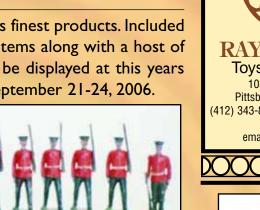


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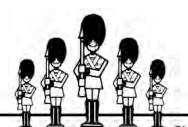












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ON THE COVER

Britains Marching Guardsman

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

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N THE MORNING of 10 May 1940, Goering's Luftwaffe... thousands of paratroopers... hundreds of Panzer tanks and three complete German Army Groups fell upon Holland, Belgium and France.

Six short, terrible weeks later Holland had fallen Belgium surrendered... and France lay prostrate before her old enemy.

> Only Britain - bruised, battered yet still defiant lay just outside Hitler's grasp... for the moment.

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marching private and a nifty

looking Vickers MK. VI Light

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Two mounted

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For connoisseurs and collectors alike "Fields of Battle" provides a welcome diversion into a WW2 campaign that is rarely featured in the toy soldier world.

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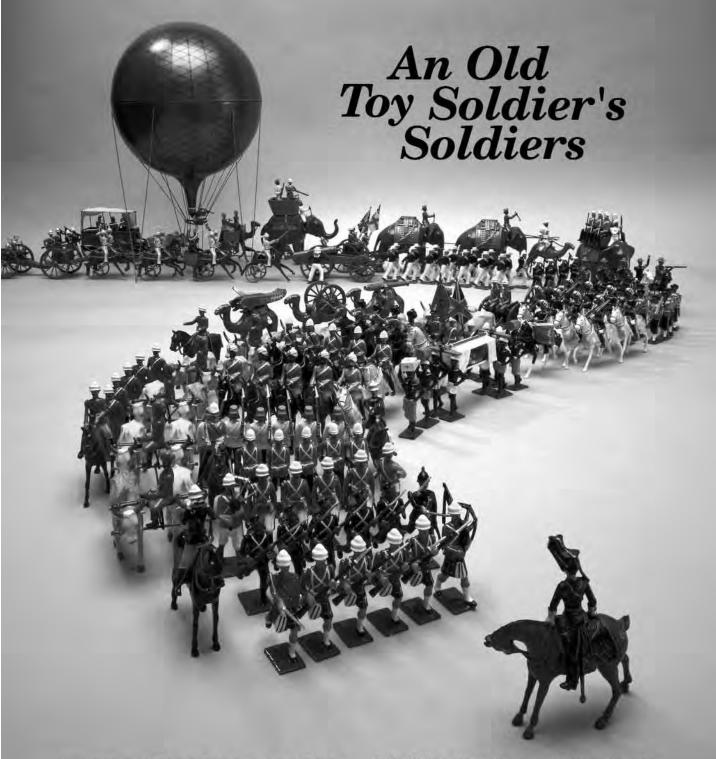
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Time was a toy soldier knew what it meant to be a toy soldier. All spit and polish, bright shiny uniform, lean and rugged, big pink cheeks, manual-of-arms, upright and proper even in the din of battle. Most new toy soldiers - a sorry lot. No group 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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Years of Old Toy Soldier Magazine Part 2 1986-1996

By Norman Joplin

Continuing the series recording the major developments in the Toy Soldier world as published in Old Toy Soldier Newsletter/ Old Toy Soldier Magazine.

Volume 10 # 1 1986. Roy Selwyn- Smith retires after 40 years and as Britains Director for 30 years. A number of books relating to the toy soldier hobby were advertised. British Toy Soldiers 1893- present by James Opie and based on the L.W. Richards concept. Toy Soldiers all Colour Guide by Andrew Rose and Richard O'Brien's Barclay Catalog book.

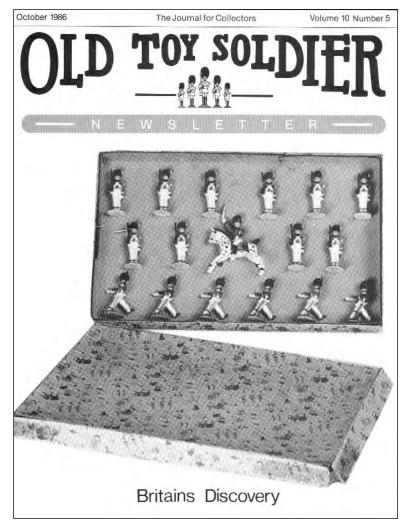
Volume 10 # 2 Featured James Opie's book Britains Toy Soldiers 1893-1932.

Richard O'Brien's second Barclay Catalog book was announced in Volume 10 #3.

Sheila Toys were featured in # 5 along with the announcement of British Toy Figures by Norman Joplin, the first book devoted to Civilian figures. The feature article in this issue was the story relating to the previously undiscovered boxed set of Britains Toy Town Soldiers.

Number 6 of Volume 10 included advertisements by Dutkins and Pageantry Products (Ducal) for the first time.

Volume 11 1987 only five issues were published this year. Articles appeared on



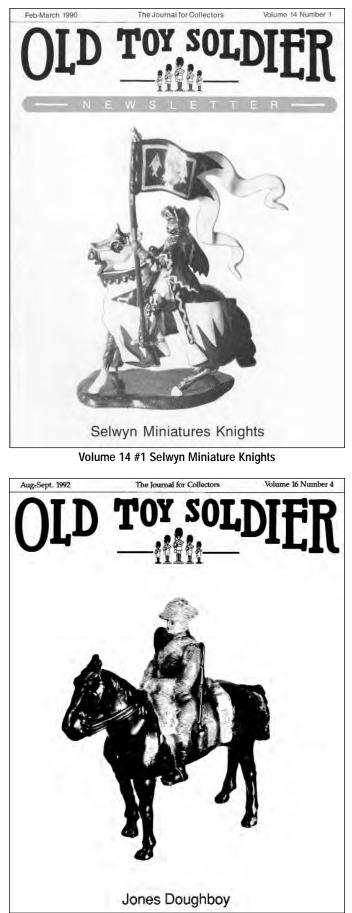
Cover OTSN Volume 10 #5 Britains Toy Town Soldiers

Courtenay / Greenhill, regular contributor Will Beierlwaltes being featured. Articles on Lincoln Log Dwarfs and Britains Mechanical Toys by Arnold Rolak appeared and The Art of the Toy Soldier book was released, co authored by Henry Kurtz and Burtt R Erlich. Number 6 of this volume announced the first book on plastic toy soldiers and figures by George Kearton covering the period 1947-1987.

Volume 12- highlights included: Number 1 was a cumulative index covering the first 12 years of the magazine. Chialu composition article by Jack Matthews, Collecting Toy Soldiers published by Richard O'Brien in 1988. Swedish toy soldier designer and manufacturer Holger Eriksson died and the formation of the Holger Eriksson Collectors Club run by Vadis Godby and Paul Padget was announced. Burtt R Erlich collection auctioned at Guernseys New York and an article by Joe Wallis featured the Britains archive display at the Bethnal Green Toy Museum in London.

Volume 13 –1989. The West Coaster show was announced and was to take place in March 1990, Plastic Figure and Playset Collector magazine published. Phillips Collectors Guides book published on toy soldiers written by James Opie. Selwyn Knights article published in Volume 13 #6 and The Frank Camileri Westchester toy soldier show was announced.

30 Years of Old Toy Soldier Magazine (Cont.)



Jones Doughboy Volume 16 #4 1992

Volume 14 # 1 included a flyer giving details of the first Britains Limited Edition retailed by Bill Lango of Vintage Castings, articles featured pre Dimestore figures by Christie and Ideal. Tenth anniversary of Old Toy Soldier Newsletter Show.

Volume 15. Norman Joplin's British Toy Soldier and Figure Show in London June 12th 1991. Britains Walthamstow Factory closes and Dobson Park Industries incorporate the Britains / Petite line. June 1991 Argus publisher Stuart Asquith's book on New Toy Soldiers and Toy Soldier Parade magazine published for the first time, a report in this issue claims a model of Hess by Lineol reaches a world record price for a single toy soldier – 3000 Pounds. The first known picture of Edward Jones published in Number 6.

Volume 16 1992. Books by Peter Greenhill – Heraldic Miniature Knights and Reggie Polaine-War Toys two are announced. Toys of Yesteryear advertises for the first time, Collecting Toy Soldiers two is published by O'Brien and an extensive article on Britains Eyes Right is submitted by Will Beierwaltes. French Company Mignalu is researched by Roger Garfield, Stewart Saxe announces that he will run the Toronto Old Toy Soldier Show and the forthcoming publication of Norman Joplin's Great Book of Hollow Cast Figures is announced.

Volume 16 # 6 –1993 is a cumulative index edition covering volumes eleven thru 15 for the years 1987 to 1991.

Volume 17 -1992. World Toy Soldier Expo announced for Washington DC in July 1993. Phillips closed in New York after 12 years. Exhibition of toy soldiers at The Guards Museum London to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Coronation. Joe Wallis announces his forthcoming book Armies of the World. South Carolina Military Miniatures Society first toy soldier show. Britains Fall Encampment held at the Valley Forge Show Pennsylvania. Britains Centenary Dinner held at the Guards Museum, guest of honor Dennis Britain. The final issue of Volume 17 published in 1994 contained information about the publication of C.B.G. Mignot Book by Christian Blondieau, Old German Toy Soldiers by Hans Henning Roer and The Great Book of Britains by James Opie.

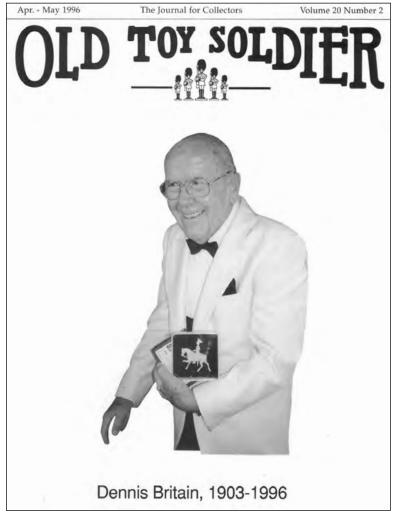
30 Years of Old Toy Soldier Magazine (Cont.)

Volume 18 –1994. Issues one and two contained articles on Kresge composition by Neal Crowley, and Britains Special Limited editions by Arnold Rolak. Christies announced the sale of the Britains Archive, which was to be held in June 1994. Tom Mayfield's article on the Lineol Factory appeared in issue #4. Reeves, Britains American agents hosted a Britains Dinner at the OTSN Show. Bertel Bruun and Norman Joplin issued two different books entitled Toy Soldiers respectfully and James Opie's Pocket valuation guide was released to compliment the Great Book of Britains. Richard O'Brien wrote on the identification of figures previously thought to be Jones and revealed the American Metal Toys connection.

Volume 19 –1995. Extensive articles on Lucotte were published authored by Lenoir Josey. The British Model Soldier Society celebrated their 60th Anniversary and Scott Morlan offered the Ed Ruby collection for sale. James Opie's article on the previously unknown Corsair figures was featured in issue # 2 and two further books on toy soldiers were reviewed – Facetta Nera: Soldatini in Cartapesta 1936 –1945 by Gianni Malotti and Italian Toy Soldiers by Orlando Di Mauro and Franco Pauletti.

Volume 20 –1996. The World expo was held in Paris, Joe Wallis covered the Clyde Model Dockyard/Britains Collection and Lou Sandbote became co-editor of the Holger Eriksson Collectors journal HECS. Dennis Britain OBE DFC died April 14th 1996. Steve and Jo Sommers paid a factory visit to Imperial in New Zealand and King and Country's shop in Hong Kong, an article appeared on Jim Hillestads Toy Soldier Museum in Cresco, Pennsylvania, and Michael Henry reported on the Kulmbach show in Germany. Collecting Toy Soldiers #3 by Richard O'Brien was announced.

That concludes part two of the OTSN summary; the third and final part will be published in the November 2006 edition of Old Toy Soldier.



Dennis Britain Volume 20 #2

OBITUARY TO ROY SELWYN SMITH By Charles Biggs

I have the sad but proud task to write Roy Selwyn Smith's Obituary, Roy died on the 16th of June 2006. We had been friends for some fifty nine years.

Roy spent the war years in the merchant navy and after the war joined M.Zang Ltd (Herald) in 1947 where we first met. A short time after Roy moved to Willmore and Sons who were responsible for the Timpo figures, I also joined Willmores as a 7 year apprentice before joining the Army to do my National Service.



Roy left Willmores to start Selwyn Miniatures around 1950, asking me to contact him again after completing my National Service.

By the time of my discharge in 1956, Roy had rejoined M Zang and our friendship was renewed when I also joined the company.

There have been many articles written about Roy Selwyn Smith, and Selwyn Miniatures, the latest being a book entited Selwyn Miniatures by Peter Cowan in 2005, but I would like to write about the man. Roy was one of the kindest, most genial people I have ever met, a very personable person, a retiring shy reserved man, but make no mistake, he had no lack of resolution and fortitude.

