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COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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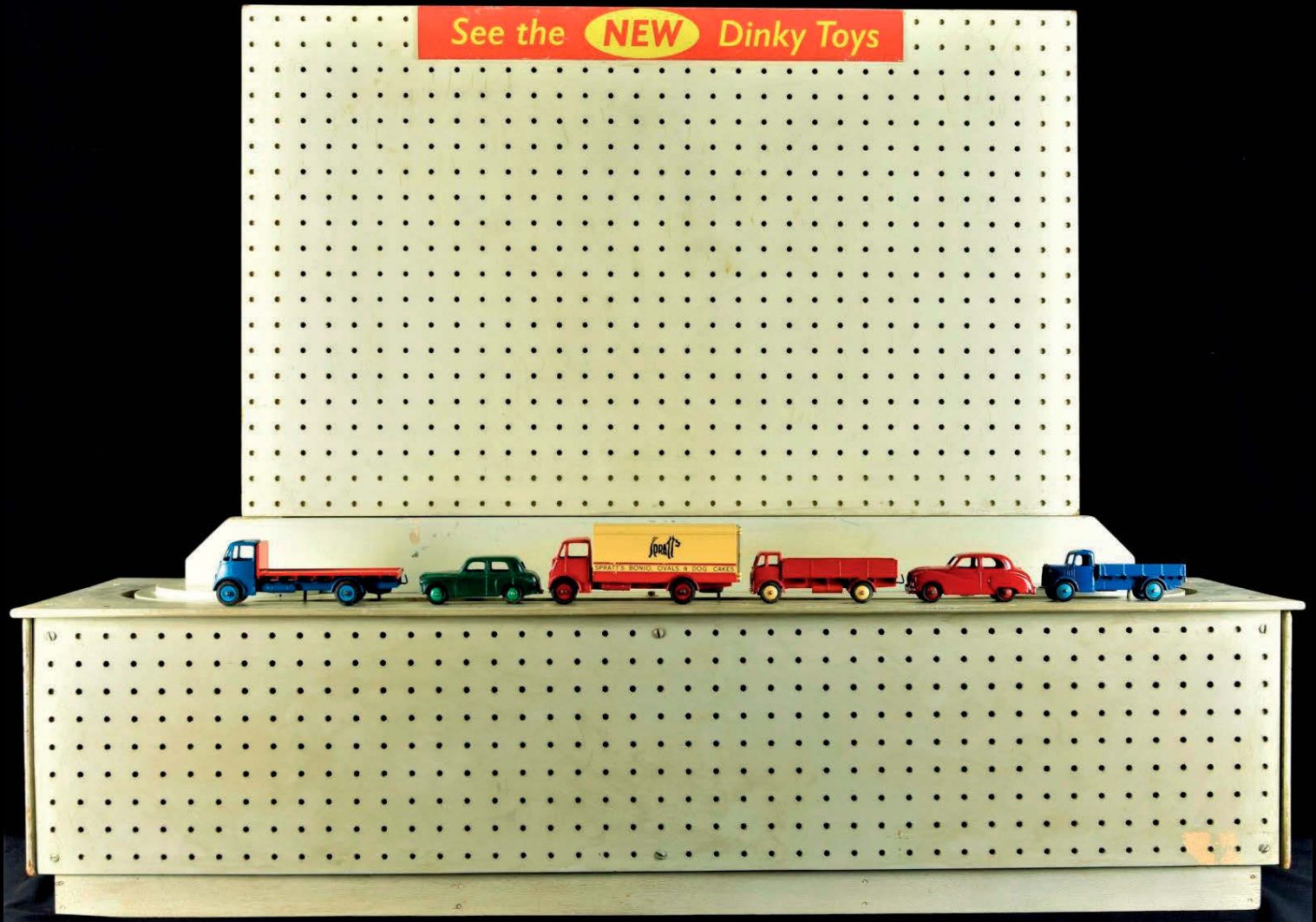
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Our next auction now runs to over 800 lots over two days, including this rare Dinky Toy motorised shop unit, other fine diecasts, Meccano including Constructor Cars, tinplate toys, comics, Action Man, Star Wars including Master Replica props, lead and plastic figures, fantasy role-play figures and books and vintage computing equipment.

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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Boxing clever?

The latest Ly mingtons Auction event comprised just over 330 lots and many groups of diecast, albeit unboxed, went for quite modest sums. Aside from that, there were several lots of old shop stock, still boxed up, remarkably enough from the neighbouring area.

Curiosities included an unopened trade box of six Corgi Aston Martin Vanquish models from the James Bond film *Die another Day*: you couldn't see the contents (the brown outer box put paid to that) but this lot, and another, made just £40. Something to store away? On a similar note, a trade pack of six *The Saint* Jaguar XJS models, dating from 1978, were more tantalising since this lot was shrinkfilm wrapped: this timewarp didn't sell, although an estimate of £400-600 was noted.



Bargain of the day had to be this lovely mint E-type Jaguar: someone secured it for just £30...

A quartet of mint *Inspector Morse* Jaguars Mk11 cars, with a separate brown trade box, made £50, while 11 blister carded James Bond Lotus Esprit models, from *The Spy who Loved Me* film, with two brown outer boxes, sold for just £45. And, with royalty very much in the news at the time of writing, how about the Charles and Diana Mini Metro in purple? Twenty-four in a trade box were taken home by

one fervent royalist for £95. The real thing, it ought to be added, was darkish red...

A Mettoy (Corgi) garage, reference N140, was delightfully compact and came with its original box. Some slight damage was noted (and a lift seemed absent) but this still sold for £75 in the end.

Corgi Routemaster buses also put on a good show: the No.468 with "Naturally Corgi Toys" rubric made £25 whereas the "Church's shoes" was bid to £150; but this was surpassed by the "Red Rose Tea" example, that netted £240.

And Dinky models? A Foden Flat Truck with chains in red and grey did well at £360 whereas a mere £40 snapped up the boxed Elevator Loader in yellow and light blue with an Eaton Yale Tractor Shovel thrown in. Both were mint. A plastic Blaw Knox bulldozer in orange and green was near mint but was minus its driver: with an excellent box, it was knocked down for £120. ■



Unusual French Savien van with sulky and rider achieved a creditable £400.



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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Trains, boats and planes

At the recent Wallis & Wallis sale there were plenty of lots to interest the railway fraternity. An Olympia Precision Models HO gauge brass locomotive, Chesapeake & Ohio, in 4-8-4 format with its 12 wheel tender was sombre in black and finished on £100, whilst a Fulgurex HO gauge brass locomotive, a PLM 4-6-2 tender locomotive RN 6101, with a twin bogie tender RN 28-48 in dark green, made £300. Wrenn, though, pulled out the stops with a rebuilt West Country Class 4-6-2 tender locomotive, the Westward Ho (RN34036), which hit



Delightful strung boxed set of Dinky aircraft (Set 60) found a new home for £850.

an impressive £340. In O gauge, an electric two-rail LNER class A4 4-6-2 tender locomotive, the Sir Nigel Gresley, steamed off to make £400, while the Fulgurex German DB BR 78 4-6-4 tank locomotive, RN 78 510, also in two-rail

electric format, sold for £100 less.

Two sets of sets of Richter stone Anchor Blocks from the late 19/early 20th century, sets 7 and 5, made £50: these were a charming memory of much simpler times,

long before LEGO came along! Rather rarer was the Tri-ang Minic Ships Commando Ship, HMS Albion. Based on the HMS Albion model (M753), this particular version was produced in a limited run of 1,000 for the crew of that particular aircraft carrier. It settled on £300.

As for odd, how about a 1930/40s table top cricket game of possibly Australian manufacture by Jupe Bros, Sydney. Comprising a diecast and tinplate bowler, larger scale batsman, ten diecast fielders, four ball-bearing cricket balls, a tinplate cricket pitch and a canvas 'cricket field', this pre-Subbuteo marvel made £320. A rare

French Joustra tinplate clockwork model of a Lockheed Super Constellation Airliner in cream and red Air France livery, with registration F-ALBA and named 'Croix du Sud' attracted interest: it ended on £280.

Finally, the big ticket models. A Dinky Supertoys Guy Van "Lyons" in dark blue was contested to £1,200, a Pallet Jekta Van made £240 and a "Weetabix" Guy van made a staggering £2,100. Finally, the Dinky Toys Mechanised Army set No. 156 was all there, ranging from good to very good condition: £650 won the lot. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

O gauge heaven

Part Two of the Glorious Trains auction at SAS was all about, well, trains. Almost 650 lots passed over the rostrum, proving yet again that model railways isn't just big business: it's huge business, especially when the subject is O gauge.

There was cheap stuff (like the Hornby O gauge M series clockwork engine and tender, four coaches and track, together with a LNER green No 501

locomotive, all for £50), to the £210 paid for a pair of Hornby engine sheds in O gauge, these the No 1 with three rail track. This auction was an O gauge devotee's delight, for there was enough rolling stock on sale to whet the appetite of the collector with extremely dep pockets. Lots were often three items at a time and much sold around the £100-140 mark. A Wembley station (4e) with signals and buffers

(£90), a selection of lineside accessories (£210) and tinplate platform accessories (£100) were typical of the goodies sold.

A restored Hornby O Gauge No E220 L1 class 4-4-0 locomotive and tender, re-finished in SR green as No A759, captured the attention: this ended on £500.

Some lots seemed bonkers, though. Two identical sets of Hornby "loofah" trees, with boxes, together with fencing, sold



There's Welsh for you! This pretty Abergavenny 4-6-2 locomotive realised £400.

for £200 and £270; while just £60 secured French Hornby O Gauge PLM and other freight stock, OAG-based wagons, and the like: in all, there were eight units, including a small crane. A Hornby O Gauge Constructional Footbridge, dismantled,

was an interesting item (it sold for £130) and somebody wanted the boxed Hornby O gauge clockwork Double Track, comprising two boxes of DC2 curved rails, each containing six pieces, badly enough to fork out £190. ■

NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH



CORGI

**LOCKHEED P-38G
LIGHTNING 43-2264,**

'OPERATION VENGEANCE', 1943

Price: £55.00 Scale: 1/72 Release: out now

Another stunning release of this most amazingly unmistakable aircraft. Sublime paint finish with stunning detail throughout.

» www.corgi.co.uk

BBURAGO MINI COOPER

Price: £13.99 Scale: 1/32

Release: out now

Super budget diecast of this most iconic piece of British automotive engineering. Features opening doors and a great paint finish. Some nice detail inside too.

» www.tobar.co.uk



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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Hake's takes!

Without a shadow of a doubt, there are some very wealthy collectors in the US. The last Hake's sale netted a cool US\$3.6m, which rewrote the company's history books, this being a new record. On that basis, the toy market in the US shows no signs of decline, one feels.

The auction's top lot was a 1999 Pokémon Shadowless Holographic uncut proof sheet with 99 cards, including seven coveted Charizard cards, which sold for US\$234,171. For those to whom this genre is alien, Shadowless cards lack shadowing around the

featured images. They are rarer than Unlimited Pokémon cards because of their smaller print runs. The set came from a Hasbro employee.

If Pokémon took the honours, then the *Star Wars* Boba Fett L-slot rocket-firing prototype figurine wasn't far behind. The second to appear in a Hake's sale, this surpassed the previous example in terms of value, netting US\$165,200. Deemed too dangerous for commercialisation, this prototype was never manufactured.

More readily available was a 1980 display stand with six encapsulated action figures from *Star Wars*. *The Empire Strikes*

Back set was unused and swept past its US\$20,000 high estimate to settle on US\$36,302. Also, a vinyl-caped Jawa action figure encapsulated on a 12 back-A blister card exceeded expectations when it sold for US\$24,245.

You can't get more States-side than *Peanuts* – and Charles Schulz's original artwork for the July 3, 1955 *Peanuts Sunday* comic page, featuring Charlie Brown, Lucy Van Pelt and Snoopy, was notable for the fact that all three characters appeared in all eight panels. The 17 x 23 inch artboard, artist signed and dated in the last panel, was bid to US\$80,476. ■



And you thought Pokémon cards were just for kids? Think again...

■ HOBBY NEWS

TV series filmed at Vectis

The team at Vectis have announced that they are letting cameras in to make a brand new ten-part documentary series for Yesterday channel called *Scouting for Toys*. For the next few months, a team from BBC Studios will be based at the company's HQ in the northeast to explore the weird

and wonderful world of toy collecting and toy auctions – and they'd love to hear from you.

So, if you're a buyer, a seller, a collector, a dealer or an expert and you have an interesting 'toy story' – or you know somebody who does – please get in touch. The programme makers are looking for anybody with a passion for toys, basically. We know it won't be everybody's

cup of tea but you can have a friendly chat with them before committing to anything – they don't bite!

Naturally, the real stars of the show will be the toys so if you are sitting on a treasure trove of rare items, or you've just found something in the attic and you want to get an expert opinion on it, why not get in touch? No story (or toy) is too big or small!

If you're interested in taking part, or would like to find out more please feel free to get in touch with the BBC team, or Vectis.

