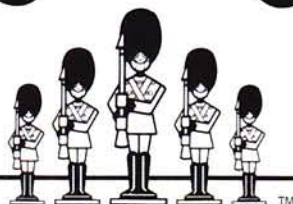


Spring  
2003

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 27 Number 1  
\$7.00

# OLD TOY SOLDIER



**Durse Cowboy Bandits**



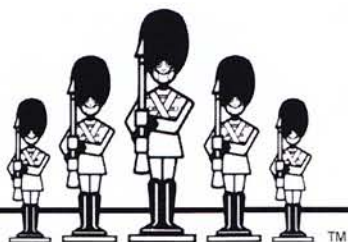


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Durso Cowboy Bandits

Photo courtesy of Veronique Servais and Peggy Steisel



## Advertising Rates

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All display advertisements should be submitted on disc in MAC or PC format or as camera ready artwork. If submitted on disc, please include fonts and images used in layout. PDF files are acceptable with fonts embedded and images included. Photos should be CMYK with resolution of 350 ppi or grayscale with resolution of 266 ppi. Typesetting and layout are available at additional charge.

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Advertisers must supply a full postal address, telephone number and e-mail address before advertisements will be accepted (no box numbers). Old Toy Soldier is not responsible for the accuracy of description or authenticity of items advertised for sale or trade. We reserve the right to reject advertising.

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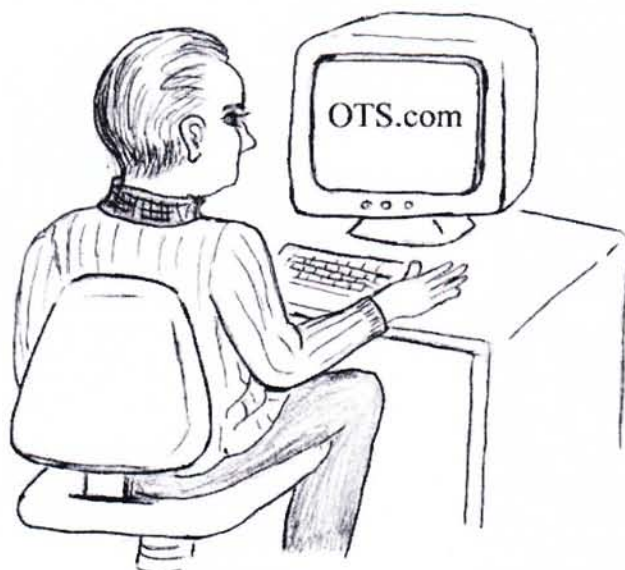
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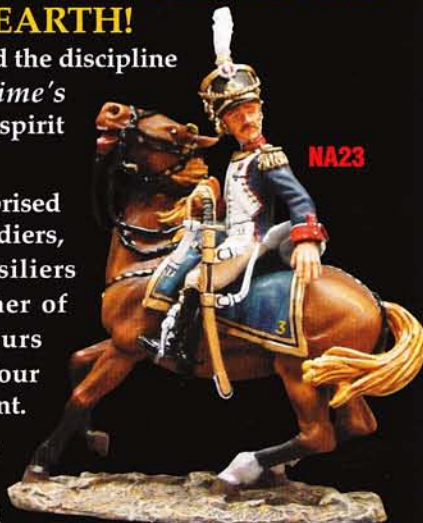
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Napoléon  
Bonaparte  
Emperor  
of France  
(1769-1821)



# THE DURSO COMPANY "BANDITS"

*By Vincent J. Russo and Patrice Servais*

## Brief History of the Company

The Durso Company, a Belgian manufacturer of excellent composition figures, started production in Leige, Belgium in 1938, and although the factory doors closed in 1972, its founder and owner, Michel Klimov, continued to produce "special orders" in his home until 1988.

For this remarkable achievement of producing exceptional composition figures for fifty years, Mr. Klimov was awarded the Belgian Government's prestigious "Medal of Leopold III."

## The Bandits

The "Bandits" was one of many "series of figures" produced by Durso. We have discussed several other Durso series in previous OTS articles. In retrospect, it is seen that this production of Bandit figures followed a very logical progression that complimented other figures very well.

By analyzing catalogs through the years, we note that in 1946, a new series of "Indians" (American), was introduced. This was followed in 1947 by the introduction of a series of "Cowboys", and in 1954 by the "Mounties" (Royal Canadian Mounted Police.)

The "Bandits" initially appeared on the scene in 1948 with just a couple of figures



BA100



BA110

The series expanded in 1949 with the introduction of five (5) additional figures.



BA101



BA111





BA112



BA113



BA115

This was the extent of the series until 1965 when seven (7) additional figures were introduced.



BA153



BA154



BA155



BA158



BA162



BA157



BA164

At this point, we must state that the last known catalog issued by Durso was in 1961. However, the production of new figures to compliment existing series continued into 1965 and most probably beyond. Mr. Klimov essentially used the same basic figures, altered by specific uniforms, colors, and accessories, to produce new Cowboys, Mounties, and Bandits.



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Military Uniforms of the 1900's by Harry Payne  
Reproduced from old postcards

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No. 6727 G  
Piper  
Full dress



No. 6728 G  
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No. 6729 G  
Field Officer and  
Company Officer



No. 6730 G  
A Company in marching order  
Reconnoitering



No. 6732 G  
The Colonel's Inspection

## "THE GORDON HIGHLANDERS"



No. 6737 G  
After the Review



No. 6733 G  
Piper



No. 6734 G  
Captain and Subaltern  
with the King's Colour



No. 6735 G  
Sergeant, Bandsman  
and Drummer



No. 6736 G  
Field Officer in Khaki  
Company Officer in Drill Order



No. 6738 G  
Swarming down the hill

## "THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS"



No. 6743 G  
The Band  
Entering Buckingham Palace



No. 6739 G  
Field Officer  
Review Order



No. 6740 G  
Sentry  
Outside Buckingham Palace



No. 6741 G  
Drummer



No. 6742 G  
A Parade  
in drill order



No. 6744 G  
Changing Guard  
at St. James

## "THE SCOTS GUARDS"



No. 6749 G  
The King's Guard



No. 6745 G  
Piper



No. 6746 G  
The Officer's Visiting Patrol



No. 6747 G  
The Relief



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No. 6750 G  
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# VOLUME 24

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



Jeep!

**NUMBER 1**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



Heyde for F.A.O. Schwarz

**NUMBER 2**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



Dismounted Dogs of War

**NUMBER 3**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



Britains Officers with Binoculars

**NUMBER 4**

# VOLUME 25

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



The Britain Family History

**NUMBER 1**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



Do You Know This Man?

**NUMBER 2**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



Salute to America

**NUMBER 3**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



Britains Road Series

**NUMBER 4**

# VOLUME 26

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



Britains Royal Horse Artillery

**NUMBER 1**

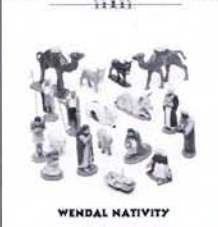
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GOLDEN JUBILEE SPECIAL

**NUMBER 2**

## OLD TOY SOLDIER



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## Regiments of All Nations

By Joe Wallis

After 22 years in print *Regiments of All Nations* by Joe Wallis is out of print. Over six thousand of these excellent and widely used reference books covering the Post War products of Britains Ltd have been sold, but due to spiraling printing costs no further copies will be printed.

Joe Wallis is author also of *Armies of the World* which covers the pre war Britain's products from 1925 onwards, Joe has advised OTS that copies of this book are still available directly from him at PO Box 3407, Arlington, VA 22203-3407.

## World Toy Soldier Directory & Compendium 2nd Edition.

*An update from publisher Jonathan Crawford*

Jonathan advises that the 2nd edition of the World Toy Soldier Directory & Compendium is making good progress, the directory portion has been completed and artists are at present working on the color pages.

Although the advertisements have still to be completed prospective advertisers are advised that the "proof" stage is impending.

For further details Jonathan can be contacted at publisher@culenandcollidge.com

## Obituary

### PETER JOSEPH BLUM FOUNDER OF THE SOLDIER SHOP

On January 16, 2003, Peter J. Blum, proprietor of the Soldier Shop passed away. Peter had been ill for the past several years. Yet it hardly seems possible that it was 10 years since the shop closed its doors for the last time.

In 1968, I had just rented an apartment located at 78 street and Madison Ave. I was soon to discover that the The Soldier Shop was to my delight, located in the same building. The shop was handsomely appointed with paintings and prints on the walls. Militaria displayed throughout. A glass cabinet stocked with Imrie/Risley figures stood to the left of the entrance. The cabinet behind the shop window was reserved for the old Britains, Mignot and Heydes. I received a lot of kidding from the staff because of my interest in the toy soldiers.

Peter was raised on Manhattan's Upper Eastside and then attended Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts. Peter did military service in the Air Force, then returned to New York to work at CBS News before opening The Soldier Shop in 1965 with a staff that included Richard Rhein, Dane Knell and Iris Outwater. In time, I became resident toy soldier sorter. Back then we all looked forward to the MFCA convention held at PMC in Chester, Pa. each March and the New York Military Historical Society event held at the 7th Regiment Armoury during the Holiday Season. The dinners were great fun, colorful tales of World War II, told by the veterans who attended. Many of the attendees were also members of The Company of Military Historians, an organization that Peter had served as president. In 1983 the shop moved to a new location at 88th and Madison Ave. and remained there for 10 years, staffed by Bob Shepps and Ed Lober.

An era has now ended with the passing of Peter Blum. Today there are shows almost weekly, and numerous shops across the country. Much is owed to those who opened the path that we now enjoy.

Steve Balkin



# COMPETITION

## Win the New Britains State (Coronation) Coach

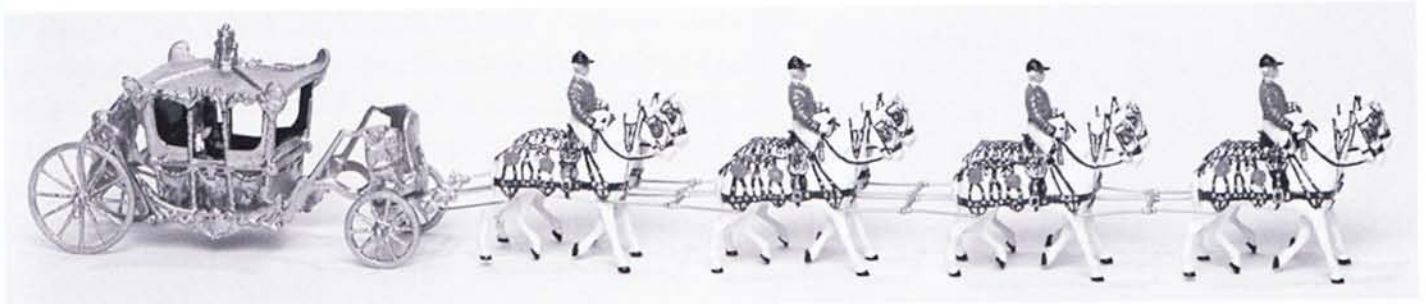
Britains will issue their new State (Coronation) Coach Catalog # 40295S late April 2003, See advertisement in this issue. They have kindly donated an example to OTS which will be presented as a prize to the winner of our competition.

During the period 1936 to 1966 three State (Coronation) Coach models were produced by Britains.

### ***Question - How many total occupants were included in the three Models?***

Please submit your answer to OTS. PO Box 13324, Pittsburgh. Pennsylvania. 15243-0324 to arrive before 22 June 2003.

The winner will be drawn at the Vectis British Toy Soldier and Figure Show in London on June 28th.



### ***CORRECTIONS***

In the last issue of OTS Volume 26 # 4, the book preview for the upcoming Britains Paris Office Book, three of the accompanying photographs carried incorrect captions.

Page 56 Photo top right should have read Turkish Infantry, Photo bottom left -Prussian Hussars .

Page 57 Photo bottom left shows Barbary Pirates or Corsairs.

### ***UPDATE***

Further research into the Britains Factory Records while compiling the text for this book indicates that the official title of the Barbary Pirates assigned in the Master Mold list was Chinese Bandit.

### ***VECTIS AUCTIONS ADVERTISEMENT CORRECTION DATE***

In Volume 26 #4 Vectis Auctions announced the date of May 8, 2003. **This was incorrect** the date of the auction is May 21, 2003. See this issue for the Vectis Auctions ad.



# SHOW REPORTS

## Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show Sunday February 2, 2003

### West Palm Beach

*By Ray Haradin*

A question I am commonly asked is "Where do most collectors live? My standard response is "Between New York and Chicago and above the Mason Dixon Line—but in the winter they all head south." The show is sponsored by the South Florida Collectors Club and fills the entire second floor of the West Palm Beach Holiday Inn. In its ninth year, the club has leveraged the warmth of sunny Florida in February to entice all



**Ben Michel (L) with Joe Saine in deep negotiations.**

snowbirds. The show attracted many top collectors including Bill Miele; Bill recently sold his world class Britains collection through Vectis Auctions in Buckingham England. Through two auctions held four months apart, the sale grossed over \$460,000 for some 750 lots. Despite his good fortune, he eagerly scoured the show floor for items to add to his "Florida



**Dr. Gary Nash (L) bartering a set of Danish Cavalry from Bill Bennett**

collection". Ben Michel, a top collector of early Mignot and Heyde, was hot for one of Joe Saine's sets. The two were engrossed in deep negotiations, as the OTS camera's toured the show. Old toy soldiers were well represented, Gary Nash and Bill Bennett had fine displays—seen here bartering a set of Danish Cavalry, the Charlesworth's of Boston presented their gorgeous array of garden items. Matt Murphy of the Hobby Bunker and Bob Hornung of Cincinnati also displayed very fine selections of both old and new figures.

Many manufacturers of new toy soldiers were present. Mike Laeding from Trophy of Texas is shown here with one of his top



**Mike Laeding from trophy of Texas with collector Gary Lindwarm.**



# SHOW REPORTS

## Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show (Cont.)



Master Modler Alan Kelsey with Royal Scots Grey in Napoleonic Dress.



Jorge Joya with his son display their action figure accessories.

collectors, Gary Lindwurm. Mike's display filled a large portion of the atrium at the show entrance. Alan Kelsey, shown holding one of his Royal Scots Grey's in Napoleonic Dress, handcrafts all of his exquisitely detailed figures. If detail is what you like, Sergei and Marian Ilyashenko displayed—and sold—many of their handcrafted Russian figures. The Russian figures were pioneered by Thor Johnson of the St. Petersburg

Collection and have been a dominating force in the toy soldier world. Nine years later and a host of new vendors, the figures still attract mobs of collectors at the shows.

The show is also an Action Figure show. Jorge Joya, president of Action Toy Gear, shown here with his son, displayed a prototype of their amphibious assault raft with a variety of uniforms, the detail and workmanship was impressive.

Most people don't need a very good reason to go to Florida; if you are a collector, there is no excuse not to go, you will surely have a good time. Try to attend next February.



Russian figure importers Sergei and Marian Ilyashenko.



# PHOTO GALLERY

## "West Coaster" California

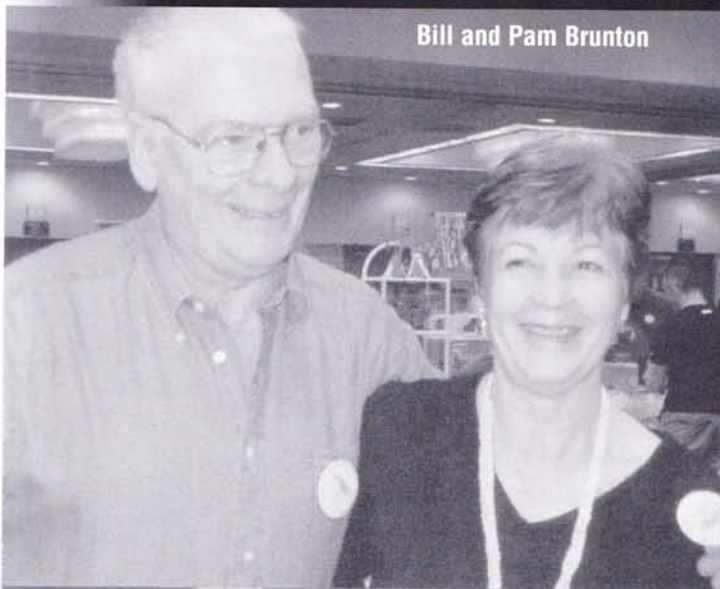
The annual West Coaster, California Toy Soldier Show at the Irvine Marriott Hotel, Orange County Irvine, California, March 2, 2003.

