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COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Tasty delights at C&T

In my book, if you want a wide variety of great collectables, then look no further than C&T Auctioneers. Its last sale included a wartime-era Tipp & Co tinplate Fuhrer's Mercedes; this superb clockwork vehicle containing two Hitler figures plus a driver, and in good overall condition, although the radiator mascot had gone astray. It raised £800.

Old was good: a pre-War B.G.L. Electric Speedway game comprised seven lead painted speedway bikes mounted on a revolving disc. Battery-operated (albeit untested!), this spectacle was designed to provide flashing and changing lights as the bikers raced around the circuit. Undoubtedly a rare survivor, it came with inner card packing and was described as being in very good original condition. It sold for £220.



Not one but two Adolfs accompanied the impressive Mercedes staff car from Tipp & Co.



Small was beautiful in this take on the microcar from Bandai.

Meccano also fell into this category, when a pre-War No 2 Constructor Car, a boat tail two seater in blue and cream with red seats, appeared. A striking colour scheme and a working clockwork motor, with original key, together with a Meccano Liverpool transfer to the rear of the model, helped propel it to a finishing bid of £640.

The disparity between boxed and unboxed diecasts was exemplified by the iconic Corgi James Bond Aston Martin. This was the first issue, in gold; a good stand-alone example fetched £85 whilst £360 was the final

bid on a boxed version with all the necessary accessories. In similar vein, a first issue Corgi Batmobile with leaflet, lapel badge and missiles didn't hang around and closed on £460. A good deal more than that (£760) was required to secure the Walls Thames Ice Cream Van (No.447): with its correct special Corgi club leaflet/instructions and unapplied self-adhesive decal sheet, it was as (choc?) mint as they come.

If quirky was your forte, then the 7 inch long tinplate Bandai Mazda R360 Coupe in maroon probably ticked your box. With a tin printed interior and working friction motor, it even came with a Bandai shop tag. The bidding settled on £200. ■

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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Sutcliffe... and Star Wars

The last two day Hanham auction threw up a wide range of collectables, with some bargains evident for those who had done their homework. Take the Lesney Yesteryear (Y-6) Type 35 Bugatti: this was finished in red, and not the usual French Blue, and I must say, I haven't seen one for a while. Virtually mint with an acceptable box it sold for £20 (original price 4s 2d!).

The Hasbro made boxed Star Wars Rogue One Rapid Fire Imperial AT-ACT action figure playset was interesting in that it was still sealed. Containing an Imperial AT-ACT driver, Sergeant

Jyn Erso and C2-B5 figures, it soared away to realise £200. Still on Star Wars, the Kenny Baker (R2D2) autographed 8x10" colour photograph of the star alongside the robot was an interesting bit of ephemera, which was snapped up for £60. Finally, a 1984 Kenner made Star Wars The Power Of The Force One-Man Sand Skimmer Vehicle was a seldom seen item from the end of the Star Wars line. Securely carded, it was bid to £300.

Hands up if you recall Camberwick Green. A miniature town diorama, based around the Robert Harrop designed resin figures, featured eight original Robert Harrop characters including

Windy Miller, Dr Mopp, Mrs Dingle and others. There were all set within a scale diorama display case featuring the shops from the series. Plenty of interest pushed the set to £150. A similar diorama, albeit bigger, showing the Town Square, made £320.

The Sutcliffe Models Sea Wolf Atomic Submarine tinplate clockwork toy was surely a steal at £50: it appeared unused and still had the little bag containing the key for the motor. It took £110, though, to win the original 1960s National Periodical Publications Batman Batzooka Pop Gun set. Although incomplete, it still retained the original pop gun, a pouch of Bat Bullets, three of the cardboard targets, a pin

badge and some other items.

From around the same era was the Tri-ang Minic tinplate clockwork Green Line single decker bus. With two-tone green bodywork and with Green Line decals, it lacked a key but the clockwork motor was functional; it sold for £80.

For cops 'n robbers fans, the 1980's Corgi Toys model No. 292 Starsky & Hutch Ford Torino set was something of a time-warrior in that the model and accompanying figures had never been removed from the box. Like new, this lot finally settled on £190. ■



An oddity was this semi-boxed Batman gun set: a good example of Lone*Star repurposing a Wild West handgun, methinks!

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Trains galore at Northwich

For lovers of steam or electric or diesel, the recent Warrington and Northwich auction was pretty much focussed on the railway genre, with probably over 95% of the sale items related to this hobby.

There were no big names and no outlandish items, it has to be said, but for those hobbyists intent on enhancing their

collections, there was a great choice.

Skaledale buildings were in abundance on the day: an unmade bakery, menswear shop and garage realised £45; and the same money secured an off-licence, bay terraced garden wall and a barber's. Just £30 was required for the steam shed while a pair of terraced houses and a bank sold for £55. Other

building lots fell around £40-45 range.

Two, three-rail Hornby Dublo train sets went under the hammer, both realising £40. The Duchess of Atholl loco with two red and custard coaches and other stock sat in a tired box while a black Tank loco and assorted rolling stock looked to be equally good, albeit also in an ageing box. Bargain of the day was possibly the Tri-ang

Railways Operating Coach and Ore Set which was still boxed although unchecked for completeness: £10 to you, sir.

On the big front, an O gauge Caledonian Railway 0-6-0 Tank three-rail loco with a centre pick-up fitted was bid to £85: it was not mint but looked to be serviceable. The O gauge GNR 0-6-0 Tank locomotive in pale green was better and also

benefited from a central pick-up (£75) while the scratchbuilt O gauge (three-rail) GER Steam Tram Car was a bit of an oddity but clearly a labour of someone's love: this sold for £50. Something of a loner was the Hornby O gauge tinplate GWR Tank with clockwork motor; it lacking its key and having clearly been enjoyed over the years, it was knocked down for just £20. ■

NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH



**CORGI GLOSTER
GLADIATOR MK.II N2308 HP-B,
RAF 247 SQUADRON, BATTLE OF BRITAIN**
Price: £49.99 Scale: 1/72 Release: out now

Simply gorgeous model of the Gladiator, with an incredibly realistic finish all over, plus plenty of superb detail - especially to the bracing wires.

» www.corgi.co.uk

**SOLIDO RENAULT 5 TURBO RALLYE
MONTE-CARLO 1982 - BRUNO SABA #9**
Price: £35.99 Scale: 1/18 Release: out now

A proper rally car from the early 1980s, beautifully replicated, with opening doors, bonnet and tailgate. The fabulous 5 makes for a great model. Top value.

» www.ayrey.co.uk



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new releases
reviewed at
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■ AUCTION REVIEW

New records set at Vectis

As the Graham Hamilton Matchbox collection sale got underway at Vectis recently, record breaking sale results were coming thick and fast.

Covering the entire Lesney Matchbox Picture Box era, from 1962 – 1982, the collection covered every possible genre of Matchbox collecting. Well-known and respected in international Matchbox circles, Graham has pieced his personal collection together over decades of trading. Many rare and unique models having come directly from ex-Lesney employees, many of whom worked within the research and development department responsible for designing

new additions to the range.

The Graham Hamilton effect ensured that even common models such as the "Desert Dawg" Superfast 20f 4x4 Jeep achieved 10 times its bottom estimate, the model which would normally sell at its £10- £15 estimate achieved £120, which the auctioneer guessed could be a world record.

There were many other lots that achieved record prices in the two-day sale. Lot 5090, a rare transitional Regular Wheels 31c Lincoln Continental model sold to an internet bidder for £9,600 and a round of applause! Lot 5091 provided a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire a pre-production



trial model 31c Lincoln Continental. This elusive model was in outstanding condition and sold to a room bidder after a short deliberation, for £15,600... and a cup of strong sweet tea was swiftly sent his way.

It's not always the model that brings the interest though, Lot 5401 sold for a fantastic £6,240, however the model is quite common. What was

responsible for the majority of artwork both on the boxes and within the catalogues during the late 1960s and 1970.

Graham was over the moon with the result of the auction.

Vectis specialist and auctioneer Julian Royse had estimated the collection in total to achieve £250,000 - Graham achieved this and more, in the first two days!

The total from the first two days of the sale was £281,000, and with a further two days expected to achieve a further £100,000 in September this is possibly the highest grossing single owner Matchbox collection to be seen. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

More Milestones achieved

Bidders from more than 20 different countries attended (most virtually) Milestone's May 1 Spring Spectacular Toy Auction, which ran for an astonishing 13 hours because of sustained bidding. Interest was especially strong for robots, early comic character toys and an extraordinary collection

of over 150 vintage toy boats and electric outboard motors in their original boxes.

The robot line-up contained impressive examples of some all-time classics and was led by an elusive Bandai friction-powered Flying Spaceman on a Super Cycle. With its original caped, green rubber Superman figure boasting a red and yellow S-logo chest shield, and

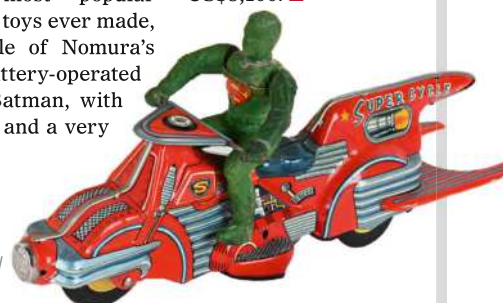
its correct, colourfully illustrated box lid, it was bid to US\$55,200 against a pre-sale estimate of US\$15,000-25,000.

From Masudaya's celebrated Gang of Five came a 15 inch tall Target Robot, all original and complete with its dart gun and one dart; this sold above estimate for US\$13,800. A Daiya (Japan) blue version, tin headed battery-operated

Astronaut with its original pictorial box was chased to US\$3,480 while one of the most popular Superhero toys ever made, an example of Nomura's 12 inch battery-operated Walking Batman, with cloth cape and a very

clean, original pictorial box, settled just above its high estimate, at US\$8,100. ■

This Superman clone had retained his cape after all these years.



SOMERVILLE MODELS 1949 FORD 54A "UTE" PICKUP

Price: £95.00 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
Similar to the original Somerville issue, though in a different colour, and another fine model of a vehicle Ford made for the Australian market.

» www.promod-diecast.com



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» www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk

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■ HOBBY NEWS

All change in the Peaks

After 10 years as the Head of the Specialist Collectors Department at Sheffield Auction Gallery, John Morgan has stepped down in order to return to his other career, that of retail. However, the connection and the passion he has for the world of collectable toys and models stays the same.

"My ten years at Sheffield has been the most incredible journey. I have met some incredible people, we've been able to bring some wonderful products to the market and been part of the success story Sheffield Auction Gallery has become", commented John. "However the challenges we have all faced, and are still facing through Covid, meant a time of reflection and in my own mind a time of opportunity and change" continued John.

One of the outputs of John's thinking was the 'Vintage Toy Exchange', a retail enterprise on the edge of the Peak District in Matlock, Derbyshire. Matlock is very much part of the 'staycation' and day trip



tourist scene and John's shop caters for all from the serious collector, the dealer and the casual visitor, all being drawn into that impulse purchase and nostalgia. Keeping the balance of stock right seems to draw on nearly all John's 40 years' experience in the toy collecting world.

As John confirms with a rye smile, if you cannot make it to Derbyshire

this summer, you can always bring VTE Derbyshire to you - via the opportunities of the internet. "Without doubt the internet has been the saviour and route of so much over the last 18 months, so where does that leave the traditional retailer?". An area I suspect we should explore further with John in the coming months. ■

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

Coming up NEXT MONTH

AUGUST 2021 ISSUE



» FAMOUS FACES

Collectables from TV & Film, we look at The Saint next!

» BRITISH SCI-FI COMICS

Homegrown space men - Dan Dare to Rick Random.

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NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH

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Price: \$135.00 Release: out now

Three sitting Royal Australian Regiment infantrymen. All three 'Diggers' carry L1A1 SLR's and are in suitable seated positions can be placed at various points in the vehicle and also on top of other Australian fighting vehicles such as the Centurion and the M113.

» www.kingandcountry.com



LEGO CREATOR THE FRIENDS APARTMENTS

Price: £134.00 Release: out now

Build and display a faithful version of Joey and Chandler's apartment and Monica and Rachel's apartment, plus the adjoining hallway, with this Friends TV show LEGO set.

Packed with authentic details and references to classic Friends episodes. With 7 minifigures and tons of delightful accessories. » www.lego.com

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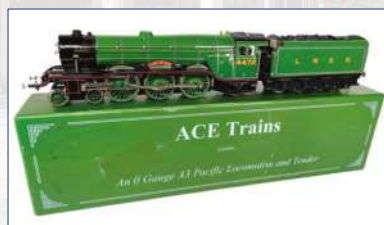
Hansons Auctioneers, Bishton Hall, Staffordshire, ST17 0XN

Contact Mark Holder on 01889 529707 or email
mholder@hansonsauctioneers.co.uk

‘The Country House Toy & Nostalgia Auction’ **July 10th - The ‘All Aboard’ Toy & Train Sale. Incorporating Live Steam**

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Marvellous Matchbox at Lacy Scott & Knight

Lacy Scott & Knight are pleased to announce their **June 18th Toys and Models Auction**, which includes a wide range of Regular Wheels, Superfast, 1/75 Series and other diecast

Lots of interest as follows:

- **Lot 1677** – Matchbox Superfast Series No.45 Ford Group 6 in non metallic green with a No.7 racing number fitted to bonnet with clear window glass and wide hollow wheels (extremely rare issue). Estimate £900-1300
- **Lot 1671** – Matchbox series No.32 Leyland tanker in rare 'National Association of Matchbox Collectors' (N.A.M.C). Estimate £150-200
- **Lots 1901-2005** – Consist of a single owner collection of military models including ex-shop stock Britain's, ex-shop stock Corgi Aviation Archive and much more. Specific examples include Lot 1927 - Corgi Aviation Archive model No. AA34806 1/72 scale limited edition diecast model of a Vickers Wellington Mk2 aircraft, which is one of over

Please contact **Oliver Leggett** via email: OLeggett@lsk.co.uk
or call **01284 748623**.

Lacy Scott & Knight Auction Centre, 10 Risbygate Street, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 3AA

What was the year?

Alwyn Brice invites you to join him in the Tardis and travel back in time.

For teenage girls everywhere, Elvis was arguably the biggest news this year, when he finally got hitched and married one Priscilla Ann Beaulieu in Las Vegas (where else?).

But there were more serious events during the 12 month period. Professor Paul Moller, of the University of California, demonstrated a one-man flying saucer that he had invented. The craft landed successfully from a flight three feet above the ground and the boffin declared that soon mankind would see this kind of aircraft all over the globe. Still on aviation, the future was unveiled when the prototype of the Concorde supersonic aircraft was shown at Toulouse, in December. Incredibly beautiful and technologically advanced, it would bring the US within quick reach of Europe. And whilst

in France, a French aerotrain monorail, essentially a rocket-boosted hovertrain, set a new world railway speed record.

In the Middle East it was a familiar tale as Egypt and Israel became embroiled. The Six Day War was the net result, with the Israelis claiming victory.

Computers were in the news also; not the number-crunching variety but an example that could play games. Robert Q was a computer programmed to play chess; however, it was beaten in its first competition with a human, in the monthly Boylston Chess Club Tournament in Boston. Computers would get better, though...

In the UK, the Liberals welcomed a new leader, that of Jeremy Thorpe. Ariel-3, the first all-British made satellite, was launched into an orbit around the Earth during May, the whole process being aided

by the expertise of NASA. For music lovers, though, it wasn't a good year because the Marine Broadcasting Offences Act came into effect, which outlawed pirate radio stations. Following the popularity of the renegades with British teenagers, the BBC reorganised its offering to create Radio 1, Radio 2, Radio 3 and Radio 4.

The medical world passed a milestone this year, when Dr Christiaan Barnard performed the first heart transplant on a 53 year old patient, Louis Washkansky. The operation took place at the Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa.

The very first issue of *Rolling Stone* magazine was released in November this year, the publication being the brainchild of Jann Wenner of San Francisco. The same year saw the ever-popular Beatles release what

many deem to be the pinnacle of their recording career, that of *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Everyone knows a track of this historic recording, surely?

