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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

Signs of the times

The John Goodwin November sale carried a range of collectables, from automobilia to street furniture and toys of all sorts. Our very own Oz might have been tempted by the tinplate and enamel signage: a cast iron One Way Street example made £50 whilst a Senior Service Satisfy tinplate example, in that iconic pale blue, sold for £20. More serious money (£320 to be exact) was required for the Price's Motor Oils enamel sign in red, which measured 61 x 46cm.

The auction house noted that good, unopened and unused Hornby and Bachmann made prices commensurate with discount shops' new prices, which leads one to wonder whether there is currently a shortage of good, nearly new railway stock. Fortunately, there were plenty of Bachmann, Hornby, Kitmaster, Triang and Dapol to tempt the collector.

That said, an apparently



Price's - not that well known, I suspect, which probably helped the final hammer figure.

unused Rivarossi boxed HO gauge 1240 Mallet Y6B 2197 AT & SF loco and tender in black didn't sell yet Graham Farish N gauge items swept the board, with a trio comprising a 1104 0-6-0 pannier tank, a BR Class 08 shunter and a 0-6-0 Jinty making £80; and a 371-393 Class 66 locomotive in Fast Line livery selling for £80. Finally, £60 secured seven N gauge Stainer coaches, six in maroon the seventh in the famous blood and custard paint scheme.

As for railwayana, a bargain at £10 was the BR chair (for those who

don't know, these are the cast iron rail supports that sit on the chippings: they weigh a ton, as I found out to my cost a few years back when I bought one from the Teifi Valley railway shop in Wales - and then had to carry it to the car park).

Traditional toys included a gilt coloured, Lehman tinplate clockwork airship that was sound but lacked its propeller (£65); and two unboxed Dinky lorries in reasonable condition (a Foden first series flat truck in blue and orange and a first series two tone blue tanker), made £120. ■



This charming child's rocking horse sold for £80; Tinplate Lehmann airship had seen better days but would have repaid some sympathetic restoration.

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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Marvels at Hake's



A Captain America prop, a shield used by Chris Evans in the Marvel Studios 2019 blockbuster film Avengers: Endgame, sold for an astonishing US\$259,540 at the Hake's auction on November 3. The star-embellished shield opened at US\$20,000 and attracted 17 bids before being knocked down to its new owner.

Easily the most expensive lot of the sale, the shield contributed mightily to the overall figure of US\$3.3m achieved by the event. Original comic art was led by the pen-and-ink Mickey Mouse daily comic strip panel art created by Floyd Gottfredson and Earl Duvall for publication on February



This comic sold for ten cents originally – a nice return for somebody, in my book!

20, 1931. A five-panel strip from the "Mickey Mouse vs. Kat Nipp" storyline sold within estimate for US\$45,430.

Star Wars also came to the fore: action figures and other toys showed up for a tempting selection offered on the second

A round price of almost US\$260,000 was required to take home the famous film prop.

day. The category's top lot honours were shared by two entries, each of which sold for US\$42,834. One was the Star Wars Millennium Falcon spaceship from Kenner's 1979 Star Wars range: AFA graded at 80+, it was housed in an encapsulated box while the other was one of just a few known carded examples of a 3.75 inch-tall action figure of Luke Skywalker with a double-telescoping light sabre contained within an unpunched 12 back-A blister card from Kenner's 1978 series.

Finally, pulp fiction also had its moment in the limelight. A CGC-graded 6.0 Fine copy of the November 1961 Silver Age classic Fantastic Four No 1 was significant both for its debut of Marvel's first superhero team and the first appearance of Mole Man: this sold for a staggering US\$37,269. Elsewhere, the EC Comics' Tales of Terror's 1953 Annual No3 was in astonishing condition and realised US\$27,258. ■



A very expensive pairing from the Kenner stable went to new homes via Hake's.

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Are Vanguards achieving classic status? They certainly sold well at the SAS event a few away?



Back-to-back sales

Special Auction Services has had a busy time of it recently, with two sales almost back to back.

Its general train sale on October 26 combined with the general toy sale on November 9 proved once again that the collectables market remains buoyant, the combined auctions totalling a useful £101,000.

Despite the huge amount of ready-to-run locos and rolling stock that inhabits this particular collecting segment, the train sale showed that accessories and projects can still make good money. Lot 145, which comprised a number of boxed Hornby-Dublo signals, was taken to £240, while another lot featured modern EFE 1938 Underground stock, some of which was fitted with Tenshodo motor bogies and which was, as such, an uncompleted project. In spite of this, the assortment was still

bid to £260. Elsewhere, an almost complete set of Yeadon's Register of LNER locomotives was vigorously contested to £270, showing that not all books have lost their value. Even less than perfect railway items found new homes for decent prices, as witnessed by a Hornby 0 gauge SR pink refrigerator van which made £120, this despite being in only fair condition with a repainted roof. Such results, one imagines, are very encouraging for the sector.

As for the toy sale, the event illustrated that modern vehicles continue to be increasingly popular, despite what some pundits may feel. A number of OOC buses sold for £420, while 39 Lledo Vanguards settled on a winning bid of £400. A total of ten Creative Master Northcord Single Deck London buses raised a creditable £400. ■

NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH



Ixo MG METRO 6R4 #4 RAC RALLY 1986

T.POND/R.ARTHUR

Price: £79.99 Scale: 1/18 Release: out now
Ixo's large-scale replicas are a real joy, balancing superb attention to detail with real value for money. Excellent finish on this most fabulous of Metros.

» www.ayrey.co.uk

CORGI FORD LOTUS CORTINA MK2 - AMBER GOLD COLIN CHAPMAN'S CAR

Price: £32.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
Marvellous finish to this excellent casting. Such an understated car for the great man, but that badge on the rear flank says it all. Limited edition of 1,200.

» www.corgi.co.uk



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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Of Bugattis... and Bullitt

British Toy Auctions' last sale spanned all sorts of collecting areas and included Steiff, Corgi (both ancient and modern), the ubiquitous Dinky Toys, Lego, plenty of railway collectables, as well as lots from Forces of Valor, Kenner, Franklin Mint, Hart and Trendmaster.

A boxed clockwork Shackleton Foden FG flatbed truck sold well. An untested model, with a blue cab and back, red

wheel arches and light grey base, it appeared to be in very good overall condition, with just a few small chips and signs of light play wear. Unfortunately, the spare wheel was detached from the base but the model was supplied with its original key and realised £380. A couple of Paya tinplate models also came up for grabs: the more interesting was the boxed model No 970, a limited edition Bugatti, this number 796 of 5,000 produced. Approximately

48 cm in length and made in the 1980s, it was in good overall condition, with only some minor marks and signs of age-related display wear and use. While the certificates were present the box was poor, yet it still sold for £240.

Finally, for fans of Steve McQueen, the boxed Danbury Mint 1:24 scale 1968 Ford Mustang GT from the film "Bullitt" attracted lots of interest. The classic "pony car" was finished in green and was in mint

condition, being housed in a perfect original polystyrene inner, whilst being presented in an excellent external white

cardboard Danbury Mint box, this exhibiting some storage wear. A bit of a chase led to it finally selling for £110. ■



Seems like only yesterday that this Paya Bugatti was available... but in fact it's four decades old now.

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Bear essentials at Vectis



For bear collectors who like some thing different? Please can we introduce you to Karl...

Vectis held no fewer than seven sales last month, begging the question of whether the entire world is selling up its toy collections...

For furry ursine fanciers (that's bears to you), one star of the show was a Steiff Karl Lagerfeld teddy bear in white alpaca, complete with a gold coated button within his ear, and designed to be a likeness of the famous fashion designer. Unusual, I

think you'll agree – and the hammer price of £3,360 bears (ouch) out that assertion. He was eclipsed, though, by a bear with WW2 history, having been with its owner, Ileene Rita Smith, who worked in the War Ministry in a team organising the North Atlantic Convoys. Evocative photographs accompanied this Steiff bear (who dated from around 1908) and he was rehomed for £3,840.

A rare JR 21 Toy Captain Scarlet Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle with plastic friction drive, including an acceptable box, settled on £960;

but this was small beer compared with the Dinky 141 Vauxhall Victor Estate Car in dark maroon, a rare promotional issue featuring the "Lightning Fasteners Ltd Technical Service" rubric. That hit just over £5,000 – not bad for a decal. Meanwhile, £840 was the winning bid for a selection of Raleigh Chopper spares and accessories, which included tyres and a bicycle frame. Clearly demand for this iconic transport remains unabated. Several lots of Meccano went through the auctions, some selling remarkably cheaply

although a 1950s era red and green No.10 Outfit, believed complete and housed in an original cabinet, stood out: its contents were substantially original but the box did contain a quantity of very well restored red and green parts. This raised a creditable £1,200.

Finally, big boys' toys: an ACE O gauge E/9 4-6-2 Streamline Battle of Britain Class "Spitfire" loco, BR and lined in green, was fitted out for three-rail electric running: a mint example, it sold for £744. ■



BRITAIN WEATHERED DAVID BROWN 1210 TRACTOR

Price: £27.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
It's a weathered or rusty finish for this 'at work' version of Britains' David Brown tractor. It has steerable wheels and working linkage.

» www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk

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■ HOBBY NEWS



Classic Bentley next for Corgi Model Club

First released by Corgi Toys in 1961, originally in two variations – either black/silver or two-tone green – this lavishly-featured model was given jewelled lights, an opening boot (that housed a spare wheel), ‘Glidamatic’ suspension and innovative fingertip ‘self-centering’ steering. The look was completed by silver plated bumpers

and a radiator capped with Bentley’s iconic ‘Flying B’ mascot – simplified somewhat due to the model’s 1/50 scale. This extensive tooling was rumoured to have been too expensive for the Corgi factory to maintain, hence its deletion in 1965, despite sales of over 960,000. In typically idiosyncratic Corgi fashion, the box depicted an all-green Bentley – a colour the model was never available in.

The model has been lovingly retooled and is the next exciting release in the Corgi Model Club’s impressive line up. The first examples will be with early club members by the time this issue goes on sale. To find out more about the new releases, and to start collecting these terrific recreations, ‘join’ the club - for more information, go to www.corgimodelclub.com. ■

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

Coming up NEXT MONTH

FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE



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Looking at Matchbox 1-75: Hong Kong plastic copies from the 1950s and '60s

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CORGI HWRIGHTBUS NEW ROUTEMASTER 'RELEASE THE KRAKEN' - SPECIAL EDITION ROUTE A

Price: £42.99 Scale: 1/76 Release: out now
Limited to just 500, this is a re-release of our front cover model (different destination), in exquisite special packaging to match the bus's livery.

» www.corgi.co.uk



HOLLAND OTO / BUCKIE MODEL VDL FUTURA - HEMMINGS COACHES

Price: £39.60 Scale: 1/87 Release: out now
Limited to 100 pieces, this sixth release in The British Coach Collection is another lovely model. The finish is top notch and the graphics are great.

» www.buckiemodelcentre.com



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What was the year?

In which **Alwyn Brice** takes a trip down Memory Lane. Can you guess the year?

If truth be told, the weather played quite a role in this month's mystery year. The Chaitén volcano, which can be found in Chile, entered a new eruptive phase for the first time since around 1640.

In May it was the wind, though, as cyclone Nargis passed through Myanmar, contributing to the deaths of more than 138,000 people. That same month an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter Scale struck Sichuan, in China, killing an estimated 87,000 people.

There was tragedy elsewhere this year, for on August 20 Spanair Flight 5022 crashed at Madrid-Barajas airport, killing 154 people on board.

In contrast, in the UK, it was celebration time, as Terminal 5 was opened at Heathrow. Unfortunately, the made-for-BA

terminal was dogged by IT and other problems which led to many hundreds of cancelled flights. And do you remember another grand opening, that of Lapland New Forest, a Christmas-themed park in Dorset? This, alas, closed after receiving numerous complaints about the poor quality of its attractions. Snow joke!

January was the final working month of the Tower Colliery, the last deep mine in the South Wales Valley, and thus marked the end of an era.

It was also a year of firsts: over in the US, Democratic Senator Barack Obama was elected the 44th President of the United States, making him the first African-American president and securing his place in history. In the world of sport Lewis Hamilton, aged just 23, became the first

black driver to become Formula One World Champion, and only the second youngest driver to achieve the feat. The Summer Olympics took place in Beijing this year while at Wimbledon, Roger Federer came up against second-ranked Rafael Nadal: it took the latter five sets to defeat the favourite. For the ladies it was the Williams sisters' double act again. As for the beautiful game, this year Manchester United secured their tenth Premier League title in 16 years, winning 2-0 at Wigan Athletic on the final day of the league season.