Email: kirk.barber@bbc.co.uk or admin@vectis.co.uk ■



Could you and your collection be destined for the small screen?



IXO FIAT 238 VAN
LANCIA SERVICE 1972
Price: £46.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
Beautiful replication of this classic Fiat van, in fabulously evocative Lancia livery. The red paintwork is excellent and there's a very good level of detail.
» www.ayrey.co.uk

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■ AUCTION NEWS

Super Mario 64 game sells for record \$1.5m

A sealed, mint condition version of the video game Super Mario 64 has sold at auction for more than \$1.5m (£1.1m), making it the most expensive video game ever sold.

The game cartridge, dating from 1996, attracted a considerable amount of attention at Heritage Auctions in America for its "historical significance, rarity and condition", having received a 9.8 A++ rating from collectable firm Wata.

Valarie McLeckie, a video games specialist for Heritage Auctions, said: "It seems impossible to overstate the importance of this title, not only to the history of Mario and Nintendo, but to video games as a whole."

Super Mario 64 remains one of most critically acclaimed video games of all time, with its three-dimensional platforming helping



to sell millions of Nintendo 64 consoles upon its launch.

"This is Mario's debut appearance in a 3D world, and it was the most popular video game for the N64," McLeckie added. "Considering this, and the fact that there are fewer than five sealed in this grade according to Wata, this copy is a true prize for any serious collector."

The sale value is nearly double that of the previous record-breaker, an original The Legend of Zelda cartridge for the Nintendo Entertainment System (NES) from 1988, which had been set just two days before at \$870,000 (£744,000).

"After the record-breaking sale of the first game in the Zelda series on Friday, the possibility of surpassing \$1m on a single video game seemed like a

goal that would need to wait for another auction," McLeckie said. "We were shocked to see that it turned out to be in the same one!"

The copies of Super Mario 64 and The Legend of Zelda have been sold as collector's items rather than to play, since Nintendo has rereleased both for its modern Nintendo Switch console.

Super Mario 64 was the bestseller for the Nintendo 64 system and is considered a pioneer for introducing a new style that allowed players to move freely through the space rather than being restricted to side-scrolling through levels.

However some experts have warned that the video game collectables market is in danger of overheating, with interest in factory-sealed retro games increasing over the past year, with enormous profits for some collectors. ■

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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OCTOBER 2021 ISSUE



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Price: £24.99 Scale: 1/32 Release: out now
Britains' newly tooled diecast Major, with driver dressed in period clothes, accurately recreates the tractor it released in 1948.

» www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk



IXO FORD TRANSIT MK II TEAM FORD

1979 ASSISTANCE WITH ROOF RACK

Price: £46.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now

Very well detailed replication of the iconic MkII Tranny used by Ford Motorsport in the late '70s and early '80s. Complete with spare wheels load.

» www.ayrey.co.uk

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Sold for £160

Sold for £280

Sold for £2100

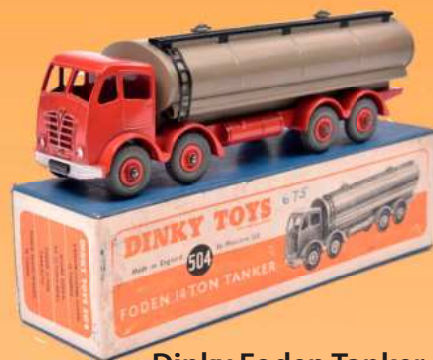
Sold for £140



Dinky Mayo Composite Aircraft.
Sold for £260



Dinky Aeroplane Set No.65.
Sold for £1800



Dinky Foden Tanker.
Sold for £540

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Dinky Aeroplane Set No.60.
Sold for £850



Dinky 28 Series Delivery Van.
Sold for £750

**A selection of the rare Dinky Toys
sold in our last auction.**



Dinky Holland Coachcraft Van.
Sold for £180



Cricket Game by Jupe Bros. Sydney
Sold for £320



Dinky AA Trade Pack.
Sold for £650

01273 480208

toys@wallisandwallis.co.uk

wallisandwallis.co.uk

West Street Auction Galleries, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2NJ

What was the year?

Alwyn Brice presents some facts that may have slipped down the back of the memory sofa!

This year was a memorable one in the UK for it saw a heist take place at Heathrow: this was the famous Brink's Mat robbery. It is estimated that some £26m was taken in diamonds, gold and cash. Two were convicted but the bulk of the haul was never recovered – and later, a film would be made about the incident. Also in the UK, new regulations were introduced over seatbelt wearing, which was now made compulsory for those in the front seats.

A little further from the UK, across the Irish Sea, there was a mass prisoner breakout from the infamous Maze High Security Prison near Lisburn, in Northern Ireland. And the Troubles continued on the mainland, with the IRA detonating a bomb

outside Harrods in December this year.

Space exploration was back in the news again: NASA's June mission carried five astronauts aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger on a six day flight. It was notable in historical terms since this trip involved the first American woman in space, Sally Ride. (In retrospect, an apposite moniker!)

As for toyshops, Cabbage Patch Dolls were on sale (in the US they cost just under US\$20), and the craze would soon sweep across the Atlantic. Jim Henson's *Fraggle Rock*, a muppet extravaganza, made its debut on television this year. This series would run for four years and its creators hoped that it would promote world peace: amazingly, it was shown in 100 countries.

Also on television, it was the end of an era when the final episode of *M*A*S*H* was aired: Hawkeye, Trapper, Frank, Radar, Klinger and Hotlips Houlihan took their final bow, acknowledging that the Korean War was at last over. Whilst this conflict made for a strange choice in terms of a comedy drama, its success can best be measured by the fact that it ran for 11 years.

On the street, it was all about talking – for Motorola introduced the first truly portable mobile phone. And whilst we're on technology, Microsoft Word was launched: where would we be today without it? Other hi-tech involved Swatch, which began marketing watches with a difference: whoever said you couldn't re-invent the wheel?

As for the big screen (for

these were pre-Covid days, dear reader), audiences thrilled to the latest James Bond, saga, that of *Octopussy*. You recall – the one where the clown with a Fabergé egg starts the whole thing off. Jennifer Beals wowed young males everywhere with her legs and (Flash) dance routines (even if, as was pointed out by Mark Addy in the 1997 film *The Full Monty*, her welding skills were a bit below par); and Eddie Murphy, erstwhile street hustler, was elevated to the world of high finance in *Trading Places*.

All Night Long, crooned by smoothie Lionel Richie, was doing ever so well in the charts yet Bonnie Tyler was suffering a *Total Eclipse of the Heart*. As for the Pretenders, they were *Back on the Chain Gang*.

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



LEFT

Like 'em or hate 'em (I know some people actually liked them), these cabbagey creations soon had little girls parting with their pocket money.

LEFT

On time postal deliveries? They were the order of the day for Postman Pat this year.

LEFT

Time for a change? Swatch certainly thought so, and its output would grow enormously as time passed

Riding the Lillibet Express

Mark Nolan sneaks a peek at the Queen's railway residence and checks out the models available.



Did I ever tell you about the day I nearly met the queen? It was one of the palace garden parties which happen every year. Only people who have made a positive impact on their communities get invited, along with their partners. Needless to say, I was in the latter category. But that didn't stop me getting quite excited, and even polishing my shoes.

I'm by no means a royalist, but anyone who had a happy upbringing in the 1960s will probably admit to a degree of admiration for The Queen. Her iconic features have been on classroom walls, coins, banknotes and stamps for our entire lives. As we're lucky enough to have an institution with the stature of Queen Elizabeth II, like a venerable old building, we appreciate it. Never trendy, but somehow never out of date. She met The Beatles, and she even has her own train!

THANKS FOR THE CAKES, MA'AM

So back to the important things, yes the tea, coffee, sandwiches and in particular the cakes at the garden party were superb. I tried not to be too much of a gannet, by making several strategic trips to

the refreshments rather than one big one. I could sense the rolling eyes and the thought "There's always one" as I said "I'll just take these for my partner".

But here's the thing. When you're in the presence of a big star like Elton John or Paul McCartney, I guess they remain stars for the duration, which could be quite tiring. After ten minutes in the presence of The Queen, she manages to morph into a benign little old lady. To my mind, that's quite an impressive feat.

TFM (TRANSPORT FOR MONARCHS)

Ever since royalty became a thing, those with the duty to look after them have been challenged by the need to keep them comfortable and protected while travelling. The advent of the railways would have been a huge benefit, once they were proved safe. Similarly the railway companies would have appreciated the royal patronage; any reluctant travellers would think, if it's safe for the monarchy, it's safe for me.

Therefore it was a huge leap when Queen Victoria became the first monarch to espouse the railway, which she did in 1842 when she took a train from Slough to Paddington. After that, she set a precedent in making herself

ABOVE

R.2370 'The Royal Train', comprising Duchess class 4-6-2 locomotive 6233 'Duchess of Sutherland', the Queen's personal saloon, the Duke of Edinburgh's personal saloon and the royal household couchette.



ABOVE

Hornby's first Royal Train set R557 was made in 1984 and 1985, with production reaching 2,750 sets.



ABOVE

Hornby train pack R2370 'The Royal Train'.



ABOVE
Hornby R557 Royal Train with Class 47 'The Queen Mother' in BR blue, two Mk3 coaches and one Mk2 coach.



ABOVE
Class 67 loco 67005 'The Queen's Messenger' in Royal Claret livery.



ABOVE
Hornby Class 47 'The Queen Mother' in BR blue.



ABOVE
Bachmann Collectors Club staff car. The Mark 1 Staff Sleeper 2908 was built in 1958 at Wolverton as a Sleeper 1st for Royal Train duties and ran until the 1980s.

more available and travelling around her country. In 1869 she commissioned a private train at a cost of £700 of her own money. The carriages were painted in 23-carat gold paint and decked out in silks and satins. In the 1890s the train was upgraded with electric lighting and an onboard toilet. Apparently this was little used as Victoria preferred to take bathroom breaks on land every few hours.

ROYAL TRAIN AT WAR

During World War I, Queen

Elizabeth II's grandfather, King George V, used a royal train not only to travel around the country, but also as lodgings. Apparently he felt it was inappropriate to ask his subjects to arrange accommodations for him during those difficult times. It was probably a lot less fuss as well.

Likewise, his son, King George VI, used it to visit areas of the country that were being bombed by the Germans during World War II. That led to a major refurbishment of the train for security reasons, replacing the white-roofed

wooden cars with a 56-ton armour plated version filled with security measures, including special cabinets to store documents.

THE PRESENT TRAIN

The present Royal Train came into service in 1977 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Its livery is a highly polished burgundy known as Royal Claret, emblazoned with royal crests, with black coach lining and grey roof. There are up to nine carriages available, but not all of them are used.

The royal train has been described as more functional than palatial, with surprisingly mundane furnishings. Royal aides once described it as being fitted with bathroom fixtures you could find in B&Q. The decor is very 'G-Plan', the 60s and 70s furniture featuring minimal functional design and a tendency to favour teak.

In 2002, Buckingham Palace officials allowed journalists on board to show that the train was practical and functional, rather than a palace on wheels. The train's practicality is actually quite endearing. It is mainly used for official engagements, and for longer journeys around the UK such as to Scotland or Norfolk. The train allows the royals to travel overnight and arrive rested, ready to carry out a full day of engagements. The monarch toured Britain on the train for her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

The Queen's own carriage contains a bedroom with a single bed, a sitting room, a desk area, dining quarters and a bathroom complete with a full-sized bath. The Duke of Edinburgh's saloon carriage is of a similar design but with a kitchen, green curtains, matching chair cushions and a brown carpet. Scottish landscapes and Victorian prints of earlier rail journeys hang in both saloons.

Prince Charles has his own lounge car with a bedroom, bathroom and study with a small writing desk and a blue and white floral patterned sofa which matches the curtain fabric. The

other carriages include dining cars, a general purpose saloon for senior staff with sleeping quarters, a sleeping car for junior staff with bunk beds and a carriage for escort staff and maintenance workers.

HORNBY ROYAL TRAINS

Hornby's first Royal Train R557 was made in 1984 and 1985, with production reaching 2,750 sets. Motive power was Class 47 'The Queen Mother' in BR blue. The set came with two Mk3 coaches and one Mk2. They were 2903 and 2904, the Queen's and the Duke of Edinburgh's lounge, bedroom and bathroom respectively. The Mk2 was 2905, staff sleepover/power brake. These coaches are still in use on the royal train today. The set came with an oval of 1st radius track so the overhang from the Mk3s would be considerable.

A later set R1057 featured 4-6-2 'Princess Elizabeth' 6201 loco in LMS maroon with the coaches as above. A similar set R1045 was sold through Marks & Spencer with their branding.

In 2004 Hornby released a train pack R2370 with motive power 6233 8P Duchess Class 'Duchess of Sutherland' LMS pacific and two Mk3 coaches. The same year a Royal Train coach pack was released with running numbers 2918, 2919 and 2920. A Mk3 Royal Household Sleeping Car R4284 with running number 10734 was produced from 2006-2011. The original was built 1980-1984.