As for singles, whilst the Hollies crooned *Carrie Anne*, Procul Harum came up with arguably one of the all-time great records of the era, if not THE all-time great: *A Whiter Shade of Pale* hit the number one spot in the UK and hogged it for six weeks. It didn't matter if you didn't understand the lyrics, either.

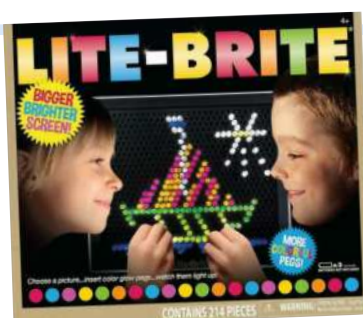
At the cinema, Dustin Hoffman wrestled with his sexual desires in *The Graduate*; *The Dirty Dozen* paved the way for more macho of the same; and Lulu sang on the credits of *To Sir with Love*.

And one toy in the shops? How about Milton Bradley's Battleships?

So... what was the year? **CG**



ABOVE
A copy of Milton Bradley's popular Battleship game.



LEFT
The Lite-Brite consisted of a light box, black paper and coloured pegs. Once a pattern was designed, a back light brought it to life. And... it's still available!

BELOW
Corgi's Lincoln Continental was on the cover of the maker's catalogue and summed up American excesses: long, gold, with a carpeted boot and a television set, it lacked nothing.

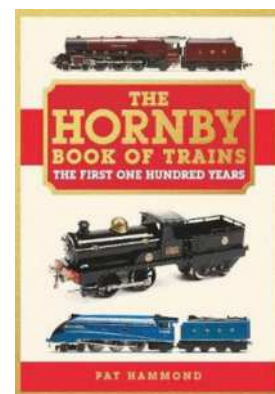
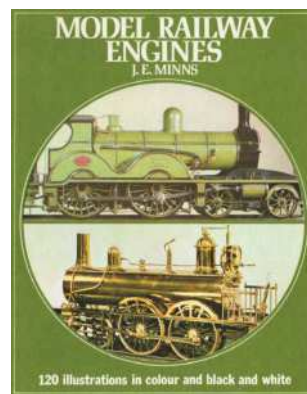
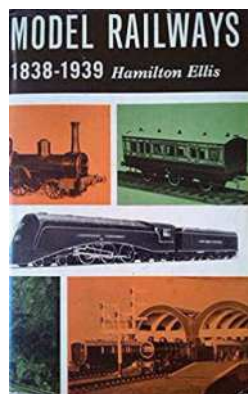
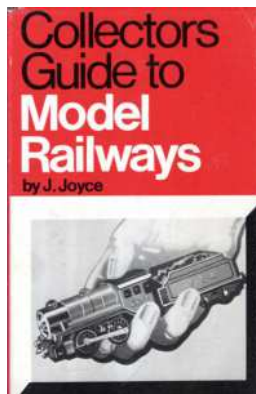
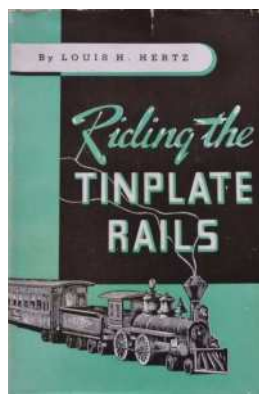


RIGHT
Lesser known Toys? This group released "I got carried away" this year.



The men who invented collectable trains

Mark Nolan eyes up the books which every self-respecting collector should have in their train room.



For a change, I decided to go to bed with a book the other night. On a positive note, it didn't need to be plugged in. But after years of reading screens, I was struggling to actually see the book. This may be an indication of poor bedroom lighting, but it highlights the problem with books; they're not backlit!

Another thing about books is they take up a lot of space, and when it comes to train books, they're highly addictive. I was once warned by a specialist bookseller; it's a slippery slope so choose your proclivities carefully. You see a lavishly illustrated book on Welsh narrow gauge slate wagon coupling variations 1900-1950 and you think; "That's my specialist subject". No-one else could have a greater affinity for Welsh slate wagon coupling variations (apart from the author). That book was written for you, and it's your duty to rescue it from the heartless dealer and an uninterested public, and house it lovingly on your railway bookshelf. Along with Part 2 if available.

Why is it that when you're in a

bookshop, you see loads you want to buy, but when you go to the library, nothing catches your eye? I once wandered into a large library on a rainy day to look at whatever train books they had. There were none. I searched every section until a librarian, seeing my growing bemusement, asked if she could help. "You don't appear to have any train books at all", I said. "Oh, you must want the Railway Room" she announced brightly. "Follow me". Two minutes later I was in a room with eleven thousand railway books, pamphlets and timetables. "The rest are in the store if you need them" she said as she departed, leaving me speechless.

So, if you want to overdose on railway books without buying them all, the Railway Room in the Winchester Discovery Centre is the place to go. It's advisable to make an appointment if travelling from afar, as the room is sometimes used for classes so its opening hours vary. You can view the catalogue online, and I defy you to find a railway book they don't have (including slate wagon coupling variations). Hampshire

also has aviation, naval and military collections spread around the county if you're interested.

EARLY TOY TRAIN READING

Despite the huge amount of general and specialist railway books, the number dealing with toy trains used to be disproportionately small. There were a fair number on railway modelling, but many were written before collecting trains became a thing.

One of the first books devoted to vintage toy trains (mainly American) has the evocative title *Riding the Tinplate Rails*. Written by Louis H Hertz and published in the US by Model Craftsman in 1944, the book is often credited with starting the train collecting hobby.

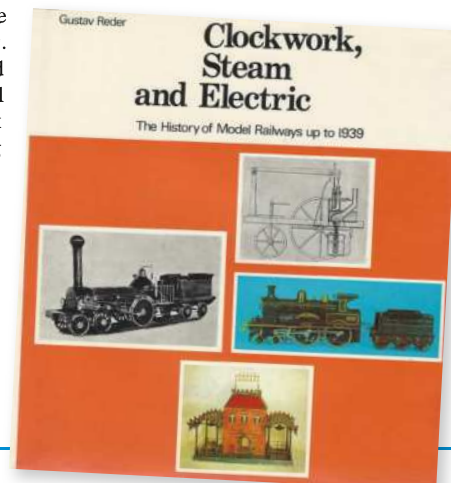
Moving on to the 1960s, Cuthbert Hamilton Ellis was a doyen among railway

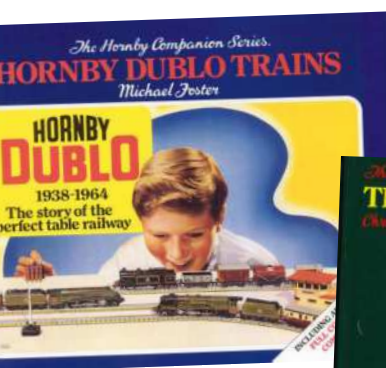
RIGHT

Gustav Reder; 'Clockwork, steam and electric: a history of model railways up to 1939' documents the development of the model train from a toy to a meticulous model.

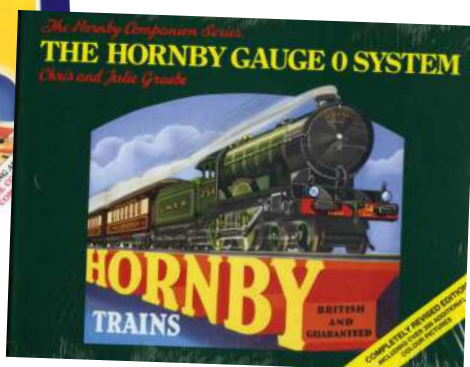
ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

'Riding the Tinplate Rails' by Louis H Hertz. Published in the US by Model Craftsman in 1944. One of the first books devoted to vintage toy trains (mainly American), credited with starting the train collecting hobby; The brilliant introductory book by James Joyce; 'Collectors Guide to Model Railways' published in 1977; C. Hamilton Ellis 'Model Railways 1838-1939' published 1962. Very good for insight into the earliest attempts at railway modeling; Jonathan Minns was involved in launching the Brighton Toy and Model Museum. 'Model Railway Engines' was published by Octopus Books in 1973; 'The Hornby Book of Trains - The First Hundred Years' draws on Pat Hammond's extensive knowledge and detailed archive.





ABOVE Michael Foster's 'Hornby Dublo Trains' (1980) set a new standard by dealing with a single product range in depth.



ABOVE RIGHT 'The Hornby Gauge O System' by Chris and Julie Graebe (1985) formed part of the Hornby Companion Series from New Cavendish Books.

writers. He was also a pioneer in documenting the history and development of model railways with his book *Model Railways 1838-1939* published in 1962. This volume is very good for insight into the earliest attempts at railway modeling, being the earliest British publication on the topic.

C Hamilton Ellis was also responsible for translating another seminal book; *Clockwork, Steam and Electric* by Gustav Reder, which was published in 1969 and translated by Hamilton Ellis in 1972. This documents the development of the model train from a toy to a meticulous model. The amount of information about model railway manufacturing around the world from the earliest times is quite stunning, and it is essential reading for anyone interested in UK, German, French, US and Japanese makes.

Two Peters, Messrs Gomm and Randall, were highly influential as founders of the Train Collectors Society. Peter Gomm wrote *Older Locomotives (1900-42)* in 1970 and Peter Randall's matching book *Recent Locomotives (1947-70)* also appeared in the same year.

Both these books have many excellent colour photographs and, at the time, fetched high prices second-hand, reflecting the desperate shortage of historical information.

Jonathan Minns was a pioneer in documenting and preserving engineering heritage. The author was responsible for the restoration of a derelict Victorian water pumping station in Hove Park, Brighton, and was involved in launching the Brighton Toy and Model Museum. His book *Model Railway Engines* was published by Octopus Books in 1973.

Another very popular introductory book by James Joyce appeared in 1977; *Collectors Guide to Model Railways* is a must for the enthusiast's bookshelf.

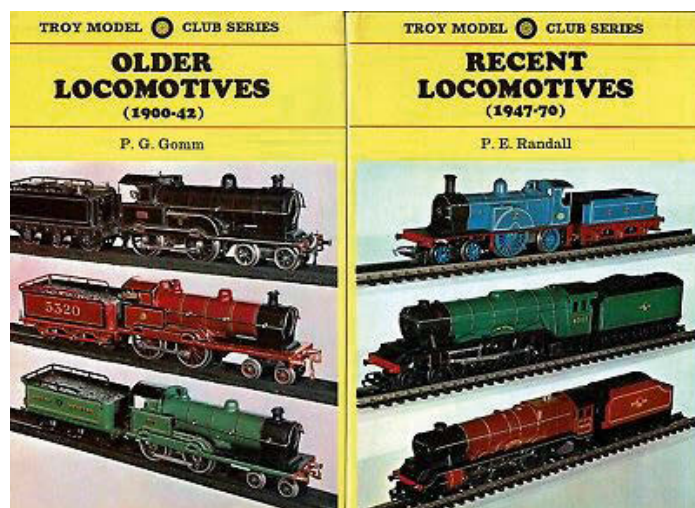
NEW CAVENDISH BOOKS

Toy train publishing moved up a gear with the launch of *The Hornby Companion* series from New Cavendish Books. These were a seismic shift in collectable train literature. They set the benchmark for research, layout and approach, with historical background, company history and year by year product development. Classifying by sets, locomotives, coaches, wagons, track and accessories seems obvious now, but someone had to do it first. These lavishly illustrated books are some of the first works to deal with a single product range in depth.

Michael Foster's book *Hornby Dublo Trains* (1980) was extensively offered as an incentive to sign up for various book clubs, which increased its exposure and surely scooped up more than a few casuals who didn't realise they were collectors before they read the book. *Hornby Dublo Trains* also benefits from one of the most eye catching covers ever. The 'perfect table railway' slogan; the red yellow and blue colours; the ecstatic boy are all iconic imagery. Meccano certainly knocked it out of the park with their early graphics, and the book makes good use of them, with plenty of technical drawings, preliminary artwork, advertisements and miscellaneous paperwork which all add atmosphere to the story.

Michael Foster has since published five volumes of *British Toy Trains*, covering Whitanco, Burnett, Chad Valley, Palitoy, Astra, Dunham White and Betal, British Marx, Wells Brimtoy and Mettoy.

The other plank in the Hornby Companion Series is *The Hornby Gauge O System* by Chris and Julie Graebe (1985). From the first constructional train sets in 1920 right through to the final production in the 1960s, the text contains detailed study of the individual items, and appendices list the most important variations. Look out for



ABOVE

A duo of early collectable train books; 'Older Locomotives (1900-42)' by Peter Gomm and 'Recent Locomotives (1947-70)' by Peter Randall.



LEFT

Pat Hammond's 'Tri-ang Railways Volume 1' covers the Rovex story from 1950 to 1965. Published in 1994, extensively revised in 1999 with 32 additional pages.

RIGHT
Pat Hammond's 'Tri-ang Hornby Volume 2, 1965 to 1971' deals with the period after Tri-ang absorbed Hornby-Dublo.



the revised 2nd edition of 1994 which has over 100 extra pages.

THE STORY OF ROVEX

Towering over all the toy train books is the colossus that is Pat Hammond's Rovex trilogy. Making sense of the convoluted timeline, myriad production lines and several major rebrandings that is the Rovex story must have been a mammoth task. Collectors are in awe at the breadth of Pat's research, and his ability to present it in a logical format.

The first two books in the Rovex story trilogy are *Tri-ang Railways Volume 1* which covers 1950 to 1965, and *Tri-ang Hornby Volume 2, 1965 to 1971*. Volume 1 was published in 1994 and extensively revised in 1999 with 32 additional pages and over 100 new illustrations.

The third book covers the

Rovex Hornby period from 1972 until 1996. Over 600 locomotive variations are illustrated, with the final chapter including *Thomas the Tank Engine*, Hornby Minitrix and many other products that were produced or sold alongside Hornby Railways.

Pat Hammond also edited Ramsay's *British Model Trains* price guides. Most recently, drawing on his amazing archive, he produced a trenchant overview of Hornby in *The Hornby Book of Trains - The First Hundred Years*.

Of necessity, this is just a snapshot of what's out there. Why not pop down to your local library today and order a toy train book? As well as the pleasure of reading it, you'll have the future satisfaction of knowing it's lurking on the library shelves, ready to ensnare another unwitting collector. **CG**

Through ^{1990s} the years

Ann Evans finishes her journey through popular toys from decades past.

Following the arrival of electronic toys and computer games from the previous decades, the 1990s saw technology progressing; and toy brands and franchises hitting record heights. One incredibly successful toy of the 1990s, that really was the beginnings of an astronomical success story, began with the invention of hand-held electronic games. And one of the very first was the Nintendo Game Boy.

This little console revolutionised videogaming. It was launched in Japan in 1989 and hit the UK at the start of the 90s. Since then, this handy-sized gaming system has sold over 100 million units. Its catalogue consisted of over 450 games, amongst them: Tetris, Super Mario, Pokemon, Donkey Kong to name but a few. There were battle games, fighting games, sports and puzzles – something for everyone in fact.

The original Game Boy would have cost £67.40; it featured a black and green LCD screen, and slots for players to insert the game cartridge. It could also be adapted for two players. Nintendo brought out Game Boy Light in April 1998 but it lasted just a short while as Game Boy Colour was released in the October of that same year. There was even a smaller Game Boy Pocket series.

These days people are still eager to get their hands on an original Game Boy, and they can fetch around £200 on eBay, and even £600 should you have a Game Boy Light.

Amongst the Game Boy games, Pokémon went on to become a phenomenal success in its own

right. The name Pokémon is short for the original Japanese title of Pocket Monsters. These started as a pair of games for the original Game Boy in 1996, developed by Game Freak and published by Nintendo. Its English slogan was 'Gotta catch em all'.

