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COLLECTORS GAZETTE

October 2021 • Issue No 451 • www.ccofgb.co.uk • £3.99

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CONTENTS IN THIS ISSUE...

03 NEWS

The latest news from the world of collecting.

09 WHAT'S THE YEAR?

Alwyn Brice looks back on a specific year and asks "what's the year?"

10 PLONK AND PLAY

Mark Nolan explains why your train collection should include a model village.

12 LITE WORK

Alwyn Brice tries to pin down a household name that remains elusive.

14 SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Save money and never miss another issue!

16 MINIATURE FIGURES

We take a look at how to restore and convert model figures.

18 WIKING DOHA

Stephen Paul Hardy tells us more about the VW Doppelkabinen.

20 10-MINUTE EXPERT

All you need to know about the big names in collecting.

22 FAMOUS TV & FILM FACES

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

24 EBAYS

Our guide to what's been selling well on eBay this month.

28 PRICE GUIDE

Find out what your toys could be worth in our auction round-up.

37 TOY STORIES

Ed Karswell remembers collecting toys via the breakfast table.

38 YOUR TOY COLLECTION

Ann Evans meets a lifelong collector, who's a bit of an Animal!

42 OBSOLETE OZ

What gems has Oz uncovered this month on his travels?

44 EVENT GUIDE

Plan your diary for the month ahead.

45 AUCTIONEER LISTING

Sale rooms from across the country, all in one place!

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Collectors Gazette is published monthly by Warners Group Publications Plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH, UK.



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■ AUCTION REVIEW



Slots and Spots

The British Toy Auctions sale excelled in slot cars: Fly, Slot-it, Sideways, SRC, Scalextric, SCX and Slotwings (why do so many slot car purveyors start off their products with an S, I wonder) made up many lots between them. Best of the lot was a limited edition Dutch Ford GT40 (made in 2003 for Harlequin Racing in Rotterdam), number 22 of only 40 made, which came with a signed, numbered certificate. Looking mint in a near mint display case, it sold for £130.

Six boxed Lone*Star diecast models included two Lotus Europa GT, two Ford Zodiac MK.III Estates, a Peugeot 404 and a Rolls Royce Silver

Cloud III. Models were mint and settled on £110.

On the train front, a Bachmann - Blue Riband OO gauge WD 2-8-0 Austerity class loco, operation number 90015, was excellent and fetched £45; the same money secured the Bachmann - Branch-Line - Limited edition OO gauge A4 class 4-6-2 Osprey in BR dark green with operating number 60009. Only 350 of this model were produced.

On to the road, where a Hot Wheels Elite boxed 1/18 scale 1966 TV Series Batmobile slipped under the hammer for £85. In terms of the smaller scale, a Dinky Toys Albion Chieftain Lorry Mounted Cement Mixer in orange with a blue and yellow cement barrel

The Mulliner coach was an excellent example of a coveted model, and sold well.

showed a couple of minor marks but overall was in excellent condition with a good blue and white box; it sold with a Marrel Multi-Bucket Unit in yellow and grey for £60.

The Spot-On Mulliner Coach is a most desirable diecast and this blue and silver bodied example was excellent overall, although some marks to the glazing were evident. Boxed, it was contested to £320.

An Austin Prime Mover with Articulated Flat Float and MGA Sports Car Crate is equally popular. The trailer's detachable headboard was missing but the truck was in very good condition overall, with just some chipping. Bidding closed on £110. ■



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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Lego legacy at Bristol

East Bristol Auctions was awash with Lego recently: there were lots and lots (literally), ranging from Minifigs to complete buildings, boats and even in-shop display cabinet models, most of which sold quite cheaply at £35-45. A boxed Ferris Wheel realised £130 whilst a Green Grocer building set reached £200. Many lots were sold at rather cheaper hammer prices, though.

Are French Dinky Supertoys falling off a cliff? A boxed No.38A, the Camion Unic

Multibenne Marrel in yellow and grey made £60 while a 36A, the Tracteur Willem Avec Semi-Remorque realised just £50; and the impressive Tracteur Unic Saharien finally closed on just £45. Not expensive toys, in my book...

As for Corgi, the little No.319 Lotus Elan Coupe in red with detachable chassis made £70 while the gold James Bond Aston Martin DB5, with ejector seat figure present but only in good to very good condition, with original box but no secret instructions, stopped at £70. Rather better was the silver



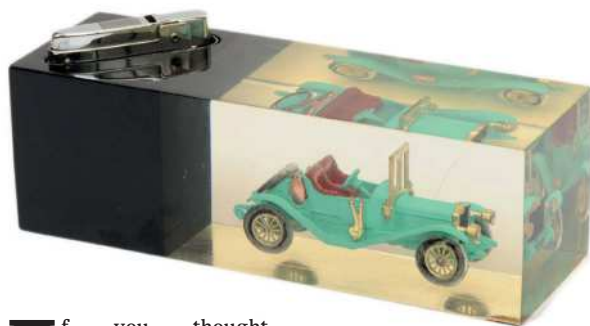
This Lego Creator Green Grocer, set number 10185, sold for £200.

1/8 scale Eaglemoss made precision diecast model of James Bond's DB5, which was fought to £260.

For the tecchie, a 1983 Nintendo Mario Bros Game and Watch handheld games console was taken to £40. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Yesteryear at today's prices!



If you thought Matchbox Yesteryears were old hat, think again. A recent Vectis

sale auctioned off a Transpalite Cigarette Lighter containing a Y14 1911 Maxwell Roadster with turquoise body and chassis (but without canopy). In excellent yet unboxed condition, it realised £1,020. In the Lesney Giftware Series, a Leland Industries, Y2 1914 Prince Henry Vauxhall in red with a silver bonnet and off-white seats, was mounted within a glass bottle sealed with a cork (yes, really). Estimated at £60-80, it fetched £384. As for the Y5 1927 Talbot Van "Hotel Excelsior" in burgundy with gloss black chassis, this was a pre-production example: to be ultimately replaced by the "Menier Chocolate" van, it

What the...? Ever seen a car in a lighter? Me neither, but this Matchbox Yesteryears version stood out!

sold for £480.

Chopper bikes were all the rage in the 1970s but the Vietnam-made example was brand new in a sealed outer box. Those easy rider handlebars stretched the audience and it was finally knocked down for £624.

Of the most desirable tinplate, the German Karl Bub 35cm tinplate clockwork limousine was a very rare item indeed. Dating from before 1914 period it is scarce in any condition; the Vectis example had been professionally restored in brick red with a black roof, and featured opening front and rear doors to each side. It finally settled on £1,320. ■

■ HOBBY NEWS

Good news for sports car fans

The tiny company of HRG that built lightweight traditional British sports cars in Tolworth, Surrey, has become the subject of a new model developed by Esval Models.

Esval has examined a number of real HRG 1500s of 1947, and created both

hood-up and hood-down versions, to be released in December this year. They will appear in black, mid blue, dark green and red.

The 1500 model was very successful as a new sports car in post-war Britain, competing in many races at Le Mans, Spa and the Alpine and RAC rallies. Not since

the white metal heydays have we seen any models of this car, and the whole story can be seen in a forthcoming article in *Diecast Collector*.

This model is bound to be popular with British sports car enthusiasts, and we hope to get more news on price and launch date soon. ■

**NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH**



CORGI LOCKHEED P-38J LIGHTNING - 'HAPPY JACKS GO BUGGY' - CAPT. JACK M ILFREY
Price: £60.49 Scale: 1/72 Release: out now
The pretty P-38 gets another outing, with D-Day stripes this time. Absolutely marvellous application of the markings and beautifully finished throughout.
» www.corgi.co.uk

BBURAGO PORSCHE 911 CARRERA S

Price: £14.99 Scale: 1/24 Release: out now
Sublime black paintwork really finishes off this great value Porsche well. With opening doors, excellent wheels and some good interior detail.
» www.tobar.co.uk



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new releases
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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Corgi takes to the skies

The August UK Toy and Model Auctions event fielded a good array of Dinky and Corgi models, the latter being of particular interest to the aviation enthusiast. Amongst the models offered in the Corgi Aviation Archive were a Panavia Tornado (of No 13 Squadron): mint and boxed, it sold for £50; a BAC TSR-2, XR219 (the only prototype that ever flew), which made £95; and a mint and boxed 'War in the Pacific' PBJ-JD (B-25) - 'Black 310' that went to a new home for £60.

Also in the Corgi listings were 12 mint and boxed



later issue Chipperfields Circus models: trailers, a booking office, animals and even a flatbed lorry were included, this useful lot settling on a healthy £120.

Dinky items of note included an excellent No 414 Dodge Tipper truck

in blue and grey with a slightly tired box (£120) and a lovely Lucas Oil articulated tanker in fetching green and white livery, contained within a bubble pack (£90).

The more unusual lots attracted much attention: a trio of Matchbox

accessory items (Home Stores, a lock-up garage and a set of road signs, all mint and boxed) was bid to £90 while a similar lot, containing another lock-up garage (albeit in a later box) together with a BP garage and parts still on a sprue, realised £75. The

Moko Pop Pop series girl on a green motorscooter with sidecar was the key focus, though; complete, with original box, this was contested all the way to £420, an indication of its scarcity.

Another interesting lot that was finally knocked down for £80 contained an eclectic assortment: a pale metallic blue E-type Jaguar from Benbros wasn't mint (but was rare); this was sold alongside a blue Cooper Bristol racing car in the Morestone "Petrol Pump" series and was accompanied by a Ford Model T from Politoy. All were boxed. ■

■ HOBBY NEWS

Tribute to 'our Darrell'

Due to go on sale in October, the first two examples of Corgi's wonderful newly-tooled VW Type 2 Bay Window Camper are shown here as 'signed samples', meaning these are ready to go into production. The tooling was very much from the heart of Corgi's Brand Manager, Darrell Burge, who sadly and very suddenly passed away in February this year.

VA14600, in Marino Yellow and Pastel White (below, right) is modelled on the very vehicle owned by Darrell and his wife, complete with its stylish Porsche Fuchs wheels. The 'RAT-look' on the left (VA14601) will also be available soon - both will be priced at £32.99.

"Little Miss Pepper", as Darrell's vehicle is known, comes with a lovely tribute card in the box. See www.corgi.co.uk, or contact your preferred retailer. ■



Corgi's wonderful newly-tooled VW Type 2 Bay Window Camper.



IXO
1954 GMC950 COE
Price: £35.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
Incredibly appealing replica of this marvelous and quirky vintage GMC truck. Stunning finish and wonderful detailing throughout.
» www.ayrey.co.uk



CORG PANZER VI TIGER AUSF E
EASTERN FRONT, SUMMER 1944
Price: £54.99 Scale: 1/50 Release: out now
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» www.corgi.co.uk

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■ HOBBY NEWS



Corgi Model Club and Corgi in dual release

The latest release in the new Corgi Model Club series, manufactured by Corgi and distributed by Blue 14, has just begun to arrive with customers. This exciting range of 1960s retrospective recreations is now up to six releases, with many more scheduled to follow – all faithful re-toolings of popular original Corgi Toys.

No.417 Land Rover Breakdown Truck is perfectly remodelled and is virtually indistinguishable when

compared alongside an original example, even down to the box, which is replicated as closely as possible to the original and is exactly the same size.

In an interesting twist, Corgi itself is to release a 417S version with “Spring Suspension” as No RT41701 (pictured) and, together with the Corgi Model Club release, these will mirror the two versions available in period, when originally sold. Find out more about the new 417S, priced at £21.99 by searching for product RT41701 at www.corgi.co.uk.

Following on from the

Land Rover Breakdown Truck, Corgi Model Club has now confirmed the next batch of replicas to be offered – Mustang Fastback 2+2 (No 325), Ghia 5000 Mangusta with De Tomaso chassis (271), Bentley Continental (224), Ford Thunderbird (215S), James Bond Aston Martin DB5 (261), Cadillac Superior Ambulance (437), Jaguar 4.2-litre E-Type (335) and Mercedes 300SL (303S).

To start collecting these ‘join’ the club - go to www.corgimodelclub.com. ■

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

Coming up NEXT MONTH

NOVEMBER 2021 ISSUE



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*Editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH

KESS 1931 ALFA ROMEO 6C 1750 GTC CASTAGNA

Price: £105.00 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now

Lovely sporting but upright lines of this cabriolet, well-captured, and all the detail once again. Also available in 2-tone blue. Limited to 250 of each.

» www.kessmodel.com



WIKING FENDT 1046 VARIO TRACTOR

Price: £89.95 Scale: 1/32 Release: out now

Wiking's latest Fendt 1000 series features a light grey transparent bonnet panel, chromed exhaust and chromed lights. It's well engineered and finished.

» www.wiking.de





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What was the year?

Alwyn Brice turns back the clock and invites you to pin down the year.

