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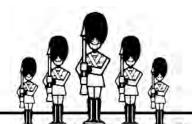


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ON THE COVER

Trico - Japanese Composition

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KING & COUNTRY'S BARBARIANS ES FR BAR007 Slasning Warrior" About to strike a blow this

n Ancient Rome BARBARIAN was a term of abuse. An insult. The Romans used it to describe all those living outside its imperial borders. These Barbarians were seen as wild savages to be subdued at best and feared at worst... The very term "barbarian" is derived from the Latin word for beard or unshaven... "barba".

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KING & COUNTRY

and Gauls several

07

years ago. ENTER THE DRAGON...

King & Country's new "Barbarians" are up and running and ... looking for a fight!

BAR001 "A Mounted Chieftain" who bears more than a passing resemblance to Sean Connery. This mounted warrior carries the traditional flowing dragon snake BAROOT

banner and with several B A R 0 0 2 running A hand... long cruel BAR003 and Shield". Posed looking for a victim.

BAR011

BAR004 Fighting a captured Roman mail vest this Gallic Chieftain has already dispatched at least one of his Roman enemies. BAR005 "Charge!". This

warrior rushes forward, his the ready.

long lance at BAROOS "Gruesome

Trophies' Another tribesman attacks - his shield and banner adorned with the heads of his fallen enemies.

BAROOS

has decorated his horse

axe held aloft .

chain,

Attacking with Axe".

tribesman shield in one

Attacking with Sword

ready for battle and

Chief", Wearing

severed heads!

KING & COUNTRY

Warrior With sword BAR009 Wolfshead Over his captured Roman helmet this warrior has draped his wolf pelt complete with

warrior has a captured Roman dagger on his

BAROOS Rimming

and shield yet

another warrior rushes into the attack.

bell.

wolfshead. BAR010 Hacking Warrior With his richly decorated shield and colourful helmet, this particular tribesman makes striking a impression. BAR011 Barbarian Trampeter With this

strange looking instrument an ancient warrior could signal his comrades as well as instil fear in his enemies. BAR012 "No Mercy An unlucky Roman Legionary has fallen alive into the hands of this warrior **BAR012** he is about to meet his Gods! Available wherever fine quality miniatures

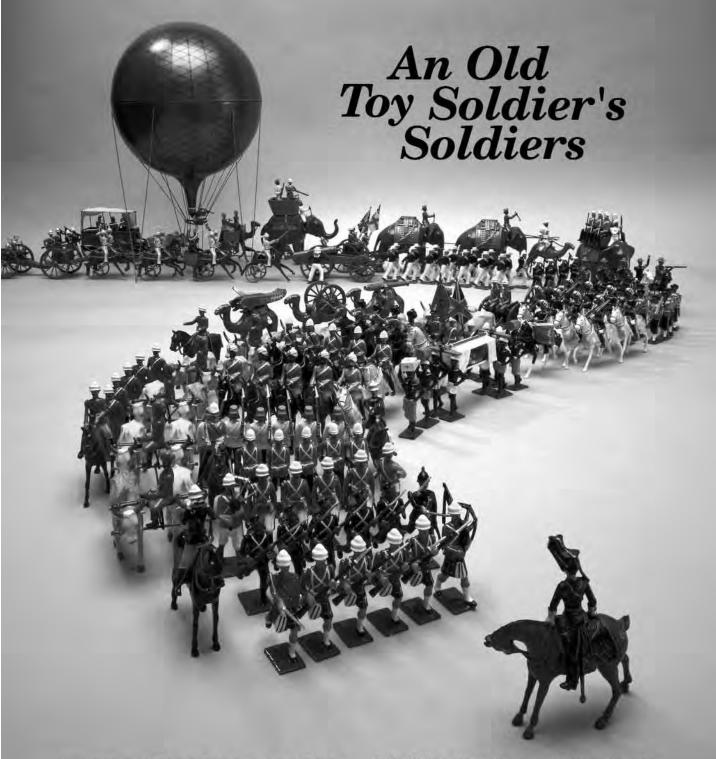
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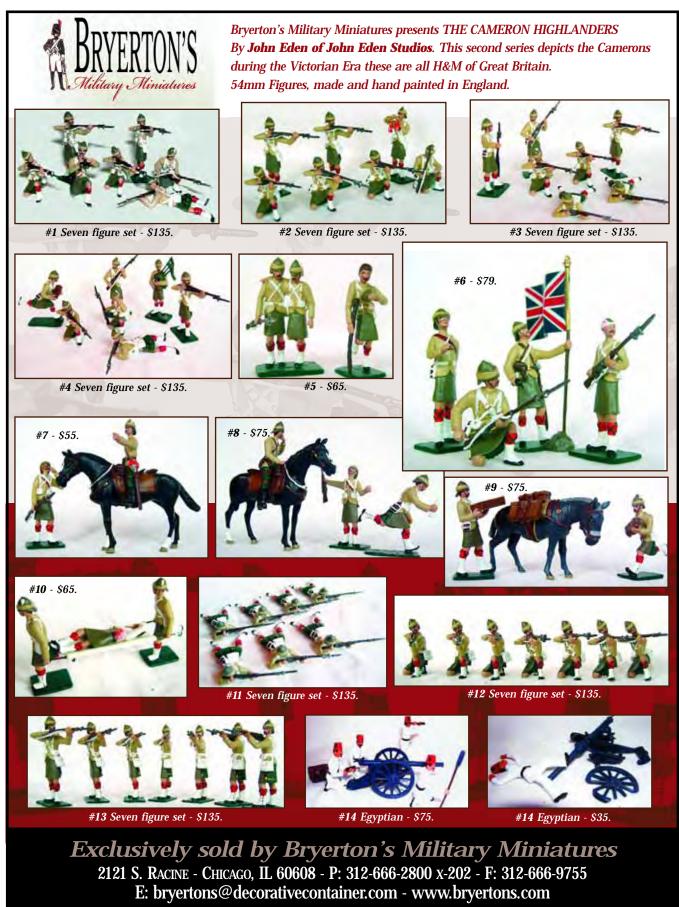
Time was a toy soldier knew what it meant to be a toy soldier. All spit and polish, bright shiny uniform, lean and rugged, big pink cheeks, manual-of-arms, upright and proper even in the din of battle. Most new toy soldiers - a sorry lot. No group discipline, dull and wrinkled uniforms - refugees from 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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TRICO; Japanese Pre-war Composition The Large and Extra-Large Size Military Figures

By Will Beierwaltes and Joseph Touhill

In the years preceding the second World War, the great depression severely afflicted America, changing the way most consumers considered how and what they bought, and to evaluate the value in every purchase. This mentality certainly included buying toys, especially if you were a child. Many of the expensive high quality European toy soldiers of the time became an unobtainable dream, and the void was filled by cheaper domestic and Japanese copies which tried to evoke the 'élan of the European toys without the high price. Even the popular American Dime Store figures of Barclay, Manoil and Grey Iron were stylized and uniquely American metal copies of the contemporary German composition figures of Elastolin and Lineol. In this period immediately before the war, a considerable number and variety of Japanese-made toy soldiers were also sold in the American toy market. Low Asian production costs enabled these imports to be offered at very affordable prices, and while usually sacrificing quality and accuracy, the opportunity for volume became the foundation of a nursery room military build-up in the pre-war era.

In general, pre-war Japanese-made toy soldiers were marketed through inexpensive shops, primarily the Dimestores. Unlike the individual soldiers from the American makers, the Japanese figures were generally sold in sets packaged in dull, flimsy boxes. Very little is known about any of these companies, or even their importers from the era. Attempts to get Japanese collectors to look into soldier manufacturing in this era by the authors and others have uniformly ended up as fruitless quests, but it is likely soldiers were production runs from within a larger conglomerate so that the actual company history is obscured within the diversity of Japanese manufacturing in this era. Japanese production of toy soldiers utilized all possible materials including metal, rubber, ceramics (often bisque) and even celluloid. One of the best known, most prolific and uniquely endearing of these companies is known to us only as "Trico."

Trico produced American soldiers in "composition," which is generally a combination of sawdust, casein and glue paste forced into a metal mould over a wire armature, and then baked to hardness. Composition has the desirable characteristics of being pretty durable, very light and an excellent surface to take paint. Trico was quite unabashed in their attempts to style their figures after the famous German and Austrian composition soldiers of Elastolin, Lineol and Pfeiffer in style and scale, but stuck to primarily American themes (perhaps due to their US marketing focus). Trico composition toy soldiers may have been the most numerous Japanesemade toy soldiers sold in America during the pre-war era, as their rather abundant survival in collections today is a testament to their original popularity as well as their ruggedness in the hands of eager children.

Interestingly, they seemed to have developed a very hardy material and tend to survive better than their German counterparts. They are moulded over wire skeletons just as the European composition figures are, but for some reason are not prone to the cracks and separations so commonly seen in the German figures when moisture expands and contracts the composition over the ridged wire. We know little today about the origins of Trico's. In his book "Collecting American-Made Toy Soldiers," Richard O'Brian suggests that Trico figures were made in the city of Nagoya in central Honshu, but that they were made to the specifications of a New York-based importer¹. He also suggests that the name "Trico" may have stood for "Tri-Company" reflecting the three owners¹. Langfelder, Homma and Hayward of 915 Broadway, New York City, who placed an import advertisement in the January 1933 issue of "Playthings" magazine². The advertisement announced "soldiers, sailors, marines and cavalry; something entirely new in soldiers and soldier sets from our famous Nagoya factory." The advertisement is complemented with a photo of a boxed set of 11 marching Trico Sailors including a mounted officer. They also note improved or new lines of paper toys, puzzles, mechanical and wooden toys, celluloid dolls and other novelties. Beyond that, most of what we know about Trico, or likely will ever know, must be deduced from the surviving figures and boxes, some



Langfelder, Homma and Hayward advertisement

TRICO; Japanese Pre-war Composition (Cont.)

meager references in an old catalogue and advertisements, and the shaky memories of a few veteran collectors.

Like their German counterparts, Trico figures were produced in various scales. Basically, they produced figures in 4 scales (see **Figure #1**), loosely based on the German formats. 'These include, when measuring from the table surface (despite the thick base) to the top of the head (not including headgear): a rather heroic (Pfeiffer-like) extra-large size of 5.5" or 14 cm, which we shall refer to as "size-1," a large size of 4.5" or 10.5 cm or "size-2", a small size of 2.875" or 7.5 cm (hereafter designated size-3), and a smaller size of 1.5" or 4 cm, or "size-4." The sculpting lends itself to a certain lack of uniformity so a few inconsistencies in accuracy of these scales will be found within the lines, especially among marching flag-bearers and cavalrymen.

This article will focus on the military figures in the two larger sizes, size-1 and size-2. However, it should be noted that Trico had a more extensive line, which included a diverse array of American military figures and poses in size-3. They also produced perfectly delightful and far more colorful cowboys and Indians (with additional horses) in both size 1 and size 2 scales, a size-1 set of the Christmas Nativity scene and a set of railroad personnel loosely copied from the Johillco metal production for Lionel in both size-2 and again uniquely in size-4 (roughly O-gauge). Trico also produced in a variety of smaller and less consistent scale military and civilian composition or paper mache buildings (with red cellophane in their windows and a hole for a Christmas light), trees and vehicles.

In general, all the size-1 and size-2 military figures (except where noted below) were painted in olive drab uniforms with brown shoes, belting and German style ammunition pouches. All Officers consistently had the visor ("garrison") cap, while army enlisted men had the campaign ("Montana" or "Smokey Bear") hat. (Figure 2) The unusually designed Trico campaign hat, which actually resembles the shape of some well-worn originals found in old photographs, has become for collectors a sort of proof-mark for Trico figures. That "less-than-smart" hat design appears to have been an attempt by the Japanese sculptor to minimize rim breakage by children of what would otherwise be an easy feature to crush. The size-1 figures have a slightly more pleasingly shaped campaign hat, but ultimately Trico collectors must learn to live with the less precise design. The size 3 figures, which come in more varied and numerous action poses, mostly wear the WWI-style rimmed helmet rather than soft hats seen on the larger scales. Interestingly, the Japanese designer's choice of the campaign hat for size-1 and size-2 figures may reflect an earlier mode of American military fashion in the peace-time of the 1930's contrasting with the depiction of the helmet in the line of size-3 figures which may have been designed and produced later than bigger scale figures.

The lines of size-1 and size-2 figures were produced in similar poses that, in this article, are referred to as marching



Figure 1: Trico marching doughboys in three sizes, and a 54 mm Britains figure (left) for comparison.



Figure 2: Styles of Trico headgear, left to right, Visor-cap (officers and sailors), campaign cap on size 1 and size 2 figures, and helmet on size 3 doughboy.



Figure 3: Marching poses for infantry, L to R: 1m, walking rifleman, 2m, drummer, 3m, bugler, 4m. flag-bearer and 5m, officer.



Figure 4: Marching poses for cavalry, R to L: 6m, a mounted officer, 7m, mounted bugler, 8m, cavalryman with a slung carbine, and 9m, cavalryman with lance at the carry.

TRICO; Japanese Pre-war Composition (Cont.)



