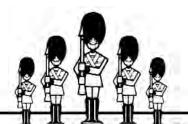


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ON THE COVER

Buck Rogers Homecast Photo Courtesy of Ron Eccles

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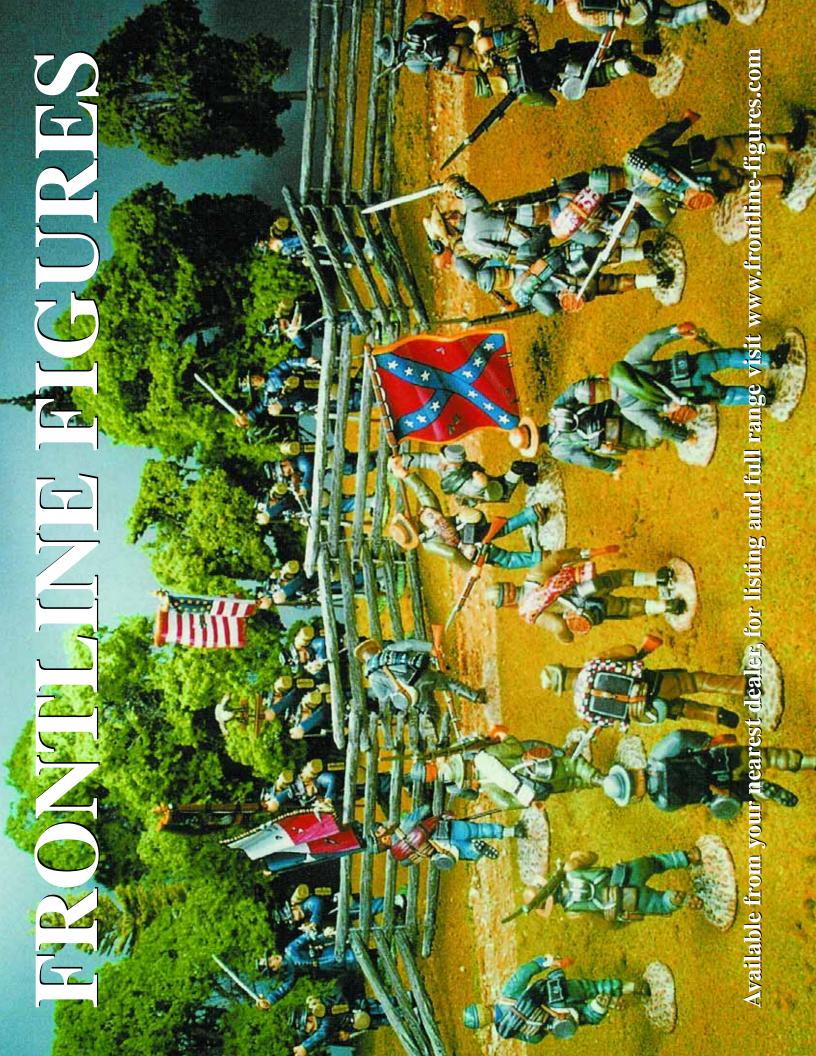
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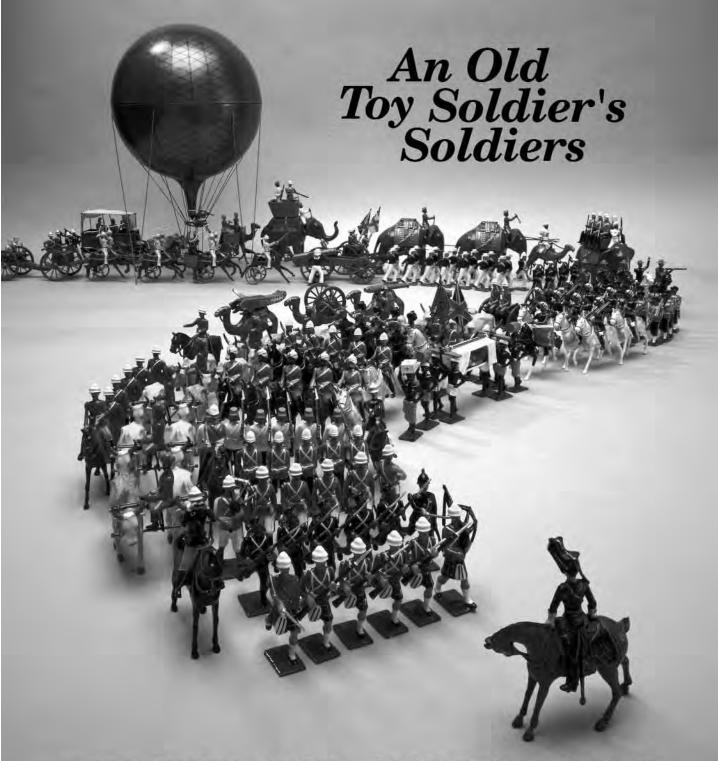
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Volume 28

Volume 29

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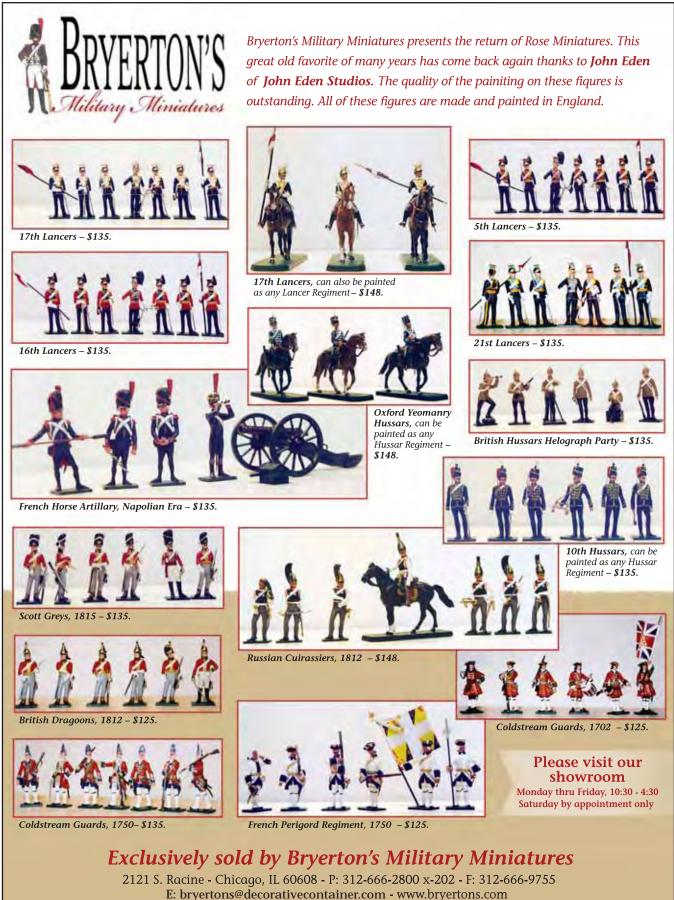
Time was a toy soldier knew what it meant to be a toy soldier. All spit and polish, bright shiny uniform, lean and rugged, big pink cheeks, manual-of-arms, upright and proper even in the din of battle. Most new toy soldiers - a sorry lot. No group discipline, dull and wrinkled uniforms - refugees from some old diorama. And fat. Half seem to be dying. Can't speak English - Russian or Chinese more'n likely. Right. Well our troops still pass muster. Our men know know how to march together and how to fight together and look smart doing it. Our men want to be thrown onto the battlecarpet and properly pummeled like the toys they are - not given some shelf job commanded by a namby-pamby "connoisseur". Our men can take it and still shine. Our men know what it means to be a real toy soldier.

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BUCK ROGERS CASTING SETS, MOLDS AND FIGURES OF THE 25TH CENTURY

By Will Beierwaltes and Ron Eccles



Anthony "Buck" Rogers debuted during the depression in August of 1928 in a story entitled Armageddon-2419A.D. written by Philip Francis Nowlan for the magazine "Amazing Stories." Anthony was a former WWI pilot who was researching radioactivity in an abandoned mine when it collapsed, trapping him in a radioactive gas cloud which preserved him in a state of suspended animation for 500 years. After a geological shift awoke and freed him, he emerged into a world dominated by an oppressive "Han" empire (later in the comic strip it changed to a Mongolian empire), and renegade and unsuppressed Americans lived secretly in forests covering their shattered civilization, or in cities of "metalloglass" waiting for the advent of the "second revolution." Thus this 20th century hero embarked on a new struggle for freedom as the head of the Rocket Rangers in the marvelous art deco future of the 25th century. A sequel appeared in the March 1929 issue of Amazing Stories entitled "The Airlords of Han." These first two novelettes were illustrated by Frank R. Paul. The incredible popularity of the character and his adventures led in 1929 to the well-known newspaper strips, wonderfully illustrated by Dick Calkins (where the name was changed from Anthony to "Buck"), which ran continuously for 38 years until 1967. Calkins, a former WWI pilot himself, established a creative bond with Nowlan, and this partnership really expand-



SET #2501: Buck Rogers Midget Caster Set

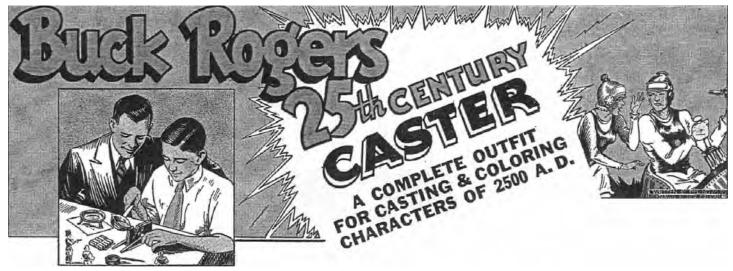
BUCK ROGERS CASTING SETS, MOLDS AND FIGURES (Cont.)

ed the popularity of the character. The newspaper "adventure series" was followed by a radio serial, which debuted in the fall of 1932, and ultimately to a film serial featuring former Olympian Buster Crabbe.

Realizing the market potential brought about by the incredible popularity of this new fantastic patriotic hero, Buck Rogers toys started to appear in 1933 and quickly expanded from Daisy "ray guns" (which were an incredible sales phenomenon unto themselves) to everything on the toy shelves, reworked with a Buck theme. All Buck-themed toys came under the license of a company founded by the newspaper syndicator, the John F. Dille Co., which also published the newspaper series. However, regulation of the production of licensed Buck toys were all funneled through Cass Hough and the Daisy Toy Company who produced among other toys the famous ray guns that started the Buck Rogers toy craze. The frenzy over Buck toys reached it's zenith the Christmas of 1934. The interested reader is referred to two wonderful books; "Blast Off" by S. Mark Young, Steve Duin and Mike Richardson (1) and "A Celebration of Comic Art and Memorabilia" by Robert Lesser (2), which both give a wonderful sampling of the many fabulous toys and premiums of that era. The popularity began to wane as competition from other space adventures cut into the market, and Nowlan stopped writing the story line in 1939, only to die in 1940.

Along with the ray guns, helmets, skates, Tootsie Toy and Marx rocket ships, paper toys and even Britains Ltd figures as premiums from Cream of Wheat (for three green triangles and 50 cents, see ref #3) came a selection of cast-your-own molds and casting sets. These were first produced in December of 1934, by the well-known casting set manufacturer Rapaport Brothers of Chicago (701 W. Ohio St., Dept C, Chicago, IL). They were introduced only in Chicago, just two weeks before Christmas, rushed to market in time to take limited advantage of the Buck craze of that season (despite having distributors in both New York and San Francisco). They hired an experienced (Chicago-area) sculptor to create figures and rocket ships from the comic strips. The metal molds for these figures were packaged in "Buck Rogers 25th Century Casting Sets" in different sizes, or sold separately to complement the sets. The Christmas issue only included the #2501 and #2502 molds (see below), but these were quickly supplemented by more options soon after in 1935. These products encountered amazing popularity, combining the frenzy over "all things Buck" with the Rapaport theme of providing every child during the depression the opportunity to get rich off your friends by producing toy soldiers to sell. Their advertising logo read "Make money casting and selling toys," and "Start your own toy business with this complete outfit. Make real money." Other sales pitch slogans read, "start your own toy factory" and a "broad field of keen enjoyment and profitable activity." Not surprisingly, Rapaport also marketed a set of "Senior Caster" sets to cast bookends, ashtrays and other decorative items for adults.

Besides the 2 molds that came in the sets themselves, there were eventually 8 Buck-themed molds cataloged as available to expand the 25th Century universe, as well as an established range of molds in military and civilian themes already available from Rapaport. The problem of course was that even if depression-era kids could somehow afford the casting set, none of their friends had any money to buy the product. You could, however, make a bunch of swell toys all by yourself, and judging from eBay, that tradition continues. The figures are typically demi-round adaptations from the comic strip art in a variety



of scales. As with all of these casting set-derived toys, while the figures have wonderful charm and character, they have little to no collectable value since they can be made by anyone with the molds. However, it is the molds themselves, and the colorful boxed casting sets with their period art and accessories that are the real collectibles.

THE CASTING SETS: The Rapaport catalog lists 5 different Buck Rogers casting sets available. These differed first in whether they had a round bottomed ladle for use on a gas stove top, or a flat bottomed brass ladle with its own small electric hotplate. There were different sized Buck Rogers casting sets in the catalog in keeping with other Rapaport sets, and each one included a single Buck mold (see below), plus examples of unpainted castings of the figures it would produce, but differed in the inclusion of other accessories like extra paint, extra pigs of metal, etc. The cataloged sets are listed below:

Set 2501: Buck Rogers Midget Caster set, contained the E-2501 mold, sample castings of the three figures it produced, 8 small "pigs" of lead, a round-bottomed ladle to be used on a gas stove, plus two wooden handles for the molds, a spring clamp to hold the molds together, a candle to blacken the mold, two tins of paint and a small brush. The 7.25x18.75" box had a colorful 4-colored lithographed lid including comic strip panels and a picture of father and son working together. It sold for a mere \$1.50.