Co Organizers Scott Morlan and Bob Fisher once again provided the Californian collecting public and visiting traders with a professionally run event. Pre show room trading takes place several days ahead of Sunday's Ballroom action. Scott reported 165 dealer tables, an increase of 10 on last years event with 60 vendors in all. 600 + attendees were treated to many rarities both old and new, lead, composition and plastic. The accompanying photos taken by Verne Johnson certainly portray the enjoyable atmosphere that surrounds this established Toy Soldier weekend.

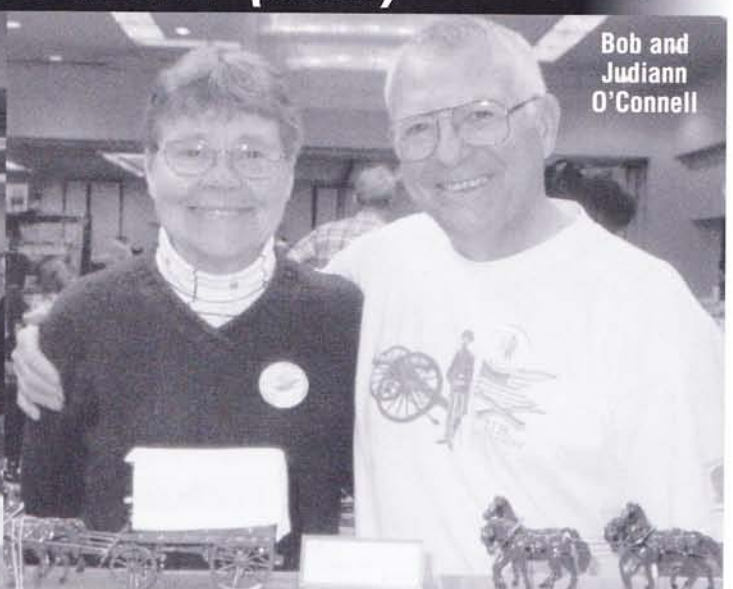




# PHOTO GALLERY (Cont.)



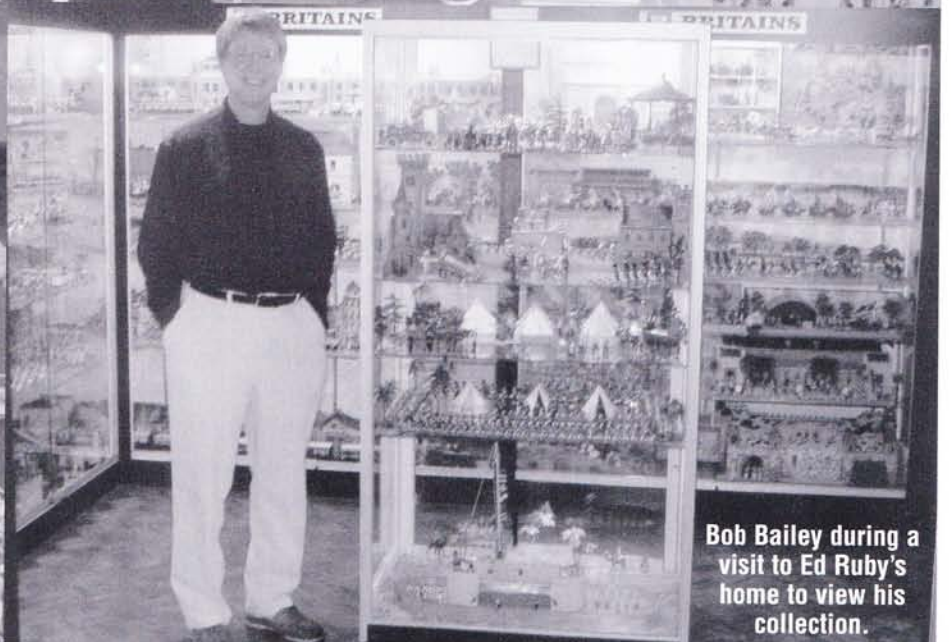
Bill and Pam Brunton



Bob and Judiann O'Connell



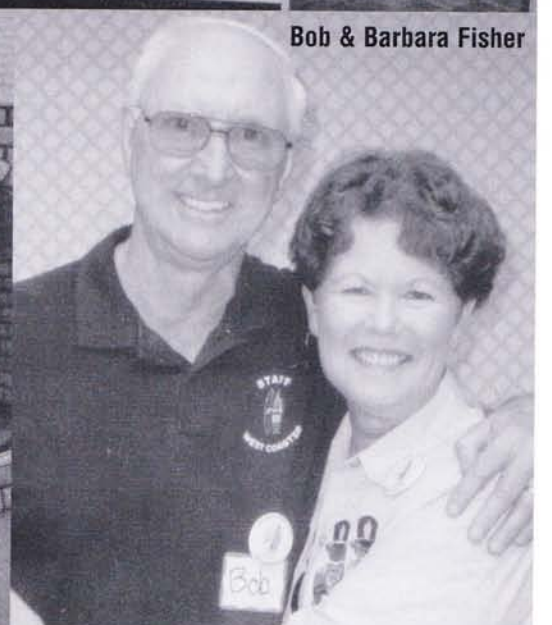
Roger and Phebe Baty



Bob Bailey during a visit to Ed Ruby's home to view his collection.



Dave Holland's Elastolin Mechanical store display depicting Danish Guards.



Bob & Barbara Fisher



# SHOW REPORTS

## Indiana Toy Soldier Show

*Michael Mattimore*



Warren Mitchell

Barry Carter has once again resumed the role of organizer and promoter for this event, held each Spring in the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis. This year's show, on Sunday, March 23, drew a crowd of about 600 toy soldier enthusiasts, breaking previous records and ensuring the show's continuing success. Like most of the other smaller shows in the Midwest, it draws from a surprisingly large area. Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and, of course, Indiana, were all represented at the gate, while dealers came from as far away as Texas, Florida, Tennessee and Connecticut to participate in this well-organized event.



Mike Laeding -  
Trophy of Texas



Marion Reilly with her  
"New" Civilian Figures

A truly eclectic mix of figures was on hand for all to see. Whether a collector desired old or new lead, old or new plastic, composition, books or connoisseur figures, there was something to be found in every possible category. Vintage figures were fairly well represented, with an astounding variety on offer at a number of heavily-laden tables. Well-known dealer Bob Helm of Greenwich, Connecticut, had a total of 9 (yes, nine!) tables loaded with vintage hollowcasts of every description, Britains foremost among them.

Missing from the show scene for a while due to his wife's illness, he was a welcome sight and has been much missed. All were glad to hear of his wife's continuing recovery and to see him "back in action" again.

Gail and Tony Teper from Cleveland had a large number of vintage Britains as well as some high-quality dimestores, as did Don and Karen Boydon, whose dimestore display was next to none. Long-time participants Jeff Caulfield and Gary Miller, both from Kentucky, showed old Britains and other vintage figures.



Karen and Don Boydon



Barry and Barbara Carter -  
Show Promoters



Sergei Ilyashenko



# SHOW REPORTS

## Indiana Toy Soldier Show (Cont.)



**Don Pielin and Susan Joplin**

Also back this year were the Pielin brothers, Don and Dick, who made their annual drive down from Chicago yet again.

New figures of every type were also in abundance. For example, Bart Breyerton's tables held a beautiful selection of new Mignot sets and dioramas, while Mike Laeding from Trophy of Texas had a vast assortment of figures from American history on display.

Marion Reilly displayed her charming and meticulously crafted civilian figures, while reference books of every description were piled high on the groaning table of Cincinnati's Bob Wagner, another long-term participant. Russian-made connoisseur figures continue to draw considerable attention, as do plastics of every kind. The folks from the Stone Castle in Louisville were well-supplied with the latter on their overflowing tables, as were Roger Ross, Joe Saine and Bill Nace.



**Tony Teper (Left) and Robert Helm**



**The Teper Family Tom, Tony and Gail**



**Bart Bryerton**

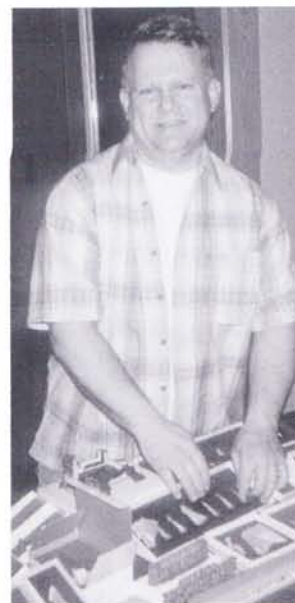


**Gary and Sue Miller**



**Michael Mattimore**

All told, there were 58 different dealers in attendance, covering a total of 108 tables, demonstrating, as usual, the incredible diversity of interests within the toy/miniature figure world. Everyone who participated this year eagerly looks forward to next year's show, hoping for another enjoyable day spent browsing, visiting, and enjoying the pleasures of our hobby.



**Greg Hahn -  
Stone Castle Miniatures**



## **SHOW REPORTS**

### **Livonia, MI Toy Soldier Show**

*By Michael Mattimore*

For toy soldier collectors in the upper Midwest, a welcome break from the winter "blahs" happens every January in the Detroit suburb of Livonia, home to the annual Michigan Toy Soldier Show. This year's show was held on Sunday, January 19th at the Livonia Holiday Inn, handily located just off I-275. As usual, promoter Rick Berry and the folks from the Michigan Toy Soldier Co. did an outstanding job of organizing and promoting the event.

The very first year of the show, when it was held in Ann Arbor, there were 5 inches of wet snow the morning of the show. Yet stalwart collectors from all over the area came in droves, despite the bad roads, to kick-off the inaugural staging of this premier toy soldier event. The following year it was moved to its present venue, where it continues to thrive, now in its seventh year.

Show organizer Rick Berry continues to put on a "class" show, with an incredible variety of toy and miniature figures on offer. This show truly has "something for everyone," where figures of every age and description can be found. This year, the banquet room contained nearly 100 tables, displaying a wide variety of both new and vintage merchandise. Dealers from all over the Midwest were in attendance; some, like Carlos Araujo and Donald Case were from the greater Detroit area or nearby Toledo, like show perennial Joe Saine. Others, like the folks from Trophy of Texas, came a considerable distance to participate in this show, one of the first of the new year and a sure cure for "cabin fever." The collectors that I talked to during the day were a happy group, finding items they had long searched for (and some that they hadn't even known they wanted). The only pall over the room was concern for OTS Editor Norman Joplin, who had planned on attending, but was involved in an unfortunate automobile accident while on his way to the show. Dealers and collectors alike were unanimous in voicing their hopes for his speedy recovery. We all hope to see him there next year, when lead and plastic troops of every kind will once again grace the tables of the Michigan Toy Soldier Show.

## **See us at the following shows:**

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**OTSN Inc's 23rd Annual Chicago Toy Soldier Show**  
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For more information, contact:

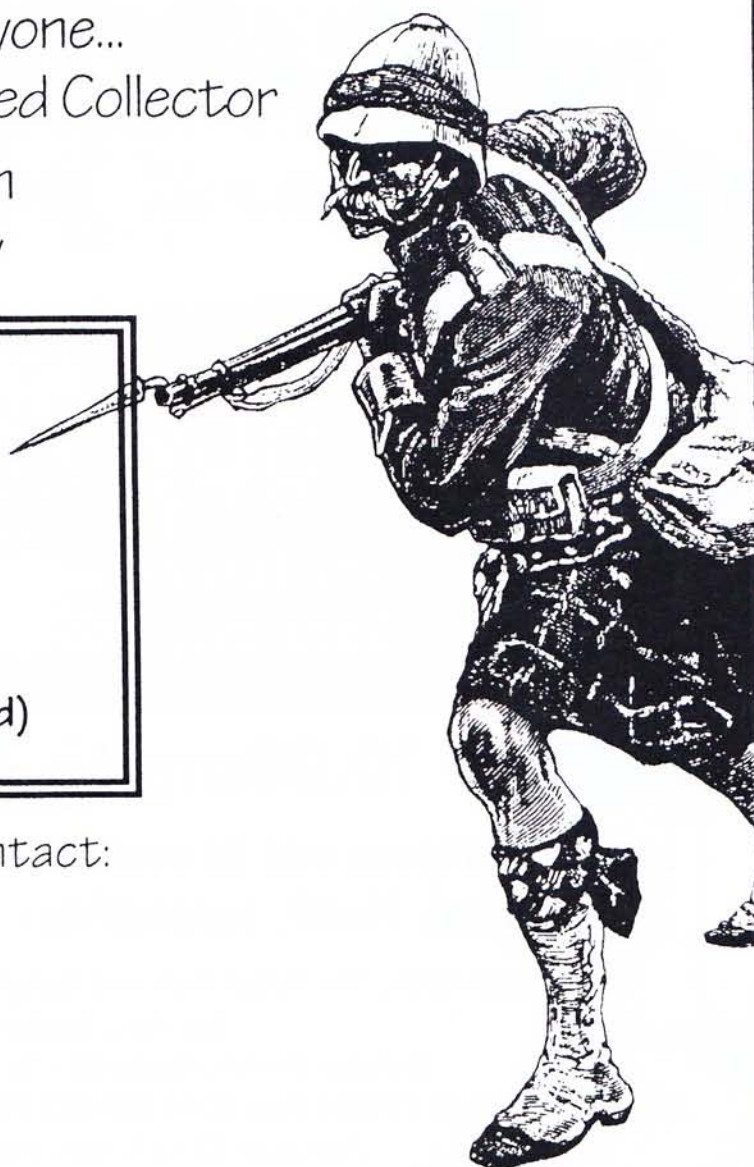
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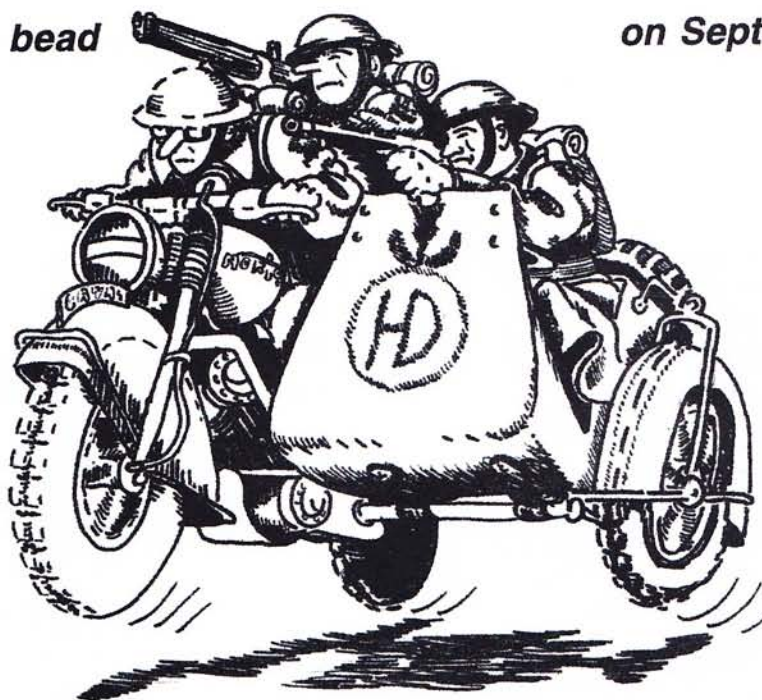
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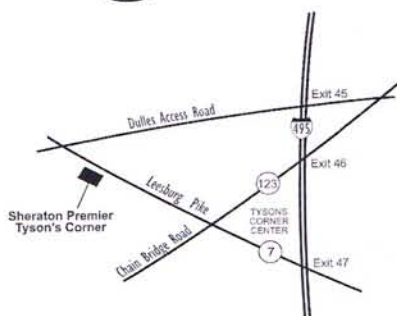
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# BRITAINS LILLIPUT

## 'THE LITTLE PEOPLE' Part one

*By Philip Dean*

---

If you are to believe the reference guides and books used by many collectors today then Lilliput appeared at the time of the 1950 catalogue supplement and was elevated to the main catalogue for the first time in 1952. These figures were manufactured, under license from Britains Ltd, in association with W Horton Ltd. The individual figure was 21mm tall so as to be compatible with "OO" and "HO" gauge railway.