Figure 5: Action poses for infantry; 1a, standing-firing doughboy, 2a, a kneeling-firing, 3a, lying-firing, 4a, charging rifle-at-the-ready, 5a, running bugler, 6a, advancing flag-bearer and 7a, running officer.

(or "m"), and action ("a") poses. The "marching" poses on foot (see **Figure 3**) include: 1m) walking rifleman, 2m) drummer, 3m) bugler, 4m) flag-bearer, and 5m) officer. There were also mounted figures on walking horses (see **Figure 4**), including 6m) a mounted officer, 7m) mounted bugler, 8m) cavalryman with a slung carbine, and 9m) cavalryman with lance at the carry topped with an old-glory pennon.

The "action" poses on foot (see **Figure 5**) include: 1a) a standing-firing doughboy, 2a) a kneeling-firing doughboy, 3a) lying-firing doughboy, 4a) charging doughboy rifle-at-the-ready, 5a) running bugler, 6a) advancing flag-bearer and 7a) running officer (apparently no running drummer was made). The 3a, lying-firing Doughboys do not have the integral base cast on, but occasionally a bit of green earth will be found under the left arm of the size-1 figure. The mounted-action figure in size-1 and size-2 (Figure 6) includes only 8a, a charging cavalryman with a lance (held down) with the old-glory pennon. Three horse poses were used, (Figure 7); one standing, one walking and one charging, and there were color variations for the horses of medium or reddish brown and a dark raw umber. It seems that in size-1 the walking horse was always in brown, while the charging horse was always in raw umber. Note that Trico's line of cowboys and Indians had additional poses including a rearing horse.

Beyond the more common doughboys, Trico also made a series of Sailors (**Figure 8**) in both size-1 and size-2. These were adapted from the standard Doughboy merely by changing the casting to all wearing the visor-cap, and by painting the blouses (jackets) dark blue, pants and cap-tops white, and belting black (all shoes and officer boots remained brown). Apparently the sailors were limited to marching poses, as no mounted or "action" posed sailors were ever produced, except for a rare mounted naval officer on a walking horse only produced in Size-2 (**figure 9**).

In addition to the standard and very popular Doughboy and Sailor figures outlined above, Trico pro-



Figure 6: 8a, charging cavalry with lances in size 2 and size 1.



Figure 7: Three poses for Trico cavalry horses; standing, walking and charging.



Figure 8: Marching sailors in size 1 and size 2.

TRICO; Japanese Pre-war Composition (Cont.)

duced some less frequently found military sets, which occasionally turn up today. A special Size-1 marching series was made with all of the personnel in olive drab uniforms but with visor caps (like the sailors) rather than campaign hats. While this had been speculated by collectors to represent Canadians, a group of visorcapped marching figures has recently turned up including a marching flag-bearer carrying the stars and stripes (figure 10), suggesting these represent just another permutation of the American uniform. There is also a 3-man medical corps stretcher party only produced in Size-2, including a bandaged casualty figure molded in one piece with the stretcher, and two corpsmen which seem to be adapted from the standard officer figure in a peaked cap, but painted with white captops and red cross arm bands. There is also a quite rare variation only found in size-1 of marching figures in peaked caps which wear red blouses rather than dark blue or olive-drab uniforms. These are generally referred to by collectors as "marines," a connotation supported by the "Playthings" advertisement² noted above. Even more unusual is the occasional appearance of a Size-2 officer figure in red pants, light blue cap-top and blouse with black lapels, cuffs, belt and boots. The identity of this figure (if it is genuine) might be similar to the unusual multi-colored American Legion figures found among the marching American dimestore figures. However, the collector is cautioned that often odd-colored Trico figures turn up, but these easily transformed figures have long been the subject of creative repainting and remodeling.

The standard Trico painting is a sort of semi-gloss paint, unlike the flat painting of the German composition. The quality of the painting is simple yet well-done, and the faces provide a particularly distinctive and endearing quality to the figures (see figure 2), especially the larger sizes. While the figures were unusually durable, they were not good out-of-doors toys, as they are very susceptible to moisture damage. Like all composition, they should be stored in dry places and kept out of damp basements.

Almost all Trico military figures (except for those prone) have relatively thick, green stands, on the bottom of which is embossed the name "TRICO", sometimes within a diamond shaped mark, and sometimes with the additional words "made in Japan" (**figure 11**). The same signage appears on box labels, together with the occasional "Soldiers and Sailors" label (**Figure 12**), and a side label on which box catalog numbers appear. One of the authors has one box with an unusual, detailed, printed label showing toy-like military figures standing in front of the U.S. capitol building. Figures were sewn into the boxes on a cardboard



Figure 9: Rare mounted sailor officer.



Figure 10: The marching figure in visor-cap carrying an American flag.



Figure 11: The underside of a Trico base showing the company logo.



Figure 12: Colorful box lid from a Trico "Soldiers and Sailors" box.



Figure 13: The inside edge of a Trico box with its unusual printed military "cut-outs."

sheet, similar to the style of Britain's packaging. Trico boxes came in various sizes, some quite large, but they seem to always have the distinctive and unique Trico printed pattern all over the lid. The insides of the boxes are also decorated with trim of colored "cut¬outs" of airplanes, tanks, and other military subjects. See **figure 13**.

While there are to date no known surviving catalogs of the types and variety of boxed sets, one of the authors distinctly remembers receiving gifts of Trico toy soldiers as a child in the 1930's in the following sets. A set of size-2 soldiers, and set of size-2 sailors, with mounted officer, walking officer, drummer, bugler, flagbearer and 4 or 8 enlisted men. Another included a large set of size-1 action soldiers, including 4 each firing rifles while standing, kneeling and lying, and 4 soldiers charging, with running officer, bugler and flag-bearer. Another set included both size 1 and size-2 cavalry with officer and 4 or 6 cavalrymen with slung carbines. Other individual surviving figures from those days clearly suggest prior availability of now lost-and-forgotten sets. The Trico figures seem to have always been marketed in sets and not in singles like the dimestore figures. Additionally, their availability was in a more diverse set of stores including small department and variety stores.

Unlike most of the merchandise imported from Japan in the pre-war era, the figures of Trico had a certain simple quality and a durability that made them more interesting, more desirable, and with better play value than most of their inexpensive competition. The large sizes facilitated by the cheap and light composition material from which they were constructed must have also made them pretty special to the young commanders of the time; sort of fore-runners to today's large 'action figures." More importantly, it provided kids of the depression era an affordable alternative to the beautiful but much more expensive European models, and hence are indelibly etched in the hearts of a generation who otherwise knew tough times and appreciated a great toy when they saw one.

Citations.

1. O'Brian, Richard. Collecting American-Made Toy soldiers. Identification and value guide. Edition 3. Books Americana, Florence, AL. 1997 (pages 676 and 686). 2. Playthings Magazine, January 1933, (page 36). Reed Elsevier Inc. New York

HOBBY NEWS



This issue of Old Toy Soldier is the start of the thirtieth consecutive year of publication.

Started in 1976 and originally entitled Old Toy Soldier Newsletter (OTSN) by Steve and Josie Sommers and partners Don Pielin, Joe Wallis and Roger Garfield, the magazine since then has provided what amounts to a toy soldier encyclopedia for subscribers, hundreds of articles relating to all aspects of toy soldier collecting have been included and many collectors have contributed to the journal freely, sharing their knowledge and love of the toy soldier hobby. Many of the current subscribers have been with the journal since issue number one and thus have accumulated

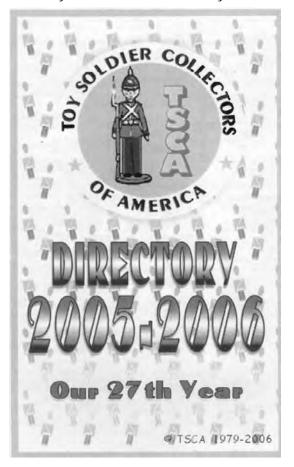
what must rank as an unequaled written record of toy soldier collecting worldwide over the 30-year period.

Part one of a summary of events and articles published in the magazine throughout the last thirty years is included in this issue.

Old Toy Soldier magazine thanks all of our subscribers, contributors and advertisers for their support and looks forward to continuing to provide information related to the toy soldier hobby through articles and reports in the future.

Toy Soldier Collectors of America 2005-2006 Directory Now Available

Contact: 1-803-652-7935 Email: toysoldiercollectorsamerica@yahoo.com



Soldiers' Soldiers INTERNATIONAL TOY SOLDIER CONVENTION SATURDAY 20TH and SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2006

John Tunstill is delighted to announce his Second Annual Toy Soldier Convention and Collector's Meeting.

John now lives in Umbria, central Italy, where he moved to from London, Lambeth where he ran the Soldier Shop near the Imperial War Museum. The stock from the shop was in storage for ten years until his private collection was inaugurated a year ago at La Preghiera Country House, in Calzolaro, near Umbertide and Città di Castello in the province of Perugia, central Italy.

Some of you may remember John as the creator of the Soldiers' Soldiers range of lead toy soldiers, which he manufactured in the 1970's to complement 54mm Britain's collections, or as the Manager of Tradition in Piccadilly, London, he was also the author of Discovering Wargames and The World of Toy Soldiers, and for many years edited the Magazines Tradition and Miniature Warfare.

www.soldierssoldiers.com • www.lapreghiera.com/museum.htm

Exhibitors' spaces for the Convention will be available free of cost, and located on the ground floor of La Preghiera Monastery, in the Display room, on the loggias (covered areas), in the grounds of La Preghiera Estate, and the Oratorio.

If weather conditions are inclement, exhibitors are invited to use the public rooms of the Monastery.

Exhibitors who are guests at La Preghiera Country House are also invited to exhibit out of hours, during the entire weekend.

La Preghiera Country House www.lapreghiera.com is offering a special weekend promotion for visitors and exhibitors, 1 night accommodation in a shared twin or double room, copious breakfast and light lunch for only 95 Euro per person. Two nights also available.

La Preghiera Country House is situated in the village of Calzolaro, in the Upper Tiber valley, between Città di Castello and Umbertide, close to the E45 highway (exit Promano), and 90 minutes drive from Rome, Firenze, Bologna, Forli and Ancona all of which have international airports.

The nearest railway stations are Terontola-Cortona and Perugia San Giovanni.

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SHOW REPORT

West Coaster Irvine California March 2006

The 17th Annual West Coaster Toy Soldier show took place at the above venue under the new ownership of Craig (Bubba) McClain and Woody Lambrith.

Craig who is owner of the Old Toy Soldiers Home store in Vista California and Woody who has for many years assisted the former owners of the show Scott Morlan and Bob Fisher maintained the format of the previous sixteen shows and were assisted by Debi, Sue Hanes, Darrell Knox, Clarke Vollbrecht, Brian Cornall and Andy " Slugger" McClain.

As in previous years there is a certain amount of pre show trading in the hotel rooms of the Irvine Marriott Hotel, with some 50 rooms open Friday and Saturday before the Sunday event,

This concept affords the opportunity not only to buy and sell prior to the show, but is a chance for the dealers who have traveled from far afield to socialize with one another before the event. Scott Morlan offered what seems to be the now obligatory "Empty Box' sale on Saturday, following on from the Chicago sales previously adopted by Haradin, Joplin and Rolak at the Schaumburg event, while the sales were brisk, there were still many boxes left and Scott plans to take the residue to Chicago this September.

A number of rare plastic sets were found during the room trading including some ex factory Elastolin display sets and a never before seen Britains promotional item for V.O. Whiskey containing a Britains Concord Stage Coach.

More scarce plastics were to feature on the day of the show (see photos in this article)

Sundays show opening traditionally preceded by a parade of uniformed re-enactors accompanied by the playing of the Bagpipes by Woody Lambrith always gets this show off to a lively start and it was evident this year that the numbers of people waiting to line up for entry to the show was somewhat bigger than of late.

One Hundred and Fifty Two tables and 68 dealers occupied the ballroom comprising a show of much variety for collectors.

Many well known companies producing and retailing new toy soldiers and figures were in attendance and included Britains/First Gear, King and Country, Frontline Figures, Ted Toy, Edmunds Traditional Toy Soldiers, Tiffany Soldiers,

Old North West Trading Company, Toy Soldiers of San Diego, Sierra Toy Soldiers, Graf Studios and The Hobby Bunker.

The St Petersburg Collection of Aero Art International, Soldier Art and Valentinas Miniatures represented Russian manufacturers

Old Toy Soldiers and figures are a strong part of this show and the accompanying photographs indicate the wide range of interesting items on offer from dealers of, what are fast becoming antique items.

The organizers reported an attendance of 550 customers + a large number of children to whom entry is free.

The 2007 show is scheduled for Sunday March 4th 2007.



Woody Lambrith, co show organiser continuing the tradition of piping in the customers at the start of the "West Coaster " Show at the Irvine California venue



Verne Johnson and Bob Bailey from Washington State



Gene Johnson showing one of many interesting boxed sets of Britains from his own collection.

SHOW REPORT (Cont.)

Richard Graf and Mike Peinado of Graf Studios who are continuing to produce the Alte Deutche Spielfiguren line originally made by the late Dan Bohline

Hans Tester another dealer/ collector with a great selection of Civilian items

Carol Cullen at John Cullen's

Craig "Bubba" McClain ,co organizer of the "West Coaster" and owner of the Old Toy Soldier Home retail establishmet in Vista California

.....

