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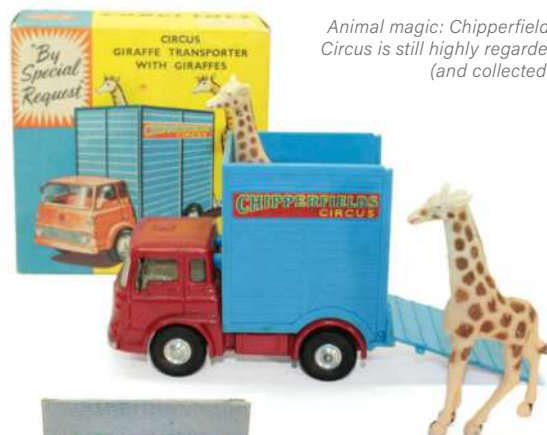
Toys from Down Under

Interest in old toys in the Antipodes continues unabated.

At the last Trains, Planes and Automobiles auction, a Corgi 503 Chipperfields Circus Giraffe Transporter with two giraffes found a new home, despite a few small scratches and stains. In a very good box with packing insert, it achieved \$110.

Dinky Toys did well too: a trade box of six Tyre Racks with Tyres might not have been the most exciting multiple, but billed as excellent in a very good box, it was finally knocked down for \$500. The Dinky Hall's Distemper Advertisement set, containing two figures carrying an advertising banner, bore a few chips to the paintwork on the figures, and a little wear to the banner. Boxed, it settled on \$480.

On to trains: a Robilt (Australia) O gauge clockwork Goods Set with



Animal magic: Chipperfields Circus is still highly regarded (and collected!)



a VR 0-4-0 Locomotive and Tender (No. 52) in black came with a four wheel Tank Wagon "Supershell", a four wheel Open Wagon and an oval of track. The key was present and the set had been tested and

was working. Although the locomotive had had some replacement screws the set was contested to \$410.

Finally, a pair of HO gauge New South Wales NHFH bogie Hopper Wagons, complete with loads, came under the hammer. Complete with Kadee couplings in very good to excellent condition, they realised a creditable \$130. ■

A Star choice

Never one to pass up on a choice Star Wars figurine, Vectis had the pleasure of handling a Princess Leia Bispin example recently. Mint, within a near mint bubble and attached to a good unpunched 30B back card, this particular Palitoy offering carried a reserve of £2,000-3,000.

Why so interesting? Well, here was an example of transitional imagery on the card, with only half the princess in view. The image was quickly revised after the initial release, leaving only a few of the semi-portrait cards in circulation. ■



This Princess Leia example with half a portrait trebled expectations, selling for £9,000.

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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Right on track



Plenty of trains delighted the punters (or should that be shunters?) at the Wallis & Wallis December auction. Aside from the grouped lots of rolling stock and locos were some lovely larger gauge items. These included a Hornby Series O gauge three-rail No.E1E Engine Shed, fitted for electric lighting on a green base (£130) and a companion O gauge tinplate No.E2E three-rail, two-track Engine Shed. This was in good condition with some surface wear, and it made £95. A huge £340 was required to secure the Hornby O gauge electric L18 No.4 Southern Railway Schools Class 4-4-0 tender locomotive for three-rail use: it looked magnificent, needless to say. A Hornby Princess Elizabeth also turned

A superb Hornby Railways Class locomotive that went to a new home (shed?)

up, boxed: this sold for £750. There were plenty of Ace Trains too, with an O gauge Southern Railway EMU Full Third passenger coach in lined green livery realising £120; whilst £130 was bid on the Metropolitan Railway EMU driving car in brown livery. As for Ace locomotives, £190 won the O gauge Southern Railway 4-4-4T (ESG/1), 604, in lined green livery for three-rail use; and £140 took home the Southern Railway 4-4-4T (ESB/1), 492, in lined black livery.

And for something completely different, how about a modern O gauge tinplate Corgi Bassett Lowke LMS Princess Royal Class 4-6-2 and tender? Watch these, for the Wallis & Wallis example sold for £300. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

The best of British

A large number of slot cars went through the British Toy Auctions December sale but the main focus was arguably on the television and cinematic tie-in toys that were up for grabs.

That famous lollipop-sucking, bald detective from the 1970s appeared with the Corgi 290 Buick sedan. Kojak was in action poise (with hat!) while the car was mint in a good box with the baddie figure and the self adhesive Police badge still inside. This 1979 iteration raised £65.

Another US imported television series, that of *Starky & Hutch*, was represented by a Corgi Duo Pack, reference 1376. This was a late version containing the modified larger car with blacked out windows, twin aerials

This glorious slot racing set was one of the more interesting lots amongst the track racing memorabilia. Love that box art!



and four spoke wheels. The smaller Juniors car was fitted with the later grey bumpers. In this instance, the fashionable pair sold for £50.

A Corgi UNCLE Thrushbuster car made it to £50, despite being playworn and having no Waverly ring within its box; and a James Bond Toyota 2000GT convertible (did you know that the real car was only available with a roof?), with Bond, female acquaintance and the all-important missiles, was

bid to £150, although the white car showed some signs of having been enjoyed.

All the way from Germany, the Schuco 4012 clockwork Radio Car with key was an unusual lot at the event. Finished in burgundy but lacking its box, the car was nonetheless in very good condition overall and both of its clockwork mechanisms were working. At £40 it was a bargain.

Finally, it was a good day for light refreshments: a Corgi Walls Ice Cream Van (the Thames version) was complete with seller and customer and was taken to £100 whilst a much scarcer Tonibell (Bedford) variant, this time from Spot-on, was contested to £140. ■



Schuco car came with a working radio: German toy making was always streets ahead of the competition.

NEW RELEASES
THIS MONTH



CORGI TRIUMPH TR6

Price: £32.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
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» www.corgi.co.uk

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» www.oxforddiecast.co.uk



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new releases
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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Memorable memorabilia

Greenslade Taylor Hunt's last collector's sale covered a wide variety of offerings, ranging from toys through coins and medals to edged weapons, WW2 memorabilia, postcards and stamps to automobilia: truly, there was something for everyone.

World War 2 certainly struck a chord with some bidders, for 324 issues of the Commando comic (a publication that seems to have run for decades!) was fought over to finish on £180. A British pair of Kershaw Bino prism No 2 Mk 111 x 6 binoculars were dated 1944 and came with a webbing field case dated 1943: a well-known



A 2 inch steam G.W.R. Castle Class 4-6-0 loco and tender didn't hang around, and was snapped up for £200; Automobilia continues to attract the punters and this BP Motor Spirit sign sold well at £240



and sample packaging, of mixed age, achieved £65.

Two Pelham Puppets made £110: the closing bid was doubtlessly helped by the fact that one was the sought-after Steve Zodiac, with the other an example of the Tyrolean Girl. A Lindstrom Skeeter Bug, essentially a sort of tinplate dodgem car emanating from the US, dating from the 1930s and with a clockwork motor, attracted interest before settling on £130. ■

manufacturer, they sold for just £35; while an assortment of German Third Reich medals was knocked down for £260.

The two star lots were actually equine, and not diecast: the Stevenson Brothers Golden Jubilee Special Edition rocking horse from 2002 was a dappled grey version and came with a framed photograph of the

Stevenson Brothers presenting the Queen with such a rocking horse. This example was passed by the Queen to the present vendor in recognition of the seller rescuing horses subsequently stabled on the Royal estate in Norfolk and sold for £4,500. Fractionally more found a new stable for the 1999 Stevenson rocker, which was finished in unpainted

natural wood.

Aside from several guitars and amps the auction included advertising signs (a bid of £40 won the Harp Lager light box example with a Wills's Gold Flake cigarette tinplate sign fetching £130). A Tri-ang Stores Toy Shop Fitting, of wood construction and painted pale blue, with a quantity of miniature toy

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Bargains at Ryedale sale

Ryedale Auctioneers doesn't specialise in toys – but that said, it had an interesting selection available in its December sale, tucked away amongst the Chanel advertising memorabilia, stamps, coins, weapons and obsolete firearms. Sometimes it pays to take a look at non-



Shipsshape and ready for the village pond.

specialist sales...

A Penguin Naval Pinnacle model clockwork powered model boat was

a steal at £22 for one lucky bidder – and it had its box. A quantity of German pre-war tinplate

O gauge wagons and tinplate buffers, seven items in all, was picked up for £45 whilst a boxed wooden Tri-ang fort was knocked down for £12. What was unusual was that the box accompanied the model – quite a rarity, all these years on.

For railway devotees (those of the real thing) there was much to tempt: how about a bridge plate embossed with M.S.J.

and A.R. no. 119 for £38; or the genuine British Rail guards bag, complete with flags and a hand lamp? One assumes that this was redundant stock... anyhow, it was bid to £28. And for these dark nights, what better than the Adlake signal lamp bearing an L.M.S. script? In lovely condition, it was sold for £32. ■



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■ HOBBY NEWS

Coventry's own collectable car

A Jaguar XJ-S touring car that qualified for pole position in the 1982 24-hour Spa-Francorchamps European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) race – and won the 1984 edition – has been reimagined as a 1/32 scale Scalextric car emblazoned with Coventry City of Culture 2021 livery and will soon be available for keen collectors to buy.

It is the first time that this model, made famous by Tom Walkinshaw Racing (TWR) for its appearances at the famous Belgian circuit, has been memorialised in the form of a Scalextric car in an extremely limited run of just 1,000 models.

It features a carefully arranged skin design



to reflect Coventry City of Culture Trust's core message: Coventry Moves.

A bird's eye view of the car, originally a 5.3 litre V12 manufactured from 1975 until 1996, reveals the letters, C, O and V, with arrows on the wings and doors to mirror the city's forward momentum and the Coventry 2021 brand.

It also includes references to Coventry's Two-Tone culture and its transport heritage, with black and white tiles on the side and a spoked wheel emblem figuring as the O in "Cov". The number plate also reads COV 2021.

Laura McMillan, Director of Audience

Strategy at Coventry City of Culture Trust, said: "It's been fantastic to work with Hornby to design a car that signifies the city that moves."

"Coventry's year as UK City of Culture will be one to remember and I hope that whether you're a keen Scalextric collector, or someone who wants to own a piece of Coventry history, you can get your hands on one of these limited-edition pieces before they sell out."

The limited-edition Coventry 2021 TWR Jaguar XJ-S Touring Scalextric can be pre-ordered now. ■

Following a long-tradition the Maidenhead Static Model Club again produced a new model for its members for Christmas 2021. The chosen model was an Austin Seven Mini based on the Spot-On the model. It is finished in blue with a white roof, glazing and a white interior.

Like everyone this has been a difficult and unusual year but the club rallied. Despite the challenges they managed to continue with committee meetings and small gatherings. Both the annual fish and chip supper plus the Christmas dinner proved popular with members.



NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH

CORGI VOLKSWAGEN CAMPERVAN TYPE 2 BAY WINDOW 'RAT LOOK'

Price: £32.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now

The second casting from Corgi's newly-tooled Type 2 gets the 'rat look' treatment and it really works.

» www.corgi.co.uk



WIKING

CLAAS AXION 960TT FIELD TRACTOR

Price: 94.90€ Scale: 1/32 Release: out now

Wiking has updated the decals and added weathering to the Axion 960TT tractor it released in 2020. It's available from Claas only.

» collection.claas.com

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

Coming up NEXT MONTH

MARCH 2022 ISSUE



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Budgie Toys Taxi
in factory trial colour.
Sold for £460



A pair of 5 inch gauge LBSCR
Stroudley Terriers.

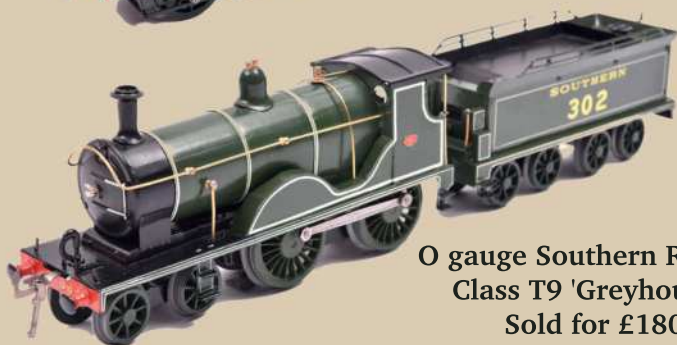
Sold for £3100



Sold for £2700



O gauge Southern Railway
Class T9 'Greyhound'.
Sold for £180



O gauge Southern Railway
Class D3/12 Shunter.
Sold for £110



A selection of Corgi toys offered in our recent auction.

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What was the year?

Alwyn Brice invites *Gazette* readers to pin down the year.

This was the year that Fidel Castro came to power as Prime Minister in Cuba, the fellow of iconic poster fame: he of the beard, forage cap and enormous (Cuban, of course) cigars. The US didn't take too kindly to this coup and a trade embargo was instigated.

Not too far away from Cuba is Hawaii (...err only 6 time zones - Ed) and during this period the much-visited paradise became the fiftieth state of the US, with William F Quinn elected as the state's first governor.

Both the US and the Soviet Union were exploring space during the 12 month period under review, although it was early days for both superpowers. The Soviet Union's Luna 1 spacecraft exited the Earth's

orbit in January, with Pioneer 4 becoming the first American spacecraft to achieve the same result in March. Animals were beginning to travel through the black unknown too, for in May, two monkeys became the first simians to survive a space flight. Able, a rhesus monkey, and Baker, a squirrel monkey, were launched into space from Cape Canaveral by the United States Army on a Jupiter AM-18 rocket. They both returned safely.