His main achievement in my eyes was that when he returned to M. Zang after winding up Selwyn Miniatures and leasing the moulds to Britains Ltd, he perused plastic injection moulding, setting up Herald Miniatures. He not only thought of the name, he designed the logo, and literally did every thing needed.

Mr. Zang being an old man by this time was glad to leave all the administration to Roy from setting up the homework painting centers to organizing the office cleaners.

We have Roy to thank for the beautiful plastic models eventually produced by Herald Miniatures.

Roy Selwyn Smith - An Obituary By Peter Cowan

It was my great privilege last year to meet with Roy Selwyn Smith, who sadly passed away on Friday 16th June 2006, while researching my book on Selwyn Miniatures. A quiet and reserved man, and clearly already unwell, he nevertheless threw himself into assisting me with great enthusiasm.

From this meeting, and on subsequent discussions, it became clear just how many iconic collectors figures Roy had been responsible for. Not only the Britains Knights of Agincourt, undoubtedly the finest ever hollowcast metal toy figures, but also the Timpo G.I. series, Railway series, and others. In plastic figures the Herald series, issued before their takeover, deservedly occupy a similar high status, and that is without moving on to the Swoppet and other ranges he produced while working for Britains.

Throughout his 37 years in toy manufacturing he always strove to make the best possible figures within the limitations imposed by cost and technology. That he succeeded is self evident, just look at displays, pick out the best figures and you will see. There are many people whose passing is said to leave the world a lesser place. This is very true of Roy, but how many have also left us such a legacy of treasures. Without his vision our childhoods, both first and second, would have been much poorer.

GERMAN COLLECTORS CLUB "KLIO" Exhibition June 24, 2006 - April 15, 2007

German Toy Soldier associations from Bavaria, Schwaben and Franconia combine at the above event to be held in the recently renovated Hoechstaedt Castle.

The venue is situated along the Danube near to Ulm(70 km) Ausburg (45km) and Munich (100km). August 11,12 &13, 2006 will feature figures and manufacturers from Germany, France, Great Britain and other European Countries, also US participants.

A series of events including battlefield tours etc. are also scheduled.

Contact: Dr. Hans Roth • Dr-Kurt-Huber-Strasse 10, D-82031 Grunwald, Germany • Email: drharogruen@t-online.de

James Warren Wengert, M.D. By Jo and Steve Sommers

Jim Wengert, or Doc Wengert to his collector friends, unexpectedly died in his sleep on May 23rd, the day after his seventy-second birthday. Over 35 years of collecting Doc joyously developed our hobby's definitive collection of military medical toys. He could spot a red cross on a made-in-Japan tin bus across a crowded flea market; no paint variation or casting difference in a figure was too subtle for Doc's eye. Where others found a piece or two, Doc came home with a bag full of weird and wonderful figures and ambulances by the dozen; "moving the wounded" was Doc's special passion.

Doc had a deep knowledge of the history of military medicine from ancient battlefields to Napoleon's Larrey to MASH. As a third generation Nebraska doctor and former Trustee of the Nebraska State Historical Society, reading and writing about the American frontier was a natural second interest.

In the Navy, Lt. Commander Wengert earned his wings as a flight surgeon, but rather than fly, he always took the train, his notso-beloved "Flatwater and rectum," to the OTSN Chicago Show. Doc made all but one show -- the year his daughter inexplicably chose a September wedding! In the 25 years before his retirement, Doc was the Assistant Chief of Psychiatry for the Veterans Administration in Omaha. Doc always felt that his profession was not a hindrance in a hobby where eccentricity is the norm.

Doc was a fine husband, father, and grandfather. For over three decades he was our dear friend and a model of enthusiastic collecting who found happiness and sanity in all things toy soldier.



In Memoriam Alexis Klimov By Vincent J. Russo &

Patrice Servais

It is with deep regret and profound sadness that we must announce the passing of Alexis Klimov on February 5, 2006 at the age of 68.

Alexis was the son of Michel Klimov, founder and owner of the Durso Company, manufacturers of high quality composition figures in Liege, Belgium, from 1938 – 1988.

Alexis was born in Liege in 1937 and rose to prominence in Three – Rivers (Canada) as a poet, philosopher, and educator. He was a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Quebec.

Prior to the elder Mr. Klimov's death last year, Alexis was most helpful to the authors in providing information and insight that was most valuable to us when preparing historical background on the Durso Company for our series of articles in Old Toy Soldier Magazine.

Alexis' son, Serge Klimov wrote to us soon after his father's death saying how he and his father liked "so very much to read together Old Toy Soldier, the American Magazine of Figurines".

They were both very proud of the achievements of Michel Klimov, father and grandfather.

OTSN's 26th Show September 24, 2006 Soldier-Farm-Zoo Figures 10 am-3:30 pm S7 admission Same place as always: The Hyatt Regency Woodfield, 1800 E. Golf Road in Schaumburg, Illinois, only ten miles west of Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Children 12 and under free with an adult admission. Early admission during setup from 7 to 10 am is also available for \$35. For more information, visit our website at toysoldiershow.com or call: Don Pielin at 630-497-1239 or Steve Sommers at 708-383-6525. Email: dimestores@aol.com **Please Join Us!**



Lucotte Trademark Sold By Russ Bednarek

The trademark of Lucotte, the world's oldest manufacturer of toy soldiers has been sold. Lucotte Collector Club members were informed in May that Madame Lynda Franceschi had sold the Lucotte trademark to Monsieur Edouard Pemzec, current owner of CBG Mignot. Not since Henri Mignot in 1928, has the production and marketing of Lucotte and Mignot been the responsibility of one man.

Madame Franceschi acquired the Lucotte trademark from her father, Jean Perfettini, a successful businessman, In 1975, upon hearing

that Henri Mignot's children were selling CBG Mignot, Perfettini for business reasons, purchased the company. Perfettini soon became enthralled with Mignot figures, and bought the retail shop Au Plat d'Etain located in Paris.

In 1981 Madame Franceschi became manager of Au Plat d'Etain. Encouraged by experienced collectors who desired to have Lucotte figures produced once again, Franceschi created the Lucotte Collectors Club. From 1983-1987 the Club issued a total of five, twelve piece sets. It was at this time that Perfettini, due to health concerns sold CBG Mignot, but retained the rights to Lucotte which was entrusted to Madame Franceschi.

The Lucotte Collectors Club was launched again in 1992 issuing new Lucotte sets. In 1996, toy soldier collector extradinaire Edouard Pemzec purchased CBG Mignot and joined Franceschi in the production of Lucotte figures. Franceschi and Pemzec, each utilizing their own strengths, formed the perfect team. Through their combined efforts of issuing never before made sets, the Lucotte Collectors Club flourished.

Edouard Pemzec who arguably possess the finest toy soldier collection in Europe, is himself a passionate collector of Lucotte. Besides being the owner of CBG Mignot, (which is run by his son Loic), and a collector, he is also the author of "Figurines et Soldats de Plomb", a delightful 367 page photo study of his collection, (see OTS Vol.27 #4).

Among Pemzec's future plans is a website for the Lucotte Collector Club. Members have already received "Lucotte's Chronicle" penned in part by Pemzec himself. Included in the "Chronicle" is the newest Lucotte release, Les chevau-legers du Grand-Duc de Berg. This six piece set is of the mounted personal guard of Murat and comprised of an officer, three mounted cavaliers, a trumpeter and superb timbalier. Members also learned that following the chevau-legers will be an infantry set of the Guard Grenadiers in greatcoats, Monsieur Pemzec has set an ambitious goal of 5 sets to be released per year which is sure to delight Club members.

Madame Franceschi's efforts will surely be missed. Her dedication and attention to detail insured that the Lucotte fig-



Jean Perfettini



Lynda Franceschi presenting the Lucotte trademark to Edouard Pemzec



Grenadiers en manteau



The Chevau- legers of Berg

ures produced were of the highest quality. Monsieur Pemzec is committed to continuing and improving upon the standards and practices he and Madame Franceschi utilized in their past efforts. Given Pemzec's high expectations, the Lucotte atelier will continue their excellent workmanship. Pemzec's dedication to excellence will insure that Lucotte Collector CLub members will not be disappointed.

> Lucotte Collector Club Contact Information: e-mail:lucotte2@wanadoo.fr Mail: Lucotte • La Petite Gagnerie • 43390 VERNOIL• France

W. BRITAIN / FIRST GEAR UPCOMING PRE-SHOW EVENTS:

CHICAGO

When: September 23, 2006

- Where: Hyatt Regency-Schaumburg, III
- Time: 6:30 p.m.
- Cost: £35/\$65 for W. Britain Club Members £45/\$80 for non club members

LONDON

When: December, 1, 2006
Where: The Guards Museum (tentative)
Time: 6:30 p.m
Cost: £35/\$65 for W. Britain Club Members £45/\$80 for non club members

The Events Will Feature: Open bar and hors d'ouevres

Attendees will receive a numbered exclusive event figure

For reservations and additional information about the new W. Britains please contact:

From the US, Canada, Central and South America:

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BRITAINS EMPTY BOX SALE AT CHICAGO SHOW

Scott Morlan is to hold a sale of Britains empty boxes at this years Old Toy Soldier Show in Chicago. The event will take place on Saturday, September 23rd at the Hyatt Regency in Schaumburg, time and room are still to be determined, watch the notice boards for details. The sale of empty boxes has become an annual event over the past few years with Ray Haradin, Arnold Rolak and Norman Joplin all holding successful sales in recent years.

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<u>Wisconsin</u>

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Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show May 2006

Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London Coram Street, Booker and Turner Suites

The Second Old Toy Soldier and Figures Show organized by Norman Joplin saw a change of venue, which was very well received by dealers and collectors alike.

Yards from Russell Square Underground Station in the heart of London, the Holiday Inn Bloomsbury is an ultra modern hotel with superb exhibition and conference amenities.

Superb lighting for dealer's displays, easy flat unloading and loading, helpful and professional conference staff, together with on site restaurant, coffee shop and Irish pub, the move to this venue proved to be an inspired one according to all who attended.

The show is a dateline event, with a recommended pre1980 date for toy soldiers and figures, the concept is unique in the toy soldier world and caters to those who are interested in old toy soldiers and figures lead, plastic or composition.

First shows have a reputation for uncovering rare and unusual items, this event was no exception. With 75 tables and 52 different dealers there were many rarities to be found.

Britains figures both boxed and unboxed were available in profusion, Colonel Donald Pudney, long time collector, had for sale some Britains items in original boxes rarely offered at shows, these included a number of Paris Office pieces, the rare set 72 Lifeguards Past and Present, and set #1536 The Colonials.

The show had an international element with the participation of Jean Tisne from France who had for sale autographed copies of his new book on Quiralu, French dealer Françoise Beaumont, Arnold Rolak and Lou Sandbote from Texas and German composition dealer Thomas Finck.

W.Britains/First Gear and the W Britains Collectors club attended and mounted an exhibition of Britains factory archive material. James Opie and his wife Mary represented Bonhams Auctioneers and Hugo Marsh from Christies was accompanied by Charles Biggs who's collection is soon to be auctioned at the South Kensington auction room.

Most of the UK's dealers in old lead figures enjoyed good trading days and for those looking for the rarer plastic items a good selection was available.

The accompanying photo gallery gives a flavor of the show.

Next event September 2nd 2006 - See this issue for full details



to Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier Show Saturday, September 2nd, 2006

Bring this coupon or magazine with you for FREE ENTRY to the Show!

SHOW REPORT

Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show May 2006

Found at the Show



Rare Faber/Carman/Argosy Composition Royalty Figures with original boxes



Malleable Mouldings Plastic Boxed Circus Set



Heralds Largest Plastic Display Set



An overview of Lynn Kenwood's table, Britains Plastic Garden Display, Phillip Segal Nursery Rhyme Figures and other Civilian items



French Aluminum Pinnochio Set



Britains Barrage Balloon and Winch in original box



Rare Unidentified Plaster Composition Robinhood Set



Rare Herald Plastic Zoo Display Set



Rare Britains Set #72 Past and

Britains Paris Office French Gun Team





Show organzer Norman Joplin with dealer Sally Manson

Donna Celebi with father John Rollins from New York

Plastic dealers left to right:

John Begg, Steve and Linda Weston

with US Dealer Julia Moed

Craig King disposing of his personal collection

Andrew Woodall

Dennis and Delia Slack

Bryan Charman offering German Compositon Figures

Pigi Brunozzi from France

Hermoine Todd

GERR



Photos by Philip Dean

Miniature Figure Collectors of America (M.F.C.A.) • May 2006 By Norman Joplin

The 65th annual M.F.C.A. show at Valley Forge Convention Center. King of Prussia. Pennsylvania took place on Friday and Saturdav May 5 & 6

This show opens Friday at noon to the public and dealer set up starts early the same morning, all day trading and public entry is Saturday and the venue is split between the vendors area and the competition area.