Jacques Cuypers

Bob and Barbara Fisher

The Saffro Family

Julie, Dennis son William





SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



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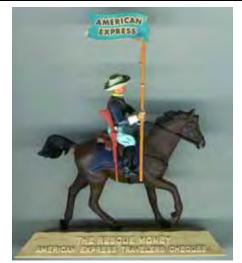
SHOW REPORT (Cont.)



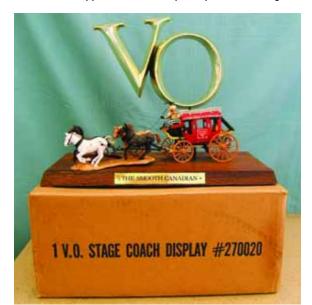
Rare Elastolin soft plastic ski set



Herald Boxed Guards



Britains Swoppett American Express promotional figure



Britains promotional item for the VO Whiskey Company-Canada



Gibbs-Custers Last Stand Set

Dimestores: The Lost Batallions?

By Harry Matte

I fell in love with Dimestore soldiers so long ago I'm surprised that I remember when. But I do. And I'd like to tell you why I remember because it may say something about the staying power of us Barclay, Manoil and Grey Iron lovers in an era of so many new soldiers on the block. It might also suggest where we Dimestore-ophiles are headed. Will we--will anybody--still be collecting Dimestores a decade from now? Or like the real old soldiers so many of us Dimestore collectors are, will we just fade away, the lost battalions of the land of counterpane?

As I write this, I'm just back from the "West Coaster" toy soldier show (March 5) in Irvine, California. There, I saw literally thousands of superb new figures, minutely detailed, brilliantly painted, fresh from the workshops of Britain, Mignot, King & Country, Figarti, and a dozen other houses. You couldn't ask for better craftsmanship; crusaders, pirates, knights and warriors right out of the world's history books, rendered with great accuracy and skill.

Amid this display of peacock colors and dazzling pageantry were a few clutches of Barclays and Manoils in their familiar khaki color, drab among their more colorful modern cousins. There couldn't have been more than a hundred or so of the Dimestores in a ballroom large enough to stage Akiro Kurusawa's filmed feudal samurai battle scenes. In fact, I'll bet there were more diminutive versions of the ancient Asian warriors gracing vendors' tables than there were Dimestore G.I's; fewer Dimestores, it seems, with each passing show.

Nonetheless, my eyes fell unerringly on the familiar figures made in Brooklyn and West New York in the thirties and forties: some Barclay sailors of exceptional quality on Ray Haradin's table, a wonderful threesome of army riflemen in Verne Johnson's display, a hard-to-find dispatch rider among Joseph Saine's offerings.

I was left largely alone in the packed auditorium, musing over my small cache, while the crowd swirled around me. Most visitors who had paid their six dollar entry fee (five dollars with coupon) only had eyes for the latest products of the toy makers' art. Youngsters, particularly, were not about to spend a moment with a Manoil when there were contemporary figures to view: freshly minted soldiers, sailors and civilians whose casting was better, whose features approached the graphic elegance of Japanese television animation, whose painting was precise and multi-colored, whose poses were dynamic. There I was, a troglodyte among young adults of the electronic age and their computer-savvy progeny, savoring soldiers that once cost me a nickel at McCrory's, Kresge's and Woolworth's.

So why I am still awe-struck by Dimestores? What casts their spell on me, on us Dimestore-aholics?

It is that they are a part of the furniture of my life. They have seemingly always been with me. The first soldier I ever saw, a Barclay, was lying beside a tent (oh, to have that tent, again!) on the covers at the foot of my hospital bed when I awoke from a tonsillectomy. The year was 1939. I was eight, miserably unhappy with an industrial-size sore throat, and there at the foot of my bed was magic to make me forget my pain.

(A few years later, my father would wear a khaki uniform, much like the one on my first soldier, in the Bulge. Later still, I would go off to war in Korea. And a generation beyond that, my son who had once pushed my Manoils through dusty backyard trenches, would wear contemporary "Hot Papa" gear on a flight deck in the Gulf.)

I've never donned the chain mail of King Arthur's knights, never rode a caparisoned war horse of the Tokugawa era. I don't know what it's like to put a bearskin atop my head, sport a vivid redcoat in battle, or push my feet into the legging sandals of a Roman centurian. But I know what a rifle feels like. I can picture myself sitting on a box peeling spuds. I've been a "soldier sentry" (Barclay #736): a "soldier in a sitting position" (B #760; and a "soldier with mortar" (B #791). Been there, done that, like my father before me and my son after me.

Don't get me wrong. I can get as beguiled by King & Country's "Egyptian Dancing Girls" as the next guy, marvel at William Hocker's imaginative parades, and enjoy the romance of the St. Petersburg Collection.

But the less polished look of a Manoil, the rough-edged "machine gunner lying flat" (B #728); they still speak to me today as they did when I was a kid. Like Bill Mauldin's "Willie and Joe," they're part of me, of my life. I can't give them up because they won't give me up.

Harry Matte, 74, grew up in Passaic, New Jersey-- "near where Dimestores were born "--and now lives with his wife, Barbara, in Paso Robles, California, near their three children and six grandchildren.

LIVONIA, MICHIGAN SHOW AND AUCTION REPORT

The Detroit Toy Soldier Militaria and Historical Figure Show

This show just keeps getting better. Even though we were competing with the Super Bowl's appearance in Detroit (and their having sold out our hotel) there was coverage in major newspapers and the television. The attendance at the door was greater than ever – over a thousand paid at the gate.

Plus, this is not just one show – it's three shows in one. The main action is in the largest exhibit room – the 14th Detroit Toy Soldier and Figure Show. In the next hall, the Red Arrow Militaria Show. And in hall 3, the 7th Annual Michigan Historical Miniature Figure Show and Competition. In addition, there was a setup for remote battling infrared tanks, figure painting instruction, medieval siege engine shooting competition, and more.

It was raining at setup – always a bummer for a dealer, but I'll take it over snow any day (snow keeps the collectors away). Finding a parking spot was difficult with all the Super Bowl Press staying at the hotel. But, setup is convenient and things went quickly. This show is starting to feel like a mini-Chicago – there were people lined up and waiting for admission by show time.

I had a couple of eBay moments – items I was outbid on through eBay were for sale on dealers tables (like a gorgeous Lineol bridge building set, complete in a nice box). Joe Saine had several beautiful German tinplate clockwork boats, especially a large Bing battleship. I like seeing equipment like this at the toy soldier shows – you can pick up your \$20 - \$30 figures, and dream about that big centerpiece of your collection.

I picked up a couple more nice new compo Elastolin-like pieces from Carlos Aruajo, made by blah blah. I got two mechanics for my Tippco bomber. I wanted the mechanic with the acetylene tank – but Carlos was sold out already!

At the Red Arrow Militaria Show there were over 50 tables of historical collectibles. Medals, photographs, books, a few toys (at good prices), uniforms, weapons. Some very nice "demilled" WW2 guns.

Three manufacturers had tables - Williams Britains Company had their new figures; del Prado USA showed their wares; and Michigan's own The Old Northwest Trading Company showed their new line.

Once again the winter Michigan show was an oasis in the snow for toy soldier collectors.

Joe Saine's Pre-Show Auction Saturday, January 28, 2006 Livonia, MI

The best kept secret in the mid-West toy soldier hobby is Joe Saine's annual toy soldier auction, held the Saturday before the Sunday Michigan Winter Toy Soldier show, at the same hotel. This year the offerings covered 10 tables lining two walls and the front of the hall. One of the local tv stations even showed up and taped a segment.

There were new soldier sets mint in the box, dimestores, composition, trenches, books, magazines, and more. There were over 200 cataloged lots, plus a handful that were sold standup at the end of the auction. Lots of Britains (newer offerings mint in the box, older post-War sets, with some very nice farm items.

Some pieces got strong bidding, but plenty of them cruised out the door at wholesale prices. The predominant buyers seem to be mostly dealers looking to add inventory. For the collectors in attendance there were some very good buys.

As usual, Joe keeps the action flowing – and keeps the humor up. When one successful buyer was slow to show his paddle number Joe commented, "I'd say the buyer was the guy with glasses and grey hair – but that's all of you guys."

So – make it a weekend, you've got the auction on Saturday, the show on Sunday, good local shopping and eats, what more do you need?

SHOW REPORT

The 2006 Indiana Toy Soldier Show By Michael Mattimore

On Sunday, March 26th, toy soldier collectors and enthusiasts from around the Midwest made their way to the 16th annual Indiana Toy Soldier Show held at the Sheraton Hotel at Keystone Crossing, Indianapolis. As usual, show promoter Barry Carter put on another great show, repeating last year's innovative and highly successful table layout. Yielding more space behind and between tables, Barry's ingenious solution to table crowding was a big hit with everyone on hand, dealers and collectors alike. Plus, this year's attendance was up, making everyone (Barry in particular) happy with the results.

As usual with this show, the goods on offer varied nicely and represented every major collecting speciality. Vintage figures had their due, with Britains of every description in great abundance, plus Marx plastics, Mignots, Heydes, American Dimestores and much, much more. Gary Miller of Georgetown, Kentucky, had a beautiful set of 1930's Britains Austro-Hungarian infantry that was whisked away early in the proceedings. Bob Helm, formerly of Connecticut but now residing in Maryland, brought his usual large assortment of Britains singles and unboxed sets, plus a huge batch of empty Britains boxes that were a great favorite. Cleveland's Gail and Tony Teper had a nice selection of highquality Dimestores while the Pielin brothers from Chicago had their usual range of new and old, reflecting the overall mix of the show. Tables were filled with one find after another; just when you thought you'd seen it all, there was more to see!

A particularly wide variety of "new" old toy soldiers were on display. Conte, Tradition, King and Country, Tommy Adkins and Imperial (alas, recently defunct) were eveywhere. Jeff Barzos showed his attractive Lewis and Clark Expedition set while the guys from the Stone Castle in Louisville had a terrific display of all sorts of new plastics. Patient searching revealed table after table of figures, some common / some not, all waiting for the right person to come along and make them part of his (or her) cherished collection. Most collectors I spoke to felt that this year's show offered them a particularly wide selection of items from which to choose; they couldn't wait until next year's show to see what more they could find. Details on next year's show may be obtained by calling Barry Carter at 765-345-5665 or by emailing him at the following address: indytoysoldier@hotmail.com.

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www.geocities.com/ncmss/ Show Chairman: Glenn Merritt (703) 938-6361; merrittg@erols.com Vendor Contact: Charles Honour (703) 426-0700; granddads@starpower.net



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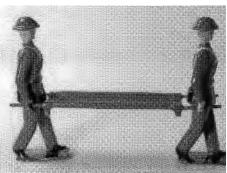


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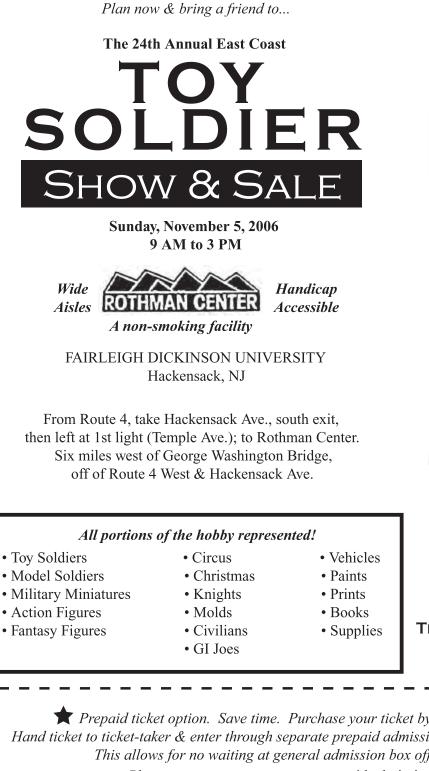
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Heyde Jubilee Procession – A Historic Find Tucked away in the back of a collector's cupboard has been a holy grail of Heyde. By James Opie





Box Numbered 1269 English Parade

A wonderful discovery is a Heyde Queen Victoria Diamond Jubilee Procession - see below for pictures. On the giant box lid for the Heyde No.2 size Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Procession set, the label modestly states 'English Parade, No. 1269'. The box is very similar in size to early Britains display boxes such as set 73, but with the small scale figures takes three layers and rather more troops. The box



Box Numbered 1269 English Parade







Colours and escort of the Scots Guards marching 11th Hussars with lances General Staff Foreign dignitaries



Colonial contingents

is covered with the distinctive 'dimpled' dark red paper familiar to collectors, and the label is the same as on many large Heyde boxes. What strikes me is how similar the majority of boxes of toy soldiers from whatever maker looked at this time, in 1897. Evidently there was a huge amount of competition going on at the top end of the market as Britains established themselves. It was a small market, as most people could not afford toy soldiers, but what there was of it was lucrative.



This lot above of books contains an original programme for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Procession

Heyde Jubilee Procession – A Historic Find (Cont.)

One of the things that this box says is, "look at the variety we can produce in one box". Assuming that this box did come out in 1897, Britains could not compete on variety of figure. In fact Britains whole method of marketing was to be able to produce large quantities of a few standard lines at a price to undercut the competition. The variety in this box is staggering.