But perhaps the most significant space event was that which occurred on September 14 when the Soviet Luna 2 spacecraft crash landed on the moon, making it the first man-made object to reach the planet's surface.

Once again the forces of nature were at play: typhoon Vera ravaged

the Japanese island of Honshu, where winds of over 160 mph were recorded, leaving nearly 5,000 people dead. Meanwhile in Taiwan, severe flooding contributed to 2,000 deaths.

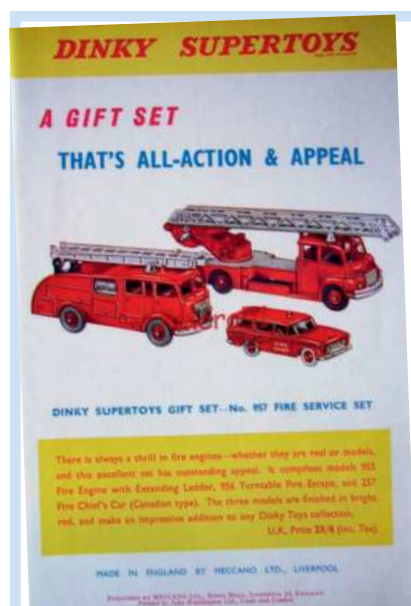
On the home front there was cause for celebration, though, as a full size hovercraft, the SR-N1, designed by Sir Christopher Cockerell, was tested for the first time in June - cross Channel options were opening up! On terra firma, the very first section of the famous M1 motorway was opened, an engineering feat that would link London with Birmingham. The same year the ground-breaking Mini was announced by BMC: it was yours for just £500. In terms of politics, it was also the year that the UK granted independence to Cyprus.

Commercial successes included Xerox, which launched the first copier while Boeing's new 707 took to the skies, snipping an amazing eight hours off the transatlantic hop.

Films of the year included the gag-a-minute *Carry on Teacher* and the biblical *Ben Hur*; and the hit parade featured Cliff Richard with *Living Doll* and Neil Sedaka's *Oh! Carol*.

As for toys, it was the year of Etch A Sketch, variously attributed to Arthur Grandjean and French electrician André Cassagnes. And a young lady by the name of Barbie made her appearance in the toyshops in the company of the rather less elegant Betsy Wetsy with, you guessed it, working bodily functions...

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



ABOVE
Dinky was equipping small boys to tackle the nearest fire during this year.

BELOW

Barbie marked a huge step away from paper cut-out clothes and two-dimensional card dolls for girls.



LEFT

Old-established Meccano brought out this colourful pamphlet.

RIGHT

It was the birth of that ingenious yet frustrating doodling game.



From Mermaids to Dolphins

Rail companies have always recycled freight wagons to assist with infrastructure maintenance. Here **Mark Nolan** casts a beady eye over the models representing this niche interest.

You know how when you're young, you sort of have a wide angle vision, continually searching for new opportunities, experiences and interaction with your peers? As you get older your goals become more focused; buy a car; repair it; MOT it; insure it; repair it. Need I go on?

We call this 'admin'. The funny thing about admin is, it never stops. Even my retired 74 year old mother seems to be busy all the time. Why? You'd think by then everything would be neat and organised. But I'm noticing that retired people are even busier than they were when they were working. "Sorry I can't do Thursday, I'm changing my electricity supplier".

Well if you think you've got admin, imagine running a heavy rail transport network. Ok, so you've got the infrastructure in place, trains running, timetables, tickets all taken care of, clerks, managers, freight moving about, the right wagons for the maintenance work...

"Whoa let me stop you there. I asked you for one of those short wagons with stanchions on one side. You sent a long one with stanchions on both sides and that's not going to fly."

"Of course it won't, wagons don't fly".

"Don't get smart with me son, I mean it's not going to work for the complex job I need it for."

Anyway, all this was dealt with ages ago by an unknown administrator, who had a brainwave. He knew that engineers' wagons were many

and varied, often adapted from life-expired freight wagons or passenger coaches. He knew that the railways had much in common with the military, lots of blokes dealing with large, dangerous and complicated machinery. What would the military do? Give them code names of course. It could have been plants. It could have been birds. In the final event it was fish. Which is how engineers' wagons came to be named after members of AC/DC (drummer Phil Rudd) and the Scottish National Party (Nicola Sturgeon and Alex Salmon).

DEPARTMENTAL VEHICLES

The result is a list of over 90 fishy wagon types, from Barbel to Winkle. These are known as 'departmental' vehicles, used by the various maintenance departments for transporting men and materials about the system to keep the railway running, with regular checks of track, signalling and telecommunications equipment, repairing and replacing as necessary.

The permanent way department, responsible for track maintenance, would require low sided opens and hopper wagons for ballast and spoil (used ballast), and

ABOVE

Hornby ZGV Clam wagon. Departmental DB973110.



ABOVE

Hornby R6894 ZBA 'Rudd' Departmental Wagon.



ABOVE

Hornby ZCV Tope.

long flat wagons for carrying rails. Ballast and spoil wagons would outnumber all other departmental types in use. Following the Beeching changes and Barbara Castle's Transport Act there were large numbers of redundant open wagons transferred to the engineers, notably drop-side three plank wagons.

The GWR had standardised on steel construction for ballast

vehicles but the other pre-grouping companies favoured wooden bodies vehicles and further examples of these wooden designs were built by British Railways.

The LMS used very similar wagons for both sleepers and ballast, these had a longer than



ABOVE
Dapol BR engineers Turbot bogie open ballast wagon in EWS maroon livery
No. DB978363.



ABOVE
Parkside Dundas (Peco) Grampus.



ABOVE
Bachmann BR MKA 'Limpet' Open Wagon in Loadhaul livery.

normal body on an extended chassis but with a ten foot wheel base. The sleeper wagon had fixed ends with L shaped stanchions, the ballast version had drop-down ends which required additional hinged steel posts at each corner. Quite a few of these wagons were inherited by British Railways and they even built a few more themselves. British Railways called the sleeper wagon 'Haddock' and the ballast wagon 'Sole'. These wagons lasted in service into the 1970s.

Ballast hopper wagons and side-tipping wagons for both

ballast and spoil were also built. The side tipping wagons used a screw jacking device operated by the workmen to tip the body and deposit the load beside the track. Once the ballast was on the track special ballast ploughs (converted brake vans fitted with large plough blades) were pulled along to spread it out. On the Southern it was common practice to drop the ballast on the adjacent track, then use men with shovels to move it into place.

CLAM, RUDD AND TOPE

From a collecting and modelling

perspective, Bachmann, Dapol, Heljan and Hornby offer an impressive line-up of rolling stock ranging from ballast hoppers to bogie bolsters and spoil wagons to ballast ploughs. There are also a few prototypes that are only offered as kits, including a good selection through Cambrian Models such as 40 ton Walrus and 50 ton Whale bogie ballast hoppers, Sturgeon bogie rail/sleeper wagons, YSA Salmon bogie flat wagons and ZEV Catfish ballast hoppers.

The Clam, Rudd and Tope wagons were all rebuilds of HTV coal hoppers for use by the civil engineers. The Clam and Rudd conversions both involved the fitting of a new box body, the Rudds having dropside doors and air brakes. The Tope was a simpler job, merely having the original hopper body cut down in height and a solid floor fitted. The programme started in 1984 and involved over 2000 wagons, the vast majority of which appeared in grey and yellow livery. The vacuum braked Clam and Tope fleets were fairly rapidly withdrawn in the early 2000s, but the Rudds lasted longer, with over 200 still in use at the start of 2008.

BRILL, SEACOW AND TURBOT

Over 1000 Brill bogie bolster wagons were refurbished by BR in the 1970s with new bogies and air brakes. A large proportion remain in service today, many having undergone modification for specific duties.

Although built over an extended period, the basis of the Seacow type was actually a design by the London and South Western Railway first introduced in 1903. Apart from the bogies there were only very minor changes between the oldest and the newest builds, a testament to the soundness of the original design. Most of the examples built in the 1970s and 1980s remain in service today, working alongside newer autoballasters and a growing number of box wagons.

The Turbot wagons were converted from BR bogie bolster E wagons between 1982 and 1988.

Three drop-doors were added to each side of the wagon with fixed and substantially braced ends. 'Wings' were soon added to the ends, helping to reduce the length of the gap between two wagons when a train was being loaded with waste ballast from a ballast cleaner on a parallel track.

The Turbots proved quite versatile, being used for moving new ballast to storage locations, taking old ballast for disposal and for moving large boulders for use as coastal sea defense. The type was generally withdrawn in 2002, but many have joined the engineering fleets of heritage railways, light-rail systems and London Underground.

LIMPET, DOGFISH AND GRAMPUS

In N gauge the Parkside Dundas kit range includes a BR standard ballast wagon, the Grampus, which bears a strong family resemblance to the designs used by the GWR. They also offer an SR sleeper wagon, introduced in 1928 and still in service in the late 1980s, and the LNER/BR pipe wagon (a design dating from the 1930s and retained into the 1990s for departmental use). Dapol have also released a dogfish four wheel ballast hopper.

The departmental stock in the post 1967 period has been increasingly purpose-built, the old mess vans (often converted goods vans fitted with windows and a set of steps for workers on site) were withdrawn in the 1970s when British Rail introduced yellow road vans for permanent way and signal and telegraph department staff.

If you've managed to make it this far you'll have noticed the lack of fish puns. Whilst not wishing to carp on about departmental wagons, the railways would be floundering without them. You could say they serve an essential purpose! With that I think I'll clam up and skate off. Just to say that all these exotic fishkind wagons are gradually being superseded by specialist track laying and tamping machines, so fishkind wagons are already merging into railway history. **CG**

BR 'FISHKIND' WAGON NAMES

• Barbel	• Cod	• Falcon	• Heron	• Mermaid	• Perch	• Rudd	• Skate	• Trout
• Bass	• Conga	• Gannet	• Herring	• Minnow	• Pike	• Salmon	• Sole	• Tunney
• Bream	• Crab	• Gane	• Lamprey	• Mullet	• Pilchard	• Sea Urchin	• Squid	• Turbot
• Brill	• Crayfish	• Goldfish	• Limpet	• Mussel	• Piranha	• Seacow	• Starfish	• Walrus
• Carp	• Dace	• Grampas	• Ling	• Octopus	• Plaice	• Seahare	• Stickleback	• Whale
• Catfish	• Dogfish	• Gudgeon	• Loriot	• Osprey	• Pollock	• Seahorse	• Stingray	• Whelk
• Chubb	• Dolphin	• Gunnell	• Mackerel	• Otter	• Porpoise	• Seal	• Sturgeon	• Whiting
• Clam	• Doorand	• Haddock	• Manta	• Oyster	• Prawn	• Sealion	• Tadpole	• Winkle
• Coalfish	• Eel	• Hake	• Marlin	• Parr	• Red snapper	• Shark	• Tench	• Zander
• Cockle	• Egrel	• Halibut	• Mer-Dog	• Penguin	• Roach	• Shrimp	• Tope	



Matchbox Series: Hong Kong copies

Andrew Ralston tells us more.

During the 1950s and 1960s it was common practice for manufacturers of plastic goods in Hong Kong to make copies of British diecast toy cars. Many Dinky, Corgi and other subjects received this treatment, generally being scaled up to larger dimensions and fitted with a friction-drive motor. The smaller Matchbox 1-75 series vehicles were copied too, but in this case the copies tended to be

similar in size to the originals. This article examines a selection of these, and considers why it is often difficult to identify who made them.

One of the best-known Hong Kong makers of plastic toys which can be identified is Blue Box, founded in 1952 by Peter Chan Pui. His most successful toy product was, of all things, a doll that could drink and wet! Blue Box went on to make copies of familiar subjects by Dinky or Corgi but the majority were

inspired by Matchbox products. Sometimes these came boxed singly, the boxes of course being blue in colour, carrying the message in not quite accurate English: "*This is one of the Blue-Box toy cars. How many kinds you have?*" In the absence of any systematic listing, we can only guess as to how many of the smaller Matchbox 1-75 models appeared in this series.

Making copies of other people's models might suggest a lack of creativity and originality,

but Blue Box revealed a certain amount of imagination in the way that these were frequently combined and packaged in sets. There are, for example, at least three separate boxed sets containing four models each: 'Civil Engineering', containing digger, road roller, dumper and cement mixer; 'Commercial Vehicles', containing the Bedford Tipper, Morris Pick-up, Commer van and double deck bus; 'Auto Series', with Hillman Minx, American Ford Station

Wagon, Jaguar XK Coupe and MGA sports. You hardly need to be a specialist Matchbox collector to know where all these subjects came from! Again, there were numerous different boxed or carded 'garage sets' with a mixture of vehicles and accessories such as petrol pumps (again, Matchbox-based) and figures. Blue Box didn't worry about things like scale, and happily mixed together Matchbox-sized copies with larger Dinky-type ones. One 'Road Repair Set', for example, combines small Matchbox copies with replicas of the figures of workmen found in the Dinky Road Maintenance Personnel Set.

But the picture gets even more complicated as another series exists, apparently much the same as the Blue Box models – until you read the name on the box: 'Blue Bow'. If Blue Box copied Matchbox, then it seems that the Blue Bows are copies of the copies! Very similar models can also be found in the '12 piece vehicle set', mounted on a card backing with the initials NFIC and supplied in a polythene bag, though not all of these are based on Matchboxes.