Painting and modeling exhibitions and competitions, (M.F.C.As mainstay) take place all day Saturday while old and new toy soldier dealers and manufacturers sell in the vendors area. Despite there being many dealers selling old toy soldiers of high quality and the fact that many rare and interesting items still show up at this event, there is no doubt that this side of the hobby at this particular show has declined in recent years.

The 2005 show had less tables than before and there was a marked decline again in May 2006 with the vendors being well spread out in the huge exhibition area, a number of regular dealers in the older style figures were missing, although many turned up to "walk around"

Those who were in attendance selling old toy soldiers and figures included Joe Saine, Joe Wallis, Michael Mattimore, Ray Haradin, Christian Keller, Ron Ruddell, Bill O'Brien, Mike Shaw,

Ed Wilson, Bob Hevner, Bob Shoulberg, Bill Graver, Thomas Finck, Ed Gries, Tom Litras, Art Ward, and Jefferson Hobbs.

Almost all of the manufacturers of new toy soldiers were represented as well as many of the Russian manufacturers.

Britains /First Gear had on display the new and forthcoming issues from their superb line of History of the British Army and it was good to see that the company is making great efforts to keep the interest in the more traditional figures going.

Attendance at the show seemed somewhat sluggish and spread out over the two days certainly made the venue far from "buzzina"

MFCA advertises to the minimum and this is probably reflected in the numbers that come through the door.

Old Toy Soldier dealers seemed rather dwarfed within the spacious surrounding and one wonders, given the rumors of an impending move to another venue, whether there may be a need for a smaller focused dateline Old Toy Soldier event on the eastern side of the USA during the spring?

As far as the competition area was concerned it is relevant to note the absence of any entries in the Old Toy Soldier section, Bill O'Brien and Jim Hillestad have in the past entered and won this competition.



Bill Graver and Joe Wallis



Alan Ball Britains Designer



Samples of future releases from the Britains History of the British Army Line



Joe Saine



Bob Hevner



L to R Joan Shoulberg, Ellen Beurklin and Allen Ernst



Rare Britains Set #255 offered by Michael Mattimore



Brad James of MFCA



Mike Shaw and Bob Hornung



Michael Mattimore



Rare Heyde Ancient Olympic Figures found at Valley Forge Show

Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show (UK) Saturday 2nd September 2006

Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, London • Coram Street Academy Booker and Turner Suites • 10.30 am – 4.pm

By Norman Joplin

If you collect Old Toy Soldiers and Figures in lead, Plastic or Composition, then as the show title suggests, this is the show you must attend.

A dateline event restricted to products produced before 1980, the show is unique in concept with the emphasis on quality items and an incredible selection of old toy soldiers and figures are on offer from the worlds leading dealers.

All of the United Kingdoms major traders in old Britains, Mignot, Heyde, Elastolin, Lineol and Lucotte, etc. will be in attendance; in addition, dealers from the USA, France, Germany and Italy will be represented, maintaining the international element for which the show is renowned.

A unique aspect of the show is that over 50% of the dealers attending do not participate in any other British toy soldier shows, thus offering the collectors the opportunity to buy items rarely available at shows.

Ray Haradin will be among the US participants and a copy of Old Toy Soldier Magazine will be given as part of the admission charge to the first 100 paying customers.

W.Britain/First Gear will again attend with a different display of vintage archival material from the Britains Company.

Mark Avery, W. Britains Collectors Club manager and editor of the Standard will have a display of the current range of History of the British Army recently issued by the company.

Christies and Bonhams Auctioneers will be on hand to appraise toy soldier collections and Toy Soldier Collector magazine from the UK will be attending for the first time.

The show opens to the public at 10.30am, admission is three pounds, with early trade buyers tickets available from 6.30am at a price 0f 15 pounds.

The Holiday Inn is an ultra modern venue with superb customer facilities including Restaurants, Irish Pub and Coffee shop and has gained much acclaim from the trade and public alike who attended the event in May. (See show report in this issue of OTS)

The Hotel is situated in Coram Street Bloomsbury, yards from the Russell Square Underground Station, Piccadilly Line and is only a 2 minute walk from The Royal National.

Kings Cross and Euston Rail stations are within a 10 minute walk and the area is served by the Heathrow Airbus.

The Holiday Inn is offering a special room rate for the weekend of the show and details can be obtained by calling the hotel directly.

DAY 2nd OF SEPTEMBER 2006



Change Change of Venue SEE AD IN THIS ISSUE

(SEE AD IN THIS ISSUE) AND NOT AS PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED (Only 2 minute walk north of Russell Square Underground Station and 1 minute east of the Royal National Hotel)

ADMISSION £3

Entry to the PUBLIC - 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM • Early Bird entry from 6:30 AM - £ 15

Norman Joplin's OLD TOY SOLDIER and FIGURE SHOW (UK) SATURDAY 2nd OF SEPTEMBER 2006

Holiday Inn London - Bloomsbury Coram Street, London WC1N 1HT

The Turner and Booker Suites

(Only 2 minute walk north of Russell Square Underground Station and 1 minute east of the Royal National Hotel)

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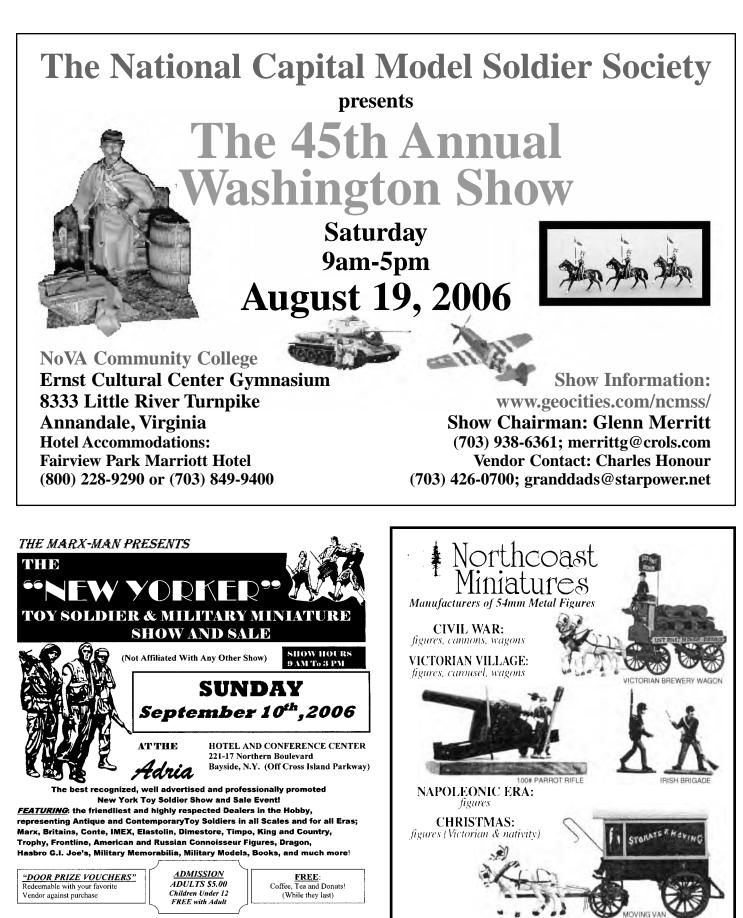
For further details contact: Norman Joplin Telephone: 001-262-692-3913 e-mail: info@normanjoplin.com

Rob Wilson Telephone: 01926 496062 Entry to the PUBLIC 10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

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This is a dateline show for old toy soldier and figures, pre 1980 vintage



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Come join our Celebration of collecting the history of the American Civil War!

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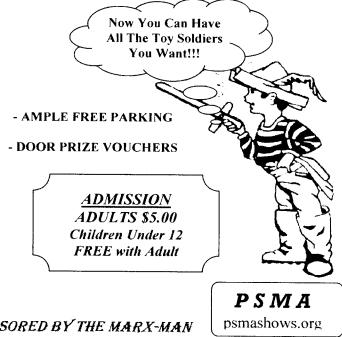
In addition "Keith Rocco" will be hosting a book signing opportunity for his latest publication – "On Campaign In The Age Of Napoleon", along with any other of his collectible past books or articles.

The show will also feature and host the largest 1/32 Scale American Civil War diorama ever assembled and displayed in one setting. Arranged by "The Marx-Man", utilizing mostly original Marx Civil War playset components – a 24 X 6 foot display!

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WHAT BRITAINS MIGHT HAVE MADE B SCALE FIGURES PART II

By Bill Grant

A brief discussion of Britains, small size (44mm) Band W series figures appears in Part I of this article (OTS vol. 30, no. 1) along with a look at some B size figures Britains never made of European armies and British colonial forces. Part II will cover types of the British Army which never appeared in Britains B or W ranges but which might well have done so.

Britains produced a limited number of British cavalry and infantry regiments in B scale. For example, lancers were represented by the 17th Lancers in review order and the 16th Queen's Lancers in tropical service dress. The latter regiment's first version featured scarlet tunics and white helmets while the second version was in khaki. A rather generic fixed arm lancer without lance appeared in the W range that might possibly be designated a 12th Lancer, although this is not clear. Line infantry, fusiliers and Guards regiments were on line, many in different positions than those represented in the Standard, 54mm Size.

As Scots regiments have always been popular with collectors and the general public, it seems surprising that only three, small sized figures were produced, two in the B series and one in W range. The first B figure is something of a puzzle.. Although listed as a Cameron Highlander, this figure in tropical service dress has a white sporran and a dark green kilt neither of which is appropriate for a Cameron. A much later figure in review order was also designated a Cameron Highlander but this time the sporran was, correctly, black (dark grey) with white tassels. Unlike most B figures, the base is square which suggests that its mold was also used for the W series Highlander later on. The W figure was in review order, second grade paint, minus a tartan and sported a white hackle on the bonnet. About all that can be said about this Scotsman is that he can not be Black Watch.



Left to right: Britains W figure upon which all of the subsequent figures were based.: Somerset Light Infantry, Royal Marine Artillery and King's Royal Rifle Corps.



Britains might have made these B scale units but didn't: Somerset Light Infantry in the front rank followed by The Royal Marine Artillery. They are all based upon the Britains W figure which leads the group.

WHAT BRITAINS MIGHT HAVE MADE (Cont.)

The Scots regiment's poor showing in small scale, energized me to take some corrective measures. I tackled Lowland regiments first as none was ever made in 44mm. Sets were constructed of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, slope arms, the Highland Light Infantry and the Cameronians at the trail, complete with officers. Britains could have produced all three regiments from a single body mold and three head molds, although the HLI and Cameronians might have squeaked by using the same head. After all, that's what happened in the Standard range. As for Lowland officers, none was ever made by Britains in any of its hollow cast



B scale figures never made by Britains: The King's Royal Rifle Corps followed by 6th Inniskilling Dragoons and 2nd Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays).



Britains B figures, rear row, front to back, 11th (PAO) Hussars, 17th Lancers (review order) and 16th Queen's Lancers (service dress). Front row: B scale figures of regiments never made by Britains: 15th King's Hussars and 3rd Kings Own Hussars.



From the left.: Britains B scale figures- 11th (PAO) Hussars, 17th Lancers, 12th (PWO) Lancers (repainted W figure), 16th Queens Lancers (service dress) and two models not made by Britains, 3rd Kings Own Hussars and 15th King's Hussars.



The first model on the left will be used to make a mold of a B scale Highlander running at the trail. The next B figure is Britains' so called Cameron Highlander. A soldier and officer of the Gordon Highlanders which follow in line are repainted W range figures.



Front to rear ranks B size figures of The Highland Light Infantry, The Cameronians and the King"s Own Scottish Borderers. No Lowland regiments were ever included in Britains B or W ranges.

WHAT BRITAINS MIGHT HAVE MADE (Cont.)

ranges. JHillCo did make one but it was incorrectly wearing a plaid. In addition to the Lowland troops mentioned above, I am currently working on a Highlander running at the trail, but it is only in design phase as we go to press.

Other foot figures that could have graced the B series are those of a rifle regiment, light infantry regiment and, of course, the Royal Marines. I have recently added the King's Royal Rifle Corps, the Somerset Light Infantry and the Royal Marine Artillery to my forces. It is rumored that Britains did turn out a rifleman by painting line infantry figures dark green, but I have never seen one. Such a rifleman, however, would have worn a home service helmet and not the fur cap adopted circa 1890.

As far as British cavalry are concerned, my aim has been to increase the number of regiments in my collection either by repainting B series figures or making new ones. As many B cavalry had moveable arms one can achieve quite a bit of variation by changing about arms and the different weapons they carry. My goal is to produce all thirty-two British cavalry regiments plus some Yeomanry as well.