There are several sets, for a start:

Royal Horse Artillery Gun Team – similar in composition to the Britains set 39 in its second version of 1906. As with Britains, this is stored in a partition of the box using the full depth of the box. Additional mounted figures are both in the partition and in one of the trays.

Mounted Band of the Life Guards – similar in composition to Britains set 101, but at the halt, with superior horses to the rest of the mounted figures. Unfortunately, here the kettledrums are missing.

Drums, Fifes and Military Band of the Scots Guards at attention – a beautiful set, yellow (for gold) frogging for the band, white frogging for the fifes and drums, as in real life, with beautifully painted shoulder wings. One or two dubious instruments, such as the Jingling Johnny, a fashionable instrument in German bands, but someone will know whether the Scots Guards had one. Incidentally one possible reason the Scots Guards were so popular in this size is that it was left to the customer to paint in their favourite regiment, which, if it happened to be the Scots Guards, meant they did not have to trouble.

Top interior tray has Foot Guards band at attention and marching colours and escort. Mounted figures are royalty and staff officers.

Here in the middle tray are a mounted band of the Life Guards in state dress, plus representative individual figures from the procession, just one in each uniform, spread across an incredible number of different British and Empire units, both mounted and on foot.

The bottom tray contains more individually uniformed pieces, plus a squadron of 11th Hussars and a gun team of the RHA, gun missing, unfortunately. Some of the mounted figures are representatives of Foreign Powers, for instance a Prussian and a Russian.

Bonhams

Bonhams will be holding two specialist Lead Soldier and Figure sales in 2006 on Wednesday 10 May and Wednesday 15 November

Closing date for entries into our May 10 sale is Friday 10 March.

For further information or free valuation please contact either: Leigh Gotch + 44 (0) 8700 273 628 leigh.gotch@bonhams.com

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Illustrated: Britains rare wartime boxed set 'CHURCHILL', 1941. Sold for £2,400 at our Lead Soldier and Figure Sale, 23 November 2005.

Items contained in this article are scheduled to be auctioned at Bonhams Auctioneers in November 2006. Contact Leigh Gotch at Bonhams London leigh.gotch@bonhams.com Auction June 1

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A selection of pieces from the Charles Biggs collection of Britains factory material, including preproduction and prototype rarities.



FINE TOYS, TRAINS AND TOY SOLDIERS London, June 1, 2006



AUCTION PREVIEW

Christies Toy Soldier and Figure Auction Preview South Kensington, London • Thursday, June 1st

Christies have a fascinating selection of rare and unusual toy soldier and figures in this sale, including part two of the archive amassed by former Britains employee Charles Biggs.

Among the items featured in this section of the sale are a number of prototypes and sample never put into production by the Britains Company, unique packaging samples and previously undiscovered items destined for production in the 1940s 50s and 60s are included.

The Plastic Mini set range was not one of Britains most successful products; however, the sale includes sample boxes of items form the range in cellophane fronted boxes which were used at trade fairs, masters from the series made in lead and a number of items which never made the Britains catalogue.

A prototype Tank designed for Zang, founder of Herald and a wealth of publicity material and advertising proofs for the Zang/Herald Company are contained in folders submitted by the vendor, Factory photographs and a factory log book detailing all of the early Herald Plastic range along with the items made in later years by Britains in plastic is also a feature of the auction.

Wax master models for many of the plastic figures made by Britain's in the 1960s and 70s along with pre production concept boards have also been submitted for auction, the sale of these unique items will give collectors an opportunity to acquire a piece of Britains history and is sure to attract strong bidding from enthusiasts world wide.

The Britains Floral Garden people plasterscene masters are available in this section together with a set of lead master figures depicting civilian items including a lady with push chair, these are thought to have been scheduled for release as an add on set to the Garden People series

Of the other properties entered in the auction, there are some notable rarities including a Boar War supply column set made by Britain's and issued by C F Eckhardt, this uncatalogued Britains set was available only from the company or via Gamages department store and dates form around 1909.

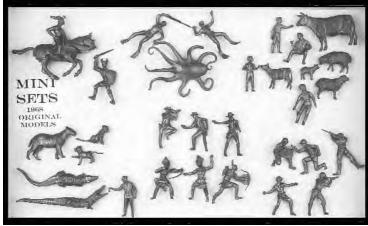
The same vendor has supplied a Britains US Infantry set 91 and an early set of South Australian Lancers along with a number of early Britains products.



C.F Eckhardt/ Britains Supply Column



Prototype master models for a possible follow up series to the Britains Floral Garden series, these items were not put into production



Original metal masters for Mini Set series



Zang Tank and other vehicle masters

AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)

For those who are interested in Civilian items a very rare Cococub Boy eating a chocolate bar is included, this example is solid and is an example of the range possibly made for Cadburys by a firm other than Britains, the figure is simply marked Cadbury on the underside of the base.

An attractive fold out cardboard farm display and a rare Kew girl on a swing tree also feature in this part of the sale. Completing this review, mention must be made of the ultra rare early Britains waltzing couple which comes with it's original box, this is a fine example of a late 1890s fly wheel driven novelty item produced by Britians.

Full details of the sale and catalogues are available from Christies South Kensington London by contacting the toy department on (44) (0) 207 752 3276 or emailing hmarsh@christies.com



Britains Waltzing Couple



Britains Mini Set Factory packaging examples



Britains Factory Record Book

Britains Designer at London Zoo





Britains Prototype Parrot on Perch Never Issued

Cococub boy

Late News from Christies: Some of the metal masters, wax and plasterscene items mentioned in this preview have been held over for future Christies Auction which will include many hundreds of plaster masters and preproduction items from the Britains company.



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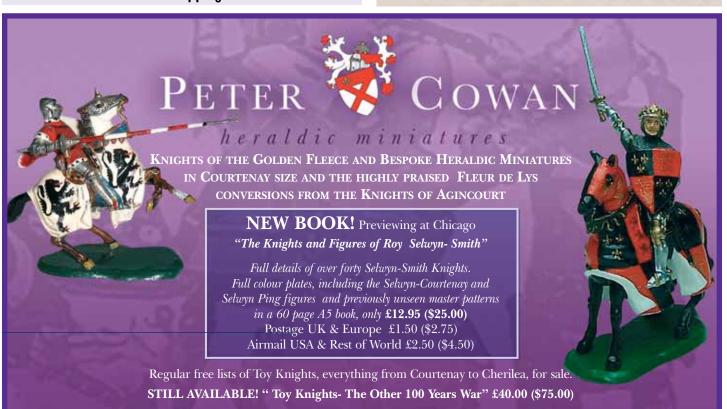
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BOOK REVIEW

Toy Soldiers: A Century of International Miniatures By Richard Scholl

Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

The name Malcolm Forbes is synonymous with toy soldier collecting. Amassing over 100,000 figures, the Forbes Collection encompassed toy soldiers of every size, material, style and era. To further enhance the mystique and aura of his collection, Forbes chose a most exotic site to house his miniature army, the Palais Mendoub in Tangier, Morrocco. In December of 1997, the vast majority of the Forbes Collection was offered at auction by Christies. Due to the sheer size of the items offered, the auction was held on two separate days, first in New York, then in South Kensington, London. Items which were not placed in the auction are now on public display in the Forbes Galleries in New York.

Toy Soldiers: A Century of International Miniatures is a compact history of how the Forbes Collection was created. Author Richard Scholl has authored several books on various collectibles. Contributing a most interesting perspective is Robert L. Forbes, Malcolm's son, who assisted in building the collection.

After the Introduction by Robert L. Forbes, following chapters describe the collecting history of Malcolm Forbes. The saga starts with visits to London shops where Forbes begins his collecting and toy soldier "education". Forbes' quest to build his collection quickly moves to auctions and purchases of numerous private collections. It is here in the story that Robert L. Forbes offers interesting insights into the acquisition of several private collections.

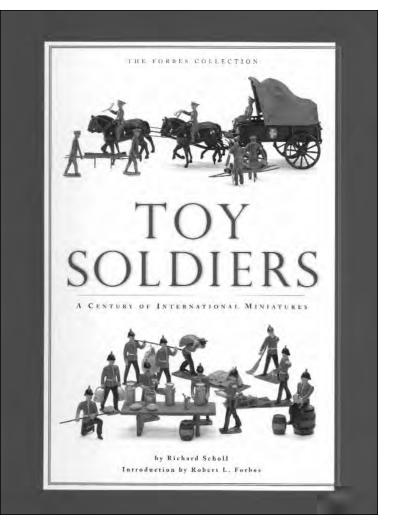
Perhaps the most critical event in the creation of the Forbes Collection was the involvement of Anne and Peter Johnson. Forbes first encountered the Johnson's during his London visits. The Johnsons

operated a shop called the Lead Soldier which was located in the Antiquarius, an antique mall. Subsequent visits and purchases helped develop a trusted friendship. Intent on building the definitive collection, Forbes knew who could make his dream possible-the Johnsons. Impressed with the Johnson's knowledge of toy soldiers, Forbes offered them a job to help him build his collection and serve as co-curators of the museum in Tangiers. With the Johnsons expertise and Forbes' resources, the collection became a reality.

Subsequent chapters describe acquisitions made by the Johnsons and various special exhibitions of the collection. Brief descriptions of the different types of toy soldiers and a short history of several manufacturers complete the book.

The large format (9"x13"), is enhanced by excellent color photographs that appear on almost all of the 79 pages. Collectors will not find much information regarding toy soldiers in this book. What you do get in *Toy Soldiers* is a most fascinating story of a most extraordinary man and his passion for toy soldiers.

Thank you to Courage Books who generously supplied a copy for this review.



BOOK REVIEW

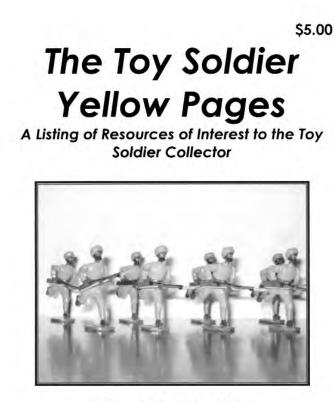
The Toy Soldier Yellow Pages By Larry Weindorf Reviewed By Russ Bednarek

One of the many challenges of collecting toy soldiers is finding a source to obtain pieces for your collection. If you are like many collectors, chances are that your interests are not limited to just toy soldiers. Military history, uniform studies and painting toy soldiers are just some of the interests which are interwoven with collecting toy soldiers. Finding sources which cater to our multiple interests can be time consuming, frustrating and often unproductive. Thankfully, Larry Weindorf has come to the rescue with his new book.

A collector and painter himself, Weindorf is the author of *The Toy Soldier Yellow Pages.* The book is organized by category;Dealers, Manufacturers, Shops, etc. Many listings are well known to collectors, but there are some very interesting sources which up to now have escaped a vast majority of collectors. Each listing contains the company's name, address, phone/fax number, website and email address. If known, mention is made of the sources specialties.

The most current issue comprising fortyfive pages was submitted for this review. Future improvements will include advertising and a free one hundred word classified ad for each subscriber. The yearly subscription of four quarterly issues with updates is \$19 US, \$28 Canada, \$38 UK. Sample issues are available for \$7. Mr. Weindorf has done an outstanding job of compiling listings from all over the world. *The Toy Soldier Yellow Pages* is an essential collecting aid which is strongly recommended for all toy soldier collectors.

Thank you to Larry Weindorf for generously supplying a copy for this review.



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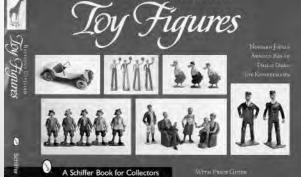
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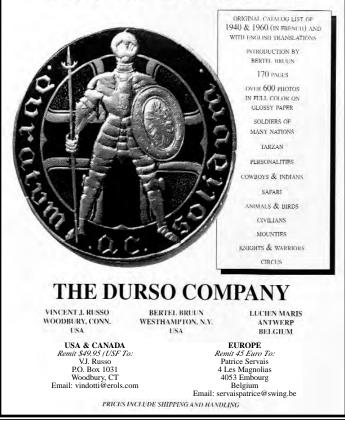
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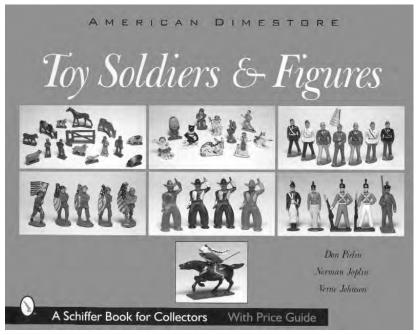
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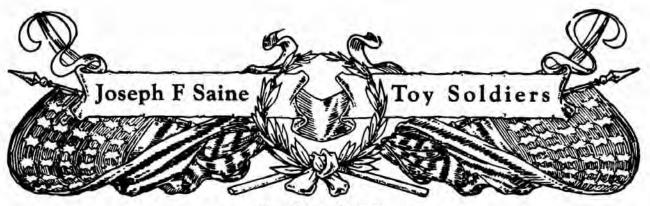
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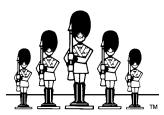
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Years of Old Toy Soldier Magazine



By Norman Joplin

As Old Toy Soldier Magazine starts the 30th year of publication with Volume 30 # 1, a feature of the volume will be a calendar of events outlining the articles, auctions and important events within the toy soldier hobby since 1976.

