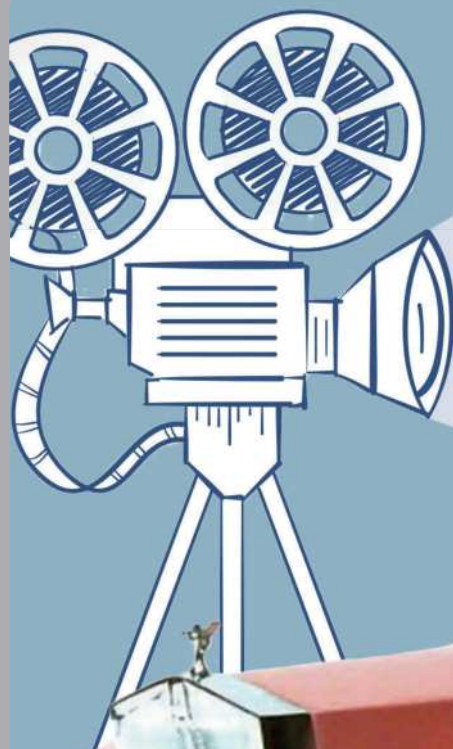




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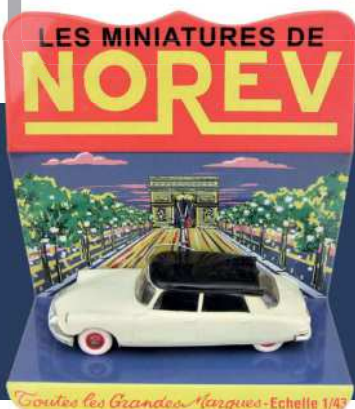
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25 January 2022



Our first auction of eleven in 2022 includes the superb motor sports model car collection of Dr Peter Grey: the highlight of his collection is the group of 144 models made to 1:43 scale by his good friend Tim Dyke of MPH Models, of which 115 are one-off private commissions and 56 represent Le Mans winners and competitors from 1930 to 1988; other makers include Carlo Brianza, CMC, BBR, Autoart, AMR and Top Marques.

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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Steaming ahead

Sheffield Auction Gallery's last sale had plenty of Charlie Bears, a vast array of railway collectables and, naturally enough, some *Star Wars*...

A Lehman LGB G gauge tank locomotive was a stand-out piece in the railway section. This chunky 0-4-0 example was finished in black and numbered 994605. Although untested it was described as running and sold for a reasonable £60.

There were a number of steam engines and steam powered models sold on the day. The best of these was undoubtedly the Horizontal Steam Engine at 12 inches long: this included a 7 inch diameter flywheel with a 2 inch stroke, the whole mounted on a wooden base and contained within a Perspex cabinet. Bidding

propelled it to £500.

A huge £480 was bid on the gauge 1 spirit-fired 2-6-0 locomotive and tender, which was described as being similar to a Black 5. A kit built to a good standard, it was missing its spirit tank, as well as a coupling and the level for the water pump. Nonetheless, it was an impressive item.

A hard to find Joustra Autorail "Silver Arrow" three unit articulated locomotive was another interesting lot. Battery powered, its motor had been tested and the battery box was, importantly, corrosion free. Train and carriages were contained in a



picture box with the original oval of track. The box was in very poor condition though, requiring extensive remedial work, although the toys were very good. This delightful French confection sold for £65.

The biggest lot comprised 12 *Star Wars* sets by LEGO; all apart from one were boxed, albeit all were unchecked for completeness. A stunning lot, someone took home a lot of spare time activity for the princely sum of £240.

Finally, a boxed Dinky Toys 360 Space 1999 Eagle Freighter in red and white raised a healthy £130. ■

Modified model masterclass

British Toy Auctions was pleased to offer a number of Tim Dyke modified kits recently. Extremely well detailed, a Lotus X1 Le Mans Index winner from 1957 raised £200. An Alfa Romeo 2900B Le Mans 1938 by MPH was equally stunning, and sold for the same money. Also from his talented hand came an MPH Lotus Mk9 from

1955, representing the Le Mans disqualified car (£200) and an MPH Frazer-Nash High Speed Le Mans car from 1949 that finished third that year. This was

also knocked down for £200. ■

This close-up of the Alfa gives some indication of the level of detail that went into the cars.



NEW YEAR, NEW SUBSCRIPTION!
PAY AS LITTLE AS £3.33

Turn to page 8 to find out more...

■ AUCTION REVIEW

D-Day arrives at Vectis sale

D, that is, for Dinky, when some pretty impressive closing bids were logged.

A pre-war 156 Mechanised Army Set containing the Medium Tank, Transport Wagon, Cooker Trailer, Water Tank Trailer, a Light Tank, Reconnaissance Car, Austin Seven Car and a Searchlight Lorry and Anti-Aircraft Gun, together with a Light Dragon and Quick Firing Field Gun, was an eye-ful. Billed as Good to Good Plus, the set came with a generally good box with lift-off lid. The upper estimate of £1,000 was doubled, the set making £2,640.

A Dinky pre-war (22c) Motor Truck finished in gloss green with smooth hubs would have probably been



This is as good as they get. Fatigue-free army set also, amazingly, was presented in a robust box.

part of a trade pack with various other colours. This extremely rare issue sold for £744, such was the level of interest.

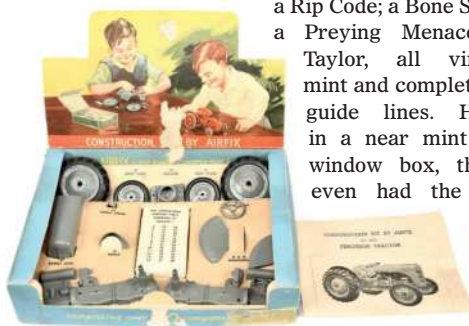
Ref: 274, the Minivan with "Joseph Mason Paints" script, is a known variety and still very sought after. The model was excellent, the box acceptable and despite the fact that the flyer was missing, it still raised £900.

The sales were not all about Dinky, though. A Hot Wheels "Rrrumblers" Gift Set included the Centurion; a Rip Code; a Bone Shaker; a Preying Menace and Taylor, all virtually mint and complete with guide lines. Housed in a near mint outer window box, the set even had the outer

transit brown plain sleeve. Plenty of interest pushed the lot to £1,550.

Vectis' general sale yielded a Marklin Stationary Steam Engine, dating from around 1910. A very scarce example, comprising a brass boiler with chimney, flywheel and cylinder, it was unchecked for completeness but included a burner with a wick. Requiring restoration, it was knocked down for £504.

The icing on the cake, though, was undoubtedly the Airfix plastic construction kit of a Ferguson Tractor. Mint, with the correct instruction leaflet, this is considered by many to be the Holy Grail of Airfix production. Vectis reckoned it might make £200 but it finally sold for ten times that sum. ■



■ AUCTION REVIEW



Corgi is as cheap as chips...

Lymington Auctions' October sale comprised almost 550 lots and there was plenty to tempt the Corgi devotee. A cardboard sign of the dog was at the cheaper end (£30) whilst a 1970s wooden yellow sign with the Corgi Toys rubric and the hound sold for a paltry £5. In bronze metallic, an unboxed Hillman Imp raised £35 (and it retained its suitcase!) whilst £60 secured the Rover 2000 in maroon that sported Monte Carlo Rallye decals. Just £30 took home the Corgi 314 Ferrari Berlinetta 250 and No 330, the Porsche Carrera 6, both of which came with sound boxes.

Dinky toys also got a

The Dinky Paramoke came with launch instructions: mercifully, they had not been actioned...

look-in: the flatbed Foden lorry (502) in green and black was a buff box issue and made £70 whilst two lots of railway accessories, to wit No 054 the Railway Personnel and 050 the Railway Staff, were snapped up for £50. Or how about the Paramoke, with all accessories, box and having exhibited no sign of being thrown out of a window in the past by an exuberant youngster? This made £45. Finally, if fair to good condition Dinky toys are your interest, then the pre-war AA motorcycle and side car, with rider, would have appealed at just £20. ■

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



WHITEBOX OPEL KADETT B RALLYE

Price: £39.99 Scale: 1/24 Release: out now
Excellent value model of this classic Opel. Lovely finish all over with the added bonus of opening doors. Nicely detailed throughout.
» www.ayrey.co.uk

WIKING CLAAS XERION 4500 TRAC VC TRACTOR

Price: £99.95 Scale: 1/32 Release: out now
Wiking's wheeled Xerion features a reversible cab, all-wheel steering, opening door and working linkages front and rear. It has good levels of detailing.
» www.wiking.de



More new releases reviewed at ccofgb.co.uk

■ AUCTION REVIEW

More Milestones reached

In October, Milestone Auctions recorded its highest-grossing antique toy auction to date, thanks to the US\$768,000 sale of a single-owner collection, with a few select additions from other consignors.

The big story of the day was toy motorcycles. Two Marx prototype motorcycles tied for top-lot honours, with each selling for US\$22,800 against an individual estimate of US\$6,000-8,000. Strong prices were also realised for German wind-up and flywheel toys, including

an amazing 86 examples made by Lehmann. A fine (circa 1900) Lehmann "Boxer Rebellion" toy fared best, though, selling for US\$17,400. That said, one of the sale's most admired lots also produced an unexpected price. A 17 inch long German hand-painted composition cat skittles set (estimated at US\$1,000-1,500) was pounced on, with a winning bid of US\$16,200 taking it home.

Transport fared well, with a terrific example of a Japanese tin friction Atom-Car (No 153). At 15½

inches long, it retained its original driver figure and came with a rare box. It easily swept past its estimate range to settle at US\$5,400.

Another star was a visual extravaganza from Distler. This tin wind-up set known as "Pinched!" re-enacts a police chase in the countryside. When activated, a motorcycle policeman pursues a speeding automobile around a platform amid scenery that includes mountains, farmland and a railway. The setting was also illustrated on the box that accompanied



the toy, which sold above estimate for US\$6,900. ■

Stunning Atom Car looked like it was shop fresh – and even had its original box.

■ HOBBY NEWS

New tooling from Oxford

Oxford Diecast has just announced a good crop of new releases across its ranges that will delight its collecting fanbase. Covering 1/76, 1/43 and N scales, these are currently marked on the company's website as "Future", so expect them during 2022.

Featuring the popular Land Rover Discovery 1 in not just one, but two scales – 1/43 and 1/76 – this is joined by other cars in the shape of the

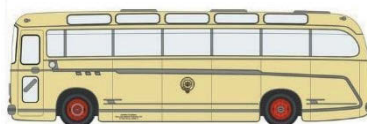
Land Rover Discovery 2, VW Karmann Ghia, and Austin Maestro, all at 1/76 scale. New in the 1/76 scale Oxford Omnibus range is the Duple Britannia, in an initial livery of Wallace Arnold. The final 1/76 scale new tooling announcement is a fire appliance, the Volvo FL Emergency One Pump Ladder. Rounding out this announcement is a trio of N (1/148) scale vehicles – the Ford Transit Connect, VW T1 Samba Bus and Fowler BB1 Ploughing Engine. ■



Land Rover Discovery 1 - Foxfire
REF: 43DS1001 SCALE: 1/43
PRICE: £24.95



Volvo FL Emergency One Pump Ladder - West Yorkshire
REF: 76VEO001 SCALE: 1/76
PRICE: £29.95



Duple Britannia - Wallace Arnold
REF: 76DB001 SCALE: 1/76
PRICE: £23.95



Austin Maestro - Targa Red
REF: 76MST001 SCALE: 1/76
PRICE: £7.25



KING AND COUNTRY SITTING PANZER GRENADIERS

Price: \$199.99 Release: mid-November
A set of 4 x seated Panzer Grenadier Infantry, 3 with rifles and 1 x NCO with an MP40 submachine pistol.
» www.kingandcountry.com

IXO HYUNDAI I2 R5 #36 WRC RALLYE ESTONIA 2020 G.MUNSTER/L.LOUKA

Price: £43.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
Another in a run of recent Hyundai WRC releases by Ixo and, yet again, the complex livery has been truly nailed. Absolutely stunning.
» www.ayrey.co.uk



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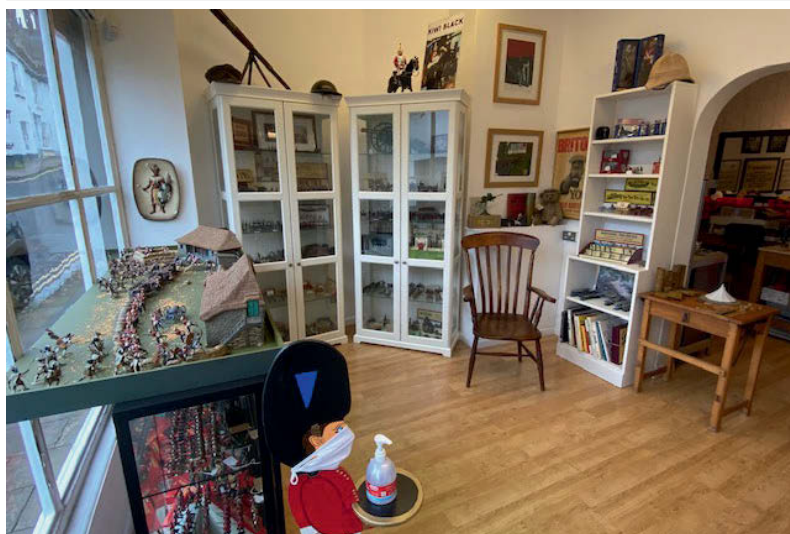


www.instagram.com/ccofgb



www.youtube.com/CollectorsClubofGB

■ HOBBY NEWS



New shop opens

It is always good to hear about collectors who have been able to use their knowledge and enthusiasm to 'live the dream' and have a second career devoted to collecting, modelling and meeting other collectors - well, Gerry McAllister has done just that. His new shop, Mr McAllister's Amazing Toy Soldier Emporium, is now open in Modbury, near Plymouth. He currently caters for collectors of 54mm figures and vehicles but plans to expand his range of figures in the near future.

