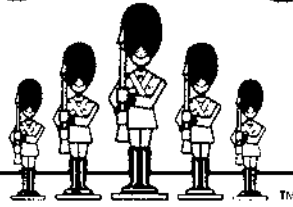


Summer  
2024

The Journal for Collectors

Volume 48 Number 2  
\$20.00

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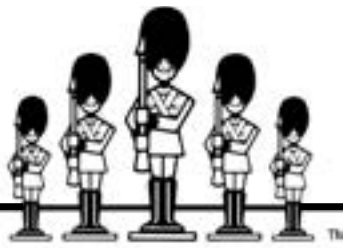


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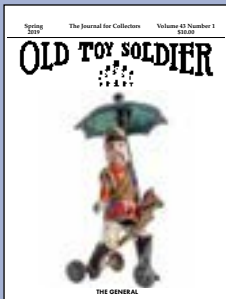
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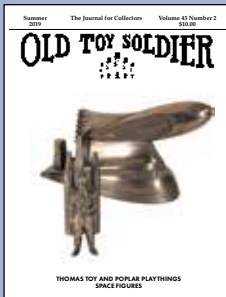
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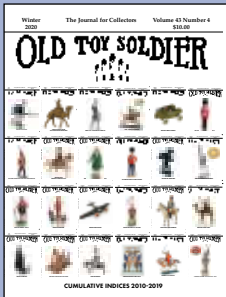
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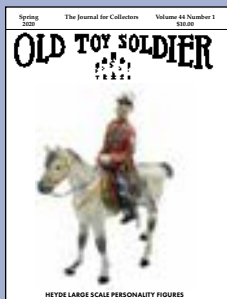


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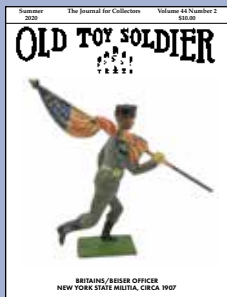


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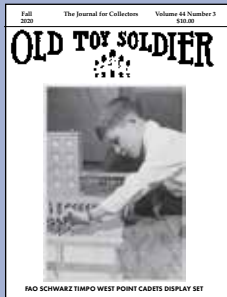
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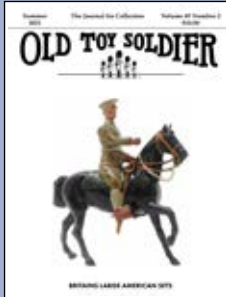


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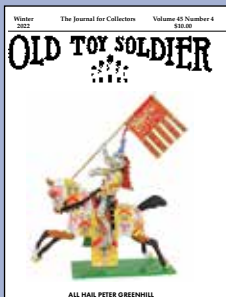
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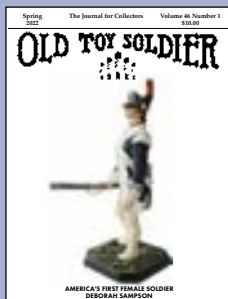


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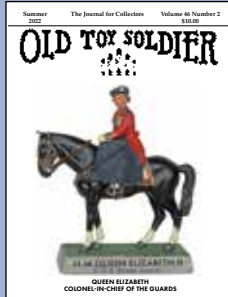


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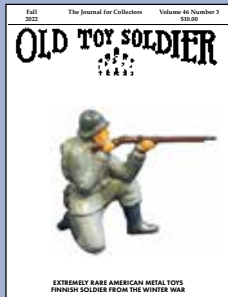
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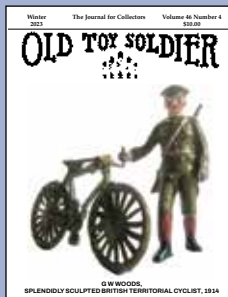
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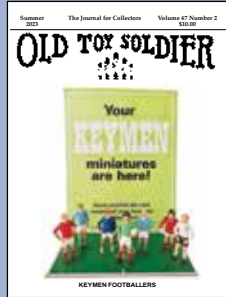


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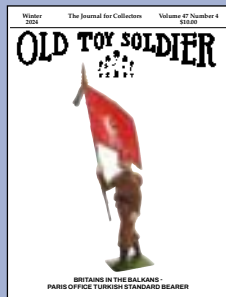
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# EDITORIAL

Another quarter slips by. Here's hoping you like our latest offering. Remember electronic copies of all past issues are now available free on our website. Full subscribers will continue to receive hard copies (subject to the vagaries of international and other postage services!).

Thanks to all those who have chipped in with messages and other contributions. Keep them coming! This issue contains articles from many of our established authors, as well as some new ones.

Norman Cuthbert offers a brief personal reflection on what got him interested in Heyde figures as well as a short report on the Ontario Model Soldier Show. We would welcome other similar contributions. Let us know what is happening at the events you like to go to so that others can join in!" Bill Anderson focuses this time on the French Foreign Legion and their Arab opponents. Let us know what you think.



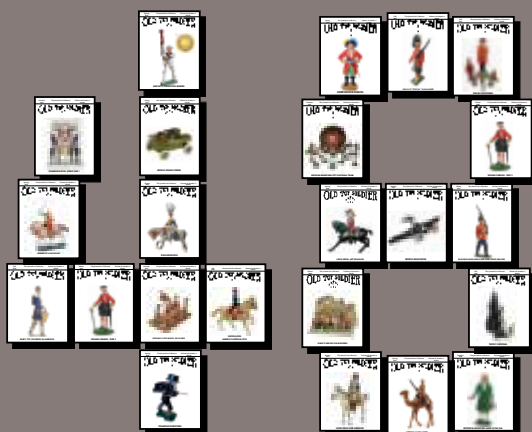
Richard Forrester and Norman Joplin return to their intensive and forensic analysis of the Hill company, this time focusing on the post WW II period. Will Beierwaltes continues his research into early American makers, this time casting new light on the lead soldiers produced by the McLoughlin Brothers.

Steve Sommers returns to these pages with an essay focussing on civilian figures – in this case the

Schoolroom. Other articles cover some interesting figures that have turned up in auctions recently, including Napoleon's Toy Soldiers and a rare Funeral Procession as used in the Crown TV series!

Norman Joplin was excited to find some newly discovered Dimstore figures produced by the Manoil company which came up for sale at Weiss auctions. Some other, very rare, Dimstore figures have also turned up in recent OTS auctions. Norman has also turned up some new figures made by the short-lived Toydell company. Like a dog with a bone, Norman will not stop until he has nailed all 40 of the figures claimed in their advertising. At present he is up to 29. So still a way to go! If any readers can help him, I am sure their assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, a note of thanks to Mary Fischer, welcoming her back to work. Without her excellent contribution on layouts and much more, none of this would be possible!



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## ONTARIO MODEL SOLDIERS SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW, JUNE 15, 2024 – TORONTO, ONTARIO CANADA

*By Norman Cuthbert*

Although my wife and I visit our daughters and family in Canada each year it never seems to coincide with the Annual OMSS Show. This year was an exception.

I can't tell you how excited I was to travel to the show's new location in the west end of Toronto. The venue had two large rooms and a stage, all put to good use, with lots of tantalizing items for sale, a competition area full of very interesting entries and the stage being used as a wargamer area.

The first person I met was my friend Ian Pearson, who I also encountered in last year's Chicago Show and the Atlanta Show in February. Ian is also an author and publisher of a book entitled, "History of the Marches of Canada". In it, was made mention of some of my musical relatives. He presently has another book at the publishers.

The sales area was full of vendors. Their tables were loaded with a great selection of figures, new and old. Brent Reeves travelled all the way from Windsor, 4½ hours west, and was selling figures from various manufacturers. Dave Norman was selling metal figures, including Britains. I purchased Lt. General Sir Thomas Picton at the battle of Waterloo on horse, an excellent Britains figure from Brent Rieton. Mike Chries had a great

selection of Britain's on sale. Grant Lawson was selling Del Prado, of which I bought a few. John Hambly was there with a great selection of naval figures. Scott Dummit came quite a distance from east of Toronto to man his table. A former naval veteran, Scott has his own business and is very involved in most aspects of the club. Scott makes and sells figures representing the Canadian military. On this occasion I bought a Britain's 95th rifles bugler at Waterloo from him.

Jim Qualtrough was selling a variety of figures. He is also well known for his model ship restoration, repairs, cleaning and assessing model ships. I had a great surprise and joy in meeting the daughter of an old friend and her husband, Richard Wiggleworth. Her father, Mark, had passed away and they were selling his collection. Something we see all too often, I am afraid.

As I was turning a corner on my last pass around the show, I stopped at Steve Rollonsin's table. For many years I have been looking for a set of British cavalry with lances which I had to leave behind as a boy in Nova Scotia when we moved to Ontario. As I looked over all the figures on his table I saw some lancers. I immediately checked on my phone for the description of the set of lancers that I had been looking for over many years. There they were

the Queen's Bays. I bought the set and Steve threw in an extra at no cost. That really made my day.

Another good friend Keith Ritchie, past president and now chief competition judge, was hard at work with his team, carefully looking over every detail of each piece entered in the competition. Each look resulted in an entry in each judge's competition form. I was impressed not only with the quality but that the table was full of entries. There were about 49 entries in five categories that filled the competition tables. I enjoyed taking my time to look at each and appreciate the thought and hard work that went into each of these.

One of the great benefits of collecting/making model soldiers is the friends you make, and the fun shared. The OMSS Show was well worth a visit and new friends made. I am now looking forward to the largest Toy Soldier Show in the world in Chicago this September and the South Carolina Military Miniatures Show at the Confederate and Relic Room in Columbia, SC November 9, 2024. Happy modelling y'all.

About the author: Norman Cuthbert is a member of the Ontario Model Soldier Society (51 years) and a member of South Carolina Military Miniature Society (12 years) and lives in Charlotte, NC.



Vendor area



Competition area



# DISCOVERING SCHOOLROOMS

*By Steve Sommers*

## Back to School?

Schoolrooms - good or bad memories for all of us? Maybe that question is how or why “kids in school” ended up in my collection. Like most adult collectors I played with toy soldiers as a boy: Dimestores, hollowcasts, composition, and plastics. A lot of these were running and shooting various weapons; strangely it seemed that the most expensive just marched or sat on horses.

As an adult, however, I discovered that unlike many of my other toys my soldiers hadn't gone to the rummage sale. Some like my old ones were still for sale at a garage sale down the block and at the flea market and eventually at old toy soldier shows. There were soldiers I'd had or wanted as a child and plenty of figures I'd never seen before. I collected those, plus “big surprises” that were doing things: fixing roads, delivering milk or watching zebra at the zoo; or, yes, even teaching school.

Well, schoolrooms were not the start of my concentration on collecting civilian figures. Over the years I have collected many makers Boy Scouts, railroad passengers, and scores of figures doing similar familiar things.

Sometimes only one or two companies created an airport or cast a soccer team or made a man lighting a streetlamp. Recently, I've been thinking about the uniqueness of



some civilian figures, and the commonality of others. In that light I realized that I had several schoolroom sets on my shelf, and I'd seen others in collections. In some ways they were very different and still so much the same. These sets are good reminders of the pasts we had or didn't have in our childhoods. They also show common experiences across time and place despite some significant differences. So these metal toy schoolroom sets are an historical and cultural sample of this, in or out of the box.



## DISCOVERING SCHOOLROOMS *(Continued)*

### Heyde Girls Schoolroom

School classroom sets reveal a lot about the cultures they represent. Typical is one from Heyde, Germany's greatest maker of solidcast metal figures. This set, The School #1314, represents an all-girls classroom. There are nine solid cast figures seated at typically Heyde tin desks. Eight of these 48mm figures wear brightly colored dresses with white aprons often seen in pre-1920s classrooms. One of these girls wears a black dress with a white apron, perhaps representing a class monitor seated at the raised tin teacher's desk. There are also two adult male teachers; one carries folded tin "books" and the other with a moveable right arm is standing at the tin blackboard. There is also a larger than life, cast abacus. This seems to be the complete set. There are, however, additional walking Heyde school girls that were purchased with the set. These girls carry books or backpacks like girls on their way to school.



Whether these figures were sold with the set or were originally from a Heyde park or playground set and then added, is not clear. It is probably the latter suggests Heyde expert Markus Grein. His research reveals that The School set was listed in the 1909 Heyde catalog, but was not in the 1926 catalog; the Set was probably made between 1890 and 1905. The painting of the girls, probably from the playground set, indicates a date before the turn of the 19th century for those figures.





# DISCOVERING SCHOOLROOMS *(Continued)*

## Heyde Arab Middle Eastern School

This Middle Eastern school employs heavy metal, solid cast figures in approximately 6 cm scale. They are Heyde Nippies sold as part of Heyde's set #1458; the Arab Market. Similarly painted figures in various poses and several sizes are not uncommon.

This school set scene probably reflects popular interest in Middle Eastern-Arab culture stimulated by archaeology and exploration in the Middle East from the 19th century into the Egyptian discoveries of the 1920's. The set also closely resembles a turn of the century product, a Keystone Co. stereo 3D slide entitled "Arabian Children at School". The back of the cardboard side introduces the young viewer to the Koran "in faraway Egypt" compared to Western schools and books (see the accompanying image).



The Heyde students are either cast as a single figure or soldered together into a group and then painted. Each student holds a separate piece of tin representing a page of writing; no writing remains on the tin. These school figures include the male teacher reading and a woman in blue wearing a Niqab plus a full wrap gown. Not original but added to the scene is the red and white striped tent, the man with donkeys, and the foliage. The Middle Eastern building is made of a type of paper mâché. They are from several sources, but they set the scene.



## DISCOVERING SCHOOLROOMS *(Continued)*

### C.B.G. Mignot Diorama



This schoolroom diorama is one of many offerings by Mignot. CBG Mignot is the combination of several 19th century French firms including Lucotte. Mignot is, of course, best known for its exceptional painted, solid cast military lead figures, primarily in 54mm.

Among the most recent additions to its line in the last 30 years are its "Little Diorama Box" series that includes ten "children" scenes. These boxes range from "fishing" to "jazz band". All are in 54mm in the same style drop-front boxes with appropriate printed backgrounds.

This box titled "L'Ecole", "The School", includes a woman teacher as seen in other maker's sets. She is in the left side of the box pointing to a blackboard instructing a boy in front of her. On the opposite side of the diorama is a contrasting boy in a dunce hat. Filling the center of the diorama wall is a great map of France. And in front of that are two desks with three studious well-behaved students; earlier sets had two seated children. It is the boys who are in dunce hats, that attest that these remain well behaved co-ed schoolrooms. This recent version of the set has Mignot painting that is less realistic, even a bit comical.





## DISCOVERING SCHOOLROOMS *(Continued)*

### Pixi Diorama

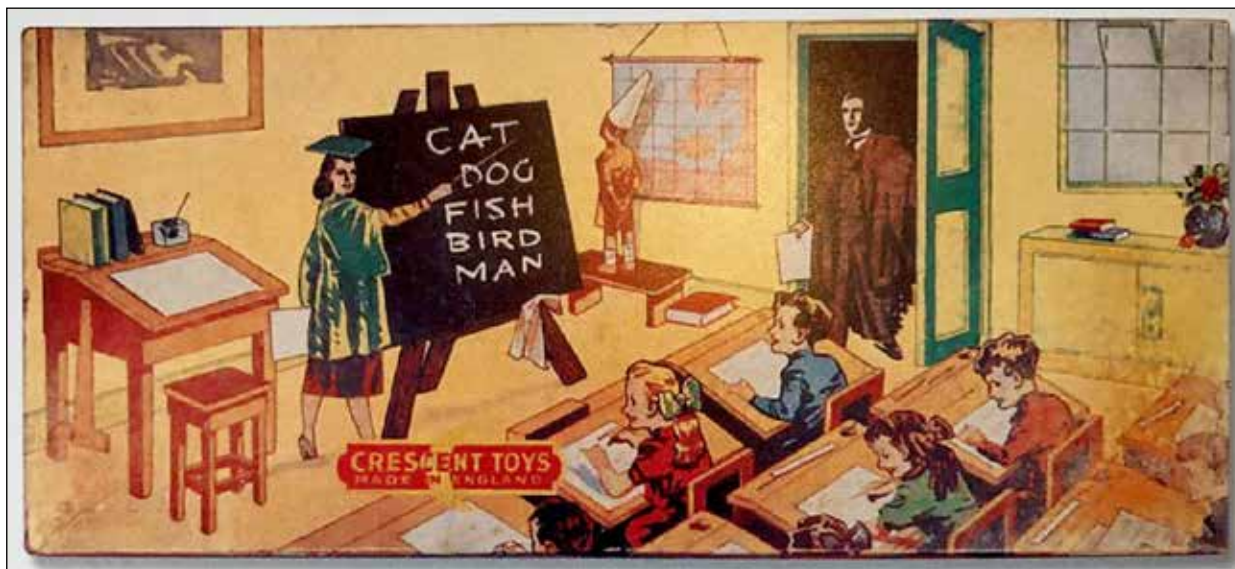
Alexis Poliakov began making Pixi Figures for sale in the 1980s. This broad range was the subject of a special exhibition at the Maillol Paris Museum in 2012-2013. A book about his line of figures is entitled "A World of its Own". This suggests the scope and somewhat fanciful sculpting of Poliakov's work. These 54mm solid cast lead figures were sold as singles and in diorama style boxes.