The US seemed to dominate the news this year. Initially 3,500 American soldiers were going to be sent to Vietnam, to assist in the conflict there, in the wake of the French withdrawal. NASA launched the Pioneer 5 Space probe this year, travelling between Earth and Venus. And an act of segregation in the US was declared illegal by the courts when an African-American student tried to order in a “whites only” restaurant: the victory would pave the way for a more liberal society. Meanwhile on television, the first live Presidential debate between Kennedy and Nixon was aired.

In the literary world, Harper Lee published *To Kill a Mockingbird*: ironically, this famous secondary school text has

now been declared unsuitable for study by some UK institutions. As for sport, Cassius Clay won his first fight – in Kentucky.

Over here in the UK it was all about nuclear disarmament. In April, 100,000 people joined a ‘Ban the Bomb’ rally in London, just a year after the famous Aldermaston march. There was also drama in Scotland when a scotch whisky factory in Glasgow exploded, burying 20 firefighters. The massive blaze, caused by approximately 1m gallons of the spirit, took a week to extinguish.

Italy was in the news since this year it hosted the summer Olympics; this was notable in that it was the first time that the games were to be televised.

In France, the new Franc appeared, which doubtless caused some ‘ooh la la’. The French also

conducted two atomic bomb tests, both in the Sahara.

There was plenty of independence going on, also: Cameroon, Togo, the Central African Republic, the Ivory Coast, Chad, Mauritania and Senegal all gained their freedom.

In the hit parade the Shirelles were asking *Will you love me tomorrow*; Chubby Checker was getting all in a twist; and our very own Shadows came up with arguably their best instrumental ever, *Apache*.

In terms of the cinema, it was a year bursting with varied screenplay: *Spartacus* (with Kirk Douglas) ruled the roost, grossing US\$14m; but there was Hitchcock’s *Psycho* (which did little for shower curtain salesmen); Jack Lemmon and Shirley MacLaine had fun in *The*

Apartment; the nitty gritty of Alan Sillitoe’s northern life was portrayed by Albert Finney; while for arty types, Federico Fellini’s *La Dolce Vita* brought some Italian style to the local flea-pit.

As for toys... girls were in raptures over the Chatty Cathy doll from Mattel. Pulling a string on her back allowed her to exercise her vocal chords. How realistic was that? More Chatty offspring would follow. For the males, though, it was definitely Dinky and Corgi. Old established Dinky brought out a very dated looking Job’s Dairy milk float whereas Corgi triumphed with the iconic Chipperfields circus range: colourful and with huge play value, it was a best seller, and would gain accompaniments as the years rolled on.

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



ABOVE

Watch out for that shower curtain...

RIGHT

Electric milk floats like this Dinky example were beginning to show their age.


LEFT

The doll that launched a thousand conversations? Perhaps – but Chatty Cathy sold well.

ABOVE

Corgi couldn't put a foot wrong with the colourful Chipperfield circus theme.

Plonk and Play



Mark Nolan takes a walk through Hornbyshire and explains why your collection should include a model village.

Bill, Bert and Ben are three model railway enthusiasts divided by a common interest.

Bill is a talented model builder. Give him a craft knife, a shoe box, some scraps of plastic and a few weeks uninterrupted in his den and he will present you with a scale model of the Houses of Parliament, while apologising that he didn't have time to fit operating clock faces to Big Ben.

Bert is altogether more pragmatic. He doesn't have any inclination to muck around with paint and glue, yet he has a fully working railway system in his train room. True, most of it has been bought from proprietary manufacturers and simply joined up in situ by Bert. Bill would privately think of Bert as a 'chequebook modeller', although he would never say so to his face, being an easy going soul and not wishing to cause offense.

Both of them are bemused by Ben. He is neither a modeller, nor an operator. Ben is in fact a new type of hybrid enthusiast; the collector. He loves trains as much as his two mates, but he is driven by a completely different agenda. Toys. Brands. Variations. Values. Ben grew up with used trains, bought cheaply in bulk, out of step with new products. Exchange and Mart. Second hand shops. Swapmeets. Auctions. By the time eBay hit, Ben was a walking price guide and collectables entrepreneur.

And if you asked Ben what the next collecting fad in toy trains was going to be, he might wink conspiratorially, tap his nose and mutter "Skaledale".

BUILDING COLLECTABILITY

Toy train collecting is full of examples where model buildings have eclipsed the trains they were designed to accessorize. The large scale German tinplate buildings by Bing and Marklin in gauge 1 and O followed closely on the proto engines, rolling stock and track. These are now so expensive, they are beyond bread and butter collecting.

In 1963 the Tri-ang 'Model-land' series, previously known as Tri-ang Real Estate, started to build up a huge range of coloured plastic construction kits of houses, factories, shops and street furniture. Minic Motorways also developed similar models. Meanwhile Hornby-Dublo had gone from pre-War wooden buildings to post war metal buildings, culminating in their own distinctive plastic kits from 1958 onwards.

Dublo never had the extensive range of non-railway items which Tri-ang offered. But all these models were expensive to buy, and easily eclipsed by the trains which fascinated us all, so they did not sell particularly well. It is only with hindsight that these ranges, ancillary to the trains, have become very desirable for collectors. By 1965 the Model-land kits started to disappear from the catalogues. The Hornby Railways plastic snap together buildings with cellophane windows and printed detail which replaced them from the 1970s onwards were not as satisfying. They tend to snap apart easier than they snap together, and will never be collectable unless mint, sealed and unopened.

There was another obscure



ABOVE
Hagley railway station R9752.



ABOVE
Granite two road engine shed R9840.



ABOVE
Refuse skips R8613. Is that an old twin tub on the top?



ABOVE
Bachmann 44-0206 low relief 1930s semi detached houses.



ABOVE
Oxford Structures Signal Box GWR.

ABOVE
Nearly New charity shop R9629.



ABOVE
Coaling tower R9640, limited edition of 600.



ABOVE
Model shop R8564.

range of latex rubber buildings from the 1960s called the Tri-ang Countryside Series. Comprising mostly bucolic subjects like oast houses, hay stacks, farm buildings and thatched cottages, they are popular despite a tendency to be cracked, warped or faded. Ironically, these are the real precursor to the resin model buildings we have today.

ENTER SKALEDALE

Hornby Skaledale launched in 2003 with only six items, including a church, a thatched cottage and a mock Tudor house. So far, so Midsomer Murders; they'd all

been done before and the subjects were bordering on corny. But the game changer was that the resin could incorporate a high level of detail. Individual bricks and stone; separate windows, gutters and drain pipes. The textured slate roofs are particularly important in model terms as these are what you tend to see first when viewing a model building.

The range was immediately popular and increased the following year to include new domestic style buildings plus station and trackside buildings. The resin mouldings have a pleasing heft, and they're not cheap, with prices

ranging from £9-70.

An indication of the success of Skaledale is that the Hornby catalogues have become more 'scenic' over the last 20 years as the textured resin models take over from the earlier plastic buildings.

HORNBYSHIRE MAP

The Skaledale map appeared alongside the first announcement of the range in the 2003 Hornby catalogue. Not to be confused with Swaledale in the moors of the Cumbria-Yorkshire boundary, the Hornbyshire village naturally centres round Skaledale Station. The line continues under Brocklebank Bridge, while across the River Skale lies the Church of Saint Thomas, named in honour of the tank engine franchise which saved Hornby from bankruptcy in the 1980s. There's a wood with the memorable name 'Westwood', and a farm called Smokey Joe Farm. The Pullman pub is another landmark which gives a nod to Hornby's long history. Congratulations are due to whoever came up with the name 'Skaledale'. It's a cracker!

The map also features as the background to Skaledale packaging, which usually depicts four clear elevations of the model buildings in colour. The model pictures are often set in real landscapes including trees and fences, which heightens the authenticity.

PRODUCTION STRATEGY

Temporary moulds are used as they are cheap to make and have a short life. This ensures that there is no excess stock to dispose of and the range can keep developing. And completely by chance, this is the essence of collectable toys.

Models come sealed in a plastic bag inside an expanded polystyrene block which exactly fits inside the box and is internally shaped to fit each model. Smaller Skaledale items come in carded blister packs.

As ever, certain subjects will appeal to collectors more than others. Models now out of stock, such as the coal and ash plants will attract good prices, if not now, certainly in the future. Don't underestimate the potential of walls, arches, platforms and other modular items which have proved to be highly sought after in previous iterations. Another subject to watch is the range of shops. Come to think of it, model shops have always had an enduring attraction in any form. Unfortunately for a modern

Skaledale High Street, you would need more charity shops and closed down premises.

The Skaledale station and trackside buildings are often based on actual structures, in some cases adapted to suit manufacturing constraints. Some of the station pieces were inspired by Goathland on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. Thomas and Friends had their own resin buildings including an engine shed which was ideal for industrial modellers as it was a rustic brick built shed with a tin corrugated roof.

Real modellers may deride Skaledale for being 'plonk and play', or encourage you to weather the models yourself to 'add character'. Even the manufacturer suggests this. While weathering or adding a Banksy to your new structure may make you bond more with it, this will of course catastrophically devalue it as a collectable. If you do this, you might as well throw away the boxes while you're at it. Or send them to me.

LYDDLE ENDS

Hornby produced scaled down versions of Skaledale for N gauge under the 'Lyddle End' banner. Most of the rail models were GWR style buildings made out of red sandstone. Lyddle End was discontinued in 2010.

Bachmann have their own range of resin buildings under the 'Scenecraft' name. These are believed to come from the same manufacturer as Skaledale, and they're certainly very compatible.

Oxford Rail is now an associate company of Hornby Hobbies, and they also have an 'Oxford Structures' range.

Airfix Buildings are like unpainted Skaledale, mainly ruins and European themed but still in the same scale. The battle damaged models are used for war dioramas.

PEAK COLLECTABILITY

To misquote the Immortal Bard; some toys are made collectable, some achieve collectability, and some have collectability thrust upon 'em. According to Ben, Skaledale will reach peak collectability at 9am on 1st June 2023, which gives you plenty of time to get a collection going. It would be ironic if Hornby's main contribution to 21st century collectable trains turned out to be, not the operating locos and rolling stock over which they've laboured so hard, but the resin buildings that provide their backdrop. **CG**



Lite work

In which **Alwyn Brice** tries to pin down a household name that remains tantalisingly elusive.

Part of the attraction of being a writer on toys and toy collecting is that every so often you chance across something that has hardly ever been covered. This is actually a double-edged sword, if I'm to be perfectly honest. On the one hand, there's little to read and absorb and thus carry over into an article; on the other, the absence of said information leads to some degree of conjecture, coupled to an amazement that no-one has ever had the inclination to cover this subject in depth before. Such is the case for the focus of this particular feature: Fairylite.

A HOUSEHOLD NAME

It's fair to say that Fairylite was once a household name, the moniker appearing on a wide range of toys in an equally wide range of media, embracing plastic, tinsplate and polythene, to name but three. Sold in High

Street retailers, Fairylite was anything but obscure. Yet, surprisingly, virtually nothing is known about this prolific distributor.

And the word prolific has never better described a toy maker/supplier.

According to what I've managed to turn up (precious little, if I'm frank), the company had its origins in the late 19th century: sources indicate a start date of 1887, in fact. The earliest moniker was that of Erhardt & Sons, which to all intents and purposes points to an enterprise with Germanic roots. This nomenclature was then changed to the rather more anglicised Graham Brothers in the 1930s.

Was Erhardt & Sons an intermediary? And what about the status of Graham Brothers?

The latter had offices in Red Cross Street, in London, it seems, and the general consensus appears to be that

this name was one associated with the distribution of other manufacturers' merchandise. As importers of toys primarily from the Far East (for that, read the old British colony of Hong Kong, and from Japan), the enterprise was able to make use of cheap playthings bought in bulk from the other side of the world. The Fairylite trademark appeared on many items, although not all; and, frustratingly for the collector, the absence of any reference book means that a question mark can hang over many products that certainly look the part.

A British Industries Fair advertisement dating from 1947 encapsulates the fare: sponge balls, rubber and metal toys, books, rubber teats and soothers, plastic toys and board games, dolls and animals. You name it, Fairylite could provide

it. Confusingly, that same advertisement refers to the company as manufacturers also: so were some products fashioned in house?

According to my research, the company went into liquidation in 1970, not quite achieving a century of trading. Nonetheless, Fairylite had a good innings – and today there is plenty to collect, even if you cannot reference it to any great degree.

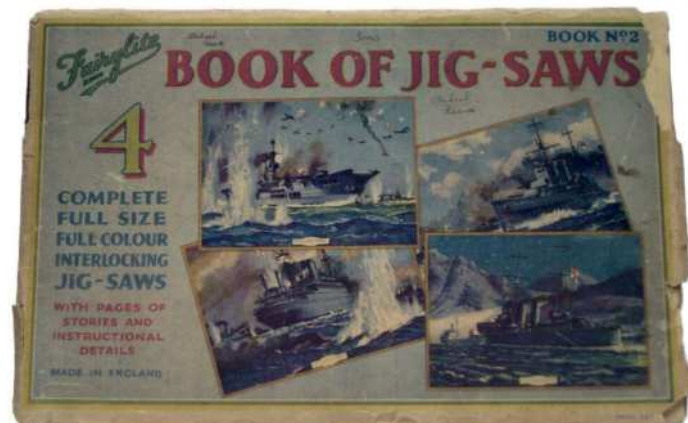
CHEAP 'N' CHEERFUL...