As a former wargamer, he is very much aware of the interest in other scales besides 54mm.

His favourite time in history is the Napoleonic period, which is covered by a variety of figures and ranges, including action figures - the shop window display depicts a scene from Rorke's Drift. Gerry considers the 'Zulu Range' to be one of the best that W Britains has produced.

The Zulu diorama has created a good deal of interest already, and Gerry is pleased that he opted for a shop. One of his original ideas was for a workshop with space for visitors. When the current premises became available, however, it seemed the obvious choice after all, particularly as it has its own workshop through an archway at the rear of the shop.

Another of Gerry's particular interests is

artillery. He has an extensive range of horse-drawn artillery, together with examples over time since Britains started to produce them. These include the guns, crews, limbers and vehicles, and teams of horses.

As well as the shop, Gerry also attends the Westpoint Toy Fair near Exeter, whenever possible. The show is organised by Bulldog Fairs, and this makes his collections and stock more accessible to a wider audience. He can be contacted by email: gerry.mcallister@outlook.com or by telephone on 07957 597217 (check the opening times during the current on-going situation). ■

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

Coming up NEXT MONTH

JANUARY 2022 ISSUE



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www.ccof gb.co.uk

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NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH

LEGO CREATOR TITANIC

Price: £569.99 Scale: 1:200 Release: end of November

This scale model is designed in 3 sections, recreating the features of the Titanic. The cross section reveals interior details like the first-class dining room, the grand staircases, one of the boiler rooms and many cabins. This model is one of the largest LEGO models ever at over 135 cm long. With over 9,000 pieces, it provides many hours of building pleasure

» www.lego.com



MINI GT

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER 110 1989

CAMEL TROPHY WINNER TEAM UK

Price: £14.00 Scale: 1/64 Release: out now

Wonderfully 'dirtied up' version of Mini GT's earlier 'clean' release, making for a very evocative replica of the winning vehicle at the finish.

» www.clevelanddiecast.co.uk

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NEW YEAR

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What was the year?

Alwyn Brice asks - can you track down the year from the clues?

Perhaps the most significant achievement, rather than event, of our chosen year was the termination of the so-called Cold War. Incredibly, this had its roots in 1947; in our year the USSR effectively split up into 15 separate states (although such an occurrence didn't seem to faze film directors keen to make spy sagas. There was to have been an 007 film this year, *The Property of a Lady*, but it was never finalised). Additionally, the START 1 treaty was signed between President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who agreed to reduce the number of nuclear warheads they held.

The other notable conflict to end was that of the Cambodian Civil War which had dragged on since 1970 and in which the

Khmer Rouge achieved notoriety in the history books for the atrocities that they inflicted on the population. But peaceful progress was being made elsewhere, especially in science: space, as ever, was in the headlines, for this year saw the launch of the Hubble telescope.

The UK had its share of misfortune this year. Gales ripped across the country in January, which resulted in 27 deaths. There was a train crash in Cannon Street in London, too, leading to one fatality and over 500 injured travellers.

The Troubles also continued, with the IRA responsible for a mortar attack on Downing Street: no-one was hurt but windows of the Cabinet Room were blown out. Work and leisure was also making the news, for

unemployment tipped over the 2m mark; on the plus side the Prime Minister announced an end to the Community Charge.

Let's not neglect the transport sector, either. Kia began importing cars into the UK during this year and Nissan, anxious to enhance its sales, began to reduce the price of its new cars. Transport history was made when the final section of the Channel Tunnel was bored out, completing the work that had been started by Napoleon 1. The UK and France were at last united although Brexit would eventually put an end to that.

Madonna continued her reign in the charts with *Justify my love*; *All the man that I need* was Whitney Houston's wish whilst Mariah Carey was singing about *Someday*. At the movies, it was back to bucolic Merrie Englande

with *Robin Hood Prince of Thieves* but the future was also in focus, with the supremely artistic *Terminator 2*, which built on the success of the original Arnie movie.

In the library, Peter Mayle was doing rather well with his Provençal diary series: *Toujours Provence* was dripping with local colour and doubtless persuaded many a Brit to invest in that particular French département.

As for toys, Barbie was in the news, well, at least she was in the Eastern Bloc: a Czechoslovakian Barbie wearing a traditional festival costume with striped floral skirt, black bodice, blouse with pleated sleeves, with red stockings and lace-up boots was marketed. A year later, though, Czechoslovakia vanished...

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

LEFT

Kenner's ("I'll be back") Arnie figure certainly did come back: he hasn't achieved the mythical status of his Stars companions, though.



RIGHT

Hot Wheels went all military this year: a real change from the familiar lurid, way-out road vehicles.



LEFT

Barney the Purple Dinosaur actually made it to the small screen the year after this one... but you could get this plush toy in the shops.



ABOVE

Airfix's Etendard was a French-themed jet released during this year.

Tri-ang Transcontinental - gateway to the world

Mark Nolan surveys the toy trains that straddled continents.

If you took a classroom of boys in the 1960s, you could be pretty sure that most of them would be interested in model trains. If you asked them which trains, 29 of them would say "British trains". But there would always be one weirdo who would vote for continental or North American trains.

Those boys probably went on to have very interesting careers, designing props for sci-fi films or writing computer games. The rest of us scattered to the four winds and to this day still prefer the British trains we knew and loved. But never say never, as now those rejected "furrin" trains are starting to pique our interest.

Of course Lines Bros, the organisation behind Rovex and Tri-ang, had no qualms about launching Transcontinental alongside their UK models. Even the cover of the legendary number one catalogue demonstrated a 50-50 split by showing two locos, the top of the range Princess Elizabeth steamer and a streamlined silver diesel which was obviously of foreign extraction.

In a fascinating article which appeared in *Continental Modeller* magazine, Richard Lines breaks down the Transcontinental Series into two periods, 1954-58 and 1959-73. Exports of manufactured goods were critically important in the post war period to bring in money to pay for food and raw materials. British trains understandably did not sell well abroad, but Tri-

ang had a flourishing business in Canada, so they decided to make models of Canadian appearance using the chassis and mechanisms from their UK models. That meant a 4-6-2 pacific as well as a Bo-Bo diesel, two coaches and three freight cars. This was enough to offer four sets; steam passenger and freight, and diesel passenger and freight.

RUSHED PRODUCTION

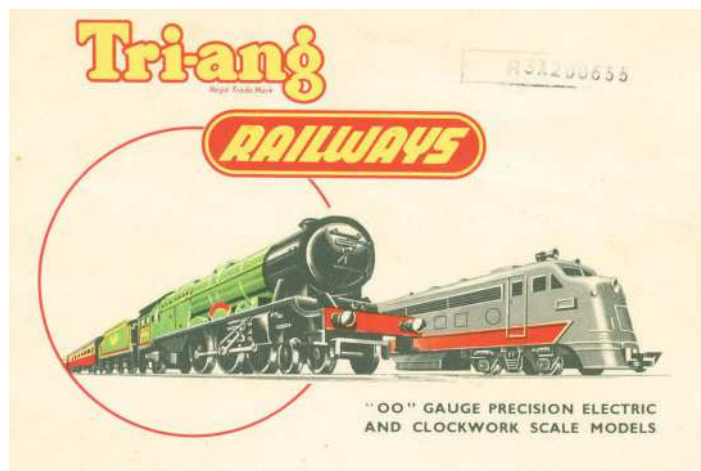
The term 'Transcontinental' was used in order not to tie the models too closely to a particular market, and they later made their way to Australia, New Zealand, USA and South Africa. Ironically the models sold better in the UK than they ever did abroad, possibly because they were more colourful and flamboyant than BR trains.

The early models were designed in a hurry from poor quality photographs without too much consideration for shape and scale. They had to be ready for Christmas 1954, so Tri-ang employee Jim Hoyland was working to a tight schedule. Considering the lack of time to bring the models to market, the quality of the work was excellent, and the mould for the Hiawatha pacific loco was still in use 20 years later.

Early transcontinental models carried a 'TR' designation standing for 'Tri-ang Railways'. However this was deemed too toy-like and changed to 'Transcontinental' or other wording to satisfy more serious modellers.



ABOVE
Study of Budd railcar front end.



ABOVE
Tri-ang No 1 catalogue from 1955 demonstrates an equal emphasis on British and overseas models.

HIAWATHA

The choice of a loco based on a Class G3d Canadian Pacific was dictated by the need to use

the Princess Elizabeth chassis and resulted in model number R54. Over time it gained a more intricate representation of

**ABOVE**

1959 issue Hiawatha locomotive with working headlight and white-lined tender with new style MK3 couplings.

**BELOW**

The F7 was the first diesel in the Tri-ang range. This is the R57 dummy version.

ABOVE

Tri-ang R159 double ended diesel.

**ABOVE**

Tri-ang R56A 4-6-4 Baltic Tank Locomotive 4830 showing signs of plastic warp. Based on the New Zealand W class, this loco used a Princess chassis with the rear bogie having four wheels instead of two.

**ABOVE**

The Tri-ang R155 Bo-bo switcher used the same mechanism as the F7 but carried lights at each end.

valve gear in line with the donor chassis. The plastic used for the body changed from a cellulose acetate moulding (famously prone to warping in later life) to polystyrene as improvements in the moulding process were introduced. The cow catcher which was on the bogie on early models became an integral part of the body on the later versions.

The loco subsequently acquired a smoke unit option. In 1971 the eight-wheel bogie tender was replaced with a six-wheel tender from the Gresley A4 pacific, painted black and fitted with a rudimentary sound apparatus.

The 'Hiawatha' name introduced from 1962 involved considerable poetic licence as it was a North American name rather than Canadian.

CLASS F7

The Tri-ang Class F7 diesel is most commonly found in red and grey livery. The model as introduced in 1955 really is rather a brute; a bit short and lacking in finesse, although it did have a working headlight. As with all of the TC range, the later series introduced more refinement, particularly with regard to wheels and couplings. The F7 was ahead of its time in that there were only experimental diesels on BR at the time. It was also significant as the first diesel in the Tri-ang range.

Tri-ang unwittingly created

an extra level of collectability; as transatlantic diesels often ran in pairs they made a dummy (unmotored) F7 and even a 'B' unit, which in real life is like a slave unit without cab. The later yellow Bo-Bo switcher used the same mechanism as the F7 but carried lights at each end.

BALTIC 4-6-4T

The Tri-ang R56A 4-6-4 Baltic Tank Locomotive 4830 was based on the New Zealand W class. This loco used a Princess chassis with the rear bogie having four wheels instead of two. The Baltic tanks are very popular with collectors, with the rare maroon version even more so.

BUDD RAILCAR

Budd was an American manufacturer of stainless steel passenger rolling stock, also noted for introducing the Rail Diesel Car (RDC). A request from Canada resulted in one of the most popular models in their range; the Budd railcar. Introduced in 1960, this was a proper scale model in HO and upstaged the existing TC models. Dummy versions were available which are now even more sought after than the motorised models. They were produced in TC silver and red, CN silver and black, Northern Pacific silver, Santa Fe silver, Reading Lines silver and TransAustralia silver and red.

KEEP THAT STOCK ROLLING

The first TC series coaches were just shells with no internal seating except for tiny seats in the glazed area of the observation car and in the vista section. The silver fluted sides referenced their stainless steel construction. The four coaches were a passenger car, a vista dome coach (similar but the roof has an observation dome). The observation car had a glazed observation area on the back. The baggage car had two sliding doors on each side. Later versions were made with red doors and a red stripe. They were also available in blue with yellow lining.

The second series coaches had full interiors and came as passenger car, diner car, kitchen/baggage car and observation car. They were available in numerous liveries, mostly for the American, Canadian and Australian markets, making an excellent theme for a collection.

The Transcontinental wagon range was quite a revelation and arguably shows the company at the peak of their game. Freed from the constraints of small four wheeled trucks as used in the UK, the longer designs with separate

bogies really allowed the model makers room to exercise their abilities and resulted in some great models.

