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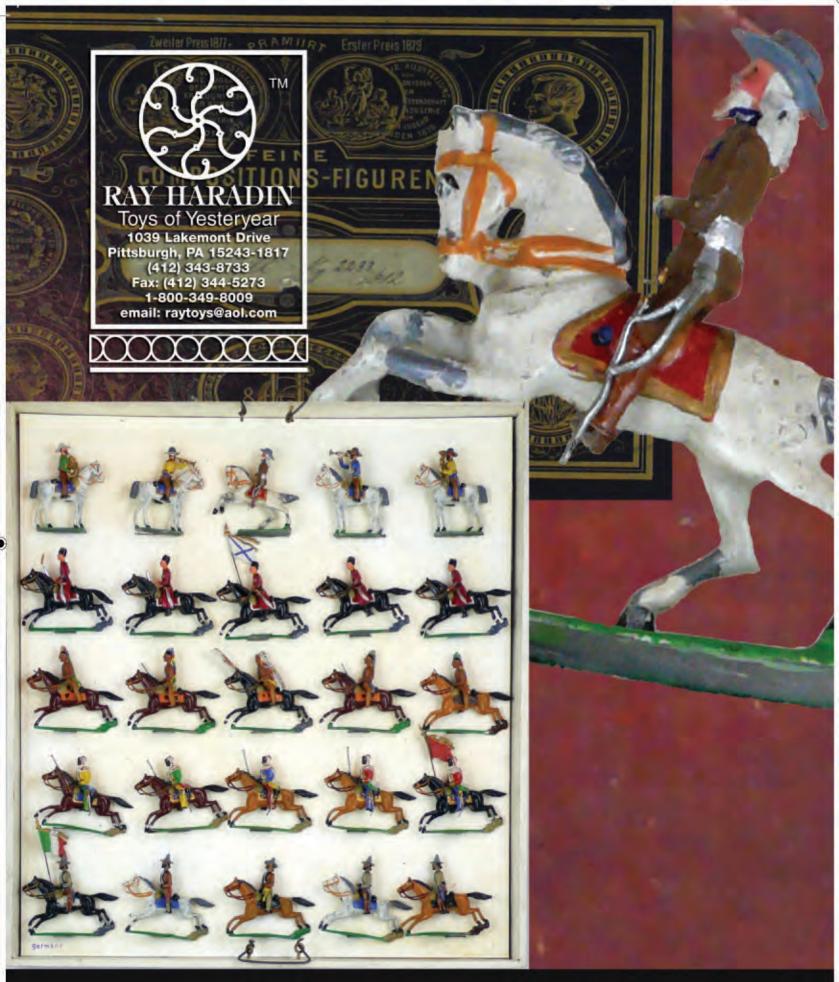
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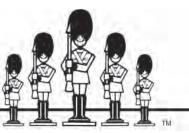
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#### **ON THE COVER**

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Cover Picture Courtesy of Ken Novack, photo by Andrew Rossi

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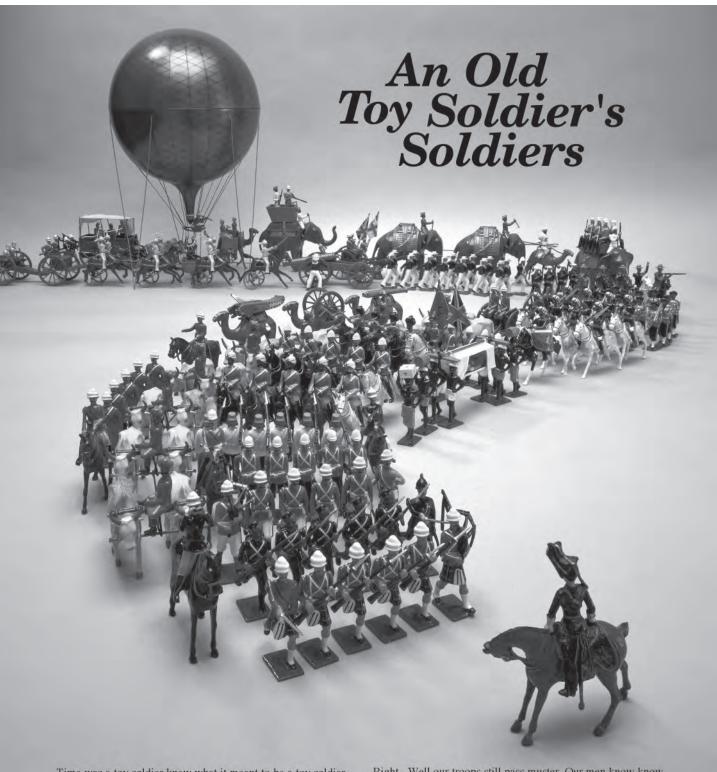


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Time was a toy soldier knew what it meant to be a toy soldier. All spit and polish, bright shiny uniform, lean and rugged, big pink cheeks, manual-of-arms, upright and proper even in the din of battle. Most new toy soldiers - a sorry lot. No group 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. ۲

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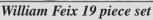
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### The Spectacular Hollow-Cast Creations of Georg Munckle and a Visit to Toy Mania in Paris

By Norman Joplin and Jean Bernard Doublet

French Hollow Cast figures produced pre World War two have received little coverage in OTS magazine in the past. The excellent reference books authored and published in France in recent years by Christian Blondeau (Petits Soldats) Edouard Pemzec (Figurines et Soldats de Plomb) and Dominique Pascal (La folie des Petits Soldats) have however provided an insight to the wide variety of Toy Soldiers and figures that were made and are to be found in France.

A number of manufacturers in France produced not only Toy Soldiers, but civilian items and Cowboys and Indians, or Far West as they are described. Many of these companies names will be unfamiliar to collectors in the USA; however, the markings on hollow cast items that sometimes show up in the US may be more recognizable.

GM, LR, BF, DC, CS, etc., etc.

This article is devoted to the products of Georg Munckle (GM)

Forthcoming articles in OTS will identify some of the names associated with other makers listed above and identify their products.

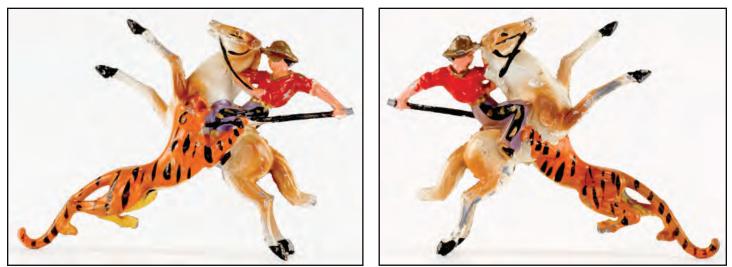
During a visit to Paris in 2007, I attended the famous Toy Mania Antique Toy show. I had imagined it to be something on the lines in size of the Kane County show in Chicago. The show had moved from it's original location to a conference area in central Paris and was situated in a modern shopping complex on one of the upper floors.

The number of traders and tables that I encountered was at first somewhat of a disappointment and as my quest was to find Toy Soldiers and figures, I became a little disillusioned with the goods on offer, a few Aluminium figures here and there, some rather poor condition Hollow Casts and a small number of related items were all that were apparent.

Set up at the show was slow to put it mildly and the venue was not that big, so after circling around the tables several times within the pre show set up the sum total of my finds was nil.

A friend who had accompanied me did purchase a large Mignot Display set, which may well have been a pre-arranged deal, as he knew the trader.

Turning my thoughts to research rather than buying, I noticed a stack of literature for sale which I started to go through and BINGO, all of a sudden what had been a rather disappointing day turned into quite the opposite, I purchased (20 Euros) a 1937 Coptoir General De La Bimbeloterie wholesale catalog which showed not only a large selection of line drawings of toys, but many were of Hollow Figures by French manufactures of the pre World War two era.



Front and back views of Tiger Attacking Mounted Figure

The Spectacular Hollow-Cast Creations of Georg Munckle and a Visit to Toy Mania in Paris (Cont.)



**Cowboy on Bucking Bronco with Lasso** 

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Variations of above with whip

Being a "Trade" catalog there were no identifications listed as to the manufacturer of each item, as the wholesaler obviously bought in items from a number of sources and then redistributed.

The show was now open to the general public and I sat in the eating area to peruse the purchase, quite content that I had at least unearthed something to add to my research files, even if I had not



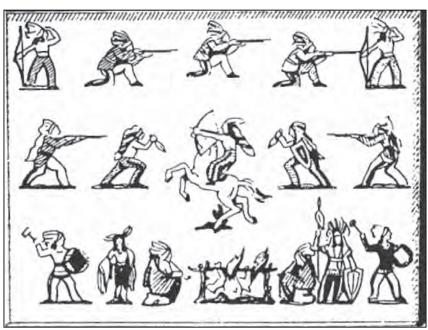
Spectacular Duo on Horse



Indian Standing in Saddle with Bow

found the expected treasure trove of figures that I had anticipated discovering at the show. But that too was about to change. As I was about to leave I noticed that a half table which had previously been empty was fast being filled with figures. Shoe box upon shoe box came up from under the table and the most comprehensive selection of Hollow Cast Toy Soldiers etc. began to emerge.

### The Spectacular Hollow-Cast Creations of Georg Munckle and a Visit to Toy Mania in Paris (Cont.)



Black and white line drawing of Boxed Set by GM

It transpired that this grand selection of items was the property of Jean Bernard Doublet, a French collector with whom I had previously dealt with via E Bay. I started my negotiations and purchased many items, fast ran out of Euros and put a number of other pieces aside and found a cash machine, this exercise being repeated twice more as the number of items for sale by Jean Bernard kept appearing out of his countless boxes.

While I was enthusiastic about my purchases, Jean Bernard was even more enthusiastic about my 20 Euro catalog purchase, a copy of which he had not seen before; he had a similar volume at home but with different illustrations. It was agreed that I would let him borrow my catalog which he would copy and combine it with his, at the same time identifying each figures maker and producing a combined copy of the two catalogs. The end result being a comprehensive identification record of many of the French Hollow Cast manufacturers products.

Georg Munckle was a German from the town of Wertemberg, who set up business in France during the 1920s & marked his items with his initials GM. He produced a wide line of items, some quite spectacular in design. The cover shot of this issue of OTS is a GM product and was supplied from the collection of Ken Novack. The animation of this figure is certainly dramatic, but it is also somewhat of a mystery because of the curious subject matter.

The scale of the item, as with the other illustrations in this article is 65mm. It depicts a rearing horse, a Cowboy style dressed figure wielding a lance or spear and being attacked by a Tiger.

The combination of Cowboy/Tiger is obviously a mystery.

Collector and regular OTS contributor, Bill Grant suggests perhaps the figure is meant to represent a Gaucho and perhaps the stripes of the Tiger may well have been intended to be a Jaguar with spots.

George Munkle obviously had a very vivid imagination when it came to designing; however his products must rank amongst the most spectacular of all hollow cast figures.

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The scene above includes the following figures (left to right): • 60004 - Lady in Walking Dress, 1883-1885 - 1 Piece Set

• 60001 - Lady in Afternoon Dress, 1805-1815 - 1 Piece Set

• 60002 - Lady in Walking Dress, 1820-1825 - 1 Piece Set

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# **AUCTION PREVIEW**

OLD TOY SOLDIER AUCTIONS USA The CLIFFORD H. HANSEN Collection and Various Properties NOVEMBER 22, 2008



Britains Set # 2149 Gentlemen at Arms



Britains Set # 1897 (Part) Royal Army Medical Corps



Britains Set 2093 (Part) Berkshire Regiment Band

Building upon the tremendous success of our first sale, Old Toy Soldier Auctions USA will be offering the collection of the late Clifford H. Hansen of Norman, Oklahoma.

Mr. Hansen donated his extensive collection of Britains to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the proceeds of the fall auction will benefit the foundation.

In addition to this collection, a fine assortment of figures from a host of other manufactures are already scheduled for this sale. They include but are not limited to Heyde, Barclay, Stadden, Imperial and Courtenay.

Consignments are being accepted for 2009 and future auctions.