Bigger Hong Kong toy cars – the ones scaled up from Dinky and other subjects and fitted with friction motors – often carry names like Telsalda, Clifford Series or Lucky Toys but such names are much less common with the Matchbox-sized toys. Hence, there are many of these

name of one of the biggest British distributors of Hong Kong plastic toys, F. Levy and Co. of London. There's yet another 'Miniature Vehicles' series in a similar polythene material, in light green and brown boxes.

All of these, are of course, hardly more than the tip of the iceberg, and undiscovered toys of this type turn up all the time. A recent find was a Ford Thames, clearly based on the Matchbox 'Singer' van, with a surprising twist: this one has a driver like the Matchbox sports cars, while at the back there's a hole to insert a pencil, for it's not only a toy car but a pencil sharpener too.

Collectors may well ask why Hong Kong toymakers were so reluctant to identify themselves – after all, the makers of most products generally want to advertise their wares. Part of the reason is that European toys were usually copied without permission and many Hong Kong makers did not want to draw attention to themselves. The way the Hong Kong toy trade operated in the 1960s was that British toy buyers would go out to the Colony and meet in the offices of trading agents where toymakers would come to show samples of their products. Bulk orders would be placed and thereafter distribution in the UK would be in the hands of the importer. It was consequently the distributors rather than the manufacturers who would become the primary contacts

Making copies of other people's models might suggest a lack of creativity and originality, but Blue Box revealed a certain amount of imagination in the way that these were frequently combined and packaged in sets

around, quite often attractively boxed, which give no clue to their source. Neat red boxes, with models often moulded in red plastic too, are used for a series marked simply with numbers – 101, 102, etc. Among the well-known Matchbox subjects identified in this range are an Austin Taxi, Austin Cambridge, Leyland Royal Tiger Coach and Rolls Royce Silver Cloud. Then there's the 'Polythene Miniatures', in Matchbox-style boxes, in red/yellow rather than the blue/yellow used by Lesney. The box artwork, too, is clearly copied straight from the Matchboxes. Intriguingly, some of these boxes are described as 'Clifford Miniatures' a trade

as far as UK retailers were concerned. These retailers were more likely to be small corner shops or market stalls than specialist toy shops which would be agents for more prestigious branded products from the likes of Meccano Limited, Tri-ang and Mettoy.

Such factors all add to the mystery surrounding Hong Kong plastic toys which were for so long seen as inferior, throwaway playthings with no appeal for collectors. Compared to robust metal products like Dinky Toys, the survival rate of these cheap toys is poor, especially with their original packaging but that only adds to their desirability for collectors who like a challenge! **CG**



ABOVE

This unidentified copy of the Matchbox Ford Thames van contains a pencil sharpener!



ABOVE

The box of the Ford Station Wagon carries the logo of 'Empress Brand', but the breakdown and tipper are marked simply as 'Miniature Vehicles'.



ABOVE

Matchbox copies in plastic: the Blue Box 'Civil Engineering' Set.



RIGHT

Almost the same as Blue Box, but this breakdown is marked 'Blue Bow'.

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Reference *preference*

The catalogue bug, explained by **Alwyn Brice**

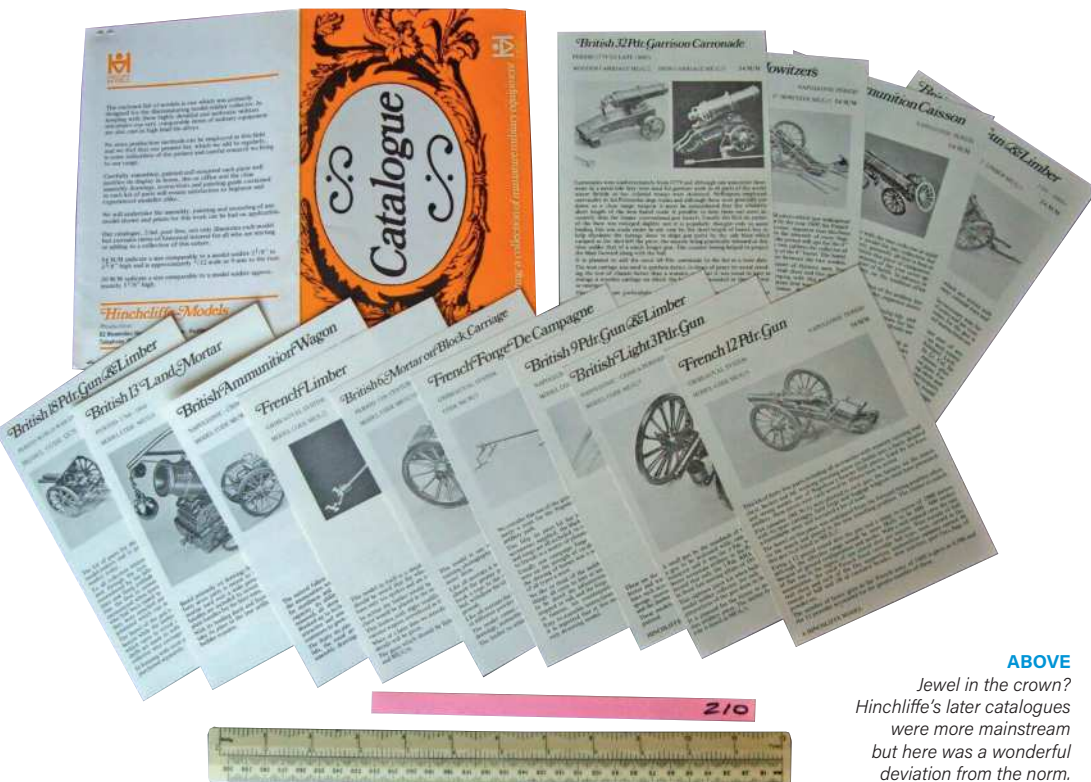
Working on the premise that everyone collects something, it will probably come as no surprise to learn that catalogues are not only in demand, but also seem to be appreciating in value.

What, then, is the attraction of these ephemeral publications which, rather like glossy magazines and periodicals, were probably binned when they had outlasted their usefulness? Take a trawl around the online auction sites and you'll see why. Weekly or monthly magazines from the 1960s and 1970s are getting harder and harder to find – and it's much the same with toy catalogues.

WHY COLLECT?

The toy catalogue is a fascinating genre for many reasons. If you are a completist and you know that you will never, ever, amass all those Lesney 1-75 first series models, for example, a Matchbox catalogue can bring instant salvation and satisfaction in equal measure. True, you only have visual representations to whet your appetite and the actual diecasts will remain tantalisingly out of reach, but at least you have the collection. And, if for a minute you consider the likes of Husky Toys or Hot Wheels, their collectors have a similar conundrum in that they cannot actually touch the bubble-wrapped merchandise.

Catalogues also have a huge merit in that they do not take up an awful lot of space. We all know that collecting anything today tends to shrink the available living quarters in an average house yet with a catalogue



ABOVE
Jewel in the crown?
Hinchliffe's later catalogues
were more mainstream
but here was a wonderful
deviation from the norm.

collection, you can have dozens of examples occupying an area so modest that it is bound to keep your partner (or perhaps your parents) sane. What, as they say, is not to like?

CONDITION

As with anything that is derived from a tree, the older the catalogue, the more likely it is that it will have suffered some damage, whether through general wear and tear or, horror of horrors, through being exposed to moisture. It's as well to remember that these items were bought in the main for or by children, so longevity and condition probably did not



ABOVE Taking modelling to a new dimension: Historex employed artists to assemble and paint their Napoleonic range and the results were the envy of any youth investing in one of these 54mm kits.



LEFT
This is the first edition of what would become a huge range of catalogues. The "toy" theme is much in evidence here, thanks to the artwork.



RIGHT
Plenty of Airfix catalogues are out there, along with price lists. The company took pains to illustrate as many of its products as possible.

feature high up on the average child's agenda. Rips and staple holes, creases, unidentified sticky substances and crayon or pen marks can all be found on catalogues. Some would aver that this adds to their charm; others will be less impressed.

So the reality is that condition is everything, much as it is with banknotes, stamps and newspapers. Mind you, that's not to say that old, tatty catalogues should be overlooked; the fact is, all are worthy of saving, and if you can only find a dog-eared, torn example, it could probably

of paragraphs below. This was miles away from the norm – and somehow persuaded the buyer that here was a very exclusive line of collectables indeed.

So, there's no one size fits all when it comes to catalogues, which raises the question of storage and display and how best to execute this side of the equation.

THE RANGE

Here's the biggest problem – what exactly do you look for? I suspect that many people begin by simply chancing across an



ABOVE
The range of Matchbox catalogues is delightful, especially in the early years, and they are popular with the company's diecast collectors.

reference points.

Selecting a large, well-established manufacturer, such as Airfix or Britains, means that you can effectively chart and build up the company's progress over a period of time. Early catalogues are generally the hardest to find and may include much in monochrome: not too exciting to the modern eye, perhaps, they nonetheless they give an insight into the workings of the company's commercial team and how they viewed the world all those years ago.

The visual side really requires no explanation: any toy company having its wares photographed and fetchingly displayed within the pages of a catalogue was on to a winner in my book. Aside from singling that company out from the crowd, the catalogue

acted as a spur: to the young reader, idly thumbing through it with a bottle of lemonade to hand, there was always another model that beckoned. In fact, the best catalogues were little short of engrossing and kids would pore for hours over their images, lost in daydreams in which the harsh realities of insufficient pocket money simply didn't figure. It was, in a pre-electronic world, simple escapism.

And finally, if you don't actually set out to collect catalogues, you may find them nonetheless making their way into your study or hobbies room, where they will sit happily alongside your collection of diecasts, kits or model soldiers. They are, when all is said and done, the perfect accompaniment.

Happy hunting! **CG**



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Rose white metal figures were not for the impecunious but when well painted, looked terrific, as can be seen here; The back of the Rose catalogue offered a further opportunity to show more tantalising figurines. All that was required was pocket money...

THE ONES THAT GOT AWAY...

One interesting facet of the catalogue is the ghost model. This is the item that is tantalisingly pictured (often via an artist's impression) but which never made it to the shops. Frustrating, perhaps, for the collector, but another little insight into what was bubbling on the back burner of the company in question.

It's as well to remember that these items were bought in the main for or by children, so longevity and condition probably did not feature high up on the average child's agenda.

serve until a better one comes along. And, if you are blessed with patience, a better one eventually does.

As for size, this varies enormously, from impressive A4-sized catalogues to skimpy flyers and small scale notebook type catalogues. One or two manufacturers even ventured down a totally different route: Hinchliffe, which majored in Napoleonic white metal artillery kits in the 1970s, came up with the idea of a card folder within which was a monochrome photograph of each item, with full details of the kit in a couple

example of a catalogue which they owned all those years ago and they subsequently secure it for nostalgia's sake. After a while, curiosity gets the better of them and they branch out into other years by the same maker, just to find out what they never had.

If I recall, in my impecunious youth, I didn't buy many catalogues: being a kit building fanatic, I would rather have spent the cash on another project or some paint or brushes. You will appreciate, then, that Airfix catalogues, together with those of Revell and Tamiya, and later Historex, were my main



Collecting Disney bears

Building a collection of Disney-themed bears can be harder than you might imagine but it is possible...

When you think of the number of animal characters Disney have immortalised in their animations over the years, it's surprising how rarely bears have been featured. After all, the bear – in its teddy form – is the world's favourite soft toy animal, so you'd expect a canny merchandiser like Disney to have a whole galaxy of bear characters with which to tempt us. Perhaps their reticence stems from the fact that since 1961 they have owned the film and licensing rights to *Winnie the Pooh*, the ultimate A-list bear, and it's hard

for any other bruin to compete with him in the popularity stakes.

Certainly Disney show no reticence when it comes to making the most of Pooh. Within their own stores he is regularly offered in umpteen different guises while the world's leading toy manufacturers compete for the right to produce their own versions under licence. The result is that fans of Pooh can build a hugely varied and interesting collection, especially if they are prepared to seek out vintage examples such as those made by Merrythought, the UK's longest surviving teddy bear manufacturer. In 1966, the Merrythought catalogue included a fully jointed 10-inch mohair Pooh as well as a 24-inch 'Showpiece' version and a Pooh nightdress case. The following year he was back as a 9-inch 'Chime' toy which had arms but no legs, and there was also a 'Pooh in Bed' pyjama or nightdress sachet.

More recently, Pooh has been reinterpreted by various companies including Gabrielle Designs, Gund, Golden Bear, Steiff, Canterbury Bears, Dean's and Hermann Teddy Original and there's every reason to suppose that further names will be added to the list

as Disney strive to satisfy the public's seemingly insatiable appetite for all things Pooh.

However, while there is no denying that Winnie the Pooh is 'Top Bear' in the Disney empire, there are other bears to be found if one is prepared to search for them.

Take, for example, two really delightful bear characters called Koda and Kenai which featured in the 2003 movie, *Brother Bear*. Following the release of the film, beautiful soft toy versions of these two could be found in Disney Stores and they made a reappearance in 2006 when the follow up, *Brother Bear 2*, was released on DVD. Although Koda and Kenai are supposed to look more like real bears than teddies, they have the cute faces and super-soft plush necessary to make them very appealing to children.