Other TC models of note include an American style travelling post office, a snow plough and an ambulance car. All this spawned a NATO and services element to the Tri-ang range which eventually led to the Battle Space range. Technically the Sydney Suburban 'Sputnik' model also falls under the Transcontinental banner, along with the tipping wagon and giraffe car. Finally there was an old time 'Davy Crockett' loco.

LAST ORDERS

By 1963 Tri-ang's BR range dwarfed the overseas models and by 1966 only a few coaches survived to be listed in the catalogue. Canadian models continued to be produced until 1973 when mounting competition from the Far East made them uneconomic. Australian model variations were also produced in Margate as recently as 1977. Tri-ang are rightly credited with catering for the overseas market more than any other British manufacturer. **CG**

Further details...

- There is a detailed website with excellent pictures and a massive amount of further information called 'Tri-ang Railways in Canada and the USA' which can be found at www.tri-ang.weebly.com.

Norev: Masters of Marketing

The French Norev company was not only good at making model cars; it was a pioneer of innovative ways of marketing them too. **Andrew Ralston** explains why...



The French Norev company had been making plastic novelty items, like toy watches, for some time before it launched a range of plastic cars in 1953. Within just three years the Norev name (which is the surname of founder Joseph Veron spelt backwards) had become as familiar in French toy shops as other, much longer established, brands and had won the coveted “Oscar du Jouet”. This was partly down to the appeal of the products: a series of 1/43 scale cars which looked realistic but could undercut diecasts like Dinky Toys in price. But it was above all the creativity

and imagination shown by Joseph Veron in marketing his products that enabled them to catch on so quickly. As a result, Norev publicity material and marketing aids are as desirable on today’s collecting market as the models themselves.

The first port of call was the car manufacturers, and Veron succeeded in making fruitful contacts with Henri Pigozzi, boss of the Simca company, which resulted in the Simca Aronde being the first of the 1/43 scale range. Other French carmakers were not slow to see the advantage of their cars appearing in miniature and the latest vehicles from Ford of France, Citroen,

Renault and Panhard soon joined the Simca.

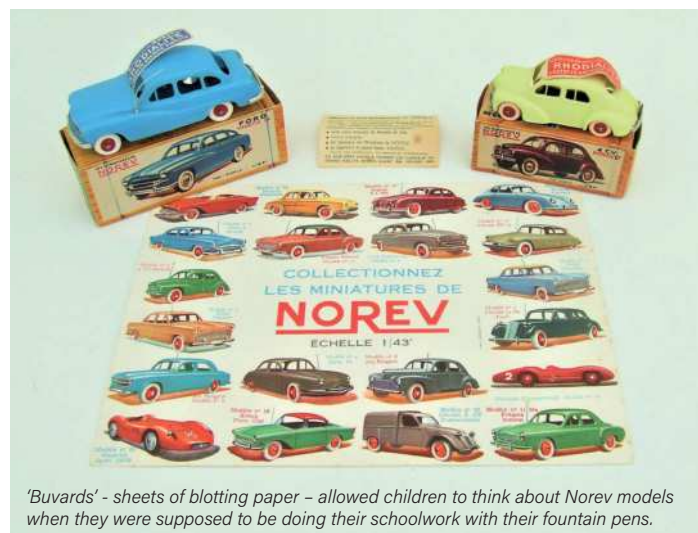
The success of these toys led Norev to build a new factory in the Villeurbanne area of Lyon in May 1956 and it was here that Veron’s genius for publicity truly emerged. All the most important wholesale dealers, toy shop owners and department buyers were invited to the opening – and they didn’t have to make their own way to Lyon, either, for they were picked up by coach in central Paris and taken to Orly airport where Veron had chartered a Vickers Viscount airliner from Air France. On arrival at Lyon, the clients were taken on group tours of the new factory and

treated to a lavish meal.

These extravagant gestures were typical of Veron’s skill in the field of publicity. Shops were provided with colourful sales stands and window displays including an elaborate carousel driven by an electric motor which held the cars on cradles and slowly rotated. In 1956 Norev cleverly held a competition for shops and department stores, offering cash prizes for the best window displays on the theme of the “Salon de l’Automobile” (motor show). These displays, of course, provided Norev with valuable publicity, with the work being done by the shops rather than the factory itself.



Norev catalogues were always bright and eye-catching.



‘Buvards’ - sheets of blotting paper – allowed children to think about Norev models when they were supposed to be doing their schoolwork with their fountain pens.



Having enthused the trade, Norev then enthused their young customers. Widespread advertising in comics, plus various giveaways, helped to make Norev part of a child's everyday experience. For example, once the child had chosen which Norev car he wanted, the shopkeeper would put it in a Norev paper bag and give him what in French is called a "buvard" (a sheet of blotting paper) illustrated with models from the Norev range – a reminder of the days when schoolchildren were taught to do their best handwriting using a fountain pen. So, even after the purchase was made, the customer carried some Norev advertising home with him.

Of course, toy purchases tend to be made by parents or other adults and Norev knew how to exploit the notion of “pester power”. Inside the boxes of the cars in 1957 was a leaflet headed “Why you should encourage your child to collect Norev miniatures”, claiming they could “refine a child’s powers of observation” and quieten down the noisiest child. On the reverse side, there was a message to the child - addressed as “cher petit ami” - telling him to give the leaflet to his parents! As with Dinky, Corgi and others, Norev ran a collectors’ club with a membership certificate, badge and newsletter and there were

competitions like the “Grand Rallye Norev 1958”: each car was worth a total number of points or “kilometres” and when the target was reached you could claim your “free” model.

As might be expected, much care was given to the design of the annual catalogues, printed in colour with plenty of information about why Norevs were superior to the competition. The 1957 edition said that, being moulded in colour, the cars were not painted and therefore could not chip, even if you scraped the surface with a knife - a rather strange thing to put into a child's head!

Norev's investment in publicity clearly which paid off, for the toys were soon selling so well that a bigger factory had to be built which at the height of the company's success in the Sixties was turning out something like 40,000 cars a day.

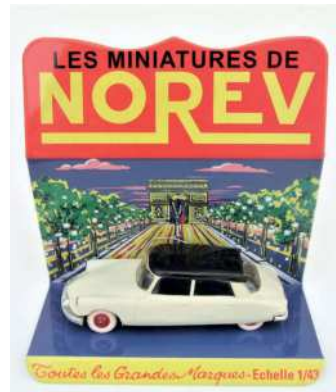
Of the various sales aids used, the most expensive are the carousels and the original tinplate display plinths used in shops to highlight the latest model. These have been known to fetch three figure sums, but reproductions of the plinths have been recently issued by the current Norev organisation, which is now a major player in diecast with a factory in China making not only its own models, but Atlas Dinky Toy reproductions and many of



ABOVE The Norev factory at Villeurbanne, Lyon.



ABOVE An edition of the Norev Club magazine from 1964 – another way of promoting brand loyalty.



ABOVE LEFT Another of the tinplate display plinths, this time depicting a beach scene in the South of France. The paper tag attached to early Norev models advertised 'Rhodialite', the plastic raw material from which the toys were made. The car is the Citroen Traction Avant Police Car. **ABOVE RIGHT** Tinplate plinths were originally made for shop counter displays but are now available as reproductions. This one, depicting the Champs-Élysées in Paris, makes a perfect backdrop for the Norev model of the Citroen DS 19.

the “partwork” issues popular in France.

A selection of Norev publicity material is shown here and if you can lay your hands on some of these items they will make the perfect background for a display of Norev models old or new. If you want to know more,

track down a copy of the book *Norev D'Enfants*, published in France in 2009 by Editions Stéphane Bachès. The author is Alain Vavrot who is not only a Norev collector but a graphic designer who designed much of the advertising material for the company. **CG**

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*Dutch Citadel under siege
from Hausser 4cm Normans.*



The Hausser Citadel story

To fully understand the Hausser Citadel range we need to first go back to the original Dutch Citadel sets of 1959. **Stephen Paul Hardy** tells us more.

The range as introduced in the Netherlands comprised three boxed construction sets of increasing content size numbered simply Citadel 1, 2 and 3. Consistent with other similar construction sets of the period the components were contained in strong cardboard boxes, compartmented up with card inserts to keep the pieces in place. The buff coloured cover of the boxes carried a label printed in black and red over white that carried the stylised name Citadel, a silhouette graphic of a (very) long castle wall and a photo of a beautiful, inspirational, castle that would have taken several of the large sets (plus some accessory packs) to make.

The three sets were supplemented by twelve accessory packs, A - L, contained in very neat little card boxes with lift tops overprinted in red, black and grey on white. The contents of these packs comprised selections of components found in the three construction kit sets.

A superbly illustrated booklet

was included with each of the three sets and illustrated a dozen or so suggested buildings that could be assembled with the contents of those sets. Published as just one 40-page booklet, that was common to all three sets, the suggestions were annotated to show the possibilities achievable with each ascending set size. Each suggestion was illustrated with a photo of the completed building, a floor plan layout of connecting piece blocks needed and an impressive isometric drawing showing the partially built construction, sufficient to guide the user to a successful build completion. The cover of this booklet carried the same photograph as on the box top, together with the word Citadel and the silhouette graphic (both in orange). The final page of the booklet illustrated the range of components included in the construction kit together with a contents list in the Dutch language tabulated to show all three sets.

With exception of the roof tile plates 60, 61 and 62 (dull red) plus window section 51 (white)

and pointed roof 53 (light blue) of the bay window corner turret, all the other injection-moulded polystyrene components were produced in a distinctive orange-sand colour. The semi-pliable connection piece blocks came in various shades of grey.

Most of the components came marked with the word Citadel and the catalogue number moulded into the inside (hidden) face of the piece.

THE HAUSSER ERA (D)

It is conceivable that Hausser viewed the acquisition of the Citadel range as killing two birds with one stone: the removal of competition that was highly likely to impinge on its 4cm range and a quick fix addition to the catalogue that was eminently suitable for use with its expanding range of 4cm historical themed figures.

Hausser reproduced the instruction booklet of construction suggestions with some additions. The artwork from the 1960 Hausser catalogue was placed on the cover and a colourful inside front cover in four languages

- German, English, French and Spanish - was added. An equally colourful inside back cover promoted 4cm Knights, Norman figures and siege weapons that were 'must have' accompaniments to any Citadel castle! Each style of figure and accessory (siege equipment etc.) carried the same catalogue number for both the 7cm and 4cm versions. The 4cm models being identified, initially, by the addition of a prefix 'M' to the catalogue number that was later changed to a 4 suffix to the number.

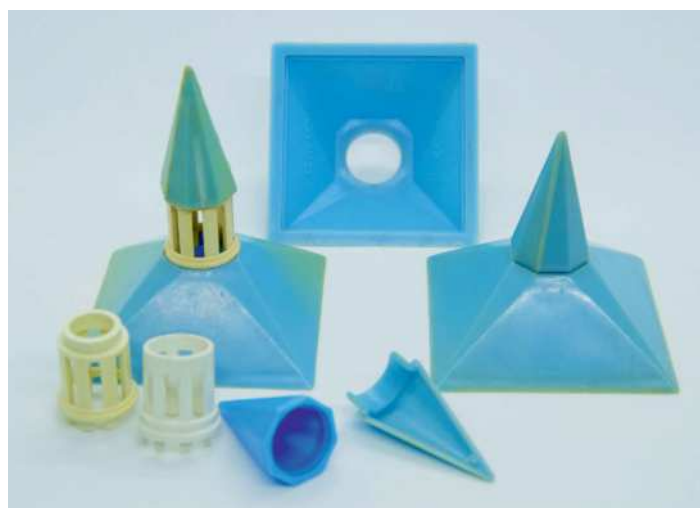
The components page was updated into three languages (German, English and French) and quantities of some components in each of the three sets changed from those as supplied in the earlier Dutch sets. Then to, literally, make their mark on each page Hausser added the well-known hatted 'H' trademark logo and added 'Hausser' over the word Citadel on every page of the original construction suggestion illustrations. Finally, the set number references were upgraded throughout from 1, 2



LEFT
Set 901 as made in Germany
1960-67.
BELOW
Set 3 as made in Holland 1959.



BELOW
Hausser's colourful inside
back cover to the instruction
booklet of construction
suggestions promoted 'must
have' accompaniments to any
Citadel castle!



ABOVE The uncatalogued square roof part 55 and its two different guises.

and 3 to 901, 902, and 903.

A similar 'quick-fix' was applied to the packaging of the accessory packs with the addition of the hatted 'H' trademark logo overprinted on the Dutch artwork and addition of box end numbering that updated the Dutch A - L to 905 A - 905 L. Later Hausser added an additional 9 to the front of all the

Citadel catalogue numbers.

Although leaving the component number unchanged Hausser did revise the toolings to remove the word Citadel from the components and replace it with their hatted 'H' trademark logo. A very visible change was also made in the plastic colours used: all the stone items were changed

to a light ivory-sand colour and the roof tile panels to a much brighter, high gloss, red. Over time the light ivory-sand changed in depth of colour, with some production runs looking almost translucent or pearlescent.