It soon became a media mix franchise, adapted into various different media and became the highest grossing media franchise ever. The original video game series is the second-best video game franchise of all time. Top was Nintendo's Mario franchise. More than 368 million Pokémon copies have been sold as well as one billion mobile downloads. From this came a hit anime television series, with over 20 series and 1,000 episodes in 169 countries. It also became a top selling trading card game, with over 30.4 billion cards sold. An anime film series, a live action film, books, manga comics, music, and even a theme park. This year sees its 25th anniversary with new games being released to be played on Nintendo Switch.

Pokémon items are certainly worth collecting. In December 2020 Goldin Auctions of New Jersey sold a first edition holographic 1999 Charizard card – 'Black Diamond Label certified' and graded 'Gold Label Pristine 10' – the most prestigious level. It sold for \$369,000.

Meanwhile, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle* toys were really taking off in the 1990s. This fictional superhero foursome of teenage anthropomorphic turtle ninjas were created in 1984 by comic book writer-artist team Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman. The adventures

of these four ninja turtles, named after Italian Renaissance artists, appeared in comic books published by Mirage Studios. They expanded into animated children's cartoons, feature films, on merchandise and of course as toys and collectables figures. A large bundle of TMNTs was spotted for sale on eBay recently with an asking price of £868.

Yet another Japanese invention hit our shops in the 1990s. In 1997 we were introduced to the Tamagotchi – which youngsters went wild for. The Tamagotchi creatures originated from an alien species who lay eggs and leaves them with the player. It's owner then has to care for it and teach it about life on Earth. These

little pets would die within half an hour of being unused – or uncared for! They were the brainchild of Akihiro Yokoi and Aki Maita of Japan. Their creation soon became the biggest toy fad of the late 1990s and early 2000s despite the children becoming distressed when their virtual pet Tamagotchi died. Many schools banned the toy because of the distraction it caused. Nevertheless, the latest count up to 2017 is of 82 million Tamagotchis being sold.

The 90s seemed a golden era for Japanese inspired toys, as yet another craze hit the UK and the world at large, which began in Japan. That was the *Power Rangers* who blasted their way



RIGHT

Game Boy and Games. Credit: Guinness World Records.



The incredibly popular electronic Tamagotchi.

into kids' toy boxes from 1994. The *Power Rangers* were based on the original Japanese Super Sentai series and found their way into our homes through a TV series. Once the toy figures were on the market at £4.99 each, there was such a demand that some parents were delving into the black market for the toy their offspring was desperate for, and they were paying more than four times the retail price.

Collectors are still willing to pay top prices for rare original figures. Sometimes as much as £200 or £300. And the models continue to be released - *Power Rangers Dino Fury* came out in February 2021, and November of this year will see them launching *ThreeZero Power Rangers 1/6 scale figure, 6 pack*, for £599.99.

Another tough fighting toy to appear in the 1990s were the Hasbro *Wrestlers* - *WWF* (now the *WWE*). The *WWF* Hasbro action figure line was all about the superstars of wrestling, produced from 1990 to 1994. Action figures such as Hulk Hogan, The Undertaker, The Rock, Stone Cold Steve Austin and many more, with the company constantly changing their models as wrestlers came and went. These items have gone on to become collector's items, with some boxed figures in good condition fetching three-figure sums and more.

The Furby was another toy fad from the 1990s and far cuter than some of the toys of the decade. The Furby was an American idea, created by Tiger Electronics, and featured a robot pet, that unlike the Tamagotchi, wasn't going to die if left unattended. But it did require a lot of attention as the aim was to teach it to speak English. Originally the Furby only knew its own unique language - Furbish, but would learn English over time.

Cute and cuddly with large

owl-like eyes, the Furby came out in 1998 and sold 1.8 million units that year, followed by 14 million the following year. Over the 3 years of its original production 40 million Furbies were sold, and its speaking capacity was translated into 24 languages. Furbies, still in their boxes, have been known to fetch up to \$800 at auction.

It wasn't all electronics in the 90s though. For diecast collectors there was plenty going on. However, it was a turbulent time for the miniature vehicle manufacturers just as in real life, take overs and mergers were happening in the motor industry such as BMW taking over Rolls-Royce in 1998. If you happened to be a collector of a specific vehicle such as Rolls-Royce, there was an abundance of toy and model companies allowed to make Rolls-Royce models in the 1990s - 128 in fact. But within a few years the number had gone down drastically to just 27 as Rolls-Royce did not renew licences automatically.

The nineties was also the final decade for Lledo. After being founded in 1982 by Jack Odell who was also a founder of Matchbox. Lledo produced a range of nostalgic looking pre-war styled toy vehicles reminiscent of the Matchbox 'Models of Yesteryear'. These were called, 'Days Gone.' In the 90s Lledo created *Vanguards*, a line of 1/43 models which lasted until 1999 when Lledo went bankrupt. Corgi bought up the naming rights and model range and *Vanguards* continued being produced by Corgi until 2005.

The 1990s Lledo diecasts were intended for collectors, and as such were looked after and rarely played with. Hence, they have always been readily available for collectors to buy at low prices. Lledo made a range of 75 models - the same as Matchbox but became specialists in offering different livery and logos for any company or club wanting promotional and anniversary models.

As for Corgi, they had been taken over by Mattel in 1992 and production moved to China. But in 1995, Corgi regained its independence as a new company, Corgi Classics Limited, and moved to new premises in Leicester. Their range was exported worldwide and sold in large numbers. Some of the best known and most popular models were of cars made famous in film and television such as the *Batmobile*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* and the most famous of all James Bond's *Aston Martin DB5*. A model which remains a collector's favourite throughout the decades. **CG**



ABOVE

A collection of WWF Hasbro wrestlers seen on eBay.

RIGHT

Original Furby in unopened box fetching 3-figure sums on eBay.

BELOW

Corgi 1990s *Batmobile*.



ABOVE

Pokemon card that sold at auction for \$369,000.

ABOVE RIGHT

Original *Power Ranger* figures.



RIGHT

A collection of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* spotted on eBay with an asking price of £868.

The German revolution

Alwyn Brice lifts the lid on Elastolin's small scale toybox.

The 1950s were an interesting time. The hardships and deprivation occasioned by the recent global conflict were beginning to ebb away, yet life had certainly not returned to normal by any means. Industry was back on its feet, although shortages of materials were still being felt; and the US was overseeing Germany's post-War progress, a presence that only ended around 1952. Toys, predictably, were hardly high on anyone's agenda – yet inventions and technology were paving the way for the future.

One company to seize the initiative was that of Hausser/Elastolin. Its pre-War output in 75mm scale comprised largely military subjects in composition material but arguably inspired by the work of two German scientists (Arthur Eichengrün and Theodore Becker) who had developed a moulding machine back in 1903, it now picked up the baton – and that baton was plastic.

HI-TECH TRENDS

It's no exaggeration to say that plastic injection moulding has rewritten the history books: the process has permitted amazing detail and once a mould has been created, millions of examples can be manufactured. Although the actual concept dates back to the 1800s, it would be the decade



ABOVE

The Medieval era was one of Elastolin's finest, and featured some dramatic poses.

after World War Two that saw this technology sweep all before it.

When it came to toy figures, by 1960 the marketplace was still largely lead based. That said, 1959 had witnessed the first Airfix 1/76 plastic figures, so clearly the writing was on the wall. Thus in 1960 Hausser, armed with this "new" technology, set out to bolster its existing 70mm figure production. And the scale it chose for this excursion was 40mm.

Looking back, the reason for this choice opens up all sorts of possibilities. First of all, there was nothing else in the market at that scale. Most figures were around 54mm in stature (with those rather odd pewter flats

espousing the 30mm size), so this was a novelty. Clearly these new offerings wouldn't sit comfortably with pre-existing figures in the toybox – so was this a sales pitch to ensure that the young customer came back for more of the same? Having said that, one competitor, also German, manufactured in 40mm (as well as other scales): Merten.

According to Peter Muller (see box at the end of the article), the decision to launch a small range was economically-induced. The company's 70mm figures were expensive in the day, at around DM1.75, (almost twice the price of a packet of cigarettes), so smaller figures could be retailed

much more cheaply. I suppose you could call it the Aldi or Lidl approach: smaller profits per figure would be compensated for by volume sales. Moreover, since the wax masters for the 70mm range were readily available, then pantographing techniques meant that smaller replicas could be easily manufactured.

TIPPING THE SCALES

Curiously, it was not a case of Elastolin merely replicating its bigger output to gain market share. Some figures were actually manufactured in 40mm scale before they grew to 70mm: examples here include its large Wild West range of figures as well as the US Civil War figures. These latter are a bit of a con, sadly: the same moulds were used for both armies, the only difference being the uniform colours. Conversely, not all that was made in the larger scale ended up Lilliputian. Furthermore, some small scale offerings were slightly modified as they shrank.

For the very first issues at the start of the Swinging Sixties, Elastolin went back to the era of knights and Normans. Colourful, with both foot and mounted figures, it was a successful sales ploy. The poses of these little fellows were usually imaginative and the clean, crisp modelling, thanks to the injection moulding process, certainly singled them

**ABOVE**

Two of the superb range of mounted Hun warriors: you clearly wouldn't want to mess with these sons of the Steppes.

**ABOVE**

Cowboys 'n Injuns were still very much in vogue in the 1950s and early 1960s.

**ABOVE**

Three of the earliest figures were this set: the Lady of the castle, Sir Gawain (the Green Knight) and Prince Valiant.

**ABOVE**

Turkish delight? A full set of six were released but sadly they lacked any opposing force.

**FANTASTIC PLASTIC**

Arguably the best guide available on Elastolin is Peter Muller's *Sammelerhandbuch für Elastolin Kiunststoff-Figuren*. Featuring both German and English text, it is profusely illustrated and there is much detail on variations and colours. Values are also given although these, as with any collector's guide, need to be taken with a pinch of salt.

**ABOVE**

A quartet of US Cavalry: well, someone had to keep those pesky redskins in order!

**ABOVE**

Injection moulding techniques made possible some truly wonderful figures, like these Bayeux Tapestry-inspired Norman knights.

out. These were also the days of hand painting in the home country, so effectively every figure is unique. Some of these early examples benefit from a "wiped" painting process, where the upper surfaces were skimmed with a rag to leave highlights. Such niceties would vanish in the fullness of time, as cost came more and more into the equation.

THE RANGE

If you opt for Elastolin's 40mm figures, you'll be spoiled for choice.

Some of the best models in terms of design and action poses are to be found in the Roman, Viking and Medieval eras. Whilst the purist may find fault with, say, some of the armour detail on the Roman legionaries, nonetheless it has to be borne in mind that these were toys, albeit not cheap ones. Weapons were usually simply slotted into hands so can be swapped around; and riders can be unclipped from their horses, if care is taken. The plus side of Elastolin was that the plastic was hard so that paint adhered well; and 60 years on, you'll find that in most cases it has lasted well. Weapons, though, tended to be a bit flexible, so paint loss is more common on these. Also, if you find a figure with a curved lance, it's not easy to rectify!

The outstanding models from

these periods have to be the four Bayeux Tapestry knights on their rearing horses: these are simply splendid, quite possibly the best models the company ever produced. However, if you like colour, then move on to the Landsknechts, for here is a veritable panoply of hues to savour. These mercenaries typically chose bright uniforms and you can marvel at maybe ten or 12 colours on a single figure in this context. Yes, all hand painted, and a labour of love, one feels.

The 40mm scene isn't just about figures, though, for Elastolin supplied a range of ordnance and other accessories. The Roman chariot, with galloping horses, is a masterly evocation of a bygone era; and the Kampfwagen, a Medieval war wagon, is a must for the diorama. There is a siege tower, with a drop down ramp; several different cannon and accessories like palisades. Oh, and if you can find them, there's a village well and a smithy, all thanks to the marvel of injection moulding.

A final word: watch out for kits that have been bought and painted. Certain unscrupulous sellers pass these off as originals, with prices to match. The only way to avoid this pitfall is to see and handle as many originals you can; admittedly, no easy task in these COVID-ridden times...**CG**

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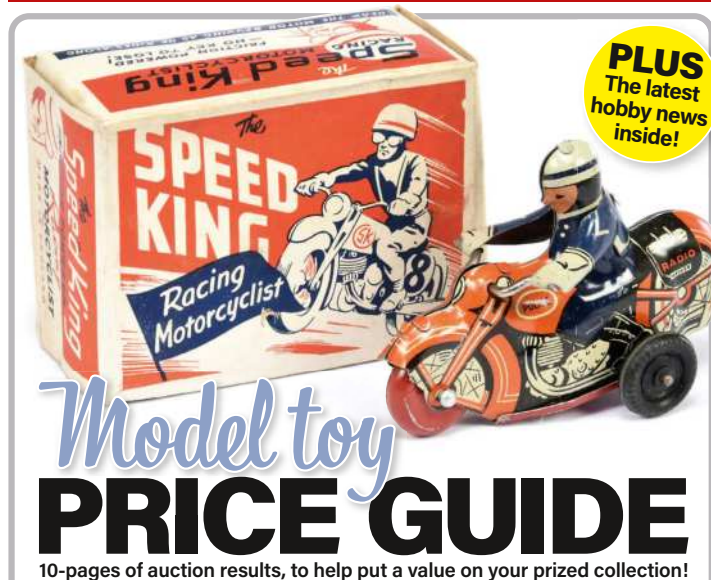
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Vintage artwork

It's not just the contents of the toy box that interests **Lawrence Lambert**.

As a toy collector and having a good working knowledge of the collecting world, I was recently taking part in a live phone-in on BBC Radio Kent. The host, Steve Ladner, was talking about all thing's vintage toys. One elderly listener, David from Ashford, asked me what had attracted me to particular toys when I was a kid. The answer was simple... the artwork on the front of the box!

This came as no surprise as my mother, aside from being an antiques collector, was a keen water colourist and had taught me to paint and have an appreciation for art and colour at an early age. Despite that, I'm sure that the toy industry at the time were well aware of the potential pulling power of artwork on the box to

ignite any child's imagination, and mine was particularly acute.

I am sure that all of us collectors of a certain age vividly remember the enticing appeal of the 'action' taking place on the front of any of the toy or model kit boxes in the 1950s, 60s and beyond. Showing perhaps, a stricken World War Two bomber, a Formula One racing driver grappling with a steering wheel or a spaceship landing on the lunar surface.

I am of course referring to the work of some of the great British artists and graphic illustrators of the time, whose very work at a mere glimpse, transported us immediately to recreate the world of the contents inside the box without any need to be an art expert.

Most notably in my case, the extraordinary artwork of the great Roy Cross, whose images on many

an Airfix box was enough for most of us to shout aloud in the shop... 'I want that one!'.. Job done!

Roy and Brian Knight amongst others, formed a number of highly skilled artists employed by Airfix to create wonderful images of box art for their product. Roy, now 96, is a self-taught London artist who started out as a technical illustrator for Fairey Aviation during the war, then illustrated for *Aeroplane Magazine* and *Eagle Comics* before joining Airfix in 1964, staying with them for the next ten years. All of us from that generation of children would have, at some point I'm sure, had our imaginations ignited or inspired, by his expert hand on the front of a varied selection of Airfix Boxes.

Indeed, I clearly remember, James May's *100 Best Toys* TV interview with Roy, marvelling at a selection of his original artwork whereupon, he explained that most of his images now have been airbrushed in order to remove the bombs and explosions to now fall into line with today's political correctness. Nevertheless, the images remain to this day, simply spectacular.

The next real impact that box art had on me back then, was featured on the lid of my first Scalextric set No.30.

I had previously spied this image on the top shelf in the toy department of Gamages, a traditionally styled department store specialising in toys and hardware, just off High Holborn in London in the mid 1960s.

ABOVE

Luno space game box lid from the 1950s.



The image smacked of speed and daring as the Formula One Lotus Climax sped through the finishing straight at Brands Hatch with Jim Clark at the wheel.

The hand responsible for such a captivating image, belonged to the wonderfully talented British artist and illustrator of aviation and motor racing, Michael Turner.