**Courtenay Figures** 



Britains Set 2042 Prairie Schooner with Attacking Indians



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Britains World Cow and Village Idiot





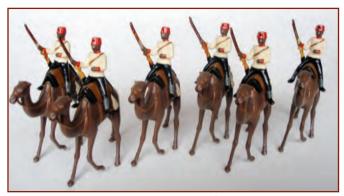
AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)

**Britains Rare Half Sets** 





**Britains Spahis** 



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Britains Egyptian Camel Corps



Scots Guards Pipe Band (part)

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Britains Rare Post War Black Watch from Set #73



# **AUCTION PREVIEW** (Cont.)



### AUCTION PREVIEW (Cont.)

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Rare Britains Set 1R Railway Display



Britains Set 1759 Air Raid Precautions



Stadden Officers



Heyde's The March of Germanics, 108 pieces.

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# OLD TOY SOLDIERS AUCTIONS USA CATALOG ORDER FORM The CLIFFORD H. HANSEN Collection NOVEMBER 22, 2008

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## **AUCTION REVIEW**

OTS Auctions May 2008 Review Some of the highlights from the inaugural auction Prices do not include buyers premium.



Lot 86 Britains RARE Set # 1313 Eastern Peoples, \$750



Lot 297 Exella VERY RARE Big Bad Wolf, 3 Little Pigs and 3 Pigs Houses, \$7,000



Lot 3 Britains VERY RARE Un-numbered Boar Supply Column unboxed. \$6,600



Lot 173 Britains Set # 2043 RARE Rodeo Display Set, \$850

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Lot 96 Britains Set # 1383 Belgian Infantry Service Dress firing, \$750



Lot 117 Britains Set # 1555 Changing of the Guard Display set, \$1,000



Lot 286 Britains Set # 1550 VERY RARE Noah's Ark with Noah, Wife and 22 Animals, \$6,000



Lot 143 Britains Sets #1855 Miniature Barrage Balloon Lorry with Winch & Barrage Balloon, \$950

# **AUCTION REVIEW** (Cont.)

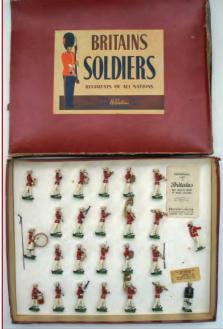
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Lot 293 Britains VERY RARE Snow Babies Pre War 1935, \$1,700



Lot 289 Britains VERY RARE Lambeth Walk Dancing Couple, \$1,800



Lot 304 Britains Set # 2112 US Marine Band Summer Dress in original ROAN box, \$1,300



Lot 288 Britains Zoo Display Set #27-Z, \$1,000



Lot 1 Britains EXCEPTIONALLY RARE Set # T6, \$1,600

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Lot 9 Britains Set # 1477 Coronation Display, \$1,300



Lot 313 Courtenay Henry VIII & Wives, \$1,300

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Lot 398 Imperial Heirloom Series #2 Queens Own Cameron Highlanders Sudan 1882-1885, \$800

### **AUCTION PREVIEW**

### **Vectis November Military, Civilian Figure & Equipment Auction**

The next Vectis Military, Civilian Figures and Equipment Sale will be held on Tuesday, November 11th, and will include a wide and varied selection of hollowcast, solid cast, flats, plastics, modern issues and printed ephemera from many British, European and US Makers.

German manufacturers are going to be well represented with examples of 1930's output by the likes of Elastolin - a superb "Gelandestuck mit 6 Unterstanden" large fieldwork with 6 positions, the most expensive item in Elastolin's 1936/7 Catalogue ! Moritz Gottschalk provides the sale with a Large Command Bunker, circa 1938, again a top of the range item at over 78cm [31 inches] long, complete with HMG positions, bunkers and trenches with figures. Aircraft, vehicles, accessories and figures will also be available from Lineol, Tipp, Hausser, Gunthermann and Fischer amongst others.

Examples from Heyde will include: Romanian Infantry and a Prussian Garde zu Fuss Band [both standard 48mm scale], a set of 6 large scale [70mm] British Lifeguards mounted Bandsmen, 19th Century examples now housed in a later issue box and a Coronation Coach with 8 horse team and associated figures, circa, 1911.

The sale will also include a rare and unusual presentation set of flats [probably by Heinrichsen or Allegayer] representing elements of the "Day of German Art" parade held in Munich on 18th July 1937. The set contains 25 pieces [including large parade floats] and is contained in a deluxe presentation box with padded interior and gilt lettering, such sets were given by [Hitler] as gifts to visiting dignitaries attending the event.

Examples of other European makers will include: Quiralu - a fine Wild West set depicting a Stagecoach under attack by Indians and Mignot - various sets, including: an early issue Grenadiers of the Imperial Guard, a scenic boxed Hunt Scene and a scenic Foreign Legion set. A boxed Chinese wedding parade from an early [as yet to be confirmed] European maker and a large diorama [approximately 200+ figures] representing a British Infantry Square at Waterloo under attack by French Cavalry, custom built by Derek Cross of All the Queen's Men are also well worth viewing.

Britains will be well represented with examples drawn from their original hollowcast, plastic and modern issue ranges with military and civilian sets and accessories available in all three categories. Examples include: early issue 3rd Hussars, Japanese Infantry, a rare final issue [1959] Staff Car with plastic wheel hubs, Famous Football Teams, Miniature Garden Sets and Herald





issues. This will be supplemented by related Books, Catalogues and Ephemera. Hugar, John Hill, Crescent, Pixyland Kew, Timpo and Stadden amongst others will all be represented with various sets and loose items.

A rare full set of Coronation Figures by Graham Farish will also be on offer, these figures are in excellent condition and are accompanied by examples from the even rarer Farish British Officer's range, again in excellent condition.

Finally a section devoted to the golden age of Hong Kong "pirated" sets [a genre rapidly becoming collectible in its own right] will provide a few memories of the 1960's for many collectors.

For further details contact Simon Clark +44 1642 750616 or email simon.clarke@vectis.co.uk

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# MILITARY AND CIVILIAN FIGURE AND EQUIPMENT AUCTION

To Be Held on TUESDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

at STOCKTON ON TEES, ENGLAND Starting at 2.00pm (British Time)

Highlights will include: a full set of Coronation Figures by Graham Farish, deluxe examples of Elastolin and Gottschalk Fieldworks from the 1930's, boxed large scale Heyde Lifeguards Bandsmen, a specially commissioned Waterloo diorama by AQM and the usual fine selection of military/civilian sets/figures from Britains, Hill, Quiralu, Mignot and Heyde amongst many others. VIEWING BY APPOINTMENT A Non Room Auction to be held on-line in association with ebayliveauctions.com and liveauctioneers.com

For further details contact Simon Clark on simon.clarke@vectis.co.uk

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#### Toy Soldiers and Figures Wednesday 29 October Knightsbridge, London

The sale will include figures and sets by Britains, Heyde, Elastolin, CGB Mignot and a large collection of Civilian and Farm figures and vehicles.

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## SHOW REPORT

#### **Gettysburg Show**

Once again "Gettysburg" is that small place on the map that gets more than its share of attention.

This past April 27th, 2008 on Sunday morning, almost 400 Toy Soldier Collectors gathered to attend the 1st Annual Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show. Collectors and enthusiasts as far north as Ontario, Canada as well as south to Florida, and all the places in between enjoyed the displays and bargains that the Vendor Hall of approximately 100 tables offered.

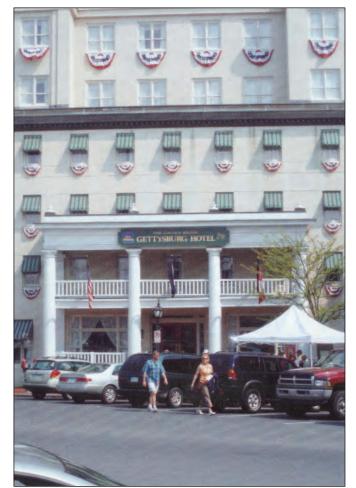
A very diversified mix of plastic and metal was available, with both having their share of vintage collectibles and neat new stuff.

The flagship Manufacturer Wm. Britian set-up 8 tables of display dioramas showcasing their great new products. Also, Northwest Trading Company had it's line-up of desirable new products all on display in the Manufacturers and Artists room set slightly off from the main Vendor Ball Room.

Fans of celebrated Artist Keith Rocco, had a chance to meet with him and view a gallery of his latest works. Along side Keith, was Author Will Hutchinson autographing copies of his latest book, a novel of the Crimean War campaign entitled "Follow Me to Glory".

There were over a \$1,000.00 dollars in Door Prize giveaways during the Show. Richard Walker, President of Wm. Britain had generously donated the Britain product for Door Prizes and greeted each winner with a warm thank-you for having attended the show.

Russian miniatures took-up center stage with two well known Vendors, Bill Harlowe of Russian Miniature from Virginia and Russ Salburg from Ohio, together displaying over 5 tables of connoisseur figures.



The event was held at the Historic Gettysburg Hotel, in the center of town.



W. Britain generously donated over \$1,000 in Free Door Prizes.

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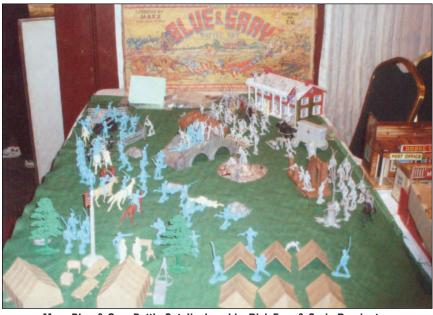
### **SHOW REPORT** (Cont.)



The Show was still buzzing, even towards the end of the day.



Many attendees lined up to fill in their door prize vouchers.



Marx-Blue & Gray Battle Set displayed by Rick Ever & Craig Remington.

A number of notable plastic Dealers were present selling individual pieces right up to complete playsets. Rick Eber had a stack of playsets available that could be the envy of any collector.

A host of Vendors set-up and offered all the new metal sets on the market, George Guerriero of Minute Men Toy Soldiers had a steady flow of customers buying-up his large selection of King and Country pieces.

Promoter Wayne Stevens said he could not have been more pleased with the level of Vendor participation and customer enthusiasm and commented that he received an overwhelming amount of thank you's. Show Sponsor John Stengel and Copromoter Carl Hoegermeyer echoed Wayne's comments. All three said that the historic setting and atmosphere of Gettysburg went a long way in helping make the Show a success.

The Show is already booked for the 2nd Annual Gettysburg Toy Soldier Show in the same spot at the Historic Gettysburg Hotel (Best Western) right in the center of town, for Sunday, April 26th, 2009.

Show Promoters said that the Gettysburg National Park Museum and Visitors Center print a 60 page Visitors Guide. The Guide is a valuable asset to anyone planning to attend a future event. The Guide contains information on Hotels, Restaurants, Shops, Battlefield Museums and Tours; and is available at no charge by contacting the organization at (800) 337-5015 (Toll Free) or (717) 334-6274, or online by visiting their website at www. GettysburgTravel.

# SHOW REPORT

#### 2008 M.F.C.A. Show & Mart By Michael Mattimore

If you went to the Valley Forge Convention Center the first weekend in May looking for the sixtyseventh edition of the M. F. C. A. annual Show and Mart, you were in for a shock!

The show had moved, both in space AND time, and had long been over. For, after a lengthy and mostly-successful run in its old venue, the show was relocated to a new site, the very upto-date Chase Convention Center in Wilmington, Delaware. The change of location also necessitated moving the date forward to the last weekend in April, creating additional challenges for the promoters. From its earliest days back in Chester, this show has been a mainstay of the show circuit, predating many other well-known shows in the East and Midwest.

A perennial favorite for toy soldier and miniature figure enthusiasts from all along the East Coast, the show is and has always been sponsored by the hardworking folks of the Miniature Figure Collectors of America. The change of both venue and date presented them with daunting problems, but things went reasonably smoothly overall. Most dealers and collectors I spoke to seemed to feel that, given the circumstances, the show was a qualified success. There were access issues with unloading / parking, but no worse than there had been the last two years at Valley Forge when the show was moved to the lower level.

Also, some people were a bit put off by the "black box" atmosphere inside the exhibition hall which seemed oppressive and made photography difficult. But these are minor quibbles; overall, things went smoothly for dealers and collectors alike.

Of course, this show is absolutely unique among toy soldier shows; it is the one show in the country that caters to both toy soldier collectors and miniature figure modelers. As such, it offers a comprehensive range of goods unparalleled by any other show. Of course, one particular highlight of the show for the M.F.C.A. members is always the club's annual competition and display of the members' efforts, a chance for them to show off their accomplishments to their fellow modelers. But for most dealers and collectors, the real action is on the show floor during the two days that the show is open.

