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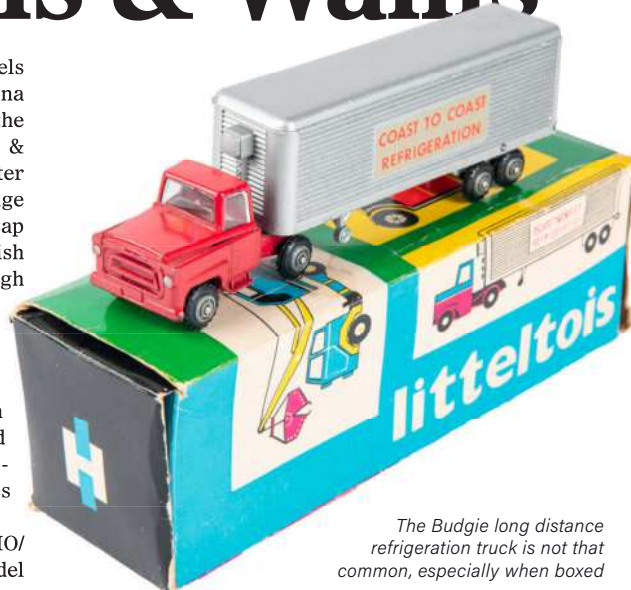
■ AUCTION REVIEW

Budgie flies at Wallis & Wallis

Toys, models and railwayana featured in the last Wallis & Wallis sale, this latter category yielding a huge number of railway cap badges, most of British Railways origin, although London Transport got a good look-in also. Brass locomotive work plates and shed plates also attracted much attention, with shed plates achieving £60-80 and the loco plates selling for up to £700.

There were plenty of HO/OO scale railway model lots but nothing stood out in particular. There were bargains: some lucky bidder picked up a Wills Finecast brass kit of an LSWR Class T9 Greyhound 4-4-0 in working order for just £50. Equally, a Hornby O gauge electric No 3 4-4-2 tender locomotive for three-rail operation, in GWR lined green, seemed a snip at £100.

On to diecasts, which suffered a mixed day. A boxed Corgi mechanical Rover 90 saloon in bright green failed to sell (hard to know why – the



The Budgie long distance refrigeration truck is not that common, especially when boxed

model was in very good condition), and some of the Lesney Matchbox models had the same problem. Of those that were sold, lots of four were realising prices of £40-55. Even a scarce Japanese Superfast Lotus Europa finished in black sat on the rostrum. Dinky Toys did rather better, with £140 bid on a pre-production Convoy Truck in dark blue.

For those who liked the eclectic, they had to wait until the end, when smaller British diecast makes

went under the hammer. A Johillco stagecoach made £50; four Kembo bare vehicle bodies raised £20 and an Arbur Cleveland Newmarket horsebox sold for £35. In contrast, a Budgie Refrigeration Truck of Belgian extraction went for a cool £260.

Most surprising, perhaps, was the impressive purpose-built, two-tiered wooden cabinet containing a large number of Meccano components; these included mostly 1970s pieces in yellow and blue with some plated parts.

This really roused the audience, and a bid of £1,000 was required to take it home. ■



Superb, well-built and all ready to roll: the Wills Finecast loco was a bargain.



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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Action stations!

Yes, Action Man, you'll be delighted to hear, is alive and well.

The Auction Centre has reported another busy sale, with its usual spread of collectables up for grabs. Typical was the Palitoy Action Man Talking Commander figure. This one was eagle-eyed, with blond flock haired, had a "muscle" body and featured gripping hands. Boasting fashionable (?) blue moulded trunks, this Made in Japan example was in very good condition. When tested, the doll talked and the figure came with camouflaged combat trousers, a green nylon type jumper, scarf, black boots, belt, gun, holster and a 17th/21st Lancers Officers cap. Although the box containing him was poor, he created enough interest to sell for £130.

On a different level entirely was the distinctive English Electric Canberra Bomber, which was fashioned in white metal: this model aircraft totalled around 38cm long and was well made. It also sold for £130.



This talkative fellow from Palitoy took the boys' doll genre to new heights.

And for those who wanted to reach new heights, there was a Fireball XLS-derived, boxed 1960s Steve Zodiac puppet. At around 23cm tall, the hand painted plastic marionette was still in very good shape, exhibiting just light signs of age and wear, with some fading to his overalls. Importantly, the box was deemed good, with no fading although some light creasing was evident. Again, the magic number: £130 found him a buyer.

Finally, the big stuff: a boxed 1970s Canadian Tonka Hydraulic Dump Truck in unused condition, just out of long term storage, was a sight to behold at 47cm long. Near mint with a fair to good box, it made £220. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Pedal cars pass milestones



Fabulous Maserati racing car was a tether example and ran on petrol.

Milestone's recent toy auction featured over 700 lots and generated just over US\$505,000 worth of business.

Typical of the variety was the American National Deluxe Coupe pedal car. Boasting every possible luxury option, including opening doors, sliding windows and a dashboard with simulated gauges, together with interior upholstery and

curtains, the 68 inch long car was knocked down for US\$66,000. Elsewhere, an all-original Gendron chain-drive Packard pedal car with a steel body and wood radiator, tyres and frame, amazingly still retained its original paint. Against a pre-sale estimate of US\$8,000-12,000, it glided to a stop at US\$24,000.

More than a dozen petrol-powered tether (or round the pole) racers were offered. Notable was the 17 inch long

Domo Maserati racer in original condition. Made in Trino, Italy, and exhibiting the Italian styling of its period, the racer crossed the finishing line at US\$6,600. All original and never played with, a beautiful Kingsbury wind-up Golden Arrow Racer with its original pictorial box had another exciting bonus: the original factory tag with an image of Major HOD Segrave. This record breaker sold for US\$3,000. ■



■ Now in its 18th edition, Ramsay's British Diecast Model Toys Catalogue is brought to you by a team of experts who have scoured thousands of auction results over the past three years to ensure you have all the updated market value prices.

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NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



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» www.ayrey.co.uk

OXFORD DIECAST AC INVACAR - PALE BLUE (HUBNUT)

Price: £13.99 Scale: 1/76 Release: out now
The second release of Oxford's superb little Invacar, this time replicating the version owned by YouTube sensation and absolute automotive legend, HubNut.
» www.oxforddiecast.co.uk



■ AUCTION REVIEW

Variety at John Goodwin

John Goodwin's October sale yielded plenty of collectables, as ever, with automobilia featuring strongly in the early lots. A boxed Pioneer radio would have been the perfect accessory for a classic car – it sold for a paltry £5. Just £30 was enough to secure three early AA badges with stamped numbers and £15 was the winning bid on two monochrome photographs of racing drivers Peter Collins and Stirling Moss in action.

As for toys, a sextet of Pelham Puppets (of



LEFT: More modern Britains cavalry sets have yet to achieve the prices of the company's earlier output. RIGHT: A tangle of Pelham puppets: cheap en masse but with one or two quite collectable.

which five were boxed), that included a witch and a horse, realised £35 but only £5 was needed to win the Linka Stonework set with extras, allowing the construction of a lot of walls. Higher stakes were required

for the mixed lot that comprised seven sets of Britains Action Figures (all bagged and mint); two Rustler Texan Wild West guns with holsters, a box of Airfix Romans (early issue) and a carded Thunderbird 3 from



Horse), plus reference 8838, Rattrays Sikhs, Bombay Cavalry and the 27th Light Cavalry.

For diecast lovers, eight yellow/purple window boxed Models of Yesteryear, together with a Matchbox G8 vintage cars set, was knocked down for a bargain £25 while a further 15 red/yellow boxed Yesteryears struggled to make the same money. A stand-out lot, though, was the Corgi Classics trade display cabinet, which was illuminated and fully glazed and had the Corgi logo affixed: this attracted a top bid of £150. ■

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Big bucks at Vectis

Clearly, the toy collecting world has not yet got wind of the recession.

Vectis' last couple of sales yielded some eye-watering prices: £2,520 was bid on a Matchbox Regular Wheels 22b Vauxhall Cresta in very pale pink with turquoise side panels, running on 20-tread grey plastic wheels on crimped axles. This was an unrecorded variation. Dinky Fodens

come in an array of hues but the first cab diesel 8-wheeled wagon was a scarce US export version, with a red cab and rear body, ridged hubs, a black chassis and herringbone tyres, but with no hook fitted. This boxed gem raised £4,080. A winning bid of £2,880 was logged against the Dinky 503 2nd Cab Foden Flat Truck with tailboard, boasting an orange cab and chassis, yellow flatbed body and Supertoy hubs; and the

Dinky 505 first cab Foden Flat Truck with chains in maroon with ridged hubs and silver cab side flashes, with a painted large hook to the rear, was yet another unusual colourway. This made £2,520.

On the rails, two Wrenn locos also hit the heights. Bids of £960 were recorded for both the W2262/A (5-pole) 4-6-0 BR green Royal Scot Class Loco No.46148 "The Manchester Regiment"



This rare Dinky Singer Vogue in a yellow finish sold for £3,250.

and the W2303 0-6-2 LMS Wartime black streamlined Princess Coronation Class Loco No.6237, "City of Bristol".

As for plastic lovers,

the Palitoy Star Wars Princess Leia Organa figure, within a near mint bubble upon a 12 A back card, was taken to £3,600.

Well, it's only money... ■

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■ HOBBY NEWS

New range for table railways

Oxford Diecast has announced a new range at a new scale as Oxford TT:120, a range of Diecast Collectables, at an internationally recognised scale of 1/120. The six brand new releases form the first phase for this range and the company will be adding to this on a continuous basis. The models have been produced in conjunction with Hornby TT:120.

The first six releases are: Bedford OB Coach - British Rail (120OB001, £7.95), Morris 1000 - British Rail (120MM059, £7.45), Scammell Mechanical Horse Flat Trailer - GWR (120MH003, £7.95), Land Rover Series 2 LWB Hard Top - British

Rail (120LAN2001, £7.45), Dennis F12 Pump Escape - London Fire Brigade (120DEN001, £7.95), and Austin Low Loader Taxi - black (120AT001, £7.45).

By the time this issue

is on sale, the models will be available to buy, either direct from the manufacturer, at www.oxforddiecast.co.uk, or from your preferred retailer. ■



■ MINI GT CHRISTMAS 2022 SPECIAL - fittingly, given that this is our December issue, MINI GT has very conveniently just revealed its special Christmas-themed release for 2022. Announced on the last day of the Hong Kong Car Show 2022, this year's model chosen for the festive decorations is the Nissan Skyline GT-R (R-34) and it will be limited to just 9,999 pieces. Contact your preferred retailer for more information and to pre-order.



SIKU FARM ATV

Price: £11.99 Scale: 1/32 Release: out now

For 2022, Siku has given its Farm ATV a makeover, with a muddy finish and a driver, complete with a "Fun on the Farm" decal on his overalls.

» www.siku.de



80M BUS MODEL COOLER TRAM - HONG KONG TRAMWAYS

Price: £44.99 Scale: 1/76 Release: out now

Wonderful little model of the classic Hong Kong 'Cooler' tram, with very neatly applied graphics and a good amount of detailing both inside and out.

» www.ayrey.co.uk

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

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JANUARY 2023 ISSUE



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An Aster for Fulgurex Gauge One LNER 'A4' 'Silver Link', sold for £3,000, part of Glorious Trains in June 2022 that totalled £278,000

Our next special train auction, the 36th Trains Galore, approaches. It already includes numerous fine locomotives and stock. Our last two fine auctions in December and January included over £250,000 worth of Gauge One, highlighting our leading position in UK auctions of toy and model railways. Our upcoming sale also includes RTR in all gauges, exceptional 4mm fine scale and 7mm fine scale, as well as railway memorabilia and stationary and traction engine models.

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What was the year?

Alwyn Brice presents the memories
but can you recall the year?

The year began with a tragedy, when the Costa Concordia, an Italian cruise liner carrying more than 4,000 passengers, collided with rocks. It subsequently capsized, resulting in the deaths of 32 people. The liner had to be scrapped and its captain was jailed for 16 years.

It was similarly bad news for the pop industry, for this was the year that Whitney Houston was found dead in her hotel bath in Beverley Hills. Drugs were believed to have been a factor in the star's demise: she was just 48.

