wars. But... no specific Red Cross Ski Unit; no Red Cross Combat Rescue Unit (oxymoron). The American Infantry, however, did maintain Ski Rescue Patrols.

Therefore, by uncovering the above negative discoveries, I invented my own Dimestore skiing troop of six figures. Thought they would look engaging with rifles to protect themselves while working a rescue under the banner of the Red Cross.

I convinced myself that although their Unit, if real, would have conflicts of work- attachment and duties, somehow it all sounded rather plausible. Tremendous options may be taken under the guise of a hobby.

So, after having spent a considerable amount of exploring time browsing at many photo skiing poses and copying those of interest, it became time to rummage through my trove of broken and busted pieces.

The primary interest was legs. The larger bloused pants of the WWII soldier would be a fine start for the heavier look of ski pants. Boots soon would be puttied-up over the attached shoes and sculpted to conform to the mountings on the Eccles stamped-tin skis.

Anything that looked remotely usable (better to have more than less) was plucked out and set aside for future review. The same scrutinizing process applied to locating bulky arms and torsos. It is very time consuming and not for those with anxiety complexes.



Snow Shoes Can Often Help

I remember a surgeon saying, "Preparation is the most important part of all surgeries." A painter also mentioned the same as he began to paint the house. Probably it's generic.

Now we're making some headway. With the copies of the skiing poses in hand I began the match-up task of finding the parts that may best fit the photos I wished to emulate. Seldom, if any, do the parts selected agree exactly to the images. However, like governmental work, at this juncture "close is good enough."

Each photo with its parts and pieces, along with a dated short-notation of first thoughts and ideas, was put into a self-closing plastic bag for future, easy-to-get-to, reference. Before bagging, the paint was removed on all the parts gathered.

The physical Dimestore conversion began with the selection of a bag (s). In this case I pulled the legs from all six bags since, as a group, the reconfiguration processes for each figure would be relatively the same.

The creative juices flowed. A tiny warmth of hypertension seemed to set in as I concluded just what my first activity may be.

## STEINBERG'S CONVERSIONS...Part II (Cont.)

It is the joining of the right and left legs at the top of the thighs and the altering of each set of legs into acceptable skiing positions, although they may not be precisely as indicated in the photocopy guidelines.

Thus, I am not attempting to duplicate other's work but only to fabricate a similar pose that adequately fits for the Dimstore genre. Guess it's called "creative license."

Since the conversion parts and pieces I most always use come from the hollow-cast figures of Barclay and Manoil, I easily pushed a section of thin brass rod inside each member. If an arm or leg is bent, the rod also conformed, plus allowing ample rod to extend beyond each end of the piece being fitted. Remember this stage is very important.

Putty time now had arrived. Let's break out the two-part, A + B, epoxy putty. The stuff I use is found in pool supply and plumbing stores. It is much like Green Stuff, aka Kneadatite, but not as fine grained. Great for the large rough joining work as well as sculpting when it starts setting. Cures overnight to extreme hardness and will accept all types of workmanship.

Although the writing of this article is concentrated in the "how-to" of a specialized group of Dimstore con-

version skiing figures, I have also included throughout the article pictures of a small cross section of other single-figure alterations for your perusal. Most everything has been developed from mixed constituents with a hopeful try to give some interesting expressiveness to the assemblages.

There was nevertheless a period when I also lost the zeal to reposition toy soldiers alone, so I took a holiday from that activity and studied how I could transform some of the broken autos and other pieces of Dimstore military equipment that I had acquired.

Those finished conversions are randomly inserted as well as those of my continued interest in nursing the wounded and a few horses in action.

However, the subtlety in some of my captions may not make sense if you are unfamiliar with the look of the original Dimstore figure before it underwent conversion.

Now back to the "how-to" at hand. With the sets of legs and corresponding photo-scans before me and with my putty rolled together to the perfect consistency, I began to fill each set of legs using a small wooden dowel dampened with water so that the putty would not stick to it. After the dowel had compacted



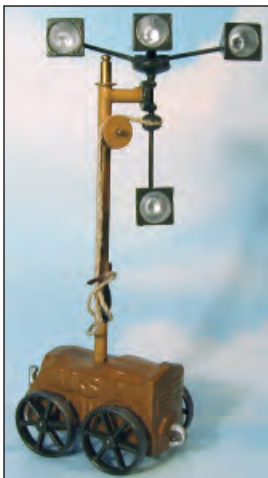
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Rebuilt into Two Man Mobile Radar Field Unit



## STEINBERG'S CONVERSIONS...Part II (Cont.)



Hard to Take Aim



And to Think, I Was Once a Cowboy"



A Lot Have Seen This Trick Shooter

the putty, the brass rod is centered within the legs. This also is important.

By three hours the putty has set enough and is still workable so that any final adjustments can be made. Six pairs of legs have been roughly formed and each pair awaits the fastening to a torso.

The exact same aforementioned procedures fulfilled on the legs apply to the arms. Now, before further construction is continued, I returned to the rather rough legs and arms.

It is the next day (or whenever). The putty has hardened. I take a set of legs, sand off any mold lines, putty-up any saw goofs or erratic bends, and beef up any areas that may require it. In this case of making multiple conversions, I also sculpted the boots about the existing shoes so that they each are properly suitable to a ski fitting.

The sets of legs and arms are washed with soap and water. A thin coat of flat white acrylic primer is brushed on. When the paint has dried, any minor blemishes will be noticed for future corrections. Then a light glaze of auto putty is spread where needed and carefully sanded when dry.

But Hey!! Wait a moment. What about those brass rods that still protruded from both ends of the legs and arms?? This noting is for the reader that has been paying attention.

Ah Ha....Well, for the bottom of the ski boots, a very small part was trimmed to a quarter-inch, bent flush to the boot's sole, then to go through a hole in the ski when permanently fitted. The rod piece at the end of the arm was also cut to accommodate a hand, but in this case a sculpted ski glove was made and later drilled out for the skipole.



Wow...One Eggnog Way to Many



But Can You Imagine How I'm Hanging On

The rod at the thigh end of the leg and at the shoulder end of the arm will be bent to a "Steinberg loop" that looks similar to the end of a paperclip when the final fitting to the torso is to be made.

Here is where I took a pair of small long-nose pliers and bent the brass rod back about a quarter inch towards itself. This made an elongated type loop that can be adjusted open or squeezed closed.

Putty is now placed inside the torso about the waistline since it is the legs that are attached first. It is

## STEINBERG'S CONVERSIONS...Part II (Cont.)

not necessary to completely fill the torso. In fact, too much putty can very well change the balance of any figure being modeled.

As the putty begins to set it becomes far less gooey. This is now when the legs are attached in a trial positioning move just to see how they will eventually look.

After loading some fresh putty about the top of the joined legs and about the protruding looped rods, I gently pushed with an ever slight twisting force the leg pieces into the lower torso till I see the fastened positioning that pleases me.

The looped rods, pushed into the putty, tend to stabilize the fit by not allowing the part linked to twist or turn during the curing time. I continued checking on this step so as to maintain its quality.

Not to over simplify, but the arms are attached to the upper torso arm cavities through the exact same above-mentioned preparations, maneuvers, and completions. Skiing poses are likened to the photos. That's about it. Wait...wait...wait. What about the heads??

Uh, OK. I choose some from the bit-box that may work. Puttied the head cavities. Then, a brass rod was inserted no longer than an inch that had been prepared with an opposing shape of a Steinberg small loop at each end. After the putty began to set, the



**Yeah, But Who Comes to  
Pick Up the Empties**



**Of Course I Know Where I Am**



**Stop Calling.....We're Ready When You Are**



**OK....What Else...Baby Formula**



**I Am Always So Alone  
Do Call Again**

heads are fitted to its torso neck cavity and adjusted and checked as needed.

I did think quite awhile about writing this "how-to" article. If others are like me, I have a horrific time visualizing the written words when I am remotely unfamiliar with the process, especially when a "how-to" picture is not side-by-side its explanatory text. No snaps of the skier's construction phase were made, as that stage began way before I was asked to write this Part II article.

Thus, this must be overwhelmingly boring if your craftsmanship experiences have been confined to applying postage stamps to postcards from distant places. However, by reading this OTS magazine, I presume, you must enjoy the many other facets of our toy soldiering hobby.

Six skiing figures have been assembled...four on skis; one on snow shoes; one getting ready; and, all accompanied by a trusted converted composition pooch with the hooch.



## STEINBERG'S CONVERSIONS...Part II (Cont.)



With Removable Photo Blanket

The frontal picture of the line of five skiers from OTS's previous issue is repeated at this article's beginning for continued reference. Although, the procedures of their conversions were accomplished months ago.

Now that the research; parts selections, rough assembly, preparing, tweaking, joining, final fittings, sanding, general clean-up, and paint priming is acceptable.... there still remained a large amount to fulfill before I could say the Squad is ready for action.

What still lingered was of a cosmetic nature that would dress up each converted figure, therefore, giving it a posed individuality and look very different from, yet but common, to the rest of the Squad.

First in the process to finalization were various degrees of puttying and sculpting depending on just what appeared to be necessary for each figure.

Long winter gloves were sculpted on all hands and when hardened, holes for ski poles were drilled. Heavy protective ski coats, some with bloused pockets, were sculpted to end just above the knees. Hoods were added to the needed heads; extra pockets put on here and there; and, the get-ready skier got a fur collar and a rescue dog to attend.

It was the goal that everything added in the conversion reworks was to predominately look and feel as the old Dimestores. Suffice, the finished painting will be high-gloss.

Raised armbands were fashioned from aluminum foil. Belts were made of hammer- flattened solder (great for masking the torso/leg joinings), while goggles were formed from plain round solder with lenses of clear cement. Canteens, holstered guns, pouches, rifles, ammo cases, binoculars and cases, helmets, skis and poles...most all from Eccles Bros; some cast by "Brit" Britton.



Now I Can Focus Better, Sir



WW I Gen, "I'm Ready  
Corporal DeMille."



From Ceramic Cake Decor



For the Officer's Mess



Advancing with Shotgun



From Grey Iron Prone OB

## STEINBERG'S CONVERSIONS...Part II (Cont.)

What about those heavy looking backpack loads?? Some parts I modeled, others are a nice touch of hard plastic pieces accumulated from Made-in-China items.

What about painting? For me, that has always been my most reluctant endeavor. I cannot forgive the looks on original Dimestore figures, so I try with consistent awareness to make perfect the demarcation lines separating colors. I mean this step is obsessive. Even weeks after a figure is considered finished, I will yet notice something very, very minor and am compelled to correct it.

However, I made the woodenlike snow shoes and the sled for moving supplies just to finish the Squad of six by adding a little diversity. The troopers adopted motto, "to seek and save," along with the final decaling of red crosses will forever identify this Dimestore conversion set, "The Red Cross Combat Rescue Ski Squad."

In closing, I again wish to emphasize that my Dimestore conversions are one-of-a-kind pieces, never duplicated by me and not for sale. However, if there may be questions regarding this article or any conversion, please contact me: [loubgood@dslexreme.com](mailto:loubgood@dslexreme.com).

Again, sincere thanks to those that replied to my last issue's article, Part I.



Is This Legal for Duck Hunting?



Whatta Relief, Nurse Pointer's On Duty



When's It Ever Gonna Be Beer ?