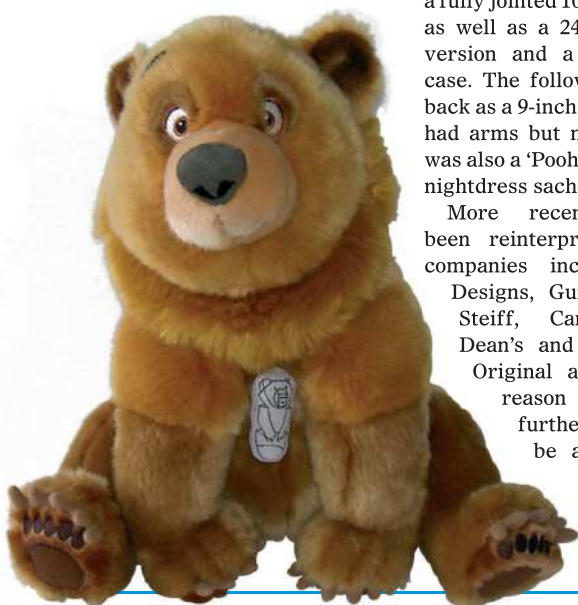
Another 'real' bear from the Disney stable is Baloo, the laid-back, fun loving bear who shows young Mowgli how to survive in the jungle in Disney's 1967 hit movie, *The Jungle Book*. Soft toy versions of Baloo have been produced since the 1960s, and two of the most successful came from Steiff.

The first Steiff Baloo was produced shortly after the release of *The Jungle Book* as part of a set that included the other main characters from the film. Complete sets occasionally turn

up at auction and are subject to fierce bidding – it's not unusual to have to pay £700 or £800 for them. In 2003 Steiff returned to Baloo, including him in their Disney Showcase Collection. This newer version, produced in a limited edition of 3000, measured 33cm high and was made from mohair. These are relatively easy to get hold of today as they frequently turn up on internet auction sites. Expect to pay anything from £80 to £160.

For those on tighter budgets, charming plush versions of Baloo can be found inexpensively on the secondary market. A 12-inch Baloo made in Sri Lanka for The Disney Store was found for sale recently in a charity shop, in good clean condition and priced at just £1. Plush bruins such as this make worthwhile additions to any Disney bear collection, as do the small beanie-type toys which are also easy to find.

Phil Harris, the voice actor who played the part of Baloo in *The Jungle Book*, took the part of another bear in the Disney version of *Robin Hood*. Released in 1973, the film portrayed all the main characters as animals and it was decided that the outsized Little John should be a bear. Although it had its good points, the film was not a massive success and as a result merchandise is less widely available than that associated with big hits like *The Jungle*



LEFT
Gorgeous plush version of Kenai from *Brother Bears*.



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Winnie the Pooh chime toy by Merrythought, 1967; Plush Sunni from the Gummi Bears; Plush Cubbi from the Gummi Bears; Singing and dancing Bear from *Bear in the Big Blue House* together with Ojo, both made by Mattel (Tutter the mouse is also pictured).

Book. Nevertheless, if you search (particularly on internet stores and auction sites) it is possible to buy Little John plush toys, plastic figurines, pin badges and so on. Prices range from £2 to £15.

There have been successful Disney bears on the small screen, too. Notable amongst these are the *Gummi Bears* which starred in their own television series from the middle of the 1980s through to the early 1990s. There were seven main characters – Zuffi, Grammi, Gruffi, Tummi, Sunni, Cubbi and Gusto – all of which were produced in soft toy form. A few years ago they rarely cost more than two or three pounds on the secondary market but prices do seem to be creeping up, little by little.

Although the show came to an end in 1991, it will probably be familiar to today's little ones thanks to re-runs on satellite and cable TV. Perhaps the most remarkable thing about the *Gummi Bears* is that the idea for the show came from the Gummi Bear sweets. We're all familiar with characters such as the Milky Bar Kid, the Milka cow and the Lindt bunny that

have been created specifically to promote confectionery but there can't be too many instances of confectionery inspiring hit TV shows.

Disney owe the popularity of another of their TV bears to the genius that was Jim Henson. Fozzie Bear was one of the most memorable characters from *The Muppets*, the puppet characters created by the late Jim Henson, and he has belonged to Disney since they bought *The Muppets* rights in 2004.

The Jim Henson name is also linked to one of the most recent bears to make it big for Disney. It was the Jim Henson Company that originally produced *Bear in the Big Blue House*, a charming, semi-educational show for pre-school children. Its great achievement was in appealing to adults as well as the small children it was created for, thus making watching it together an enjoyable experience for parent and child. Much of the credit for this is due to the joie de vivre of the eponymous Bear. He's seven feet high, bright orange, gentle, funny and he's a pretty good dancer, too. Apart from Bear, there is another

ursine in the show, a young girl cub called Ojo who is one of Bear's best friends.

Plush Ojo and Bear toys were widely available a few years ago, as were battery operated versions of Bear which played the show's theme tune while dancing. Some shops may still stock them but if not, they're easily found and cheaply bought at car boot sales or on the internet. It's also an idea to keep a look out for the small *Bear in the Big Blue House* toys that were given away with McDonalds Happy Meals several years ago.

Coming more to date, there is a new Disney bear bringing adventure and learning to the pre-school children. *Special Agent Oso* is a colourful special

agent teddy bear who undertakes assignments to help children learn how to perform various everyday tasks. The main character in the series, Oso works for U.N.I.Q.U.E (the United Network for the Investigation of Quite Unusual Events). He is regularly assisted by two companions; there is Special Agent Wolfe, a stuffed blue wolf and Special Agent Dotty, a spotted orange cat who possibly has tender feelings for Oso. *Special Agent Oso* aired on ITV and some episodes can also be viewed on YouTube.

Lovely plush versions of Oso could be purchased from The Disney Store for about £18 and they can also be found on Amazon and in good independent toy shops. **CG**

RIGHT
Koda from *Brother Bear*; the embroidery on his paw indicates it came from Disneyland Paris.



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

12-inch plush Baloo from The Disney Store together with a 6-inch beanie version; Special Agent Oso from The Disney Store.



10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Chad Valley

Chad Valley is a name synonymous with all kinds of toys and few companies in the history of toy making can lay claim to have produced such a wide and diverse range of products. At Christmas they called the Chad Valley factory 'Santa's Workshop' with millions of children waking up on Christmas Day to find at least one Chad Valley product in their stocking whether that was a doll or teddy bear, cowboy outfit or jig-saw puzzle, tin toy or a board game of some description... Chad Valley made them all.

My memories of Chad Valley Toys include a lovely old Escalado horse racing game passed down to me by my uncle in the late 1950s and a super Chad Valley 'Give a Show' projector which I had one Christmas in the 1960s along with a range of Walt Disney films. Sadly the Chad Valley toy I always wanted eluded me – that being the super diecast Fordson Major tractor – although there's still time yet – I haven't given up hope!

The roots of the Chad Valley company can be traced back to the end of the Napoleonic wars when Anthony Bunn Johnson, the son of a soldier who served under Wellington in the peninsular war, opened a small stationery printing works in Litchfield Street, Birmingham. One solitary printed letterhead is all that remains of that factory today, the premises being demolished many moons ago to make way for a Maples furniture store.

Johnson was joined by his two sons Joseph and Alfred until 1860 when the two boys left the family business to start their

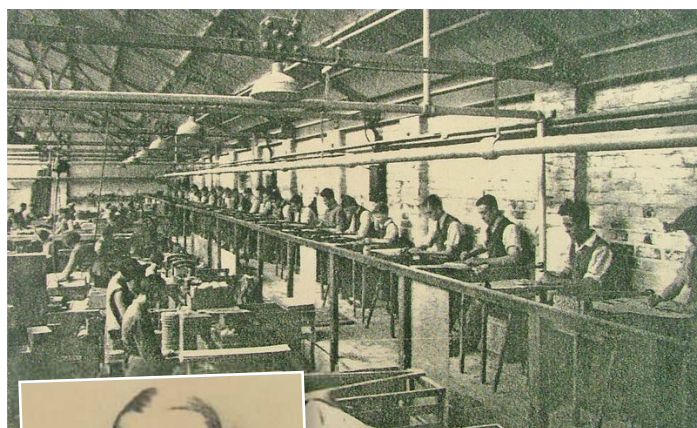
own printing and bookbinding company at premises in George Street, Birmingham. Initially they found trade slow and struggled to keep the presses rolling simply through orders for general stationery. They desperately needed some new ideas to boost the business. The mid-19th century was a time of great change in British society. While child labour was slowly on the decline education was on the rise with more and more children learning to read and write. This was to prove of great significance to the young Johnson brothers who suddenly latched on to the fact that educational toys and games could have a great future. The games the brothers devised incorporated maps, pictures and counters, thus allowing children to improve both knowledge and numeracy via play. The company expanded greatly and by 1897 Joseph Johnson has assumed full control of the business assisted by his eldest son Alfred J. Johnson.

It was clear that Johnson Bros Ltd needed to move to larger premises and in 1897 a new purpose-built factory was erected in the country suburb of Harborne. Until Victorian times Harborne had remained a small village in a remote part of Staffordshire. It expanded rapidly, however, following the arrival of the Harborne Railway after which its population quickly rose from 1,637 to 10,113. The new factory stood in Rose Road close to a small brook called the Chad which is how it got the name 'Chad Valley Works.' In those days most of the work was done by hand so the factory had a large workforce. The printing operation



ABOVE

Ladies at work at the Wrekin soft toy factory in Wellington, Shropshire where Chad Valley transferred soft toy production after World War One.



ABOVE

A long bank of twenty five men use treadle powered fret saws to hand-cut wooden jig saw puzzles. No two Chad Valley jig saws are ever the same.

LEFT

Alfred Johnson who took over at the helm of the Chad Valley Co in 1904 shortly after its move to Harborne.



**ABOVE**

King George V was one of a series of boxed wooden jig saw puzzles made by Chad Valley for the Great Western Railway.

**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT**

This mechanical race game was made by Roberts Bros of Gloucester under the Glevum Toys trade mark. Roberts Bros was eventually taken over by Chad Valley; Chad Valley produced a wide range of toy money boxes, some of which were made under contract by the Metal Box Co Ltd in Mansfield.

RIGHT

This World Cup Willie soft toy was produced by Chad Valley in 1966 when England won the World Cup at Wembley Stadium.

FAR RIGHT

This worn, but much-loved Chad Valley teddy bear dates from the 1960s.



was mainly an all-male domain, whereas the packing department was staffed largely by women. Great skill was required in the cutting room where wooden jig-saw puzzles were cut by hand on treadle operated band saws.

Alfred Johnson took over the helm in 1904 following the death of his father assisted by his brothers Arthur and Harry. Wooden jig-saw puzzles became a mainstay of the business with scores of different subjects portrayed including a very collectable series made for the Great Western Railway. Others included passenger liners operated by the Cunard White Star shipping line.

Surprisingly the outbreak

of World War One, in 1914, had a very positive effect on the business. The government placed a ban on imported toys leaving a massive hole in the market for Chad Valley to exploit. In 1915, despite restrictions on materials and a greatly reduced workforce, Johnson Brothers produced its first teddy bears.

After the war further expansion saw the company take over Harborne Village Institute which it used for printing cartons and box labels. Further expansion saw soft toy production moved away from the Chad Valley Works to a new factory in the market town of Wellington, Shropshire, where a new range of fabric dolls

were produced under the Wrekin Toy Works label. Eventually all operations were brought under one banner as The Chad Valley Co Ltd.

One man to leave the company was production manager C. J. Rendle who joined a weaving company in Huddersfield. It is here where the foundations of the famous Merrythought teddy bear company were later laid.

Business at Chad Valley's soft toy company was booming in the early 1920s with designer Nora Wellings leading the expansion of the doll ranges. Chad Valley teddy bears were also being used commercially by the 'Bear Brand' Stocking Co. who ordered a range of huge promotional bears for exhibitions and window displays. Famous characters added to the soft toy range included A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh and Bonzo that lovable mongrel created by G.E. Studdy. On one memorable occasion it is recorded that Chad Valley hired a dwarf and dressed him as Bonzo to dance around on the companies stand at the British Industries Fair, much to the amusement of King George V and Queen Mary.

One of the most delightful inter-war Chad Valley dolls was Snow White who came complete with all seven dwarfs. A limited number of these dolls were sold in white dresses - presumably after her discovery of Prince Charming! The most sought after Chad Valley Snow White doll, however is a musical version which plays the tune 'One Day My Prince Will Come'.

In 1930 Chad Valley modelled a doll of the young Princess Elizabeth based on a photograph of her as a four year old. At the request of the Royal family the price of the doll was restricted to one Guinea to make it more affordable to the masses. Eight years later another Princess Elizabeth doll was marketed, this time standing alongside her sister Princess Margaret. This are now highly sought after collectables.

As well as dolls and bears, games and jig saw puzzles Chad Valley also made many superb tinsplate toys with some tinsplate production being outsourced to Barringer, Wallis & Manners of Mansfield, Nottinghamshire (later known as the Metal Box). These included beautiful limousines, commercials and buses all of which now sought after toys.

After acquiring the old established toy making firm of Peacock & Co Ltd Chad Valley was able to add a wider selection of

wooden toys to its ever expanding range. Further expansion saw the original Harborne factory enlarged to a four-storey building - one of the first in Birmingham to use re-enforced concrete and all metal windows. Another splendid new Chad Valley Harborne factory rose to six storeys high and became a famous landmark of south-west Birmingham.