Except for two sets of Royal Horse Artillery, Britain's didn't produce any other horse drawn or other specialized units in the B range. However, by repainting and minor conversion, I have come up with a colour party of the Coldstream guards and a Royal Engineer wagon with men in service dress. And what of the future? Just for starters, think of bands, mountain artillery, medical units and pontoon sections not to mention action figures. B figure collectors are fortunate in the rich world of opportunity and challenge that accompanies them. For example, many different hussar regiments can easily be converted from existing figures by application of a few dabs of paint to plumes and busby bags. If one can make simple molds of new heads and arms, another level of variability can be achieved. And if one is up to making more complicated, three or four piece molds, the possibilities are unlimited. Good luck to all.



Left to Right Highland Light Infantry, Scottish Borderers and The Cameronians



Reconstruction of a Royal Engineers' wagon using figures from Britains B series, Royal Horse Artillery (service dress).



This colour party of the Coldstream Guards is a reconstruction derived from Britains 44 mm. B figures.



AUCTION REVIEW

Record Result for Wentworth Collection of Britains Soldiers at Vectis Auctions May 4th 2006



The auction of the Wentworth Collection of Britains Military Soldiers on Thursday 4 May provided Vectis with another record result achieving a total of £330,000.

An auction of over 750 quality lots, the sale included many boxed examples of early (pre 1905), rare and unlisted variants of Britains' military sets and 'Paris Office' examples including sets not officially listed in the Britain's catalogue.

Highlights of the sale include a set of Boer Cavalry, 1899 version selling for £1530 and Boer Infantry, 1900 version realising £1760 both had estimates of £800 each. Maintaining the considerable interest in this period of history, a set of early South Australian Lancers achieved a staggering £2115 - double the estimate. Lot 597, which featured on the inside back cover the 'special edition' catalogue, which in itself will prove an excellent reference for Britains collectors, was a 1909 Boer War Army Supply Column made by Britains for the wholesale firm of C.F.Eckardt, achieving £7750.

Large display sets proved popular with an early Set 72 The Life Guards 1937 and 1897 version making £6580 and another early Set 73 British Army Presentation Case 1908 version achieving £6110.

An interest in any items depicting Greek and Balkan figures resulted with £2150 being realised for an early set of Greek Cavalry, £1175 for Greek Infantry and £940 for a set of Montenegrin Infantry.

Finally the rare figures from early Paris Office production brought about an intense bidding contest – a boxed Naval Gun Team made £3055. A single Mounted Officer achieved £630, a boxed set of Spanish Dragoons sold for £3400 and a Supply Wagon of the same Dragoons realised £3760.

For a full set of results visit www.vectis.co.uk

All prices include commission

AUCTION PREVIEW

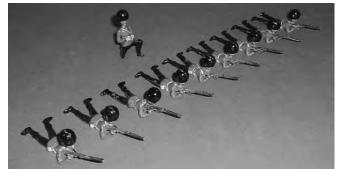
Bonham's Auction Preview By Norman Joplin

James Opie has submitted the following photographs previewing some of the items to be auctioned at Bonham's in London on November 15th 2006. In addition, James reminds us of the inclusion of the Heyde English Parade display set featured in OTS Volume 30 # 1.

See Bonham's advertisement in this issue for further details



Scarce Besold Belgian Infantry with Mounted Officer, Foot Officer and Buglar - 65mm Scale



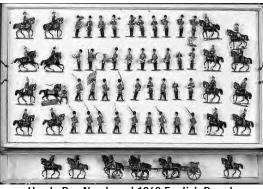
Britains Set #124 Irish Guards Lying Firing Unusual Legs Apart Version but Still with Gaiters



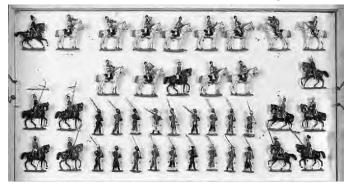
Sixteen Piece Group of Paris Office US Infantry in Khaki - Beiser Figures and a Cheuffer Style Officer



Morestone Gipsy Caravan with Original Box



Heyde Box Numbered 1269 English Parade





AUCTION PREVIEW

Christies – London South Kensington Monday November 20th 2006

Two major collections of toy soldiers and related items are to be offered by Christies London in November 2006 reports Hugo Marsh head of Christie's toy department South Kensington.

The Hank Sigourney Collection

Prominent US collector and former dealer Hank Sigourney, has consigned a major part of his collection of rare Britains toy soldiers and civilian figures together with a number of extremely rare, early mechanical toys produced by Britains in the late 1880s.

Many boxed sets of Britains Military early version sets are featured.

Britains Paris Office figures are also included along with fine civilian items by other British hollow cast companies, including, Johillco, Charbens, Cherilea, Crescent, Taylor and Barrett, Timpo, Segal and Pixyland. The inclusion in this section of a number of rare Space related and Comic Character items is indicative of the scope of Mr Sigourney's wide ranging collection.

In addition, figures by Continental makers Mignot, Heyde and M.I.M. are included.

A number of items from the collection were bought by Mr Sigourney from both the Britains Archive and Arnold Rolak reference collections.

The following list is only a small part of the featured items within this collection.



Rare Britains Mechanical Hobby Horse General Circa 1880



Britains Rare Salvation Army Set #10



Britains Mechanical Footrace with original wooden box Circa 1880



Britains Rare Factory Sample Card containing Christmas items circa 1932. Previously offered via the Britains Archive Auction



Pixeyland/Kew Tiger Tim Characters



Britains Paris Office Figures

AUCTION PREVIEW

The Charles Biggs Collection of Britains original Foundry Plaster Patterns and manufacturing items.

Over 750 of the original Plaster Patterns will offered, they include many rare and unusual items and in some cases also include the actual Master figure.

Many of the Plaster Patterns are of historical value from the point of view of research and confirm the existence of a number of items made by Britains which have not yet come to light. Examples include the Scrooge and Micawber Busts, mentioned in the Smallwood Factory notebooks these items still remain undiscovered by today's collectors, yet the Plaster Patterns bear testimony to their manufacture (See article in this issue by Charles Biggs)

In addition to the Plaster Patterns many of the original head moulds are included in the sale, these heads being interchangeable on various moulds at the manufacturing stage.

The experimental paint spray shields for the un-issued Toy Town Figures along with Plaster Patterns are another unique item in the sale.

The total of approximately 750 represents about half of the Patterns thought to have been made and includes many items from the nineteen thirties when Britains were prolific in making models for outside companies, examples in this section include Cococubs, Buck Rogers, Disney Characters with separate patterns for the removable heads, Snow White and Dwarfs and Felix the Cat, etc.

The figure of Felix was never marked with the Britains name and the discovery of the Pattern confirms that the figure generally referred to as Britains was indeed made by the company.

The main collection of Patterns is of Military items and while the catalog is still being prepared there are bound to be many interesting and possibly unique finds amongst this section.







Britains Kneeling Khaki Firing Soldier Pattern





Britains Micawber Bust **Britains Scrooge Bust**





US Girl Scout unissued Figure Plaster Pattern



Felix the Cat Plaster Pattern



Plaster Pattern for a **Comic Character** never produced. The Pattern is marked "Jerry"



Britains Running Footballer Pattern

W.Britains Plaster Patterns

By Charles W. Biggs

Introduction.

Plasters as they were known in the trade, so called because they are produced by casting superfine plaster of paris on to the original model (usually made from modelling wax or lead)

Interestingly, Britains used to make their own modelling materials, purchasing a propriety brand of modelling wax and then adding extra sulphur powder giving extra strength and stability to the wax.

The plaster patterns, some three or four pieces when completed are an exact representation of the finished brass die that will be used in the hollow casting process.

A process it is said that W.Britains Ltd: invented over one hundred years ago, to save material and therefore cutting cost over their European competitors who were producing solid lead models Britains actually came to dominate the market with the new lighter, cheaper models.

The Plaster Patterns.

The plaster patterns that I own, represents an sizable range of W.Britains Ltd: hollow cast lead models that were produced in the period from 1893 until 1960, they include many rarities and in some cases confirm the existence of models previously though not to have been produced.

Some examples of these items are the Micawber and Scrooge busts along with the US Girl Scout figure featured in the Christies auction preview.

The patterns are often made up of four pieces or more, the two main side sections and inserts, called cores, these provide for easy removal of the castings from the finished mould, avoiding sections called undercuts, this same process as been used for centuries by various civilisations to produce statues and artistic objects.

How the Plaster Patterns Progressed To Casting Tools.

When the plaster pattern is completed (a very skilled affair) it has to be completely dried and free from all moisture, then it is given several coats of shellac, to protect and strengthen its surface.

It is now ready for the brass foundry, here it will be coated in graphite powder, giving it its black appearance, and making it much easier to remove from the sand casting box, it is then in-cased in casting sand when removed, leaving a cavity ready to receive the molten brass that is poured into the cavity through a runner system. We now have the basic brass mould, basic because it has now to be fitted back together by the engineer, who will then pass it on to the engraver to have the model cavity cleaned and polished; the engraver will also engrave all the original detail back into the cavity, that may have been lost in the casting.

This has to be done as gravity sand casting is a rather crude method of casting which leaves the surface in a rough state, resulting in sections of the cavity often being filled in, the engraver will re-cut any such parts using the plaster pattern as his guide.

The cavity is then passed back to the engineers to have a steel-casting cup, and spring added, finally the casting tongs are fitted that enable the caster to manipulate the mould when casting.

An experienced caster would have been expected to produce a figure casting every four seconds (depending on size) and paid on his output (piece work), naturally larger models would take a longer casting cycle.

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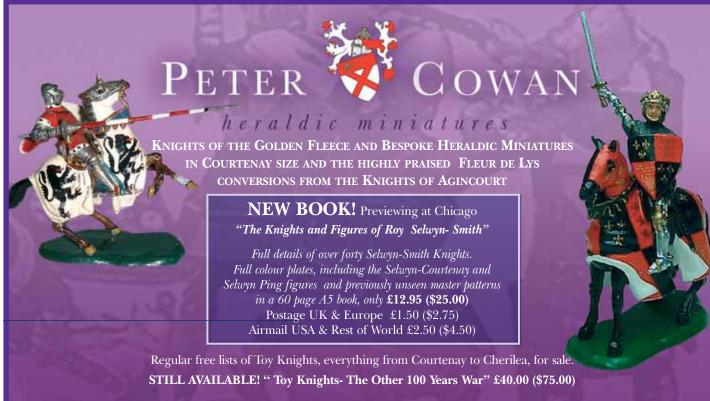
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Belgian Composition Figures – "Civilians" Part II

By Vincent J. Russo & Patrice Servais

Introduction

Our readers may recall that in our last article (Old Toy Soldier, Winter 2006, Volume 29 Number 4) we featured civilian composition figures, not only from "Durso", but also from "Clairon", another Belgium Company.

In this article we will continue that discussion, but will also add coverage of a third Belgium maker of composition figures, "Nazaire Beeusaert", or simply "NB".

Background

As we reported previously, "civilian" production can be divided into six (6) major groupings:

- 1) Railroad
- 2) Garage
- 3) Civilians in plain clothes
- 4) Scouts
- 5) Farm
- 6) Hunter & Fisherman

Our earlier article focused on the first three groupings. In this issue we will feature the remaining three.

I. Scouts

The Boy Scout movement was started by British Lord Robert Baden-Powell in the early 1900's as a result of his experiences during the Boer (Dutch) War in Transvaal in South Africa.

In 1899, having to secure the town of Mafeking, and lacking enough soldiers to do the job, Lord Baden-Powell utilized "idle boys of the streets" to assist him in the gathering of intelligence. This ploy proved most successful and Baden-Powell was declared a "hero".

Lord Baden-Powell was so impressed with the performance and courage of these young boys, that in 1907 he started the first "Boy Scout" organization on the British island of Browsea, and in 1908 developed the five (5) "Codes of Conduct" and introduced the slogan "Do a good turn every day".

It was a "good turn" that so impressed millionaire Chicago publisher, William Dickson Bryce during a visit to London in 1909, that led to the incorporation of the "Boy Scouts of America" in Washington, D.C. on February 8, 1910.

Scouting soon expanded into many additional countries, and in 1920 Lord Baden-Powell was named "World Scoutmaster".

"Durso" Scouts

We are nearly certain that Michel Klimov introduced his first "scout" figures in 1935. At this time these figures were marked "Fabrication Belge" or "Belgium" under the base.

Eight (8) different scout figures of this early production are known to exist. Shortly after the official founding of the Durso Company in 1938, scouts appeared in the Durso catalogs of 1939 and 1940, but the number of figures (marked "Durso") was reduced to five (5).

The three (3) figures "dropped" from production were:

The scout figures remaining "in the line" were:

Cat. No.	Description	
0040		ł

- 9010 Scout Marching
- 9011 Scout Taking Oath
- 9012 Scout Master
- 9013 Scout Crawling
- 9014 Cub Scout Standing



Left - Scout Sitting on Ground Center - Scout Sitting With Outstretched Arms Right - Scout Sitting on Rock With Legs Crossed

Belgian Composition Figures – "Civilians" (Cont.)