Dr. Phyllis Has Replaced Dr. Bob



Same Old, Same Old...Navy vs Marines



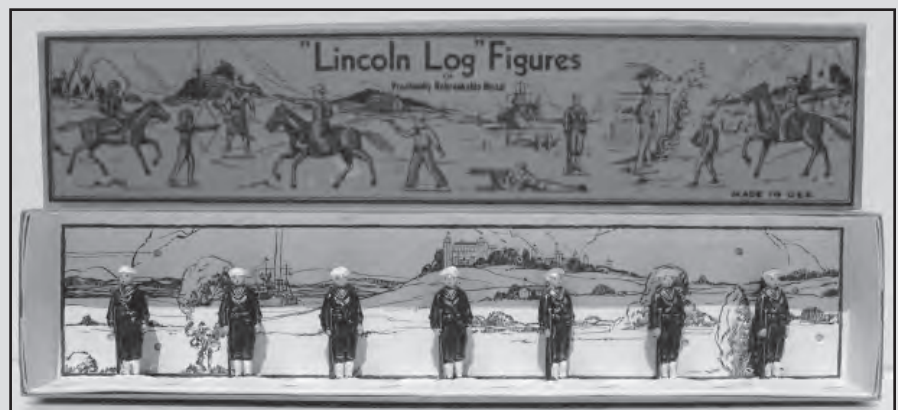
What? You Wouldn't Re-up For Cookie's Chow?



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issue (1930) I2Z Britains Zoo set, a large  
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# History Cast in Tin

## The Battle of Inkerman: Nov. 5, 1854

By Earl Jorgensen

In January, 2009, I had the good fortune to locate and purchase an extremely interesting boxed set of very early German-made toy soldiers. The wooden box is covered with paper and measures 5 ½" X 4 ½" X 2 ¼ ". It is partitioned into three compartments and topped with a sliding beveled lid. The label consists of a beautiful, full color illustration of a 19th century battlefield scene marked with the words "Schlacht b Jnkerman," "Battle of Inkerman," and "Bataille de Jnkerman." The lid also shows the partial remains of what appears to be an import sticker marked "GR--K & Co, I---TERS, 30 Maiden Lane, New York."

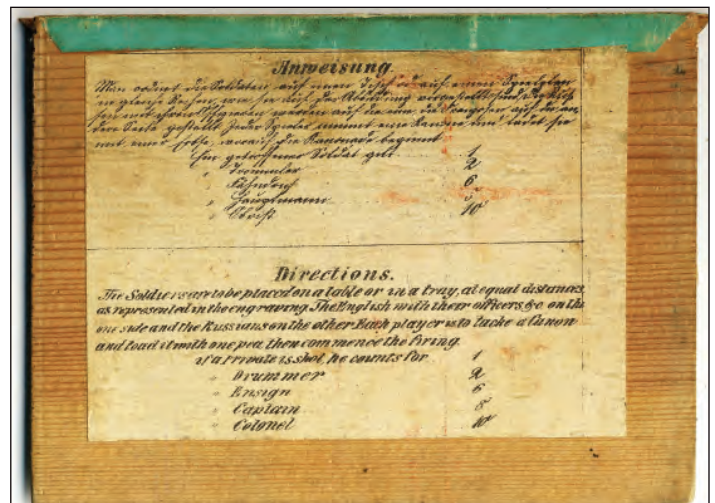
According to an 1861 New York City Directory found on the New York Public Library website, the 30 Maiden Lane address was occupied by an import firm identified as Groesbeeck & Co. Additional research places the firm at the Maiden Lane address from 1811 through 1868.



The Battle of Inkerman label with import sticker



Detail of the partial import sticker



Detail of the German-English Instruction sheet

An instruction sheet printed in both German and English was located on the underside of the lid with the following directions: The Soldiers are to be placed in a tray, at equal distance as represented in the engraving. The English with their officers go on one side and the Russians on the other. Each player is to take a Canon (sic) and load it with one pea, then commence the firing. If a private is shot, he counts for 1; a Drummer counts for 2; an Ensign counts for 6; a Captain counts for 8. And if a Colonel is shot, he counts for 10.

Unfortunately the passing of time and the cumulative effect of a hundred year's worth of cannon-fired dried pea barrages had taken a toll on the Inkerman set.

The surviving contents have been reduced to a single pea-shooting cannon and nine mostly intact tin soldiers. The figures are beautifully engraved 50mm flats representing the armies of Great Britain and Imperial Russia.

The set commemorates the Battle of Inkerman which was fought on Nov. 5, 1854, during the Crimean War. In Sept. 1854, British and French forces laid siege to the Russian port city of Sevastopol. The British portion of the siege fortifications extended to the south and east of Sevastopol, ending in an area of rugged ridges and ravines near a small village named Inkerman. Russian intelligence indicated that the number of British troops manning the Inkerman fortifications



# History Cast in Tin

## The Battle of Inkerman: Nov. 5, 1854 (Cont.)



Detail of the partial import sticker

was insufficient to properly defend the position, thus setting the stage for what the New York Times would later describe as the “*bloodiest struggle ever witnessed since war cursed the earth.*”



An illustration of the Battle of Inkerman published in the Illustrated London News.

On the morning of Nov. 5, a force of approximately 42,000 Russian troops took advantage of a dense fog cover to launch a surprise attack on the undermanned British fortifications. Although the British defenders were heavily outnumbered the rugged terrain prevented the Russians from fully utilizing their superior numerical advantage. A mixture of smoke and fog soon obscured the battlefield, forcing junior officers on both sides to make tactical decisions as needed while the command staffs could do little more than feed reinforcements into the battle as they became available. The battle lasted some seven hours with the British defenders slowly yielding ground. But just as the Russians were on the brink of victory, a force of 7,500 French reinforcements arrived on the battlefield

and immediately launched a ferocious counterattack on the exposed Russian flank forcing them to withdraw from the field. The victory was secured at a terrible cost. Combined casualties from the “*bloodiest struggle*” totaled some 3,200 dead and over 10,000 wounded.

I couldn't help but notice that none of the surviving figures of the Inkerman set represented the French. I initially thought they may have succumbed to the dried peas but since they also were not mentioned in the instruction sheet I realized they were never included as part of the set. Either our unknown German maker wasn't paying attention to the details or perhaps had a better understanding of the toy soldier export business than I initially gave him credit for. I believe the latter is the correct choice.

The engraved label illustration pictures French soldiers in action and includes the words “*Bataille de Inkerman*” which indicates that the set was intended to be sold in both England and France. In order to accomplish this goal our old German toy soldier maker would have been required to manipulate some of the historical facts concerning the battle. It must be remembered that the set was produced as a toy and not a historical document. Our maker simply applied a longstanding business philosophy of the industry



Figure detail British soldiers



Figure detail Russian soldiers

## History Cast in Tin

### The Battle of Inkerman: Nov. 5, 1854 (Cont.)

which is clearly described in the catalog of Georg Heyde. *"Orders will be assorted by us in soldiers of the country for which they are ordered or delivered in assortments which we, on account of our experience since long years, think fittest and most favorable for the market of the country of destination."*

The absence of French troops in the Inkerman set I purchased seems to indicate that it was assembled specifically for export to England and other English speaking countries. By simply replacing the British figures with figures representing French infantry along with a French translation of the instruction sheet the Inkerman set would be reconfigured for export into the French marketplace.



A caricature of Times correspondent W.H. Russell

It seems obvious that a lot of thought went into the design of the Inkerman set but just what was so special about this battle? The answer lies in a little known fact about the Crimean War. It was the first war in which news stories were transmitted directly from the battlefield via telegraph. The concept was pioneered by The Times (of London) which sent a war correspondent named W.H. Russell to the Crimea to cover the Siege of Sevastopol. Russell's reports provided readers a unique first hand look into the realities of warfare. His battlefield accounts soon attracted a huge public following including Florence Nightingale who personally credited Russell as a major influence

in her decision to travel to the Crimea. Russell's success soon prompted other newspapers to follow suit and as a result public interest in the Crimean War extended far beyond the borders of Great Britain, France and Russia.

Russell poetically described the Battle of Inkerman as a *"Russian dash towards that thin red line topped with a line of steel."* The battle was soon referred to as *"the soldier's battle."* Newspaper accounts of battlefield heroics in the face of overwhelming enemy forces captured the attention of the world and likely influenced the decision of our unknown German toy soldier maker to produce a set commemorating the battle.



Battle of Inkerman label detail

The Inkerman set was designed to be sold primarily in England and France. Their armies won a great victory that would be long remembered, assuring our old German maker of strong sales in both countries. Yet the set was also designed to stand on its own merit. One could follow the instructions and play the Inkerman game or follow one's imagination and play with the toy soldiers and cannons as desired. The colorful label with its battlefield illustration was designed to catch the eye of any child regardless of where he or she may have lived. Was our set as successful as the maker hoped it would be? The fact that my Battle of Inkerman set made it all the way to New York City would indicate that the answer is yes.



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# BOOK REVIEW

## RESEARCHING AMERICAN-MADE TOY SOLDIERS

*By Richard O'Brien*

*Reviewed by Stan Alekna*

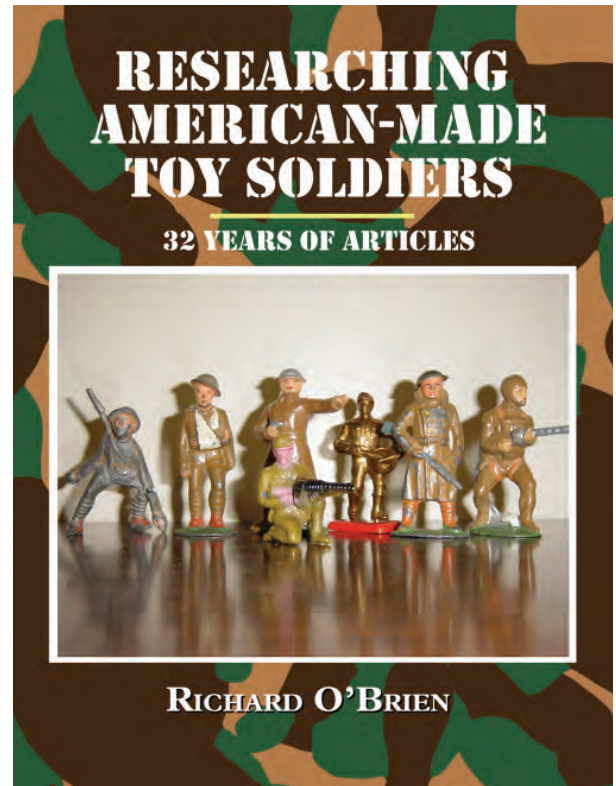
Let me start by saying it was a great honor to be asked to review Richard's latest toy soldier book. Our hobby exists today only because of the 32 years of relentless research into and documentation of American made toy soldiers by Richard O'Brien.

This book is a chronicle of that body of research and contains 248 pages of articles, reprints of ads and catalog pages that span from his first Old Toy Soldier Newsletter (OTSN) article on Auburn Rubber figures in December, 1977, to a referenced article in Old Toy Soldier (OTS) that pictured a heretofore unlisted Metal Cast wounded figure, in the Spring of 2009. The articles are loaded with factual historical and descriptive information and even though I have been an avid subscriber of OTSN and OTS since the late 70's, I found that rereading some of the long forgotten pages was refreshing and reinforcing of my personal quest for more data on American Dimestore soldiers. The articles cover not only the major American soldier makers but also some of the very old and minor makers such as Grampp, Soljertoys, Feix, Eureka and many more. Other articles feature stories on sculptors and sculptresses and owners of some of the companies.