Pretty much any swapmeet (if you recall those meetings of yore) will yield a Fairylite item or two; and whilst the chances are that said items will be unboxed, as mentioned, the Fairylite script aids identification. You can get into Fairylite very cheaply indeed, the more common items commanding just a few pounds; at the other



ABOVE

One of a dozen sliding tile puzzles, this example focuses on football.



ABOVE

Jigsaws were also produced: it's worth checking that all the pieces are present, as this affects value.



ABOVE

A sliding tile puzzle but this time mounted on a card. Amazingly, these still survive.

end of the scale there are some real rarities that attract quite a premium. But the sheer breadth of choice is the main hurdle here: dolls' house items, pocket puzzles, space toys, character dolls, water pistols, clockwork toys, brain teaser games... the list is an extensive one.

If bargain basement is your chosen entry level, then there's plenty to look out for. Possibly the most common artefact is the handheld dexterity puzzle. These were boxed or mounted on a folding card and comprised plastic squares in a shallow casing with letters or numbers or images that had to be moved around to complete a picture or a specific format, the absence of one tile permitted the necessary movement. As a precursor to adult toys like Rubik's Cube, they are quite charming; and there is a range to collect. Moreover, no two will be identical because the mixture of plastics used for the injection moulding process varied so much. The backs of the puzzles, in fact, are quite artistic in themselves.

Dolls' house furniture is another rich vein to tap if you have a mind to and here a wide range of furniture and accessories in plastic can be found. Again, it's inexpensive enough for a large collection to be built up quite cheaply; when packaged, you may well find the My Dollys label.

Moving on, the Fairylite camera is a typical product of the time. It wasn't a real camera but allowed the user to study an image on a film through the viewfinder. I recall a television set also from this era that actually contained a sequence of slides which could be advanced: this was German, though, and rather more upmarket.

... AND MORE COSTLY

Amongst the more expensive items has to be the lovely racing car transporter. Fitted with sunroofs and with two racing cars provided, this was a toy with great play value. The Empire Made wording on the box helps with identification but usefully, the Fairylite script is also apparent. The last one I saw on eBay was around £175.

Fairylite branded books can tend to be expensive, presumably because relatively few have survived. Jigsaw puzzles, though, remain a little more affordable – and accessible. A series of eight encompassing quintessential English themes turns up; and there's a set of four dating back to World War II, also. Without doubt there are others: £30-40 will net a complete example.

The Fairylite dolls are legendary, since many examples were based on television characters from *Thunderbirds*. All the boys were modelled, along with Parker, Lady P and Brains. Completeness is paramount in terms of accessories but there are reproduction boxes to assist the collector. The best will go for hundreds of pounds.

And let's not forget *Stingray* and *Fireball XL5*, for which Fairylite also had rights. The *Stingray* submarine is infuriatingly difficult to find in unbroken condition: most started their life in the bath, one suspects. Again, boxes are scarce but facsimiles can be bought. Steve Zodiac on a Jetmobile is also worth looking out for, but he won't be cheap. And then there's that *Stingray* water pistol...

Hopefully this all-too-brief foray will have whetted an appetite or two. All you need now is a reference book... **CG**



ABOVE

An example of Fairylite play value: the racing car transporter and appropriate load.



ABOVE

Some Fairylite toys were quite educational, like the Morse set.



ABOVE

Space travel has always fascinated toymakers, and this example was complete with the astronaut's dog!

RIGHT

Tinplate jeep harks back to an earlier period in the company's history.



Photographs courtesy of eBay and author's collection.

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Miniature figures



Never seem to find what you're looking for? We take a look at how to restore and convert models to achieve the desired effect...

One problem you will inevitably experience as a collector of miniature figures is that, at some point, a particular uniform or type of soldier you need will not be available commercially. All is not lost. You can create it yourself, either from scratch or by converting another figure. Another common problem is that of damaged or incomplete figures. The approach to both is very similar.

If you are already a modeller, assembling and painting commercial figures, then taking the next step to adapt and alter will come naturally. If you are not, it is still not a difficult thing to start, and will add enormously to the pleasure you get from your hobby.

The simplest first step is to make your figures unique in some way. The best way to do this is by adding equipment without actually altering the identity of the figure. For example, the commercial figures may be in 'light equipment', and you want them in 'heavy

marching order'. The equipment and weapons can be from the bits box (ie pieces salvaged from other models – something all modellers and collectors should do) or purchased from makers who sell them separately. The replacement of a poorly cast or under-scale weapon such as the rifle or musket can often transform a figure without any other work being necessary, apart from careful painting, of course.

MODELLING PUTTY

Alternatively, the new items can be made from scratch. The material usually referred to as 'modelling putty' is a two-part epoxy putty, ie there is a stick each of filler and hardener which, when mixed together, set hard. Milliput is a brand name for a range of different types. 'Greenstuff', so called from the blue and yellow sticks which mix to make green, has become a generic for the other kinds. Actually there are various different colour browns and greys, each different, some set hard, some remain more

flexible. All can be cut, filled and drilled when hard.

Which is best? They all work, and they all have their purposes. Personally I like to use Milliput for large areas, bulking out so to speak, and Greenstuff for detailed work (often on top of the Milliput). But the only way to find out which is best for you is to give them a go – you can even mix them all if you want. Modelling putty is obtainable from specialist suppliers, and is widely available online.

One tip – all are easier to work with if hand cream is used instead of water to clean tools and to smooth! I know it sounds odd, but the cream (I use Atrix) stops the putty sticking to the modelling tool and works better on the surface – honest!

Putty modelling tools do not have to be specialist pieces. A craft knife and wooden toothpicks (one end cut to a chisel shape, both ends hardened with Superglue) will do the job. A friendly dentist may even be persuaded to part with an old dental tool. There are also

ABOVE

TSSD foot Plains Indian removed from the base and crotch sanded out to make a mounted version on a Weston Toy Soldiers horse – the work of moments to create a unique figure! It will be finished with a modelling putty horse blanket and a button shield.

specialist shaping tools, of course, that offer a variety of shapes.

A BASIC TOOL KIT

For other modelling tasks, a basic tool kit would be a pair of snips or side-cutters, snipe-nosed pliers, craft knife, needle file or two, pin vice and fine drill bits and fine-tooth saw.

There are many types of craft knife and blades, Swan Morton and Xacto being the most widely available. A new blade should always be used when trimming polythene plastics. Use old blades on tougher jobs like cleaning up metal figures. A heavy DIY knife is safer for cutting torsos in half, sidecutters are especially useful where each figure may have a sprue and linking pieces to help the metal run right into every



Modelling putties – Greenstuff and Milliput, and Atrix Hand Cream.



ABOVE A basic tool kit – snips or side-cutters, snipe-nosed pliers, craft knife, needle file or two, pin vice and fine drill bits and fine-tooth saw.



ABOVE

Making a new figure from two others – Here the top and bottom halves of two Britains Super Deetail figures, on the left a 7th Cavalryman and on the right a cowboy, have been combined to make a new cowboy. The carbine has also had the barrel replaced with a brass rod, to make it into a Sharps Buffalo Gun, much beloved by the Plains hunter. Touches of matching paint will lose the black plastic showing through from the trimming operation to remove flash. Photo: Mike Blake.

part, but they can also speed up removal of unwanted equipment.

Pliers need to be the smallest variety, either snipe or round-nosed. Snipe-nosed hold small pieces to be bent, cut or pushed into plastic figures. Round-nosed are excellent for bending curves or rings in wire. A pair of tweezers are useful to position small bits when gluing or painting.

A larger and coarser file is handy for cleaning up metal bases which, if cast with the figure, often have uneven lower surfaces. Have a few sheets of fine emery and sandpaper handy and there are especially fine papers which can be used wet or dry, to smooth and polish metal and which also work on some plastics.

A pin vice can hold a pin or sharp spike to punch holes, wire to be worked on (cut, sharpened) and, most useful of all, small drills for making holes in plastic or metal. If you do much more than the very basic of conversions, you will want an electric drill. A saw edged blade which can be fitted into the craft knife will suffice, though for heavier jobs a proper razor saw will be needed. Hard steel jewellers and engravers' tools or scribes can be used in place of blunt blades to add or deepen join and crease details.

GET WIRED

Piano and florists' wire is hard, so good where bending isn't wanted. Brass wire is malleable and can be hammered flat to make spears and swords. Pins are also very useful, eg for fixing heads, arms, weapons onto figures.

A small soldering iron can be used to assemble kits. On plastic it can add or remove details, and help change positions and re-affix arms or legs. The pyrogravure

(used for wood burning crafts) is used on plastic in a similar way to the soldering iron, but is especially good at texturing things like hair or plumes.

The arrival of Superglue and modelling putty has made using a hot soldering iron to assemble and repair unnecessary. There are a wide range of glues in the Superglue category, thick and thin, with varying setting times. A specialist in the field is Deluxe Materials; whilst a look at the website or catalogue will at first bewilder the newcomer, everything you need in the way of glues is there.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

There isn't a lot in the way of books in print on the subject. Roy Dille's 1974 *Beginner's Guide to Military Modelling*, Pelham Books, is a good place to start. *Making Model Soldiers* by Michael Blake and published by Stanley Paul, is another. There is the *Encyclopaedia of Military Modelling* by Vic Smeed and Alec Gee, Stackpole Books 1998, but that covers a much wider range of topics like tanks and AFVs. Bill Horan's *Military Modelling Masterclass*, Windrow & Greene, 1994, has chapters devoted to single and mounted figures with step-by-step photo-stories of the planning and creating. *Modelling and Painting Figures* by Jerry Scutts, Osprey Publishing, 2000, covers the basics, but doesn't deal with toy soldiers.

Miniature Wargames magazine (www.tabletopgaming.co.uk) is a great source of information, with advice, tips and resources available to all. Here you will be amongst like-minded collectors and modellers and will find answers to all your questions.



ABOVE

An ACW Confederate General made from an Italeri Plastic Wellington – don't accept that a figure can only be used in the period it is sold for! Photo: Mike Blake.



ABOVE

Armies In Plastic figures and sets, a great source of cheap conversion fodder.

FINALLY...

Don't worry about making mistakes. You will, like everyone, have your share of failures. Even these will not be entirely wasted because some parts of them will be salvageable and can go into the bits box, and the experience gained will have been worth it. Finding out what doesn't work for

you is just as useful as finding out what does.

The point is that getting more involved with your figures will enhance your enjoyment of them – and just think of the feeling of pride when you hold up your latest addition and you are able to say: 'I didn't buy this one, I made it myself!' **CG**

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Dopplekabine by Wiking

Stephen Paul Hardy
tells us more.

With a decade of production in full swing by 1960 the variations of Volkswagen's well-known, and much loved, first generation of Transporter models was growing steadily. Amongst them was the Dopplekabine (DoKa).

By 1960 Wiking-Modellbau's range was, likewise, expanding and on the cusp of arguably its golden decade of modelling. For their traffic model range Wiking worked in nominal HO which in 1960 was with models in 1/90. At the same time Wiking was also engaged in produced 1/40 scale models exclusively for Volkswagen for promotional and advertising purposes.

Running up into the 1960s Wiking were making the transition from the solid window (Unverglást) toolings of the late 1940s and early 50s to their first series of glazed (verglást) cars,

trucks and lorries. By 1960/61 this transition was in full swing and very evident with each year's new models releases. For 1961 which included a DoKa model. Catalogue numbering in that era was simple. Numbered 29d with "d" denoting "dopplekabine" it supplemented the existing number 29 VW-Pritschenwagen. The model was upgraded for 1966 when the 29d was replaced by 29m VW-Montagewagen - a Doka kitted out with "Werkzeug" detailing to the pick-up bed and a demountable ladder. 29m became one of the most sought after of all the HO scale Wiking VW models.

The Wiking catalog numbering system changed in 1974 with the addition of an extra number in the sequence and some reordering. Although by that time both DoKa models had become obsolete their pre '74 numbers have retrospectively been updated so that, quite often, the 29d DoKa is now referred to as 292 and the

29m Montagewagen as 296.

WIKING REFERENCE SOURCES

As with many other model ranges having a long-established production history, a Wiking collector's standard reference books exist. Of them the *Der Gelbe Katalog* series, published by Marketpreis-Verlag, was for several decades the best-known standard reference. With typewriter style font and simple but very informative line drawing illustrations it was compiled by Karl A.Koch, with later editions coming under the editorship of Holger Wanner. The expansion in size of each successive volume underlined how many new models had been released in the preceding 12 months and how many verified colour and tooling variations of obsolete models had been discovered in that time also.

More recently the catalogues and "Wiking-Handbuch" with

lavish colour illustrations published by auctioneers Auktionshaus Saure have challenged the *Gelbe Katalog's* position as primary reference. The strength of the Marketpreis-Verlag volumes though is in the standardisation of references to colour that relied on a well-produced set of colour cards with which a collector - or dealer - could quickly identify the colour of any Wiking model.