Like the Mignot schoolroom box, Pixi dioramas have illustrated backgrounds. Unlike Mignot's, Pixi's is a more dramatic and better scaled painted scene. On the left wall of Pixi's is a blackboard with writing in French. The center is two large windows and a windowed door that shows a village scene. The right wall paints a tall cabinet topped by a globe next to a clock with a Map of France on the wall. The types of cast figures common to the other French sets probably shows the historical accuracy of both dioramas. The figures and furniture almost exactly replicate the contents of Mignot's box. The exception is that Pixi are almost comical. This set is a wonderful surprise shared by Gisbert Freber.



## DISCOVERING SCHOOLROOMS *(Continued)*

### Crescent “School Days” Sets



The British company Crescent made an extremely wide range of hollowcast toy soldiers and civilians from approximately 1922 to 1964. Their 1949 catalog lists two box types of “school days” sets. Their smaller cardboard box contained tissue wrapped items: a blackboard on a cast support stand, a woman teacher next to her desk, three students at their desks, and a boy in a dunce cap. That box cover shows far more excitement than its contents reveal. Most interesting is a piece of unused box cover art showing an even more frantic scene. Perhaps this unused illustration was intended for their large box “display set”. This set employs Crescent's standard multi-image lid.

sets substitute a school nurse and male teacher for the teacher's desk and eliminates the Dunce altogether; there is even less excitement there. Although beyond the scope of this article, there are other Crescent school related figures; particularly important is a Crescent crossing Warden (guard) holding an exceptionally rare cardboard stop sign. All the figures are 54mm.

All information on Crescent is with thanks to Norman Joplin with photographer Philip Dean from their book *Hollow-Cast Civilian Toy Figures*. It is simply a spectacular all-color resource book picturing thousands of civilian items from dozens of makers.





## French Girls Schoolroom



This is certainly a French classroom. The underside of the woman teacher's cast lead desk is marked: *Depose France*. On a tin tripod is a glued paper map of France with all the writing in French spelling. This set is made by one of several makers known as "French Dimestore", in this case Jouet Fondu (JF). The teacher and the eight students are 54mm hollowcast. These girls are seated two at each cast metal desk. A male teacher and pupils were also produced.

The girls are crisply painted in single color clothing with a few details. Their dresses extend below the knee, but the castings would have allowed them to be painted in different length dresses or even as boys in shirts and shorts. These girls are, however, an accurate representation of many single sex classrooms before or after WWII.


From many of these and more makers there are dozens of single figures of teachers, and school kids, and kids at play, probably "after school". So maybe another article or two should be in the works. I know there is at least one composition set and a couple of 1950's plastic ones and I'm not sure what else. If you'd like to contribute or just talk, email us at [steveandjo.sommers@comcast.net](mailto:steveandjo.sommers@comcast.net)

Again thanks to Markus Grein, Norman Joplin and Rob Wilson; each gave important assistance with information and photos.



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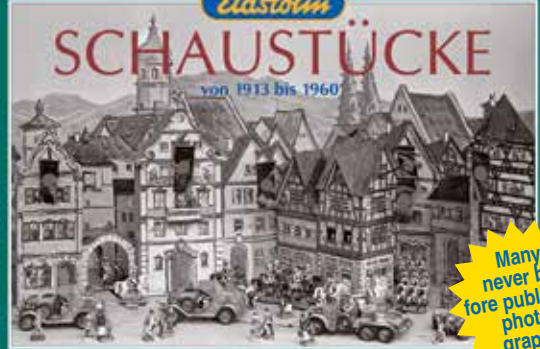
This book is a completely reviewed and extended edition of the standard publication from 1993 about the Elastolin figures and accessories (4 cm to 7 cm and other sizes) of the company Hauser. All hard-plastic themes are compiled together in one volume. All items are listed in a price chart and in pictures. Many almost unknown models are documented. Exact description of various versions. The themes range from ancient Romans, Normans and Vikings, Medieval Knights and Wild West to soldiers from the periods of the 18th and 20th century, as well as castles, camps, African Safari, domestic and wild animals, farms, zoos, circus, tales figures, advertising and special edition figures, mechanical toys and Bild-Lilli (the proto-type of all Barbie dolls). For the first time and only in this publication one can find 15 additional Elastolin dioramas and scenic arrangements from various historical series. Size 21,5x29,8 cm, 208 pages, more than 1,000 objects whereas 500 are in color photographs. Price 45,00 Euro. Shipping: EU, Non-EU and World the real costs.

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von 1913 bis 1960



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## Timpo Toys

### Special Issue No.3

The new Timpo Toys special edition "From Roman Times to Mediaeval Ages" is a field manual to the worlds of Timpo vikings, knights and romans. It is both a compendium of former articles published in different issues of Figuren Magazin and recent results from figure research. The well illustrated code of practice is a valuable guideline not only for already advanced Timpo collectors but also for newcomers to the hobby, and for those who always wanted to know what rareness their pieces have.

**Included is a reprint of the original Timpo Toys catalogue from 1975!** These 20 reprint pages have an important overview on the Timpo program at the summit of their production at the middle of the seventies. The two authors and Timpo collectors Andreas Dittmann and Rainer Maul compiled a valuable vade mecum which should be part of each collector's library. Verlag Figuren Magazin, Berlin 2020, 72 pages incl. 20 pages of the Timpo Toys catalogue of 1975.

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# THE CROWN'S FUNERAL PROCESSION AUCTIONED BY BONHAMS

By Rob Wilson

Fans of the Netflix series *The Crown* may have spotted a few toy soldiers in the final episode of Season 6, 'Sleep Dearie Sleep'. The scene involves Queen Elizabeth II (portrayed by Imelda Staunton) being presented with a scene depicting the funeral of her father George VI. In reality, this model had been put together to plan his funeral, with what was almost certainly Britains hollowcast figures, in the late 1940s early 1950s. In this particular scene, the Queen was being asked to face the rather daunting prospect of making decisions about her own funeral.

The figures used in the *Crown's* depiction of this event were based on approximately 500 *Britains* modern toy soldiers, sourced by the Set Decorating Department, together with more custom designed 3D-printed figures painted by John

Lee, Head of Model Making at the National Film & Television School. Specially commissioned architectural models of Buckingham Palace and Admiralty Arch, together with a simplified model of the Mall, with trees on the side providing a scenic backdrop. The centre piece of course is the gun carriage used to carry the coffin. Unfortunately, this is missing in Bonhams online photos shown here although it did form part of the lot.

Meticulously researched, the model is an accurate representation of the planned procession, produced especially for this scene in the last episode of the TV series. The model took between six to eight weeks to execute. It was made under the guidance of Major David Rankin-Hunt, (fondly referred to by *The Crown's* crew as "Major David"), *The Crown's* Protocol Adviser. Stephen

Daldry was the lead working with a team from Left Bank Pictures and the National Film & Television School (NFTS).

When it became clear that the Set Decorating Department would not be able to source and acquire enough soldier figures to accurately represent the vast funeral procession, they enlisted the help of BGI Supplies. Members of the Set Decorating team were dressed by the Costume Department before being life cast and scanned by the company for accurate 3D models to then be printed. Due to the short timeframe in which the models needed to be produced, once the figures had been printed they were passed to John Lee, who, alongside his team, painstakingly painted over 200 soldiers in the appropriate ceremonial dress.



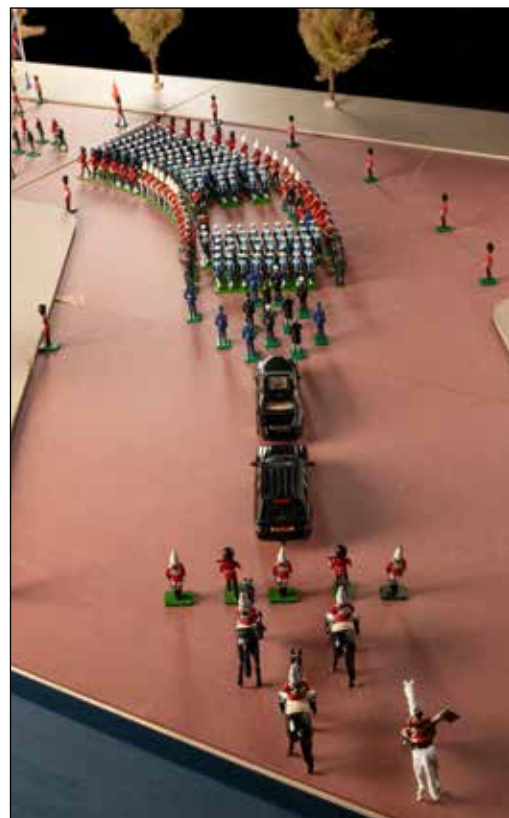
The model procession heading towards Buckingham Palace, looking back towards Admiralty Arch

# THE CROWN'S FUNERAL PROCESSION

## AUCTIONED BY BONHAMS *(Continued)*



The Bluejackets turning in the Mall, pulling the gun carriage (unfortunately missing in this image!)



Another view of the cortege turning into the Mall, followed by limousines carrying the Royal Family (the gun carriage is more obviously missing here)

It took an entire day for around 10 people to install the model for filming in the Double Cube Room at Wilton House. While the width of the Mall, and its scale relative to the figures is correct, the length of the model

had to be reduced in order for it to be accommodated in the building.

The final model is therefore a “one off” that can never be fully replicated. Having said that, most of the figures

required can be put together from standard Britains figures if readers want to create their own version of this historic event.

It was put up for auction by Bonhams, Bond Street London on the 7th of February 2024, along with many other items from the series, including costumes and various set decorations. The lot eventually went under the hammer for £53,740 including the buyer's premium.

The full procession was of course much larger, with over 5,000 personnel taking part, including cavalry and various other military units. The State Gun Carriage, used to transport the coffin, alone required 142 Sailors (98 to pull the carriage and the remainder acting as brakesmen).



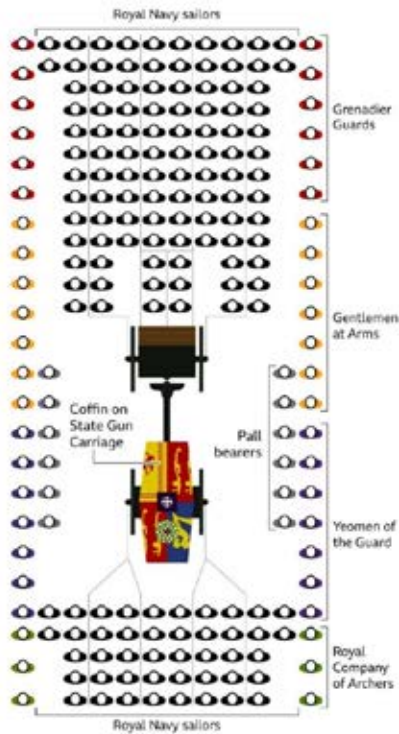
The procession heading towards Buckingham Palace (a rather narrow representation but you get the idea!)



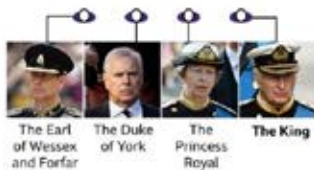
# THE CROWN'S FUNERAL PROCESSION AUCTIONED BY BONHAMS *(Continued)*

## State Gun Carriage and escort party

142 Royal Navy sailors pull the carriage and act as the brakes



## Members of the Royal Family



Source: MOD, Buckingham Palace. Images: Getty/PA/Reuters



The cortege with the coffin atop the gun carriage (image from the actual funeral)



The head of the actual procession, 19th September, 2022

Details of the State Gun Carriage  
and the immediate escort for the  
Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

# AUCTION PREVIEW



## TOY SOLDIER SHOWCASE

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2024 AT 10AM EST



1404 John Lesinski German WWI Battleship Deutschland



1007 Shimeck PZ-735 British Observation Balloon



Lot 1430 Britains Soccer Team Everton



1149 O'Brien Special Paint U.S. Cavalry 1890 with Officer



1220 King & Country Wood Enola Gay Bomber 14x20



1214 Heco German VI Rocket Tinplate



1402 Imperial #H1 Cameron Highlanders On Parade



1217 Heco Rolls Royce A.C. Tinplate

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# BOOK PREVIEW

## **THE USE OF THE TOY SOLDIER, THE MILITARY TOY, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE MILITARIZATION OF CHILDHOOD IN THE WESTERN WORLD FROM 1870 TO 1940**

*By Nassim Medjaoui*

*Reviewed by Rob Wilson*

In his book *The use of the toy soldier, the military toy, in the context of the militarization of childhood in the Western world from 1870 to 1940* Nassim Medjaoui explores how military toys, in particular toy soldiers, were used to instil militaristic and patriotic values in children in the Western world. Written in French as part of work on a Thesis, this will hopefully soon be available in English. Nassim is planning to attend the next Toy Soldier show in Chicago when he will be promoting the book.

It fills a significant gap in historical research, as no other historian has previously addressed this topic in depth, rendering this field of research almost virgin. The author underlines the difficulty of this work, particularly due to the lack of written sources on toy brands of the time. Despite this, he has managed to produce a unique work of its kind, saluting the other works of collectors on toy soldiers who preceded and inspired him, but affirming the original nature of his scientific approach. Enriched with various images, this book does not present them in the manner of a catalogue. Rather they are carefully chosen, and in relation to the text, they are used as tools to explain, accompany and illustrate the author's approach.

The book analyses the socio-political contexts of the periods by recalling the historical events, contexts and main ideological movements that influenced the production and popularity of military toys. However, our readers should be reassured by remembering that the toy soldier and military toys more generally still remain the central theme of this study.

By addressing very current issues in the introduction and opening, such as the return of the war in Ukraine, it also demonstrates the current potential of



this subject within the framework of historical research. This work offers a unique perspective on the cultural history of children and their upbringing, highlighting the significant medium- and long-term implications of the militarization of childhood.

It is therefore essential reading for collectors, historians, sociologists, all education community, and all those interested in the impact of toys on the

development of children and on society. This work is a milestone in a larger project of global study of the use of military toys that he will pursue as a thesis at the Sorbonne. 245 pages, 57,841 words, 84 illustrations.

Short biography of the author: Nassim Medjaoui was born in 2000 in France, in the Paris suburbs where he still lives, he has always been passionate about history and writing.

# BOOK PREVIEW (Continued)

L'utilisation du petit soldat, du jouet militaire, dans le cadre de la militarisation de l'enfance dans le monde occidental de 1870 à 1940



Illustration 1 : Carte postale française, vers 1914

Nassim MEDJAOUI

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From 2012, wanting to have physical representations of what he read in books, he started collecting toy and model soldiers, painting them and restoring them. He started with models, little plastic soldiers from the Starlux brand. Then thanks to advice and encouragement from other French and foreign collectors and toys soldiers show dealers he became passionate about old toys soldiers in solid lead, hollow lead, aluminium and composition. Currently he has a large collection of 7,000 pieces. The major French manufacturers Quiralu, L.R, Lucotte, CBG, G.M are all represented but also many old foreign manufacturers like Lineol, Elastolin, Manoil as well as modern ones like King and Country. Nassim found in toy soldiers a part of his family history, being of Maghreb origin he has always been sensitive to colourful colours, movements, local markets, traditional outfits, the shadows of traditional riders. He found them in the figures made by manufacturers such as G.M and Heyde, enabling him to recreate images from his childhood. This passion followed Nassim in his studies. He obtained a master's degree in history at the Sorbonne. Encouraged by his teachers, as part of the wave of cultural studies, he has defended a thesis on the use of toy soldiers and other military toys for propaganda purposes.

