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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Guys and dolls

British Toy Auctions' recent event had something for everyone. Amongst the highlights was a Mattel Hot Wheels Redline car, this a rare, UK-only Ed Shaver Custom AMX issue in blue. The car, did, however, exhibit extensive signs of playwear and had some damage on the front scuttle. Despite these imperfections and its worn Ed Shaver stickers, it was still bid to £460.

An unboxed, hard vinyl, jointed Sasha Morgenthaler doll (Ref 107) was another interesting lot. The young lady featured painted cinnamon coloured eyes and blonde rooted hair. The German made doll

was marked 'Sasha Serie' to the back and neck, sported white underwear and was finished off with pink gingham check shorts and top, together with a white pinafore dress. In excellent condition, this 40cm high doll realised £320.

Another anticipated lot was the very rare (circa 1920s) tinplate novelty van in Pearce, Duff's Custard and Blanc Mange livery. The van roof opened up as a storage tin and although the cab roof and front radiator grille were missing on this example, the sign writing was still legible and the majority of the paint intact. A big



Very unusual tinplate custard lorry wasn't perfect but was ripe for improvement.

toy at 31 cm long, it was knocked down for £300.

Finally, a boxed Scalextric Exinmex (Mexico) C-47 Sigma also went under the hammer. The model appeared to be in good overall condition, albeit with some wear to the chrome engine, and showed some signs of play and use. It made £260. ■

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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Minic made it down under



Down Under, the Trains, Planes & Automobiles auction house continues to generate good business.

Its most recent sale included a Minic plastic Push and Go (friction drive) Mechanical Horse Low Loader with Boat, finished in green and yellow and with a trailer. Billed as very good to excellent in a good box, it sold for Aus\$270. Another Minic, this a pre-war tinplate clockwork Ford Royal Mail Van in red, was complete with its Shell petrol can on the running board. Tested and working, aside from few chips to the paintwork and some

Above: Vibrant colours of the Minic Transporter evident in this picture. Not sure what happened to that tank, though...

Below: A little bit of the UK that was exported many moons ago to Australia?

damage to the tyres, it was otherwise good in a very good box. It sold for Aus\$180.

For lovers of steam, a Wileco "African Queen", made of wood and fitted with a brass vertical engine and solid fuel burner, certainly looked the business. Around 700 mm long and a limited edition, it came with appropriate certificate and was fiercely contested to

Aus\$1,600.

On the railway front, a Mansfield HO gauge two rail brass NSWGR C38 Class 4-6-2 Streamlined Locomotive (No. 3804) in black realised Aus\$1,400, while a Berg's HO gauge brass NSW CPH Railmotor "Rail Motor No5", again excellent in a very good box, settled on Aus\$410. ■



■ AUCTION REVIEW



Get ready, get Fett...

In the arcane world of Star Wars merchandise, amongst collectors a tiny handful of items stand out as being the equivalent of the Holy Grail. One such is the 1979 Kenner Boba Fett rocket-firing prototype action figure.

Never put into production because it was deemed too dangerous for children to play with (how's that for a sales pitch?), just a few were manufactured as test prototypes. As such, most Star Wars fans will never see one, far less actually own an example.

Hake's recently auctioned a J-slot example (as opposed

In terms of investment direction, the rocket-firing Boba Fett is going only one way - upwards.

to the L slot, the letter referring to shape of the rocket release cut-out on the figure's back where the rocket-firing stem is housed). Needless to say, there was huge anticipation, the auction house having sold another J slot Fett in 2019 for US\$185,850. (Yes, you read that right). Scarcer than the L-slot variety, this little fellow, suitably encapsulated, carried an upper estimate of US\$200,000 - on the day he was actually contested all the way to US\$204,435. ■

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Moko magic at Bamfords

The house's March sale was a magnet for Moko-boxed Lesney enthusiasts, with no fewer than 67 examples going under the hammer. These models, not mint but quite acceptable, were virtually all with their boxes and were sold off in groups of three or four in the main: prices realised ranged between £60-120. Of note was the group comprising a No.25a Bedford 12 cwt Van, in blue and with DUNLOP decals and metal wheels; a No.26a ERF Cement Mixer, a No.27b Bedford Low Loader, with pale green cab and tan trailer piece and a No.27c

Cadillac Sixty Special, in metallic lilac with grey plastic wheels.

A small number of larger scale tractors from the likes of ERTL, Franklin Mint and Universal Hobbies also sold but once again it was the mainstay diecast manufacturers who drew the punters. A 1967-1968 Dinky Stripey Magic Mini, complete with ursine complement, realised £300; while £100 secured a Corgi No 428 Mr Softee van.

Doll collectors were also well served on the day, with £260 the winning bid on a 1970s Sindy doll with glancing eyes and brunette hair: this lady was attired in a pink and white



Typical of the Moko boxed toys at Bamfords was this quartet from the original 1-75 series.

outfit. In contrast, a Pippa doll with blonde hair and psychedelic green flares was knocked down for £45. Big bucks, though, were needed for the late 19th century/early 20th century German novelty musical automaton group. The Musician and Dancer comprised a Schoenau & Hoffmeister/

Porzellanfabrik Burggrub bisque headed doll, dressed in period costume and holding a lute, with a bisque shoulder head dancer, dressed in a silk dress with lace details. The group was mounted on a box fitted with a musical mechanism and brass crank. Quite delightful, the ensemble

raised £750.

The bidding for a Simon & Halbig/Kammer & Reinhardt German bisque headed and ball jointed painted composition bodied doll stopped at £320. She featured weighted sleeping and side glancing blue glass eyes, pierced ears and a blonde wig. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

If the spirit moves you...

Greenslade Taylor Hunt's last auction was a general event but contained a number of old toys.

A silver tinplate racing car from Germany, made by JNF, was an unusual sighting and was based on the Mercedes W196: this sold for £40. Also from Germany was a Marklin spirit-fired stove with suitable pots and pans as accessories; hard to

believe, perhaps, that all these years on such toys were once retailed, but the range, fashioned in pressed tin, came with three brass oven doors and was ready to use. It realised £80.

A high bid of £320 secured a trio of Scalextric slot cars and track. These included an Aston Martin DB4 GT in red, a Marshal's Car in black and a Ferrari GT 250 Berlinetta, also in red. Whilst the Aston and Ferrari lacked bumper

parts, the all-important (and rather scarce) Marshal's car was in good shape – and all cars were boxed.

For the Dinky aficionado, how about a pre-war empty box for No.33, the Mechanical Horse and five assorted trailers? A bit of an oddity, yes, but despite the fact that it lacked the internal compartments, it still made £100.

On to Corgi: Gift Set No11 comprised an Austin London taxi, a London

Routemaster bus and a blue Morris Mini Minor, along with a policeman on a podium, all contained within a window box. A lovely set, it made £150.

Also from Corgi, the MGC competition car in orangey-red with a matt black bonnet did well, reaching £85 before bidding stopped. ■

This German tinplate Mercedes had clearly been loved but was still a good display piece



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HOBBY NEWS

Rekindling fond memories...

Enjoy a wonderfully nostalgic trip down memory lane on the Bank Holiday weekend 30th April to 2nd May from 11.00 a.m. till 5.00 p.m. in St Andrew's Church, Cotterstock, PE8 5HD. You will see childhood playthings, fashions and furniture from the 1830s to the 1980s.

Exhibits will include Victorian children's boots, shoes, bonnets and christening robes adorned with fine lace and embroidery. An early wooden rocking crib, a cast iron Victorian cot, rocking horses and china headed dolls that

have survived for over a century. The exhibition will show the development of model making and building from early wooden bricks to Bayko, Meccano and early Lego.

Visitors will also see boxed sets of Tri-ang and Hornby train sets and layouts with trains running all weekend thanks to members of the Market Deeping Model Railway Club.

Do you remember playing with Dinky Toys, Pelham Puppets, Action Men and the Raleigh Chopper Bike or pushing your children in prams from the 1950s and 1960s, they will all be there? Ladybird books, comics

and annuals including Beano, Bunty, Rupert, Eagle, Topper, Beazer and Dandy will be on display too. A video will run throughout the weekend to hopefully rekindle more memories.

Admission is £5 for adults (cash only please), accompanied children are free. The price includes a complimentary goody bag (whilst stocks last). Please note there are steps going down to get into the church. Refreshments will be served in the village hall and, it has been rumoured, the renowned flowerpot people and friends might be out and about in Main Street once again! ■

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

Coming up NEXT MONTH

JUNE 2022 ISSUE



» MYTHS AND LEGENDS

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NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



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Moulded in plastic the Chevrolet truck has glazed windows and painted lights. The detachable trailer cover sports John Deere parts decals.
» www.wiking.de

BBURAGO F1 MERCEDES AMG W12 E-PERFORMANCE VALTTERI BOTTAS

Price: £19.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now
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» www.oneforfun.com



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What was the year?

Alwyn Brice once more invites you to test your historical knowledge.

Politics were at the forefront of this month's year, with the United Nations voting in favour of the creation of an Independent Jewish State of Israel. India and Pakistan also gained independence from Great Britain, a sign that the old world order was changing, although the UK still had plenty of overseas possessions, such as Tanganyika, where the UK's Minister of Food signed off an investment of £25m to encourage the growing of groundnuts. The scheme was destined to fail disastrously, however.

Still in the UK, the school leaving age was raised to 15; and at the end of the year women were finally allowed to study at the University of Cambridge. In London, the first Oxfam shop opened for business,

another sign of the changing times (and social conscience), while in Wales, in June, the first Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod was staged.

On the global canvas, the International Monetary Fund started up but concerns about the future were making headlines, for this was the year that the Cold War officially began.

July was a fascinating month for those interested in extra-terrestrial life, for it was on the 7th that allegedly a UFO crashed at Roswell in New Mexico; the US military was said to have covered up the story but decades later word got out that lifeforms as well as a craft had been witnessed. The jury is still out on that episode...

One or two famous people were born this year: novelist Stephen King was one, and Farah

Fawcett of *Charlie's Angels* fame was another, whilst homegrown David Robert Jones also put in an appearance: he would go on to become the androgynous and legendary David Bowie.

Breakthroughs included Edwin Land's invention, that of the polaroid camera: he took the first instant photograph with his innovative camera in New York at a meeting of the Optical Society of America. Sixty seconds were all that was required for the image to develop. It was also the year that the transistor was pioneered and made a reality: this would go on to accelerate the miniaturisation of many an electronic gadget. Aiming for the skies was wealthy industrialist Howard Hughes, who was responsible for the H4 Hercules wooden aircraft dubbed the Spruce Goose:

this was the largest aircraft ever built, boasting a 320 foot wingspan. Its development was reputed to have cost of over US\$23m, a staggering sum for the time.

Records selling well included Frank Sinatra's *Have yourself a very merry Christmas* and *Sincerely yours* by The Ink Spots. As for the big screen, *Brighton Rock* brought Graham Greene's disaffected youth Pinkie to a wider audience; *Hue and cry*, from the Ealing Studios, marked the first of many films from this company; and *Miracle on 34th Street* was shown, which has become an evergreen film since.

Finally, for footie fans, Peter Adolph helped bring the big match into the dining room: Subbuteo was born.

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

RIGHT

Dinky's streamlined Rover appeared in the toyshops during this particular year.



BELOW

American toys might not have been common in the UK but were sturdily made and simplistic; consequently many have survived well, like this Tootsie toy wrecker.



ABOVE

This year would have been perfect for any aspiring infant piano prodigy.

LEFT

Germany was a big supplier of cuddly bears: here is the Yes/No teddy from Schuco.



Wild West trains

Mark Nolan gives it yeehaw riding the prairie on an old time express.



Caller called Casey 'bout a half-past four; He kissed his wife at the station door.

Climbed in the cabin with his orders in his hand;

Said this is the trip to the Promised Land."

Have you ever heard of Bert Hooker, Tom Clarke or Joe Duddington? No, they're not obscure footballers from the 1950s, and as far as I know they never featured on a series of cigarette cards. Well here's a clue; Casey Jones? Yep, they're all engine drivers, commonly known as 'engineers' in the United States and Canada. The other difference being, Casey Jones is famous, having featured in songs, films and folklore which have been drummed into our psyches from across the pond at least since television began.