The coaches are royal claret or BR purple, depending on your source. The models have closed curtains so no peeking inside, but externally the royal crest is well reproduced. There are some doors modified to double doors on the real train but this is not reflected in any of the Hornby coaches.

An honourable mention goes to the Bachmann Collectors Club who produced an attractive Royal Train Mk1 staff sleeper. The original 2908 was built in 1958 at Wolverton as a Sleeper 1st and ran until the 1980s. **CG**

ROYAL TRAIN TIMELINE

- The last refit of the Royal Train came in at a fairly modest £320,000.
- The Royal Train's service contract is maintained by the German firm DB Cargo UK.
- The locos are run on environmentally friendly bio-fuel made from waste vegetable oil.
- The train is hauled by one of two

Class 67 locomotives; 67005 'The Queen's Messenger' or 67006 'Royal Sovereign', both in royal claret livery.

- In 2000, a royal bodyguard accidentally discharged his gun on the train while the Queen was sleeping. One bullet damaged a carpet and the other hit a coffee table.



5..4..3 ..2..1..

Alwyn Brice assesses a televisual milestone.

Within the world of entertainment, every so often someone emerges to stand head and shoulders above the rest. In more recent years, I'd tip my hat to Richard Curtis, he whose deft hand took romantic comedy to new heights and who dished up the memorable, oft-quoted *Blackadder* series. Go back further in time, when television was in its infancy, and you'd be hard pressed to better Gerry Anderson.

Strange to relate, it appears that Anderson, a photographer by training, was never really comfortable making films centred on puppets. His ambition was that of "proper" film making, with actors and locations. Ironically, his efforts in that direction came to naught.

Working under the banner of AP Films, the brainchild of Anderson and colleague Arthur Provis, in 1957 Anderson introduced *The Adventures of Twizzle* to the world. The doll with extending limbs caught the public's imagination, and this short series led on to *Torchy the Battery Boy* and *Four Feather Falls*. By this time Anderson had remarried and his new wife, Sylvia, was instrumental in his next venture: the sci-fi *Supercar* series. Using electronics and other gadgets, the puppets' lips could now synchronise with their

speeches – Supermarionation was born.

The success of *Supercar* led to outer space with *Fireball XL-5*, and the unforgettable Steve Zodiac, in 1962; after came *Stingray*, with those terrifying-looking Aquaphibians, in 1964. All this, though, would be eclipsed by the idea of an international rescue organisation that was located on a remote Pacific atoll...

LADY P AND THE BOYS

Looking back, the mid-1960s was a fascinating period in terms of entertainment. The cinema had opened up a world of opportunity, with films involving the Wild West, knights in armour and, of course, spies and science fiction. In 1965, Anderson came up with the idea of a 25 minute episode involving humanitarian rescue. Its impact on Sir Lew Grade, then chief of ATV and who had bought the AP Films company, was so profound that he asked Anderson to extend the running time.

THUNDERBIRDS WERE GO

All the elements came together in this action-packed slice of drama that was typically shown around tea-time. The initial minutes of the episode would set the scene and the remainder of the programme would see Jeff Tracy and his talented sons, often aided and abetted by Lady Penelope, solve

the crisis. The villain, in the shape of the Hood (surely a reference to 1920s US gangsters?) often did his best to thwart the rescue attempts but never, ever, achieved his goal.

Viewed now, it's harmless stuff, but closer study reveals just how far ahead of the game Anderson and his team actually were. The idea of working puppets was imitated by others but nothing surpassed the action scenes, the sheer inventiveness and the inevitable pyrotechnics that punctuated most episodes. It had, quite simply, mass appeal: Lady P was an inspired and forward-thinking choice as a female agent; the array of specialist rescue machinery was breathtaking; and the launch sequences were simply brilliant. And, naturally, the successful series lent itself to merchandising rights.

TOYS FOR THE BOYS - AND GIRLS

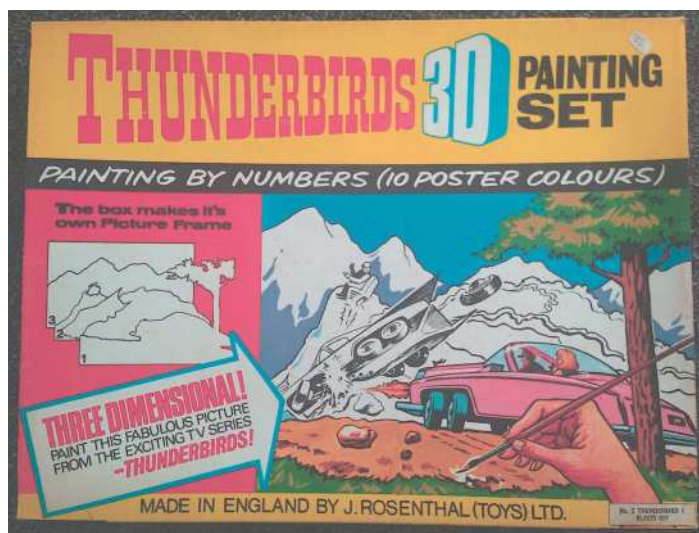
If memorabilia from *Fireball XL-5* and *Stingray* shows was thin on the ground, all that would change with the advent of *Thunderbirds*. The show's material simply begged to be replicated and odd would have been the child not wooed by any of the *Thunderbird* craft or that stunning six-wheeled Rolls Royce. Period ephemera, in my book, is what it's all about but there is a lot of renaissance material around also, if you have shallow pockets.

In retrospect, there was enough within the series to interest the young female, also: Lady Penelope became a role model for many a little girl, one suspects.

In 1966, for example, she had her own comic (appropriately entitled *Lady Penelope*, and costing 7d), which lasted for three years; the first issue, I seem to recall, included a free pink P signet ring, whilst a hairband was given away in the second issue. Such freebies are now very hard to find and whilst the *Lady Penelope* annuals turn up regularly at quite modest prices, the earliest issues of the comic command eye-watering premiums.

For boys, it was all about the TV21 comic, which was full of Anderson material and which usually boasted an extremely colourful photograph on the cover and took the format of a newspaper, albeit with well-drawn comic strips within; the comic ran, under various changes of title, into the 1970s. For the first issue, with the Identicode card gift, you might pay over £300 now.

Paper ephemera extends to cigarette cards (not that anyone in the series endorsed tobacco!) and bubble gum cards: Barratts brought out two sets of 50 to my knowledge, which meant many trips to the dentist if you wanted the lot. Similarly, two series of Somportex monochrome cards are to be found, which vary in

**ABOVE**

Jack Rosenthal produced four 3D painting sets in all, which still turn up, often with unopened paint pots. Note the grammatical mistake on the left of the box.

**ABOVE**

Each pack of sweet cigarettes from Barratt contained a Tracy Island-related card. With 50 to amass, that meant a lot of smoking...

dimensions: single cards can be had for a pound or less, with sets (and in particular cards with sharp corners) commensurately more than the sum of their parts.

Jack Rosenthal was an early recruit to merchandising and under the JR21 moniker you'll find Thunderbirds 1 to 5 as well as Lady P's transport, this latter in friction drive and remote control format. Completists may like to know that all save TB5 went through both UK and Hong Kong manufacture. Far scarcer, though, is the fabulous Zero-X aircraft; although Imai produced a plastic

kit with a clockwork motor in the 1980s, the original 1966 JR21 toy, sold in simple kit format with a remote control handset that doubled as a walkie-talkie, is the Holy Grail to many. Speak to your bank manager first... Add to these JR21 cap guns and a splendid water pistol (originally 2s 11d and boasting a swivelling squirter), and you have plenty to look out for.

In closing, I haven't mentioned the Fairylite doll merchandise (very collectable) and I've omitted the fabulous FAB 1 from Dinky – but readers will know about these already, I suspect. **CG**

ISLAND LIFE

Mention definitely has to be made of 1992; that was the year that Matchbox brought out Tracy Island. That Christmas there were stories of shoppers waiting outside toyshops for deliveries and fighting over the stock, such was the demand for this feature-laden plastic toy. A long time coming, but a highly satisfying model with an elevating ramp and waving palm trees, it was *the* toy to have. Nowadays, these early sets (it was reprised by Carlton a few years later) are pushing three figures when boxed and intact.

RIGHT

A JR21 Thunderbird 4 with battery operated drive. Out of scale compared with the JR21 TB2, but an attractive toy nonetheless. Best kept away from water, though.

**LEFT**

Matchbox did it first, and this toy still impresses today, especially when everything works.

**RIGHT**

A whopping 9s 11d when new, the Fairylite viewer allowed one to look at a small number of slides. Not much action, despite the packaging rubric.

**BELOW RIGHT**

Manufactured by Crescent, you'll find Kellogg's or Tom Smith script underneath the base: the latter put these figures in Christmas crackers. Four colours to collect – but do check Lady P's ankles, which are fragile!

BELOW LEFT

Elegance, charm and deadly danger – the box says it all. Fairylite figures are highly collectable but do make sure all the accessories are present.





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A risky business

Are you covered? We take a look at insurance for collectors.



Is your collection insured? Are you sure it is adequately covered? Insurance cover is a subject that many collectors put to the back of their minds, believing (or hoping) that they may never need it. But those of us who fail to take out adequate cover for valuable toys and collectables run the risk of losing a lot of hard-earned cash in the unfortunate event of a burglary, fire, flood, car theft or even accidental damage.

Having adequate cover for a cherished collection, that has taken a lifetime to assemble, at least provides financial compensation for your investment, even if some of the items lost might prove extremely difficult to replace.

The need for insurance has increased as the price of specialist collectables has soared in recent years. While tinplate toys and pre-War Dinky models once held top spot when it came to value, we are now seeing some amazing prices reached for rare Matchbox and Lesney models, Corgi Toys, Star Wars figures, dolls and teddy bears. In other areas of collecting, rare biscuit tins, enamel advertising signs, shop packaging, pub jugs and bottles, all once dismissed by the general antiques trade as nothing more than quirky 'curios' or interesting 'decorator's lots', are now making incredible sums of money. Railway-related ephemera and models too are fetching some amazing prices at auction and adequate insurance

is therefore vital for them all.

But how do you go about insuring these types of things? John Morgan, collector, toy dealer and owner of Vintage Toy Exchange, has experience of the insurance business from both sides of the fence: 'Many

collectors don't realise that general household contents policies will not provide adequate insurance cover for collections or specialist individual items until they come to make a claim and by which time it's too late,' he explained.

His advice is to avoid general brokers and find a good specialist insurance company that provides specific cover for complete collections and also recognises the value of expensive individual pieces.

Policies vary so you have to



ABOVE

It doesn't take long for fire to destroy a cherished collection.

**ABOVE**

Stolen and ready for market: Your collection could vanish in minutes and it could take years to replace.

examine the market closely and find the broker/policy that best suits your needs. Some offer block cover up to a certain value for an entire collection, if each individual item is worth less than £500. Things are different, however, if your collection comprises items valued at over £500 each and it's here you need to talk to a specialist broker.

In the event of a claim having to be made, insurers will employ the services of a loss adjuster to negotiate a fair settlement and it's here, according to John, the value of items can be very keenly contested.

'You will need to prove to the adjuster that you actually own the specific items you are claiming for and you'll certainly need to convince them that high value individual pieces are worth the amount you are claiming for them,' says John.

It's not too difficult if similar objects have sold at auction but if they seldom come on to the open market you might need an independent value assessment from an expert. This is where

good photographic evidence is essential: 'I advise all collectors to keep accurate up-to-date records of items in their collection and back these up with photographic evidence using high quality digital images,' explained John. 'It can be a tricky business and the responsibility is on you, the collector, to provide evidence of ownership and proof of value.'

With the value of certain collectables still rising, making sure you have adequate insurance cover is certainly something all collectors should consider.

The following 10 tips should help point you in the right direction:

1 Keep receipts for all purchases so these can be kept as proof of ownership and also act as a guide to value when making a claim.

2 Compile an up-to-date inventory of your collection, detailing the condition of all items and estimated values. Update this annually when renewing your

**ABOVE**

Make sure that you have an accurate and up to date record of your collection.



Is your home security up to scratch?

policy and inform your insurer if the value of your collection has risen significantly.

3 Take good quality digital photographs of your collection, particularly high value individual items as these can be used to value losses. Make notes of any distinguishing features that make a particular item unique. This can help the police when trying to recover stolen goods.

4 Install adequate levels of home security. Some insurers might insist on specific alarms being fitted if your collection is over a certain value. Others may require information on door and window locks, fire alarms and safes. Investing in home security could reduce the price of premiums.

5 Try to obtain an 'All Risks' policy which should provide cover not only at home but while you are travelling or at a swapmeet or collector's fair. Also make sure your policy covers accidental damage.

6 Make sure that you use a good reputable and experienced broker, who understands and recognises the value of the type

of objects you are insuring.

7 Add one third on to the market value of individual objects when insuring them to keep abreast of rising prices in particular markets.

8 Always inform your insurer if you add a 'high value' item to your collection to confirm that it is covered within your current policy. Having peace of mind is worth the price of a quick phone call and it could be of great benefit should you have to make a claim.