Michael, now 87 years old, was born in 1934 in Harrow, Middlesex. As a schoolboy he developed a passion for aviation and motor racing, particularly after a visit to the Isle of Man in 1947 to witness the British Empire Trophy Race. After leaving school and doing National Service, he attended art college and having spent the next three years with an advertising agency, he turned freelance in 1957. In the early Sixties he founded his own company called Studio 88 and began to publish his own aviation and motor racing prints. He was frequently commissioned by organisers to create posters for notable motorsport events such as the Le Mans 24 hrs and Sebring 12 Hour races, and it wasn't long before Tri-ang and Scalextric came calling to commission Michael to design some of their box art and catalogue covers. Least to say that they were spectacular in appearance and captured all the thrill and excitement of motor racing, allowing any child's imagination to run riot; tempting



ABOVE

A framed print of Roy Cross's Airfix Artwork of a P-51D Mustang which hangs in my flat. The explosions remain but, a newer version of the print has had them airbrushed out.

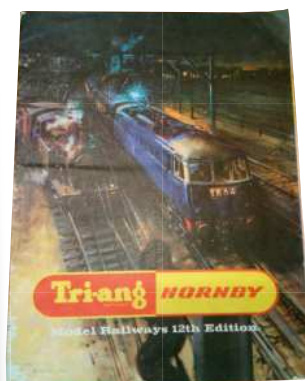


ABOVE

The framed Terence Cuneo print hanging in my kitchen; Night Scene at Crewe' 1964.

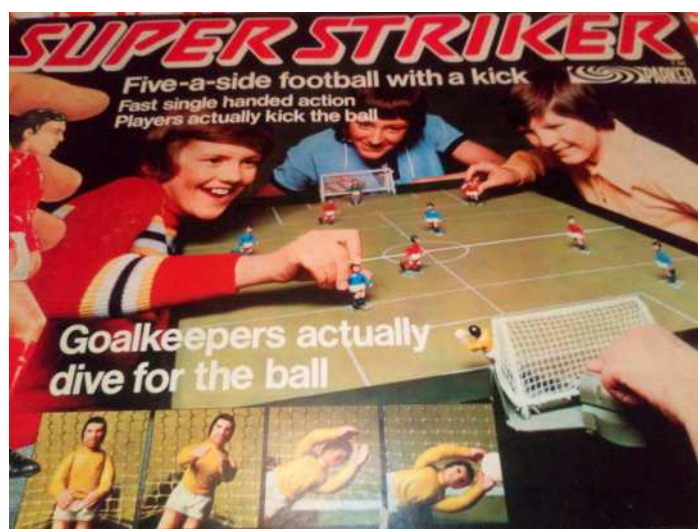
RIGHT

Roy Cross Artwork of the Airfix kit, The Sunderland 111.



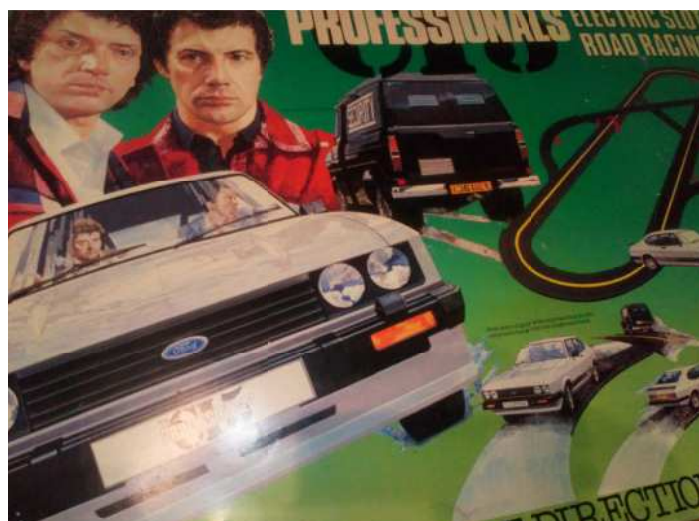
LEFT Scalextric Catalogue cover 1965 and box art lid to set No.30 Lotus at Brands Hatch by Michael Turner.

FAR LEFT The Hornby Train catalogue from 1966 which my friend brought to school to show me. It shows Terence Cuneo's 'Night Scene at Crewe' 1964.



ABOVE

Super Striker football game from the mid 70's showing on the box kids playing rather than an illustration which, was the way things were slowly going back then for marketing.



ABOVE

The Professionals Electric slot car set from the 1970s.

them to recreate the daring on the track on the living room floor. Sales of course rocketed through the roof with no small thanks to Michael's spectacular and now iconic images. So much so that, even today, I have a couple of framed works of those images painted by Michael hanging in my flat hallway ...simply sumptuous!

To complete a trio of some of the most renowned toy box art illustrators of a generation, I turn to an old school friend of mine David Franklin whom, at the time had invited me over to play with his new Hornby train set that was given to him by his parents on his tenth birthday. David wasn't my best friend but, the opportunity of controlling the diesel engine and rolling stock on the bedroom carpet was too much for me to resist.

It was then that I caught sight of the magnificently drawn cover of the newly released 1966 Triang Hornby catalogue that he had brought to school to show everyone. It was an artist's impression of a sleek electric engine pulling its coaches through the night sky. I later found out this work to be entitled 'Night Scene at Crewe' and painted two years earlier in 1964 by the late great British artist and illustrator Terence Cuneo.

Terence was born in London in 1907 into a family of artists and as a young man, influenced by his parents both as professional artists, he trained at Chelsea Polytechnic and Slade School of Art before working as an illustrator. He was commissioned to paint during the war by The War Artists Advisory Committee and was the official artist for the Queen's Coronation in 1953.

He was a prolific English painter noted for his scenes of railways, horses and military action and his work included model railway catalogues and boxes. He was specially commissioned by Hornby, which highlighted his genius for drama and accuracy in all his paintings. From 1954 his works always included a small

mouse somewhere in the picture which, became his trademark. He unfortunately passed away in 1996, but his artistic genius and legacy lives on.

I am lucky enough to have a large mounted and framed print of one of Terence's work hanging on my kitchen wall. It's the very same picture that David showed me in the 1966 Triang Hornby catalogue at school all those years ago.

By the time we reached the mid-Seventies things began to slowly change. Our American cousins across the Pond were starting to favour a new style of box art packaging for the manufacture of their toys, and the subsequent changing market forces. The work of the graphic artists and illustrators was slowly being eclipsed by photographs of families around the table playing the game in situation with their kids. This was primarily aimed at the parents buying the products rather than the kids, in order to suggest a happy family environment where everyone could play.

You just have to pick up any toy box from the mid- to late-Seventies and into the Eighties to recognise long haired kids with their dads, smiling away around the table enjoying playing the game advertised. My last great purchase at the time, which evoked all the drama and excitement of my then favourite TV show *The Professionals*, showed the drawn images of Bodie and Doyle together with their white Ford Capri hurtling after the baddies on the front of the box of an electric slot car road racing set. Simply superb art which never fails to excite anyone visiting my place with a 'wow'!

For me now, looking back, something back then seemed lost forever, and the great artists of the time were moved gently aside.

Only now, one can look back with sheer pleasure and delight, and marvel at such profound and beautiful works of art, all in the hope to capture a boy's imagination which they certainly did... and it has lasted a lifetime! **CG**

Puzzling Puzzles...



For decades, jigsaws were a main source of entertainment and have now become a popular collector's item. We reveal more about the jigsaws of Victory and Chad Valley.

John Spilsbury, an engineer and mapmaker from London, was the first known maker of the dissected puzzle. He came up with the brainwave of mounting one of his maps on a sheet of hardwood then using a fine saw to cut all the borders of the countries into several pieces.

His idea was to make an educational aid for teaching children geography. This teaching tool soon caught on when the children found they could have fun whilst learning. These dissected puzzles were then produced as educational toys.

The early jigsaws were probably made from mahogany or cedar wood and the pieces didn't interlock as they do today. Each piece was laid next to each other in the correct order. Usually bought by the rich they were often found on their coffee table for use at parties and social get-togethers. Costing around 10 shillings, which was equivalent to 50p of today's money, this was more than most workers earned in a week.

VICTORY PUZZLES

Victory puzzles were produced by G J Hayter from the 1920s through to the 1980s, and over 60 years many different themes were used as inspiration for their designs. Later, G J Hayter became a subsidiary of J W Spear and Sons.

Some of the most famous

series in the range were Gold Box, Artistic and Super Cut. The Artistic Box was grey in colour with a Victory logo in the bottom right hand corner and in the top left hand corner was the emblem 'Victory, Artistic, plywood jigsaw puzzle - Made in England'.

The Super Cut series consisted of puzzles which were cut into more intricate detail, some with scalloped edges. The boxes were embellished with two blue and silver ribbon effect emblems - one with the Victory 'V' and the description of the puzzle. Victory Gold Box series were hand-cut wooden puzzles and supplied without a picture to follow, making them even more difficult to complete. The box lid was mottled in texture and stated that it was 'A

Challenge to the Enthusiast'.

This knowledge enables the collector to determine the true identity of the puzzle due to the lack of any accompanying guide image. As with any boxed item, always ensure that it is in good condition and try to obtain a guarantee from the seller that the puzzle is complete. In some instances, where pieces are missing, consider buying two the same to make one complete puzzle - increasing the value from worthless to a two-figure sum.

Victory jigsaws covered themes from the children's 1930s Topical Series showing everyday scenes around the country, from the Houses of Parliament and the Changing of the Guard to aircraft

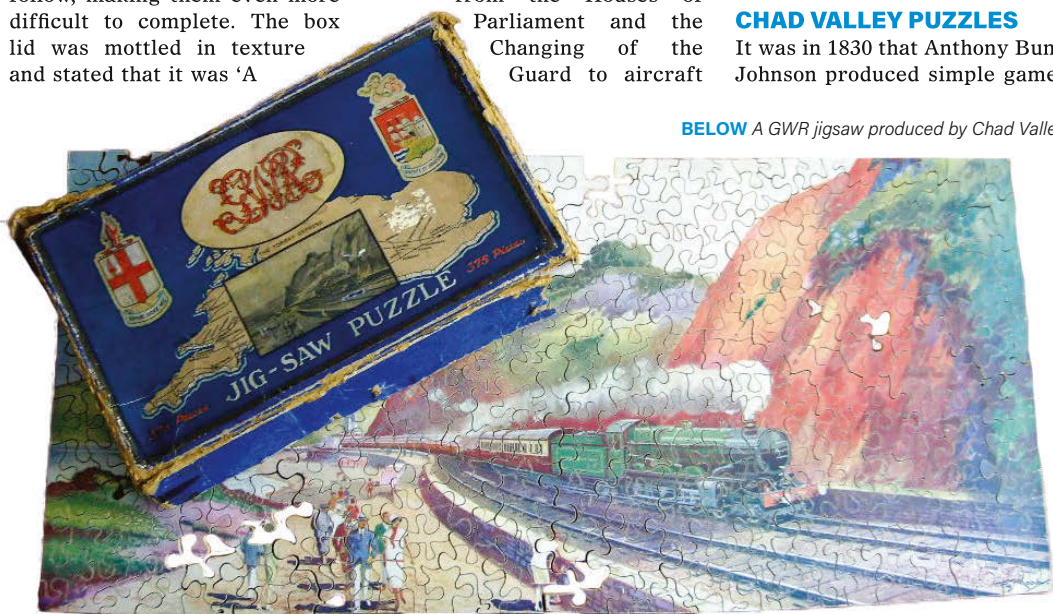
and military scenes produced into the 1950s. These consisted of between 125-200 pieces and can fetch between £5 and £25 each nowadays.

Similar subjects featuring ships, such as the Empress of Britain Pacific Liner made from 150 pieces in 1937, can fetch up to £30 if the accompanying leaflet describing the ship is still included.

Unusual designs are worth looking out for such as the 100-piece double-sided map of the world with a Coronation Scot Train on the reverse. Boxed and in good condition, this 1950s piece can fetch around £30.

CHAD VALLEY PUZZLES

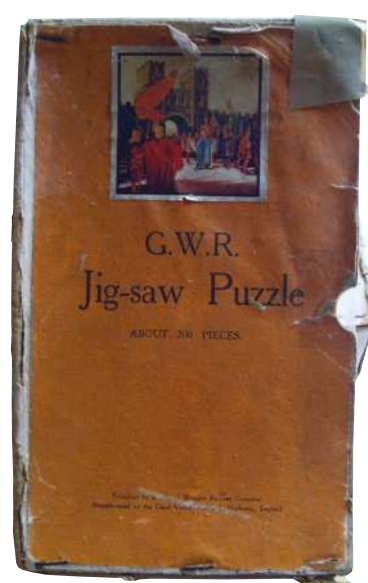
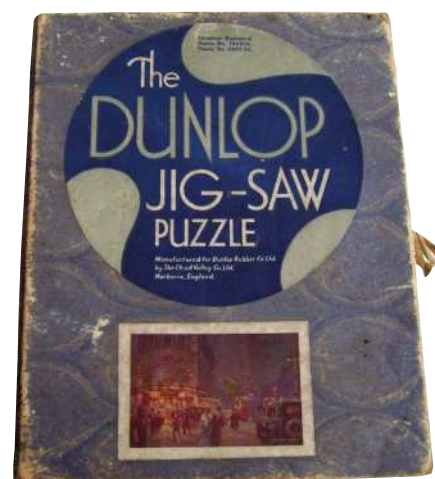
It was in 1830 that Anthony Bunn Johnson produced simple games



BELOW A GWR jigsaw produced by Chad Valley.

CLOCKWISE FROM BELOW

A Victory puzzle depicting a hunt scene; Dunlop Jig-Saw produced by Chad Valley; A vintage GWR Puzzle from Chad Valley; If you're going to collect jigsaw puzzles, make sure that all the pieces are included; A GWR puzzle showing a picture of Great Britain.



for children. The games mainly consisted of images illustrated on paper or card and assisted by a set of rules. By 1860, Anthony's two sons Joseph and Alfred decided to go it alone and split from their father's company setting up a comparable business in Birmingham by the name of 'Johnson Brothers'.

The introduction of the 'jig-saw' cutting equipment came into production in the 1870s allowing the manufacturers to cut more complex pieces, thus changing the name of the dissected puzzles to 'jigsaw puzzles'. The manufacturers started to use plywood with the illustration either painted or glued on. A pattern was outlined in pencil and traced onto the back of the wood to show where the cuts were to be made. These can still be seen on some of the old puzzles bought today.

By the late 1800s, cardboard jigsaw puzzles were being manufactured and aimed at the

children's market although these were of poor quality.

Meanwhile Johnson Brothers traded under this name for many years, moving the company to new premises in 1897 and settling in a valley next to the River Chad in Birmingham. This inspired the new name 'Chad Valley Company Limited' which was adopted for their business.

The first toys under the name of Chad Valley were produced in 1920, some 90 years after first trading as a printing company. Hand-cut wooden puzzles were produced during the 1920s and 1930s. They manufactured a series for the Great Western Railway, the British India Steamship Company, Cunard White Star Line and Dunlop which have become the most sought after and collectable today.

Most of the puzzles were made from plywood and the boxes featured the Chad Valley logo and a small picture. The Dunlop Chad Valley jigsaw had a blue box with

a large ball in two-tone blue on the front with the words written across it and a small picture of the contents on the bottom.

The Chad Valley Gold Box Super-Cut jigsaw puzzle had extra thick wooden whimsical shapes which included a map of England and Wales with wavy edges. This was produced c.1950s and will easily fetch around £65 nowadays, if it is still in a good condition. The company produced quite a number of photographed jigsaws of the royal family which will now cost a collector anything up to £70 each.

Dragonsland is a scarce puzzle from the 1930s which

was advertised in the Chad Valley catalogue as a 'Puzzle for the Connoisseur'. The picture depicts a wonderland of animals, birds, beasts and man put together in one rectangle. The fantasy of this puzzle has been intricately cut from wood by professional workers with each piece dovetailing together into an artistic design. This puzzle could cost anything up to £100 depending on condition.