On a more cheerful note, the UK hosted the Olympics and for once, the Brits did rather well, garnering a record tally of 65 medals, of which 29 were gold: we finished third in the league table.

Education certainly made the

headlines this year, although not perhaps in the way that campaigners would have wished. A 14 year old Pakistani schoolgirl, Malala Yousafzia, attracted the world's sympathy when she was shot by the Taliban for campaigning for the right to go to school. She was very lucky, for the bullet that caused a head wound was not fatal and neurosurgeons managed to save her life.

The natural world contributed to the year, too, when Hurricane Sandy battered Cuba, Jamaica and the Bahamas before wreaking destruction on the American East Coast. In all, around 300 people died and the damage bill was put at US\$50bn. Whilst on the subject of the US, gun laws again came under the spotlight when Adam Lanza attacked Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, Connecticut,

where he shot and killed 26 people, most of whom were children. Having to face pressure on what was termed the second worst shooting in US history was Barack Obama, who was elected President in the same year.

Social mores were changing, when Denmark's parliament approved a law allowing same-sex marriage. In 1989, the country had been the first in the world to recognise same-sex civil partnerships.

And leisure? For bonkers stunts, no-one bettered that of 43 year old Felix Baumgartner, who entered the record books by sky-diving from 128,000 feet. To achieve this feat he ascended to the edge of space in a capsule under a helium balloon before going into freefall, an act that lasted just over four minutes.

For those who sought their thrills on terra firma, at the cinema this year was Marvel Comics' *The Avengers*, which went on to become one of the highest-grossing films ever. Also on the big screen was the popular *Hunger Games* – while French literature lovers were treated visually to Victor Hugo's novel, *Les Misérables*.

Toys? Well, like him or hate him, Hasbro's Furby staged a comeback this year – a bit of a gamble for the makers, one suspects. The Wii U was announced, with innovative television and video features; and the Y-Volution was available. The what? This was the Flicker F1, a scooter that relied on foot pressure on its Y-shaped arms for propulsion.

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

RIGHT

The Angry Birds Knock on Wood game experienced huge success this year.



RIGHT

Lego was accused of pandering to the female with its pastel colours – but funnily enough, sales improved...



LEFT

When is a scooter not a scooter? Y, that's an easy one!



LEFT

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No – it's a comeback

Making history

If it was noteworthy, someone somewhere made a model of it, as **Mark Nolan** discovers.



If you ask a normal person to name a famous train, the chances are they'll say 'The Flying Scotsman'. Prompted further, um, 'The 'Rocket'? Which is fair enough. Both trains, or locomotives to be precise, have broken through the veil of indifference to cement themselves into history.

It's interesting that both the names have more to do with aeronautics than the earthbound devices they represent. It's also significant that adventurous Tri-ang made models of both, whilst staid Hornby-Dublo didn't. Meccano famously eschewed gimmicks and novelty models which characterised Tri-ang. Which might explain why the

successor to Tri-ang, through a complex series of mergers and takeovers, is still with us under the guise of 'Hornby'. Whereas Hornby-Dublo and its parent company Meccano, isn't.

THE SCOTSMAN TRAIN

Let's clear up some confusion from the start. Forgive me for preaching to the choir, but it still bears repeating; trains are not locomotives, and locomotives are not trains. Yes, it's confusing that modern trains don't have visible engines, and most operate as fixed units. All you need to remember is, the 'Flying Scotsman' is both a locomotive and a scheduled train service. Simple!

The named train came before

the legendary steam engine. The first Edinburgh-London service started in 1862, and became known as the 'Special Scotch Express'. It wasn't until 1924 that its nickname of 'Flying Scotsman' was officially adopted. The train ran over lines owned by three railway companies who used mutually owned coaches known as 'joint stock' to unite the service. To further publicise the train, an A1 Class locomotive numbered 1472 and, subsequently, 4472, was named after the service and put on display at the 1924 British Empire Exhibition.

The Flying Scotsman still runs today on what is now the East Coast Main Line. The original journey took 10½ hours, including a half-hour stop at York for lunch.

That must have required some impressive catering coordination. The Scotsman today does it in exactly four hours, assuming there are no rail strikes.

THE SCOTSMAN LOCO

A1 Class 4472 'Flying Scotsman' entered traffic on the 24th February 1923, unnamed, as LNER No. 1472. Selected as the LNER's prestige exhibit for the forthcoming British Empire Exhibition at Wembley, 1472 emerged from Doncaster Works on the 2nd March 1924 with the company's Coat-of-Arms adorning the cabside, a new number; 4472 and named as 'Flying Scotsman'. On the 1st May 1928, and fitted with a corridor tender, 'Flying

**ABOVE**

R3991 Hornby A3 4-6-2 number 60103 'Flying Scotsman' in BR green livery with early emblem, die cast footplate and flickering firebox. Just about state of the art model production.

**ABOVE**

Hornby R3081 Flying Scotsman with German style smoke deflectors in LNER green as preserved. A National Railway Museum limited edition.

**ABOVE**

Hornby's Class A3 4-6-2 'Flying Scotsman' in USA Tour condition. This limited edition model features twin tenders as used during the 1969 tour of the United States, and comes with gold plated running gear and a wooden display plinth.

OPPOSITE PAGE

A Flying Scotsman set showing the Gresley teak bodied rolling stock produced by Hornby for their LNER locos.

Scotsman' undertook the first non-stop run from London to Edinburgh.

In 1946 'Flying Scotsman' was rebuilt to A3 class specification and emerged in January 1947 having been renumbered by LNER as No.103. In December 1948 'Flying Scotsman' was once again renumbered as a result of the nationalisation of the railways, becoming No.60103. BR painted the locomotive in an Express Blue livery which was retained until 1954. As the first steam locomotive to achieve an official 100mph run back in November 1934, the Flying Scotsman has become an icon of British railway engineering. However, it was another Gresley design, the A4 Mallard, which

holds the record of the world's fastest steam loco.

The Flying Scotsman also holds the record for the longest non-stop run by a steam locomotive, when it ran 422 miles (679 km) on 8th August 1989 while in Australia.

WORLD TRAVELLER

Over 70 A3s were built from the late 1920s to 1935. Only one survived; the loco could easily have been scrapped as it was not earmarked for preservation. Its saviour was businessman and rail enthusiast Alan Pegler who bought it for £3500 with the support of Prime Minister Harold Wilson. A large amount of money was subsequently spent restoring the Scotsman to

**ABOVE**

Trix OO Class A3 4-6-2 4472 'Flying Scotsman' in LNER apple green.

its original LNER condition and livery at Doncaster works.

As well as hauling enthusiast specials in the United Kingdom, the locomotive toured extensively in the United States and Canada from 1969 until 1973 and Australia in 1988 and 1989. Its visit to the United States and Canada was to support British exports. To comply with local railway regulations it was fitted with a cowcatcher, bell, buckeye couplings, whistle, air brakes and headlamp. Despite starting well the tour ran into problems, as strict anti-steam laws in some states deemed the engine a fire hazard or required the engine to be towed by a diesel or electric locomotive. None of the trips on the tour carried paying passengers as it was declared illegal to do so. Although a commercial success at first, Pegler was £132,000 in debt by the end of 1971 and declared himself bankrupt, which left Flying Scotsman stranded in the US. Pegler worked his passage home from San Francisco to England on a P&O cruise ship, and began a new career giving lectures about trains and travel in addition to being chairman of the Ffestiniog Railway. Meanwhile the loco was repatriated by its next owner, William McAlpine.

Its current owner is the National Railway Museum which paid £2.3 million for it in 2004.

THE MODELS

Hornby has produced an estimated 40 variations of the Flying Scotsman, spread across eight distinctly different model designs.

The original 1968 Tri-ang Hornby model has the body as a single moulding with a banjo dome. It was driven by an XO4 motor in the loco. A corridor tender was available and the model also came with a chuff chuff tender sound and firebox glow.

The model was completely redesigned in 1981 receiving wire handrails, daylight under the boiler, a reshaped cab and a choice of domes, tenders, chimneys and the option of smoke deflectors. It was tender driven with a Ringfield motor.

In 1998 a super detail version

was tooled in China with a finely detailed chassis. In 2005 the Flying Scotsman was released with a five pole skew wound motor. In the same year Hornby also introduced a live steam model, with a two tender version following three years later.

TRIX

The Trix OO Flying Scotsman was a long-lived model which first appeared in 1968 and remained in production under various guises until 1984. Originally tooled by British Lego the model was manufactured by Lilliput of Austria but assembled in Wales.

BASSETT-LOWKE AND ACE O GAUGE

Bassett-Lowke produced a handsome O gauge Scotsman during their golden period in the 1930s. They were available in clockwork and electric. The short lived blue livery was also produced. Ace Trains produced a 3-rail O gauge Scotsman in 2006 based on their existing A4 chassis.

MINIATURE SCOTSMEN

The Flying Scotsman models were late additions to the Minitrix N gauge range in 1988. They were marketed by Minitrix rather than Hornby, hence they were supplied in clear plastic cases with green and yellow Minitrix card liners. They were available in British Railways green as 60103, and LNER apple green as 4472 from the 1930s. The Scotsman uses the same chassis as the A4 Mallard and the later Britannia.

Graham Farish produced an N gauge Flying Scotsman in 2003 in LNER green. The most recent N gauge Flying Scotsman is from Dapol and includes a finely moulded body and tender with separately added details. Models include tender, chimney and steam dome variations. A smoke deflector version is also available. The heavy chassis boasts pickups to 14 wheels. Dapol's tender drive system delivers power to the locomotive with a Super Creep motor for controlled pulling power and slow speed control. The model comes with etched name plates. **CG**

Politoys: cars from Italy

Andrew Ralston looks at a much sought-after fleet of plastic vehicles.

Politoys was a major name in the world of diecast cars in the 1960s but before that the company made a range of plastic cars which, in some ways, might be regarded as the Italian equivalent of the French Norev brand. In the five years between 1960 and 1965 the range grew rapidly to include something like 150 different models which are now very sought-after on the collecting market.

The Politoys firm was founded in Milan in the mid-1950s by Eugenio Agrati and Ennio Sala who used to work in an automotive components factory but went into business themselves as they saw the potential of the latest plastic injection-moulding techniques. Their early plastic products included a few toy vehicles in diverse scales, but the first recognisable series of plastic cars by Politoys consisted of some very simple cars in a staid scale of 1/77, moulded in a soft plastic material and supplied in packets of sweets or gum.

In Italy at this time the toy car market was dominated by Mercury diecasts but Agrati and Sala decided to rival these with a new series of plastic cars which would be cheaper to produce, following the pattern in France where Norev had successfully introduced a range of this kind to undercut Dinky Toys.

Unlike some other model car manufacturers, Politoys followed a straightforward numbering system than began with 1 and ran to 306. That doesn't mean there were 306 different models, though: numbers 1 to 19 were military vehicles and numbers 26



ABOVE

A selection of 1960s plastic cars from Politoys. Each box contained a leaflet listing the range available.

straight through to 132 were cars. Thereafter, there were several small groups: 200-204 for racing cars and 221-5 and 300-6 for commercials.

The military series certainly has a familiar look to it. Subjects like the Bedford 3 Ton Army Wagon and Mighty Antar Tank Transporter are clearly inspired by Dinky Toys while the Land Rover and Thunderbird missile recalls the Corgi model. Admittedly, Italian titles like 'trattore con cannone da montagna' sound more exotic than the Dinky equivalent '25 pounder field gun'!

When it comes to cars, though,

Politoys certainly didn't intend to copy other makers. In Italy family cars meant Fiats – or Lancias for those who could afford them – and performance cars were Alfa Romeos, so it isn't surprising to find these marques well-represented in the Politoys catalogue. Among the first subjects were a Fiat 1800 saloon in two-tone colours, created by moulding the roof as a separate part, and an Alfa Romeo Giulietta Spyder, which is not the best proportioned of Politoys models. Other Alfas – Giulietta Sprint coupe, Giulietta TI, 2000 saloon, 2000 Spyder and Giulia TI – followed, as did the Fiat 1100,

850 and 1300 in saloon and estate form, though surprisingly the ubiquitous little 600 was not added to the range until nearer the end of production.