During World War Two the Chad Valley factories were turned over to supporting the war effort making instrument cases, hospital tables, tent poles, children's clothes, toys for military hospitals and sets of draughts and dominoes for members of the Armed Forces.

Following hostilities Chad Valley was able to develop its successful export market and produce its first range of diecast toy vehicles fitted with clockwork motors made between 1949 and 1956. These were a mixture of non-prototypical models and six prototypical releases based on Rootes Group vehicles that were sold at Rootes Group dealerships as well as in toy shops. The most sought after of these models are three variations of a Guy box van in the liveries of 'Chad Valley', 'Guy Motors' and 'Lyons Ice Cream' respectively. The jewel in the crown of Chad Valley diecast models has to be the large scale Fordson Major Tractor, which was also sold by Fordson dealerships. These models now command handsome prices in mint-boxed condition.

Chad Valley became a PLC in 1950 and continued to look for new opportunities in the toy market including making pandas as soft toys following their arrival at London Zoo. In 1952 it gained the sole rights to market Sooty, Harry Corbett's hugely popular glove puppet. Harry and Sooty entertained the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh when they visited the Chad Valley trade stand at the 1955 British Industries Fair. Toffee Bear, popularised on the radio, was also produced as a toy by Chad Valley.

Like so many great British toy makers Chad Valley's sad demise came about as the result of the deep economic recession of the early 1970s. After closure in 1971 much of the site had been cleared by 1975. The brand name was taken over by Palitoy in 1978 and absorbed into the Woolworth's chain a decade later. Although little remains of the company today, other than use of the brand name by Argos, memories of Chad Valley Toys will live forever in the history of British toy making. **CG**

Famous Faces:

SPIDER-MAN

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

The adventures of Batman, Superman, Spider-Man, etc on television and the big screen have endeared themselves to their fans worldwide since the golden age of the 1960s, through the '70s and onto the present day. Bruce Wayne's alter-ego Batman is undoubtedly on top of the pile, followed closely by Superman and Spider-Man. But with *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* currently showing in cinemas, we thought it was the web swinger's time to shine, while the Caped Crusader broods in the Batcave for once.

Toys based on the fantastic fighters of crime are very popular and extremely collectable, particularly the vintage items. There is a very healthy amount of Bat-merchandise, for example, but not so much for Spidey. In fact, toys and collectables relating to the vintage era of Spider-Man during the 1960s are, at best, a bit thin on the ground. Indeed, we didn't see any significant toys being produced until the '70s, round about the time the Mego Corp. of America started a range of eight-inch action figures of superheroes that were so popular, they're still in big demand today. Mint boxed or mint carded examples change hands for good money and there's a decent range of characters or vehicles to suit all superhero fans.

Which brings us nicely to our first piece, one of the aforementioned eight-inch Mego superheroes. 'The Amazing Spider-Man' is a fully jointed action figure clad in a fabric, removable one-piece costume. After the success of this item,

Mego then released a 12-inch version of the Spider-Man toy, using a larger one-piece costume and body. Prices for a mint, boxed example of either figure are between £125-150. Mego used the same jointed eight-inch body on a number of its superheroes and curiously you find the same body being used by Denys Fisher toys in its Dr. Who range from the 1970s.

While on the subject of Denys Fisher, this next Spider-piece actually comes from that company. 'The Turbo Tower of Power Spidercycle' from 1977 has Spiderman poised on a motorcycle, which you place on a ramp before 'pumping up' the



ABOVE

A 1982 Buddy L The Amazing Spiderman Super Heroes vehicle set, seen here in near mint condition.



ABOVE

Mego Corp released a variety of different superhero action figures during the 1970s. A decent boxed example of a Mego Spider-Man figure can fetch up to £150.



LEFT

Everything you need to become a Spider-sleuth, courtesy of Thomas Salter Toys.



ABOVE

The Corgi Spider-Man Gift Set is perhaps one of the best Spider-Man collectables.

RIGHT

This near mint Corgi 266 Spiderman Spiderbike sold for £110 recently.



NOW THAT'S AMAZING!

Although we've seen some of the vintage toys featuring the web-slinging wonder, the real money for Spider-Man collectables comes courtesy of the comics. In fact, a rare issue of 'Amazing Fantasy' which included Spider-Man first appearance sold for a reported \$1.1 million when it went to auction. First released in 1962 it cost just 12 cents and the cover sees our hero clutching a villain in one arm while swinging from a web in the other. Very dramatic!



ABOVE

Corgi 928 "Spiderman" Spidercopper; finished in blue and red, with black web blades.

power to send our hero speeding down the ramp at a rate of knots! Around the time this was released a certain Evel Knievel was performing stunts across the globe and Denys Fisher produced a similar set featuring the famous stuntman, which was fantastically popular. Boxed, the Spidercycle sells for around £125.

One of the nicest toys featuring your 'friendly neighbourhood Spider-Man' is the Corgi Gift Set 23. This three-piece collection features the Spiderbuggy (No.261), complete with a Spider-Man figure at the wheel and Green Goblin trapped inside a spider web. Needless to say, the Green Goblin figure is easily lost, so finding a complete example is often a bit tricky.

Next in the set is the Spiderbike (No.266), which is very similar to Corgi's Batbike (No.268) but features a delicate plastic spider's web at the rear, instead of bat wings. What's more, although the gift set version features red forks and black wheels, there are numerous other versions including one with white wheels and another without the distinctive Spider-Man side decals. Finally, the set contains the Spidercopper (No.928), which comes with a distinctive scorpion-like tail, webbed blades and eight legs. The gift set is a top quality piece and in a mint box fetches around £200-300.

Corgi also released the Spidervan (Spidervan, Spidervan, does whatever a white van can) in 1979/80,

numbered 436. The best thing about this particular model is the interior – which can be seen through a sunroof on top of the vehicle – because it features what looks like a bizarre web-themed carpet. Perhaps due to this psychedelic interior, the Spidervan only tends to fetch around £30, even in the box.

Finally, continuing the Corgi theme, there were a number of Spider-Man products in the Corgi Junior range (previously known as Husky Toys until 1970). The Spider-Man line-up included smaller, less detailed versions of the helicopter, van and motorcycle and each came in Amazing Spider-Man themed bubble packaging. The chopper (No.75) is perhaps the best in the series and like its big brother features insect-like legs and a web instead of rotor blades. However, even in good condition it doesn't fetch much more than £10.

Our last Spidey piece is very rare. Made by Thomas Salter Toys in Scotland, the Amazing Spider-Man Adventure Kit contains lots of essentials for the budding junior crime fighter or wannabe photographer, like Peter Parker. The set includes binoculars, working camera, torch, walkie talkie, ID card, notepad, utility belt and more. This set is very hard to find and, as such, you should expect to pay between £200-300 to get it for yourself.

Well, that just about does it for this time and I hope you enjoyed our web-slinging selection of Spider-Man collectables. **CG**

eBuys

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



♣ **Item:** Marvel Legends Spiderman: Far From Home Action Figure.
Condition: Mint condition, had only been used for display
Sold for: £1560 (14 bids)



♣ **Item:** Pre-War Dinky 28M Type 1 Wakefield Castrol van
Condition: very good original example from 1934, original transfers, no repainting
Sold for: £645 (17 bids)



♣ **Item:** Pelham Puppets Walter Ventriloquial Puppet
Condition: Wear to box, including tear to one corner and discolouring to fabric
Sold for: £361 (6 bids)



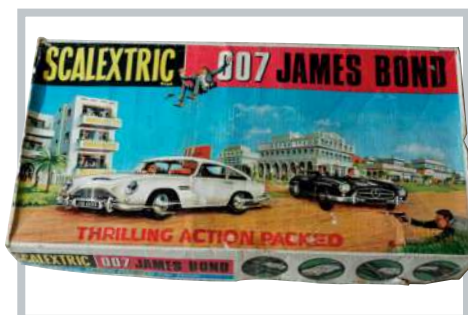
♣ **Item:** Matchbox Lesney Superfast 1-75 Series No.12 Landrover
Condition: rare blue version in F1 type box, model was very near mint
Sold for: £1353 (33 bids)



♣ **Item:** LEGO Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Shadow Leonardo
Condition: Mint, complete with original pieces. Limited edition 17/400
Sold for: £1060 (2 bids)



♣ **Item:** Britains Farm Landrover, horse and horse box No.9575
Condition: excellent to mint, with the horse never having been removed from his box
Sold for: £510 (9 bids)



♣ **Item:** Scalextric 007 James Bond set
Condition: well used, some cars show signs of damage and were in need of rebuilding
Sold for: £321 (11 bids)



♣ **Item:** Corgi Toys Set 6 Rocket Age Models
Condition: mint, both inner packing pieces and instruction booklet included
Sold for: £965 (21 bids)



♣ **Item:** Pre-War Dinky Delivery Van 28Y 'Exide Drydex'
Condition: no metal fatigue although some fine crazing, would benefit from cleaning
Sold for: £820 (24 bids)



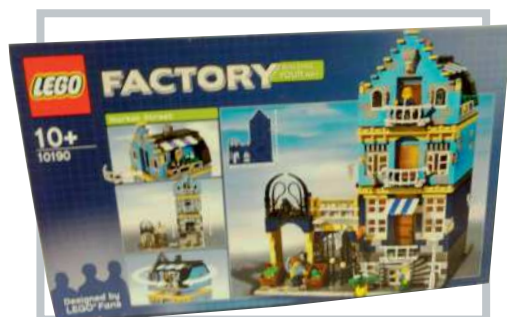
Item: LEGO Marvel Super Heroes SDCC 2012 Spiderman, in black symbiote costume
Condition: Mint
Sold for: £875 (16 bids)



Item: Aurora Citizen Formula Pacific AFX slot car
Condition: original box with lid, near mint although missing leaflet
Sold for: £430 (19 bids)



Item: Meccano Outfit 9A, medium red and green
Condition: very good, complete with all pieces and four instruction books
Sold for: Sold for £999 (3 bids)



Item: LEGO Creator Expert Modular Factory Market Street, Set 10190
Condition: Still factory sealed, some slight wear to the outer box
Sold for: £800 (3 bids)



Item: Nomura Japan Tin Earth Man Astronaut Robot
Condition: rare, fully working with original box lid and remote control
Sold for: £1257 (30 bids)



Item: Mario the Juggler Nintendo hand-held game
Condition: full working order, original battery cover and serial number sticker on the reverse
Sold for: £525 (23 bids)



Item: Pelham Puppet School boy, with lead hands
Condition: good despite rip to clothing, complete with an early box
Sold for: £468 (25 bids)



Item: Playmate Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Shogun Ninja
Condition: Mint condition, unopened
Sold for: £1378 (37 bids)



Item: BCM Wells Carter Paterson Express Carriers tinplate lorry
Condition: lithographed tin shows some scratches and surface rust, missing mudguard and headlights
Sold for: £335 (26 bids)



Item: Airfix sets Stalingrad 1942 No. 9655 (German) and No. 9656 (Russian)
Condition: Open with instructions and decals, parts still sealed, age related damage
Sold for: £431 (11 bids)



Item: Mattel Masters of the Universe Classics Castle Grayskull
Condition: Had never been opened, some age-related wear to the box
Sold for: £1070 (36 bids)



Item: Britains Battle Ground Set No. 4715
Condition: mint, never assembled but with age related wear to the box
Sold for: £205 (5 bids)

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PRICE GUIDE

This month we review the latest toy sales at British Toy Auctions, Vectis, Lacy, Scott & Knight and Special Auction Services.