When starting a collection try to buy items in the best possible condition, check the box for tears and make sure all pieces are intact. **CG**

INTERESTING FACTS...

- A jigsaw was produced in 1937 showing three generations of the royal family – Queen Mary (the then Queen Mother), King George VI, Queen Elizabeth and their daughters, Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret.

- In 1952, to mark the accession of HM Queen Elizabeth II, a jigsaw was produced depicting the Queen with Prince Charles seated to her right and Princess Anne on the left. Large pieces were used for the heads of the royals to ensure no joins crossed their faces to avoid any disrespect.



10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Dinky Toys

The first Dinky Toys you ever owned as a child are usually the ones that you have the fondest memories of. My first Dinky Toys arrived courtesy of my uncle Philip who pulled on his first pair of drainpipe trousers and became a Teddy Boy in 1958. Deciding this was the time to offload all his Dinky Toys and Hornby model railway equipment to his young nephew (me) I inherited a box full of goodies. They included a few battered Foden eight wheelers, a dozen or more cars and a couple of Guy lorries most of which were eventually repainted with Airfix paints! Oh dear what did I do? Can I ever be forgiven?

For the remainder of my younger years I accepted the fact that second hand Dinkies was to be my lot, most of them being bought at the local village jumble sales to which I was regularly dragged to by my mother. Come rain or shine (it seemed mostly rain!) off we went, standing outside that village

hall for what seemed an eternity and enduring the mad crush, as all those old ladies piled in to grab the bargains... it was a sight to behold. The only highlight of this Saturday afternoon ritual was the toy table that always gleaned an interesting array of previously loved, recently discarded diecasts. It was just a question of how many I could lay my hands on for the one shilling (5p) pocket money that my dad gave me every Saturday morning. No doubt I unknowingly ignored the real gems on those tables, selecting instead the 1960s tractors, sports cars and military vehicles, while ignoring the more old fashioned looking offerings from my uncle's late 1940s era. Nobody thought any of these toys would ever be worth anything back in the 1960s – they were simply playthings.

By this time the word Dinky had become synonymous with small metal toys in the same way that all vacuum cleaners were called Hoovers. 'He's playing with his Dinkies' simply meant that you

were playing with your toys – whatever make they happened to be! I loved my second hand Dinkies and only ever had a handful of brand new ones due to the high cost compared to cheaper offerings from Benbros, Crescent, Lone Star and the likes. But Dinky Toys were the best and how I used to drool over the latest new arrivals displayed tantalisingly in the toy shop window, wondering if I would ever get chance to own any of them myself? The chances were always slim but I never gave up hope.

It was the arrival of swapmeets in the 1970s that really gave secret toy lovers like me the chance to realise some of those lost childhood dreams. The first swapmeets held in Britain were truly amazing events as anyone in their late fifties and over will verify. You simply never knew what would be brought into the hall in those days. Thousands of Dinky Toys still lay undiscovered in the dusty stockrooms of shops, while others had long since been consigned to dark attics where they were re-

discovered by their owners, many with children of their own, often bemused by the fact that these old toys had suddenly become collectors' items.

I attended my first swapmeet around forty years ago at a small village hall in the midlands on a wet and windy November night. Until then I'd been a secret Dinky collector lurking around street corner junk shops in search of those toys you never had as a kid but still so desperately wanted as an adult. It was not the type of thing you bragged about in those days though as it wasn't as cool as collecting records, coins, stamps or football programmes, which is what most lads did then. But that first swapmeet gave me a completely new outlook on toy collecting and the realisation that I was not the only one interested in the subject came as quite relief... I was normal after all and there were actually a few model clubs dotted around the country, I later discovered. I remember having five pounds to spend that evening



ABOVE

Based on an American Studebaker truck these petrol tankers were introduced to the Dinky range in 1952 and produced in various liveries until 1960. The 'Mobilgas' and 'National Benzole' models were particularly attractive.



ABOVE

Made between 1948 and 1952 the 29e Single Deck half-cab coach was never released with an individual box. It was sold in three different colour combinations from trade boxes of six.



ABOVE

Dinky No. 504 14-Ton Tanker with the first type DG radiator grille and first type box. This toy was released in 1948.

which bought a bag full of unboxed Dinky Supertoys in nice condition priced between 50p and £1.00 each. Good boxed examples were available for less than a fiver a throw so over the next few years I built up a great collection for sums of money that a young student could afford. Yes, those certainly were the days!

With the advent of swapmeets and the earlier publication of Cecil Gibson's excellent book *The History of British Dinky Toys* toy collecting became an accepted and recognised hobby. Dinky Toys were still on sale in toy shops in those days, of course, and I remember stock piling quite a few of the last examples when it was announced that the famous Binns Road factory in Liverpool was to close its gates for the last time in 1979.

It was the end of an era which had begun back in 1933 when Frank Hornby released that first small boxed set of six diecast vehicles designed primarily to compliment Hornby's huge range of O gauge railway equipment. These toys are known as the 22 series and were initially marketed under the name 'Modelled Miniatures' and 'Meccano Miniatures' prior to the change to the more catchy 'DINKY TOYS'. The adjective "Dinky" originated in Scotland and is described in the Concise Oxford Dictionary as 'pretty, neat and of engaging appearance' which seemed to suit them perfectly.

Advertised within the pages of *Meccano Magazine* the first Modelled Miniatures sold well so the range was extended to include

more cars vans, trucks and a range of ships. By the time the first Dinky Toys colour catalogue was published in 1934 the range had grown to 150 models. Sadly Frank Hornby never lived to see Dinky Toys reach to the height of their popularity as he died in 1936.

The outbreak of World War Two eventually brought production to an end with the last Dinky models being made in 1941. By then Dinky had cleverly launched the hugely popular 'Mechanised Army' sets which quickly caught the imagination of small boys excited by all the military activity during the build up to the war. Shops were still allowed to sell their existing stocks of Dinky Toys until 1943 when a total ban on metal sales finally came into force. The Binns Road factory was then turned over to war duties until toy making resumed in 1945.

This post-war era saw Dinky enter its halcyon years with the launch of the Supertoys range in August 1947. These larger more detailed models with terrific play value and individual boxes, sent Dinky soaring to the top of the toy league where it remained for the next decade or so.

By the end of the 1950s, however, Dinky had a dangerous rival to contend with. Corgi Toys had been launched by Mettoy Playcraft Ltd in 1956 and the kids were going mad for them. Corgi brought in new innovations such as independent suspension, moving parts and real windows and it was equally slick when it came to packaging



LEFT

This 36d Post-war Rover Streamlined Saloon looks great alongside some petrol pumps from the No. 49 Dinky set. All these toys were re-issued post-war.



RIGHT

The 30e Breakdown Car was made before and after WW2. This one has an open rear window at the back of the cab indicating a pre-war casting.



LEFT

The little Dinkys Toy 22e Tractor was initially cast in lead and appeared in the first Modelled Miniatures boxed set of 1933. Early pre-war tractors did not have tow hooks.



RIGHT

The Leyland Octopus wagon was produced between 1956 and 1964 and proved to be one of Dinky's best-selling Supertoys.

and advertising its attractive new models too. Suddenly Dinky Toys began to look a bit dated and Meccano had to work hard to keep up with Corgi. Dinky Toys passed into the ownership of Lines Brothers in 1964 and when it hit financial trouble the brand

was sold to Airfix who despite trading difficulties, continued to release some excellent Dinky models until its final demise in the late 1970s. Those of us who grew up with Dinky Toys will never forget what wonderful playthings they were. **CG**

MAKING THE HEADLINES

Dinky Toys made national news in 1996 when a boxed set of 24 series pre-war motor cars was discovered in the attic of a house in Scotland after the new owners moved in. The boxed set of seven 24 series Motor Cars and a truck (which replaced an ambulance) dated from 1934 and were in excellent condition having been stored inside a large tin trunk. What a find they turned out to be, making a massive £7,250 when sold by Vectis at The Civic Hall, Guildford. Amazing when you consider their original price was only 3/11d.

Famous Faces: MONKEEMOBILE

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

The Monkees was one of the surprise hits of television and pop music in the 1960s. The group was created as a musical answer to The Beatles, and the expectation was that they would be hired by the TV studio for their looks rather than their singing ability. There were around 400 actors who were auditioned for the parts, and eventually the selection of Davy Jones (the cute one), Micky Dolenz (the funny one), Michael Nesmith (the serious one) and Peter Tork (the quiet one) was made. The show first aired in the United States in September 1966 and ran for two seasons, making a total of 58 shows.

It was intended to be a comedy show with pop music dubbed by professional session musicians. However, the group sang many of the songs themselves and frequently played their own instruments. The band had many big hits including *Last Train to Clarksville*, *Daydream Believer*, *A Little Bit Me, I'm A Believer* and *(I'm Not Your) Stepping Stone*. The songs were so successful that the group won many awards and went on to outsell The Beatles and Elvis Presley in 1967.

The Monkees' TV show was based around an unsuccessful pop group who were a bit zany,



This Corgi No.277 "The Monkees" Monkeemobile sold for £100 at auction recently.

and thus it required a rather zany car to feature as their method of transport. Custom car genius, Dean Jeffries was approached and asked to design such a vehicle, but he was given very little time to complete the project. Two cars were required; one to be used in the TV series and one to be used for promotional tours. Dean Jeffries was under contract

with MPC (Motor Products Corporation) at the time and he mentioned the project to his boss, George Toteff. No make or model was specified for the project so George approached Jim Wangers who was working for Pontiac. Between them, they came up with the idea of customising a Pontiac GTO, which would be good for promoting the car, and MPC

would have exclusive rights to produce the model kits of the car.

Dean Jeffries got to work and produced the two cars required within a four-week time frame. The first car produced was the main car, to be used on the television programme, and the second was the promotional show car, to tour hot rod and car shows around the United States. The



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

MPC 1960s model kit Monkeemobile £45; A signed picture of The Monkees; Dean Jeffries with his Monkeemobile.



ABOVE
George Barris' original Monkeemobile.

first version originally sported a 6-71 supercharger engine, a solid mounted rear axle (no springs) and extra rear end weight. This was to enable the car to 'pop wheelies'. Because the car had too much power and was difficult to drive, the original blower set up was removed and a dummy blower was fitted. The second car was used as a touring car for auto shows and promotional events. Both would be used on the *The Monkees* TV series, one during season 1 and both throughout season 2. In most of the TV shows, the car does not feature *The Monkees*' guitar logo on the doors.

There are notable differences between the two cars. Door logo size, fan belt cover styling and blower lines are a few quick visual ways to tell the differences between two cars.

The first car (the TV car) was used for touring by the group and was eventually left behind in Australia. It later resurfaced as a hotel courtesy car in Puerto Rico, though no-one knows how it ended up there. When the hotel went bankrupt, the car was sold at a government auction in 1992 for \$5,000. It was used by ERTL as the basis of its 1/18 scale model diecast car. It also featured in *The Monkees*' reunion tours in 1997 and 2001. It is now in the hands of a private collector in New York.

George Barris purchased the second Monkeemobile (the touring car). He later claimed that he had design rights to the car, but he only had ownership rights. He did, however, restore and modify the car and showed it frequently at promotion events throughout the States. In January 2008, George Barris sold the second Monkeemobile through auction to a private collector in Michigan for

a staggering \$360,000.

The Monkeemobile was a unique vehicle and model makers had to create special tooling to reproduce it. Even though it was based on the Pontiac GTO, Dean Jeffries had designed it to look very individual. Possibly the best-known collectable model of the Monkeemobile in the UK is the original Corgi No.277 version. A model in mint and boxed condition today sells for around £150. However, if you find one with the rare header card, you could pay up to £250. The reason that the header card version is so much more expensive is because Corgi only sent one header card per trade box of 12 models. The header card was meant as the store display model. There was also a Corgi Junior model released, sealed on a card, which fetches around £80, while a US version, known as the Husky Extra, sold recently at auction for £380.

MPC kits were probably the most popular model kits of the Monkeemobile, selling in their millions in the USA. An original 1960s kit in mint and boxed condition would sell for around £45, but the model has been re-issued many times over the years, both by MPC and laterally by AMT.

For those who prefer to collect the larger scale diecast models, there is the 1/18 American Muscle Monkeemobile, selling now for around £50.

Another period collectable Monkeemobile is the tinplate ASC model made in Japan. This is a working model showing the Pontiac with its top down and featuring the four Monkees playing their music. The figures are made of vinyl but the rest of the car is tinplate. A good boxed example will set you back around



ABOVE
A boxed tinplate Monkeemobile. In good condition it could reach £450.



ABOVE
Corgi No.277 with rare header card - back view.



ABOVE
Husky Extra The Monkees Monkeemobile diecast car #1404, 1967. In near mint to mint condition the auction estimate was set at £120 - £140. It actually made £380.

£450, but toys like these don't tend to go down in value. The car actually has a built-in mechanism which plays Monkees' tunes. There are cheaper versions of this model made in Mexico and Spain. They tend to be plastic bodied and are worth about £150.

Other models of the Monkeemobile were produced by Johnny Lightning and ERTL. Johnny Lightning also produced a carded set featuring a Volkswagen camper in Monkees colours, but this vehicle never featured in the series. **CG**

eBay

From collectables of the future to old favourites, eBay always manages to produce some amazing finds... and even more amazing prices!



♦ **A 1985 Hasbro GI Joe Snake Eyes**, on grey file card 36 Back AFA graded 85 NM+. As the professional grade suggests this is a near mint example. A great investment piece for the lucky collector. **Sold for £2676 (34 bids).**



♦ **A large scale, rare Batboat made in Western Germany the late 60s by Geobra.** It was made from blow moulded poly plastic, and was in extremely good condition with no obvious play wear. **Sold for £2151 (10 bids).**



♦ **Signed by the creator this Lego Inside Tour was only 1 of 33 produced.** It was in mint condition, had been kept in plastic. A lucky win for someone! **Sold for £2050 (10 bids).**



♦ **Here was a vintage Matchbox Superfast Gift Set No G100**, the Twin Thunderbolt Launcher Set, from 1972. It contained the Blue Shark and The Hairy Hustler models, as well as the original launchers. **Sold for £2263 (8 bids).**



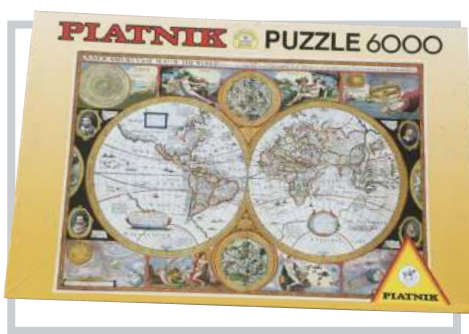
♦ **A Matchbox Lesney No11a Petrol Tanker**, in a rare green variant. Overall it was in excellent condition and was sold with a very good, strong B1 box with no ink, tears or repairs. **Sold for £1149 (29 bids).**



♦ **Found while clearing out a relative's house**, this vintage GWR Railway King George V jigsaw was in great condition. It was made from 3-ply wood and had 300 coloured pieces. **Sold for £262 (20 bids).**



♦ **A Super Sonic Plush from the Sonic the Fighters range.** Made in 1997 and only available via claw machines in Japan, these plushies have been extremely hard to find. **Sold for £760 (6 bids).**



♦ **Completing this 6000-piece Map of the World jigsaw puzzle might take you some considerable time!** It was in near mint condition (having only been completed once) and all pieces were present. **Sold for £250 (13 bids).**



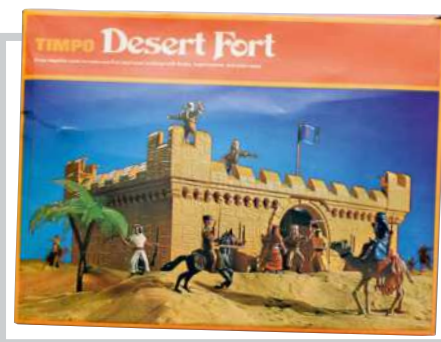
♦ **This scarce large-scale horse and soldier** was made by German company George Heyde during the 1890s. It has the odd chip and slight damage to the lead reins... not bad considering its age. **Sold for £342 (7 bids).**