The Britains 1952 catalogue implies that some of these figures had already been in production for some time and Britains had manufactured a series of railway and civilian figures. But the production of the figures for the 1952 list was by Hortons, not Britains. The 1959 catalogue claims the earliest numbers in the series were introduced nearly a quarter of a century earlier.

G. Smallwood, head of Britains model shop, or to give it the full title, The Engineering, Machine and Tool Room Department, kept a meticulous record of work done during the years 1932-41. These became known as "The Smallwood Notebooks" (see OTS April 1984) Detailing the production of the original moulds and castings made during this time and giving the total hours worked on each figure.

Between March and August 1937 a series of some twenty items were recorded in the books, being all railway related items, produced by Britains, especially for Trix.



This photograph shows the Main entrance steps (Trix ref 92) and the double seat with station nameplate (Trix ref 142). A single seat (141) and single steps (191) were also produced by Britains until 1953.

Britains were making, for Trix Twin Railways, two sets of steps for their railway stations. The single steps (Trix ref.91) and the Main entrance steps (Trix ref 92) These steps were made to go in front of the Trix "Many-Ways" buildings. Both were made by Britains until 1953 and are included in the Trix 1939 catalogue, both were marked "Britains TTR Made in England" on the base. During the same period a single seat (Trix ref 141) and a double seat with a station nameplate (Trix ref 142) were also supplied by Britains. They also carried the same legend on the base.

The figures produced, with their (later) Lilliput numbers were, Nurse & child (LB517) Porter with trolley (LB533) Guard (LB534) Station Master (LB535) Porter with luggage (LB537) Newsvendor (LB538) Lady with case (LB539) Man with book (LB540) Man with umbrella (LB541) Lady with hatbox (LB542) Golfer (LB543)

The merchandise and platform equipment was Barrel (LB544) Hamper (LB545) Large packing case (LB545) Small packing case (LB547) Electric trolley (LB549) and the black trolley with the wire handle which was exclusive to Trix and had no Britains model number.

Within the notebooks, recorded is the time taken, in hours, to work the details of the masters created by the modelmakers and for such small figures the input is enormous, the porter with luggage was allotted 18 hours, whereas the station master took just 12. The small hamper recorded a time of 120 hours to produce this relatively simple masterpiece. The barrel, 37 hours, the packing case, 97 hours and the large seat 73 hours.

According to the "History of Trix", a superb book by Tony Matthewman, the range of Lilliput people and railway accessories was established, by Britains, in the mid 1930's, just before they were asked, by Trix, in 1937, to provide them with similar figures. Sold in small red boxes they all showed the TTR logo, the Britains trademark, and the legend, "Made specially for Trix Ltd by Britains Ltd" There is little



## BRITAINS LILLIPUT, THE LITTLE PEOPLE (Cont.)

to distinguish pre-war from post-war figures, but the porter wore a red jacket and the newsvendor, a white coat, pre-war only. The golfer would be grey and the guard would have his bag and strap coloured in brown. The small four wheeled hand trolley, with a wire handle, was also only made pre-war and was never in the Britains range.



It is not always possible to say which figures were made either pre or post war, these 5 are all prewar only. The news vendor (first left) was not available in white post war. The porter (second left) only wore a red jacket prewar. The man with the book and the golfer were available only in brown post war. The guard had the satchel and strap highlighted in brown prewar and was painted completely blue post war.

In the period 1937-39 Trix offered five sets of figures and merchandise / equipment.

### **101 - Railway personnel with 7 figures**

Introduced in 1937 this set contained the Station Master, Guard, News vendor, Porter with bags, Porter with barrow (2 pieces), Barrow or Porter.

### **105 - Platform equipment and merchandise - 20 pieces.**

Also introduced in 1937, this set started with 12 pieces, two each of the large and small packing cases, hamper, barrel and trolley with an electric trolley and 4 wheel hand trolley. In 1938 this was made a 20 piece set by increasing the cases, barrel and hamper to 4 each.

### **111 - Passengers - 7 figures**

The six passengers in 1937, with a random extra in 1938 making a total of seven.

### **125-Passengers- 15 figures**

Made of 12 passenger figures in 1937, with an extra three added in 1938.

### **131 - Merchandise - 12 pieces**

Both packing cases, the hamper and the barrel a total of nine in 1937, increasing to twelve in 1938.

These were all one shilling and twopence or two shillings and four pence per set That's old English £sd - you work it out! They were not re-issued post-war.

Post-war there were three new sets containing fewer figures than the pre-war, sets 100 - 110 - 130. These sets had identical contents to the three Lilliput sets, LP 510-511-512. Which were introduced a few years later.

Set 100 (Lilliput LP510) contained the Station Master, Guard, News vendor, Porter with bags and the porter with barrow(trolley). Produced by Britains for Trix from 1948-1952.

Set 110 (Lilliput LP511) was the passengers, Nurse and child, Golfer, Man with book, Woman with case, Woman with hatbox, Man with umbrella (1948-1952)

Set 130 (Lilliput LP512) Electric trolley, Barrow and two each of Barrels, Hampers and the large and small packing cases. (1948-1952)

These three sets were advertised in the 1949 "Polks" catalogue at .95c each!



## BRITAINS LILLIPUT, THE LITTLE PEOPLE (Cont.)



These are the sets made by Britains for Trix post war sets 100 - 110 - 130, identical to the Lilliput sets introduced later.

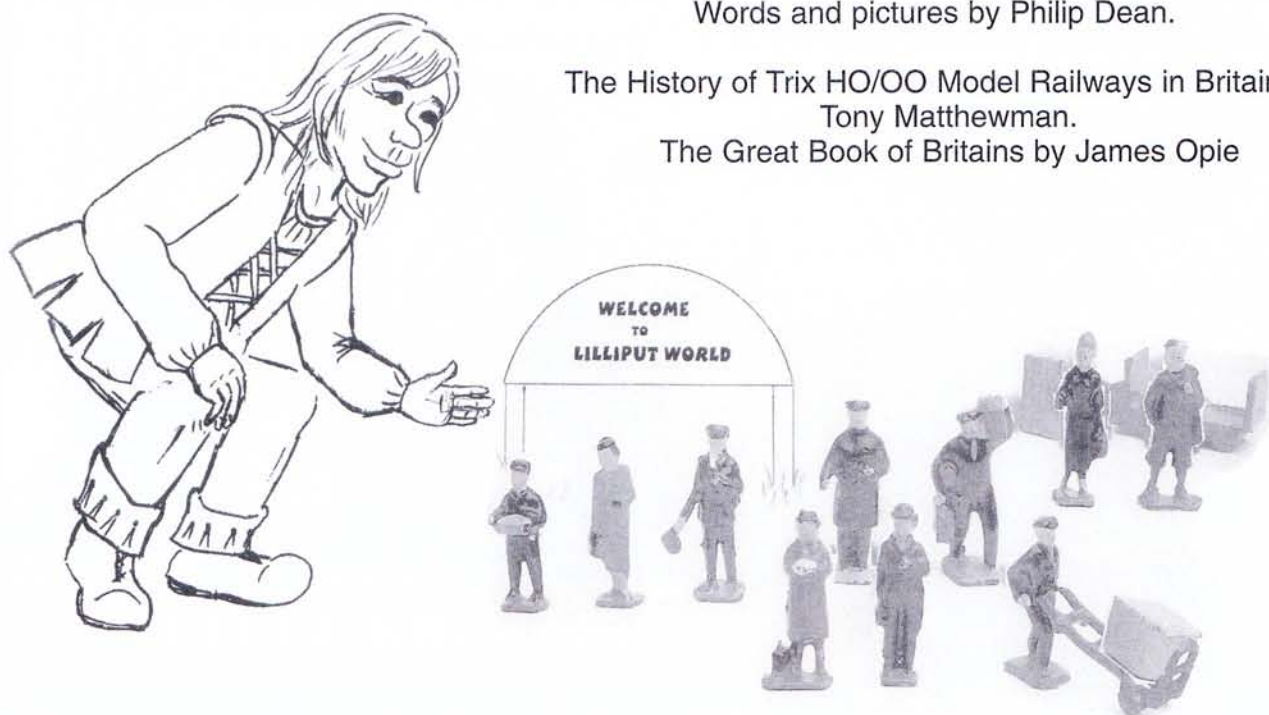
It must be noted that all the 21mm figures sold under the Trix banner had no Britains 54mm alternative, unlike the farm figures introduced by the Lilliput range of the 1950's and were, presumably, made specifically for Trix.

So, we now know that the Lilliput range of railway figures were manufactured by Britains, and sold under the Trix name, nearly two decades before W Horton Ltd came onto the scene and the hunt and farm series were introduced, but that's another story.

Words and pictures by Philip Dean.

The History of Trix HO/OO Model Railways in Britain by  
Tony Matthewman.

The Great Book of Britains by James Opie



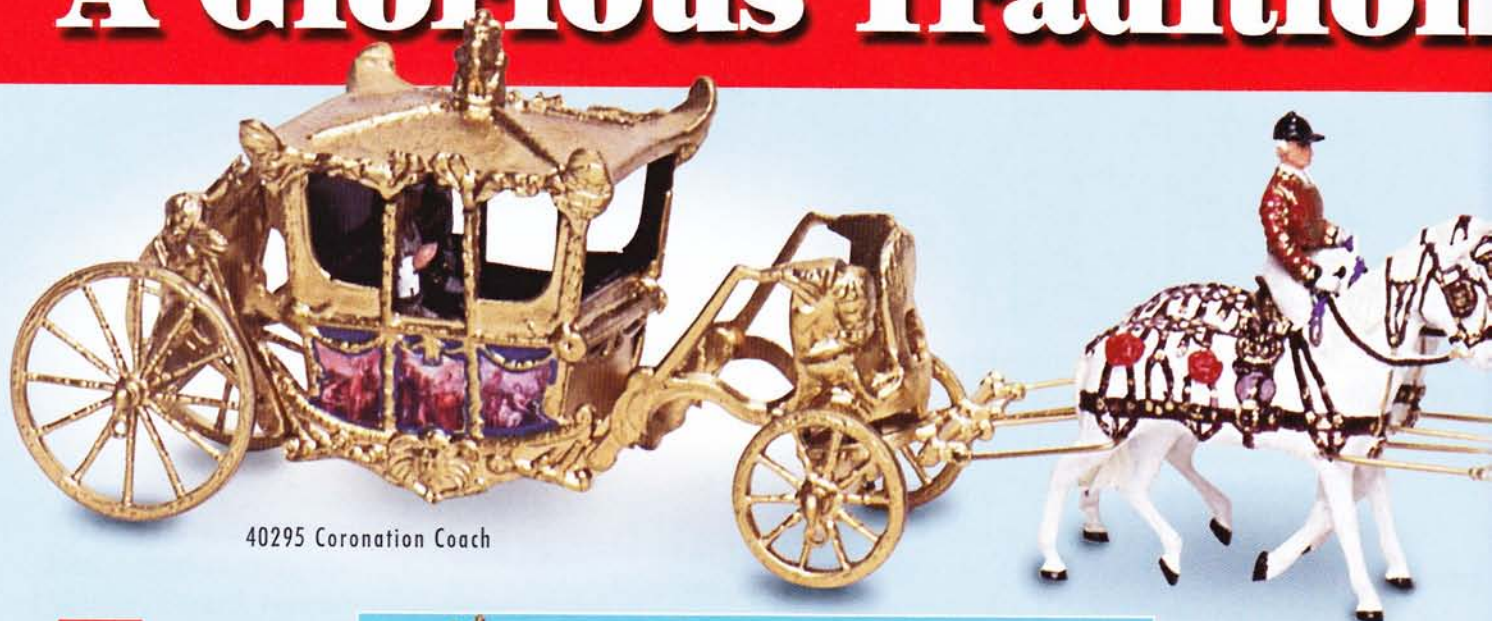


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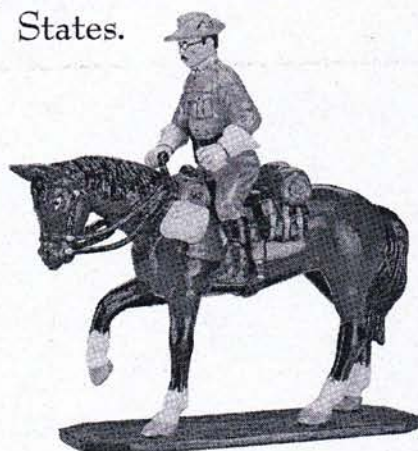
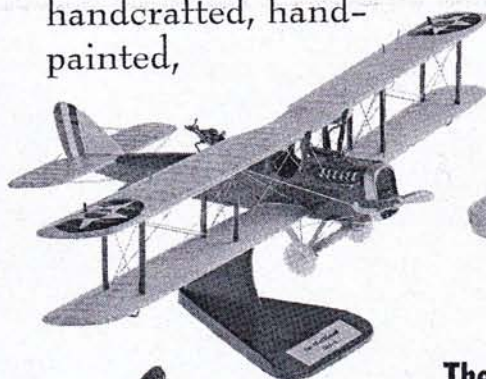


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# Outer Space Adventures

## The Mysterious Inhabitants of the Marte Space Ship

By S. Mark Young<sup>1</sup>

Recently, I acquired an incredible wooden space ship made by craftsmen at the Juguete Denia factory in Denia, Spain. Denia is a seafaring town on the Mediterranean coast just below Valencia and toys (juguetes) were produced at the factory as early as 1904.

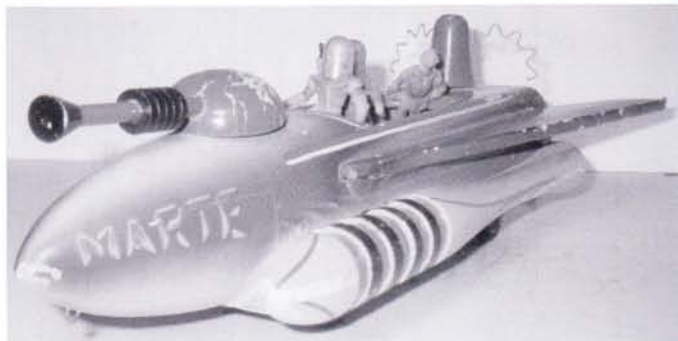
This spacecraft is an enormous twenty-two inches long, four inches high and nine inches wide. The fuselage of this superbly sculpted ship is turquoise with two large harvest gold engines, trimmed in red and black attached to either side. The finish has remained glossy after all these years. *Marte*, Spanish for *Mars*, is stenciled in a red and yellow bamboolike font on either side of the nose cone. Red and yellow arrows made to look like lightening bolts decorate the top of the ship. The four wheels that propel the spacecraft are reminiscent of those found in early Meccano sets - metal rims with well-articulated, rubber tires. When the ship blasts off (on the floor that is), a mechanism connected to the front wheels turns the imposing brown and black space cannon from side to side. A brown antenna composed of a cone-shaped block with two protruding thin-gauge wire pieces is attached on top of the main platform.



Front view of the Marte space ship.