Literature was also in the limelight: it was the National Year of Reading, which was essentially a year-long celebration of reading, in all its forms.

In terms of music, the Eurovision Song Contest this

year was held in Belgrade and was won by Russian entrant named Dima Bilan with the song *Believe*. And Sweden was ahead of the curve when it saw the launch of the Spotify music streaming service.

Top of the pops UK successes came from the likes of Duffy with her album *Rockferry* and Adele's debut release *19*, although Alexandra Burke's *Hallelujah* was the best-selling single.

Toys? The Air Hogs Havoc Heli Laser Battle from Spin Master comprised a couple of remote-controlled helicopters with which to do battle – a short lifespan was guaranteed. Transformers picked up a plaudit as did Pokemon Action Figures; and it was the year of the Hanna Montana singing doll.

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

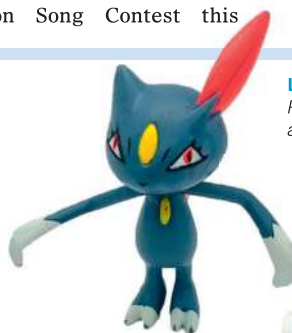
RIGHT

I couldn't find an Air Hogs helicopter game (presumably few survived!) but this Air Hogs Wind Chaser smart kite was out at the same time.



LEFT

Pokemon figures got in on the action this year...



LEFT

The Littlest Pet Shop franchise had small girls swooning: this Round and Round Pet Town playset was the one to have.



RIGHT

Singing dolls were in (well, they were a change from those that wet their nappies or cried): Hanna Montana made the most of eyeliner.



ABOVE

McDonald's was still churning out toys for the collector. This familiar dustbin was just one released this year.



Deco *delight*



Mark Nolan turns art expert, profiling the influence of Art Deco styling on the trains and infrastructure of the inter war period.

Anyone brought up in the Home Counties of the early 60s was living in a bubble of privilege and opportunity. We didn't know it at the time, but we were a generation blessed with a rare opportunity; that of being old enough to experience life before the internet and mobile phones, yet young enough to adapt to the digital revolution when it arrived.

In those early years, few of us knew or cared what Art Deco was. We had enough trouble getting our heads round the suburban Mock Tudor which surrounded us. It was only much later that we realised the weird concrete structures we took for granted had been part of an unprecedented style revolution. Cinemas, shops (especially their frontages, which was often as deep as it went) were flaunting symmetrical curves and highlights; items ranging from domestic appliances to crockery and furniture had to have that modern look. The heavy Bakelite telephone rooted to the hall table? Deco. The go-faster grills on the radiogram? Deco.

At the gestation of the railways, the Victorian style sensibility favoured ornate, fussy embellishment, and railway companies used this to reassure a nervous public that their services were safe. The following Arts and Crafts movement with its honest, rustic ethos passed the railways

by; Art Nouveau with its organic, natural shapes was similarly unsuited to being exploited by the railways, although the decorative ironwork on the Paris Metro made good use of the medium.

What was needed was a style for the Machine Age, and Deco was it. A common Deco building design incorporated a stepped pyramid, which suited the building methods of the day. As well as being practical for poured concrete construction, it was strong with neat lines, yet could also handle flowing curves. Add some restrained vertical highlights with vibrant colours like orange, green, royal blue and yellow and voila!

From originating in building design, the concept leaped to transport, with railways in pole position to use it for stations and publicity, and its natural conclusion; streamlining.

Although Art Deco originated in Europe, it was of course the Americans who took it most to their bosom. Seemingly with the motto "if it's worth doing, it's worth overdoing", they took it to its extreme and then pushed it a bit further, resulting in some of the most glorious (or hideous depending on your taste) Art Deco streamlined styling the world has ever seen.

The streamline era was the last throw of the dice for classic American train travel. Endeavouring to keep up with

ABOVE

Hornby Coronation 6221 Queen Elizabeth.



ABOVE

Rivarossi Hudson class J3a with number 5446, The New York Central streamliner was modified by Henry Dreyfuss to haul the crack '20th Century Limited' express. The model features correct Box Pok driving wheels and working headlamp. Length 35cm. Produced by Rivarossi from 1971 until 1994.



ABOVE

Rivarossi Hudson detail.

**ABOVE**

Hornby-Dublo D1 cast aluminium through station. These models replaced the wooden buildings and were painted to represent reinforced concrete. Extension platforms were available and are now worth more than the main building. This example has added posters and the unusual angle clearly shows its Deco features.

**ABOVE**

Bachmann Art Deco Signal Box. The Southern Railway built many stylish Deco brick and concrete signal boxes in the 1930s which are also referred to as 'Odeon' or 'glass house' style. This model bears a strong resemblance to the signal boxes at Dorking North, Bognor Regis and Templecombe.

BELOW

Bachmann 65252 GG1 Electric Pennsylvania in Tuscan Red, catalogue no. 4876. This model features die-cast frame, 12-wheel drive, twin operating metal pantographs and soft white LED directional headlights with dimming function.



the air and automobile industries, the private rail companies tried to style their trains like planes and cars. Lightweight materials like aluminium (aka aloominum) and new fabricating techniques meant the designers could run riot. Streamline shrouds on steam locos didn't make them go any faster, but it undoubtedly made them look more modern. Names like Henry Dreyfuss (New York Central), Raymond Loewy (Pennsylvania Railroad) and Otto Kuhler (various lines) were feted by the independent railroad companies.

THE DREYFUS HUDSON

One of the finest examples was the New York Central Hudson locomotive, 'Hudson' being the 4-6-4 wheel arrangement. A fleet of 205 locos were built for various railroads by the American Locomotive Company (ALCO) between 1927-38 for express passenger duties. In 1938 ten Hudsons were streamlined by Henry Dreyfuss who designed the bodywork cleverly to not interfere with maintenance of mechanical parts. These locomotives became the symbol of the New York Central, hauling the crack '20th Century Limited' express.

Two further locos were streamlined in 1941 with plated and stainless steel in a distinctive black and silver livery. These hauled the Empire State Express running between Cleveland and New York, and Detroit and New York.

Their power came in at top speed but they weren't so good at climbing hills or actually starting, requiring a booster engine on the trailer truck for this purpose. They also featured a water scoop to take water at speed. Sadly all of the Dreyfuss Hudsons were scrapped when diesel power replaced steam, with the exception of one tender which was converted to a steam generator and later preserved. With no complete Dreyfuss Hudsons surviving, a vital part of transport history has been lost forever.

Lionel has issued O gauge Hudsons frequently during its long life. MTH also issued one in the late 80s/early 90s. AC Gilbert produced an American Flier S gauge model from 1946-64 and Marx produced a non-streamlined Hudson from 1954-63. More recently Bachmann issued an N gauge super Hudson featuring a diecast metal boiler.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD GG1

The GG-1 electric loco was introduced by the Pennsylvania Railroad, which needed a locomotive that could pull more rolling stock at greater speeds. The class was

known for its long operating career of more than fifty years. Between 1934 and 1943, General Electric and the PRR's Altoona Works built 139 GG1s. They later ran on successor railroads Penn Central, Conrail, and even Amtrak. The last GG1 was retired by New Jersey Transit in 1983. Sixteen of the class have survived in museums.

UK STREAMLINING

Not to be outdone by the USA, the UK had its own streamlined locos; Gresley's elegant A4 class including 'Silver Link', and Stanier's more brutal Princess Coronation class. These locos competed on the Anglo Scottish routes and will be covered in more detail in a future article.

DECO BUILDINGS

One of the prime advocates of Deco architecture was none other than W J Bassett-Lowke, the owner of the eponymous toy train manufacturer, who had considered becoming an architect himself. He had a Deco house called 'New Ways' designed by Peter Behrens, and associated with Frank Pick and James Holden, who both had a huge influence on the design style of the London Underground.

The most obvious manifestation of Bassett-Lowke's interest in modern architecture is the wooden model of Ashfield Tube Station. The models are O gauge and comprise a 52" platform with fencing, canopy, main building and clock tower.

The Trix Manyways Station system is late Deco, with a main entrance similar to Victoria Coach Station. The grey metal components include platforms, curved roof canopies and buildings which can be grouped together in, well, many ways.

The development of third rail electrification by the Southern Railway meant they leap-frogged their competition during the inter war years. The rapid expansion of the network demanded efficient modular units both reconstruction and new build stations. The result was cast concrete components, steel canopies and a Bauhaus ethos to the station buildings, with Surbiton and Chessington North being prime examples; a style which became known as 'Streamline Moderne'.

What was good for railways was good for model railways; the modern look was easier to produce commercially than the ornate Victorian buildings. After an initial run of contemporary buildings in wood, Hornby-Dublo produced stations, platforms and signal boxes made from aluminium and painted to resemble concrete construction. **CG**

**LEFTS**

Box label showing the Trix Manyways station catalogue no. 3006. The system is late Deco, with a main entrance similar to Victoria Coach Station. The grey metal components include platforms, curved roof canopies and buildings.

Adventures in the 1970s

A time when Action Man grew a beard, pulled on a thick jumper, and climbed a cliff face with just a rope! **James Orwell** looks at the vintage Adventurer figures!

In 1966 Palitoy's launch of Action Man was spectacularly successful, but also quite straight forward. As a boxed figure he was either a soldier, a sailor, or a pilot. Alternative outfits and weapons packs were sold separately. In 1968 a 4th boxed figure was added, a talking Commander with a pull cord, internal mechanism and 5 random spoken phrases. All sold in their thousands! But by 1970 it was time for further updates to the boxed figures range. Firstly, Action Man's appearance changed noticeably with the introduction of flocked hair. Secondly, updated outfits for some of the boxed figures – a new soldier uniform, this time with a machine gun, and a new updated sailor outfit. And third, two new roles for Action Man: the Sportsman and (the focus of our study today) the Adventurer!

The first Adventurer figure from 1970 is one of the iconic

figures in the vintage series. Along with the Sportsman he was non-Military. That said, I always liked to think of him as being a military man who was on leave, or maybe on an undercover mission? But either way it gave parents an option to buy something that wasn't portrayed as a military or war related doll.

The figure, like the Sailor, also had a flocked beard! In fact, throughout the series, and subsequent updates, the Adventurer and the Sailor were always bearded. The Adventurer came with a straight forward outfit with no accessories included: A white thick roll neck jumper, blue jeans – occasionally these were a denim look similar to the French Resistance Fighter outfit of the late 1960s, but more often a pale blue chino type jean with white stitching, and some light tan boots. The boots remained unique to this figure and are a nice variant to add to your modern day

collection. The box art showed him on a snowy mountain side looking into the distance, his tent in the background. Probably planning the next stage of his Everest ascent? The artwork nicely tied the figure to some of the Adventurer accessories that already existed in the range – 1969s base camp set (including an orange tent, Union Jack flag and assorted mountaineering bits of kit), and the Polar Explorer accessories kits which included things like ski's, a husky pulled sled, anorak's and snow shoes.

The first update to the Adventurer figure came in 1973. This coincided with another well documented evolution of the figures, the change from hard fixed hands to softer rubber gripping hands. Four new figure boxes and outfits were released in '73, a new Soldier, Sailor, Commander and Adventurer. The Adventurer's outfit changed slightly. From this point onwards

his roll neck jumper would be navy. His boots reverted to standard Action Man black. He also came in either brown or blond hair and beard. The updated box art showed him climbing a cliff face with a rope, and looking in a somewhat precarious position with the rocks crumbling beneath his feet. There is a little known variation in the box art here that's worth looking out for. The very earliest releases of this box show a rope without knots in it and the side panel shows the Talking Commander as well as the Sailor and the Soldier. Within a year the art had changed slightly to show knots in the rope he was climbing; there was some extra text added to the lower left of the front stating 'Made in Hong Kong'; and the side panel had replaced the Commander with another image of the Adventurer himself. There doesn't appear to be much of a price difference on the secondary market between these two box variations, but it's an interesting one to look out for.

The third major change to the Adventurer figure and his box art came in 1977. This was when the famous Eagle Eyes were introduced. The new box art was in line with the whole '77 series and showed the face and upper body, rather than the full pose. These releases had fine artwork and again included the Soldier and Sailor, the new Pilot, the ultra-rare Indian Brave and Cowboy, and our own Adventurer. A nice

LEFT

Comparison photo of the last releases. The 1979 Palitoy Adventurer and the 1980 French Miro-Meccano Aventurier. Nearer identical artwork, just a different face. But why no beards in France?