#9011

After 1940, the "Scouts" disappeared from the Durso catalogs and presumably were no longer produced. As one might expect, these figures are now most sought after by collectors and thus are "rare and expensive".



Left - #9012, Center - #9014, Right - #9010

"Clairon" Scouts

Please refer to our previous article for background on the company.



Scouts by "Clairon"

"Unknown" Scouts

The following photos depict scouts in various poses. These are definitely composition figures of Belgian origin, but are unmarked (could be "Strella" or "GJ")



II. Farm

<u>"Durso" Farm</u>

The Durso Company produced various figures depicting life on the farm. These were:

- 9029 A Miller carrying sack
- 9029 B Miller carrying firewood
- 9030 Berger (shepherd)
- 9031 Female farmer milking
- 9032 Female farmer carrying bucket
- 9033 Farme
- Boy hunting geese
- 9035 Girl in barnyard





Left - #9029 B Right - #9029 A

#9030

Belgian Composition Figures – "Civilians" (Cont.)



#9033

Left - #9035 Center - #9031 Right - #9034

#9032

<u>"Clairon" Farm</u> Clairon made figures of male

and female farmers in different poses.





Farmer in 2 Poses

Female Farmer in 2 Poses

Nazaire Beeusaert ("NB") Farm

This is a convenient opportunity to present a brief history of "NB". (Our readers must be advised that information on this company is "sketchy", at best)

Prior to 1939 Bon Marche, a Belgran "dimestore", sold composition figures which were supplied by a Russian artisan from Brussels.

The Russian's company name was "Strella Bruxelles". (This we determine from the "NB" catalog which stated, "molds for production were obtained from Strella Bruxelles"). However, since identical figures also had "GJ" embossed under the base, this suggests that the Russian may have worked for "GJ", another Belgian composition company.

A portion of the Russian's production was sold directly to the public, but those figures which were supplied to Bon Marche all had "BM" embossed under the base.

All of this production ended in 1939 when the Russian decided to leave Belgium and go to the United States, presumably to escape the "war" in Europe.

In search of another supplier, an employee of Bon Marche, Mr. Goblet, contacted Nazaire Beeusaert, a Belgian toy manufacturer located in Dienze and specializing in the production of cardboard horses for small children to ride. Mr. Goblet informed "NB" that certain molds for composition figures were for sale, and if "NB" were interested, they could buy the molds and continue to supply Bon Marche. The molds were purchased and "NB" indeed started to produce composition figures in 1939 and continued until 1959.

Bon Marche was supplied with figures that originally had "BM" embossed under the base, but gradually over time, the "BM" was replaced by "NB".

It is interesting to note that this series of events often resulted in the same figure with:

- a. No name on the base (which were figures made by the Russian and which many collectors have long believed may have been "GJ", but this has never been substantiated)
- b. "BM" on the base (produced by the Russian and then by NB for sale exclusively to Bon Marche)
- c. "NB" on the base (whether these figures were ever sold directly to the public can not be confirmed at this time)

Undoubtedly the same molds were used to produce all of these figures, and as we may suspect, the quality of the end product suffered over time through constant use. We thus note that for identical figures:

- a. "Unmarked" figures are in general, Excellent
- b. "BM" figures are in general, Good Very Good
- c. "NB" figures are in general, Fair Good

Belgian Composition Figures – "Civilians" (Cont.)

We also are fairly certain that, in many cases, NB fabricated new molds for new figures, and that is why we only find certain figures with "BM" and "NB" on the base (but none that are unmarked)

As we alluded to earlier in this article, some collectors believe that the unmarked figures, produced by the Russian prior to 1939, were the output of either "Strella Bruxelles" or "GJ", and that the Russian was an employee of one or perhaps even both of these companies.

"NB" Farm

NB produced a few farm figures with "NB" embossed on the base.

(These figures were sold to accompany a hay cart drawn by 2 horses)

The NB catalog has these listed as follows:

#38 Farmer#38/1 Female Farmer#38/8 Milk Maid#40 Little Girl

III. Hunter & Fisherman "Durso"



Left - #9040B Game Warden (in brown) Right - #9040A Hunter (In green)



#9041 - Fisherman

Second Version Hunter (In green)



Left - Farmer Collecting Hay Right - Farmer Pitching Hay



NB Farm Figures



Conclusion

The Authors hope you have enjoyed these articles on "Belgian Composition Civilians". As with most manufacturers, "civilian life" was an integral part of the Toy Soldier scene.

We should note that we are always in constant search for new "discoveries" that perhaps could lead to yet a 3rd article on Civilians.

Acknowledgement

Photos by Veronique Servais

Editor's Note

See the advertisement for the book "Composition Figures of Belgium – The Durso Company" by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Bruun, and Lucien Maris on page 49 of this issue.

BOOK REVIEW

LES FIGURINES QUIRALU

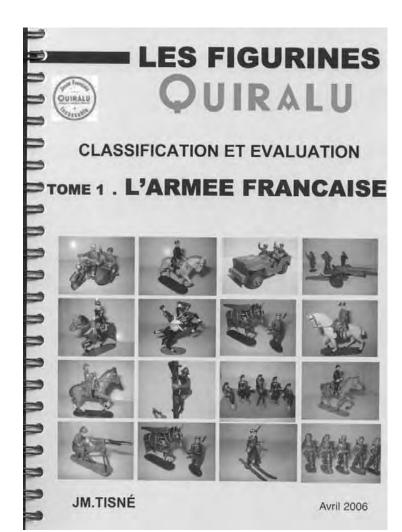
By JM Tisne Reviewed by Russ Bednarek

The 1950's witnessed the development of two new mediums of importance to the toy soldier world; aluminum and plastic. As different from each other as they are, so too is their success and popularity among collectors.

Plastic toy soldiers remain immensely popular as proven by the large volume of new figures constantly produced to satisfy eager collectors. Plastic production has several advantages; cost of production, volume of production, and the high degree of detail which may be achieved.



Conversely, aluminum figures have never enjoyed anywhere near the popularity of plastic, metal, or composition toy soldiers. Although unbreakable, aluminum suffers from several disadvantages; the labor intensive casting process, the poor quality of detail possible, and limited availability. Aluminum toy soldiers never captured a large market share, and as a result were produced for a relatively short time.



Recently there has been a revived interest in collecting aluminum figures. Perhaps either the desire to venture into collecting a different type of figure, or the art nouveau appearance of the figures is responsible. Irregardless, the aluminum collector is lacking a vital component enabling him to build a collection---information. Thankfully this void is satisfied by Jean Michel Tisne and his masterful 2 volume set, "Les Figurines Quiralu"

The French firm Quiralu was the major producer of the aluminum figure. Quiralu dominated the aluminum market, producing both military and civilian figures with corresponding pieces of equipment. The first serious work documenting Quiralu was "Les Jouets Quiralu", by Alazet, Borsarello and Giroud in 1995. This French text, 246 page work contained well over 100 color photographs.

Monsieur Tisne has raised the bar considerably with his "Les Figurines Quiralu". Rather than merely presenting the collector with a pictorial work, Tisne includes a wealth of information within each photograph. An intricate, yet simplistic letter and numerical system, (fully explained in the first chapter), instantly provide the reader with the rarity,

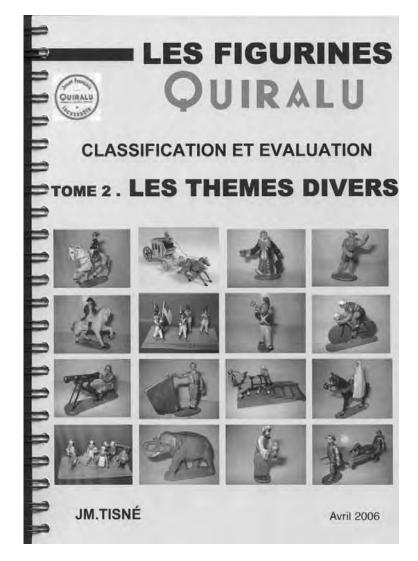
BOOK REVIEW (Cont.)

quality, date of production and Quiralu catalogue number of the pictured piece.

Volume I, "L'Armee Francaise", deals with the French army from World War I through the Algerian War of the 1950's. The book is further broken down into Armee Metropolitaine (units stationed in France), infantry, cavalry, artillery, motorcycles and L'Armee d'Afrique, (units stationed in Africa), with it's colorful zouaves, spahis and more. Subsequent chapters explore figures of Marines, Paratroopers, Alpine, and the Foreign Legion.

Volume II, "Les Themes Divers", examines the miscellaneous ranges of figures and equipment. This diverse group includes World War II armies, Wild West, Historic Themes, Sports, Circus, and an extensive Farm and related machinery range. The same letter and numerical system employed in Volume I is continued, providing a constant criteria for the collector to evaluate individual pieces.

Each volume is spiral bound allowing the reader to conveniently examine pictures on different pages without risking damage to the book. The first chapter of each volume explains and examines color variants. positions of the figures, and criteria used to determine the date of production and rarity. Printed on heavy gloss paper, as many as eight color photographs may be found on a single page.



Volume I with its 170 pages, and the 159 page Volume II present the collector with literally several hundred color photographs of Quiralu figures and equipment. The final chapter of each volume is devoted to a listing of each piece pictured. This invaluable list provides the page, rarity, Quiralu catalogue number, and years the piece was produced.

For the Quiralu collector, or those contemplating collecting these French figures, "Les Figurines Quiralu" is a definite "must have". Collectors should not be concerned with the French text, as most of the book is self explanatory. Each volume is priced at 75 Euros, (\$95) which may seem quite expensive, but given the vast amount of information and photographs, "Les figurines Quiralu" is worth the price. Monsieur Tisne is to be commended on his definitive work for the Quirlau collector.

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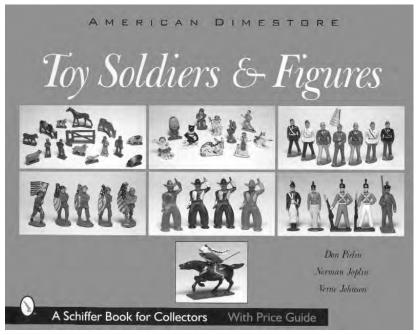
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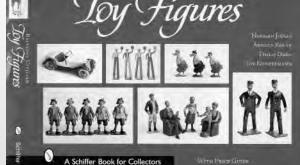
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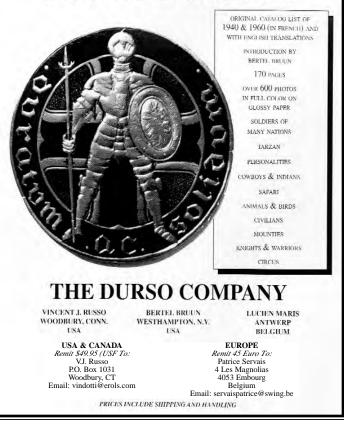
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COMPOSITION FIGURES OF BELGIUM



KRAZY KLOWN CIRCUS By Norman Joplin and Bob Denny

When Washington State collector and toy soldier dealer Bob Denny purchased a set of plastic Krazy Klown Circus figures, a wooden Circus ring and some related paperwork some years ago at a Sacramento California toy show, little did he realize that he had stumbled across information leading to the identification of a previously undocumented British toy figure manufacturer.

The paperwork in the form of correspondence from the British company Fraser and Glass Limited contained information sent to a potential (unnamed) American distributor, outlining the impending manufacture of the Krazy Klown line.

The Circus ring turned out to be a wooden prototype sent from the UK to America for approval and the information within the letters confirmed the existence of Fraser and Glass Limited.



Bob Denny

Operating from Woodside Lane, North Finchley, London N.12. the firm's letterhead states that they were moulders of plastics and contractors to The Post Office and Air Ministry. According to advertisements in Games and Toys Magazine, Fraser and Glass Limited had been in existence and connected with the toy industry since 1917.

Dated July 29th 1948 and September 3rd 1948, the letters contain information relevant to today's continuing research into early American plastic figure production, and a connection to Beton plastics

The letters are signed by J.S.Walker Technical Director and the heading on the letters lists the directors of the company as V.C. Webber, J Cryer, W.P. Fraser, P.W. Sinclair, & J.S Walker.

A logo on the top of the letterheads indicated that the firm was a member of the British Plastics Federation.

The July 29th 1948 letter thanks the unnamed American distributor for their enquiry dated 20th July 1948 and informs that under separate cover a range of samples of the little clowns that have been developed and a wooden prototype Circus ring have been sent for approval.

The letter goes on to describe the various plans for a moulded plastic ring with a cardboard base and states that a blueprint is also being submitted, the ring was to have a yellow colored cardboard base and printed instructions on the underside and would be moulded in white plastic with the top being spray painted bright red.