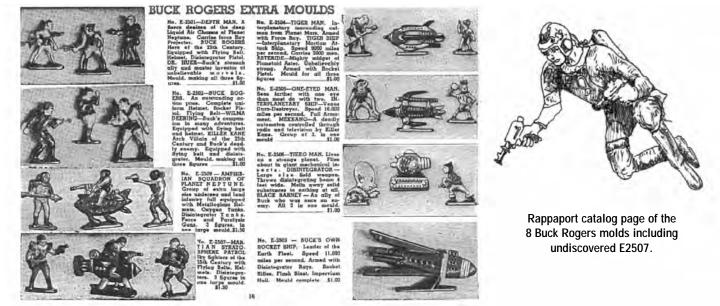
Set 2501E: Buck Rogers Electric Midget Caster set, presumably the same configuration as 2501 but with the electric ladle.

Set 2502: Buck Rogers Junior Caster set (later renamed "Buck Rogers 25th Century Caster Outfit) contained the big E-2502 mold, or shows up in some catalogs with the E2501 mold. It also had sample castings of the three figures, 12 small "pigs" of lead, the wooden handles, candle, clamp, and the round-bottomed ladle to be used on a gas stove. There were also 4 tins of paint and two paintbrushes. The 18.75x10.25" box had the same colorful box art as the smaller sets.

Set 2503: DeLUXE Buck Rogers Electric Junior Caster set (later renamed "Buck Rogers 25th Century Electric Caster), contained the big E-2502 mold, sample castings of the three figures, 12 small "pigs" of lead, the wooden handles, clamp and candle. The ladle was a flat-bottomed version that fit snuggly into a small hot plate with a cloth-insulated AC power cord. There were also 4 tins of paint and two paintbrushes. The 18.75x10.25" box had the same colorful box art as the gas sets. It sold for a staggering \$3.00, which was later raised to \$3.50.

Set 2509: Buck Rogers New 25th Century Soldier Electric Caster set, listed in the later catalogs but the specific contents are not known.

As accessories, Rapaport also produced a set of special pliers with a screw driver head on one of the handles to pry open the mold and remove the hot castings (for 25 cents), with the words "Buck Rogers" embossed on one side and "Junior Caster" on the other. Additionally a box of 72 additional pigs of "prepared antimonial metal" (lead alloy with tin and antimony, catalog # 60), which sold for 60 cents. Publications were also available, including "Junior Caster" a 4 by 8 inch 23 page instruction book, which



BUCK ROGERS CASTING SETS, MOLDS AND FIGURES (Cont.)

The figures from the Junior Caster Buck Rogers Molds.



E-2501: L to R Depth Man, Buck Rogers (Reminiscent of the Buddy Deering character as shown in Fair Play Game artwork) and Dr. Huer.



E-2502: Buck, Wilma Deering, Killer Kane



E-2503: Buck's Rocket Ship.



E-2504: Tiger Man, Tiger Ship, and Asteride.



E-2505: One-Eyed man, Interplantary Ship -Venus Duro-Destroyer and MEKKANO.



E-2506: Tieko Man, Disintegrator field weapon and Black Barney.



E-2509: Amphibian squadron of Planet Neptune

BUCK ROGERS CASTING SETS, MOLDS AND FIGURES (Cont.)

outlined casting instructions, marketing tips as well as a partial catalog and order blank aimed at accessories. More unusual was the free illustrated book "Buck Rogers 25th Century Caster" which was presumably similar but adapted to promote sales around the Buck theme.

THE MOLDS AND FIGURES: There were 8 molds sold separately in the catalog including the two molds that also appeared in the casting sets. These complemented the over 40 additional cheaper individual military and civilian molds already in the Rapaport catalog, all of which sold for 95 cents each. The Rapaport Bros. molds are die-cast using a Zinc alloy that has a higher melting point (419o) than either lead (3270), tin (2320) or their alloys, but is close enough that excessive heat or overuse often lead to warping or cracking of the mold. The molds had the words "Buck Rogers" embossed on the outside surface, and were often colored (not plated) using a bronze or brass coating or paint. Separate screwon wooden handles fastened on to bolts cast into the mold sides, and the wooden handles sold with the Buck sets sometimes had fancier turned ridges at the ends and were often colored in hues (purple?) other than the standard Rapaport black or red.

Buck Rogers Molds and Casting Equipment







The Buck Rogers series of molds represented an assortment of primary characters, but omitted such notable principals as "Buddy Deering," his beautiful companion "Alura," and the beautiful but sinister "Ardala" who are replaced in the secondary molds with lesser characters (see below). It is quite possible the target audience (8-11 year-old boys?) did not warrant producing "a bunch of girls in uniform," and besides the smaller E-2501 casting of Buck is a dead ringer for Buddy. The first 6 molds came out in the winter of 1935, with the larger and more expensive molds coming later. Below is the full published catalog of single molds. Note the omitted E-2508 and the mystery surrounding molds E-2507 and E-2509.

E-2501: includes 3 x 2.5" figures of **Buck Rogers**, intrepid young Rocket Ranger, hero of the 25th century, equipped with a flying belt, helmet and disintegrator pistol, **Dr. Huer**, Bucks staunch ally and master inventor, and **Depth Man**, a fierce Denizen of the deep liquid chasms of the Planet Neptune carrying a "force ray projector." This mold came in the Midget caster set or sold separately for \$1, and is the most commonly found. This is probably due to it being the first issue, and being sold in (the less expensive) casting sets.

E-2502: includes larger 3" figures of **Buck**, **Wilma Deering**, a beautiful heroin and Bucks faithful lieutenant and companion in flying belt and helmet, and **Killer Kane**, arch villain of the 25th century and Bucks deadly enemy, dressed in flying belt and carrying a disintegrator. This mold with the three primary characters from the story line in a larger scale must have been the "gotta have" mold of the time. This mold came in the bigger casting sets or sold separately for \$1, and is less common than #2501.

E-2503: casts **Bucks own Rocket ship**, leader and flagship of the earth fleet. It was built with an impervium hull, and it could travel 11,000 miles per second and was armed with disintegrator rays, rocket rifles, and Flash blaster. This single cavity mold produces a large beautiful casting some 6" long, and is the only single cavity mold in the series. This mold sold separately for \$1, and is the hardest to find of the primary 6 one dollar molds.

E-2504: Casts two 2.5" figures and a smaller ship. The figures include **Tiger Man**, an interplanetary marauding catman from Mars armed with a Force Ray, and **Asteride**, a mighty midget of Planetoid Aster

who is "unbelievably strong." He is armed with a rocket pistol. The third casting is the Martian interplanetary attack "**Tiger Ship**" capable of carrying 2,000 men and traveling at 9,000 miles per second. This mold sold separately for \$1, and since it did not come stock in any of the boxed sets, is a harder piece to find than those that did.

E-2505: Another mold with two figures and a ship, including the "**One-Eyed man**" who sees farther with one eye than most do with two. Also "**MEKKANO**" the deadly "automaton" (robot) controlled through radio and television by Killer Kane. The third casting is an "Interplanetary **Venus Duro-Destroyer** Ship" with full armament capable of traveling 10.000 miles per second. This mold sold separately for \$1, and similar to #2504, is a rarer mold than those from the boxed sets.

E-2506: This mold casts **Tieko Man**, a largeheaded man who lives on a strange planet and flies about in a giant mechanical insect, and **Black Barney**, an ally of Buck and pilot aboard Buck's flag ship, who was once his enemy. The third casting is a large-size **Disintegrator field weapon**, which "melts away substances to nothing at all." This mold sold for separately for \$1, and is even harder to find than the other molds except for #2503.



E-2507: This mold casts the **Martian Stratosphere patrol;** sky fighters of the 25th century with flying belts, disintegrators, and the third casting has a patrolman hunched astride on a small rocket-sled. This was one of two extra large molds released after the first 6 and cost a whopping \$1.50. However, to date no one has ever seen this particular mold nor the figures it cast. The simple explanation is that it came out after the height of the craze was too expensive for most kids, and so few (if any) were sold so it has never really turned up. It has been speculated that (despite its catalog number and it's appearance on the factory order blanks) it was the last mold produced and because of its price, deemed unmarketable. Alternatively, there may have been some production problems with it. In any case, the mystery around the mold certainly makes it (if it exists) the rarest of all Buck Rogers collectables. If anyone has this mold, castings, or can document its existence, please let the authors know *(contact OTS)*!

There is no documented mold in the catalog for number E-2508.

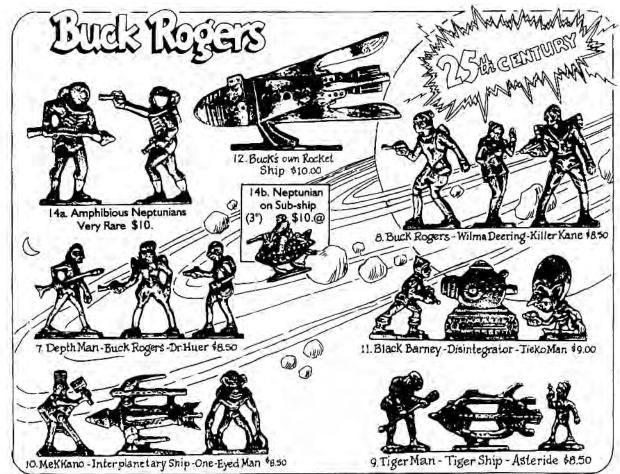
E-2509: Amphibian squadron of the planet Neptune. Like #2507, this mold was produced later than the first 6, and is larger. It contained an "extra large sized undersea and land infantry" fully equipped with Metalloglass helmets, oxygen tanks, disintegrator tanks, force and paralysis guns. The two standing figures are 3" tall and the third casting is a trooper riding a small fish-shaped rocket submarine. This second oversized mold also cost \$1.50, and it has never been known to turn up in the hands of a collector, so is exceedingly rare. However, unlike #E-2507, single castings of all three figures were found over several years in separate flea markets in the Chicago area. These rare examples have been reproduced by Eccles Brothers by pulling silicone molds from the existing castings.

The marketing "craze" of Buck Rogers in the early 1930's was a really unique cultural phenomenon, probably fueled by the increasing patriotic zeal of the era as tensions rose in Europe, and the pure escapism of a marvelously illustrated story of an ordinary American in extra-ordinary times. It is some what surprising that in the golden age of toy soldiers only these castings and the 6 Britains Ltd. figures were commercially produced, but this is probably a testament to the tight marketing of the Buck Rogers name by Dille, and perhaps the relatively short duration of the primary craze. In any event, the story of these 8 molds is a colorful footnote to the long history of home casting, but with a uniquely American perspective.

Comparison of casting poses and artwork from Buck Rogers Fair Play game artwork.



BUCK ROGERS CASTING SETS, MOLDS AND FIGURES (Cont.)



Original Buck Rogers Casting Sets are very difficult to obtain, however Ron Eccles of Eccles Brothers Ltd. can supply certain castings unpainted of the Buck Rogers Homecast Series as above. Contact Eccles Brothers Ltd. 319-752-3840, 5875 Madison Avenue, Burlington, Iowa 52601

References:

- S. Mark Young, Steve Duin and Mike Richardson "Blast Off" Dark Horse Books, Milwaukie, OR, 2001 (see Chapter 2, Buck Rogers, champion of the 20th and 25th Centuries).
- Robert Lesser "A Celebration of Comic Art and Memorabilia" Hawthorne Books, New York, NY, 1975. (see Chapter 5, Buck Rogers in the 25th Century – the fabulous fantasy).
- 3) Steve Sommers. "**Britains Buck Rogers Figures**" Old Toy Soldier Newsletter, Vol 4, #3, pp 8-9, 1981. (background history on the other Buck Rogers figures).
- 4) Don Pielin, Norman Joplin and Johnson. "American Dimestore Toy Soldiers and Figures". Schiffer Publishing Ltd, Acglen, PA 2000. (see Chapter 42, Space and Science Fiction).
- 5) **"The collected works of Buck Rogers in the 25th Century."** Edited by Robert C. Dille, (introduction by Ray Bradbury) Bonanza Books, New York, NY, 1969. (Reprints of the complete set of published cartoons from 1929-1967, including 63 color pages)
- 6) Web site: www.Buck-Rogers.com. Includes short monographs on each different phase of the Buck Rogers phenomenon, including cartoons, radio show, TV and movies. Includes links to eBay and other collector sites.

HOBBY NEWS

NORMAN JOPLIN'S OLD TOY SOLDIER AND FIGURE SHOW

Inaugural event, Royal National Hotel, London, September 10th, 2005.

An annual show devoted to old Toy Soldiers and Figures, Lead, Plastic and Composition.

It is believed to be the first show of its kind in the UK with a vintage/dateline theme.

See this issue of OTS magazine for further details.

PLASTIC WARRIOR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Paul Morehead and Plastic Warrior on their 20th Toy Soldier Show which was held in the UK on May 7th, 2005. Paul and his colleagues reached their milestone by specializing in a show devoted to Plastic figures, the show being Europe's oldest and longest running Toy Soldier Show.

BRITISH MODEL SOLDIER SOCIETY

The BMSS will run their Platinum Show at the Royal National Hotel in London during July 2005. See advertisement in this issue of O.T.S.

VECTIS

Vectis Auctions have announced that they will no longer be organizing the British Toy Soldier Show in London - see article by Christian Keller in this issue of O.T.S.

KING AND COUNTRY

King and Country will run The Toy Soldier Experience and The Toy Soldier London at The Royal National Hotel in London each March, June and December. See this issue of O.T.S. for details.

WEST COASTER TOY SOLDIER SHOW CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP

Craig "Bubba" McClain and Woody Lambrith have assumed ownership of the West Coaster Toy Soldier Show. This annual California event was formally organized by Scott Morlan and Bob Fisher.

"Bubba" is owner of Vista California's Toy Soldier Shop Old Toy Soldier Home. Woody has for a number of years assisted Scott and Bob with the running of the show and opens the show each year to the skirl of his bagpipes.

OLD TOY SOLDIER 25TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

Don Pielin informs OTS that the annual Chicago Old Toy Soldier Show on September 25, 2005 will include a number of special events and features in celebration of the shows 25th anniversary. Precise details were not available at the time of going to press; however, it is hoped to publish a list of these events in the hobby news section of OTS Volume 29 #2 available in August 2005.

To quote Don "Same place as always" The Hyatt Regency Woodfield,1800 E. Golf Road in Schaumburg, Illinois. Details www.toysoldiershow.com



LEFT RIGHT LEFT COLLECTIBLES OPENS IN STEWERT MANOR ON LONG ISLAND

After 25 years of collecting and dealing in antique toy soldiers, John Rollins opened a store specializing in Britain's, Garden, Farm, Zoo, Civilians, military toy soldiers and sports memorabilia. Joining him as partners are his children Donna Celebi, a veteran of toy soldier trade shows and John Rollins previously of ESPN. The store is now an authorized dealer of King and Country Collectibles.