Certain other cars chosen by Politoys still have a strong, if less obvious, Italian collection. The British Ford Anglia was the best-selling imported car in Italy in 1960-61. To give it a more Italian identity the styling was significantly altered by designer Michelotti and the car re-emerged as a Ford Anglia Torino. Michelotti even did away with the Anglia's most distinctive feature, the sloping back window. BMC made



ABOVE

Cadillac towing a speedboat makes for an impressive combination.



ABOVE

Imposing Fiat fuel tanker in the livery of Supercortemaggiore, an Italian brand of petrol. (Picture: Vectis Auctions)



Politoys showed a preference for Italian subjects. This is the Alfa Romeo Giulietta TI, one of the harder models to find.



In the mid-1960s models of veteran cars were popular and Politoys offered a selection of these, including this 1919 Ford Model T.

Radars truck on GMC chassis is one of a numerous Politoys military vehicles.



a deal with Innocenti for the Austin A40 to be built in Milan where 67,000 Innocenti A40s were assembled between 1960 and 1967. Similarly, Renault and Alfa Romeo had an arrangement whereby the Dauphine was sold in Italy as an Alfa Romeo. All three of these cars found their way into the Politoys catalogue.

Few model car manufacturers could resist the big American cars of the era and Politoys modelled three: the Pontiac Parisienne coupe, Oldsmobile Cutlass and Cadillac Special, all of which featured opening doors. Politoys claimed their cars were to a consistent scale of 1/41 which makes some of them look quite big and chunky compared to, say, Norev.

Politoys was also fond of racing cars and these were issued in two sequences, numbers 51 to 64 and a later group numbered 200 – 204. Some of the first group were based on classic racers which would already have been out of date, like the Vanwall and Le Mans Jaguar D Type. More recent Formula 1 subjects included a BRM, Honda and Ferrari. Like Solido, Minialuxe and RAMI in France and Dugu in Italy Politoys also made veteran and vintage cars, known as the 'Serie Vetture Antiche' (numbers 100 – 115). Although some old favourites like the Ford Model T were included there was again a bias towards Italian subjects, some of them rather obscure such as the 1909 Itala Palombella 35-45 HP.

Lastly, there are the commercial vehicles (numbers 221-9 and 301-

306), the most sought-after of all the plastic Politoys. An articulated Fiat 682 T2 truck, tanker or car transporter in 1/41 makes for an impressively large toy: I can clearly remember visiting Italy at the age of eight and being mesmerised by the sight in a toyshop window of the bright yellow fuel tanker with the long word 'Supercortemaggiore' on the side, an Italian brand of petrol whose logo of a six-legged dog spouting fire was seen everywhere on Italian roads in the 1960s. An example of this model recently sold at Vectis Auctions for over £200, even though the box was a replica.

Selling model cars is a competitive business and by 1965 the plastic Politoys were looking a bit crude compared to the diecast competition. As an interim step, Politoys brought out some much more finely detailed models, all with opening parts, made in fibreglass with a paint finish that made them look like diecasts. But it was in diecast that the future of Politoys lay and soon the company was devoting all its attention to the new 'M' (for metal) series launched in 1965 which, initially at least, reached high levels of quality before following the inevitable process of cost-cutting and decline in the 1970s. By that stage the name had been changed to Polistil which today is owned by the Chinese Maisto brand.

The simple, chunky style of the 1/41 Politoys cars of the 1960s may be a far cry from the highly detailed models of today but for collectors of plastic toys they have an undeniable charm. **CG**

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A dog's life

Alwyn Brice takes a walk with some Huskies.

You might be forgiven for thinking that mighty Matchbox had the miniature market sewn up during the 1960s. Lesney's tiny toys were seemingly everywhere; their quality improved year on year; and the range, that of its famous 1-75, continued to expand as time rolled by.

However, there were rivals: Benbros (1951-1965) introduced its Mighty Midgets early on (in 1956), while it would be a full decade before Lone Star sought to chip away at Lesney's empire with its Impy vehicles. Neither manufacturer's end product was as well executed as the all-conquering Lesney, though; but even this manufacturer had to up its game when the brazen Hot Wheels from Mattel sped across the Atlantic and arrived on the toy shelves in 1968. Thus any constructor thinking of entering the pocket money toy market needed a cunning ploy if it was to make headway.

For this, Corgi (Mettoy) was ideally placed, of course, having already produced plenty of large scale models. Moreover, it was well versed in competition, having been battling with Dinky for some years. And with its Husky range, it took the fight straight to Matchbox.

BLISTER BREAKTHROUGH

The year 1964 saw the release of the first Husky Toys and, looking back, it was a bold move to take on the market leader. But Corgi's boardroom boys had done their homework. Clearly, imitating the likes of Matchbox, Benbros et al with models inside boxes would

be making life difficult; and simply churning out more diecast miniatures was hardly going to set the Thames ablaze. Different thinking led to the idea of the blister mounted on to a card. At a stroke this differentiated Husky from anyone else in the marketplace (and one can only speculate whether this approach was adopted by Mattel a couple of years later). The packaging was probably cheaper than that of a traditional card box; and as a bonus, the back of the card allowed the range of models to be seen, which was surely an incentive for any youngster. Above all this, though, was the fact that the model could be viewed in situ and when these cards were suspended from racks, they created a colourful display that was hard to ignore.

Thanks to a sales deal with good old Woolworth (the shop where any child could wander, without actually having to purchase anything – toy shops were a rather different kettle of fish!), Husky

Toys had maximum exposure, in all senses of the word.

HUSKY INNOVATION

Cost efficiency probably lay at the heart of Corgi's corporate thinking when it came to Husky. For starters, the models were lighter than those of its rivals, this being down to the greater use of plastic in their construction: in this respect, the chassis, interior

ABOVE LEFT

Lovely when new, Husky's gold plating suffered if handled too frequently.

ABOVE RIGHT

US varieties sometimes had different colour schemes – and usually had the price stamped on the card, as here.

BELOW

Catalogues, like those of Lesney, simply add to the collector's interest





ABOVE

Innovation corner: the tower was an attractive release, with a fully adjustable and rotating tower.



LEFT

Husky's convertibles were little gems, and featured detachable roofs. For reasons unknown, that of the Alpine was semi-opaque.

and wheels (initially) were all plastic. However, to effectively compete, Husky Toys had to tool up for working parts in its range. Thus the potential purchaser was treated to an opening boot or bonnet, opening or sliding doors and other moving elements. Working suspension was also an absolute must, since Lesney had started to equip some cars with this feature.

In terms of range and content,

Husky trod a fairly safe path although it gave more than a passing nod towards foreign vehicle manufacturers, since the deal with Woolworth extended to the US and Canada. Thus, like Matchbox, American cars appeared (Cadillac Eldorado, Studebaker Wagonaire, Buick Electra and Oldsmobile Starfire, to name just four), the sort of thing that would have been rarely, if ever, glimpsed on the roads of these shores. Indeed, sales abroad could not be overlooked - and when Lord Chandos famously mentioned "Export or die" in a speech in the 1960s, this could well have served as a mantra for Corgi.

Husky was also keen to exploit a casting: by simply swapping colour schemes and loads, it produced a Guy Warrior truck in two guises, for example. The same chassis served as a tanker base for two variants, milk or petrol, while an ERF casting helped add a fire tender, a fire truck and a cement mixer to the proceedings. This multiplicity



LEFT

Carry case for Husky Toys isn't that common but will be necessary for the completist.



ABOVE

One way to house your collection was in the quadruple garage block.



RIGHT

A coveted classic: Corgi had the licensing rights to Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and so a Husky example was inevitable.

of models from a single source was obviously cost effective and probably went unnoticed by the youthful purchaser.

As for European sourced ideas, Husky made extensive use of the Volkswagen chassis, coming up with five basic models; and cars from Mercedes, Lancia, Citroen, Volvo, Porsche and Ferrari would all be catered for in due course.

For homegrown enthusiasts, Jaguar's E-type couldn't fail, while a Mk10 Jaguar looked the part: this could be bought in a chrome-gold finish, although extensive handling didn't help matters, a yellow base colour wearing through in due course.

Corgi did, though, try to make some of its offerings really stand out. Take the Ford Thames TV van which came with a separate aerial and ladder and opening rear doors; or the VW T1 Luggage Elevator, which actually worked and came with a load (whether you'd find an intact rubber belt all these decades on is a moot point, though).

To encourage sales, blister-packed figures and a garage block were amongst the accessories available.

THE HUSKY DOWNSIDE

It wasn't all plain sailing for Corgi, though. The models' lightness meant that they did not stand up to the wear and tear of the school playground as well as

their rivals - a key factor if you recall that these were, at bottom, toys for children.

Moreover, many an example would have been scratched or even damaged in that initial opening of the blister packaging, too; and rare would have been the child who retained the packaging upon emptying out the model. Storage thus posed a problem for any child keen to keep his or her models looking their best.

Add to this the march of time: by 1969/1970 the contract with Woolworth had expired and Hot Wheels were shaping the future for those who played on the carpet. Corgi dropped the Husky moniker and out came Whizzwheels - but that's another story.

Fifty years on, collecting these models is difficult, as so few have survived within their blisters. Indeed, I know of one diecast dealer who stopped offering them simply because he could not find enough stock. Strangely, for a UK-manufactured toy, the US and Canada seem to now be the best hunting grounds; that export drive must have been prodigious.

But they are about. At least any enthusiast doesn't have to agonise over tyre treads or colour or casting variations to the extent of the Lesney output - so that has to be a bonus, at least in my book. **CG**



Advertising & marketing

Continuing our review of classic advertising, with a look at Matchbox catalogues and adverts.



Matchbox Toys originated in 1947 as Lesney Products Ltd. The 'Lesney' part of the company name was derived from the names of the founding members, Leslie and Rodney Smith (not related). Jack Odell joined the company soon afterwards, and brought his diecasting skills, which were used to very positive effect. He had become a partner in the business by the time that Rodney Smith quit the company in 1951. It is Odell who takes the credit for the introduction of smaller models - 'matchbox' size in fact.

So the story goes... this great innovative idea of very small

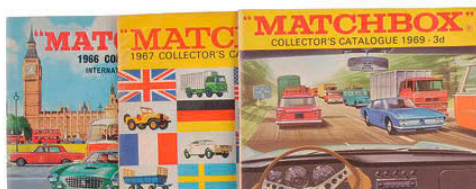
toys apparently began with a rule at Odell's daughter's school. Pupils were not allowed to take any toys to school unless they were small enough to fit inside a matchbox. The first models were released in 1953 with the Diesel Road Roller (Aveling Barford), model no. MB1, together with the Muir Hill Site Dumper, model no. MB 2, and the Cement Mixer, model no. MB3.

These models led the way for the hugely popular and very successful Matchbox 1-75 series, which was followed by the Models of Yesteryear range. There is no doubt that the Lesney Matchbox models were among the best manufactured and most sought after toys, along with

Dinky, Corgi, and later, Spot-On by Tri-ang. The size of the Matchbox toys really captured the market, and in a highly competitive selling environment it certainly gave it an advantage. So how did the growth of the Matchbox empire gather pace so quickly?

There are a number of key aspects. The size of the toys made them easy to handle and as a child I remember feeling that they were toys made for us - my friends and classmates. The cost of the toys themselves was certainly another important factor. I don't remember seeing the advertising in comics for Matchbox toys but I do remember the in-shop advertising.

One of the great benefits of the smaller toy was that the whole of the 1-75 Series could be displayed all together on one unit. The early display units were made of wood and card and made the identification and choosing process a good deal easier. The model required for purchase was clearly numbered under the vehicle. The display stands were later to be made of plastic. Circular display units for the Matchbox 1-75 series had a compartment for each model, numbered 1-75 with spaces for new models. There were also smaller displays, which had just as much impact on the collector, such as the Matchbox Regular Wheels shop display stand:



LEFT
Matchbox Catalogues
- 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967,
1968, 1969.