- they are made of rubber (and not the usual hard plastic) and painted. The consistency of the rubber is similar to that used by the Welsh-based company *Poplar Plastics* in their spacemen of the early 1950s. The ravages of time and heat have hardened and distorted the rubber marching figure at the stern of the spacecraft. After over 65 years, that figure is now engaged in a bizarre form of Martian Limbo. The two figures at the bow of the ship, however, are still standing tall. The figures are painted in either maroon with gold trim or blue with gold trim and each face is nicely detailed. Remarkably, while the paint has dulled to some extent, none has flaked off. Two of the three figures sport space helmets similar to those used by *Tudor Rose* and all appear to be attached to the ship with glue. To my knowledge, no other loose rubber figures of this type have surfaced.

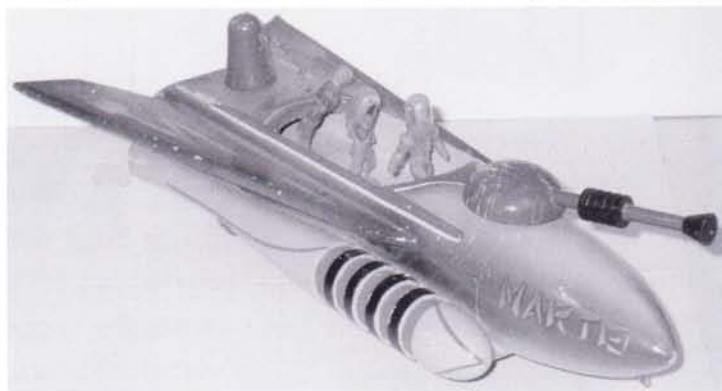
While conducting research for *Blast Off* the evidence suggested that during the early 1950's, *Tudor Rose* copied three of the Archer (75mm) and one of the Premier (60mm) space figures to form its set of four, 60mm figures. The four poses



The bulbous nosecone of the Marte space ship was added separately to the main fuselage.

The seller, Maria Jesus Navarro Lopes, recounted that her father, Rafael Navarro, was given the space ship as a gift in Spain in 1935. The toy has been in her family ever since. Ms. Lopes mentioned that while the ship was factory-produced in limited quantity she has yet to see another.

As an avid collector and researcher of space toys, another aspect of this toy intrigued me. The accompanying photos show three figures standing inside the ship. All three 60 mm poses are identical to those made by *Tudor Rose* in the 1950s with two exceptions



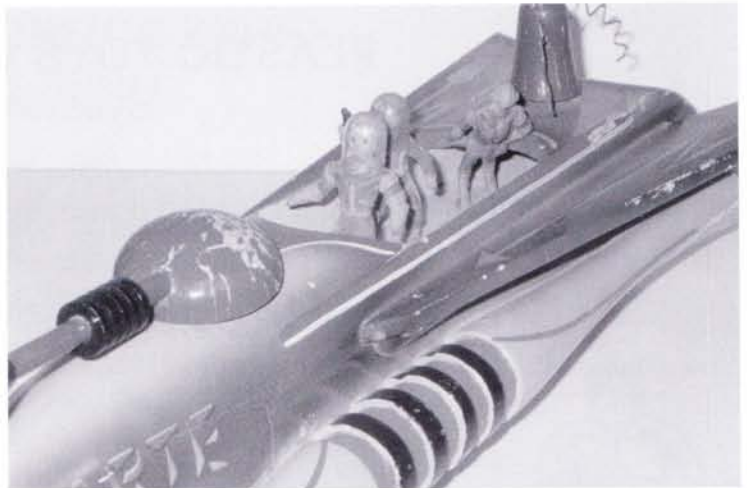
Rear view of the Marte space ship.



## Outer Space Adventures (Cont.)

have been found together on bubble cards bearing the *Tudor Rose* label but I am guessing they were also sold individually as bin toys. These four figures were also pantographed in 40 mm scale and often found with Australia's Moldex spaceship.

The surfacing of this spaceship and these figures raises some intriguing questions. For instance, were the three figures attached to the ship when it was produced? Ms. Navarro is adamant about ship's lineage because of its close ties to her family history, but she does not have any clear recollection regarding whether the space figures were added later. Because the figures are made of rubber it could be the case that



These rubber figures are almost identical to those made by Great Britain's Tudor Rose. Who made them?



Tudor Rose's set of four 60mm spacemen. The figures were sold standing up like this with a very thin plastic bubble completely covering them.

hard and soft plastic from Australia, Hong Kong, Italy, Great Britain and now potentially Spain. What is fascinating is that our understanding of the web of influence of the Archer and Premier figures still has not been fully determined. However, with every new find we come closer to developing a more complete understanding of these interrelationships. But for now the question remains: *Who are the mystery men that inhabit the Marte spaceship?*

<sup>1</sup> S. Mark Young is the lead author (coauthors Mike Richardson and Steve Duin) of *Blast Off! Rockets, Robots, Ray Guns and Rarities from the Golden Age of Space Toys* (Dark Horse Books, 2001).

they predated similar plastic figures. And, if the figures are original to *Marte*, was Robert Genin, president of Archer Plastics and to this point considered the progenitor of mass-produced space figures, influenced by them? I posed this possibility recently to Gloria Genin Lester, Robert's ex-wife, but she maintained her strong belief that Bob (now deceased) was not influenced by any European figures and was the first to produce what we now call the Archer space men.

One thing we have established is that Archer and Premier (and also those made by AJAX) space figures were copied worldwide from the 1950s through the early 1970s. In my collection, I have numerous variations in



Three variations of the Archer figures. The left-most figure is an identical copy of the Archer 75 mm figure but was produced in a blue metallic color. Another difference is the raised "M" stamped on its back. The middle 60 mm figure was made by Tudor Rose, as was the smaller 40mm figure on the right.



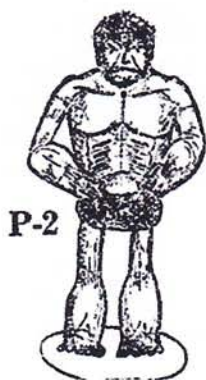
# PLASTICS ON PARADE

## PLASTIC TOYS CORPORATION

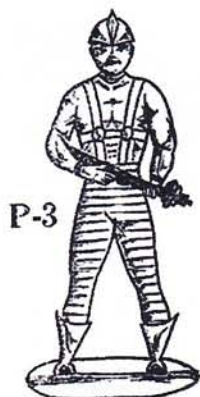
Byesville Ohio

At the recent Indianapolis Toy Soldier Show, Don Pielin purchased a Wholesale Price List containing line drawings and prices for the following previously unidentified plastic figures manufactured by the Plastic Toys Corp of Ohio.

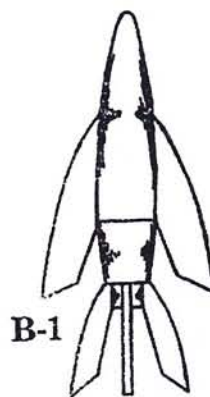
The figures shown below left to right are described as -



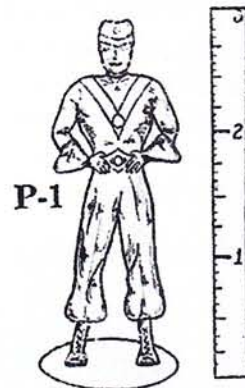
P2 Pre Historic Man



P3 Space Fighter



B1 4 Inch Rocket



P1 Space Officer

The ruler at the side indicates each item is 3 inches in height.

P1 P2 and P3 are listed as \$3.24 Per Gross and come packed in boxes of 2 dozen.

The previously undiscovered price list also describes ( without illustration ) Rocket Set DeLuxe as being Rocket Fleet with Launcher at a Wholesale price of \$35.40 per gross.

For further details of this company see Richard O' Brien's book Collecting Toy Soldiers.

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# RECONNAISSANCE

## NEW PARIS OFFICE TYPES

*by Rob Wilson*



Thanks to Michael Proctor of Newtown, Connecticut, USA, for a prompt response to the request for information on Britains Paris Office types in the article by Rob Wilson and Norman Joplin in the previous issue.

Michael supplied the photograph attached, showing what appears to be an example of a Paris Office version of set 114, the Cameron Highlanders marching at the slope. They are based on the figure without back pack introduced in the British market in 1916. The figures (a matching set of 8) are very similar to the normal English one, with three exceptions:

- The figures carry a rifle with fixed bayonet and loose rifle sling;
- The painting style shows some slight variations on the normal English version, most notably with a characteristic inverted v- shaped moustache;
- The base is stamped *depose*, but excludes any reference to being made in England.

The latter certainly indicates that the casting the figure uses was at some time sold through the Paris Office, although the author has many other examples with similar base stamps that are obviously NOT Paris Office types. It is

clear that Britains reused many of these moulds and castings back at Lambeth Road, after the Paris Office was closed down.

The other distinctions, while not conclusive, are certainly consistent with the figures having been produced in France. Unfortunately the known provenance for the set provides no further confirmatory evidence of this conjecture.

Michael's response was one of a number of replies to our request for new information. These have included material on boxes and other matters. How many more examples of Paris Office production lie hidden away and unrecognized? Hopefully, this article may prompt others to follow Michael's example and share their finds with fellow collectors.

Rob Wilson, April 4th 2003.



## TOMMY TOY UPDATE

*Richard O'Brien*

Re the Tommy Toy nursery rhyme pieces: When I saw them at Stanley Goldsmith's home, I assumed they were experiments by Barclay, an experiment that was careful to leave out the "Tommy Toy" underbase markings. Since there were no originals there, I had no way of noticing that the unpainted castings were larger. So maybe Toy Creations-American Alloy experimented, but to me there's a look about the metal, at least in the photo, that suggests it might have been H.B. Toys that did the experimenting. Their figures often ballooned in size due to the crudeness of the alloy. Since I never heard anything from anybody at Barclay about Barclay's obtaining pieces from American Alloy-Toy Creations or H.B., it could have been either. However, since none of their known figures (by either of these companies) were in Goldsmith's collection, there's another possibility; that Barclay's Frank Krupp came up with some inexpensive molds so that Barclay could cast a few pieces and show them to buyers. And perhaps those temporary molds contaminated the metal, or an imperfect alloy was used. In any event, this seems to have been a one-time experiment by whoever did it, as no duplicates have as yet turned up.