Its large assortment from a variety of manufacturers include Mignots, SAE, Heyde's, Edmund's, Blenheims, Charbens and Dimestores soldiers. Extensive travels to London and across England have yielded a treasure collection available in the heart of Nassau County in New York. Left Right Left has already become a friendly spot for dealers and new collectors to chat, learn and share expertise. Sports Memorabilia collectors have also found it to be great place to find vintage baseball cards, figurines and autographed baseballs from the game's legends and newer stars.

Left Right Left continues to be active in trade shows and its long time mail order service. With a focus on customer service, fulfilling Wish Lists and personal attention to collectors is a hallmark of this family owned and operated business. Contact us at 516-869-4137 or by e-mail at ja41r@aol.com. Better still, come to our store located at 74 Covert Avenue, Stewart Manor, New York 11530.

WHAT BRITAINS SHOULD HAVE MADE PART 2 By Norman Joplin

The work of William (Bill) O'Brien.

William (Bill) O'Brien has created many Toy Soldiers that perhaps Britains should or could have made, driven by a great enthusiasm for toy soldiers rather that financial remuneration, Bill is first and foremost a hobbyist, whilst his creations as commercial commodities takes second place.

In an article entitled "Toy Soldier Manufacturers Inspirations, The idea for a Toy Soldier" published in OTS Volume 27 #2 Summer 2003, Bill illustrated examples of figures that obviously inspired manufacturers via postcards, prints, drawings or actual military uniforms.

Bill is also active in researching and producing figures that Britains should or could have made and displays his creations each year at the M.F.C.A. (Miniature Figure Collectors of America) annual show in Pennsylvania.

His entries are included in the section devoted to Old Toy Soldiers and Bill also attends the show with a booth, selling some of his own figures and other old toy soldiers.



The Royal Piedmont Cavalry Regiment of the Italian Army, 1900



The 1st Life Hussar Regiment number 1 of the Imperial German Army, 1910. The Kaiser was Colonel-in- Chief of this Regiment



Officer of the 1st Life Hussar regiment of the Imperial German Army



Standard bearer of the 1st Life Hussar Regiment of the Imperial German Army

WHAT BRITAINS SHOULD HAVE MADE PART 2 (Cont.)

The following is Bill's introduction to his 2002 exhibit at the M.F.C.A. Show.

"What If"

"Collectors who specialize in the production of William Britains Ltd have come to appreciate the resourcefulness of Britains when it came to utilizing a different paint pattern or the replacement of one head for another in order to create an entirely new set or figure.

Prime examples of this ingenuity are The Polish Infantry figures at the slope of set # 1856 which appeared as Netherlands Infantry (set #s 1850 and 1851).

With the addition of a head with Civil War Kepi and a different paint pattern, the mounted castings for Britains set # 139 French Chasseurs A Cheval and set # 179 Austro-Hungarian Dragoons were used to produce Union and Confederate sets 2056 and 2055 respectfully."

Over the past 25 years Bill O'Brien has created more than 50 sets that Britains should or could have produced but didn't. All of his figures are made from original Britains hollow castings, many of which have been rescued from junk boxes or melting pots or from fellow collectors who have discarded their damaged figures, Bill is keen to acquire these items and brings them back to life in the form of figures not previously manufactured by Britains.



Trumpeter of the 1st Life Hussars of the Imperial German Army

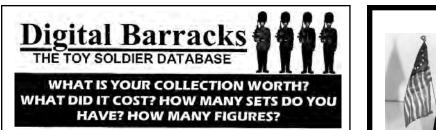


27th Infantry Regiment of the Imperial German Army, 1910, Summer Dress

The photographs contained in this article are examples of Bill's creativity, and while they convey the artistry, painstaking attention to detail and research that Bill incorporates into his figures, they in no way illustrate the time, enthusiasm and commitment that Bill puts into his creations.

Part 1 of What Britains Should Have Made by Bill Miele was published in OTS Volume 28 #4

Photos by Peter Clark



Digital Barracks, the Windows database for toy soldier collectors, will help you answer these questions and many more. This powerful, specialized software makes it easy to catalog your collection, analyze its contents, and calculate its current value. Features include easy data-entry, customizable dropdown code lists, unlimited custom reports, tracking of where each figure or set is displayed or stored, context-sensitive help, and more. You'll find it fascinating to record the history of your collecting adventures. Then you can print an elegant, custom catalog of your collection – organized by category, location, maker, or any way you want – formatted to fit neatly into a 3-ring binder.

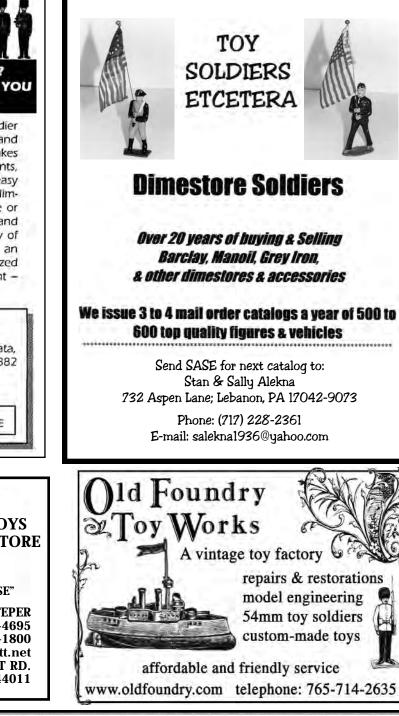
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SHOW REPORT

The 11th Annual Florida Toy Soldier Show and Figure Painting Competition • Sunday, January 30th 2005 By Ray Haradin

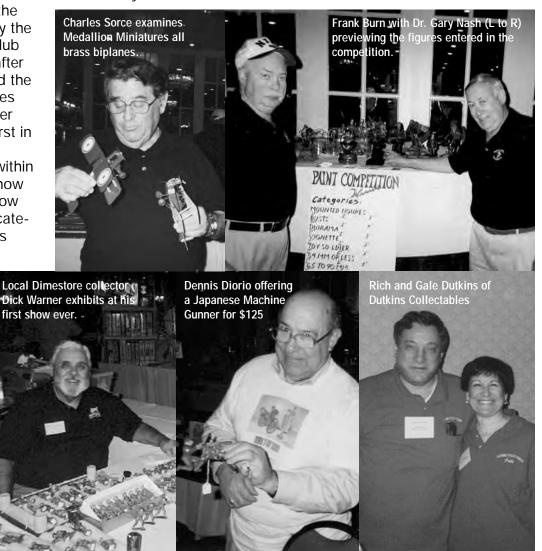
The show that offers everyone the opportunity to flee the cold of the north and spend a weekend in the southern sun has made steady improvements since it was started over 11 years ago. After moving from West Palm Beach to Plantation, which is directly west of Ft. Lauderdale, there were concerns over the

shows longevity. However, the show which is sponsored by the South Florida Toy Soldier Club continues to improve year after year. Eddie Tomasini chaired the event and significant changes continue to attract the soldier faithful. This year was the first in which a Figure Painting Competition was included within the show. It added to the show giving it a "Valley Forge" show atmosphere. There were 8 categories in which mainly locals competed for prizes.

The Grand Champion of the

his two winning entries.

competition Simon Bogan with



Fernando and Leonor Caicedo contemplate the purchase of a Britains Motorcycle

Hal Seitz with a wonderful Britains Arab display

John Rollins made the trip from the north for a table full of Britains

SHOW REPORT

MICHIGAN WINTER TOY SOLDIER SHOW

The 9th annual winter Michigan Toy Soldier show was held on January 30th in Livonia, Michigan. Attendance was strong this year, helped along by coverage in the Detroit newspapers and on local television. Dealers from across the country filled 85 tables in two large rooms with vintage Britains, composition, tinplate military vehicles, dimestores, and plastic, and a wide selection of new offerings from figures to equipment, along with extensive selections of military books and magazines.

Joe Saine had almost a dozen stunning Courtenay foot and mounted figures. Bob Hornung had his usual beautiful display of custom cast and painted heraldic knights and diorama accessories. The tables of the Hobby Bunker ran almost an entire wall, featuring new forts, figures, and equipment. Networking went on as well, proving once again how these shows are really the conventions of our hobby. Walter Keener, Jr., curator of the Joliet Area Historical Museum, was looking for new sources for toy soldier ephemera (post cards, catalogs, illustrations) for the toy-soldier and WW2 oriented displays he puts on. Bob Stevens was recruiting new members for the Michigan Toy & Model Soldier Society.

I noticed many more families and dads with kids than I'd seen in the past. Rick Berry had promoted several familyfriendly offerings – there were 3 tables in the Michigan Historical Miniatures Club exhibit room that had been set up for toy soldier painting for the kids (parents brought over 200 kids). The Michigan Toy Soldier Company provided the figures and the paint, and Club members provided the expertise, working with the kids as they painted. I hit the room several times to check out the Society exhibits plus the 3 rows of dealers, and the tables were always jammed with happy children and parents. It was a wise move – the collector in the family could bring along the kids and involve them in the hobby, and the kids were even 'buying' (at my table one boy got Dad to buy him a vintage Matchbox Battlekings Tiger Tank, another little girl had mom buy an Elastolin farm piece for her). Rick also lined up members from several reenactment groups to work the show. WW2 GI's in full camo, Renaissance people, and Civil War soldiers strolled through the aisles, checking out their counterparts displayed on the tables.

The weather was clear, the crowds were big, and the rooms were filled with toy soldiers – for Michigan in January that's as good as it gets.



Printed catalog available. Retail location: 1406 E. 11 Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI, 48067 • 248.586.1022

SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

THE WEST COASTER • IRVINE, CALIFORNIA MARCH 6, 2005 By Ray Haradin and Brian Cornwall

In true American fashion, after a brief skirmish, we have a peaceful transition of power. The last of the founding members of the show (L to R) Bob Fisher and Scott Morlan pass the banner on to Woody Lambrith and Craig McClain of the Old Toy Soldier Home in Vista California, the new owners of the show.



SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

Heyde specialist Bob Phillips with his wife Helen.

Don and Phyllis Taylor display The Publisher of Old Toy Soldier a fine selection of WWII with his wife Nancy aircraft models

Tom Vida with his wife

1100

ALLEN

Part of the Old Toy Soldier Home's King and Country Display

Mike O'Donnell (R) with a satisfied customer

Bob and Judiann O'Connell's circus line from North Coast Miniatures

An overview of the show



The entire West Coaster family: Top L to R: Kel Scott, Sue Cigrianti, Jim Spellmore, Ed Ruby, Craig McClain, Bob Fisher, Scott Morlan, Clark Vollbrecht, Barbara Fisher, Darrel Knox Bottom: L to R Debbie McClain, Louie Furrer, Lisa Morlan & Woody Lambrith

SHOW REPORT

TOY SOLDIER EXPERIENCE LONDON SATURDAY MARCH 19, 2005

Stepping into the breach at the eleventh hour following the cancellation of the London Toy Soldier Show by Ian Carrick, King and Country (UK) owner Mike Neville acquired the Royal National Hotel to run the "Toy Soldier Experience".

Advertised as a one off event several incentives were on offer including reduced table rent for traders and free entry to the public. A donation to the Royal British Legion was requested in lieu of admission.

Mike felt that the short notice of the cancellation of the London Toy Soldier show given to the public by the former organizer needed addressing in the furtherance of the hobby and put together the event at very short notice.

A reduced number of tables were occupied in the venue, due in part to the revised floor plan instigated by Mike in order to accommodate the King and Country's eight table display area in the main hall. Other regular attendees were also reallocated to make way for the visit of King and Country owner Andy Neilson and the launch of his Fall of Berlin line, displayed on the north wall of the hall.

Andy had arranged this visit to promote his new line prior to the cancellation of the London Toy Soldier Show. As part of the "Experience", a reenactment group dressed in uniforms indicative of the Fall of Berlin were on hand.

Radio controlled tanks were also in evidence, certainly an "experience" for those more used to the traditional style of the toy soldier show in London.

The Ellis suite was also much roomier given the reallocation of the King and Country tables. An area also was set aside as a changing room for the reenactment group.

Attendance was very good, with the free entry to the public obviously a bonus for collectors, and while the variety of merchandize available was undoubtedly diluted, the emphasis being geared more towards manufacturers of current products and 'New Toy Soldiers', regular traders with multiple tables and other vendors who had "upsized" with more tables than usual probably had a successful days trading.

Despite the earlier announcement of a "One off event" The Toy Soldier Experience is scheduled again for next March; (See this issue for further details).



The King and Country (UK) Staff L to R Rob Baker, Mike, Sue, Bob and Dan Neville with King and Country owner Andy Neilson"

SHOW PREVIEW

NORMAN JOPLIN'S OLD TOY SOLDIER & FIGURE SHOW (UK) LONDON SEPTEMBER 2005

By Robert Wilson

Following all the recent uncertainty surrounding the various toy soldier shows in London, many in the collecting world will be pleased to hear that Norman Joplin has announced that he will once again be organizing a toy soldier and figure show in London. The event will take place at the Royal National Hotel's King Edward and Alexandra Suites on Saturday, September 10th 2005.

This venue will be familiar to regular toy soldier and figure collectors, as it was first used by Norman when instigating the first major international toy soldier show of it's kind in the UK during 1991. The British Toy Soldier and Figures show, as it was then known, was subsequently managed by Vectis auctions upon Norman's move to the USA.

The new venture, entitled Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show (UK) is yet another first, as it will be a vintage dateline event devoted to the old toy soldier and figures of lead, plastic and composition. Products produced 1980 and after will be excluded.



Norman reports that the demand for tables has already exceeded availability, with the majority of UK dealers in old toy soldiers and figures already confirmed. Several US dealers and a number of European traders are also included in the list of participants and a waiting list for tables is now in operation.