Medjaoui Nassim <medjaouinassim@yahoo.fr>



# HEYDE TREASURES: SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

By Norman Cuthbert

Heyde figures originated in Dresden, Germany and are among the most prized in the world. The company produced figures mainly in the 48- and 60-mm scale. The company was bombed out during World War II, so its products became highly sought after post WW II.

A few good books have been produced on this company,<sup>1</sup> but its history is not well known amongst many English-speaking collectors. We do know that it was a thriving company producing such lines as Egyptians, Trojans, Greeks including a temple, a Trojan horse, War elephants, Alexander the Great sets, Romans, Chariots, Medieval Knights, Buffalo hunts, Cowboys and Indians and a Stagecoach (as illustrated in our Winter 2024 issue, (pp33-36)).

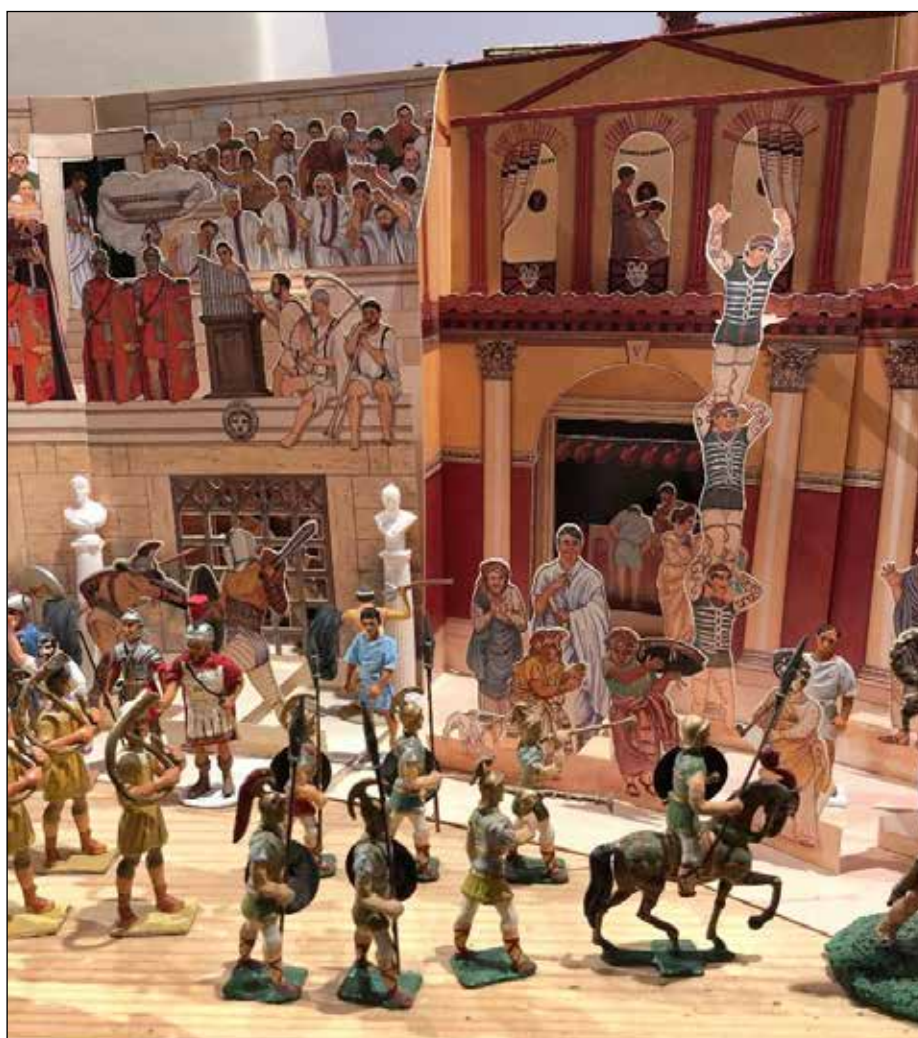
Much fun could be had playing or displaying their figures. Many sets were made for parades, but also included trenches and figures in action representing the World War I period. Heyde specialized in figures of the various wars in Europe, including 19th century empires, Franco-Prussian War and World War I, and French Foreign Legion. The World War I sets included trench fighting, tanks, building and communications units, cannons. Civilian figures including children playing in a park in summer or winter, there were huntsmen chasing a fox and fairy-tale figures of Snow White and the seven dwarfs. Specialty sets could be produced - for example an airport, or arctic set including polar bears (and penguins!). Figures would sell originally for around a dollar a piece, and a full set in its original box was \$100 and up.

In my early years of my model soldier experience I was not aware of Heyde

miniatures and its rich history. I started out knowing that most of my family had either served in the British or Canadian armed forces through many wars. A close family friend we called Uncle Frank was a staff sergeant in Scotland, then Canada. He initially bought me a set of Crescent highlanders for a birthday. That was 75 years ago and started me on a long love affair with model soldiers. We lived in Nova Scotia, and I would take my 25 cents allowance and head down to Woolworths and there I would buy 3 single Britains figures for seven cents apiece and have four cents left over! My first

cannon was a Britains anti-aircraft gun, costing seventy-five cents.

Many years later I was on vacation in Britain. My final stop was in Worthing on the south coast. I stayed for a few days with a family who were personal friends. While out browsing I found a pawnshop and I bought four 77 mm plastic German World War II figures. The day came when I had to take the train to London and fly home. The lady of the house handed me a small tin which I simply put in my carry-on. During the train trip to London, I opened the tin and found seven small metal figures. It wasn't until I returned



<sup>1</sup> See for example Markus Grein who published the first book focusing just on Heyde figures: *Mit Heyde-Figuren um die Welt / With Heyde-figures around the world* Oct. 2003, Publisher: Krannich, Egon, Dr; ISBN-13 : 978-3933124166. More recently, T. Borges and F. Winckel wrote *Heyde-Hunters*, 2012. This well illustrated volume shows some of the best of the company's sets.

# HEYDE TREASURES: SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

(Continued)



home that I had a good look at them and discovered they were Heyde figures. The set comprised one calvary figure, two trumpeters and four Roman legionnaires. My heart skipped a beat as I realized what I now had to add to my collection. These figures are now proudly displayed on one of my Roman

shelves leading a triumphal parade (see the accompanying images).

## About the author:

Norman Cuthbert was originally from Toronto Canada and now lives in Charlotte, NC. He has served as choral leader and bandmaster and was a member of the Canadian

Staff Band of The Salvation Army for 20 years. Norm is a member of the Ontario Model Soldier Society and the South Carolina Military Miniatures Society.



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## ***BRITAINS & OTHER INTERESTING TOY SOLDIERS***

*By John Franklin*

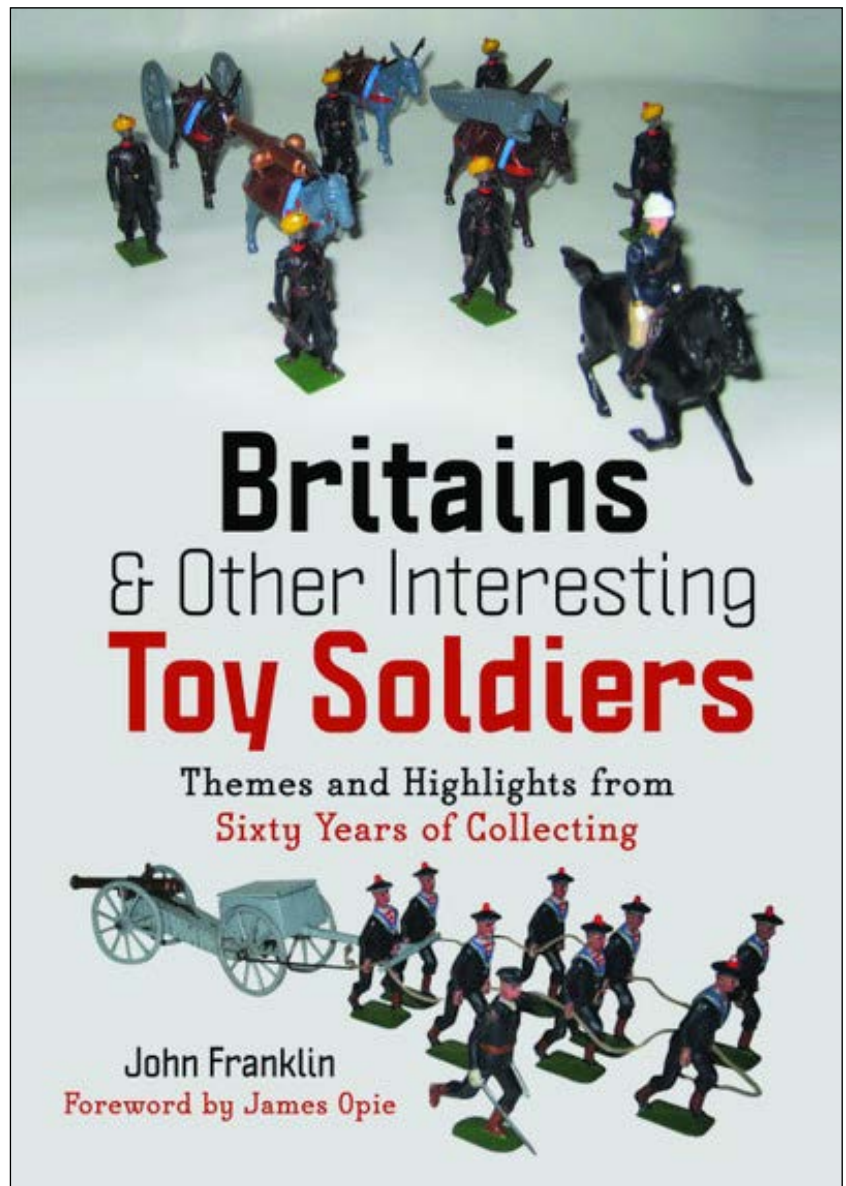
*Reviewed by Rob Wilson*

John Franklin will be familiar to our readers as a frequent contributor to the magazine. Indeed, a number of the chapters in this excellent new book are based on articles John has written for us over the past few years. However, this is mostly new material that adds considerably to what has previously been published – the emphasis is on the Interesting rather than Britains. Although the main focus is on the output of that famous company, this is not a revised tour along the routes followed so successfully by Opie and Wallis.

What we have here is a very personal take on the joys of collecting toy soldiers, especially (but not exclusively) those produced by the Lambeth Road factory. This is based on over 60 years experience, the author taking us on a journey from his first modest acquisitions as a child to the building up of a comprehensive collection representing the British army and its colonial allies in its heyday. John is not just a collector but also a modeller and expert painter. Many of the magnificent sets portrayed are examples of his own work, made to fill gaps left by Britains. These are mostly converted from Britains figures and painted in their special paint style.

The author focuses on a number of varied but often overlapping themes:

- Britains special painting;
- The Poitier-Smith collection;
- Military bands, including Cavalry mounted bands, bands of the Highland and other Scottish Regiments, and Indian Army Pipe bands;
- Colour parties, including a special chapter on those of the Indian Army;
- Britains large display sets;

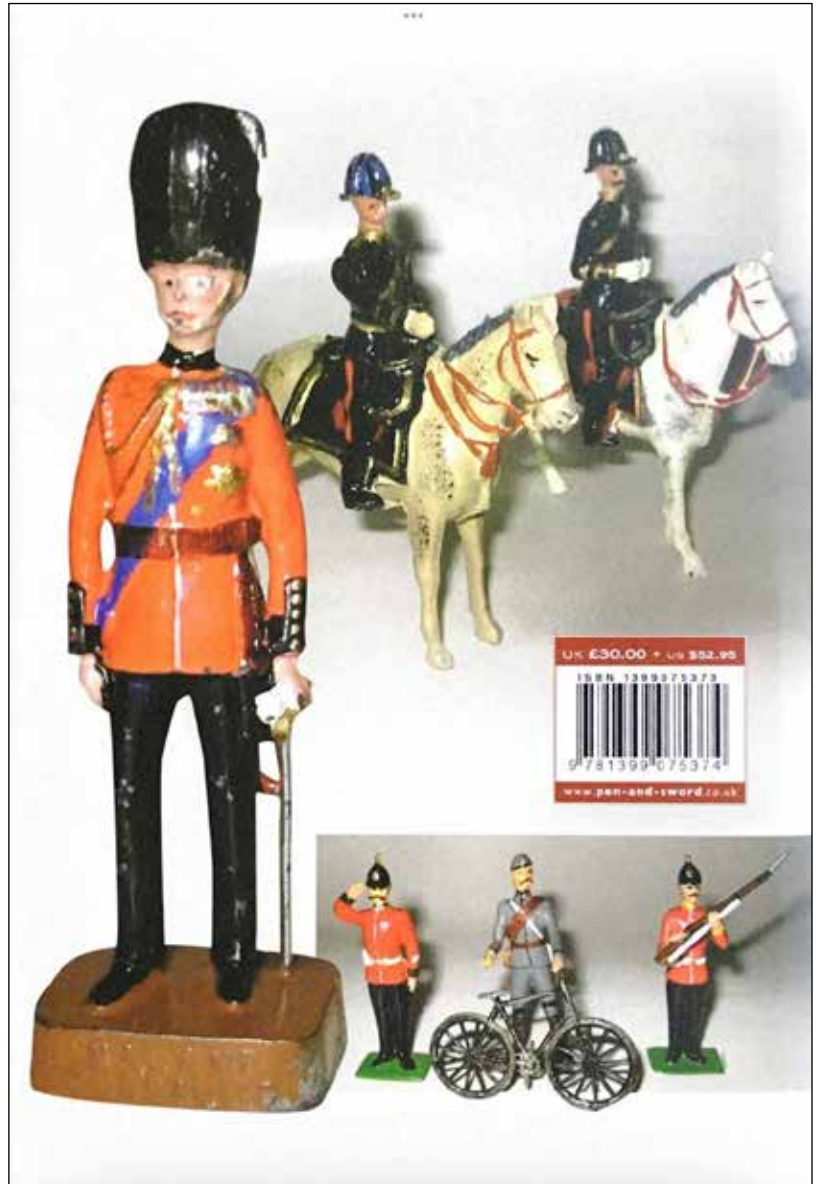


# BOOK REVIEW (Continued)

- Britains Parade series, especially the Black Watch;
- Essays on various other rare and enigmatic sets such as the legendary Colonials, Poles, Netherland and Argentinians "con caso" and Royal Artillery at the halt series;
- Whisstock Boxes;
- The work of Bill Cranston, focussing on the British Colonial Indian Army

Although the main emphasis is on Britains figures, this last topic will be welcome to those who are already familiar with the figures produced by Mr Cranston. Unlike the work of Freddie Green, whose figures were almost all converted from Britains castings, Bill Cranston sculpted his own masters. This is the first in depth review of his work that I am aware of. His Indian Army troops are full of character and complement Britains wonderfully.

This is a very well-illustrated book, with lots of interesting tales and analysis, peering into some of the lesser-known aspects of Britains, as well as a few other toy soldier makers. This volume will make a welcome addition to the library of anyone interested in Britains or the British army in toy soldier form. Another volume is in the offing. I for one cannot wait to see what else John has to say on this fascinating topic.



## *Britains & Other interesting Toy Soldiers*

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# AUCTION PREVIEW

OLD TOY SOLDIER  
  
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## THE WALKER WAINWRIGHT COLLECTION

Over 500 Sets of Boxed Britains  
OCTOBER 25TH, 10 AM EST.



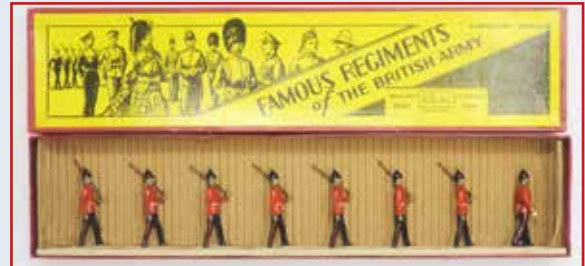
Lot 1004 Britains set #3 5th Dragoon Guards,



Lot 1006 Britains set #6 Boer Cavalry



Lot 1027 Britains set #31 1st Dragoons



Lot 1205 Britains set #1594 Famous Regiments



Lot 1065 Britains set #82 Colours and Pioneers



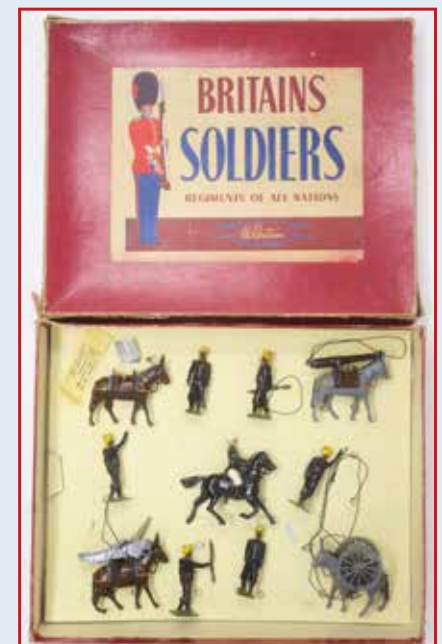
Lot 1263 Britains set #2020 Portuguese



Lot 1258 Britains set #2012 Royal Australian



Lot 1072 Britains set #98 Kings Royal Rifle Corps



Lot 1259 Britains set #2013 Unlisted Indian Army

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Lot 1172 Britains set #1290 British Infantry

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# JOHILLCO IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD

By Richard Forrester and Norman Joplin

## Introduction

An eighteen-page John Hill & Co (Metal Toys) Ltd. catalogue dated January 1950 has recently been discovered in Australia. Listing toy soldiers, cowboys and Indians, farm, zoo and civilian figures, it appears to have been issued specifically for the export market. It shows some figures which were only in production for a brief period, including some which are very rarely found in circulation.