Most of the usual dealers were in attendance, although a few well-known dealers were conspicuous by their absence, in particular, our publisher and our editor, both of whom had previous committments for the weekend of the show. Everyone was glad to see Bill Graver from Counterpane back in action and were glad to hear that his recuperation is progressing well. Bill Murphy from The Hobby Bunker, Rich Dutkins, Carl Hogermeyer and Ed Wilson all were there. Also on hand were Michigan Toy Soldier's Rick Berry, Joe Wallis, with his charming display of vintage Britains civilian items, and all the guys from Belle & Blade. Christian Keller had old Britains, Mignots, and Heydes, while Tom Litras showed a number of boxed Britains in near-mint condition. The author brought samples from a mint collection of tied-in-the-box Imperial sets, sadly, no longer in production. Ron Ruddell from London Bridge was there, along with Ben Michel, who had a terrific display of old Mignots and Vertunnis. Plastics of every description were in abundance, particularly on the overflowing tables of New Jersey dealer Ed Gries. Of course all the folks from Aero Art were there, displaying the exquisite St. Petersburg figures that are always one of the highlights of the show.

So, get out your Delaware maps and mark your calendars so that you'll be ready for next year's show. You really don't want to miss it! (And remember, King of Prussia is but a memory...) See you there.

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## SHOW REPORT PHOTO GALLERY

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### 2008 M.F.C.A. Show & Mart Photo Gallery









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Alan Gwin 🖕

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**Bill Graver** 

Michael Mattimore and Norman Rodriguez







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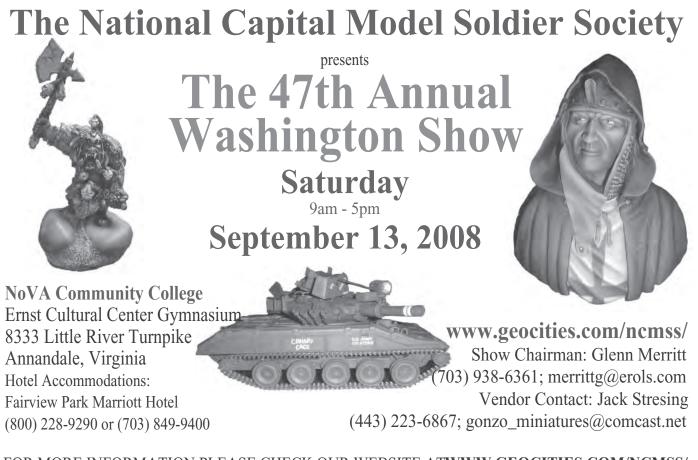
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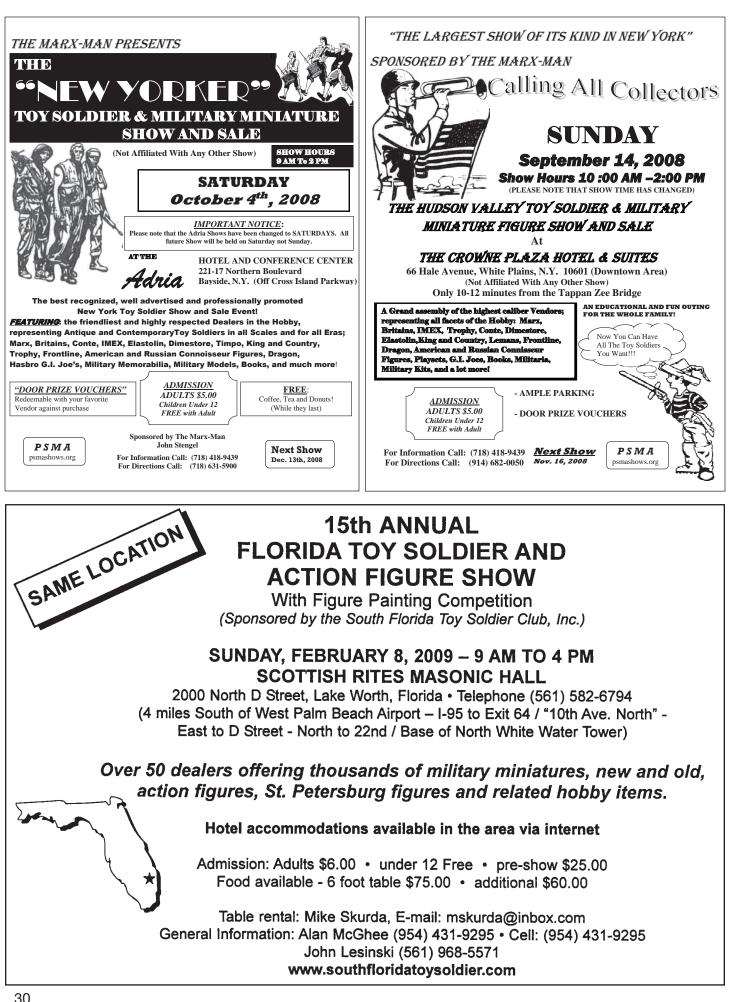
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### How I Convert Dimestore Toy Soldiers by Replacing Body Parts By Roger Dubois

Two years ago in this journal, I presented an overview on how Dimestore toy soldiers could be converted using one of six methods: **repainting**, **attaching**, **removing**, **repositioning**, **replacing**, and **combining** (*OTS v. 30*, *n. 2, 2006*). In a second article, I explained how I employed the methods of **removing** and **attaching** to convert a Barclay Drum Major (711) to a wounded World War I German soldier with backpack (*OTS v. 31*, *n. 1, 2007*).

In this article, the discussion on how I convert Dimestores figures continues with the theme focusing on a technique used to **replace** body parts.

The figures I will work with are shown in Photos 1 and 2. On the left in Photo 1, the Barclay Ammunition Carrier (734) has no legs while to the right the Barclay Stretcher Bearer (759, closed hand) is missing his left hand. In Photo 2, the Barclay Sharpshooter (747) on the left is missing feet, and to the right only the lower portion of the Manoil Tommy Gunner (27) remains.





Photo 2. Barclay Sharpshooter and lower half of Manoil Tommy Gunner.

I can clearly see in Photo 1 that the arms with ammo cases could replace the arms of the Stretcher Bearer, and that the upper half of the Sharpshooter in Photo 2 could fit onto the legs of the Tommy Gunner. A key point that I need to remember when replacing body parts is to ensure that all new parts are close in size to the originals being replaced. Otherwise, the conversion will look peculiar if the replaced parts are not anatomically proportioned with the rest of the figure.

Now that I know what body parts I will use to make the conversions, all I need to do is to gather my materials and tools, and carry out the work. The materials and tools that I will use are the same as those described in an earlier article (*OTS v. 31, n. 1, 2007*). I will also follow all safety precautions mentioned in that article.

One new tool is added to this project. It's a Dremel tungsten carbide cutter (No. 9901) attached to a motor tool, which is by far my most useful tool. I use it to make boots by cutting away puttees, to remove lapels and ties, and anything else that needs to be re-

moved or reshaped including hardened epoxy putty.

Work is completed faster using a motor tool with cutter than using a file. However, working with a motor tool is far more dangerous than working with files. So whenever I use this tool, I wear safety glasses to protect my eyes and a dust mask to insure that I don't ingest lead or hardened epoxy putty particles.

It took me some time to learn how to effectively operate a motor tool with cutter. When I began using this tool, I pressed down too hard on the cutter forcing the cutter to dig into a figure. The pressure increased friction and heat, and that in turn softened the lead. The soft lead clogged the cutter and caused work stoppage. After the cutter was cleaned using the tip of a needle file, work began until about a minute later when once again the cutter was clogged and work stopped. And so the sequence of cut-and-clean continued until I finally learned to *make light passes*. Now that I have adapted a light touch, work progresses without the constant interruption of cleaning a clogged cutter.

### How I Convert Dimestore Toy Soldiers by Replacing Body Parts (Cont.)

The following is a description of the converting technique that I follow when replacing arms, heads, and torsos.

#### Making a Conversion from Figures in Photo 1

1. Using a razor saw with an oiled blade to reduce friction and make the job easier, I start by sawing off the arms of the Stretcher Bearer. I begin by sawing the hands away from the legs, then saw where the arms are connected at the waist, and end by sawing the arms off at the shoulder, exposing holes in the shoulders. The detached arms are placed in my body-parts box. I may need them for a future project.

2. With my cutter, I smooth the surfaces of the shoulder bag on his left side and the pocket on his right side. I then make a final pass across both surfaces with a flat needle file.

3. I now saw the arms and ammo cases from the torso of the Ammunition Carrier. I commence by sawing upward along the front side where a box is attached to a leg. I then turn the figure around and saw the backside. Once a box is detached from the torso, I start sawing the arm at the shoulder along the front side and then saw the backside until an arm with case is separated from the torso (Photo 3).



Photo 3. The exposed cut of arm and ammo case.

4. With arms and ammo cases detached from the torso, I decide how I will fasten them to the Stretcher Bearer. The cases are hollow (Photo 3) and when the arms are placed against the sides of the Bearer, the holes in the cases can be seen. So I fill the holes with two-part epoxy putty with a drying time of about four minutes.

Before the putty dries, I use a paintbrush to wet the putty and leg where the putty in the ammo box will come in contact. Now I press the arm against the torso, making sure that the upper arm is exactly aligned with the shoulder.

Where the ammo box comes in contact with a leg, excessive putty flares out of the box as the side of a leg is pushed into the putty. As I separate an arm from the torso, little or no putty sticks to the figure because the fresh putty and legs were wet before contact was made.

I remove the excess putty from the cases with a hobby knife. What is left is an imprint of the side of the leg in the putty (Photo 4), which means that when an arm is glued to the torso, there will be a perfect fit where a case comes in contact with a leg.



Photo 4. Enlarging the armhole with cutter.

5. Now I have to deal with securing the upper arm to the shoulder. First I mix a small amount of putty and then a small amount of two-part epoxy glue with a drying time of about six minutes. While each mixture is drying, I enlarge the holes in the upper arms with my cutter (Photo 4).

After a few minutes have past and the glue has become sticky, I use a toothpick to spread a thin coat of glue in each hole. By now the putty has stiffened a bit and has become sticky. I place a ball of putty in each hole right on top of the glue. I now wet the putty and the shoulder including the inside edge of the hole where the arm with putty will come in contact.

Taking one arm at a time, I place the ammo case against the leg where there's a perfect fit and then press the upper arm against the shoulder. Most of the putty enters the hole in the shoulder, but some flares sideways. Once again, because the putty and shoulder are wet and the putty is sticking to the glue in the arm, little or no putty adheres to the torso as I separate an arm from the body.

#### How I Convert Dimestore Toy Soldiers by Replacing Body Parts (Cont.)

With a hobby knife, I remove the surplus putty from the arm and from the shoulder if there is any. What is left is an imprint of the shoulder hole on the putty as can be seen at the tip of the toothpick in Photo 5. The putty and glue are left to cure.



Photo 5. Imprint of shoulder hole on putty.

After I have painted the arms and the figure, I will apply two-part epoxy glue to the putty at the top of the arms and inside the cases and secure the arms to the figure.

Why do I glue epoxy putty to metal? Isn't two-part epoxy putty sticky enough to hold two pieces of metal together? Yes, but my experience has shown that when I accidentally drop a figure that has body parts held to it by just the stickiness of putty, there is a tendency for a part to separate from the body right at the joint where the two pieces come together. For some reason, the impact of the fall causes separation right where the putty holds the two pieces together. The putty doesn't fracture; it just loses its grip. So to reduce the possibility of breakage from a fall, I now glue epoxy putty to body parts. I continue to accidentally drop figures, but breakage has been reduced.

6. Once the putty and glue have cured, I secure the arms to the figure with my fingers and inspect my work. Looks good. At this point I could stop, paint the figure, glue the arms to the body, and be finished. But I want to do more. I want the figure to wear a different hat, maybe a tin helmet or a campaign hat (boy scout hat). To accommodate a new hat, I'll have to replace the Bearer's head with the head of the Carrier.

7. With the front of the Carrier facing me and with my razor saw with oiled blade, I begin sawing at the base of the collar along one side. Then I rotate the figure and cut the backside. I continue to cut and rotate the figure until the head is detached from the body.

8. I remove the head of the Bearer the same way as I removed the head of the Carrier and add it to my body-parts box. I now place the Carrier's head on the body of the Bearer. The fit is poor. There is too much metal at the base of the Carrier's head. So with my cutter, I start to remove small amounts of metal and then try to fit the head to the neck of the Bearer. I keep working at it until there is a reasonable fit.