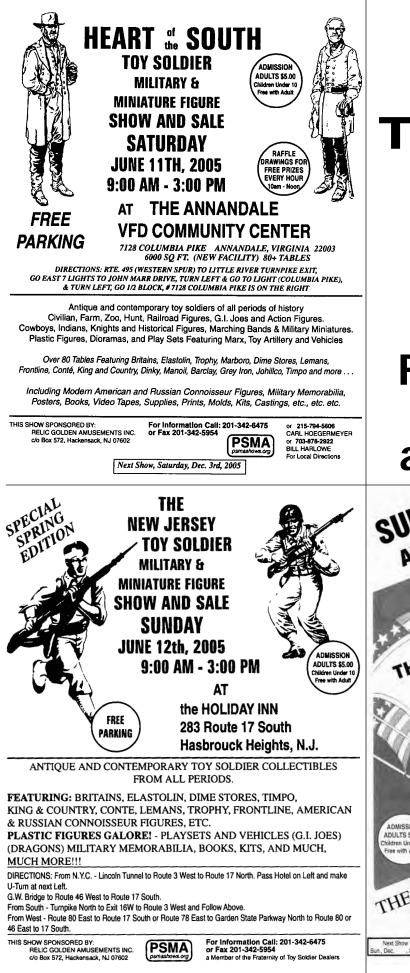
Ray Haradin, owner of Old Toy Soldier Magazine in the USA, stated "I think this is great for the hobby and will certainly give collectors and traders in the older style figures the opportunity to enjoy a show devoted to their specific area of collecting." He went on to add "Norman, as editor, has done a great job in building the Old Toy Soldier Magazine into a recognized reference magazine for toy soldier collectors. His enthusiasm for the hobby is well known and this central London show will undoubtedly be just what is needed to stimulate the interest in old toy soldiers and figures in the UK. Old Toy Soldier Magazine is honored to support the event."

Recent confusion surrounding the promotion of toy soldier shows in the UK, together with a large number of requests from traders and collectors alike, has prompted Norman to put this show together. Said Norman "My objective is to provide a friendly, camaraderie style toy soldier show and I look forward to meeting again all of those who have supported my efforts in the past."

The show is to be an annual event; the 2006 date is already set for September 2nd.

For those like myself, who continue to be fascinated by old toy soldiers, this new event is something to really look forward to and this new development will hopefully begin to dispel all the recent uncertainties.

For further information contact: Norman Joplin 535 Fir Street Fredonia, Wisconsin 53021 Email: info@normanjoplin.com Telephone: 262-692-3857



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THE LAST BRITISH TOY SOLDIER AND FIGURE SHOW? —AN AMERICAN VIEW

By Christian B. Keller

We all knew it was becoming difficult for Vectis to hold the British Toy Soldier Show, especially considering the new venue at the Alexandra Palace, but few collectors and dealers present at the March 12 show were prepared to hear the sad news:

"Today will be the last London based show staged by Vectis, [and] we thank you for your continued support over the last 6 years and wish you well for the future."

So read the bold-face portion of a flyer passed out at the March show by Vectis staff. The flyer, which explained the trials and tribulations experienced by Vectis since last year, was received with shock, disappointment, and disbelief by most of those present. Could it be that the vaunted and beloved "London Show," as it had become known by so many, was actually finished?

As an American collector/dealer who travels frequently to England for the London show, it was quite disconcerting to read about the reasons behind Vectis's withdrawal from show management. Cited in the flyer were competition with a rival show, immediately promoted at the old Royal National Hotel after Vectis pulled out, stiff "room and capacity changes instigated by [Royal National] hotel management during 2004," and the "far from ideal" location of the new Alexandra Palace venue. Additionally, it was hard to find another location that was affordable in the London area, and personal discussions with Vectis staff revealed that the promotion of the show at Alexandra Palace was itself not a financially viable alternative. Essentially, Vectis was holding the show as a service to the hobby and NOT as a money-making opportunity.

My immediate reaction to all of this was mixed. I was obviously sad to see the show closed down, as hundreds of others doubtless were, especially considering how successful this last show had been for many of us. But I was also frustrated—indignant, even, that Vectis had been backed into the corner that it found itself in. It was clear to me, after numerous conversations with other dealers and collectors present at the show, that this unfortunate event did not have to happen. It was not the result of bungling on the part of Vectis, but rather a combination of strict, new polices at the Royal National (which forced the change of venue to Alexandra Palace) and the questionable conduct of others who took advantage of Vectis's predicament. On that matter, I will say no more, but as an American who has made many new British and European friends as a result of the London Show, it was difficult indeed to reconcile myself to the prospect that the British Toy Soldier and Figure Show was no more. I felt as if an important part of my pleasure as a toy soldier enthusiast had been ripped away. Like many others on both sides of the "pond," I looked forward to attending at least one of the London shows each year, and the happy thought of meeting up with old friends and finding those rare old Britains kept me going during dark days.

Debbie Cockerill, Vicky Weal, and the staff at Vectis are to be commended for their for six-year management of the London show, as well as for their inexhaustible friendliness and willingness to accommodate last minute requests (especially requests for tables from certain Americans!). I think any American who ventured to any of the British Toy Soldier Shows would agree that combining toy soldiers with sightseeing in the very capitol of toy soldierdom was a fantastic experience. Thanks, Vectis, for giving us so many delightful memories. We won't forget who allowed them to happen....

But it appears that, in the end, the "London Show" is not down for the count. As I finished this essay, I received word that Norman Joplin, the man who initiated the shows at the Royal National Hotel years ago (before Vectis), has stepped up to the plate and plans to manage a new show, exclusively for collectors and dealers of old toy soldiers and figures. The show will be held in the Queen Alexandra and King Edward Suites in the newly refurbished section of the Royal National Hotel (see editorial and advertisement in this issue). I believe I speak for many others who look forward to hearing more about this intriguing event. Just as "there will always be an England," there must always be a London Show.

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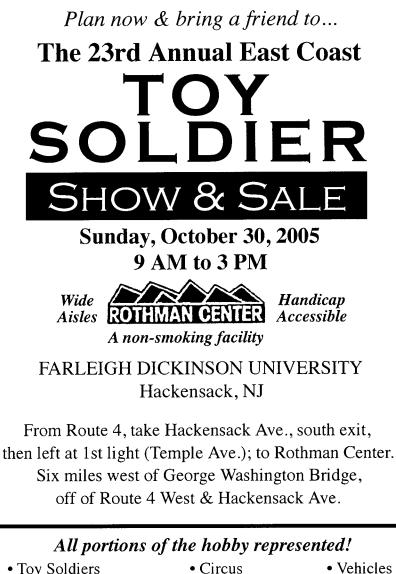
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WM. HOCKER'S THE AMERICAN CENTURY!

By E. W. Fitzgerald



Bill Hocker, the California architect turned producer of fine metal toy soldiers ("in the style of Wm. Britain"), has created a visual history of the United States 1900-1999. This magnificent set features a wide range of persons and personalities in 1/32 scale depicting the social, cultural, political, and military events of "The American Century!" Immigrants, soldiers, politicians, entertainers, scientists, an industrialist and others join the first man to walk on the moon in this survey course of modern U.S. history.

Even the 18" x 7-1/4" box label is loaded with quotations from or comments about the 23 gloss painted figures in the set. The box label caption associated with each figure is accompanied by a thumbnail sketch of that figure and its historical significance. (You can follow along to identify the figures starting in the upper left to right top row to bottom.)

"Huddled Masses" An immigrant mother holding the hand of her young son at Ellis Island, New York Harbor in view of the Statue of Liberty. Emma Lazarus wrote in <u>The New Colossus</u> (1883) "... Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free ..." By 1920, 34 million immigrants had brought their talents and energy to the United States.

"Tin Lizzie" Henry Ford (1863-1947) holding a wrench. Developed the assembly line to mass produce automobiles including the fabled Model- T ("Tin Lizzie") first produced in 1908; 15 million made by 1927.

"Over There" A U. S. soldier of the Great War 1914-1918. The U. S. entered the war in 1917 and helped end it the following year. "Over There!" was a popular patriotic song with words and music written by George M. Cohan in 1917.

"Right to Vote" A suffragette advocating the right to vote for women which was finally mandated by the 19th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution in 1920. Prior to that time only men could vote.

"**Speak Softly**" The ebullient 26th President of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919). War hero ("Rough Riders"), trust buster, advocate of public land use (national parks), the driving force behind construction of the Panama Canal. In foreign policy he liked to quote a West African proverb, "Speak softly and carry a big stick, you will go far."

WM. HOCKER'S THE AMERICAN CENTURY! (Cont.)

"Roaring '20s" Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong (1900-1971). Jazz musician holding his trumpet and signature towel to wipe his brow. He got his start in the 1920s and entertained us for 50 years.

"Lucky Lindy" Charles Lindberg (1902-1974). First aviator to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1927 in his single-engine monoplane, the "Spirit of St. Louis."

"Old Ball Game" Baseball, America's pastime. Its greatest athletic hero, George Herman "Babe" Ruth (1895-1948), hit 60 home runs in 1927 (714 lifetime), records which were to stand for two generations.

"Silver Screen" A movie camera and operator emblematic of the modem motion picture industry that began as the last silent films were supplanted by "talkies" in 1929.

"**MC**²" The theory of relativity equation $E = MC^2$ was formulated in 1905 by Albert Einstein (1879-1955). A German-born physicist who became a U. S. citizen in 1940. He helped with the Manhattan Project (see FDR next).

"Fear Itself" Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945), the 32nd, and longest serving, President of the United States. His accomplishments were many: Social Security, the start of the Nuclear Age with the Manhattan Project that developed the atom bomb during World War II, the "New Deal" that helped mitigate the effects of The Great Depression. At his first inauguration in 1933 he held out hope to the nation disheartened by the Depression by saying, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." He is shown with a chair because he was disabled by polio in 1921.

"Total War" Talented and controversial U. S. Army 5 Star General Douglas MacArthur (1880-1966). During World War II he executed island-hopping offensive strategy in the Pacific Theater. Later commanded Allied troops in Korean conflict until relieved by President Truman for insubordination. Returning from Korea, he addressed Congress saying, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." He advocated total war against all enemies.

"American Dream" Entertainer Lucille Ball (1911-1989). This famous redhead had it all: success in movies and television ("I Love Lucy") as well as production.

"**Promised Land**" In February, 1960 black college students staged a "sit-in" at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, NC to obtain the right to be served with white people. Segregation and discrimination on account of race were outlawed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Woolworth name has disappeared from the United States.

"Flower Power" A young woman holding a flower in one hand and giving the peace sign with the other who, during the 1960s, rejected conventional society and enthralled with concepts of love, peace, and idealistic values. A Hippie.

"One Small Step" On July 21, 1969 Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon. On landing on the moon's surface he said, "That's one small step for man, but one gigantic step for mankind."

"Peace & Freedom" depicts a fatigue-uniformed disabled American veteran of the Vietnam War and his wheel chair. The Vietnam War (1954-1975) claimed 57,000 American lives and profoundly changed the way our citizens related to our government.

WM. HOCKER'S THE AMERICAN CENTURY! (Cont.)

"All Shook Up" Title of a song recorded in 1957 by Elvis Pressley (1935-1977), the "King of Rock and Roll." Singer, actor he made 33 movies and had 150 gold/platinum records. Served on active duty with the U. S. Army 1958-1960.

"Blonde Bombshell" Movie star and sex symbol of the 1950s and 1960s, Marilyn Monroe (1926-1962) was every boy's dream woman. She married and divorced baseball star Joe DiMaggio and playwright Arthur Miller. Author Truman Capote wrote about her: "She is a beautiful child." Her 29 movies included "The Asphalt Jungle" (1950), "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1953), "How to Marry a Millionaire" (1953), "The Seven Year Itch" (1955), "Some Like It Hot" (1959) and "The Misfits" (1961).

"**Camelot**" The glamorous period of the brief presidency of John Fitzgerald Kennedy (1917-1963). Navy hero in World War II (PT-109), Pulitzer Prize winning author of <u>Profiles in Courage</u>. Our 35th president was assassinated on November 22, 1963. At his inauguration he stated, "Ask not what your country can do for you-ask what you can do for your country." President Kennedy is shown with his rocking chair that he used to rest his back, which was injured when PT -109 was sunk by a Japanese destroyer.

"Billions Sold" A McDonald's counter man holds a bag of hamburgers and fries for a customer. Began in 1955 by Ray Kroc, McDonald's started the so-called fast food movement that then featured 15-cent hamburgers. Now McDonald's serves 47 million customers at 31,000 restaurants world wide, having sold billions of hamburgers. Hamburgers now cost \$1.

"Evil Empire" How Ronald Reagan (1911-2004), 40th President of the United States, described the Soviet Union as he worked to end the Cold War arms race. Governor of California and movie star, he was called "The Great Communicator" but died of complications of Alzheimer's Disease.

"You Have Mail" According to the Google Search Engine, the founder of the Internet was Dr. Lawrence G. Roberts, Ph.D. of Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The effort to create the packet switching of communications between computers started in 1961 and resulted in wide commercial use in 1991. The Internet has become a true technological tour de force. (Note: AI Gore did not participate in this effort.)

So there you have it. The Twentieth Century history of the United States found in 23 scale figures, thanks to the creative "architecture" of Bill Hocker.





GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW



TOY SOLDIERS OF SAN DIEGO "1863 UNION CHARGING"

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

Toy Soldiers Of San Diego, (TSSD), have released their second set of American Civil War figures, "1863 Union Charging". This latest issue from TSSD is a perfect compliment to their inaugural set "1863 Confederate Firing Line", (see review in OTS Vol.28 No.3).

Sculptor David Lea continues to work his magic as the quality of this latest set is consistent with that of the Confederates. Continuing to use the hybrid plastic specifically developed for TSSD, Lea's figures convey very natural realistic poses in historically correct uniforms.

Received for review was a Bonus Bag of 20 figures in 8 different positions. Each one of these sturdy 60mm figures appear in campaign dress.

This translates into various uniforms for each figure. Lea does a nice job of mixing and matching frock coats, kepis, shoes, sack coats, boots, and brimmed hats, all showing the wear and tear of war. Facial features vary on each piece, lending an air of individuality to each figure. This individuality is further developed on the TSSD website, as each figure has its own biography. You will find no two figures uniformed alike, and thankfully there are no prone or casualty figures.

Packaged in a clear plastic bag with a colorful cardboard header, the collector is able to view the contents of this set. A typical bag contains 16 figures in 8 action poses, all for \$18. At just over a dollar per piece, TSSD offers the plastics collector some of the highest quality miniatures available for an excellent price.