# EBAY FINDS

## MARX PLASTICS



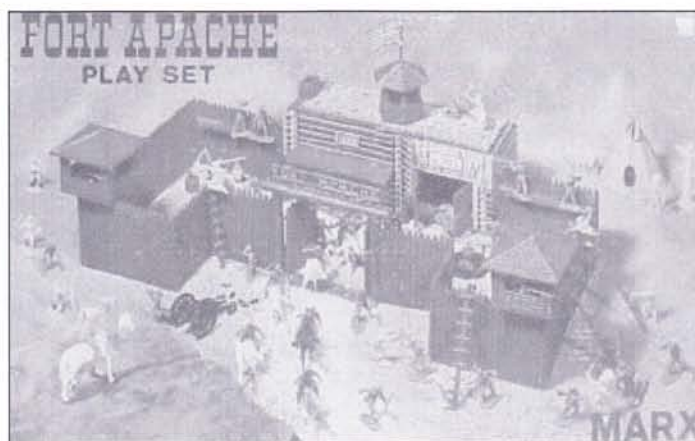
Chester  
Gunslinger \$535



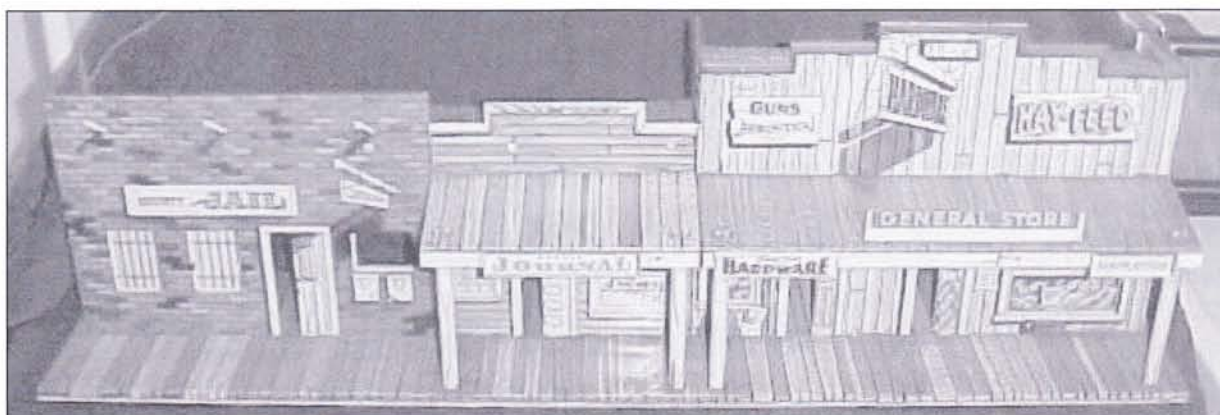
Matt Dillon  
Gunslinger \$177.50



Miss Kitty  
Gunslinger \$504



Fort Apache Playset \$280



Tin Western Store Front \$227.50



## EBAY FINDS (Cont.)



Warren Lines Gun Team \$5100



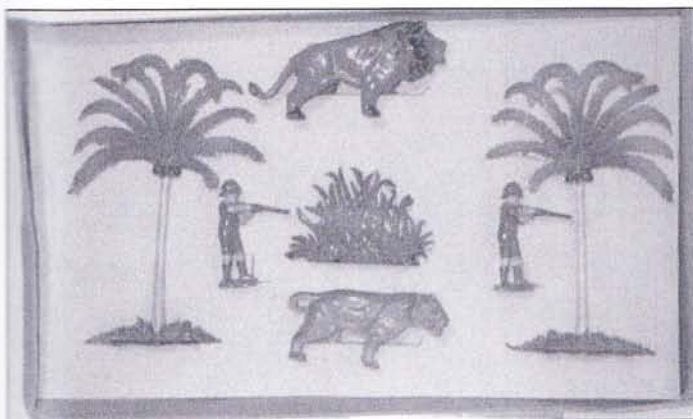
Britains  
Buck Rogers  
\$710



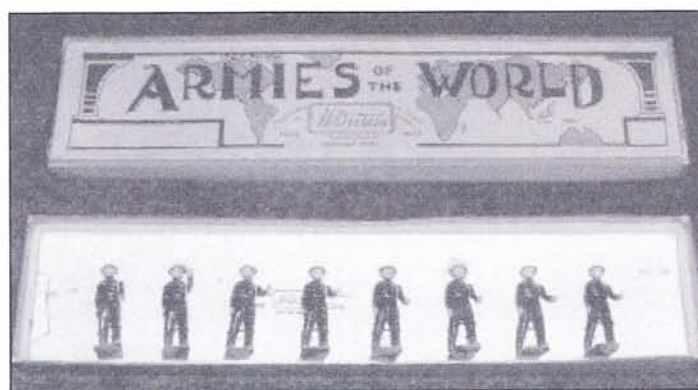
Britains Wilma  
\$456



Britains  
Ardala Valma  
\$455



Taylor and Barrett  
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Britains Air Raid Warden Boxed Set  
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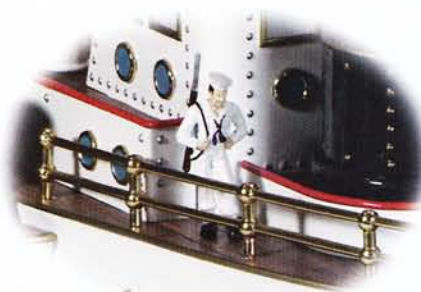
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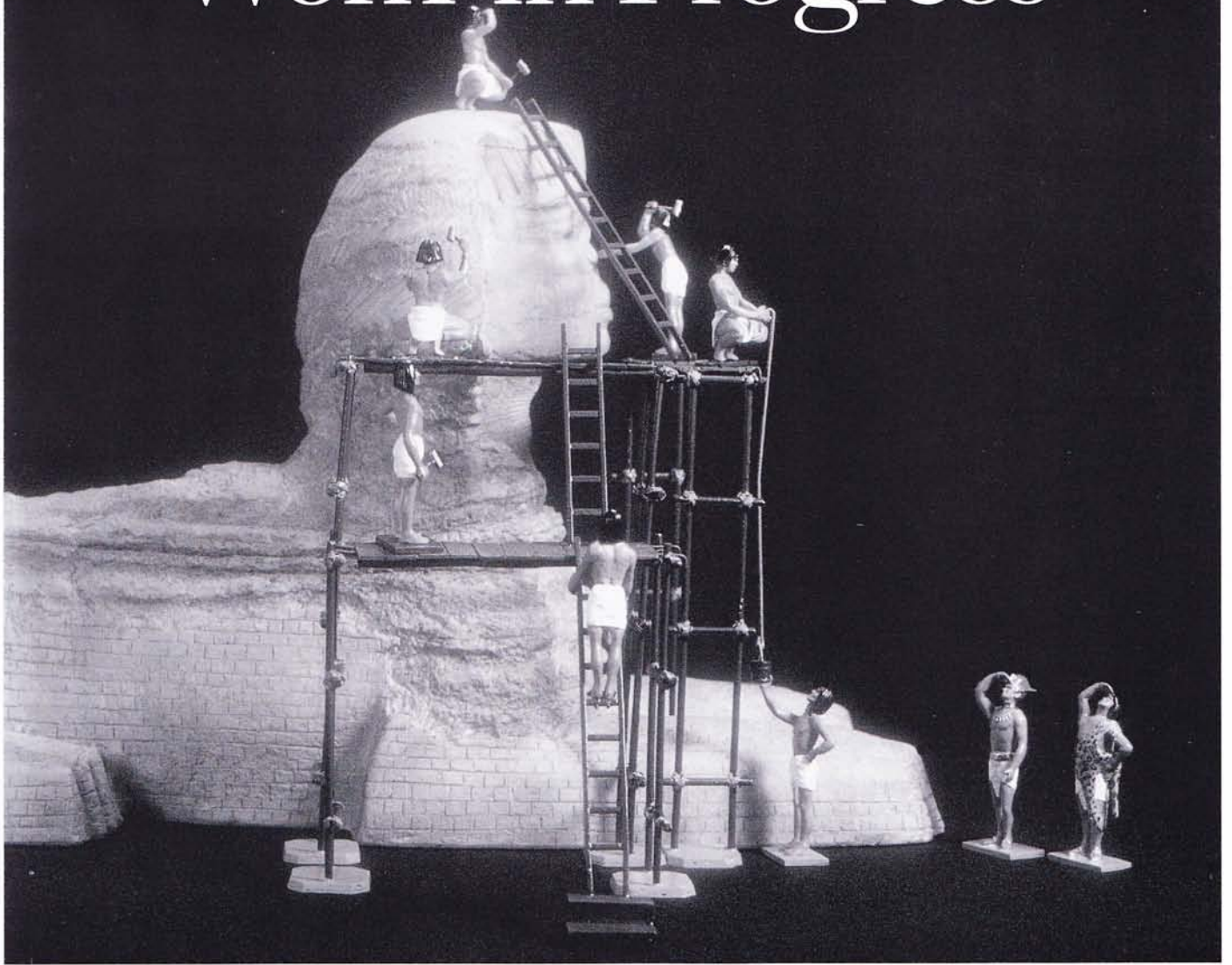
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## Vectis Auction: Miele, Part 2

*Report by Rob Wilson*



Following the great success of the first part of Bill Miele's collection in December 2002, as reported in the previous issue of OTS, collectors were awaiting Part 2 with eager anticipation.

The sale took place on the 5th of March 2003, in Buckingham, England. Unlike the previous sale, this was not so well timed to coincide with the London Toy Soldier and Figure Show. As a consequence, there were not so many US and other foreign buyers present, although the phone lines were hot, with many overseas bidders.

Part 2 comprised a mixture of both boxed and unboxed sets, plus Bill's collection of Britains master models. While not containing as many extremely rare sets as Part 1, there were plenty of very desirable items on offer, including a number of Britains/Hugar build-



generally went for a little over the top range of the estimate.

Other highlights included a boxed Britains Set 93, Display of Royal Horse Guards and Coldstream Guards, which was knocked down for £2500 (\$4000). There was also a very unusual "British Services" display set, in its original box, as sold in Gamages, London, in the late 1930s.

This contained a range of 29 RAF, ARP and AA figures. This very unusual item went under the hammer for £1500 (\$2300).

A number of unboxed items were sold, including some highly unusual Britains "special paint" sets. The pictures attached illustrate examples, including Colour Parties of the Royal and Welsh Fusiliers and a colour bearer of the Rajput Rifles.

In addition to figures from the Miele collection a number of other interesting items changed hands, including an extremely rare Paris Office boxed set, which sold for £3000 (\$4500).





## ***AUCTION REVIEWS (Cont.)***

### **Gorringes Auction, Sussex England March 12th 2003** *Report by Rob Wilson*

Gorringes is a well established Antique and Fine Art Auction House, based in Lewes, on the South Coast of England, specializing in old furniture, paintings and general collectibles. It does not usually figure on the itinerary of Toy Soldier collectors. This all changed when they took in a large single owner collection of mainly Britains figures at the turn of the year.

Although a few sets were in original boxes, most were not. This set a daunting challenge for a non-specialist auction house. They had to catalogue what turned out to be over 120 substantial lots. Despite these difficulties, they rose to the challenge and managed to bring order to the chaos.

A number of collectors and dealers turned up on the morning of the sale, hoping to have been the only ones to have heard about the collection (including the author!). Unfortunately, in these days of modern technology, there are few secrets in the auction business nowadays. So, while some reminisced about the "good old days" (when lots containing multiple sets of rare Britains could be had "for a song"), all present had to accept the reality of another highly competitive auction.

Telephone bidders competed with those in the room for a number of good and hard to find sets. Most lots sold for well above the rather modest estimates, which had attracted buyers with the hope of a bargain.

Highlights included a boxed Scout Display set, (knocked down for £800 /\$1200, including commission), a boxed Household Cavalry "Musical Ride" (£450 /\$700), together with a number of other good boxed sets.

Unboxed items featured a US Army Band in Summer Dress (£800 /\$1200) and a 28 piece Bahamas Police Band in only fair condition (£800 /\$1200). **NORM, THESE PRICES ARE GUESTIMATES!!**

Despite this, hope springs eternal. Had anyone else spotted the treasures hidden in lot 1063? This was described in the catalogue as "Britains Household Cavalry, various dates and types", and estimated at £150-250. Unlike most of the other lots, which were neatly laid out, set by set, on the table tops, lot 1063 was piled into a large box, in a corner, under a table. Getting down on hands and knees revealed that it contained around 70 mounted figures, together with some original boxes.

Unfortunately (for the author at least) a couple of bidders had noticed that these were not all run of the mill Life Guards! Bidding shot rapidly over the top estimate, with the hammer eventually coming down at £1600 (\$2400).

And what was the cause of all the excitement? The attached picture tells the story - why just set 72, "Life Guards Past and Present"!

And the moral of the story? I guess that prices tend to find their own level!





# The Potsdam Collection of Miniature Figures

## Part I

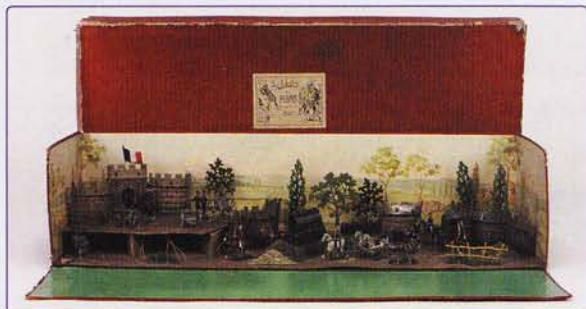
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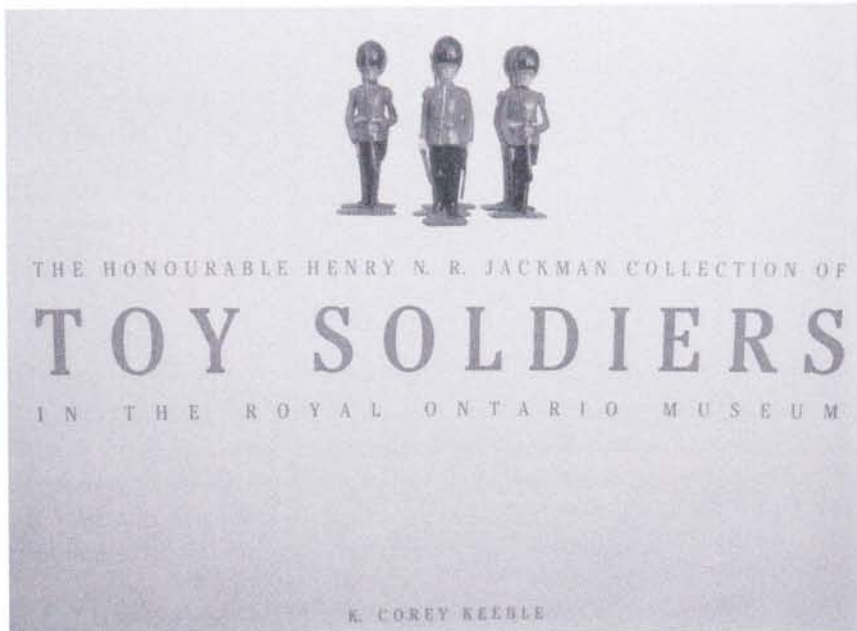


## The Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman Collection of Toy Soldiers in the Royal Ontario Museum

by K. Corey Keeble

*Published 2002 by ROM, 304pp. Reviewed by Geoffrey E. Duin*

This well researched "coffee table" size book presents the nearly 5000 piece toy soldier collection donated to the Royal Ontario Museum(ROM) by Henry Jackman. Although the collection is predominately made up of pre-1966 Britains Ltd. lead figures, the book should appeal to most toy soldier fans. Its best feature is the all color photos of the various sets, figures and vehicles depicted at 80% of their actual size, so you won't need a magnifying glass to see the real charm of these old toys, right down to the chips and scratches on their paintwork.



Collectors of old Britains will especially appreciate the full-page photo spreads that include both the sand and olive colored versions of the Centurion Tank, set 2150, and the 155 mm. Gun, set 2175. There are also full page photos of many of the band sets including the Highland Pipe Band of the Black Watch, the US Military Band; set 2110, both versions of the US Marine Corps Bands, the Royal Berkshire Band, and a 28 piece set 2186; Bahamas Police Band. Photos of both versions of the Royal Army Service Corps Wagon; sets 146, and 146-A are laid out on a half page each, as are set 203; the Royal Engineers Pontoon Section, and set 1330; the General Service Wagon.

Jackman put together most of his collection during the late 70s to mid 80s(arguably the "golden age" of Britains collecting), and the range of sets he acquired is impressive. For example, the book's index is arranged by set number rather than alphabetically, starting with set 1; the Life Guards and ending with set 2186. While there are gaps in the collection, notably Britains "Famous Regiments Series"(numbers 1556 through 1602)produced in the 1930s, the Agincourt series, and some of the very rare sets, the collection is extensive enough to make this book a good reference to much of Britains pre-1966 production line.

The book is divided into three major sections: "Great Britain", "Empire and Commonwealth", and "Armies of the World". These sections are further divided into the subheadings like "Territorials", "Khaki Troops", and "Bands", and country headings under Abyssinia to Zululand. The various types of the British Army are grouped by Household Cavalry, Cavalry of the Line(Dragoon Guards, Dragoons, Hussars, Lancers), while the infantry regiments are divided into Foot Guards, Infantry of the Line, Fusiliers, and Rifle Brigades.



## BOOK REVIEW (Cont.)

Along with the set name and number listed in numerical order there's a notation of where the set was acquired with the name of the retail shop or auction house, and includes the auction date, and the sale and lot number; valuable information for obtaining particular auction catalogs.

Following this there's a detailed description of the set. Keeble used four main reference works for his set descriptions: James Opie's *"Britains Toy Soldiers 1893-1932"*, Andrew Rose's *"The Collector's Guide to Toy Soldiers"*, John Ruddle's *"Collector's Guide to Britains Model Soldiers"*, and Joe Wallis's *"Regiments of all Nations"*. Keeble has acknowledged that he was especially indebted to Rose's book, which was the first book to feature color photos of toy soldiers that are almost to scale.

The set descriptions includes information like uniform and facing colors, horse and figure poses with changes noted, production periods, (Keeble is careful to note where the above books differ regarding points like this), and the number of figures in a set at various periods. For example, the following is an excerpt from the description of Britains set 1513, Volunteer Corps (St. John of Malta) Motor Ambulance and Crew: "Set 1513 came out in the late 1930s. It used the same motor ambulance model as the Army Ambulance group of set 1512, but in blue instead of army khaki. The set was made postwar from 1948 to 1959. In 1957 the ambulance was modernized and simplified; the cab gained a more streamlined appearance and had a split windscreen with a vertical strut down the centre instead of the full-width opening of the earlier model, but the cab doors no longer opened."

Along with the descriptions of many of the sets depicting British army regiments, Keeble has done something that I've never before encountered in a toy soldier book: he devotes a paragraph to the actual history of the regiment, discussing its origins, name changes and what regiments it amalgamated with during the frequent reorganizations of the British Army.

There is more information about Britains model changes, painting styles, base markings, and Britains set numbering practices in the introduction of the book which also includes a lengthy discussion of Britains boxes and labels. This is enhanced by a section with photos of over 50 box labels, among them some of the more attractive labels the firm produced, like the post-1922 label for set 33; 16/5<sup>th</sup> Lancers, a good selection of Whisstock artwork, and the Art Nouveau inspired labels for Egyptian Infantry; set 117, dated Jan. 20th, 1901, and Boar Cavalry; set 6, dated pre-1910.

This is another welcome addition to the growing number of excellent books about old toy soldiers. It's available through the Royal Ontario Museum's gift shop (416-586-5784 or 416-586-5777) and can also be purchased online through Amazon.com's Canadian web site.