The semi-pliable connection piece blocks remained in grey but in a wide variation covering the seven years of production ranging from light silver grey to darker blue/smokey grey.

THE UNCATALOGUED COMPONENTS

Further evidence to my view that the original Dutch intentions were for a much larger range is fuelled by the existence of several components that came with job-lots that I acquired from the Netherlands that are not included in the booklet supplied in the boxed sets. First an arch that sits in size between the doorway and large arch. The stonework pattern is different from the modelling of other blockwork faced components and the arches have lugs on the reverse side that suggest they are intended to be used back-to-back. Interestingly they do not carry the usual Citadel embossing nor a catalogue number. I suspect they may have been pre-production items but feel pretty certain that they are genuine Dutch Citadel parts. For the other items there is no doubt...

THE CROWNING GLORY

One of the most desirable components - and most charismatic - was the bay window corner turret. You only got one in the largest set (3 or 903) and one in every accessory set pack (F or 905 F) yet the covers of both the Dutch and German booklets encouraged you needed quite a few to complete the "look" of your own Citadel!

Throughout total production at least six different mouldings were made for the white window section (51) of the turret and at least two versions of its blue pointed spire roof (53). Initially that roof came in two parts that needed gluing together and later as a single piece. Unlisted - and further adding fuel to my view that there were more parts planned by the Dutch designers - is a blue square section roofing component. The hole at its centre appearing to either accommodate the same window and spire roof used on the corner turret or, alternatively, a second version of the spire roof that had a deep collar moulded under it facilitating its insertion into the square roof. An intention clearly designed as such because

the facets on the roof align with those on the spire roof and a ridge under its eaves sits snugly on a standard arrangement tower construction. If these anecdotal evidences were not enough that square blue roof is part of the original range the irrefutable evidence is in the Citadel word moulded into its underside and even more interesting the catalogue part number 55 which is additional to the parts listed in the instruction booklet.

OTHER CHANGES

With acquisition Hausser retooled several parts. The structurally substantial Dutch version corner (16) and narrow wall (17) pieces were reduced: the latter twice so that ultimately, both had only semi circular lugs and could therefore be placed back to back. These modifications also made certain assembly procedures easier.

THE RAVAGES OF TIME

Given that even the newest Citadel sets are now well over 50 years old it is not surprising that ravages of time and playroom activity have affected the durability of some components. Most frequently seen damaged parts are the edges of the roof plates and the gable ends they mated to, the thin threshold of the wall piece with pedestrian door and the large arch. This last piece is often found cracked to the left of centre span. It is the semi-pliable connection piece blocks though that suffer more than the hard-polystyrene components. Years of stress from being stretched by the insertion of the lugs combined with material degeneration and hardening make them now quite vulnerable to splitting and cracking. Not surprisingly either is how often exposure to sunlight - probably through hours of play in the garden - has discoloured the plastics of some sets. By far the most vulnerable to this seems to be the light blue roof spires (53) which have a tendency to discolour to a verdigris like hue tinged with brown.

Changes in toy fashion led by Playmobil eventually led to the demise of O&M Hausser in mid 1983 with Paul M Preiser acquiring the rights and many of the toolings for both the 4cm and 7cm plastic Elastolin figures. Whilst the Citadel compatible 4cm lingered in the Preiser catalogue for several years they were finally dropped leaving only the 7cm versions in production at Preiser. Quite what happened to the Citadel toolings after the range was dropped by Hausser in 1967 remains a mystery. **CG**



10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Bassett-Lowke

It is often said that in every grown man there is a small boy crying to get out. This perhaps, goes some way to explaining the perennial popularity of model train sets often purchased by adults for their children, but sometimes secretly intended for their own amusement!

Within a few years of the first full-size steam locomotive having hissed and puffed its way along a track, the urge to build scale models of these revolutionary new machines emerged.

While it was Britain that gave birth to the steam locomotive, it was Germany that quickly cornered the market in model toy trains. Much of this industry centred around the industrial city of Nuremburg which lay close to tin mines and already had an established clock making industry employing a highly skilled workforce. Early model train makers in Germany included Hess – established in 1826 and noted for beautifully made push-pull trackless toy floor trains; Theodore Marklin was another, initially making tin toy kitchen equipment and dolls house furniture before turning to model trains, while Frenchman George Carotte migrated to Nuremburg with his famous toy company in 1896. They formed a dominant grip on the toy train market not only in Germany but also in the world market with healthy export trade predominantly with the United States and British colonies.

Throughout the latter years of the 19th century the British model train market had mainly consisted of crudely constructed spirit-fired locomotives affectionately

nicknamed ‘Dribblers’ or ‘Piddlers’ as they often dribbled water as they sped over the floor or carpet! As the 20th century dawned, however, a new British company emerged that would rival and eventually eclipse German domination of precision model railway engineering. That company was W. J. Bassett-Lowke & Co. of Northampton.

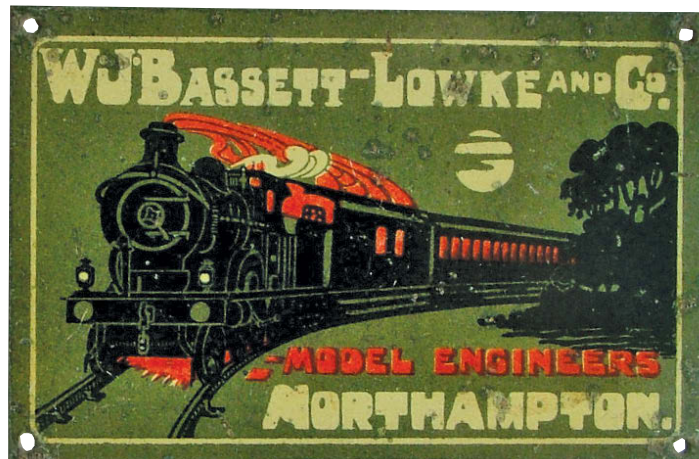
Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke was born in Northampton in 1877 and after leaving school at the age of 13 he worked briefly in an architect's office. Declining architecture as a career Bassett-Lowke instead became an apprentice at his father's engineering and boiler making works based in Kinswell Street, Northampton. Northampton's highly mechanised shoe making industry provided the Bassett-Lowke firm with plenty of work. Initially working in the boiler making department and then the fitting shop, young Wenman Bassett-Lowke developed an interest in model engineering and began making miniature stationary engines. He also began making miniature steam boilers in the firm's boiler shop, recognising the fact that the average amateur model engineer lacked the basic equipment or expertise to make many precision parts including whistles, safety valves and water gauges. His miniature engineering masterpieces were put on display in a window next to the company office in Northampton and gained plenty of attention.

It was a combination of Bassett-Lowke's love of trains and photography, combined with an incident that happened on the evening of 2nd September 1898



ABOVE

Bassett-Lowke has become synonymous with quality and people are willing to pay hundreds for examples in good condition, like this Flying Scotsman, which made £560 at Vectis Auctions.



ABOVE

This old miniature enamel sign was one of a whole range of splendid miniature tin signs made as an accessory for Bassett-Lowke model railway layouts.

**ABOVE**

For a time the Bassett-Lowke name was revived by Corgi – sadly Bassett-Lowke products were removed from the Corgi range when it was taken over by Hornby.

**LEFT**

Initially, other companies such as Bing made releases for Bassett-Lowke as they had the expertise in making highly detailed model locomotives.

**BELOW**

As well as producing model locomotives and wagons, Bassett-Lowke also dabbled in the world of miniature ships too.



that provided this young engineer with the opportunity to raise the capital to start his own business.

As the 7.15 express, running from London St. Pancras to Manchester, sped through Wellingborough station a trolley rolled off the platform causing it to crash. Bassett-Lowke quickly set off on his bicycle armed with his trusty camera to observe the wreckage. He was quick on the scene and equally quick to get his pictures printed up in time to sell them both locally and to the national newspapers. It was a piece of quick thinking that paid off in terms of cash injection and, at the tender age of 21, he was able to sink these earnings into forming a new model engineering business partnered by his close friend Harry Franklin.

His small pressure gauges were soon being advertised in the newly published *Model Engineer & Amateur Electrician* magazine and Bassett-Lowke was also instrumental in the formation of the 'Society of Model Engineers'. It was also around this time that he built his first complete live steam locomotives that were advertised for sale in local newspapers.

Seeing the need to supply an ever growing band of budding model engineers 1899 saw the publication of Bassett-Lowke's

first mail order catalogue which, rather surprisingly, contained goods bought in from other model making companies as well as those made by Bassett-Lowke itself.

This came about following a visit to the Paris Fair of 1900 where Wenman Bassett-Lowke marvelled at the model trains being made by several German toy makers, two of which (Bing and Carotte), he particularly admired. Subsequently an arrangement was made for Bing to produce a gauge 3 model of an LNWR locomotive 'Black Prince.' This was the beginning of a long business relationship with Bing during which many different German-built British model railway locomotives appeared for sale in Bassett-Lowke catalogues.

Bassett-Lowke's first retail outlet was opened in London at 257 High Holborn in 1908, Mr E. W. Hobbs being appointed as its first manager. This shop was later re-located to larger premises at 112 High Holborn in 1910.

Bassett-Lowke was not all about trains, however. A separate department was set up specifically for the production of waterline scale model ships. Those built included a fine model of S.S. Olympic for the White Star Line along with Cunarders Aquitania, Mauretania and Berengaria which were exhibited

at the 1924 Wembley Exhibition. Blue Riband winners Bremen, Normandie and Queen Mary were other famous liners built as waterline models by Bassett-Lowke. The company gained a great admirer of its ships in Lord Louis Mountbatten who commissioned a model of every ship on which he served, all of which were displayed at the Mountbatten family home of Broadlands in Hampshire.

W. J. Bassett-Lowke died on 21st October 1953 and in 1964 the company ceased retail sales and sold its shops, including one at High Holborn which was bought by Beatties. Bassett-Lowke

finally went out of business in 1965. There were several attempts to keep the brand alive but it was not until 1996 that Bassett-Lowke returned to the market in grand style.

The name was acquired by Corgi Classics and three years later its centenary was marked with the release of the first of a new range of Bassett-Lowke model trains. In 2008 Corgi Classics was acquired by Hornby and incorporated into its model train catalogue. Sadly, however, production was only maintained for four years and the brand was deleted from the Hornby range in 2012. **CG**

**BELOW**

During World War One, the Bassett-Lowke factory was re-assigned to making screw gauges for the Ministry of Munitions, while in World War Two it built models for military training exercises and simulated sea battles.

Famous Faces:

THUNDERBIRDS - FAB 1

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

One of the most attractive cars designed for a science fiction or TV series has to be Gerry Anderson's creation of Lady Penelope's Rolls Royce, known affectionately as FAB 1, because of the registration number.

Thunderbirds was first shown on television in September 1965, so we have to consider Gerry Anderson and his team's creations from that period. Rolls Royce was possibly the most luxurious car in the world at the time, with models such as the Phantom VI and the Silver Shadow as the top of the range. The distinctive frontage of the car was a style icon with the grill and flying lady being a well-protected copyrighted symbol. Gerry Anderson was given co-operation by Rolls Royce when making the model design for FAB 1. The car was sympathetic to the high standards of luxury and design associated with the company, and Rolls Royce provided an authentic radiator grill for close up shots, such as the machine gun firing. However, it took a styling genius to give the car six wheels and to extend the headlights to give FAB 1 her unique look.

The FAB 1 vehicle in *Thunderbirds* was similar to



ABOVE
FAB 1 Signature Collection model.

a James Bond car, with many hidden gadgets built into its stylish exterior. The radiator could drop down and fire a missile, while the car was still moving. It had machine guns hidden behind the front and rear lights and a small-bore cannon could fire through the radiator grill. The car was equipped with hydrofoils and could travel over short distances on water. It was, of course, bullet proof, though no-one would surely fire on the beautiful Lady Penelope

Crichton-Ward. The car had a full communication suite with satellite television and telephone, so that Lady P was always in contact with Jeff Tracey and the rest of the *Thunderbirds*' crafts. If you believe the film sequence, then FAB 1 also had its own supply of oxygen as it is seen travelling in space with Lady P and Alan, while Cliff Richard and the Shadows sang '*Shooting Star*', but that was only a dream.

In the 1960s, there were not that many collectable models of FAB 1 produced as toy merchandise. The Dinky is by far the best known and certainly is a highly collectable model. The outer cardboard box and inner cardboard display stand help to display this model. It

came with spare missiles and harpoons, and plastic figures of Lady Penelope and Parker. There are several variations to the model which can affect price, so it ranges from around £150 to £500 for a mint boxed model. The shades of pink paint can vary widely, but there is a shade usually described as 'shocking' pink which is rare and attracts the higher price. This was a very limited run by Dinky which slipped through quality control. It is hard to describe, and best seen by comparing the 'shocking pink' version alongside a more normal pink version. The plastic canopy also comes both totally clear and with the lines across the canopy picked



ABOVE
This Dinky FAB 1, boxed, could sell for anywhere between £150 and £500!