Collectors are encouraged to visit the TSSD website on a consistent basis for updates and pictures of new figures and their availability. Prototypes of their World War II range look extremely appealing.

Thank you to Nick and Deanna Versteeg of TSSD for generously submitting their product for this review.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Civil War Figures by Toy Soldiers of San Diego

MUSTERED IN

The following information regarding new or proposed sets is provided for the collector:

King & Country - Several sets and vehicles for the Germany Army in Normandy, Russian Army 1945 and British Army of the American War of Independence. www.kingandcountry.com

Frontline - Excellent new range for the French and Indian War. Several sets of Indians and Roger's Rangers should be available now. British and French sets are in development. www.frontline-figures.com

Britain's - Several sets for the American War of Independence, focusing on the Southern Theater. www.rcertl.com

Pickelhaube - World War I French, and a new flag series, "Flags of the Third Reich", the first 10 which should be available in June. www.pickelhaubemin.com

Old Northwest Trading Company - Set of 4 Waffen SS, together with a set of 4 GI's. www.michtoy.com

PLASTICS ON PARADE

HOW RARE IS RARE? By Steve Weston

In the world of Plastic figures, there exists a much bandied about word – RARE.

Many figures are said to be rare, but how many, in fact, are?

In my incursions into trying to get plastic figures made, the most popular number bandied around to make a 'production run' worthwhile has been the mystical amount of 5,000. In other words, a viable amount of figures –be they from individual moulds (molds) or a sprue of figures (usually 6 or 8) would require 5,000 to be run. Now that is an awful lot of figures! Can you imagine seeing 5,000 Herald mount-ed Musketeers? It's hard enough finding one at every tenth Show, let alone anywhere near the above amount.

So, I think that we can safely assume that this is possibly a genuinely RARE figure. I can attest to being present many years ago, at a Norman Joplin Show, when a dealer unveiled a virginal Herald Cavalier (or Musketeer) from its plain cardboard outer casing to reveal it to a potential buyer, in its clear display box! That was moment to savour!! Needless to say, said potential buyer coughed up a lot of money, and walked off at least six inches taller!!

It used to be said of the Britains Deetail range that Mounted Napoleonic figures were RARE. Have you seen how many of these are coming out of the woodwork lately? Where have they all been stored, and why should so many turn up at once? Who knows!

Rarities appear amongst most makes of figures: Lone Star has the Dick Turpin, Crescent has the mounted WWI figures, Cherilea has both the Saloon set and the Execution set as well as some of their very early 54mm western Indians. But the lesser known English makes contain even more scarcities.

Trojan figures are highly sought after, so are Speedwell and Hilco. So far, it seems that no data was kept on their production numbers, but one must assume that, by comparison to the bigger Companies, their output was generally quite small.

But why should one range from a particular Company be harder to find than another?

Take the Cherilea 60mm Kings African Rifles, not at all well sculpted (in common with most 60mm Cherilea figures) but what an interesting subject to choose! I have been collecting for years, but have never seen a full set on display, anywhere!

We know that we can attribute many losses to some makes i.e. Lone Star, because of their practice of putting Talcum Powder in with the plastic, apparently in an attempt to make the paint stick. This made the figures very brittle with age, hence the tendency for them to fall apart in your display cabinet without even being touched.



Unidentified Polish Plastic Figure



Cherilea Kings African Rifles

PLASTICS ON PARADE (Cont.)

But why should certain ranges be in short supply? Here I can only speculate that Sales were dictated by the media (as are most things!) and that the demand was for things that we watched on T.V. Therefore, western figures would ALWAYS have sold well, as would have knights of all persuasions, Pirates, WWII and American Civil War. I can't recall any programmes about the English Civil War, but I assume that the Revolutionary War was not popular here (in the FIRST golden age of plastic figures) because us Brits actually lost!! Therefore, it must logically follow that if there was no demand for certain ranges, then they would not be a priority on the Sales-men's agenda. Likewise lesser known makers would possibly find it hard to get their product out there and into the stores, if their ranges were not the current rage. A bit like modern day fashion, I suspect.

Possibly, Trojan, Gem, Speedwell and other small Companies may not have employed quality Sales Personnel, who were motivated enough to get out there and sell. Very recently, I was told by a moulding Company, that they actually grind down un-sellable stock and re-use the plastic. I was not aware that this was a possibility – but then it makes sense!

Also, we must consider what the economic climate would have been like at that time. How many stores could have afforded to hold the vast amount of ranges offered by so many manufacturers? There just had to have been a limit, and once again, this would have been dictated by demand. Would Dick Turpin sell more than any U.S. Cavalry figure? Or indeed how many parents would have bought the rather ghoulish Cherilea Hangman's (Execution) set for a child, at that time? And just what were Australian troops – weren't Australians all criminals or their descendants?

We must also take into account the buyers personnal financial situation. In most cases, money was scarce, so it was probable that figures were bought singularly, or by getting the most figures for money that was available. Therefore, an item such as a boxed Dick Turpin may have cost more than , say, 6 individual figures. To a child, quantity would have been the deciding factor here.

But the very thought of all these great ranges being ground down and turned into something else is quite chilling. Visions of Crescent Mohicans, Zang Guardsmen or Trojan Aussies meeting this unnatural end, without ever being played with is quite horrifying.

I leave you with some pictures of a few rarities with which to whet your appetites. Please contact OTS if you are able to identify any of the illustrated unknown items.



Kentoys Dandare



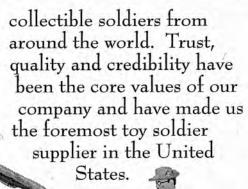
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Monaco Guard Country of Manufacture unknown

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HOW TO (almost always) DETECT A REPAIRED DIMESTORE...

By Stan Alekna

Recently, I bought nearly 100 Dimestore figures from a nearby collector and they were all in excellent condition.

In the process of bubble wrapping and packing them for transport, I noticed that the baton on the Barclay white helmeted drum major (B213) appeared to be shorter than what I recalled. When I got home and unpacked my "loot?, I compared the short baton figure with another B213.







"Standard B213"

"Short baton B213"



"Close-up of short baton "



Clearly the baton on the newly acquired B213 was shorter and it was even attached to the rim of the helmet.

The gold paint on the baton of both figures was heavier above the right hand than below it. I have seen more than a few B213's with the baton tip missing because it was so thin and susceptible to being broken off. All of the other figures that I bought were unquestionably original with no repairs or repaints in the lot. Well, I thought I had discovered an undocumented, very scarce variant. Why not? Barclay probably received lots of complaints from five and dime stores about drum majors with broken batons. So in response, they could have made a minor adjustment to the B213 mold(s). Not only did they shorten the upper part of the baton, they attached it to the helmet to provide additional support. It made sense to me and a thorough evaluation of the figure with a high powered, lighted, magnifying glass convinced me that it was an original figure and probably as scarce as hen's teeth!

But something kept gnawing at me about this figure. Why did it take 50 years to turn up the first B213 with a short baton? Could there have been so few of these made? I needed absolute confirmation of the legitimacy of this figure so I decided to have a medical radiologist friend of mine x-ray it. A copy of the resulting film is shown below.

Not only was the tip of the baton repaired, it had been created using a resin material which does not appear on the film because it is not lead. When I told my tale of woe to a few other Dimestore collectors, they encouraged me to share this experience by writing an article for OTS. The moral of my story is not new---if it seems too good to be true, it probably is. The next time you discover a rare Dimestore variant, remain skeptical until you have completed a healthy amount of verification. Here are some of the steps you can take:

- Perform a detailed inspection of the figure using a powerful, lighted magnifying glass. A jeweler's loupe can also be helpful in examining suspect areas of a figure. Under such magnification, you will invariably see lots of tiny chips and scratches that are not visible to the naked eye and It will provide you with a new benchmark for the term "MINT?, I assure you.
- 2) Study the eyes. Barclay figures have the most distinctive eyes and they are surprisingly hard to copy. Manoil, American Metal and Grey Iron figures also have standard eye patterns. And no matter how good you may think your own eyes are, always compare the eyes of your variant to those of another figure from the same maker. They may not be 100% identical but they should be very close.

X-ray of the B213 with the repaired baton

HOW TO (almost always) DETECT A REPAIRED DIMESTORE ... (Cont.)

- 3) If a figure was repaired, it has to be repainted or at least touched-up as was the case with my B213 with the short baton. Touch-ups by expert restorers can be very hard to detect, even by seasoned collectors. Start by checking the paint color and sheen of the bottom of the base versus the rest of the figure. The colors and patina should be the same. I have declined some purchases based on this test alone. Carefully study the painting sequence. Weapons, helmets, batons, belts, other trim, and the green base should not be painted over by the color of the paint of the uniform since these items were painted last. Another red flag is if a figure is painted too neatly. Dimestore painters were paid on a piece- work basis and had no artistic aspirations. Nearly every figure has areas that are under painted or over painted. Sometimes there are blobs and spatters of paint in the wrong spots. Mouths are almost never painted well. So, if your treasure has an absolutely perfect paint job, get worried. As an aside, I met a charming lady a few years ago, who painted figures for Grey Iron in near by Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, in the early 1940's. She really enjoyed looking over our Grey Iron collection and she was able to recall those figures that were easy to paint and those that were the most difficult. I really enjoyed watching her reminisce. Utilize a good quality black light but ALWAYS place a known, original figure of the same maker, and of the same pose if possible, beside the variant. This test disclosed no differences between the paint on my drum major with the short baton and a standard B213. I do not place much confidence in black light analysis but I have on a few occasions detected a repaint using this technique. Silver, gold and black colors are the most difficult colors to analyze via black light. Red "glows" most brightly but even old, leaded red can glow. It all has something to do with refraction of light if I remember my physics from almost 50 years ago.
- 4) Take digital or 35 mm close-up photos of all views of the variant including the bottom. Send a letter or email along with photos to one or more well-known Dimestore experts for their opinion. You may have to ship the item to them because even good photos may not be conclusive. Be sure to send return postage unless you want to risk having the expert add your variant to their collection. If one or more of the experts own or have seen a figure like your newly found variant, they may be able to tell you that you have found the 2nd or 3rd or 4th one known and you can buy a round at the next toy soldier show. If they cannot validate or invalidate your variant, you should place it in your display case as a mystery figure. I have sometimes had unidentified figures in my collection as I write this article and I hope I always have at least one mystery Dimestore to ponder and discuss with fellow collectors. Any ideas as to who made these?





"Mystery MOVING VAN 5-5/8"

5) If you are considering the purchase of a very rare figure such as a Barclay Legionnaire Flag bearer or a Tommy Toy Jack and Jill, and if you suspect that it may have been repaired, I suggest you befriend a local radiologist or manager of a medical imaging center. There are also metallurgical labs that x-ray ferrous and nonferrous metals for stress cracks, etc. that can determine if a figure has parts that have been glued, pinned or made of epoxy or resin as was the case for my B213. This test may cost you \$50- \$100 but that would be better than placing a very expensive figure in your collection that you later discover was repaired.

As time goes by and authentic figures are being squirreled away in collections, we can expect to see more and more repaired and repainted figures being offered for sale, especially the scarcer poses. And after more than 25 years of collecting over 2,500 figures and vehicles and selling 500 to 750 Dimestores each year for the last 15 years, I bought a bogus soldier. My B213 with the short baton is very prominently displayed in my collection to serve as a vivid reminder to practice all 5 of the above stated commandments, all the time. Good hunting...

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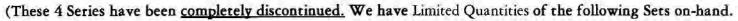
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AUCTION REVIEW

VECTIS FEBRUARY AUCTION REPORT By Rob Wilson

February 15th saw the most recent sale of Military and Civilian Figures organised by Vectis Auctions Ltd. Now firmly established in their new purpose built base in the Teesside in the North East corner of England, Vectis continue to attract a steady flow of major collections as well as many individual lots from all over the world.

Buyers can now bid "on-line", live on the internet. This is encouraging bidders from literally every corner of the globe. While there is no substitute for seeing the figures at first hand, this new option makes it much easier for people from more remote parts to take part in all Vectis's auctions. Unable to attend the sale in person, the author was one of many other bidders who chose to take part "on-line". While this is not quite as fast as bidding live in the room, Vectis appear to have got the technicalities sorted out and were able to achieve a selling rate of around 100-125 lots per hour, despite internet involvement in many bidding battles

This latest sale offered a comprehensive selection of toy figures, old and new, military and some civilian. Britains dominated but there were plenty of other manufacturers items on offer, including plastic and composition, as well as lead.

In total, over 800 lots were offered, the great bulk of which sold. At the top of the sale were a good selection of boxed Britains sets. Many of the lots were previously the proud possessions of the celebrated military author and artist Alan Kemp.

Competition for most lots was hot, although a few lots seemed to go "for a song". Part of the Alan Kemp collection included a very rare unlisted set 2013 Indian Army Mountain Artillery set in Review order, in its original box. This was knocked down for just £1,500 ((\$2,800) including commission, while a rare set 2014 US Marine Corps Band went for £450 (\$850). Clearly the poor exchange rate for the dollar from a US perspective has discouraged bids for that side of the Atlantic, but even so, these seem like bargains to this reviewer.

Many other lots attracted much fiercer competition. Some of the highlights included some Hugar military accessories such as set#1744 Machine Gun Emplacement; set# 1861 Camouflaged Field Emplacement and #1867 Open Type Field Shelter. The latter was eventually knocked down for over £1100 (almost \$2,100), well over the pre sale estimate.

Other highlights included a small selection of connoisseur figures by the famous French master Roger Berdou (according to John Garrett (and many others) the finest maker in the world. Over a dozen of his figures were sold, each one a unique work of art, constructed from hand made components and exquisitely painted. Perhaps surprisingly, individual figures sculpted by Alan Kemp himself attracted rather less interest, despite their exceptional quality. Given the passage of time, many lucky buyers may find that they have picked up a bargain

Modern connoisseur figures by some of the new Russian manufacturers also attracted considerable interest, as did examples of the output of many other modern manufacturers including King and Country, Frontline Tradition and many others including Britains.

In all another very successful sale for both buyers and vendors. The next one is scheduled for the 10th of May.



One of a number of Hugar items on offer: this one sold for £1100 plus commission.

AUCTION REVIEW (Cont.)



One of Roger Berdou's exquisite creations: this one sold for £240 excluding commission.