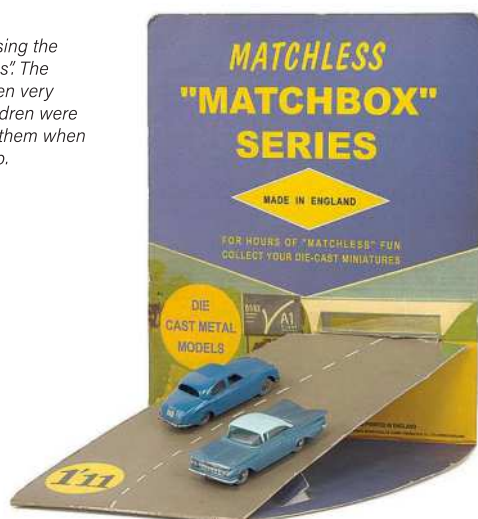
LEFT
Gift sets were
particularly eye-
catching, such as this
Esso Station.



LEFT
Wheels 1-75 Series
wooden display
stand. Seeing
all the models
displayed on this
would have been
too much for a child
to resist.

RIGHT
Shop display stand advertising the
"Matchless Matchbox Series". The
promotional items were often very
eye-catching, ensuring children were
immediately captivated by them when
entering their local toy shop.

BELOW
Matchbox Accessory
Pack - BP Service Station.
Thanks to the smaller size
of Matchbox toys, it was
much easier to produce
large playsets that were
in scale to the miniature
replicas. Items like this
were extremely sought
after at the time. Every
child wanted one!



"Matchless Matchbox Series". This section of roadway was made of cardboard and displayed two very popular models. - the Chevrolet Impala no. 57b in two tone blue and no. 65a the Jaguar 3.4 Saloon in dark blue with a black base.

Colourful shop displays and catalogues showing the latest toys to be released were essential for the leading toy makers. The catalogues in particular not only added to the attraction of shopping for a new model but they made choosing a new toy - possibly at home, easier than ever. I remember taking a catalogue home on more than one occasion, in order to think about my next purchase or present. It is interesting to see the number of catalogues that have notation indicating those cars yet to be purchased. The toy catalogue provided an important link with the local toyshop. They were also very useful for parents as they may well have made the search for birthday and Christmas presents a good deal less time consuming.

Catalogues and advertising also kept collectors up to date with all the latest innovations, such as the introduction of plastic windows and interiors. Further into the 1960s, they prepared us for opening features and button steering control such as that on the Ford Mustang. It was important that any new feature was brought to our attention and as a result, sales continued to increase.

As with most toy makers in the 1950s and 1960s, Matchbox gift sets and accessories were produced and became very popular. Once again the smaller toy provided the opportunity to manufacture whole buildings to go with the vehicles, such as Gift Set MG1. This set had boxed petrol pumps with attendant,

three boxed vehicles - including model no.13c Ford Thames Trader Wreck Truck, model no. 25b Volkswagen Beetle and no. 31b Ford Fairlane Station Wagon. These items were all to be used with the rather attractive red and yellow Esso Service Station. Further gift sets were released, including BP service Stations in green and white. The artwork on these larger boxes was delightful, and provided eye-catching advertising just being on the toyshop shelf.

The numerous leaflets, catalogues and advertising materials made available by all the major toy manufacturers when the models were originally released, now provide a useful archive. Adverts promoting the toys of the 1960s can still be found in old comics and monthly magazines. These publications all contribute to the history of individual models, and perhaps of even more importance, the history of the toy industry as a whole.

A small library of reference material is particularly essential for the collectors of Matchbox toys, as there are so many minor differences between certain models. Any detailed investigation often relies on a wide range of information. Matchbox models have a particularly wide range of box types and wheel variations, and reference material is sometimes the only way to check certain models - there is far more to remember. It is always useful to know which models are hard to find, and what their notional value is. The advertising items have also become highly desirable - with prices to match. The shop display stand advertising the "Matchless Matchbox Series", with cardboard road section and two models was sold by Vectis for £1,100. **CG**



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10 minute TOY EXPERT!

Mettoy

If you were a child born before 1980 it is almost certain that at some stage of your childhood you played with a toy or two made by Mettoy and its many subsidiaries as the output of this Northampton based toy company was prolific. The man behind the formation of Mettoy was German emigre Phillip Ullmann a Jew who left Germany following Hitler's rise to power. Ullmann was no stranger to the toy industry when he arrived in Britain having 21 years of experience at the Tipp & Co factory in Nuremberg, the toy capital of Germany and home of many renowned makers of tinplate toy vehicles. Ullmann's initial move to Britain was assisted by Lord Marks of Marks & Spencer's fame who arranged for a workshop to be established within the Winteringham Ltd works in St Andrews Street, Northampton with the aim of manufacturing pressed steel toys. Winteringham was founded by George Winteringham and was actually a spin off engineering company of the renowned Northampton based Bassett-Lowke.

Within six months Phillip Ullmann was joined by Arthur Katz, a fellow Jew and the son of Ullmann's cousin. Katz had

also been employed at Tipp & Co, having joined the company from school. Production began in a basement room of the St Andrews Street works in 1933 using the lithographed tin sheet printing and cutting process well known to Ullmann and Katz. The business developed and within two years the workforce had expanded to 50. In 1936 Mettoy moved to new premises at Stimpson Avenue, Northampton and this was followed by a further move to a larger factory in Harleston Road, St James End, Northampton, in 1937.

On the outbreak of World War II Mettoy's production line switched to making metal components for the Ministry of Supply including shell fuses, shell and mortar carriers, Jerry can parts, land mines and various types of gun magazines. In 1944 the Ministry of Supply assisted Mettoy with the establishment of a new 28,000 sq. ft., factory at Fforestfach near Swansea in South Wales to enable greater output



ABOVE

Like many British firms, Mettoy started off making tinplate toys.

of war work and this was to play a significant role in Mettoy's post-war development in the diecast toy market. Another large modern factory was built at the Fforestfach site as post-war production returned to toys and this included modern up-to-date equipment ideal for production line working. This state of the art facility, designed with its workforce clearly at the forefront, opened in April 1949 and was later expanded to 200,000 sq. ft., in 1952. At this point Swansea became the headquarters of the company although premises were retained in Northampton for design, toolmaking and warehousing. With Ullmann taking the reins as Chairman and Katz operating as Managing Director the company was developing fast with London showrooms located at Finsbury Pavement House, Moorgate.

Mettoy first ventured into diecast models in the late 1940s,

this coming about largely as the result of Phillip Ullmann's son Henry being appointed to Mettoy's Board of Directors in 1947. It was Henry Ullmann who steered the development of a range of die-cast toy vehicles called 'Castoys' made exclusively for Marks & Spencer stores. Produced from 1948 they appeared heavy and rather cumbersome when compared to Dinky Toys which were then leading the diecast market.

Mettoy launched itself into the plastic toy market in 1952 after installing the latest high capacity injection moulding equipment, a move which signalled the start of a shift away from tinplate toys which were now looking rather dated in a rapidly changing market. It began making plastic friction drive toys under the banner of 'Playcraft Toys' from 1953.

The appointment of Howard Fairbairn as a Director in 1953 strengthened Mettoy's expertise



LEFT

As well as producing vehicles, Mettoy also branched into licensed products, like this fantastic Batman game.

**ABOVE**

Mettoy experimented with technical advances, such as this programmable Computacar.

**ABOVE**

Plastic cars like these became a mainstay of Mettoy's output throughout the 1950s.

**ABOVE**

Originally many of Mettoy's products were sold through Marks and Spencer's stores.

in die-casting, Fairbairn formerly having been Head of Development at Birmingham Aluminium Casting Co and heavily involved in the 'Castoys' range. 1956 saw the launch of 'Corgi Toys' by Playcraft and the success of this super range of diecast toys has already been featured in this 'Best of British' series.

As Playcraft's Corgi Toys grew to become an iconic brand, Mettoy continued to move with the times producing a wide range of playthings from the hugely popular 'Wembley' vinyl footballs and other sports balls sold in Woolworth's to the 'Vapour Trails' model aircraft series and Playcraft model railway sets and Aurora plastic kits plus the hugely popular Husky Toys series sold exclusively through Woolworth's stores from 1964.

By the late 1950s Mettoy was exporting to 100 different countries worldwide and when the company, by this time numbering a workforce of 1,700, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in June 1963 it drew a staggering £43 million.

In 1971, however, Mettoy suddenly announced its first ever trading loss blaming this on the saturation of the USA toy market, higher costs of production and materials, plus increasingly stiffer competition in the marketplace. As with so many British toymakers the 1970s brought tougher times and increasingly difficult trading conditions. In 1971, around the same time as Mettoy closed its Stanley Road factory in Northampton, company founder Phillip Ullmann died aged 88.

Despite setbacks in the early 1970s Mettoy rallied round and its fortunes improved for a few years. A new factory emerged

at Skewen, near Neath in South Wales, followed by a new state-of-the-art production plant for Corgi in Swansea and extra warehousing was acquired in Northampton after Mettoy began making and marketing Fisher Price toys in Britain. There were further developments in the late 1970s with new showrooms and a Technical Centre opening in Northampton. Mettoy became a public limited company in September 1981 although the early 1980s were to prove disastrous for the company.

Record losses had been recorded for 1980 resulting in the closure of the Skewen factory and the Northampton warehouse. Losses continued to be made at an alarming rate and by 1982 the workforce had been slashed to under 1,000 from a high of 3,500 resulting in the official receivers being called in on 31st October 1983. From here on only the Corgi brand survived, this being achieved as the result of a management buy-out in March 1984.

Five years later Corgi Toys was acquired by Mattel who eventually transferred production to its factory in Leicester ending Corgi's long and successful links with South Wales. In more than 50 years of production the Mettoy range of toys had developed and expanded to include all manner of playthings, many of which are now highly sought after by toy collectors. Its early tinplate toys and post-war diecast ranges are collecting fields in their own right, whilst Mettoy's super range of plastic toys are amongst some of the finest ever made. **CG**

**ABOVE**

The numerous toys from Mettoy are some of the finest ever made. Pictures courtesy of Vectis Auctions.



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ABOVE

Mettoy became known for its quality but cheaper imports proved to be the company's eventual undoing.

Famous Faces:

MAN FROM UNCLE

Remembering collectables that found fame through the silver screen.



The Corgi Toys THRUSH-BUSTERS. Pictures courtesy of Vectis.

At the height of the Cold War spies were absolutely everywhere. That chap at your newsagents who spent too long perusing the crisps: SPY. The old lady with the Yorkshire Terrier who sat on the same bench every day in the park: SPY. Your local milkman: SPY! Basically, anyone and everyone was potentially a spy in the 1960s. This paranoia resulted in plenty of spy-related books, films and television programmes.

One of the most famous shows from the era was *The Man from UNCLE*, starring super agents Napoleon Solo (played by Robert Vaughan) and Ilya Kuryakin (David McCallum). The show centred around the exploits of UNCLE (United Network Command for Law and Enforcement), an organisation consisting of agents of all nationalities. It's involved

in maintaining political and legal order anywhere in the world... at least that was according to the early opening sequences of the television show. UNCLE's chief adversary was a shadowy organisation called THRUSH, which means Technological Hierarchy for the Removal of Undesirables and the Subjugation of Humanity, according to *The Man from UNCLE* novels by David McDaniel.

Many will note similarities between THRUSH and the infamous SPECTRE (Special Executive for Counter-intelligence, Terrorism, Revenge and Extortion) from the Bond novels. In fact, this might have been more than a coincidence because the concept for *The Man from UNCLE* was originally conceived by Ian Fleming, the brains behind 007. You see, Fleming contributed to the show's original concept after being approached by

the co-creator, Norman Felton, a British-born American television producer for NBC.

Fleming proposed the character of Napoleon Solo and originally the show was going to be called *Fleming's Solo*. However, the Bond producers Harry Saltzman and Albert R. Broccoli weren't too keen on Fleming's name being used in the title, so it was changed to just Solo. But even this proved too close for the 007 team, because a supporting character called Mr. Solo was set to appear in *Goldfinger* and they insisted the show's named was changed entirely. What's more, David McCallum's portrayal of the Russian agent called Ilya Kuryakin proved popular with audiences, so rather than just being focused on the exploits of Solo, the duo were permanently teamed up together.