9 Try to agree on individual valuations at the time a policy is opened. This should offer peace of mind that an insurer recognises your valuation right from the start.

10 The more organised you are and the more effort you put into your insurance cover, the better off you are if you have to make a claim. The onus is on you, the collector, to convince the loss adjusters that you have done everything you possibly can to protect your collection and to verify its value accurately. **CG**

On the

The dream of having your own home on wheels and the freedom to drive anywhere has captured the imagination of many of us. Here we trace the history of motorhomes in miniature.



Motorhomes, as they are commonly called in the UK, have had various names over the years; 'Dormobile' may spring to mind, as well as 'camper van' and 'mobile home'. To the Americans they are known as 'RVs' or 'recreation vehicles' and on the Continent they are called 'camping cars', which is probably the best description.

There is a vast selection of motor homes in the real world, from van conversions to low profiles, coachbuilt and A Class, using many well-known manufacturers for the host vehicle – Ford; Ducato; Mercedes Benz; VW (remember the split screen?) and many more.

In the 1990s, Italian imports brought flair and design to the motorhome world, along with a

low price to the English public. A brand-new motorhome could be bought for £19,000 and the English manufacturers were not far behind, producing some of the best in the world.

Motorhomes have been with us for a long time, and the model-makers soon brought out models to match the real ones. Lesney produced the Matchbox 1-75 Series, one of the first being No.70, a van with windows known as the Thames Estate Car. Also, in the same series was No.54, a larger RV from America with an opening habitation door and fitted plastic interior, No.23, a VW with tilt roof and true-to-life fitted interior in blue with orange roof, and No.38, a delightful model of the American demountable, which has a camper body fixed on to a pick-up truck.

Not to be outdone, Husky

brought out a model in blue and silver, with a rear sliding door and, in the 1/36 range, Corgi released a similar model mounted on a Mazda B1600 pick up – this was actually detachable from the pick up so became two separate toys. The Ford Transits weren't forgotten – Corgi made a replica of the real thing in the Juniors range. Known as the Ford Transit Caravan, the model was available in both blue and silver.

The early model makers had ideas for concept motorhomes, one such model from the Corgi Junior series called the 'Wigwam Camper Van' – very futuristic, but sadly, as like most concept ideas, it was never put into production.

ABOVE

A Matchbox Thames Estate Car.

Matchbox Kingsize, not wanting to be outdone, brought out an American flip top in yellow and orange called the 'Camping Cruiser'. In the smaller scale models, Siku brought out a van conversion on the Iveco chassis cab, with realistic fitted interior for a model just under 3" long and Maisto produced a good, if not small model of the VW split screen with a raised roof in its mini-series, sold through Tesco stores.

There is plenty of scope for collecting motorhomes in 1/43 scale. For example, a twin-axled camper on a Ford Chassis with Westpoint Decals is quite true to

BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT

American Demountable, American Camping Cruiser and a Concept Wigwam Camper Van.





ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Siku Iveco; Paralanian by Oxford Diecast.

form, although a twin wheel on such a short chassis is disputable. This is still classed as a plastic toy. One of the most accurate plastic models on a Mercedes D series is almost a true copy of the real thing and can be seen on our roads today. The model has opening cab doors, rear roof ladder and fitted interior – a bargain for £2.

As motorhomes became more popular, the manufacturers started to produce diecast models to a higher specification. Siku's tag-axled Flair by Niesmann and Bischoff, is a true copy of the real thing with a rear garage door and early Ducato

with 15,000 units being sold by many vehicle manufacturers, including Bedford CA, Austin 152/Morris J2 and Volkswagen. Oxford Diecast has produced three excellent models of the period. The first is the 1/43 Paralanian Austin J2 Van, named after Parry Lane, Bradford, where the coachbuilder's central garage was based. This was the first modern compact coachbuilt motorhome and came in two-tone finishes, blue and cream or brown and cream. The famous 'Moggy' or Morris Minor was also made into a coachbuilt motorhome, faithfully modelled by Oxford Diecast in two colours, green and



ABOVE

Camper with bike on rear.



ABOVE

Challenger Eden 602.

Motorhomes have been with us for a long time, and the model makers soon brought out models to match the real ones.

chassis cab. Norev produced a fine example in 1/43 scale of a Challenger Eden 602 on a Citroën jumper chassis cab, no opening doors, but a true example of a good interior. Also, by Norev, and perhaps one of the best models produced is the Delfin 625 on the new Renault chassis cab by Burstner; authentic in every detail and available in model form for £34, a little more acceptable than the 'on the road' cost of a new one at £49,000!

The period from the mid-1950s until 1973 could be classed as the boom years for motor caravans,

blue. This was followed by the Bedford HA camper van in 1/43 scale. With a tilt top and rear end for extra length when sleeping, the HA was a car derived van from 1963, based on a Vauxhall Viva, which was replaced in 1983 by the Astravan/Bedford Astramax.

I have touched on some of the models available with many more realistic motorhomes in the pipeline for enthusiasts to collect. Most of these models can be purchased for under £10 to £30 plus. Happy hunting for your collection! **CG**



ABOVE

Twin-axled Westpoint.



ABOVE

Bedford HA Camper Van by Oxford Diecast.



10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Corgi Toys

Wow, they've got real windows!" Words that were no doubt heard in toyshops all over the land in the summer of 1956 when millions of kids got their first glimpse of Corgi Toys. They were certainly eye-catching with those natty silver spun aluminium wheels, real plastic windows, bright two-tone paint finishes and attractive boxes, and at three shillings a-piece they were just about affordable from your pocket money.

My first ever Corgi Toy was the Chipperfield's Circus International Crane I remember receiving it from my mum and dad and excitedly unwrapping it at my fifth birthday party. This was soon followed by the Fordson Major tractor, which had fantastic play value with its lifting plough attachment and real steering! I got through three or four of those, I reckon, as the front axles always tended to wear out through constant play. Another of my personal favourites was the Ford Thames Wall's Ice Cream Van... what a fabulous feature those working chimes were! That was the great thing about Corgi, it was always coming up with new features that got the kids buzzing in the playground.

The history of Corgi Toys can be traced back as far as 1933 when German born Phillip Ullmann formed a company called Mettoy – derived from the words Metal Toys. The factory was based in Stanley Street, Northampton and, despite Britain being in the grip of a deep recession with over two million unemployed, Ullmann managed to make a go of

it producing a range of attractive tinplate toy vehicles.

Rather ironically, despite his German roots, Ullmann soon found himself supporting the British war effort following the outbreak of World War Two, when the Mettoy factory was turned over to the production of Bren-gun magazines, shell carriers and land mines both at Northampton and the firm's newly opened factory in Swansea.

Following the war, amid a fresh mood of industrial optimism, Mettoy returned to its roots manufacturing pressed tin toy vehicles once again and developing a healthy export market to the United States.

Here in Britain, Mettoy's products were sold mainly through Marks and Spencer's stores and it was Sir Simon Marks who, in search of a range of solid, hard wearing solid metal toy vehicles, led Mettoy to venture into the world of diecasting – an area until then largely dominated by Dinky Toys. Boosted by the

enthusiasm of Henry Ullmann, the founder's young son, and other new recruits from the Birmingham Alluminium Casting Company, Mettoy's answer to Marks' request was a range of diecast models called 'Castoys.' While sturdy and robust, Castoys were heavy and fairly crude in detail. They did, however, have one truly unique feature – an internal flywheel mechanism to power them over the kitchen linoleum! Two motorcars were released initially in 1954, a Standard Vanguard and a Rolls Royce. Despite the heavy castings being hard for the small internal mechanism to handle with any great success, Mettoy remained convinced that novel innovation was the key to its future success within the diecast market. Other Castoys followed including a motor coach, racing car and a farm tractor and they sold quite well. It was clear, however, that they were still no match for Dinky Toys.

With this in mind Mettoy

decided to release a new range of toys in a similar scale to Dinky and it went in search of a catchy name. A shortlist of seventy proposals was drafted and from this list came the name CORGI. This was one of the names proposed by Henry Ullmann and seemed the perfect solution being short, snappy and representing a sturdy Welsh dog, as the new toys were to be made at the newly extended Swansea factory. The dog also proved to be a very successful branding tool when it came to marketing.

The 24 new models, each with smart clear plastic windows, were marketed by 'Playcraft' and launched at the British Industries Fair in February 1956. Entering toy shops for the first time in July 1956 the new Corgi models included the Ford Consul, Austin Cambridge, Morris Cowley, Riley Pathfinder, Vauxhall Velox, Rover 90 and the Hilman Husky. They were instantly popular, and within five months a Corgi Model Club was launched. Application



ABOVE

Only the Batmobile has managed to exceed the spectacular sales success of the DB5, with total sales of five million before it was finally withdrawn in the 1980s. It has become a regular sight at toy fairs and auctions around the country.



ABOVE

Before they were known as Corgi Toys, Mettoy released a series of robust diecast models called Castoys. Unlike Mettoy's future releases, the Castoys cars actually came with a motor inside, allowing them to whizz along the floor.



ABOVE

Throughout the years, Corgi became known for its numerous innovations, such as opening bonnets, jewelled headlights, working windscreen wipers and plenty more. Models such as the Chipperfield's Circus Crane were packed with features.



ABOVE

One of Corgi's most iconic releases of all-time, the James Bond Aston Martin DB5 has become a firm favourite among collectors. Corgi brought it back for 2015. Pictures courtesy of Vectis Auctions.

forms were tucked inside each box with new members receiving a certificate, newsletters and an enamel lapel badge.

Corgi gained a significant edge on its rivals with the introduction of Glidamatic Spring Suspension giving the toys more play value. It also released a series of toys reflecting important landmarks

of transport history like the H.D.L. Hovercraft SR-N1 and 'Bluebird,' Donald Campbell's gas turbine powered land speed record car, which were both hugely popular.

The 1960s saw design innovation bring novel new features to Corgi models such as opening bonnets, detailed

engines, jewelled headlights and clever steering mechanisms. Having taken a considerable slice of the market Corgi now had millions of collectors eagerly awaiting each new release, and they began to appear at the rate of one per month!

'Wow! Corgi Toys' became the marketing slogan when they were advertised on commercial television during 'Family Hour.' A mobile touring exhibition van began attending large outdoor events promoting and selling models and the launch of the Corgi 'Major Series' gave rise to the now very sought after super Rocket Launcher, Car Transporter and Combine Harvester all with wonderful working parts and terrific detail.

Trans-o-lite headlamps, working windscreen wipers and hydraulic tipping mechanisms all made Corgi Toys that bit special and a major step forward occurred with the launch of the Chipperfield's Circus range, also now hugely popular with collectors.

Corgi became a Public Limited Company in June 1963 and two years later entered the lucrative market of character merchandising following the appearance of the white Volvo car featured in *The Saint* television series starring Roger Moore. With sales of this model exceeding one million Corgi were aware of the potential of other theme related models and wasted no time in developing them.

The next screen-based car really did strike gold for Corgi. This was the legendary Aston Martin DB5 from the James Bond film *Goldfinger*. Corgi designers really did rise to the challenge with this little beauty incorporating virtually all the gadgetry from the real car into a tiny model, including an ingenious ejector seat. Released in mid-November 1965 around a million of these DB5s were sold in seven weeks leading up to Christmas of 1965. Overall sales passed four million before the toy was withdrawn after four years production.

The Aston Martin was followed by Corgi's greatest seller: the Batmobile. Demand for this was such that Corgi switched the Swansea factory to 24 hour production but it still struggled to keep up with the demand. In total more than five million Corgi Batmobiles were sold worldwide by the time of its withdrawal in 1969.

Corgi maintained its links with large and small screen favourites with models featuring

The Avengers, *The Man From U.N.C.L.E.*, *The Monkees* and the ubiquitous *Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang*. They were all great sellers, ensuring Corgi received two 'Queens Awards to Industry' awards.

The 1960s ended on a sad note however when a devastating fire swept through the Swansea warehouse in March 1969, destroying an estimated whole year's stock. Recovery from this was slow and 1971 saw Corgi make its first ever trading loss, resulting in the closure of the original Stanley Street factory in Northampton. It was also the year in which its founder Phillip Ullmann sadly died.

The toy market was slowly changing and Corgi made a move towards fast cars, space toys and models based on the popular children's TV characters like Basil Brush and *The Magic Roundabout*. The Queen's Silver Jubilee celebrations of 1977 offered a break from Hot Rods and racers with a detailed model of the 1902 State Landau, complete with a plastic figure of Her Majesty the Queen. So keen was Corgi to make sure everything was correct, designers even pondered as to what colour the Queen might wear on the big day. Initially she was moulded in yellow but later switched to pale blue. Both colours proved to be wrong, however, as Her Royal Highness actually appeared in pink. Each member of staff at the Harlestone Road factory in Swansea received a free State Landau model to keep.