So how come there's no 'Ballad of Bill Hooker' or a children's TV series called 'Tom Clarke'? The latter had several claims to fame, including trialling a six hour non-stop service between London and Glasgow with the aid of two firemen. He later featured in Hornby's publicity for their new O gauge Princess Elizabeth model, before setting a speed record of 114mph with 6220 Coronation

in June 1937. Less than a month later, after driving the Royal Train from Crewe to Euston, unwashed and still in his overalls, he was summoned to receive a surprise OBE from King George VI, who had been on the train with Queen Elizabeth, Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret.

As for Joe Duddington, it was only last year (2021) that a crowd-funded headstone was unveiled in a Doncaster cemetery to replace an unmarked grave and commemorate someone who was a veritable astronaut of his time. It was Joe, along with fireman Tommy Bray, who piloted the LNER streamlined pacific 'Mallard' to the world steam speed record of 126mph in July 1938. Since then, it has been pointed out, it was the machine, not the men, who passed into legend.

CASEY WHO?

So who was Casey Jones? We've all heard of him, but what did he do that made him so famous? He was born in 1863 and drove for the Illinois Central Railroad. He was famous for always being on time, knowing just how far he could push his loco without derailing. He was killed in 1900 when his passenger train hit a broken down freight train which

was partially obstructing the main line. Legend has it that Jones's driving skill was such that he was able to slow the train down enough that no passengers were killed or seriously injured. He ordered his fireman to jump clear but he himself remained on the loco.

His feats were celebrated in the song *The Ballad of Casey Jones*, also known as *Casey Jones, the Brave Engineer*. As well as appearing in other songs and stories, a movie about Jones was made in 1927. A television series loosely based on Jones's legend aired in 1958 with 32 episodes..

MUSIC AND TRAINS

There has long been a strong connection between music and trains. For a relatively short period, after railways, radio and recording, but before mass produced cars, freeways and flying, it was possible for musicians and entertainers to make a living with just trains for transport. Ensembles with acoustic instruments could roam the rails like rock stars and ply

their trade in hotels and boarding houses across the US rail network. This in part explains why there are so many train songs. The wheels on the rail joints create a natural 'baddam baddam' rhythm, even with fills being suggested by a different pattern at points and junctions.

As well as moving variety shows around the country, trains even ended up carrying whole circuses. These have been modelled predominantly by the North American toy train manufacturers.

MOVIES AND TRAINS

It's no surprise then that trains were eagerly seized upon as props and plot devices by Hollywood. Silent slapstick comedies feature trains zig zagging on different tracks, crashing into houses (Buster Keaton's specialty), being robbed by outlaws and delivering gunslingers and dames. Cowboys, Indians and trains co-existed happily; if there wasn't a fight with the protagonists running around on the roof, you were being short changed.

ABOVE

Lionel Lone Ranger Wild West O gauge train set. General-style steam locomotive with operating headlight, smoke. Sound unit in tender includes chuffing, whistle, bell and squealing brakes. There is a Lone Ranger and Outlaw car, and of course his faithful sidekick Tonto is also modelled.



ABOVE

Bachmann Old West Overland Freight with a selection of buildings.



LEFT

"Villainous outlaws are after the gold! Can the sheriff's men protect it?" Timpo Wild West range from 1974. Set 244 'The Prairie Rocket'; The Great Train Hold-Up Set comprising battery operated loco and tender, freight car, passenger car, train crew, passengers, mounted cowboys, sheriff, bandits and cowboys on foot.



RIGHT

Timpo Midnight Special. Similar idea to the hold-up set but with freight cars, soldiers and Indians.

Buster Keaton's *The General* is a civil war epic based entirely on the railway and features one of the most expensive stunt train crashes ever filmed. Definitely worth a watch.

DAVY CROCKETT

Davy Crockett is another icon of the Wild West. Made famous by

Disney for wearing a distinctive coonskin hat, he was a soldier and politician, known as the 'King of the Wild Frontier'. He died at the battle of the Alamo in 1836 during the Texas Revolution. His most famous epithet was; "Always be sure you are right, then go ahead".

The Tri-ang Davy Crockett 2-6-0 red and yellow steam loco

No.1863 was sold between 1962-65, marketed as R358 'Davy Crockett Old Time loco and tender'. The loco was available with or without smoke and hauled a tender with two transcontinental bogies, rather than the solid six or eight wheel UK style tender. It is loaded with wood rather than coal. Using a Jinty chassis with wheels painted yellow, valve gear and an extended front bogie, the model has quite a delicate front end, with lamp and cowcatcher particularly exposed to rough handling. For this reason a pristine version of this loco will always command a high premium.

As usual, Tri-ang went the extra mile to provide some fine detail, like rivets in the mouldings for the pistons, and rivets and pipework on the underframe. It's not something you immediately notice, but if it wasn't there, you'd miss it and the model would look a bit 'smooth'.

They also took the trouble to make the best coach they could to run behind Davy Crockett. The R448 Old time coach, produced 1962-65, is mustard yellow with black lining and the legend 'Smoking Car' centrally placed below the roof. There is interior seating although this is hard to see with the small size and shape of the windows. The clerestory roof overhangs the neat veranda at each end, and the coach runs on transcontinental bogies. A teak version of this coach was repurposed for use in the Railway Children set in 1972.

Tri-ang Hornby's 0-4-0 play locos included a 'Wild West' version in 1971. The loco sported black wheels and an unlined red body with integral cow catcher, black chimney and lamp. It retained the 1863 number. The tender body was the same as Davy Crockett, lined red with 'TTR' motif. However the chassis is basically an integral four wheeled flat wagon. A rare model to find.

Sets were sold as the

Frontiersman or Prairie Old Timer depending on territory. It's rumoured that Australian Davy Crocketts came with Ned Kelly stickers and this is borne out by the relevant Australian catalogue. Having never seen a Ned Kelly loco, a mint one would have a stratospheric price.

Another expensive item is the R449 Old time caboose, a red four wheeled vehicle with wood plank sides and a delicate chimney. It was supplied with sets in Canada and Australia.

In all some 24,000 Davy Crocketts were made, of which 18000 were fitted with smoke units. A large number, 5300, went into the RS37 set, which suggests it was a good seller. Indeed, Hornby marketing director Simon Kohler once singled out the Davy Crockett model as one of the most profitable items the company ever made.

AIRFIX BACHMANN

Airfix started marketing a Wild West adventure train set made by Bachmann in the mid 1970s. Two locos released were 4-4-0s Jupiter in Central Pacific red and silver, and no. 119 in Union Pacific red and black. There was also a red saloon car with a trapdoor in the roof, and a red exploding baggage car.

TIMPO

Timpo (Toy Importers Company) started making wooden toys in 1938, followed by hollowcast metal toy soldiers. They moved to plastic in 1954, later producing finely detailed Wild West toys to the standard of models. Other themes included forts and medieval figures, desert fighters and modern army. Their later toys included battery operated train sets like the Midnight Special and The Great Train Hold-Up Set, which allied their plastic figures, covered wagons and buildings, to toy trains. The firm latterly had a short-lived factory in Lanarkshire, Scotland and ceased operations around 1978. **CG**



ABOVE

Individually boxed Davy Crockett set with 2-6-0 loco, tender and old time coach.

Back to the future



Alwyn Brice recalls that there was a time when outer space figures didn't just revolve around the products of Palitoy.

Hard though it is to divorce adventures in space from the huge merchandising exercise that accompanied the *Star Wars* explosion, the fact is that *Star Wars* was some two decades late to the inter-galactic party.

Intrigued? Then read on...

THE PIONEERS

Space, and everything appertaining thereto, has fascinated mankind for centuries. Even as I pen these

lines, it still offers the last unknown, unexplored regions for us human beings. Small wonder, then, that novelists and later, cinematic experts, would tap into the mysteries of the solar system in order to entertain fellow earthlings.

Jules Verne wrote *From the Earth to the Moon* in 1865, following it with *Around the Moon* some five years later. Go back to the works of HG Wells (he of *The War of the Worlds* fame) and you'll come across two volumes of interest: *The First*

Men in the Moon (published in 1901) and *The Shape of Things to Come* (published in 1933) both contained futuristic themes. Isaac Asimov with his *I, robot* (1950) certainly gave the whole concept of space and robotics gravitas, opening the floodgates for more of the same.

As for the cinema, Mélière's *Le voyage dans la Lune*, a very short film, dates from 1902; and everyone recalls *The Forbidden Planet*, which defined space and science fiction and robots back in 1956. The 1950s were arguably THE decade for space cinema: children thrilled to monochrome exploits in the matinees, although admittedly, there were also some truly awful efforts appearing at the local cinema.

TO BOLDLY GO

So, it didn't all start with Luke Skywalker. What is less easy to assert is whether the cinema sowed the seed amongst toy manufacturers or not. Children in the 1950s would have associated with the Wild West, Robin Hood/William Tell and World War Two: since television was not as accessible then, comics and the local fleapit helped nurture these interests. And toyshops, naturally, had to come up with the goods.

If you were enthralled by the concept of space (and who wasn't in the 1950s?), then you were faced with a somewhat finite choice when it came to acting

out your fantasies upon the hearthrug. Remember: this was a time before Gerry Anderson; and a time when plastic as a widely-used medium was in its infancy. Thus it all came down to hollowcast lead figures - and in that decade the lucky child would have played with the products of either Johillco or Cherilea.

JOHILLCO

John Hill Company had its roots in the late 19th century and was actually founded by an ex-Britains employee, one Mr Wood. It is recorded that as a rival to the all-conquering Britains, Johillco differentiated its output by offering its figures and animals singly, and not in sets, as was Britains' favourite way of merchandising. Originally manufacturing in London, post World War Two it relocated to Burnley.

Johillco's output was quite comprehensive but it didn't cling to the Britains rationale of lots of regimental types, both foot and mounted. Rather more bucolic, it opted for many rural subjects - and outer space. Initially hollowcast, by 1956, with the advent of plastic, Johillco switched media.

It's not easy to pin down when the company first manufactured its space range but certainly the outer space theme was present in its 1953 catalogue.

If you are looking to collect the company's output, then the



ABOVE One for the well-heeled? Cherilea mixed and matched its space output and the bigger sets like this would not have been cheap in their day.



LEFT

Two Cherilea astronauts, complete with their all-important helmets. Not sure about that harpoon gun, though.

astronauts are a good place to start. Each of the types came with a separate clear plastic helmet for added realism although, predictably, many of these have gone missing over the subsequent decades. There are several poses showing astronauts with a range of equipment. One chap appears to be carrying a harpoon gun (presumably bent on skewering any hostile marine life) whilst another holds aloft an anemometer (I guess that it gets windy on the moon). All except one space explorer is carrying some sort of tool or weapon. Finishes vary but silver or coppery gold are the most common. I don't think you'll find Johillco script on the figures but you will see the word England.

Aside from the astronauts are what I term aliens and robots. Aliens include a fellow with a television aerial atop his helmet and who carries a ray gun; he is backed up by another chap with antennae who carries some sort of rifle across his chest. The third alien holds what appears to be some chemistry apparatus. Typically, garish metallic colours were used in the painting process, which makes these futuristic entities stand out.

As for robots, there is one with raised hands (an extremely odd pose) and his mate, the chunky Suitcase Robot. This latter is very elusive and can be found in a standing or walking posture.

CHERILEA

Designer Wilf Cherington left the employment of

RIGHT

Cinema-goers couldn't get enough of space stories – and Hollywood duly obliged. Viewed today, many have preposterous storylines and special effects that will make you squirm (with embarrassment, that is).

Johillco after World War Two (he also worked at Crescent) and in partnership with James Leaver, formed Cherilea. Burnley was again the manufacturing hub.

The big question is whether Cherington borrowed Johillco moulds or reproduced his own. Either way, the astronauts and the “hands aloft” robot are common to both makers. His other space output was more bizarre, reflecting, perhaps, an interest in wildlife. The Ant-Man is a weird, overgrown insect with a bird-like beak whilst the Giant Lizard does what it says on the tin. As for the Giant Worm, with its plethora of feet, he's not something an astronaut would wish to meet on his travels. This lot could be bought as a trio on a card but also appeared in sets. Meanwhile, an oddball Intelligent Alien, with hands on hips, looks very satisfied with himself.