Of particular interest to me was Richard's Toy Soldier Review article in the Spring of 1985 wherein he ranked the rarest figures of the major toy soldier makers and then concluded with a list of the top ten rarest of all American made toy soldiers.

This book is a must for novice and advanced collectors of American toy soldiers and thanks once again Richard, for continuing to preserve and enrich the hobby we love so much.

"The book is available through most online sources, but for the best deal - \$19.99 plus \$3.00 shipping in the U.S. - you can e-mail the publisher at [fender@ramblehouse.com](mailto:fender@ramblehouse.com) "





# BOOK REVIEW

## HERALDIC SKETCHBOOK

*By Peter Greenhill ~ Reviewed by Russ Bednarek*

Collecting toy knights and a passion for heraldry often go hand in hand. Heraldry is a coded system of colors, symbols and characters used to identify the royal lineage of the wearer. Commonly called "Coat of Arms", the specific combinations of identification was worn not only by the knight, but also by his horse.

When researching the history of toy knight manufacturers, the list of names reads like royalty; Richard Courtney, Frederick Ping and Peter Greenhill. These figures enjoyed an elevated status of desirability from their inception because of their superior sculpting, painting and historical accuracy. Richard Courtney was the first to create and produce such figures, painting in enamels beginning in 1928 and continuing until his death in 1963. Courtney's superb use of color, extraordinary design and unparalleled attention to detail set the standard by which all future heraldic figures would be judged.

Frederick Ping continued on with the Courtney molds in 1963. Prior to 1963, Mr. Ping was noted for his exceptional skill to scratch-build all his figures and paint in oils. Ping continued to use oil paints when he utilized the Courtney molds. Sadly, Mr. Ping passed away in 1977. A fortuitous agreement prior to his death provided for the transfer of the Courtney molds to Peter Greenhill.

Mr. Greenhill was an avid collector of Courtney's masterpieces, and, in 1977, was producing his own line of heraldic figures. In 1978, the molds were finally in the possession of Mr. Greenhill, and the next chapter in the life of Richard Courtney's creation had begun. Peter Greenhill has successfully combined his artistic skills and obsession of mediaeval heraldry to establish himself as the world's leading manufacturer of heraldic miniatures. Returning to Courtney's medium of choice, (enamel paint), Greenhill decided to improve upon Courtney's heraldic knowledge to provide collectors with an almost unlimited choice of heraldry for their commissioned figure.

"Heraldic Sketchbook" is a compilation of folios resulting from Mr. Greenhill's 30 years of researching heraldry. The use of strong reliable primary references en-

abled Mr. Greenhill to create a library of reference folios to use when working on his commissioned pieces. The heraldry used on shields, horsetrappings and caparisons is reproduced in full color complete with Mr. Greenhill's handwritten notes. English and French heraldry are all represented in the folios. Pages of color reproductions of helmets with their corresponding *cyclas* and *jupons*, (tunics) abound.

The first chapter requires seventy-two pages to examine the English and French fourteenth-century coat of arms. Literally hundreds of coat of arms are depicted in color with extensive handwritten notes provided for the reader to examine.

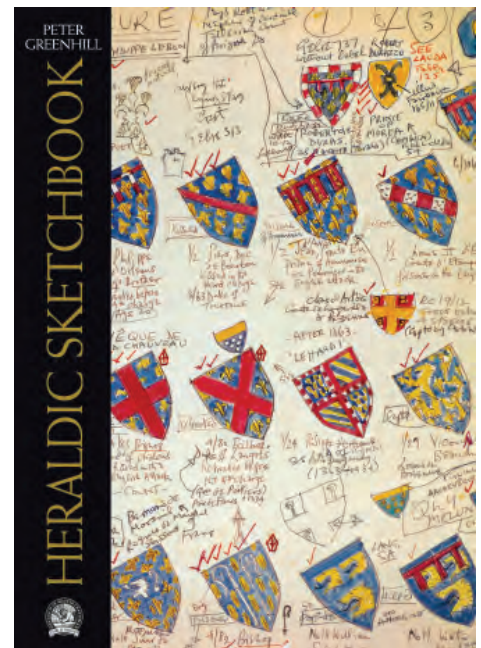
Mr. Greenhill also provided sketches of heraldic knights for the Spanish company Alymer when they began their "Banners Forward" line. Color and black and white folios intended as a reference for Alymer's sculptors and painters are presented in thirty-four pages.

Readers are also treated to examine Richard Courtney's illustrative notes. Forty-five pages of black and white sketches created by Richard Courtney himself allow enthusiasts to examine exactly how Courtney worked. Each page is dedicated to an individual figure with multiple views and sketches of specific intricate details.

Frederick Ping's notes offer six pages of color drawings, the majority devoted to banners.

In Chapter Six, readers are finally treated to the sketches of Peter Greenhill. Ten full pages, all in color, depict some of the special edition figures created by Mr. Greenhill.

Richard Courtney created a sales portfolio in the 1950's comprised of photographs. Due to the quality of the photographs, Peter Greenhill decided to do line drawings of each photograph with notations for each figure in the drawing. These eighteen pages are extremely interesting and allow the reader to compare/contrast the differences of the miniatures shown.



The final chapter is Mr. Greenhill's color copy of the *Armorial de Glere*, specifically folios that cover the listed Arms of the Holy Roman Empire. Each of the thirty-four pages provides color copies of the heraldry used. The distinctive and often very exotic shields and helmets used are shown together in full color making a fascinating study.

"Heraldic Sketchbook" by Peter Greenhill allows the reader to study the original sources and artwork used in the creation of heraldic miniatures. Readers are also treated to twenty-five large color photographs of the creations of Courtney, Ping and Greenhill. There are a staggering two hundred and thirty pages of illustrations, the majority in color. Dedicated collectors of heraldic miniatures should definitely add this 272 glossy page limited first edition with slipcase to their library. It is no surprise the Mr. Greenhill's most recent literary effort is just as magnificent as the figures he creates.

This reviewer would like to thank Mr. Peter Greenhill for generously supplying a copy of his book for this review.

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Reviewed in OTS Fall 2000.

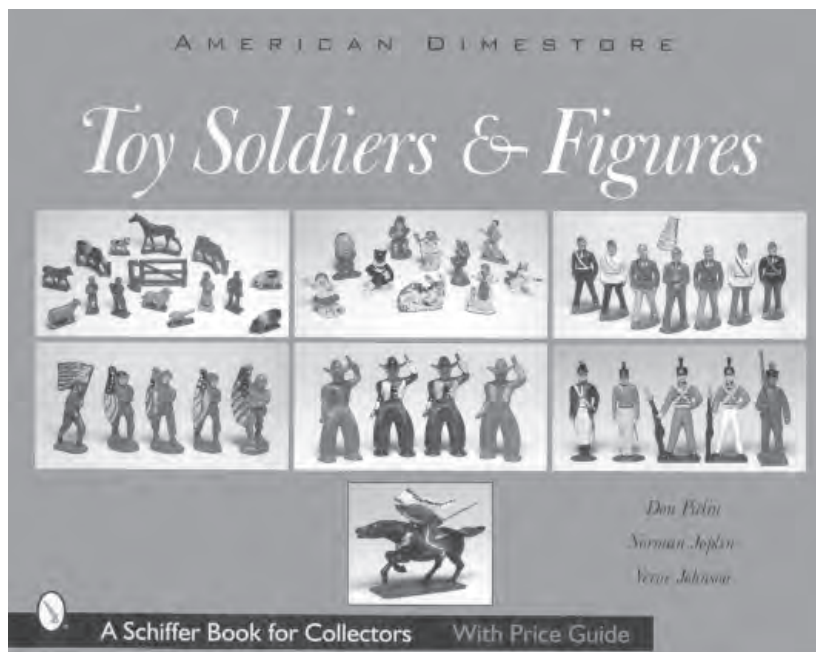
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# SHOW REPORT

## NORMAN JOPLIN'S OLD TOY SOLDIER AND FIGURE SHOW LONDON SEPTEMBER 12TH 2009

The pre show publicity read "International crown expected at London Toy Soldier Show"

With less than 3 weeks separating the London and Chicago shows, the remarkable commitment shown by dealers and collectors from Europe, the UK and the USA to attending both was well in evidence in London.

Germany's Thomas Finck was joined by his countrymen, collectors Hans Henning Roer and Gisbert Freber, from the USA came Ray Haradin of Old Toy Soldier Auctions and Magazine, Alan Ernst (first time visitor), Bill Richardson from Illinois and Tom Scott and his wife Joyce from Florida. Francoise Beaumont and Jean Bernard Doublet took Eurostar from Paris in order to attend, while Belgian and Italian collectors were also present.

British dealers Adrian Little, Phil Lane, Andy Morant, Harry Kemp, Peter Cowan, Gareth Morgan, Robin Marlin, Rob Wilson and yours truly all attended the show in London before heading to Chicago. One wonders if the enthusiasm shown by all of the above is the same in other hobbies or if the toy soldier hobby is unique?

The London show boasts 75 tables and 52 different dealers and while not the largest event is certainly very unique in



Alan King with his large display of flats



Jacqui Wilson and Germany's Gisbert Freber



Francoise Beaumont - Paris



# SHOW REPORT

## NORMAN JOPLIN'S OLD TOY SOLDIER AND FIGURE SHOW (Cont.)



Norman Joplin's Books

the toy soldier world because of its focused date-line pre-1980 product theme.

It is estimated that 50,000 to 60,000 figures were available from the dealers in attendance, including Ged Haley, John Waterworth, Roger Maryon, Peter Flatau, Dennis Slack, Sally Manson, Bill Kingsman and all of the above mentioned.

First time attendee Alan King offered a large collection of German flats. Plastic figures were in abundance on the tables of John Begg and Peter Harris.

Bonhams and Special Auction Services auction companies and Toy Soldier Collector magazine were represented. Peter Greenhill launched his new book *The Heraldic Scrapbook* at the show also, (see book review in this issue).

Public attendance was down, however early entry trade buyers were greater in number and those who purchased early entry at a premium were well rewarded with many rare items being found in the early part of the morning. Such is the commitment of many dealers some tables were being set up with figures as early as 4:30 am.

Next Years date is September 11th 2010. Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, London.



Tom & Joyce Scott - Florida



Peter Lay and Alan Ernst - Pennsylvania



Hugo Marsh of S.A.S. and Author, Collector, Philip Dean



# SHOW REPORT

## OLD TOY SOLDIER SHOW CHICAGO SEPTEMBER 2009 SHOW REPORT

*By Norman Joplin*

Twenty Nine Years and counting, Next year The OTS Show reaches it's 30 year landmark and Don Pielin, Steve Sommers and the team are already preparing for the special event.

The 29th show kicked off in the traditional fashion with dealers arriving as early as Tuesday prior to Sunday's show, This year saw a number of noticeable differences with room trading and pre show corridor action in the hotel being somewhat quieter early in the week.

A number of long time attendees were missing this year including Warren Mitchell, Bob Shoulberg and Ron Cadeux. Illness, family problems or maybe just the tight economy perhaps being the reason.