ABOVE

Action Man Adventurer, all ready to go!

series to put together for the artwork alone. The Adventurer's outfit was unchanged from the 1973 release. The box art showed him with his trusty rope once more and it's a shame the boxed figure didn't come with a rope or any accessories. Again these could be purchased on separate cards.

1979 saw the final domestic release of the Adventurer figure. This coincided with the last major change to the vintage doll, the addition of his blue moulded trunks and his more "dynamic physique". This is a fine and quite rare box. Pale green background, side flap, and artwork that matched the look of the boxes that would run for the next 4 years, the serious pose that also adorned the Soldier, Commander, Pilots (2 colour variations), SAS, Frogman,

can command prices of £200+ at auction today. The first release from 1970 and the '77 update are easier to find but still command £150+ today. The '73 release was produced in greater numbers over its 4 year run and today can be found for around £100 subject to condition.

Domestically that covers the boxed Adventurer figures. Spain's Action Man, known as Geyperman, had alternative versions of the Adventurer in more colourful outfits and including weapons and accessories. As did the German releases of their Action Team series. But they will have to be covered in a future article I think. But one foreign release I feel I must mention, because it so closely mirrors the UK releases, is the French Meccano branded

I always liked to think of him as being a military man who was on leave, or maybe on an undercover mission?

Space series figures and the Basic nude figures. Despite being the last release, it was available for a much shorter period, and whilst all the aforementioned figures from 1979 saw an updated simplified box version in '81 (no side flap but same artwork), the Adventurer himself was retired in 1980, never to return to the original series. The Sailor had already retired by 1978, and it was likely that the series move towards Space adventurer meant the mountain climbing adventures of Action Man had to make way for the newer Sci-Fi focussed direction the line would take.

As far as rarity goes, the 1979 box is hard to find. Complete and good condition versions

Adventurer Action Man. I found this one a few years ago - there's always new versions to catch you out in this game! Here the box art closely matches the '79 UK release, the back ground is yellow not green, there's no side flap to the box, but... the big difference... have you spotted it? No beard! Why? I've no idea? Both the front, rear and side panel artwork show a clean-shaven adventurer. The figure inside also has no beard. His outfit is identical to the UK version though. A cool and quirky variation that was a delight for me to discover and purchase a few years ago. I wonder what other Action Man Adventurer variations remain out there still to be discovered? That's an adventure I'll always keep returning to...**CG**



LEFT

The first version of the Adventurer from 1970. Note the hard hands and tan boots. (Image courtesy of Vectis).



RIGHT

Second issue Adventurer, 1973. Softer hands, navy jumper, black boots. Note the lack of knots in his climbing rope!



LEFT

The 1977 Adventurer. Same outfit, but with Eagle Eyes! Nice box art, still climbing that rope! (Image courtesy of Vectis).



RIGHT

The final domestic Adventurer from 1979-80. New box art and a figure with blue trunks and a dynamic physique.

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Carr's biscuit tin buses

Collector and *Collectors Gazette* reader
David Wallace takes us on a bus ride down
memory lane...

This is an item that was manufactured as a container for Carr's Table Water biscuits and then to be handed on to a child to be used as a plaything. It was a good marketing ploy that is still used today by companies such as Marks and Spencer. The difference is that this tin bus had wheels that moved around and sometimes a clockwork motor as well as being, in the authors opinion, a truly wonderful representation of the real bus it was based upon.

It is a model of an early STL (Short Type Long or Lengthened) known as the 'Leaning Back' STL. Early examples of the tin bear the registration number AYV 604 indicating that the real bus it was based upon was registered in 1934. The manufacturers probably used photographs of the real bus and may have visited the garage where it was based. Whilst not necessarily a scale model in the true sense some research clearly went into the development of the project prior to manufacture. Furthermore, the bus carries garage plates showing AP3 which is Seven Kings Garage. STL 446 is pictured on page 28 in the book *The STLs* by Ken Blacker, published by Capital Transport.

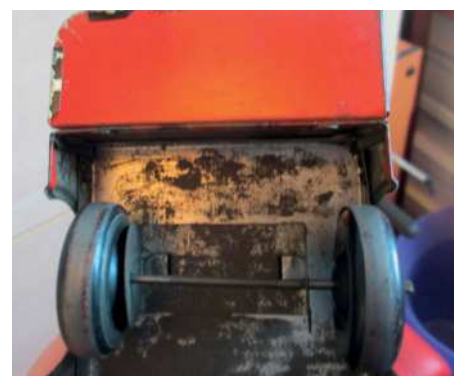
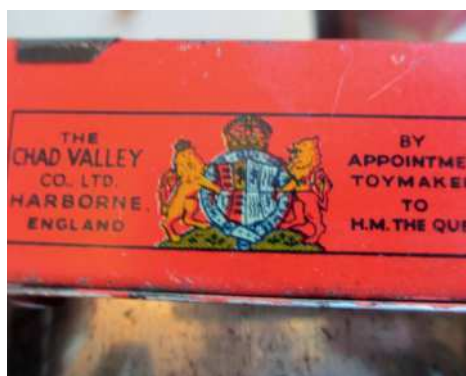
The real bus was STL 446 which was new in June 1934 to the London Transport Passenger Board and is an AEC Regent fitted with a six-cylinder petrol engine and carrying a Chiswick body with H30/26R

configuration. Records show that it was converted to diesel in June 1939, and sold to Mann Egerton in Norwich for a rebuild in May 1948. The bus was withdrawn from service by LT in January 1953 and sold to W. North of Leeds. It comprised one of 400 'Leaning Back' STLs operated by London Transport.

Carr's Biscuits was founded in Carlisle by Jonathan Dodgson Carr in 1831. Over the years the company has made around three hundred different varieties of biscuit but they are best known for their Table Water Biscuits, for which the bus is a promotional. Water biscuits were a refinement of the ship's biscuit; in order to keep the biscuits fresh on long voyages, water was used instead of fat to blend the ingredients. They are still baked today using traditional brick ovens as originally established by Jonathan Dodgson Carr. The Carlisle factory is the oldest continually operating biscuit factory in the world. Carr and Company was sold to United Biscuits in 1972 and is now part of the Pladis organisation. Carr's water biscuits are still available today.

The first promotional STL biscuit tins were made by Barringer, Wallis and Manners in the mid to late 1930s specially for Carr's of Carlisle. The author has been unable to find the exact date of production. The staff at Pladis were very helpful but said that records were not available. As the bus is based on a 1934 STL it is reasonable to assume





that the tin was made from 1934 or 1935 onwards. Due to the unavailability of records it has not been possible to know how many were produced.

Barringer et al made decorated tin products of various kinds including biscuit tins for the trade, confectionary tins and brewery trays. They made transport related tins for Crawford's Biscuits, Huntley and Palmers and other items for Carr's including a tram and a car.

When the Great War ended in 1918, toy imports declined and Barringer et al began to produce tin toys to meet the demand.

Printing on tinplate involved an offset lithographic process. The image is inked onto a plate and is offset onto a rubber sheet, or blanket, before being transferred onto the final tinplate surface.

Barringer et al made toys for Burnett Ltd. These included the well known Ubilda series and various transport items such as cars, buses, trains and ships.

By the late 1930s the company was in financial difficulties and was taken over by the Metal Box Company in July 1939. A month later, World War II broke out and production was eventually transferred to manufacturing metal related items for the conflict.

When the war ended in 1945 and normal production slowly and gradually resumed Metal Box was producing tin toys for Chad Valley who had the distribution network, a reputation for toys and a well-known brand name.

The old Burnett toys and any special promotionals such as the Carr's biscuit tin bus, were modified to include the Chad Valley brand name. Before the war Chad Valley had produced a wide range of games, cards, dolls and soft toys but not metal toys.

Chad Valley took its name from the valley of the Chad Brook in Harborne, Birmingham where the factory was located in 1920. The company was started by the Johnson family in the nineteenth century with early production developing from cards to games.

The company received the Royal Warrant in 1938 after permission was granted to make dolls of the two princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret Rose. A jigsaw puzzle was also marketed with images of the princesses. The warrant reads 'Toymakers to H.M. The Queen'. Chad Valley made sure that this was printed or sewn onto all of their toys.

The Carr's biscuit tin bus, when made for Chad Valley after the war, has the Royal Warrant printed onto the base. This has caused some confusion, at times, with toy collectors thinking that the warrant refers to Queen Elizabeth II because it refers to The Queen. It does, of course, refer to the Queen Consort of King George VI. In 1952 the warrant was changed to read 'Toymakers to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother'. This warrant is not found on the Chad Valley biscuit tin bus as it was no longer made by 1952.

In 1946 Chad Valley moved

tin toy production in-house after acquiring a number of specialist firms skilled in areas such as cutting and folding metal, making clockwork motors and precision engineering equipment.

Due to a steel shortage in the post-War years most of the biscuit tin buses were made of aluminium. They tend to carry the registration number CV10045 front and back but some have AYV604 on the front and CV10045 on the back. The opposite can also be found with CV10045 on the front and AYV604 on the back. They were, of course, toys and not models in the modern sense and perhaps little attention would be given to such details especially as the back section was a separate piece to the rest of the body of the bus. Consequently, the number plates were sometimes mixed up.

The pre-War biscuit tin buses carry advertisements for Carr's on both the near side and offside of the bus whereas the post-War versions have Carr's on the offside and Chad Valley on the nearside. Chad Valley liked to show that they made a toy and tended to mention the brand as boldly as possible. Pre-War versions were not made by Chad Valley and as such their name is nowhere to be found on pre-war versions. Barringer, Wallis and Manners tended to prefer anonymity and as such there is no reference to them on the pre-war buses. These items were made solely for Carr's.

The Royal Warrant gained in

1938 is printed on the rear of the base on all post-War biscuit buses but does not appear on pre-War buses because pre-War buses were not made by Chad Valley. Chad Valley did not make tin toys pre-War and the Carr's buses were in production before 1938. There is much confusion in the toy collecting world about this, so it is hoped that some measure of clarity has been achieved here.

The biscuit buses were red with a silver/grey removable lid pre-war. Inside the lid was a pack of Carr's Table Water Biscuits. Post-War the lid was dark grey. Pre-War buses are usually free-wheeling as they do not have a motor. Most post-War versions have clockwork motors operated by a separate pressed tin key. The round Wee-Kin key has nothing to do with this bus and belongs to the Wee-Kin diecast range of Chad Valley toys.

A green version of the bus was made from 1945 and is lacking in some of the detail carried by the red bus and has a yellow roof. It is unlikely that the green bus has any link to Carr's Biscuits as the brand is not mentioned in the lithography. This was perhaps just sold as a toy. This green bus is usually made from steel (tinplate) and as such is much heavier than the aluminium buses. Both buses are ten inches long.

It is hoped that a measure of clarity has been achieved here and that some of the myths about this wonderful toy have been put in perspective. **CG**

To display or *not to display?*

Where do you put yours... in the loft? Under the bed?
Or how about taking pride of place in their own room...

That is the question. Just a little abduction of a famous saying, but to a lot of collectors it is a quandary. If, like most of us, you have spent many an hour and some of your hard earned cash lovingly putting your collection together, whether by design or by accident, you will have quite a collection of models. But do you put your treasures in the loft, under the bed or in the wardrobe for safe keeping, of course, kept neat and tidy in their boxes or do you put them on display for all to see?

There are all sorts of problems when trying to find storage solutions; from talking to people, there is always the question, 'where do I put it?' or 'will the wife let me put a cabinet in the living room?' Some collectors are lucky enough to have their own room for their collection, but more often than not collectors' partners are happy to allow the models to be on display.

Ever since collectors first started collecting there have been display cabinets. In the early 1990s there were so many suppliers and manufacturers

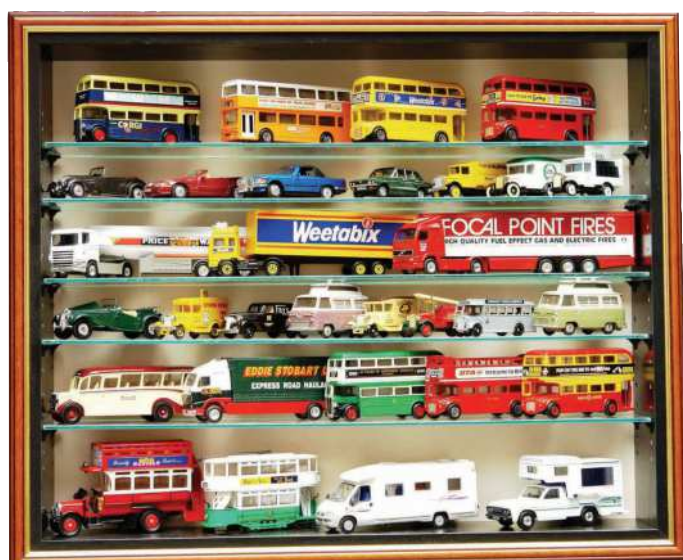
that the market was flooded with a large variety of all shapes and sizes with varying prices; some 15/20 cabinet suppliers were vying for customers. Now there is a choice of only a few main manufacturers who are still producing quality display cabinets for collectors.