⬆ Although this vintage 1960s battery toy robot lacked details, the seller did include a range of pictures to help answer any potential questions! It was battery operated and was in very good condition for its age. **Sold for £687 (17 bids).**



⬆ Tri-ang Spot-On No. 109/2P ERF 68G with Flat Float and Plank Load, one thing people may forget is that you can update listings on eBay. Here the seller updated the info to note a small paint chip on the right hand side. **Sold for £1,070 (41 bids).**



⬆ A boxed Timpo Desert Fort, ref N0.1500, was sold in very good condition. There was no contents list so the seller couldn't tell if it was complete; it did however have four Bedouin figures and 3 Legionnaire figures. **Sold for £397 (34 bids).**



⬆ Matchbox Garage Presentation Gift Set C, the seller noted that the contents of this particular set were unusual and didn't match the listing in Ramsey's. However, the original owner swore the contents were original. **Sold for £1,965 (Buy it Now).**



⬆ MOKO Lesney Matchbox No. 46 Morris Minor 1000, this was the tan version of the Morris Minor and seller was very honest in noting it wasn't in mint condition, due to some small paint chips and minor playwear/rubs. **Sold for £1,912 (41 bids).**



⬆ This German LJN Thundercats The Driller figure was UKG 80 graded. A beautiful piece that is hard to find in this condition. **Sold for £1470 (34 bids).**



⬆ Dinky Toys No. 274 Morris Minor Van 'Joseph Mason Paints', one of Dinky's most sought after promotionals, this is actually for a Derby-based paint firm. This particular example was rated 9+ +/10, if such a thing is possible. **Sold for £995 (Buy it Now).**



⬆ This Lego Green Grocer Modular Building 10185, from 2008, came complete with box, instructions and all the correct pieces. It also contained the spare parts and the original bags. **Sold for £680 (35 bids).**



⬆ Corgi Toys Gift Set 48 Car Transporter with Six Cars, diecast was on a bit of a roll on eBay recently. Here's another rare piece: the Ford 'H' Tilt Cab 48 set box with the Scammell No. 1148 model set. Condition was rated B/C. **Sold for £760 (Buy it Now).**



⬆ Tri-ang Spot-On No. 401 VW Volkswagen Variant, condition is often everything but that didn't stop the bidders here, despite the fact the plastic was split on the box and one of the ski poles was missing. **Sold for £607 (26 bids).**



⬆ Yonezawa Space Explorer Robot No. 802, although no maker was listed, we think this is from Yonezawa. The motor needed a little attention but otherwise it was in decent condition, considering its age. **Sold for £588 (23 bids).**



⬆ Corgi Toys Gift Set 35 London Passenger Transport Set, we finish on another charming diecast piece. Generally it was in good condition, although the seller noted a few marks here and there. **Sold for £500 (37 bids).**

PRICE GUIDE

This month we visit toy auctions from Vectis, C&T Auctioneers, Wallis and Wallis, Excalibur Auctions, UK Toy & Model Auctions and Warwick and Warwick.



♣Corgi "Spender" Ford Sierra Cosworth large scale pre-production working resin master shell in off-white, also comes with wooden and rubber block mould. Excellent. *Sold for £150, Vectis, May.*



♣Dinky No 30pa Trade Pack, 6x "Castrol" Studebaker Petrol Tankers - green, silver trim including filler caps, ridged hubs. Good to good plus in fair to good yellow lift off lid trade box. *Sold for £320, Vectis, May.*



♣Tri-ang Spot-On Presentation No 0, containing Rolls Royce Silver Wraith, MGA Sports Car, Aston Martin DB, Ford Zodiac and Austin Prime Mover. Good to good plus, fair to good inner carded tray, fair lift off lid, good carded base. *Sold for £480, Vectis, May.*



♣Shackleton Toy Foden FG Flat Truck, grey cab and back, red wheelarches with key, spanner and screwdriver. Good in good to good plus lift off lid box. *Sold for £320, Vectis, May.*



♣Dinky Toys No 935 Leyland Octopus Flat Truck with chains, green cab and chassis, light grey back and front trim, red plastic hubs with black treaded tyres, tow hook. Good plus in good yellow and red lift off lid box with detailed picture. *Sold for £420, Vectis, May.*



♣Dinky Toys No 105 Triumph TR2 Sports Car, pale yellow (lemon) body, light green seats with driver figure, silver trim, chrome spun hubs with white treaded tyres. Good plus to excellent in good plus yellow and red carded box with correct colour spot. *Sold for £190, Vectis, May.*



♣Dinky Toys No 157 Jaguar XK120, drab green, silver trim, chrome spun hubs with black treaded tyres. Good, unboxed. *Sold for £35, Vectis, May.*



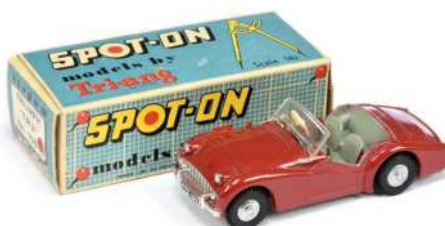
♣Corgi Toys No 420 Ford Thames Airborne Caravan, two-tone green, spun hubs, silver trim. Good plus in good to good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. *Sold for £70, Vectis, May.*



♣Corgi Toys No 54 Fordson Power Major Tractor with Roadless Half Tracks, blue body, orange plastic hubs with black tyres and grey tracks. Good plus in good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. *Sold for £100, Vectis, May.*



♣Corgi Toys No 69 Massey Ferguson 165 Tractor with Shovel, red, grey, white, driver figure. Good in good to good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with inner packing piece. *Sold for £90, Vectis, May.*



♣Tri-ang Spot-On No 108 Triumph TR3 Sports Car, dark red, grey interior, cream steering wheel, silver trim, spun hubs. Excellent in good plus carded box with correct colour spot and colour folded collectors card. *Sold for £220, Vectis, May.*



♣Tri-ang Spot-On No 108 Triumph TR3 Sports Car, mid-grey, turquoise interior, spun hubs, cream steering wheel. Good to good plus in good carded picture box with collectors club leaflet and colour collectors card. *Sold for £150, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Morestone Series 4 Foden Express Delivery Truck**, yellow cab, chassis and hubs, grey back. Excellent plus in good plus to excellent blue, white and red striped box with folded leaflet. *Sold for £150, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Shackleton Toy Foden FG Flat Truck**, yellow cab and back, red mudguards, "Shackleton Toys" to cab rear, with key and spanner. Good plus in fair lift off lid box, with folded leaflet. *Sold for £400, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Shackleton Toy Foden FG Flat Truck**, green cab and back, red wheelarches, with key and spanner. Good in fair lift off lid box. *Sold for £280, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Shackleton Toy Foden FG Flat Truck**, blue cab, back, red wheelarches. Good plus, unboxed. *Sold for £200, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Shackleton Toy Foden FG Tipper**, yellow cab and tipper, red wheelarches and tanks, with key, spanner and screwdriver. Good plus in poor to fair lift off lid box. *Sold for £420, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Shackleton Toy Foden FG Tipper**, red including cab, tipper and wheelarches, with spanner and key. Good to good plus, with folded leaflet in fair lift off lid box. *Sold for £280, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Shackleton Toy Foden FG Tipper**, blue cab and tipper, red wheelarches, with screwdriver, key and spanner. Good in reproduction lift off lid box. *Sold for £360, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Crescent Toys No 1285 BRM Racing Car**, green, driver figure, black criss-cross hubs, racing number 7. Good plus in good carded picture box. *Sold for £25, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Crescent Toys No 1286 Ferrari 2.5 litre Racing Car**, red, white driver figure, black criss-cross hubs, racing number 5. Good plus in good carded picture box. *Sold for £35, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Crescent Toys No 1287 Connaught Grand Prix Racing Car**, dark green, white driver figure, racing number 8, criss-cross hubs. Good in good carded picture box. *Sold for £40, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Crescent Toys No 1288 Cooper Bristol 2 litre Racing Car**, blue body, white driver figure, racing number 2, criss-cross hubs. Good plus in fair carded picture box. *Sold for £25, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Tekno No 808 Triumph TR2 Sports Car**, light green, dark green tonneau, grey interior with black steering wheel, flat spun hubs. Excellent in fair to good carded picture box. *Sold for £300, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Tekno No 808 Triumph TR2 Sports Car**, metallic brown body, grey interior and tonneau, black steering wheel, flat spun hubs. Good in fair carded picture box. *Sold for £220, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Tekno No 804 MG Sports Car**, red body, green seats, light grey tonneau, flat spun hubs. Good plus in good carded picture box. *Sold for £150, Vectis, May.*



♣ **Tekno No 723 Mercedes 180 Saloon**, drab green, silver trim. Excellent plus in excellent carded picture box. *Sold for £280, Vectis, May.*



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 1d Aveling Barford Diesel Road Roller, Stannard Code 2, clip-fit base with hole, red plastic rollers. Near mint with distortion to plastic rollers in excellent plus scarce late issue type E3 box. **Sold for £240, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 1e Mercedes LP Covered Truck Pre-production trial model, without front bumper extension, thin rear tow hook & without rear wheelarch braces, clear windows. Good in excellent "new" type E4 box. **Sold for £2200, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 1e Mercedes LP Covered Truck, Stannard Code 1 - sea green body with orange canopy, chrome grille & base without tow guide, 40-tread black plastic wheels. Near mint in excellent type E4 box. **Sold for £45, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 1e Mercedes LP Covered Truck, sea green body with type C cab step & with front bumper extensions, chrome grille & base with tow guide, 40-tread black plastic wheels. Mint in excellent plus scarce late issue type F4 box. **Sold for £50, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 1e Mercedes LP Covered Truck (Superfast 1a), metallic gold body with yellow canopy, turquoise green windows, chrome grille & base, 5-spoke solid narrow wheels with tread pattern cast & black axle clips. Near mint in excellent plus "New" type box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 1e Mercedes LP Covered Truck Promotional Issue (Superfast 1a) "Porter Paints Ltd 1929-1979", orange body 1978 date to base. Near mint in near mint "new" type G box with "TM". Promotional issue for 50th Anniversary of Lesney's Joint Paint Supplier. **Sold for £1500, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 1f Mod Rod (Superfast 1b), racing number 6 hood label (from No.41c Ford GT 40), rare blue engine, dark amber windows, orange interior, bare metal base. Near mint in mint "New" type H box. **Sold for £640, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 1h Dodge Challenger Revin' Rebel Dragster, orange body with blue & white tampo print, blue roof, clear windows, black interior. Excellent plus with a couple of tiny pin size chips in excellent box. **Sold for £140, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 2c Muir Hill Site Dumper "Muir Hill", unlisted Stannard Code. Red cab & chassis without silver trim but with type C mudguard brace. Mint in near mint correct late issue type E3 box. **Sold for £140, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 2e Jeep Hot Rod (Superfast 2b), pink body, rare yellow interior, lime green base, 4-spoke wide wheels. Near mint with tiny chip to top of windscreen in mint type H box. **Sold for £120, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 2e Jeep Hot Rod (Superfast 2b), red body, pale yellow interior, scarce lime green base, 4-spoke wide wheels - overall excellent plus in excellent "New" type I box. **Sold for £110, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 3b Bedford TK Tipper Truck, Stannard Code 1 - light grey cab & chassis with silver trim, gloss black base, 24-tread grey plastic wheels. Near mint in near mint type D1 box printed by Pembroke Abbey. **Sold for £280, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels 3b Bedford TK Tipper Truck. Stannard Code 9, red tipper body with base block, gloss black base, 45-tread grey plastic wheels. Near mint in excellent type D4 box with surface tears to one picture face. **Sold for £130, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast 3d Monteverdi Hai Pre-production colour trial, lime green body, bare metal base with incomplete copyright date & cast open front tow slot, 5-spoke wide wheels. Excellent in mint "New" type I box. **Sold for £1200, Vectis, May.**



♣ Matchbox Regular Wheels No.5c London Routemaster Bus "Drink Peardrax", Stannard Code 5, red body with criss-cross roof, type B base, 18-tread black plastic wheels. Near mint in excellent plus type D2 box printed by Pembroke Abbey. **Sold for £500, Vectis, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 107 Batboat And Trailer, 1st issue with tinplate fin cover, complete with Batman & Robin figures, gold trailer, cast wheels, plastic trailer coupling to fit Batmobile, in near mint original condition. **Sold for £320, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 150S Vanwall Formula 1 Grand Prix Racing Car, red, with suspension, driver, blue/white bonnet racing no 25, flat spun wheels with spoked decals applied, in near mint original condition. **Sold for £95, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 151 Lotus Mark Eleven Le Mans Racing Car, blue body, red seats, clear windscreen, racing no '3' in mint original condition, with an excellent original blue/yellow box, 3/6 in pencil to one end flap. **Sold for £95, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 152 B.R.M, Formula 1 Grand Prix Racing Car, dark green body, yellow seat, racing number '17' flat spun wheels in mint original condition, with a good original blue picture box, some slight age wear. **Sold for £70, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 155 Roger Clarkes Lotus Climax Formula 1 Racing Car, green body, driver no '1' spun wheels, in mint original condition, inner card packing, with an excellent original box, 5/3 in pencil to one end flap. **Sold for £50, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 200 Ford Consul Saloon, two tone cream/ bright green body, flat spun wheel hubs, in excellent original bright condition, some slight paint rubbing with a fair to good box, with edge/age wear. **Sold for £110, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 211 Studebaker "Golden Hawk", blue body, gold rear wing flashes, flat spun wheels, in excellent to near mint original condition, a couple of tiny paint chips, original early blue box is near mint. **Sold for £95, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 233 Heinkel Economy Car, orange body, silver trim, yellow interior, cast spun wheels, in mint original condition, with a mint blue and yellow original illustrated box, Corgi model club TV21 leaflet. **Sold for £85, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 256 Volkswagen 1200 in East African Safari Trim, orange body, brown interior, right hand drive, spun wheel hubs, with original grey Rhinoceros, in near mint original condition, outer card box is good. **Sold for £140, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 258 The "Saints" Volvo P.1800, shaped spun wheel hubs, blue bonnet label, in very good original condition, some slight paint chipping, complete with Corgi Collectors Club leaflet. **Sold for £300, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 261 James Bond Aston Martin D.B.5 from the Film "Goldfinger", gold body, with ejector seat, bandit and James Bond figures. In very good original unboxed condition, a couple of tiny paint chips to roof. **Sold for £85, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 261 James Bond Aston Martin D.B.5 from the Film "Goldfinger", with ejector seat, rear bullet screen, retractable machine guns. Complete with opened secret instructions. Very good to near mint original condition. **Sold for £360, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 266 "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", complete with "Caractacus Potts, Truly Scrumptious, Jeremy and Jemima" figures, in mint original condition. Including inner plastic cloud, card cloud display. **Sold for £120, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Boxed Corgi Toys 1st issue 267 Rocket Firing Batmobile, with "Batman & Robin" figures, in excellent original condition, including an excellent original inner card stand. Complete with instruction pack. **Sold for £460, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ Corgi Toys 277 The Monkees Monkeemobile, red body, white roof, cast wheels, with figures of Mike, Mikey, Davey & Pete, model is in near mint original condition, with an excellent original window box. **Sold for £160, C&T Auctioneers, May.**