The inclusion of many of the articles and research material that have appeared in the magazine over the past 30 years represents a ground-breaking achievement, which it continues to provide to the toy soldier collector information on those manufacturers products that have become collectibles.

Part one covers the period October 1976 to the end of 1985.

When Steve and Josie Sommers, Don Pielin, Joe Wallis and Roger Garfield conceived the idea of issuing a magazine devoted to toy soldier collecting in 1976 entitled Old Toy Soldier Newsletter, it was the start of a publication which would go on to chronicle the expansion of the toy soldier hobby throughout the next four decades.

Collectors who possess all of the copies of Old Toy Soldier Newsletter and the current Old Toy Soldier have what amounts to an encyclopedia of toy soldiers through the hundreds of article and reports that have appeared in the magazine.

Joe Wallis recalls that the first issue which came out in October 1976 was the product of the partners collating and stapling the photocopied pages together around a dining room table. The thought at that time was that if they could attract one hundred subscribers then they would keep the project going.

The magazine was to be issued bi-monthly and issue one, October 1976 contained 10 pages, the first article was entitled Britains Limited Profiles by Joe Wallis and covered the Egyptian Army, the "profiles" continue to be published at regular intervals today.

Other articles in the first magazine were on Timpo by Steve Sommers, & Barclay and Manoil by Don Pielin.

Issue 2-December 1976 contained 16 pages with articles on Lineol by Roger Garfield, Lincoln Log and Barclay Winter figures by Don Pielin and a Reconnaissance feature on Tommy Toy Nursery Rhyme Figures.

Shamus Wade submitted an update to an article in issue one and it was announced that the magazine now had 130 subscribers from 28 States, the District of Columbia plus England, Canada and Australia.

By the time issue three was published the subscriber numbers had increased to 225 in 37 States.

James Opie first submitted his article on "1001 ways to collect Britains" in the issue.

Mignot, Marx, Elastolin and Britains Garden were featured in issue number 4 and the first book on American Dimestore Toy Soldiers was announced by Don Pielin.



Thirty Years of Old Toy Soldier Magazine (Cont.)

Heyde and the Grey Iron line of American Family, together with an article on Britains Mysteries by Shamus Wade featured in issue five, with issue six beginning the "Filling in the line" series documenting, which at the time were Britains unknown set numbers.

Volume two included articles on the emerging New Toy Soldier Companies including Blenheim and Nostalgia; Richard O'Brien and Norman Joplin both had an article published for the first time.

Home Cast toy soldiers were featured and Ged Haley revealed the existence of the previously unknown Britains Exploding Trench.

By the end of Volume two, it was announced that the subscriber's list had risen from 345 to 485 covering 40 States and the District of Columbia.

Volume three saw the emergence of several books on the toy soldier hobby, Richard O'Brien's Collecting Toys, The War Toys by Reggie Polaine and John Garratt's forthcoming Encyclopedia of Model Soldiers was announced.

Phillips New York held the Stacy Holmes toy soldier collection auction and articles appeared on Jones, Manoil Happy Farm and Comet /Authenticast

An index was published covering the first



three volumes of OTSN and the subscriber base had risen to 600. A survey carried out around this time indicated the makers of figures that collectors were interested in.

Of 411 responses –

- 312 (76%) Britains
- 173 (42%) Dimestores
- 147 (35%) Timpo, Johillco and other British makers
- 111 (27%) Elastolin and Lineol
- 99 (24%) Mignot
- 74 (18%) Eriksson
 - 54 (13%) Heyde

The survey gave each reader the chance to select more that one company.

Volume four for the first time published information by Stewart Saxe on Canadian Dimestores by Breslin.

The staff of Old Toy Soldier Newsletter had a table at the Kane County Antique Toy and Doll Show Chicago, Don Pielin published his second edition of American Dimestore Toy Soldiers and Joanne and Ron Ruddell introduced their Britains Check lists.

Volume Five # 1 –1981 saw the transition from the magazine's stapled format to a card cover, and showed examples from the forthcoming auction of the Len Richards toy soldier collection at Phillips in London.

Paper soldiers, Warren, Minikins and Beton Plastics articles were also first featured in this volume. Peter Johnson published his Toy Armies book, with much information coming from the Malcolm Forbes collection.

OTSN announced that they were sponsoring a Toy Soldier Show on September 27th 1981 at the

Thirty Years of Old Toy Soldier Magazine (Cont.)

Quality Inn O'Hare Schiller Park, Chicago; this of course was the start, despite a change of venue in later years to what is now recognized as The OTSN Chicago Toy Soldier Show.

Volume Six contained a Britains Factory tour report, Hank Anton (Uncle Hank) continued to further the hobby with his "Happiness is collecting toy soldiers" information service.

Phil Murray announced the first of the Annual Britains Collectors Conventions in Cleveland, Ohio.

Blenheim ceases production and John Tunstill closed his Soldier's Soldiers shop in Kennington London calling it the end of the beginning. Tradition takes over the back page advertisement space in the magazine, which is still retained today by the company.

Britains Cadburys Cococubs are featured for the first time, Imperial advertised for the first time and the first OTSN show report is included followed by the announcement that the show would move to the Hyatt in Shaumburg the following year.

Volume Seven. Marlborough emerges after the closure of Blenheim but still under the ownership of Jan and Frank Scroby.

Bill Lango gives notice that his East Coast Toy Soldier Show will take place in New Jersey, Britains issue their first Limited Edition set of new toy soldiers.

An article by Don Pielin on Miller Plaster figures is included and Henry Kurtz, co author of The Art of the Toy Soldier with Burtt Erlich announces the impending release of the book.

Volume Eight. The John Hannington collection is auctioned at Phillips London in May 1984, Toy Soldier Review magazine was launched by Bill Lango.

The master list of Marx Playsets is published.

Joe Wallis interviews Dennis Britain, the Smallwood Britains factory Notebooks are auctioned at Phillips in September 1984.

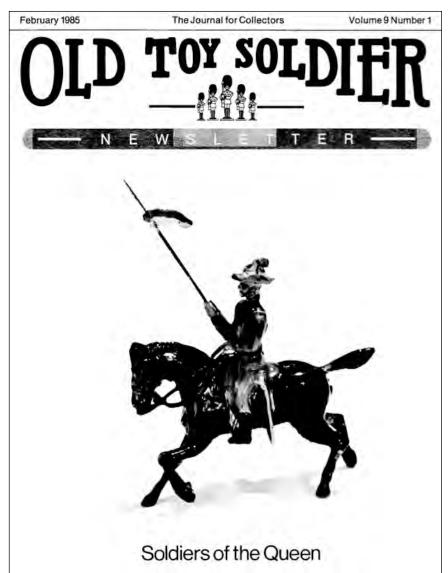
Bill Hocker and King and Country advertise for the first time.

Volume Nine. The cover of the magazine changes to glossy black and white.

James Opie's On Guard Exhibition at The London Toy and Model Museum is featured, The British Model Soldier Society celebrate their Golden Jubilee year.

Plastic Warrior Magazine is published in the UK, The Forbes museum New York is featured in OTSN and another previously unknown Dimestore manufacturer is documented by Richard O'Brien – Toy Creations.

This concludes the period from October 1976 to 1985, Volumes 1 thru 9. Subsequent issues of Old Toy Soldier Magazine will continue the synopsis.







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U.S. M-46 TANK THE FIRST "PATTON" TANK By Robert Yernik and E. W. Fitzgerald

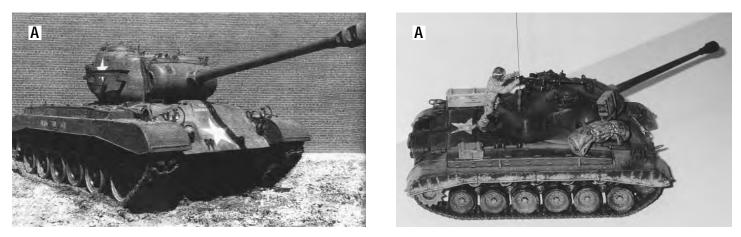
The M-46 Sherman Tank was the major U.S. weapon of armored conflict during World War II. Although reliable in an automotive sense. the armor protection and ballistic fire power of the Sherman were inferior to the German tanks they encountered as they raced across northwest Europe 1944-1945.

In November 1944, the Army began to produce the "Pershing" heavy tank (M-26) with a 90 mm main gun that would perform reasonably well against enemy armor. But the "Pershing" was under-powered with only a 500 hp engine to propel its 92,355 pound combat weight. (See pictures "A")

By the spring of 1948. the U.S. Army Ordnance Department began to modernize the M-26 designating it as the medium tank M-46, calling it the "General Patton." Powered by an 810 gross hp 12-cylinder gasoline engine. this tank featured a "cross drive" transmission that enabled the M-46 to pivot in its own length by causing the tracks to move in opposite directions simultaneously. Maximum speed was 30 MPH with a range of 80 miles. (3 gallons to the mile!) Armament consisted of an improved 90 mm gun. 1 x30 caliber machine gun in the bow and a co-axial mounted .30 mg in the turret. A .50 caliber machine gun was fitted to the top of the turret on a pedestal mount. The crew of five consisted of tank commander. gunner. loader, driver and assistant driver who operated the bow machine gun and had access dual controls to drive the tank.

Both the M-26 and M-46 were used by the Marines and Army in Korea. By 1957 they were declared obsolete. giving way to the continuation of the Patton tank family in the M-47. M-48 series. and M-60. covering 40 years 1952-1982.

In 2004 Forces of Yalor (Unimar Toys of Hong Kong) produced a fine M-46 metal Patton tank in approximately 1/32 scale. (See picture "B") The model has a 360° rotating turret, opening crew and engine hatches. working tracks and an elevating main gun with the prototypical blast deflector. It is finished in matt olive drab paint with some road splash on the suspension and mock rust spots on the hull. A tow cable appears to the left side. National markings (white stars) appear on the front glacis plate and rear deck.





BARCLAY TIMELINE UP DATE - PART II

By Gordon Lattey and Bob Griffin

They marched into the 5&10s by the thousands. Each and every day of the year somewhere between 10,000 and 20,000 joined the ranks. It was the age of the dime store soldier. The amazing part of the dimestore soldier story is that the "Golden Age" was really so short. There were just about seven years leading into WWII and just about six after. In the scant baker's dozen years Barclay produced an estimated 150 million figures in more than 200 poses.

And, now as collectors we have the luxury of complaining that records are scant, that there are few detailed accounts of how many of each was produced, even fewer explaining why a certain figure changed, disappeared or never appeared at all. Dimestore manufacturers were small companies which were in the business of trying to make a living. They kept only those records which were deemed necessary. And, we forget Barclay, Manoil, All Nu, et al, were making toys. And, just like Lionel, the dime store manufacturers were trying to get as much product into the hands of kids as fast as possible. It meant profit and profit meant a good life.

The lack of records creates fertile ground for enthusiasts to speculate, to hypothesize, to attempt to write the unwritten story. Over the past four articles Bob and I have laid out what we feel is a logical manufacturing timeline for Barclay figures and have begun to catalog the multiple variations that sprung up over each figure's lifetime.

A number of writers speculate that favor in war toys waned in the peace that settled over the country in the aftermath of World War II. On the contrary, we believe it was the opposite. Positive movies like "Sands of Iwo Jima" and "Twelve O'Clock High" continued to grace the big screen, comics and Big Little Books continued to replay the war, now focusing on heroes that lived. Interest was high right through the start of the Korean War. The problem facing Barclay was changing technology – primarily, the introduction of plastics. It was cheap, easier and faster to mold and ship. Plastics drove prices down and flooded the market. Plastic's raw materials were not in short supply; lead was. It was also the age of "scale" in the train world (a good piece of the dimestore world's business) and tastes were changing.

What is amazing about the handful post-war dimestore years is the number of changes, or variations, that appear. The question is – why? We could speculate that Barclay knew the world was changing rapidly and it was scrambling to stay on the leading edge of the wave. But, that is doubtful since there appears no indication of any attempt keep up with changes in technology and materials. And, it is difficult to judge Barclay's responses to competitive pressures from Manoil and other manufacturers. But, it certainly didn't jump to issue new figures with up-to-date weapons – i.e., the bazooka and the air-cooled machine gun.

It is late – October or November -- 1945. The war has ended and Barclay is back in the soldier business. It is generally agreed that no clip-on helmeted figures survived the war. It is doubtful if we will ever know how many different cast helmet figures did survive the war, but we can speculate that a number did. We do know that the 11 which were later converted to pot helmets and the six that eventually got green WW I helmets made it. That would mean that 17 to two dozen different soldier and sailor poses were available. Whether or not they were all available at the same time is also ripe for guesswork, but chances are they were not. That would explain why some have not shown up with khaki bases (i.e. --B130 and B133). Others, if they lasted, they undoubtedly didn't last long.

With three exceptions, figures that carried markings continued carrying the markings right through to the end of production. The three exceptions are B127/210, B140/211 and B118/209. B127/210 lost its "Made in USA" and number when Barclay switched to lime-green bases. B140/211 lost its "Made in USA" and number when Barclay switched from lime-green bases to khaki bases (although a trace of the number survived). B209 lost its number, but retained its "Made in USA" when it was re-introduced with a pot helmet.