Complete (?) Collection of Krazy Klown Circus

KRAZY KLOWN CIRCUS (Cont.)

The Clowns were to be issued initially in four sets, Acrobatic, consisting of four or five various tableaux, a Juggling act with the Clowns balancing on balls and wheels etc, One Equestrienne and also Clowns on Horseback together with individual horses.

A Ringmaster Clown was also produced and was an adaptation of the standard Clown figure with an added thin plastic strip representing a whip.

The Beton connection is that the horses that accompany the Clowns are obviously Beton, (See photograph).

Fraser and Glass mention in this letter that they already have the moulds for the Circus Horses in the UK, but indicate that moulds for the horses already exist in Newark, New Jersey and are with a company named Messrs. Desmoine.

The indication is that Fraser and Glass wanted the American distributors to acquire the finished horses in the US and add the Clowns to them if shipped to the distributor.

Continuing the breakdown of the Clowns, Fraser and Glass state that all the Clowns are molded identically, but where the arms are bent a subsequent operation is performed by immersing the Clowns in hot water and pressing them into a jig, this gives a more realistic bend to the arm and avoids complicated tooling.

Fraser and Glass further indicated that they proposed putting the items into Woolworth's in England and the approximate cost would be 3 pence (English) per Clown.



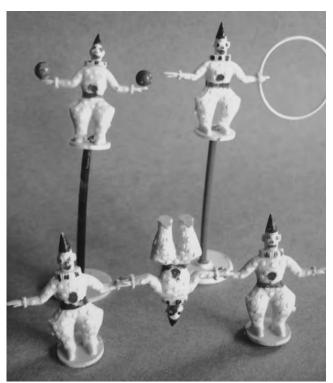
Krazy Klown Acrobats



Krazy Klown Ring Master identified by the red paint on the trousers which was not evident in the other figures.



Krazy Klown Equestrienne



Krazy Klown Jugglers and Acrobats

KRAZY KLOWN CIRCUS (Cont.)

They were also working on a mechanical method of painting and that the series would be entitled KRAZY KLOWN CIRCUS.

The range was scheduled to be exhibited in England at a trade fair in September 1948 and the American distributor was advised that the July notification would give them two months head start on other interested American parties.

Although no paperwork exists of any replies from the American distributor, a letter from Fraser and Glass dated 3rd September 1948 acknowledges receipt of communication and notes that the samples have arrived in the US.

The letter goes on to advise that it is anticipated that the company will be in production with F.W Woolworth with the line in October 1948 and that after this date samples will be available to others in the US, urging the distributor to make a decision on purchasing the product.

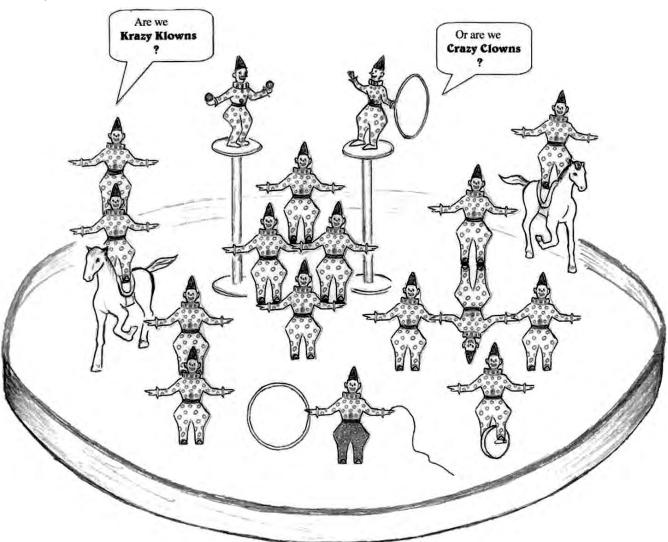
With no other follow up letters or correspondence available a number of questions still remain unanswered, the choice of the name and spelling of the line with the letter 'K'.

Perhaps the letter 'K' was intended for use in the US only?

It is known that an English collector has an example of the cardboard and plastic Circus ring and that the series name is printed as Crazy Clown Circus ('C') on the underside of the cardboard base, along with a listing of the items available in the series.

Did Fraser and Glass purchase Beton horses from Desmoine in New Jersey? And did the unnamed distributor in the US ever take up the rights to handle the line in America?

OTS would like to hear from collectors who may have owned these figures during the late nineteen forties/early fifties.





UPDATE: Where Britains Were Sold Before 1967

By Joe Wallis



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UPDATE: Where Britains Were Sold Before 1967 (Cont.)

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Nairobi, Kenya	Banda Street Toy Shop

OTHER NATIONS:

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Finally, I received an interesting e-mail from Bill Schneider, a collector who grew up in Miami, Florida. He provided the information about buying Britains at the Shoreland Arcade Hobby Shop in the 1950s (see accompanying photo of a Set #329 box with a shop sticker from that Miami Hobby Shop). Let me quote what he had to say about Britains being sold in Havana: "Living in Miami, my father had business in both the Bahamas and in Cuba (this was all pre-1959 and Castro). He would regularly bring me sets from those places, where they were "cheaper." None of the boxes have store names on them. I traveled one time with him to Havana, where I bought some myself in a Department Store there ... again I don't know the name.



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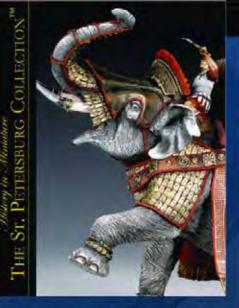
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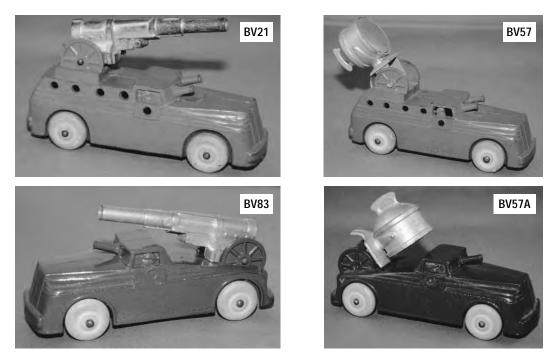


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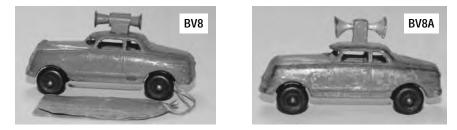


The Rarest Barclay Military Vehicles

By Stan Alekna



Pictured are the six rarest Barclay military vehicles. BV21 and BV57 were the slush cast early versions of the cannon and searchlight car with khaki paint and white tires. BV21 shown below is the only one of these vehicles known with the intact cannon. Even the photo of BV21 in Richard O'Brien's Collecting American-Made TOY SOLDIERS is absent the cannon as is the case with a great many of both versions of cannon and searchlight cars. I am sure this occurred because the slush cast cannons and searchlights, which were the same for both the first and second versions, were very thin in the areas where the pivot axle was inserted. BV83 and BV57A were the die-cast second versions of these models with olive drab paint and with white tires as well. All four of these vehicles are 4 inches long.



Perhaps even rarer than these four vehicles is the die-cast BV8 "Army Car with 2-bullhorns" pictured in two versions. These are the only BV8's I have ever seen and I know of some very complete collections of Barclay vehicles that are missing this little 23/4" jewel. The car body of the two versions is identical but the materials and construction of the bullhorn apparatus are very different. The bullhorns on BV8 appear to be rivets that were inserted into the cast housing. This BV8 came with an original Barclay factory tag which can be seen in the photo. The bullhorns on BV8A were cast integrally to the housing and the apparatus affixed to the roof of the car. Was one a prototype? If there were many more examples of one or the other, we might have a clue to this dilemma but as it is, we'll probably never know. Incidently, Richard O'Brien and I are quite sure that BV8 and BV86 are one and the same vehicle based on size and description.

Insofar as values go, actual prices paid for BV8, BV8A, BV21 ranged from \$375 to \$425 and for BV57, BV57A and BV83, \$225 to \$250. All of the vehicles sold were rated between 95% and 99% paint.

Some might argue that BV18, the cannon car with the battery-powered headlight is as rare as the six military vehicles described above but based on numbers seen and prices paid, I consider BV18 to be a distant 7th in rarity.

The next time you see a bunch of little Matchbox and Japanese-made vehicles at a toy show or antique market, you better dig around in there and see if there isn't a BV8 hiding in the pile.

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

The Michael M. Schreter Collection

By Ray Haradin

The question is often asked, "How do you build a great toy soldier collection?" The response inevitably is "With a lot of money". Yes, a substantial investment is required but a collection is far more than a bank tally, and although it has been tried many times a collection cannot be assembled overnight, no matter how many dollars you have to throw at it. A collection of toy soldiers must reflect ones personality, taste and desire, sure you can go out and purchase a great collection in its entirety, but even after the check clears, it is not really "yours" or something that you have obtained the personal pleasure of acquiring.



Michael Schreter with fellow soldier collector President Ronald Reagan

Your collection must be built by you, this takes time, research and comradery with

fellow collectors, and as with most endeavors, you must walk before you run. Mr. Michael Schreter of Beverly Hills California offers us a beautiful case study in the building of a great collection. As Executive Vice President of Golden West Broadcasters from 1970 to 1990, Mr. Schreter was Gene Autry's right hand man. He oversaw the operations of Mr. Autry's empire, even taking control of the California Angel's when they were in Anaheim.

During this time, Mr. Schreter met and befriended many high profile celebrities. Within this circle of friends, collecting was not only a hobby but also a way of life. Mr. Schreter started like many collectors developing a passion for art and photography. He built a nice collection of local L.A. artists along with a wonderful grouping of Ansel Adams photographs.

His job provided the capital, but his desire built the collections. Mr. Schreter believed that it was not only the objects you were purchasing but also the history behind them. He would painstakingly research and document every purchase, going as far as tracking down Mr. Adams himself in his Northern California home and inviting himself over for an afternoon. This afternoon was enjoyed equally by himself and Mr. Adams so much so that it culminated in Michael receiving from Mr. Adams several original Ansel Adams signatures.



The Blondin Cyclist from the Britains Archive Sale

Mr. Schreter found that a number of his friends had a more unusual yet absorbing hobby collecting toy soldiers. Mr. Schreter was intrigued, and remembered the toy soldiers of his youth. Mr. Irving Seligman, a real estate mogul from Detroit; Mr. Alvin Whitehead, a retailer from Chicago and our Commander and Chief at the time President Ronald Reagan all spent their time pursuing these little lead soldiers?

Mr. Schreter became fascinated with the prospect of acquiring some of his own toy soldiers, which led him to contact Bill Connolly.

Mr. Connolly an early toy soldier pioneer ran the Toy Soldier Exchange in Pasadena, California. "Come down to the shop and I will show you around" he proclaimed. This was in 1982 and like a good American Mr. Schreter



Large Scale Heyde Lancers



Mr. Schreter's first set, Britains #228 U.S. Marines

The Michael M. Schreter Collection (Cont.)

decided on set #228 U.S. Marines marching at the slope as his first purchase. From that moment on Michael was hooked, frequently sneaking off to Mr. Connolly's shop. Mr. Schreter was not sure his wife Barbara would understand his new obsession, however he was to be proved wrong.

After a decade of casually collecting, Mr. Schreter had accumulated a nice grouping of soldiers that he had displayed in his office. He spoke to UK toy soldier dealers Ged Haley and Tom Morris weekly. They had become his primary suppliers along with Bill Connolly and US dealer K.Warren Mitchell. Michael's focus at this time was to collect high condition pre and post war Britains.

One day his wife was visiting his office and actually noticed the soldiers. Michael was quite surprised and was more than eager to give Barbara a tour of the collection.

"Where did you get all of these?" she asked, he replied "most of them came from London". "London" she exclaimed, "We should go some time".

From that moment the Schreter's had a love affair with the city and his collection was destined to become great.

During the past 10 years he had spent the time, carried out research and conversed regularly with fellow collectors on Britains toy soldiers and other figures, and now with his wife involved and interested, they were no longer going to be outbid by Mr. Seligman and Mr.Whitehead. It was their time to shine and shine they did.

Mr. Schreter started to add the sets he had always wanted but was reluctant at first to spend the money necessary to buy them.

He started by adding early sets of South Australian Lancers in Slouch hats, the Soldiers that Shoot and one of the ultimate sets, the Life Guards Past and Present. He also diversified a little with forays into Heyde and Haffner.



South Australian Lancers in Slouch Hats



Soldiers that Shoot



Very rare Life Guards, Past and Present

Being an avid tennis player, he accumulated the JoHill tennis players and when offered the only known example of the Magpie Tennis court, which was made to accompany the figures, he jumped at the opportunity. Having collected for a long period of time, he had become attuned to what was rare, what great condition implies and what purchases would make his collection better. His motto became, "If someone offers you the only known boxed example of the Britains Round-a-bout, you buy it."