Originally broadcast in black and white, *The Man from UNCLE*

began broadcasting on 22nd September 1964. In the first season the show combined the drama of spy adventures with moments of levity, although as the show continued a more slapstick tone began to creep into the series, inspired partly by the success of the live action Batman in 1966. The change in tone received a negative response from viewers and, despite being renewed for a fourth season, it was cancelled halfway through in January 1968.

CORGI TOYS NO.497 THE MAN FROM UNCLE THRUSH-BUSTER

During the course of its three-year run, *The Man from UNCLE* inspired numerous toys from cars to guns and lots more in between. One of the best and certainly the most famous is Corgi's version of a Man from UNCLE car, known as the THRUSH-BUSTER. Although, as fans of the show will know,



ABOVE

Dress up your action figures in a range of different guises.



ABOVE

It's unlikely Robert Vaughan would be too chuffed with his flabby figure.



ABOVE

Gilbert's replica of Kuryakin is actually pretty decent.



ABOVE

If you couldn't afford a set, you could always buy a single gun.



ABOVE

Corgi's more accurate rendition of The Man from UNCLE car is this Husky/Corgi Juniors model.



ABOVE A pair of Lone Star gun cases. These fantastic sets included numerous accessories and very realistic-looking guns - these probably wouldn't pass the health and safety test nowadays. Lone Star created a number of different briefcases to house the gun sets and they're all extremely attractive pieces.

it didn't look much like the short-lived UNCLE Car, which appeared in the third and fourth seasons of the series. The TV version was a modified Piranha Coupe, a plastic-bodied concept car based on the Chevrolet Corvair chassis, while Corgi's take was based on its previously released Oldsmobile (No.235). Originally released in 1966, the THRUSH-BUSTER including a gun firing function and when a button was pressed on the roof of the car, it made a noise like a gun being shot. Meanwhile, behind the wheel were figures of Solo and Kuryakin, with Solo leaning out the window with his gun drawn – dramatic stuff, we're sure you'll agree. However, perhaps one of the most interesting aspects of the THRUSH-BUSTER is the lack of consistency with colouring. The box shows an orange Oldsmobile, while the actual toy came in either white or metallic purple... perhaps a mix up at the paint

factory? In terms of value, the white edition tends to be worth more, with a top price of around £500, while its purple sibling clocks in around £200.

GILBERT ACTION FIGURES

With GI Joe action figures proving popular in America, toy maker Gilbert decided to make its own action figures based on Solo and Kuryakin. Both had a movable right arm (to simulate aiming a gun) and a cap-firing pistol, along with removable clothing, UNCLE pocket insignia and identification card. The likeness of Kuryakin is pretty good, while Solo looks like he's spent too much time eating pies instead of beating spies. To ensure your figures were ready for any potential missions, Gilbert also made a series of accessories called 'TV action figure apparel' or 'accessories for TV action figures'. Among the items available were an orange UNCLE-branded jumpsuit, cap-firing tommy gun, binoculars, sniper rifle and even disguises.

THE GIRL FROM UNCLE

Perhaps one of the lesser known facts about *The Man from UNCLE* is that it inspired a spin-off series called *The Girl from UNCLE*. In fact, when Ian Fleming originally came up with the concept of the TV show, he teamed Solo up with a female agent called April Dancer. However, April wasn't introduced until February 1966 during an episode called *The Moonglow Affair*. *The Girl from UNCLE* series then followed later that year in September but despite the popularity of the original show and an appearance from Napoleon Solo, it failed to catch on and was cancelled after just one season. However, before it bit the dust, Marx produced an 11-inch doll/action figure of April Dancer complete with a number of different outfits and accessories. It's become a very

rare toy to track down, with one currently listed on eBay with a Buy it Now price of \$1,400(!) and even the accessories can sell for £100 without the doll included. So, despite its failure to set the TV ratings world alight, *The Girl from UNCLE* has certainly had an impact in the world of toy collecting. **CG**



ABOVE

A Girl from UNCLE Garter Holster - perfect for wannabe female spies.

eBay

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



♦ **Item:** Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi R2-D2 figure
Condition: dating from 1983, mint on card, bubble fully sealed
Sold for: £1040 (46 bids)



♦ **Item:** Scalextric Tri-ang 1960s C96 Auto Union Type C racing car
Condition: excellent, clean and ran well when tested
Sold for: £280 (19 bids)



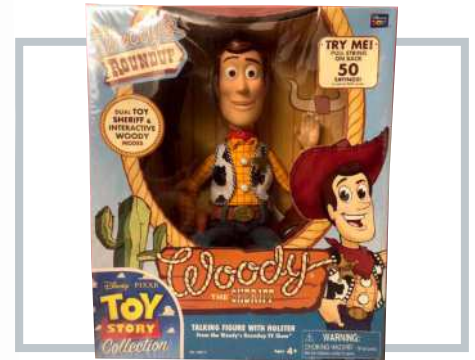
♦ **Item:** Funko Soda NYC Freddy Pizza Chase
Condition: figure, can and POG all in a new condition, a rare collectable
Sold for: £840 (44 bids)



♦ **Item:** Timpco Wild West Series No.278 Indian Hunting Party
Condition: very good original figures, showing small creases to outer box
Sold for: £215 (22 bids)



♦ **Item:** Tri-ang Spot-on Massey Ferguson 65 Tractor
Condition: good for its age, steering worked however box missing several end flaps
Sold for: £1021 (27 bids)



♦ **Item:** Disney Pixar Toy Story Collection Woody the Sheriff talking figure
Condition: as new in original box, fully operational, some age-wear
Sold for: £691.99 (3 bids)



♦ **Item:** Lesney Models of Yesteryear No.7 Leyland 4 Ton Van in W & R Jacob Livery
Condition: good condition, some marks and tarnishing to paint
Sold for: £1949.99 (47 bids)



♦ **Item:** Papier Plastic Xiloplasto Cavalry Soldier figure
Condition: some general wear around the edges but overall very good condition for age
Sold for: £207.88 (14 bids)



♦ **Item:** Transformer Autobot Commander Optimus Prime
Condition: complete, unbroken and boxed in a rare 'Error Box', with original paperwork
Sold for: £686 (23 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Kenner Star Wars Return of the Jedi Yoda Jedi Master figure
Condition: dating from 1983, mint on card, bubble fully sealed
Sold for: £900 (53 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Hotwheels Redline Mongoose Funny Car
Condition: excellent wheel chrome, paint and decals. Blister fully sealed with no cracks
Sold for: £908 (13 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Thinkway Disney Toy Story Collection Buzz Lightyear
Condition: mint condition, in sealed outer box with all original accessories
Sold for: £717 (41 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Corgi Juniors Crime Busters Gift Set
Condition: mint in sealed box, all original vehicles, rare yellow packing version
Sold for: £1700 (2 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Tamagotchi Tamawalkie
Condition: screen was clear and all in excellent working order, with replacement battery
Sold for: £1550 (41 bids)



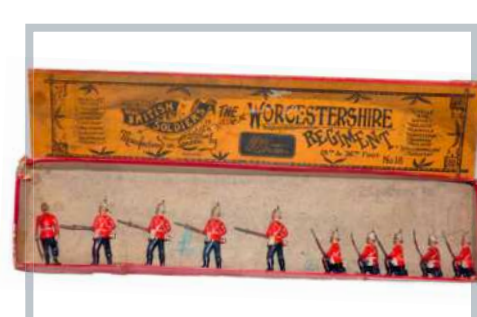
- ♣ **Item:** Playcraft Electric Highways Road System
Condition: untested with original boxes and leaflet, signs of dirt and age wear
Sold for: £636 (3 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Tri-ang Minic Motorway Tri-ang Railway Combination Set
Condition: used but all items included, vehicles ran when tested
Sold for: £310 (5 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** LEGO Star Wars: UCS Millennium Falcon
Condition: brand new in original sealed box, retired set, one owner from new
Sold for: £1550 (38 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** WBritains British Soldiers Set No.18, Worcestershire Regt.
Condition: figures are original from 1890s, box lid missing sides and no insert included
Sold for: £331.99 (12 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** WBritains Miniature Gardening Set No.25, circa 1932-36
Condition: very good to excellent overall, contained in an original lift-off lid box
Sold for: £276.77 (4 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Official WWF Hasbro 1-2-3 Kid wrestling figure
Condition: mint condition, mounted on original card with minor crease
Sold for: £699 (11 bids)



- ♣ **Item:** Pre-War Dinky 24h Sports Tourer 2-seater
Condition: dating from c1935, minor wear (the genuine patina of age) but no trace of zinc pest/fatigue
Sold for: £680 (21 bids)

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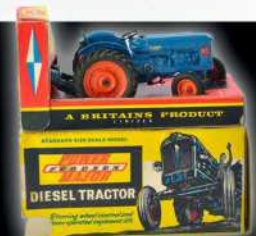


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PRICE GUIDE

Reviewing toy sales around the country this month with Lacy, Scott & Knight, British Toy Auctions and Vectis.



▲ **Linemar (Japan) "Mickey Mouse Movers" Articulated Removals Van**, friction drive tinplate truck has a red cab, black chassis, green/white van body with opening rear doors and locking catch to rear with Mickey Mouse, Minnie, Donald Duck, Daisy, Goofy and Pluto images to van sides together with a "Copyright Walt Disney Productions" to cab roof, some light age related wear and radiator grille and some of the tyres have been repainted otherwise Good Plus. **Sold for £130, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Tipp & Co (Tippco of Germany) 1930's tinplate 6-wheeled Truck**, scarce example is dark grey with cream trim and roof, red chassis, opening drivers door with locking handle, balloon wheels, the rear body has drop sides with working catches. The clockwork motor requires attention but overall the truck is good for display. **Sold for £130, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Martinan et Larnaud (ML Toys of France) large tinplate clockwork Racing Car**, circa 1928, scarce early example finished in orange/green with racing number 36, includes driver figure and tinprinted detail, black chassis, clockwork motor in working order driving rear wheels with integral key. Good plus to excellent example. **Sold for £130, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Mettoy (UK) tinplate clockwork Limousine**, circa 1936, finished in tan colour with cream roof and beige mudguards, balloon wheels, tow hook and chain to rear, clockwork motor in working order driving rear wheels, includes uniformed Chauffeur figure, some nicks and scratches particularly to the roof otherwise a good plus to excellent bright example. **Sold for £170, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Tipp & Co (Tippco US Zone of Germany) tinplate Articulated Truck and Trailer**, circa 1950, blue with grey chassis, balloon wheels, registration number TCO-010, 2-wheeled trailer has drop down sides, the clockwork motor is present but requires attention to the worn gears otherwise good plus. **Sold for £90, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Mettoy large tinplate clockwork Limousine**, British made 4-door car with opening boot, finished in red/cream, resembles a Citroen, some wear to rear of roof and front of wings otherwise a good plus bright example in working order. **Sold for £70, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Tipp & Co (Tippco Germany) tinplate clockwork vintage car**, circa 1930, dark blue with cream roof and trim, clockwork motor is present with integral key, the gearing requires attention and one loose rear wheel otherwise a good plus scarce example. **Sold for £140, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Sutcliffe (UK) "The Sea Wolf" Atomic Submarine**, tinplate clockwork model is yellow, with painted black fittings but does include the propeller and rudder together with a key, rubber bung and clockwork motor in working order - otherwise Good Plus in a Fair card box with some water staining to lid but does include some inner packaging. **Sold for £60, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Wells (UK) tinplate clockwork Racing Car**, circa 1950, red with tinprinted detail, driver figure, repainted panel in front of the cockpit otherwise Good Plus with a motor in working order. **Sold for £50, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Wells (UK) tinplate Sedan De Ville**, cream, with blue roof and wings, includes Chauffeur figure, clockwork motor in working order with integral key, GB plate to rear, bright plated baseplate, some age related wear but otherwise a good plus bright example dating from 1935. **Sold for £90, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Fischer (Germany) tinplate clockwork limousine**, scarce example circa 1920, finished in brown with black roof, trim and running boards, lacks the headlamps, rear stop light and battery compartment and is missing the front sun visor but does include the hinged rear "Stop" panel. The clockwork motor is in working order with the integral key driving the rear balloon wheels and the uniformed chauffeur is present, otherwise a good bright example. **Sold for £110, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Tipp & Co (Tippco of Germany) tinplate clockwork Tipper Truck**, scarce pre-war example is sage green with black trim, (faded) red chassis, balloon wheels, clockwork motor driving rear wheels in working order, tipping body, replacement wire hinge and the inside of the tipping body has been repainted black but does include the uniformed driver with poseable front wheels - otherwise overall good for display. **Sold for £130, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Rossignol (France) tinplate Delahaye Racing Car from the mid 1930's**, clockwork operation, finished in beige with blue/red trim, balloon wheels, lacks driver figure but includes the steering wheel and key. Motor is in working order, some minor age related wear - a good example which still displays well. **Sold for £130, Vectis, October.**