9. I will attach the head to the body using putty and glue. First, I mix a small amount of putty and glue. With a toothpick, I spread some glue in the inside of the head near the neck and wait a few minutes until the glue becomes sticky. I then insert a roll of putty through the base of the head. And through the hole at the top of the head, I use a toothpick to spread the putty along the wall of the head that is coated with glue.

I wait a minute or so to let the putty stiffen some more. I wet the putty and the opening in the body where the head will rest. I gently press the head on to the body, turning the head slightly to the left of the figure. Most of the putty enters the body opening, but some flares away. With a hobby knife, I remove the excess putty. I slowly separate both pieces. Once again, what is left is an imprint of the body hole on the putty (Photo 6).



Photo 6. Imprint of neck hole on putty in head.

10. Before I glue the head onto the figure, I remove the jacket lapels from the body with my cutter.

11. Once the glue and putty have thoroughly harden, I epoxy glue the head to the figure.

12. I cover the seam between the head and body with a high collar made of epoxy putty following the procedure I described in an earlier article (*OTS*, v. 31, n. 1, 2007).

## How I Convert Dimestore Toy Soldiers by Replacing Body Parts (Cont.)





Photo 7. Front view of painted conversion of ammo carrier.

Photo 8. Back view of painted conversion of ammo carrier.

13. I decide that the figure will wear a campaign hat, but the hat does not fit well on the head; it sits too high. So with an oiled razor saw, I saw off a small part of the top of the head. With the cutter I smooth the edge around the head until the hat sits comfortably on the head.

Next I want to make sure that when the hat is glued to the head it will sit just right. So once again I mix small amounts of glue and putty. With a toothpick, I place some glue on the inside of the hat, wait a few minutes, and then insert a small amount of putty in the hat. I moisten the head and putty, and then gently press the hat on the head. I tilt the hat slightly forward so that it covers most of the forehead. I gently remove the hat, remove a bit of excess putty from the hat, and let the putty and glue harden. When the putty cures, the hat will sit perfectly on the head. I will not glue the hat to the head until both have been painted.

14. All the pieces now fit together.

15. I strip the paint off the figure with paint stripper purchased from a local hardware store. I then prime all pieces. Once the primer has dried, I carefully inspect the collar area where the head has been attached to the body to make sure my work naturally blends with the rest of the body. I don't want my work to show. I have a bit more filling with gap putty and filing to do.

I prime, inspect my work again, and find it acceptable. Following my painting steps described in a previous article (*OTS v. 31, n. 2, 2007*), I paint the hat, arms, and body separately. Once the paint has dried and using a very small amount of epoxy glue, I secure the pieces together. After the glue has dried, I touch-up the paint along the seams where the pieces are joined. The conversion is now finished (Photos 7 and 8). The hat, canteen, and shovel (Photo 8) are metal castings that I make. The figure originally wore a canteen where my new canteen rests, but I removed it with my cutter. Both canteen and backpack were painted before they were glued to the figure.

#### Making a Conversion from Figures in Photo 2

1. Making a conversion from these two pieces will be a relatively simple task. With the blade of a razor saw oiled, I start sawing the Sharpshooter just below the front of his jacket (Photo 9). Because I can't see where the blade will come out on the other side, I stop sawing just past the mid-point of the figure. I then turn the figure around and saw the backside to finish the job.

2. I place the upper part of the Sharpshooter onto the legs of the Tommy Gunner. The fit is not bad, but I have to cut and file some irregular edges on both pieces to improve the fit.

3. Time to mix more putty and glue. This time, however, I mix a generous amount of putty. With a toothpick, I spread glue inside the upper portion the Gunner's legs. Then I take a relatively large amount of putty and push it into the opening of the Gunner's legs, making sure that lots of putty protrudes above the hole. I moisten the putty and the inside waist area of the Sharpshooter. I gently press the Sharpshooter onto the putty. Most of the putty enters into the cavity of the Sharpshooter, but some of it is squeezed sideways. With my hobby knife, I remove the excess putty. Then I gently separate the two pieces. An impression of the inside cavity of the Sharpshooter is left on the putty (Photo 10).

4. Once the putty has hardened, I epoxy glue the two pieces together. With my cutter, I smooth the rough edges. I now spread some gap-filling putty all the way around the seam where the two pieces come together. When the filler has dried, I file the edge one more time. The conversion is now ready for painting. I will fit a campaign hat onto his head using the same method I described earlier in this article.

5. I strip the paint and prime the figure. After the primer has dried, I inspect my work along the seam. I don't want my work to show. I want the conversion to have the look of a manufactured piece. And so I do a little filing and some filling with gap putty. I prime the seam a second time. The seam now looks natural. I'm ready to paint. The finished conversion is shown in Photos 11 and 12.

## How I Convert Dimestore Toy Soldiers by Replacing Body Parts (Cont.)



Photo 9. Cutting the legs off the Sharpshooter.

#### **Concluding Comments**

In this article I showed how broken Dimestore toy soldiers without much value could be converted into very respectable figures by replacing body parts using a relatively simple converting technique. However, I fully understand that hobbyists following other techniques could have produced the same conversions pictured in this piece. Therefore, readers should not conclude that my way is the only way; it is simply one of many.

Regardless of which converting technique is used to secure body parts to a figure, once you have mastered a technique then the real fun of converting toy soldiers begins. Here's where you can really exercise your imagination or creativity. I often have a great time trying to assemble a conversion from body parts spread out on a table. Sometimes the parts that are brought together collectively succeed in forming an eye-catching conversion.

As a case in point, look at Photo 13. It's a conversion composed of five body parts that came from five different Dimestore soldiers. The base to the waist comes from one figure; the left and right arms (excluding hand with pistol which is a casting that I made) come from two separate figures; the torso comes from a fourth figure; and finally the head (gas mask canister was added by me) comes from a fifth figure.

If you are a Dimestore collector, you should be able to identify the figures from which I acquired the base up to the waist, left arm, and head. The torso comes from a Barclay short stride figure. The right arm will be a challenge; it's from a Manoil.



Photo 10. Imprint of the Sharpshooter's waist cavity on putty.





Photo 11. Front view of painted conversion of sharpshooter.

Photo 12. Back view of painted conversion of sharpshooter.

In conclusion, if you convert toy soldiers, I hope you have gained one or more useful insights that can be added to your "bag" of converting techniques. For those of you who don't convert toy figures, then I hope you have gained a better appreciation of what is involved in converting Dimestore soldiers. E-mail me at dubois@umbc.edu if you have any questions about what I have written. And my gratitude goes out to all of you who have taken time to e-mail me your thoughts on topics that I wrote in previous articles.



Photo 13. Conversion composed of body parts from five different Dimestore soldiers.

# **BOOK PREVIEW**

# BRITAINS NEW TOY SOLDIERS AND METAL MODELS 1973 TO THE PRESENT INTRODUCTION

Britains Toy Soldiers have since the introduction of their hollow cast figures in 1893 been world famous and are recognized throughout the toy industry as such.

The cessation of hollow cast toy soldier production in 1966 following British government legislation banning lead in children's toys left a void in the toy soldier market for several years. Collectors were quick to purchase remaining store stocks of the hollow cast line, but within a few years they were available only via the secondary market as dealers both in the UK and the USA started selling the items which are now highly prized and sought after collectible antiques.

A seven year hiatus followed the end of hollow cast production, with only connoisseur figures, plastics and Military Miniatures being available to the toy soldier collector. Several firms including Blenheim and Trophy started to produce solid white metal gloss painted toy soldiers in the style of the old hollow cast figures during the early nineteen seventies. Britains were somewhat slower to react to the demand for such items and it was not until 1973 that the first New Toy Soldier was issued by Britains, a die cast Guardsman with plastic accessories and a thick green die cast base adapted from the plastic Deetail line was the first to be issued. It was followed by a Lifeguard and Yeoman of the Guard (Beefeater).

The line was extraordinarily slow to develop and it seemed that Britains were content to have only these three figures in production and aim them almost exclusively at the toy and London tourist markets.

Many other New Toy Soldier manufacturers had started business during the nineteen seventies and early eighties and it was not until 1983 that Britiains started to develop the line with the inclusion of Highlanders in their catalogue.

The company was at this time still owned by the Britains family. The company was sold in 1984 to Dobson Park Industries and became known as Britains Petite. Production moved from London to Nottingham in 1992 thus ending nearly one hundred years in the capital. The new toy soldier line grew



somewhat during that period, but in 1997 the company changed hands again, and was purchased by Ertl Europe Limited. These changes meant little consistency was evident in the products as new managers and designers struggled to standardize the line. A further change of ownership occurred in 1999 when Racing Champions bought Ertl.

First Gear bought the Britains name in 2005 and to date have made remarkable advances in production methods, bringing back the traditional style figures so reminiscent of the old style hollow cast figures.

This book covers the 35 year history of the traditional new toy soldier produced by the various companies under the name Britains.

In 1991 Britains Matte painted items began to appear in the catalogues, produced in the Far East and based very much on the style of their competitors items which were and are also produced in Asia. With thicker bases and animated poses these toy figures are very much after the Military Miniatures of the nineteen fifties and sixties. Matte painted figures are not included in the book.

Britains New Toy Soldiers 1973 to the Present covers the thirty five year period from the commencement of their New Toy Soldier line to the present day. The book focuses on the traditional gloss painted 54mm figures of the Britains Company through its many changes of ownership during the period. Over eleven hundred photographs and in excess of three thousand two hundred figures are illustrated with the emphasis being on military items: British Ceremonial troops, American Civil War, Indian Army

# BOOK PREVIEW (Cont.)

and Delhi Durbar, World War I, Knights, Zulu War, Rorkes Drift, Limited Editions, W Britains Collectors Club Membership products, Britains Centenary and Millennium issues. The book also features non military sections on Home Farm and Circus. Special issues by the Britains Company and figures exclusive to Harrods and Hamleys department stores are all included. The book contains a comprehensive index of all gloss painted figures produced during the period covered, as well as a valuation guide to

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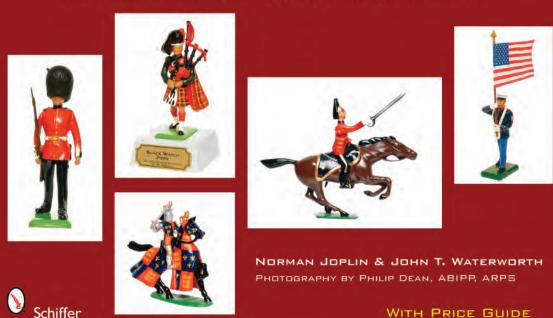
each set or individual item. This reference book is vet another definitive work from the author(s).

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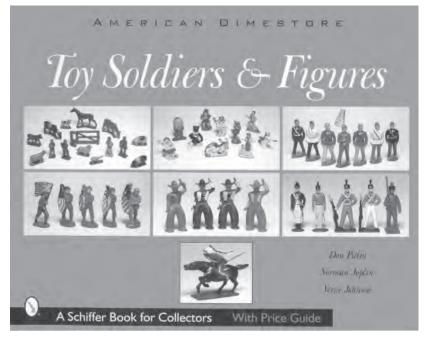
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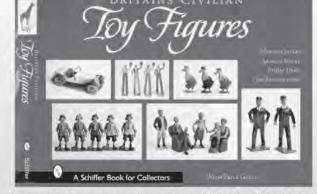


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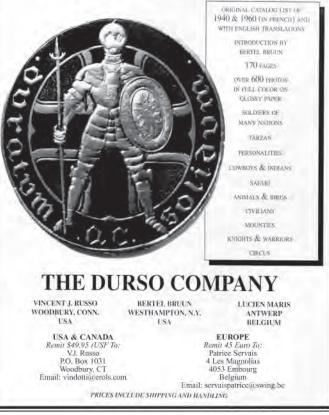
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## Medieval Composition Figures of Belgium The Solido Company

By Vincent J. Russo and Patrice Servais

#### **Introduction**

( )

The mystique and allure of the Middle Ages spawned much activity, not only in folklore, literature, and the movies, but also by the producers of miniature figures all over the world.

In Belgium for instance, the Durso Company produced a very extensive line of composition medieval figures depicted in its Series I (men of war) and Series II (knights).