Eschewing any true-to-scale rule book, Cherington also produced a multi-coloured space rocket and a hollowcast launch ramp for same. For the wealthier clientele, several different Journey into Space sets were released and their contents reflected a selection of the above-mentioned spacemen, aliens and monsters.

It's difficult to nail the demise of these lead figures but by the late 1950s both companies were moving to plastic. Versions of some of the astronauts have turned up in plastic that has embrittled with age: as recasts, they are consequently slightly smaller than their lead siblings.

Helpfully, all are still available, seven decades on. May the thought be with you...CG



ABOVE

Incredibly rare (fewer than five exist?), this was Johillco's vision of a space station.

RIGHT

This pair sport the coppery finish and one even has a pistol, although how effective that might be on the moon is anyone's guess.



ABOVE

Scale was never a problem with manufacturers, as can be seen here. The Cherilea rocket is not hard to find but the launch pad is rather more difficult.

RIGHT

One of the harder to find robots/aliens is the aptly-named Suitcase Robot (right). Most common in purple, he has also been sighted in mid-green. Note the metallic colours on this pair.



Photos courtesy of Old Toy Soldier magazine and the author's collection.





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Lost but not forgotten

In the final part of his mini-series, **Alwyn Brice** sheds light on three more obscure diecast manufacturers.

If you spend a lot of time in collecting circles, at swapmeets or in auction rooms then you are probably familiar with most brands of diecast models. That is, until now...

FGT

Never heard of FGT? I hadn't either, until my collector friend Pete Merrall explained all. One Fred Taylor gave his initials to the brand and he, as some readers will know, was half of the famous Taylor & Barrett company, whose diecast output was as vast as it was varied.

One of the two companies formed on the break-up of the Taylor and Barrett partnership in 1945 by Fred Taylor was F G Taylor & Sons, with FGT also being used to represent "For Good Toys". The company shared out the old Taylor & Barrett moulds with Barrett & Sons and, where they didn't have a suitable mould, they simply re-made their own version. FGT was particularly well-known for detailed trades people sets, such as the brewer's dray. The company, like many others of that era, converted to plastic products



ABOVE

You'll be lucky to find pristine models in the Jordan & Lewden range; many have been repainted over the years, as can be seen here.

BELOW LEFT

Fire engine from FGT sports an unusual hose attachment on its rear.

in the 1960s and finally closed down around 1980.

The fire engine shown here is typical of the FGT output and the overtones of Taylor & Barrett are quite evident. I confess to being at a loss when it comes to stating quite how many vehicles you'll find bearing the FGT initials on the underside; and for those

completists, you'll need to know that the moniker wasn't confined to vehicular output, either, since it can be found on countryside castings, for example.

JORDAN AND LEWDEN

This company, if no other in my series, certainly deserves some sort of hardback publication devoted to its output, for its range was large and extremely interesting.

The company started up production around 1950 and its initial offering was half a dozen cars, a little bigger than Dinky examples but well made for all that. The Ford Prefect, Daimler Conquest, Austin A40, Buick and Standard Vanguard (also in Estate format) all date to about 1953-1954, and the Buick aside, would have been familiar sights on British roads. In time,

friction drive gave way to push-along power in this so-called River Series (dies were later loaned to New Zealand, incidentally, which results in a sub series to collect).

Trucks were also produced by Jordan and Lewden: the forward control lorry provided the basis for many other models. It was merely a question of adding or changing the rear part of each lorry to produce yet another variation on a theme. These models are not too common, especially when complete; several have attachments or loads that have been misplaced over the decades.



**ABOVE**

Two examples of the Betal Jowett Javelin: note the differing wheels.



Seldom sighted, this is Betal's Malcolm Campbell record-breaking Bluebird, with even rarer box.

Both clockwork and non-powered versions can be found here.

Some bizarre models are around, such as the lorry with open slots in the sides of the rear section which house a couple of miniature cars. These latter are completely out of scale with the lorry: are they pedal cars perhaps? The gully emptier is another curio, for the lorry with its swinging mechanism is indeed an unusual choice for modelling. A crane truck, a tower wagon and a fork-lift truck give some idea of the breadth of scope of this range.

Jordan and Lewden's military side was equally impressive: an ambulance, a covered wagon, tanker, crane and low loader are just some models that can be collected. MADE IN ENGLAND or HERE COMES THE ARMY SERIES can be found embossed on the undersides of some vehicles in this range. One gift set of seven

items makes use of a raised bed box that can be cut up to construct a Bailey Bridge: how's that for innovation?

To add to the list, the enterprise produced locomotives; at least four are known and whilst they are a little crude in design, they nonetheless stand out as further proof of the company's determination to succeed in the diecast toy market.

The epilogue saw many of the company's moulds pass to Israel in the 1960s, where another sub series, under the Gamda label, can be traced. Not all the vehicles were re-made, though; and as Gamda also acquired moulds from Kemlows and Charbens, some quirky products resulted.

BETAL

Betal might sound like the ideal nomenclature for a turf accountant

LAST ISSUE'S CURIO CORNER...

Were you stumped by the little red road sweeper? According to authority Rob Newson, it's by Teeny Toys (also known as the Cleveland Toy Manufacturing Company). If you look closely you'll note the very stylised wheels: these were shared with a mobile crane that comes from the same stable. So now you know!

**ABOVE**

Underside of this country bridge model reveals the FGT logo.

LEFT

Chassis of this Jordan & Lewden Austin typically gives no clue to the manufacturer's name.

**ABOVE**

River Transport gives the game away here: the basic lorry chassis could accept various rear treatments.

(!) but it was, in fact, a London-based diecast manufacturer, the enterprise taking its name from the factory where it all started. It seems that the founders Marks and Kate Glasman (as was so often the case) were foreign, in this case hailing from the Ukraine.

The company's output predates World War Two, for toys were being produced in the early 1920s and Glasman's business exhibited at the British Industries Fair in 1929. Quite a large range was built up, for it encompassed games as well as toy forts, fireworks, fancy dress clothes, tool sets and metal toys, both mechanical and non-mechanical.

By 1950 diecasts were being promoted. In time the company passed to the couple's children but in later years mixed circumstances brought about its demise, which occurred during the 1980s.

Collecting Betal isn't too difficult if you want just one example: the commonest model is the 1940s Jowett Javelin, itself an unusual car in the world of the miniature. Helpfully, the company name is embossed underneath. This was available as a hollow casting or with friction drive fitted, or even a clockwork motor. Harder to find is the Austin 16 that was manufactured with a choice of power; strangely, this model lacks headlights. An Austin A40 is also attributable to Betal and is another uncommon survivor. Donald Campbell's Bluebird Land Speed Record car, in clockwork format, occasionally surfaces, too: if boxed it is particularly sought after, with its "Fastest car on Earth" rubric.

There are also trucks and military items, some of the latter merely being repaints of the commercial examples. **CG**

Images from the author's collection, Ebay, WorthPoint and Wallis and Wallis.

Collecting Girls comics

As girls' comics are becoming more sought-after by collectors and gaining in value, we take a closer look at the subject...



Most children, certainly those from the 1970s and before, regularly bought comics – there were dozens to choose from. Some were unisex, but many were aimed specifically at either boys or girls. Boys' comics have been a favourite collectable for many years, but now girls' comics are becoming sought-after too – so that stash of *Buntys* or *Jackies* in your loft might one day turn out to be a mini-goldmine!

Up until World War Two, most girls' comics were wordy publications packed with tiny print and maybe a small line drawing or two per page. These comics, often A5 size, had titles such as *Schoolgirls' Own*, *Schoolgirl* or *Schoolgirls' Weekly*,

and their covers featured girls wearing gym slips, black stockings and with short shingled hair.

After the War, new printing methods, different tastes and a modern breed of girls caused the face of comics to change, and this movement was spearheaded by a man called Marcus Morris who produced four colourful, glossy comics: *Eagle*, *Swift*, *Robin* and *Girl*. *Girl* was launched on 2 November 1951, and emblazoned across the cover was the legend, "The New Super-Colour Weekly for Every Girl". This comic was something of a first as it was filled with picture strips aimed at girls, rather than the small print and small pictures of pre-War titles. Of course, even before the War, there had been picture strip comics – *Beano* and *Dandy*

spring instantly to mind, and there were many others – but *Girl* was different. It contained adventures rather than just humorous strips, and it proved deservedly popular.

The front cover of that first issue featured a picture strip called *The Adventures of Kitty Hawke and her All Girl Aircrew*, which showed the girls coming in to land after a freight delivery in Wales. As they looped their plane we read that, 'Kitty Hawke is the only pilot who can roll in a Tadcaster'. The accompanying picture showed the (male) ground crew diving for cover as the plane swooped in. Later Kitty memorably said, 'Well, here we are again gang with one more job chalked up to the all-girl crew – to prove to Dad that we can operate his planes as efficiently

ABOVE

Girls' names were popular as comic titles in the 1950s and '60s.

as the glorious male'. Kitty was obviously a bit of a militant, an early supporter of Woman's Lib!

Although the comic proved popular from the start, it wasn't long before the publishers realised that girls didn't really want to read a female version of the adventure-based *Eagle*, and so the front cover honour passed to Wendy and Jinx (two schoolgirl sleuths). Girls liked to read about other girls, in particular those with hobbies such as horse riding, ballet and gymnastics, with a few recipes, craft hints and facts about nature thrown in for good measure. It didn't take long before other comics took up the challenge, notably *School*



ABOVE LEFT

Condition affects price of comics – to get top prices, they must be in excellent condition.



ABOVE RIGHT

Girls' comics – average price around £6 each.



ABOVE

A selection of early post-war girls' comics, around £10 each.

Friend (Amalgamated Press) which was revamped from all-text to a picture strip format, and which consequently became very popular. In fact it broke records when the first updated issue sold no less than 1,000,000 copies – a record that today's publishers must envy.

BUNTY TO JACKIE

When *Bunty* – remembered with fondness by thousands of women today – was first published by DC Thomson in 1958, complete with its free Lucky Ladybird Ring, it paved the way for countless imitations (including many from the same publisher). Among similar publications were *Judy*, *Mandy*, *Tammy*, *Tracy*, *Sally* and *Emma*. *Bunty* included what was probably the most classic girls' picture strip of all time

– the *Four Marys*. Just why this captured the hearts of so many is hard to say, but suffice to say the strip ran for 43 years. The *Four Marys* were pupils of a typical girls-only boarding school of the era called St Elmo's. Schoolgirl groups were a popular theme at the time – another much-loved picture strip was *The Silent Three*, a popular feature from *School Friend*, which featured three schoolgirls who used to sneak around in sinister hooded cloaks. *Bunty* had plenty of picture strips, as well as a club page and letters page. The comic was also renowned for its paper doll, which appeared in each issue, together with clothes to cut out, and today this doll is the bane of *Bunty* collectors, who find that many of the comics have cut pages where the doll would

have been.

Clubs, with their badges and secret codes, were a cherished feature of most girls' comics, along with the small prizes given on the letters page or awarded in competitions. Free gifts were often used to encourage sales, usually in the form of a ring, bracelet, comb or booklet. Some comics, such as *Twinkle* or *Pixie*, were aimed at younger girls, and these featured dolls, pets, teddy bears and similar subjects.

In 1964, a brash newcomer arrived. This was *Jackie* – not only was it a colourful and glossy, it dared to be a bit more bold. Questions on the agony aunt's pages (which in other magazines would be limited to problems with school and friends) now featured – shock – sex! Mothers were horrified, and their daughters were thrilled, rushing out in droves to buy this new comic that taught them so much more about life. Naturally, there had been comics before aimed at the older market, such as *Roxy*, *Romeo*, *Marty*, *Cherie*, *Marilyn* and *Valentine*, but they tended to follow the same mono-colour picture strip route and resembled romance-based copies of *Bunty*. Though they often included pictures of pop

stars and problem pages, they were really very demure. *Jackie* was different – it talked about make-up, fashion and current trends – it was bright, brash, bold, and another triumph for DC Thomson.