It comes down to personal choice as to what is suitable for each individual collection – so what are the choices? Colour of the frame and carcass is dependant on the colour scheme in the room where the cabinet is to go and all manufacturers offer

a wide choice, from a painted carcass with choice of frame colours and backing, to real wood finishes in oak, pine, mahogany or walnut.

The choice of door hanging, or not as the case may be, is another matter for the buyer to consider. There are three choices – hinged doors that open like a window, take-off frames i.e. you remove clips and take the whole glazed front off to access your models, and sliding doors, although these





are not 100% dust proof.

Collectors also need to decide on shelf width; these are available from 2", 3", 4" and 6" and the size depends on which scale you collect, or if you collect a variety of scales. To simplify the problem, the 2" is suitable for soldiers, 3" for Lledo and most 1/43 scale models and 4" for 1/76, 1/54, 1/43. Having a 4" width also enables you to put your model at an angle, therefore maximising the amount you can display. And trust me, when you first start to fill your prized cabinet, your models will be sympathetically spread out, but as time goes on and your collection grows, you will squeeze as many in as possible! The 6" width cabinet is suitable for 1/24 and 1/18 scale models and with a little imagination will take most people's collections, or part of it.

To help decide which cabinet is best for a particular collection, you will first need to find out the length of cabinet required. Most come in either 24", 36" or 42" lengths, but you will need to take away approx 30mm as this is the thickness of the carcass. Cut a piece of paper to that length then cut it to 2", 3", 4" or 6" wide strips and think of them as glass shelves. Put your models on whichever way you think is best. Count how many shelves you need and add one more for the bottom, then multiply that by how many models you have on each shelf and that will give you a good idea how many items you can get in one cabinet.

To complicate matters even further, there are square cabinets, i.e. 24" x 24", vertical, or horizontal. Then there is a choice

of fixed shelving (although this does tie you to a certain height of cabinet) or adjustable shelving, which allows you to put any scale model in one cabinet.

Wall cabinets have been available in these formats for many years and are still popular to this day, but with the introduction of the Corgi Aviation Archives' collection of aeroplanes, the wall mounted cabinets are unsuitable for display purposes and one or two cabinet makers have produced free standing cabinets to cater for this larger plane (these aren't 100% dust proof, however).

With the introduction of the 1/12 models, mainly, for example, Sunstar buses and the larger plant and farm machinery models, there was a need for individual cases and one or two manufacturers

have taken up the challenge here, offering a wide selection of one-off table-top display cabinets, mostly made in the new clear plastic, which come complete with a choice of bases. The use of plastic covers is now becoming more popular, as the new acrylic is crystal clear and manageable if creating a seamless finish and, as a safety factor, if accidentally knocked over or dropped, it doesn't create a safety hazard with children around.

So, if you are in the market for a display cabinet, whether it is a wall mounted, free standing or table-top model, most collector's magazines carry adverts for the products. And of course there is the wonder that is the internet. You can probably find just what you are looking for from the comfort of your sofa! **CG**



10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Palitoy

Growing up the Palitoy name didn't really mean a great deal. In fact, the name on the packaging of numerous *Star Wars* or Action Man figures was hardly noticed as they were gleefully ripped open to snag the contents inside. Now, of course, I realise just how much influence the Palitoy name had on my formative years, as many of my favourite toys – particularly those based on *Star Wars* – were all made by the Leicestershire-based company.

Nowadays, the Palitoy name is big business with collectors willing to pay large money for that all-important logo. Take the *Star Wars* auction at Vectis in which a Boba Fett figure sold for an incredible £18,000. In some ways it wasn't the figure that people were paying for, it was the name on the blister pack because the Palitoy logo was slightly unusual compared to more common examples. Now auctioneers are crying out for those original Palitoy *Star Wars* figures because there simply aren't enough to go around – once again another testament to the company's influence.

Before we move on to the history of Palitoy, it's worth mentioning that interest in the company is still so high that urban legends about it are in abundance. One of the most engaging is that when the factory closed hundreds, if not thousands, of *Star Wars* figures were sent to landfill. Many have tried to pinpoint where that landfill might be, just in case the figures have somehow survived. Now, this may sound fanciful but

a similar rumour did the rounds about Atari's *ET* videogame, released in 1982. Atari had high hopes for the game, as it was based on the hugely popular Spielberg film, and manufactured five million cartridges – sadly only one and a half million were sold and the rest had to be sent to landfill. Incredibly the landfill site was located and 1,300 of the original 700,000 cartridges were discovered, with others buried too deep to excavate. So, some urban legends are true... time to get your metal detectors out everyone!

Although Palitoy is best known for Action Man and *Star Wars*, the company's history dates back to 1919 when, at the age of just 18, founder Alfred Pallet decided to set up a company to manufacture celluloid and plastic fancy goods, including a small amount of toys. Originally the firm was known as Cascelloid Limited and progress was exceptionally slow – in the first year it only made £90. Cascelloid's first factory was based inside an old lodging house in Britania Street, Leicester. However, the company was saved – like so many early toy manufacturers – by Woolworth's, who wanted cheap celluloid toys to sell in its stores. In 1920 it placed orders for several Cascelloid items, including a toy windmill known as the Flitafast. A bit like Airfix, Cascelloid also produced hair slides, rattles, egg timers and other kitchen utensils... toys were just part of the business.

Things were going well until a fire in September 1927, which destroyed the Britania Street factory, along with an



ABOVE

From its humble beginnings, Palitoy went on to create a wide variety of different plastic toys.



ABOVE

Some of Palitoy's best products were a series of 'talking' toys, like this Dalek and even a talking Batmobile. Pictures: Vectis.



ABOVE

It's all in the name! This Boba Fett figure sold for £18,000 at Vectis Auctions because of the unusual Palitoy packaging.



ABOVE

As smaller action figures became more popular, Palitoy launched the Action Force series of Action Man toys.



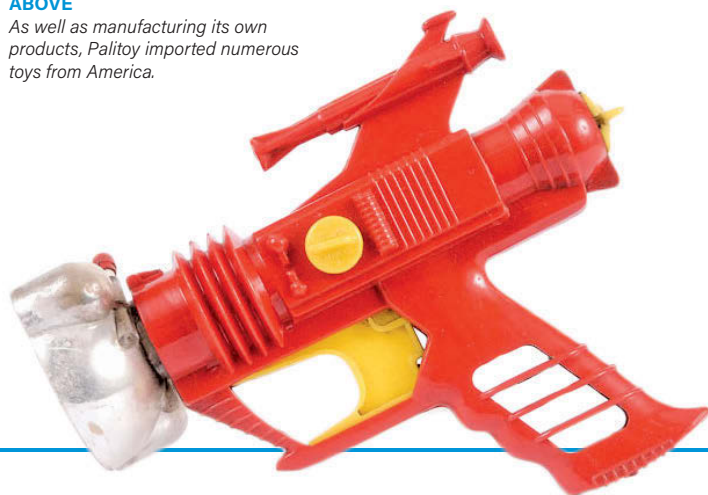
ABOVE

Along with Action Man, the toy that helped propel Palitoy to stardom in the 1960s was the Tiny Tears doll.



ABOVE

As well as manufacturing its own products, Palitoy imported numerous toys from America.



entire stock of products and raw materials. Even worse, one worker was killed in the blaze. Despite this tragic set back a new factory was opened six months later in a new location: Cobden Street, Leicester. Once in the new premises, things progressed at a rapid pace and by 1930 Cascelloid was employing 250 people and manufactured products for Woolworth's, Marks and Spencer, Boots, Rowntrees, Courtaulds and Huntley Palmer. Then in 1931 Cascelloid became a subsidiary of British Xylonite Company Ltd. which specialised in plastic innovations – in fact, it was the first company to use injection-moulding to make products. By 1937 new premises had to be opened in Coalville on the site of a billiard/dance hall. That same year the 'Palitoy Playthings' trademark began to be used on a new range of soft-bodied dolls.

Throughout the 1940s and '50s Cascelloid continued to add to its toy range and began producing push and pull-along toys, squeaky baby toys, model vehicles, fancy dress costumes, board games and even table tennis sets. However, it was really the mid 1960s that saw the company rise to new levels, thanks to the introduction of the Tiny Tears doll in 1965 and then Action Man a year later. Now trading as Palitoy, the company fought off fierce competition from Lines Bros to acquire the production rights to create toys based on Hasbro's exceptional GI Joe line of boy's 'dolls'.

The story goes that Palitoy sales director Hal Belton bought his grandson a GI Joe figure during a trip to the States and, once he realised how much his grandson loved it, he quickly

took the toy into work to show general manager Miles Fletcher. Initially there were concerns about whether boys should play with a 'doll' and, in fact, the term was banned when discussing the range. Despite this Action Man was launched in 1966 and, although at first they were just repackaged GI Joes, in the 1970s Palitoy began producing its own British-themed figures.

In 1968 the Palitoy division was sold to American company General Mills Incorporated, which despite being a food company, had diversified into consumer products with the acquisition of Parker Bros. and Kenner. This link with Kenner led to one of the most important periods of Palitoy's history and, after sub-licensing the *Star Wars* rights from Kenner, it began releasing *Star Wars* toys in 1978. By November 1978 the company had grown to 1,000 employees and sales topped £20 million – the demand, in particular, for *Star Wars* products were phenomenal and initially the company struggled to keep up.

However, despite this success, in the early 1980s General Mills' passion for acquiring more and more companies proved to be its undoing. In 1981 Palitoy, Denys Fisher, Chad Valley and the recently acquired Airfix were all based at the Coalville factory and redundancies soon followed. The death knell for Palitoy sounded in 1984 though when General Mills stopped all European production and the company switched for manufacturing to marketing/distributing for two years until its closure in 1986. More than 60 years of the Leicester company was brought to an end but the name will live on for much longer. **CG**

Famous Faces:

JAMES BOND

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

It is hard to believe that it is nearly 60 years since I went along to my local cinema to see a brand new spy film featuring a special agent called James Bond, who had a prefix, 007, license to kill.

The title of the film was *Dr No*, and the actor who played the part of Bond was Sean Connery, who in those days was a little known actor from north of the border.

As a young lad of 15, I had no idea what was in store. But, by the end of the film, I was a fan, and still am to this day. The year was 1962, and this year being 2022 means that James Bond is celebrating his 60th anniversary.

Many actors have played the role of 007 over the years but, for my generation, the only Bond is Connery. The guy had it all, including a Scottish father, like the character he was playing!

The films since *Dr No* have given birth to a range of merchandise that has become one of the most popular forms of collecting.

The vintage toys from the 1960s are now serious investment items much prized by their owners and sought after by today's new generation of collectors.

Here are some of the best collectable toys from the Connery era for you to enjoy. The most popular categories are usually figures, vehicles and weapons.

THE MAN HIMSELF

Let's start with figures. Pictured is Connery as 007 as produced by the Gilbert Toys Co (USA) for the Sears catalogue of 1965. It is a complete change from the standard Gilbert issue.

The box art is unique, showing Connery in a tuxedo. It also features a knife kicking shoe plus an attaché case. Also shown is a selection of accessories, like his

BELOW
Gilbert Toys' version of Sean Connery as 007.



jet pack and sniper rifle, which were sold separately. The Bond figure is dressed in a tuxedo instead of the t-shirt and shorts it wore in the standard issue.

This set up is extremely hard to find, particularly the box. I only know of one genuine box owned by a big collector in the States. If you are ever lucky enough to find one, the cost would be in the thousands of pounds range.

The box shown here is a copy of the original, kindly sent to me

by a friend. Together their value is £600+. The value of an original box with figure would be in the region of £2,000-3,000+.

This next figure is nearly as rare: the Commander James Bond Sean Connery issued by Cecil Coleman of London c.1966. Taken from the film *You Only Live Twice*, the figure has a very close likeness to the original Gilbert doll, and should come with a shoulder holster and gun.

The picture on the box does

not look like Connery at all. Why it doesn't I'm not sure. At the last count, I know of only three boxed examples known to exist and each one has a different set of clothes. The value of a mint-boxed example is around £2,000-3,000.