♣ A coarse scale O gauge scratchbuilt model of a BR Class 35 Bo-Bo Warship diesel locomotive, Sultan D7096, in early BR Brunswick Green livery. Parts from a Tri-ang 'Big Train' Hymek together with scratchbuilt elements. Good, some running wear. **Sold for £40, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A coarse scale O gauge Leeds Model Co. model of a Southern 0-4-0ST locomotive, 12, in unlined green livery. A model with some enhanced detailing, sprung buffers, etc. It has a centre 'sleigh' pickup for stud third rail running. Good, some running wear. **Sold for £50, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A live steam coarse scale O gauge locomotive, Spirit fired 2 cylinder tinplate model of a Great Central Railway 2-8-0T locomotive, 423, in lined green livery. Good, running wear. **Sold for £110, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt/scratchbuilt model of an LT Metro-Vick Bo-Bo electric locomotive, Sir Christopher Wrenn, 20, in lined maroon livery. A well detailed model with sprung buffers, etc. For 2-rail running. Good, some running wear, minor damage. **Sold for £140, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of an LT Class 57xx 0-6-0PT locomotive, L94, in lined maroon livery. A well detailed and finished model built from a 'C. Taylor Models' brass kit, with sprung buffers, etc. For 3-rail centre sleigh. Good, some running wear. **Sold for £160, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt brass model of an LT Hunslet 0-4-0 diesel locomotive, Selsey Bill 101, in lined maroon livery. A well detailed and finished model with sprung buffers, etc. For 3-rail centre sleigh, stud pickup running. Good, minor running wear. **Sold for £130, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of an LNWR 4-4-2T Webb Metropolitan tank locomotive, 3095, in lined black livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For 2-rail running. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £180, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of a Midland Railway 4-2-2 Johnson tender locomotive, 1863, in lined maroon livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For either 2-rail running or third rail stud pickup running. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £240, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of an LSWR Class 700 0-6-0 Drummond tender locomotive, 687, in lined green livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For either 2-rail running or third rail stud pickup running. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £240, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of an LSWR Class X2 4-4-0 Adams tender locomotive, 592, in lined green livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For either 2-rail running or third rail stud pickup running. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £240, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of an LBSCR 2-2-2 tender locomotive, Jenny Lind 70, in lined green livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For 2-rail running. Contemporary 4-wheel compartment coach. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £220, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of a GWR Class 32xx 4-4-0 tender locomotive, 3204, in lined green livery. A brass model with some detailing. For 2-rail running. Good, minor running wear and would benefit from minor improvements to finish and paintwork. **Sold for £170, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of an LBSCR K Class 2-6-0 tender locomotive, 337, in lined brown livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For either 2-rail running or third rail stud pickup running. Good, minor running wear. **Sold for £220, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of a Pullman Class 73 Bo-Bo diesel locomotive, Brighton Evening Argus 73101, in brown and cream Pullman livery as the locomotive for the Brighton Belle train. With both bogies motored for 2-rail running. Good, minor running wear. **Sold for £180, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of a Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway Class 7F 2-8-0 tender locomotive, 89, in lined dark blue livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For third rail stud pickup running. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £540, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of a Great Central Railway Class B2 4-6-0 tender locomotive, Sir Sam Fay 423, in lined dark green livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For third rail stud pickup running. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £190, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of an LNER Class P2 2-8-2 Mikado tender locomotive, Earl Marischal 2002, in lined green livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For either 2-rail running or third rail stud pickup running. Very good, minor wear. **Sold for £440, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of a Southern Railway Class N15 4-6-0 tender locomotive, Sir Bors de Ganis 763, in lined olive green livery with bogie tender. For either 2-rail running or third rail stud pickup running. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £460, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of a Great Central Class 9Q 4-6-0 tender locomotive, 33, in lined green livery. A brass model constructed from a Gladiator Models kit for 2-rail running. Good, minor running wear/damage and minor issues with paint finish. **Sold for £180, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A finescale O gauge kitbuilt model of an LBSCR Class H2 Marsh Atlantic 4-4-2 tender locomotive, 426, in lined brown livery. A well detailed brass model with sprung buffers, etc. For 2-rail running. Very good, minor running wear. **Sold for £260, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A live steam, spirit fired O gauge scratchbuilt model of an LBSCR L Class 4-6-4T Baltic tank locomotive, 328, in lined brown livery. A brass/tinplate model. Good, some running wear, burner damage to boiler and water tank paintwork/decals. **Sold for £220, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A live steam, spirit fired O gauge scratchbuilt model of an LNER 4-6-0 tender locomotive, 364, in lined green livery. A brass/tinplate model. Water tank in bogie tender with hand pump. Good, some running wear, burner damage to boiler paintwork. **Sold for £200, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A live steam, spirit fired O gauge model of a Great Central 4-6-0 tender locomotive. A heavily modified and over painted Bassett Lowke 'Enterprise'. Bassett Lowke label to underside of tender. Fair, for restoration. **Sold for £95, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A live steam O gauge Bowman Models locomotive. Spirit fired 2 cylinder tinplate model of an LNER 4-4-0 locomotive, 4472, in unlined green livery. Good, running wear, some blistering to paintwork. **Sold for £130, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A live steam O gauge Bowman Models locomotive. Spirit fired 2 cylinder tinplate model of an LMS 4-4-0 locomotive, 13000, in lined maroon livery. Good, running wear, some blistering to paintwork and cab repainted. **Sold for £170, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ A live steam O gauge Bowman Models locomotive. Spirit fired 2 cylinder tinplate model of an LNER 0-4-0T locomotive, 300, in lined green livery. Including a 4-4-0 chassis and spirit tank/burners. Good, running wear. **Sold for £120, Wallis and Wallis, May.**



♣ Hornby. Live steam 3 1/2" gauge Stephenson's Rocket set, good plus in good plus box, with Rocket 0-2-2 locomotive and tender, plastic track, accessories and instructions, plus coaches. Contents appear complete. **Sold for £160, Warwick & Warwick, May.**



♣ Mamod Live Steam collection, generally excellent, with unmade kit of Gauge 1 or O (changeable) 0-4-0T SLK1 locomotive No. 1402. Straight track pack No. TS1, unboxed O gauge green 0-4-0T locomotive. Good, has been fired No.1322, open wagon, chassis and track. **Sold for £220, Warwick & Warwick, May.**



♣ O Gauge unboxed collection with Bassett-Lowke, LMS maroon 1927 Duke of York 4-4-0, Hornby c/w green 5400 0-4-0 with mismatched tender, BR black 82011 0-4-0T, goods wagons (S), signal etc, in mixed condition. **Sold for £160, Warwick & Warwick, May.**



♣ Unboxed tank locomotive range with Wrenn SE&CR, green 69 Class R1 0-6-0T, Hornby Dublo BR black 69560 N2 Class 0-6-2T, Hornby LBSC brown 100 Class E2 0-6-0T, Mainline North Eastern green Joem Terrier 0-6-0T. Generally good to excellent. **Sold for £120, Warwick & Warwick, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2196M "The Cambrian Coast Express" Train Pack: Castle Class 4-6-0 "Nunney Castle" Loco and Tender No. 5029 GWR lined green, plus 3 GWR chocolate and cream coaches all with fitted coach boards, No.0271 of 1500. Excellent plus. **Sold for £70, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2600M (DCC Ready) "The Cheltenham Flyer" Train Pack: Castle Class 4-6-0 "Tregenna Castle" Loco and Tender No. 5006 GWR lined green, plus 3 GWR chocolate and cream coaches. No.0551 of 1500 produced. Excellent plus. **Sold for £70, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2077 "The Merchant Venturer" Train Pack containing: 4-6-0 "Earl Cairns" Loco and Tender No. 5053 BR lined green early crest. 3 GWR chocolate and cream coaches all with fitted coach boards. Excellent in excellent Box. **Sold for £70, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge GWR Train Pack containing: 4-6-0 "County of Somerset" Loco and Tender No. 1004 GWR lined green, plus 3 GWR chocolate and cream coaches. Excellent in a good Great British Train Pack box. **Sold for £65, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge GWR Train Pack containing: 4-6-0 "Windsor Castle" Loco and Tender No. 4082 GWR lined green "DCC Fitted Sticker" to base of Loco, plus 3 GWR chocolate and cream Coaches. Excellent in a good Great British Train Pack box. **Sold for £70, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2544 (DCC Ready) King Class 4-6-0 "King George I" Loco and Tender No. 6006 GWR lined green with accessory pack and paperwork. Excellent plus in excellent plus box. **Sold for £55, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2064 Dean Goods 0-6-0 Loco and Tender No. 2468 GWR green with Paperwork. Excellent plus in good plus box. **Sold for £40, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2459 (DCC Ready) Castle Class 4-6-0 "Wellington" Loco and Tender No. 5075 GWR lined green with accessory pack and paperwork. Excellent plus in excellent box. **Sold for £55, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2153A Class 2800 2-8-0 Loco and Tender GWR green with accessory pack and paperwork. Excellent plus in excellent plus box. **Sold for £40, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2391 County Class 4-6-0 "County of Carnarvon" Loco and Tender No. 1010 GWR lined green with accessory pack and paperwork. Excellent plus in excellent box. **Sold for £50, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2064B Dean Goods 0-6-0 Loco and Tender No. 2526 GWR lined green. Excellent plus in a good plus Hornby box with hand-written Loco information to end flap. **Sold for £35, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby (China) 00 gauge R2498 (DCC Ready) Castle Class 4-6-0 "Taunton Castle" Loco and Tender No. 7036 BR lined green early crest weathered with accessory pack and paperwork. Excellent plus in excellent plus box. **Sold for £50, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby Dublo 2-Rail 2235 4-6-2 West Country Loco & Tender BR Green No.34005 'Barnstaple', (coal added). Excellent/boxed (ink stained at one end) with instructions. **Sold for £60, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Hornby Dublo 2-Rail 2224 2-8-0-8F Loco and tender, BR Black No.48073 (coal added). Very good/boxed with instructions. **Sold for £60, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



♣Bachmann '00' 31-152 Jubilee Class Loco and tender No.45568 'Western Australia' BR Black. Excellent/boxed. **Sold for £35, UK Toy & Model Auctions, May.**



◀ **Iron Man #1** (1968 Marvel, UK cover price). Sealed and graded 6.5 by PGX Fine+. Off white to white pages. Origin of Iron Man retold. Gene Colan, Johnny Craig cover & interior art. Flat/unfolded, supplied slabbed and sealed PGX Fine+ Graded 96.5.

Sold for £480, Excalibur Auctions, May.



◀ **Amazing Spider-Man #47** (1967 Marvel, UK price variant). Kraven the Hunter, Green Goblin appearances. John Romita Sr cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £55, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



◀ **Amazing Spider-Man #46** (1967 Marvel, UK price variant). Origin and first appearance of the Shocker. John Romita Sr cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £48, Excalibur Auctions, May.*

▶ **Amazing Spider-Man #55** (1967 Marvel, UK cover price). Doctor Octopus appearance. John Romita Sr cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £32, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



▶ **Iron Man & Sub-Mariner #1** (1968 Marvel). Iron Man story continued from Tales of Suspense #99 and continues in Iron Man #1. Sub-Mariner story continued from Tales to Astonish #101. Gene Colan, Bill Everett cover, Colan and Johnny Craig interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £140, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



▶ **Silver Surfer #1** (1968 Marvel). Silver Surfer's origin is retold in more detail. The Watcher backup stories begin with his origin. John Buscema cover with Buscema and Gene Colan interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £750, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



◀ **Moon Knight #1** (1980 Marvel). Origin of Moon Knight and first appearance of the villain Raoul Bushman. Bill Sienkiewicz cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £75, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



◀ **Uncanny X-Men annual #4** (1980 Marvel). Doctor Strange appearance. John Romita Jr cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £18, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



◀ **Uncanny X-Men #99** (1976 Marvel, UK price variant). First appearance of Black Tom Cassidy and Sentinels appearance. Dave Cockrum cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £22, Excalibur Auctions, May.*

▶ **Uncanny X-Men #100** (1976 Marvel, UK price variant). The original X-Men vs the new X-Men, and origin of Phoenix. Dave Cockrum cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £32, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



▶ **Uncanny X-Men #108** (1977 Marvel, UK price variant). Starjammers appearance and Corsair revealed to be the father of Cyclops. Dave Cockrum, John Byrne cover and interior art, John Byrne's first issue as artist in the title that he would become synonymous with. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £15, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



▶ **Uncanny X-Men #109** (1978 Marvel UK price variant). First appearance of Vindicator (aka Guardian, called Weapon Alpha in this issue). Dave Cockrum cover with John Byrne interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £28, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



◀ **Uncanny X-Men #110** (1978 Marvel, UK price variant). Phoenix joins the X-Men and Warhawk appearance. Dave Cockrum cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £20, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



◀ **Uncanny X-Men #129** (1980 Marvel, UK price variant). First appearances of Kitty Pryde, Emma Frost, Sebastian Shaw, and the Hellfire Club. John Byrne and Terry Austin cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £110, Excalibur Auctions, May.*



◀ **Uncanny X-Men #133** (1980 Marvel, UK price variant). First solo Wolverine cover and Hellfire Club appearance. John Byrne and Terry Austin cover plus interior art. Flat/unfolded. *Sold for £25, Excalibur Auctions, May.*

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Toy Stories

What's in a name or a label? **Ed Karswell** finds out.

The terminology employed in our hobby can be as fascinating as it can be misleading. After all, not everybody's idea of what constitutes 'original condition' is the same. Terms can also be unintentionally humorous. Here are a few that fall into both camps... Let's start with that 'original condition', which can be taken to mean lovely and unmolested or alternatively left unmolested behind a garden shed for the past 40 years. These circumstances resulting in vastly different outcomes regarding condition.

Even the fabled 'mint and boxed' can be taken in so many ways. A tube with end flaps no more constitutes a box than a 'mint' model with numerous touch ins. The descriptor 'mint' has always been a bit of a misnomer given the production rate and techniques employed for toy production down the years. Toys were rarely perfect, indeed Dinky actually employed workers whose sole task was to rectify paint mishaps prior to despatch. Frankly some makers rarely got it perfect. Tri-ang's Spot-On range, whilst brimming

with detail, more often than not had appalling paint finishes and as for Timpo, let's not even go there.

I do however have a fondness for the term 'minty' which seems to find favour in America and denotes something very nice but not quite perfect. A description which on reflection is well, nigh on perfect. 'Ex-shop stock' is another one that gets collectors pulses racing as the models will be invariably viewed as desirable. It's sometimes overlooked that these items may have been stored in less than perfect conditions. Likewise, the over used and sometimes disingenuous term 'rare' must get a mention. Personally, I tend to think of things as rare when they can't be had no matter how much money is proffered. In any case, rarity doesn't automatically translate into monetary value.

Now we come to the more colloquial terms used by both collectors and the trade. Phrases such as 'been done' which can be used in either affirmation or as a question. It's commonly heard when evaluating some old toys integrity regarding its paint or repairs. A more pained expression is reserved for the finite 'had it'

phrase. I usually employ this one when viewing a rusty tinsplate toy that has lost the battle against corrosion! There are also some I have earwigged over the years. The delightful 'that hasn't been far' which is used to describe an item fresh onto the market, usually from a loft or from its original owner. It's increasingly rare to find older collectables that haven't been through one or more collectors hands and always peaks interest.

Ascribing monetary values also turn up their own gems. 'Book price' is a great one that bestows instant desirability on a model whilst inferring it worthy of cataloguing and evaluation. This was an old antiques trade ruse but works just as well with other collectables, especially the obscure and undesirable.

All areas have their own nomenclature. What I would term traditional old toys, such as diecast and tinsplate, have long standing terminology but what about things like carded action figures? This market has become so exacting it has regulatory bodies set up where you can send toys to be officially graded. None of your 'near mint'

or 'light rubbing' here, its either 7.5 or 80% or whatever. It sort of settles all arguments if the AFA – Action Figure Association says your carded, 20 back, Palitoy Princess Lea is a certain grade then that's what it is. With so many fakes on the market to have somewhere that can authenticate items is no bad thing.

Now we come to the term 'repro' which is a shortening of the term reproduction. This covers a multitude of items from the aforementioned *Star Wars* figures or weapons, Dinky toy tyres right the way up to complete ranges such as the Action Man 40th and the Atlas range of Dinky toy reissues. Deciding what's original and what's 'repro' can be a bit of a nightmare particularly when models change hands and the provenance is lost. This is why many auctioneers circumnavigate this minefield when it comes to describing obsolete items in detail - 'sold as seen' or frankly little detail at all. This may look like the auctioneer shirking their responsibility, when in truth sometimes the provenance of an item is simply unknown. In modern slang, you would say, 'it is what it is' and one should make their own mind up and bid accordingly.