## Post-War Johillco and 1950 Export catalogue

In late 1945 James Murdock Standing and Jack Cooper<sup>1</sup> purchased the John Hill & Co. moulds from the Wood brothers. These had survived destruction following the Luftwaffe's bombing of the Britannia Row works. Standing and Cooper relocated the John Hill & Co. business to north-west England into a solid old cotton mill building on Parliament Street, Burnley Wood Mill, in the English county of Lancashire. The toy soldier manufacture was set up in the same premises as the Veevers and Hensman printing works, owned and managed by the Standing brothers. The name of the toy business was changed slightly to John Hill & Co. (Metal Toys) Limited.

The wartime *Limitation on Supplies Order* on toys containing more than 10% metal was lifted on 1 July 1945<sup>2</sup>, however the new British Labour government did not remove all restrictions on toy manufacture and retailing immediately. Shortages of other materials used in toy soldier manufacturing, including cardboard and wood for packaging, persisted. The government placed ceilings on



James M Standing (left) pictured with his wife, Helen Cooper (centre) for their wedding in 1939, with brother, Alec Standing (right). *Burnley Express and News*, 18 Feb 1939. Pg 13

the prices that both manufacturers and retailers could charge and purchase taxes continued to apply to the domestic sale of toys.<sup>3</sup> The incentive for British toy soldier manufacturers in the immediate post-war period was to export as much product as possible to the larger Commonwealth countries of Canada, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, but also principally to the leading consumer market of the United States.

An advertisement<sup>4</sup> in the *Burnley Express* dated 11 May 1946 shows just how quickly Standing and Cooper were able to restart production of Johillco figures at their new works at the Burnley Wood Mill. A further advertisement<sup>5</sup>, this time in the *Barnoldswick and Earby Times* dated 13 September 1946, seeks 'young women experienced in metal toy painting. 45-hour week. Good working conditions.'

By as early as November 1946<sup>6</sup> the new enterprise was employing around 60 staff and the majority of the output from the Burnley operations was allocated for export, with the continuing post-war government regulations on use of raw materials restricting manufacture of non-essential items for consumption in the domestic British market. These restrictions were not lifted until 1947<sup>7</sup>, by which time the drive to export had become well established.

Returning from a business trip to the United States and Canada in April



*Burnley Express and News*, 11 May 1946, Pg 4

<sup>1</sup> *Burnley Express*, 10 February 1951, Pg 5. FindMyPast British Newspaper Archive.

<sup>2</sup> *British Toy Trade Transition*. Birmingham Daily Post, 9 June 1945, Pg 2.

<sup>3</sup> Brown, Kenneth. D. *The British Toy Business*. The Hambledon Press, London (1996). Pg 154.

<sup>4</sup> *Burnley Express*, 11 May 1946, Pg4. FindMyPast British Newspaper Archive.

<sup>5</sup> *Barnoldswick & Earby Times*, 13 September 1946, Pg 2. FindMyPast British Newspaper Archive.

<sup>6</sup> *Burnley Express*, 27 November 1946, Pg 4. FindMyPast British Newspaper Archive.

<sup>7</sup> *Britain's soldiers are winning a new kind of battle*. Belfast Telegraph, 28 February 1956, Pg 4. FindMyPast British Newspaper Archive

## JOHILLCO IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD *(Continued)*

1948, James Standing reported<sup>8</sup> that John Hill & Co. was now shipping to both countries and that competition was becoming 'very keen'.

By 1951 the company was proclaiming<sup>9</sup> that seventy-five percent of their output was for export markets, particularly to America. As the headlines to the newspaper article picture suggests, Johillco's focus on the export of hollow-cast toy soldiers proved to be a lucrative venture for them. Incidentally, the lady shown seated in the photograph is Dolores Brown, the forewoman at Johillco through this period, and the inspiration behind the "Dorre" line of souvenir figures for the gift market (which were painted in gold and black).

One of the ways in which Johillco achieved this amazing volume of exports was through distribution agreements with agents in the United States. One major U.S. wholesaler for Johillco was Milwaukee based Maurice "Morrie" D. Orum, who distributed product for both Johillco and F.G. Taylor; that is Frank Taylor of Taylor and Barrett, in distinctive yellow Midwest British Exporters boxes. Prior to 1950, Morrie Orum was a "fancy goods" trader selling a range of items from spring wound plastic trains<sup>10</sup> to metal turtle toys<sup>11</sup>. In 1950, however, Orum reported<sup>12</sup> that he had recently returned from a buying trip to England, and that he was now "handling a line of figures" and that there was "good reception for them". By 1951 Orum was able to announce<sup>13</sup> that he was back in England for the purpose of purchasing 120,000 lead soldiers, plus other items, for resale in the United States. Evidently a large part of this number was Johillco



figures. Other U.S. distributors that supported the new owners of John Hill & Co. were J. J. Anthony and Gimbels Department Store. Both were also located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

With the British government disincentives to sell toy products in the home market, and arrangements established with distributors providing a good base volume of sales in the United States, the drive for John Hill & Co. to export was secured.

It is not surprising, therefore, that a post-war John Hill & Co. export catalogue, dated from January 1950, should come to light. Other John Hill catalogues from 1951, 1952, 1953, and 1954 have also been found. Several aspects about the catalogue suggest that it was produced in a hurry, possibly to take advantage of the export opportunities which had suddenly arisen. A notation on the back cover shows that the catalogue was printed by the Standing brothers' own printing company,

Veevers & Hensman Ltd., of Burnley, Lancashire.

What is a little surprising is that this catalogue should surface in Australia. When compared to the company's obvious volume of exports to the United States, Australia was unlikely to have been anything other than a small market for British toy soldier manufacturers. The overall suggestion given by the catalogue is that it was issued for the U.S. and Canadian markets. It may also have been used for other countries including Australia, although many of the listed figures never appeared in Australian stores.

In any case, a January 1950 dated catalogue gives us the opportunity to understand what toy soldiers the new Lancashire owners of the John Hill & Co. business were producing and marketing, and particularly those figures which appear to have only been produced in the immediate post-war recovery period.

<sup>8</sup> Burnley Express, 10 April 1948, Pg 1. FindMyPast British Newspaper Archive.

<sup>9</sup> Burnley Express, 10 February 1951, op.cit.

<sup>10</sup> Advertisement, The Billboard, 27 March 1948, Google Books.

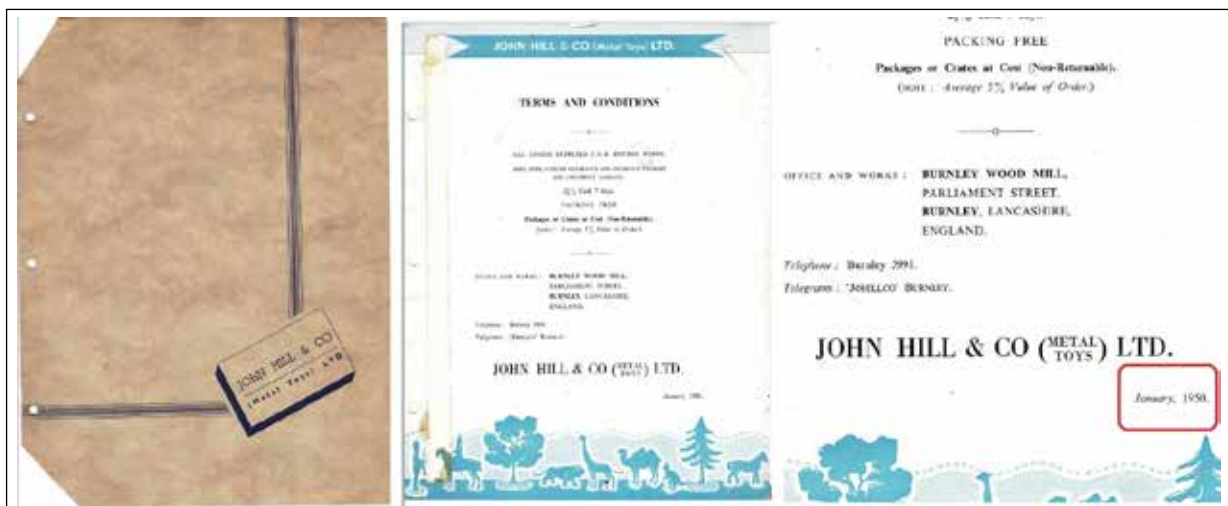
<sup>11</sup> Advertisement, The Billboard, 30 April 1949, Google Books.

<sup>12</sup> *Merchandise Topics*, The Billboard, 25 March 1950, Google Books.

<sup>13</sup> *Soldiers versus Cowboys*, The Yorkshire Post and Leeds Mercury, 9 January 1951, FindMyPast British Newspaper Archive.



# JOHILLCO IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD *(Continued)*



Firstly, the catalogue shows that the emphasis for the export market was on quality painted figures.

The catalogue contains eighteen pages, comprising sections listing:

- Superior Finish boxed soldier figures (Pages 1 to 7)
- Superior Finish boxed cowboy and Indian series figures (Pages 8 to 9)
- Superior Finish boxed farm series (Page 10)
- Superior Finish boxed zoo series (Page 11)
- Superior Finish, loose soldier lines (Page 12 to 13), with 4 second quality figures listed on page 13.
- Superior Finish, loose cowboy and Indian 'large' series (Page 14), with 11 second quality 'small series' figures also listed on page 14.
- Superior Finish, loose farm series (Page 15 to 17)
- Superior Finish, loose zoo series (Page 18)

## Examples of the new range

Johillco boxed sets from this immediate post-war period can be identified from the words "Scale Model Metal Soldiers. Designed and Manufactured by John Hill & Co. (Metal Toys) Ltd., ENGLAND"

printed on the top of the box. By 1954, however, this box art was being

replaced by the much more overtly "Johillco" branded box labels.



The list of interesting, and some short-lived figures, in the 1950 catalogue includes a range of superior finish painted boxed sets of cavalry regiments which had not been produced in the pre-war period, such as

- 403d 6th (Carabiniers) Dragoon Guards,
- 405a 3rd (King's Own) Hussars, and
- 406a the Denbighshire Hussars.

The Irish Guards 100b are also listed, on page 2.



Johillco 16th Lancers in Midwest British Importers box at top, and Set 404B 12th Lancers in John Hill (Metal Toys) box at bottom. (Bonhams Auctions, 2012)

## JOHILLCO IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD *(Continued)*

Although all these figures were probably just painting variations of the existing Lifeguard, Hussar and Dragoon figures, it is likely these sets were listed as a marketing exercise using “fancy” regiment names to try and attract customers in the U.S. market. All these figures are also listed later in the catalogue as available in display boxes.

None of these figures are subsequently featured in the catalogues from 1951, 1952 or 1953 or a long listing of Hill figures for 1954.

If any John Hill & Co. collectors have figures painted in these variations, then you can now safely say they were only produced between 1946 and 1950. These paint variations

very rarely, if ever, appear in the current day market and it is likely that they were produced only in very small volumes at the time.

There are also some apparently newly sculpted figures listed in the catalogue. These include light infantry regiments listed under “Tartan Trews” and are boxed sets of eight figures with a movable arm marching at slope, including an officer, with variations available of 107a Royal Scots Lothian Regiment, 107b King’s Own Scottish Borderers, and 107c Highland Light Infantry.

Listed under “Rifle Brigade”, on page 3, are boxed sets of figures with a movable arm marching at trail, with an officer, and including variations of 108a Camerons (Scottish Rifles),

108b King’s Royal Rifle Corps, 108c Royal Irish Rifles, and 108d Princes



1950 catalogue figure 274, French ‘Poilu’  
(Rob Wilson collection)

Consort’s Own. This newly sculpted Rifleman figure did not survive for long, and was discontinued in around 1954.

On page 13 there is also another very interesting new inclusion, figure 274 which is described as a ‘Poilu’. For those not familiar with the term, the word ‘Poilu’ was the nickname given to French WWI troops and means ‘hairy one’. The fashion was for French troops of the period to grow bushy beards as a sign of masculinity, however the nicely sculpted Johillco figure pictured is clearly not bearded. This very nice figure does not appear in the 1951



Johillco set 107B Kings Own Scottish Borderers in John Hill (Metal Toys) box.  
(Bonhams Auctions, 2012)



Johillco set 107B Kings Own Scottish Borderers in John Hill (Metal Toys) box.  
(Bonhams Auctions, 2012)



British Home Guard figure which is the basis  
for the French Poilu  
(Norman Joplin collection)



# JOHILLCO IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD *(Continued)*



US Marines - left to right, pre-war US Marine Officer, two versions of infantrymen and post-war version (Norman Joplin collection)

or any subsequent John Hill & Co. (Metal Toys) Ltd catalogues. The reason for its very short appearance is unknown, but it is a pity that few of this interesting figure were produced.

The Poilu figure is clearly based on the Home Guard figure with a new head. The Home Guard figure is not listed in any of the pre-war 1935 'pink' catalogue, the 1940 Trade Letter, nor the 1950 export catalogue. It is likely that the Home Guard figure was only sold in Britain and therefore would not feature in a catalogue used outside of the U.K. The 'Johillco England' marking on the base of this figure is identical to the Poilu, and while there are not many of the Home Guard figures in circulation, there are even fewer of the French Poilu to be found.

Now looking back to page 6 of the catalogue, we find several new figure releases to the Johillco range that had not been listed in any of the pre-war catalogues.

The first is Ref. 150 Marines in full review dress, marching at slope, with a trumpeter, all with movable arms. This set particularly demonstrates how this catalogue was really intended for the U.S. export market because it does not specify that the figures in this set are U.S. Marines rather than British marines. The fact that they are U.S. Marines is simply implied. A U.S. Marines figures had been produced in the pre-war period,

ZULUS	152	Charging with Knobkerry and Shield ...	8
CAMEL CORPS	153	Sudan Mounted on Camels, with Rifle ...	6
GREEK	154	Evzones, Marching at Slope ...	8
ARABS	155	Bedouin Mounted on Horse, with Rifle ...	5
GLADIATORS	157a	Royal Canadian North-West Mounted Police	5
CANADIAN NORTH-WEST MOUNTED	157b	6 Troopers on foot at Ease, and one Mounted	7
	158	WEST POINT CADET (MOVABLE ARM)	8
	165	KNIGHT IN ARMOUR (MOVABLE ARM)	8



Pre-war version West Point cadet (Norman Joplin collection)

although as with the Home Guard figure it had not been listed in any catalogues. The post-war figure is, however, a new sculpting.

Also on page 6 is an entry for Ref. 158: West Point Cadet (movable arm). The record for this figure has been added in by hand after the catalogue was printed, which suggests that the figure is likely to have first been produced in 1950. Johillco had in fact also produced

a West Point cadet in the pre-war period, but it had not been listed in any catalogues, and the post-war figure is clearly a new sculpt. It was a natural addition to a Johillco range marketed to the U.S. export market, and was probably never exported to other countries outside of North America because, along with the post-war Marine, they never appear in those markets.

As usual, John Hill & Co. were catching up with Britains who had released their West Point cadets in summer dress Set 299 back in 1927. Despite the rather light blue colour of the uniform on the Johillco version, the figures are attractive, and a boxed set would also have featured a sword bearing 'officer' not included with the Britains set. A trumpeter version with a movable arm is also shown in the *Great Book of Hollow-cast Figures* by Norman Joplin.