TOP TIP...

The UK Lincoln model of FAB 1 has the switch at the back, whereas the harder to find US version of the model has the switch at the side.



ABOVE

This Dinky 100 Thunderbirds, Lady Penelope's FAB 1, sold for £360 at auction.



ABOVE

Friction FAB 1 with box. Sells for circa £180.



ABOVE

A Sunstar FAB 1, film version. This was a Ford rather than a Rolls-Royce.



ABOVE

Dinky FAB 1 in rarer tall plastic box packaging. Sells in the region of £200.

out in pink or red. A common fault with the Dinky model is the missing Flying Lady logo, so always check that it has not been repaired or replaced.

A later packaging version saw the car released on a cardboard tray with a plastic bubble covering. This is worth around £200 in mint and boxed condition. A rarer second version of this is known as the tall tray as it stands much higher and can fetch around £350.

As well as the diecast Dinky model, there were plastic models produced by Lincoln, Imai, Bandai, Century 21 and J Rosenthal. These were mainly friction toys, but there was also a remote control FAB 1. The Lincoln Company produced both model kits and finished friction cars.

Corgi, Matchbox, Konami and Product Enterprise all had licences for producing models of FAB 1 and a variety of models, in all size ranges have been produced over the years. Most notable of these is the larger 18 inch 'signature edition' produced by Product Enterprise. This model was limited to 1,500 worldwide and comes in a nice Perspex display case with a limited edition certificate, personally signed by Gerry Anderson. It retails between £100 and £125.

In 2004, a feature film was produced, which saw the FAB 1

car change from a Rolls Royce to a Ford. However, the car retained its elegant styling and numerous gadgets. Purists disliked the fact that FAB 1 was a Ford rather than a Rolls-Royce. However, this was because the producers could not reach a suitable agreement with Rolls-Royce; the car manufacturers insisting that only an actual production model could be used. Ford stepped in with special version of their *Thunderbird* model, duplicating the six-wheel system on the original Rolls. All the front wheels turn, so FAB 1 steers with the four front tires. The Ford Motor Company supplied a number of vehicles to the production, including an advanced off-road vehicle which prominently sported the Ford logo as well as many Ford C-MAX and Ford F-150s in various locations, leading to criticism about the obvious level of product placement by the car manufacturers – a sentiment actually shared by director Jonathan Frakes, as revealed in the DVD audio commentary.

Thunderbirds has virtually never been off television since the 1960s. It was syndicated around the world and is frequently shown on various satellite and cable channels and recently Corgi issued a metallic pink model for the 40th anniversary of FAB 1. **CG**

DID YOU KNOW...?

The working model used in Anderson's studios was only seven foot long; big enough to seat the puppets. However, an actual 17 foot model of the car was produced, mainly for publicity reasons in relation to the feature film *Thunderbirds Are Go* and incredibly this was later allowed to deteriorate in a barn in the middle of the country. It was found and rescued by Peter Nelson and completely rebuilt in 1989. It stood on display in the Cars of the Stars museum in Keswick until 2011.



The magic of Dougal

Ann Evans talk to a collector who has filled his home with characters from *The Magic Roundabout*. *Photos Rob Tysall.*

Time for bed,' said Zebedee. It was a catchphrase that sent millions of '60s children to bed every night – and had adults exchanging wry smiles.

The phrase, as many will remember, comes from *The Magic Roundabout*, a seemingly simple five-minute BBC TV programme shown every evening just before the early evening news. With its typically

'60s feel and a cast of weird and wonderful characters, *The Magic Roundabout* became a television legend with cult status.

The show was created in 1965 by Frenchman Serge Danot, and was originally called *Le Manège Enchanté*. According to some, the characters were based around French politicians, with Dougal as De Gaulle. Whether that's true or not, more than 500 episodes were made between 1963 and 1967. For anyone who

isn't familiar with *The Magic Roundabout* characters, there was Dougal, a shaggy dog with a droll sense of humour; Brian, a not so dim-witted snail; Dylan, a sleepy, hippy rabbit; Ermintrude, a pink cow with a crush on Dougal; Florence, a child with a bad hair do and a caring attitude; and Zebedee a boingy jack-in-the-box type character who could restore order at a bounce. The English versions of *Le Manège Enchanté* saw Eric Thompson

– father of the actress Emma Thompson – making up his own stories to suit each programme, and the country soon fell in love with its whacky characters and their crazy adventures – and it has continued to attract new fans over the years. Nigel Planer took over the narration after Eric Thompson died, then came re-runs and cartoon versions, and in 2005, there was an animated all-star cast feature film with Robbie Williams as Dougal, Kylie



ABOVE
A Magic Roundabout lampshade.

Minogue as Florence and Joanna Lumley as Ermintrude.

Collector Barry Thrussell took up collecting Magic Roundabout memorabilia about 35 years ago. He admits he didn't buy it at the time it was first released, but later, when the nostalgia element kicked in, although it was never a conscious decision to start a collection.

BARRY'S COLLECTION

At Barry's home *The Magic Roundabout* seems to have taken over bedrooms, the attic, the garage as well as dominating the display cabinets around his home. "This is a four-bedroom bungalow but he's commandeered two of them for his collections!" exclaimed Barry's tolerant wife Brenda. Apart from *The Magic Roundabout* items, another passion is for Dinky and Corgi cars – and his full-sized Lambretta scooter. In fact, one of his most prized *The Magic Roundabout* collectables is a Magic Roundabout crash helmet

to wear while out on his scooter.

Barry says: "My daughter Debbie bought the helmet for me – many of the items in my collection have been bought by family. At least they are never stuck in knowing what to buy me as a gift."

Although Barry has many of the programmes on video and DVD, it's the 3D items that he loves the most and they range from limited edition figurines to knitted Dougals and sleeping bags. Among his most treasured collectables are those created in France for *Le Manège Enchanté*, in particular a miniature set of character figures made from plastic, which he finds quite charming.

"My collection goes from around 1968 right up to the last few years," said Barry. "One of my first purchases was a Pelham puppet of Dougal. In the Nigel Planer days, *The Magic Roundabout* was regenerated so there were lots of bits to buy. For me, it's the three-dimensional



ABOVE
Magic Roundabout collectables galore.
ABOVE LEFT
A Magic Roundabout diorama plus extras.
LEFT
A selection of Barry's collection.

FROM THE
COLLECTING
ARCHIVES!

things that appeal, actual figures and models and not so much the pictures and books."

Not surprisingly, Barry has quite a number of Magic Roundabouts in his collection. In mint, boxed condition, these can fetch more than £500, although the value of his collection is something he has never worked out. He may be in for a pleasant surprise though, as he is thinking about selling off some items to create more space. There are some pieces he won't part with, such as some French figures and a delightful little set of characters made by his daughter from modelling clay. "There's no monetary value to these at all," said Barry. "But to me they are priceless." Another treasured item is a seashell Dougal, picked up on a family holiday some years ago. Again, it has very little value to anyone except Barry. And as you wander through his collection you'll find *Magic Roundabout* t-shirts, socks, bedding, lampshades, cushions, fabric, key rings, jigsaws, edible items such as biscuits and Easter eggs – which have long

since passed their sell-by date – musical roundabouts, and even a Dougal driving licence.

Among the items that could fetch a substantial sum – although he has no intention of selling them – are a rare miniature *Magic Roundabout* diorama made by the Sugar Lump Studio and a limited edition porcelain figurine of the Blue Cat from the 1972 film *Dougal and the Blue Cat*. The original story, written by Serge Danot and entitled *Pollux et le Chat Bleu*, came out in 1970, and the English version by Eric Thompson was released two years later.

"I haven't seen another Blue Cat figure anywhere else," said Barry. "I think it's quite rare, and I really like it. In fact it will be difficult parting with anything from the collection, but as I'm running out of space for anything else, it's probably time I let some things go."

And on that parting note, as Collect it said goodnight to Barry, Brenda and the charming Magic Roundabout characters, one could almost hear those familiar words – 'Time for bed', said Zebedee! **CG**



LEFT
A Magic Roundabout diorama.

eBay

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



♦ **Item:** Palitoy Star Wars Boba Fett
Condition: Mint on card, UKG 90%
Sold for: £1810 (23 bids)



♦ **Item:** Horikawa (SH) Japan Tin Dino Robot
Condition: Near mint with only very minimal signs of play wear. Full working order
Sold for: £1335 (31 bids)



♦ **Item:** Palitoy Star Wars Death Star Play Set
Condition: A few imperfections to cardboard. With instructions, leaflet and original bag
Sold for: £1448 (19 bids)



♦ **Item:** G1 Transformers Autobot Air Guardian Jetfire
Condition: In good condition, original box and with all pieces included
Sold for: £840 (62 bids)



♦ **Item:** Rainbow Toys Thundercats Lion-O action figure, red hair variant
Condition: Mint on original sealed card, AFA 75
Sold for: £820 (46 bids)



♦ **Item:** Britains long wheel-based farm Landrover No.9576
Condition: In very good condition for age, plastic window was creased. Original paint
Sold for: £524 (11 bids)



♦ **Item:** Britains industrial tractor and dump trailer
Condition: In good condition for age, slight scuffs and minor creases. Original paint work
Sold for: £1005 (28 bids)



♦ **Item:** Kenner Star Wars Droids R2D2 Pop Up
Condition: Mint on sealed card, all original
Sold for: £1078 (35 bids)



♦ **Item:** Tomy Tomica Toyota Crown Super Deluxe
Condition: Mint condition car, within a good box
Sold for: £953 (35 bids)



- Item:** Corgi Toys Gift Set No.3 Batman Batmobile and Batboat
Condition: In excellent plus condition with unopened instructions and envelope
Sold for: £865 (28 bids)



- Item:** Britains Royal Marines in Tropical Dress, Set 1619, 1938
Condition: Very good apart from one helmet ball and one rifle missing. Box had slight staining
Sold for: £398 (20 bids)



- Item:** The Man from Uncle Napoleon Solo Toy Set, 1965
Condition: In good condition, all pieces present although elastic bands had snapped
Sold for: £1500 (5 bids)



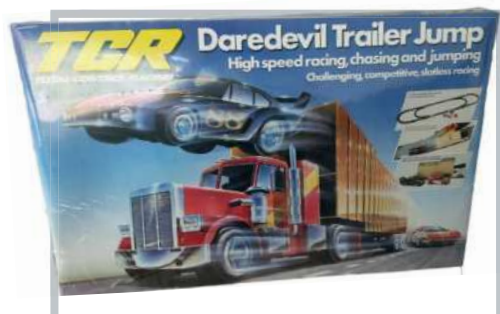
- Item:** Corgi 270 James Bond 007 DB5
Condition: Bubble was excellent and secured all round. Box and tray had all flaps present
Sold for: £560 (5 bids)



- Item:** Corgi Rockets Alpine Ski Set
Condition: All parts present and in excellent condition. Minor age-related discolouring
Sold for: £820 (33 bids)



- Item:** Tri-ang Spot-On Bedford Tanker
Condition: Good original condition, some playwear and rubs to part of transfers
Sold for: £489 (11 bids)



- Item:** Total Control Racing Daredevil Trailer Jump
Condition: As new in sealed box, cellophane torn in places. Contents may have shifted
Sold for: £460 (3 bids)



- Item:** Lone Star Tarzan Set No.1544
Condition: All six pieces in near mint condition. Bubble still sealed to excellent card
Sold for: £403 (14 bids)



- Item:** Airfix MRR Clubman Special 1/32 Slot Racer Kit 727
Condition: In fair condition for its age, partially built and was sold for spares
Sold for: £267 (18 bids)



- Item:** Hot Wheels Rumbler Gift Set
Condition: Original scuffed box, some parts are missing while others are broken or need repair
Sold for: £996 (13 bids)



- Item:** Matchbox Superfast No 47 Beach Hopper
Condition: Original pre-production colour trial, very near mint. Unboxed
Sold for: £624 (14 bids)



- Item:** LEGO Ghostbusters Firehouse Headquarters (75827)
Condition: Brand new, unused and unopened. Outer box had some damage
Sold for: £580 (19 bids)



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PRICE GUIDE

This month we review the latest toy sales at East Bristol Auctions, Vectis, Special Auction Services and Hanson's Auctioneers.