Comics continued to become more colourful during the 1970s, '80s and '90s but gradually picture strips disappeared, to be replaced by features on media characters, celebrity chat and fashion. Nowadays there are very few comics that resemble the early ones. Modern comics come loaded with free gifts, and even those for the youngest children rarely contain a story. In fact, the gift is the inducement to buy the publication, whereas years ago it was the stories (mainly serials) which provided the hook – girls were agog to read what happened next! Consequently, nostalgia is kicking in and over the last few years traditional-style girls' comics have become very collectable, with some first editions and special issues fetching high prices. Many collectors assert that the artwork is far superior to that found in boys' comics. It is great to see the girls' titles, once deemed only fit for the skip, are now being so sought-after. **CG**

PRICE GUIDE...

- 19 *Girls' Crystal* from 1963, including final issue – £268.
- Issues 1-7 (1978) of *Misty*. Issue number one still has its free gift attached – £205.
- 1st issue of *Lady Penelope* (1966) with free gift – £250.
- *Bunty Summer Special* (1964) – £200.
- 1st Issue *Misty* (1978) with free gift – £50.99
- 1st issue *Emma* with free gift (1978) – £21.85.
- 1st issue *Nikki* with free gift (1985) – £19.
- Bound volume of *Mandy*, issues 625-646 (1979) – £51.
- Bound volumes of pre-war girls' comic classics have been rising in price recently, often reaching the £300 mark or more.



10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Scalextric

Just as the term 'Airfix' is often used to describe a military plastic kit or 'Dinky' would be used by parents when talking about their child's little diecast cars, 'Scalextric' is a phrase that is invariably implied to any slot car racing. Such is the brand's dominance of the market that Scalextric has become a household name – arguably one of the best known 'toys' in the UK, if not the world.

Like so many young boys, my first experience of Scalextric was on a Christmas morning many moons ago. I eagerly tore open the packaging before building the track and then watching in amazement as the cars shot off the circuit and under the Christmas tree. It's due to lasting memories like these that Scalextric has remained in the public consciousness for so long... almost everyone has their own experience of the slot car giant.

The story of Scalextric dates back to the 1940s when keen racing enthusiast and engineer Fred Francis set up Minimodels Ltd in 1947. Based in London, Minimodels launched the Scalex series of toy racing cars, which featured a clockwork motor that could be operated using the car's steering wheel. These charming replica motors were a huge success (with more than 7,000 being produced weekly in the early '50s) but by 1956 sales had started to slide so Francis needed to come up with something new.

His ambition was to give the player more control over the car, rather than just winding it up and then watching as it zipped across the floor. As a result he started to look at alternative

ways of propulsion and with the rise in electric powered model railways, he naturally turned his attentions to electricity. Originally he just popped an electric motor into the existing Scalex cars and experimented with running them on railway track.

Not happy with this method, his next solution was to make a rubber slotted track and use a 'gimbal' wheel (a pivoted support that allows rotation around a single axis) that could pick up the electrical current that ran through a conductor in the centre of the track. Meanwhile, the 'driver' could control the car with an on-off button to help it safely travel around the track.

Francis launched Scalextric at the Harrogate International Toy Fair in January 1957 and it was met with immediate acclaim. The name of the new toy was a simple combination of Francis' established brand name of Scalex and 'electric'. The first set launched to the public included



BELOW
Lines Bros produced numerous buildings like this to add to a Scalextric track. In some ways it's very similar to producing a fantastic model railway layout.

RIGHT

The You Steer series was an ill-fated decision by Lines Bros in the 1970s that was quickly dropped after it became apparent it was a bit rubbish.

BELOW

Sadly the 1970s saw some pretty disappointing releases from Scalextric, after Lines Bros was bought out.



BELOW

Although the first catalogue was only four pages long, they quickly became luscious affairs packed with wonderful imagery and even more wonderful products.



BELOW

Originally Fred Francis made the cars out of tinplate but they proved to be rather heavy and sluggish compared to the lighter, faster versions from Lines.



a figure eight of track and a pair of Maseratis, the following year they were joined by a Ferrari and Austin Healey.

However, Scalextric was a

victim of its own success and Minimodels simply could not keep up with the huge demand. As a result in 1958 Francis sold the business to Lines Brothers and

went off to pursue his interests in motoring and aviation. At the time Lines was operating both Tri-ang and Rovex, the latter of which specialised in creating plastic toys, so it quickly began developing new Scalextric cars that were made from plastic, rather than tinplate, as the originals had been.

In 1960 Tri-ang published the first ever Scalextric catalogue. It was, admittedly, a fairly simple affair, clocking in at a measly four pages. However, within this tiny catalogue Tri-ang showcased some exciting products for the eager Scalextric fan, including two Vanwall cars, along with a Lister Jaguar and Aston Martin on the cover, plus accessories like the battery operated control tower. However, despite the size, the glorified leaflet must have certainly done the trick because the following year the catalogue had grown to a whopping 24 pages! How's that for progress?

These catalogues really helped to kick off a golden age of Scalextric in the 1960s, which saw numerous innovations for the slot car toy. Take, for example, 1962 when Tri-ang decided that cars weren't enough and boys would probably like to race motorcycles (complete with sidecars) too. Also that year the first trackside light accessories were released – although Tri-ang had added lights to the cars the previous year and the Lister Jaguar now came with working headlights.

Other innovations quickly followed, like the Go-Karts in 1963 – the same year as a vinyl record that simulated the sounds of a furious race (what an ingenious idea). In 1964 Scalextric launched the first four-car race tracks, which invariably ended in huge pile ups and the following year added the iconic Mini to its line-up (originally they were front wheel drive before being changed

to rear wheel in 1966). In 1967 Scalextric really upped its game with the fantastic James Bond set, complete with an Aston Martin featuring the all-important ejector seat and bullet proof screen that popped up when bumped by another car.

However, not all of Scalextric's innovations were a hit and in 1970 it launched the ill-fated 'You Steer' gimmick. Now the controllers came with a small wheel that could turn the cars left and right to avoid obstacles but the problem was they had to slow down to a crawl to make the turns. The idea was quickly abandoned in 1972. Another equally unusual idea was the Jump Jockey set that featured horses, rather than cars.

The 1970s also brought an end to the Lines Bros/Tri-ang era of Scalextric, as the company was struggling with sales of its numerous other brands, which also included Meccano, Hornby, Spot-On and Wrenn Railways. As a result the company called in the receivers in 1971 and the firm was sold to the UK wing of the American giant Marx Toys (known as Dunbee-Combex-Marx). Sadly compared to the golden era of innovation and spectacular accessories in the 1960s, Marx didn't invest a great deal of time or money into Scalextric during the 1970s; cutting the range down to 18 cars and stopping production of all the buildings.

Still, the brand survived this turbulent time, although Dunbee-Combex-Marx didn't and closed its doors in 1980, resulting in another buy out (this time by the newly formed Hornby Hobbies). The Scalextric name is still going strong and Hornby Hobbies is still innovating, ensuring that almost 60 years on since the toy's creation, young boys are still being delighted by Scalextric sets under the Christmas tree. **CG**

Famous Faces:

STAR TREK

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.

Star Trek has become one of the most successful television franchises in history since its debut in 1966. Its popularity has led to thirteen feature films, nine spin-off TV programmes, a cartoon series, plus numerous novels and comic books.

Ironically, *Star Trek* nearly didn't happen. The idea for the series came from American screenwriter Gene Roddenberry, but he had a difficult time selling a sci-fi programme to the American TV networks. Despite the lack of interest in the genre, two pilot episodes eventually led to a regular series. *Star Trek* was set in the 23rd century, and took place aboard the Starfleet vessel USS Enterprise, a combination exploration and defence vessel. Despite some dodgy special effects, *Star Trek* was an intelligent and well-cast show.

THE MODELS

The first diecast model based on *Star Trek* was not released until 1976. It was produced by Dinky, a company that had a lot of experience in model spacecraft due to a long-term link up with Gerry Anderson's TV-21 company. The reason the models were released at this time may be due to *Star Trek* recently being re-run on British TV.

The USS Enterprise, launched in 2245, was a Constitution class starship. These ships featured a large saucer-shaped primary hull, linked to the cylindrical secondary hull, which has a pair of pylons attached to the engine nacelles. The Dinky model accurately captured the unusual design of the Enterprise, although somewhat compromised by the inclusion



ABOVE

As you may notice, the Enterprise by ERTL for *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* features a different fleet number, after the original Enterprise was destroyed at the end of the previous film.

of working features to give it 'play value'. The bottom of secondary hull featured a pair of opening metal doors, which revealed a removable, oversized shuttlecraft moulded in orange plastic. The opening doors could be used to form a stand for the model, which could not otherwise balance on its rounded base. The other action feature involved the firing of 'photon torpedoes', although these were actually just plastic discs that were loaded into a hole at the rear of the saucer. When the unpainted metal 'command bridge' was rotated, the discs shot out the front of the ship in quick succession, working like a

mini machine gun!

The Enterprise model was all diecast, except for the top half of the saucer, the engine pylons, and the parts in orange plastic – the engine rotors and the front radar dish. It was decorated with accurate labels on the saucer and the engine tubes. Early versions were packaged in a cardboard box, while later examples came in window boxes.

A companion model was released the following year; a Klingon Battle Cruiser, as used by the hostile warrior race from *Star Trek*. This was based on a D-7 class heavy battle cruiser, a strange-looking vessel with the command bridge separated

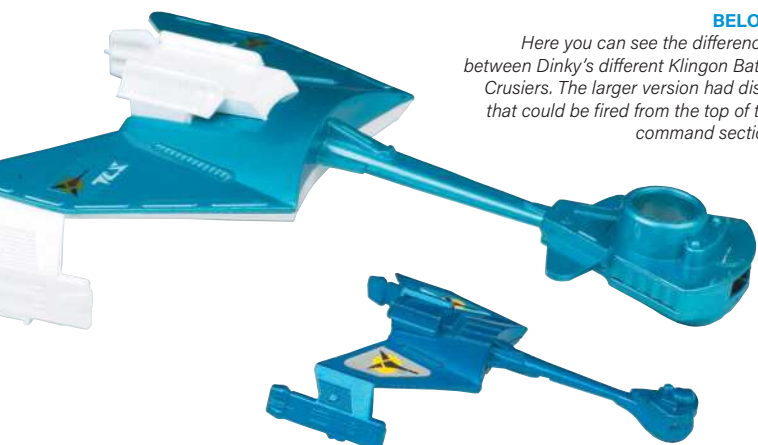
from the rest of the ship by a long boom. The Dinky model was largely accurate, although containing a lot of plastic; the underside of the rear section and the engine were all in white plastic. The ship had a similar action figure to the Enterprise, as discs could be loaded into a hole on the top of the command section, and fired off by squeezing the canards on the side. This feature worked well, although it resulted in the front section of the ship not looking very accurate. The ship was painted metallic blue and had correct Klingon Empire insignias on the wings. It was packaged in a large window box,

**ABOVE**

One of the first Star Trek models was produced by Dinky in 1976, who had a long history of making TV and film-related diecast, thanks to its links with Gerry Anderson.

**ABOVE**

The smaller version of the Dinky Enterprise was obviously less detailed than the larger model but it was actually fairly accurate to the starship from the movie.

**BELOW**

Here you can see the differences between Dinky's different Klingon Battle Cruisers. The larger version had discs that could be fired from the top of the command section.

**ABOVE**

The Corgi Junior version of the Enterprise wasn't particularly accurate and was rather short and stubby. It was accompanied by the K't'inga-class Klingon ship.

and also in a twin-pack with the Enterprise. The Klingon ship was not a strong seller, and many languished in toyshops for years.

THE MOVIES

In the first *Star Trek* movie from 1977, the Enterprise was refitted with new, angular engine nacelles and a thicker secondary hull. Dinky planned to modify the large Enterprise model to reflect this, but ultimately this did not happen. Instead, a miniature version of the new-

look Enterprise was produced. It was a fairly accurately shaped model, although the fit and finished left something to be desired. It was soon accompanied by a miniature Klingon Battle Cruiser, which was made from just two pieces of diecast metal. With no working features, it was more realistic than its larger counterpart, and was finished in dark metallic blue with accurate Klingon stickers on the wings. These models came in movie tie-in blister cards.