FABULOUS FOUR WHEELS

Now we feature the Bond vehicles. Here we have the car that is synonymous with Connery: the Aston Martin DB5, from the film *Goldfinger*, c.1965.

This Corgi masterpiece, No 261, has been responsible for starting more 007 collections than any other toys and no self-respecting Corgi collection is complete without one of these gems. Value in mint, complete condition with booklet is £400-600.

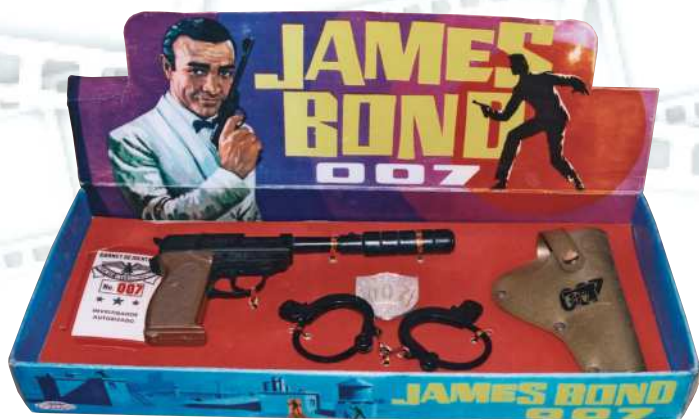
Next we go to tinplate and a DB5 by Gama, c.1966. It is friction driven and comes with an ejector seat, rear bulletproof shield and crash bumpers, with extending machine guns. It is very hard to find in mint-boxed condition. If you do find one then the price can fluctuate from £400 to £1,200 depending on box condition.

Our next Bond vehicle is a fabulous piece, mainly because of the superb box artwork. Corgi No 336, the Toyota 2000 GT from *You Only Live Twice*, is a nice enough toy but the box artwork steals the show, something that is sadly missing in a lot of today's toys, I think.

One glaring fault is the rear boot lid, which has a habit of not closing. But, it's something you have to live with. Mint-boxed values can be in the region of £300-600.

WEAPONS OF CHOICE

We now move along to the weapons section. Let's start with this fabulous piece, the James



ABOVE
Pilen's presentation set, which included a gun and a silencer.



ABOVE
Tada's James Bond 007 Repeater Ricochet Machine Gun from 'Thunderball'.



ABOVE
Tada's 007 Bond Attaché/Gun Case, which fetches £800-1,000 if in mint-boxed condition.



LEFT
ThCorgi No 336, the Toyota 2000 GT from 'You Only Live Twice'

international. England, America and Italy were all on the 007 bandwagon. This next piece, however, was from Japan. The 007 Bond Attaché/Gun Case was made by Tada, and look at its great artwork! Contents include a machine pistol, a shoulder stock, a silencer, a telescopic sight, a launch grenade, a wallet with passport, money and three boxes of caps. Fabulous! Definitely one of the best 007 items, it has a mint-boxed value of £800-1,000.

OTHER 007 GOODIES

My last couple of collectables are just as special. Firstly, there is the 007 Underwater Battle game by Tri-ang. Based on the climax in *Thunderball*, the artwork is taken from the cinema poster. The games has two sets of frogmen, one in red for the goodies and one in blue for the baddies, who do battle on the giant board. The board, when set up with the figures, a sub tank, sharks, a jet speeder backpack plus Bond and Largo, is a fantastic sight.

Finding one of these complete is not easy. If you do find one then expect to pay up to £1,000 for a mint-boxed example.

Finally, my last item, and one of the rarest – I don't know of another boxed example in the UK. This tinplate clockwork James Bond frogman comes from Japan, and is made by Tada. It's a wind-up toy with its own swimming motion. However, with a value in excess of £2,000, I would not advise playing with it in the bath!

Well, that just about finishes this tribute in toys to the best Bond, Sean Connery. I hope you enjoyed it. Until the next time, good hunting! **CG**

Bond 007 Repeater Ricochet Machine Gun from *Thunderball*. That's what it says on the box, though I don't recall ever seeing this weapon in the movie. But, that's by the by.

It's a fantastic looking toy, c.1960s, and is battery-operated with missile firing. It was made by Tada of Japan and marketed in the UK by Lone Star.

It has great box artwork showing Connery evading the baddies by use of his jet pack. Envy the youngster who had this in his Christmas stocking! It is very hard to locate in mint-boxed condition. If you do, expect to part with over £1,000 to own one.

Lone Star was indirectly involved with this next piece as it produced a James Bond presentation set with the same contents as shown here. This set was made by Pilen of Italy. Of the two I prefer this one, mainly because of the artwork of Connery in his white tuxedo. The contents of the set are: a gun, a silencer, a holster, a badge, cuffs and an ID card. In mint-boxed condition it has a value of £600-800.

By now Bond was truly



ABOVE
Corgi No 261, Bond's Aston Martin DB5 from 'Goldfinger'.



LEFT
A Cecil Coleman of London's James Bond, circa 1966.

eBay

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



♦ **Item:** Kenner Star Wars Boba Fett action figure
Condition: Slight damage with a crush mark at the top of the figure bubble. The bubble had also come away from card in that area. Figure was mint.
Sold for: £3200 (37 bids)



♦ **Item:** Bandai Wiz Tamagotchi, 2004
Condition: In a good, used state. Had been tested although not all functions were checked.
Sold for: £275 (24 bids)



♦ **Item:** Dinky Toys Emergency Services Gift Set, No. 298
Condition: Very good, all original vehicles plus five various firemen and two ambulance attendants. Original display box and instructions.
Sold for: £870 (18 bids)



♦ **Item:** Kenner Star Wars Droids R2-D2 figure
Condition: Mint on sealed card, all original.
Sold for: Sold for £1078 (35 bids)



♦ **Item:** Eaglemoss James Bond Aston Martin DB5
Condition: Very good condition. Working parts included: front and rear lights, horn, internal light plus engine start and run sound.
Sold for: £870 (34 bids)



♦ **Item:** LEGO Barracuda, Set No. 6285
Condition: Not checked but sold with the majority of pieces, plus a collection of extra bricks the seller had. Boxes were excellent.
Sold for: £770 (21 bids)



♦ **Item:** Corgi Batman Batmobile, Batboat on trailer and Batcopter, Gift Set GS40
Condition: Former shop stock, box and model both in mint condition.
Sold for: £876 (16 bids)



♦ **Item:** LEGO Mr Gold Minifigure
Condition: Figure was mint, although had been taken out of plastic bag, assembled and then disassembled. Number 2363 or 5000 produced.
Sold for: £1410 (24 bids)



♦ **Item:** Charles Stadden figure: Private in Earl of Crawford's Highland Regt
Condition: Pre-owned but in good condition. Slight damage to box.
Sold for: £547 (20 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Hot Wheels Mattel Vintage Redline custom Camaro, 1968
Condition: Original, complete and generally near mint with minor paint loss/wear to the front grille and one rear tail light.
Sold for: £650 (17 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Dinky Toys Racing Cars Gift Set No.4
Condition: Excellent plus with original models, complete box and model inserts. Sold with original transit card.
Sold for: £600 (25 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Pocher Ducati Superbike 1299 Panigale
Condition: The box had some wear and tear from being stored but it had only been opened once. The model had never been made.
Sold for: £585 (12 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Matchbox Superfast Ford Mustang
Condition: Slight age related crease to bottom corner of the bubble and very slight staining to edge of back of card, otherwise mint.
Sold for: Sold for £536 (29 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Corgi Ecurie Ecosse Car Transporter, Gift Set No.16
Condition: Very good complete condition, with original (worn) box and original inner packaging.
Sold for: £460 (13 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Brazilian Glasslite Star Wars R2-D2 with pop-up saber
Condition: Figure was mint on card. Bubble attached to card, which had some crushing.
Sold for: £1338 (30 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Wooden Library jigsaw puzzle 'Ribbon' (artist Leonetto Cappiello)
Condition: In excellent condition, as is its original sturdy library box. Colour line-cutting has been applied throughout.
Sold for: £294 (12 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Scalextric MC31 Model motorcycle and sidecar racing set, 1963
Condition: Complete with the two motorcycle and sidecar (Typhoon), track and instructions.
Sold for: £570 (14 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Scalextric Race-Tuned Fiat TC-600
Condition: Model car good contained in a damaged box. Would benefit from new tyres.
Sold for: £305 (15 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Simon MB 1978 electronic game
Condition: Boxed, unused and in full working order. Was missing the polystyrene tray insert and instruction booklet.
Sold for: £2050 (10 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Miki The Tomcat, 'Sooty & Sweep', 2001
Condition: In really good condition, she had been used on the TV and was used in the series of Sooty Heights with Richard Cadell.
Sold for: £775 (8 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Palitoy Star Wars Death Star playset
Condition: Excellent condition. Had instructions, leaflet and original bag. Included half a spare clip.
Sold for: £1448 (19 bids)

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PRICE GUIDE

This month we review the latest toy sales at Vectis, British Toy Auctions, Special Auction Services and Wessex Auction Rooms.



♦Tri-ang Junior Diesel Circus Van and Trailer, white, with orange cages to each vehicle, replacement front radiator grille but both vehicles have opening rear doors with locking bar, otherwise fair to good. **Sold for £40, Vectis, November.**



♦Tri-ang Minic Big Bedford Ambulance, larger scale pressed steel model, from the end of production, so lacks the friction drive motor, one opening rear door is a replacement otherwise fair to good. **Sold for £20, Vectis, November.**



♦Modern Toys (Japan) "Electric Forklift Truck", battery operated tinplate model from the 1960s is red, with tinprinted seat and dashboard detail, steerable rear wheels, , untested. Excellent plus and comes in a good card box. **Sold for £45, Vectis, November.**



♦Nomura (TN Toys of Japan) "High Power Dozer" tinplate battery operated model, circa 1960s, with tinprinted detail including driver figure, crane jib attachment with hook to rear, rubber tracks intact. Untested but excellent. **Sold for £80, Vectis, November.**



♦KO Toys (Japan) large tinplate Volkswagen Beetle, metallic blue, with tinprinted interior detail, fitted with substantial windup Gyro motor to underside and mystery action, some small dents to roof, otherwise overall good to good plus. **Sold for £50, Vectis, November.**



♦Schuco (made in the US Zone of Germany) 5311 Ingenico tinplate 2-door Car, scarce battery operated example is red, with tinprinted interior detail, steerable front wheels, overall good plus. **Sold for £60, Vectis, November.**



♦Large tinplate All Terrain vehicle, with substantial clockwork motor driving the front wheels, in working order with key and brake. A fair to good unmarked example. **Sold for £70, Vectis, November.**



♦Modern Toys (Masudaya of Japan) large tinplate Police Motorcycle, scarce battery operated model is white, with tinprinted detail, uniformed rider figure, battery operated, some light play wear otherwise excellent. **Sold for £130, Vectis, November.**



♦Arnold (Germany) 1930s tinplate Armoured Car, scarce example in 3-colour camouflage with tinplate wheels, no key but the clockwork motor is in working order. Some age related wear otherwise good, circa 1935. **Sold for £100, Vectis, November.**



♦Rocket USA large tinplate "Robot One" R1, scarce battery operated large scale tinplate robot of recent limited edition production - grey, tinplated detail, clean battery compartment. Near mint in excellent boxes. **Sold for £40, Vectis, November.**



♦Nomura (TN Toys, Japan) "Atomic Fire Car", tinplate, battery operated space vehicle. Scarce example, mystery action to underside - good for display. **Sold for £130, Vectis, November.**



♦Nomura battery operated Swinging Monkey, circa 1960s, tinprinted tinplate base, golden mohair effect monkey, unchecked for operation but generally good for display. **Sold for £40, Vectis, November.**



♣ Roman (Spain) clockwork "Vagabundo" novelty figure, man with suitcase, no key but motor is in working order, walks in circular motion and twirls his walking stick. Good plus with fair card box (lacks part of end flap). **Sold for £35, Vectis, November.**



♣ Modern Toys (Japan) "Hardworking Diesel Locomotive", battery operated tinplate Train Set featuring locomotive and delivery van with tinprinted figure of 8 baseplate. Excellent plus to near mint in good illustrated box, circa 1960s. **Sold for £35, Vectis, November.**



♣ Modern Toys (Japan) battery operated Hardworking Diesel Locomotive, featuring blue diesel loco and orange van, together with tinprinted figure of 8 circuit. Excellent plus to near mint, in good illustrated box, circa 1960s. **Sold for £35, Vectis, November.**



♣ Gebruda Bing (Germany) "Fine Magic Lantern" early tinplate toy Slide Projector, black tinplate cabinet with brass lens, various accessories including internal burner with glass top, adjustable wicks and opening door. Unchecked but appears good. **Sold for £70, Vectis, November.**