The unique JoHill Tennis Set with Instructions

The Michael M. Schreter Collection (Cont.)

He not only continued his education in the field, he accelerated it, purchasing every original Britains catalog he could lay his hands on. He bought the only known example of the 1908, later to be identified as 1915 catalog, which he then reproduced and made available to his collector friends.

Mr. Schreter was fascinated by the Britains Village Idiot and the story of how Queen Mary while touring the British Empire Exhibition and viewing the Britains diorama of an English village complete with villagers and livestock proclaimed, "you have everything except the Village's Idiot." The Idiot was in turn, and based on the Queens comment, made available by Britains within a couple of months.

Mr. Schreter has created a Village of Idiots. He researched all the possible color variations and even commissioned Bill Brunton of Brunton's Barracks to create Idiots that Britains should have made. This resulted in the greatest assemblage of Idiots ever.

Likewise, his curiosity was aroused by Britains "tag" figures and became a borderline obsession. These figures were produced by Britains in the UK and in line with mandatory US customs regulations had a metal tag attached, this export tag was a form of duty and once the tariff was paid the tag was to be removed; a hopelessly impossible task for US Customs Duty officers. It proved to be a short lived requirement, but has created a collectors field that Mr. Schreter has taken to new heights, again assembling the world's greatest collection.

It was not however until the offering of the Britains Archive collection in 1994 that Mr. Schreter added the very best. He and his wife outbid the world and pur-

chased the two best items of the sale, the Blondin Bicycle and the unique Marching Guardsman (See article in this issue of OTS) thus offering a statement to the collecting world that his collection had arrived.

Beautifully situated in his Beverly Hills mansion, Mr. Schreter's soldier room had become the center of the house. When guests came over, they gravitated to the room and the Schreter's shared their stories of the pursuit of their collection. The soldiers had become a common bond between Michael and Barbara.

They would continue to collect until Mr. Schreter lost his beloved wife to cancer and decided to sell the mansion. Like all great collections, you are only the caretaker. Sooner or later it is your duty to pass it along to the next generation of collector. It has been his pleasure for the past 28 years and it is time to sell.

A beautiful full color catalog is in production. The cost of the catalog will be \$35 and pre purchased catalogs will be mailed from Pittsburgh on September 5, 2006. The purchase price of the catalog will be credited toward all purchases over \$300. All sets still available will be on display at this year's Old Toy Soldier Show in Schaumburg, Illinois starting on Thursday,



The only known boxed Britains Round-a-bout



Some of the color variations of the Village Idiot



Britains "tag" figures, notice the "tag" affixed to the rear leg which was to be removed after the duty was paid



The one of a kind Britains Guardsman prototype from the Britains Archive Sale. Britains were known for producing figures with "moveable arms". This Guardsman however, offers proof that they explored the possibilities of "moveable leg" figures.

September 21, 2006 in room 4315. Catalogs will also be available. This is a wonderful opportunity to add a great set to your collection. It is an important sale for all serious collectors. The catalog will be a wonderful reference book for years to come. If you have questions, or would like to order a catalog, call 412-343-8733 or send payment to Ray Haradin, 1039 Lakemont Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15243.

BRITAINS MARCHING GUARDSMAN

By Norman Joplin

During the early part of 1993 and while preparations were being made by Britains to celebrate their centenary year it transpired that a large amount of Britains items were in storage at the Bethnal Green Toy Museum in London, many of the items were prototypes, paint sample cards or items not released by the company for general sale.

Roy Selwyn-Smith, Britains managing director, had several years earlier placed the collection with the Museum and from time to time small amounts of figures were placed on temporary display.

The collection was quite extensive and the space available in the Museum did not allow for the whole collection to ever be put on show in its entirety.

Britains management decided that in order to allow collectors to be able to acquire unique items from the collection as part of the companies' centenary celebrations, the items would be auctioned at Christies and called the Britains Archive Collection.

Among the many unique items that had never been available for purchase or view to the public was what has become known as the Britains Marching Guardsman.

The auction was to be held at Christies South Kensington on June 27th 1994 and timed to coincide with the British Toy Soldier and Figure Show held the previous weekend, as well as the normal preview at Christies. A number of the rarer items were on display several weeks prior to the auction at the Guards Museum in Birdgage Walk London and it was at this point that the Marching Guardsman was displayed to the public for the first time.

The Guardsman is 54mm in size and a special mould was adapted from the standard Guardsman produced by Britains. The right leg was not part of the adapted mould, a separate mould was made for this to allow a pin to be inserted in the waist of the figure, the right leg was then secured to the pin and a wire attached to the pin, a groove was added to the base of the figure and when a wire was attached to the wooden plinth that held the figure, the right leg could be made to move (march).

The item was never put into commercial production but by consulting the Britains Factory Smallwood notebooks it can be deduced that the moulds were made in 1935.

This date coincides with the time that Britains were producing many novelty items or items specially ordered for a number of other companies.



Smallwood's notebooks indicate the mould was completed for the figure on the twenty first of January 1935, the moveable leg was adapted and the figure completed the following day.

Prominent US collector Michael Schreter obtained the item, which is thought to be the only one in existence, from the Christies auction and it will be available at the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter Show in Chicago in September 2006, when Ray Haradin offers Michael's collection for sale, (see accompanying article on the Michael Schreter collection)

As coincidence would have it, the original Foundry Plaster Patterns for Britains items will be auctioned by Christies South Kensington London on November 20th 2006 and the Guardsman patterns are included in the sale. It is hoped that these items will be on view at Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show on September 2nd at the Holiday Inn Bloomsbury as part of the Christies display.

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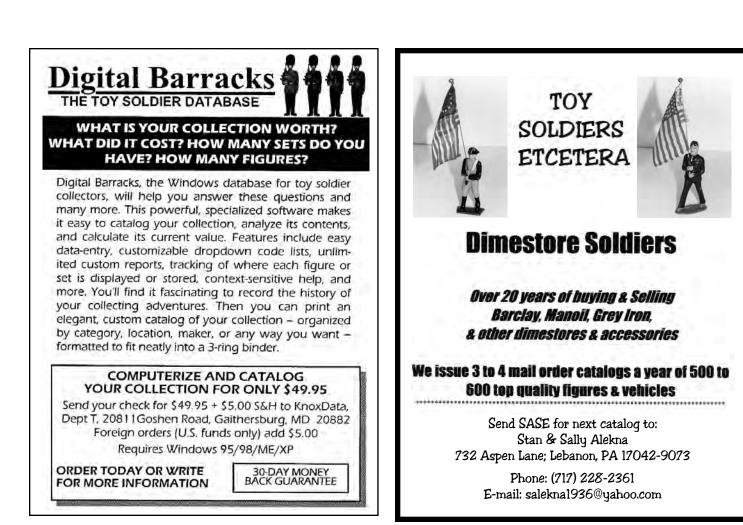


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Six Ways to Convert a Dimestore Toy Soldier

By Roger Dubois

Although I have no proof, I suspect that shortly after Dimestore toy soldiers entered the market place during the 1930's someone somewhere was thinking of ways to change the appearance of some of these figures, if for no other reason than the pure joy of the challenge.

The process of changing the look of a toy soldier is called converting while the resulting figure is called a conversion. I do not know when the hobby of converting Dimestores began, but it continues today. Conversions of one type or another regularly appear at toy soldier shows and on eBay.

I started collecting Dimestores about sixteen years ago, and shortly thereafter I began teaching myself the art of converting. During this time span, I have seen numerous conversions ranging from very simple ones, where only the headgear was changed, to very complex ones where figures were built from body parts originating from several different Dimestores figures. This wide range of converting techniques has led me to believe that Dimestore conversions can be categorized based on how they were constructed. After examining my own work and the work of many other hobbyists who have come before me, I have concluded that there are six ways to convert a Dimestore figure.

The following is my list with comments about each of the six ways to convert a Dimestore soldier:

1. Repainting: If a figure is repainted with the same colors used by a manufacturer so that it looks like the figure was returned to mint condition, then clearly the figure is not a conversion. On the other hand if a figure is repainted with colors not used by the manufacturer, thereby making it look different than it originally did, then in my opinion it is a conversion. This method is the most basic way to convert a figure. Hence, it is not unusual to find this type of conversion at shows and especially these days on eBay.

2. Attaching: Many conversions fall into this category. This type of conversion is very easy to construct because it merely involves attaching some item to the surface of a figure. Hobbyists will often glue a metal casting of a U.S. campaign (boy scout) hat or a German steel helmet to the head of a Barclay that has lost its tin helmet.

Metal castings of military equipment such as canteens, backpacks, rifles, knives, and grenades also can be attached. The process of bandaging a figure by applying a thin strip of epoxy putty around a head, arm(s) and/or leg(s) is included in this category.

As an example of attaching, note in Photo A that the Barclay Pigeon Dispatcher has been converted to a World War I French soldier by adding an Adrian helmet and backpack, and repainting it light blues. Nothing else was done to change the appearance of this figure.

3. Removing and Rebuilding: This category entails removing some part of a figure and repairing the holes, depressions or scratches left behind. For example, converting an early Barclay into a World War II German soldier requires removing puttees from the figure because German foot soldiers wore boots during that war. Likewise, a German foot soldier in combat did not wear a jacket with lapels nor did he wear a tie. Thus, if a Barclay figure has lapels and a tie, these have to go. Puttees, lapels and ties can be removed by using a cutting bit attached to a motor tool or by hand with a file, emery board or sandpaper. Depressions left behind then can be filled with two-part epoxy putty or spot putty like that used to repair scratches in automobiles.



Photo A: Barclay converted pigeon dispatcher



Photo B: Damaged Barclay Flag Bearer converted to German Storm Trooper

Six Ways to Convert a Dimestore Toy Soldier (Cont.)

A slightly more complicated conversion that falls into this category is seen in Photo B. A damaged Barclay Flag Bearer (short stride) is on the left, and a conversion of a wounded World War I German storm trooper is on the right. This Barclay was cast without a tie and lapels. That spared me some cutting, and I did not have to remove the puttees because storm troopers wore them.

All I did with this figure was to cut away the remaining portion of the flag and





Photo C: Barclay stretcher bearer converted to World War I German Map Reader (See photo D)

Photo D

patch the right arm with epoxy putty. I did add a German steel helmet and backpack, but the distinguishing feature of this conversion is the cut-away flag and the patched right arm.

4. Repositioning: This conversion process involves changing the position of one or more body parts original to a figure. Arms and legs can be bent at elbows and knees, respectively. Arms can be cut at the shoulder, rotated, and glued back to the shoulder. Heads can be cut at the neck, rotated, and glued back onto the neck. They also can be bent slightly up or down.

The result of repositioning is seen in Photo C where a Barclay Stretcher Bearer on the left was converted to a World War I German map reader (without map) on the right. The stretcher bearer's head was bent downward by cutting a notch in the front of the neck and heating the back of the neck with a heat gun. When the metal became hot enough to bend, pliers were used to tilt the head downward.

Once the lower portions of the arms and hands were cut away from the body, the same technique was used to bend each arm at the elbow. A notch was cut on the inside of the elbow. Heat was then applied to the elbow, and the arms were bent with pliers. Photo D shows the completed figure. The map is a bent, painted piece of brass. Although a helmet, backpack and map were added, the principle features of this figure are the repositioned head and arms.

5. Replacing: Replacing involves removing something intact or broken from a figure and replacing it with a new part not original to that figure. These non-original parts can be obtained by cutting them from figures in poor condition, scratch building them, or casting them from molds.

This process also includes replacing with a new object something that a figure is holding such as a signaling flag, pigeon, weapon or other equipment. Replacing a broken rifle tip with a tip that has a different shape or dimensions than the original is included in this category.

A simple example of what I have been describing would be to cut off the head of a figure and replacing it with a head from a different figure. The same could be done with arms, legs or torsos.

As a case in point, the center figure in Photo E is a conversion of a World War I German soldier made from two different body parts. The upper half of the figure on the left (Manoil with Gas Mask and Flare Pistol) was removed and replaced with the upper half of the figure on the right (Manoil



Photo E: World War I German converted using two different body parts

Six Ways to Convert a Dimestore Toy Soldier (Cont.)

Observer). I have used this process to construct a number of conversions, and the results are always stunning from my point of view.

Speaking from experience, I should note that the challenge in constructing this type of conversion is to insure that the body parts being brought together are all approximately the same size. Otherwise the finished figure may look weird because a body part is not anatomically proportioned to the rest of the figure.

This converting process has the potential to yield some very complex conversions. I have seen a figure that was composed of four replaced body parts. The original piece extended from the feet up to the waist. Above the waist, every body part was a replacement: the head, each arm and the torso all came from different figures. It was a mind-boggling experience trying to figure out the original sources of these parts.

6. Combining: Combining encompasses two or all three processes explained in categories 3 through 5. Categories 1 and 2 are excluded because these procedures do not change the configuration of the body of a toy soldier.