♦ **Dinky No 273 Mini "RAC Road Service" Van**, blue including roof box and rear opening plastic doors, red interior, silver trim, chrome spun hubs, silver base. Good plus, unboxed. *Sold for £60, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Solido No 190 Ford Capri**, cream body, blue bonnet with correct racing and rally unapplied decal sheet. Mint bin near mint yellow, black and red window box. *Sold for £70, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Solido No 16 Ferrari 'Daytona' Le Mans Racing Car**, white body, black interior complete with unapplied racing decal sheet. Mint in near mint yellow, red and black window box. *Sold for £20, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Dinky Toys No 581 Horse Box**, maroon including hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim, "Express Horse Box Hire Service British Railways" to sides. Good plus to excellent in good box, complete with inner packing pieces. *Sold for £80, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Dinky Supertoys No 901 Foden Diesel 8-wheel Wagon**, two-tone green with dark green cab and chassis, mid-green back and hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim, metal tow hook. Excellent in good box with "LF" and green colour spot labels to ends. *Sold for £620, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Dinky Supertoys No 905 Foden Flat Truck with chains**, red cab, chassis and hubs with black treaded tyres, grey riveted back, silver trim, metal tow hook. Excellent plus in excellent plus blue and white striped lift off lid box. *Sold for £220, Vectis, October.*



♦ **French Dinky Supertoys No 889 Autobus Parisien**, two-tone green, pale grey, concave hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim, brown interior. Excellent plus in good to good plus lift off lid blue and white striped picture box. *Sold for £280, Vectis, October.*



♦ **French Dinky 26 Series Rail Car**, green, yellow, maroon, mid-green rollers. Fair to good, unboxed. *Sold for £80, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Dinky 26 Series British Railcar**, two-tone green, red, with green rollers. Good, unboxed. *Sold for £140, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Dinky Supertoys No 514 Guy "Slumberland" Van**, red including ridged hubs, silver trim. Good in fair blue lift off lid box with paper label. *Sold for £100, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Dinky Toys No 141 Vauxhall Victor Estate Car** - rare promotional issue 'Lightning Fasteners Ltd Technical Service', dark maroon, blue interior, silver trim, spun hubs with black treaded tyres. Good to good plus, unboxed. *Sold for £4200, Vectis, October.*



♦ **Dinky Toys No 418 Leyland Comet Wagon**, with hinged tailboard, green cab and chassis, orange back, silver trim, mid-green hubs with grey treaded tyres. Excellent in good plus blue and white striped lift off lid box. *Sold for £140, Vectis, October.*



♦Dinky No 31d (453) Trojan "Beefy Oxo" Van, blue body, silver trim, mid-blue ridged hubs. Good to good plus, unboxed. **Sold for £80, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky Military No 665 Honest John Missile Launcher, green including plastic hubs and rear platform, with white and black missile. Excellent in good yellow and red carded box. **Sold for £220, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky pre-war 161 Mobile Anti-Aircraft Unit Set, gloss green 6-wheeled truck with searchlight and green anti-aircraft gun. Fair to good in good plus presentation lift off lid box. **Sold for £380, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky pre-war 151 "Royal Tank Corps" Medium Tank Set, 151a Medium Tank with white triangles to turret, 151b 6-wheeled Covered Wagon, 151c Cooker Trailer and 151d Water Tank. Fair to good in fair to good blue lift off lid box. **Sold for £150, Vectis, October.**



♦French Dinky 571 Saviem Goelette Horse Box, blue, off white roof, wood effect side panels, concave hubs. Good plus, unboxed. **Sold for £40, Vectis, October.**



♦French Dinky 566 Citroën Type H Police Van, two-tone white, blue including concave hubs, yellow battery-operated roof light, silver trim with spare bulb in sealed bag, plus correct instruction leaflet. Good plus to excellent, unboxed. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♦French Dinky 587 Citroën Type H Philips Van, two-tone yellow, silver, red concave hubs. Excellent, unboxed. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky Toys No 261 Ford Taunus "Polizei" Car, white, green doors, boot and bonnet, red interior. Excellent, unboxed. **Sold for £60, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky Toys No 260 Volkswagen "Deutsche Bundespost", yellow body, pale grey interior, black bumpers, chrome spun hubs. Good plus, unboxed. **Sold for £260, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky Toys No 261 Volkswagen "Swiss PTT" Saloon, yellow body, black chassis and wheelarches, off white interior. Good plus to excellent, unboxed. **Sold for £90, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky Toys No 40d (152) Austin Devon Saloon, two-tone cerise/green, light beige ridged hubs, silver trim, large baseplate lettering. Excellent, unboxed. **Sold for £150, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky Toys No 268 Renault Dauphine Mini Cab, red body, chrome spun hubs with black treaded tyres. Excellent, unboxed. **Sold for £120, Vectis, October.**



♦Dinky Toys No.990A, Code 3 by Transport of Delight Austin Brockhouse Pullmore Car transporter in "Landrover" livery, with a set of 4 land-rovers, finished in dark green and cream, with lighter green Land Rovers, in the original box, near mint. **Sold for £210, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♦Dinky Toys No.994 Code 3 by Transport of Delight "Dinky Toys" delivery gift set, comprising of 3 models Bedford Delivery Van, Fork Lift and Pallet Truck, near mint. **Sold for £120, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♦Dinky Toys boxed code 3 by Transport of Delight 30VW "British Railways" Electric Vehicles gift set, comprising of 2 models housed in the original box, near mint. **Sold for £95, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge W2262 BR green Royal Scot Class 46110 'Grenadier Guardsman', in original box stamped Packer No 2, very good, box good. **Sold for £160, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge W2238 BR green rebuilt Merchant Navy Class 35028 'Clan Line', in original box stamped Packer No 3, very good to excellent, box fair, two large marks to lid and a little grubby. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge W2260 LMS maroon Royal Scot Class 6100 'Royal Scot', with instructions, instruction leaflet, spare coupling, long packing ring, in original box stamped Packer No 6, very good to excellent, minor paint loss to engine and tender on one side. **Sold for £160, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge W2209 LNER green Class A4 4482 'Golden Eagle', with Hornby Tender, in original unstamped box, very good, box good. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge W2213 NE black Class A4 4903 'Peregrine', with Hornby Tender, including instructions, two packing rings, tissue, spare Dublo coupling and coupling Instruction Sheet, in original box stamped Packer No 3 very good to excellent, box good. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ Hornby-Dublo 00 Gauge 3-Rail 3250 Electric Motor Coach Box, with two packing rings, tested tag and original Instruction, ref 13/462/12.5. Good lid, grubby. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 00 Gauge 3-Rail 3235 'Dorchester' Locomotive Box, with instructions, Guarantee slip, Amended Instructions slip June 1961, tested tag and three packing rings, good, some wear to lid. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ Hornby-Dublo 00 Gauge 2-Rail Class 8F 2-8-0 Locomotive, repainted in WD grey, No 302, painted to a good standard, in storage box, good to very good. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, October.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann 00 Gauge, Class 45 Diesel D27 BR Green, 32-679DS, DCC Sound. Outer box showing signs of wear, with writing to front. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £120, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann 00 Gauge, Class 42 Diesel Hydraulic D809 'Champion' BR Maroon, 32-050DC, DCC On Board. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £55, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann 00 Gauge, Class 55 9005 'The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire' BR Blue, 32-531DC, DCC On Board. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents good, but signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £65, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann 00 Gauge, Class 55 Deltic 'Argyll & Sutherland' D9021 BR Green Weathered, 32-525Y, Limited Edition 431 of 504. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £65, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann 00 Gauge, Deltic, Exclusive to the National Railway Museum, 32-520, DCC Ready. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £100, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby 00 Gauge, Eurostar Train Pack, R2379, contents complete. Outer box showing signs of wear, in need of a clean. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £50, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby 00 Gauge, Virgin Trains Pendolino Train Pack, R2467, contents complete. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £60, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby OO Gauge, Pullman Coach Pack, taken from the R1038 set, 'Minerva, Ibis, Cygnus', outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £60, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby OO Gauge, 'Morning Star' BR Class 7MT, R033. Outer box showing signs of wear, catalogue label has been removed from right side of box. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £28, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby OO Gauge, BR 4-6-0 Castle Class Locomotive '5073 Blenheim Castle', R2280. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £30, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby OO Gauge, Tornado BR Class A1, R3060, DCC Ready. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £45, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby OO Gauge, Top Link, Beatties Exclusive Limited Edition, Battle of Britain Class '501 Squadron', R646. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £50, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby OO Gauge, Limited Edition 65 of 500, 2-8-0 Locomotive WD Class 8F, R2043. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of use to wheels. **Sold for £150, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby OO Gauge, The Duchess Train Set. R1004, track, locomotive and transformer present. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of some use to wheels. **Sold for £60, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby OO Gauge, Virgin Trains Pendolino Set, R1134, locomotive, track and transformer present. Outer box showing signs of wear. Contents appear good, but showing signs of some use to wheels. **Sold for £75, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ A boxed Hornby Dublo, Co-Bo Diesel-Electric Locomotive, 2233, 2-Rail, with Tested label swing tag, and packing rings. Appears very good. Box has some tears but generally good. **Sold for £110, Hansons Auctioneers, October.**



♣ EDP10 Hornby Dublo Tank passenger set, comprising BR 0-6-2 tank loco 69567 (just a couple of small chips) with one each D14 1st/2nd & br/2nd suburban coaches, track, oil. All excellent. **Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail 2-8-0 8F Freight loco BR black 48158, 1/2" motor, near mint with a small amount of graffiti. With guarantee, oil and test tag. **Sold for £75, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ L30 Hornby Dublo 3-rail Bo-Bo diesel electric loco BR green D8000, near mint, box excellent with instructions, guarantee, test tag and empty oil tube. **Sold for £85, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ Hornby Dublo EDL1 A4 loco and tender, totally repainted in LNER lighter green satin finish with white lining as 4482 Golden Eagle. Coal is repro and without any distortion. Excellent as repaint. In a repro picture box. **Sold for £130, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 2-8-0 Freight loco BR black 48109. This has been changed from 2 to 3-rail and appears to have a Super-Neo magnet. Plastic pony and tender wheels, N/S drivers. Excellent, plain red box for the 2-rail version. **Sold for £100, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ Hornby Dublo 3-rail Bristol Castle loco and tender, no corrosion on SVC or chimney, a few chips to lining on cylinder covers. Very good, box fair. Instructions & guarantee. **Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ A scarce original PBP / Poch Spanish made Star Wars action figure 'Robot' (Power Droid). Standard Kenner figure, GMFGI 1978 Hong Kong COO, but supplied with its original PBP Poch 'Star Wars El Imperio Contraataca' (Empire Strikes Back). Card

back with bubble removed, but otherwise generally very good condition. **Sold for £360, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1983 Palitoy Star Wars action figure 'A Wing Pilot'. Figure appears generally excellent to near mint, with original blaster. Supplied with its original 79 back Return Of The Jedi tri-ologo card. **Sold for £65, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage (1984) Palitoy Star Wars The Power Of The Force 'Last 17' action figure 'Han Solo In Carbonite Chamber'. Original figure and Carbonite Chamber, generally in near mint condition, slight

paint rub to the hair. Supplied with its original 79 back Tri-ologo Return Of The Jedi cardback. **Sold for £150, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1983 Palitoy mint on card, carded action figure 'Stormtrooper'. On its original tri-ologo unpunched 79 back card. Factory error incorrect weapon / blaster. Bubble fully factory sealed with no splits. Card back appears near mint.

Sold for £250, East Bristol Auctions, October.



♣ An original vintage 1983 Palitoy Star Wars 'Last 17' action figure 'Luke Skywalker - Imperial Stormtrooper Outfit'. Complete, including weapon and helmet. LFL 1984 to leg. Figure appears near mint, with stiff limbs and good white colour.