29d VW-DOPPELKABINE

Included in the Wiking catalogue 1961-65 the DoKa was a beautiful model and period typical of the early generation glazed HO Wikings. There is something about the quality of the modelling, tooling and moulding of that era that is so evocative and representative of the contemporary real-life vehicles. Over and above everything else it is the quality, depth and finish of the self-coloured plastics used



ABOVE

The 1960s original Wiking DoKa pair resplendent in period evoking m'graublau with "essential" contemporary Wiking accessorisation.



ABOVE

Examples of the very pleasing DoKa reissues: the colourful ten model PMS "Händlerkarton" set of 2019 numbered up as 292 instead of 29d (left) and a pair from 2016 released by Sammler-Kontor (right) complete with a major box artwork error! All these reissued models are easily identifiable as such by having the modern Wiking logo on the baseplate in place of the original design.

that is so endearing. More usually, good examples of the models are found with the VW roundel on the nose and the rear number plate highlighted in silver paint in addition to the headlights. Rear tail lights on most examples had a very small touch of red paint added. Wheels varied in style and in shades of grey with hub caps getting flatter and shades darkening respectively during the four years of production.

29m VW-MONTAGEWAGEN

Produced for catalogue years 1966 -68 the Montagewagen was a DoKa with added "Werkzeug" detailing and demountable step-ladder. Not surprisingly given that the ladder was a fragile two-piece moulding and set on an equally fragile support structure, damaged versions are far easier to find than complete ones. By 1966 Wiking had normally reduced painted-in detailing to just the headlights.

Whereas the contemporary Wiking VW-Kastenwagen, Kombi and Sonderbus models were made from two (upper and lower) piece body mouldings and therefore in a variety of two-tone as well as single colour versions, both the single (29) and double cab (29d and 29m) pick-ups were one piece body mouldings, available in single colours only.

REISSUES

Over 30 years elapsed after the 29m Montagewagen was dropped from the catalogue for it to make a reappearance, in kommunalorange in a four vehicle Wiking "50 Jahre VW Transporter" set in 2000, followed by releases in sets exclusive to the German Post

Museums Shop (PMS) in 2002 and 2008. All three though seemed to have lost the charm on the originals - perhaps on account of the modern tempo printing on the PMS issues or the lack of depth of colours in the plastic. Having much more charm was a pair of 29d from Sammler-Kontor in 2016 and Auktionshaus-Saure with a 29d in 2017 and a particularly attractive 29m in h'lehmbräun for 2018.

The pièce de résistance reissue was the PMS retro package set from the Winter of 2019 containing no less than ten 29d models in a reproduction of the Händlerkarton packaging in which Wiking used to supply models to retail dealers. Particularly eye-catching the models were paired in light and dark shades of grey, green, brown, red and blue.

When it comes to colours though none of the reissues beat the 1960s originals in matt grey blue (m'graublau) that is so like one of Volkswagen's most popular paint finishes for the working transporters - L31 (40) Dove Blue. Given that the DoKa was designed very much as a workhorse vehicle, the little Wiking models look at their very best when lugging items from Wikings contemporary accessory Nr.130 "Ladegut" (assorted loads) set and towing a matching colour trailer, catalogue Nr.5, thanks to the addition of a towing hitch from the accessory Nr.135 "Zuhagen" set.

THE 29d AND 29m IN THE UK

During the period that 29d and 29m were current issues the best source of Wiking in the UK was exclusively by mail order from

Wiking Neuheiten 1961



29 d
VW-Doppelkabine —,80

Wiking Neuheiten 1966



29 m
VW-Montagewagen

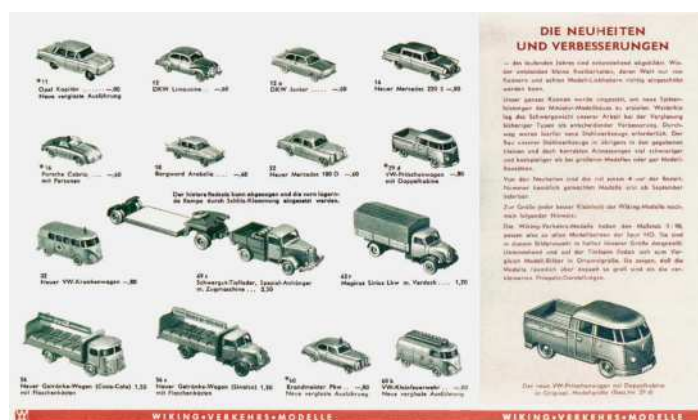
ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Advertising images for Wiking Neuheiten 29d DoKa 1961 and Wiking Neuheiten 29m DoKa 1966.



ABOVE

Wiking cover 1961 catalogue.



ABOVE

Wiking Neuheiten 1961.

Mr C.F. Tredgold of Littelover, Derby, who I understand worked for Rolls-Royce and imported the models by the suitcase load on his return from business trips to Germany. Marketed as model railway layout accessories through adverts in magazines such as the *Airfix Magazine* and *Railway Modeller* Mr Tredgold's stock list and prices for 1966 make interesting reading.

Wiking listed the 29m Montagewagen at DM 0.90 - a price rise of ten pfennig on the previous DM 0.80 for 29d. That in pre-decimalisation (£.s.d) Britain worked out as 2/3d (two shillings and thruppence) plus p&p for the 29m which was quite expensive. As

a result, Wiking models were - and continued for many years to be - a rather specialist collector theme.

It would seem that Mr Tredgold's era was supplanted around 1971. Certainly by 1972 M&R (Model Railways) Ltd., Hove, Sussex had become importers adding Wiking to their long list of well-known German manufacturers on the model railway scene.

THE CURRENT DOKA

A totally new 1/87 scale take on the DoKa theme was released in 2010 by Wiking. With its modern tooling and excellent detail though it and the stunning 1/40 Volkswagen promotional DoKa are subjects for another day's feature... **CG**

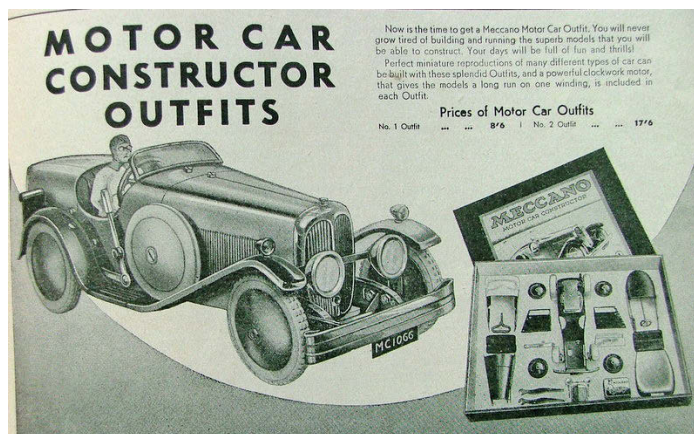


10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Meccano

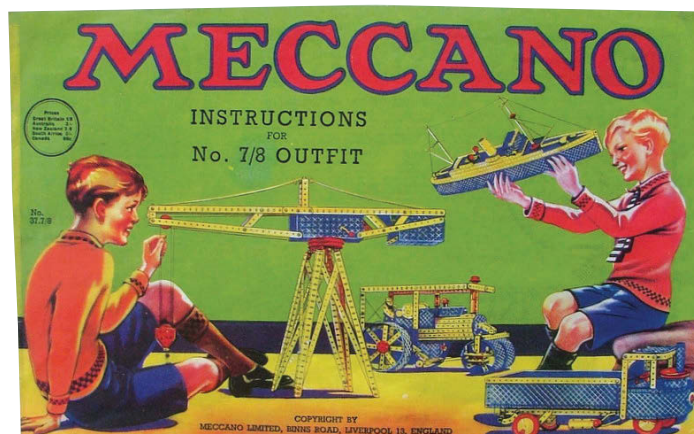
It was a snowy Christmas day sometime back in the early 1960s that I remember excitedly ripping open the box of my first Meccano set, having been impressed by a massive Meccano model of a traction engine in the window of the local department store where I was taken to see Santa. With the help of my father we made a few excellent models with that basic set, dad being a dab hand at improvisation and adding a bit of extra flair here and there. His 'extras' included simulated hydraulic pipes on a digger (using black electrical wiring) and a pair of props for a World War II fighter plane (expertly snipped out from a baked bean tin). My father was similar to Meccano inventor Frank Hornby in that respect, always finding time to make things to amuse his kids after a hard day at work rather than sitting and reading the paper.

When Frank Hornby got home from his job as a book-keeper at Liverpool docks he found relaxation in his small workshop making toys from scrap materials for his two young sons, Douglas and Rowland. Born in 1863 Hornby had grown up with a great love of trains and it was while making a railway journey in the late 1890s that he first conceived the idea of creating a constructional toy comprised of small regulated strips of metal with holes that could be bolted together simply with a spanner and a screwdriver. His aim was to build railway bridges and cranes like the ones operating at the docks where he worked. He developed the idea further, making models for his boys to play with. Hornby saw great potential in this toy and, excited by its educational value, borrowed £5 to register a



ABOVE

Highly prized by collectors today the Meccano Motor Car Constructor Outfits were priced at 8/6d and 17/6d respectively.



ABOVE

The cover of this No.7/8 Outfit instruction manual epitomises Frank Hornby's dream – two happy lads enjoying his unique educational toy.

patent for it on 30th November, 1901. With financial support from his employer, David Hugh Elliott, Hornby found a factory willing to make the toy that he called 'Mechanics Made Easy.' The first set contained fifteen or so individual parts, which were sold in a small lithographed tin with a picture of a crane on one side and

and a train crossing a bridge on the other. Initial interest was slow but Hornby maintained a resolute determination to succeed. Slowly but surely the popularity of the toy increased, aided by the launch of model building competitions which, by 1904, were attracting some interesting entries. The success of Meccano led Frank

Hornby to give up his day job and concentrate entirely on his new venture in 1906. One of the first things Hornby modified was the name. He came up with the name Meccano which was adopted and registered in 1907 largely because 'Mechanics Made Easy' sounded too long and cumbersome for the new look boxes and advertising literature. Esperanto sounding, it was a name ideally suited to the expanding international market Hornby was aiming at. There is a line of thought held by some historians, however, that this catchy name was derived to reflect the words 'Make and know'.

In May of 1907 Frank Hornby set up his factory in Duke Street, Liverpool, using hand presses and lathes driven by overhead shafting that was powered by a small gas engine. This first factory was soon replaced by larger premises at an old carriage works in West Derby Road, to cope with increased demand. The famous Meccano factory at Binns Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, was opened in 1914 and production continued there during World War One. Further factories were opened in Germany and France and in 1922 Meccano crossed the Atlantic to open a factory at Elizabeth, New Jersey, USA. Now Meccano truly was an international toy. Further factories were established in Spain and Argentina although the USA operation was to be short lived as it was taken over by the Gilbert Toy Company whose Erector construction sets dominated the American market. By 1925 there were more than 100 individual parts in the Meccano catalogue and models were now able to be brought to life with the use of a reversible clockwork motor, made by Marklin, enabling larger more



ABOVE

This splendid No.4 Airport Service Set dates from the 1960s and cost 67/9d when new. The yellow and black colour scheme was adopted as by the 1960s the majority of construction, plant and service vehicles were painted yellow.



ABOVE

Dating from the 1950s the cover illustration of this Meccano catalogue embraces Hornby Trains, Dinky Toys and Meccano in one clever image.



LEFT

Rare accessories such as this Meccano oilcan are highly sought after today. This item is worth around £40 and was found at a car boot sale for 50p!



RIGHT

The cover of this Meccano Magazine, dating from February 1938, shows the Marsh Monster - a vehicle way ahead of its time. This would have been a great vehicle to make from Meccano!

exciting working exhibits to be constructed.

1926 saw the launch of the ubiquitous red and green colour scheme for which Meccano will always be best remembered. Until then parts had been unpainted and finished in nickel plate. There was a short lived departure from red and green between 1934 and 1937 when blue and gold sets were sold. This was largely a reaction to the depression of the late 1920s and early 1930s which had taken its toll on sales. Meccano thought that these bright new colours would give it a sales lift but they were not that well received with many Meccano purists considering the colours too brash. Thankfully Meccano rode the inter-war depression and flourished throughout the 1930s. In 1936 it launched 'Dinky Builder' which was a simplified version of Meccano requiring no nuts or bolts - ideal for small fingers. The number 2 Dinky Builder kit made dolls house furniture and was a direct attempt to get more girls interested in the hobby. Other Meccano products included 'Kemex' Chemistry sets and 'Electron' Electrical experiment sets, along with those marvellous constructor cars, aeroplanes and speed boats so highly prized by collectors today. Dinky Toys, of course, were another product launched in the 1930s and produced at Binns Road.