Dinky went under not long after, and the license for the second film went to Corgi, resulting in a pair of Junior models. Corgi's version of the Enterprise was not particularly accurate; the secondary hull was too short and stubby, while the engine pylons were too far forward, resulting in the nacelles nearly touching the saucer. Again, the Enterprise was accompanied by a Klingon ship; although this warship looked similar to the Dinky model, it was actually a more advanced K't'inga-class ship, with subtle differences. The Corgi model was made from a single piece of blue-painted metal, with a white plastic engine riveted to the top. Although quite an accurate casting, it was spoiled by having silly-looking 'K' stickers on the wings rather than proper Klingon insignias.

For the next film, *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*, the license went to American company Ertl. This time there were three new models, including the most accurate version of the Enterprise so far. Correctly shaped, and with good casting detail, this model was all metal except for the engines. It was accompanied by a Klingon Bird of Prey ship, which was just a one piece casting! It was painted pale blue, with *Star*

Trek logos printed on the wings – an annoying practice used by Ertl on many of its TV and film models. The third model was of USS Excelsior, which was the first Starfleet vessel other than the Enterprise to be modelled. Excelsior was an experimental starship commanded by Mr Sulu, and was much larger and more streamlined than the Enterprise. The Ertl version was an interesting model, but lacked the detail of the other two. Ertl models were packaged on tie-in blister cards, and for the first time featured stands to display the ships on.

At the end of the third film, the Enterprise was destroyed, and the fourth film featured the crew travelling back in time in a stolen Klingon ship (no models were made for *Star Trek IV*). For the fifth instalment, *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*, Ertl released new version of the Enterprise and Klingon Bird of Prey castings. The Enterprise was almost identical to the previous version, except for the fleet number NCC-1701-A, the designation of the new ship featured in the film. The Klingon ship was the same one-piece casting, but now finished in an attractive two-tone green, with grey engine intakes and an impressive bird's wing design printed on the underside. **CG**

**ABOVE**

Packaging from Dinky featured strong branding with recognisable lead characters Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock.

eBuys

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



♦ **Item:** Palitoy Star Wars Leia Hoth figure
Condition: Mint with clear and sealed bubble, unpunched card
Sold for: £2,551 (32 Bids)



♦ **Item:** Matchbox SuperKings Ford 'H' Series Lorry '3-in-One' Oil
Condition: Mint with removable soft curtain load cover, dated 1979
Sold for: Sold for £686 (12 bids)



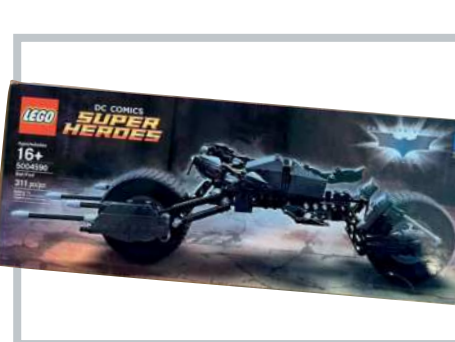
♦ **Item:** Tri-ang Spot-On 111A/OG Ford Thames Trader
Condition: mint in original excellent box and inner packaging. Original Tri-ang Club leaflet
Sold for: £640 (4 bids)



♦ **Item:** Transformers G1 Overlord set
Condition: in its original packaging, complete with instructions and in fantastic condition for its age
Sold for: £1,245 (34 bids)



♦ **Item:** Meccano Set 10 and Giant Block Setting Crane kit
Condition: complete set housed in a custom built, solid oak, 6 drawer cabinet
Sold for: £3,001 (34 bids)



♦ **Item:** LEGO DC Comics Super Heroes 5004590 Bat-Pod
Condition: mint and still sealed in original box
Sold for: £975 (19 bids)



♦ **Item:** Corgi Toys Gift Set 15 Silverstone, 1964
Condition: slight age wear, in original box with 1 missing item
Sold for: £2,777 (27 bids)



♦ **Item:** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Undercover Raphael
Condition: Mint, unused, unopened and undamaged item
Sold for: £1,500 (25 bids)



♦ **Item:** Tri-ang Minic Ships in harbour scene
Condition: used ex-display model with cliffs and buildings
Sold for: £1,460 (21 bids)



- Item: Corgi Toys Gift Set 38 1965 Monte Carlo Rallye
Condition: Very good with original vehicles and box. Slight age wear
Sold for: £1,258 (36 bids)



- Item: Hot Wheels Rrrumblers Gift Set, 1970s
Condition: Slight damage to the box but all bikes in excellent condition
Sold for: £1,053 (16 bids)



- Item: Dinky No.104 Captain Scarlet Spectrum Pursuit Vehicle
Condition: Mint first version with all original parts, paintwork and inner stand
Sold for: £770 (26 bids)



- Item: Bugatti style tethered racing car, c1940
Condition: Steel chassis, aluminium body and age darkened decal on one side
Sold for: £722 (5 bids)



- Item: Tri-ang Spot-On No.116 Caterpillar D9 Bulldozer
Condition: Good, original condition however missing the box
Sold for: £690 (25 bids)



- Item: LEGO Star Wars Boba Fett Minifigure from 10123 Cloud City
Condition: excellent, with painted arms and painted legs, a highly sought-after collectable
Sold for: £1,705 (29 bids)



- Item: Corgi Toys Gift Set 41 Scammell Car Transporter and 6 Cars
Condition: Contents good with a few paint touch ups, box lid faded and worn
Sold for: £642 (31 bids)



- Item: Kenner Star Wars: Return of the Jedi Boba Fett, 1983
Condition: No dents or cracks in the bubble, some light rubbing visible
Sold for: £1,464 (24 bids)



- Item: Scalextric C4011 Ford Escort Mk1 Police Car
Condition: stunning example, 1/32 scale, limited edition number 1 of 50
Sold for: £525 (18 bids)



- Item: LEGO Star Wars Republic Dropship with AT-OT Walker 10195
Condition: mint in original box, included Clone Pilot and Clone Trooper figures
Sold for: £950 (23 bids)



- Item: Nintendo Greenhouse, game and watch multi-screen
Condition: excellent, all working and with original instructions
Sold for: £820 (17 bids)



- Item: Bluebird Mighty Max Clash of the Titans
Condition: excellent, all original pieces included
Sold for: £720 (32 bids)

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Budgie Leyland Truck.
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Dinky Ambulance.
Sold for £340



PRICE GUIDE

This month we review the latest toy sales at Vectis, Excalibur Auctions, Ewbank's and Sheffield Auction Gallery.



♣ Dinky pre-war 150 "Royal Tank Corps" Personnel set of six figures, to include 4 x Private, Officer and NCO. Generally good plus to excellent, backing card is good plus in a generally good blue lift off lid box with early red "Hudson Dobson" label. **Sold for £140, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky pre-war 150 "Royal Tank Corps" Personnel set of six figures, to include 4 x Private, Officer and NCO. Generally good to good plus in a good blue lift off lid box. **Sold for £80, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 50d "Royal Tank Corps" Driver, rare trade box which contains five examples. Generally good plus to excellent in a generally good buff carded box (label has been removed from one end). **Sold for £340, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky pre-war 160 "Royal Artillery Personnel" figure set, comprising 4 x Gunner, NCO and Gunlayer. Appears to be good to good plus in a good box with early "Hudson Dobson" red label - "Meccano Company of America". **Sold for £150, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 150 "Royal Armoured Corps Personnel" set of six figures, which are generally excellent to near mint in a generally good plus green lift off lid box with paper label, "Hudson Dobson" label to side. **Sold for £110, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 160 "Royal Artillery Personnel" set of six figures, which are generally good plus to excellent plus in a generally excellent green lift off lid box with paper label. **Sold for £180, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 603 "Army Personnel" Private (seated) figures set of twelve, which are generally excellent to near mint in generally good to good plus yellow and green lift off lid box. **Sold for £80, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 603 "Army Personnel" Private (seated) figures set of twelve, which are generally good plus to excellent in a good plus yellow and green carded box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 30hm Daimler "Ambulance", military green, white and red crosses to roof, sides and rear, ridged hubs with smooth tyres, excellent. **Sold for £220, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 622 10-ton Army Truck, military green including ridged hubs with black treaded tyres, metal tilt and tow hook, figure driver, with red/yellow front and rear decals. Excellent plus in a good plus lift off lid box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 622 10-ton Army Truck, green including ridged hubs, metal tilt, without figure driver, with tow hook, red and yellow front and rear decals. Excellent in a good plus lift off lid with detailed picture. **Sold for £50, Vectis, March.**



♣ Dinky 651 Centurion Tank, military green including metal rollers, black rubber tracks. Overall condition is excellent plus in a generally good plus blue and white striped lift off lid box with inner packing pieces. **Sold for £40, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 651 Centurion Tank**, military green including metal rollers with black rubber tracks, yellow and red decals to front and rear. Good plus in a generally excellent blue and yellow lift off lid box with inner packing piece. **Sold for £45, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 660 Mighty Antar Tank Transporter**, military green including Supertoy hubs with black treaded tyres, figure driver with blue/yellow decals to front and rear. Excellent plus in an excellent lift off lid box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 661 Scammell Recovery Tractor**, military green including plastic hubs, with windows and figure driver. Excellent plus with correct red, yellow and red decals to front and rear. **Sold for £60, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 665 Honest John Missile Launcher**, green including plastic hubs and platform, comes complete with white and black missile, white and red triangle decals to front and rear. Excellent in a good box with detailed picture. **Sold for £320, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 666 Missile Erector Vehicle with Corporal Missile and Launching Platform**, green including hubs, with windows and figure driver. Good plus to excellent in a good lift off lid box with correct inner packing pieces. **Sold for £70, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 667 Missile Servicing Platform Vehicle**, military green including Supertoy hubs with black treaded tyres, plastic basket. Excellent plus in a good lift off lid box with correct inner packing pieces and leaflet. **Sold for £90, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 698 Gift Set to include Mighty Antar Tank Transporter**, military green including Supertoy hubs with black treaded tyres, with figure driver and windows, comes complete with Centurion Tank load. Generally good plus to excellent. **Sold for £130, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 699 Gift Set "Military Vehicles"** containing 621 3-ton Wagon, 641 1-ton Cargo Truck, 674 Austin Cham and 676 Armoured Personnel Carrier. Conditions appear to be generally good plus to excellent nice bright examples. **Sold for £190, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 669 Jeep "US Military"**, finished in green including ridged hubs with smooth tyres, metal steering wheel and tow hook, with "5-pointed white star decal" to bonnet and sides. Good plus to excellent. **Sold for £100, Vectis, March.**



♣ **French Dinky 818 Berliet Covered Wagon**, drab green including concave hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim, with tow hook, red/white/blue decals to front and rear. Excellent plus in an excellent plus yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 503 Foden (Type 1) Flat Truck with Tailboard**, grey cab and back, blue chassis, side flashes and ridged hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim, with tow hook. Excellent in fair buff lift-off lid box with paper labels. **Sold for £660, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 280 Observation Coach**, cream body, red side flashes and ridged hubs with smooth tyres, silver trim. Excellent plus in fair yellow and red carded picture box with dual-numbered 280/29f end flaps. **Sold for £110, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 281 Luxury Coach**, light beige (cream), orange side flashes, mid-green ridged hubs with smooth tyres, silver trim. Excellent in good yellow and red carded picture box. **Sold for £300, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 282 Duple Roadmaster Coach**, mid-blue including ridged hubs with smooth tyres, silver trim and side flashes. Good plus to excellent in good late-issue plain yellow and red carded box. **Sold for £240, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 151b 6-wheeled Covered Wagon**, dark green body, ridged hubs with smooth tyres, tow hook. Good plus, unboxed. **Sold for £400, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Matchbox Regular Wheels 3b Bedford TK Tipper Truck**, Stannard Code 2 - light grey cab & chassis with silver trim, maroon tipper body without base block, 24-tread black plastic wheels. Mint with mint type D1 box. **Sold for £2600, Vectis, February.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 29c Double Decker Buses pre-war trade pack**, six pieces with type 1 grille, Dunlop advertisements. Fair to good plus in good plus yellow lift-off lid trade box with original dividers. **Sold for £4200, Vectis, March.**