Positives outweighed the negatives with the completion of the Hyatt's refurbishment making for a much brighter venue and an upgraded foyer, Restaurant and Bar facilities are always top class and enhanced by the friendliest staff possible, Special mentions must be made to Linda, Bob and Dan the bartenders with many years Hyatt Hotel service and newly appointed Outlets Supervisor Jorge Garcia, another long time Hyatt employee.

Check in at the hotel was very slick this year and the minimum of disruption ensued with room bookings and allocations.

Most promising of all was however the very long line waiting to gain entry for Sunday's show, surely a record attendance?

There are not enough words of praise in the dictionary in order to thank Don, Steve and the family supporters for yet another very well organized show. Roll on 2010 and Year 30.



Steve Sommers, Don Pielin and Jorge Garcia



Sunday's show line



Mr. and Mrs. Christian Keller

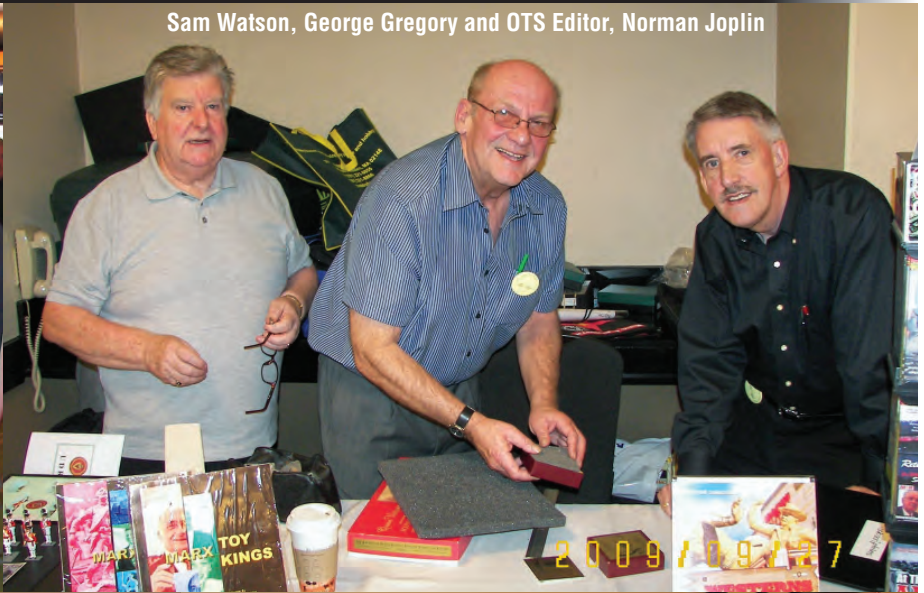


# SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

Britains Richard Walker



Sam Watson, George Gregory and OTS Editor, Norman Joplin



Lower Ballroom Sunday Show



Don Pielin - Show Chairman, Directing Operations



Michael O'Donnell and Pam Brunton



Debbie and Ron Eccles





# SHOW REPORT

## RAYS BARGAIN ROOM AND BOX SALE OTS SHOW CHICAGO 2009

Saturday prior to the OTS show, at what seems to have become an annual event, the Bargain Room and Britains Empty Box Sale took place on the 4th floor of the Hyatt.

In previous years the Britains Empty box sale has been a popular fun event and this year it was preceded by a Bargain Room sale containing hundreds of toy ambulances toy soldiers, flats and Plastic figures.

The line began forming at **7.30 am** when a well known Ohio toy soldier dealer employed the services of Eean Hornung, Bob Hornung's Grandson, to stake his place first in line for the 10am opening.

Over 60 dealers and collectors were assembled by start time and upon entry the sale went as follows: Sue Joplin handed out bags and Old Toy Soldier pens before the doors opened. Once inside a scene of near good humored panic ensued, items being grabbed, held aloft and offers being shouted to Ray who promptly proclaimed "SOLD!". Everything from \$1 up was offered. Upon leaving the room each buyer paid via the honor system having written their purchase amount on the bag and paying Norman Joplin who was guardian of the revenue.

A total of only 18 minutes passed before the room was completely empty.

Next year's sale is already assured with the arrival of a 2,000 piece collection which will be offered on the Saturday prior to the 2010 OTS Show.

The Britains Empty Box Sale was to follow at noon; however some departing bargain room buyers decided to form a line at 10:30 in order to be in at the outset.

Over 140 empty Britains boxes were on offer. This time things went somewhat in a more civilized manner as each box was marked with a price. Again less than 20 minutes elapsed before the room was EMPTY!

Hopefully another such box sale will happen in 2010. Should any readers have boxes for disposal please contact Ray at 1-800-349-8009 or Norman at 262-692-3913.



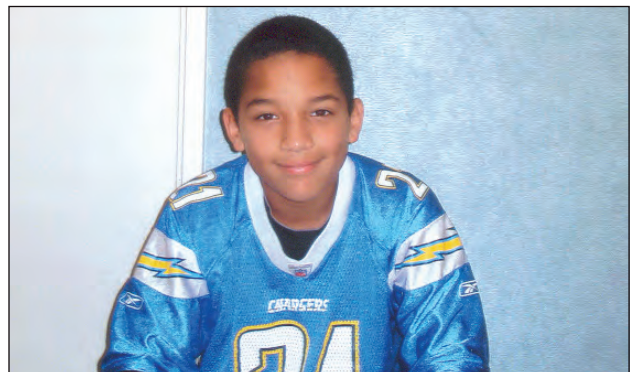
Sue Joplin opens  
the Bargain Room



Ray Conducts the Sale



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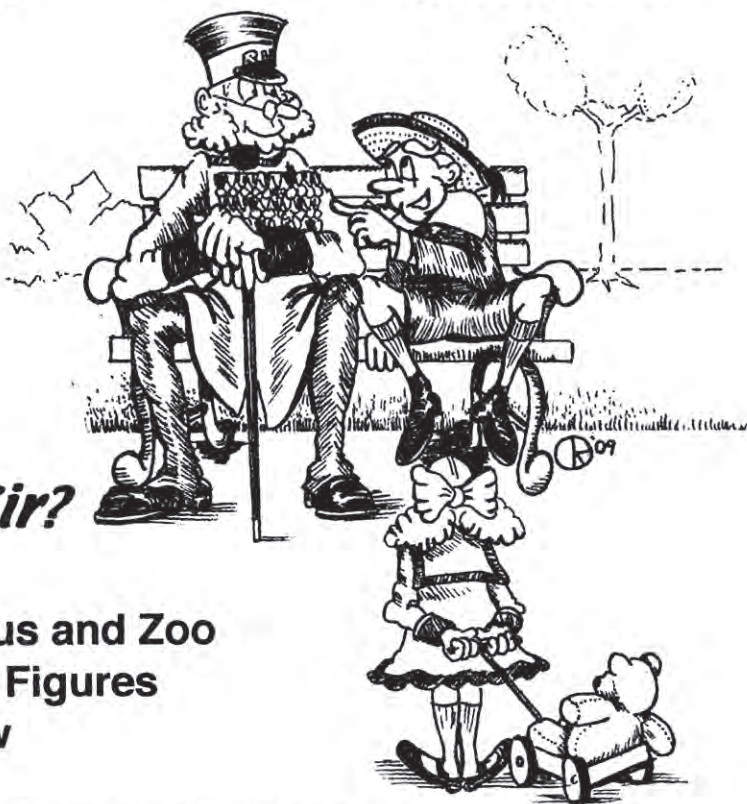
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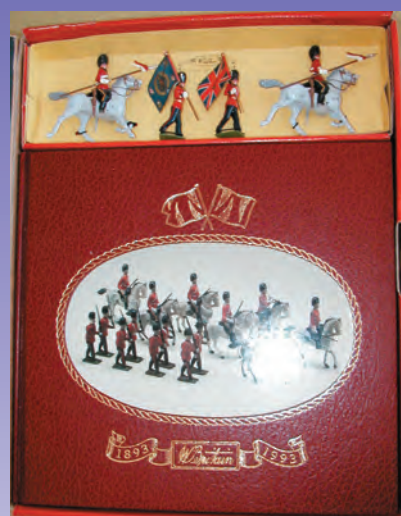
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# Belgian Composition Figures The Durso Company “The Legend of Saint Hubert” by Vincent J. Russo & Patrice Servais

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## I. Introduction

As our readers may recall from previous articles, The Durso Company, under the direction of its owner, Michel Klimov, produced composition figures in Liege, Belgium between 1938 and 1988.

Sometime in the late 1940's and early 1950's, in his efforts to increase sales Mr. Klimov started to introduce “folklore” figures into his production line, and since all indications are that Mr. Klimov had strong religious principles, honed during his childhood days in Russia, it was not surprising that “religious” figures would also be evidenced in some of his creations.

First and foremost of these is the magnificent “Nativity” scene, produced by Durso and regarded by many as one of the finest ever produced by a “Toy Soldier” company. Durso also made figures of priests, first communicants, and several of Mary.

This article will feature an eleven (11) piece scene, along with a fascinating story, taken from Belgian history, and known as “The Legend of Saint Hubert”.



“The Scene”

## II. Background

The year was 683 AD and Hubert, son of Bertrand, Duke of Aquitaine, grandson of Charibert, King of Toulouse, and great-grandson of King Clovis, was a handsome and healthy 28 year old aristocrat, who was known to all for his wealth, intelligence and goodness. He was also noted for his wisdom and was highly respected in that regard.

With all of these attributes however, Hubert did not practice any religion, and was a “great lover of pleasure”.

His chief passion was hunting, and “The Chase”, to which he devoted nearly all of his time.



“Hubert”



“Hunting Hounds”

On Good Friday morning, even as the local church was being filled by “The Faithful”, Hubert was off with his hounds chasing a magnificent stag. As they came to a clearing in the forest, the huge animal suddenly stopped and turned.

Hubert was astounded to see a crucifix suspended between the deer's antlers, and it was at that very moment, when he heard a voice calling, “Hubert, Hubert, how long will you continue this vain passion and forsake the salvation of your soul”.



“The Stag”



“The Stag”



## Belgian Composition Figures (Cont.)



"Hubert's Horse"

Hubert immediately dismounted from his white horse, knelt, and asked, "Lord what would you have me do"? The voice responded "Go see Lambert (who at the time was Bishop in Maastricht), he will guide and instruct you". Hubert then answered with conviction and enthusiasm, "Thank you Lord, you have my promise that I will do as you ask, so that I may be worthy of you".

Hubert did as he promised, and under the guidance of Lambert, he renounced all his honors, titles and military rank. He also relinquished his birthright as heir to the Buchy of Aquitaine, giving it to his younger brother Eudon.

He totally embraced his new religious life, and word of his conversion spread quickly through all of the Ardenne.

After the assassination of Lambert, Hubert was named to be the 31st Bishop of Maastricht, and the 1st Bishop of Liege, and eventually became known as the "Apostle of the Ardennes".

Hubert, who to this day, is known as the "Patron Saint of Hunters", died in 727 AD, after predicting the exact date of his death.



"Small Pine Tree"



"Bush"



"Large Pine Tree"

### III. Durso - "Saint Hubert Scene"

Figures of a kneeling Hubert, and his magnificent white horse, first appeared in the 1951 Durso catalog in a section titled "Souvenirs".

In an effort to enhance these figures for sale, and to economize wherever possible, Mr. Klimov took figures from existing production to complete "The Scene".

(This practice was common among the Belgian composition Producers. Our readers may recall that we showed examples of this being done by Nazaire Beeusaert, in a previous article on "NB" Fairy Tale Figures.)