With Hornby Trains also flourishing under the Meccano banner, the 1930s were busy times at the expanding Binns Road factory and two other sites at Aintree and Speke. By the time of Frank Hornby's death on 21 September 1936, thirty-five years of growth and expansion had seen Meccano develop from a one-man business in a tiny home workshop into a huge international company. Production, however, came to a standstill on 1 January 1942 when the manufacturing of metal toys was banned by the government

and the Meccano factory was turned over to war duties. Products held in stock were distributed to retailers until 30 September 1943 after which the sale of all metal toys was prohibited.

Following hostilities production of Meccano slowly returned to normal with the winners of model building competitions now receiving the grand sum of £1,000. By the late 1950s, however, other popular toys were providing stiff opposition for Meccano. The popularity of Corgi Toys, Airfix kits, Matchbox Toys and Scalextric racing tracks made by Lines Brothers were all eating into the market share. Space and TV related toys were also becoming popular with children and this slowdown in orders led to a change of ownership. It was Lines Brothers - also makers of Tri-ang Toys - which took over Meccano in 1964 and seven years later ownership switched once again, this time to the Airfix Group. Despite these changes of ownership the recession bit the British toy industry hard during the 1970s, eventually forcing Meccano into receivership. Despite a sit-in staged by angry staff the Binns Road factory closed in 1979 ending seventy-eight years of Meccano production in Liverpool. The old Meccano factories have since been demolished and the site is currently used as a car park.

This was not the end of the road for Meccano however. In 1981 Airfix products was purchased by the General Mills Toy Group (USA) who already owned Meccano France. Production was continued and has since been maintained at the Calais factory where Meccano is still made today, with some production also taking place in China. A great British invention, Meccano still has a massive following of enthusiasts to this day, both young and old from all corners of the globe. **CG**

'SPANNER' IN THE WORKS

Meccano Magazine was launched in 1916 with separate editions for Britain and America. From March 1922 it had a popular rival in *Meccano Engineer and Electrician*. It was edited by a bright young Meccano enthusiast called Hubert Lansley at his home in Barnet. Lansley painstakingly printed the pages on a second hand duplicator, produced hand-drawn illustrations and even stitched together the pages himself. Although his infringement of copyright annoyed Ellison Hawkes (Editor of *Meccano Magazine*) Lansley's writing skills, enthusiasm and knowledge of the subject was greatly admired. An amicable solution was found in 1923 when Lansley was invited to join the staff of *Meccano Magazine* where he quickly advanced from cleaning printing blocks to model building and penning technical write-ups. Influenced by Ellison Hawkes, young Lansley wrote adventure stories under the pen name of 'Spanner' a name which became synonymous within the pages of *Meccano Magazine* for decades. Despite Hubert Lansley leaving *Meccano Magazine* to open a Meccano shop in Muswell Hill, 'Spanner' lived on through hundreds more issues and is still fondly remembered by its former readers.

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Famous Faces: YELLOW SUBMARINE

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

So we sailed on to the sun, 'Til we found a sea of green, And we lived beneath the waves, In our yellow submarine...

Possibly one of the most famous opening lines of any song, sung by one of the most famous groups in the world, the words conjure up a picture of four animated musicians and their magical adventures in the land beneath the seas, in their Yellow Submarine.

Yellow Submarine was a hit film in 1968, as well as being the Beatles' 10th successful album and a number one single in the charts. It tells the story of Old Fred who enlists the help of Ringo and his friends to join him in a trip in his yellow submarine. They sail away to Pepperland to defeat the Blue Meanies (a name now applied to traffic wardens up and down the country). They go to the rescue of Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, whose song begins with the words: 'It was 20 years ago today...' It's scary to think that it was actually

over 50 years ago now.

The Beatles themselves were not enthusiastic about participating in a motion picture at the time. They had a contract with United Artists for three films, and following the disastrous *Magical Mystery Tour*, they viewed the animated film as a way of fulfilling their contract without actually having to be filmed. Indeed, even the *Yellow Submarine* song was nothing new as it had already appeared on an earlier album in 1966. Voice actors were hired to imitate the Fab Four's voices in the film; Geoffrey Hughes voiced Paul McCartney, John Clive voiced John Lennon, Peter Batten voiced George Harrison and Paul Angelis voiced Ringo Starr. The film also included Dick Emery and Lance Percival.

However, The Beatles were impressed after seeing a rough cut of the film, and agreed to make a live-action cameo appearance in the final scene. The cameo was originally intended to feature a post-production psychedelic background, but due to time and budget constraints a blank, black background remained in the final film. But the film was a success and the imagery of the



LEFT
Corgi 803 The Beatles, Yellow Submarine which sold for £520 at Vectis. Photo: Vectis.



ABOVE
Goebel figures Yellow Submarine, 1968, circa £1000.



ABOVE
A selection of Spawn Yellow Submarine figures.



ABOVE
Corgi 05403 Yellow Submarine with figures set, sold for £50.

Yellow Submarine has become synonymous with Liverpool.

Corgi released an excellent model of the *Yellow Submarine* in 1969. It was one of these rare examples when the model is specially tooled as a one-off release, and not issued in any other format. However, there is a rare variation. The first batch released had white and yellow hatches, that neatly blended in with the paintwork of the submarine. However, there were production problems at Corgi, and all the yellow submarines made after that first batch had red hatches. The rarer submarines are about 50 times harder to find than the more normal red hatched ones, making them much more expensive in value.

The original model has a number of weak points in its construction, so always check the condition of the periscope, propeller blades and tyres as all of these areas are prone to faults. The figures of the Beatles, two in front and two at the back, are easily replaced if they become loose or lost.

The *Yellow Submarine* was the only Beatles-related model released by Corgi until 1997, when Corgi released a nice set of Beatles' models to coincide with the resurgence of interest caused by the release of the Beatles' *Anthology* works. The set consisted of six models, neatly packaged in Beatles boxes with Corgi certificates. The models were the Beatles' newspaper Taxi (with lovely Rita, the meter maid); *Magical Mystery Tour* coach; Routemaster double-decker bus; Bedford roadies van (with female groupie figures); AEC Billboard lorry and, of course, the *Yellow Submarine*.

Since then, Corgi has released several other versions of Beatles' models; the hardest one to



ABOVE
Yellow Submarine Gold Key comic.

find being George Harrison's psychedelic Mini. Also re-released are a model of the *Yellow Submarine*, along with a model of the *Magical Mystery Tour* bus, a range of Beatles' taxis and a range of Beatles' Routemaster buses; all in different album cover-related designs.

There were lots of other *Yellow Submarine* collectables which came out at the time of the film. Highly collectable is the tinplate lunchbox and thermos flask by Aladdin, which will set you back around £400 for you to carry your sandwiches in style. Possibly one of the rarest *Yellow Submarine* items to try and track down is a set of Goebel ceramic figures of the individual Beatles in costume. A full set sold for in the region of £1000 at auction.

Most memorabilia relating to the *Yellow Submarine* is quite pricey because it wasn't made in huge quantities. Jigsaws by Jaymar can cost around £80 each, and even the Gold Key comic, with its pull-out poster, could set you back £75. Anglo produced a set of 66 trading cards which



ABOVE
Anglo *Yellow Submarine* trading cards, £10 each.



ABOVE
An original *Yellow Submarine* lunchbox set.



generally sell for about £10 each, while Primrose produced a set of sweet cigarette cards (50) which will cost around £150 for the set, if you can find them. **CG**

ABOVE
Corgi 2008 model, originally priced at £14.99.

DID YOU KNOW...?

A life-sized model of a yellow submarine was made for promotional purposes, and this can now be seen at Liverpool's John Lennon airport.



eBuys

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



♦ **Item:** Mattel Masters of the Universe Man-at-Arms, 1982
Condition: AFA 85, mint on card
Sold for: £2,550 (46 bids)



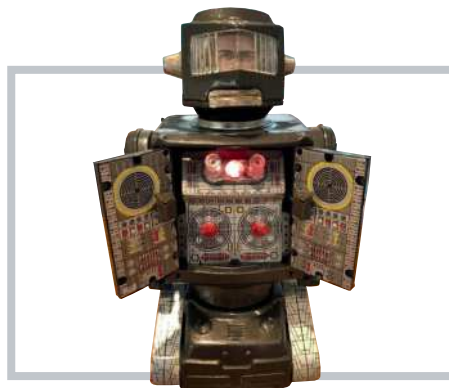
♦ **Item:** M.A.S.K. Laser Command set
Condition: good played with condition
Sold for: £857 (24 bids)



♦ **Item:** Tamagotchi Musicstar electronic pet
Condition: new condition, never been opened
Sold for: £680 (26 bids)



♦ **Item:** Transformers Optimus Prime Autobot Leader
Condition: mint in original, sealed box
Sold for: £1,019 (30 bids)



♦ **Item:** Horikawa (SH) Japan Tin Space Commander aka Tank Robot, 1960s
Condition: very good, small areas of corrosion and play wear
Sold for: £750 (36 bids)



♦ **Item:** LEGO Ferguson Tractor (4000025) from the Lego Inside Tour 2018, number 7 of 80
Condition: mint
Sold for: £1590 (3 bids)



♦ **Item:** LEGO Sculptures Grand Carousel (10196)
Condition: some age wear to box
Sold for: £641 (9 bids)



♦ **Item:** Matchbox Lesney No.15 Rotinoff Atlantic Tractor, 1959
Condition: excellent plus, in original box
Sold for: £1700 (20 bids)



♦ **Item:** Corgi No.267 Batmobile, 1967
Condition: excellent with all parts and figures
Sold for: £870 (17 bids)



♣ **Item:** Transformers Autobot 'Wheeljack', 1984
Condition: AFA 70, mint in sealed box
Sold for: £1470 (34 bids)



♣ **Item:** Pre-War Dinky No.36a Armstrong-Siddeley limousine with tinplate figures
Condition: used, with age related paint-wear
Sold for: £690 (13 bids)



♣ **Item:** Matchbox Lesney No.28c Jaguar Mk10, 1964
Condition: excellent, with a few scuff marks to roof
Sold for: £687 (5 bids)



♣ **Item:** Corgi Toys Gift Set No.1 Carrimore Car Transporter, 1960s
Condition: fair to good, with original box and cars
Sold for: £565 (23 bids)



♣ **Item:** LEGO Creator Expert Volkswagen Beetle (10187)
Condition: used but excellent throughout
Sold for: £560 (49 bids)



♣ **Item:** Scalextric Bugatti Parris T edition
Condition: excellent, one of only ten made
Sold for: £441 (37 bids)



♣ **Item:** Wentworth wooden jigsaw puzzle, 1500 pieces
Condition: used but with all pieces present
Sold for: £204 (18 bids)



♣ **Item:** Tri-ang Spot-On No. 229 Series 2 Lambretta, 1960s
Condition: very near mint condition
Sold for: £511 (27 bids)



♣ **Item:** Scalextric 124 Super Set, 3 Lane Track, 1960
Condition: excellent
Sold for: £1,371 (8 bids)



♣ **Item:** Tri-ang Scalextric C96 race tuned auto union 6 litre car, 1936
Condition: very good
Sold for: £215 (12 bids)



♣ **Item:** Masters of the Universe He-Man Battle Armour, 1983
Condition: mint, in original mint box
Sold for: £1250 (43 bids)



♣ **Item:** Palitoy Star Wars Death Star Play Set, 1970s
Condition: mint in original box
Sold for: £1460 (19 bids)

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PRICE GUIDE

This month we visit sales at British Toy Auctions, Vectis, UK Toy & Model Auctions, Special Auction Services and Lacy, Scott & Knight.