♣ **French Dinky No 24n Citroën Traction Avant 11BL trade pack**, six pieces in varying colours and wheel combinations. Good plus to excellent plus in excellent lift-off lid trade box. **Sold for £800, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 501 Foden (Type 1) Diesel 8-wheeled Wagon**, red cab and chassis, mid-blue back and Supertoy hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim, with tow hook. Excellent in fair dark blue lift-off lid box with paper label. **Sold for £950, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky 503 Foden (Type 2) Flat Truck with Tailboard**, burnt orange cab, chassis and back, red Supertoy hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim, with tow hook. Good plus in good plus blue lift-off lid box with paper label. **Sold for £900, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 505 Foden (Type 1) Flat Truck with Chains**, maroon cab, chassis, back and ridged hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim and side flashes, with tow hook. Fair in good blue lift-off lid box with paper label. **Sold for £300, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 902 Foden (Type 2) Flat Truck**, yellow cab and chassis, mid-green back and Supertoy hubs with grey treaded tyres, silver trim, with tow hook. Good plus to excellent in fair blue and white striped lift-off lid box. **Sold for £580, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 934 Leyland Octopus Wagon**, yellow cab and chassis, mid-green back, cab flashes and Supertoy hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim, with tow hook. Good plus to excellent lift-off lid box. **Sold for £640, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-on No 107 Jaguar XK SS**, pale turquoise, cream seats with red steering wheel, black tonneau and front vent, cast hubs. Good plus in good plus carded box. **Sold for £180, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-on No 108 Triumph TR3 Sports Car**, green body, grey interior, silver trim, cast spun hubs. Excellent in good carded picture box. **Sold for £220, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-on No 195 Volkswagen Rally Car**, light blue, white interior with driver figure and grey steering wheel, cast spun hubs, chrome roof light. Good plus in good carded picture box. **Sold for £300, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Tri-ang Spot-on No 211 Austin 7 Mini**, off-white body, red interior, chrome trim and cast hubs. Good plus in good carded box. **Sold for £520, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Dinky Toys No 952 Vega Major Luxury Coach**, pale grey, cream interior, cast hubs - battery-operated issue. Good plus in fair to good yellow and red lift-off lid box with detailed picture. **Sold for £40, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Corgi Toys No 1120 Midland Red Motorway Express Coach**, red body, black roof, yellow interior, silver trim, spun hubs (with accessory pack applied). Good plus in good lift off lid box. **Sold for £160, Vectis, March.**



♣ **Corgi Toys No 1110 Bedford Type S "Mobilgas" Petrol Tanker**, red cab and tanker, silver trim and gantry, flat spun hubs (accessory packs applied). Good plus in good lift-off lid box. **Sold for £150, Vectis, March.**



▲ Tri-ang Spot-on No 218 Jaguar Mark X, green body, cream interior with black steering wheel and driver figure, chrome trim and spun hubs. Good plus in fair carded picture box. **Sold for £380, Vectis, March.**



▲ Tri-ang Spot-on No 260 "Royal Occasion" Rolls Royce, maroon, pale green interior with 4x figures, chrome trim, cast spun hubs - battery-operated issue. Excellent plus. **Sold for £240, Vectis, March.**



▲ Tri-ang Spot-on No 111A/OT Ford Thames Trader with Articulated Flat Float, cast hubs, cream interior with red steering wheel, with 3x log load and without sides. Good plus to excellent. **Sold for £260, Vectis, March.**



▲ Tri-ang Spot-on No 145 London Transport Routemaster Bus "Ovaltine", red, cream interior and stairs, black base, cast hubs. Good plus to excellent on good to good plus carded base with correct inner packing pieces, good plus lift-off lid. **Sold for £300, Vectis, March.**



▲ Tri-ang Spot-on No 156 Mulliner Coach, two-tone silver, blue, red side flashes, silver trim, pale yellow interior (cream), cast hubs. Good plus in good lift-off lid box with some inner packing. **Sold for £400, Vectis, March.**



▲ Tri-ang Spot-on No 158A/2 Bedford Type S Articulated Tanker "Shell Petroleum Products BP", dark turquoise cab with black chassis, cream interior, red steering wheel, silver trim, red tanker with black gantry, cast hubs. Good plus. **Sold for £500, Vectis, March.**



▲ Corgi Toys No 478 Hydraulic Tower Wagon, mounted on forward control Jeep - green, lemon interior, bare metal jib with yellow basket, spun hubs, with correct figure. Good plus to excellent in good blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, March.**



▲ Corgi Toys No 490 Volkswagen Breakdown Truck, beige (light tan), red interior, silver trim, spun hubs. Excellent in good to good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £90, Vectis, March.**



▲ Corgi Toys No 464 Commer "Police" Van - Export issue "Rijks Politie", blue body, red interior, silver trim, spun hubs, clear battery-operated roof light. Good plus in fair to good blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £150, Vectis, March.**



▲ Corgi Toys No 407 Smith's Karrier Bantam "Home Services" Mobile Shop, pale green, silver trim, flat spun hubs. Good plus in good blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, March.**



▲ Dinky Toys No 979 Racehorse Transporter "Newmarket Racehorse Transport Service Ltd", with Supertoy hubs with black treaded tyres, silver trim with 2x horse figures. Good plus. **Sold for £110, Vectis, March.**



▲ Dinky Toys No 981 Horse Box "British Railways Express Horse Box Hire Service", maroon, silver trim, red Supertoy hubs with black treaded tyres. Good to good plus in fair to good blue and white striped lift-off lid box. **Sold for £50, Vectis, March.**



▲ Corgi Toys No 510 Citroën DS "Paramount Tour De France" Managers Car, red, grey base, yellow interior, grey plastic aerial, Whizzwheels. Near mint in fair orange and yellow window box. **Sold for £80, Vectis, March.**



▲ Corgi Toys No 804 "Noddy" - Noddy's Car, two-tone yellow/red, cast hubs, with Noddy figure. Good to good plus in fair to good window box, with excellent inner pictorial stand. **Sold for £50, Vectis, March.**



▲ Budgie Toys Mobile Traffic Control Unit (Jumbo) "AA - Automobile Association", yellow, black. Good plus in good yellow and black carded picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, March.**

► **Ultimate X-Men End Game #12** Comic 2002, signed by Mark Millar, 375/499 high grade copy. **Sold for £12, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



► **Captain America Vol 1. #101** Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £35, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



► **Journey into Mystery Vol 1. #119** Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £25, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



◄ **Strange Tales Vol 1. #131** Comic, 1965 high grade copy. **Sold for £30, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



◄ **Superman Vol 1. #222** Comic, giant high grade copy. **Sold for £15, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



◄ **Swamp Thing #50** Comic, anniversary issue first appearance of Justice League, dark high grade copy. **Sold for £15, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**

► **The Atom Vol 1. #10** Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £10, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



► **The Atom Vol 1. #12** Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £20, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



► **Thor #142** Vol 1. 1967 Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £30, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



◄ **Thor #151** 1968 Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £20, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



◄ **Captain America Vol 1. #107** Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £20, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



◄ **Savage Sword of Conan #1** 1975 Comic, includes free gift poster. **Sold for £15, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**

► **The Flash #197** Blitz: The Origin of Zoom Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £22, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



► **The West Coast Avengers #45** First White Vision Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £15, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



► **X-Men Vol 1. #97** 1976 Comic, high grade copy. **Sold for £30, Sheffield Auction Gallery, March.**



→ **Uncanny X-Men #129**, 1980, Marvel. First appearance of Kitty Pryde, Emma Frost, Sebastian Shaw and the Hellfire Club. John Byrne and Terry Austin cover and interior art. flat/unfolded. **Sold for £110, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Uncanny X-Men #130**, 1980, Marvel. First appearance Dazzler and Emma Frost appearance. John Romita Jr. cover with John Byrne interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £75, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Uncanny X-Men #133**, 1980, Marvel. First solo Wolverine cover and Hellfire Club appearance. John Byrne/Terry Austin cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £60, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Uncanny X-Men #134**, 1980, Marvel. Phoenix becomes Dark Phoenix, Hellfire Club appearance. John Byrne/Terry Austin cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £42, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Uncanny X-Men #137**, 1980, Marvel. "Death" of Phoenix and Gladiators, Lilandra, the Watcher, Imperial Guard appearances. John Byrne cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £40, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Uncanny X-Men #141**, 1981, Marvel. "Days of Future Past" Part One. First appearances of Rachel Grey (Summers), Avalanche, Pyro and Destiny, John Byrne/Terry Austin covers and interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £65, Excalibur Auctions, March.**

→ **Star Wars: Marvel Treasury Edition #2**, 1977, Marvel. UK price variant, large format special Treasury Edition, concluding chapter of the comic book adaption of George Lucas' blockbuster sci-fi movie "Star Wars". Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £30, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Man-Thing #1**, 1975/79 Marvel, UK price variant. Second solo title for the Man-Thing. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £18, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Tomb of Dracula #13**, 1973, Marvel, UK price variant, HOT Character, origin of Blade the Vampire Slayer. Gene Colan cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £42, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Tomb of Dracula #50**, 1976, Marvel, HOT Character, Dracula battles the Silver Surfer and Blade appearance. Gene Colan cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £25, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Tomb of Dracula #58**, 1977, Marvel, UK price variant, HOT Character, feature length Blade solo story and origin of Blade the Vampire Slayer retold. Gene Colan cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £15, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **ROM #1**, 1979, Marvel. Origin and first appearance of Rom and first appearances of Brandy Clark and Dire Wraiths. Frank Miller cover with Sal Buscema interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £25, Excalibur Auctions, March.**

→ **X-Factor #24**, 1988, Marvel. Origin and first appearance of Archangel and origin of Apocalypse. Horsemen appearances and Caliban leaves X-Factor. Walt Simonson cover and interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £12, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Giant-Size Avengers #1**, 1974, Marvel. All-Winners Squad flashback, first appearance of Nuklo and High Evolutionary, Whizzer appearances. John Romita Sr. cover. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £48, Excalibur Auctions, March.**



→ **Giant-Size Avengers #2**, 1974, Marvel, Kang the Conqueror appearance and "Death" of the Swordsman. Origin of Rama-Tut. John Romita Sr. cover with Dave Cockrum interior art. Flat/unfolded. **Sold for £55, Excalibur Auctions, March.**





♣ Hornby R2988 00 gauge Brighton Belle 1934 Train Pack, boxed. **Sold for £95, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Hornby R3184 Brighton Belle 1960 Train Pack, boxed. **Sold for £95, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge Gresley A4 Pacific 'Golden Plover', including locomotive and tender, boxed. **Sold for £50, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge 31997 LMS 10001, BR Green with eggshell blue waistband, boxed. **Sold for £85, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge 32531DC Class 55 Deltic, The Prince of Wales's own Regiment on Yorkshire, boxed. **Sold for £110, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Lehmann 2095 G-scale Bo-Bo diesel locomotive, OBB 2095.11, boxed. **Sold for £120, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge 31-996 LMS 10000, BR green and cream, boxed. **Sold for £95, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 Gauge 32-526DS Co-Co BR blue Class 55 Deltic Diesel No.55018 "Ballymoss", one buffer missing, condition good plus to excellent in generally good to good plus box complete with pack of etched nameplates. **Sold for £140, Vectis, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge 35-076K Class E4, with locomotive 'Birch Grove', boxed. **Sold for £160, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge LMS 10000/10001 diesel locomotives, limited edition 492/500, in presentation box. **Sold for £300, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge 32-551 Class A1 'Aberdonian', boxed. **Sold for £55, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 Gauge 20-2009 (limited edition) 4-6-2 BR green A2 Class No.60532 "Blue Peter", complete with certificate No.2850 of 3000 produced, complete with a pack of etched nameplates, condition near mint to mint. **Sold for £150, Vectis, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 gauge 35-990 London Underground S Stock motorised 4 car train pack, corners of box lightly dented and creased. Model does not appear to have been taken out of box. **Sold for £600, Ewbank's, March.**



♣ Hornby (China) R1170 (Limited Edition) "The Diamond Jubilee" Train Set, celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and containing 4-6-2 LMS crimson Princess Royal Class Loco No.6201 "Princess Elizabeth" with gold plated adornments to valve gear. Good plus to excellent in generally good picture box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, March.**



♣ Bachmann 00 Gauge 32-728DS Co-Co Freightliner green livery Class 66 No.66546, with factory fitted DCC sound on address code 6646, coupling missing to one end, condition generally good plus to excellent. **Sold for £140, Vectis, March.**

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Toy Stories

Ed Karswell looks at toys as a community, regardless of their category.