In addition to the handwritten listings of the West Point Cadet and the



Immediate Post-war Johillco figures

Left to Right: Set 145 (1952) Sailor at trail and marching; Set 158 (1950) West Point Cadet marching; Set# unknown (1952) 49th New York Regiment; Set# unknown (1952) Waterloo British Infantryman; Set# unknown (1952) the Citadel Military College, South Carolina; Set 150 (1950) Marines at slope; Set 108a (1950) Camerons (Scottish Rifles) at slope. (Norman Joplin)

## JOHILLCO IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD *(Continued)*



1950 Catalogue figure Set 152, Charging Zulu compared with the prewar version  
(Left to right: Two pre-war versions and two 1950 versions)  
(Norman Joplin collection)



1950 catalogue figure 154, Greek Evzone  
(Richard Forrester collection) on the right  
the pre-war version from Norman Joplin's  
collection

Knight in Armour, note the error regarding the listing of the Gladiators. This omits to show the Reference number, presumably Set 156. This printing error is very suggestive of the catalogue being a last-minute issue.

The next set in the list Ref. 151 Sailors in tropical kit, kneeling and standing at ready (movable arms), are meant to represent U.S. sailors. This set re-uses the pre-war British white jacket kneeling and standing at ready figures which do not have movable arms, but strangely the catalogue does not mention the new figures that were included in the set that did have the movable arms;

one marching at slope, and another walking at trail, as shown above.

The next new sculpt figure is the Zulu with knobkerry and shield Ref. 152. This is a rather ungainly figure and very different from the pre-war version of the Johillco Zulu. This figure was painted in black and brown paint versions.

Next of interest is the Greek Evzone, Marching at Slope: Ref. 154. This will be a familiar figure to John Hill & Co. collectors, and while it is very similar in its stance to the Home Guard figure with rifle at slope on the left shoulder, it is clearly a different moulded figure. As with the Marine and West Point Cadet, a pre-war but un-catalogued version had been available, painted wearing a red jacket.

Strangely, the next figure, Ref. 165: Knight in armour (movable

arm) is also a handwritten entry. In 2019, Vectis Auctions sold a rare box set Ref: 165 - Knights on Foot, comprising eight Knights with Movable Halberd Arms Depicted in Gold Armour, which were the old version 1935 catalogue listed 171L knight on foot, and not a set of the new Crusader knight figures which Johillco had released by 1952. Perhaps the reason for the handwritten entry into the catalogue is that the new owners of John Hill & Co. had planned to drop the knights from the range, or it may have been mistakenly left out of the printed catalogue.

The range of Johillco's Wild West figures also changed with the new ownership. A comparison between the pre-war and post-war listings shows, firstly, that the large 70mm scale figures were dropped from the range and were replaced with eleven smaller 48mm scale second quality painted figures that were sold as loose counter pack style figures and were therefore cheaper to produce and sell. These figures were simply a scaled down version of the existing 54mm figures.

The other change was the introduction of four new Wild West figures with movable arms; Ref 604 Cowboy with rifle (at trail); 605 Cowboy with revolver; 607 Cowboy with whip, and 619 Indian chief with a knife.

COWBOYS and INDIANS				
SMALL SERIES				
651	Cowboy Kneeling ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
652	Cowboy Firing ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
653	Cowboy and Revolver ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
654	Cowboy and Rifle ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
655	Cowboy at Draw ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
656	Cowboy Mounted, and Rifle	(2nd Quality)	2	
657	Indian Kneeling ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
658	Indian Firing ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
659	Indian and Tomahawk ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
660	Indian Chief and Tomahawk ...	(2nd Quality)	3	
661	Indian Mounted and Tomahawk	(2nd Quality)	2	

PAGE FOURTEEN



## JOHILLCO IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD *(Continued)*



Johillco set C12 in John Hill (Metal Toys) box. (*Vectis Auctions*, 2022)

The box art for the Wild West figures in this immediate post-war period also had the same John Hill & Co (Metal Toys) Ltd. words printed on the label.

In the Farmyard and Zoo series, the only new figures issued at this time were a Grocer, and a very nice model of a rolling Panda. This suggests that the new owners of Johillco were quite confident in the level of demand for their existing figures in these two areas of their product range, and therefore did not feel there was a need to make significant changes for the U.S. or Canadian export markets.

Understandably what is missing from Farmyard and Zoo range in the 1950 catalogue are the more perhaps characteristically British civic figures and accessories, such as the Thatched cottage, Shepherd

and lamb, Witch, Witch's cauldron, Traffic Signs, Milestones, Tennis Player, Golfer, Punt boat, and Summerhouses, although strangely one of the Summerhouse Tables (Ref. 165) appears in the catalogue.

Missing from the Zoo series are a rather random selection of animals such as the Frogs, Tortoise, Rats, Rabbit, Eagle, Leopard, Hippopotamus, Rhinoceros, Kneeling Camel, Sitting bears, and the Walrus.

### Conclusion

The 1950 dated catalogue provides a glimpse into the decision making of the new owners of John Hill & Co in this immediate post-war period. With economic conditions still so challenging at home in Britain, the only viable option for James

Standing and Jack Cooper was to export, and predominantly to the dominant post-war market of the United States and Canada. Standing and Cooper were clearly successful in their export venture, with the help of agents such as Morrie Orum's Midwest British Importers, but they had to decide quickly which range of product would be most successful to war weary consumers.

The 1950 catalogue shows that the company tried several strategies to work out what the best export product range would be. The boldest, but also quite short lived of these strategies was to have a long list of 'fancy' British regiments which were painted to a first-class level. Standing and Cooper also added the nice new Poilu and Rifleman, figures but surprisingly ceased to issue them from 1952 while persisting with other odd-looking figures such as the new replacement Zulu.

For John Hill (Metal Toys) Ltd., the immediate post-war period of the 1950s started with a period of remarkable success, as suggested by the export catalogue, but would end with significant challenges for the company coming from the manufacturers of cheaper plastic figures.



Johillco rare issue rolling Panda, together with walking and standing Pandas. (*Vectis Auctions*, 2020)



Johillco Grocer Ref 163. (*Norman Joplin collection*.)

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# EARLY AMERICAN METAL: M<sup>c</sup>LOUGHLIN BROTHERS

*By Will Beierwaltes*

McLoughlin Brothers, a major American producer of paper lithographed toys and games, was founded in 1857 by John McLoughlin but developed by his sons (aka "brothers") John (1827-1905) and Edmund (1833-1889) in New York City. From them, John's sons James and Charles took over management of the company. In 1920, the company was purchased by their rival Milton Bradley. They were a major player in the world of American paper color lithography, producing a staggering catalog of colorful toys and games in paper and heavy cardstock.

Somewhat out of character, McLoughlin did start making a very limited range of metal toy soldiers. While they began their printing business in 1857, it is not until 38 years later in their 1895 catalog that we see the introduction of metal toy soldiers (see Figure 1). This date is reinforced by a 1895 McLoughlin company stock list (from the American Antiquarian Society, Figure 2) showing bulk orders and wholesale discounts of their toy soldiers. Interestingly, despite an extensive and wide-ranging catalog of paper-based toys from very early on, this was also the first year in which they introduced their paper soldiers.

Many early toy soldier books and articles (and even current eBay listings) refer to unidentified soldiers in American uniforms, especially German hollowcast in 48-54 mm scale, as made by McLoughlin. Richard O'Brian attributes this myth as perpetuated by the late legendary dealer and toy soldier expert, Gus Hansen, who suggested a popular Mechanics advertisement in 1925 showed a hollow-cast Rough Rider that was (presumably) from McLoughlin. Since the company dissolved in 1920, this is highly unlikely. Figures from the reference and date, if reliable, might be from Feix molds purchased when that



Figure 1: Page 124 of the McLoughlin Brothers 1895 catalog introducing Lead or "Tin" soldiers.

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McLOUGHLIN BROTHERS'

LEAD SOLDIERS.

			PRICE Per Gross.	
A	contains 11 pieces, ass'd	<del>3.00</del>	<del>36.00</del>	28.00
B	" 6 Cavalry	<del>3.00</del>	<del>36.00</del>	"
C	" 17 pieces, ass'd	<del>4.50</del>	<del>54.00</del>	37.50
D	" 9 Cavalry	<del>4.50</del>	<del>54.00</del>	"
E	" 23 pieces, ass'd	<del>6.00</del>	<del>72.00</del>	50.00
F	" 12 Cavalry	<del>6.00</del>	<del>72.00</del>	"
G	" 27 pieces, ass'd	<del>9.00</del>	<del>108.00</del>	75.00
H	" 18 Cavalry	<del>9.00</del>	<del>108.00</del>	"
I	" 37 pieces, ass'd	<del>12.00</del>	<del>144.00</del>	"
K	" 37 do do	<del>12.60</del>	<del>151.20</del>	102.00

Figure 2: 1895 McLoughlin company stocklist from the American Antiquarian Society showing bulk orders and wholesale discounts of their toy soldiers.

## EARLY AMERICAN METAL: M<sup>c</sup>LOUGHLIN BROTHERS *(Continued)*



Figure 3: McLoughlin soldiers in white with an example of contemporary German production on the right.



Figure 4: Examples of McLoughlin metal toy soldiers in red and blue tunics.



Figure 5: Comparison of the McLoughlin "horseman" with an example of contemporary German production on the right.

company ceased production around that time (see OTS 2023, 47:3, pp 58-60).

Unlike the figures of Beiser/Eureka and Feix, the McLoughlin metal figures were small, solid cast and very much in the tradition of the German makers of the time. They were fully round (ronde-bosse) rather than flats, similar to their German counterparts. Being solid-cast they can be produced in simple 2-piece molds which could have easily come from a local craftsman, or possibly were imported from Germany. Richard O'Brian states that while they are produced in the German style, they are NOT from German molds, and characterizes them as "grotesque" copies of Heyde (a little harsh).

Because of the consistency of military fashion at the end of the 19th Century, the only thing distinguishing them from German or English uniforms was the color scheme. There were two basic figures involved. A single marching pose in spiked helmet was the primary foot figure. He was issued with either a rifle (private), a sword (captain), a flag (flagman) or a drum (drummer), all of which were soldered on to the basic figure. The mounted figure (horseman) served as an officer for some infantry sets or in larger numbers as cavalry. The latter carried a sword, and an officer was not distinguished in cavalry sets. While similar in appearance to German castings like Heyde, they were a little smaller and not as robust in their sculpting. The bases of these figures are considerably thicker than those of their German counterparts.

Every set could be purchased in one of initially three, and then later four color schemes for the tunic. These included a white tunic (Figure 3) with light blue trousers, a red tunic with white trousers (Figure 4), a pale blue tunic with white trousers, and (added later) a grey tunic with white trousers. This expanded the line 4-fold without adding any new castings. Note that the grey figures are not listed in the (early) catalog options. The grey option seems to have come along later, perhaps after 1900. Not



## EARLY AMERICAN METAL: M<sup>c</sup>LOUGHLIN BROTHERS *(Continued)*



Figure 6: Spectacular box art from a McLoughlin Brothers Cavalry set.



Figure 7: Box art from a McLoughlin Brothers infantry set along with the set contents.

surprisingly, the box art and color lithography for the McLoughlin metal soldiers far eclipsed the quality of the figures themselves (see Figures 6 and 7).

In McLoughlin's 1895 catalog, on page 124, they introduce new lead or "tin" soldiers, along with a line drawing of the marching officer ("Captain"). Catalogs prior to 1895 contained no listings of paper or metal toy soldiers. Note that this corrects the assumptions of Richard O'Brian and Bill Nutting (in Richards "Collecting American-made Toy Soldiers," page 18) that the first metal toy soldier production of McLoughlin was not introduced until 1911. The page in the 1895 catalog reads:

"The following sized boxes of our "Soldiers" have the pieces packed in cotton and securely sewed into place so that they will not be damaged or lost about counters. The pieces are of the size of the cuts. Infantry weigh one ounce each; cavalry three ounces. The uniforms are red, white or blue. The paint is more durable than that upon the German. Each man is painted by hand accurately to show every stripe and button upon his uniform. The boxes have handsome lithographed labels in bright colors."



Figure 8: Example of catalog Size F - 12 "horsemen" in grey uniforms.

Note that because McLoughlin Brothers was already well-established in the toy market in the latter part of the 19th century, their production of both paper (and heavy card) and metal toy soldiers had a ready and wide market and distribution system beyond what other minor producers might possibly be able to achieve. It is notable that while most production of toy soldiers in the American market up until the first world war was presented in a format as "games" (10-pins, pop

guns, the Beiser/Eureka hinged board, etc.). McLoughlin's production (for both paper and metal) included games, but also made sets (and even singles) of soldiers to be played with as just soldiers, and let the child's imagination take over command of the regiments. This was pretty much a novel concept in American toy production in the pre-World War One era.



Figure 9: A set of blue McLoughlin figures on parade.



Figure 10: A small sample of the variety of colorful and largely accurate paper soldiers produced by McLoughlin Brothers.

The catalog lists the following options:

### **60 Cent SETS**

Size A contains 11 pieces, viz.:  
1 horseman, 1 captain, 1 drummer,  
1 flagman and 7 privates.

Size B contains 6 horsemen.

### **\$1.00 SETS**

Size C contains 17 pieces, viz.:  
1 horseman, 1 captain, 1 drummer,  
1 flagman and 13 privates.

Size D contains 9 horsemen.

### **\$1.25 SETS**

Size E contains 23 pieces, viz.: 1  
horseman, 1 captain, 2 drummers, 1  
flagman and 18 privates.

Size F contains 12 horsemen.

### **\$1.75 SETS**

Size G contains 27 pieces, viz.: 11  
horsemen, 1 captain, 2 drummers, 1  
flagman and 12 privates.

Size H contains 18 horsemen.

Size I contains 37 pieces, viz.: 1  
horseman, 1 captain, 2 drummers, 1  
flagman and 32 privates.

### **\$2.50 SETS**

Size K containing 37 pieces, viz.: 11  
horsemen, 1 captain, 2 drummers, 1  
flagman and 22 privates.

There are no further significant changes in the tin soldier listings. A set size J was never cataloged, but may have been held for some future (unreleased) set. The catalog of metal soldiers stays pretty static up until 1914 or 1915 when McLoughlin decided to cease production of these fellows. The only apparent change was the addition of a line drawing of the flagman in the 1911 and 1914 catalogs, and offering figures in grey as previously discussed. Otherwise, the contents remained similar. This, despite the fact that the paper catalog was expanding incredibly with new paper toy soldiers, soldiers in a variety of uniforms from around the world, soldier-based games, and exploiting current events such as the Spanish American War, the Great White Fleet and even Teddy Roosevelt's popularity. If you are interested in the magnificent paper production of McLoughlin, Ed Ryans' comprehensive, huge and colorful volume *"Collecting Paper Soldiers"* is the absolute standard reference and is a delight to read and drift through the many colorful illustrations.

I used to think that the metal toy soldier production of McLoughlin (1896-1920), Beiser/Eureka (1898-1928) and William Feix (1902-1925)

represented the early beginnings of American-made metal production. Certainly, these were the "Big Three" due to their expanded catalogs, the variety and quality they produced, and their ability to market to a wide audience throughout much of the USA. However, in the last few issues of "Old Toy Soldier," we have been treated to some unusual findings regarding even earlier American production of metal toy soldiers.

Robin Forsey's article (OTS 2022, 46: 3, pp 61-70) on Peter F. Pia presents evidence that there were metal soldiers made in the United States possibly in the 1850s, and some documented in 1867. These were pewter toys/flats made in the US, including soldiers (though no reference is provided). Forsey speculates that the Italian immigrant Pia family business made pewter toys, including some soldiers, as early as the first half of the 1860s, but unfortunately has been unable to document any specific evidence of dates for some limited examples marked "PIA" that were made in this early period or later in the 1880s. He does provide a lot of circumstantial evidence supporting this concept. These toys most likely had a very limited and local distribution, probably primarily to local retailers.



# EARLY AMERICAN METAL: M<sup>c</sup>LOUGHLIN BROTHERS (Continued)

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Regardless, the few and rare commercial examples of pewter flats marked PIA suggest these were some of the earliest of American metal toy soldier production in or shortly after the American Civil War.