As the 1970s ended British toy makers were struggling for survival as a deep recession began to bite. Rising costs coupled with a flood of cheap imports from the Far East also took their toll on the industry. One by one toy companies began to fall with the likes of Dinky, Lesney and Airfix all losing the battle for survival. By 1982 the Mettoy workforce had declined from a high of 4,500 to just under 1,000 and with escalating debts the receivers were finally called in on 1st November 1983.

The Corgi story however, as we all now know did not simply end there. In more recent times the company has happily re-emerged and is now writing another chapter in the history of British toymaking. Once again a fascinating range of super highly detailed Corgi models are sitting invitingly on the shelves of Britain's toy shops appealing to today's collectors just the way they did all those years ago... and long may they continue to do so. **CG**

Famous Faces:

THE AVENGERS

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

The *Avengers* might seem like an unlikely candidate for the Famous Faces series, but when you think about it, one associates John Steed with his bowler hat, his umbrella and his Bentley. Similarly, Steed has a feisty female sidekick, Cathy Gale, Emma Peel or Tara King, with their accompanying sports cars.

The early series of *The Avengers* did not really feature the cars for the simple reason that those episodes were filmed on a very small budget which did not include many outdoor location shots. When they did film outdoor shots, these had to be cut and pasted into the studio film shots. On occasion, we would see Cathy Gale in her white MG Midget sports car and sometimes on her Triumph motorbike, but that was really just an excuse to see the buxom Honor Blackman in a tight leather outfit! Cathy Gale was written out of the series at the end of season three and was replaced by Diana Rigg as Emma Peel, who was finally succeeded by Linda Thorsen as Tara King.

The popularity of *The Avengers* had increased dramatically and the budget was increased to allow for more storylines to be shot outdoors, and that meant that *The Avengers* needed cars. Patrick Macnee as John Steed was always dapper and is continually portrayed as a very wealthy man. Steed had several cars in his garage including a Vauxhall Cresta PB, a vintage Vauxhall 30/98, an AC Cobra, 1930 Lagonda 2 litre and a yellow Rolls Royce Silver Ghost. However, in the TV series, he is generally seen driving about in a



ABOVE

A beautiful example of Corgi's GS40 "The Avengers" Gift Set. In excellent condition it sold for just over £500. Image credit: Vectis.

racing green Bentley. The eagle-eyed viewers among you will realise that, in fact, there were five different green Bentleys used for filming purposes in the series for Steed; and a couple of these were only three litre versions.

Emma Peel was brought in to the series as a replacement for Honor Blackman. Her name was a code, shortened from M-Appeal, which stood for man appeal. It showed that the series was attracting a predominately male audience, and there was a demand for more sporty cars. One of the most popular episodes of *The Avengers* is 'Dead Man's Treasure' from series five. The episode centres around a car treasure hunt and features many of the classic sports cars that were around in 1967, including a Triumph TR5, E Type Jaguar, Triumph Spitfire, Mercedes Benz 250SE and a MG Midget.



ABOVE

Steed in his XR 6056 1928 Bentley 3 litre.



LEFT

Emma Peel with 1966 Lotus Elan.

COLLECTING TOP TIP

It is not unheard of for traders to clean the number off the radiator, remove the plastic roof and insert a figure of John Steed into the driver's seat to claim it as a rare release, but Corgi did not release that model with the gift set. However, there were a limited number of green Bentleys issued with GS40, but these green Bentleys all have gold wheels.



ABOVE

Another example of Corgi's GS40 "The Avengers" Gift Set, this time a green Bentley with gold wheels.



ABOVE

The YT 3942 1927 Bentley 3 Litre.

Emma herself was given one of the latest sports cars available in the 1960s, a Lotus Elan S2 convertible, with the quirky flip up headlights. In the earlier episodes Emma drove a white Lotus Elan (HNK 999C), and in the later episodes this changed to a powder blue version (SJH 499D). In order to compete with the James Bond car gadgets, Emma was given a hidden two-way radio in the glove compartment of her blue Lotus.

These two cars, the Bentley and the Lotus, became the main cars for lead characters in *The Avengers*. There was very little merchandising of the cars brought out at the time, other than fan magazines and posters, but the most familiar collectable associated with *The Avengers* is the Corgi Gift Set number GS40. It was released in 1966 and withdrawn in 1969, and during that time it sold around 190,000 models worldwide. Many of these models would be opened and played with, but it leaves a number of these gift sets available to the collector. The standard gift set comprises an elegant cardboard outer and inner box. The two cars are a red Bentley and a white Lotus Elan, complimented by a figure of Steed in the driving seat of the Bentley and a figure of Emma Peel standing beside the Lotus.

To complete the set, there are three black plastic umbrellas inserted into the cardboard beside Steed's Bentley. It is not clear why Corgi used a red Bentley as clearly Steed drove a green Bentley in the TV series. There was already a green Bentley on general release by Corgi as part of its Corgi Classics range. This Bentley has steel spoke wheels and a number painted on the radiator.

A mint and boxed version of this gift set can sell for between £200 and £500. The reason for the wide price variety is because there were variations during its production. The higher price is for the rarer gift set which includes the genuine green Bentley, with gold wheels.

As *The Avengers* series continued, Emma Peel was replaced by Tara King. With the possible exception of 'The Sell-Out', this is the only time during the original series that Steed drove a contemporary sports car, which was planned to become his standard mode of transport for the King era. Fortunately, someone came to their senses, let him have his vintage cars back and gave the sports car to Tara. The car in question was a rare AC 428 convertible, known as the Spider. It is often mistakenly referred to as an AC Cobra. Tara had a few other nice sporty cars including the latest Lotus Elan 2 + 2 and the trendy Lotus Europa, both in red. However, the TV series was losing popularity due to competition from other TV channels and American imports like *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*

The Avengers has never lost its popularity and Corgi



ABOVE

Corgi Avengers Bentley.



ABOVE

Sunstar Lotus Elan 1/18 scale.

RIGHT

Emma Peel with Lotus Elan with car SJH 499D.

BELOW RIGHT

Emma Peel in the white HNK 999C 1965 Lotus Elan S2 convertible.

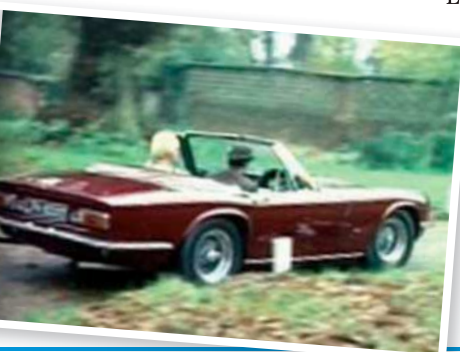


has released new models of *The Avengers* cars in recent years, including a green version of Steed's beloved classic Bentley with a great white metal model of Steed.

Keen collectors can also look out for non-TV related models such as the very nice Vitesse Lotus Elan or the Cararama model of a red Lotus Europa. **CG**

DID YOU KNOW...?

There were even occasions when the TV crew would change numberplates from one Bentley to another to give the impression that it was the same car. This might have worked if they had used similar Bentleys, but they would change from a 3 litre Bentley to a 4 litre Bentley!



LEFT

Steed driving Tara's AC 428.

eBay

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



◆ **Item:** Dinky Hornby Series 22b Sports Coupe, circa 1930s
Condition: original, good, some paint loss
Sold for: £670 (3 bids)



◆ **Item:** Star Wars Vinyl Cape Jawa
Condition: original, boxed, 90% UKG
Sold for: Sold for £3112 (40 bids)



◆ **Item:** Meccano Outfit Number 10, large set with wooden storage chest
Condition: good overall used condition, pieces show signs of use, case very good
Sold for: £771 (24 bids)



◆ **Item:** Princess of Power Bubble Power She-Ra action figure, 1980s unopened, rare
Condition: original and unopened, excellent
Sold for: £922 (9 bids)



◆ **Item:** John Jenkins Designs 1/30 Spitfire Mk IX, with pilot figurines and custom case
Condition: excellent, as new
Sold for: £210 (4 bids)



◆ **Item:** Britains Royal Horse Artillery with gun and escort, set No.39, post-War
Condition: very good original figures, wear and repairs to box
Sold for: £293 (30 bids)



◆ **Item:** Dinky Toys Gift Set 4, 1/43 scale Commercial Aircraft
Condition: original, complete, excellent
Sold for: £1900 (55 bids)



◆ **Item:** LEGO Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Shadow Leonardo
Condition: UK Tin 327/400, original and complete, excellent
Sold for: £908 (10 bids)



◆ **Item:** Dinky Toys Gift Set 4, 1/43 scale Commercial Aircraft
Condition: original, complete, excellent
Sold for: £1900 (55 bids)



Item: Lesney Matchbox Adventure 2000, pre-production model
Condition: generally good for its age, no writing on base plate
Sold for: £760 (12 bids)



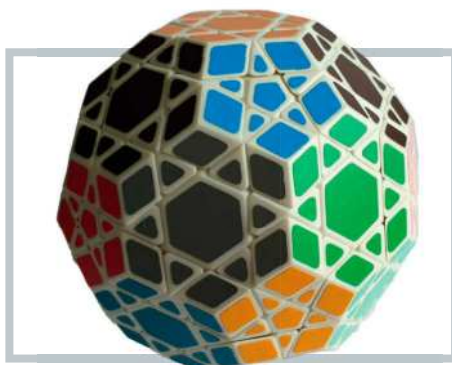
Item: LEGO Speed Champions Formula One Mercedes AMG Petronas, set 75995
Condition: mint, all pieces included
Sold for: £710 (10 bids)



Item: Matchbox Lesney No.27a Bedford Low Loader
Condition: Some light crushing to original box, overall very good
Sold for: £648 (8 bids)



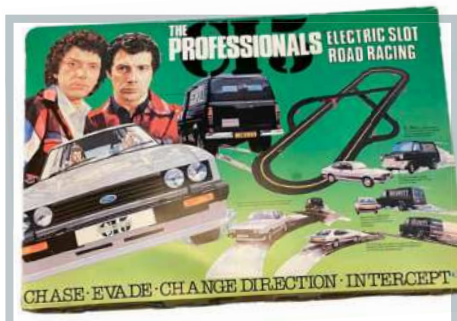
Item: Japanese G1 Transformers Goodbye Convoy / Optimus Prime Giftset, 1986
Condition: original, very good with some slight marks, complete set
Sold for: £942 (36 bids)



Item: Classic White Tuttminx twisty puzzle, 32-sided
Condition: excellent
Sold for: £187 (35 bids)



Item: 1991 Micro Machines Reflections 3
Condition: good, slight age-related marks
Sold for: £1300 (27 bids)



Item: The Professionals Electric Slot Road Racing track
Condition: very good, all pieces included plus extra cars
Sold for: £300 (10 bids)



Item: Marvel 'Fantastic Four' Third Eye jigsaw puzzle, circa 1971
Condition: incomplete with several pieces missing, good box, no serious damage
Sold for: £180 (6 bids)



Item: Airfix FN Rifle with sling, magazine, bayonet and bullets (first issue box)
Condition: boxed, very good overall, operates perfectly
Sold for: £252 (20 bids)



Item: Scalextric 'James Bond' C97 Aston Martin DB5 GT, 1967
Condition: excellent, figure missing from driver's seat, reproduction box.
Sold for: £529 (28 bids)



Item: Hasbro WWF/WWE The 123 Kid, from the green series
Condition: mint, with case
Sold for: £1120 (39 bids)



Item: Alps Japanese friction-drive black Cadillac, Series 62, 1952
Condition: very good, minor surface scratches and paint loss
Sold for: £920 (14 bids)

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PRICE GUIDE

This month we visit sales at Sheffield Auction Gallery, Warwick and Warwick, Vectis, British Toy Auctions and East Bristol Auctions.