♣ Corgi Toys Gift Set 17 Land Rover with Ferrari Racing Car on Trailer, Land Rover with yellow interior, spun hubs, Ferrari with RN36 on yellow trailer. Good in good outer box. **Sold for £65, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Franklin Mint 1928 Stutz Black Hawk, 1/24 scale, red. Mint in box. **Sold for £28, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Franklin Mint 1954 Mercedes-Benz 300 SL, 1/24 scale, silver grey. Mint with certificate in near mint box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 486 Kennel Service Wagon Chevrolet Impala, in white and orange, pale blue interior complete with 4 dogs and 'vari-view' dachshund picture which is detached from vehicle. Very good in fair plus card box. **Sold for £25, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 256 Volkswagen 1200 in East African Safari Trim, in orange with steering wheel roof with plastic rhinoceros figure. Good on poor inner pictorial stand in poor to fair outer card box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No 104 "Captain Scarlet" Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle, with Captain Scarlet figure. Very good with its original instructions in poor to fair carded picture box. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Corgi Toys 1st issue No 267 Batmobile, gloss black body, orange 'Bat' logo on doors, with gold cast hubs with red 'Bat' logos, blue tinted windows, with Batman and Robin figures. Good plus in poor outer illustrated box. **Sold for £100, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No 532 Leyland Comet Wagon, with hinged tailboard in dark blue with mid blue back and red hubs. Near mint in very good box, with internal packing piece. **Sold for £90, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 270 James Bond Aston Martin DB5, with opened 'Secret Instructions' packet, used number plate decals and two spare figures. Very good in the rarer pictorial wing flap bubble pack. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Corgi Toys Gift Set #31 'The Riviera Set' contains a Buick Riviera in pale blue with red interior, red trailer with spun hubs, blue boat with white hull and sailor figure, towing a blue dingy with skis and skier figure. Very good on poor pictorial base in poor outer box. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Corgi Toys No 290 Kojak Buick Sedan, with both figures and the self-adhesive Police badge still inside. Mint in good box. **Sold for £65, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣ Corgi No 1376 Starksy & Hutch Duo Pack, later modified larger car with it's blacked out windows, twin aerials and 4 spoke wheels, smaller Juniors car has the later grey bumpers. Mint in fair box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Corgi Toys No 266 Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, with front and rear wings and all four figures. Very good in very good box with moulded base and card display. **Sold for £85, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Dinky Toys No 752 Goods Yard Crane, yellow crane on blue base. Near mint in very good box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Dinky Toys No 101 Thunderbirds 2 & 4, green Thunderbird 2 with Thunderbird 4 inside the pod. Very good on very good inner packing piece in very good outer box. **Sold for £260, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Dinky Toys No 100 Lady Penelope's Rolls Royce FAB 1, with Parker and Lady Penelope figures with a missile and 4x harpoons, canopy and Flying Lady mascot intact. Very good on good inner packaging piece in very good box. **Sold for £120, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Tri-ang Spot-on No 265 Bedford Tonibell Ice Cream Van, blue with ice cream seller intact. Very good in good box. **Sold for £140, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Corgi Toys Gift Set 21 ERF Dropside Lorry with Platform Trailer and milk churn load, turquoise blue cab, chassis and trailer chassis with white load areas to both. Very good on good inner plinth in very good outer box. **Sold for £150, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Matchbox M-9 Major Pack Hendrickson Inter-State Double Freighter in Cooper-Jarrett livery, blue tractor unit with silver bodies. Fair in good box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Corgi Major Toys No 1142 Homes Ford Wrecker, red and white with 2x mechanic figures and instruction sheet. Very good in good inner polystyrene tray and fair outer box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, December.**



♣Dinky Toys boxed 128 Mercedes Benz 600, which generally appears good to good plus in generally fair to good outer window box (please note box does suffer from crushing and splitting). **Sold for £40, Vectis, December.**



♣Matchbox Superfast 8a Ford Mustang, white body, red interior, gloss black base, 5-spoke wide wheels. Near mint with just a couple of minor factory assembly marks in mint type F3 transitional box. Outstanding example. **Sold for £460, Vectis, December.**



♣Matchbox Superfast 8a Ford Mustang, burnt orange body, red interior, gloss black base, 5-spoke wide wheels. Near mint to mint with a couple of minor factory assembly marks to base in generally near mint type F3 transitional box. Superb example. **Sold for £240, Vectis, December.**



♣Matchbox Superfast 19a Lotus Formula 1 Racing Car, metallic purple body with racing number 3 labels, bare metal base, spiro wheels. Near mint (glue just starting to show through side labels) in mint "New" type G box. Superb example. **Sold for £120, Vectis, December.**



♣Matchbox Superfast 22a Pontiac GP Coupe, metallic dark purple body, grey interior, gloss black base, large diameter solid 5-spoke narrow wheels with tread pattern cast. Near mint in excellent to excellent plus "New" type G box. **Sold for £150, Vectis, December.**



♣Matchbox Superfast 25a Ford Cortina, metallic brown body, clear windows held by domed roof rivet, ivory interior, bare metal base, solid small diameter 5-spoke narrow wheels. Excellent with some scratches to roof in near mint to mint type F3 transitional box. **Sold for £200, Vectis, December.**



♣Matchbox Superfast 46a Mercedes 300 SE Coupe, metallic gold body with opening doors, ivory interior, bare metal base, solid 5-spoke narrow wheels only one of which has tread pattern cast the others without. Near mint to mint in excellent plus type F3 transitional box. **Sold for £130, Vectis, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys 25c reproduction trade box containing 6 original Flat Bed Trucks, 3 in green, 3 in fawn colour, all with age-related play wear but display well. **Sold for £65, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys 30s original trade box containing 4 Austin Wagons, in maroon with tan, tinplate tilts, 1 tilt overpainted, all with age-related play wear. **Sold for £75, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No.36b Bentley Two Seater Sports cars, in original Trade box containing 5 examples in various colours with age-related wear. **Sold for £120, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No.36c original trade box of 6 Humber Vogue Saloon cars, 4 in brown and 2 finished in grey, all with age-related wear. **Sold for £150, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No.39a Packard "Super 8" Touring sedan's, in original trade box containing 6 examples, with inner dividers, near mint, some age-related wear. **Sold for £260, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys 40j Austin Somersets in reproduction trade box, containing 5 saloons, one in black and cream, 4 in light blue all with age-related wear. **Sold for £110, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No.30d original Vauxhall Trade box, containing 4 examples in green some with age-related wear. **Sold for £110, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No.30d original Vauxhall trade box, containing 4 examples, 3 brown and 1 grey, two in superb condition, some with age-related wear. **Sold for £100, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No. 28n Delivery Van, (type 2), "Atco Motor Mowers Sales & Service", some fatigue but a very good example, blue-tac applied to rear axle ends to hold it in place. **Sold for £250, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No. 28f Delivery Van, (type 2), "Palethorpes Royal Cambridge", some fatigue and metal loss to top of wing, bonnet, roof and one side, with a glued repair to the rear doors - a fair example of a hard to find issue. **Sold for £130, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No. 28w Delivery Van, (type 2), "Osram Lamps", yellow body, silver grille, smooth blue hubs with white tyres, some fatigue and metal loss to rear of roof and one side panel - a fair example of a hard to find model. **Sold for £70, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No. 28s Delivery Van, (type 2), "Fry's Cocoa", brown body, silver grille, smooth brown hubs with white tyres, some fatigue and metal loss to the front wing and missing one windscreen pillar - a fair example of a hard to find model. **Sold for £45, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No. 152B Reconnaissance Car original trade box, containing 6 examples in military green, mixture of ridged and smooth hubs - all in good condition housed in original brown card box with replacement dividers. **Sold for £440, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No. 920 Guy Delivery Van in "Heinz 57 Varieties" livery, comprising of red cab and chassis with yellow back and ketchup bottle livery, housed in the original correct blue & white striped Dinky Toys card box. **Sold for £150, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Dinky Toys No. 514 Guy Van 'Weetabix', consisting of yellow body, cab and chassis and matching hubs with Weetabix livery, sold in the original orange and white labelled all-card box. **Sold for £170, Lacy, Scott & Knight, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R1076 “Virgin Trains” Pendolino Set (Digital) containing 4-car Virgin Trains, Class 390 Overhead Electric Pendolino consisting of Driving Trailer Cars No.390 012 “Virgin Star” with Centre Cars, also with a factory fitted DCC decoder. Excellent in good plus inner box contained in good pictured outer box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2802XS Co-Co Engineers grey and yellow livery Class 50 Diesel Loco No.50015 “Valiant”, loco is still manufacturer tissue wrapped and therefore assumed mint in excellent to excellent plus complete with generally good pictured outer sleeve. **Sold for £100, Vectis, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2899XS Co-Co EWS maroon livery Class 60 Diesel Loco No.60042 “The Hundred of Hoo”, with factory fitted with DCC sound chip onboard, condition good plus to excellent in generally good plus box contained in good picture outer sleeve. **Sold for £110, Vectis, December.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge Bo-Bo Railfreight large logo grey Class 20 Diesel Loco, renumbered 20118 and has a DCC sound chip onboard with address code 118, condition good plus to excellent in fair to good box for a blue Class 20 Diesel Loco. **Sold for £90, Vectis, December.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-519SF 2-car GWR green Class 158 DMU No.158768, with factory fitted DCC sound chip onboard with address code 766, condition excellent to excellent plus in excellent individual boxes contained in good plus to excellent outer box. **Sold for £260, Vectis, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R3697 “Northern Belle” Train Pack, containing Co-Co West Coast Railways Class 57 No.57601 “Windsor Castle” with 3 Mk.2 Passenger Coaches (1st Open “Chatsworth” and “Warrick” along with Brake 2nd “Mow Cop”, excellent to excellent plus in good plus to excellent pictured outer box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, December.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 32-733 Co-Co EWS maroon livery Class 66 Diesel Loco No.66068, loco has been fitted with a DCC sound decoder with address code 68, condition excellent in generally good plus box. **Sold for £110, Vectis, December.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 32-975 Co-Co Freightliner green livery Class 66 No.66952, loco has been fitted with DCC sound chip with address code 952, condition excellent in generally good box. **Sold for £130, Vectis, December.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge Co-Co DRS blue livery Class 37 Diesel Loco renumbered 37402 and renamed Stephen Middlemore, original donor loco number unknown but loco is fitted with DCC sound chip on address code 402, condition excellent in non-original donor loco box. **Sold for £120, Vectis, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2575 Co-Co Network South East blue Class 50 Diesel Loco No.50027 “Lion”, loco has been fitted with DCC sound decoder with address code 27, conditions good plus to excellent in generally good original box. **Sold for £110, Vectis, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R3673 Co-Co BR green livery Class 50 Diesel Loco No.50007 “Sir Edward Elgar”, this is a Kernow Model Rail Centre exclusive limited edition, loco has been fitted with a DCC sound decoder with address code 7, condition excellent to excellent in excellent plus original box complete with pictured outer sleeve. **Sold for £160, Vectis, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2350 Co-Co Network South East blue livery Class 50 Diesel Loco No.50045 “Achilles”, this is a factory weathered edition, loco has been fitted with a DCC sound decoder with address code 45, condition good plus to excellent in generally good to good plus box complete with pictured outer sleeve. **Sold for £120, Vectis, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R3658 Co-Co Network South East blue livery Class 50 Diesel Loco No.50033 “Glorious”, fitted with DCC sound decoder on address code 33, Kadee coupling fitted to one end of loco, condition excellent to excellent plus in excellent to excellent plus box. **Sold for £120, Vectis, December.**



♣ Hornby (China) R2429 Co-Co Network South East blue livery Class 50 Diesel Loco No.50002 “Superb”, factory weathered edition, loco has been fitted with a DCC sound decoder with address code 2, both couplings are unfitted but in bag in box, condition excellent in good to good plus box. **Sold for £120, Vectis, December.**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 32-370 Co-Co Direct Rail Services two-tone blue livery Class 37 No.37405, loco has been fitted with a DCC sound decoder with address code 405, condition excellent to excellent plus in fair to good box but without the outer sleeve. **Sold for £140, Vectis, December.**



♣ Tri-ang 00 Gauge R388 CKD EM2 Electric Locomotive BR blue 27002 'Aurora', in original box with Pandora nameplates and numbers, in yellow foam, very good, box fair to good, a little fading. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Hornby 00 Gauge R2728 BR green Royal Scot Class Locomotive and Tender 46120 'Royal Inniskilling Fusilier', in original box, excellent, box very good. **Sold for £65, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Hornby 00 Gauge R8211 Rolling Road, appears complete, no instructions, in original box, very good, box good, some fading. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Marks and Spencer Hornby R1104 The Night Scot Train Set, comprising LMS 'Duchess of Sutherland', three LMS maroon Coaches, oval of track plus siding, controller and Track mat, in original box, excellent, sealed, unused, box very good. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Services, December.**