Britains set #2014 US Marine band with original box: "sold for a song".

JOE SAINE'S TOY SOLDIER AUCTION SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2005

In conjunction with the 2005 Winter Michigan Toy Soldier show, Joe Saine held another of his successful toy soldier auctions. Over 200 lots were offered, ranging from boxed Britains, Elastolin western figures, many dimestores, German flats, and newer manufacturers, Marlborough, Steadfast, and some gorgeous Russian Medallion and Grenada Studios pieces.

About 40 bidders were in attendance, with collectors and dealers from Michigan, Wisconsin, and Indiana competing against each other and many left bids for the offerings. One local collector asked me if most of the people there were dealers, as he observed that they all seemed to know each other. And it is true, the auction is a friendly and light hearted affair, with Joe offering running commentary trying to goad another bid out of the audience: "Buy this lot and become your own toy soldier mogul". And those in the seats giving back as well, especially when Joe tried to open one lot at "One million dollars..."

Bargains abounded, and some of the heaviest buyers appeared to be dealers stocking their shelves (as usual, many of the items that sold on Saturday turned up on the show tables on Sunday). Many of the items generated spirited bidding: a trio of Britains Coco cubs were fought over, 3 scratch built Pestanastyle river boats sailed into battle, and, the Russian military miniatures were bid high.

Of the 200 plus cataloged lots, there were only 12 no sales, for a 94 percent rate – good for any auction. I had over a dozen lots in the auction. Some went for a steal, while others went for much higher than I had anticipated. The auction is usually held on the Saturday before the Sunday show, same location – the Holiday Inn in Livonia, MI. So, whether you're clearing out or restocking your display case or show table, this auction is worth a look.

AUCTION PREVIEW

VECTIS AUCTION PREVIEW

The May 10th sale contains over 800 lots and includes items to suit all pockets & tastes. We again have a number of Britains Paris Office figures including Zouaves in Khaki & Chasseurs a Cheval in royal blue. An ultra rare Britains "set" of 1911 issue Territorials in blue with a mounted officer, a lot that is sure to attract a great deal of interest. Other Britains sets range from 1893 Dragoons to Fort Henry Guards from 1959, Vehicle & artillery enthusiasts will be pleased with an extensive array of such items.

This sale also has a superb composite section. This includes [apart from some mint figures & sets] a number of virtually mint vehicles [half track & trucks] & no less than 4 x Tipp & Co German Aircraft includ.ing the extremely rare ME110 with Mickey Mouse nose art.

A Cococubs Magazine from 1937 in mint condition, an enamel badge from the Cococub Club and an extremely rare Britains Trapeze Set complete within its original box and insert are included in the civilian section of lots.

Add to the above specialist sections containing ranges of: Heyde, Brigadier & plastics & we have another great sale lined up.





AUCTION PREVIEW

CHRISTIES AUCTION PREVIEW

Christies Auction House will hold their first Sunday Auction of Toy Soldier and Figures on Sunday June 26, 2005 at the South Kensington Salerooms in London.

The sale contains several important collections and features the Charles Biggs Britains collection.

Charles was for many years employed by Britains in London

The Biggs collection is an eclectic mix of items spanning many years and includes a number of proto types never marketed by the Britains Company.

Tractors are strongly featured and a number of rare color versions and prototypes are on offer, Deetail figures, prototype Space figures, Britains "B" Series sets in their original boxes and some rare early Britains sets in "B" series scale which were part of the main cataloged range are also featured (See Christies advertisement in this issue)

Original plaster master molds of the "Britains" or "Edwardian Family" are included and described as "Domestic set"

A large collection of Britains catalogs, early Herald catalogs and literature together with Charles Biggs own master file of Britains catalogs from 1951 to 1990 are a feature.

Many other historical items of





ephemera are included in the sale including Factory record books, Photographs, Display material and original drawings, which inspired some of the Britains products issued pre World War two.

Original drawings by Ernst Aris of the Cococub Range made for Cadburys are included as well as a wealth of reference material, prints and newspaper cuttings rescued from the factory.

A model of HM the Queen in Ball Gown made in 1953 by and presented to Charles by former Britians director Roy Selwyn Smith and a rare Madame Tussauds Bust mounted for display on a Bakelite plinth are include in the other unique items on offer.

This collection is for the Britains purist and a one off chance to obtain unique items never before offered to the general public

Other properties offered in the sale include a rare Britains set 313 Royal Artillery Gunners in Steel Helmets, a Britains trade box of 1 dozen Nestles Map of the World Cows as supplied to the animal welfare charity.

Contact Hugo Marsh at Christies for further details and catalogs (44) (0) 207 752 3274 or email hmarsh@christies.com

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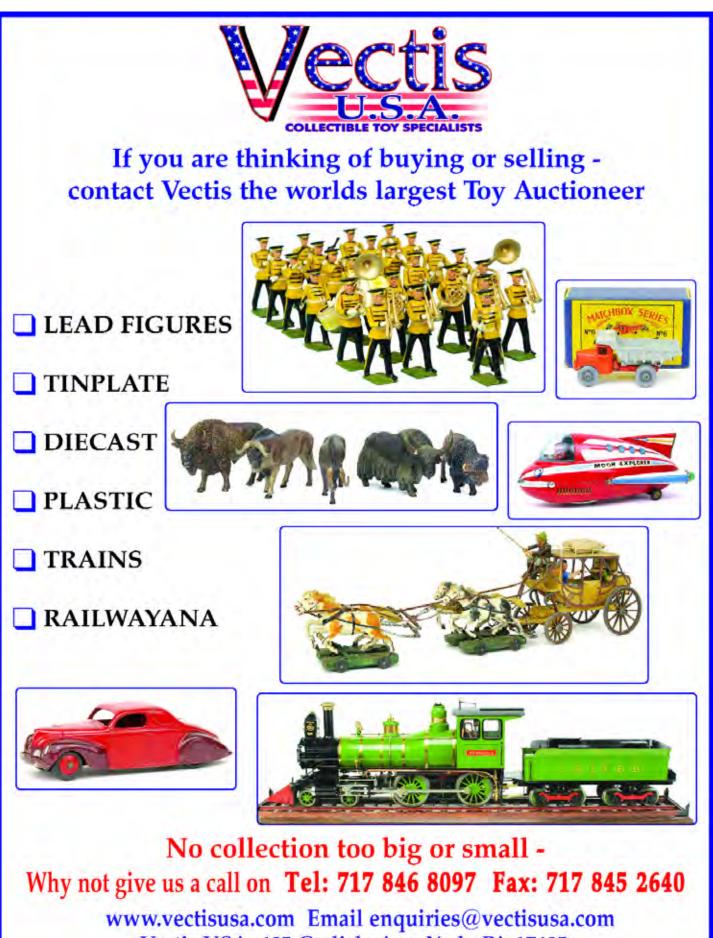
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BOOK REVIEW

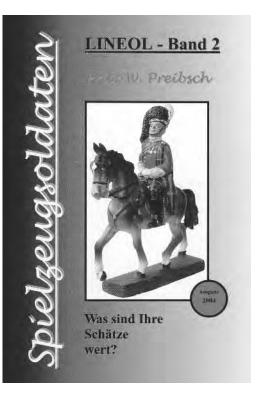
SPIELZEUGSOLDATEN LINEOL-BAND 2

By Fritz W. Preibsch Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

Fritz W. Preibsch continues his exlemperary examination of Lineol production in "Spielzeugsoldaten Lineol-Band 2". This latest work in the series concerning Lineol production is sure to please the most discriminating composition collector, while proving essential to the beginner.

"Band 2" utilizes the same successful format as its predecessor "Spielzeugsoldaten Lineol-Band 1", (see review in OTS Vol.28 No.2). Beneath the color photograph of each figure is an accompanying chart providing specific information on the date(s) of production, scale, current price and future value. This simple layout instantly provides the reader with all essential information and lends itself to easy comparison of data on similar figures, as each page depicts 3-5 pieces.

While "Band 1" focused on the German Army, Preibsch turns his investigative skills towards items of Lineol's more diverse production.



After the Introduction, (how to use this book), the author begins

by examining Lineol's interpretation of European armies. An astounding eighteen different nations are presented varying from a half page for the Greek Army to the nine pages required for Great Britain. The following chapter continues with the global theme as figures from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Cuba, Japan, Mexico and the US are shown.

The chapter on personality figures is, in my opinion the highlight of this book. An informative chart listing the figure, product number and scale is given at the beginning of this chapter. A total of thirty-six pages, text and photographs are dedicated to the study of this niche of Lineol production. A brief biography together with a black and white photograph of the individual is presented along with a photo and chart of their Lineol interpretation. Coverage of each famous, (or infamous) personality may be as brief as one page or extensive as four pages.

German political organizations, SS, SA and Hitler Youth are explored in the next chapter. Historically interwoven, Preibsch does an excellent job of categorizing and simplifying what can be a confusing genre of Lineol manufacture. A dizzying array of flags, banners, torchbearers, standards and especially musicians of each organization are presented in a clear, concise manner.

The final chapter covers figures representing various historical periods ranging from knights, heralds, kings, Frederick the Great and the Italian-Ethiopian War.

This softbound, 173 page book should be in every composition collectors' library. "Spielzeugsoldaten Lineol-Band 2", with German text, is extremely user friendly with hundreds of excellent color photographs and the accompanying easy to read charts. A vital reference book for both experienced and novice collector alike, "Band 2" is available from Michigan Toy Soldier Company.



Thank you to Fritz W. Preibsch who generously provided a copy for this review.

CONTACT INFORMATION Michigan Toy Soldier Company Web:www.michtoy.com EM:michigantoysoldier@home.com PH:1-248-586-1022

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Reviewed in OTS Fall 2000.

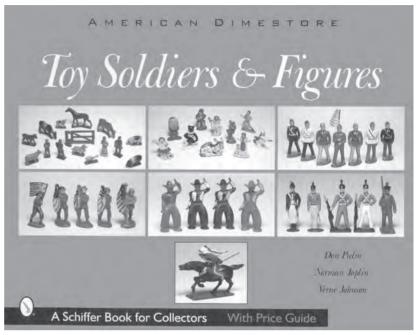
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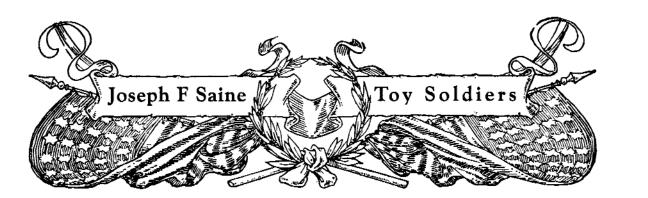
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WHERE BRITAINS WERE SOLD PRIOR TO 1967, PART II OUTSIDE THE U.S.A.

By Joe Wallis



"Store display 1949 La Platense SA. Montevideo Uruguay"

The following persons named stores outside the U.S.A. that sold Britains lead lines before 1967: George Betts, Brian Cornall, Larry Gibson, Ged Haley, Syd Hannah, Bill Ince, Norman Joplin, Lynn Kenwood, Stewart Saxe, Wesley Scott, Barrie Tassell, Rob Wilson, and Robin Yates.

THE UNITED KINGDOM

McCullough's Toys
Barley & Son (an early box)
Angus' Shop (had Picture Packs); Golliwog's Toys;
Thornton's Department Store
Beale's
Brown & Muffs; Busby's Department Store
Shufflebottoms and Watts Ltd.
Clapshaw & Cleave (The Brighton Sports and Games Depot)
Gyles Brothers (an early box)
Allders Department Store; Grant's
Worfolk's
The Toy Shop
Albert Bazaar (an early box); Forsythe's Department Store;
Frost's Department Store; Jenner's Department Store
Webber's Sports Depot
Clyde Model Dockyard; Fraser's Department Store
Doll Hospital
Cowell's Department Store; Curries; Footman's Department Store
Harris' Toy Shop
Arcade Toy Shop

WHERE BRITAINS WERE SOLD PRIOR TO 1967 (Cont.)

London, U.K.

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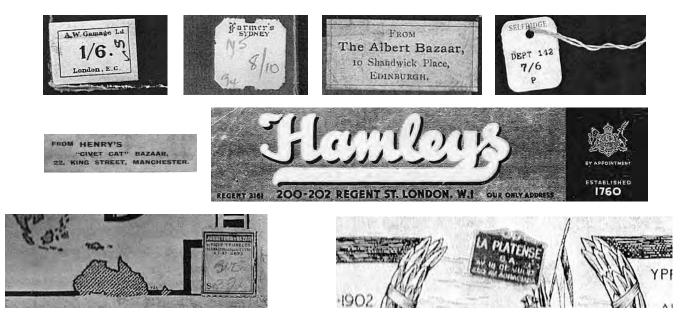
Sydney, Australia

Christchurch, New Zealand Johannesburg, South Africa Nassau, Bahamas Brandon, Manitoba, Canada Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Fort Henry, Ontario, Canada Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada Montreal, Quebec, Canada Betefink's; R.A. Bradley Stationers; Burlington Arcade; A.W. Gamage's Hobbies; Gamley's Toys; Hamley's Toys; Harrod's Department Store; Morris' Toys; F. Passmore Shop; Selfridge's Department Store; Wisbey's Bazaar (Stoke Newington) Hannant's Toy Shop Henry's Toy Shop Alfred & Warner Department Store; Boydell's Toys; Fenwicks Elliston & Cavell Department Store Slater's Toyshop; Snowden's Toyshop Messenger's

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

The Hobby Shop; Tim the Toy Man T.C. Beirne Department Store; Chermside Photographic & Hobby Centre: David Jones Department Store: McWhirter's Department Store: Swift's Hobbies Tate's Toy Shop, Georges Department Store: Meadmore Model Engineering Company: Myer's Department Store; Small's Toy Shop; Tim the Toy Man Shop Farmer's Department Store; Grace Brothers Department Store; Hobbyco for Toys; Anthony Hordern's Department Store; David Jones Department Store; Levenson's Toys; Herbert Small's Camera Shop; Walther & Stevenson Ltd. Whitcombe's Toys Greaterman's Department Store Central Drug Store Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department Store Ashdown's Hardware Store: Eaton's Department Store: Hudson's Bay Company Department Store; Osborne's Book Store Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department Store Fort Henry Gift Shop Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department Store Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department Store; Simpson's Department Store



WHERE BRITAINS WERE SOLD PRIOR TO 1967 (Cont.)