Photo credit for both Cory Keeble and Toy Soldiers' visuals:  
Courtesy of Royal Ontario Museum, Copyright ROM, Photo credit: Brian Boyle, MPA, FPPO

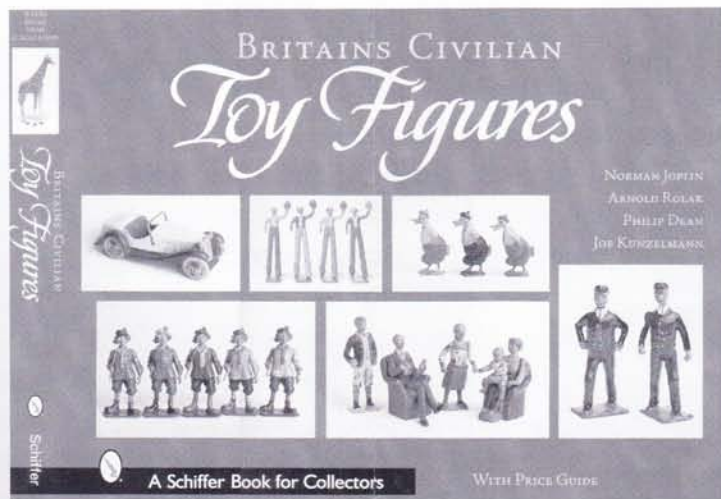


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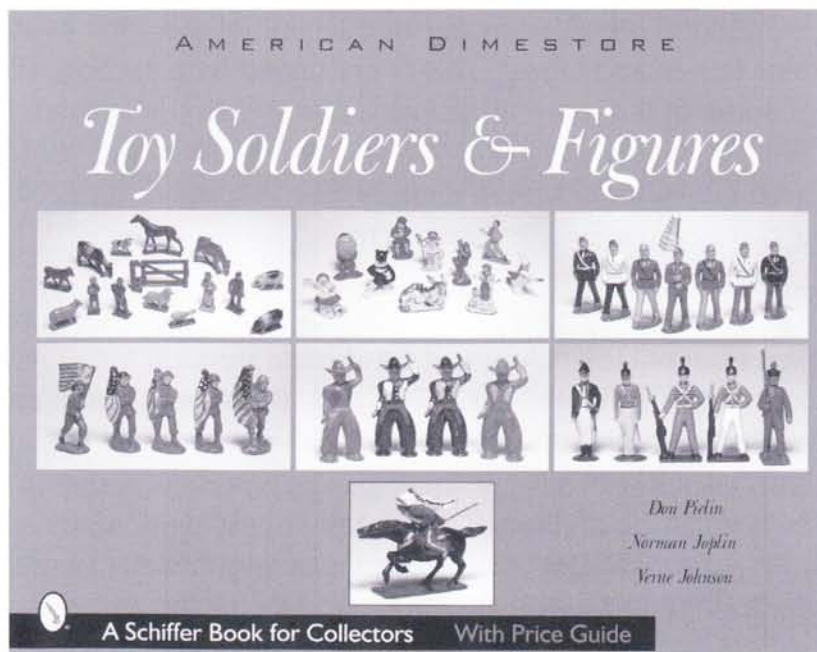
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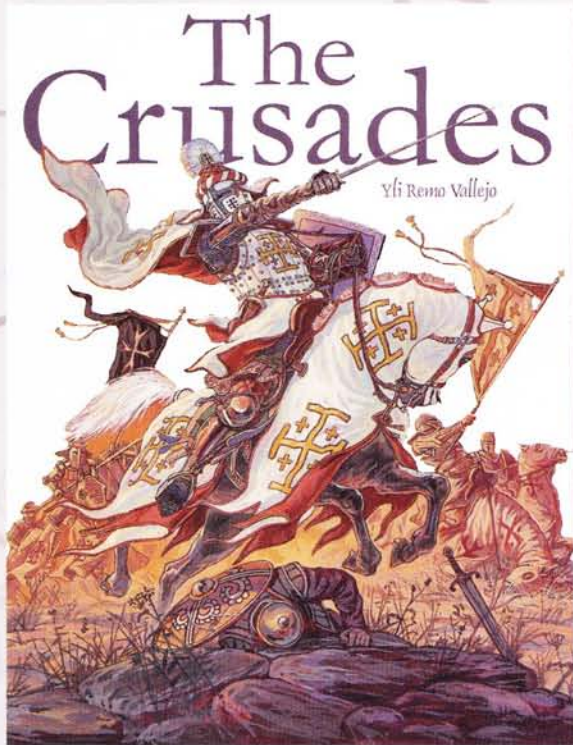
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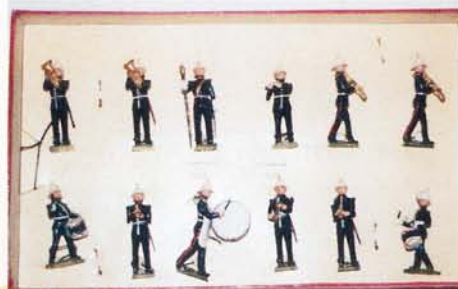
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# BARCLAY'S Little Cars and TRUCKS from the 1960's...

*By Stan Alekna*

An area of the Barclay realm that even bewilders some advanced collectors is the rather prolific group of two-inch long die cast vehicles made and sold from the early 1960's until the cessation of business operations. Today, they can often be found at flea markets, toy and antique shows and even estate sales, buried in boxes of loose Matchbox and other small vehicles.

Richard O'Brien's COLLECTING AMERICAN MADE TOY SOLDIERS, COLLECTING TOY CARS AND TRUCKS, and THE SECOND CATALOG BOOK taken together provide good coverage of these vehicles. However, there are at least 31 variations of several vehicle styles that have never been assigned a unique "BV" number.

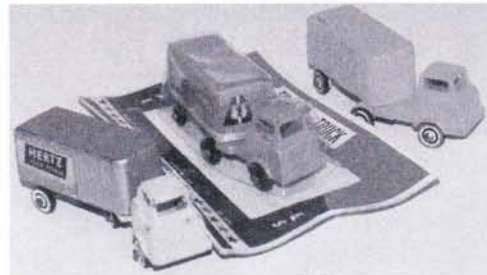
We have enjoyed collecting these cars and trucks for many years and with one exception, (BV97 Fire Chief car with siren) I think we have them all.....but then you never know. When several collectors told me that they had difficulty identifying these vehicles, I decided to write this article for OTS. My challenge was to create a layout scheme that would be clear and informative but would also be useful as a reference guide to those who may want to put a copy in their "Hunting Bag". After much experimentation, I decided that constructing a table using vehicle style as the primary definer and listing O'Brien numbered and the unnumbered variations in adjacent columns would be the clearest way to present them. The photos are in the same sequence as the table for ease of cross referencing the 56 variations of this interesting subset of little cars and trucks. I then took the liberty of creating "BV" numbers for the unnumbered vehicles by adding an alphabetic suffix to the item number of the same style vehicle. These numbers will have to suffice until Richard's next book, which I am told is not totally out of the question.



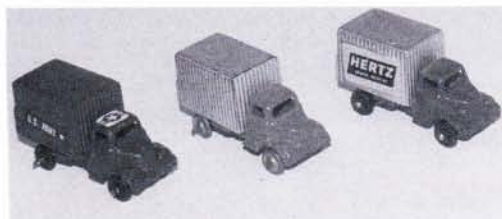
BV87



BV91, BV91a, BV91b



BV91c, BV91d, BV91e



BV103, BV92, BV92a



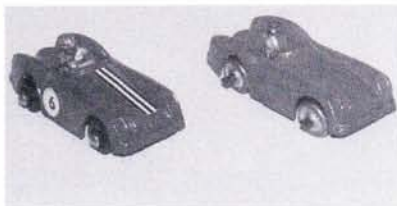
BV92b, BV92c, BV92d



BV93



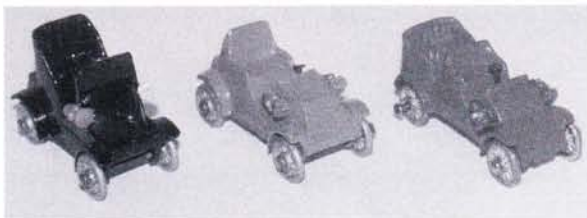
BV94



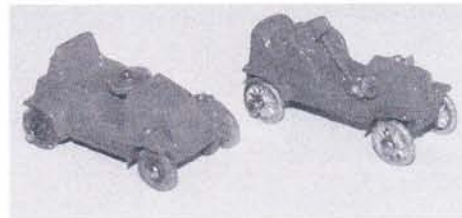
BV95, BV95a



BV96, BV163, BV96a, BV96b



BV98, BV165, BV98a



BV98b, BV98c



# BARCLAY'S Little Cars and TRUCKS from the 1960's... (Cont.)



BV99, BV106, BV99a, BV99b



BV99c, BV99d, BV99e



BV100, BV100a, BV100b



BV100c, BV100d



BV101, BV101a



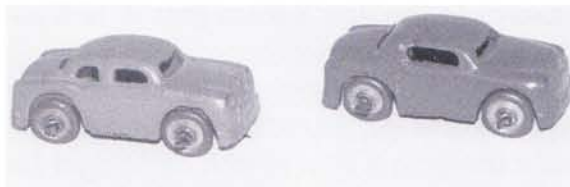
BV102, BV102a, BV102b



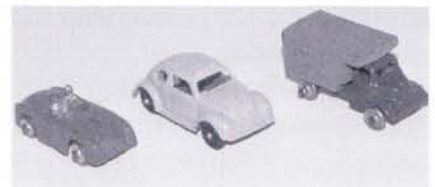
BV104, BV104a, BV158



BV105, BV105a



BV108, BV108a



BV159, BV160, BV161

VEHICLE STYLE	O'BRIEN NUMBERED VEHICLES	UNNUMBERED VARIATIONS
SIDE DUMP TRUCK, large rubber rear tires w rib & plastic or metal front tires	BV87 No decals, yellow & blue, green & orange	
SEMI TRACTOR TRAILER	BV91 "U.S. MAIL" red & blue	BV91a "WOOLWORTH" red & green BV91b "RAILWAY EXPRESS" red & green BV91c "HERTZ" yellow & silver, WSW tires BV91d "ALLIED VAN LINES" orange BV91e No decals, flat front cab, neon colors, WSW tires
MOVING TRUCK	BV103 "U.S. ARMY", O.D. color BV92 No decals, various colors	BV92a "HERTZ" green & silver BV92b "AVIS Truck Rental" red & silver BV92c "A & P Refrigeration" red & silver BV92d "STEWARTS Infra red SANDWICHES" red & silver
LOGGING TRUCK	BV93 red & green w 3 "logs"	
DUMP TRUCK w MOVABLE BED	BV94 No decals, various colors	
RACE CAR ( Sports car)	BV95 racing stripes & number decals, same race driver as in BV101, various colors	BV95a No decals, driver with cap is different than race car driver, various colors
SEDAN With SIREN	BV96 "POLICE" blue BV97 "CHIEF" (Fire) No photo BV163 "TAXI" yellow	BV96a "U.S. ARMY" O.D. Color BV96b Hippie car with flower decals, WSW tires, neon colors
VINTAGE (Antique) CAR Spoked metal wheels & nail for steering wheel, various colors	BV98 windshield, single high seat BV165 no windshield, single low seat	BV98a No windshield, 2 low seats BV98b No windshield, single low seat, plastic wheels for tires and steering wheel
OIL TRUCK	BV99 "SINCLAIR" BV106 "U.S. ARMY" O.D. color	BV99a "SHELL" BV99b "SUNOCO" BV99c "MILK" BV99d No decals, various colors BV99e Same cab as BV99 but different fuel tank & different method of attaching it to chassis
BEVERAGE DELIVERY TRUCK	BV100 "PEPSI COLA"	BV100a "COCA COLA" BV100b "COLA" BV100c "YOO HOO"



BV162, BV162a

VEHICLE STYLE	O'BRIEN NUMBERED VEHICLES	UNNUMBERED VARIATIONS
		BV100d No decals, various colors
RACE CAR (midsize auto) with no fenders, large rubber tires w rib	BV101, Number decals, same race driver as in BV95, various colors	BV101a Body of race car is larger and quite different from BV101
VOLKSWAGEN (VW)	BV102 various colors including metallic	BV102a VW stock race car with number decal BV102b Hot rod with flower decals & neon colors
HEAVY TRUCK with "canvas" cover	BV104 white hospital truck with red cross	BV104a "U.S. ARMY" O.D. color
LARGER HEAVY TRUCK with "canvas" cover	BV158 white hospital truck with red cross, larger & different canvas pattern than BV104	
OPEN-BED TRUCK	BV105 "U.S. ARMY" O.D. color	BV105a "EUCLID" (former large truck division of GM)
MODERN (1960'S) SEDAN 1 5/8" long	BV108 2-door sedan with 2 side windows, various colors including neon (Packard?)	BV108a 2-door sedan with single side window, grill & bumpers very different from BV108, various colors including neon (DeSoto?)
CONVERTIBLE SPORTS CAR	BV159 with male driver & female passenger, very different car from the unnumbered variation of BV95, various colors	
VOLKSWAGEN (VW)-Larger version	BV160 larger than BV102, various colors including metallic	
MOVING TRUCK- bed extends over roof of cab	BV161 No decals, various colors	
SEDAN, No siren	BV162 "U.S. ARMY" O.D. color	BV162a Citroen in metallic colors



## BARCLAY'S Little Cars and TRUCKS from the 1960's... (Cont.)

Hopefully, the photos and table are sufficient to identify each vehicle but let me offer some observations that may not be readily apparent.

While the vast majority of the trucks have a Federal style cab with a standard long hood, the BV91 tractor/trailers; the BV93 Logging Truck and BV92c, the "A & P REFRIGERATION" truck have cabs with a more modern looking flat front, somewhat suggestive of the Ford tilt-back truck cab.

Most of wheels/tires are plain metal or black plastic. BV87, BV101 and BV102b, the Hot rod version of the small VW, are the only ones I found with the large rubber tires with a center rib. (Footnote 1). BV98b, one of the VINTAGE CARS has beige plastic tires and a 5th one which was used as the steering wheel. All the other Vintage Cars have spoked, metal wheels and a common nail for the steering wheel. Some of Barclay's final production lots of these vehicles were painted in neon colors and had plastic "WSW" tires.

The wheel axles of these vehicles are attached to the chassis either through holes in the axle support posts or by snapping them into notches in the axle support.

There have been several articles in OTS over time that pointed out technical inaccuracies in some of Barclay's castings and descriptions of military figures. Another example of this is the insignia decals on the roof of the cars and on the cabs of the trucks of the 1960 vintage "U.S. ARMY" vehicles. These decals are in fact U.S. AIR FORCE airplane wing insignias, circa 1950's and 1960's. The correct decal would have been a plain white, 5-pointed star.

The very small BV108 cars were most probably made initially for Barclay's BV107 single and double deck car carriers. There are however, 2 very distinct versions of this auto. The ones pictured on page 64 of Richard's COLLECTING TOY CARS AND TRUCKS are BV108 and have 2 side windows versus a single side window seen on BV108a. Upon closer inspection I found that the grills and front bumpers of these 2 cars are also quite different (see photo AA below). With a little stretch, one could imagine that BV108 was modeled after the Packard and that BV108a modeled after the DeSoto, of the 1950's. Well on second thought, maybe it takes more than a little stretch of imagination to see the similarities of these toys to real automobiles of that era but what toy collector is going to argue with imagination?



BV108, BV108a

(1) Reference: OTS Volume 26 Number 1. Article on "BARCLAY CAR CARRIERS" by Stan Alekna, Page 27.

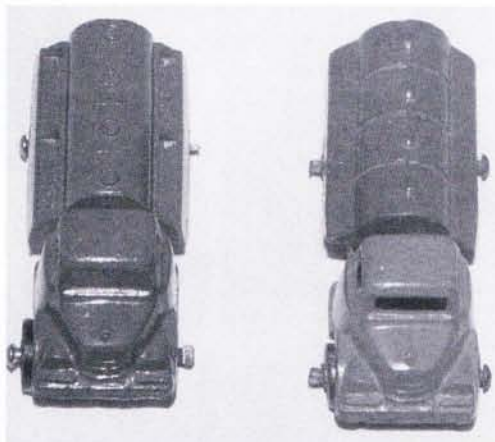
I believe that nearly all of these vehicles were initially sold in plastic bubble wrap packed with 1 to 6 vehicles, on hang cards, as shown in Richard's previously referenced books. Today, with the exception of the occasional "old store stock" discovery, most of them are found minus their original packaging. Insofar as today's prices for MINT specimens of these vehicles, BV91's with the rarer company decals such as "RAILWAY EXPRESS" and "WOOLWORTHS", the hospital trucks, BV104 and BV158, and the BV100 "COCA COLA" and "PEPSI COLA" beverage trucks sell for around \$35. Most of the military vehicles, the race cars and the single chassis trucks with rarer company decals fetch prices approaching \$30. The remainder and those with no decals would sell in the \$20-25 range. In looking for these little guys for over 25 years, I have only seen one example of each of the following: BV96a "U.S. ARMY" sedan with the siren on the roof; BV158 larger hospital truck; BV162a "CITROEN" variant of BV162; and



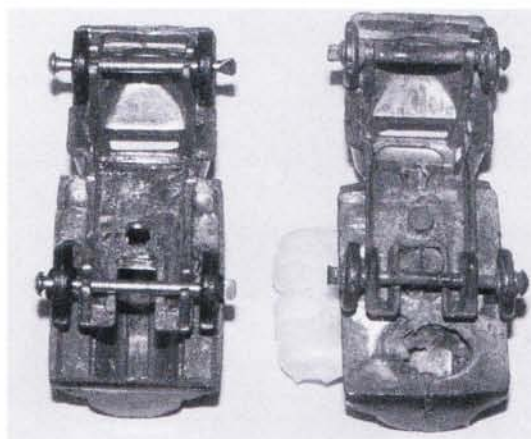
## **BARCLAY'S Little Cars and TRUCKS from the 1960's... (Cont.)**

BV159 the sports car with 2-people in it. I suppose these rarer items could bring as much as \$40 to \$45 from a really compulsive collector...of which I know a few....or maybe more than a few.