We all know that children's imaginations know no boundaries. No matter how toy manufacturers endeavour to build their own universe for a child to inhabit, human nature will always have other ideas.

I remember watching in shock as my son used his Ben 10 mobile laboratory as a burger bar for his soldiers to take some well-earned sustenance amid the ensuing guerrilla warfare. I say 'shock' as he had only unwrapped it about an hour before. Is there no brand loyalty I thought?

Then there was my daughter cutting her dolls hair and 're-styling' their clothes with the aid of marker pens and scissors. Initially 'and given a parent's expenditure' it can be an alarming sight but it soon gives way to wonder at the sheer creativity that's taking place.

Of course, we've all been there. I well recall being slightly underwhelmed by the first Lego family, as being a traditionalist, I felt they were a tad too prescriptive. They also had removable hair revealing empty craniums, but that's another story. Also, I had

only ever employed Lego for two things, one of which was building dragsters, the other was building garages for my Matchbox cars. Around this time Matchbox had woefully undeveloped their range of buildings, preferring instead to develop racetracks that resembled the rides at Alton towers. So, Lego came to the rescue, and it was great even if the floors were a wee bit bumpy for my cars. As for the Lego figures, whatever became of them?

I wasn't alone in this mixing up of toy genres. My mate Tim routinely used a giant bendy Kermit the Frog to terrorise a whole battalion of Airfix Commandos, decades before the film *Toy Story* arrived on the scene. Now speaking of Airfix, I had my Micro Machine time traveller turn up in many a *Star Wars* scenario as they were roughly the same scale as Luke Skywalker et al and I reasoned he would have fitted in a treat. George Lucas would have had a fit if he'd witnessed the liberties I'd taken with his plotlines. On second thoughts, he may well have offered me a job.

This 'mix and match' provides children with their first ownership of a narrative and control over their own little universe. It's possibly one of the reasons I was so chuffed

when I set up my large rocket firing robot to attack my seemingly undefended Timpo Wild West fort. It was indeed a battle royale that not only united tribes of native American Indians but also some passing Britain's medieval knights. Never mind your genres, how's that for inclusivity?

It must be said that after this madness normal service was resumed with vaguely historical accuracy adhered to.

Areas of the house would also double for other worlds in the same way film makers use locations for filming. Now whilst my mother could abide with me using the patterned carpet in the back room as a busy downtown metropolis for my Matchbox cars, she did find it a bit galling when her delightful flower bed and rockery doubled for the Monte Carlo race track.

This offence paled however when I employed the garden bird table, so lovingly fashioned by my grandfather, as an Action Man look out post, replete with sandbags, a rope ladder and a machine gun. It must have come as a bit of a surprise to the local bird population that plastic hand grenades could be a choke hazard! This line of thinking is not without it's own set

of discipline and boundaries. For example, it wasn't considered the done thing to sport a cowboy gun when one was playing 'war'. You simply could not have a French resistance fighter pulling out a jewel encrusted western six shooter on a Waffen SS unit...you'd look a fool. Conversely, it would have been a short gun fight at the OK Coral if Wyatt Earp had opened up with a Thompson machine gun...no matter how hard it had been to find one in Woolworths.

As mentioned before, early *Toy Story* films built on the premise of toys as a community regardless of category, gender or scale. In that regard the films are realistic and touching. It is also odd to see life imitating art with all the toy spin-offs based on, well, the toy spin-offs in the film. Now having said all this, you should have witnessed the embarrassing fit of pique I threw when my parents bought me a horse for my Lone Ranger and bought Tonto's by mistake. The clue is in the strapline, "Hi Ho SILVER away!" By the time I'd destroyed the box it was of course too late to return it to the shop. As Jeremy Clarkson might have said, "How hard can it be?"

Jeremy, you have no idea. **CG**



The steam railway in the museum's grounds.



Steam toys

in action

Ann Evans visits Leicester and the Steam Toys in Action show.

Photos by Rob Tysall

The 31st annual Steam Toys in Action show, hosted by Leicester Museums on 6th March, was a great success. Crowds queued eagerly to see this exhibition of steam, with working models in the indoor halls and real full-sized steam vehicles outside.

The exhibition took place in Steam Toys in Action's usual venue of the historic Abbey Pumping Station Museum in Leicester, which opened in 1891. This atmospheric exhibition brought together individual steam engine enthusiasts, along with clubs and societies, and a fascinating collection of steam toys, trains and working model engines.

The pumping station itself is Leicester City's

Museum of Science and Technology and is open to visitors from 1st February to 31st October, giving those interested in the Industrial Revolution and engineering a look back to Victorian times when Leicester was facing the challenges of health and hygiene with its water and sewerage. The pumping station has four Woolf compound rotative beam engines made by Leicester engineering company Gimsons in the mid-1800s. These had been brought back to full working order and maintained by a team of volunteers at the museum. Many of these volunteers were also involved in the Steam Toys in Action exhibition.

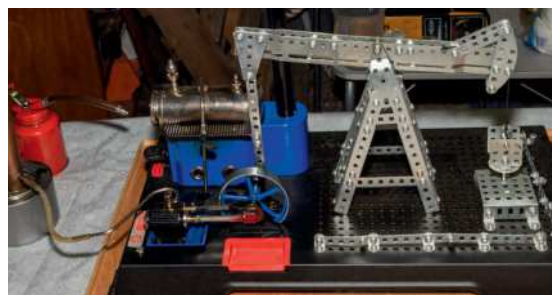
Event co-ordinator Chris Bates had dressed for the part in his Victorian jacket and top hat. He

had brought along quite a collection of working steam toys including a traction engine he'd named Edward in memory of his late father who he sadly lost at the start of the Covid outbreak. Chris said that he'd been coming to this museum since he was about 3-years old with his parents. For him, the attraction of these steam models is the nostalgia – that look back to past times. That, and the enjoyment of building and renovating these items along with the challenge of keeping them well maintained and in good working order.

Chris said this was their 31st annual Steam Toys in Action event and people had come from all over the country, exhibiting steam toys and model engines from various parts of the world. When not working



ABOVE
Steam vehicles galore.



ABOVE
A steam powered Meccano crane.



ABOVE LEFT Event co-ordinator Chris Bates in his Victorian attire. **ABOVE RIGHT** Bob and the steam creation, Storm Pig that he has renovated.



LEFT Philip Jones, also a volunteer for the LMTA.

BELOW LEFT Little girl enjoying a real model steam train.

BELOW RIGHT Ray Beck and some of his steam items.

BOTTOM LEFT Chris Bates traction engine dedicated to his late father, Edward.

BOTTOM RIGHT A full size vintage fire engine – part of the backdrop for the exhibition.



with his steam models, he helps maintain the huge beam engines that worked the pumping station right up to the 1960s.

Likewise, Philip Jones on the next table was also a volunteer for the Leicester Museums Technology Association (LMTA), maintaining the heavy items of engineering. Philip said, "I like playing

with the big engines as well as the small ones. For me it is the smell and atmosphere, it takes you back to a bygone era. It was a childhood fascination for me, I remember saving up to buy my first model steamroller. Since then, my collection has grown and grown."

With the smell of oil, the rhythmic sound of

working pistons and blasts of steam filling the hall, the event was alive with working models. Steam trains, steamrollers, steam traction engines, steam fairgrounds rides and steamboats. Outside there was a small boating tank where steamboat enthusiasts could sail their vessels while many more remained indoors.

While the individual collections of steam toys along with a vintage O-gauge live steam railway track and another 00-gauge steam railway was fascinating enough, the museum itself was steeped in history. There was a rare collection of vintage vehicles including buses, fire engines, a hansom cab, a chip van – doing a roaring trade outside in the grounds, along with its own narrow-gauge railway giving rides to families. There's also a sensory garden and especially for the children to let off steam, a technology-themed outdoor children's play area.

Tony Kendall, chairman of the LMTA was ensuring all was running smoothly on the outdoor 2ft gauge steam railway. As a volunteer for the last 35 years he said, "Our steam engine – Leonard, came to us from the Birmingham Transport Museum but had originally worked at Minworth Sewerage Works."

He also works as a volunteer tour guide and explained how the LMTA was founded in 1974 as a support group for the historic pumping station, when its future wasn't certain. Happily, it is now one of the city's important heritage landmarks. It's 150ft chimney marking its spot right next to the National Space Centre – the past and the future standing side by side.

Wandering through the exhibition, there was a varied collection of model steam engines and toys, with working models of saws, lathes, drills and other tools that were made as educational toys for youngsters, often used and built at universities and engineering colleges.

Vintage pre-War models from countries such as Germany, the US as well as the UK were on display, with items manufactured by Mamod, Bing, Marklin, Wilesco, Ernst Plank and Jensen still in perfect working order. Exhibitor John pointed out that these early models are still in such good working order because they were

workshop models made from cast iron and built to last.

There were live steam driven Meccano models, where we were reminded about the North Midlands Meccano Guild being at the Skegness show over the first weekend in June.

Quite an unusual steam driven model was a large ship looking very 'steampunk' in its style. Owner Bob had spotted it on the internet on sale from America but it a state of disrepair. He bought the steam and electric driven vessel and restored it to good working order. He then began adding to it in his own style – much to the delight of people who stopped to admire it.

Ray Beck also had a beautiful steam driven boat, The Lizzie B on his stand, although he had no intentions of putting the vessel into water. Ray first got interested in steam toys as a boy, starting with one and adding to his collection over the years. He told *Collectors Gazette* that he and his wife, Lizzie – who he named the boat after, were enjoying the show very much. "I saw the Thames steam launch on eBay. It was a complete wreck. I spent 18-months rebuilding her and I'm really pleased with the finished model with her working steam engine."

In addition to the main exhibition hall, over in another marquee were a few stalls selling old steam models, new boxed kits, tools, accessories and spares, along with books and magazines on the subject and a variety of different toys. And finally, from the old to the brand new – a unique opportunity to try some virtual reality. Graff Central invited people to put on the virtual reality goggles to view Paint to Pixel, a virtual reality exhibition that charts the history of UK graffiti over the last 50 years. My view took me down into the underground where station walls and the train that pulled up to the platform were covered in artistic graffiti. Amazing! Past and future rolled into one fascinating day out. **CG**

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Obsolete

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

Hi folks! With summer fast approaching a couple of lucky recent finds sent me reeling back in time to those magical summers I recall back in the 1960s and 1970s.

Our family holidays in the 1960s were mostly taken on the east coast of Lincolnshire, with Skegness being the main focal point. I have so many happy memories of good old 'Skeggy' as we knew it. Holidays there were such great fun with its huge seemingly never ending beach, amusement arcades and the best fish and chips in the land! Happy days indeed. Memories came flooding back when I bought a rare Butlin's Holiday Camp enamel badge from a car boot sale for a fiver. It shows the famous Jolly Fisherman character who originally appeared on a Great Northern Railway poster before becoming the iconic emblem of Skegness as a resort. The Skegness Council still have the original artwork for that poster which was so wonderfully illustrated by John Hassall. Billy Butlin was quick to pick up on the popularity of the Jolly Fisherman image when he opened his first holiday camp at Skegness in the late 1930s and used it on enamel badges handed out to early visitors to the camp. I was more than happy to hand over a fiver for this badge as they have been known to fetch really good money in the past.