♣ Yonezawa (Japan) or similar Lincoln tinplate Police Highway Patrol Car, circa 1960, battery operated example is black/white, untested but does have clean battery compartment, roof beacon is wired for illumination. **Sold for £60, Vectis, November.**



♣ Nomura (TN Toys, Japan) large tinplate Cadillac "Electricmobile", scarce battery operated large scale from the 1950s. Untested but with clean battery compartment. Some light age related wear otherwise good plus. **Sold for £380, Vectis, November.**



♣ Philip Niedermeier (PN Toys, Germany) tinplate Police Car, resembling a Jaguar XK120, friction drive, white/blue with tinprinted detail, includes aerial - good plus. **Sold for £35, Vectis, November.**



♣ Tri-ang Minic 1/20 scale electric Jaguar 2.5 Litre Saloon, scarce battery operated model is powder blue with tartan tinplate interior, small crack above front wheel arch and rear body requires resealing to baseplate otherwise good. **Sold for £30, Vectis, November.**



♣ Gama (Germany) 2991 Lorry Mounted Searchlight, large scale tinplate battery operated models circa 1960s. Revolving searchlight with control knob, lacks plastic battery compartment cover. Excellent in fair illustrated box. **Sold for £80, Vectis, November.**



♣ Schuco (Germany) tinplate clockwork Duck with Drum, some fading to red felt jacket, with key and clockwork motor is in working order producing a drumming action and faint quacking sound. **Sold for £380, Vectis, November.**



♣ Rico (Spain) Passenger Autogiro tinplate clockwork aircraft, motor requires attention but model does include rotor and propeller, 9"/22cm long - fair to good. **Sold for £70, Vectis, November.**



♣ Ichiko (Japan) or similar tinplate Oldsmobile, larger scale friction drive American car, tinprinted interior detail, some light age related wear otherwise a good plus to excellent example which still retains a fair illustrated box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, November.**



♣ Ideal Toys (India) large tinplate clockwork Double Decker Bus, clockwork motor driving the rear wheels, advertisements to sides and back. Some age related wear otherwise a fair to good example. **Sold for £100, Vectis, November.**



♣ Schuco (Germany) Elektro Radiant 5600, large scale battery operated tinplate Passenger Aircraft in "BOAC" cream/blue/silver livery - untested but had all four propellers and crew. Good for display. **Sold for £120, Vectis, November.**



♣ Schuco (Germany) Radiant 5600 tinplate Aircraft, scarce battery operated example finished in "Swiss Air" grey/yellow/white livery, some peeling of paintwork, with crew of two, untested but otherwise good. **Sold for £110, Vectis, November.**



♣ A boxed Hornby Super Detail R.2101 A4 Class 4-6-2 steam locomotive and tender Op.No. 60030 'Golden Fleece', in BR green livery. The model appears mint in a very good window box with some storage related wear. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Hornby R.577 OO gauge 4-6-2 Coronation Class steam locomotive and tender Op.No. 46251 'City of Nottingham', in BR maroon livery. The model appears to be in mint condition within packaging. **Sold for £25, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Hornby R.146 OO gauge Class A3 4-6-2 steam locomotive and tender Op.No. 60052 'Prince Palatine', in BR blue livery. Mint condition within packaging, some age related wear. **Sold for £28, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann #31-551 OO gauge V2 Class 2-6-2 steam locomotive and tender Op.No.60800 'Green Arrow', in BR black livery. In excellent dusty condition overall, housed in a good box with age and storage wear. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann #31-702A OO gauge Thompson Class 4-6-0 steam locomotive and tender Op.No.61190, in BR lined black late crest livery. Model appears to be in excellent condition, housed in a fair box. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann #32-252 OO gauge WD Class 2-8-0 steam locomotive and tender Op.No.90445, in BR black late crest livery. The model appears to be in excellent condition, housed in a good box, some age wear. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann #32-351 OO gauge Class 4MT 2-6-4 steam locomotive Op.No.80097, in BR black late crest livery. The model appears to be in mint, housed in a very good window box with some slight storage wear. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann #31-106A OO gauge Standard 4MT 4-6-0 steam locomotive and tender with double chimney Op.No.75003, in BR green livery. Appears to be mint, housed in a very good box with some slight storage wear. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann #31-778 OO gauge Modified Hall 4-6-0 steam locomotive and tender Op.No.6969 'Wraysbury Hall', in BR green early emblem livery. Appears to be mint, housed in a very good box. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed OO gauge British Rail 0-6-2 tank engine in black livery operating number 69550. The loco appears in good condition with some light signs of age and use. **Sold for £28, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Lima OO gauge Class 47 Diesel-Electric loco in Railfreight Distribution livery named Halewood Silver Jubilee 1988 operating number 47241. Mint condition in a good box. **Sold for £22, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Bachmann DCC Ready BR 2-10-0 9F standard operating number 92116 in black livery. The loco appears mint in a very good box with light storage marks. **Sold for £75, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed 21 DCC Bachmann Class 66 Diesel loco in DB Schenker livery operating number 66152. # 32-734. The model appears in mint condition in a good box with light storage marks. **Sold for £85, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed limited edition Bachmann 21 DCC Class 66 Diesel loco operating number 66418. Specially produced for Kernow Model Rail Centre and is number 106 of only 512 produced. Mint in a very good box. **Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed limited edition Bachmann 21 DCC Class 37/0 in Direct Rail Services livery operating number 37261. This is number 98 of only 512 produced exclusively Kernow Model Rail Centre. Mint in a very good box. **Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Dapol 21 DCC OO gauge Class 68 loco operating number 68014 in Chiltern livery, 4D-022-004. The model appears mint in a near mint box with instruction sheet inside. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Helijan OO gauge Class 35 Diesel-Hydraulic loco in BR green livery operating number D7039, # 3501. The model appears mint and comes with accessories and instructions in a good box with some creasing. **Sold for £65, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Roco OO gauge Krokodil locomotive in OBB livery operating number 1189.02 # 04149B. The loco appears mint in a good box with some storage wear. **Sold for £110, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed OO gauge 2-6-2 Dampflok locomotive in Deutsche Bahn livery operating number 23105, # 04120A. The loco appears mint in a good box with some storage wear. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed OO gauge Ae 6/6 Co-Co electric loco in the red livery of Swiss Federal Railways, #43536. The model appears mint in a good box with some storage wear and has its instruction sheet. **Sold for £75, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A limited edition, boxed, Hornby OO gauge 4-6-2 Gresley A4 named Woodcock operating number 60029, in British Rail dark blue livery. Mint with instruction sheet and numbered certificate in a fair to good box. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Hornby R.140 'Top Link' Limited Edition Class A3 4-6-2 steam locomotive and tender Op.No.60071 'Tranquil', in BR blue livery. Mint in a mint window box. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Hornby 'R2036 Top Link' Limited Edition Class A3 4-6-2 steam locomotive and tender Op.No.60075 'St.Frusquin', in BR blue livery. Mint in a mint window box. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Hornby R.269 'Top Link' Class 92 Bo-Bo Electric locomotive Op.No.92009 'Elgar', in Railfreight Distribution livery. Mint in a good overall lift off lid box. **Sold for £25, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Hornby R.374 'Top Link' Class 92 Bo-Bo Electric locomotive Op.No.92020 'Milton', in European Passenger Services livery. Mint in a good overall box, with some scuffs to edges. **Sold for £25, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Rivarossi #7180 O gauge German V160 diesel locomotive Op.No.216 011-7, in DB maroon and grey livery. Appears to be very good - excellent condition housed in a fair plus box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Limited Edition Lima L204961 Class 50 diesel locomotive Op.No.50040 'Leviathan', in BR blue livery. The model comes with certificate numbered 366 of a run of 1100, and appears in mint condition. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed Wrenn OO gauge BR 2-6-4 Tank Engine in black lined livery operating number 80151. The loco appears in good overall condition with light signs of age and use, #W2279/SP. The box is in good condition with some storage wear. **Sold for £110, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed OO gauge 2-8-0 BR freight loco operating number 48073 in black livery. The loco appears near mint with very light signs of age in a good box with some light storage wear. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ A boxed OO gauge 4-6-0 Royal Scott class named The Royal Air Force operating number 46159, in BR dark green livery. In very good condition with some lining loss on the cylinder covers, some wear on the BR crest and a few other minor marks. **Sold for £170, British Toy Auctions, November.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast G-3 Racing Specials gift set, No 5a Lotus Europa, No 20a Lamborghini Marzal, No 45a Ford Group 6, No 52a Dodge Charger, No 56a BMC Pininfarina, No 68a Porsche 910. Near mint in excellent plus window box. **Sold for £380, Vectis, October.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast G-4 Commercial Truck gift set, all vehicles original and present. Good plus to near in fair window box. **Sold for £120, Vectis, October.**



♣ Matchbox Superfast G-100 twin Thunderbolt Launcher gift set, metallic bronze No 7b Hairly Hustler and metallic blue No 61a Blue Shark, plus twin Thunderbolt Launcher. Excellent in good box with instruction leaflet. **Sold for £30, Vectis, October.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 771 Whizzwheels Power Blaster Racing Speed Set, with boxed Adams Probe 16 and Pininfarina cars. Cars near mint. Track contents complete and in mint to near mint condition. **Sold for £220, Vectis, November.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 1501 (Grand Prix Kit) Yardley McLaren, partially made. Good plus in excellent carded box. Also includes some original Corgi accessories including cones and figures - good to good plus. **Sold for £50, Vectis, November.**



♣ Corgi GS30 "Grand Prix Kit" Gift Set, three kits: 1500 Surtees TS9, 1501 Yardley McLaren and 1504 Lotus "John Player Special" - conditions mint including carded boxes. All contained in a generally excellent presentation window box. **Sold for £190, Vectis, November.**



♣ Dinky Toys No 724 Sea King Helicopter, two-tone white, blue, with red interior, mid-blue plastic blades and rotors, with white plastic space capsule. Good plus to excellent, inner pictorial stand is good, outer carded picture box is good. **Sold for £80, Vectis, November.**



♣ Dinky Toys No 728 RAF Dominie, camouflage blue/green, with "RAF" roundels - near mint in a good plus bubble pack. **Sold for £35, Vectis, November.**



♣ Dinky Toys No 736 Bundesmarine Sea King Helicopter, grey, red with unapplied decal sheet and sonar device. Near mint in good plus bubble pack. Plus bubble pack (does have very light discolouration). **Sold for £70, Vectis, November.**



♣ Dinky Toys No 945 AEC Articulated Esso Tanker, cab without jewelled headlamps, plastic trailer release button, Excellent plus on good plus card plinth but missing bubble. **Sold for £60, Vectis, November.**



♣ Dinky Toys No 439 Ford D800 Snow Plough & Tipper Truck, metallic silver-blue cab with white interior, duck egg blue tipper body, lemon yellow plough, bare metal chassis, cast metal hubs. Excellent plus in excellent plus bubble pack. **Sold for £60, Vectis, November.**



♣ French Dinky Toys No 826 Berliet Military Recovery Truck, drab green including concave hubs, silver trim, with correct figure. Good plus to excellent in good plus yellow and red box with detailed picture. **Sold for £80, Vectis, November.**



♣ French Dinky Toys No 818 Berliet Military Covered Wagon, drab green including concave hubs and metal tilt, silver trim, tow hook. Excellent in excellent yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, November.**



French Dinky Toys No 809 GMC Military Covered Wagon, concave hubs, green plastic canopy, black roof canopy, with correct folded leaflet and accessories in sealed bag. Excellent plus, outer carded picture box is good. **Sold for £130, Vectis, November.**



♣ French Dinky Toys No 823 GMC Military Tanker, drab green including concave hubs and plastic filler caps, black canopy. Excellent in fair carded picture box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, November.**