The focus of this article, however, will feature photos of medieval figures produced, in composition, by the Solido Company, a Belgian rival of Durso.

#### History of the Medieval Era

The Middle Ages, (Medieval Era) has been established by world historians as that period between "The Fall of Rome" (C. 400 AD) and "The Renaissance" (C. 1500 AD).

For the purposes of this article, we will begin our discussions from that period known as the "High Middle Ages," which began about the time of the death of Otto III, the last of the "Holy Roman Emperors" in 1002 AD.

The following are some of the "highlights" of this period:

1000 AD – Vikings settle in France and are called "Normans" (short for North Men) and live in Normandy.

1066 AD – William of Normandy defeats the English (Anglo-Saxons) under King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, and is crowned King of England.

1087 AD – "William the Conqueror" died and the throne of England is passed to his sons William II and then to Henry.

1096 AD – At the urging of Pope Urban, England embarks on the First "Crusade" to "rescue" Jerusalem from Islamic Fatimids.

1135 AD – King Henry dies and the throne is seized by his nephew, Stephen of Blois.

1154 AD – After Stephen's death, Henry II and his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, take control.

1189 AD – at Henry's death, his son Richard (The Lion hearted) becomes King of England.

1191 AD – Richard embarks on the ill-fated Third "Crusade."

1199 AD – Richard dies and is succeeded by his unpopular brother, John.

1328 AD – The last Capetian King of France dies and King Edward III of England claims the right to rule France.

1338 AD – The start of the "100 years war"

1377 AD – Edward III dies.

1415 AD – The English, under King Henry V, win a major battle at Agincourt.

1419 AD – After citing a "mandate from God" to drive the English out of France, Joan of Arc is given control of the French Army and registers quick victories. ( )

1431 AD – Joan of Arc is captured and burned alive in the city of Rouen.

1453 AD – King Henry VI gives up the claim to rule France and the "100 years war" is ended.

#### The Solido Company

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Not much is known about this company.

What we do know is that it started producing composition figures in Brussels soon after World War II, and continued until converting to plastic in the early 1960's.

Its production line included Military, Cowboy and Indians, Civilians, Natives, Pirates, and Medieval Knights.

Since no catalog has ever surfaced, we must assume that one never existed and thus we have taken the liberty to present our version of a Solido "Catalog" for these medieval figures.

<u>Note</u>: This series was well designed, and allowed for a number of different "weapons" to be utilized with the same basic figure.

# Medieval Composition Figures of Belgium The Solido Company (Cont.)

Number	Description	Weapon	
Sol-1	Knight attacking with 2 hands on weapons (from side)	Sword, ax, hatchet, mace, club flanged mace	
Sol-2	Knight blowing horn		
Sol-3	Knight marching with Halbred		
Sol-4	Knight attacking with 2 hands on weapon (overhead)	Sword, ax, club, flanged mace	
Sol-5	Knight running with shield and weapon	Sword, ax, hatchet, club, guisarme, spear, mace	
Sol-6	Knight standing preparing for attack	spear, guisarme	
Sol-7	Knight standing firing bow		
Sol-8	Knight kneeling firing bow		



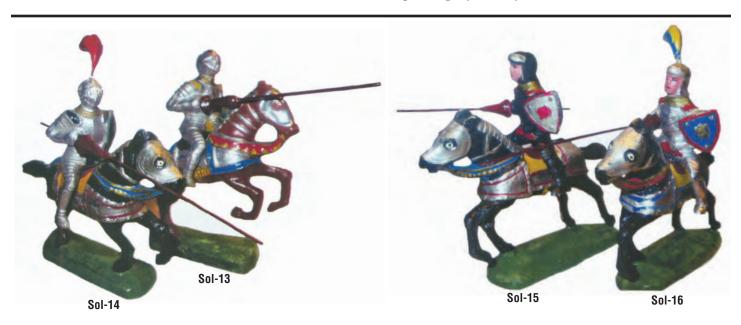


# Medieval Composition Figures of Belgium The Solido Company (Cont.)



Sol-11

# Medieval Composition Figures of Belgium The Solido Company (Cont.)



Number	Description	Weapon
Sol-9	Foot knight with weapon	Sword, ax, hatchet, club, mace, ball and chain, flanged mace
Sol-10	Mounted knight with weapon raised high	Sword, hatchet, mace, club, flanged mace
Sol-11	Mounted knight with vertical spear	
Sol-12	Rider on horse shooting bow	
Sol-13	Knight charging on horse, oval shield	
Sol-14	Plumed knight charging on horse, oval shield	
Sol-15	Knight charging on horse, triangular shield	
Sol-16	Plumed knight charging on horse, triangular shield	

\* 2 distinct types of "hand guards" are known to exist.

#### **Conclusion**

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Once again, the authors thank "Old Toy Soldier" magazine for the opportunity to showcase Belgian made composition figures. We sincerely hope that our readers have enjoyed this article. (We plan to feature the Early Middle Ages in a future article).

#### **Acknowledgement**

Photos by Veronique Servais

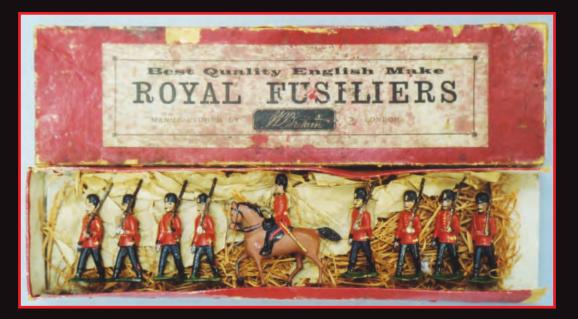
#### Editor's Note

See the advertisement for the book "Composition Figures of Belgium—The Durso Company" by Vincent J. Russo, Bertel Bruun, and Lucien Maris on page 39 of this issue.

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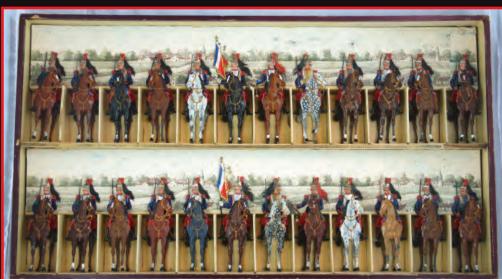




















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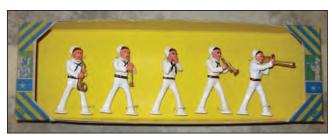
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# Edward H. Burley, 1931 - 2007 He Was The Rainbow's Pot Of Gold

By Louis S. Steinberg

That day, when the rainbow disappeared, it took its pot-of-gold with it. Ed Burley, our exceptional, Dimestore, toy soldier painter and very creative hobby friend passed away last year in June of '07, having contracted an incurable infection after heart bypass surgery. Now, with the devoted help of his entire family, and my own "Burley File" accumulated over several decades, I am pleased to tell his biostory and of his vast and beautiful contributions to our history of Dimestore size toy soldiers.

It was in 1980 that Ed rekindled his boyhood interest in toy soldiers. Discovering the existence of the Hank Anton mail-order auctions, that provided an abundance of Dimestore figures, he bid and won his childhood favorite, the Barclay soldier walking with his dog.

He writes afterwards in a letter, "This double figure was the first original sample I had of how the old toys were actually painted. I was kind of disappointed. I had imagined that they used to be painted really nice. But, in reality, as a youngster, I hadn't paid that much attention to their lack of detail. Guess I was too busy playing with them to notice.

"Well, here I was, already grown up and looking at this figure with his dog. They were both graced with the same color brown all over, except the dog had a few splashes of cream on its back. And, the soldier's head was flesh colored with those typical Barclay eyes. I made a decision that this thing desperately needed sprucing up for me to be satisfied with it, that is, even if it decreased its value.

"And so began my collection of originals which grew from one here, one there, and so on. It did not take me long, however, to realize that a truly great collection was beyond the reach of my modest income to allow me to make expensive purchases." Ed's desire for toy soldiers was not diminished. He altered his collecting goal to a more practical undertaking and acquired a few unpainted, solid cast, production figures of his old favorites from the sources of Bill Lango and Ron Eccles. He painted them as he wanted to. Then one day in 1985 he got an idea.

He said, "I decided to fill in the gaps in available Dimestore reproductions that others were offering by making molds for other collectors, as well as from the figures in my growing collection. They were going to be solid cast pieces and would feature my own style of painting. I only had five items on that first list of mine."

Time quickly passed, and by 1988, Ed's "repro" sales sheets presented over one hundred Barclays alone. With the Manoils, Bands, and Conversions the suggested Dimestore offerings exceeded two hundred different figures.

Plus, on top of all that, there also was listed a formidable selection of 54mm recasts, including: U.S. and British Soldiers, Sailors and Marines; and, Prussians and Legionnaires. Untrimmed, individual raw castings also were sold at half the painted price.

Ed stated, "I had put an ad in 'The Old Toy Soldier Newsletter' and to my surprise, orders and requests



Medic with Trusty Red Cross Buddy



**Cast from a Composition Original** 



U.S. Marine Drum Major Variation

for more figures began coming in and they continued. Some collectors stick their noses up at 'repros.' Many Dimestore originals are very hard to find and practically non-existent. They might as well be when you hear newer collectors gasping at the price tags."

Two more years passed untill Ed's customers received his updated, 1990 presentation outlining his additional new 54mm Band possibilities. Such inventive production introduced the Marching Bands of the US Army, Navy and Marines; the Royal Marines; the British Guards; and the Bahamian Police. Individual pieces were suggested, as were sets of 13 sampler Bandsmen, 25 piece Full Bands, or very large 62 pieces. Then there was more.... three, seventeen piece, versions of Civil War Era Bands complete with drum majors.... Union, Confederate, Zouave.

By far, the most popular of all of Ed's bands, when first introduced, were the Nazi SS units, ie: the nine piece fife and drum set and the larger thirteen and twenty-five piece marching sets. Each band could be complimented by the addition of SS soldiers, officers and flag bearers.

"The delivery time for SS Bands is now nearly one year because of the number presently on order. Normally, the average waiting time would be four to six months. Orders are dated and filled as received. Nothing is stocked. Everything is made in its turn. Send no money. I work alone and steady, but I will not rush and risk my level of quality," Ed emphatically explained.

It has been said that the accolades and awards that a person most appreciates usually come from their peers.

So be it, when in 1988 from an article penned by Canadian collector and band authoritarian, William Kilborn, aka, Bill the Bandsman, he states, "Ed is one of the finest American craftsmen I have found in my quest for toy soldier bands and makers on four continents. Not only did I find his painting to be superb, but the casting details were infinitely better than most reproductions I have seen."

Bill Kilborn had taken the chance to see Ed's workmanship for himself. He had sent Ed an eleven piece, WW II, German SS, Fife and Drum Set which required assembling and painting. Only one item, a drummer, was assembled and painted to be used as a guide.



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Dimestore Marching Band Courtesy of Jack Matthews. Photo Meriam Matthews.



U. S. Marine Band in Dress Red with Bulldog Mascot Compliments of Jack Matthews. Photo Meriam Matthews.



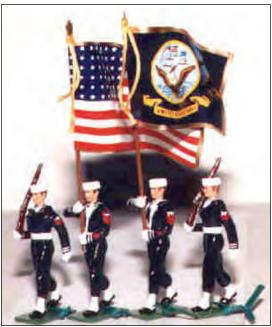
West Point Cadets Dimestore Marching Band Jack Matthews Collection. Photo Meriam Matthews.



French Legionnaire Band in Current Uniform, Dimestore size Compliments of Rodney Hopson



Marching Marine Color Guard Set with Burley Made Flags Courtesy of Rodney Hopson



54mm Navy Color Guard Courtesy Charlie & Cheryl Duval TSCA



Marine Drill Team Maneuver Courtesy Charlie & Cheryl Duval TSCA.

Upon the return of the set, Bill said, "I was ecstatic! The painting and craftsmanship was so professionally accomplished, it took a magnifying glass to spot the pilot drummer figure I sent to copy."

Bill the Bandsman further ended with, "Although I have letters from several of Ed's satisfied customers, there is no one more satisfied than I. It is my belief that in Ed Burley we have the burgeoning beginnings of one of America's future great makers." That was some great endorsement, I say!

Ed's level of perfection was admired by all that viewed his finished figures. Such attention to the detail of a Dimestore toy soldier never happened in the past by the major manufacturers. Their work, as playthings for children, bordered on sloppy. The figures, although, did meet the criteria for which they were intended. Ed's were most precise and very realistic and designed to be quality collectibles.