Red Deer, Alberta, Canada	Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department Store
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada	Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department Store
St. Catherines, Ontario, Canada	Coy's Hardware Store
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada	Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department Store
Toronto, Ontario, Canada	Bloor Street Gift & Toy Shop; Bob Wallace Hobby Craft Supplies;
	Eaton's Department Store; Simpson's Department Store;
	Wellington's Hobby Shop (Weston, Ontario)
Vancouver, British Columbia Canada	Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department
	Store; Simpson's Department Store
Victoria, British Columbia Canada	Barber and Holcroft's Shop
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada	Eaton's Department Store; Hudson's Bay Company Department Store

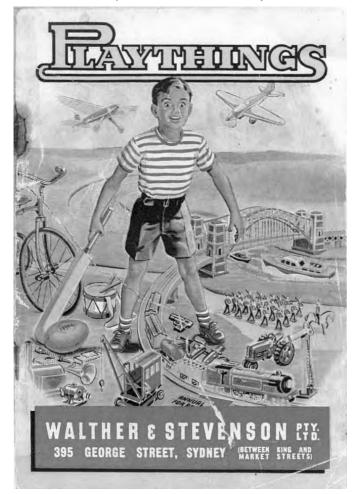
EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA

Dublin, Ireland Marseille, France Paris, France

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Santiago, Chile Montevideo, Uruguay Grafton Street Bazaar (an early box) Nouvelles Galeries Au Bon Marche; Au Louvres Paris; Aux Trois Quartiers; Maison Bail; Old England; Printemps; Samaritaine De Pique Y Furelos Jugeteria; Gath é Chaves Ltd.; Harrod's Department Store Gath é Chaves Ltd. La Platense S.A.

If you can add to this list, please e-mail me at joewallis@comcast.net.



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THE DURSO COMPANY "BELGIAN POLICE" By Vincent J. Russo and Patrice Servais

Introduction

Michel Klimov, the founder and owner of The Durso Company (Liege Belgium 1938-1988) always remained true to his "credo" that realism and accuracy in the poses, uniforms, and colors of his composition figures were of the utmost importance. In this article, the Authors will show that his portrayal of Belgian "Police" figures fully adhered to this practice.

In a previous article we reported that on August 8, 1938, the "State Police" were ultimately chosen to be the official "Escort of the Belgian Royalty" (Escorte Royale de la Gendarmerie).

This article will delve deeper into the formation and functions of The Belgian "Police" and "State Police", and how the Durso Company depicted these organizations.

Background

The Belgian "Police" and "State Police" Departments were created to maintain order. The Police were responsible for the security of its particular city or township, while The State Police (Gendarmerie) jurisdiction covered the entire country. There was also a 3rd Department, The "Judicial Police", who functioned within the Justice Department.

At the outset, The State Police followed more in the organization and protocol of the Army rather than The Police. For example, a Captain in The Police Force was required to salute a Captain in The State Police, even though their "ranks" were the same.

The makeup of The Belgian Police Forces changed drastically under "The Reform", implemented in 2001. This Reform consisted of three major changes. The first change under "The Reform" was to merge the three Police Forces into a single organization. Next was the formation of the Police "Federal Council" and then the implementation of The Police "Federal Plan".

Transition

As we have stated, prior to 2001, Belgium had three distinct Police organizations.

The local Police consisted of 16,000 agents located in 589 separate local sites. The State Police numbered 17,000 men spread over 427 territorial brigades. In addition there was a national force of "anti-riot" police on standby, who were called into service in case of protests, strikes, or other demonstrations. Finally, there were 1,400 inspectors of The Judicial Police, distributed over 22 judicial precincts.

Each of these three "Services" had its own separate policy maker. For the Police, it was the local Burgomaster (Mayor), for The State Police, it was The Ministers of The Interior, and for The Judicial Police, it was The Justice Department.

Results

After The "Reform", The Belgian Government now has a "unified" body of 35,000 Agents, organized into one entity and following the same set of statutes. There are two Divisions in this new organization, The National Police numbering 11,000, and Local Police positioned in 200 locations across the country account for the balance. (All members of the prior Judicial Police were absorbed into The National Police).

This new Police Organization is under the head of a General Commissioner and its "policies and direction" is provided by the Interior Minister.

The "Reform" succeeded in combining the maintenance of order and judicial tasks into one united body.

The "Durso" Police

Michel Klimov and The Durso Company started to produce figures of The Belgian Police essentially from the very beginning of the company's existence.

We can find figures of Police with Fabrication Belge" embossed under their "square" base (1937-1938), that were made by Michel Klimov.



"Fabrication Belge" Police

THE DURSO COMPANY "BELGIAN POLICE" (Cont.)

Then, once The Durso Company was officially established in 1938, several different poses of "Police" were introduced in 1939.

During the 1939-1941 time frame, Durso also produced many figures of the early "State Police".

Durso sometime produced similar figures in slightly different poses, utilizing the same catalog number.

In the 1950's Durso changed from "square" bases to "rounded" bases, again using the same catalog number. An example of this (along with the evolution of the uniform, which was always evident in Mr. Klimov's figures) is depicted in these State Police poses.

For some reason, once a figure was permanently discontinued, the same catalog number was used again. This occurred even though the figures were drastically different. For example, No. 258 produced in 1939 was a State Policeman on a bicycle (see chart), but then in 1959 a figure of a Traffic Policeman in a yellow cape was produced with the same catalog number of 258. It is interesting to note that this practice was also followed by German and Italian Manufacturers.

Note that the Policeman with the white cap, shown in photo #9, produced in 1950 shares the same catalog number with The

Policeman in white pants produced in 1939. Evidence of how The Durso Company adhered to its policy of absolute realism when uniforms changed is most evident by The "State Police" figures produced in 1959.

To round out a series of 5cm figures, these Police and State Police figures were introduced in 1947.

To complete our analysis of The Belgian Police and State Police figures produced by The Durso Company, we are including (for the convenience of our readers), the following charts.



256 – Policeman with white helmet and cloak (2 different arm positions)



left - 240 – State Police (1939) right - 240 – State Police (1952)



255 – Policeman (white pants) 256 – Policeman (dark pants)



257 – Policeman on Motorcycle



241 – Mounted State Policeman, in coat 242 – Mounted State Police Officer, in coat



254 – State Police, in coat 258 – State Police on bicycle

268a – State Police on Motorcycle



255 – Policeman with white cap 258 – Policeman with yellow cap



THE DURSO COMPANY "BELGIAN POLICE" (Cont.)



242 – Traffic Policeman



268b – State Police on Motorcycle



9050 – Policeman with Arm Raised 9061 – State Police (Gendarmerie) 9051 – Policeman Directing Traffic

		State Police
Catalog No.	<u>Year</u>	Description
240	1939	Marching with Rifle Slung (square base)
240	1952	Marching with Rifle Slung (rounded base)
241	1939	Policeman on Horse, with coat
242	1939	Officer on Horse, with coat
242	1959	State Traffic Policeman
254	1941	State Police Marching, with coat
258	1939	State Police on Bicycle
268	1939	State Police on Motorcycle (a)
268	1959	State Police on Motorcycle (b)

Police

Catalog No.	Year	Description
255	1939	Policeman, white helmet, white pants
255	1950	Policeman with cap
256	1939	Policeman, white helmet, dark pants
256	1945	Policeman, white helmet, cape (a)
256	1945	Policeman, white helmet, cape (b)
257	1939	Policeman on Bicycle
258	1959	Policeman with yellow cape
259	1944	Policeman Marching
267	1939	Policeman on Motorcycle
9004	1939	Dutch Policeman with cap

Conclusion

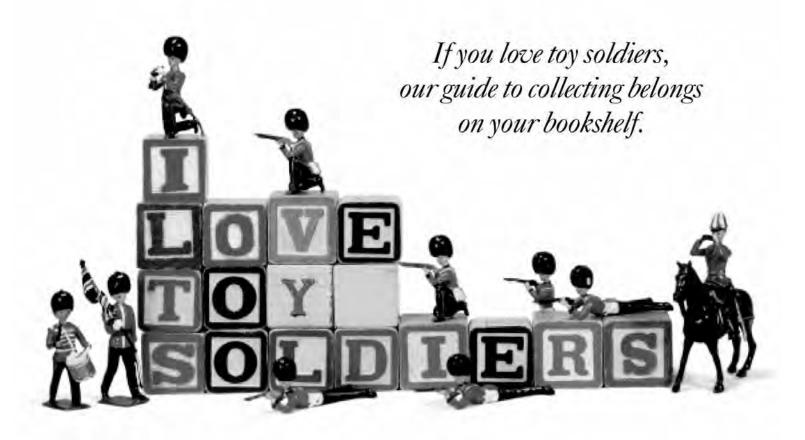
The Authors, once again, want to thank "Old Toy Soldier" for giving us the opportunity to contribute to this fine magazine. We invite our many readers to visit The Durso website at: http://durso.stools.net

Acknowledgement

Photos by Veronique Servais

Editors 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 76 of this magazine issue.





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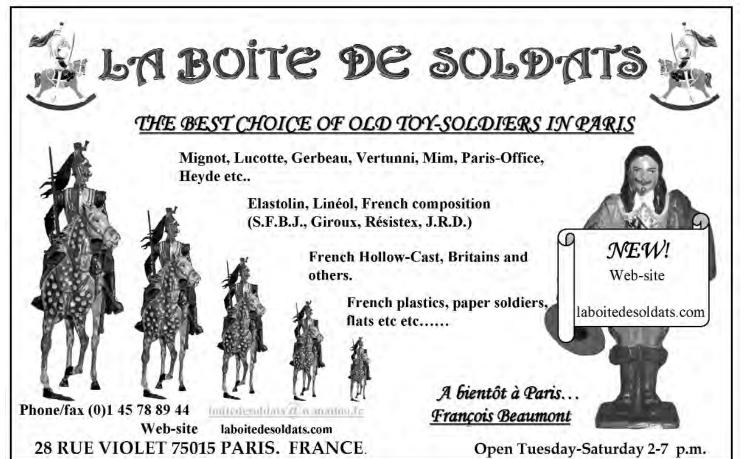
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CARNIVAL CHALKWARE

By Barry Josephs

After several unproductive hours searching a large antique show for quality toy soldiers, I walked by a booth containing a variety of chalkware figures. One of these items was a 15 inch tall brightly painted saluting soldier that I vaguely remembered from the amusement parks of the 1940s. He was an instant buy and I had rocketed into a new direction in my toy soldier collecting.

These military figures were produced during World War 2 and given away as games of skill prizes at such parks as Savin Rock, in West Haven, Ct. and Coney Island in Brooklyn,N.Y. They are somewhat hard to find in collectible condition today because their size and the brittleness of the material make them very prone to breakage.

My figures average 14 inches in height and have been airbrushed with a variety of military colors. Some even have a little of the original glitter remaining after 60 years. The tall M.P. with the ammo belt is marked W. Lindner Pacini N.S. Co. This is the soldier who appears on the cover of the Fall 2001 edition of this magazine. The others are all from a different manufacturer but are unmarked. Perhaps someone can help with additional information as to their origin.

The military figures of interest to me as well as the myriad of other subject matter of that era are referred to as Carnival Chalkware in today's collectible jargon. Chalkware is really a calcinated gypsum (calcium sulfate) powder commonly known as plaster of paris. When properly mixed with water it can be poured into a mold to produce a solid cast. Tons of gypsum are used annually by dentists for making prosthetic replicas of the teeth.

Miller and Slik-Toy both produced 5¹/₂" plaster soldiers in the early 1950s. Please see pp 270 and 278 of Collecting American Made Toy Soldiers for Richard O'Brien's excellent description of the manufacture of this type of figures. Many of my figures are included in the outstanding publication entitled Homefront Collectibles by Martin Jacobs.

These figures show up occasionally at antique shows and on the internet auctions. A few chips are acceptable but broken figures or those with faded paint do not display well. If you get one over the internet ask the shipper for extra careful packing to prevent damage.





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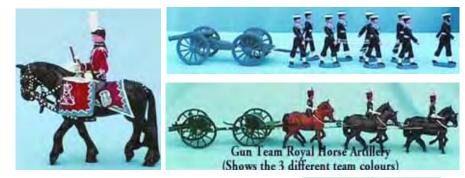
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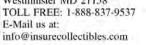
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The pictures all show second grade figures consisting of

- 2 Scots Greys 65P
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- 1 Hussar 68P
- 2 Infantry of the Line 43P
- 2 Standing firing fort guards 58P
- 3 Kneeling firing fort guards 59P
- 2 Lying firing fort guards 60P
- 2 Standing firing highlanders 123P
- 2 Kneeling firing highlanders 124P
- 2 Lying firing highlanders 125P
- 1-25 Pdr Howitzer 2026





I have found two boxed sets, one bearing the number 3/86 and one 2/11, other than the number, the sets appear to be the same. The boxes are heavy brown card stock with yellow labels and black printing.

During Christmas gift season the downtown Toronto store carried a selection of first grade sets, including picture pacs. The mail order purchaser had to settle for a set in a near wholesale quality box or one of the plastic playsets also on offer.

In the three years it appeared the price climbed from \$1.69 to \$1.89 and finally \$1.98. These prices were probably higher than purchasing the same figures and gun from the bulk bins at *Woolworths*.