♣ A Steiff limited edition replica Dicky 1930 White 33, 1200 of 7000, in original box with plastic lid, certificate and outer box, 1992. **Sold for £40, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A Steiff limited edition replica Happy Anniversary 1926, 2500 of 6000, 40cm., in original box with plastic lid and outer box, 1991 (no certificate). **Sold for £30, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A large Steiff limited edition replica Happy Anniversary 1926, 1111 of 5000, 65cm., in original box with plastic lid, 1990. Sold with a crochet collar. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A Steiff limited edition replica Teddy Rose 1925, 2050 of 8000, 25cm., in original box with plastic lid and outer box, 1990 (no certificate). **Sold for £30, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ An unusual Steiff limited edition replica for Japan Teddy Bear 1907, with red blonde mohair, 3707 of 5000, in original box with plastic lid, certificate and outer box, 1991. **Sold for £40, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A Steiff limited edition replica brass colour Petsy, 2750 of 5000, in original box with plastic lid and outer box, 1989 (no certificate). **Sold for £35, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A Steiff limited edition replica Somersault Teddy 1909, 1760 of 5000, in original box with plastic lid and certificate, 1990. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A Steiff limited edition Replica 1994 Teddy Bear 1906, 1603 of 5000, in original box with certificate and outer box, 1994. **Sold for £45, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A Steiff limited edition Giengen Teddy Set, 10032 of 16000, in original box with plastic lid, 1985 (sold with no certificate). **Sold for £40, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A Steiff limited edition replica Dicky Bear 1930, with golden mohair, 34cm., 19,478 of 20,000, in original box with plastic lid, 1985 (no certificate). **Sold for £30, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A large Steiff limited edition replica 1907 Teddy Bear brown 70, 1393 of 5000, in original box with outer box, 1993 (missing certificate, box a little creased). **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A large Steiff limited edition 1995 Replica Teddy Bear 1909, 2268 of 5000, in original box with certificate. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A rare Steiff prototype or trial sample of the 1991 dual plush Happy Replica Teddy Bear 1926, with brown tipped white mohair, swivel head, jointed limbs, brass coloured script button and white cloth label. **Sold for £210, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A rare Steiff prototype or trial sample of the 1989 British Collector's 1907 Replica teddy bear, with blonde mohair, swivel head and jointed limbs, brass coloured script button and white cloth label. **Sold for £250, Special Auction Services, November.**



♣ A rare Steiff prototype or trial sample of the 1991 British Collector's 1912 Replica black teddy bear, with swivel head, jointed limbs, brown stitched nose, mouth and claws, brass coloured script button. **Sold for £280, Special Auction Services, November.**



◀ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant Greedo 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



◀ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant The Empire Strikes Back Luke Skywalker (Bespun Fatigues) 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



◀ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant Ben Obi-Wan Kenobi 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**

➔ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant Death Star Droid 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £75, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



➔ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant The Empire Strikes Back Bossk (Bounty Hunter) 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



➔ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant Sand People 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £90, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



◀ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant Walrus Man 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £95, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



◀ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant Han Solo 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



◀ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant Darth Vader 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £110, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**

➔ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant The Empire Strikes Back Imperial TIE Fighter Pilot 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



➔ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant The Empire Strikes Back Lando Calrissian 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



➔ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant The Power of The Force Special Collectors Coin The Emperor 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



◀ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant Death Squad Commander 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £90, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



◀ Star Wars carded Gentle Giant See-Threepio C-3PO 12" figure, within display case, excellent. **Sold for £100, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



◀ Hasbro Star Wars Ultimate Darth Vader Kit, complete and unremoved from box, box showing some wear with tear to front. **Sold for £12, Wessex Auction Rooms, November.**



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Toy Stories

Ed Karswell sinks into the murky depths of fakes and forgeries...

If pushed most people, collectors or otherwise, will admit to being fascinated by fakes and forgeries. Orson Wells famously celebrated the 'art' of the forger, almost equating the talent required to copy to that of the original. In that instance, he was of course talking about art and antiquities and not about some Herbert swapping the baseplates over on Matchbox cars at the kitchen table.

There have been a fair number of cases of collecting fakery both above and below the radar, some of it's fact, much of it apocryphal. I can remember a few years back reports of the 'Home Counties triangle' of forgers. These were three individuals who had pooled their skills to fake early Britains' figures. One did the initial casting, one did the painting, and another executed the boxes. They were apparently quite prolific, and the end product fooled all but the most astute eyes. I don't know if they were ever caught but if the stakes were any higher it could have been the plot of a Guy Ritchie film... and that's without the embellishments.

Another of my favourites

involved a major auction house and was imparted to me by someone who was actually at the sale. It involved a number of Type 1 Dinky 28 series vans that well, weren't really all they were catalogued to be. They were subsequently sold to an unsuspecting buyer for a substantial amount of money. As much as these things can be hearsay, the credentials of the storyteller here were impeccable.

The former is also the reason why restoration, repaints etc are frowned upon in some quarters. Many excellent and innocent restorations end up changing hands, with the truth with their provenance lost in the process. When it comes to toys, those unwary or unfamiliar with the originals sometimes take a lot on trust, especially given the cosy image that collecting old toys can appear to confer.

Most people's motives when it comes to restoration are, after all, to achieve a finish as close to a factory one as possible. A famous American collector of old called this an 'exercise in self-deception' as the item would only look superficially like the original whilst all vestiges of its integrity

would be lost in the process. Maybe harsh sentiments when discussing 1950s Dinky toys but possibly a genuine consideration if contemplating the restoration of a rare Bing limousine passing its hundredth birthday. I think he was over thinking what a relaxing pastime should be.

Now, none of us are immune from involvement in these shenanigans. I've purchased models in the past only to discover they had well-hidden, yet undisclosed or unwitting, repairs. I once bought what I thought to be a vintage lead car only to discover later it was a brand new, yet well-aged fake. Although I did not lose out much financially, I can't however say the same for my collector's pride. Likewise, the era of 1990s Chinese tinplate being smoked up a chimney to induce 'patina' may have passed but toy tomfoolery is still very much with us. From cobbled together box inserts to Photoshopped limited edition certificates. All life is here.

The real problem with all this is that it can put potential collectors off the whole idea of collecting in the first place. Knowledge as they say is power and luckily, we

are blessed with an abundance of info, whether digital or the printed word. New facts come to light all the time so even seasoned collectors need to keep themselves abreast of things.

I recently had to do some research on a particular Matchbox 1-75 model. Now, I cut my collecting teeth on these over 40 years ago so thought I knew my stuff. How wrong I was! One website had so much information that I was able to see dismantled models, showing the models (usually unseen) internal variations. It quite literally absorbed me for a full hour. Joking aside, the model in question was a rare issue so the correct identification in this instance was imperative. At this point I'd also like to thank all the enthusiasts who make these sites possible. It takes a lot of time and dedication for what, after all, is a labour of love.

Now, never mind all that, I've just spotted a huge collection of pre-war Dinkies on eBay and not one of them has metal fatigue. Too good to be true? Well, you can think what you like but I'm straight off to the bank to get me a loan! **CG**



A Great British day out

Ann Evans visits the Great British Model Railway Show in Gaydon.

Photos: Rob Tysall.

The Great British Model Railway Show took place at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon over the Halloween weekend of 30th and 31st October, and it certainly lived up to its name as being a great show. It brought together numerous impressive layouts in all sorts of different scales and gauges. And while some layouts were the combined efforts of a number of people, clubs and societies, others were the work of individuals – including a number of amazing Lockdown projects.

The family friendly show took place in the

upstairs areas of the motor museum, so it was hall after hall of model railways – something new and interesting at every turn. Plus of course, visitors could enjoy the British car collections on the ground floors plus all the facilities the museum has to offer. Not forgetting their award-winning café.

The event was organised by Publishing Works Ltd and the British Motor Museum, sponsored by Hornby Hobbies. And while everyone wanted to enjoy this great show particularly after Lockdown, safety procedures regarding Covid-19 were uppermost in the organisers' minds.

Sanitisers were available along with reminders to give personal space to people around you.

There were around 30 trade stands selling everything a model railway enthusiast could want including new and pre-owned models, rolling stock, track, kits, books, lighting, electricals, power supplies, fibre optics, scenery, tools and so much more.

Numerous railway societies and clubs were represented such as the Betton Grange Society raising funds to complete the construction of the 81st 'Grange' class locomotive currently based at Tyseley Locomotive Works in



ABOVE John Davies and his St Fayre Rhiannie layout.



TOP
Many skilled railway modellers at the show.

ABOVE
Inspirational, realistic layouts.

LEFT
Pentre, 16mm live steam, narrow gauge layout.

Birmingham. Also, the 009 Society (West Midlands) who demonstrated various aspects of small-scale narrow-gauge model making. The Talyllyn Railway, famous for being the world's first preserved railway was another popular stand. The railway has been in continuous operation since 1865, originally it transported slate from a local quarry to the Cambrian Coast main line, now, while it follows the same route, it carries around 50,000 visitors rather than stones. The London & North-Western Railway Society were also there. This society formed in 1973 and in 2005 achieved charitable status

as an Educational Charity.

One group of railway enthusiasts didn't have too far to come. These were the Leamington & Warwick Model Railway Society based just five miles away in Southam. They have around 80 members and over 3,500 sq ft for layouts at different stages of their construction. These are in 'O', 'P4', 'OO' and 'N' gauge. Their Kimble layout has seen a number of modifications over the years, and they recently updated the entire system using MERG components. Club members also held modelling demonstrations over the weekend. Saturday saw Track-building and Scratch-building, and

Sunday they demonstrated Kit-building and 3D Printing.

Also sharing knowledge, skills and ideas, various other groups put on demonstrations for visitors. Hornby Collector's Club magazine *The Collector* and *BRM* magazine's Phil Parker demonstrated some of his modelling techniques and displayed some of the projects that have featured online and in the magazines. There was also modelling demonstrations from David Wright, revealing how his own 4mm Scale/'009' Narrow Gauge Fall Mill layout was constructed. His table-top layout is based on the long lost Ashover railway in

Derbyshire.

MERG (Model Electronic Railway Group) demonstrated the benefits of membership and some of the ideas in railway modelling electronics that the group has developed over the last 50 years. Static grass and other scenic materials were demonstrated throughout the show by John Lloyd.

Amongst the many excellent layouts was Jeremy Mole's Caroline Castle – a 2mm Scale 'Z' gauge track to represent narrow-gauge. This was something of a labour of love for Jeremy who built the layout whilst caring for his late wife who had advanced breast cancer. It was a therapeutic project for both Jeremy and his late wife, and they received great support from the Myton at Home Team. By way of thanks, Jeremy is raising funds for Myton Hospices by taking part in an Inca Trail Trek. He's also commissioned wagons from Dapol, the profits from which go to the Myton Hospices.

It was a special event for Robin Brogden and his layout of The Transport Museum which was celebrating its 30th birthday. Having been first exhibited in mid-October 1991 although it has seen many changes, developments and additions over the years – and continues to change with new features and buildings being added. The theme of the 4mm layout is a fictional Museum of Transport set in a regenerated former dockland of an English town. The idea behind the layout was to create a layout where all sorts of locos and models could be on display from an RAF bomber to a steam paddle driven tug.

Bringing a little bit of France to Gaydon was John Davies 3.5mm scale /'HOM' Narrow Gauge St Fayre Rhianna, which he envisages is somewhere along the border between Brittany and Normandy around 1912. John explained that everything on the layout was scratch built from salvaged materials. The structures were scratch

built using plywood, card, paper and strip wood – with the aid of Google Images pictures. The rolling stock was also scratch built using brass, plywood and card. Mechanisms and running gear were adapted from old Triang or Berlinerbahn models and the whole thing took him about a year to build.

"The buildings were all genuine French buildings, and some of the houses still exist," said John who is also a member of the European Railways Association, West Midlands Group.

Bringing a smile to faces young and old, was Michael Smith's 45mm 'G' Scale Thomas Trackway. While fans of TV's Great Model Railway Challenge were able to meet finalists, 'Team Grantham', who brought along two of their layouts that featured in the programme.

The Live Steam Club attracted lots of visitors, their layout and driver training experience had three loops making for a busy and interesting presentation. Visitors were encouraged to use one of the club's steam locomotives to try real steam. Plus, there was a technical area to help owners with malfunctioning locos. Club Secretary Chris Oakes demonstrated how to adjust the safety valve. He explained that these real steam locomotives were only produced from 2003 to 2008 and there's only about 14,000 in circulations. "They weren't mass market as they require too much effort to use. They need a lot of maintenance, which isn't what a lot of people want to be doing."

Finally, John Wenlock's Pentre layout was one certainly not to be missed, this 16mm live steam, narrow gauge railway had a dual gauge circuit – 32mm and 45mm was hand built using traditional Bassett-Lowke and Bonds gauge 'O' rail and wooden sleepers. It had live steam locomotives fired by gas, meths and coal plus an interesting display of scratch built rolling stock.