Original blaster. Supplied with its original tri-ologo 79 back card back. **Sold for £260, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ A scarce original vintage 1983 Kenner/ Palitoy Star Wars 'Last 17' Power of the Force action figure 'R2D2 with pop up Lightsaber'. Generally in mint condition, with the full original decal body present, excellent chrome to top. Presented with its

original green lightsaber. **Sold for £360, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1983 Kenner Star Wars carded action figure 'Princess Leia Organa' (Boushh Disguise). On its original 77 back Return Of The Jedi card. Bubble with no splits, but a lift to the lower area, possibly some light re-gluing (contents unable to be removed - not a recard,

likely just an old repair to prevent further lift. Card back very good with light veining. **Sold for £80, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1983 Palitoy/Clipper Star Wars action figure playset 'X Wing Fighter Vehicle' with battle damaged appearance. 100% complete, including the side cannons and canopy. Original bi-lingual La Guerre 'Return Of The Jedi' box, original instructions present. **Sold for £70, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1982 Palitoy Star Wars 'Scout Walker Vehicle' action figure playset. In the scarce 'Hoth' box. 100% complete, including the canopy and top gun. With original instructions, Return Of The Jedi box, with card insert. **Sold for £60, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ Vintage 1983 Palitoy Star Wars action figure playset 'Tauntaun' - with open belly rescue feature. The figure complete with reins and both sections of the 'soft belly' (reins unbroken). With the original instructions sheet, and housed in its Return Of The Jedi Box. **Sold for £170, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1980 Palitoy Star Wars action figure playset 'Slave I - Boba Fett's Spaceship'. 100% complete including carbonite block, side fins and loading bay door. Within its original Empire Strikes Back box. Box generally in good shape, with all flaps present. **Sold for £110, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1980 Palitoy Star Wars action figure playset 'Rebel Armoured Snowspeeder'. Near complete, just lacking the harpoon. Housed within its original Empire Strikes Back pink sky box (Bounty Hunter tokens uncut). **Sold for £75, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1983 Palitoy Star Wars 'Millennium Falcon Vehicle' action figure playset. With all its small accessories (top gun, canopy, struts, chair, etc). Within its original Return Of The Jedi La Guerre bi-lingual box. **Sold for £100, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1977 first-issue Palitoy Star Wars action figure playset 'X Wing Fighter'. Complete with all four side guns, canopy, and working wing action. In its original first issue box. Generally very good. **Sold for £140, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ An original vintage 1983 Kenner action figure playset 'Jabba The Hutt'. 100% complete, including the pipe, Salacious Crumb figure and Jabba figure. With original instructions. Boxed in its Return Of The Jedi box. **Sold for £100, East Bristol Auctions, October.**



♣ Lego Star Wars set number 75171 Battle on Scarif, within near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £45, Vectis, October.**



♣ Lego DC Comics Super Heroes set number 76052 Batman Classic TV Series Batcave, within near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £130, Vectis, October.**



♣ Lego The Batman Movie set number 70909 Batcave Break-in, within near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♣ Lego The Batman Movie set number 70923 The Bat-Space Shuttle, within near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £70, Vectis, October.**



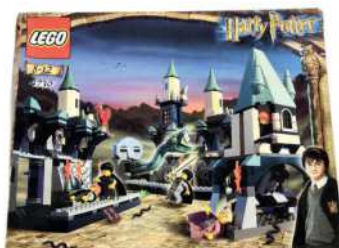
♣ Lego Marvel Super Heroes Avengers Age of Ultron The Avengers Quinjet City Chase set number 76032, within near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £70, Vectis, October.**



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♣ Lego Harry Potter set number 4730 Chamber of Secrets complete, within excellent opened box, components still sealed in bags. **Sold for £120, Vectis, October.**



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♣ Lego Marvel Super Heroes Avengers Infinity War set number 76107 Thanos Ultimate Battle, within near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £70, Vectis, October.**



♣ Lego DC Comics Super Heroes Jokerland set number 76035, within excellent to near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £120, Vectis, October.**



♣ Lego Marvel Super Heroes Spider-Man Web Warriors Ultimate Bridge Battle set number 76057, within excellent to near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £80, Vectis, October.**



♣ Lego Marvel Super Heroes Avengers Age of Ultron The Avengers Quinjet City Chase set number 76032, within excellent sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £70, Vectis, October.**



♣ Lego DC Comics Super Heroes Batman Killer Croc Sewer Smash set number 76055, within near mint sealed packaging. Ex-shop stock. **Sold for £60, Vectis, October.**



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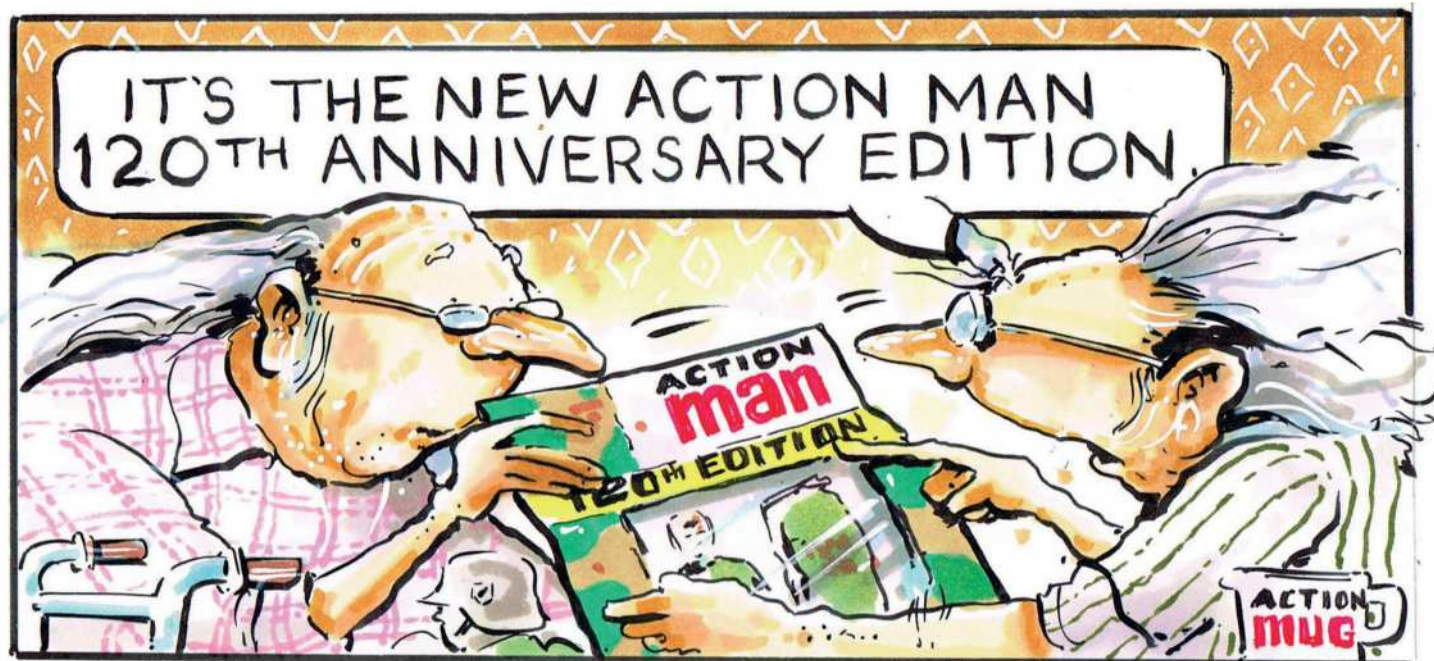
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Toy Stories

Ed Karswell delves into muddy waters.

Is imitation really the sincerest form of flattery? I only ask as a newcomer to collecting confided to me that they felt somewhat baffled at the number of re-issues and reproductions on the collector's market. They reasoned that it muddled the waters when it came to sniffing out the repro' from the real deal as it were. I do sympathise with this point of view. When I recently tried to buy some vintage Palitoy Action Man items I was faced with a multitude of re-issued Action Man 40th, 50th anniversary etc... all seemingly mixed in with the original stuff. I'm no expert in this particular field so had to tread very carefully so as not to make a mistake.

Dinky collectors have long been faced with a world of copies from crude white metal lumps to the polished efforts of Dan Toys and Atlas Editions. Hot Wheels has also got in on the act, reissuing their first models from the late 1960s. All, it must be said, wrapped up in lovely retro packaging too. Then of course there's Norev re-

issuing some of its classic plastic from the 60s. Furthermore, Norev has also been busy re-mastering Tri-ang Spot-on models back catalogue, notably the highly sort after British sports car set. CIJ, Matchbox, Corgi and Quiralu to name but a few have all been at it at some point. I saw the re-issued Solido sports cars and they looked fantastic. Now, therein lies the rub, all of the above mentioned have, by and large, matched and in many instances surpassed the quality of the original issues. Production techniques have moved on, so the Atlas re-issues of the early French Dinky issues are flawless in comparison. The Action Man 40th editions are of superb quality and are a fitting tribute to the original items. The packaging again sometimes outguns the originals. Taken purely on aesthetics it's hard to criticise what's being offered.

Then of course there's the cost of the reproductions. Some of the originals in mint and boxed condition are now out of the reach of many collectors and lesser grade items often lack the wow

factor once in the display cabinet. Also, where the Action Man 40th is concerned, reissued parts have allowed the completion of original items particularly those with easily damaged accessories. Similarly, Dan Toys and Atlas have shown real creativity by issuing models Dinky never made, all to a high standard too.

So, what's wrong with a show case full of reproductions rather than expensive originals? Let's also not forget that many collectors neither have the time nor the skills to restore tatty models to their former glory. Some just want nice models they can put in the cabinet that they can admire without fuss or drama.

I suppose trouble starts when collectors unwittingly buy reissues believing them to be originals with prices to match. Some may read this and may scoff, but if you aren't abreast of market developments you would hardly be aware that, for example, the French Dinky Isobloc coach had been re-issued? In researching this piece, I was amazed at some

of them and really had little idea of the amount of re-issued models. As with anything it all depends on the knowledge and to some extent the integrity of the vendor and the knowledge of the buyer.

I'm sure that for some the reproductions are indeed a route into the hobby, much like those who cut their teeth with Yesteryears in the boom of the 80s. I think far from thinking that there's anything sinister to be found here it's simply a case of things moving on. I can still remember a time when Dinky Toys without windows were thought to be the only thing worth collecting. Neither do I think, as some do, that they devalue the originals; I think like the antiques market changing fashions dictate values.

Surely as long as people are still buying and are enthusiastic about toys and models, does it really matter what they buy? Speaking purely for myself here I think as long as I can get an exact copy of an Iron Cross medal for my Action Man Kommandant then I'm all for it! **CG**

Model Design with film maker Pip Swallow.



Happy faces at *Miniatura*

Ann Evans visits the Autumn Miniatura Show in Stoneleigh. *Photos: Rob Tysall.*

There were smiles all round at the Miniatura Show at the beginning of October. Finally, after 18 months of postponements and disappointments as regular shows were cancelled due to Covid, the Autumn Miniatura Show went ahead. To say the atmosphere was joyful was an understatement. Exhibitors were delighted to meet up with old friends and colleagues, and visitors just couldn't wait to see what their favourite miniaturists

had been making.

As for the team at Miniatura and organiser Andy Hopwood, they were quite emotional to see their exhibitors and dolls house enthusiasts still supporting them after 18 months away.

Miniatura began back in 1983, set up by Andy Hopwood's parents, Bob and Muriel. The show was dedicated to the hobby and crafts of domestic modelling. Through the years the reputation of Miniatura has grown as it brought together the very

best miniature artisans from around the UK and abroad. These craftspeople work in 1/12 scale and related scales right down to 1/144 which allows fully furnished dolls houses to fit inside 1/12 scale dolls houses – and occasionally even smaller.

But if you're thinking dolls houses are for children, then think again. These collectors and craftspeople are discerning adults and the work they produce is exquisite and perfectly scaled. As

organiser Andy Hopwood points out: "You may think there can be nothing special about making a miniature vase, carving a tiny oak chest, or creating a small copper kettle. But remember it must be exactly to scale, from the thickness of the edges, the size of the handles to the grain of the wood. Or think about weaving a carpet; it must lie flat when finished, have a design that has been reduced in scale, and be twelve times thinner than a normal carpet. The

miniatures these artisans create really have to be seen to be believed."

The Miniatura Show took place at its new autumn venue, the NAEC Stoneleigh, which proved popular amongst exhibitors and visitors alike, with spacious aisles, ample free parking, easy access for the exhibitors to set out their stands, a café adjacent to the hall, plus hand sanitisers and seats around the exhibitors' area for those in need of a few minutes rest between shopping and



ABOVE Some of the Rugby Miniaturists.



Josephine Parnell's bear characters.



ABOVE Christmas figures by Enchanted Dolls.



FAR LEFT

Jon Trenchard adjusts Hordle Castle's dining room.

LEFT

Newly qualified for IGMA, Enchanted Dolls.

browsing.

Just about every sort of miniature was on offer, from actual dolls houses and kits in all shapes and scales; to furnishings from a wide range of periods – medieval to modern. There were dolls in 1/12 scale down to 1/48; character dolls in the form of teddies, elves, witches, kings, queens and everything in between. As for furniture, many of these artisans create their miniature cabinets, pianos, dining tables and soft furnishings as they would be made in real life; likewise, the porcelain vases and tableware are hand crafted, fired, painted and glazed to perfection; precision glassware is expertly hand blown; every sort of food imaginable looks good enough to eat.

You really are spoilt for choice.

Some of the miniaturists who exhibited had been with Miniatura since the very beginning in 1983, such as Escutcheon who make exquisite period furniture and Country Treasures who make copper, tin and enamel ware. While at the other end of the scale were newcomers to the show such as Crabpot Miniatures who make 1/12 scale miniature food, shop fittings and furniture; the Miniature Hat Boutique who create fabulous hats, corsetry, gowns and accessories; VH Miniatures who make magical and mystical polymer clay miniatures and many others.

For Timea P Vajonne, the artist behind Enchanted Dolls, there was even

more reason to feel happy as she has very recently been accepted into the prestigious IGMA organisation, (International Guild of Miniature Artisans) – created in the pursuit and recognition of excellence.

As well as the many stands selling amazing miniatures there were workshops and demonstrations, talks, advice, and displays by various experts and clubs. For instance, the Rugby Miniaturists had brought along an entire street of Parisian apartments. Kit Meggitt of Queen Elizabeth Dolls Houses ran workshops for beginners and children, while photographer Andy Spencer displayed and talked about his unique style of photography incorporating miniatures.

Pat Cutforth ran her

regular stall raising money for Cancer Research UK. Pat raised almost £5,000 over the weekend, which brings her total to £350,000 raised for Cancer Research UK over the years, 90% of that raised at Miniatura shows.