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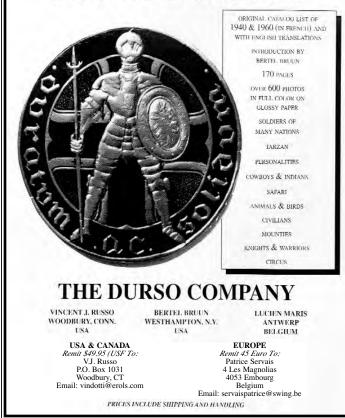
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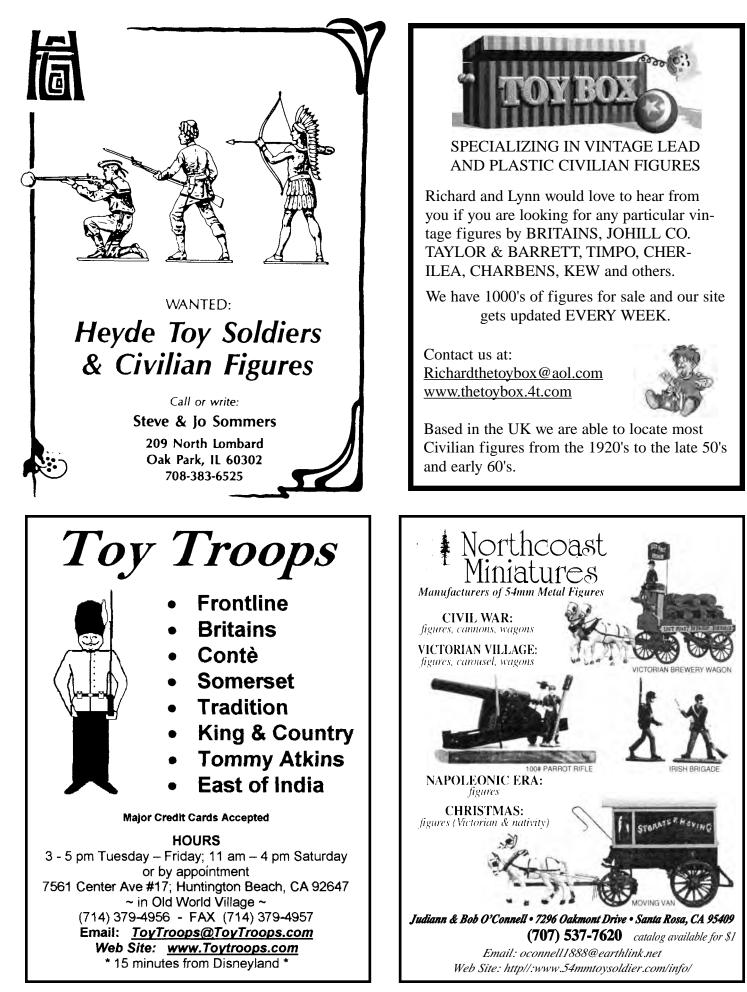
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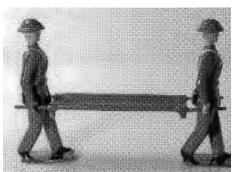
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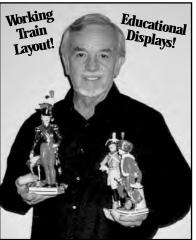
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DIMESTORE UPDATE NEW WILLIAM FEIX(?) & 1939 BARCLAY By Richard O'Brien

Recently, a Fall, 1915 Butler Bros. catalog turned up at auction. I asked the seller to send me a scan of any metal toy soldiers that might be in it. She did, and I promptly bid.

The single scan was very blurry, but what it seemed to show was six sets (five of them previously unknown) by the very early American toy-soldier maker William Feix. Though I couldn't be sure because of the blurriness, one of the headlines under the top set at right seemed to say Soldiers and Indians. This was intriguing in an odd way, as I assumed it would consist of Feix's Indians and its early troops in their helmet-like headgear.

Instead, when the catalog arrived, I was initially disappointed. I'd read the headline correctly, but the illustration showed no Indians. However, that let-down quickly disappeared as I found myself more and more intrigued by what I found on the page. Experts in early American soldiers like Bill Nutting, Will Beierwaltes and Bill O'Brien had used their cultivated eyes to add to likely Feix production based on a 1903 illustrated Feix ad I'd found and similar types they'd run across. After a lapse of several years, it seemed likely that was pretty much all we'd ever find re Feix's soldiers. Instead, with this find, three of the six sets seemed to be showing us a whole new range plus an important addition to an old one. A fourth suggested a paint variation and perhaps a new figure.

One can be pretty certain the top two at left in the illustration shown are from Feix. The soldiers on top are the same types shown in Feix's 1903 ad. The second set, like the one above it, has what seems to be a flag unique to Feix; one with a spear-like tip. However, that lower set has soldiers not previously attributed to the Brooklyn soldiermaker; five Volunteers in the on guard position.

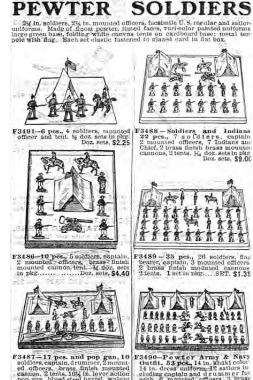
Now for the top two sets at the right: the foot figures all appear to have flat-topped caps, apparel not previously attributed to Feix. There are three types; On Guard, Flag Bearer, Drummer.

Finally, in the bottom set at right the sailors seem to be painted dark blue, unlike those I've shown in my books, and one of them (it's hard to tell by the drawing) may be a flag bearer.

Is this all Feix? Well, the flag-tips in four of the sets are too small to tell if they're Feixlike. However, the cannon which are seen in profile in three of the sets are the types associated so far only with William Feix, the Christies and George Grampp. The Christies weren't making soldiers in 1915 and Grampp's figures bear no resemblance to the ones Feix turned out. The cannon in the two sets at bottom right are seen from overhead, but they bear the same descriptions as those in the other three: "brass finish mounted" .

Okay, collectors. Do any of you have pieces that seem to fit here? And two final notes: this is the first time a Feix set has been seen furnished with a pop gun, like those seen in American Soldier Company boxes. So could this be American Soldier? Absolutely not. No mention of a tray!

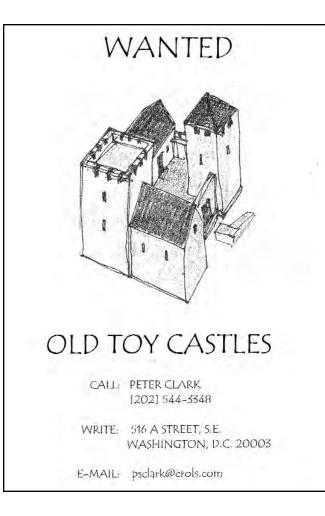
A 1939-40 Shackman's catalog has emerged. The former owner of Shackman's has told me his firm would add new Barclays as soon as they were available (not all of them, alas). Thus this catalog helps to confirm that Barclay's large civilian line (the ones mainly in mufti; not the cop, fireman, Scouts) began in 1939. Here are the Boy, the Conductor, the Engineer, the Girl, the Man, the Porter, the Red Cap and the Woman. And, on a separate page devoted to Wedding Favors, the Bride and Groom. Also apparently new that year is a paint variation, the Masked Rider on Horse. As with all but one of Shackman's catalogs, only Barclay's figures appear; Tootsietoy got all of Shackman's attention in the aircraft and vehicles department.

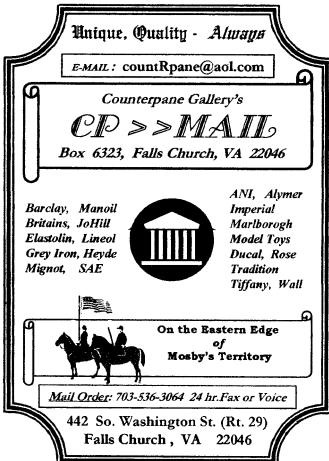


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May 6 Friday and May 7 Saturday 64th Miniature Figure Collectors Show and Mart. Contact Dennis Levy 865 665 8909.

May 14 - Saturday. Virginia War Museum Toy Soldier Show. 9285 Warwick Boulevard. Newport News, Virginia 23607 Contacy Colin Romanick 757 247 8523 Email aromanick@nngov.com

May 14 - Saturday. 7th Springfield Toy Soldier Show.10am-2pm Holiday Inn Express. 6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, VA. Contact Donald Case Telephone 248 335 5626. Email dsptoysoldiers@aol.com

May 15 - Sunday. Ohio Toy Soldier Show Holiday Inn Hudson, RT 8 and Ohio Turnpike, Hudson Ohio. 10am –3pm Contact Doug McClure PO Box 17 Medina, Ohio 44258, Telephone 330 722 6751 Email dmcclure1@zooninternet.net

May 18 - Wednesday. Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Montpelier Street, Knightsbridge, London. Contact Leigh Gotch Telephone 44(0) 207 313 3137 Email leigh.gotch@bonhams.com

June 11 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London. Contact 44(0) 1329 233141. Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com

June 11 - Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale. Annandale VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale, Virginia. Contact Bill Harlowe 703 878 2922 or Ed Greis 201 342 6475

June 12- Sunday. Spring Edition, New Jersey Toy Soldier, Military Miniature Figure Show and Sale. Holiday Inn, 283 Route 17 South, Hasbrook Heights. New Jersey Contact 201 342 6475

June 25 - Saturday. Antique and Collectible Toy And Doll Show Chicago Toy Show. Kane County Fairgrounds, St Charles. Illinois. 12noon to 6pm. Contact 708.457.3888 www.chicagotoyshow.com

June 26 – Sunday. Christies first Sunday auction of Toy Soldiers and Figures featuring the Charles Biggs Britains Collection. 85 Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, London . Contact Hugo Marsh (44) (0) 207 752 3274 Email hmarsh@christies.com

July 16 – Saturday. British Model Soldier Society Platinum Show. 10am –4pm. Royal National Hotel, Russell Square. London. Contact bmss.support@btinternet.com

July 17 – Sunday. Third Annual Detroit Toy Soldier Figure Summer Show& Red Arrow Militaria Show, 9am-4pm. Holiday Inn Livonia (Metro District) I-275 and 6 mile exit. Contact info@michtoy.com www.michtoy.com

August 13 – Saturday. 13th Annual Southeast Toy Soldier Show and sale 10am-4pm. The State Museum, Gervais Street Columbia, South Carolina, Contact Dennis Fontana 803 419 6747

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August 27 – Saturday. Dan Morphy's. Antique, Toy, Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show. York Fairgrounds Expo Center, West Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. Contact Dan Morphy 717 335 3435 E Mail danmorphy@dejazzd.com

August 28 - Sunday. The Hudson Valley Regional Toy Soldier, Military Miniature and Figure Show and Sale. 9 am–3 pm The Tarrytown Hilton Hotel 455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

August 28 – Sunday. The Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale. Hotel Adria. 221-17 Northern Boulvard, Blyside, New York Contact 210 342 6475

September 6 - Tuesday. Vectis Auctions Toy Soldiers and Figures. Teeside England Contact Email admin@vectis.co.uk. Telephone 44+ 1642 750616.Fax 44+ 01642 769478 see advertisement in this issue.

September 10 - Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show. 10.30am-4pm. Royal National Hotel, King Edward and Queen Alexandra Suites, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London. Contact Norman Joplin 262 692 3857 Email info@normanjoplin.com

September 11 - Sunday. Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale.9am-3pm Adria Hotel, 221-17 Northern Boulevard, Bayside, NY. Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

September 25 - Sunday. OTSN 25th Chicago Toy Soldier Show Contact Don Pielin 630-497-1239

October 6 – Thursday. Christies Auction of Toy Soldiers and Figures. 85 Old Brompton Road, South Kensington London Contact Hugo Marsh (44) (0) 207 752 3274 Email hmarsh@christies.com

October 15 - Saturday. 8th Springfield Toy Soldier Show.10am-2pm Holiday Inn Express. 6401 Brandon Avenue, Springfield, VA. Contact Donald Case Telephone 248 335 5626. Email dsptoysoldiers@aol.com

October 16 - Sunday. North East Toy Soldier Society Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Dedham, Massachusetts. Contact Arley Pett 978-283-2613

October 16 - Sunday. 10 am - 3 pm Pacific Northwest Toy Soldier Show. Lake City Community Center, Seatle. Contact Bob Bailey 425-867-9314.

October 29 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale 1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA Contact Jim Hillestad Telephone 570 629 7227 Email jimhill@ptd.net www.the-toy-soldier.com

October 30 - Sunday. 23rd Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show, Farleigh Dickinson University, Hackensack Email bill@vintagecastings.com 973-831-8900

November 6 – Sunday. Sixth Annual Toy Soldier Show, Cantigny Park and Museum, Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois Contact Nick Albanese. 920 261 1323 E Mail camprandall@charter.net

TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2005 (cont.)

November 13 - Sunday. The Hudson Valley Regional Toy Soldier, Military Miniature Figure Show and Sale. 9am - 3pm The Tarrytown Hilton Hotel.455 South Broadway, Tarrytown, NY Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

November 20 - Sunday. Annual Pennsylvania Toy Soldier, Militaria, and Miniature Figure Show 9am-3pm Sheraton Bucks County Hotel. 400 Oxford Valley Road, Langhorn, Pennsylvania. Contact Ed Greis 201 342 6475

November 27 - Saturday. 4th Bloomfield Toy Soldier Show 10am-3pm Marriott Hotel. 3600 Centerpoint Parkway, Pontiac, Michigan. Contact Donald Case Telephone 248 335 5626. Email dsptoysoldiers@aol.com

December 1 – Thursday Christies Auction of Toy Soldiers and Figures. 85 Old Brompton Road, South Kensington, London. Contact Hugo Marsh (44) (0) 207 752 3274 E Mail hmarsh@christies.com

December 3 - Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier Show and Sale. Annandale, Virginia. VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike. Annandale, Virginia. Contact Bill Harlowe 703 878 2922 or Ed Greis 201 342 6475

December 3 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London. Contact 44(0) 1329 233141. Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com

December 13 - Tuesday. Vectis Auctions Toy Soldiers and Figures. Vectis Auctions. Toy Soldiers and Figures, teeside England Contact Email admin@vectis.co.uk. Telephone 44 +1642 750616 Fax 44+1642 769478 see advertisement in this issue.

December 18 - Sunday. Empire State Toy Soldier Show and Sale.9am-3pm Hotel Adria, 221-17 Northern Boulevard, Bayside, NY Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

<u>2006</u>

January 29 – Sunday. 12th Annual Detroit Toy Soldier and Figure Show & 7th Annual Michigan Historical Miniature Club Show and Competition. 9am-4pm Holiday Inn ,Livonia (Metro District) I-275 and 6mile exit. Contact info@michtoy.com www.michtoy.com

April 23. North East Toy Soldier Society Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Dedham, Massachusetts. Contact Arley Pett 978-283-2613

September 2 – Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show (UK) 10.30am - 4pm. King Edward and Queen Alexandra Suites, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London. Contact Norman Joplin. Telephone (01) (44) 262 692 3857.email info@normanjoplin.com

October 15. North East Toy Soldier Society Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Dedham, Massachusetts. Contact Arley Pett 978-283-2613

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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