A great British model railway show it certainly was! **CG**

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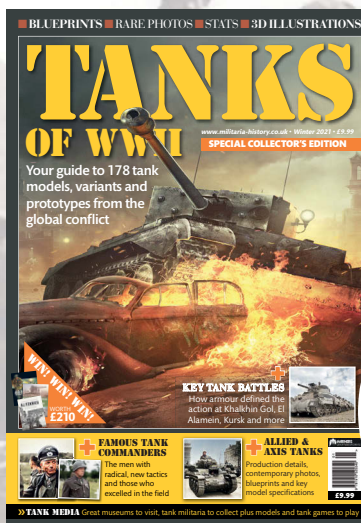
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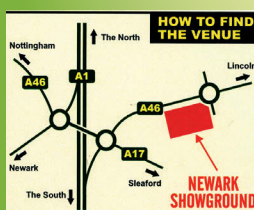
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Oz

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 another call from the 'Posh Bird' a couple of weeks back saying she'd found another box of old dolls which were going in the bin if I didn't pick them up immediately! However, I feared that all was not well... and those fears were soon confirmed when she told me not to venture anywhere near her drive as she claimed my van had dripped oil on it last time I was there. "Park on the grass verge opposite if you don't mind Oz" she said before posing the question: "Have you had that dirty old van serviced recently?" "Serviced? You must be joking, I just add oil when the engine starts ticking, it's done nearly 200K you know" I replied! Now you all know why I made such a hasty exit from 'Posh Tower's' last time!

I picked up the dolls the same day but as you know they aren't my thing at all. There were eight of em in all in various national costumes and some still in boxes. I've no idea what they might be worth but even at a few quid each there's a drink for me and the Ferret and our new drinking mate 'Dave the Rave' ... an ageing former raver from Aberdeen who searches boot sales for records to fill his ever growing stack of wooden Coca-Cola crates. The Rave's party piece is a frantic rendition of the Highland Fling wearing a cute little yellow tartan mini kilt and a Lulu inspired hair piece... little wonder Lily the landlady calls him 'Dodgy' Dave despite splitting her sides with laughter every time it happens. I bet it went down well during his days as an offshore oil Rigger... Not!

Talking about pubs, raves and dodgy characters who should I see the other day than my old mate 'Skip Rat' who you might

remember from our long and eventful friendship when he controlled the local waste disposal site. He found so much good gear for me it was incredible. Skip's long retired now and the old tip site has a fanciful new name and is covered with expensive posh new residences. Out in all weathers hopping from skip to skip took its toll on the Rat, who's had so many replacement joints that they all call him the bionic man!

With the festive season upon us again a nice boot sale buy reminded me of Christmases of the past when we got an annual in our Christmas stockings. The greatest thing about the Collins Adventure Book I netted for a couple of quid is its front cover artwork, which I'm almost certain was created by the hand of T. E. North, although no credit to him appears anywhere. What a great image though with two racing cars tearing towards the chequered flag. Just look at the looks on the faces of the drivers... absolutely brilliant.

By far my luckiest find last month was a pair of small tobacco tins which came in for the fabulous price of fiver the pair... Wow, what a find! They call these 'finger tins' due to their unusual elongated shape and they are so hard to find. The Player's Roundhead is a real rarity and in stunning condition. Might be worth over £100 if it doesn't find its way into my own collection!

Another fine tin, this time to hold toffees made by Royd's of Drighlington near Bradford, was found at the Malvern Fleamarket for a bargain tenner. The best thing about it, apart from the great graphics of course, was the fact that I'd never seen any tins from this company before. Just shows that you are always learning and seeing new things no matter how

long you've been in the trade.

Another Malvern Flea find was a little mixed group of lead and diecast pieces consisting of a park bench by J.Hill & Co, a gardener by Britains and two school road signs by Dinky all in exchange for a five pound note...can't be bad.

Not surprisingly being close to the festive season Christmas collectables have been selling well and a display card from the 1950s still complete with its wrapped tinsel sold for a tenner. It looked like it would have been bought from Woolworth's.

Still in the 1950s - a Lesney miniature Coronation Coach in fantastic condition finally sold for a reasonable £50. The trouble with these is that over a million were made making them fairly common.

Another popular Lesney toy to find a contented new owner was a Matchbox 20a Marshall Horse Box almost mint and in an almost perfect box which made £48. I remember having a few of these as a kid and they all ended up losing the side dropping ramp due to excessive wear and tear. Lesney really made the most of the ERF

tooling with three models sharing the same basic cab casting. The others were the dropside wagon and the cement mixer.

A Bellona British Army Transport handbook soon found a new owner willing to pay a fiver for it. Like me, he was an experienced kit builder looking for inspiration and these brilliant little handbooks have inspired model builders for decades. This one was one of the best for 4mm military transport modellers sporting loads of pics of vehicles which would be adaptable to plastic kit conversions like the Austin K6, Scammell Tank Transporter, Diamond T and Leyland Retriever to name just a few.

Finally on the selling front a little group of three Cadbury's Cococubs consisting of Mrs Cacklegoose, Bill Badger and Dumpty Doo all in great nick sold for £25 the lot.

Well that's about all for this month folks. Have a great festive season and I sincerely hope that 2022 turns out to be a better year for us all in so many ways... be good and, as always, be lucky! **CG**



ABOVE A giveaway from the Posh Bird, this mixed bag of dolls has baffled Oz who hopes they will fund a few beers for him and his erstwhile pals down at his local.

BELOW

Sold in Woolworth's in the 1950s this unused Christmas tinsel card with great graphics sold to a keen Christmas memorabilia collector for a tenner.



ABOVE

This Adventure annual dates from the 1950s and has stunning cover artwork by illustrator T.E. North who was one of the best artists in the business.



BELOW

What a lucky find as Oz does it once again. These two tobacco finger tins were a snip for a fiver and could make a huge profit. That's if Oz sells them!



RIGHT

A nice mixed bag of metal snapped up for a fiver... you can't go far wrong with buys like that.



LEFT

This rare toffee tin, bought at a fleamarket for a tenner, comes from a small company near Bradford.



ABOVE

This little trio of Cadbury Cococubs, all in nice condition, sold for £25. They were made by Britains in the 1930s.



ABOVE

With around a million being sold the small Lesney Coronation Coach is fairly common although this one really was in mint and boxed condition.

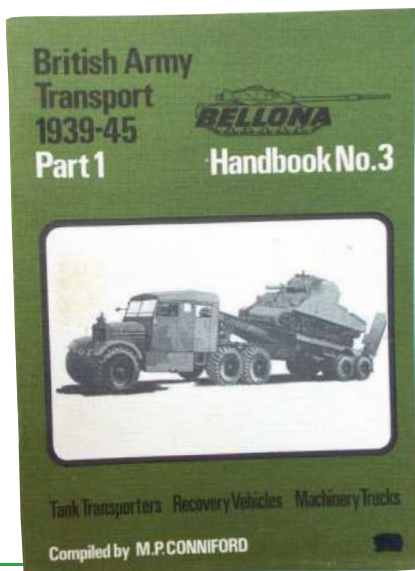


LEFT

Not rare but in fabulous all-round condition this Matchbox 20a Horse Box was snapped up for a reasonable £48.

RIGHT

This Bellona booklet sold to a keen military kit builder eager for inspiration for plastic kit conversions... with a element of scratch building.



»EVENTS THIS MONTH

FAIRS

18 DECEMBER

- **Herne Bay**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

19 DECEMBER

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

30 DECEMBER

- **Doncaster**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Rayleigh**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

31 DECEMBER

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

1 JANUARY

- **Newark**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383

- **Bridgnorth**, Tony Oakes, 01270 652773 or 07825 631323

8 JANUARY

- **Cardiff**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
- **Herne Bay**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

9 JANUARY

- **Stafford**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Spalding**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Croydon**, Croydon Aerodrome Military Aviation & Collectors Fair, 07973 885754
- **Chelmsford**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

16 JANUARY

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

22 JANUARY

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

23 JANUARY

- **Coventry**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Potters Bar**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215 or 01279 301407
- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097

27 JANUARY

- **Tonbridge**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215 or 01279 301407

AUCTIONS

17 DECEMBER

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

6 JANUARY

- **Kent**, C&T Auctioneers, 01233 510050
- **Sheffield**, Sheffield Auction Gallery, 0114 281 6161

11 JANUARY

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

12 JANUARY

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

18 JANUARY

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

19 JANUARY

- **Warwick**, Warwick & Warwick, 01926 499031
- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

21 JANUARY

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

25 JANUARY

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

26 JANUARY

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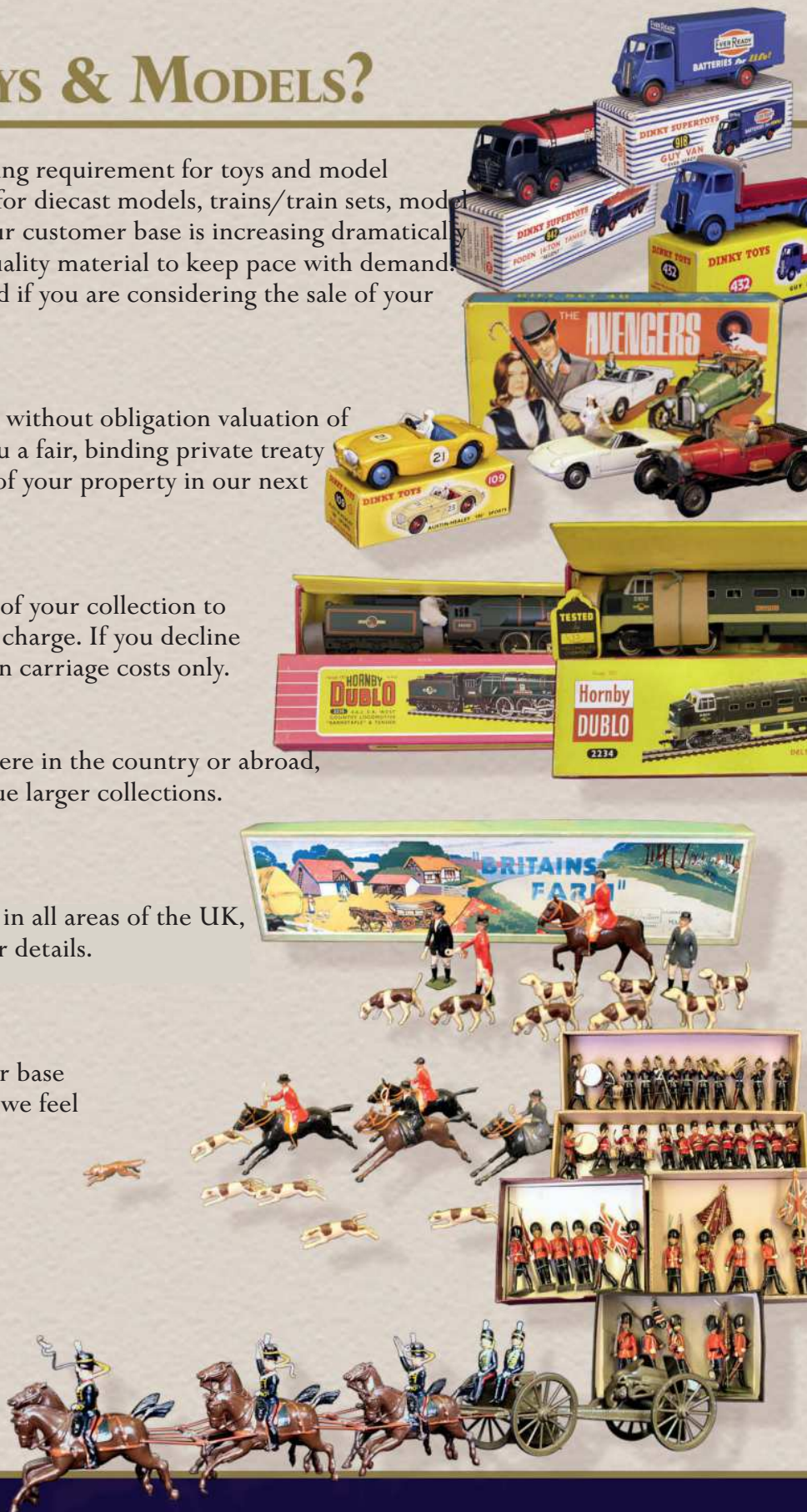
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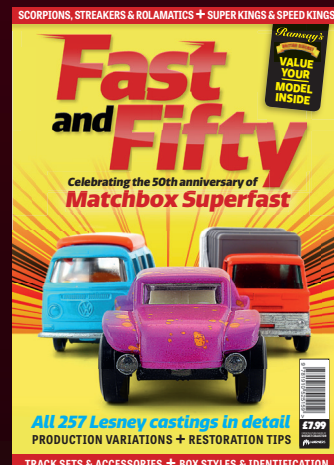
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