1945 – Post-war production begins, probably in October or November, using the pre-war molds. The first postwar variation picked up where Barclay left off with the war clouds gathering:

BARCLAY TIMELINE UP DATE - PART II (Cont.)



After the war, Barclay picked up where they left off with silver helmets and khaki bases.



Barclay quickly dropped khaki bases and returned to green bases and at the same time the first pot helmets were issued.



The silver pot helmet paint scheme lasted only a few months, then Barclay went to its version of G.I. green.

Silver World War I helmets, khaki bases, reddish belts and straps

The problem we face trying to determine who survived WWII and who didn't is that it is impossible to tell whether a cast-helmeted, khaki-based figure was produced before or after the war. As we noted, possibly 17 did. But there are about a dozen pre-war produced cast-helmeted figures that are in limbo – B11, B92, B107a, B109, B129, B130, B133, B135-37, B142, B143 and B145 – as are a number of the non-helmeted figures. We do know that B125, B134 and B144 did survive from personal experience and reader feedback. And that the B125 remained in the line until the switch to lime-green bases since several have shown up. But, chances are that unless a definitive post-war inventory list or catalog shows up or a figure with a lime-green base, we'll never truly know.

1946 -- Judging by the relatively few (not scarce -- relatively few) cast helmeted khaki-based figures that show up, it is probable that Barclay returned to painting bases green fairly quickly. The switch creates variation two –

Silver World War I helmet, green base, reddish belts and straps.

In either late 1946 or early 1947, Barclay introduces the first pot helmets – but the helmets are painted silver and the bases are green. This creates the third variation --

Silver pot helmet, green base, reddish belts and straps

The silver-pot-helmeted figure line must have been rolled out in fairly short order because while they are few in number, we own or have seen seven separate silver-helmeted figures (B201, B203, B204, B206, B208, B210 and B211) and have had an eighth reported to us (B212). Interestingly, after its brief appearance with a silver helmet, B201 seems to disappear for a number of years. To date, we have not found any pot helmeted flag bearers with either green or lime-green bases. And, B205, officer with sword, has yet to show up with anything but a khaki base.

1947 -- Painting the pot helmets silver did not last very long, a few months at best (otherwise they would show up more frequently). Sometime during the year Barclay began painting the pot helmets green – its version of GI "OD." That led to the next variation --

BARCLAY TIMELINE UP DATE - PART II (Cont.)



By 1949, the green bases gave way to lime green and at the same time the World War I helmets went from silver to green while the rest of the band figures also came on to the scene.

Green pot helmet, green base, reddish belts and straps



An example of B215-Buglar which was introduced just after green bases were phased out.

For some reason, however, at this time Barclay did not make any changes on the World-War-I-helmeted figures in its line. And, there is no indication or documentation that the firm was preparing additional figures for pot helmets. Again, we have no idea how many – beyond the half dozen – were being produced in this period.

1948/1949 – Sometime in late 1948, or early 1949, Barclay reached the decision not to modify any additional figures in the line by updating the helmets and to keep producing the six World War I helmeted figures – B21, B77, B90, B128, B131 and B132 -- and simply paint the helmets green. It is interesting that it took Barclay almost four years from the end of World War II and almost two years after the introduction of the pot helmets before deciding that something had to be done to "update" the rest of the line. And then, it simply changed the paint scheme. Probably at the same time, the base color on all figures was changed from a dark green to a lime green. Why? No one knows but it may have been a reaction to competition. For a time Manoil produced its "skinny" line and a number of other post-war figures with lime-green bases.

Just prior to Barclay switching from dark-green bases to lime green, it introduced the first of six totally new post war figures, the B215 bugler. We are in possession of a B215 with a dark-green base. The remaining four band figures – B213, B214, B216 and B217 – have only been seen to date with either lime-green or khaki bases. Based on the frequency they show up (or not show up), the lime green bases lasted only briefly, probably until late 1949.

The sixth new figure is the B202 kneeling rifleman. However, he does not slip smoothly into the timeline. Originally, we suspected that the kneeling rifleman was introduced later (mid to late 1950), but judging by the number and frequency of examples that have appeared on e-bay over the past 12 months, we are now tempted to move back the introduction date to 1949. Since it has not been found with anything but a khaki base, it is difficult to determine where to place it in a specific time frame.

An interesting observation is that all of the new figures have laced leggings, a design trait associated only with some of Barclay's prewar castings.

The changes created the next set of variations:

Green World War I helmet, lime-green base, reddish belts and straps Green pot helmet, lime-green base, reddish belts and straps White pot helmet, lime-green base, reddish belts and straps

BARCLAY TIMELINE UP DATE - PART II (Cont.)

1950 – By late 1949 or very early in 1950 Barclay has ceased painting the bases, creating the final post-war variations. Also at this time, the B205 officer with sword seems to make his appearance since none to date have been confirmed with green or lime-green bases. Two variations of the B205 were produced, one with the normal green pot helmet and one (probably influenced by the band figures) with a white helmet.

Green World War I helmet, khaki base, reddish belts and straps Green pot helmet, khaki base, reddish belts and straps White pot helmet, khaki base, reddish belts and straps



The return to the khaki base was the final major change before the line was phased out completely.

The reason for the move was probably cost. Cutting one step reduced labor and materials costs. Plastic soldiers were readily available at a much lower price and were being offered in PlaySets, complete with buildings and vehicles. We speculate that by this time Barclay had probably decided to go with its pod foots and was developing the line.

There is one more variation that just doesn't comfortably fit into the picture, the brief (or possibly, multiple) introduction(s) of white eyes. While the eyes show up primarily on civilian figures, occasionally a military figure will be found with white eyes. To date, we have seen B125, B203, B207, B209, B210, B211 and B223. The large majority of both the military and civilian white-eyed figures have green bases which would place them in the 1948-49 time frame, but a few have been seen with bases the same color as the body of the figure (B161, B189 and B207).

On June 25, the Korean War began as a popular defense of freedom. The heroic defense of the Pusan perimeter and the subsequent successful Inchon invasion sparked renewed interest in war toys. It probably gave the larger figures a brief respite before the complete switch to the pod foot line.

There is some controversy as to when Barclay introduced the pod-foot line, 1950 or 1951? The earliest confirmed date is a Woolworth's catalog dated December 1951 (O'Brien's third edition). This would indicate that production of the large figures began to be phased out several months prior. There is some evidence that there was some overlap of production of both lines during the transition. However, if the pod foots were introduced in 1950 then the above timeline must be moved back by about six to nine months.

Obviously, this timeline is still being refined and all numbers are not included in this up date. And, a number of questions remain unanswered:

- 1. Does anyone have a B205 Officer with other than a khaki base?
- 2. Does anyone definitely remember acquiring a B135, B136 or B137 after the war?
- 3. Does anyone have a B201 with a green or lime-green base?
- 4. Does anyone have examples of military figures with white eyes other than those listed?

We will continue investigating individual figures in more detail in an effort to determine when they may have been introduced or dropped from production. But to repeat, the reality is, however, that a precise timeline is not possible and we put forth our findings only as a guide, which hopefully will make the hobby of collecting dimestores more enjoyable. As always we encourage your comments and input. You can contact us at: ussslater@aol.com (Gordon), tylov37@yahoo.com (Bob) or direct snail mail to: Barclay Soldier Study, PO Box 697, Guilderland, NY 12084-0697.



The B205 Officer with a white helmet and khaki base which was probably the result of an officer being introduced into a boxed set with band figures.

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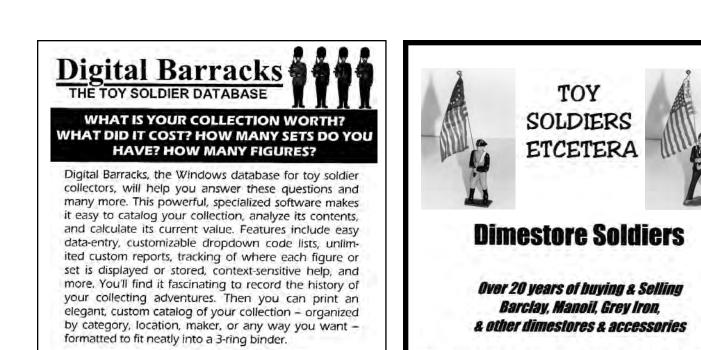


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BRITAINS SALVATION ARMY

Part two

Nineteen Thirties production, Uncatalogued Sets and Boxed Bands. By Norman Joplin

Part one of this article concentrated on the first version Salvation Army figures and General Booth bust manufactured by Britains pre World War one. (OTS Volume 29 # 4)

Part two examines the range of figures produced in the nineteen thirties and their connection with the Salvation Army.

My continuing research at the British Museum Newspaper Library in London revealed yet more information on the link between Britains and the Salvation Army through the toy figures produced.

It was apparent from the interview carried out with Alfred Britain during a Boys Own Newspaper reporters visit to the Britains factory in 1910 that the first version Salvation Army figures had not been a particular success.

It is somewhat surprising that in the nineteen thirties Britains again produced Salvation Army items, this time a revamped short skirted female figure, male officers and flag bearers and a host of instrumentalists making up various bands.

The Inter War years had seen a decline in the popularity of military items; and Britains, during the nineteen twenties and thirties, had concentrated on many civilian related lines in order to sustain their place in the market.

Farm, Zoo, Garden and Circus were the mainstays along with many items made for, or in conjunction with outside companies, the Cadbury Cococub venture being one of the most successful of all time.

The connection with the Salvation Army probably falls into the category of items made for other companies as, although Britains allocated set numbers to the sets of Salvation Army figures, none ever appeared in the Britains catalogs and to date no boxed sets have come to light.

Set numbers 1315,1316 and 1317 are listed in the Britains factory records as having been made in June 1933; these sets have been documented in Armies of the World by Joe Wallis and The Great Book of Britains by James Opie.

A fully illustrated color resume of Britains Salvation Army figures is included in my book Britains Civilian Toy Figures, published by Schiffer Publishing.

The discovery of Britains factory records shows a fourth uncataloged set as being made in June 1933 and allocated catalog # 1309. None of the above sets were produced again after World War Two. (See the accompanying chart for a breakdown of the contents of each set).

A cover picture from the Salvation Army junior newspaper The Young Soldier dated 27th May 1933 shows a very interesting image of many of the figures produced by Britains.

A twenty four piece band in red uniforms, plus officer and standard bearer in blue uniform and a red coated standard bearer can be seen in this shot along with two groups of the now short skirted Salvation Army Lassies.

It is interesting to note that the twenty fourpiece band grouping does not show a Bandmaster in blue uniform as listed in the factory records of all four set numbers.



A unique feature of the Commissioning of the Cadets (reported in this issue) was the appointing of over fifty Probationary Liturenams as Musical Troopers and Musical Miriams, to conduct campaigns which will cover respectively 500 and 1,000 miles of the country-side during the summer mounts

Saivationist Publishing and Supplies, Ltd., are appropriately offering, at a reasonable cost, the topical toys depicted in our frontispiece. Every up-to-date Salvationist home should possess a set of these fascinating little figures

An image, courtesy of Getty Images and dated May 1933 shows a female Salvationist at the movements London headquarters with a group of figures; the caption states that these Soldiers of the Salvation Army complete with marching Miriams will soon be available to little Salvationists around the world.

This underscores that the date of issue of the figures was 1934 and the advance publicity was carried out in the press of 1933.

The Young Soldier cover picture of March 24, 1934 has a picture of a Salvation Army member and a little girl looking at the bandsmen figures.

In December 1934 Toy Salvationists are featured in an advertisement in The Young Soldier and for the first time boxed sets are mentioned, these being available in the price ranges 3/3,5/9 and 6/6.Individual figures were on offer at 2d, 3d and 4d.

A line drawing of a Salvation Army Bandsman



A Salvation Army worker at the movement's London headquarters examines the first of a collection of toy soldiers with a difference. These are soldiers of the Salvation Army, complete with marching Miriams, and they will soon be available to little Salvationists around the world.

with a Monstre Bass is included in this advertisement (See below The British Model Soldier Society)

Models of Eastern People, "Useful to Teachers and interesting to Children" were offered in the same December 1934 advertisement, priced at 3d each with boxed sets containing Animals, Palm Trees and People at 2/6 and 4/6.

These were obviously the forerunners of Britains sets 1313 and 1314 which were to be introduced into the Britains catalog in 1937.

The Male and Female figures from this set were also used by Britains as Noah and his wife in their Noah's Ark, set # 1550.

The British Model Soldier Society Bulletin of 1934 announced that "Two extra and very effective



instrumentalists (Monstre Bass and Tenor Horn) can be purchased from The Salvationist Publishing and Supply Ltd, Judd Street, Kings Cross, London, price 3d each. These figures are made by Messrs Britains and obtainable only from the above source. Prices for the complete bands are –Large 6/6,Small 3/3"

The mention of the two additional band figures as late as the end of 1934 does not tie in with the factory record listings as these two items appeared in the factory lists from 1933 (See accompanying chart for a list of all the factory numbers allocated to Britains Salvation Army figures)





On December 21. 1935 The Young Soldier advertised sets of Toy Salvationists at one Shilling per box for either four bandsmen or six Soldiers.