▲ **Mettoy (UK) tinplate clockwork MG style Roadster**, circa 1950s, red, with tinprinted detail including dashboard, 4 x balloon wheels plus spare to rear, GB plate, some fading of the plated parts otherwise good plus to excellent. **Sold for £50, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Chad Valley "Deluxe Express" tinplate clockwork Single Decker Bus**, red/cream "National" livery with a London destination, no key but the motor is in working order driving the front rubber wheels, there is a touch-in to the front of the roof otherwise good plus. *Sold for £90, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Chad Valley 1950's tinplate London Transport Double Decker Bus**, clockwork example is red/cream with tinprinted detail, some manufacturers paint touch-ins to the roof and one corner, the front bonnet section is a different shade of red to the remainder otherwise a good plus example for display, no key but the motor is in working order. *Sold for £30, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Wells Brimtoy large tinplate clockwork Double Decker Bus**, in red "Transport" livery with Brimtoy advertising to each side, tinprinted window and passenger detail, large balloon wheels, some general age related wear but overall a good example circa 1950 for display with motor in working order and integral key. *Sold for £40, Vectis, October.*



♣ **ATC (Japan) tinplate Ferrari Berlinetta 250 Le Mans Racing Car**, scarce example is red, with tinprinted detail including interior, racing number 3, bright plated parts, friction drive in working order driving rear wheels, circa 1970's, light fading to the windscreen surround and small manufacturers re-touch to the front otherwise overall excellent bright example. Comes in a good card box with colourfully illustrated lid and inner packaging. *Sold for £40, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Japanese tinplate "Streamline Electric Sedan"**, scarce tinplate battery-operated American 2-door car from circa 1960, finished in green with black baseplate, some surface corrosion to the battery compartment on the underside otherwise a good plus bright tinplate example, 9.5"/24cm long and comes in a Good card box with period illustration to lid and some inner packaging. *Sold for £45, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Gama (Germany) 400 large tinplate Opel Kapitän**, scarce battery-operated remote control example is light blue, with cream roof, detailed tinprinted interior, bright plated parts, steerable front wheels with whitewall tyres, remote control cable attached, untested but with a clean battery compartment, minor marks to roof and lacks one rear door handle otherwise good plus to excellent. In a fair to good card box. *Sold for £100, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Carette or similar Tinplate German 4 Funnel Clockwork Liner**, scarce example from the early part of the 20th century - originally red hull with cream upper and superstructure, lacks both masts, comes with a key and the clockwork motor is in working order although both propellers need help to start turning, some paint loss otherwise a fair basis for restoration. *Sold for £280, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Jouets Mont Blanc (France) Large Tinplate Caravelle Aircraft**, scarce battery operated model circa 1960's. Finished in cream/blue/silver, lacks decal to the tail plane and untested with a clean battery compartment, otherwise good plus a bright example. *Sold for £80, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Sutcliffe Models (UK) Victor Motor Torpedo Boat**, British made tinplate clockwork boat has a powder blue hull with white deck and superstructure, includes paper bag containing separately applied mast & key, the clockwork motor is in working order and includes propeller and 4 x deck mounted torpedoes, very minor corrosion at some of the joints otherwise excellent plus. *Sold for £50, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Arnold (Germany) 9200 Tinplate Low Loader Trailer**, scarce item with yellow platform, folding ramps, removable gooseneck chassis with single axle and double wheels to the front and twin axles with double wheels to the rear, the drawbar is included but needs re-attachment, otherwise fair to good a scarce example which comes in a fair card box. *Sold for £140, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Arnold 7000 Tinplate Clockwork Perplex Crawler Tractor**, yellow/red, lacks driver figure, made for battery operation, the loose engine cover is secured by wire, lacks a headlamp and the model requires some restoration otherwise a Fair example which includes its original rubber tracks & drawbar pin to the rear. Fair in a fair card box. *Sold for £90, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Junior Products (Japan) large tinplate Lunar Explorer type vehicle**, circa 1970's - silver with plastic fittings, some corrosion marks to the inside of the battery compartment but does have the opening side doors to reveal guns on one side and an Astronaut on the other, otherwise fair to good. *Sold for £35, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Japanese "Super Car" tinplate Space Vehicle**, unlicensed model, probably based on the Super Car vehicle from the 1960's television series - red with tinprinted detail, yellow plastic fittings to wings, retractable Pitot tube to front and fitted with wheels and friction drive mechanism to underside, some nicks and scratches otherwise a good plus example. *Sold for £1500, Vectis, October.*



♣ **Horikawa (SH Toys of Japan) 1960's "Wind Up Gear Robot"**, tinplate body with clear plastic chest revealing gear train, red plastic head and arms with green legs, clockwork motor with integral key in working order produces walking action and gears revolve, some light age related wear but otherwise a good plus to excellent example which displays well and comes in a good card box. *Sold for £220, Vectis, October.*



♣ **KO Toys (Japan) "Friction Powered Atom Robot"**, tinplate clockwork robot from the 1960's, with wind-up clockwork motor in working order using an integral crank type key to the rear, produces an erratic mystery action - metallic grey with tinprinted detail - excellent. *Sold for £170, Vectis, October.*



♣ **KO Toys (Japan) 5023 "High-Wheel Robot"**, scarce 1960's battery-operated tinplate example is metallic blue with clear plastic chest to reveal gear train, tinprinted detail to rear, includes extending mast, red plastic eyes and hands with red tinplate feet, untested but includes a clean battery compartment. Excellent in a fair card box with illustrated lid. *Sold for £170, Vectis, October.*



♣ **MS (China) 453 Tinplate "Bugatti T-35 Racer"**, scarce clockwork example of recent limited edition production, finished in greyish-blue with yellow trim, driver figure, includes key. Near mint to mint including illustrated box. **Sold for £10, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Tinplate "Space Ship" British made by Wells, circa 1960** - gold with red tinprinted detail and plastic rear fins, substantial friction drive motor (a little stiff) and some play wear otherwise overall good. **Sold for £45, Vectis, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man Talking Commander figure with unboxed Field Radio Back Pack.** The eagle-eye, dark brown flock haired, 'muscle' body figure with gripping hands in blue molded trunks and has detached head, otherwise appears to be in good condition. The figure when tested talks in a high pitched sometimes slow voice. Comes with camouflaged combat trousers, green nylon type jumper, and 17th/21st Lancers Officers cap. Outfit and accessories appear very good to excellent. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man Talking figure in Field Training Exercise outfit.** The eagle-eye, blond flock haired, 'muscle' body figure with gripping hands, with detached head and stiff mechanism to eagle-eyes, in good condition overall. The figure talks in a fast high pitched voice. Comes with overalls, Tank Regiment beret and SLR rifle with plastic strap. Outfit and accessories appear good to very good. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man Liverpool FC Footballer figure with sideburns.** Dark brown flock haired, figure with sideburns, features gripping hands, in good to good plus condition with some signs of age. The figure comes with red shirt, red shorts, red socks, red jacket - outfit appears fair plus to good with signs of age and play. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A boxed Action Man Soldier with Gripping Hands.** The dark brown flock haired figure, appears to be in very good condition overall with some age related hardening to hands. The figure in Soldier outfit comes with woolen jumper, muffler, green fabric beret, belt, trousers, boots, SLR rifle with plastic strap and hand cup. Accessories and outfit appear very good. Box (1975) appears fair to fair plus. **Sold for £75, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A boxed vintage Palitoy Action Man Talking Commander.** The eagle-eye, dark brown flock haired, 'muscle' body figure with gripping hands in blue molded trunks, is marked 'General Mills Toy Group Europe © 1975' to rear of torso and has detached head otherwise appears Good. The figure when tested talks. The figure comes with camouflaged combat trousers, green nylon type jumper, scarf, black boots, belt, gun, holster, SAS Officers cap, Action Man ID tag, Eagle Eyes leaflet and Star Card. Outfit and accessories appear very good to excellent. Ephemera has been acetated. Box appears fair missing top flaps, with some storage wear, and is bound in acetate / cellophane. **Sold for £110, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A boxed vintage Action Man Soldier with Gripping Hands.** Blonde flock haired figure appears to be in very good condition overall with some age related hardening to right hand. The figure in Soldier outfit comes with woolen jumper, muffler, green fabric beret, belt, trousers, boots, SLR rifle with plastic strap, hand cup, Gripping Hands leaflet, plus Action Man Equipment Manual. Accessories and outfit appear very good. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A boxed vintage Palitoy / Miro Meccano Action Man 'Special Operations' Eagle-Eye figure.** Naked blonde flock haired, 'muscle' body figure with gripping hands and has detached head, otherwise appears very good plus condition with some minor marks to body. The figure comes with Collectors Card leaflet and Sharpshooter leaflet which appear excellent contained in what appears to be original sealed bag. Box very good with minor taping and some slight fading on one side, plus general wear. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man figure in Afrika Korp outfit.** The eagle-eye, blond flock haired, 'muscle' body figure with gripping hands in blue molded trunks, is marked '© 1CPG Products Corporation 1978' to rear of torso, with detached head otherwise appears Very Good - Excellent condition. Figure comes with tunic with insignia to sleeve, trousers, helmet (missing strap) plus cap, binoculars, webbing, scabbard (no bayonet), boots, KAR 98 rifle, water bottle, stick grenades x 2. Outfit and accessories appear Good to Very Good overall. The figure is presented in an unassociated display box. **Sold for £110, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man Royal Military Policeman (RMP) figure.** The blond flock haired, gripping hands figure, appears to be in good - very good condition with a small bald area to rear of head. The figure comes with tunic, shirt, trousers, tie, boots, belt, truncheon, MP armband, red cap, Sterling machine gun with clip, plus Action Man tag on chain. Outfit and accessories appear to be in very good condition. The figure is presented in an unassociated display box. **Sold for £75, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man 'Talking' British Infantryman figure.** The brown painted hard head, hard hands figure and appears to be in good condition overall. The figure when tested talks but in a slow deep voice. The figure comes with tunic and trousers ('Battledress'), boots (lace-up), helmet, belt, gaiters, gas mask, gas mask bag, Sten sub machine gun rubber strap with clip, canteen and cover, Victoria Cross Medal. Outfit and accessories appear to be in good to very good condition. VC medal is missing one fastener. The figure is presented in an unassociated display box. **Sold for £55, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man figure in Mine Detection outfit.** The eagle-eye, blond flock haired, 'muscle' body figure with gripping hands in blue molded trunks, is marked '© CPG Products Corporation 1978' to rear of torso with detached head, otherwise appears to be in very good condition overall. The figure comes with battery operated mine detector, webbing harness, helmet, boots, trousers, and four danger signs. Outfit and accessories appear good - very good. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man Red Devil Parachutist figure.** Black flock haired, gripping hands figure, appears to be in good overall condition with some signs of play. The figure comes with red jumpsuit, barn door parachute pack with orange parachute, helmet, goggles, boots, reserve chute pack. Outfit and accessories appear to be in fair plus to good condition with some slight fading to jumpsuit, and slight tears on parachute pack hinges, with black tape to top and bottom. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Eagle-Eye Action Man figure in Polar Explorer outfit.** The blonde flock haired, figure with gripping hands, appears good to very good. The figure comes with orange anorak, jersey, over-trousers, gloves, boots, rucksack, goggles, skis, ski poles and sextant. Outfit and accessories appear good to excellent (some slight fading to orange anorak). Figure comes with unassociated display box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man in Field Commander outfit with Field Radio.** The blonde flock haired, figure with hard hands, appears good overall with some balding to rear of head and some glue marks along left side of face on hairline. The figure comes with 17th/21st Lancers Officers cap, jersey, trousers, muffler, pistol belt, holster, pistol, boots, headset with wire; plus field radio, radio cover. Outfit and accessories appear good to very good with signs of light play. Radio untested. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man figure in Royal Marines Mountain & Artic outfit.** The eagle-eye, blonde flock haired, 'muscle' body figure with gripping hands in blue molded trunks, has detached head otherwise appears very good. The figure comes with Snow suit top, trousers, boots, khaki cap, skis, Ski poles, rifle, belt, bayonet, scabbard, 2 x pouches, gloves, goggles - outfit and accessories appear very good - excellent. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man figure in Mountaineer outfit.** The eagle-eye, black flock haired, "muscle" body figure with gripping hands in blue molded trunks and has detached head otherwise appears good to very good. The figure comes with orange anorak, orange helmet, goggles, jersey knee breeches, socks, boots, ice hammer, ice axe, crampons, pitons, carabiners, rope, rope ladder, 4 x sucker cups - outfit and accessories appear good to excellent (some slight fading to orange anorak). **Sold for £65, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man figure in Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) outfit with 'Brutus' the dog.** The blonde flock haired bearded figure with hard hands, appears good plus with some minor hair loss mainly on top of head. The figure comes with red tunic, riding breeches, jackboots, belt and cross-belt, holster, revolver with string lanyard, hat - outfit and accessories appear good overall with some slight fading and fraying to tunic. Brutus appears good plus slightly dusty, stamped 'Made in Hong Kong No.102' and comes with collar and chain - excellent. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man in German Stormtrooper outfit.** Blonde painted hard head figure with hard hands, appears good to very good overall with signs of play. The figure comes with tunic, trousers, jackboots, helmet, cartridge belt, 2 x triple cartridge sections, Luger pistol, holster, field pack, 2 x 'stick' grenades, Schmeisser MP40 sub machine gun with folding stock, and Iron Cross. Outfit and accessories appear good to very good with signs of play. Figure comes with unassociated display box. **Sold for £85, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man in Frogman outfit.** Due to the delicate nature of the of Frogman suit it is hard to ascertain the body type of the figure. The suit has perished, hardened and decayed in several areas. There are some paint marks to suit hood. Overall appearing poor to fair. Figure comes equipped with face mask, swim fins, air cylinders, knife, scabbard, wrist depth gauge, 3 dynamite sticks, harpoon. Accessories appear good. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man in Jungle Explorer outfit.** Dark brown flock haired figure with hard hands, appears very good overall with some light surface marks to body. The figure comes with green tropical jacket, trousers, bush hat, boots, revolver, holster, webbing belt, machete (brown handle), sheath, jungle knife, scabbard, rifle, small pack, divers knife and leg scabbard. Outfit and accessories show signs of play / display ranging fair plus to good. Tunic slightly faded, tear in holster and machete sheath, small marks on trousers. Figure comes with unassociated display box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man figure in US Paratrooper outfit.** Blonde flock haired eagle-eye figure with gripping hands, in moulded blue trunks with 'muscle' body, with detached head - otherwise excellent condition overall. The figure comes with jacket, trousers, trouser ties, plastic webbing, M1 Rifle, canteen, brown boots, helmet with chin strap, binoculars. Outfit and accessories show signs of play wear ranging fair plus to very good. Figure comes with unassociated display box. **Sold for £60, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Palitoy Action Man figure in Medic outfit.** Dark brown flock haired figure with hard hands, appears very good overall with signs of play and light marks to body. The figure comes with shirt, trousers, black boots, Red Cross armband, stretcher, Red Cross flag, two rolled bandages, Medical Box, Helmet, stethoscope, crutch, syringe, four signs. Outfit and accessories fair plus to good with some fading to front of shirt and trousers, age wear on medical box. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, October.**