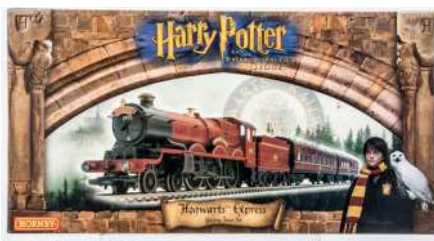
♣ Marks and Spencer Hornby R1104 The Night Scot Train Set, comprising LMS 'Duchess of Sutherland', three LMS maroon Coaches, oval of track plus siding, controller and Track mat, in original box, excellent, sealed, unused, box very good. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Marks and Spencer Hornby R1091 The Royal Train Set, comprising LMS 'Duchess of Sutherland', two Royal coaches and maroon Coach, oval of track plus siding, controller and Track mat, in original box, excellent, sealed, unused, box very good. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Marks and Spencer Hornby R1091 The Royal Train Set, comprising LMS 'Duchess of Sutherland', two Royal coaches and maroon Coach, oval of track plus siding, controller and Track mat, in original box, excellent, sealed, unused, box very good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Hornby 00 Gauge Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone Hogwarts Express Electric Train Set, first issue set, comprising Hogwart's Castle Locomotive and Tender, two coaches, oval of track, Station, Track Mat and Controller, in original box, excellent. **Sold for £130, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Hornby 00 Gauge R2310 BR green rebuilt Merchant Navy Class 35016 'Elder Fyffes' Locomotive and Tender, in original box, excellent, appears unrun, box very good to excellent. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Bachmann Ltd Ed 00 Gauge NRM Platinum Collection Midland Railway 4-4-0 Compound, in crimson No 1000, Ltd Ed No 18, with plinth and unopened accessories, in original window box, excellent, appears unrun, box very good to excellent. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Bachmann 31-725NRM Ltd Ed 00 Gauge NRM Platinum Collection Great Western Railway 4-4-0 City Class Locomotive and Tender, No 3440 'City of Truro', with plinth and unopened accessories, excellent. **Sold for £160, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Bachmann 00 Gauge 32-451A Central Trains green 170/1 Turbostar 2-Car DMU, in original boxes with sleeve, excellent, boxes very good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Bachmann 00 Gauge 32-453 Anglia Railways blue/white 170/2 Turbostar 2-Car DMU, in original boxes with sleeve, excellent, boxes very good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Bachmann 00 Gauge Four Car EMU, a boxed 31-425 4CEP EMU 7105 Class 411 in SR green livery, good to excellent, box fair to good. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Bachmann 00 Gauge Four Car EMU, a boxed Class 4111 CEP EMU 7113 in BR blue/grey livery, good to excellent, box fair to good. **Sold for £140, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Late issue Hornby-Dublo 3235 00 Gauge 3-Rail West Country Class 'Dorchester' Locomotive and Tender No 34042, in BR green, with instructions, tested tag, guarantee and amended instructions slip dated June 1961. In original box, very good to excellent. **Sold for £200, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Hornby-Dublo 00 Gauge 3-Rail EDLT20 BR green 'Bristol Castle' Locomotive and Tender No 7013, in original plain blue box, very good, box good, light wear. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ A part-boxed late-issue Hornby-Dublo 3235 00 Gauge converted to 2-Rail West Country Class 'Dorchester' Locomotive and Tender, No 34042 in BR green, in base of original box with yellow insert, good, box poor. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Hornby-Dublo 00 Gauge 2-Rail LT25 BR black 2-8-0 Steam Locomotive and Tender, converted from 3-Rail, No 48158, in original blue/white striped box, very good, box fair. **Sold for £35, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Hornby-Dublo 00 Gauge pre-war Clockwork LMS black 2690 0-6-2 Tank Engine, in blue storage box, very good to excellent, some minor paint loss, tested well. **Sold for £300, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Hornby-Dublo 00 Gauge 3-Rail 3235 West Country Class BR green 'Dorchester' Locomotive and Tender, with replacement 2-Rail chassis and Tri-ang Couplings, No 34042, with two packing rings, in original blue striped picture box, very good to excellent, box fair to good, wear to edges. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge W2224 BR black Class 8F Locomotive and tender, No 48073, with instructions and one packing ring, in original box stamped Packer No 6, very good, box good to very good, tape damage to one corner of lid. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Tri-ang Wrenn 00 Gauge 2224 BR black Class 8F Locomotive and tender No 48073, with instructions and two long packing rings, in original box stamped Packer No 3, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge W2224 BR black Class 8F Locomotive and tender, No 48073, in original early unstamped box with yellow base, very good, box good. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Tri-ang Wrenn 00 Gauge W2212 'Sir Nigel Gresley' Locomotive and tender, in LNER blue No 7 with correct Tri-ang Hornby Tender, with instructions, in original box stamped Packer No 6, very good, both nameplates have some nicks, box good to very good. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Tri-ang Wrenn 00 Gauge W2227 'City of Stoke-on-Trent' Locomotive and tender, in LMS lined black No 6254, in original box stamped Packer No 6, excellent, box good to very good, general wear. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Wrenn 00 Gauge W2233 LMS black 0-6-0 Diesel Shunter, No 7124, with instructions, spare Dublo couplings and packing rings, in original unstamped box, excellent, box good to very good. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Tri-ang Wrenn 00 Gauge 2211 BR green 60022 'Mallard' Locomotive and Tender, in original box with yellow base, excellent, very small nick to tender, box good to very good, wear to lid edges. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Tri-ang Wrenn 00 Gauge 2226 BR maroon 46245 'City of London' Locomotive and Tender, in original box stamped Packer No 3, excellent, box very good. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, December.**



♣ Tri-ang Wrenn 00 Gauge 2226 BR maroon 46245 'City of London' Locomotive and Tender, in original box with yellow base, good, loose footplate added, paint loss under cab roof and below coupling, box good with light wear. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, December.**

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Toy Stories

Ed Karswell keeps an eye out for Action Man...

I'm probably not going to win many friends amongst the Palitoy crowd, but I shall state it here that I hated the Eagle Eyes Action Man when they came out and if I'm honest, I still do.

I could just about put up with those slowly crumbling gripping hands, great though they initially were. I marvelled at the 'new physique' and understood the chaste reasoning behind the blue underpants. To me however, the Eagle Eyes just looked like a good idea badly executed.

To put things into perspective we need to rewind back to that long, hot summer of 1976. I was 8 years old and very much into Action Man. I won't bore you with an inventory but let's just say my mission to get my booklet full of 21 stars and receive my 'free' Action Man by return post was well under way. For the uninitiated, depending on retail value, Action Man packaging carried star tokens that could be cut out and stuck into a booklet. A few stars would net you a small gift but if you collected 21 stars you could get your hands on the

main prize. Action Man was never a cheap toy which made this offer all the sweeter.

Now I really liked the benign expression of the painted face figures, it was inscrutable with maybe a touch of humour and menace in equal measure. You could project any mood or persona onto him, and he did and still does look, well, cool. Oh, and did I mention he was photogenic?

But this seemingly wasn't enough, and it was with much fuss that Palitoy announced their new leap forward in realism, the 'Eagle Eyes' Action Man. It was hard to resist Palitoys publicity machine with its glossy catalogues, advertising and generally flawless PR convincing you that the next big thing was of course a good thing. Then there was the peer pressure. If we weren't all asking for a Bionic Man for Christmas, then why wouldn't we all want one of these new-fangled Eagle Eye things?

It was a clever design and not unlike a ventriloquists dummy, it utilised a small lever at the back of the head to operate the eyes from side to side. By necessity

the eyes and indeed the apertures for them had to be bigger to accommodate the mechanism inside the head. When I first got my hands on one, I have to say wasn't impressed at all with it. To my eyes he didn't look like he was about to undertake a dangerous mission, rather he was having his temperature taken by a vet. He always looked surprised, as if I'd suggested forgetting all this war stuff and bunking off to read comics instead. As for the name, well the less said the better.

Now we come to the durability issue. Apart from a touch of alopecia, painted face Action Men were pretty tough toys and could withstand most rough play. I remember a game we played that basically involved us bombing an Action Man outpost with (wince now) clods of earth. During this bombardment a friend's Eagle Eye took a direct hit rendering him permanently cross eyed. To our everlasting shame we boys laughed so hard we didn't even notice him storming off back to his house. Rather than sulking, what he should have done was written a stinking letter to the

product development team for making the pair of them look so foolish.

Even today if I visit a toy fair I smile when I see rows of immaculately turned out Eagle Eyes Action men with their googly eyes following me around the room... not that I'm paranoid or anything! There are, no doubt, fans out there for the Eagle Eye as everyone's nostalgia is locked into a particular period. I won't mention my brief flirtation with Matchboxes' Fighting Furies dolls here for that very reason. Also, before anyone thinks I'm seriously knocking Action Man I still maintain that as a toy line it was one of the best both in conception and execution, whose quality was never really matched.

As for me, I did manage to fill my book with 21 stars and tentatively mail it back to Palitoy. After three long weeks a plain brown box arrived, I opened it with more than a little trepidation to find a painted face Action Man inside. I mused that somebody in despatch, must have read my mind. **CG**



Coventry collectables

Alwyn Brice dropped by Barry Potter's fair at Ryton-on-Dunsmore.

A grey, foggy day didn't deter the faithful in mid-December from driving to this venue. Sited at the Leisure Centre, it's easily accessed from the motorway system, which has to add to its appeal. Barry was officiating and after suitable festive exchanges, it was down to business.

Around 170 tables required reconnoitring and I was surprised to come across one or two familiar faces from my southern swapmeet coverage days. Steve Viccars was one: as

ever, he was purveying plenty of plastic. Some bagged groups of Asterix figures were £15 a time (made in Taiwan!) and his Cherilea WW2 infantry set in a window box (albeit lacking the cellophane) looked good value at £30.

Not far from him was another figure dealer, Mick Vaughan. His shelves were largely given over to Timpo, with Apaches, Mexicans, Romans and Great Helm knights predominating. These vary considerably in price according to the moulded colour combinations: a standard

Roman might be £12 but he had a scarce example with a white tunic and brown belt for £220. The white-gloved US Cavalry are always popular and his were pegged at £22 each.

His other item of interest was a virtually mint Distler Porsche cabriolet in bright red. Complete with instructions and steering column, it was marred only by the perished shroud that attaches the cable to the steering wheel. It had been reduced to £200 for a quick sale.

I saw plenty of kits at the event, leading me to suspect

that kit building is perhaps a popular hobby around the Midlands. Large and small examples abounded, most Airfix and Tamiya, but there were other gems if you looked hard enough. Peter Stait had the most eclectic selection: a self-confessed modeller, he and I reminisced over the good old days when bagged Airfix kits were 2/6d and we all got high on polystyrene cement.

Of note was his Visible Woman kit from Renwal, a famous product of the 1960s (a Visible Man was also available). Comprising a transparent body with

all the skeleton and other parts to attach, this kit's rubric mentioned that the kit contained the Miracle of Birth feature (namely a baby in the womb). This was actually an option and Peter thought that since the subject matter was possibly slightly risqué back then, not all the kits had it. It was £70 – but far cheaper at £10 was his re-issue of the AMT Giant Scorpion diorama, one of the three in a series focused on overgrown wildlife. Two (rare) New Avengers kits were Purdey's yellow TR7 (£100) and Gambit's Jaguar



ABOVE

Very scarce three rail GWR locomotive and rolling stock set was shop fresh.



ABOVE

O gauge rules! Front to back: Hornby Caerphilly Castle; Bassett-Lowke George V; Hornby Royal Scot.



ABOVE Chad Valley Give-a-Show projector: great nostalgia for the Doctor fans.



ABOVE Impressively svelte Bowman's launch was from the days before Health 'n Safety filled in Britain's ponds



ABOVE This large mystery submarine puzzled everybody – any ideas?



LEFT

Lovely 1940s tinplate searchlight lorry would have brightened up those winter evenings



ABOVE

Steve Viccar's mint and boxed Cherilea infantry set had never been opened.

XJS at £120 – these were by Revell. Finally, an Airfix Superfreighter aircraft was interesting since it was the early issue; it was priced at £55.

Other unusual merchandise included a *Dr Who* Give-a-Show projector by Chad Valley, with all the necessary slides, at £120. Chad Valley produced a projector for various television tie-ins but apparently the *Dr Who* version is somewhat uncommon.

John Nesbitt had brought along several boxed Hornby HO/OO gauge three rail sets, which are always a treat to see. Standing out, though, was a rarity in the shape of a GWR locomotive and three trucks. This was a 1948 set and was complete with all its paperwork, down to the 'tested paper' tag. Quite a find – in drab grey but not cheap at £325.

Still on railways, Richard Taylor told me that he's having trouble sourcing O gauge railway items. I wasn't surprised, for he had a stall full of the stuff! More seriously, though, I would have thought that this gauge would have been abundant, because modern houses are simply not big enough to entertain even a modest O gauge layout. At £195 was a smart Bassett-Lowke George V loco and tender, whilst £375 would have secured the County of Bedford from the Hornby stable. An early snowplough from Hornby in drab grey also caught my eye, which was marked up at £75.

Richard also has a soft spot for steam-powered models and was selling a Marklin steam road roller from the early 1930s for £350. A selection of Willesco stationary engines was also on the stall, as was a

steam-powered Bowman "Swallow" launch, complete with its wooden packaging case. This latter's hull had been repainted at some point but all the motive power paraphernalia was present and it was for sale at £225.

On the subject of pond life, Rod Blest's large wooden submarine had been intriguing many over the last few swapmeets. An impressive replica, it had been designed to skim along the surface and was well engineered, with everything required for radio control operation. But had it been constructed from a kit or from woodworking plans? Or had it been scratchbuilt? No-one had come up with an answer. For sale at £100, he admitted that if no-one was tempted, he would happily keep it.

Dealer Steve Kilmurry was another familiar face and his stand covered military as well as civil subjects, with a good selection of mint and boxed Lesney 1-75 series. A Britains 155mm Long Tom with box was £125, the same price as a Britains 18in Howitzer, with box and most of its ordnance. His Hauser tinplate searchlight truck stood out also: with composition driver and working light, this pairing was tagged at £295. As for Tuf Tots in blister packs: when did you last see one? These Lone*Star toys are scarce today and Steve had several examples, all mint, for sale at £25 a time.

Finally, a model that I'd never seen before appeared on Paul Jones' stall. Priced at a reasonable £40, the Panoramic Bus by Mettoy was simply charming and was in very good condition. It dated from the 1950s. **CG**



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Obsolete

Z

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

Hi folks! Well here we are in 2022 hoping that this will be a far better year than the one we've just left behind, although the way things have recently developed with the Covid-19 situation we're clearly not out of the woods yet!

I must admit that I'm not the world's greatest fan of Christmas markets but a small gang of us from the local, led by rail buff Steamy Steve, persuaded me to travel by train to a small Yorkshire market town for a few beers and a mosey around all the festive stalls. To my surprise a couple of traders were pedalling a bit of junk so for half an hour or so I was a happy bunny foraging for that tasty morsel around the junk stalls. I couldn't believe my eyes when I clocked a small box of old Christmas cracker novelties priced at the princely sum of one pound! It looked like someone's lifelong collection probably found during a house clearance. There were 65 different novelties in all with many dating back to the 1950s. They included rifles and pistols along with all manner of whistles and badges, most of which were plastic and made in Hong Kong... What a magical find!