Another new section saw six amateur enthusiasts bringing along their own personal miniature passion in whatever form it took. This resulted in some wonderful displays. One being Hordle Castle made by actor Jon Trenchard. Jon began his castle with the help of his dad when he was a boy of 12, inspired by the stately homes of the National Trust. Now 30 years on, the castle – although amazing, is still a work in progress.

Forties and fifties singer, Kitten Von Mew brought along her debut dolls house, which was full of mystery and mystique, the story behind it being the house was home to a circus ringmaster who had a penchant for unusual female sideshow acts such as mermaids and bearded ladies!

Ken Bonham's passion is for historic threshing barns, and he displayed some of the models he's made in 1/100 scale. Ayari Tudor-Jones makes room boxes of her family's history which included one of a Russian Jewish shtetl from the early 1900s where her grandfather lived.

Alison Sutton meanwhile brought along a section of a Cornish harbour – in miniature of course. This was a Lockdown project. As she couldn't visit her favourite holiday destination, she created her very own little bit of Cornwall. And finally, Belinda Armstrong brought her Georgian Townhouse – also a debut project, decorated with some of the miniature works of art she had painted.

Warley Model Railway Club also had a stall at the show as they often do. And there was also a layout from Market Deeping Model Railway Club who have teamed up with writer and film director Pip Swallow with her short film project entitled *Dream Big*. Supported by the British Film Institute and under

French Fancy Productions, the film is about a young woman who can control the world through her model railway. The project also involves students from the University of Hertfordshire who had made a number of model buildings for the railway layout.

All in all, a fantastic show, which at the end of the second day ended with an impromptu round of applause by all the exhibitors and visitors – something that has never been known before.

Andy Hopwood had this to say about the two-day event: "The show felt like the celebration of miniatures we all needed. Moreover, it feels like something about the whole hobby has changed, as if there is a new generation of makers and collectors on the way. It might just be that lockdown has inspired everyone to get back in touch with crafting at home. I am really looking forward to the next show in Spring at the NEC and a whole new wave of fascination with our miniature world."

"We're seeing the amazing projects people are making at home and recognising the value of home crafting. We have younger, talented craftspeople discovering miniatures for the first time. We are getting new exhibitors and styles of miniature and a newly invigorated passion for the hobby."

"The applause at the end of the Sunday show just blew me away. It's the first time that's happened in the 38 years we've been doing the show, I think it reflects the relief we all feel at getting back to some kind of normal, it was phenomenal and it meant a lot. That applause was for everyone though – the team behind the show, the exhibitors and the visitors. The gratitude, kind comments and compliments are really appreciated. It's wonderful to know that the work that the team has put into the show beforehand to make it all happen is appreciated."

"A massive thank you to all our incredible exhibitors and to our visitors – and we look forward to another brilliant show in the springtime." **CG**

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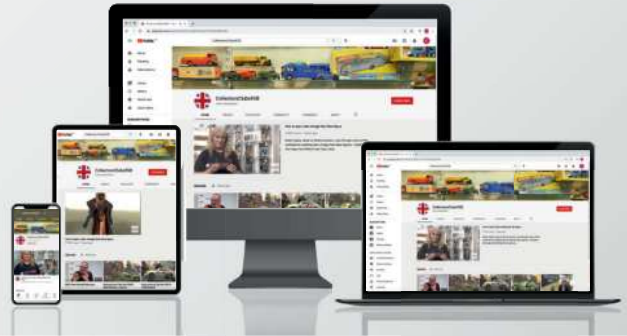
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Oz

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

Hi folks! I had a call from an old friend a few weeks back. We were at art college together back in late 1970s where she was fondly known as the 'Posh Bird.' She strutted around the art studio in here posh blue Kickers when the rest of us made do with tatty Dunlop Green Flash or cheap desert boots! She said she was clearing out some junk for yet another loft extension and wondered if I wanted the old clobber she wanted rid of. "At least it will save me going that ghastly tip Oz" she said in a tone I instantly likened to *The Good Life's* Margo Leadbetter. "Well thank you very much, I wouldn't want you to have to suffer the indignity of such a ghastly experience!" I replied. Slipping on a clean T-shirt I ambled off towards her posh Scandi-style riverside mansion wondering what this posh junk might contain? Tiffany? Lalique? ...yeah dream on Oz! Reversing slowly down her newly paved driveway I was careful not to connect the rear end of my beaten up old van with her new Mini Cooper. It was a tricky manoeuvre made worse by the granite like glares of her door bouncer-like other half who was hoisting his golf bag into a flashy posh Porsche Panamera. Quickly slinging the dozen or so black bags of 'Posh Junk' into the van I was sent packing by the 'Posh Bird', who was soon blaming me for being late for her dance class! Posh dancing, no doubt. Not much chance I'll be seeing her having a boogie down at the Old Coach & Horses anytime soon I mused as I sped off back to the reality of my life of grime!

Sorting through all the Posh Bird's tip rubbish proved very

fruitful and I unearthed loads of little gems that, not surprisingly, were far too good for the tip! Her 45rpm record collection for example, contained in a neat little 1970s style box, discarded as her music no doubt now arrives by means of a state-of-the-art computer system with speakers all over the mansion. It contained some great old vinyl including an original copy of *The Night* by Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, which I remember us all dancing to at the student disco's back in the '70s. It's a collectors item now and fetches really good money. Another little gem among the bags of old toys and games was a FAB 'Alice' walking doll in mint condition and still in its original box. It was imported from Italy and has an ingenious mechanism inside which makes her head turn from side to side as she walks. Posh or what? A very posh doll for a very posh kid! Lots more goodies were discovered in the bags but there was no sign of those old blue Kickers!

Still on the subject of posh birds a Matchbox 1-75 series *Thunderbird* car in mint condition and with a great box turned up at the big Newark Antique Fair for a very reasonable £40. It simply had to be bagged for that price and turned out to be a bit cleaner than the one in my own collection so I swapped them over. Its great when you can do that!

Boot sale buys included a trio of button badges bought for a fiver, one of which was promoting the preservation of the Settle-Carlisle railway line. Thankfully that campaign worked and the line is a national treasure. I went on a couple of 'Steam Specials' over the Settle-Carlisle many moons

ago. We used to run to the pub at Appleby Station for a pint while the engine was taking on water and supped up quickly when the engine driver blasted the engine's whistle as he knew where we all were... happy days!

An Airfix VE Day 60th Anniversary boxed set containing seven unmade kits was my best boot sale buy for a mere three quid. It had been stored in an attic for 15 years hence the box being a bit crushed but at that price who cares.

On the selling front a Britains Milk Cart made forty quid despite the horse (Trigger) having bolted leaving the Milkman (Ernie) with the slowest milk cart in the west!

A great Tiger Tim Club enamel badge was also snapped up for twelve quid by a mad keen collector who specialises in comic club badges.

On the subject of mad keen collectors I had yet another bar room encounter with Steamy Steve down at the local boozier. He's always tapping me up for interesting railway memorabilia. He's a steam engine nut who over

indulges in real ale, hence the nickname Steamy Steve. He'd been pestering me for ages to sell him an L.N.E.R 'Beware of Trains' sign I'd nailed to my shed years ago so I finally let him have it for £200 if only to be able to enjoy a peaceful pint!

Another railway item to find a happy new owner was an Acme Thunderer whistle stamped G.N.R. on one side and P1676 on the other. I assumed that the number was the owners ID number but was he a Guard or Railway Policeman? Who knows? Anyhow, after doing a bit of homework I attached a price tag of £55 and it sold in a flash.

Last but not least this month a Chad Valley tinplate toy cash box in pristine condition sold to a money box collector for £15. Luckily it still had the loose coin box inside and the original key. These were made by Metal Box in Mansfield for Chad Valley.

Well that's about all for yet another month folks. Winter is upon us again so dig out those big coats, hats and scarves and, as always, be lucky! **CG**



BELOW
In immaculate condition this Chad Valley toy cash box sold for fifteen quid.

**ABOVE**

Still in its original box and in immaculate condition this posh Italian made doll was destined for the tip until Oz came to her rescue.

**ABOVE**

First issued in 1972 The Night is a disco classic and is now a sought after record with its original MOWEST paper packet.

**BELOW**

This lovely Thunderbird with blue base and silver wheels was a great buy for forty quid.

**LEFT**

This Britains Milk Cart was almost complete but lacking a horse! It still sold for a healthy forty quid.

RIGHT
Snapped up from a boot sale this Airfix V-E Day 60th Anniversary Boxed set was fully complete and well worth the three quid Oz shelled out for it.

**RIGHT**

Three collectable badges for a fiver can't be bad can it? The Settle-Carlisle badge revived happy memories for Oz.

BELOW

This L.N.E.R. enamel railway sign was sold one of Oz's mates for £200.

**LEFT**

Tiger Tim annuals and comics are widely collected as are these Tiger Tim Club enamel lapel badges. This one dates from the 1930s.

**LEFT**

This rare Great Northern Railway whistle soon found a buyer willing to pay Oz's asking price of £55.

»EVENTS THIS MONTH

FAIRS

21 NOVEMBER

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

27 NOVEMBER

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

28 NOVEMBER

- **Wimborne**, David Rees, 01202 590158 or 07808 484414
- **Midhurst**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Haydock Park**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773 or 07825 631323
- **St Ives**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097

4 DECEMBER

- **London**, London Toy Soldier Show, 07540153368 or 01582 668411
- **Maidstone**, Maidstone Vintage Toy Fair, 01622 298159 or 01732 840787

5 DECEMBER

- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Polegate**, Eastborne Historic Vehicle Club, www.evhc.biz
- **Kempton**, RM Toys, 023 9238 1529 or 07957 823507
- **Lincolnshire**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383

11 DECEMBER

- **Gateshead**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955

12 DECEMBER

- **Stafford**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Orpington**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

19 DECEMBER

- **Coventry**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Broomfield**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Yorkshire**, Steel Promotions, 0161 283 1255 or 0161 766 2012

27 DECEMBER

- **Birmingham**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Llandudno**, Llandudno Toy & Train Fair, 01492 517004

28 DECEMBER

- **Thornbury**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857

29 DECEMBER

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

30 DECEMBER

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

AUCTIONS

19 NOVEMBER

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616
- **Chippenham**, Wessex Auction Rooms, 01249 720888

20 NOVEMBER

- **Kings Langley**, Excalibur Auctions, 02036 330913
- **Newark**, Northgate Auction Rooms, 01636 605905

22 NOVEMBER

- **Chester**, UK Toy & Models Auctions, 01270 652773 or 07892 870729
- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services, 01635 580595

23 NOVEMBER

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

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

24 NOVEMBER

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

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- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616
- **Derby**, Hansons Auctioneers, 01889 882397

3 DECEMBER

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

4 DECEMBER

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

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SPECIFICATION AND CONTENTS SUBJECT TO

- **Wednesday 1st - Dolls & Teddy Bear Sale**
- **Thursday 2nd - Specialist Diecast**
- **Tuesday 14th - Specialist Diecast**
- **Wednesday 15th - Matchbox Sale**
- **Thursday 16th - General Toy Sale**
- **Friday 17th - Model Train Sale**

Auctions commence at 10.00am unless otherwise stated.
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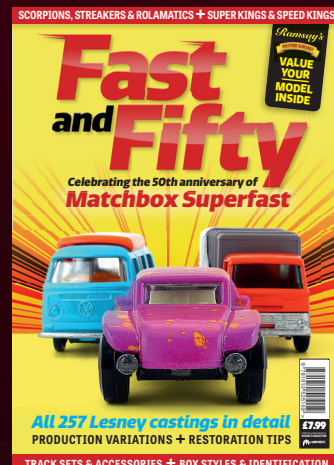
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The Battle of Britain

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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-equipped.

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

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BACKGROUND TO BATTLE



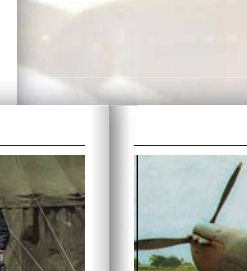
THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT

Left: A Hurricane of 501 Squadron, sent to France for an operational sortie at Bethune, France, May 1940. An RAF Hurricane High Dive bomber (right) was sent to France to deliver supplies to the British Expeditionary Force. The Hurricane High Dive bomber was sent to France to deliver supplies to the British Expeditionary Force. The Hurricane High Dive bomber was sent to France to deliver supplies to the British Expeditionary Force.



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT

Right: As the anticipated approach of German military might advanced across Europe, the steady stream of Hurricanes sent to France to deliver supplies to the British Expeditionary Force. The Hurricane High Dive bomber was sent to France to deliver supplies to the British Expeditionary Force. The Hurricane High Dive bomber was sent to France to deliver supplies to the British Expeditionary Force.



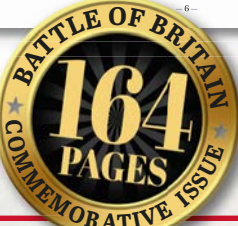
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