A catalog listing of the figures in the "Saint Hubert" scene is illustrated below:

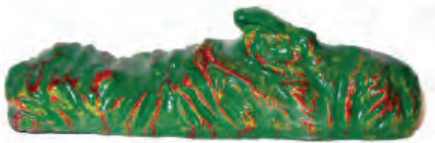
<u>Catalog Number</u>	<u>Figure</u>	<u>Year Introduced</u>	<u>Comments</u>
A-38	Rock	*	*
A-42	Deer	1949	From Wild Animal Series (Crucifix was added)
A-86	Hound	1951	From Animal Series
A-87	Hound, Sniffing	1951	From Animal Series
0066	Grass	1949	From Cowboy Series**
00202	Bush	1949	From Congo Series
00203	Small Pine Tree	1949	From Bandit Series
00204	Large Pine Tree	1949	From Bandit Series
***	Tree	***	***
9531	Saint Hubert	1951	New Figure
9532	Hubert's Horse	1951	New Figure

## Belgian Composition Figures (Cont.)

\*A-38 was a “braying” deer mounted on a rock. Occasionally during shipment these figures broke, were returned, and some could not be repaired for re-sale. In an effort to economize, Mr. Klimov cut the rock away from the deer, and used it as part of the Saint Hubert scene. This “rock” is now a very rare item.

\*\*This “grass” was actually the “base” of figure 0066 (Mounted Cowboy Firing Rifle)

\*\*\*This was a “modification” of a tree from another scene. It was not given a catalog number.



“Grass”



“Tree”



“Rock”

### Notes

The “grass”, “tree”, and “rock” were not used exclusively for the Saint Hubert scene, but were also sold as new items for use in other scenarios.

Also, along with Saint Hubert, there were many other items included in the catalog listing of “Souvenirs”, such as:

1. Animals on wooden bases
2. Mounted heads of wild animals
3. Ships
4. Key Rings
5. Bottle Openers
6. Ashtrays
7. Candlesticks
8. Photo Frames
9. Thermometers
10. Barometers and others

(Perhaps “Souvenirs” may be the subject of one of our future articles)

### IV. Conclusion

Once again, the authors wish to express our sincere appreciation to “Old Toy Soldier” magazine for this opportunity.

We truly hope our readers are enjoying our articles on “Belgian Composition” figures.

### V. Acknowledgement

Photos by Veronique Servais

### VI. Editor’s Note

See the advertisement for the book, “Composition Figures of Belgium - The Durso Company”, by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Bruun, and Lucien Maris on page 33 of this issue.



# The Toy Soldier Show Photographer - Noel Schlageter

*By Norman Joplin*



From California's West Coaster to The North East Toy Soldier Show in Hackensack, New Jersey, from Chicago to Texas from London and from the MFCA show in Pennsylvania or Delaware to Ohio, The Toy Soldier Show photographer can always be found in attendance.

Noel Schlageter has for many years attended all of these shows and more with his camera. His candid shots of dealers and collectors alike are recorded. At the subsequent shows that he attends, prints are efficiently sorted, filed in envelopes with the subjects names and ready to be handed out to all.

Noel carries out this work with great enthusiasm, always with a smile. He is a toy soldier enthusiast and has launched his personal crusade willingly and without reward in order to record the happenings and people who attend toy soldier shows all over the US and even England.

Many of our readers will recognize Noel, who is often accompanied by his wife Grace at the shows. Noel has been appointed as staff photographer at Old Toy Soldier Magazine and is credited with many of the photos that appear in the magazines Show Report pages.

In a hobby full of nice people Noel must rank as one of the nicest, if not the most unique, enjoying his hobby and at the same time his passion for photography whilst combining both to bring pleasure to many.

Old Toy Soldier Magazine wishes to acknowledge Noel's work, much of which sometimes goes uncredited.

Noel is credited, albeit retrospectively, with a photo which appeared in the inside back cover of Norman Joplin's recent book, "Britains New Toy Soldiers 1973 the Present" and for the photos recently published in OTS accompanying the Neil Crowley obituary and the John Cullen Rare Dimestore find.

Thanks Noel for all your sterling work. We look forward to seeing you at many more toy soldier shows over the coming years.

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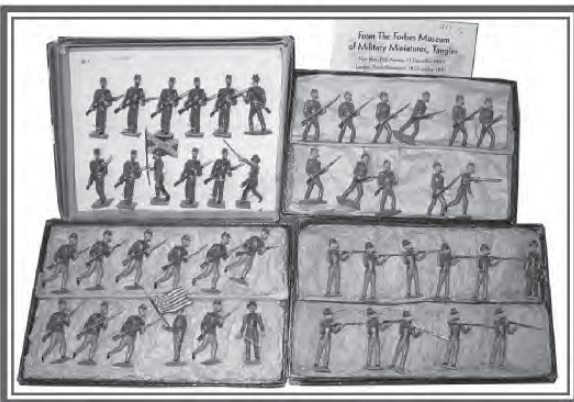
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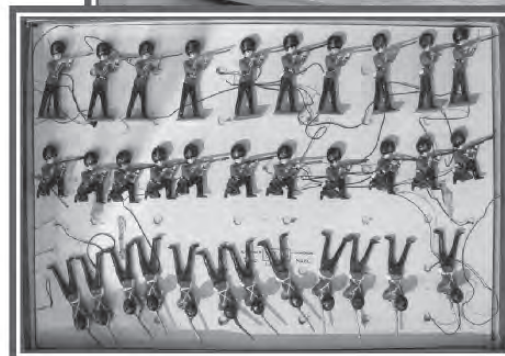
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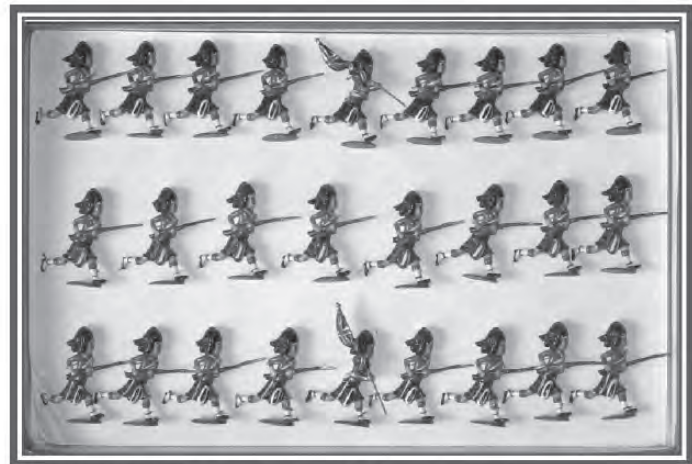
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## W. BRITAIN UNLEASHES NEW TROOPS

*Reviewed by Russ Bednarek*

Once again the W.Britain Company has launched an extensive and ambitious group of new offerings. Fortunately for collectors almost every range in W.Britain's army has several new pieces to expand and supplement existing figures. The diversity of the new releases confirms that W.Britain is committed to address the collecting interests of matte and glossy aficionados.

The most dramatic release in the glossy range has to be, "The Corps of Drums 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment, 1879". Limited to 500 sets, the twelve piece set depicts the battalion as they embarked for South Africa. To augment "The Corps of Drums" is the "Colour Party 2nd Battalion, 24th Regiment, 1879". This five piece offering of the Union Jack flag, Regimental flag, officer and two privates is also limited to 500 units. Both flags exhibit a high degree of painting and detail, sure to please collectors of the Zulu War. A fifer and marching private are available on an individual basis to further enhance "The Corps of Drums", and "Colour Party" sets.

The Redcoats and Bluecoats range welcomes four new figures representing the French and Indian War. The focus of the new releases is the 15th Regiment of Foot. A grenadier, grenadier officer and fantastic

drummer, (Photo #1), are resplendent in their tall mitre caps and red jackets with yellow facings. The drummer in reverse colors, (yellow coat with red facings), is dazzling with the additional lace expertly added to the coat. An officer of the Royal American Regiment is the final offering.

The Redcoat line receives six new additions ranging from a Grenadier Officer of the 1st Foot Guards Regiment, 1685 to a present day Guardsman of the Grenadier Guards. Two figures of the 29th Regiment of Foot 1768, an NCO and drummer, (again in reversed colors), are very impressive. A Coldstream Guardsman 1815, and a private of the 42nd Highlanders, (Blackwatch), of the 1882 Sudan Campaign complete the range. Of special note is the Walt Keener Memorial Figure. Mr.Keener was president of the Michigan Society of Figurine Collectors and an avid re-enactor of the 84th Foot Royal Highland Emigrants, 1779-1784. Mr.Keener had a direct impact on Richard Walker, (W.Britain's General Manager), and Ken Osen, (W.Britain's Master Sculptor), during their younger years. The two youngsters under Mr.Keener's tutelage learned how figures were sculpted, molded, cast, painted and displayed. As a tribute to Mr.Keener who passed away in 2006, W.Britain has created a figure of Mr.Keener in his 84th Highlander uniform.



Photo 1



Photo 2



# GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

Collectors of W.Britain's matte ranges have a vast amount of new collecting options, from Waterloo to the Falklands War.

The Elite Forces line has a SAS figure as they appeared during the 1980 Iranian Embassy operation. The three remaining figures represent the British forces of the Falkland War. A paratrooper, Royal Marine Commando and Gurkha wielding his dreaded kukri are offered. Excellent action poses and expertly painted camouflage uniforms make these figures real eye catchers.

Inspired by the artwork of Ron Volstad that regularly appears in numerous Osprey publications, W.Britain's Osprey Series has a definite airborne theme. Two German *fallschirmjagers*, (paratroopers), a U.S. glider infantryman, artillery officer of the 82nd Airborne Division and Canadian infantryman are now available. Attention to uniform and equipment details is of the highest standard. Combined with superb shading and highlighting, these figures are true works of art. A facsimile of the corresponding Osprey plate which served as an inspiration for the figure is included.

The World War I line sees additions for the Allies. A marching 1918 U.S. "Doughboy" is very well executed and a sign of things to come. Three 1916 British infantrymen; standing firing, charging and throwing a grenade are outfitted as they appeared at the Battle of the Somme. All four figures are excellent additions to the World War I line.

The Napoleonic period presents the initial release of two firing, (kneeling and standing), riflemen of the famed 95th Rifles. Clad in their distinctive green uniforms, the regiment fought valiantly at Waterloo and these two new figures are a most welcomed addition. A French bugler of the 4th Lancers is mounted on a white charging horse. The high degree of painting and attention to the intricate details of the uniform and horse equipment is sure to make this limited piece of 500 examples a "must have" for Napoleonic fans.

The real winners of W.Britain's new releases have to be Zulu War collectors. A total of ten pieces; three architectural and seven figures represent the most numerous of new offerings of any range.

The most impressive item is the Rorke's Drift Storehouse. Weighting in at an impressive twenty-one pounds, it is two feet long, seven inches wide, almost nine inches tall and is loaded with interior and

exterior details. Biscuit wall sections and a three piece Bakehouse set will definitely enhance the Storehouse. Three figures of the gallant 24th Foot are available; casualty, butting with rifle and charging figures are loaded with detail. Prince Dabulamanzi, the Zulu commander at Rorke's Drift, is mounted on a white horse and the lone new Zulu figure (Photo #2). Another personality figure, Lt. Adendorff of the Natal Native Contingent is also now ready to defend Rorke's Drift. Finally, a superb five piece, "British Surgeon Reynolds Operating on Corporal Allen" will be limited to 1000 sets.