In the fall of 2023 and the spring 2024 issues of "Old Toy Soldier," Gisbert Freber documented the remarkable early German flats that were made in America by the Master-Pewter caster Taugott Kinkeldey, using molds he brought with him to America from Stettin, Germany. He arrived in New York in 1856 with a suitcase full of slate molds. Thanks to the common nature of military fashion, the figures produced from these German molds could be painted to represent American soldiers, primarily from the American Revolution or the mid-19th century. He apparently had the skillset to produce more molds, many

of which are illustrated in Gisbert's articles. Like the Pia figures, though the scope and variety of production is much greater, these were probably limited to a local market which contributes to their rarity. While it is not at all clear just how successful this venture was commercially, or how long after his arrival he continued to produce his American flats, he was clearly a pioneer in American metal toy soldier production. If you have not yet read Gisbert's fascinating and well-illustrated articles, I recommend them to you.

It has been documented that toy soldiers, in particular German ZinnSoldaten (flats), were brought to the Americas as early as the 1700s, but these were either imported for sale or accompanying immigrant families. We now find that there was a slowly evolving American-made

toy soldier market as early as the 1850s. The American market place took a huge step when McLoughlin Brothers brought out the first fully-round American-made mass-produced metal toy soldiers. They were able to market them affordably to a wide audience and produce a commercially successful and historically important step in the legacy of American toy soldiers.

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# RECONNAISSANCE

## Personality figures at C&T

C&T Auctions, in Kent, UK presented another interesting auction in June 2024. As well as many Lucotte figures, and Britains Paris Office production, this included a number of Boer War and WW I personality figures by Heyde and other German makers.



*Lucotte 54mm scale WW I personalities, including King George V, King Peter of Serbia and General Joffre in the top row*



# RECONNAISSANCE *(Continued)*



*Heyde European Potentates and Plenipotentiaries, (Size 0, 75mm), German, French, British, Italian, Austro-Hungarian, Turkish, Russian, and Bavarian Royalty and others  
– Can readers help to identify all the personalities portrayed?*

# RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)



*Boer war personalities – Field Marshall Bob Roberts by Heinrich (70mm) and Noris (60mm)*



*More Boer war personalities – Kitchener by Spenkuch (70mm) and Heinrich (60mm)*



*Another Boer war personality – Lord Kitchener by Noris(60mm) and an unidentified French General (70mm), also by Noris*





# RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)



**GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

The most discussed man and greatest playwright of the day. His plays are known the world over. "St. Joan" described as the finest play since Shakespeare. A persistent crusader against humbug. The wittiest living Irishman and a brilliant debater. A rebel, a reformer, a Puritan, a prophet, and a Socialist!



**AMY JOHNSON**

England's greatest figure in the world of aviation. A native of Hull. Was a typist and a Sunday School teacher. In 1930, when only twenty-four, was the first woman to make a solo flight from England to Australia. Honoured by the King for her wonderful feat of courage and endurance.



**CHARLIE CHAPLIN**

The world's greatest living mirth-maker. Born in London forty-four years ago. Began his career acting on the music-halls. Left England for America, unknown and penniless. Won fame as a comedian full of tricks, impishness and whimsical fun. Now resides in Hollywood. Acknowledged as the screen's greatest genius—but still a simple fellow.



**LLOYD GEORGE**

Often known as the Wizard of Wales. Rose from being a country solicitor to Prime Minister. A brilliant debater and popular orator of magnetic personality. Famous for his strategy and courage as Premier during the War. A leading figure in the Peace Conferences. Even acclaimed saviour of his country.

Other notable items included in the C&T sale included rare Heyde for Bassett-Lowke figures of early 20th century personalities in their original boxes, including Charlie Chaplin and pioneer flier Amy Johnson, which eventually went under the hammer for £540 (\$675).

# RECONNAISSANCE (Continued)



Grey Iron American Family at the Beach, in the remains of its original box

## Dimestore rarities and other rarities at Old Toy Soldier Auctions

Old Toy Soldier Auctions has also come up with some real treasures recently, including a number of very rare Dimestores and a Phillip Segal "Hey Diddle Diddle" nursery rhyme set which went under the hammer for \$10,000!



The Cabana and Boardwalk with life guard and other details

## Rare B-sized box set #85

James Opie, an aficionado of Britains b-sized figures states in one of his most recent books, Britains Toy Soldiers – the History and Handbook 1893-2013, that he has never seen a boxed example of this rare set. Imagine my excitement at seeing this image in a small country auction in the UK.

More details in a future issue, once I have unpacked my latest b-sized acquisition!





# BEAU GESTE, THE FRENCH IN NORTH AFRICA: THE END OF EMPIRE, 1830-1962

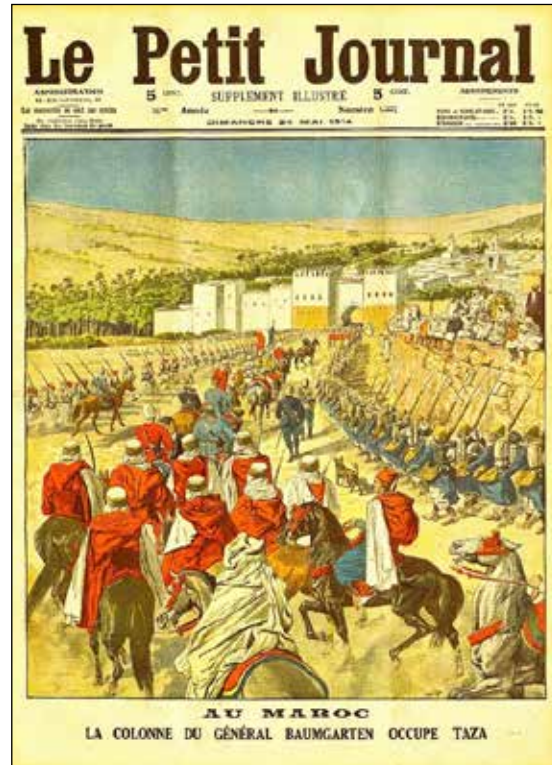
*By Bill Anderson*

Beau Geste



Advertising poster for the 1939 film

Beau Geste was a 1939 American adventure movie, starring Garry Cooper, based on a 1924 novel by P.C.Wren. It was set in a desert fort. This was the second attempt to film the story. A third version appeared in 1966. Such exciting images provided excellent inspiration for war games with toy soldiers.



Au Maroc front page from a Parisian newspaper  
(published 1863-1944)

Following the decline of the Ottoman Empire, French troops had invaded Algeria in 1830. From 1848 until independence in 1962, the French regarded Algeria as an integral part of France.

The French Colonial Empire established a protectorate in Morocco between the years of 1912-1956 through a policy of indirect rule. Between 1914 - 1921 Berber tribes staged a running conflict, primarily a guerrilla warfare campaign, to which the French responded militarily.





# BEAU GESTE, THE FRENCH IN NORTH AFRICA: THE END OF EMPIRE, 1830-1962 *(Continued)*

The French Protectorate of Tunisia lasted from 1881-1956, following the French invasion in 1881.

## Britains in North Africa, 1905-1966



Movies like *Beau Geste* gave a romantic impression, which almost certainly did not reflect the realities of the times, with French colonization and the subsequent conflict across their North African colonies of Morocco, Algeria and to a lesser extent-Tunisia.

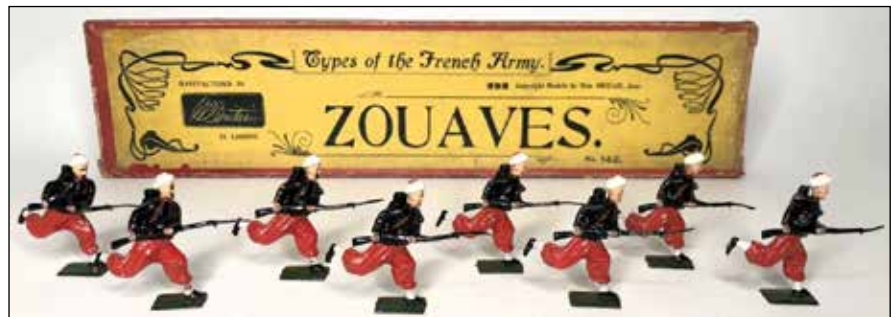
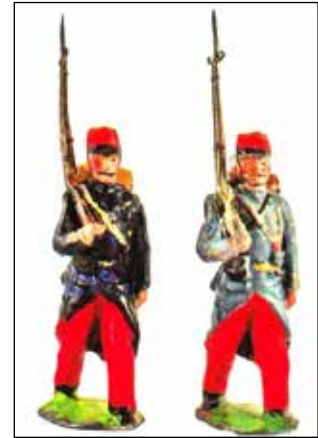
The cinema created a glamorous image of the Legion which may have prompted Britains to produce their set #1711 in 1939. Of course, these were just playthings. But like Britains Cowboy sets, where the Indians were the adversaries, in this case we have the French versus their Arab foes.

Set #1711 was just the latest in a long line of Britains' depictions of French Army types. Inspired by their colorful uniforms, Britains had been producing such troops since 1905.



Colorful French uniforms from the period.

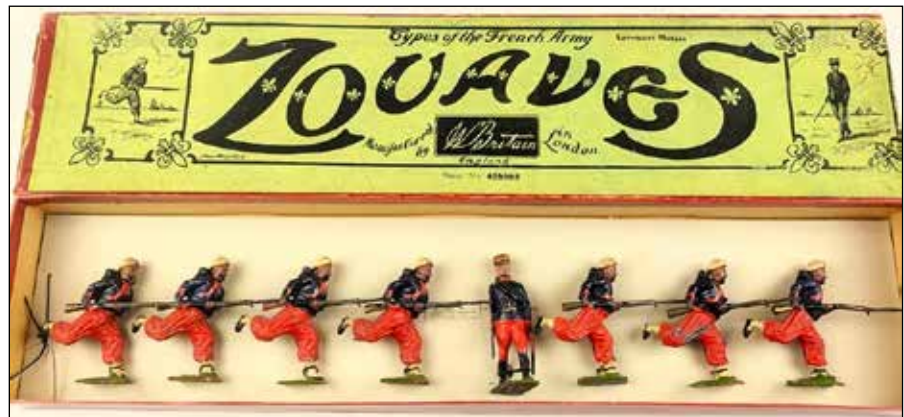
Set no. 141, French Infantry de Ligne, was Britains' first attempt to portray French uniforms. The oval-based first version initially wore dark blue greatcoats, later changed to the "horizon blue" colour, adopted by the French army in 1915. Later versions adopted a blue rather than red kepi. Set no. 1711, required just a change to the white kepi to create the famous Foreign Legion!



Set No. 142 depicted French Zouaves, 1905—1966. The composition and labeling of the set changed over the years, from the original Printers label to the

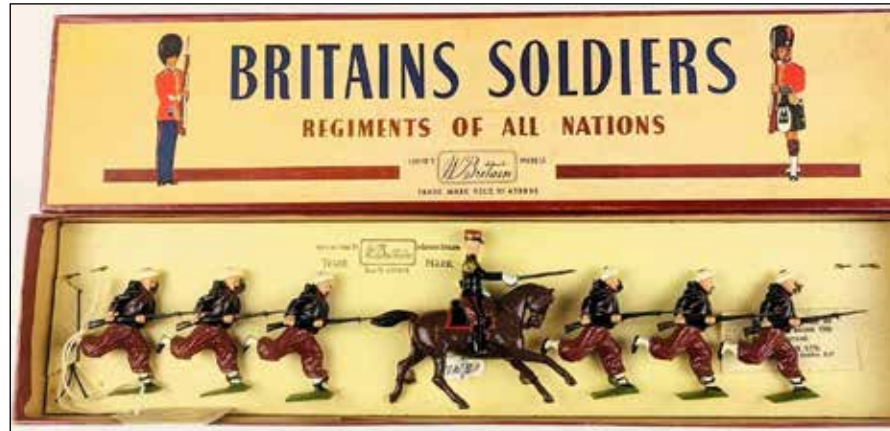
illustrated Whistock version, and finally the more familiar ROAN.

The earliest sets had a fixed arm officer. By the end of production, the officer had been given a horse!





# BEAU GESTE, THE FRENCH IN NORTH AFRICA: THE END OF EMPIRE, 1830-1962 *(Continued)*



Set No. 164, Arabs mounted (on Horses), 1911-1966, with a post WW II box. The original Whisstock illustrated label was entitled 'Bedouin Arabs'.



Set No. 187, Arabs on Foot, 1914-1960, was introduced a few years later, possibly influenced by the Paris Office, which was by then in full production

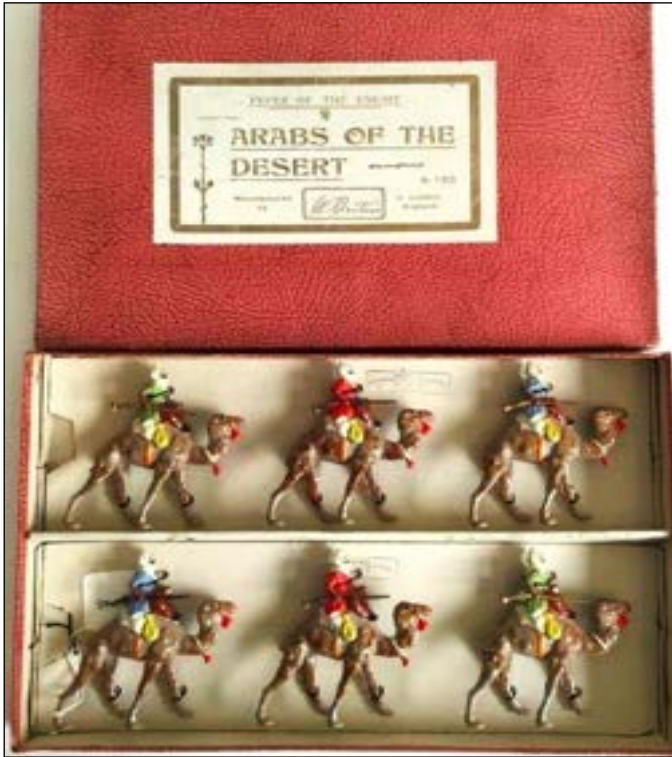
The first version of the set used the illustrated Whisstock label. The earliest sets are often on green bases.



Set No. 191, French Turcos, 1915-1941.

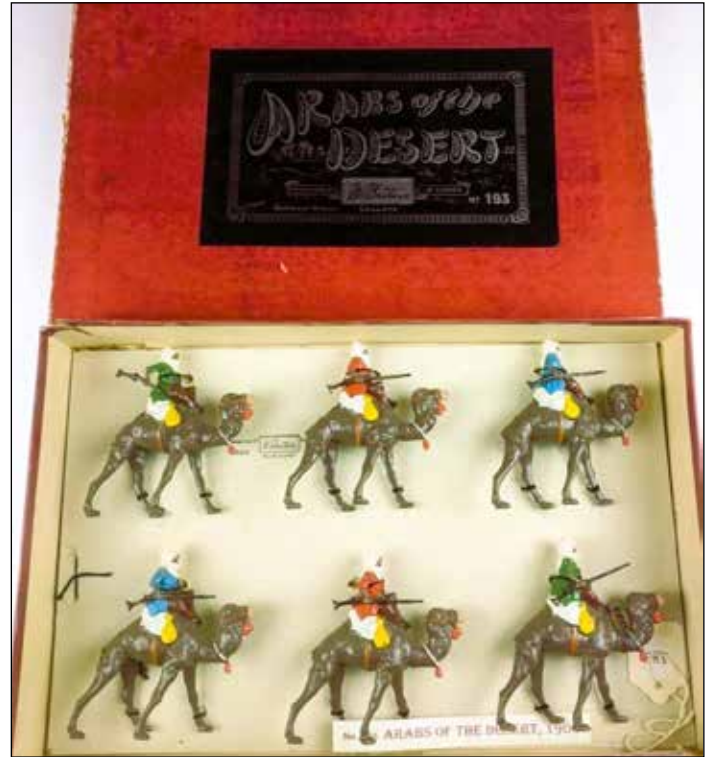
Here is an early set with the Whisstock label, used up until 1944.

# BEAU GESTE, THE FRENCH IN NORTH AFRICA: THE END OF EMPIRE, 1830-1962 *(Continued)*



Set No.193, Arabs on Camels, 1916-1941. This magnificent figure may well have been inspired by the Paris Office.

The example shown here has a Printer's label – Types of the Enemy, Arabs of the Desert, on an unusual textured box.