The 2 variations of the BV104 Hospital Truck go beyond decal and paint differences. BV158 is larger and has other clear casting differences. Two other styles of vehicle also have major variations that have not been depicted in previous literature. The BV99e OIL TRUCK varies from all other BV99's in the design of the fuel tank and the method of attaching it to the chassis as shown below.



BV99, BV99e



BV99, BV99e

The other style of vehicle that has more than cosmetic differences is the "midget auto" RACE CAR variant. As shown in the previous photos, BV101a has significant differences in the body styling versus BV101 yet the tires and driver are the same.

As I studied these cars and trucks while working on this article, some questions came to mind. How did Barclay select the companies whose names and logos were displayed on these trucks? Why not a "7-UP" BV100 or a "MAYFLOWER VAN LINES" BV91? Did Barclay receive any compensation much less permission from the companies they were promoting? I took the time to call the corporate offices of 2 of the companies to see if they could provide any answers to these questions. Well not surprisingly, I found no one who could help me or who even heard of Barclay and I could almost hear their eyebrows raising when I tried to explain why I was calling. Then I realized that 1960 was 43 years ago and probably no one working at these companies today was working there when Barclay employees were gluing paper decals on these little cars and trucks. My how time flies when you are having so much fun finding toy cars and trucks and soldiers.

I sure hope that there are some other variants in this group of 1960 vintage vehicles out there and I would really appreciate hearing from those of you who have them so I can add them to my "WANT" list, which I sure hope never becomes blank. And if someone has an extra BV97 Fire Chief car, (conspicuously absent from the photo gallery), I would sure appreciate hearing from you.

Stan Alekna  
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## by Benjamin N. Brown

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A hand-drawn diagram of a cell. The cell is roughly rectangular with a wavy outer boundary. Inside, there are several organelles labeled with handwritten text. At the top, there are two small, oval-shaped structures labeled 'Mitochondrion'. Below them, there are two larger, bean-shaped structures labeled 'Lysosome'. In the center, there is a large, irregularly shaped structure labeled 'Nucleus'. To the right of the nucleus, there is a small, circular structure labeled 'Vacuole'. At the bottom, there are two small, oval-shaped structures labeled 'Golgi apparatus'. The entire diagram is drawn with simple lines and shading.

Handwritten labels in the diagram:

- Mitochondrion
- Lysosome
- Nucleus
- Vacuole
- Golgi apparatus

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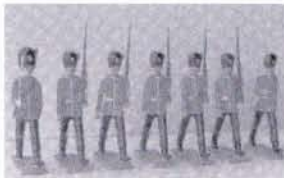
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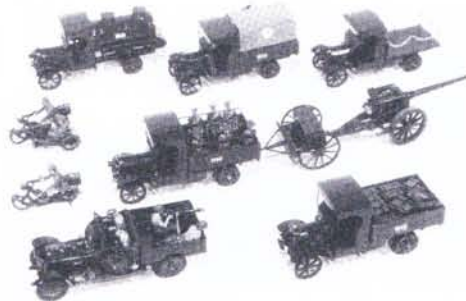
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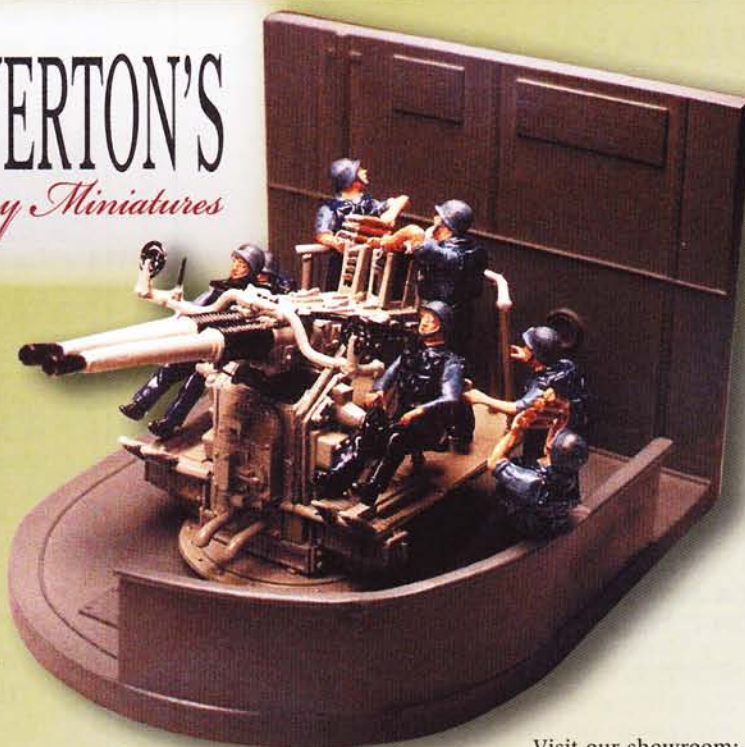


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# Britains Physicians

by James W. "Doc" Wengert, M.D.

Sergeant: "But I am faint, my gashes cry for help!"  
Duncan: "So well thy words become thee as thy wounds,  
they smack of honour both—Go get him Surgeons."  
Shakespeare's Macbeth, 1605

Military medicine is very old in Great Britain. The gravestone of a young physician of a Roman Legion has been found. Surgeons are mentioned in Arthurian legends. An equally ancient joke describes military medicine as the second oldest profession.

There were military surgeons in the Standing Army formed after the Restoration of King Charles II, circa 1660. In the next century, the great John Hunter served in the Army, and was later Surgeon General. He is considered the father of scientific surgery.

In Napoleonic times two Scots, Guthrie and McGrigor, were the equal of the magnificent French surgeons. Their ideas were very similar. However, they had Wellington, no innovator, to contend with—not the enlightened Napoleon.

The far-flung British Empire in which the British Army served during the 19th Century had every imaginable climate and condition. The British surgeon was usually independent, tough, and highly skilled. Most were Scots, and their contributions to the development of tropical medicine were voluminous. As one example, within a year of the discovery of the x-ray in 1895, a primitive but workable fluoroscope was hauled by bearers for use high in the mountains of the Indian Frontier.

More than a few high decorations and mentions in dispatches were won in combat, usually in murderous conditions. Surgeon Reynolds at Rorke's Drift during the Zulu War comes easily to mind. There have been only three British soldiers who have won double Victoria Crosses. The Royal Army Medical Corps, formed in 1898, is distinctive to have had Noel Godfrey Chavasse and Arthur Martin-Leake win two of these medals for extreme valor.

Britains Ltd. produced a variety of members of the Royal Army Medical Corps. These included medical officers, nurses, stretcher teams, and orderlies, as well as medical tents and both horse-drawn and motor-powered ambulances with Red Crosses. Medical units remain most popular among a multitude of manufacturers—old and new. Medics still sell well.

This article confines itself to the physicians, military and civilian, in the Britains Range. Ten to twelve are known, although several of these may be special production or special paintings not listed in the catalogs Britains issued.

The first of the medical officers and probably the most popular ones have a distinguished longevity. They flourished from 1905 to 1941. Set 137 (Photo 1), the first set to feature the R.A.M.C., is an early number. The dark blue uniform included a helmet with a ball rather than



Photo #1 - Set #137 Photo Courtesy Joe Wallis

a spike, and had a further distinction. Long after almost all the other early figures were redesigned with a "square base," the medical officers retained a round base. This base was in turn, paper labeled underneath, then embossed with lettering, including its date of origin (March 20, 1905), and then finally embossed without a date. (Photo 2)

There are two types of medical officers. The senior one wears an ornate cocked and plumed hat. The plumes were at first striped dark blue and gray, but by 1939 were maroon (dull cherry) and white. The medals on the casting's chest were painted on the earlier



Photo 2 - Five variations of Review Order Medical Officers. Left to right oldest to youngest, elder lost his ball (in the Crimea)



## Britains Physicians (cont.)



Photo 3 - Senior Medical Officers with helmet variations

versions. The other officer wears a helmet with a ball. Both of these round-based officers are fixed-arm, standing with their left hands rested on their sheathed swords. Britains Ltd.'s only other use of this casting was its transformation into an officer of the King's Royal Rifle Corps, and a field marshal in the Staff Officers of Set 1908 in 1940-41. (Photo 3)

The poses of these two standing officers are clearly derived from the plate that appeared in the March 16, 1897 edition of the *Army and Navy Gazette*, and were part

of the Military Types Series drawn by Richard Simkin. Alas, the chaplain and the R.A.M.C. Sergeant Major depicted by Simkin were never made by Britains Ltd. (Illustration #1) Simkin's Plate 175 of July 5, 1902, shows a magnificent Surgeon General mounted at the halt on a sway-backed horse. (Illustration #2) I have seen one example of this piece—perhaps a special painting done on request by Britains, or someone's long-ago conversion. (Illustrations #1 and #2 of the Simkin prints accompanying this article were supplied by Joe Wallis.)

In a "one of" collection in London, that of a former major dealer and collector, I have seen a very early ball-helmeted medical officer, marching with a sword in his moveable right hand, in Review Order. Uniquely, he has a roundel patch with a Red Cross on a white background, high on his left sleeve. This is the only medical officer that I have seen with a Red Cross. I believe it is authentic, but if not, some pixie with a paint brush was working in the "dawn of time."

The English dealer and scholar G.M. Haley has identified a number of head size and helmet variations on the Review Order standing medical officer. In an act of monumental kindness, he documented and sketched these out for me. Perhaps the earliest Britains sets had proper dull cherry facings and trouser stripes, but they probably turned to the scarlet that was in constant daily use to paint the "red-coated" Guards, Highlanders, and Line Infantry that they produced in such prodigious quantities.

Another early "medical officer" deserves mention. Set #38, the South African Mounted Infantry, were led by the comic opera figure of Dr. Leander Starr Jameson (Photo 4), who is galloping along with a drawn half-pistol in this set. (I have long been convinced that the half pistol is to keep him from shooting his own horse.) His 600 "police" invaded the Transvaal in 1896 hoping to spark a rebellion by the English-speaking population, but his raid only lasted a few days when confronted by the irate Boers. Even with their abject surrender, he was wildly popular with a jingoistic England. Suffice to remember that some of his men were so drunk that they mistook a fence line for a telegraph line to the Boer Capital of Johannesburg and cut it.



Photo #4 - Dr. Jameson and Officer of St. John's (Matt paint really shows up)

After these sets, there is a long gap until the next medical sets appear. In the interim, a multitude of flat-capped khaki combat figures were introduced. By 1939 there were several stretcher teams in khaki (in Sets 1719 and 1723), but no flat-cap medical officers. Possibly the

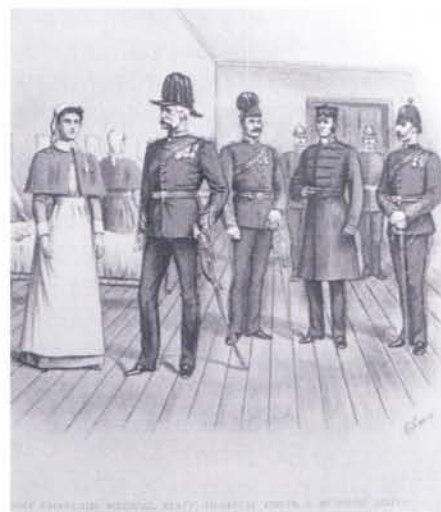


Illustration #1 - Simkin Print



Illustration #2 - Simkin Print



Britains Special Paint Mounted Medical Officer



## Britains Physicians (cont.)

horrendous casualties and the "vanished army" of the Great War made the whole idea unappealing. No doubt some special painting will surface and prove me happily wrong.

However, in the civilian section of the catalog, the St. John's Ambulance Brigade First Aid Section appeared in 1936. Set 1426 first appeared in the usual gloss paint. Upon the request of the St. John's Brigade, they were brought out in a second version in a most unique matte finish. Now the gloss black belt could stand out against a very dark blue uniform with flat cap and brown gloves. (Photo 4)

The St. John's Volunteers are a famous first aid and evacuation service. They can trace their lineage to the Knights Hospitaliers of Jerusalem, Rhodes, and Malta. The "Johnnies" were the best trained and most highly regarded stretcher-bearers and medics of the Boer War. They served as a ready reserve for the R.A.M.C., Royal Navy, and the R.A.F. medical units. (See OTS, Volume 15, Issue #3 for a full article on the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.)

It was not long, with war clouds gathering, before modern Battledress troops were mustered into the Britains Range. In 1940, a new steel-helmeted officer appeared and was quickly adapted to the



Photo #5 - Battle Dress Medical Officer and clergyman to show arm and book on rare battle dress variation

new field hospital sets (including Sets 1896, 1897, 1909, and 1910). [Photo 5] The medical officer carries a swagger stick or baton in his right hand. It is not likely that this is a medical instrument, being that it is too long for a thermometer, and too thin to be a proctoscope.

A variation of this Battledress medical officer



Photo #6 - Set #1910

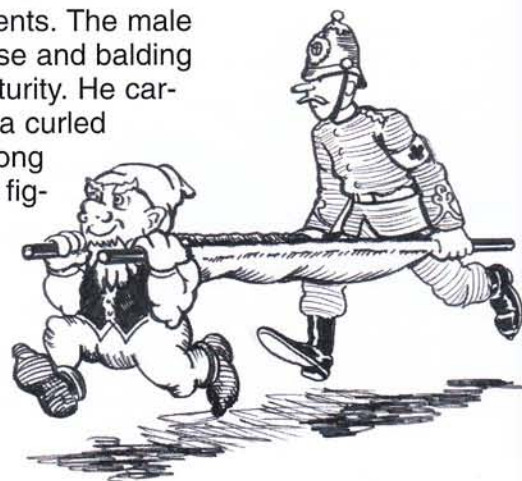
appeared quite briefly in 1940-41 in Sets 1909 and 1910, both large display boxes. The figure is the rarest of the rare; he carries a book in his right hand, using the moveable arm from the Country Clergyman, #593 of the Farm Series. (See the accompanying Photo 6, Set #1910, from Joe Wallis' *Armies of the World*.) Postwar, only Set 1897 offered this R.A.M.C. physician (although he was available in a combatant role as the officer for such sets as #1858 and #1893).



Photo #7 - Britains "Super Deetail" Plastic Hospital

I suppose I should make a mention of Doc from Snow White and her vertically challenged friends. He is in my collection; partly for completeness and partly because he resembles a close friend.