♦ Dinky Toys No 447 Parsley's Car Bull Nose Morris, green, black and yellow with swivel-headed Parsley figure. Excellent with fair plus inner stand in good outer box. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, August.**



♦ Matchbox G1 Commercial Motor Gift Set, with 9 original vehicles. All models very good to excellent in fair plus to good box with inner tray. **Sold for £170, British Toy Auctions, August.**



♦ Matchbox No 14 Bedford Lomas Ambulance, off-white body, red cross and LCC ambulance decals, smooth roof, white interior and black plastic wheels. Mint in excellent E4 box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, August.**



♦ Matchbox Regular Wheels No 11 ERF "Esso" Petrol Tanker, large "Esso" decal to rear, brace between cab and tanker, no holes in base, silver grille and headlights, black plastic 18 tread wheels. Mint in good plus D2 box. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, August.**



♦ Corgi Juniors Whizzwheels No 3020 Club Racing Gift Set, unlisted colour Ford Capri, Austin Healey Sprite, Land Rover Wrecker Truck, Ford Escort Mk I, Ferrari 512S and Mini Cooper. Near mint to mint, box good. **Sold for £560, Vectis, August.**



♦ Dinky Toys No 299 Post Office Services Gift Set, Morris Commercial "Royal Mail" Delivery Van, Morris "Post Office Telephones" Service Van, figures and Public Telephone Box. Near mint to mint, box is good plus. **Sold for £300, Vectis, August.**



♦ Dinky Toys No 351 "UFO" Shado Interceptor, green, tinted windows, chrome interior, with missile, comes with No 7 catalogue. Good plus to excellent, with correct instruction leaflet, outer picture box is good plus. **Sold for £480, Vectis, August.**



♦ Dinky Toys No 353 "UFO" Shado 2 Mobile, rollers with grey rubber tracks, with yellow and red missile. Near mint in good plus carded picture box with correct inner packing piece and instruction leaflet. **Sold for £300, Vectis, August.**



♦ French Dinky No 823 GMC Water Tanker, drab green including concave hubs and Tanker with filler caps, black plastic canopy, with road sign. Near Mint, inner carded tray is near mint, outer carded picture box is good plus to excellent. **Sold for £520, Vectis, August.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 258 "The Saint's" Car Volvo P1800, white body, blue bonnet label, red interior with figure driver, silver trim, spun hubs. Excellent in good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club leaflet. **Sold for £300, Vectis, August.**



♦ Corgi Toys No 270 James Bond Aston Martin DB5, silver, red interior with James Bond and bandit figures, tyre slashers, gold front and rear bumpers. Excellent plus in good slimline blue and yellow window box, with accessory pack (sealed). **Sold for £360, Vectis, August.**



♦ Corgi Toys GS40 "The Avengers" Gift Set, John Steed's Bentley with wire wheels and John Steed figure plus 3 umbrellas, Lotus Elan S2 with black interior, spun hubs and Emma Peel figure. Excellent plus, box is excellent. **Sold for £320, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 256 Volkswagen 1200 "East African Safari", left hand drive, racing number 18, spun hubs. Near mint, in good plus picture box with inner packing piece and correct instruction/collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £140, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 302 Hillman Hunter "London to Sydney Marathon Winner", Golden Jacks take-off wheels. Excellent plus, outer blue and yellow window box is good plus with correct instruction/collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £120, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 303 Roger Clark's Ford Capri, racing number 73 to doors and bonnet, harder to find variation with red-spot wheels. Excellent plus in excellent box, with unapplied decal sheet and instruction/collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold £220, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 313 Ford Cortina GXL "Graham Hill", with Whizzwheels, chrome front and rear bumpers. Near mint in good plus to excellent orange and yellow window box with Graham Hill figure. **Sold for £100, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 313 Ford Cortina GXL "Graham Hill", metallic bronze, black roof, off-white interior, black base with Whizzwheels, chrome front and rear bumpers. Near mint in excellent box with Graham Hill figure. **Sold for £120, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 436 Citroën Safari ID19 "Wildlife Preservation", yellow body, brown and green interior with 2 figures, spun hubs, silver trim, with red and green luggage. Excellent in good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 475 Citroën Safari "Corgi Ski Club", spun hubs, yellow plastic rack with 4x red skis and sticks. Excellent plus in excellent blue and yellow carded picture box with correct instruction leaflet and figure. **Sold for £110, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 475 Citroën Safari "1964 Olympic Winter Sports", spun hubs, yellow rack with 4 red skis, with figure. Excellent plus in good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with correct collectors club/instruction leaflet. **Sold for £150, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 492 Volkswagen European Police Car, with 2 figures, blue roof light, spun hubs, chrome trim, "Polizei" side decals. Near mint in excellent picture box, with inner packing ring and "True Scale Steering" ring. **Sold for £110, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 499 Citroën Safari "Grenoble 1968 Winter Olympics", yellow plastic rack with 2 red skis and sticks, with 2 figures and toboggan. Excellent plus in good box, with correct instruction/collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £120, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 513 Citroën Safari "Alpine Rescue", cast hubs, silver trim, yellow plastic rack with 2x skis and sticks with toboggan plus 2x figures. Excellent plus in good blue and yellow window box. **Sold for £160, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 510 Citroën DS Conversion "Tour De France" Team Managers Car, with Whizzwheels, grey plastic aerial with "Paramount" to sides. Near mint in good plus window box with "Whizzwheels" flash. **Sold for £130, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys GS13 "Tour De France" Gift Set, white Renault 16, cast hubs, black "Paramount" decal, with cameraman and camera, plus cyclist. Excellent, in good to good plus blue and yellow window box with pictorial header. **Sold for £170, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 479 Commer Van "Samuelson Film Service Limited", two-tone, cast hubs, with cameraman and camera, black suitcase. Excellent plus, with collectors club folded leaflet, box is good with pictorial header. **Sold for £130, Vectis, August.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 1105 Bedford TK Carrimore Car Transporter, spun hubs, with trailer, silver platform, spun hubs. Good plus to excellent in fair to good lid box, correct instruction/collectors club leaflet, plus excellent "Mr Retailer" card. **Sold for £90, Vectis, August.**



♣ A Pre-War Dinky Toys 33rd 'LMS' Railway Trailer Van, 'LMS' livery, maroon and black body, black smooth hubs, with repainted post-war Mechanical Horse, fair, some restoration to trailer including repainted roof and retouching to edges. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Pre-War Dinky Toys 26 G.W.R. Rail Car, green body, red roof, plastic rollers, very good. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Pre-War Dinky Toys 30g Caravan, brown lower body, tan upper, dark blue smooth hubs, wire tow bar, fair, slight signs of fatigue to hubs. **Sold for £45, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Pre-War Dinky Toys 43 R.A.C. Set, comprising 43a RAC Box, 43b RAC Motorcycle Patrol, 43c RAC Guide directing, 43d RAC Guide saluting, fair, 43b sidecar front mounting bracket cracked. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Dinky Toys 105 Triumph TR2 Sports (Touring Finish), grey body, red interior and hubs, grey driver, in original box, excellent, box very good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Dinky Toys 111 Triumph TR2 Sports (Competition Finish), turquoise body, red interior and hubs, white driver, RN25, in original box, excellent, box very good. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Dinky Toys 39e Chrysler Royal Sedan, green body, black ridged hubs, silver trim, excellent. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Dinky Toys 153 Standard Vanguard Saloon, fawn body and hubs, 3rd casting, 'VANGUARD' cast to underside of roof, large baseplate lettering, in original box, very good. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Dinky Toys 109 Austin-Healey 100 (Competition Finish), dark yellow body, blue interior and hubs, white driver, RN21, in original box, very good, box fair, one inner tab repaired. **Sold for £40, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Dinky Toys 107 Sunbeam Alpine Sports (Competition Finish), deep pink body, grey interior, cream hubs, white driver, RN34, in original box, excellent, a few minor chips, box good, end flap tape repaired. **Sold for £40, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Dinky Toys 171 Hudson Commodore Sedan, highline version, turquoise lower body, red upper and hubs, in original box, very good, a few very small retouches. **Sold for £40, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ A Dinky Toys 40f/154 Hillman Minx, dark green body, mid-green hubs, small baseplate lettering, no name on underside of roof, very good. **Sold for £140, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Hong Kong Dinky Toys 57-001 Buick Riviera, light blue body, cream roof, red interior, cast wheels, in original box, excellent, box good. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Hong Kong Dinky Toys 57-002 Chevrolet Corvair Monza, red body, black roof, white interior, cast wheels, in original box, very good, retouches to roof, box fair, lacks one inner tab, minor tape repair. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Hong Kong Dinky Toys 57-003 Chevrolet Impala, yellow body, white roof, red interior, cast hubs, in original box, excellent, a few minute chips, box good, slightly dented in one corner. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2714x BR 4-6-0 Class 75000 BR Black No.75005, DCC Fitted. Excellent to mint in good to very good box. **Sold for £50, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2998x LNER 4-6-0 B1 Class 'Roedeer' LNER Black No.1040, DCC Fitted. Excellent to mint in good to very good box. **Sold for £65, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2402 GWR 4-6-0 6800 Grange Class 'Hardwick Grange' No.6818, BR green, DCC fitted. Excellent to near mint in excellent box. **Sold for £60, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Hornby (China) R3335 LSWR 4-4-2 T 'Adams' Radial tank No.488, green livery, DCC fitted. Excellent to mint, boxed. **Sold for £65, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Heljan '00' Class 53 53051 Diesel Loco 'Falcon' D0280, lime green (weathered). Excellent to mint, box lid scratched. **Sold for £80, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Heljan '00' 89201 Class 128 55991 Parcels Service, BR blue livery. Excellent to mint, boxed. **Sold for £55, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Wrenn '00' W2238 4-6-2 Loco & Tender 'Clanline', BR green. Loco is excellent, marks on tender / not original box. **Sold for £75, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Wrenn '00' W2218 2-6-4 BR Tank Loco, black livery. Chips to paint work. Good, box corners split. **Sold for £35, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Bachmann '00' 32-350DC 4 MT Tank Loco, BR black No.80009, DCC Fitted. Excellent to mint, boxed. **Sold for £65, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Bachmann '00' 32-875DC Fairburn Class 42085 BR black, early emblem, DCC Fitted. Excellent to mint, boxed. **Sold for £65, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Bachmann '00' 31-167DC L & YR 2-4-2 No.5079 Tank Loco, BR black (weathered), early emblem, DCC fitted. Excellent to mint, boxed. **Sold for £55, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Bachmann '00' 31-321DS Class J11 BR Black (weathered) No.64377, early emblem, DCC fitted. Excellent to mint, boxed. **Sold for £110, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Bachmann '00' 31-477DC Class 92A BR black, late crest No.49361, DCC fitted. Excellent to mint, boxed. **Sold for £60, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Bachmann '00' 32-401DS Class 25 Diesel No.D7638, BR two-tone green with sound. Excellent to mint, boxed. **Sold for £110, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ Bachmann '00' 32-480DS Class 40 Diesel D211 'Mauritania', BR green with sound. Excellent to mint. **Sold for £150, UK Toy & Model Auctions, August.**



♣ A Crescent Toys modern farm equipment No. 1805 tractor and driver, comprising blue and red body with black rubber tyres and farm hand, housed in the original card box, model has little fatigue, overall near mint. **Sold for £250, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A Crescent Toys builders' and decorators cart set, comprising cart, ladder, bucket, tools with decorator figure, loose examples, hard to find. **Sold for £15, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A Britains set No. 28 Mountain Gun of the Royal Artillery, circa 1965 set, comprising 14 figures including mounted and standing figures with four various donkeys and a gun load, loose examples, all appear very good condition. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A Britains set No. 2150 Centurion tank, finished in dark green with sprung elevated turret, all four rollers apparent to underside with silver detailed tracks, very good. **Sold for £65, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A HM models of Great Britain white metal and hand-painted model of a Milk-Oh Express Dairies milk float circa 1890, limited edition No. 77/350, in the original foam packed box. **Sold for £70, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A HM Models of Great Britain white metal and handpainted gift set titled Cabby, comprising horsedrawn black painted taxi with driver, housed in the original buff labelled box. **Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A Gainsborough Miniatures white metal 1/32 scale model of a Chores for Horses Series Milk Cart, housed in the associated blue labelled buff coloured box. **Sold for £25, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A Coleman's Cheshire Volunteer quality toy soldiers set titled The Farrier, white metal example housed in the original labelled box. **Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A Britains Home Farm Series No.8F Horserake, comprising a blue body with brown horse and driver figure, housed in the original green ground labelled box. **Sold for £35, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ A Charbens Series travelling zoo gift set, comprising elephant-drawn cage group, with base metal cages and yellow roofs, housed in the original labelled card box (some fatigue but a rare example). **Sold for £150, Lacy, Scott & Knight, August.**



♣ Britains post WW2 boxed No. 901 Indian Elephant, in fine condition. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Britains post WW2 version boxed 25Z Elephant Ride, complete with walking keeper, seat and 2 children, very good. **Sold for £210, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Britains post WW2 version unboxed 25Z Elephant Ride, complete with walking keeper, seat and 2 children, very good. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Britains post WW2 version of boxed set 12F Timber Carriage, in flat box, very good, complete with pins to hold log in place. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Britains post WW2 Hunt figures from 'The Meet', restrung onto original backing card consisting of Gentleman Farmer, lady in top hat, lady in bowler hat, huntsmen, huntsman and woman on foot, and hounds, very good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, August.**



♣ Sutcliffe Models "Valiant" tinplate clockwork battleship, with black lower hull, grey upper hull and super structure. In working order, complete with key and catalogue. In excellent illustrated box. **Sold for £130, Vectis, August.**



♣ Sutcliffe Models "Hawk" tinplate clockwork speedboat, sea green, white deck, lacks rear plastic flag but motor is in working order, complete with key, rear propeller and rudder. Good plus to excellent in fair illustrated box. **Sold for £35, Vectis, August.**



♣ Sutcliffe Models "Sea Wolf" tinplate clockwork submarine, yellow, includes rubber bung (rubber is perished), in working order and complete with key, propeller and rudder. Excellent in good illustrated box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, August.**



♣ Sutcliffe Models "Comet" tinplate clockwork Speedboat, lacks key and some wear around deck area but motor is in working order, with rear propeller and rudder. Good in fair illustrated box. **Sold for £30, Vectis, August.**



♣ Sutcliffe Models "Racer I" tinplate clockwork speedboat, scarce earlier example with red hull, orange deck and blue engine cover, with replacement key, motor in working order together with propeller and rudder. Good to good plus. **Sold for £90, Vectis, August.**