As we can see the descriptions and didactic statements can really muddy the waters when it comes to collectables causing either disappointment or elation, depending on the outcome for the buyer. There are many more terms that space precludes me from featuring but I will leave you with this one. A mate and myself were stalled out at a small evening event many moons ago. Our table featured a few boxed Dinky toys and as two portly middle-aged men passed our table one of them pointed to a boxed Dinky fire engine and exclaimed, 'Oi Mick, look at the mint on that...'. **CG**



The bare bones

Alwyn Brice finds an antidote to the toyfair.



Skeletons, perhaps, are not on every collector's wish list. I recall years back, when I used to frequent Bath, there was one dangling in a front window of an old building in Lansdown Road. I suspected that it belonged to a medical student. Anyhow, all this talk of skeletons is with a purpose – for at the first 2021 Malvern Fleamarket, an example was laid out on a blanket in all its naked glory, inviting offers of around £350.

The Malvern event is the biggest in the UK and the Sunday in question was bright but breezy. There were hundreds of stalls and frankly, there was something for everyone, medical students included. Toys were here, there and everywhere, with a handful of stalls given over exclusively to this area of collecting.

One such was Dave's Classic Toys, the eponymous Dave being a long time dealer in diecast and allied material. A selection of 1930s/1940s Dinky army vehicles stood in the small display cabinet, alongside a lovely Solido Ferrari 330P4 at £80. A small number of early boxed Lesney miniatures also caught my eye, which included the metallic light blue motorcycle combination (No.4) and a red and white pick-up truck (No.50).

The best toys, though, were below. A blue and red Comet Wagon (reference 532) from Dinky was a scarce colour combination – and it needed to be, at just a whisker under £1,000. Rather cheaper at £140, but equally elusive in my book, was his Welsotoys Mechanical Milk Float in tinsplate. This featured a flip-up advertising board and was virtually pristine, being set off by a very good box.

Another stand, with its Scottish stallholder Russell Skivington (people travel a long way for this particular event), boasted an eclectic array of playthings. These included the big Astra searchlight, a stunning bit of engineering (with a beam reputedly good for half a mile): it lacked its utilitarian box and was tagged at £150. A number of Meccano models stood out on the stand and a handful of steam powered factory models (possibly by Willesco) were stacked in the background. Nearer the front, though, was a 1930s Tri-ang tinsplate sectional fort, all there (although boxless) for £50. Nearby lurked a cheaper wooden variety, also sectionalised.

Two Penguin boats, both boxed, sat awaiting new moorings, the smaller of which was the Naval Pinnacle, which was marked up at £40. The bigger, and more impressive electric Luxury Cruiser "Avon", was just £60.



ABOVE

Dem bones, dem bones... You never quite know what will turn up in Malvern!



ABOVE

A dolls' house with interesting wartime history.

**ABOVE**

Rare colour combination on this Bedford Comet Wagon made it rather desirable

**ABOVE**

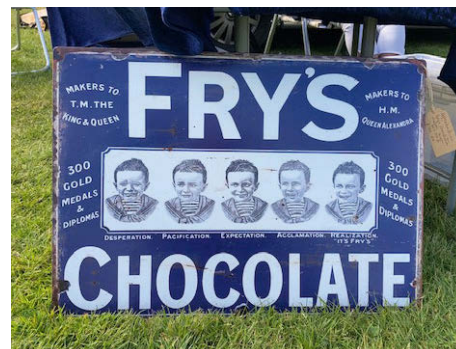
Welsotons tinplate milk float had stood the test of time and still functioned correctly.

**ABOVE**

A Fokker bi-plane? Yes - and look, it's on floats, too. Just £20, this one-off creation.

**ABOVE**

French blue Bugatti would have been the envy of any toddler in the street.

**ABOVE**

Fry's Five Boys sign remains a highly collectable item but this was a much cheaper option.

**LEFT TO RIGHT**

This Penguin cruiser was electric and seemed reasonable at £60; This Police car had seen better days but was sound enough for restoration; Pretty little Tri-ang R1 railway set had plenty of wiring!

Dolls' houses were not in abundance but one I did spy had a fascinating provenance. It lacked a back (possibly for ease of access) and appeared to be of artisan construction, which gave it a certain charm. The seller said that it had been acquired from a lady aged 102. She recalled this same dolls' house being blown out of her Gloucestershire home window during World War Two, the house landing in her garden. What a fantastic history – and inexpensive enough at £50.

THE FIVE POUND RAILWAY SET

I simply love it when I stumble across the original price sticker on an old toy – don't you? Such was the

case with the Tri-ang R1 loco set, still in its box and complete with two "blood and custard" coaches. This example relied on plastic track, so was clearly of the transition period. Originally £4 19s 11d (call it a fiver), it was up for grabs now for £230.

If you preferred cars, then the one-off child's electric-driven Bugatti might have appealed. Powered by a wheelchair motor, it was a good copy of the Type 35; in fact, the seller said that it had been made by the owner of a real example. At £9,995 I'm not sure that it found a new home but it was certainly a talking point. The vendor also had not one, but three Tiger Moth type wooden propellers for sale, for which offers of around

£750 each were being entertained.

For motorists, this event is a bit of a mini-Beaulieu autojumble. There were lots of tinplate signs, ranging from advertising Farley's Rusks through cattle feed and on to tyres – and chocolate. The famous tinplate Fry's Five Boys sign costs a pretty penny today but a very good, aged replica turned up for just £75. A politically incorrect (perhaps) Raleigh sign (again a reproduction) depicting a youth of colour outpedalling a hungry tiger was still £450 – but a fraction of the price of an original. It's a lovely example of composition and anyone seeing it could not have helped but smile. The Tri-ang police patrol car in panda car colours of sky

blue and white (although obviously modelled on a US vehicle) required a bit of TLC but was for sale at £120, which seemed a fair price. And the huge Lotus sign that was affixed to a tyre, itself mounted on a metal stand, certainly stood out: the Welsh seller was asking £150 but like everything on the day, haggling would have brought that down.

Otherwise there was no shortage of fairground attractions. It's hard to know, when you're looking at handwritten signage, whether it's elderly or not but the fact remains that freehand lettering in a glorious, stand-out 3D style is the stuff of a practised hand – you try doing it! Several small notices were sighted, as indeed were a couple of fairground

games: one, fashioned in wood, simply relied on rolling ping pong balls into recesses, and was priced at just £20.

Finally, one couple were selling off something of a collection of small toys, amongst which were Fry's Coco Cub characters (starting at £20), a whole container of Britains plastic Floral Garden (again, priced according to contents, but much of it boxed) and plenty of lead figurines, with makers like Joffillco, Timpo and Sacul present. Of the latter company, Bill and Ben (the Flowerpot Men) were spotted and were complete with pottery pots: you have to be of a certain age to recall the exploits of this pair of garden dwellers. No box, and no Little Weed, but yours for a little over £200. **CG**

Oz

Our monthly gaze into the weird but wonderful world of collector/dealer **Obsolete Oz**. Buying and selling since the 1970s, Oz has developed a great knack for unearthing some amazing finds from flea markets, antique fairs, car boot sales, rubbish skips and even the local tip.

Hi folks! Talk about hitting the ground running, it's been a manic re-start since the lifting of restrictions on outside events and non-essential shops.

Fairs have been coming thick and fast and with all the big car boots and fleamarkets back in business it looks like being a bumper summer for buyers and sellers alike.

Quite a bit of stock built up during the lockdown has been hitting dealer's tables and I've had some tremendous finds over the past few weeks.

One of the best of these was a pre-War Dinky fire engine with the six tinsplate firemen all neatly seated inside. The white tyres were all in good shape and the only downside was that the ladder was missing from the roof. It had obviously had a lot of playwear over the years but at fifteen quid I'd consider it a real bargain. It's gone straight into my own collection of pre-War Dinky Toys and looks good alongside all the others. As luck would have it another pre-War Dinky was snapped up from the same stall where it was lying tucked away in a mixed box of fairly common post-War stuff. I recognised it straight away with that giveaway grey painted roof. Sadly the tyres on the bus had suffered badly, appearing to have literally melted away! The DUNLOP transfers had survived far better however and there was a tiny amount of metal fatigue on the nearside bumper. As with the fire engine the bus has been added my own collection... the usual story of keeping your best finds I'm afraid!

A Player's Gold Leaf Navy Cut tobacco tin found at the giant IACF fair at Peterborough brought back fond memories of my uncle Jack who worked for John Player & Sons in the 1960s. Player's were a massive concern in those days with several huge factories and warehouses in Nottingham. Uncle Jack drove one of Player's big articulated trucks delivering ciggies to towns and cities all over the country. He passed loads of toys down to me including a great Scalextric set with D-Type Jags and a massive model aeroplane with a petrol engine. Pity he didn't give me his lovely Austin Healey Sprite!

Another great find at Peterborough was a near mint copy of David Bowie's superb album *Hunky Dory* on which Yes's Rick Wakeman played the piano. This was Bowie's 4th studio album and was released in December 1971... I remember it well. I went out and bought a copy which I had for decades until it got ruined when a flood engulfed the garage all my treasured albums were stored in. I could cry when I think of the great stuff that was lost back then, many of which would be worth a lot of money these days. I paid fifteen quid for this iconic Bowie album as it was in mint condition and still had the original song sheet which always adds to an albums value.

A really lucky car boot find for a fiver was a wooden sign advertising Havana Club Rum. It looks to be an original sign from a pub or club and is screen printed on wood. It sports a splendid illustration of a big American car just like ones

you see on the streets in Cuba. Havana Rum was first made in Cuba in 1934 and the brand was later nationalised following the Cuban Revolution in 1959. I really love the car on this sign – what a fabulous find for a fiver! I must admit I am quite partial to a Havana rum and coke on ice during the summer months.

On the selling front an Airfix Service Station bagged kit with header card from the early 1960s made fifteen quid, selling to a regular kit buyer who keeps all his collection unmade which is the best way if you are looking at them as investments.

A Morestone six-wheeled tractor unit which looked remarkably similar to the Lesney Prime Mover soon found a new owner who already had the low loader trailer for it. He was happy to hand over thirty quid to lay his hands on this scarce bit of diecast.

A nice little button/pin badge dating back to the 1930s was also snapped up by another collector

with a good eye for a bargain. The badge was advertising Gunstone's Biscuits and the fine detail of the printing was amazing for such a small badge. It sold for twenty pounds.

Original enamel signs are so hard to find these days and prices are constantly rising so it was no surprise that a small blue and white enamel sign advertising Dalgleish & Sons mineral waters found a buyer willing to hand over £100 for it. Horehound beer doesn't sound very appetising so I'm not surprised its not around anymore!

Last but certainly not least a Modern Products Foden half-cab dumper truck in mint and boxed condition sold for a healthy £45 to a guy who buys some of my more unusual diecast offerings.

Well that's about it for this month folks. It's great to be back out there again buying, selling and meeting up with old collecting friends once again... enjoy early summer and, as always, be lucky! **CG**



ABOVE
This pre-war Dinky Toy fire engine was a bargain buy despite having lost its ladder.

**ABOVE**

Modern Products toys are hard to come by, especially mint and boxed. This dumper truck found a new owner willing to hand over £45 to own it.

**ABOVE**

Most of the rubber from the white tyres had gone but this pre-war double decker was still a great find.

**ABOVE**

This nice little tobacco tin was picked for just a fiver and is in such lovely condition.

**LEFT**

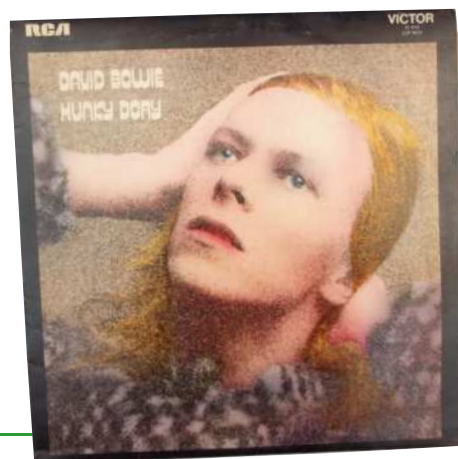
A really great buy from a boot sale, this old Havana Club Rum advertising sign is made of wood.

BELOW

This great little button badge is a real rarity dating from the 1930s. Little wonder it was soon snapped up by a collector for £20.

**LEFT**

This rare Morestone Prime Mover soon found a lucky new owner who has the trailer to match it.

**ABOVE LEFT**

Soon snapped up by a kit collector, this fairly scarce Airfix Service Station dates from the early 1960s.

LEFT

Oz splashed out fifteen quid to bag this original David Bowie LP which still had its original song sheet.

RIGHT

Enamel signs are so hard to find these days, says Oz. This one, advertising a midlands based mineral water company, sold for a cool £100.



»EVENTS THIS MONTH

Due to the on-going situation and in accordance with Government advice, **some swapmeets and auctions are now taking place.** Please contact the auction houses and organisers directly for up to date information.

FAIRS

20 JUNE

- **Exeter**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857

27 JUNE

- **Rayleigh**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

4 JULY

- **Crowland**, Colin Boor, 07710 321471

11 JULY

- **Worthing**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

18 JULY

- **Rayleigh**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

25 JULY

- **Malvern**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Orpington**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

AUCTIONS

18 JUNE

- **Bury St Edmunds**, Lacy Scott & Knight, 01284 748623

19 JUNE

- **Newark**, Northgate Auction Rooms, 01636 605905

20 JUNE

- **Sydney, Australia**, Trains Planes & Automobiles, +612 4787 7974

22 JUNE

- **Cheshire**, Warrington & Northwich Auctions, 01925 658833
- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

23 JUNE

- **Chippenham**, Wessex Auction Rooms, 01249 720888

24 JUNE

- **Surrey**, Ewbanks Auctioneers, 01483 223101
- **Chippenham**, Wessex Auction Rooms, 01249 720888

25 JUNE

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

26 JUNE

- **Lymington**, Lymington Auctions, 01590 679487

28 JUNE

- **Lewes**, Wallis & Wallis, 01273 480208

29 JUNE

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595
- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

1 JULY

- **Sheffield**, Sheffield Auction Gallery, 0114 281 6161

6 JULY

- **Cheshire**, Warrington & Northwich Auctions, 01925 658833
- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

9 JULY

- **Runcorn**, British Toy Auctions, 01928 579032

10 JULY

- **Stafford**, Hansons Auctioneers, 01889 882397

13 JULY

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

14 JULY

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

17 JULY

- **Kings Langley**, Excalibur Auctions, 02036 330913

- **Newark**, Northgate Auctions, 01636 605905

20 JULY

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As for the outbreak of war in September 1939, there followed eight months of what became known as the 'Phoney War'. It was clear that large-scale fighting would ultimately follow, and a British Expeditionary Force was sent to France before the end of that year. As part of the BEF, a large Air Component was supplemented by an Advanced Air Brigade. In total, there are forces amounted to six squadrons, six of which were Hawker Hurricane-equipped.

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When the fighting had broken out in May 1940, the BEF's Air Component were in almost certain trouble, and it was not to continue.

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BACKGROUND TO BATTLE

Left: A Hurricane of 501 Squadron, sent to France for an operational sortie at Bethune, France, May 1940. An RAF Hurricane High Dive bomber (right) was sent to France to deliver incendiary bombs against further attempts of the German High Dive bomber to land in the Channel. Right: As the anticipated German assault on the English Channel, the RAF's Hurricane High Dive bomber was sent to France to deliver incendiary bombs against further attempts of the German High Dive bomber to land in the Channel.



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



It was not until the start of the Battle of Britain that the RAF's Hurricane High Dive bomber was sent to France to deliver incendiary bombs against further attempts of the German High Dive bomber to land in the Channel.

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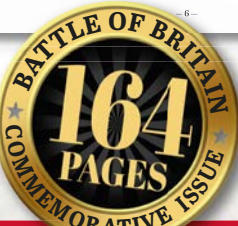
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