His extensive library of all kinds of military and band uniforms, flags, painting techniques, et al was his support for him to say, "Anything less than authentic was unacceptable." He even spent numerous hours to home-school himself in the art of mold-making, fabricating hundreds of molds for his own productions, as well as for a service to his many collecting customers.

Jacob Benison is one of the many grandchildren of Ed Burley. Upon hearing of my interest for earlier background material about his grandfather, Jacob graciously sent me some of his boyhood remembrances. I am fortunate to have received his contributions.

He says, "Grandpa's unquenchable research for creating molds soon made him an expert in this discipline. I'm not sure what year it was, but for the first time I clearly do recall seeing the miniatures appearing in Grandpa's shop.

"It was then, for me and my cousin, he cast from an earlier purchased mold of some archers on foot and knights on rearing stallions, so that we could paint our own figures. Well, Grandpa tried to advise us while we eagerly brushed on many strange colors. Then, the advice would stop and he would tell us of the WWI soldiers he collected and played with as a child.

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"Grandpa's mold-making service served as a clever way for him to enhance his own collection. Being that it was necessary to test each mold, it was agreed with the customer that he would cast a couple for himself before returning the mold and the original figure.

"Eventually Grandpa's creative process evolved to the art form of hand crafting a prototype specimen. From that one basic figure hatched a troop of marching soldiers. It was then that marching bands became his specialty. Every delicate detail of their uniforms and instruments had to be carefully researched."

Ed reached new dimensions in figure development for Dimestore bands, conversions and painting detail. He felt that not all toy soldiers are toys, and todays are not like yesterdays. His art form was one that did not loose the simplicity of the Dimestore look and feel, but heightened and accentuated it by the addition of much color and modified movement.

Introduced into his work with toy soldiers were the professional supplies of the artist that he was, like, different primers and sealers to leave details keener; and different non-fading, high gloss, less chipping enamels; and the array of fine quality brushes; and, the work environment of solitude.

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Jacob continued, "Grandpa, as an avid reader of fine arts, acquired a deep technical knowledge of painting and applied it to his work. Growing up in his workshop, I was often given lessons on the methods of the masters. His academic knowledge plus his years of experience in graphic arts brought to his production of Dimestore conversions a height of the bar others may yearn to attain.

"Painting a figurine for Grandpa Burley was not just an idle hobby. He persistently labored over his work as an artist would his masterpiece. For my high school graduation, his gift to me was a waist-high stack of his personal books on drawing and painting."

If anything associated with the hobby really excited Ed Burley, it certainly was his involvement in 1992 with 20th Century Fox. He supplied the Studio with his five, large Dimestore soldiers, marching bands, each remarkable in particulars and craftsmanship, plus a mass of his marching soldiers to be featured in the 1993 major Hollywood film release, "Toys," staring Robin Williams.



Bolshevik, Joseph Stalin

WW I American and German Officers



Hot Dog'n that Cycle! Courtesy Charlie & Cheryl Duval TSCA



Three Generals Cast from a GMG Lineol Mold



Dimestore Sailor with His Alert Watchdog Compliments of Rodney Hopson

Civilian Defence Conversions Taken from Poses in Gum Inc.'s Gumcard Sets Specially Made for Jack Matthews Collection. Photo Meriam Matthews.

The original shooting script indicated that one big toy soldier scene was to be shot of a large military Parade, twenty-eight feet long, mounted on a special conveyor. Ron Eccles and Bill Holt also contributed a multitude of marching soldiers and sailors; mounted figures; honor guards; and, motorcycle riders to fill the Parade's proposed length.

"We are all proud to have been selected to provide the figures for this project and look forward to seeing the film," haughtily said Ed.

Wow, what a score for the toy soldier hobby and what super recognition for the newer, American Dimestore Conversion figures and their makers!

Ed's moment of fame arrived when newspapers and TV around his county discovered the story. Local newspapers featured photo articles headlined, **Hobby Turns Into Profitable Business** and **"TOYS" Makes Offer Palmetto Maker Can't Refuse**.

The Studio paid in full. Then, the entire, exquisite Dimestore Parade was professionally packed and shipped. Ed's months of hard work was soon to passin-review for him on the Big Silver Screen.

If anything associated with the hobby truly disappointed Ed Burley, it definitely was the Movie "TOYS". He wrote, "After two hours of suffering a bad movie, the Parade finally appeared, that is, at the end, in the credits, for maybe ten seconds and shot in semi-light. The whole scene flashed by so fast they could have left it out altogether and not missed it. I did make out a couple of Holt figures. I feel ashamed that I ever mentioned having anything to do with it."

Well, stuff happens! Ed never forgot the weeks and weeks of intense labor concluding with the commissioning of the project. Although interesting and bordering on the glamorous, it was not very cost effective nor did it have much impact upon the hobby.

A short memo at the end of 1993 announced a slight soldiering price increase. But, business was unaffected and continued to grow until there was a year's wait to get the specific band you ordered.

By October, 1996, Ed had distributed a nineteen page catalog listing his over two hundred fifty Dimestore reproductions and conversions which also included some of Gray Iron, Jones, Metalcast, Hyde and a nicely produced, two-horse, Johilco Wild West Stage Coach. Also listed were eighteen differently painted, marching and standing Dimestore bands along with twenty-five, different 54mm music units.

Everything seemed to be going rather well for Ed. Dimestore orders, however, did become seasonal peaks-and-valleys, while the interest in his 54mm bands seemed broad and reached new heights.

In June of 1999, Ed expressed words in a letter that all in the Dimestore conversion community never had hoped to hear.....

"I am selling my Dimestore size soldiers and molds and plan to withdraw them from the commercial end

of the Toy Soldier Hobby. However, I will continue sticking with the 54mm Bands and just enjoy making what I feel. I do have plans to attend several shows each year. Now my eyes are beginning to bother me, so I believe it is time to like the hobby without its pressures."

It did take some time for Ed to dispose of most everything Dimestore. Throughout 2005 and early '06, Rodney Hopson, a Florida collector, acquired all of his Reproduction and Conversion molds and most painted figures, as well as all his GMG Lineol type molds and figures.

"I am now unable to produce anymore Dimestore. So for me, that era is over," wrote Ed.

Edward Jack Henderson Burley was born in Detroit, Michigan, in 1931 and spent his young years in Rochester, New York, being raised by his Grandma Rose. He said, "The only toys I remember having as a boy in the late 30s were my lead soldiers. The deposits from bottles bought a good many of them. They were my favorite pastime. At fourteen my soldiers were put away in a box and forgotten."

At sixteen, after moving quite a bit, Ed quit school and joined the Army National Guard of NY in late 1947. There he obtained his General Education Degree. He entered the U S Army in 1954 and remained until 1961 with the rank of Staff Sergeant E-6.

While with the Guard in 1951, he married the love of his life, Patricia J. Price. He said, "We were young, and together Pat and I built a real family and are now patriarchs of a family of families." Ed had seven children and they have blessed his marriage with 17 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Ed realized his artistic talent and from early on he exercised that creativity with various sign companies in the Rochester area. Looking for better opportunities, in 1970 he moved the family to Florida and quickly found employment in the sign business. He later opened his own sign company in the early 80s. During that time period he rekindled his interests in toy soldiers as a hobby and conceived the idea to reproduce Dimestore type soldiers.

In writing the ending of this article, I would feel greatly remiss if I failed to mention that Ed Burley also was a deeply religious man. His faith accentuated the character of the man about whom we knew, aside from his toy soldiering art, so very little.

After four major hurricanes struck Florida in 2004, Ed engaged himself throughout the State by joining its disaster relief efforts to cook (a learned Army skill) for those affected, plus the more than two



Patricia and Ed Burley Married for Fifty-Six Years. The Patriarchs of a Family of Families.

hundred volunteers working in the various areas of devastation.

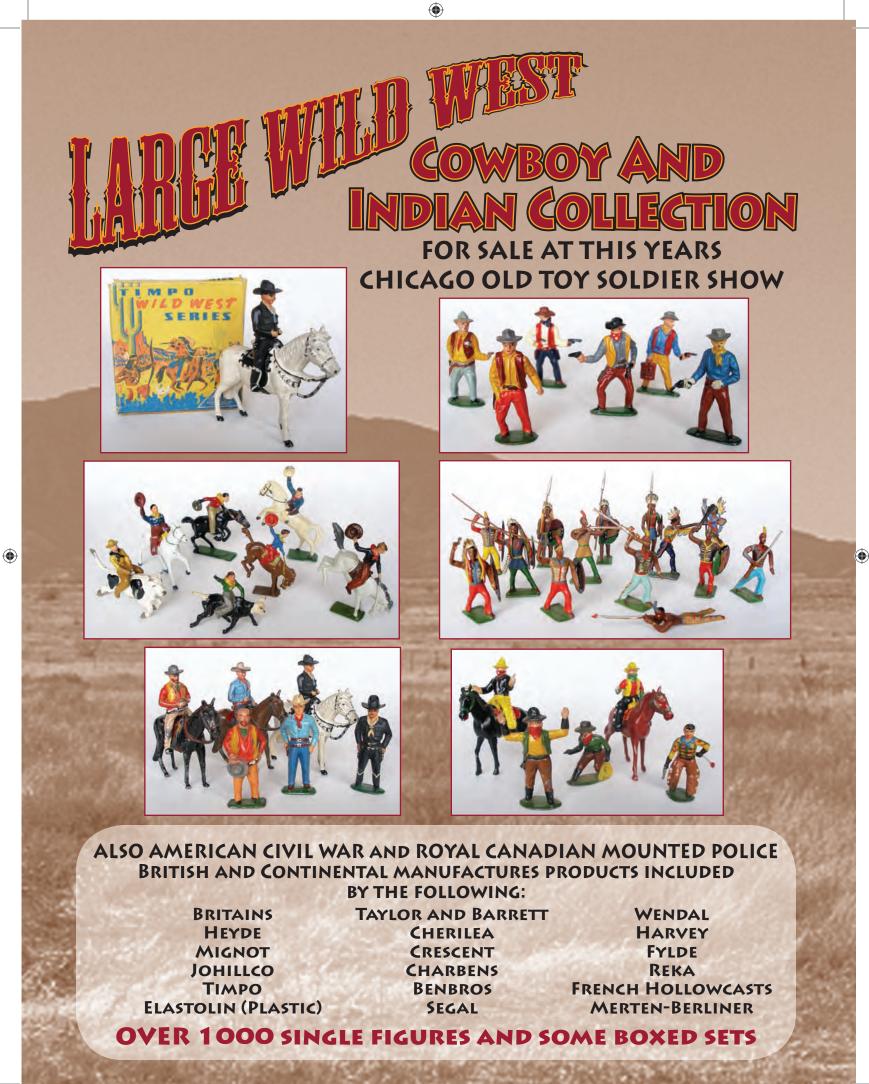
Not only was Ed true to the art form of his toy soldier hobby, he was true to Patricia, his beloved wife of 56 years; his large family; his customers; his fellow humans; and, his faithfulness to God until his death.

Jacob, his grandson, wrote, "Toy soldiering was tiring for my maestro. Occasionally, I would find him asleep at his desk, his head bowed with his glasses on the tip of his nose. His left hand firmly grasped a figure while his right dramatically held his paintbrush."

I am without doubt, that in future decades, the Dimestore toy soldier art of Edward Jack Henderson Burley will be fervently sought and collectible coveted.



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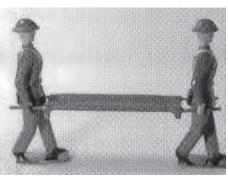




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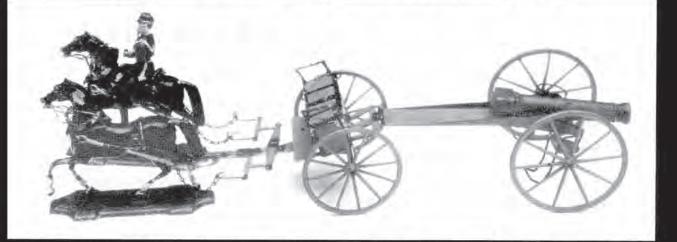
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# DIMESTORE UPDATE

By Stan Alekna

Here's another edition of DIMESTORE UPDATE that is intended to continue the flow of information and documentation on new Dimestore discoveries and variations. Since it is fairly certain that there will never be an update to Richard O'Brien's 3rd edition of Collecting American-made TOY SOLDIERS, this forum in the OTS magazine is all that we have to continue to chronicle our hobby. Please take a few minutes to share your Dimestore discoveries by contributing items to DIMESTORE UPDATE so that our hobby continues to grow in knowledge and participants. As you can see from the items in this UPDATE, all it takes is mailing or emailing a photo and a brief paragraph to Norm Joplin of OTS and he will take it from there.