Keith Rocco is an extremely accomplished military artist. W.Britain has teamed up with the incomparable Mr. Rocco to produce the inaugural set of the, "Keith Rocco Art of War Series". Keith Rocco's painting, "The Chosen Ground", depicts General John Reynolds of the 2nd Wisconsin Regiment of the Iron Brigade at the Battle of Gettysburg surging forward.

This set is comprised of eight pieces; General Reynolds, National and Regimental flagbearers, drummer, foot officer and two advancing privates. Additional sets will appear in 2010 that correspond to all the figures as they are shown in the Rocco painting. To provide the correct scenery of the painting, Hudson and Allen Studio has created a stunning base and backdrop that properly mirrors the actual painting.

Lastly, W.Britain announces a new range to the Museum Collection; the United States Marine Corps. The first figure is a Marine of the American Revolutionary War, specifically 1779-1783. The second issue is appropriate for the War of 1812 and Barbary Pirates 1811-1818. The Marine range has great potential for some truly interesting future figures.

This extraordinary group of new releases is proof that W.Britain has not only the vision, but the skills and capabilities to provide figures of the highest quality to collectors of gloss and matte figures alike. W.Britain continues to push the standards and limits of the toy soldier to new heights.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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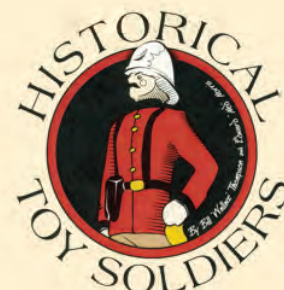


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# GREY IRON'S LARGE WAGONS

*By Stan Alekna*

For years, I did not notice the photo on page 173 of Richard O'Brien's Collecting American-Made TOY SOLDIERS, of the Grey Iron, cast iron stagecoach with driver and team of horses. I had never seen one before nor did I know anyone that had. It was for all intents and purposes an "unknown" Grey Iron novelty item.

Then one day when I was browsing through a local antique shop, I spotted two large boxes with the GREYCRAFT name in large red letters, high on a shelf. One was a stagecoach and the other was a covered wagon, each pulled by a team of horses. I knew they were Grey Iron because the company name was printed on the box but I still did not connect them to Richard's photo. I was thrilled. In examining the silhouettes on the boxes, it was clear that there was a 3rd wagon in the group; an open bed farm wagon with a driver, pulled by the same team of horses. Many years would pass before I would see the farm wagon.

Then recently, a good friend and Dimestore collector, Hank Whittaker from nearby Pennsburg, PA, came up for a visit and brought with him the Grey Iron farm wagon, in the original box. I photographed it and was then able to complete this article on the super rare trio of wagons made just 35 miles from where we now live, by Grey Iron in Mount Joy, PA, in the early 1950's.

All of the wagons are fairly detailed and colorfully painted. The "canvas" on the covered wagon is stretched taut over several nickel-plated braces fitted into notches in the wagon bed. These braces can easily spring loose and be lost forever so check to be sure to see if all, or at least most of the braces are present. The chances of finding the braces apart from the wagon are slim to none. The same figure of a removable, seated man in a broad-brimmed hat drives the stagecoach and the farm wagon although they are painted different colors. The driver is often missing as he fit rather loosely. The farm wagon contains a load of "logs" in the wagon bed, held in place by a small chain. The wagons are about 6 inches long and all are drawn by the same, galloping team of horses, with a metal guide wheel between them. The horses and their traces are 7-1/2 inches long and detach from the wagon along with the two front wheels. The horses came in white and light gray and in two variations. One has holes in their rear flank where a metal pin was inserted connecting the two halves of each horse. The other variant has the holes closed and has other minor differences in the traces. Both style of horses were found in original Grey Iron boxes so they have to be authentic.

The "NO 52S" was stenciled on the side of all three boxes and apparently did not signify a specific style of wagon, which I found strange.

If you should be lucky enough to find any of these wagons with their horses and if the owner knows who made them, you can expect to pay around \$375 for each wagon and team, and an additional \$100 if it has the original box. Without the box, there is no indication of who made the wagon so you may really find a bargain.

And always remember to look on the top shelf of the store...that's where they are.

Stan Alekna, 732 Aspen Lane; Lebanon, PA 17042. (717) 228-2361  
Email: salekna1936@yahoo.com



Stagecoach



Covered Wagon



Farm Wagon



Box front



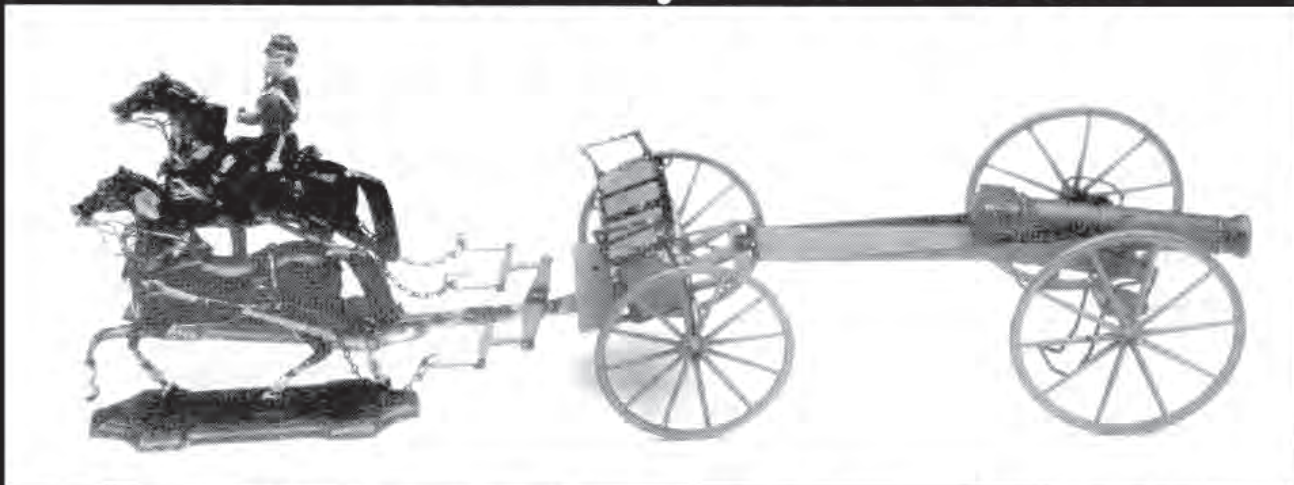
Box back



Box side

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# FILLING IN THE LINE, BRITAINS SET #1472

## H.M. KING EDWARD VIII IN GILT FINISH

*By Michael O'Donnell*

The following article compliments Rob Wilson's article in this issue entitled "The King That Never Was". Michael O'Donnell's E-bay find; Britains Set #1472 was purchased after a seven day auction for \$218.50 on January 22, 2009. To my knowledge it is the only one known.

The Edward VIII Set #1472 was made sometime prior to December 10, 1936 when he abdicated the Throne

of England. At this time Britains scrambled to retrieve all of the Coronation Souvenirs that had Edward VIII on them. Obviously some were missed as is evidenced by this set. This set is in 80mm scale.

In late December 1936 Britains relabeled the existing Edward VIII sets and produced three new George VI labels to be used for the King George VI Box. One was for the copper finish Set #1471, one for the gilt



Box Variants for King George VI and Edward VIII



## FILLING IN THE LINE, BRITAINS SET #1472 (Cont.)

finish Set #1472 and one for the painted figure Set #1473. On page 304 of the Great Book of Britains is a picture showing the two Sets #1473, one of Edward VIII and one of George VI.

Also, in OPIE'S pocket price guide to Britains, published in 1994, he references Set #1473 on page 74.

He indicates that George VI has a rarity rating of 45 boxed and is valued at 50 pounds, he also indicates Edward VIII with a rarity rating of 85 boxed and a value of 250 pounds. The value of Edward VIII in Gilt Finish is in the eye of the beholder!

*Photos courtesy John Sinclair*



**Gilt, Bronze and Painted examples of the King**

*Mike O'Donnell lives in Friday Harbor, WA. and has been collecting Toy Soldiers and related Military items for over thirty years. He was Britains Collectors Club Member #00001, but do to circumstances beyond his control, he is now Member #00000 (another story).*

*Prior to retiring to Washington in 2005 he was Nostalgia Toys of Bonita, CA. in San Diego County.*

*He has specialized in the sale of Britains Plastic and has been a fixture at the West Coaster Toy Soldier Show since its beginning, 20 years ago. He can be contacted at [toyman10@gmail.com](mailto:toyman10@gmail.com).*

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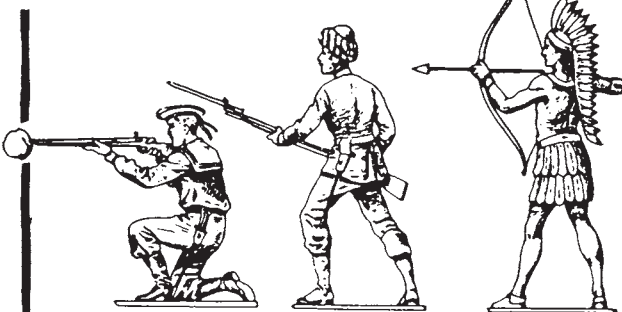


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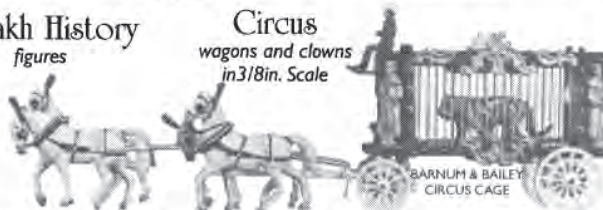
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*By Jack Matthews*

*By Jack Matthews*



An earlier article dealt with the premium send-away WWII paper Jack Armstrong True-Flite planes which could be made by the young modeler.

This time I'll discuss the WWII paper model output of the engineering genius who developed the construction techniques for all such toys, one Wallace ("Wallis") Rigby, of England (photo 1).

Paper/Card modeling has been around for centuries and is very popular in Europe, ranging from simple gliders (we used to make our own) to very complex, hard to make three-



dimensional authentic large models of buildings, castles, planes and ships. Google “paper modeling”, “paper model making” or similar search terms and you will find multitudes of sites for model maker websites, chat rooms, manufacture, including downloading free models in PDF format.

“Paper” modeling is becoming increasingly popular in the US for the first time since WWII. So much so that the annual “fly-in” at the Oshkosh, Wisconsin airfield of the nation’s private small plane owners features a large museum-class display of such plane models.

But this article pays tribute to the world renowned man who created the modern “tab and slot” technique, without which our marvelous cardboard and paper military toys of WWII would probably not have existed.

Wallis Rigby started designing his “card” stock models in the mid-twenties using his engineering skills. He experimented with the aerodynam-





# RIGBY, THE PAPER MAN

## WWII MODELS (Cont.)



Photo 4

ic properties of various grades of paper for his flying models and finally selected a high quality stock made by the Wiggins Teope company. It got his business for over twenty years between WWI and WWII as he designed and marketed his increasingly popular models. We should remember that paper is actually wood that has been crushed, watered and pulped, then dried in varying thicknesses which are very strong and flexible.