Still on the subject of collectable plastic another FAB find was an old football badge from the 1960s which I bagged at the only car boot sale still running in my area at this time of year. It showed a picture of Wolves legend Ernie Hunt who, in his later days at Coventry City, scored one of the most amazing goals ever seen on *Match of the Day*. It happened in October 1970 and involved Ernie's team mate Willie Carr who cleverly trapped the ball between his ankles and flicked it

up for Hunt to nonchalantly volley it past Everton's goalkeeper and into the net. They called it the 'donkey kick' goal and it still gets talked about today despite rule changes banning any further attempts at it. I remember all the kids at school trying it but without the same success as Ernie and Willie. The badge cost me a fiver which was a really great price by my reckoning.

Despite plastic becoming a hugely unpopular product in recent years, I was pleased to find a really nice vintage Adidas flight bag in a vintage shop. I have fond memories of these handy shoulder bags during my footballing days back in the 1970s and 80s. It was a real snip at a fiver and in great condition with a fully working zip. These old bags are hugely popular today but finding them in good nick like this one is getting hard.

A Gaumont Children's Cinema Club badge bought for three pounds brought back happy memories of me and my sister going to Saturday morning film shows down at our local picture house in the Swinging Sixties. It was sheer bedlam most of the time with ice cream carton tops whizzing down from the balcony like flying saucers! I can't grumble at paying a mere three quid for this lovely bit of 1960s nostalgia.

Having a passion for big colourful toffee tins I was over the moon after snapping up a great Rowntree's toffee tin showing those erstwhile Cocoa Nibs Kids. It was bought from an antique centre for thirty quid and is sitting nicely in my own collection at present.

Still on the subject of nice big toffee tins it didn't take long to sell a superb Walters Palm Toffee

tin to a keen collector who didn't wince at my £80 price tag. I already had one myself when this one turned up which is the only reason I was selling this splendid piece.

Another rare item to find a new home with a happy collector was a rare walking boy Jonathan from that lovely set of Cococub figures issued in tins of Bourneville Children's Cocoa in the 1930s. It's still one of the hardest of the Cococubs to find and was well worth my asking price of £65.

A nice boxed FROG Penguin racing car powered by an elastic band and in great condition sold for thirty quid to a collector aiming to acquire the complete set.

A Morestone International 'Trucks of the World' series Refrigeration Truck in excellent condition didn't hang around for long and was soon snapped up for £45. It was the rarer version with the two tone tractor unit first produced in 1958.

And finally folks, still on the subject of Morestone, a 'Modern Products' six-wheeled Foden Dumper Truck in mint-boxed condition and priced at £45 found

a new home in a collection of heavy plant models owned by one of my regular customers. I've had the pleasure of seeing his terrific collection at model shows and it is truly amazing! It's always good to find items that keep your customers happy!

On the subject of happiness my New Year kicked off in great style down the local with a 1980s disco bursting to the seams with overweight over fifties struggling to keep up with their old dancefloor routines! All the old classics boomed out until the early hours from the likes of Duran Duran, Human League, Erasure and Earth, Wind and Fire. The highlight of the evening was 'Dave the Rave's' customary Highland Fling at midnight wearing his cute little yellow tartan kilt, a remnant of his days as a vociferous member of Ally MacLeod's marauding Tartan Army, much to the delight of our glamorous Glaswegian landlady Lily... Oh what a night... and what a welcome to 2022!

Well that's about all this time folks. Keep warm, stay safe and, as always, be lucky! **CG**



LEFT
In an excellent box this Modern Dumper Truck was snapped up by a keen plant machinery model collector.

LEFT

One of the hardest to find of all the Cadbury Cococub figures this walking boy Jonathan sold for sixty five pounds.

**ABOVE**

Dating from the 1960s this plastic star badge shows Ernie Hunt in his Wolverhampton Wanderers days.

BELOW
This genuine Vintage Adidas shoulder bag was a great find and reminded Oz of his footballing days.

**ABOVE**

This splendid Christmas cracker novelty collection was snapped up for a mere £1.00. Lucky old Oz!

RIGHT

Oz snapped up this splendid Rowntree's toffee tin for £30 and promptly added it to his own ever growing tin collection.

**LEFT**

Sold to a fellow collector this lovely Palm Toffee tin made a healthy £80.

FAR LEFT

Still boxed and in excellent condition this FROG elastic powered racing car soon found a happy new owner.

**ABOVE**

This Gaumont Children's Cinema Club lapel badge was a great buy for a mere three pounds.

BELOW
This rare version of the Morestone 'International Refrigeration Truck' was in excellent unboxed condition.



»EVENTS THIS MONTH

FAIRS

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 07810 513576

30 JANUARY

- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Lincolnshire**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383

6 FEBRUARY

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

10 FEBRUARY

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

13 FEBRUARY

- **Bolton**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Kempton**, RM Toys, 023 9238 1529 or 07957 823507
- **Orpington**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

15 FEBRUARY

- **Elsecar**, Newcomen Fairs, 01226 744425

19 FEBRUARY

- **Maidstone**, Maidstone Vintage Toy Fair, 01622 298159 or 01732 840787
- **Llangollen**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757 or 07966 694579

20 FEBRUARY

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

22 FEBRUARY

- **West Kingsdown**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012

26 FEBRUARY

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

27 FEBRUARY

- **St Ives**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383

AUCTIONS

21 JANUARY

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

25 JANUARY

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

26 JANUARY

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

29 JANUARY

- **Kings Langley**, Excalibur Auctions, 02036 330913
- **Lymington**, Lymington Auctions, 01590 679487

14 FEBRUARY

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

16 FEBRUARY

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

17 FEBRUARY

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

18 FEBRUARY

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

22 FEBRUARY

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23 FEBRUARY

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

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

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- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616
- **Chester**, UK Toy & Model Auctions, 01270 652773 or 07892870729



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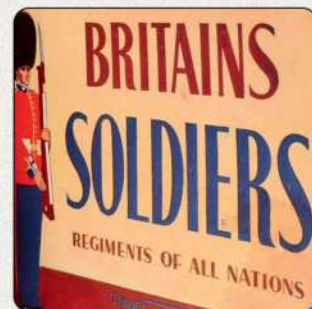
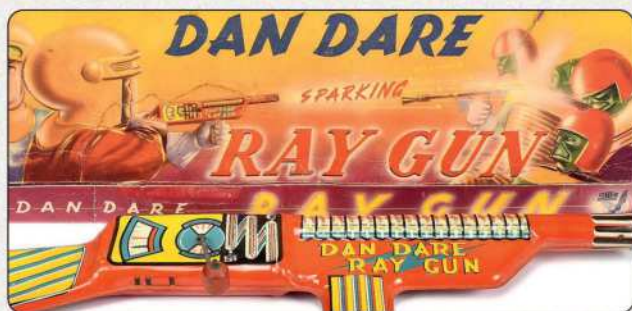
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- Friday 18th - Model Train Sale
- Tuesday 22nd - General Toy Sale
- Wednesday 23rd - Military, Civilian Figures, Equipment & Accessories Sale
- Thursday 24th - Dolls & Teddy Bear Sale
- Monday 28th - Matchbox Sale

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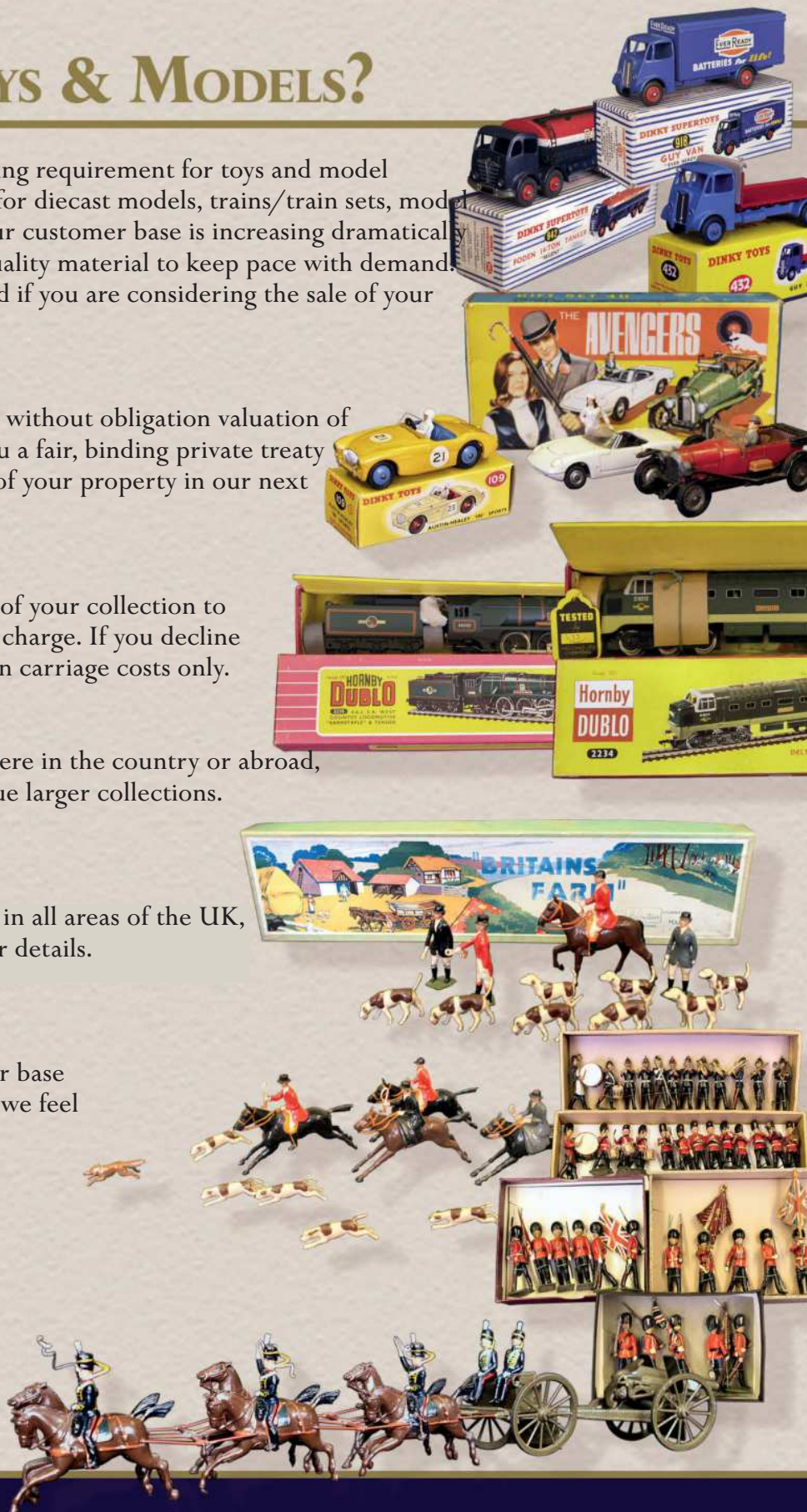
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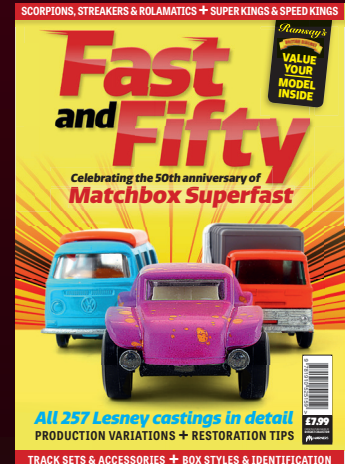
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The Battle of Britain

IN COLOUR



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THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN IN COLOUR



The Battle Looms

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

As for the outbreak of war in September 1939, there followed eight months of what became known as the 'Phoney War'. It was clear that large-scale fighting would ultimately follow, and a British Expeditionary Force was sent to France before the end of that year. As part of the BEF, a large Air Component was supplemented by an Advanced Air Brigade. In total, there are forces amounted to six squadrons, six of which were Hawker Hurricane fighters, and four were Spitfires. The remainder of the RAF force in France comprised largely light bombers and Army Co-operation squadrons. Eventually, however, the 'sitting' became the 'fighting'.

On 10 May 1940, German forces launched their all-out assault on France and the Low Countries and what followed in Belgium, the Netherlands etc, was the complete collapse of those countries under the overwhelming might of German military power. Across France, German forces moved inexorably towards the English Channel and while the French and British tried desperately to stem the advance, the situation became ever more desperate.

Predicted Catastrophe
When the fighting had broken out in France, the BEF's Air Component were in almost certain trouble, and it was not to be long before they were to be evacuated.

BACKGROUND TO BATTLE



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



Left: A Hurricane of 501 Squadron, sent to France for an operational sortie at Bethune, France, May 1940. An RAF Hurricane High Dive bomber (right) was sent to France to support the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk. Right: As the anticipated German offensive against France began to unfold, the RAF's Hurricane fighters were sent to France to support the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk.

It was not until the end of May 1940 that the RAF's Hurricane fighters were sent to France to support the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk. The Hurricane was a single-engine, single-seat fighter aircraft, and it was the only British fighter aircraft to be sent to France in large numbers. The Hurricane was a versatile aircraft, and it was used in a variety of roles, including as a fighter, a bomber, and a ground attack aircraft. The Hurricane was a key component of the RAF's fighter force during the Battle of Britain, and it played a crucial role in the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk.

Right: A Hurricane of 501 Squadron, sent to France for an operational sortie at Bethune, France, May 1940. An RAF Hurricane High Dive bomber (right) was sent to France to support the evacuation of British troops from Dunkirk.

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THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



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