Another recent find that reminded me of some wonderful summers of yesteryear were a pair of plimsolls which are extremely rare but sadly now unwearable! Back in the 1970s Dunlop Green Flash were rather

trendy with your Levi 501's or flared Loon Pants. We used to tie-dye them for extra effect. Then Dunlop realised the potential in trendy plimsolls which are what you see here, dating from the very early days of fashionable sports shoe trainers. Around the same time Adidas started to add a splash of colour and style to its new trainer range which also began to be worn with streetwear rather than just on the sports field. Unfortunately the rubber on these has petrified badly and is rock solid rendering them unwearable but I simply couldn't resist buying them from a charity shop for a tenner to add to my vintage fashion collection.

Another great little find for a fiver, this time from an outside collectors fair in Lincolnshire, was a tiny gravy granules tin the likes of which I had never seen before. Luxona Gravy Granules were made in Derby by F.W. Hampshire & Co. What a great find! Again, might be a keeper?

I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time again to scoop up a nice little purchase from the same event in the shape of a Rupert Bear money box that simply had to be bought for three quid. Possibly made by Chad Valley, this delightful little felt covered bear had survived amazingly well before finding its way to the big Malvern Fleamarket.

Also at Malvern I stumbled upon a stall selling a large record collection from half a dozen or so lovely old wooden crates. It took a fair while for me to carefully browse through these old Schweppes bottle crates full of singles which appeared to be in amazing condition and mostly in their original paper sleeves.

I ended up buying a fist full of vinyl for fifty quid, the cream of the crop being a mint copy of the Jimmy Cliff reggae classic *Wonderful World, Beautiful People* on the original Trojan label. I remember buying a copy of this new back in 1969 when the price of a single was eight shillings (40p)! The best thing about this record was its original Trojan paper sleeve which are as rare as hen's teeth hence it cost me a tenner but a tenner well spent. Its one destined for my own record collection.

On the selling front a Budgie Toy Foden Dumper Truck in super condition with box sold for a creditable £48. It's all down to personal opinion I know but this has always been my favourite Budgie Toys of all time. They really got this one right.

A rare little cachous tin shaped as a tennis racket was scooped up within hours of hitting the shelf making me wonder if my £55 price tag was a little on the low side? Oh well you win some and lose some in this game.

A Dinky toy dustbin lorry in play worn condition also sold quickly having a price tag of £18. This certainly was a toy with bags of play value with its sliding tinplate bin hatches and winding tipping mechanism.

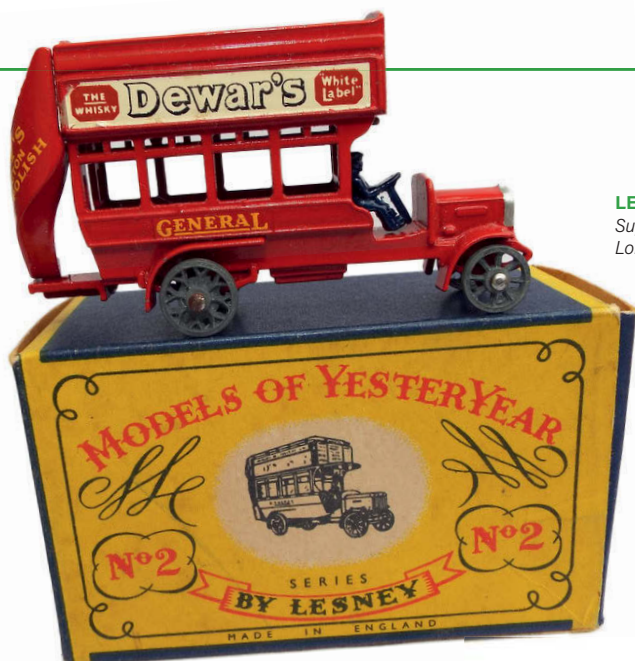
A scarce little button badge advertising Silver Knight Motor Oils soon sold to an oil can collector who also collects oil company badges to compliment his impressive oil can collection. Those oil cans are really going up in price these days sometimes selling for four figure sums. The badge, which was in splendid condition, sold for fifteen quid.

Last but not least a Matchbox Models of Yesteryear London Old Bill bus in stunning condition attracted a buyer willing to hand over £60 for it. Lesney really did get those early Yesteryears bang on when it came to casting detail.

Well that's about all for this month folks. Here comes summer (at last) so enjoy the much welcome light mornings... happy hunting and, as always, be lucky! **CG**

BELOW
This classic Dinky Toy breakdown truck in play worn condition sold for eighteen pounds.



**LEFT**

Super detail all the way. This neat little Yesteryear Old Bill London Omnibus was snapped up for sixty pounds.

RIGHT

These rare Dunlop plimsolls were a great find and will go into Oz's own vintage fashion collection.

**RIGHT**

A real bargain for a mere three pounds, this delicate felt covered Rupert Bear money box has survived well through the years.

**MIDDLE**

This very scarce little tin held gravy granules made by F.W. Hampshire & Co of Derby and was great value for a fiver.

**ABOVE**

One of the best budgie toys ever in Oz's opinion. This Foden dumper truck found a buyer willing to pay £48 for it.

BELOW

This cute little tin once held small sweets called cachous made by Clarnico of London.

**ABOVE**

Oz splashed out a tenner to take this classic Jimmy Cliff single home and was well pleased to add it to his vinyl collection.

RIGHT

Billy Butlin adopted the Jolly Fisherman image on the first badges handed out to campers at his Skegness Holiday camp.

FAR RIGHT

Scarce and in great condition this little Silver Knight button found a buyer eager to add to his collection.



»EVENTS THIS MONTH

FAIRS

15 APRIL

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

16 APRIL

- **Leeds**, Barry Rennison, 0113 236 3695

17 APRIL

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

23 APRIL

- **Reading**, British Model Soldier Society, 01895 832757
- **Gateshead**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955
- **Horsham**, David Parsons, 07742 609865 or 01424 846676

24 APRIL

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

26 APRIL

- **West Kingsdown**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Garstang**, Janet Pearson, 01282 439009

30 APRIL

- **Llandudno**, Lluandudno Toy & Train Fair, 01492 517004

1 MAY

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

2 MAY

- **Llandudno**, Lluandudno Toy & Train Fair, 01492 517004

7 MAY

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

8 MAY

- **Lincolnshire**, J&J Fairs, 01522 880383
- **Rayleigh**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Birmingham**, BP Fairs, 01604 846688 or 07966 527177

10 MAY

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

15 MAY

- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Kempton**, RM Toys, 023 9238 1529 or 07957 823507
- **Walsall**, Transtar Promotions, 01922 643385

AUCTIONS

20 APRIL

- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616
- **Kings Langley**, Excalibur Auctions, 02036 330913

21 APRIL

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27 APRIL

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28 APRIL

- **Heathfield**, Watsons Auctioneers, 01435 862132
- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

29 APRIL

- **Bury St Edmunds**, Lacy Scott & Knight, 01284 748623

4 MAY

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

10 MAY

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

13 MAY

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

17 MAY

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

18 MAY

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



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- **Friday 27th - Model Train Sale**
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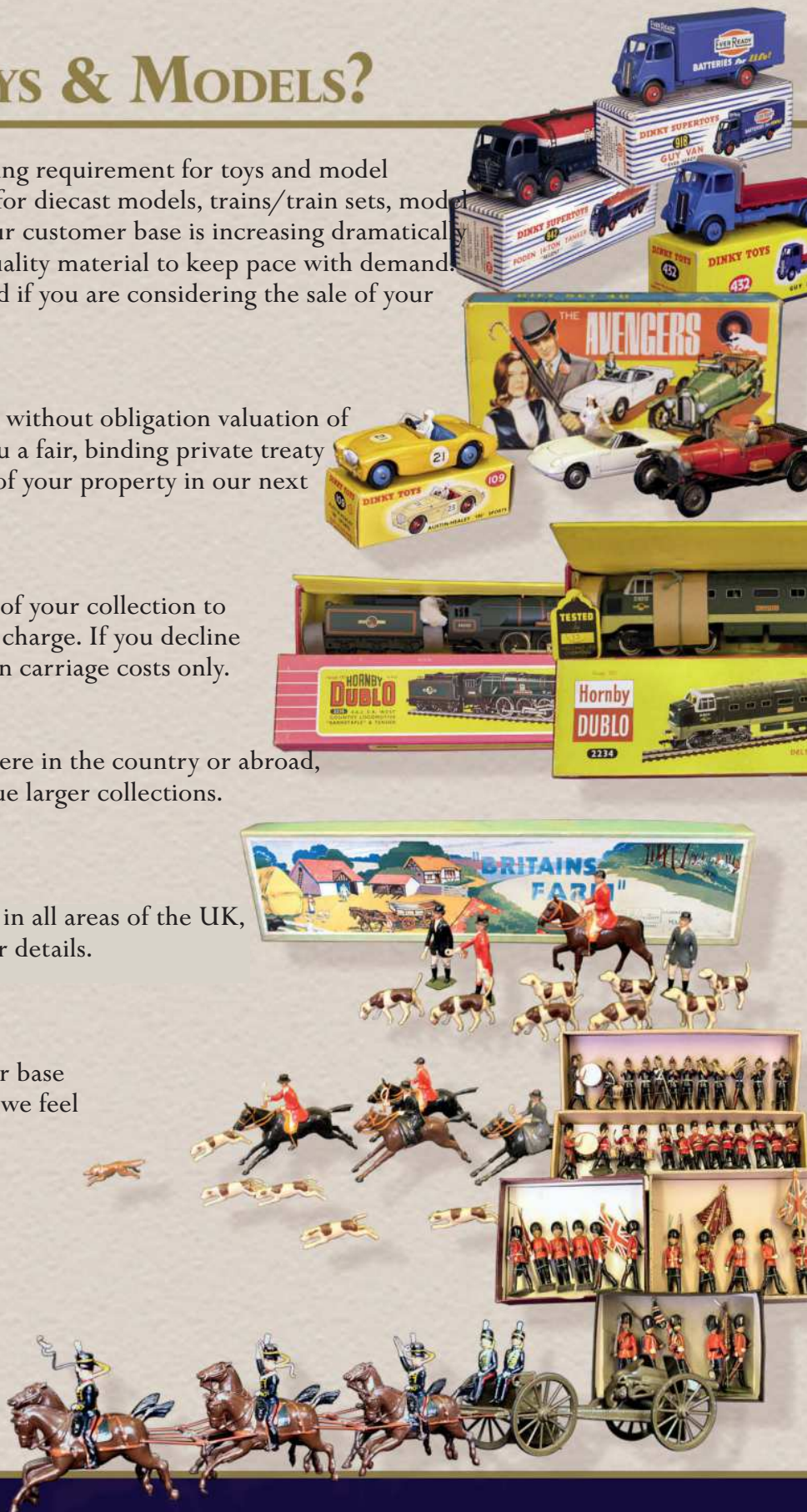
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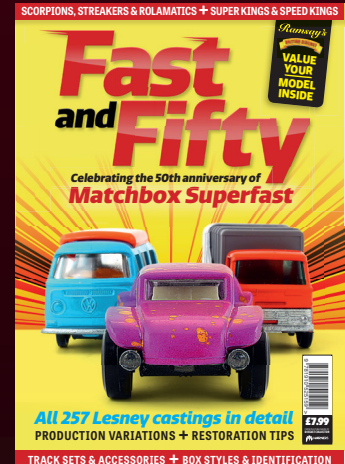
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The Battle of Britain

IN COLOUR



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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 of which 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'.



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



On 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 of which 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'.



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



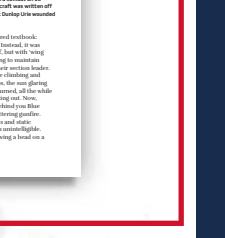
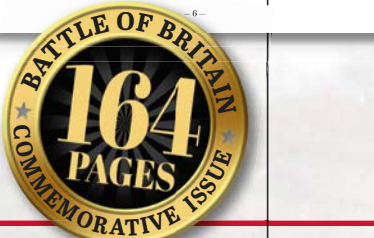
On the outbreak of war in September 1939, there followed eight months of what became known as the 'Phoney War'. It was clear that large-scale fighting would ultimately follow, and a British Expeditionary Force was sent to France before the end of that year. As part of the BEF, a large Air Component was supplemented by an Advanced Air Brigade. In total, there are forces amounted to six squadrons, six of which were Hawker Hurricane fighters, and four of which 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'.



THE RAF FIGHTER PILOT



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