G40 Marine in white

Grey Iron's G40 Marine in white with red trim is very seldom seen in this paint variation. Although our Marines are known for having some pretty snappy uniforms, there is not, nor was there ever, an official, all white, dress uniform of the Corps. I have only seen a few of these white G40's over the last 25 years.

The 3-5/8" tall Grey Iron Bowler was part of a bowling game and the spring-powered arm was pulled back and released to propel the ball bearing "bowling ball" at the wooden 10-pins. Most figures were made of cast iron and painted but some experimental bowlers were cast in aluminum, as were several Grey Iron soldier figures, after the war.



Grey Iron Bowler - cast iron



**Grey Iron Bowler - aluminum** 

Three Manoil M29 sailor signalmen in blue have been reported; so, in keeping with Richard O'Brien's numbering conventions, I assigned M29a to this very rare figure. To my knowledge, no blue, hollow base M28 sailor signalmen have turned up although the marching, hollow based sailor is found in white (M23) and less frequently in blue (M23a).



M29 in blue

# DIMESTORE UPDATE (Cont.)



M24 in blue

The exceptionally rare Manoil M24 sailor in blue adds further to the mystery of why Barclay and Manoil painted so few naval figures in blue. In the WW II era, U.S. Navy officers and enlisted personnel were issued white (summer) and blue (winter) dress uniforms. I have never heard any rationale for this painting anomaly, even after tipping a few with other dealers and collectors after dinner at the OTS shows in Chicago. This is the second M24 (now assigned number M24a) in blue that I have seen in 25 years and I don't think that it has ever been pictured before.

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Whether the "FLAMMABLE" and "SHELL OIL" decals on these two Manoil MV710 die cast fuel trucks were applied by Manoil or someone else, will probably never be known. We do know that Barclay affixed SHELL, SUNOCO and SINCLAIR decals to some of their small fuel trucks sold in the 1960's, so possibly Manoil followed suit. I have always wondered if Barclay had permission to use these decals from the respective companies and if so, if they were paid a commission. My guess to both questions is "NO".



MV710



For years, I did not know who made this 3" X 4" pup tent that I bought at a local antique shop. It fit in with my Dimestores and for a long time, I used it as a mouse cover for my computer. Then, I saw an original, boxed set of Lincoln Log 1918 doughboys that included 2 of these tents, on eBay. This confirmed their origin. They are made of very heavy canvass, open on the bottom, with rivets to hold the tent flaps back, and have no internal supports.



Lincoln Log Tent

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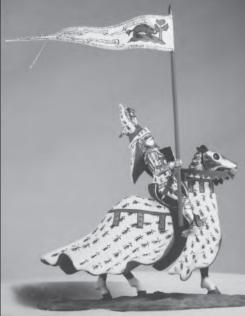
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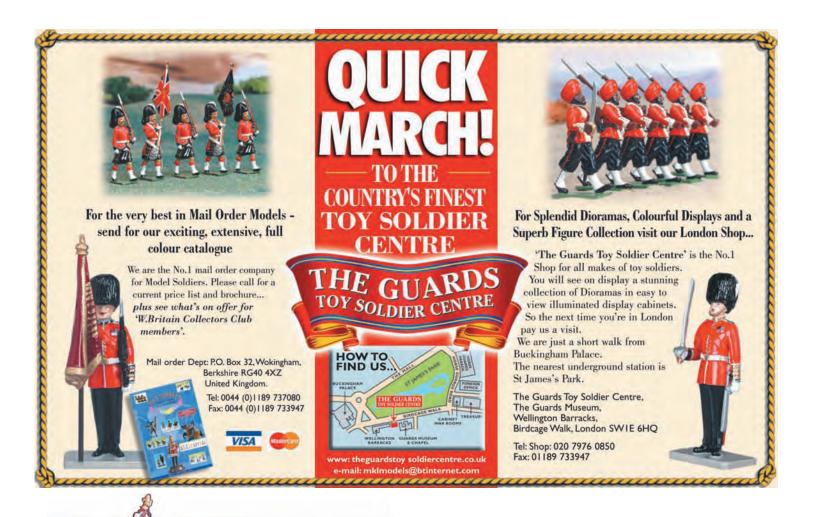
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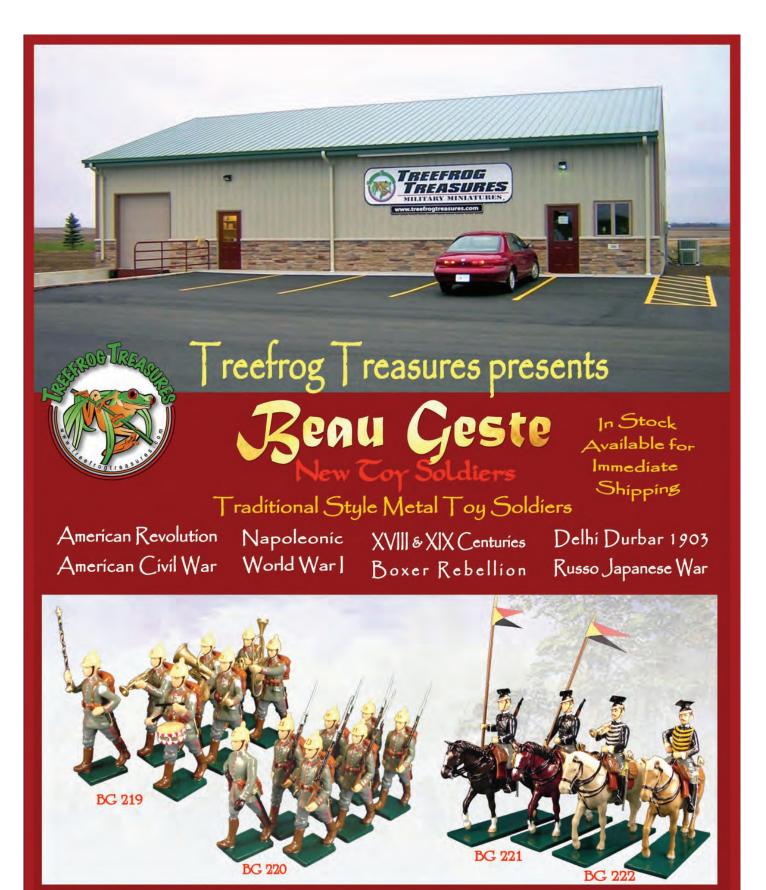
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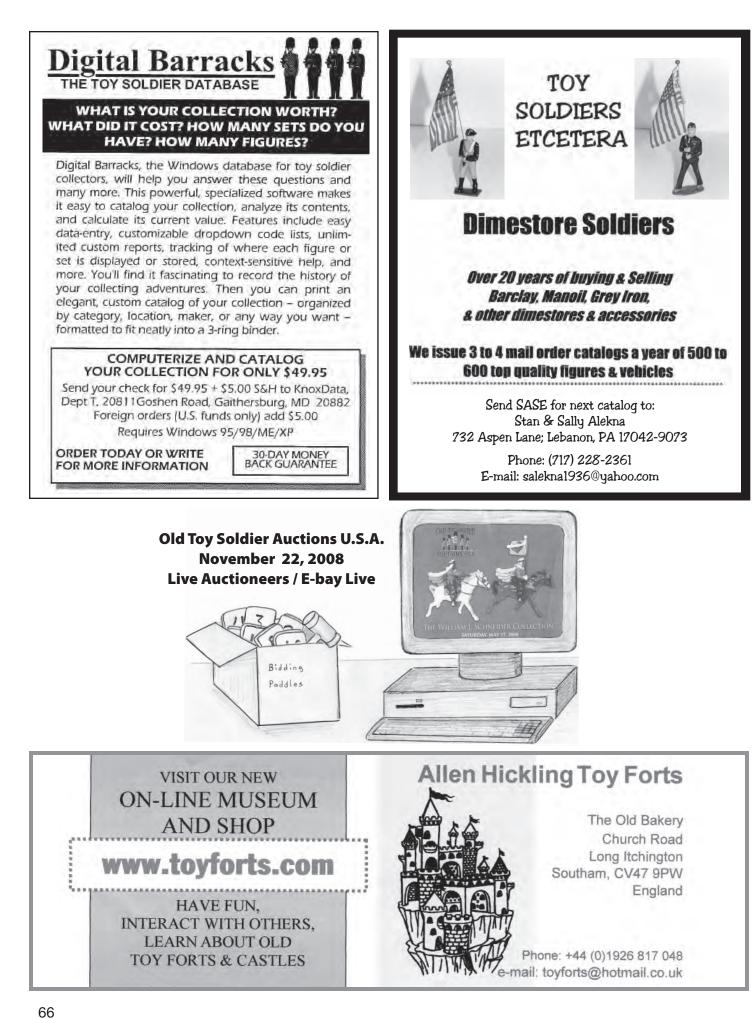
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### A Trip to Kazakhstan By Bob O'Connell

Bob O'Connell is owner of Northcoast Miniatures. The following article outlines his trip to Kazakhstan where he drew inspiration for his Northcoast Miniatures line of Kazakhstan Warriors.

My wife, Judiann, and I had the great opportunity to visit Kazakhstan on two separate occasions. Our son-in-law, Brian Olson, is working in Kazakhstan.

We stayed in Kazakhstan several weeks on those two separate occasions and traveled in the country seeing the museums, statues, and ancient cities.

On our first visit to Kazakhstan we stayed in the city of Atyrau in Western Kazakhstan above the Caspian Sea. As we would go into the city, we would pass a large square. In the square were two large statues of mounted warriors on horseback. These statues were approximately 20 feet tall, very impressive and depicting two historical characters: Isatai and Makhambet, who were leaders of a revolt in the 1800's. (See photo 1) I was really taken with their story and the wonderful statues. When we got home, I decided to make a set of figures to portray Isatai and Makhambet.



Isatai & Makhambet Statues

Sak Golden Man

On our second visit to Kazakhstan, we had the opportunity to travel to Almaty. Almaty is a city in Eastern Kazakhstan, near the border of China. The large national museum is located in Almaty. I was able to spend two days at the museum, and I came away with two books, in Russian, with many illustrations of warriors from early Kazakh history. Kazakhstan has a very rich history which I learned from the purchase of several books on Kazakhstan in English as well as in Russian. This coupled with my visit inspired me to study the history and the artistic renditions of the warriors of the different periods, hence I decided to make a Northcoast Miniatures series of figures representing major epochs in the Kazakh history. (See photos below) I am including photos of my figures as well as an overview of the history of the country.





Turk

Kypchak

## A Trip to Kazakhstan (Cont.)

Kazakhstan has had inhabitants back into Palaeothic times as the finding of flints gives proof to their existence in the country. Around 10,000BC there is evidence that the inhabitants mastered the horse and soon after were smelting copper and tin for making bronze.

The first group, or clan with a name are the Saks (also refered to as the Scythians) starting around 900 BC, lasting to about 300BC. One of the most interesting accounts of the Saks has to do with Cyrus II. Cyrus II conquered the Persian region but was kept out of central Asia by the Saks. Cyrus II destroyed Babylon in 539BC. Before trying to conquer Egypt he lured the Sak force into a trap through deception, and destroyed all of them. The Sak force that was destroyed included the son of the queen of the Saks, Queen Tomiris. Several years later, Queen Tomiris drew Cyrus II into an ambush as her troops feigned a retreat into a valley. Cyrus II and his 200,000 troops flooded into the valley, only to be trapped and slaughtered. Queen Tomiris had Cyrus II's head severed and placed in a leather bag filled with the blood of his men. In the book "Kazakhstan" by Klara Serikbana, Queen Tomiris is quoted as having said: "Be satiated now with the blood you thirsted for and of which you could never have enough". The Sak's also held off Alexander the Great, stopping his advance to the East.