This advertisement announced "Only one day left, What will father Christmas bring?"

Boxed sets therefore were obviously in existence, but what did the boxes look like and why, to date, have none appeared on the secondary toy soldier market ?

James Opie, responding to my email in 2004 in which I asked if he had ever seen a boxed set of Salvation Army figures states, "My memory is not that good, but short of hypnosis my recollection is that I have seen an empty box for set 1316 which contained a tie card for a sixteen piece set, the set number was rubber stamped and with a general typeset Armies of the World label"

The following list is taken from the Britains factory records and shows the "B" number or internal factory reference number allocated to each individual figure along with the set(s) that each figure was scheduled to be included in.

#	Uniform/Description	# of figures	Set
196B	Red Cornet	2	1315
196B	Red Cornet	3	1316
196B	Red Cornet	6	1317
197B	Red Euphonium	2	1315
197B	Red Euphonium	2	1316
197B	Red Euphonium	4	1317
198B	Red Bass Horn	1	1315
198B	Red Bass Horn	1	1316
198B	Red Bass Horn	2	1317
199B	Red Trombone	2	1315
199B	Red Trombone	2	1316
199B	Red Trombone	3	1317
200B	Red Side Drum	1	1315
200B	Red Side Drum	1	1316
200B	Red Side Drum	1	1317
#	Uniform/Description	# of figures	Set
201B	Red Big Drum	1	1315



left to right 196B 197B 198B 199B

201B	Red Big Drum	1	1316
201B	Red Big Drum	1	1317
202B	Red Standard Bearer	1	1317
203B	Blue Standard Bearer	1	1316
204B	Officer	2	1316



		Jos Ja Ja	2	1010
205B	Private	left to right 200B 201B 204B	2	1316
206B	Woman Marching	-	2	1316
207B	Woman with War Cry		1	1316
208B	Woman with Tambou	rine	1	1316
224B	Red Cymbals (This it	tem is not listed		
	in the Master Set list	ings as being part		
	of any of the four Sal	vation Army sets)		
225B	Red Tenor Horn		1	1315
225B	Red Tenor Horn		3	1316
225B	Red Tenor Horn		3	1317
226B	Red Monstre Bass		1	1315
226B	Red Monstre Bass		1	1316
226B	Red Monstre Bass		2	1317
227B	Band Master (A figur	e with Cornet always		
	painted in a Blue Uni	form and white piping		
	on his shoulders, iss	ued with all four Bands		
	irrespective of the Ur	niform color of the Band		
227B	Band Master (as abo	ove)	1	1309
227B	Band Master (as abo	ove)	1	1315
227B	Band Master (as abo	ve)	1	1316
227B	Band Master (as abo	ove)	1	1317
#	Uniform/Descriptior		ires	Set
228B	Blue Cornet	2		1309



left to right 225B 226B 227B

229B	Blue Euphonium	2	1309
230B	Blue Bass Horn	1	1309
231B	Blue Trombone	2	1309
232B	Blue Cymbals (Not listed in the Factory		
	Set number listings as having been		
	included with any Blue Salvation Band		
233B	Blue Tenor Horn	1	1309
234B	Blue Monstre Bass	1	1309
235B	Blue Side Drum	1	1309
236B	Blue Big Drum	1	1309

The Master Mould number for Salvation Army Bandsmen was 405.

Master Mould number for Salvation Army Standard Bearer 403 and Master Mould number for the Salvation Army Lassie 404.

The above numbers refer only to the items made after World War One.

Master Plaster Patterns still exist for some of the pre World War One figures as discussed in part one of the article, however they were not given a reference number.

- Set 1309 contained 12 Pieces in Blue Tunics
- Set 1315 contained 12 Pieces in Red Tunics
- Set 1316 contained 24 Pieces. Bandsmen in Red Uniforms with Band Flag Bearer Officer and Women in Blue
- Set 1317 contained 24 Pieces in Red Uniforms including a Standard Bearer



Photos by Philip Dean.

Christies Auctioneers of South Kensington London for permission to reproduce images from the Arnold Rolak reference collection auction and the Philip Dean reference collection Gordon Taylor of the Salvation Army International Heritage Center. The War Cry and The Young Soldier Publications of the Salvation Army Joe Wallis for his support and encouragement John Ruddle of the British Model Soldier Society. Getty Images

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GENERAL INSPECTION-NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

By Russ Bednarek

CBG Mignot has generously supplied two outstanding Napoleonic sets for review. Although both sets are not new releases, they are representative of two very unusual and interesting subjects for Napoleonic collectors; Oudinot's Division and the band of the 1st Hussars.

The Oudinot's Division set, (#145), is unusual for Mignot as it is a 16 figure set, rather than the typical 12 piece offering. Oudinot's Division was created to be the spearhead of the French army which was to invade England. The only regiments of the Grande Armee contributing to Oudinot's Division were the 58th Line and 15th Light Infantry regiments.

Mignot has chosen an interesting mix of figures to represent the Division. Drummers of the voltigeurs, chasseurs and grenadiers are grouped with sappers of the 15th Light Infantry. Two drum majors, a coronet player and three *porte aigle* figures along with a mounted officer complete the set. Each figure is accurately depicted in their own special uniform, done as usual, in the high quality of painting typical of Mignot. It is this intriguing mix of uniforms which truly makes this one of Mignot's most interesting sets.







The 1st Hussars Band set, (#224), is very unique in that Mignot has few mounted Napoleonic bands. Dazzling in their red dolmans and blue Hungarian trousers, Mignot has made an excellent choice in selecting this regiment. The band is a 12 piece set, (most Mignot cavalry sets are 6 figures), and offers an excellent selection of musical instruments. There are trumpet, cymbal, bassoon, trombone, french horn, clarinet figures, along with two different drums. Also included are a chapeau chinois and a serpent figure. The quality of painting is of the highest standard right down to the accurate depiction of the saddle blanket. The braiding on the Hungarian trousers is superbly executed along with the other numerous intricacies which are part of a Napoleonic musician's uniform. This colorful set will be hard to pass up for the Napoleonic collector.

Collectors are encouraged to contact Jack Carleton of *Le Petit Soldat* to acquire these sets for their collection. Please see *Le Petit Soldat* ad in this issue for contact information.

Thank you to CBG Mignot for supplying these sets for review.

WHAT BRITAINS MIGHT HAVE MADE B SCALE FIGURES PART I

By William C. Grant, Jr.

B series figures were produced by Britains from 1896 until 1918. At approximately 44 mm. they were considerably smaller than the standard 54-mm. figures and were in First Grade or Best Quality paint.

After World War I only two sets were listed in the catalogue: Number 125 Royal Horse Artillery, review order and Number 126 Royal Horse Artillery, service dress in khaki and foreign service helmets.

From 1923 to 1941 new figures in the same scale but in Second Grade paint appeared as the W series.

In 1934, an Egyptian Camel Corps figure in about 44-mm. scale appeared but was listed with standard size figures in the C series. (See image)



New B scale figures showing Types of the Indian Army. From left to right, officer and trooper each of the Queen's Own Corps of Guides, 1st Bengal Lancers, (Skinners Horse), 11th Bengal Lancers, (Probyn's Horse) and the 28th Madras Light Cavalry.

Throughout their existence the production of small sized figures appears to have been somewhat haphazard. At times some were listed in the catalogue but many were not. There was also considerable interchanging of heads for foot figures and horses for the mounted troops. Cavalry figures were often found on a trotting horse one year and on a walking horse the next.

Foreign service helmets would alternate with review order headdress, a case in point is the British Fifth Dragoon Guards, which began life in khaki and foreign service helmets and later underwent metamorphosis into review order dress with plumed helmets.

Unlike some of the latter day Lilliput Farm and Railroad figures, which were scaled down replicas of their 54mm. counterparts, B figures not only had their own identity but often were in positions not seen in the standard range.

Infantry were all fixed arm, while cavalry had both fixed and moveable arms. At times the fixed arm cavalry appeared in Second Grade paint. Molds were not made for officers, which were identified, if at all, by gold collars.



Production of a new, B scale Indian cavalry figure. On the right is a Britains B figure of an officer of the 16th Lancers from which the modified master figure, center, was derived. In the back is a casting in the mold with sprues attached and on the right a finished figure of the 1st Bengal Cavalry (Skinner's Horse).



From left to right: Original Britains, Paris Office B figures of French Infanterie de Ligne and an enigmatic, grey painted figure which may represent a Belgian or as J. Opie has suggested, a German infantryman. The third figure is a direct casting of the French infantry soldier from which the French Foreign Legionaire and Belgian Grenadier were derived. The sixth figure is an original Britains of Japanese Infantry upon which the master model of the West Indian Regiment and the completed Bersagliere were based.

WHAT BRITAINS MIGHT HAVE MADE (Cont.)



Britains Egyptian Camel Corps - C Series and Whitejackets of the Royal Navy together with Foot Guards - W Series. The Camel Corp and Sailors are in original second grade paint but the unspecifed regiment of foot guards have been embellished.



Britains Belgian Chasseurs a Cheval - 2nd Regiment Belgian Chassevrs 1st Regiment B Size by William Grant Kings African Rifles – Blue Jerseys B Size by William Grant Kings African Rifles Britains Set 225



11th Bengal Lancers Probyns Horse 1st Bengal Lancers Skinners Horse

Detailed discussion of small sized figures is too convoluted to pursue here for there were many variations and oddities within the range, especially if one considers Paris Office contributions.

The number of variations and regiments made by Britains in the B and W ranges was limited. This deficiency inspired me several years ago to add to the roster by making 44mm. figures of my own. At first I tried making master figures from scratch but try as I might to emulate Britains artistry, the figures always came out in my own style. The problem was solved when I decided to form all of my castings from original Britains figures, which were then modified to make a master model representing any regiment that I cared to make.

In considering what Britains might have made, I first made Armies of the World and The British Empire. There were no colonial regiments in the B and W range unless one considers the Egyptian camel corps in that category.

Britains Armies of the World Series included only a few sets: Russian and Japanese infantry and cavalry, French Infanterie de Ligne, possibly Belgian Infantry and U.S. doughboys and cavalry.

For colonials I decided to make The King's African Rifles in blue jerseys rather than tunics, the West Indian regiment running at the trail and four sets of Indian cavalry at the walk.

Other nations that I produced were new French, Belgian and Italian cavalry and infantry. Regiments that had not been included in the Britain's B series.

When contemplating what Britain's might have made, it is useful to point out that soldiers of all of these nations could have been produced by Britains using existing body molds but with different heads. The colonials would have necessitated the use of costly, new molds, which perhaps explains why none were produced by the company.

All in all B figures were very attractive and remain highly collectible today. Their size should make them especially appealing to collectors with space restrictions. They also open up limitless possibilities for those interested in making conversions or creating new figures. B figures Britains might have made of British Army regiments will be covered in a follow- up article.

WHAT BRITAINS MIGHT HAVE MADE (Cont.)



Italian Cavalry Genoa Regiment and Bersagliere Running with Officer



Kings African Rifles and Officer West India Regiment



L to R Back: French Hussar and Belgian Chasseur A Cheval 1st Regiment L to R Front: French Foreign Legion Officer & Man, French Infanterie De Ligne Officer and Man by Britains Belgian Grenadier Officer and Man

Editors Note

The letter "B" was also used by Britains in other various ways, it is assumed that the "B" used in the context of the above article was a way of distinguishing small size figures from 54 millimeter figures which were considered Britains "A" line.

The original Britains factory records and internal numbering system reveal that a "B" suffix was given to each individual 54mm figure for identification purposes within the company.

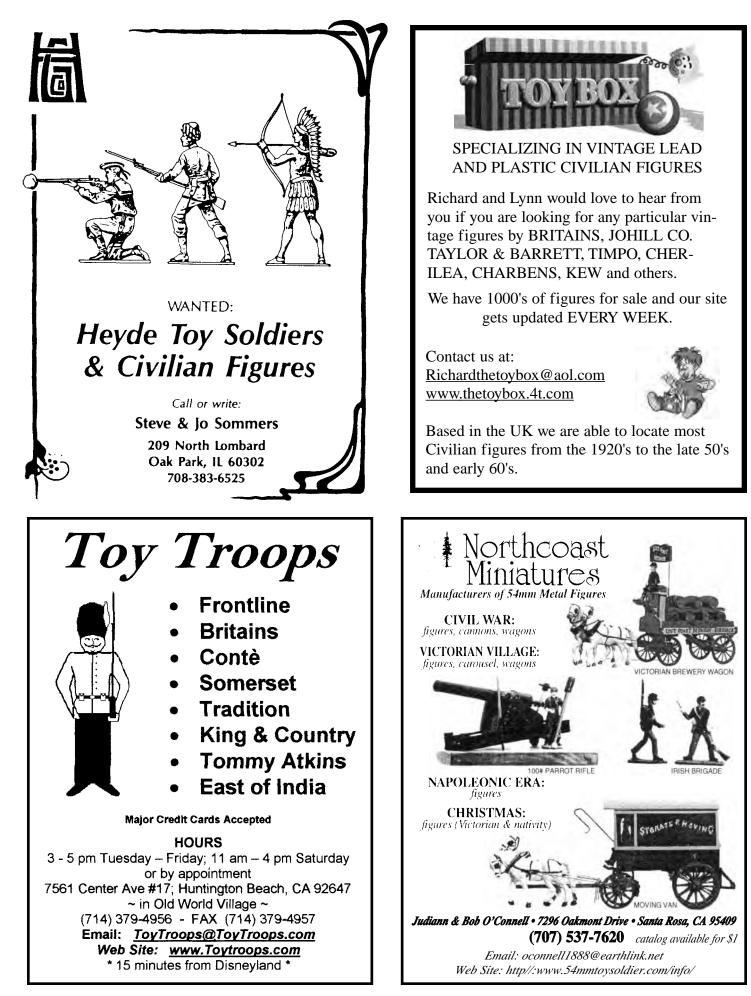
This "B" suffix was, during the nineteen fifties, used as an identification and catalogue number for Picture Pack figures

William C. Grant, Jr. is a graduate of both Dartmouth College and Yale University. He is an expert in the field of Animal Behavior, Evolution and Immunology. Mr. Grant's professorships include Dartmouth College, Williams College and he was a Visiting Research Professor to Oxford University and the University of Edinburgh. As well as being a toy soldier collector and manufacturing toy soldiers as a hobby, Mr. Grant is a member of the Board of Directors of the New England Tropical Conservatory. He is a respected wildlife photographer and safari guide from 1985 to the present.