The result of combining process 3 (Removing and Rebuilding) and 5 (Replacing) is a conversion seen in the center of Photo F. The conversion began as a Barclay Flag Bearer with a broken flag as seen on the left in the photo. The broken flag was removed and the right arm rebuilt as I did to make the conversion in Photo B. This time, however, I cut away the puttees and did some rebuilding with spot putty. I then cut the head off, enlarged the hole where the head had been, and replaced it with the head and collar of a Barclay Aviator as seen on the right (repainted). In the end the wounded aviator was the result of using a combination of converting processes.



Photo F: Damaged Barclay Flag Bearer converted to Aviator

Using process 6 really can produce some astonishing conversions to the point where it becomes nearly impossible to fully comprehend how a figure was put together.

In conclusion, I hope that this article has provided readers with a better understanding of the processes involved in converting Dimestore soldiers and will stimulate some of you to try your hand at converting toy soldiers.

I realize that I have to a degree superficially covered the techniques used in each process. However, perhaps in the future I or someone else will write more detailed articles describing some of these procedures. And maybe one of these articles will show that there can be more than six ways to convert a Dimestore soldier. Please note that the aforementioned converting processes may also apply to other toy soldier scales.

Finally, I wish to sincerely thank Lou Steinberg for taking time to review this article and for providing me with constructive editorial suggestions. If you have comments or questions about what I have written, please feel free to buttonhole me at toy soldier shows or send me an e-mail at dubois@umbc.edu.

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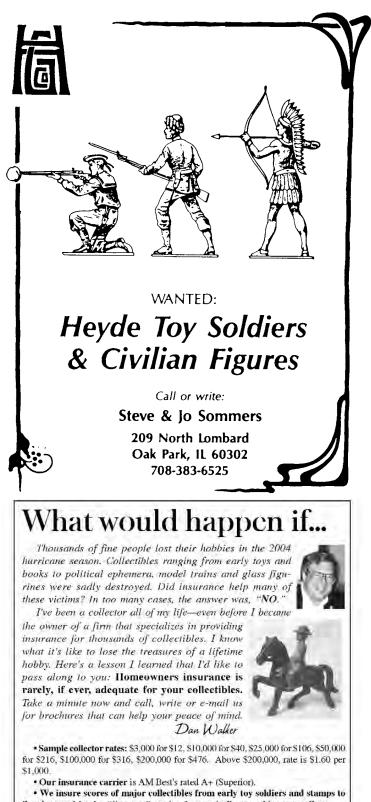


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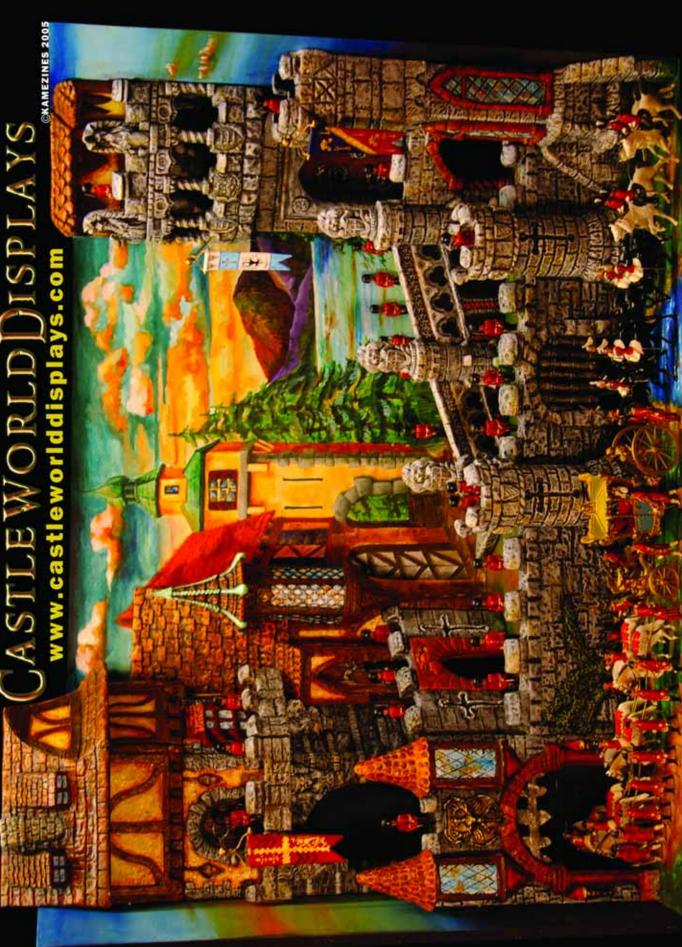
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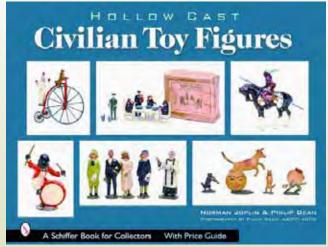
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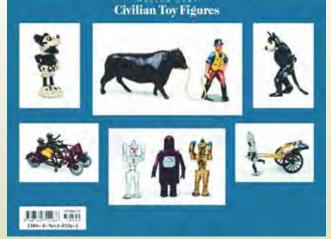


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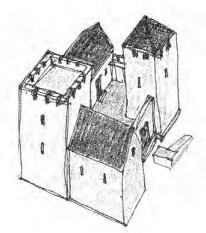
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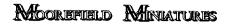


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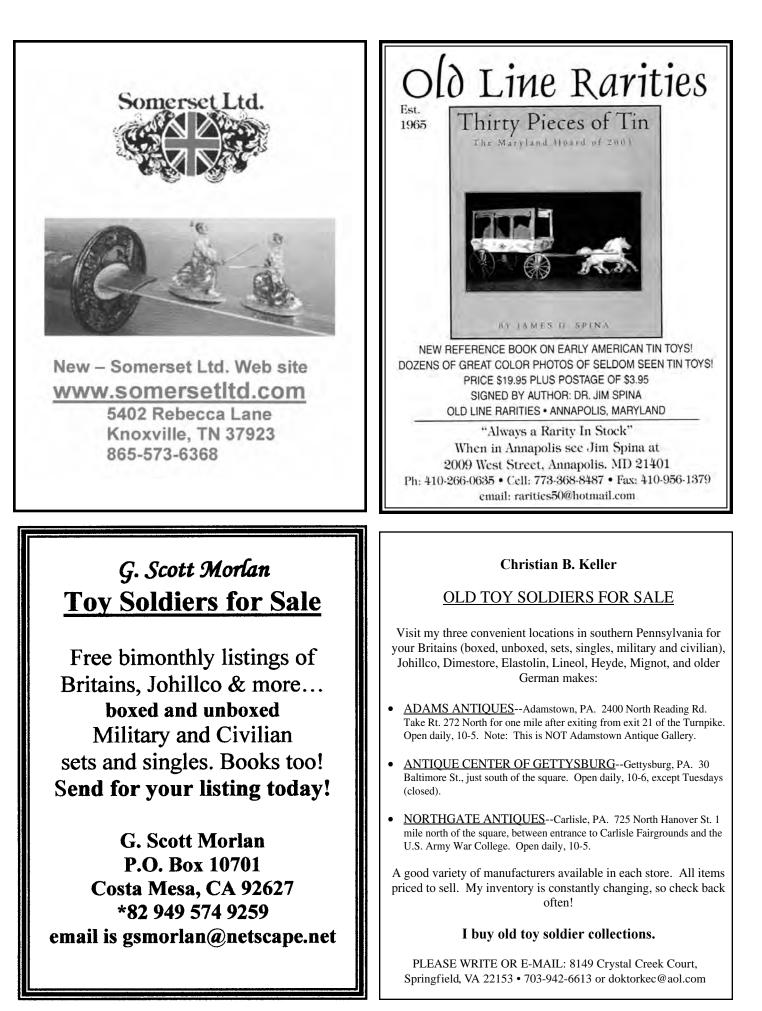
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August 12 – Saturday. SCMMS Annual Southeastern Toy Soldier Show. South Carolina State Museum. Gervais Street, Columbia, SC. Contact Col. Dennis Fontana 803 419 6747

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

August 27- Sunday. Hudson Valley Toy Soldier & Military Figure Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Crowne Plaza Hotel Hale Avenue. White Plains (Downtown area) New York. Contact 718 418 9439

September 2 – Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier Show. Holiday Inn, Bloomsbury, Coram Street, London. 10.30am – 4pm. Contact 262 692 3913 or in the UK 01926 496062

September 10 – Sunday. The New Yorker Toy Soldier and Military Miniature Show and Sale. 9am-3pm. Adria Hotel 221-17 Northern Boulevard, Bayside, New York. Contact John Stengel 718 418 9439

September 17 – Sunday. Philip Weiss Auctions 10am. Viewing 9/13-9/14 noon-8pm 9/15 noon-6pm, day of sale 8:30am-10am. 1 Neil Court, Oceanside, NY 11572. Call for more info 516-594-0731.

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. Birmingham'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

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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

November 20 - Monday. Christies. South Kensington London. Toy Soldier and Figure Auction. Contact Hugo Marsh (44) 207 752 3274

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

<u>2007</u>

February 11 - Sunday. 13th Annual Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show.9am-4pm. Crowne Plaza, West Palm Beach, Florida. Contact Mike Skurda 954 481 1960 mskurda@inbox.com

March 3 - Saturday. South Carolina Military Miniature Society Toy Soldier Show and Sale. 9am-4pm Patriots Point Holiday Inn. 250 Johnnie Dobbs Blvd. Highway 17, Mount Pleasant, SC. Contact Marv Pontiff 843 884 6598 pontiffm@bellsouth.net

March 4 - Sunday. "The West Coaster" West Coast Toy Soldier Trade and Collector's Show. 9am-3pm. Irvine Marriott - Orange County Airport. 18000 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine, CA 92612. 949-553-0100.

March 25 - Sunday. 18th Indy Toy Soldier Show. Sheraton North Hotel. Keystone Crossing. Indianapolis Indiana. Contact Barry Carter indytoysoldier@hotmail.com Telephone 765 345 5665

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

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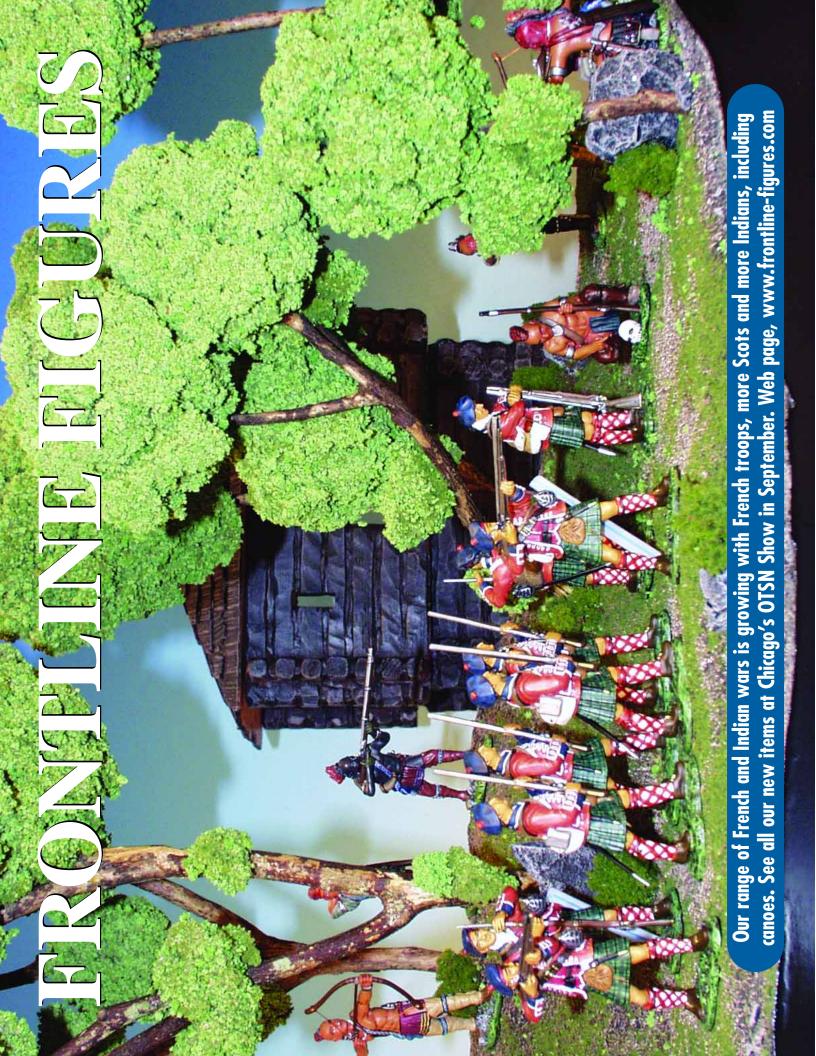
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