In 1969, Archeologists discovered a burial site of the Saks from around 400BC. The man was dressed in a red jacket covered with thousands of gold ornaments. He was called the Golden Man. (See photo 2)

Around 200BC the Usuns were taking over and replacing the Saks. The Usuns were at their zenith around 350AD and they were using copper, lead, tin, gold, and smelting iron. (See photo 3)

The Huns were the scourge of the earth in their time and by the 400's Attila the Hun was sweeping across Asia leaving a trail of destruction. As a matter of fact, pressure from the Hun's is why China built it's Great Wall. Attila died in 453AD. (See photo 4)

By 559AD the Turks had moved in and replaced the Huns. They controlled the Silk Road. (See photo 5)

In the late 600's Arabs tried to invade but were beat back but they did influence the region.

Around 900AD Karakhanids were ruling the area and set up Islam as the Steppe religion and Arabic script replaced Turkic script.

In the 1100's and 1200's the Kipchaks, also

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referred to as Nogia, were the main force in place and set up the Kazakh language and culture. Some of the Kipchaks were driven out or to distant areas of Kazakhstan by the inflow of the Mongols. The rest of the Kipchaks left to distant lands and became powerful leaders around the world. The Egyptian Mameluke Dynasty was an outgrowth of the Kipchak Clan. (See photo 6)

Genghis Khan, also known as the most powerful leader of the Mongols, in the early 1200's was sweeping across the whole area with the motto, as Michael Fergus and Hanar Jandosova quote in their book Kazakhstan Coming of Age: "All who surrender will be spared. Whoever does not surrender but who opposes with struggle and dissention shall be annihilated." True to his words, the Mongols had attacked the city of Otrar. The city fended off the attack and held out for about 5 months. The inhabitants of Otrar were all killed and the town leveled. Genghis conquered large areas of Kazakhstan. After Genghis Khan's death, sons and grandsons continued the Mongol rule into the 1300's. (See photo 7)

The Desht-I-Kipchak began to push back and take over from the Mongols. By the 1500's, various cultures from the previous groups that inhabited Kazakhstan came together and formed the Kazakh Khanate. They were leaders of the local community, and the Knights of the Batyr were the warrior class.

Unrest and infighting continued though the years and by the early 1700's Kazakh groups were looking for protection from Russia. Russian forts were built in Kazakhstan and by 1760 Cossack troops from Russia were stationed in Kazakhstan.

Again in the early 1700's there was infighting and unrest with Tsarist rule. One fighter in the 1720's, Abylai Khan, was a Batyr Knight. (See photo 8) He was not only a warrior, but also a leader and a politician. He was able to hold the Kazakhs together by working to unify territories, while preserving an alliance to the Russian empire.

Abylai died in 1781 but has become the symbol of Kazakh independence and unity. However, by this time Russia was strengthening its presence in Kazakhstan. Russia was encouraging colonization by sending ethnic Russians to live in Kazakhstan.

Now there was dissatisfaction with Russian rule and those who were in power. There were several short lived rebellions. In the 1820's, Isatai Taimenov and Makhambet Utemisov were the elders of two

### A Trip to Kazakhstan (Cont.)



Genghis

**Batyr Knight** 

8

and Makhambet Utemisov, led a successful rebellion that ended in May 1838 with a peace agreement, but by July Isatai was killed. October of 1846 Makhambet was murdered, and the unrest continued. In Atyrau there are large statues of Isatia and Makhambet commemorating their struggle.

By the late 1880's the Russian colonization of Kazakhstan was increasing. In 1905, 300,000 people were resettled. By 1916 it had gone to 1.5 million. In 1917 Russians made up 42% of the Kazakh population.

In June of 1916 there was a Kazakh uprising against the Tsar's rule. Thousands of Kazakh's



Kazakhstan Migrating Tribe from Summer to Winter guarters entitled "All Moving" from a picture by artist Nickolay Garilovich Khludov

districts near Atyrau. Makhambet was a wonderful poet and musician who played the dombra. Their long time friend Jangir had become the new Khan (ruler). For several years Jangir did wonderful things for the Kazakh people.

In 1836 however, Jangir declares 400,000 acres of public land as his. He took this land away from tribes and villagers. The people were upset. To support his rule, Jangir called on the Russian Cossak troops to fight the local Kazakh people.

The people selected Isatai, a Batyr knight, to lead the revolt along with Makhambet the poet warrior. In the spring of 1836, Isatai Taimenov

## A Trip to Kazakhstan (Cont.)

fought Russian troops in battles. Some battles were won but the war was lost with heavy casualties. Not much was gained but it showed the determination and will of the Kazakh people to survive. Kazakh troops also fought alongside Russian troops in World War II.

Through the mid to late 1900's they put up with a lot of abuse from Russian Rule. However in 1989, a true Kazakh, Nursultan Nazarbayev, became the First Secretary of the Russian Communist Party. In 1991 Kazakhstan obtained nationhood with Nazarbayev as president. Today, he is still the president of Kazakhstan.

I chose to make the following figures, because I was so impressed with how they fit into the history

of Kazakhstan and the beautiful illustrations in my reference books. In our Northcoast Miniatures set #K3 is the Golden Man (Sak), a Sak archer, an Usun and a Hun; set #K4 includes a Turk, a Kypchak, Genghis Khan (Mongol) and Batyr Knight; set #K1 includes Isatai and Makhambet on Horseback. In set #K5 I did a single figure mounted, called the Autumnal princess to depict the seasonal migration of the Kazakh nomads. (See photo 9)

#K2 is a variation of Isatai and Makhambet (not illustrated). The full line of North Coast Miniature Kazakhstan Warriors will be available at this year's OTS Show in Chicago.

See page 69 of this issue for contact details.



Northcoast Miniature's K5



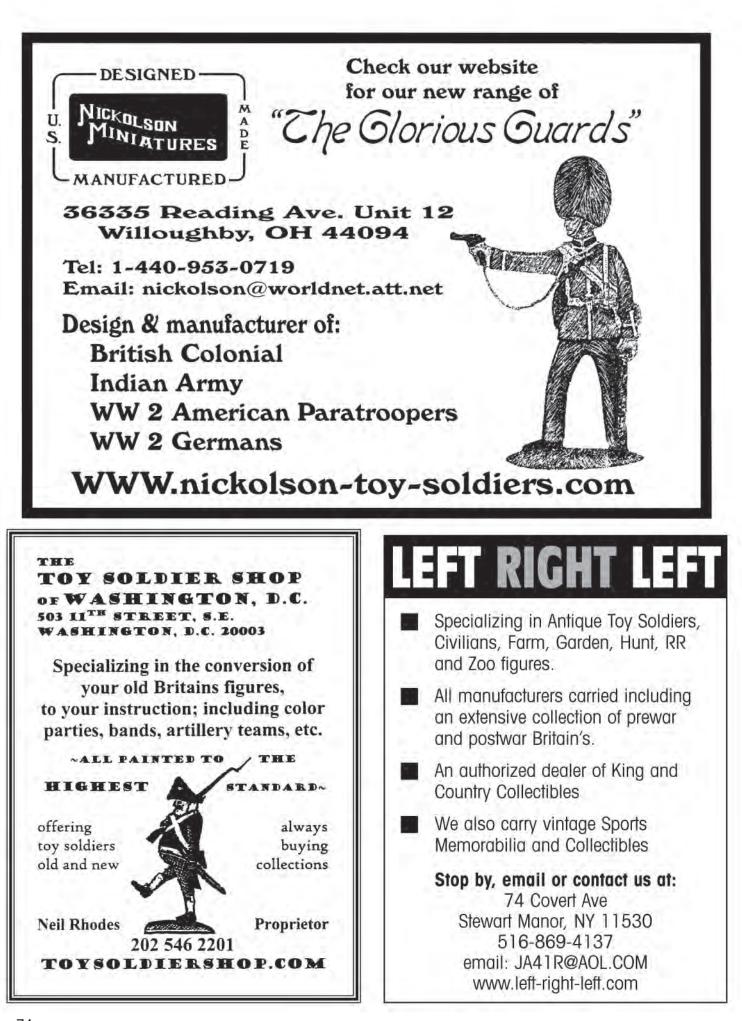
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## **TOY SOLDIER SHOW & AUCTION CALENDAR 2008**

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#### <u>2008</u>

**August 23 - Saturday.** Dan Morphys Antique Toy Doll and Advertising Show 9am-3pm. York Fairgrounds, 334 Carlisle Avenue, York, PA Contact 717 335 3435 Email danmorphy@dejazzd.com

September 13 – Saturday. Norman Joplin's Old Toy Soldier and Figure Show. Holiday Inn Bloomsbury, Coram Street. London 10:30am –3:30pm. Contact Norman Joplin 262-692-3913 or 262-388-1140 Email info@normanjoplin.com www.normanjoplin.com or call in the UK Rob Wilson 01926 496062.

**September 13 - Saturday.** The National Capital Model Soldier Society, 47th Annual Washington Show. 9am-5pm NOVA Community College Ernst Center. 8333 Little River Turnpike. Annandale, Virginia. Contact Glenn Merritt 703-938-6361 www.gepcities.com/ncmss

**September 14 – Sunday.** The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier Show. Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites. 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439.

**September 21- Sunday.** Allegheny Mid West Passage Toy Soldier Show 10am-3pm. Radisson Hotel, Sharon Route 18 & I80 West Middlesex, PA Contact Mike Luteran 724-854-0334.

**September 28 - Sunday.** 'OTSNs' Old Toy Soldier Show Chicago.10am-3.30pm. Hyatt Regency Woodfield 1800 East Golf Road, Schaumburg, Illinois. Contact Don Pielin 630-497-1239 Email dimestores@aol.com Dealer Info www.toysoldiershow.com

**October 4- Saturday.** The New Yorker Toy Soldier Show. 9am-2pm Aria Hotel & Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Boulevard. N.Y. Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439

**October 18 – Saturday.** Bad Nauheim Toy Soldier Show. Germany Contact Andreas Pietruschka Verlag Figuren Magazin 030.392 9490 Email redaktion@figurin-magazin.de

**October 29 –Wednesday.** Bonhams Auctioneers Toy Soldier and Figure Auction Knightsbridge London. Contact James Opie +44 (0) 207 760 6685 Email jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk www.bonhams.com Or Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628

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**November 1 - Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Open House and Cellar Sale 10am-4pm.1343 Paradise Falls, Cresco, PA Contact Jim Hillestad 570-629-7227 Email jimhill@ptd.net www.the-toy-soldier.com (The day before the East Coast Toy Soldier Show)

**November 2 - Sunday.** 9th Annual Cantigny Toy Soldier Show, Cantigny Park Museum. Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois. 9am-4pm Contact Nick Albanese 920 261 1323 Email camprandall@charter.net

**November 2 - Sunday.** 26th Annual East Coast Toy Soldier Show and Sale 9am-3pm. Farleigh Dickinson University. Hackensack. N.J. Sponsored by Vintage Castings Contact Bill Lango 973-831-8900 Email bill@vintagecastings.com Web Site www.vintagecastings.com

**November 11 - Tuesday.** Vectis Auctions Military and Civilian sale Fleck Way Thornaby Teeside England Contact Simon Clarke + 44 1642 750616 simon.clarke@vectis.co.uk

**November 16 - Sunday.** The Hudson Valley Toy Soldier Show. Crowne Plaza Hotel & Suites. 66 Hale Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439

November 22 - Saturday. Old Toy Soldier Auctions Contact 1-800-349-8009 Ray Haradin

**December 6 - Saturday.** The Toy Soldier Show London. Royal National Hotel. Bedford Way London Contact Bob Neville /King and Country UK +44 (0) 1388 818882 Email info@thetoysoldiershow.com

**December 13 - Saturday.** The New Yorker Toy Soldier Show. 9am-2pm Aria Hotel & Conference Center, 221-17 Northern Boulevard. N.Y. Contact John Stengel/The Marx Man 718-418-9439

**December 16 – Tuesday.** Bonhams Auctioneers Toy Soldier and Figure Auction Knowle West Midlands. Contact James Opie +44 (0) 207 760 6685 Email jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk www.bonhams.com or Leigh Gotch +44 (0) 8700 273 628

#### <u>2009</u>

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**February 8 - Sunday.** Florida Toy Soldier and Action Figure Show. Scottish Rites Masonic hall Lake Worth Florida Contact Alan McGhee 954 431 9295 or Mike Skurda mskurda@inbox.com www.southfloridatoysoldier.com

April 26 - Sunday. Gettysbug Toy Soldier Show Gettysburg Hotel Contact Mike Luteran 724 854 0334

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



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