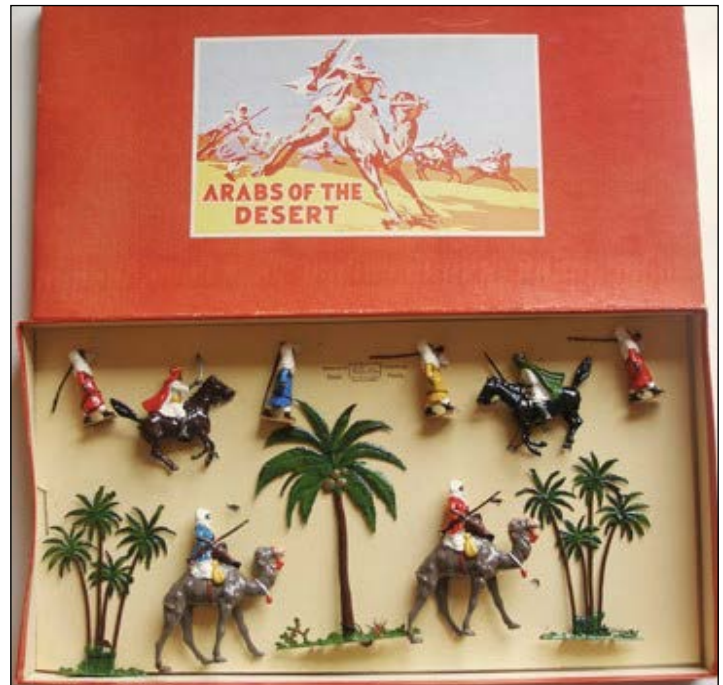


This example of Set No. 193 shows the more common Whisstock label

These figures must have been very popular amongst the buying public as Britains offered them in a large variety of permutations and combinations



Set No. 223 contained Arabs mounted on horses and on foot. It was sold from 1925-1941. The set contained figures from sets 164 and 187. Here the set is housed in a late issue green box, with a generic Armies of the World label.



Set No. 224 comprised Arabs mounted on horses, and camels, with more on foot, as well as palm trees. It was available from 1924-1965. This example shows the colourful new label introduced about 1950. Earlier versions used a generic Whisstock label.



# BEAU GESTE, THE FRENCH IN NORTH AFRICA: THE END OF EMPIRE, 1830-1962 *(Continued)*



Set No. 247, Arabs Mounted and Dismounted, 1927-1941, was a smaller version of Set No. 223, probably produced to meet the requirements of particular retailers. It contained just 7 figures.



Set No. 292 was another combination containing 15 Arabs mounted and on foot. Set No. 300 was an even larger version with three rows of figures.

Other combinations were available, including the rare Set No. 301, Arabs Mounted and on Foot with Bell Tent, 1929- 1941. We have not been able to find an image of this set.



As noted above, Set No. 1711, French Foreign Legion, marching at the slope with mounted officer, was introduced in 1939. The set was very popular, and production continued post-war until the end of hollowcasting.



Set No. 1712, French Foreign Legion Display Set, was a short-lived two row version of Set No. 1711, produced for just a couple of years, 1939-1941.



This was however the exception, as Britains continued to innovate and introduce new sets and figures to cater for those keen to reenact the wars in the desert. For example, Set No. 2046, Arabs of the Desert mounted and on foot, introduced new running figures with various weapons and was available from 1950 -1966.



# BEAU GESTE, THE FRENCH IN NORTH AFRICA: THE END OF EMPIRE, 1830-1962 *(Continued)*

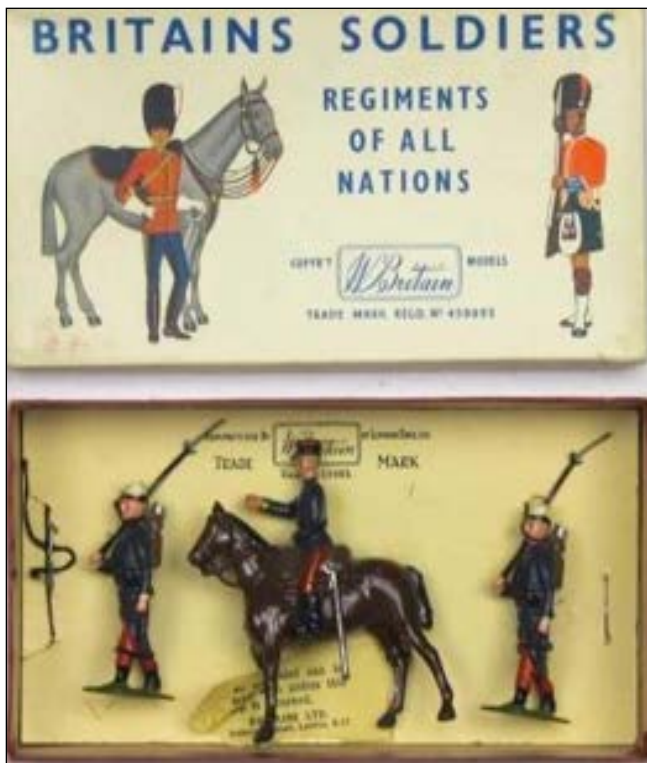


This was later renumbered as Set No.9391, as part of the 9000 series. The new version had a cellophane fronted box to display the figures and was sold from 1962-1966.

Britains explored a range of ways to market these ever-popular figures. This included the so called "half sets", half the size of a normal Britains single row box, containing just 3 or 4 figures, as well as individual figures in "Picture Pack" boxes.

## The "Half Sets" and Picture Packs

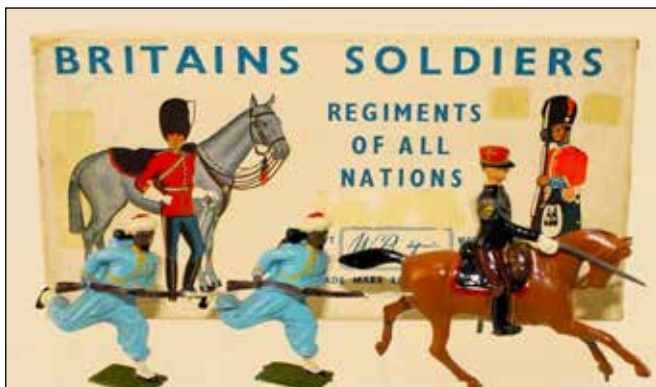
The "Half Set" range comprised around 30 sets, numbered 2118-2147. They were only available in 1957, 1958 and 1959 catalogues. With a specially designed label, the sets were literally half the normal sized sets, but were made up from combinations of previously available castings, albeit with a few paint variations. They were probably aimed primarily at the collectors' market.



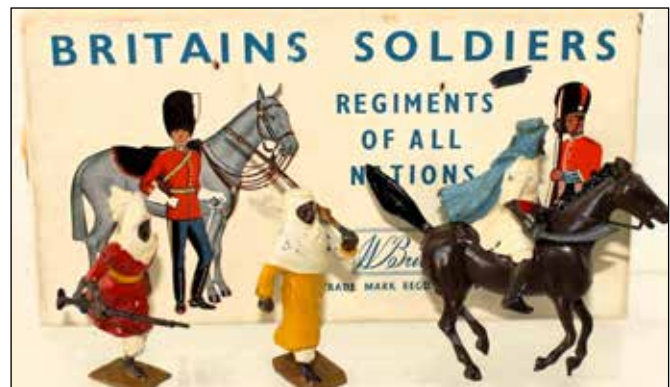
Set No. 2136, French Foreign Legion.



Set No. 2137, French Foreign Legion in action.



Set No. 2138, French Tirailleurs (Zouaves) with Mounted Officer.



Set No. 2147, Arabs Mounted and on Foot.



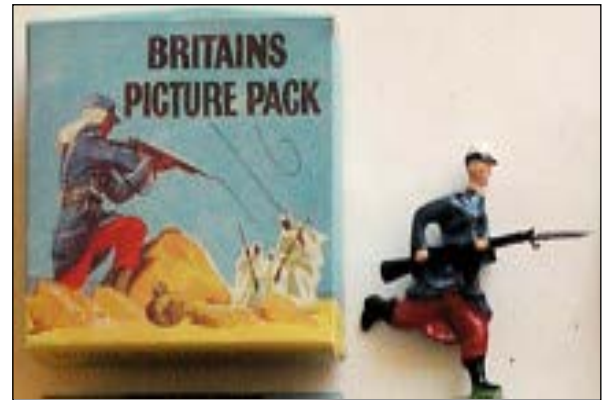
# BEAU GESTE, THE FRENCH IN NORTH AFRICA: THE END OF EMPIRE, 1830-1962 *(Continued)*

## Military Picture Packs

Single figures in individual boxes were first issued in 1955. There were nine Foreign Legion and six Arab figures available in the range. The figures were all available in existing sets. The accompanying image shows some examples.



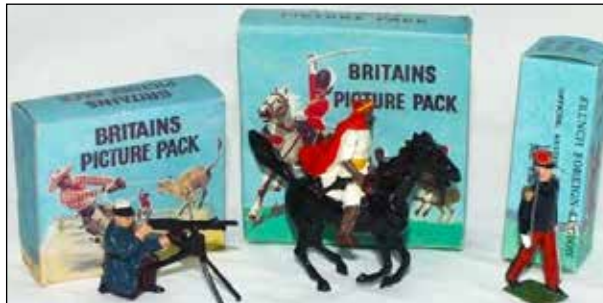
561B



1368B



1035B



1372B

829B

1367B

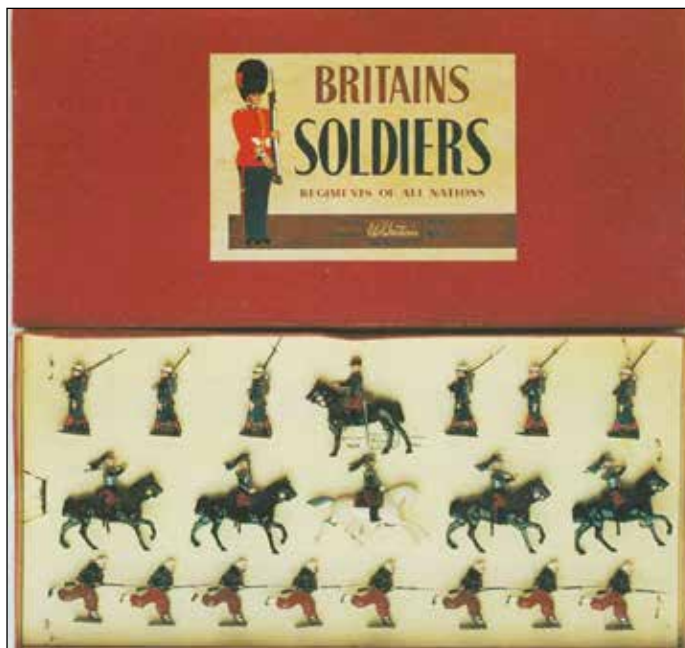


1329B

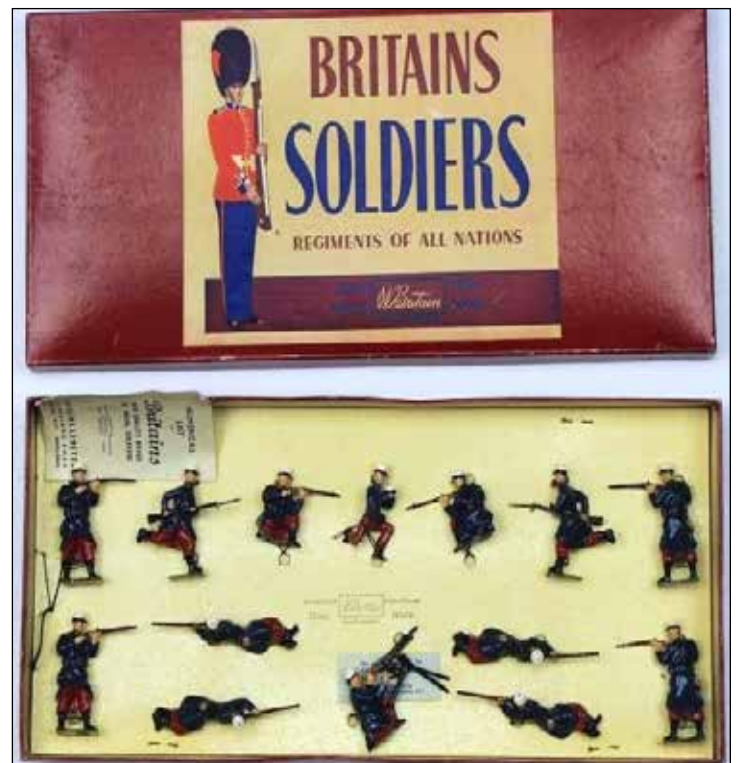
1369B

## Last Hurrah!

Britains signed off with a last Hurrah that included some larger displays as well as the magnificently sculpted Algerian Spahis.



Set No. 2050, French Foreign Legion, Zouaves and Cuirassiers, was a non-catalogued set containing Cuirassiers as well as Zouaves and Foreign Legionnaires.



Set No. 2095, French Foreign Legion in action, 1954-1966, introduced some exciting new figures based on the pre-war Infanterie de Ligne in action in service dress. The head with Adrian helmet was replaced by one wearing a kepi.

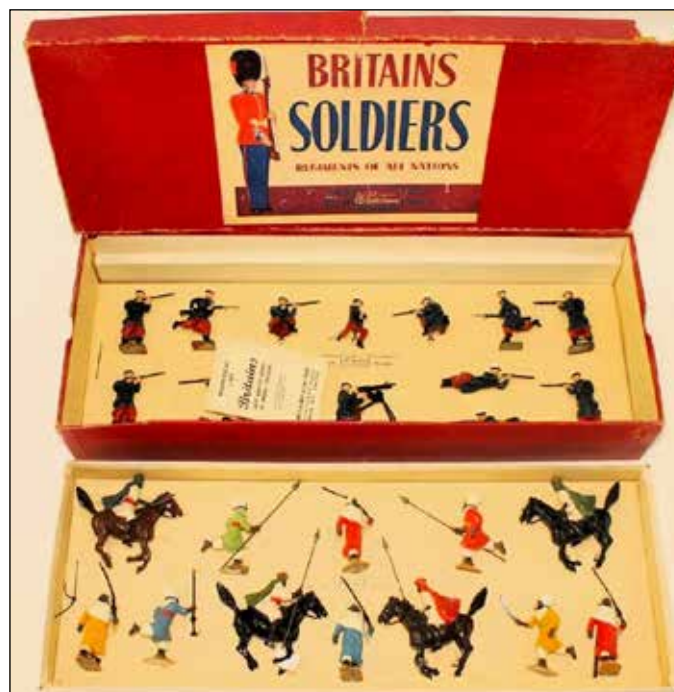
Originally a 14-piece set, 2 pieces were removed in 1960.



# BEAU GESTE, THE FRENCH IN NORTH AFRICA: THE END OF EMPIRE, 1830-1962 *(Continued)*

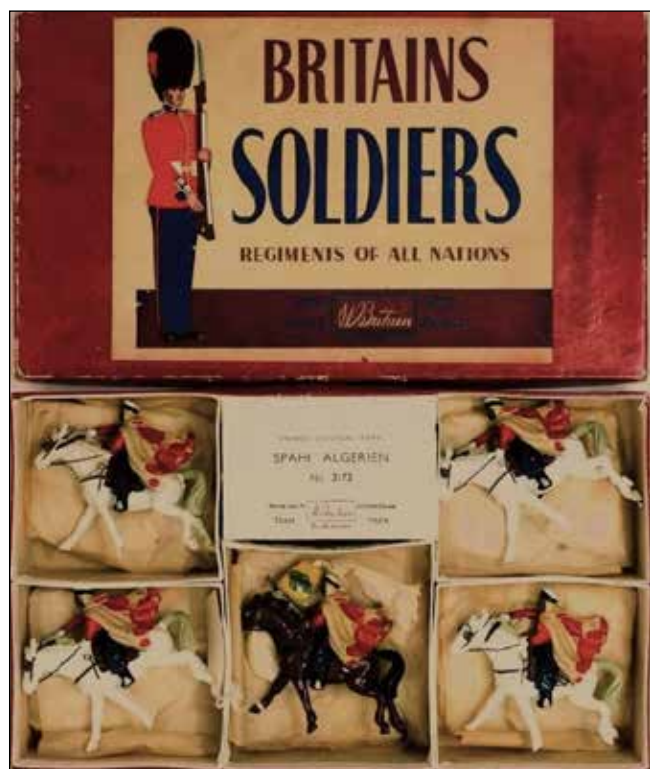


Set No. 9366, Foreign Legion firing, 1962-1966, was contained in a cellophane fronted window box to better display the contents to eager buyers. A mounted officer was added in 1962.



Set No. 2097 was an even more ambitious combination of French Foreign Legion and attacking Arabs, 1954-1961.