Many of Rigby's different designs were patented including his famous 1932 monoplane called the "Swallow". Rigby's pre-war production included models of the Queen Elizabeth Liner, the "Flying Scotsman" train and fire engines.

Rigby's models, which came in large booklets, sold over six million copies all over the world. One order of 125,000 booklets was shipped to Argentina. Rigby's designs coincided with the huge popularity of the relatively new airplane during this time period. Intrepid pilots, including women who set speed records and flew on first-ever long distance flights to Australia and elsewhere became national heroes. Teams and pilots from various countries, Chile, France, UK and the US competed with others for large cash prizes and the world listened into their progress via that new phenomenon, the radio.

Many of Rigby's models were exact replicas of these famous planes. Model clubs sprang up which held flying meet competitions and national magazines ran many articles on Rigby including "how to" instructions. (Photos 2-3). Rigby authored a ninety-five page

booklet "Model Aircraft for Boys" published by Oxford University Press. While dealing with all types of aircraft modeling, it contained a specific chapter on paper ones. In his forward, Capt. W.E. Johns, author of the famous boys adventure books of the still-popular British Ace "Biggles" stated:

"In theory and in practice, what he does not know about models is not worth knowing..."

How true!

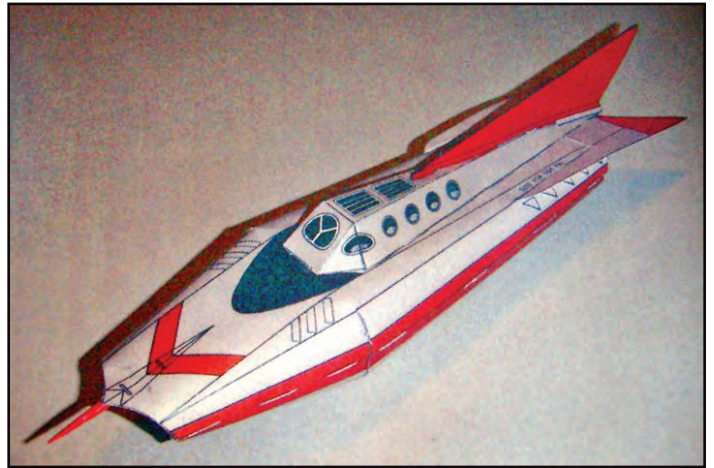


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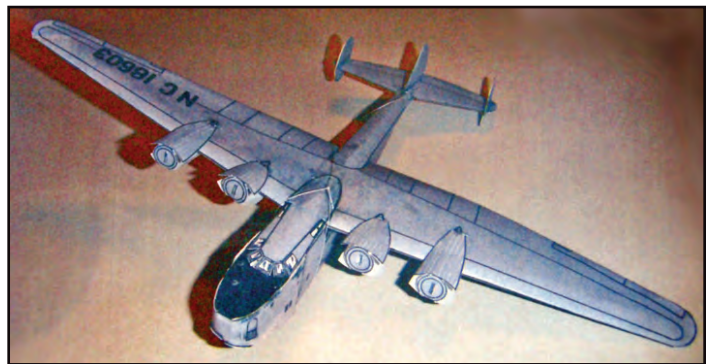


Photo 6



Photo 7



# RIGBY, THE PAPER MAN WWII MODELS (Cont.)

Rigby received a great deal of UK publicity including being featured on newsreels showing him launching a two-foot "jet" powered paper boat which traveled at 40 mph on a London lake.

In the late 1930's Wallis moved to the United States, settling in a large 11th floor apartment - studio in New York City where he and his friends tested new prototypes by soaring them out the windows.

Rigby's now rare 1939 huge model book "Marvel Model Book" (Photo 4) published by Robert Teller & Co. contained non-military items such as the Boeing flying Clipper, the 20th Century Lt'd transcontinental train and the record-setting "Bluebird" speedboat and other 1930's items. (See photos 5-7). The contents were soon to change with the advent of war and the marketing by Rigby's long time publisher, Garden City Publishing Co of Long Island, publisher of numerous kids' wartime fiction books.

During WWII Rigby's models received overnight popularity for a variety of reasons, not the least of which



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 8



# RIGBY, THE PAPER MAN WWII MODELS (Cont.)



Photo 12

was their attractiveness. Aggressive advertising and extensive coverage in the Trade Press and Newspaper Sunday Supplement models contributed mightily. Photo 8 shows three examples of such full page ads. By the standards of the day, the average retail price of \$1.00 was not cheap. Rigby wrote regular columns in *Playthings* and *Toys and Novelties*, slick trade Press Magazines. Several also appeared in *Popular Mechanics* and similar publications. During a period in which civilian travel was greatly restricted, home activities involving hobbies, puzzles and reading kept the Home-front from getting too bored. Pre-television movies and radio programs have never been as popular.

As in England, Model Airplane Clubs quickly popped up in the US, many featuring categories of flying "paper" Rigby-made models. One which got a lot of national newspaper publicity was held at Nebraska's "Boys Town" home for homeless boys, made famous by the Academy Award winning movie of the same name starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney; "He

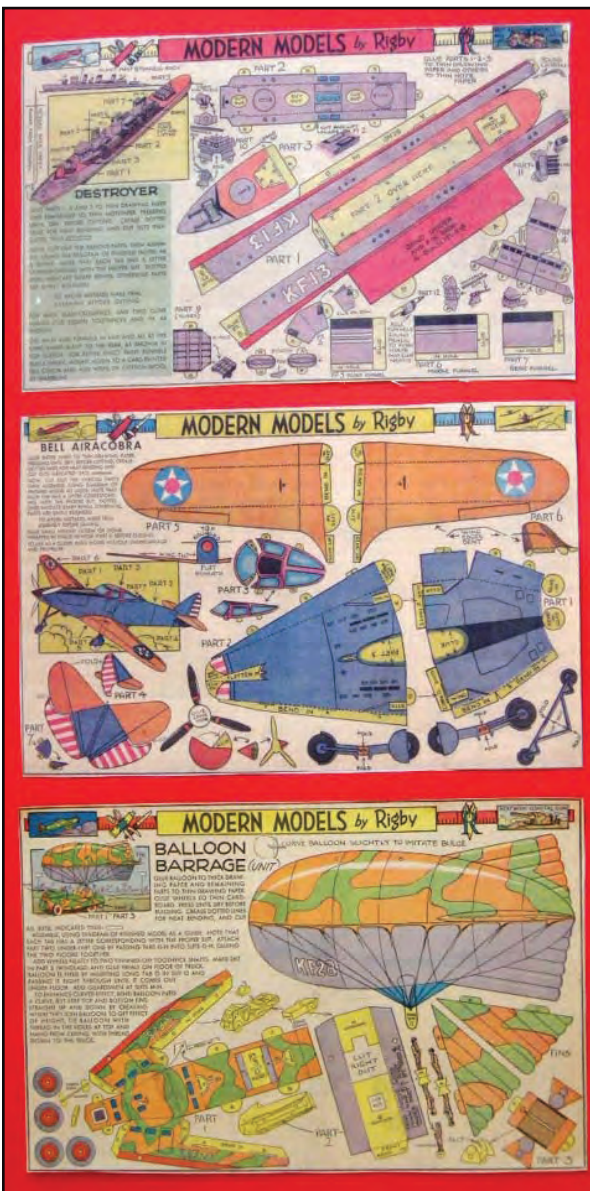


Photo 13



Photo 14



# RIGBY, THE PAPER MAN WWII MODELS (Cont.)

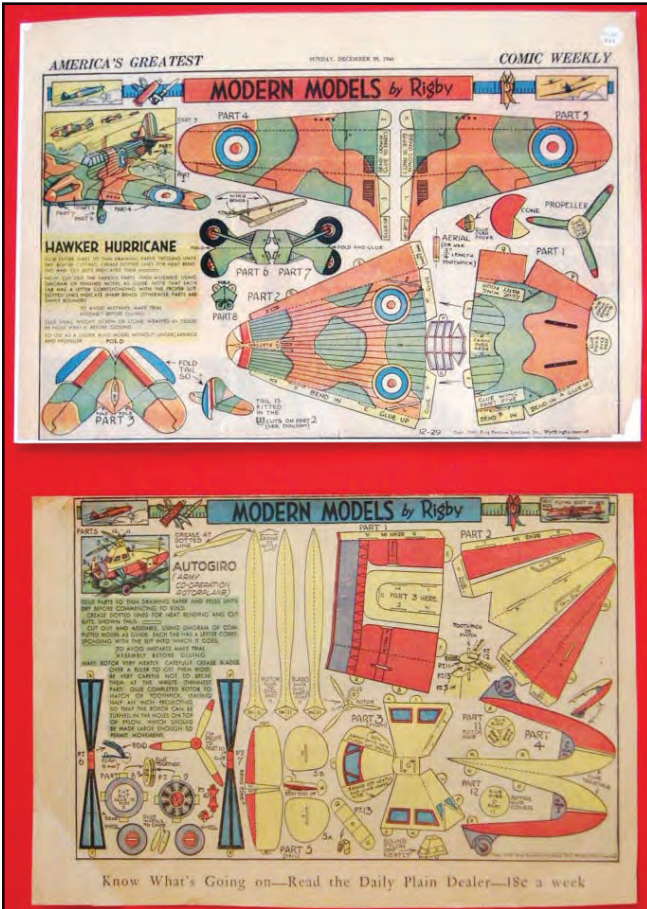


Photo 15

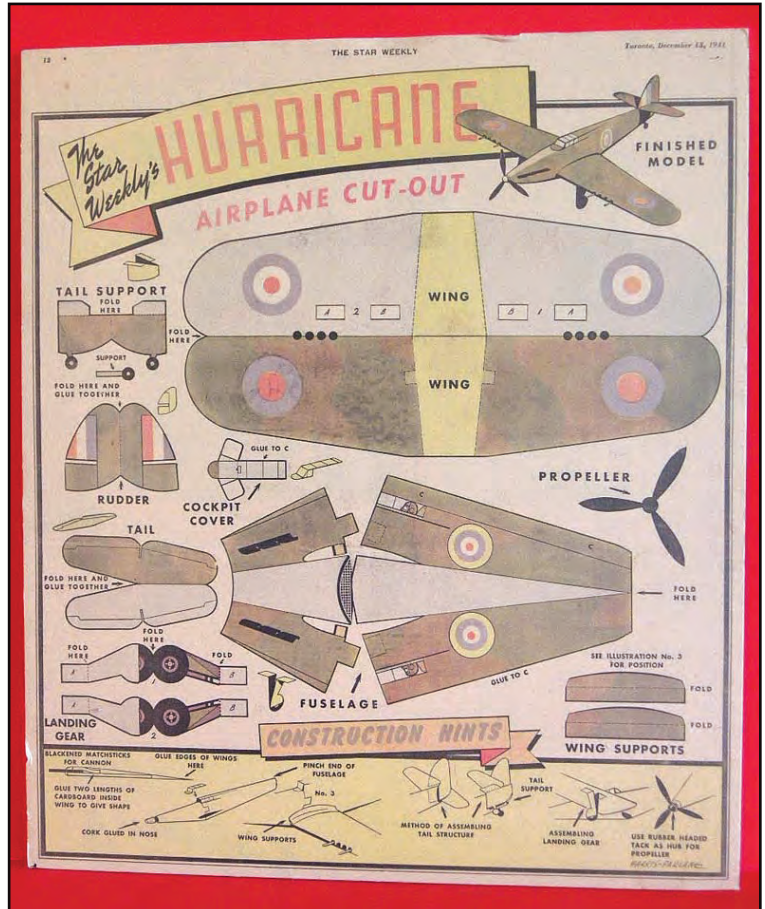


Photo 16

ain't heavy, he's my brother"). Also getting attention were numerous local activities showing disabled soldiers making model airplanes in military hospitals.