♦ Dinky Toys No 190 Monteverdi 375L, dark metallic red with Speedwheels. Very good in good original plastic case. **Sold for £30, Sheffield Auction Gallery, July.**



♦ Dinky Toys No 344 Land Rover, in metallic blue with Speedwheels, silver rear body interior and engine bay, red cab interior. Excellent in excellent box. **Sold for £40, Sheffield Auction Gallery, July.**



♦ Dinky Toys No 165 Ford Capri, metallic green. Excellent, with mint plastic bubble and excellent card plinth. **Sold for £40, Sheffield Auction Gallery, July.**



♦ Corgi Toys early original free-standing wooden shop display case, 2x wooden flaps to rear for support, inner is finished in white with pale blue wooden shelves and "Corgi Toys" signage, missing glass front. Good, approximately 48" x 32". **Sold for £520, Vectis, July.**



♦ Tri-ang Spot-on No 274 Morris 1100, pale blue, red interior, chrome front and rear bumpers, cast spun hubs, grey plastic roof rack with red and blue canoe. Good to good plus, inner carded tray is good plus, outer window box is poor. **Sold for £70, Vectis, July.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 311 Ford Capri V6 3-litre, fluorescent body, black interior, red-spot wheels. Excellent plus in near mint window box. **Sold for £220, Vectis, July.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 374 Jaguar E-Type, pearlescent yellow body, brown interior, black base, chrome trim, Whizzwheels. Near mint in good plus window box. **Sold for £50, Vectis, July.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 202 Renault 16TS, blue body, yellow interior, chrome trim and base, grey plastic tow hook, Whizzwheels. Excellent plus in excellent plus window box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, July.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 312 Jaguar E-Type Competition Model, chrome-plated finish, black interior with driver figure, blue, white and black racing number 2 decal, wire wheels. Good to good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £80, Vectis, July.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 223 Chevrolet State Patrol Car, black body, lemon interior, grey plastic aerial, silver trim and side flashes, flat spun hubs with accessory packs applied. Excellent plus in good plus to excellent blue and yellow carded picture box with correct inner packing piece. **Sold for £50, Vectis, July.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 210S Citroën DS19, red body, grey base, lemon interior, silver trim, spun hubs. Excellent plus in good plus to excellent blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £120, Vectis, July.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 222 Renault Floride, dark red body, off-white interior, silver trim, flat spun hubs. Excellent in fair blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, July.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 332 Lancia Fulvia Sport Zagato, blue body, chrome bumpers, cast hubs. Excellent in good to good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £45, Vectis, July.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 236 Austin A60 De-luxe Saloon Motor School, light blue, red interior and roof turning disc, silver trim and side flashes, spun hubs. Near mint in good plus box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, July.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 926 James Bond Stromberg Helicopter, from the film "The Spy Who Loved Me" - black, yellow, amber windows, missiles still attached to sprue. Near mint in good box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, July.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 807 The Magic Roundabout Dougal's Car, yellow body, grey base, red interior and plastic wheels. Excellent plus in excellent plus box with pictorial inner card. **Sold for £150, Vectis, July.**



♣ Corgi Hillman Hunter Rally No. 302, blue body, white roof, black bonnet, kangaroo, instructions, partially used transfers, excellent in good plus box, inner stand excellent. **Sold for £110, Warwick & Warwick, July.**



♣ Corgi Commer Constructor Gift Set No. 24, 2 cab/ chassis units, 4 interchangeable bodies, milkman figure, milk crates and bench seat insert, excellent in excellent box. **Sold for £70, Warwick & Warwick, July.**



♣ Corgi Tractor and Beast Carrier Gift Set No. 33, Fordson Power Major Tractor blue body, orange plastic hubs, silver seat (No. 55), and Beast Carrier, yellow trailer, red hubs and chassis (No. 58), 4 calves, excellent in fair box. **Sold for £75, Warwick & Warwick, July.**



♣ Dinky Captain Scarlett Spectrum Patrol Car No. 103, metallic red body, white base, blue tinted windows, yellow interior, excellent in good plus box, without inner stand. **Sold for £220, Warwick & Warwick, July.**



♣ Dinky Captain Scarlett Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle No. 104, blue body and base, white front bumper, about excellent in good box with good inner stand, 1 packing piece, 2 rockets, Captain Scarlett figure and instructions. **Sold for £180, Warwick & Warwick, July.**



♣ Dinky Captain Scarlett Maximum Security Vehicle No. 105, white body, red base and side stripes, red interior, 'RADIOACTIVE' crate, excellent in good plus box, without unused decal sheet. **Sold for £110, Warwick & Warwick, July.**



♣ Dinky Towaway Glider Set No. 118, Triumph 2000, blue/ white, red/ cream trailer, red/ yellow glider, excellent in good pictorial box, excellent inner stand with 1 packing piece and instructions. **Sold for £180, Warwick & Warwick, July.**



♣ A boxed Dinky Toys #689 Medium Artillery Tractor, with both spare tyres in rear plus driver, with some light chipping but overall appears good plus, housed in a fair plus lift off lid box with some scuffs and age related wear. **Sold for £25, British Toy Auctions, July.**



♣ A boxed Dinky Toys #642 RAF Pressure Refueller. The model in RAF blue body and Supertoys hubs, appears in excellent overall condition with some light chipping, presented in a fair plus blue and white striped box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, July.**



♣ A boxed Dinky Supertoys #972 Coles Lorry Mounted Crane. The model with orange cab and chassis, yellow crane, and Supertoy hubs, is complete with two driver figures and overall appears to be in excellent condition with a some minor chipping. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, July.**



♣ A boxed Dinky Toys #581 Horse Box 'British Railways Express Horse Box Hire Service'. The model in maroon has Supertoy hubs with silver trim. The model appears to be in very good overall condition with some wear to decals especially over cab. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, July.**



♣Wells (UK) Mickey Mouse tinplate clockwork hand operated Railway Truck, designed to run on O Gauge track, detailed tinprinting with substantial clockwork motor, comes with painted plaster figures. A good scarce example. **Sold for £140, Vectis, July.**



♣Arnold (US Zone of Germany) tinplate clockwork Monkey on a Tricycle, detailed tinprinting, no key but the novelty figure has a pedalling action as the tricycle is propelled forward. A good plus bright example. **Sold for £80, Vectis, July.**



♣Schuco (Germany) Curvo 1000 tinplate clockwork motorcycle, red/cream with rider wearing shirt and brown pants, detailed tinprinting, no key but the motor is in working order. Light age wear otherwise generally excellent for display. **Sold for £100, Vectis, July.**



♣Technofix (Germany) tinplate clockwork motorcycle with registration number GE258, racing number 4 to his back, clockwork motor with integral key in working orders, light surface rust otherwise generally excellent plus. **Sold for £70, Vectis, July.**



♣Tipp & Co (Tippco of Germany) large friction drive tinplate Police Motorcycle circa 1950s, green/cream tinprinting, some age related wear, a small hole has been drilled in the top of the petrol tank, lacks clear plastic windscreen. Good plus. **Sold for £160, Vectis, July.**



♣Technofix (Germany) 202 friction drive Scooter with Rider and Lady Passenger, friction drive in working order, tinplate model with colourful tinprinting, lacks the windscreen but does include the rear spare wheel. Good plus. **Sold for £70, Vectis, July.**



♣Sutcliffe Models (UK) "The Bluebird Wonder Speedboat" clockwork model, blue hull, white deck and orange fittings, the motor requires attention but does include the propeller and rudder for display and comes in a fair card box. **Sold for £50, Vectis, July.**



♣Sutcliffe Models "Nautilus" Submarine from Walt Disney's 20 Leagues Under the Sea by Jules Verne, tinplate clockwork model is green, some nicks and scratches but the motor is in working order with a plain key, otherwise good. **Sold for £100, Vectis, July.**



♣Bandai (Japan) "Cadillac with Dashboard", large scale tinplate battery operated Coupe, finished in metallic gold with tinprinted interior and hub caps. Remote control cable attached, untested. **Sold for £260, Vectis, July.**



♣Lehmann (Germany) 688 "Mensa" tinplate clockwork 3-wheeled Table Top Delivery Van with Rod, early version circa late 1920s with driver figure, some surface corrosion and age related wear, clockwork motor is present. **Sold for £180, Vectis, July.**



♣Mettoy (UK) tinplate clockwork AA Motorcycle Patrol, dark blue bike with tinprinting, yellow uniformed rider and petrol tank, clockwork motor in working order with stabiliser wheels, some age related wear. **Sold for £150, Vectis, July.**



♣Roy Cox (Thimble Drone Champion) aluminium Tether Racing Car red, with blue baseplate, racing number 99, includes part of a glow plug type motor to interior, unchecked for completeness, otherwise generally good. **Sold for £110, Vectis, July.**



♣Meccano Constructor Aeroplane, built as a Biplane, red, with silver wings, blue struts and propeller, fitted with 2 x floats and RAF roundels, some age related wear, dating from the 1930s - otherwise fair to good. **Sold for £80, Vectis, July.**



♣Meccano Constructor Aeroplane constructed as a Biplane, with cream fuselage and red wings, RAF roundels, fitted with 2 x wheels to the undercarriage, some age related wear but overall fair to good for display. **Sold for £120, Vectis, July.**



♣Kenton (USA) or similar cast iron 2-wheeled Coal Cart, circa 1930s, red cart with shafts, 2 yellow spoked wheels with cast iron horse and driver and reins - fair to good scarce example. **Sold for £60, Vectis, July.**



♣Marx Toys (USA) 1940s tinplate tank, green, with tinprinted detail, fitted with clockwork motor and integral key. Includes both rubber tracks and fitted with a working brake, excellent. **Sold for £60, Vectis, July.**



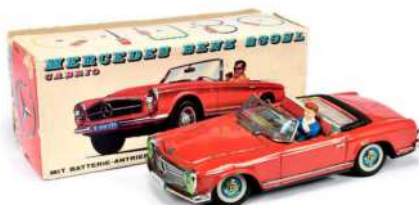
♣Bandai (Japan) tinplate Lincoln Continental, red, with tinprinted interior detail and hub caps, friction drive in working order. Some light play wear to some of the edges otherwise good for display. **Sold for £70, Vectis, July.**



♣Gama (Germany) Opel Kapitän 4-door Saloon, 1950s tinplate friction drive example is metallic blue with matching off-white roof, detailed tinprinted interior. Some age related wear otherwise a good scarce example. **Sold for £120, Vectis, July.**



♣CK Toys (Kuramochi of Japan) tinplate clockwork "Streamline Highspeed Passenger Train", scarce example of a clockwork Railcar, no key but the motor is in working order, fitted with 6 wheels to underside. Pre-war example, good plus. **Sold for £100, Vectis, July.**



♣Alps (Japan) "Mercedes Benz 230SL Kabrio", battery operated tinplate sports car is red, with tinprinted detail including hub caps, some slight rippling effect to the bonnet, otherwise good. **Sold for £160, Vectis, July.**



♣Blomer and Schuler (Germany) tinplate clockwork Walking Peacock novelty toy, dating from circa 1920s/30s with detailed tinprinting, no key but the motor is in working order producing a walking action. Good plus. **Sold for £150, Vectis, July.**



♣Masudaya (Modern Toys of Japan) "Non-Stop Lavender Robot", an original mega rare robot from 1959 and highly prized by robot collectors. Owned by the vendor from new, the head is loose. Untested, very light age related wear. **Sold for £1500, Vectis, July.**



♣Tri-ang Minic 1950s tinplate caravan, scarce item produced towards the end of production has a cream upper and red lower body, opening door, later issue black plastic wheels, includes tow hook. Excellent plus to near mint. **Sold for £80, Vectis, July.**



♣Tri-ang Minic 119M Watneys Barrel Lorry, dark green standard cab with wooden barrel to trailer, includes red painted diecast hubs and plastic barrel to the cab roof, would benefit from further polishing, comes with a key. Good plus to excellent. **Sold for £170, Vectis, July.**



♣Tri-ang Minic "Jabberwock" tinplate/plastic novelty toy circa 1950s, scarce example is blue/green, no key but in excellent working order, 8"/20cm long and comes in a fair card box which lacks an end flap. **Sold for £100, Vectis, July.**



♣Tri-ang large pressed steel Routemaster Bus circa 1960, red, 22"/56cm long - fair. **Sold for £100, Vectis, July.**



♣Taiyo (Japan) tinplate "Screaming Siren" Police Car, tinplate battery operated large scale Ford 4-door Sedan is 12.5"/32cm long, excellent plus and comes in a good window box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, July.**



♣Biller Toys (US Zone of Germany) tinplate clockwork racing car, red/cream with racing number 7, some light age related wear. Generally a good plus bright example in working order. **Sold for £30, Vectis, July.**



♣Tri-ang large pressed steel Routemaster Bus circa 1960s, has had some partial restoration to the roof and other panels with some reproduction stickers, red with white interior - done to a fair standard. **Sold for £150, Vectis, July.**



♣Tri-ang Minic "Watney Lorry", circa 1950s with green forward control cab, trailer with large wooden barrel, red painted cast metal hubs, some light wear but in working order with correct key. Good plus in a fair to good box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, July.**



♣ **LEGO Legoland 6285 Black Seas Barracuda**, an original vintage (1989) boxed Black Seas Barracuda / Pirate Ship. The set believed complete but remains unchecked. **Sold for £220, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO The Hobbit An Unexpected Journey 79002 Attack Of The Wargs**, an original boxed set. The now retired set appearing to be resealed to one side, 100% complete. **Sold for £45, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO City 60093 Deep Sea Helicopter**, an original boxed Lego set. The now retired set appearing to be resealed to one side but the vendor assures us the set in 100% complete. **Sold for £28, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



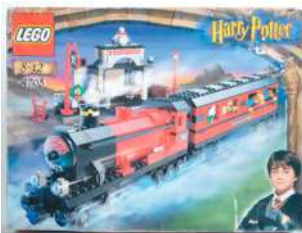
♣ **LEGO Star Wars Set 75149 Resistance X-Wing Fighter**, an original boxed Lego set. The now retired set appearing to be resealed to one side. **Sold for £40, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO Star Wars Set 75102 Poe's X-Wing Fighter**, an original boxed Lego Star Wars set. The now retired set appearing to possibly be resealed so one side. **Sold for £45, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO DC Universe Super Heroes 6860 The Batcave**, an original boxed Lego set. The now retired set appearing to be resealed to one side, complete with instructions. **Sold for £35, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO Harry Potter Set 4708 Hogwarts Express**, an original boxed Lego set. The now retired set appearing factory sealed within original box. From a large private collection of Lego. **Sold for £150, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO Creator Set 4997 Transport Ferry**, an original boxed Lego 3 in 1 set. The now retired set appearing to be resealed but the the vendor assures us the set is 100% complete. **Sold for £40, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO Creator Set 10266 Nasa Apollo 11 Lunar Lander**, an original factory sealed boxed Lego set. Great set. From a large private collection of Lego. **Sold for £65, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO Star Wars Set 9493 X-Wing Star Fighter**, an original Lego Star Wars set. The now retired set appearing to be resealed to one side. **Sold for £45, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