This was a 26-piece set, cut to 23 in 1960. It was a combination of sets 2095 and 2046, contained in a two-layer box.



Last, but by no means least, Set. No. 2172, Troops of the Algerian Spahis, was introduced briefly between 1958-1960. Initially these figures were sold in a standard Britains box, but problems with the fragile butts of their rifles prompted a redesign to try to provide greater protection. Although undoubtedly magnificently designed figures, they cannot have been a great commercial success, as they were withdrawn from the catalogue only a couple of years after their introduction. This means that they are highly regarded by collectors and usually attract a high price.



Rare French and Arabs Sales Sample box, No Label, 1950s.

Sources for Images mostly from OTS AUCTIONS.

Photographs from Joe Wallis' *Soldiers of Greater Britain and Armies of the World* books are used with his permission.



# READERS' MESSAGES

**Luigi Toiati** responded to our request for help in identifying two large scale hollowcast figures in the last issue:

*These are Spanish uniforms of the turn of 19th-20th century, probably Dragoons. I guess the brand might be Alymer, but it could be one of the thousand cottage manufacturers of the period. Hoping this could be useful, Luigi.*



*Has anyone else recognised these figures (see the previous issue for larger images!)?*

**Bill Nutting** wrote in on two topics, first, in response to Will Beierwaltes piece on Feix:

*Richard O'Brien used my picture of my Russian officer in his OTS No. 2. Mine's fixed arm. I know the figure very well, although I can't put my hands on it at the moment. I'm very sure it's a red herring to think it might be a moveable arm or that there might be a moveable arm version. There's just a misunderstanding somewhere. It's a fixed arm figure.*

(Editor's note: Bill also sent in a photo confirming that the figure is fixed arm.)

*On the divvying up of figures I agree generally with the team on the split between German-made and American-made hollowcasts. I wouldn't think that Feix would have made, marketed or sold sets like what I think are German-made artillery teams pictured, but I'll take this as food for thought.*

*I don't remember ever seeing the gilt Feix figures before. That's great! In turn I'm not sure we would count the foot cowboy as Feix. On the cowboy I'd defer to Kent Kline. He's seen more figures than anyone else I'd think.*

*I'm sceptical of the idea that the helmeted blue over red soldiers are Spanish as opposed to a generic figure or enemy, but I appreciate the idea. If we can find some good contemporary illustrations, I'll tip my hat.*

*This did get me thinking differently about when the Feix soldiers were first made. Thinking broadly, I would think that the earliest helmeted figures would have been released before the Spanish-American War. I would think that the Montana hat figures would have been released during the war in 1898. I would think that soldier makers wouldn't have released a new helmeted figure after the Spanish-American War. I'm just thinking out loud, using James Opie's ICP (Inherent Commercial Probability). One thing I do know is that we don't need to make too much of the earliest Feix ad in Playthings magazine – in 1903. The main reason the earliest ad is from 1903 is that this is the first year Playthings was published!*

*Looking at the Fall 2023 bases in Figure 13, I'll note that the real or most important Eureka base is the fully round base with prongs to be twisted into a locked position on the stand-up board. On the Britains bases we think the important figures are the ones dated 15.6.1906. The statement that "[in] 1909 Eureka went completely to rectangular bases to fit in their new target game hinges" is off in a couple ways and by a number of years. Basically, we should be thinking of Eureka as just the earliest iteration with the fixed stand-up display and the usually fully round bases. After just this earliest period as Eureka, Beiser transitioned to American Soldier Company.*

*In the Winter 2024 piece there's a misstatement about Eureka being "New Jersey-based." It should be Brooklyn of course.*

*In the Fall 2023 there's another miss on McLoughlin. Not "McGloughlin." I'd say that's worth a correction in the PDF online.*

## READERS' MESSAGES (Continued)

Bill also wrote in regarding the Paper Soldiers that featured on our last cover:

*Saw the paper soldiers on the cover of Spring 2024. My first reaction was that this was just a random sample out of the thousands of paper soldiers out there. But I took your prompt and looked up the maker in Edward Ryan's Paper Soldiers.*

*Edward pictures another set in the series – Spahis Algeriens. Looks like there were 12 different units in the series. He lists the publisher at Librairie Théodore Lefèvre et Cie, with Emile Guérin, éditeur.*

*Edward's description captures the dramatic presentation of the soldiers – as a huge strip 42 ½" x 8" – with the figures probably 6" high as you note.*

*Edward's concluding note is also powerful: "The quality of the figures, both in terms of the accuracy with which the uniforms are depicted and excellence of the design and color lithography, is so exceptional as to make them, in my opinion, among the finest paper soldiers ever published." I know my longtime friend Edward had a great depth of knowledge and a keen eye. Apparently you do too!*

Here are some images of part of the set of Spahis pictured in Ryan's book. They truly are magnificent figures. Look out for a more detailed analysis of this series by Russ Bednarek.





# READERS' MESSAGES (Continued)

**Gisbert Freber** - Some while ago I posted in Zinnlaube magazine (Volume 8) a question about an interesting Zulu figure I had discovered. This was semi-ronde but in 54mm scale. A splendid piece of sculpting as you can see from the accompanying images.

Gisbert Freber was kind enough to answer my request in a subsequent issue of Zinnlaube, suggesting that it was made by Krause of Gotha because of a similar shield found on a

larger scale figure that has definitely been attributed to that company. Recently he came back to me with a further response:

*"I am just back from my motorcycle trip to Switzerland and Italy. I met Francesco Marchiandi in Turin and saw his collection. He is reorganizing it but was able to show me some things, including a box with identical Zulus and I remembered the figure from you. It is interesting, because we found out that the maker is*

*Friedrich Ammon and that your figure is slightly different. The weapon in your figure is different."*

Gisbert sent a picture showing one Zulu armed with bayoneted rifle (probably captured from an unfortunate British soldier!) while the second was armed with the more usual assegai or spear. Gisbert also told me that Francesco will write an article later for OTS. So, we look forward to seeing that in due course.



**Francesco Marchiandi** has also been in touch on another matter. He enjoyed reading Bill Anderson's article about Italy's campaign in Ethiopia in the Spring 2024 issue of the magazine (48: 1).

*"I would like to point out an error regarding the uniforms at the beginning of the article 'The unclaimed colony'. While the colonial Italian on the left is correct, on the con-*

*trary, the one on the right is not an 'Ethiopian tribesmen'! He is a soldier belonging to the Italian groups called 'Dubat'; they were of Somali origin and part of the Italian colonial army, initially established in 1924 to defend and counteract marauding gangs etc. at the borders. The officers were Italian, the non-commissioned officers were Somali or Yemeni. Among other things, they were also protagonists in the border*

*incident of Ual Ual on 5 December 1934, against the Abyssinian troops who were trying to reconquer part of the territories they claimed. This bloody incident was used many months later as a pretext to start the war."*

Francesco also sent in the following images of Italian troops embarking for Abyssinia.



# READERS' MESSAGES (Continued)

Francesco has also written in to inform us that later this year the EUROMA 2024 event will take place on the 7th and 8th September, and that, as I already wrote in last October, it will be dedicated solely to figures/soldiers and so-called fantasy.

There will be a competition for models and model dioramas and about forty trading tables for buying and selling toy soldiers and accessories.

I attach the posters relating to the event and for any reservation in the same hotel as the event etc. The location is always the same.





# NAPOLEON'S TOY SOLDIERS - IMPORTANT LOT OF VERY EARLY LEAD SOLDIERS AUCTIONED IN PARIS

By Rob Wilson



An historically very important set of lead soldiers came up for auction in Paris earlier this year. Reputedly made for Napoleon's son, the King of Rome, in the early 1800s, this was one of the most complete collections of such figures to be offered for public sale.

Rather more like chess pieces than what we would today regard as a toy soldier, these 88 4cm tall figures represented a number of Napoleon's infantry regiments. Cast in lead, they are painted in the uniform of Napoleon's legions. In this case, they have white jackets, with blue lapels and gold buttons, with details such as rank painted on the top of each shako. The shakos are decorated with fleur-de-lys.

Presented on their fifteen original wooden strips, nine each carrying three soldiers, four for eight soldiers and two for sixteen soldiers, the set was offered in its original wooden box with remnants of an annotation in pen "... to Mr. Dubois Aymé in Grenoble". Jean-Marie Joseph Aimé Dubois, known as Dubois-Aymé lived from 1779-1846, and the figures have remained in the family since then.

A letter in the family from Dubois Aymé, addressed to Edouard Devilliers (his friend from the École Polytechnique) in 1818 reads:

« J'ai reçu les petits bons hommes de plomb, mon cher Edouard, mais je voudrais que tu demandas à

Magincel la petite note qui devait les accompagner et qui indique quels sont les grades qui répondent aux lettres placées sur les shakos. »

*"I have received the little lead figures, my dear Edouard, but I would like you to ask Magincel for the little note that was to accompany them and which indicates which ranks correspond to the letters placed on the shakos."*

The group, or the "game" as it was referred to in the Dubois Aymé family, was said to have come from the King of Rome who had a similar game representing the 21st and 22nd Light Infantry Regiments, that had been given to him for his 1st birthday on March 20, 1812. Napoleon Francis



# NAPOLEON'S TOY SOLDIERS - IMPORTANT LOT OF VERY EARLY LEAD SOLDIERS AUCTIONED IN PARIS (Continued)

Joseph Charles, known as Napoleon II, was the son of Napoleon I and Marie Louise, Archduchess of Austria. He was created King of Rome when he was born.

Jean Marie Joseph Aimé Dubois was a student of the École Polytechnique (1796). Appointed engineer of Bridges and Roads, he found himself at the age of less than 20 in the scientific commission set up by Monge and Berthollet, within the French Army's expedition to Egypt.

On his return from Egypt, he entered the Customs administration, in Marseille. He entered politics and was a Deputy for Ile-et-Vilaine in 1831, and then for Isère. He is known for his support for the abolition of the death penalty and for arguing against the prosecution of the Bonaparte family

Christian Blondieau in his *"Little soldiers. The collector's guide"*, (Petits soldats. Le guide du collectionneur, Képi rouge Paris, 1996, p.565) notes other examples of similar models of "Kriegspiel", allowing children to reconstruct an imaginary battlefield. Other references to these toys can be found at the Napoleon.org website: see for example, Karine Huguenaud, *"Lead Soldiers of the King of Rome"*, and *"Toys of Prince 1770-1870"*, catalogue of the exhibition at the castles of Malmaison and Bois Préau, RMN, 2001, fig 40. p.114.

Estimated at 6,000-8,000 Euros (roughly the same equivalent in dollars) excluding commission charges, the final hammer price is not shown on the auctioneer's website.

<https://www.interencheres.com/meubles-objets-art/mobilier-et-objets-dart-dont-souvenirs-de-jean-marie-dubois-ayme-1779-1846-et-de-la-campagne-degypte-633994>



<https://www.coutaubegarie.com/lot/152354/25666195?>

However, a number of similar (albeit much smaller and less fine condition) groups have gone under the hammer in other auctions. For example, a group of 8, with its original strip base, was sold in June 2021 by De Baecque

et Associés. Estimated at 600-800 Euros, the hammer came down at 2,296 Euros including commission charges. While in March of this year a dozen similar figures (including 2 officers) in much poorer condition was sold for 2,080 Euros. Keep your eyes peeled!



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# TOYDELL - FILLING IN THE LINE (AGAIN)

By Norman Joplin

The advertisement for Toydell, in my article In OTS Volume 36, #2, in 2012, states that there were 40 figures in the range. I have continued to search for and justify this number. A recent acquisition from British dealer Mercator Trading( via eBay), got me a little nearer to this total.

This newly acquired group is illustrated in the accompanying photo. The new figures include a Coldstream Guard, Scots Guard, Grenadier Guard Officer, (as shown in the original advertisement), a wounded Cowboy, a Mexican and a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman.

The range of Toydell figures was first thought to represent only Ceremonial figures of Great Britain. However, it seems clear from this new evidence that an attempt was being made to introduce the figures to the American market (considering the subject

matter of 3 of these newly discovered figures). See also OTS volume 45 #4, 2012, for examples of an American Indian and Cowboy aimed at the same market.

This newspaper advertisement placed by the firm in 1953 (also illustrated here) mentions a retail outlet in London (Earlsfield). It also gives details of the method and material from which the figures were made. Some of the text is repeated here:

***Toydell... are the Company manufacturing the amazing range of Toy Models which can be seen at London's leading Stores ... and which have caused such widespread comment because of their unique average size of 5 in. in height, painstaking attention to detail, authentic colour schemes, and a "high gloss" finish which has to be seen to be believed, together with***

***a range of over 40 models which makes for the production of the most exclusive Toy in the Country.***

***Constructed through the most advanced casting system of its kind to be found anywhere, we suggest that if you would like the opportunity of securing for your boy (ages between 6 and 60!) the Christmas present he will treasure most, you may do so.***

At present I am lucky to have accumulated 29 different figures. The thrill for me as a collector is obviously to come up with further examples, with the discovery of the unknown remaining pieces being my goal.

If any reader can help, please email [info@normanjoplin.com](mailto:info@normanjoplin.com)



Picture 1: the new discoveries: From left to right: Coldstream and Scots Guards in service dress, Grenadier Guard Officer, wounded Cowboy, Mexican and Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman



Picture 2: The newly discovered advertisement.

# MANOIL DIMESTORE PROTOTYPES

*By Norman Joplin*

After the demise of the 5 and 10 cents stores the toys that were sold there became almost collectors' items. Toy Soldiers, Figures and Vehicles, both metal and plastic, found their way into the secondary market.

Enhancing the interest and re-sale of these items were the specialist toy soldier events. The Chicago show eventually became #1, but with many regional shows joining in. Don Pielin, a pioneer Dimestore collector, ran the Chicago show, which grew from small beginnings to the largest event of its kind in the world.

Dale Pauwels, also a collector from the Chicago area, is thought to have coined the term "Dimestores" in relation to these toys. Don Pielin, along with several partners, came up with the idea of a specialist magazine for collectors (the Old Toy Soldier Newsletter (OTSN)) which later became the Old Toy Soldier Magazine (OTSM). The latter is now celebrating its 47th year. The combination of the exposure of "Dimestores" created a whole new hobby for collectors.

Meanwhile, on the east coast, Bill Lango initiated a show in New Jersey, near the home of the major Dimestore manufacturers Manoil and Barclay. As interest grew, and vast quantities of toy soldiers and other figures started to appear, thirst for knowledge was the next step. Richard O'Brien, Don



Manoil Prototypes

Pielin, and Stan Alekna all produced reference books, with Don and Stan being regular contributors to OTSN and other old toy soldier journals and publications.

As the years have gone by, the hobby of Dimestores is still vibrant, but new finds are getting increasingly rare, we have seen it all – but maybe not!

Auction companies have been very helpful in turning up previously unknown figures, and items being consigned to various specialist auction companies still reveal many treasures. Such is the case with several recent (and hopefully future) auctions held by Philip Weiss in New York. The family of the Manoil owners (Jack and Maurice

Manoil) have recently submitted many Dimestore prototypes for auction, which help to fill in several gaps in our knowledge of what was produced.

These are illustrated in the accompanying photos.

I would like to thank Philip Weiss and his staff for the help given in reproducing the following prototype examples. I am informed that future consignments are expected, and OTSM will bring news of these at a later date. For further details readers can contact Philip Weiss at Weiss Auctions

74 Merrick Rd, Lynbrook, NY 11563, Telephone: (516) 594-0731.



More Manoil Prototypes, including Fireman and Indian



Davy Crockett Money bank prototype.



## MANOIL DIMESTORE PROTOTYPES *(Continued)*

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Manoil Lift Truck prototype, 3 in box, with rubber tires



Manoil Prototype Tank /Armoured car



Manoil plaster mold for deer



More Manoil Plaster molds

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Info: <https://chicagotoysoldiershow.com/>)

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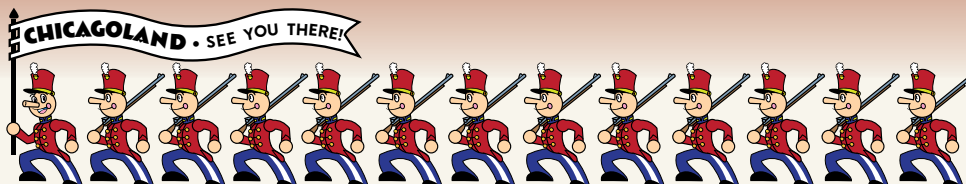
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