Finally, in 1983 Britains made a pair of the finest medical figures that they ever produced, in my opinion. They are in the very sharp, Super Deetail plastic hospital sets (#7851 and #7857). These short-lived sets are markedly superior to other manufacturers' hospital personnel and patients. The male physician has character! His pose and balding head exude confidence and maturity. He carries a chart in his left hand and a curled stethoscope in the pocket of a long white coat. Behold! The second figure is an attractive woman doctor. She wears a green dress



and the usual long white coat. She has a folder in her right hand. She is only identified as hospital staff—in one set as a radiologist and in another as a pediatrician. (Photo 7)

I'll conclude with a comment from the Britains Catalog that describes the Hospital Series. Try it! The German for Hospital Maternity Unit is *Krankenhaus-Entbindungsstation! Gesundheit!*



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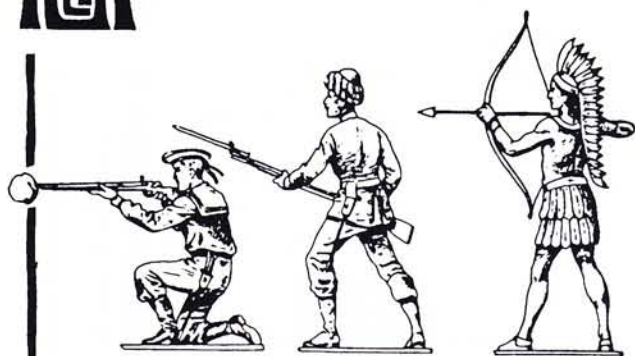
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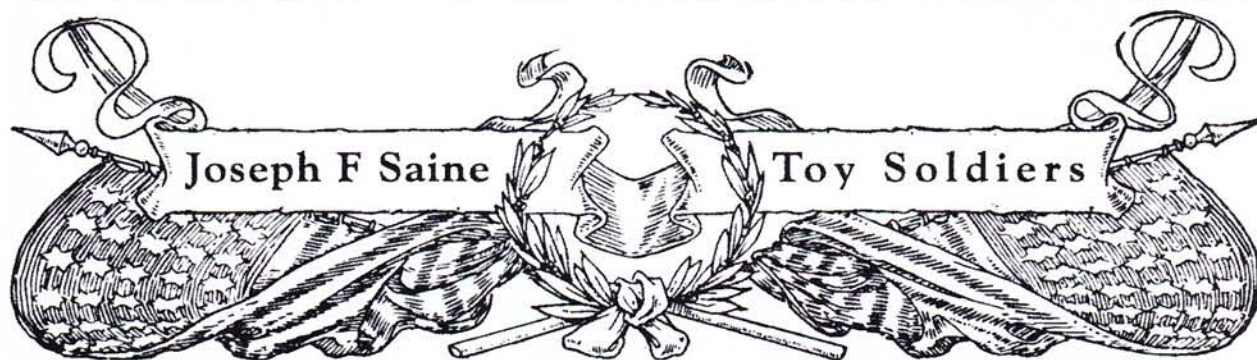
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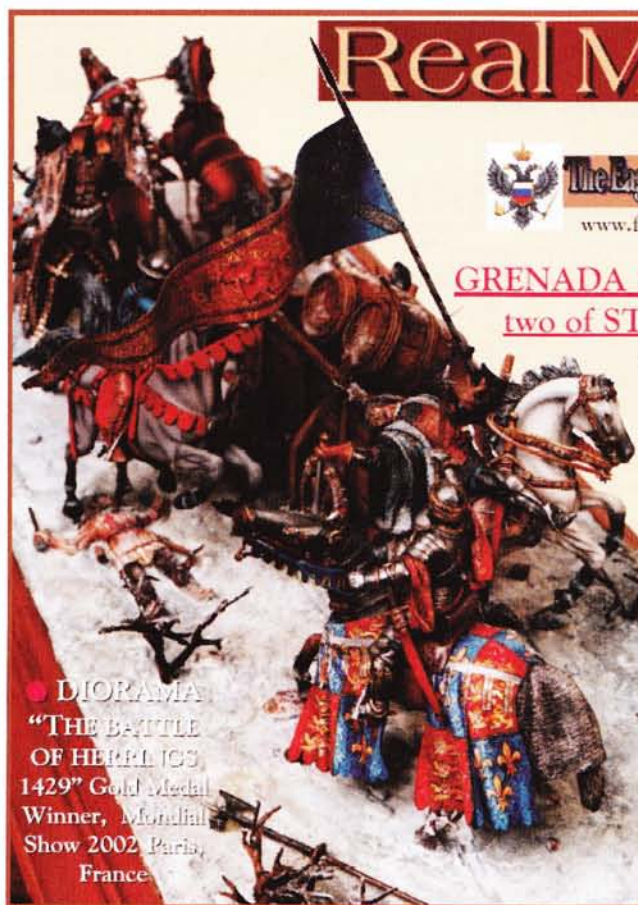
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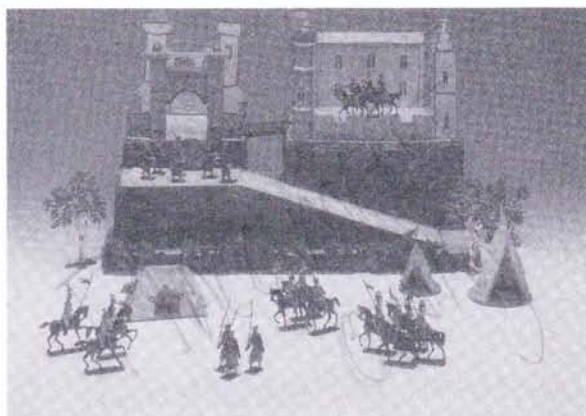
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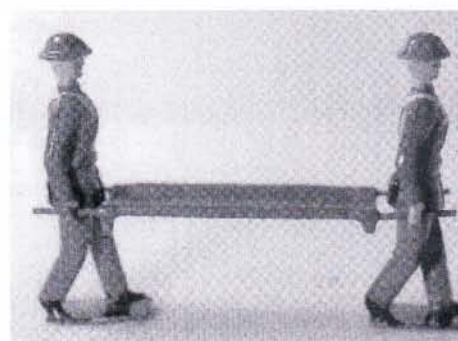
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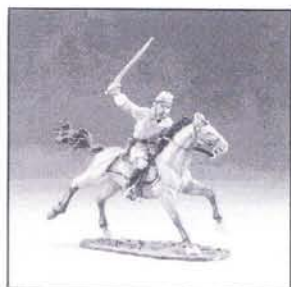


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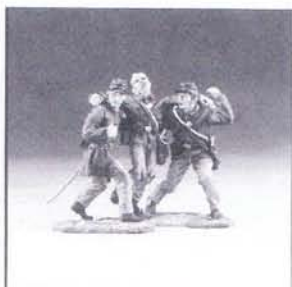


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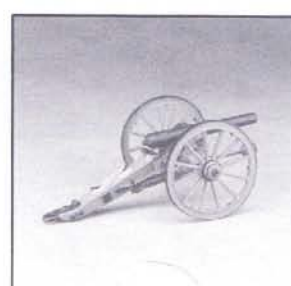


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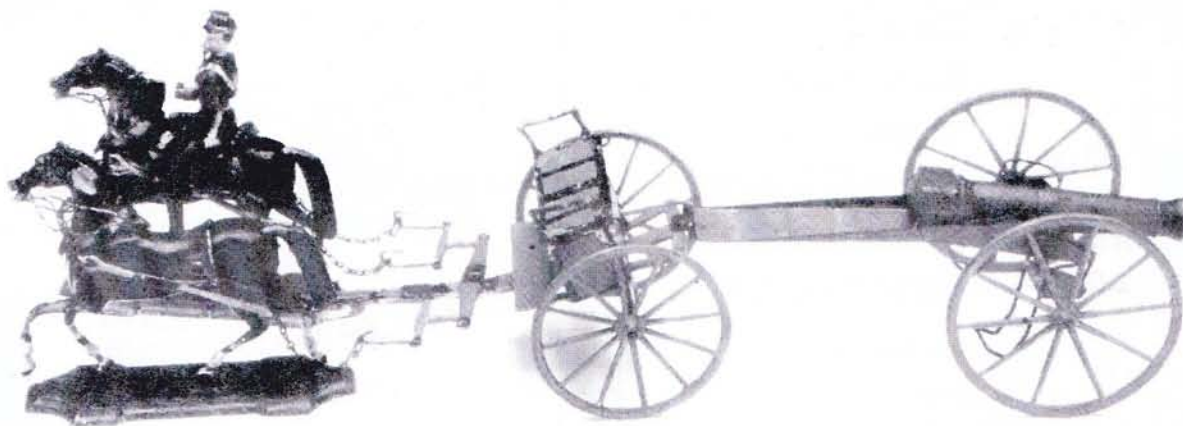
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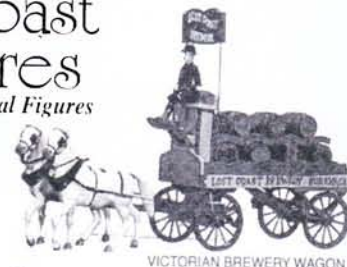
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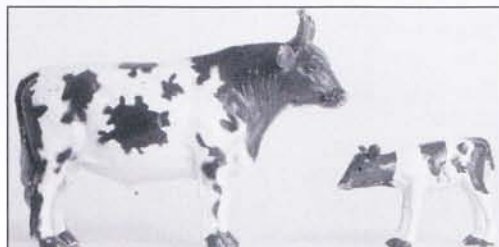
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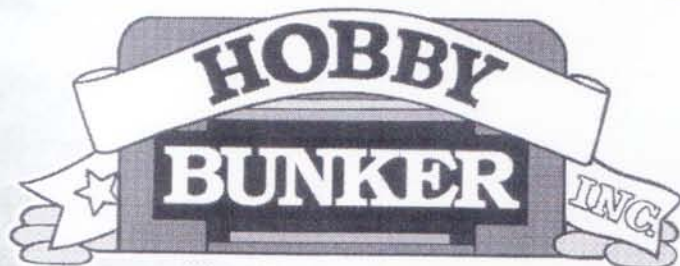
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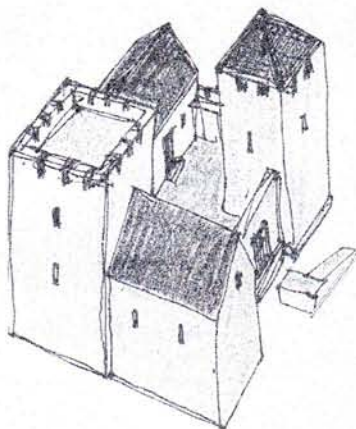
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**May 17 - Saturday.** Armed Forces Day Toy Soldier Show. Virginia War Museum 9285 Warwick Blvd. Newport News, Virginia. Contact Colin Romanick (757) 247 8523 Email aromanick@ci.newport-news.va.us

**May 18 - Sunday.** Ohio Toy Soldier Show and sale 10am - 3pm. Holiday Inn Richfield.4742 Brecksfield Road. Richfield .Ohio. Contact Doug McClure.Po Box 17. Medina. Ohio. Telephone (330) 722 6751 Email dmclure@apk.net

**May 21 - Wednesday.** Vectis Auctions. Pottsdam Collection of Toy Soldiers and Military Figures . Part one. Buckingham Community Centre, England. Contact Email admin@vectis.co.uk (44) 1642 750616 www.vectis.co.uk

**June 1 - Sunday.** Westchester Toy Soldier Muster Show and Sale 10am - 3pm.Ramada Inn.94 Business Park Drive. Westchester Business Park.Armonk NY. Contact Daniel Karppinen (917) 864 4755

**June 1 - Sunday.** New Jersey Toy Soldier Military & Miniature Figure Show and Sale 9am-3pm. Holiday Inn 283 Route 17 South, Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey. Contact Ed Gries (201) 342 6475

**June 7 - Saturday.** Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale.9 am -3pm Annandale VFD Community Center.7128 Columbia Park. Annandale Virginia. Contact Bill Harlowe (703) 878 2922. Ed Gries (201) 342 6475

**June 22 - Sunday.** Antique and Collectible Toy and Doll World Show. 30th year. (The "Chicago" Toy Show). Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles, Illinois. Contact (847)0526 1645 www.chicagotoyshow.com

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**July 12 - Saturday & July 13 - Sunday.** Dallas Big "D" Show. 10am-5pm (Saturday) 10am - 3pm (Sunday) Mesquite Hampton Inn and Convention Center Dallas. Contact Don Maris (214) 339 2934. Email don-maris@wt.net

**July 12 - Saturday.** Annapolis Toy Soldier Show. Loews Hotel.126 West Street, Annapolis, Maryland. 9am - 3pm. Hotel contact # (410) 263-7777.

**August 23 - Saturday.** Dan Morphy's Antique, Toy, Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show.9am-3pm. York Fairgrounds, West Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. Contact information (717) 335-3435.

**August 24 - Sunday.** The Hudson Valley Regional Toy Soldier, Military and Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am -3pm The Tarrytown Hilton Hotel, 455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, New York. Contact John Stengel (718) 418 9439

**August 24 - Sunday.** Westchester Toy Soldier Muster ,Show and Sale.10am-3pm.Ramada inn,94 Business Park Drive, Westchester Business Park, Armonk, NY (RT 684 exit 3S to RT 22S left at first light. Contact Daniel Karppinen (917) 864 4755.

**September 4 - Friday September 5 - Saturday.** The 42nd Annual Washington Show presented by the National Capital Model Soldier Society. Sheraton Premier, Tysons Corner, McLean, VA, Steve Page 703-737-3943, John Penderville 540-668-7037, Jim Evans 703-960-0251

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**September 21 - Sunday.** Connecticut Toy Soldier Muster, Show and Sale 11am-4pm.Ramada Inn Bradley, 5 Ella Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks,CT.Located at juncture of RT20 & RT75 off I-91 (exit 40). Contact Daniel Karppinen (917) 864 4755.



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**October 14 - Tuesday.** Christies Toy Soldier Auction. South Kensington, London Contact Hugo Marsh 011 44.201752 3274. hmarsh@christies.com

**October 17 - Friday and October 18 Saturday.** Bad Nauheim Toy Soldier Show. Park Hotel. Bad Nauheim. Germany. Contact Andreas Petruschka or Helmut Lang (030) 392 9490

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**November 1 - Saturday.** 25th Allentown Antique toy Show and sale. Agricultural Hall, Allentown Fairgrounds, Allentown PA.Contact Linda Webber (610) 691 3468

**November 1 - Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Open House and Cellar Sale, 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco PA Contact Jim Hillestad (570) 629 7227 jimhill@ptd.net

**November 2 - Sunday.** The 21st Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show and Sale 9am-3pm.Rothman Center Fairleigh Dickinson University. Hackensack. New Jersey. Sponsored by Vintage Castings. Contact Bill Lango (973) 831 8900. FAX (973) 831 8912. Email bill@vintagecastings.com

**November 16 - Sunday.** Westchester Toy Soldier Muster Show and Sale 10am - 3pm. Ramada Inn.94 Business Park Drive. Westchester Business Park.Armonk NY. Contact Daniel Karppinen (917) 864 4755

**November 16 - Sunday.** Kalamazoo Toy Soldier Show. 10-3. Holiday Inn West, 2747 South 11th Street, Kalamazoo, Mi. 49009. Donald Case 248-335-5626 or dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

**November 23 - Sunday.** Annual Pennsylvania Toy Soldier, Militaria and Miniature Figure Show and Sale 9am-3pm. Sheraton Bucks County Hotel. 400 Oxford Valley Road. Langhorne,PA Contact Ed Gries (201) 342 6475.

**November 29 - Saturday.** 2nd Bloomfield Toy Soldier Show 10-Marriott (Centerpoint) 3600 Centerpoint Parkway, Pontiac, Michigan 48341 Contact Donald Case (248) 335-5626. dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

**December 6 - Saturday.** The British Toy Soldier and Figure Show. 10am-4pm The Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way,(off Russell Square) London. Contact Debbie Cockerill,Vectis Auctions,(44) 1642 750616. Fax (44) 1642 769478).E-Mail admin@vectis.co.uk

**December 6 - Saturday.** Springfield Toy Soldier Show. 10-3. Holiday Inn Express, 6401 Brandon Ave, Springfield, Va. 22150. Donald Case 248-335-5626 or dsptoyssoldiers@aol.com

**December 6 - Saturday.** Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale.9 am -3pm Annandale VFD Community Center.7128 Columbia Park. Annandale Virginia. Contact Bill Harlowe (703) 878 2922. Ed Gries (201) 342 6475

**December 14 - Sunday.** The Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale.9am-3pm. Adria Hotel 221-17 Northern Blvd. Bayside .New York. Contact John Stengel (718) 418 9439.

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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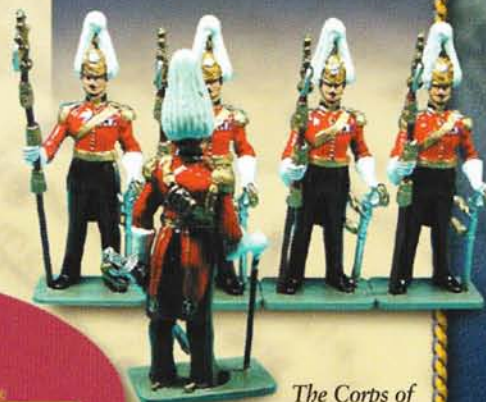
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