♣ **A Canadian made G.I. JOE / Action Man figure in Infantry Support Weapons outfit.** Blonde flock haired figure with hard hands, appears good to very good overall. The figure comes with 81mm mortar with elevation chain, 3x mortar rounds, M60 heavy machine gun, bi-pod, ammo strip, bullet-proof vest, grenades x2, belt and pouch. Outfit and accessories show signs of play and display ranging fair plus to very good, with some fading to uniform, plus the bullet proof vest has one fastened popper detached at one side. Figure comes with unassociated 'yellowed' display box. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, October.**



▲ Wrenn W2228 'City of Birmingham' loco and tender, BR lined green. Very small chip near to top of tender one side. Excellent, box very good, no packer number, tape marks match. **Sold for £70, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Wrenn W2235 'Barnstaple' loco and tender, BR lined green, excellent in fair to good non-original box, hand-written description, packer number torn, tape marks don't match. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ EDL7 Hornby-Dublo 3-rail 0-6-2 post-war tank loco 1/2" motor Southern 2594, slight scuffing to lettering. A few marks to body and very slight corrosion to handrails, very good to excellent. Non-original excellent picture box. **Sold for £380, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Hornby-Dublo 3-rail 3218, 2-6-4 tank loco BR 80059. Nickel silver driving wheels, pony and bogie wheels plastic. Front coupling metal, rear coupling plastic. Transfers faded and with small chips. Overall shows some playwear, good in good box. Instructions and guarantee. **Sold for £95, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Wrenn W2229 'City of Glasgow' loco and tender, BR lined blue. Chips to footplate edge, tender axles rusted, wheels will benefit by cleaning. Good with good box. **Sold for £70, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Wrenn W2212 'Sir Nigel Gresley' loco and tender, LNER blue No.7, coupling from tender to loco broken, very good to excellent, no packer number, tape marks match. **Sold for £50, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Post-war Hornby-Dublo 3-rail EDG7 goods set, comprising EDL7 0-6-2 LMS 6917 tank engine black, with three LMS goods wagons – open, goods van & goods van (all good), with track and D1 controller. Box base and lid heavily taped and damaged. **Sold for £30, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Hornby-Dublo 3-rail 3218, 2-6-4 tank loco BR 80059. Nickel silver driving wheels, pony and bogie wheels plastic. Plastic couplings. Transfers faded and with small chips. Very good to excellent, with instructions. **Sold for £170, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Wrenn W2229 'City of Glasgow' loco and tender, BR lined blue. Both loco and tender have been over-varnished, very well done. Bogie wheels replaced with those of a finer scale. Good in a very good box. No packer number. **Sold for £65, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Wrenn W2223 'Windsor Castle' loco and tender, BR lined blue, excellent with instructions. No packer number, tape marks match. **Sold for £85, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ 2211 Hornby-Dublo 2-rail loco & tender 'Golden Fleece', BR lined green, small chip 1/h side of cab roof, with spanner, with 'Flying Scotsman' headboard, excellent with instructions. **Sold for £40, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Wrenn W2241 'Duchess of Hamilton' loco and tender, LMS lined black. Excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ W2211 Wrenn loco and tender 'Mallard', BR lined green, TLC, slight tarnishing to handrails, excellent, packer no.3. Tape marks match. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Pre-war Hornby-Dublo clockwork 0-6-2 goods set DG7, box incomplete contents – no loco. Complete circle of clockwork track with one full and one half straight, all very good. GW open wagon, GW goods brake. Box base is original but with three repro fittings. Lid is totally repro but with original box label on the top. End label 'DG7' and GW sticker appear to be repro. **Sold for £90, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ 2235 Hornby-Dublo 2-rail 'Barnstaple' 4-6-2 loco and tender, excellent to near mint in an excellent box, with instructions and guarantee. **Sold for £100, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Wrenn W2225A 2-8-0 8F freight loco and tender, black with unshaded yellow transfers. Excellent to near mint, box very good, no packer number. Tape marks match, with instructions. **Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ W2226 Wrenn loco & tender 'City of London', BR maroon, unlined tender, excellent to near mint, Dublo coupling in box. Packer no.3. No tape mark on base of box. **Sold for £60, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Post-war Hornby-Dublo 3-rail EDG7 GWR 0-6-2 tank loco 6699, green. Transfers very faded and overall dull appearance, good to very good. **Sold for £80, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ 2211 Hornby-Dublo 2-rail A4 loco and tender 'Golden Fleece.' Handrails tarnished, slightly dull appearance overall, good to excellent, tender has a chip adjacent to coal at top on 1/h side, box very good to excellent. **Sold for £50, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 1138 Car Transporter with Ford Tilt Cab H series tractor unit and trailer, comprising of red and blue body with cast wirework hubs, housed in the original sliding tray box with protective packing piece, both mirrors are missing as is one box inner flap, near mint. **Sold for £110, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 1121 Chipperfields Circus crane truck, comprising of red and blue body with silver crane and light blue hubs, housed in the original blue & yellow all-card box with packing piece and two leaflets, slight paint flaw to one front wheel arch, near mint. **Sold for £55, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 468 London Transport Routemaster Bus, red body, spun hubs with Church's Shoes livery, a very small amount of paint loss around 'London Transport' and 'Church's Shoes' decals to one side of the bus, and one small advert missing, a clean and crisp box with very minimal wear, 9/6 written in pen to one end. Excellent in near mint box. **Sold for £65, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 805, Hardy Boys Rolls Royce Silver Ghost with figures, slight damage to the hood ornament and splits in the protective plastic figure window, sold in the original blue and yellow window box. Excellent in very good box. **Sold for £160, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 224 Bentley Continental, in two-tone green and fitted with a red interior and jewelled lights, housed in a good original Corgi blue and yellow picture sided box. Near mint in good box. **Sold for £50, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 315 Simca 1000 Competition Model, comprising of a chrome body with red interior and blue, red and white racing stripe with spun hubs and racing No. 8 housed in the original blue & yellow card box. Very near mint. **Sold for £75, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 321 BMC Mini Cooper S "Rallye Monte Carlo", with red body and interior, white roof with "autographs", spun hubs, racing number 2 and jewelled headlights, housed in the original pictorial yellow card box with 1966 Monte Carlo label applied. Very near mint. **Sold for £290, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 249 Mini Cooper Deluxe, with wickerwork sides, comprising of a black body, wickerwork sides and red roof, complete with spun hubs and jewelled headlights, in the original blue & yellow ground card box, very near mint. **Sold for £100, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 216 Austin A40 saloon, blue body with dark blue roof and silver trim, flat spun hubs, in the original blue & yellow all card box. Very near mint. **Sold for £95, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 412 Bedford Utecon ambulance, comprising of cream body with glazing and flat spun hubs complete with ambulance decals, housed in the original blue ground all-card box. Very good to near mint in excellent box. **Sold for £120, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 511 Chipperfields Performing Poodles Gift Set, comprising of a Chevrolet Impala delivery van, with poodles, Mary Chipperfield figure and green play base, housed in the original window display blue & yellow card box, the interior bubble section is as new, excellent example. Near mint in very near mint box. **Sold for £200, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 313 Ford Cortina, in bronze complete with Graham Hill figure in near mint condition, comes in the original and much more difficult to find "Whizzwhells" misspelled window style box, small tape repair to the box window, near mint. **Sold for £90, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys Gift Set 26 Beach Buggy and Sailing Boat, finished in purple with driver figure and plastic sailing boat with sail, near mint. **Sold for £95, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 1139 "Chipperfields Circus" Scammell Handyman Menagerie, finished in red, blue, cast hubs with 3 x Animal Cages and 6 correct animal figures, in the original blue and yellow window box, with polystyrene inner tray, near mint to excellent. **Sold for £150, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys Gift Set 36 Tarzan, contains Jungle Land Rover with animal trailer, a dingy on a trailer, tree house, Tarzan, Jayne, Boy and Cheetah, hunter figure, lion, elephant, crocodile & snake, vines plus 3-D jungle card panorama, in near mint original condition, the outer card box is in excellent condition, slight split to the plastic inner. Near mint. **Sold for £520, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 472 Public Address Vehicle "Vote for Corgi", comprising a green body with yellow back and spun hubs, comes complete with two figures, in an original blue and yellow picture card box, mint. **Sold for £90, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys No. 487 Chipperfields Circus Land Rover Parade vehicle, red body with blue back, standing figure, and monkey figure, housed in the original blue & yellow card box with packing piece, very near mint. **Sold for £85, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