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♣ **LEGO City Set 7897 Passenger Train**, an original boxed Lego City set. The now retired set appearing to be resealed to one side. Complete with instructions. **Sold for £65, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



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♣ **LEGO Ninjago Masters of Spinjitzu 70732 City of Stiix**, an original boxed set appearing to be resealed but the vendor assures us the set is 100% complete with instructions present. **Sold for £80, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ **LEGO Star Wars Set 6211 Imperial Star Destroyer**, an original boxed set. The now retired set appearing to be resealed but the vendor assures us the set is 100% complete with instructions present. **Sold for £100, East Bristol Auctions, July.**



♣ Wrenn 1987 50th Anniversary Limited Edition LMS maroon 6223 Princess Alice 4-6-2 locomotive and tender No. W2401, excellent in excellent box with Packer No. 3. **Sold for £420, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Wrenn LMS black 6256 William A Stanier FRS Duchess 8P Class 4-6-2 locomotive and tender No. W2227/A, excellent in excellent box with packing pieces. **Sold for £270, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Wrenn BR maroon 46238 City of Carlisle Duchess 8P Class 4-6-2 locomotive and tender No. W2226/A, excellent in excellent reproduction box. **Sold for £100, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Wrenn LNER green 4495 Great Snipe Class A4 4-6-2 locomotive and tender No. W2209/A, excellent in excellent box with Packer No. 6 to bottom of box, packing pieces and instructions. **Sold for £210, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Wrenn Brighton Belle brown/cream Car No. 90 Motor Coach No. W3006/7, generally mint in excellent box, with Packer No. 2 and ref. 441192 stamped to underside. **Sold for £120, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Hornby Dublo BR 34042 Dorchester 3-rail locomotive and tender No. 3235, good plus in good plus box, with instructions. **Sold for £170, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Hornby Dublo Suburban Electric Train set No. 2050, excellent in good plus box, includes S65326 and S77511 2-Car unit, track and instructions. **Sold for £220, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Bachmann Virgin Trains Doctor Who Class 221 5 Car DMU Set No. 32627, nearly mint in good plus box. **Sold for £140, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Bachmann (USA) HO/00 gauge Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets train set No. 00646, excellent, with Hogwarts Railways maroon 5972 Hogwarts Castle 4-6-0 locomotive, tender, coaches. **Sold for £95, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Bachmann DMU range with Cross Country silver 4 Car Class 220 No. 32603, BR blue/grey 3 Car Class 108 No. 32910 and BR green 2 Car Class 105 No. 31326A mainly nearly excellent to mint. **Sold for £300, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Marklin O gauge 3-rail electric maroon and black E3130 4-4-0 locomotive and tender 385, generally good plus, with E3130 on one cab side and Marklin brass logo on the other. **Sold for £120, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Hornby O Gauge unboxed range with 20V Nord 31801 4-4-2 locomotive & tender, goods wagons, station staff, North Shields station sign, milk churns, box of track etc, loco generally good, rest in mixed condition. **Sold for £210, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Hornby O gauge clockwork with key LNER green 4472 Flying Scotsman locomotive No. 3C, good plus in good plus box (tender without box). **Sold for £100, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ Bassett-Lowke O gauge MR maroon 999 4-4-0 locomotive and tender No. 17/0, excellent, refurbished to a high standard with modern 3-rail electric mechanism. **Sold for £470, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



♣ ACE Trains O gauge L&SWR green 108 0-4-4T locomotive No. E/24A, excellent in excellent box. **Sold for £350, Warwick and Warwick, July.**



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Toy Stories

Ed Karswell remembers a time before Star Wars.

Echoing the line from the famous World War I poster, “What did you do in the War Daddy?” my son asked me “What was it like before Star Wars?”. This wasn’t as strange as it sounds. In fact, so enmeshed is it within popular culture it seems to have permeated virtually everything. If proof were ever needed of this, in the 2001 census return nearly 400,000 people across Great Britain marked down their religion as Jedi. Yes, really! Joking apart, it occupies such a space in within our psyche it’s difficult to imagine that there was a time without *Star Wars*.

Let me begin. Back in 1976 I was a lanky 8-year-old kid and there was no *Star Wars*. My television hi-lights consisted of either re-runs of *Star Trek* or nightmare inducing supernatural tales such as *Children of the Stones*. The big science fiction things on TV were either Gerry Andersons *Space 1999* or *The Six Million Dollar Man* which were good but not brilliant (...no letters please).

At the cinema on the other hand, science fiction films had moved on with more adult audiences and themes. Stanley Kubrick’s 2001: *A Space Odyssey* and the ecological allegory, *Silent Running*, were cerebral in both concept and execution. Even children’s films had quite high ideas such as *Logan’s Run* with its doomed hedonism and the dangers of a totalitarian state. Kids it would seem had been largely left behind.

The toy scene reflected this, though arguably both the Dinky Eagle Transporter and *The Six Million Dollar Man* toys were better than the source material they came from. These were the exceptions as the toy shop shelves were still packed with 1960s run outs. *Star Trek*, *Thunderbirds*, *Captain Scarlett* and the like were all starting to feel like yesterdays toys. The time was ripe for something new.

I first became aware of *Star Wars* when it featured on BBC’s *Newsround*, making the headlines for being an immediate

and surprise hit with audiences. Scenes of people queuing up around cinemas in New York certainly piqued our interest. The thing about *Star Wars* was that the plot wasn’t new, the characters were all existing archetypes but (and it’s a big but) the production design and concept were nothing like what had gone before. Production stills sold it to us way before we had even seen the film.

My father took me to see it and he was so impressed we went back a week later to watch it again. In the absence of any associated toys, we hoovered up anything we could get, be it poster magazines, collector’s specials or the famous Topps trading cards. Pip, my school friend and fellow toy enthusiast, avidly awaited the arrival of the toys. As we now know the toy industry was caught unawares so there was a significant lag in toys being ready to hit the shops.

Pre-internet the main channels of communication for kids were TV and comics. Comics were

huge, from the *Beano* to *Warlord* and *Look-in* there was something for everyone, and in the 1970s sales were at their peak. It was in one of these comics that we first saw an advert for the first *Star Wars* toys. They were black and white line illustrations rather than photographs but even so I remember us vividly standing for ages trying to decipher the copy which as I recall was along the lines of “be patient, coming soon”. I was so excited I don’t think I slept properly for weeks. When news came that the first figures had arrived I went straight to my regular toy shop to bag one. However, they were initially a reasonable 99p but when the rest of the line-up came in the price had jumped to £1.25. What! I was not impressed. It wasn’t the sort of behaviour I expected from the establishment that supplied firearms to my Action Man. Of course, in light of the current values of these figures I quite understand this may seem beyond belief.

The whole *Star Wars* saga was a game changer. Films did get bigger, both in use of special effects and the corresponding budgets. The toy market too was never the same again... The whole template for action figures started here. Ironically for me it also heralded the beginning of the end for the likes of Action Man.

The film merchandising market marched through the ‘80s and beyond, which was no bad thing for collectors including this one. After all, if Steve Austin really was *The Six Million Dollar Man* why did he dress in a pink track suit like Vicky Pollard from *Little Britain*? May the force be with you. **CG**





Marching on Malvern

Alwyn Brice gets back into his swapmeet stride.

A lot changes in 18 months. For starters, I moved house in April, after 25 years in Kent, and relocated to Malvern. So it was with anticipation that I went along to Stu Vowles' second show of the year (the first was in Exeter). It would mean new faces and new (old) toys, right?

Wrong - for I kept bumping into stallholders who I'd been familiar with down south. The pull of the big shows, like this one, means that the serious sellers travel - and so it was in July, with about 200 stalls booked.

Typical were Mike and Mary Boydcamps. This couple have been doing the rounds for years and at the swapmeet they had two sets of Britains plastic Eyes Right Scots Guards: the Colour Party and the Band, both housed in cream and brown window boxes and both £40. But my eye was attracted to a bag of 60mm Marx ladies in scanty clothing: these bathing beauties were exquisitely modelled and were £40 for a set of eight. Of even greater interest was the reclining nude in the same scale: according to Mary, this figure was never commercially available but rather served as a business card for some Marx employees. If true, it's a great story - and I simply had to acquire one of her dwindling stock.

Sid Butler was another

familiar face, and his stall was full of mint and boxed Dinky and Corgi toys. Since the pandemic, he's found that Corgi are the best performers. Aside from the diecast he had an open box of assorted ray guns, most in tinsplate and all working: prices varied from £30-45. A brace of impressive Bandai tinsplate Rolls Royces were £155 a throw; whilst an old working, British made, tinsplate and metal-wheeled cannon, with a curious wooden rear wheel, defied 'elf 'n safety: this was £65.

If locos are your forte, then a three-inch scale example, scratchbuilt in brass, was looking for a new home. This shunter wasn't quite finished (although a cab was ready to be fitted) but all the donkey work had been done. With functioning gauges and miniature boiler, this lovely (but heavy!) coal-fired creation carried a price tag of £750.

Stu himself had a stall with a few items for sale. Notable amongst these were two large-scale Triang vehicles. The milk lorry I've seen before but not usually with a full complement of milk bottles: his was in great condition and priced at £85. Just £55 was being asked for the more uncommon ice cream van, although it was missing the cab roof sign and some interior details.

A lady named Daphne was fielding a table full



ABOVE

Welcome to the Wild West! This intriguing set was actually manufactured in Worcestershire.



ABOVE

Exciting artwork singled out this Airfix track section box.



ABOVE

Another mystery: someone had gone to a lot of trouble to make a window box for the Fab Four.



ABOVE

Superb collection of ray guns, which sparked or made unearthly noises, were spotted on Sid Butler's stall.

RIGHT

Delightful milk lorry from Tri-ang had survived from the 1960s.



FAR RIGHT

Every schoolboy ate chewing gum in the sixties – often just to get these cards.



RIGHT

A stunning pair of large scale Bandai Rolls Royce models: helpfully, the winged mascots were both intact.



of pop and TV-related merchandise. A 1960s Beatles ceramic plate (£25) jostled for space alongside a window box containing the Fab Four in plastic. No maker's name was present and I suspected the packaging had been made up – although it was well done. But who had moulded the mop-tops? This set was £60. *Batman* bubble gum cards from the 1966 run were £2 a time whilst a bagged *Thunderbirds* water pistol still retained its header card. Looking shop fresh, it was tagged at £68.

Another stallholder, Josh Bartlett, confessed to me that he's a huge Turtles fan; well, I suppose that someone has to be.

Aside from the loose and boxed Ninja Turtle figures and accessories was a battery-powered Turtle pinball game, from the Chinese company Playtime Products. Dating from 1988, this oddity was a very reasonable £20.

Nearby was a *James Bond* collector who wished to remain anonymous. Well, you can't be too careful in this business. He was disposing of some swaps and prime amongst these was the 1965 Multiple Toys (US made) Bond Cine Camera. It was all there, in its original box, even down to the six silver bullets (oh yes – this camera could shoot all right, but not film). Very hard to find over here (I'm

not sure that this line was ever available in the UK), he had tracked the set down Stateside. At £375 it wasn't cheap but rather begged the question of where you'd find another.

Evelyn from Dave's Classic Toys had a good selection of desirables. The boxed Airfix slot racing Jump Section would have been worth buying for the box art alone (£15); whereas the mint green tinplate Distler Porsche 365 had seen some play, yet retained the all-important steering wheel and cable (£300). Rather cheaper was the Harold Flory open topped two-seater in cream at £120.

Spot-on was flavour of the month at Tim and Dawn Chadwick's stall:

£350 would have secured the articulated lorry carrying a sectional house whilst the British Railways cab and trailer was £320. Down the scale, a Tourist Caravan was priced at £265; a Vauxhall Cresta, in dark blue and white, was £295 and a greeny-grey Hillman Minx was marked up at £140. All were boxed; the Jones Crane was an exception, and this was priced at £170.

Fans of the Wild West were also catered for. A real oddity was that of Dodge City, which comprised six wooden buildings and some sections of baseboard, all of which were contained in an extremely amateurish-looking box. Apparently

manufactured locally (in Pershore) by Raytell, and dating from the 1950s, here was a real rarity: and at £55 it deserved saving.

The same stallholder had plenty of old Meccano for sale, with an empty wooden box for a No 9 Set at £75 and a 1930s Dinky Builder selection (possibly enough for Sets 1 and 2) priced at £45. And for anyone seeking a 1920s Set 6, in all its glory, it was there, together with instructions, for around £250.