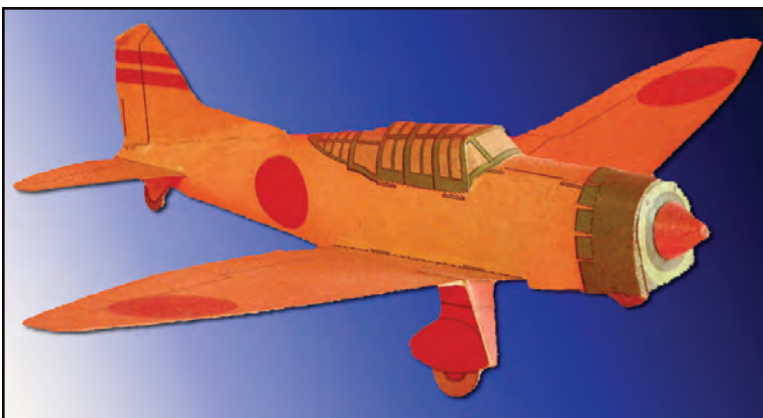


Photo 17

Rigby's American production included "Warplanes of the World" (two series), "Fighting Planes of the United Nations" and "Easy to Build Models of Naval Craft" (1944). The first two were quite similar and included large models of military aircraft. The text indicated that they were approved by the Air Youth Division of the National Aeronautics Association (Photos 9-12).

The most unusual and widespread dissemination of Rigby Models was via full page free color pages in the Sunday Supplements of major US and Canadian newspapers.

Photos 13-16 show several examples of same, all obtained in eBay auctions for an average price of \$5-10 each. These large



## RIGBY, THE PAPER MAN WWII MODELS (Cont.)



Photo 18

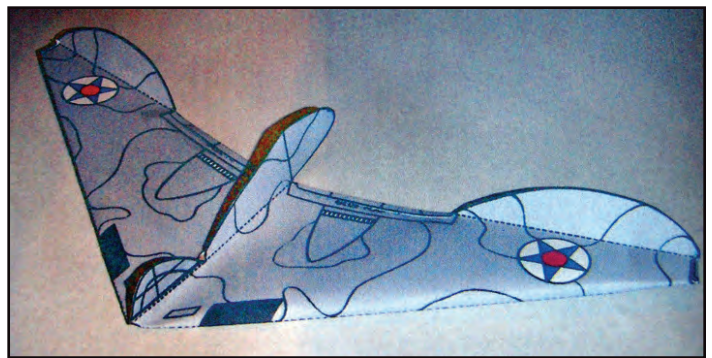


Photo 22

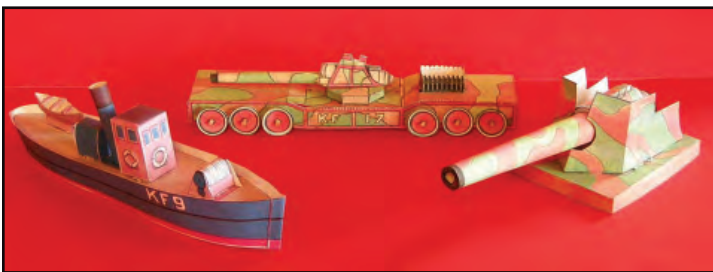


Photo 19



Photo 20

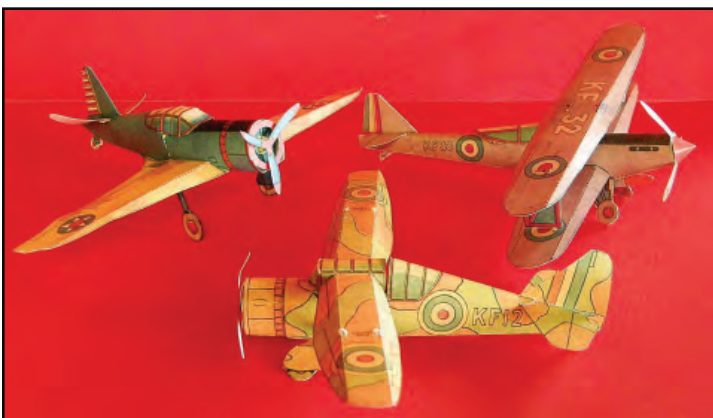


Photo 21

sheets had all the parts for a modern model by Rigby and had detailed instructions on assembly. You could easily cut out the parts, glue the thin newspaper on heavy card stock, fold and slot it per instructions; you'd then have a neat completed model, depending on how good you were (I'm not very good at it.).

I have twenty-two original sheets from the *Toronto Star*, *Baltimore Sun*, and *Cleveland Plain Dealer* newspapers. They include, in addition to aircraft, tanks, armored RR cars, mine-sweepers, AA Guns and RAF bomb trailers.

Finally, let's look at what these WWII era Rigby models look like. Photos 17-22 show eleven of them, made for me by a neat guy named Charles "Mike" Province of Oregon.

Mike has created a superb Website for the Rigby Paper Model Club. To check it out, email Province at [pattonHQ@yahoo.com](mailto:pattonHQ@yahoo.com), and Google it using search terms like "Wallace Rigby".

Members of the Club around the world over the years have collected many of the Rigby Models of all types. The non-profit Website offers, at a very low cost, reproductions of these models for 8 1/2" x 11" paper, using the PDF format for downloading. This process took considerable time and expense and surely is a true labor of love. For all of you who love this type of nostalgia try it. You'll be glad you did. Also, some of the non-aircraft models will go very well with a Dimstore soldier collection.

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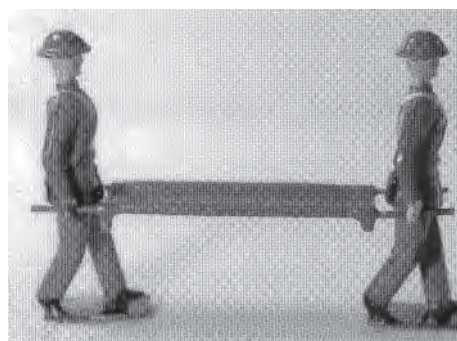
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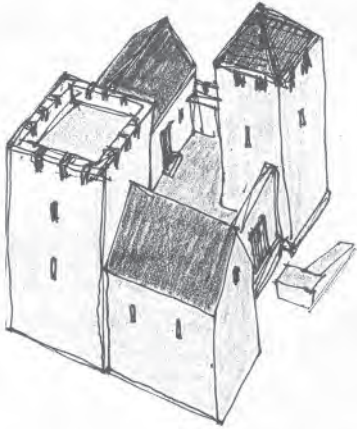
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# ***TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2009-2010***

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**November 18th – Wednesday.** Bonhams Auctioneers Toy Soldier Auction. Montpelier Street. London.  
Contact Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628 leigh.gotch@bonhams.com or James Opie +44 (0) 207 794 7447.  
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**November 21 - Saturday.** Old Toy Soldier Auctions. The James “Doc” Wengert and Vincent Banker Collections. Email otsauctionsusa@yahoo.com Web www.oldsoldierauctions.com  
Telephone 1-800-349-8009 or 262-692-3913.

**November 21 - Saturday.** James D Julia Toy & Toy Soldier Auction. Fairfield Maine Contact 207 453 7125,  
See ad in this issue.

**November 22 - Sunday.** 11th Pennsylvania Toy Soldier, Military & Miniature Figure Show. 9am-3pm  
Sheraton Bucks County Hotel. 400 Oxford Valley Road. Langhorne, PA Contact Ed Gries 201-257-2687.

**November 22 - Sunday.** Pennsylvania GI Joe Show 9am-3pm Sheraton Bucks County Hotel.  
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**December 2 - Wednesday.** Vectis Auctions www.vectis.co.uk Email admin@vectis.co.uk  
Telephone +44 (0)1642 750616.

**December 4 – Friday.** W Britain/First Gear Change of venue. This event will now be held at The Victory Services club. Annual gathering for members of the William Britain Collectors Club. Contact Richard Walker at Britains First Gear. 563-690-1259 Email richardwalker@1st-gear.com

**December 5 – Saturday.** 26th Heart of the South Toy Soldier Military and Miniature Figures Show and Sale. Annandale VFD. Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. Contact Ed Gries 201-257-2687.

**December 5 - Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Russell Sq  
Contact www.thetoyshowlondon.com

**December 6 – Saturday.** Norther Virginia Little Giant Toy & Auction Figure Show  
Annandale VFD. Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA. Contact Ed Gries 201-257-2687.

**December 12 – Saturday.** The “New Yorker” Toy Soldier and Military Miniature Show and Sale. Adria Hotel and Conference Center. 221-17 Northern Boulevard, Bayside, NY. Contact John Stengel 718-418-9439.

**December 17 - Thursday.** Bonhams Auctioneers. Terry Hanly Collection Part 2. Montpelier Street, London  
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# **TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2009-2010 (Cont.)**

## **2010**

**January 31-Sunday.** 16th Annual South Florida Toy Soldier Show. Scottish Rites Masonic Hall in Lake Worth, Florida. Contact John Lesinski, Co-Chairman. Alan McGhee, Co-Chairman  
Phone (561) 968-5571 Phone (954) 431-9295 E-Mail: wamcghee@aol.com

**January 31 –Sunday.** 16th Annual Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure, Toy and Collectables Show. 9am-4pm. Scottish Rites Masonic Hall. 2000 North D Street, Lake Worth, Florida. Contact Alan McGhee 954-699-6040/561-968-5571. Email Mike Skurda mskurda@inbox.com www.southfloridatoysoldiershow

**February 28 – Sunday.** West Coaster 21st Annual Toy Soldier and Miniature Figure Show. 9am-3pm. The Irvine Marriott Hotel. 18000 Von Karman Avenue. Irvine, CA. Contact Old Toy Soldier Home 760-758-5481.

**March 27- Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Russell Square. Contact King and Country. www.thetoysoldiershow.com

**April 24 - Saturday.** BMSS. British Model Soldier Society Annual Event. 75th Jubilee. Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, London. Contact Arthur Smith (44) 208 856 0064

**May 7 Friday and 8 Saturday.** MFCA – Miniature Figure Collectors of America, Valley Forge Convention Center. The 69th Annual MFCA Show 1160 First Avenue King of Prussia, PA 19406

**May 29/ 30 –Saturday.** Sunday Texas Toy Soldier Show. Menger Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Nick Versteeg Toy Soldiers of San Diego. 760-723-6583 www.sdsoldiers.com

**June 26th - Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel Russell Square Contact King and Country. www.thetoysoldiershow.com

**September 11- Saturday.** Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Holiday Inn. Bloomsbury, London. Contact info@normanjoplin.com www.normanjoplin.com 262 692 3913 or 01926 496062 in the UK

**September 26 - Sunday.** OTSN. Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago. Hyatt Regency Woodfield. Schaumburg, Illinois. Contact Don Pielin 630 497 1239. Email dimestores@aol.com www.toysoldiershow.com

**December 4 -Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Russell Square. Contact King and Country. www.thetoysoldiershow.com

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



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