♣ Sutcliffe Models "Fury" Torpedo Boat, tinplate clockwork early example with red hull, metallic grey deck and super structure, working order and comes with Chad Valley key, propeller and rudder. **Sold for £90, Vectis, August.**



♣ Hornby pre-war Speedboat "Swift", red hull and engine cover, cream deck, working order with replacement key, together with rear rudder and propeller, motor is fitted with brake. Some age related wear, good in fair early card box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, August.**



♣ Victory Industries (UK) "Miss England" Super Silent Speedboat, scarce boat of aluminium construction circa 1948, 2-piece aluminium construction, fitted with internal burner and works off hot air system. Good in fair box. **Sold for £180, Vectis, August.**



♣ Victory Industries (UK) "Vosper" Triple Screw Express Turbine Yacht, black hull, tan/white deck and super structure, made for electric propulsion - untested. Unchecked for completeness. Fair in a poor box. **Sold for £45, Vectis, August.**



♣ Kellner/Lines Bros 1930s clockwork wooden Speedboat, Tri-ang Speedboat No.4. Cream with red/blue lining, no key but motor appears to be in working order and is fitted with brake, rudder and propeller, in original finish. Good in a fair card box. **Sold for £260, Vectis, August.**



♣ Lindberg (USA) 1/125 scale "Blue Devil Destroyer" large scale kit, unchecked for completeness and appears to be a body only kit. Good to excellent in good illustrated box with 8-page instruction book. **Sold for £45, Vectis, August.**



♣ TMY/ITO (Japan) electric powered Naval Gun Boat, metal fittings including guns, ventilators, levers etc. The super structure is removable to reveal the engine and battery compartment and brass control levers. Whole ship would benefit from cleaning otherwise fair to good. **Sold for £240, Vectis, August.**



♣ TMY/ITO (Japan) battery operated Warship, one of the torpedo tubes is detached but present. The vessel includes both propellers to rear and rudder, super structure is removable to reveal engine compartment. A fair to good example. **Sold for £70, Vectis, August.**



♣ French made large wooden Pond Yacht, solid wooden hull with lead weight to keel, main mast with 3 sails. Some light wear but overall good plus. **Sold for £30, Vectis, August.**



♣ Large Seifert-Boot - German made Pond Yacht, with red and white plastic hull and keel, lever operated rudder, varnished wooden deck, some metal fittings. A good project for restoration. **Sold for £30, Vectis, August.**

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Toy Stories

Ed Karswell remembers collecting toys via the breakfast table.

I was reminiscing the other day about 1970s cereal pack offers. Niche I know, but as this is a collector's magazine hopefully I'll have your permission to continue.

Cereal manufacturers would often do on-pack, mail away offers. All that was required were a number of coupons cut from said packs, a nominal amount of money, a stamped addressed envelope and a post box. If you think that sounds a convoluted way to acquire something 'on offer' you'd be right. The pressure I put on my family to finish a box of cereal they patently disliked just so I could cut out the tokens made me very unpopular. My mother in particular had already done the maths and thought it cheaper just to go out to the shops and buy the 'special offer'.

One such offer I do remember was from Sugar Puffs. As I recall you had to cut the coupons off several packs as proof of purchase and let's not forget the nominal coinage. Once in receipt

of all this bumf Sugar Puffs would send you back one Corgi Police Range Rover... eventually. I say 'eventually' because it failed to arrive at the designated time. I must have taken this rather badly as over 45 years later it still pains the family to talk about it. It did arrive in the end of course and all was forgiven, which cannot be said for the rest of the family.

This incident led to a marked change in the way we ate our cereals. My mother decided that as the boxes were either being vandalised for the coupons or made into Dr Who dioramas she would decant our cereals into plastic storage containers. This freed me up to use the boxes, although watching my father wince whilst tucking into a neon bowl of golden nuggets never really left me. A trip to the dentist cemented his disdain as I was given yet another filling, followed by an earnest lecture.

I can now see why these mail away offers were always so convoluted. The cereal manufacturer would have to

employ an outside supplier to handle the operation and distribution. The number of applications would be into the thousands, which creates its own problems. A good few of the entries would have had illegible return addresses and many more would feature a shortfall in either coupons or monies. With the manpower needed to process them, many orders were probably never fulfilled, and I doubt there were many parents who wanted to spend a morning on the phone to the customer care line in order to find out why Tracey's pack of 'Look-in' badges hadn't arrived.

My faith in mail-aways was however restored by the very last one I took part in. Kellogg's, I recall, ran an offer for some bendy dinosaurs (...alright, you can laugh) which involved the usual routine of cut out coupons, money and the hope. I diligently handled all this myself - from coupons to money to stamp addressed envelope etc. Dad was very impressed which is probably why when the goods

failed to arrive, he did actually phone the company customer care line to explain (at length) what had happened with regard to my bendy dinosaurs. The upshot was that they were very sorry that although I had submitted it on time, the offer had now ended. They would however have a scour in the warehouses of Britain to see if there were any remaining stocks to send me. From experience, I was not hopeful, after all they were a multinational cereal manufacturer and not running a bendy dinosaur shop.

I needn't have worried. A few days later I received a rather large box from Kellogg's which contained around thirty...yes, 30... bendy dinosaurs of all persuasions. I couldn't believe my eyes, and neither could my parents. There was a compliment slip in the box that said something along the lines of 'Hope these are OK!'. It was a heart-warming finale to what had become a sore point in the household. It was also a hats off to Kellogg's who went the extra mile. Having worked with such companies in latter years I now realise somebody must have really gone out of their way to make this happen.

After this I concentrated on what must rank, to 70s kids at least, as the Daddy of all mail away offers. I diligently collected my stars, eschewed the temptation of the Mounties hut, laughed off the derisory books all the way to the 21-star prize of the free Palitoy Action Man. I didn't have to ruin my teeth either, although sadly did ruin the packaging of many an outfit collecting the stars. It arrived on time too.... Now that was a real result! **CG**



A bit of an Animal

Ann Evans meets a lifelong collector. Photos: Rob Tysall



Usually, *Collectors Gazette* photographer, Rob Tysall is taking photographs of collectors and collections. But this month the spotlight is on Rob, as we take a closer look at his collection of that wild and frenzied character, Animal of *The Muppets*.

As well as taking photos, Rob has for most of his adult life been a drummer/percussionist and lead and backing singer, a job that's taken him all around the UK and to far flung places such as Dubai and a stadium gig opening for the Stereophonics in front of 50,000 people.

Rob started playing drums at the age of 14 (1973) and was heavily influenced by beat music and The Beatles until the start of glam rock and hard rock. So, by the age of 15 he was in his first band – Static! Jokingly, he says that was the perfect name for it, as that's precisely where it went!

With hard rock music in his soul and something of an animal behind the drum kit, Rob happened to spot on TV a certain crazy character named Animal in a pilot for *The Muppets Show* in 1975. The episode was called *Sex and Violence*, and there was Animal chained in a basement when not on stage performing with the

fictional band, Dr Teeth and the Electric Mayhem Band. Rob instantly felt an affinity with him!

The Muppets were created by Jim Henson, an American cartoonist, puppeteer, actor, animator and inventor. Following on from the successful pilot show, *The Muppet Show* was aired from 1976. Although in fact, some of Jim Henson's Muppets were originally in his series *Sam and Friends* which ran from 1955 to 1961 – not Animal though. He was created by Michael K Frith, a British artist and TV producer. He was also an editor in chief at Random House Publishing Company who started publishing the *Sesame Street* books. Jim Henson invited Michael Frith over and so started a 21-year career leading to him becoming Executive Vice President and Creative Director of The Jim Henson Company. Animal was just one of the crazy-eyed characters Frith created that we know and love today.

"I remember sitting there watching *The Muppet Show* from day one," said Rob. "There had been many puppet shows on TV before, but nothing like the Muppets. And as for Animal – every time you see him there is a chain around his neck which is a reminder that he used to be chained to a wall after every concert he

played with the band, and after every appearance on *The Muppet Show*."

The drummer behind most of Animal's drumming appearances was Ronnie Verrell, (1926 – 2002), an English jazz drummer who played with

top showbands such as The Ted Heath Orchestra. In 1980 there was a memorable episode of *The Muppet Show* when Animal did a drum duel with the legendary drummer, Buddy Rich.

Rob continued, "Buddy

ABOVE

Hand puppets in white T-shirts.

ABOVE RIGHT

Jailbird Animal, a tote bag and a made in China Animal.

BELOW

Rob Tysall with a couple of Animals.



BELOW

An array of Animal mugs.





Rich was a highly regarded, top ranking drummer, so for him to appear on what was a fun puppet show competing with a Muppet showed a different side to his nature, which I appreciated. The duel was just brilliant, with Animal, finally unable to keep pace with Buddy Rich, sitting open-mouthed and then (supposedly) throwing a snare drum at Buddy which landed on his head!

"What I loved about Animal, was how they had created a fun character that epitomised people's general outlook as to what a drummer is all about – wild, crazy, loud, unpredictable. No wonder kids love him! He generally wore a colourful waistcoat,



trousers that were all tatty at the bottom, he never wore shoes, and of course, always with a chain around his neck. Most drummers seem to get the nickname, Animal. Although in reality of course, many drummers are technicians who can be quiet and unassuming – although I prefer the image of Animal!"

Back in the 1970s and early 80s toys and models of Muppet characters were hard to find – no internet in those days. So, Rob asked a neighbour – a seamstress who made soft toys for friends and family, if she would make him an Animal doll. He found a couple of pictures of

Animal, but she had little to go on. Nevertheless, Mrs Jinks came up with a soft Animal Muppet doll which sat on Rob's drum kit for many gigs over the next few years.

"There were many times that Animal came into danger of being snaffled!" said Rob. "But somehow I kept him safe! And he now sits smiling in my man shed with other treasures from my memorabilia collections."

However, that wasn't the highlight of Rob's appreciation for Animal. On one occasion he adapted an outfit he'd had made for gigs, into an Animal costume, complete with a papier mâché head that had a moving jaw on

a spring, weighted with batteries that opened and closed as he moved. Sadly, we have no photographs – if only mobile phones had been around in those days!

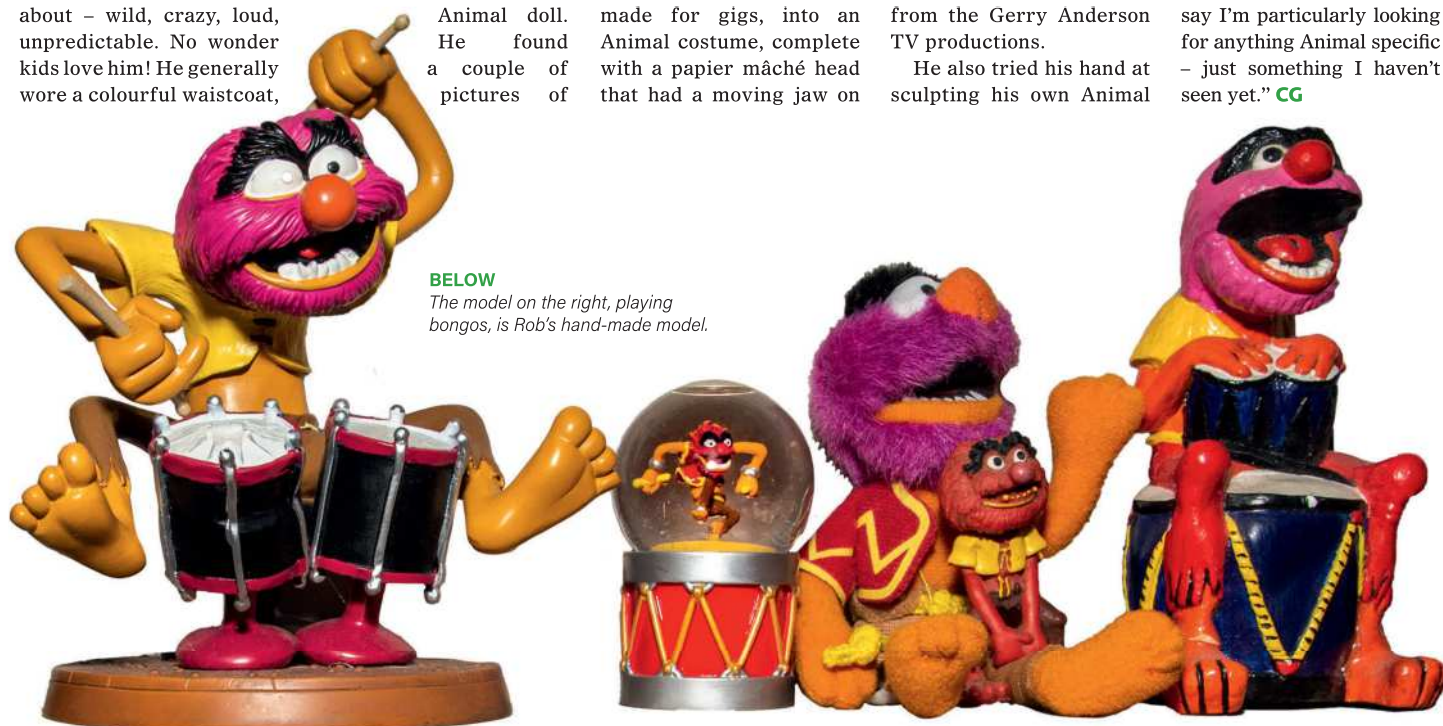
As the popularity of *The Muppets Show* grew, so more and more merchandise became accessible. And whenever Rob spotted an Animal collectable, he bought it – not actually thinking about starting a collection, just simply buying a little toy, to add to the toys from his childhood which he still treasured – things such as sci-fi models, weapons and spacecraft, particularly from the Gerry Anderson TV productions.