Finally, Nick from Toyhunter had a good selection of Timpo figures, the best being the overmoulded US Cavalry on foot (at £20 a time) and a superb mounted Roman at £16. **CG**


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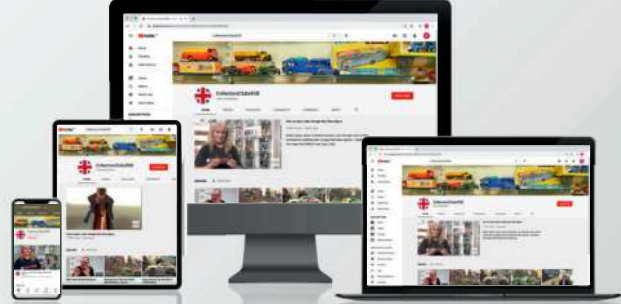
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Obsolete

Z

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! While out and about in the hot summer sun the other day I bought an old set of darts from a junk shop that brought back some happy memories. I reckon that they date from the mid 1960s, as they are exactly the same as the first ever set of darts I received as a birthday gift around 1964, along with a splendid 'Alpha' dart board made by the Dunlop Company. The darts were great for a while but the feather flights were really delicate and I soon replaced them with moulded plastic flights. That board hung on the back of my bedroom door for at least a decade and was well used, especially in the winter months. I only paid four quid for the darts which, considering they were still in their original box, was a great bargain.

Another item that revived happy childhood memories was a book titled the *Giant Book of Amazing Stories* picked up from a boot sale for the princely sum of fifty pence. As always the joy of it was the fabulous illustrations, many of which were by my personal favourite children's book illustrator T.E. North who lived in Hull. One of the most fascinating drawings was a space suit of the future worn by Rex Strong on the planet Orbona. Mr North certainly had a very creative imagination... Rex having a sheath knife tucked into a pouch inside his moon exploring pressurised suit... great stuff!

Another excellent car boot sale buy was a small collection of old matchboxes which I snapped up for a fiver for the lot.

Luckily there were one or two little gems in the box including 'Commonwealth' dating from the 1937 Coronation, Pluto Lucifers and an attractive Bryant & May's 'Tiger'... they were what you might call a lucky strike! There are a few still containing matches but most were empty. A few of the nicer ones have gone into my own collection. You do have to treat yourself every now and then.

Talking of luck though I was pleasantly surprised to discover that also tucked in with the matchboxes was a BT phone card (remember them?) dating from 1995. Now I have to say I know absolutely nothing about phone cards but I do recall that many people started collected them. This one promoted the *Dandy* comic and was one of four special SOS cards issued to children and released in conjunction with publishers D.C. Thompson & Co. Are they worth anything today? Who knows? Watch this space.

As a reminder that the summer holidays are now upon us, an amazing old tin sign advertising Ex-Lax Chocolate Laxative reminded me of the good old days we had at Skegness where most of our family holidays were taken beside the seaside. I picked up this sign from the big Newark Showground Antique Fair and thought it was reasonably priced at £65. It was probably designed for the walls of a chemists shops in

seaside towns as the two movable dials are designed to denote the day's high and low tides. I'd say this is an extremely rare sign... how many have survived?

Things have been busy on the selling front with a lot of interest being shown in games and puzzles. A nice little SNAP card game soon found a new owner willing to hand over a tenner for it. The cards were superbly illustrated and the chromolithography was equally impressive. Luckily the outer box had survived in excellent condition and the instruction leaflet was also included although let's face it there aren't that many rules to SNAP!

Jig-saw puzzles seem to be doing well at present and there are a lot of collectors out there looking for rare examples. One really nice example, produced in the Mercury range by Tower Press, showing a magnificent scene of a passenger liner about to set sail from New York was soon snapped up by a collector for twenty quid. All of its 400 pieces were still present and the box was perfect too.

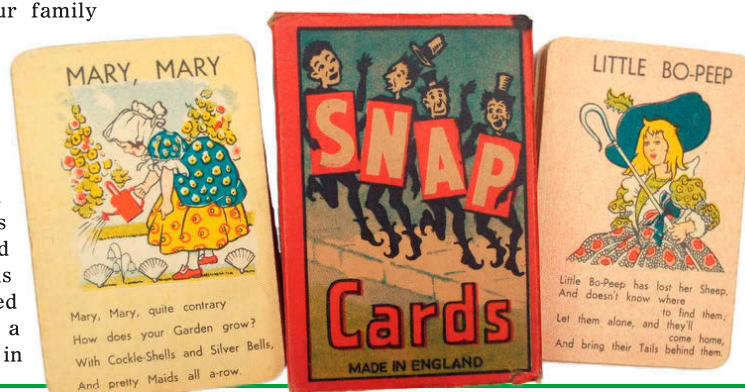
Still on the subject of New York an American car number plate from New York State

was snapped up along with a few other bits and pieces by a guy fitting out his new barber's shop with Americana. One of the fascinating things about these number plates is trying to imagine what type of car they were attached to as the sped around New York, LA and San Francisco? At twenty quid a throw they have to be great collectables for the future.

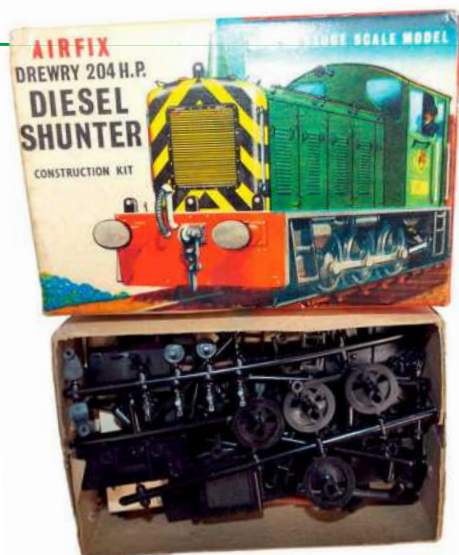
Interest in old and unusual diecast is still high and a CONDON dumper dating from the early 1950s sold for £35. It was nice in being in the slightly rarer green and yellow colour combination and was complete with its original driver which is essential with these toys as they can so easily become detached and lost!

Finally an Airfix diesel shunter found a very pleased new owner who had been looking for a really good example of this uncommon Airfix kit for a long time. This example was in mint condition with all parts and transfers present... just the way collectors like em! Ticket price £45.

Well that's about it for another month folks. The summer is slowly reaching its end so enjoy what's left of it while you can and, as always, be lucky! **CG**



LEFT
This lovely old SNAP card game was indeed soon snapped up by a collector willing to pay a tenner for it.

**LEFT**

This scarce Airfix kit was soon bought by a serious kit collector willing to hand over £45.

RIGHT

Remember the days of pictorial phone cards. Some collector's thought they would be worth something one day.

**LEFT**

What a find! All these old matchboxes, some still with their matches, bought as a complete job lot for a fiver.

**RIGHT**

Illustrated by T.E. North, this fabulous old book was a brilliant bargain for the princely sum of 50p... a lucky buy!

**LEFT**

A seaside special. Snapped up from an antique fair this old Ex-Lax advertising sign has signs of wear but is extremely rare.

**LEFT**

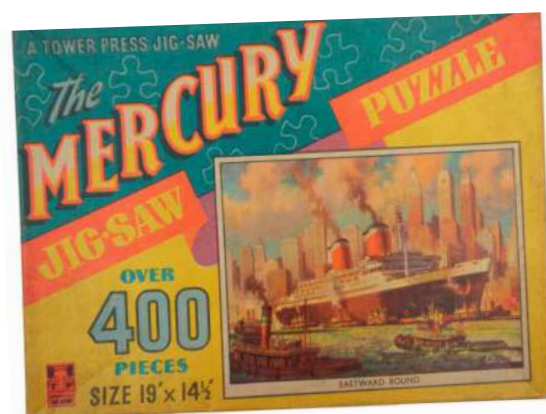
These delicate dart flights are still in their original box and date from the 1960s and were snapped up from a junk shop.

BELOW LEFT

Luckily this CONDON dumper still has its driver in position. They are prone to be lost as they sit loose on the toy.

BELOW RIGHT

These original American car number plates are tomorrow's collectibles according to Oz. This one is heading into a barber's shop festooned with Americana.

**BELOW**

Printed by the Tower Press this 400 piece jig-saw puzzle was fully complete. The scene of New York harbour is stunning.



»EVENTS THIS MONTH

FAIRS

22 AUGUST

- **Doncaster**, BP Fairs,
01604 846688 or 07966 527177

28 AUGUST

- **Chester**, Tony Oakes,
01270 652773

30 AUGUST

- **Bridgnorth**, Tony Oakes,
01270 652773
- **Cosby**, The Victory Show,
www.thevictoryshow.co.uk

4 SEPTEMBER

- **Reading**, British Model Soldier Society,
01895 832757
- **Cosby**, The Victory Show,
www.thevictoryshow.co.uk

5 SEPTEMBER

- **Malvern**, Bulldog Fairs,
01373 452857
- **Spalding**, J&J Fairs,
01522 880383
- **Cosby**, The Victory Show,
www.thevictoryshow.co.uk

11 SEPTEMBER

- **Stoke-On-Trent**, Tony Oakes,
01270 652773

12 SEPTEMBER

- **Coventry**, BP Fairs,
01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Rayleigh**, SRP Toy Fairs,
07739 998012
- **Lincolnshire**, J&J Fairs,
01522 880383
- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard,
01823 480097

18 SEPTEMBER

- **Sandown Park**, BP Fairs,
01604 846688 or 07966 527177

19 SEPTEMBER

- **St Ives**, J&J Fairs,
01522 880383
- **Haydock Park**, Tony Oakes,
01270 652773

23 SEPTEMBER

- **Theydon Bois**, Joe Lock,
07866 641215

26 SEPTEMBER

- **Buxton**, BP Fairs,
01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Orpington**, SRP Toy Fairs,
07739 998012
- **Enfield**, Whitewebbs Museum of Transport,
02083 671898

AUCTIONS

20 AUGUST

- **Bury St Edmunds**, Lacy Scott & Knight,
01284 748623
- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis,
01642 750616

24 AUGUST

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services,
01635 580595

25 AUGUST

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

26 AUGUST

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

31 AUGUST

- **Cheshire**, Warrington & Northwich Auctions,
01925 658833

3 SEPTEMBER

- **Taunton**, Greenslade Taylor Hunt,
01823 332525

6 SEPTEMBER

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

9 SEPTEMBER

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

10 SEPTEMBER

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

11 SEPTEMBER

- **Kings Langley**, Excalibur Auctions,
02036 330913
- **Stafford**, Hansons Auctioneers,
01889 882397

14 SEPTEMBER

- **Cheshire**, Warrington & Northwich Auctions,
01925 658833

15 SEPTEMBER

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis,
01642 750616
- **Warwick**, Warwick & Warwick,
01926 499031
- **Kent**, C&T Auctioneers,
01233 510050

16 SEPTEMBER

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

21 SEPTEMBER

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- Thursday 16th - Diecast Sale
- Tuesday 21st - General Toy Sale
- Wednesday 22nd - Specialist Diecast Collection
- Thursday 23rd - TV & Film Related Sale
- Friday 24th - Model Train Sale
- Tuesday 28th - Military, Civilian Figures, Equipment & Accessories Sale
- Wednesday 29th - Matchbox Sale
- Thursday 30th - Matchbox Sale

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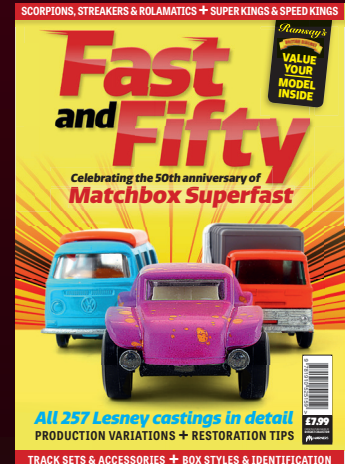
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The Battle of Britain

IN COLOUR



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THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN IN COLOUR



The Battle Looms

The Battle of Britain was one of the most iconic battles of the Second World War, embedding itself indelibly into the nation's consciousness. Earlier, the Battle of France could easily have spelled defeat before the air battles got underway in July 1940.

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.

Predicted Catastrophe
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.

On 10 May 1940, German forces invaded the low-lying coastal areas of France and the Low Countries and what followed in Belgium, the Netherlands etc, was the complete collapse of these countries under the overwhelming might of German military power. Across France, German forces moved inexorably towards the English Channel and while the French and British tried desperately to stem the advance, the situation became ever more desperate.

BACKGROUND TO BATTLE



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT

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 France. Right: As the anticipated approach of German military might advanced across Europe, the steady stream of Hurricanes sent to France to deliver incendiary bombs against further attempts of the German High Dive bomber to land in France. Right: As the anticipated approach of German military might advanced across Europe, the steady stream of Hurricanes sent to France to deliver incendiary bombs against further attempts of the German High Dive bomber to land in France.



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