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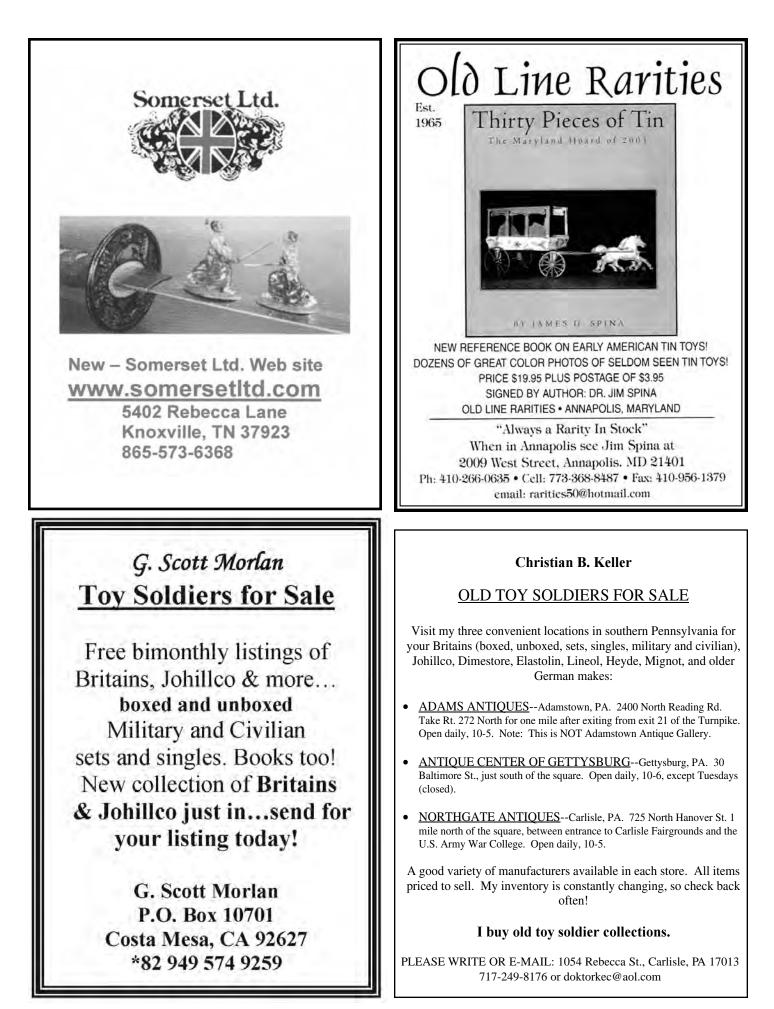


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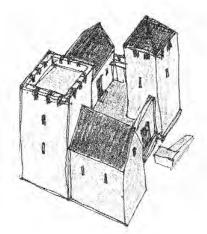
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THE STORY OF THE W. BRITAINS RE-PRINT OF AN ORIGINAL CATALOGUE, FIRST PRINTED IN 1914/15 AND RE-PRINTED IN 1972

By Charles Biggs

In 1972 an old catalogue was discovered at the W Britains factory in Hornsey London.

Britains advertising/public relation's officer at the time, the late Ray Swain foresaw the possibility of reprinting the catalogue as a potential publicity tool for the company.

Hollow Cast Toy Soldiers and figures, first produced in 1893 had been discontinued in 1966 and Britains were now concentrating on products of plastic and die cast with former hollow cast items rapidly being forgotten within the firm.

Britains early catalogues did not have a date printed on them and with very little knowledge to draw upon Mr. Swain designated the catalogue a date of 1905. It is uncertain why this date was chosen, but in all probability it was a stab in the dark by Mr. Swain.

The late Leslie Dennis Britain, M.B.E. D.F.C the companies retired Managing Director and later Chairman, had agreed to personally sign all copies of the individually numbered reprint catalogues.

Mr. Denys (A name we were allowed to use within the Britains Company) decided to dedicate a period of time after breakfast each morning to sign between 25 and 50 of the individually numbered

NOTICE I HEREBY STATE THAT THIS REPRINTING OF OUR 1905 CATALOGUE IS A FAITHFUL REPRODUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL. I AM PROUD TO AUTHENTICATE THIS COPY WHICH ILLUSTRATES TOYS MADE BY MY GRANDFATHER, MR WILLIAM BRITAIN. BRITAINS LTD REGRET A POSSIBLE ERROR IN THE DATE OF THIS & CATALOGUE, THE EVIDENCE OF CERTAIN ITEMS IN THE CONTENTS WOULD POINT TO THE PROBABLE PRINT DATE OF THE ORIGINALS BEING ABOUT 1910. Mr Dennis Britain O.B.E. D.F.C. Grandson of the founder of Britains Ltd. THE NUMBER OF THIS COPY IS 1384The models and toys shown in this reprinted catalogue are no longer in production and are therefore not for sale. however these or similar toys made by Britains Ltd can be seen in various museums throughout the U.K.

Copyright 1972 Britains Ltd.

THE STORY OF THE W. BRITAINS RE-PRINT (Cont.)

catalogues, of which 2000 had been printed and it was at this point he noticed the inclusion of the sets of Boy Scouts, the Boy Scout movement was not formed until 1908 so clearly the catalogue date was incorrect.

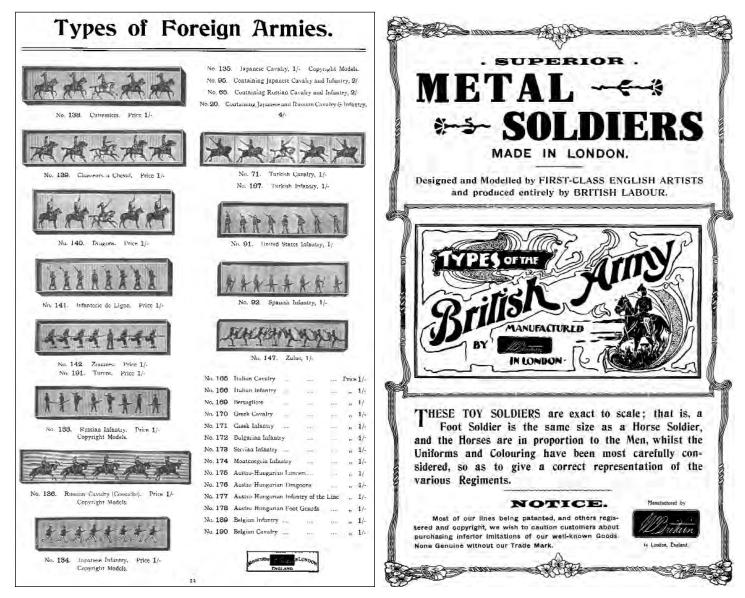
It was decided to return the catalogues to the Britains Company and to overprint an errata with the date 1908.

After the deletion of the Hollow Cast line, Britains figures started to become highly collectible items and a small band of dedicated collectors emerged in the early nineteen eighties who were W Britains enthusiasts

Many of these collectors were based in the USA and it was through auction houses that purchases were made and prices started to spiral upwards, buying and selling became common place within this group and the thirst for knowledge led to much research being carried out by individuals keen to verify the provenance of the items in their collections.

It was during this research that it became apparent that both dates on the catalogue were in fact incorrect as the listing of set 191 Turcos (See image) proved the item to be of later vintage and probably 1914/15 in date.

The author of this article has a number of these reprint catalogues for disposal; See this issue of Market Place for details.















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May 10- Wednesday. Bonhams Toy Soldier Auction. Montpelier Street. Knightsbridge London. Contact Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273628 Email leigh.gotch@bonhams.com

May 13 – Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier Show (UK). Holiday Inn Bloomsbury-Academy Booker and Turner Suites. Coram Street. London. Next to Russell Square Underground Station and within one minutes walk of the Royal National. 10.30am-4pm. Contact Norman Joplin email info@normanjoplin.com Telephone (001 44) 262 692 3913 or 01926 496062 within the UK.

May 13- Saturday. 5th Annual Toy Soldier Show. 9am-4pm. Virginia War Museum. 9285 Warwick Boulevard. Newport News, Virginia. Contact Colin Romanick. aromanick@nngov.com Telephone 757-247-8523 www.warmuseum.org

May 14 - Sunday. Ohio Toy Soldier Show & Sale. Holiday Inn, Hudson, Rt. 8 Ohio Turnpike. Doug McClure 330-722-6751

May 20 - Saturday. Northwestern Pennsylvania Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 10am-3pm Rocky Grove Firehall, Shuffstall Street, Franklin, PA. Contact Randy Sabousky. Email rasabousky@csonline.net Telephone 814 354 6053

May 20 - Saturday and May 21 - Sunday. Soldiers Soldiers International Toy Soldier Convention Umbria, Italy. Contact John Tunstill cinzia.soldierssoldiers.com 0039 075 930 2428

June 1- Thursday. Christies Toy Soldier Auction. 85 Old Brompton Road, Kensington, London. Contact Hugo Marsh. Email hmarsh@christies.com (011 44) (0)207 752 3276.

June 10 - Saturday. Heart of the South Toy Soldier, Military Miniature Figure Show and Sale. Annandale VFD Community Center. 7128 Columbia Pike. Annandale, Virginia. Contact Ed Gries 201 342 6475

June 24-Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London. Contact Bob Neville 44(0) 1329 233141. Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com www.thetoysoldiershow.com

August 12 – Saturday. SCMMS Annual Southeastern Toy Soldier Show. South Carolina State Museum. Gervais Street, Columbia, SC. Contact Col. Dennis Fontana 803 419 6747

August 19 – Saturday. The National Capital Model Soldier Society, 45th Annual Washington Show. NoVa Community College. Ernst Cultural Center. 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, Virginia. Contact Glenn Merritt 703 938 6361 merrittg@erols.com

August 26- Saturday. Dan Morphy's Antique Toy, Doll, Holiday and Advertising Show. York Fairgrounds West Market Street, York, Pennsylvania. Contact Dan Morphy 717 335 3425 Email danmorphy@dejazzd.com

TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2006-2007 (cont.)

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 3913. email info@normanjoplin.com

September 24 - Sunday. OTSN's Toy Soldier Show. Hyatt Regency Woodfield. 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois. Informaton- Don Pielin Email dimestores@aol.com Telephone 630-497-1239. Or Write 106 Cottonwood. Streamwood, IL 60107.

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

October 21 - Saturday. Toy Soldier Show Bad Nauheim. Contact Andreas Pietruschka Verlag Figuren Magazin Email redaktion@figuren-magazin.de

October 29 - Sunday. Birminghams's Central 16th Model and Toy Soldier Fayre. 10.30-4pm The Clarendon Suite. 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston. Birmingham. England. Contact David McKenna. Email dave_mckenna20@hotmail.com Telephone (44) (0) 121 628 1397

November 4 - Saturday. The Toy Soldier Museum Open House and Cellar Sale. (10am-4pm) 1343 Paradise Falls. Cresco. PA. Contact Jim Hillestad. Email jimhill@ptd.net Telephone 570 629 7227.www.the-toy-soldier.com (The day before the East Coast Toy Soldier Show)

November 5- Sunday. The 24th Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show & Sale. Rothman Center, Farleigh Dickinson University. Hackensack New Jersey. Contact Bill Lango Telephone 973 831 8900 Email bill@vintagecastings.com

November 5th – Sunday. 7th Annual Toy Soldier Show. Cantigny Park and Museum Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois. Contact Nick Albanese 920 261 1323 camprandall@charter.net

November 15 - Wednesday. Bonhams Lead Soldier and Figure Sales. Contact LeighGotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628 leigh.gotch@bonhams.com James Opie +44 (0) 20 7794 7447 evenings and weekends

December 2 – Saturday. The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London. Contact Bob Neville 44(0) 1329 233141 Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com www.thetoysoldiershow.com

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October 20 - Saturday. Toy Soldier Show Bad Nauheim. Contact Andreas Pietruschka Verlag Figuren Magazin E mail redaktion@figuren-magazin.de

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