He also tried his hand at sculpting his own Animal

figurine and was quite pleased with his plaster of Paris model of Animal on the bongos, which also now has a spot in his man shed.

Reporting on toy fairs for *Collectors Gazette* has been a bonus for Rob, as there are often stalls selling soft toys and collectables from TV shows. Plus, shops started putting Animal onto all kinds of clothing and accessories. Whilst not out to deliberately create a collection, he seems to have amassed Animal soft toys from a couple of inches tall to about 2ft tall; also figurines, a wallet, a clock, mugs, a money box that will never get used as it would have to be smashed to get the money out! Lots of T-shirts, casual trousers, socks, slippers, underpants, cushions, an apron, belts, birthday cards, a Muppet tie (always worn when taking official photographs at weddings!) a film cell from a Muppet's film and lots of other fun Animal bits and pieces – many being birthday and Christmas presents. Family and friends knowing they can't go wrong with an Animal themed gift.

He added, "I'm sure there are people with bigger and better collections, but this is purely for fun and something I'll keep adding to. I can't say I'm particularly looking for anything Animal specific – just something I haven't seen yet." **CG**



BELOW

The model on the right, playing bongos, is Rob's hand-made model.

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Image showing a laptop, tablet, and smartphone displaying the CollectorsClubofGB YouTube channel.

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Future date: 5th Dec

Obsolete

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! When you look back at life over the past fifty years or so it's amazing how advances in technology have affected our lives so much. Especially digital technology. I had to laugh the other day when I snapped up a very early Rockwell 24 RD-II pocket calculator at a boot sale for a couple of quid. A 'pocket' calculator? It seemed massive! Although when new it would have been a 'show off' gadget and no doubt expensive to buy? It dates from the summer of 1976 which was the year of that hot summer when Denis Howell was appointed 'Minister for Drought'. I remember my old man not being best pleased by the hose pipe ban and the subsequent scorched and parched state of his beloved lawn! Collecting gadgets like this seems to be a growing hobby, with early mobile phones now attracting the interest of collectors. No doubt one day we'll see someone contribute an article to *Collectors Gazette* on the subject. I know there's a fair few enthusiasts out there scouring boot sales for this type of stuff... they keep telling me my old phone is a collectors' item! I just tell them that my old phone and my beloved old van are true reflections of me – old, simple, efficient and reliable!

Another slice of nostalgia that reminded me of past times was an unused bar of Fairy soap for which I paid a fiver, although it only cost sixpence back in the 1960s (that's 2.5p in today's money). How it has survived all those years without being used is truly amazing.

There's a fair number of soap

bar collectors' out there who might be interested in buying it.

One of my best finds this month had to be a small button badge (or pin) advertising the Lone Star FLYERS Racing Club. It was a nice little find for a mere three quid and will go into my own badge collection. It's getting harder and harder to find good badges these days so I was pleased as punch to find this one as I remember having quite a few of those Lone Star Impy racers back in the 1960s.

Still on the subject of diecast toys, a military articulated low loader turned up at the local car boot sale in great condition and had to be snapped up for a fiver. Not sure who made it, but I'm doing a bit of research. It's not a toy I have ever owned in the past so it's always nice to find something that needs a bit of research.

One of my most unusual finds was a packet of Premiers Medium cigarettes with a great picture of a pair of Royal Navy battleships in convoy out at sea. Amazingly it still had the original cigarettes tucked inside which is very rare. It was found at the big Newark Showground antique fair and cost me a tenner which was reasonable considering its rarity. This packet does turn up now and again but having the fags makes such a big difference.

On the selling front a lovely little tinplate clockwork duck soon found a buyer who collects penny toys who was willing to give me £35 for it. It's marked 'DRGM Made in US zone Germany' and is in splendid condition complete with winding key. It looked great waddling along the kitchen table!

A scarce box of Nestles Winning Post chocolates soon

attracted the eye of a collector who was willing to hand over a crisp twenty pound note in order to add it to his ever growing collection. It was not a brand I had heard of before and it transpires that 'Winning Post' chocolates were made predominantly for the New Zealand and Australian markets. It probably dates from the late 1950s or early 1960s.

A Matchbox 1-75 series diesel road roller in really nice, near mint condition, made a reasonable £18 and no doubt the buyer will be looking out for an original box to put it in. In many cases the boxes for these toys are now worth more than the actual models – if only we could turn back the clock as the first thing I did when I got a new Matchbox toy was throw away the box – most other collectors I know say the same thing. Then again they were never meant to be collectors' items were they?

Another rare collectors' item to find a happy new owner was

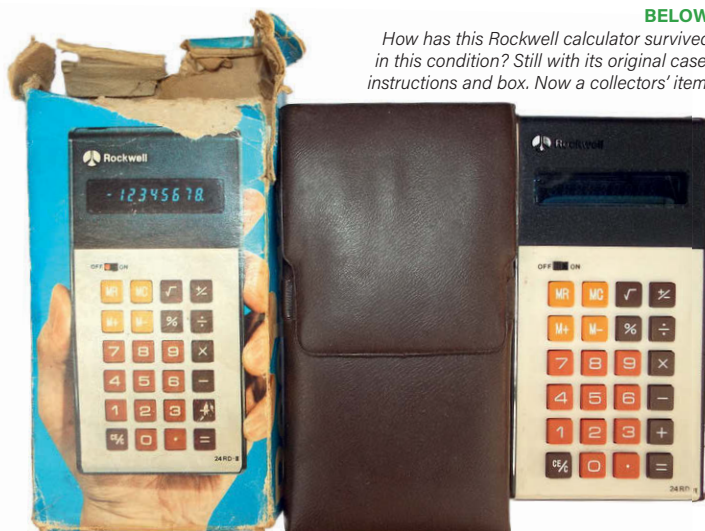
a super old Quaker Oats tin showing the iconic Quaker man, so familiar on those hugely popular breakfast cereal boxes. It was a brand sold extensively around the British Empire with this tin dating from the First World War period. It sold for £40 which reflects its rarity and the fact that it was in such lovely condition for its age.

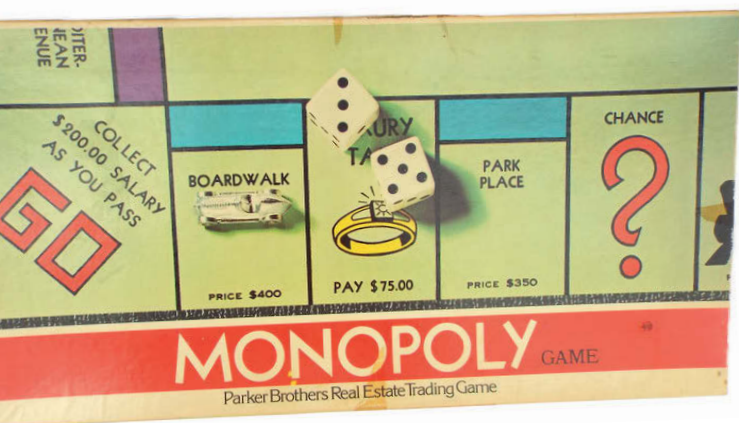
Last but not least a Monopoly board game produced by Parker Brothers sold for a tenner. It wasn't the usual London based version but an American Real Estate Trading Game with streets such as Boardwalk, Baltic Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue replacing Mayfair, Old Kent Road and the likes. Just the thing for those long winter nights that lie ahead of us.

Well that's about all for yet another month folks. Autumn is fast approaching so enjoy what's left of summer as the days become shorter and, as always, be lucky! **CG**

BELOW

How has this Rockwell calculator survived in this condition? Still with its original case, instructions and box. Now a collectors' item.



**ABOVE**

Made by Parker Brothers in Canada, this American version of Monopoly sold for a tenner.

**ABOVE**

A bar of soap for sixpence (2.5p) those were the days. Another rare survivor snapped by Oz on his travels.

**ABOVE**

Still in lovely condition this military low loader was a real snip for a fiver. Its all about being in the right place at the right time.

**ABOVE**

A nice little Lone Star badge that doesn't turn up that often. Oz shelled out three quid to bag it and might well end up keeping it.

**RIGHT**

Produced in Germany this clockwork duck is still in full working order and soon found a new home.

**RIGHT**

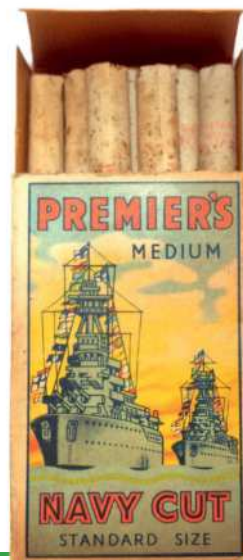
Dating from the First World War these old tins of Quaker Oats were distributed throughout the British Empire.

BELOW

Near mint but without its box this Matchbox 1-75 road roller sold for £18.

**ABOVE**

Made for the Australian and New Zealand markets this chocolate box is a real collectors' item. It sold for twenty pounds.

**RIGHT**

It's rare to find old fag packets with the cigarettes still inside. This attractive Premier's Medium Navy Cut dates from the 1930s.

»EVENTS THIS MONTH

FAIRS

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

2 OCTOBER

- **Crewe**, Crewe Model Engineering Society,
01270 505781
- **Maidstone**, Maidstone Vintage Toy Fair
01622 298159 or 01732 840787

3 OCTOBER

- **Birmingham**, BP Fairs,
01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Chelmsford**, SRP Toy Fairs,
07739 998012

10 OCTOBER

- **Doncaster**, BP Fairs,
01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Worthing**, SRP Toy Fairs,
07739 998012
- **Shepton Mallett**, Bulldog Fairs,
01373 452857

17 OCTOBER

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

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21 SEPTEMBER

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

29 SEPTEMBER

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- **Kent**, C&T Auctioneers,
01233 510050

30 SEPTEMBER

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis,
01642 750616
- **Sheffield**, Sheffield Auction Gallery,
0114 281 6161

2 OCTOBER

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

5 OCTOBER

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

6 OCTOBER

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

9 OCTOBER

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

12 OCTOBER

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

14 OCTOBER

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis,
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22 OCTOBER

- **Bury St Edmunds**, Lacy Scott & Knight,
01284 748623
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- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services,
01635 580595

28 OCTOBER

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- Thursday 14th - Specialist Sale
- Thursday 21st - General Toy Sale
- Friday 22nd - Model Train Sale
- Thursday 28th - Matchbox Sale
- Friday 29th - TV & Film Related Sale

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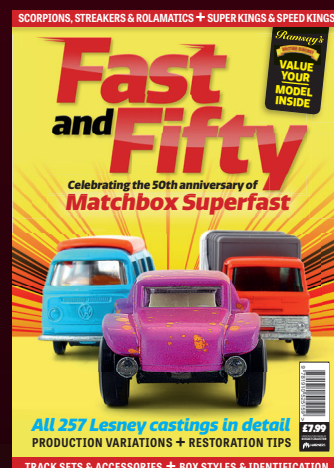
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The Battle of Britain

IN COLOUR



“Praise where due. This is the best magazine available which I have read - I am very impressed. I thoroughly enjoyed reading each chapter and it was written in such an easy style. It covered every aspect and I was saddened when I reached the end.”

This 164-page special collector's edition commemorates the 80th Anniversary of the momentous Battle of Britain, making it the perfect gift for any aviation or Battle of Britain enthusiast.

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 Striking Force. In total, there are forces amounted to six squadrons, six of which were Hawker Hurricane fighters, and four were Spitfires. The remainder of the RAF force in France comprised largely light bombers and Army Co-operation squadrons. Eventually, however, the 'sitting' became the 'fighting'.

On 10 May 1940, German forces launched their all-out assault on France and the Low Countries and what followed in Belgium, the Netherlands etc, was the complete collapse of those 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.

Predicted Catastrophe
When the fighting had broken out in France, the BEF's Air Component was in almost certain trouble, and it was to be destroyed.

BACKGROUND TO BATTLE

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



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



It was a hard battle, but the RAF's Hurricane High Dive bomber was sent to France to deliver incendiary bombs against further attempts of the German High Dive bomber to land in France. Right: As the anticipated German assault on France, the RAF's Hurricane High Dive bomber was sent to France to deliver incendiary bombs against further attempts of the German High Dive bomber to land in France.

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