▲ Corgi Toys Gift Set 23 Chipperfields Circus set, comprising of No. 1121 crane truck, 2x No. 1123 animal cages, 503 TK giraffe truck, and Chipperfields Land Rover with elephant cage trailer, 2 polar bear figures, 2 lions and 2 giraffe figures, all models have some light play wear, in the original polystyrene tray box with pictorial lift-off lid box, the polystyrene is quite worn and the box lid has been repaired. **Sold for £140, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ **Corgi Toys No. 1103 Euclid TC12 twin crawler tractor**, comprising of a green body with grey tracks and plastic seats, with driver figure, housed in the original lift-off lid card box with model club leaflet and packing piece, near mint. **Sold for £130, Lacy, Scott & Knight, October.**



♣ **Britains Valley Forge Limited Edition (10/10)** comprising: 5th Inniskilling Dragoon Guard Trooper Depicted in No.1 Dress Carrying Sterling SMG. Mint overall contained in a near mint set box (inside lid Stamped: "10 of 10"). **Sold for £240, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Britains Limited Editions Set 5186 Welsh Guards (1986 only)**, boxed in the style of original Britain's sets with Yellow Label & Cream Insert Card. This set only remained on sale in this format for the original year of issue. Near mint overall (minor display wear), contained unstrung in a near mint set box complete with original Limited Edition Certificate and matched outer sleeve. **Sold for £30, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Britains Archive Collection, 120th Anniversary Editions**, comprising: Limited Edition (181/250) Model No. 50043C Royal Horse Guards Trooper (1893 Set No.2). Mint, contained in a mint set box, complete with Limited Edition Certificate. Rare issue, one of the first examples to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £15, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Britains The British Army in India Range, Set 8848 (1st Issue) The Delhi Durbar, 1903**, comprising: Set 8848 The State Elephant of the Viceroy of India, comprising: Elephant in Ceremonial Dress with Silver Howdah, Mahout, Parasol Man & Lord & Lady Curzon. Near mint overall, contained in a near mint set box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Britains Special Collectors Editions (Durbar Range)**, comprising: Set 40184 The Maharajah of Bikanir's State Elephant. The scarcest of the Britains Elephant sets to find. Mint, contained in a near mint (some storage wear to lid edge and base corner) set box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Britains Trooping the Colour Range**, comprising: Set 00254 - The Irish State Coach. Mint, contained in a mint set box. **Sold for £60, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Britains Modern Issues Collectors Club Golden Jubilee Series, 2004, Set 40259 The Prime Ministers State Coach**. Mint overall, contained in a mint set box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Britains Special Collectors Editions, Set 40188 (Special 2001 Issue) The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery**. Mint, contents are still factory wrapped, in a mint set box. **Sold for £70, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Charbens Panorama Series Set 4340 Wild West Display Set, circa 1964**, comprising: Prairie Schooner with 2 x Horse Team & Driver, Mounted Cowboy, 6 x Cowboys depicted in action poses, Squaw with Papoose, 2 x Chiefs, 5 x Indian Warriors on Foot depicted in various action poses, Totem Pole and Campfire. Some minor paint chipping otherwise generally excellent overall, contained (strung) in a generally very good (some old repairs to lid) PS set box with illustrated lid. Rare, the first example of this set to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £90, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Charbens Circus Series, post-War issue**, comprising: Clown (Policeman) running with truncheon. Some minor paint loss otherwise generally excellent overall. **Sold for £30, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Crescent Coronation Coach Set, 1950s Issue**, comprising: Small Scale State Coach (shaft and rear wheel broken but present), 8 x Horse Team with 4 x Drivers. Poor to fair overall, contained in a generally very good "Flag" illustrated set box. **Sold for £10, Vectis, October.**



♣ **John Hill & Co Golfer, pre-War Issue**, comprising: Golfer in reddish brown jacket and brown trousers, swinging golf club with golf ball moulded into base. Minor paint chipping otherwise generally excellent overall. Rare to find complete, the first example of this colour variant to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £35, Vectis, October.**



♣ **John Hill & Co Railway Series, Passengers**, comprising: Old Woman in fur trimmed dark brown coat. Near excellent overall. The rarest of the Hill Railway Passengers to find. **Sold for £20, Vectis, October.**



♣ **John Hill & Co Large Scale 65mm Scale Railway Staff, pre-War issue**, comprising: Standing Station Master and Standing Guard with Flag. Generally excellent overall, rare. **Sold for £30, Vectis, October.**



♣ **John Hill & Co Greenhouse**, comprising: red brick base walls with white painted "glazed" framework, green card base, hinged end panels with doors and fixed internal benches. Minor age wear otherwise generally excellent overall. **Sold for £90, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Toy Army Workshop Set BS106A**, comprising: double open limber set with 3 Gunners (peaked caps). Near mint overall (minor display wear), contained in a near mint TAW set box. **Sold for £90, Vectis, October.**



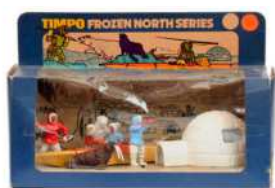
♣ **Toy Army Workshop Set BS 173**, comprising: Model T Ford Signals Section (C/W driver and 4 Signallers in steel helmets). Generally near mint (minor display wear) overall, contained in a near mint TAW Set box. **Sold for £140, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Catapult Set, early 1960s issue in pictorial box, comprising:** 4 x wheel Siege Catapult complete with bubble firing band. Near mint overall, contained in a generally near mint 1st Issue pictorial set box. Rare, 1st Issue. **Sold for £40, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Farm Series, "Farmyard" Set, circa 1972, comprising:** Barn, Tree, Shire Horse, Duck with Ducklings and Farmer Carrying Hay bale. Mint overall, contained in (plain pictorial insert) a generally excellent (minor storage wear) Farm Series window display box. From the collection of Michael Maughan. Rare, the first example to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £90, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Frozen North Series Set 299 Kayak Set, circa 1974, comprising:** Igloo, Kayak with Paddler, Hunter with Harpoon, Hunter with Rifle, Walrus and Polar Bear. Mint overall, contained in (themed pictorial insert) a generally excellent (minor storage wear) Frozen North Series window display box. From the personal collection of Michael Maughan author of "Timpo Model Toys, The A-Z of Timpo". **Sold for £140, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Modern Army Series Set 309 Bazooka Set, 1972 issue, comprising:** 3 x German Infantryman, U.S. Bazooka Crew on Base with Bricks & spare Ammunition, Tree and Ruined Wall Section. Mint overall, contained strung in a generally excellent (some minor storage wear and slight cellophane creasing) window display box with illustrated insert. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Modern Army Series Set 311 Mortar Set, 1975/6 issue, comprising:** German Mortar with 2 x Crew, Tree, Sandbag Emplacement & 3 x American G.I. 's in various action poses. Mint overall, contained strung in a generally excellent (some minor storage wear and slight cellophane creasing/split) window display box with illustrated insert. **Sold for £80, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Modern Army Series Set 308 Underwater Submarine, 1972 issue, comprising:** 3 x British Infantryman, Submarine with 2 x Frogmen and Ruined Building Wall Section. Mint overall, contained strung in a generally excellent (some minor storage wear and slight cellophane creasing) window display box with illustrated insert. Rare, the first example to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £120, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Wild West Wagon Series Set 270 Stage Coach, 1972 Issue, comprising:** 2 x Horse Team, Driver & Coach with Luggage. Mint overall, contained strung in a generally excellent (some minor storage wear and slight cellophane creasing) window display box with illustrated insert. Rare to find in this condition. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Wild West Series Set 272 Buckboard, 1970 Issue, comprising:** 4 x Wheel Open Wagon With Driver, Seated Cowboy with Rifle, 2 x Horse Team & Grain Sacks. Mint overall, contained strung in a generally excellent (some minor storage wear and slight cellophane creasing) window display box with illustrated insert. **Sold for £240, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Wild West Series Set No 271, 1970 Issue, comprising:** Covered Wagon with 2 x Horse Team & 4th Series Cowboy Driver. Mint overall, contained in a generally excellent (some minor storage wear) photograph type display box. From the personal collection of Michael Maughan author of "Timpo Model Toys, The A-Z of Timpo" - 1st - 4th Editions, 1995/2020. Rare the first example to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £80, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Solids Wild West Range, circa 1965, comprising:** 12 x Cowboys on Foot Depicted in Various Action Poses. Unpainted as issued. Amongst the first Timpo figures designed purely for plastic production by Norman Tooth. Mint overall, contained (sealed bag) on a generally excellent illustrated header card. From the personal collection of Michael Maughan author of "Timpo Model Toys, The A-Z of Timpo" - 1st - 4th Editions, 1995/2020. Very rare the first example to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £120, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Solids Waterloo Range, circa 1965, comprising:** 12 x Battle of Waterloo [4 x French / 4 x British / 4 x Prussian] on foot depicted in various action poses. Unpainted as issued. Amongst the first Timpo figures designed purely for plastic production by Norman Tooth. Mint overall, contained on a generally excellent illustrated header card. From the personal collection of Michael Maughan author of "Timpo Model Toys, The A-Z of Timpo" - 1st - 4th Editions, 1995/2020. Very rare the first example to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Timpo Set 1802 Medieval Castle 1971 issue, comprising:** coloured scenic card layout sheet, 21 multi part snap together grey polystyrene castle in sections (parts unchecked but believed complete), 3 x trees, 4 x ladders, flag pole with banner, 4 x Knights (including 1 mounted) and 4 x crusaders (including 1 mounted). Generally near mint overall, contained in a generally near mint pictorial set box. Timpo. Rare to find in this condition. **Sold for £140, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Herald Wild West Range Set 7601 Dismounted Cowboys & Indians, issued 1954-59, comprising:** 4 x Cowboys on Foot & 4 x Indians on Foot depicted in various action poses. Some paint chipping otherwise generally very good overall, contained strung in a generally excellent (some minor storage wear/restoration, end label absent) Herald "Cartoon" style label set box. **Sold for £100, Vectis, October.**



♣ **Britains Herald Series Set H. 7402 Cavaliers and Roundheads 1641 to 1649, circa 1962/63, final issue export set, comprising:** Mounted Cavalier Officer & 4 x Cavalier Types on Foot & Roundhead Officer & 4 x Roundhead Types on Foot (different colour variants). Some minor paint chips otherwise near mint overall, now contained in a generally near mint (minor storage wear) "9000" Series final issue window display box with: "Britains Ltd. Cavaliers and Roundheads 1641 to 1649 (10 pieces)" end label. This process (exporting surplus figures/package) was used by Britains on a number of occasions following the deletion of stock ranges as it served to effectively dispose of both defunct figures and packaging. Extremely rare, the first example of this variant to be sold by Vectis. **Sold for £700, Vectis, October.**

Great Fairs to Be At - Great Fairs to Buy At

BOLTON STADIUM **SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER**

10.30am - 3pm

THE PREMIER SUITE, BOLTON STADIUM, HORWICH,
NR. BOLTON, BL6 6SF.

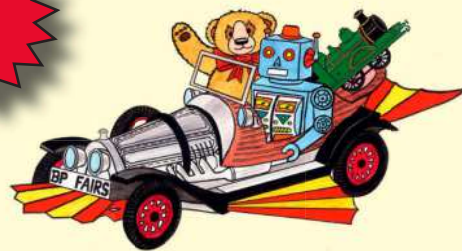
Only 500 yards from junction 6 of the M61 motorway. **Free Parking** for thousands of cars. Horwich Parkway Railway Station is just 200 yards from the Stadium.

Early Bird Entry from 8am £8.

Adults £4, Senior Citizens £3.50, Children £1

THE BIG ONE IN THE NORTH WEST

280
STALLS



STAFFORD SHOWGROUND **SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER**

10.30am - 3pm

THE PRESTWOOD AND ARGYLE SUITES, STAFFORD COUNTY
SHOWGROUND, WESTON ROAD, STAFFORD, ST18 0BD

Situated on the A518 Stafford to Uttoxeter road. Signposted from junction 14 of the M6 motorway. **Free parking.**

Early Bird Entry from 8am £8.

Adults £4, Senior Citizens £3.50, Children £1

A GREAT WEST MIDLANDS TOY FAIR

MORE THAN
300
STALLS



COVENTRY **SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER**

10.30am - 3pm

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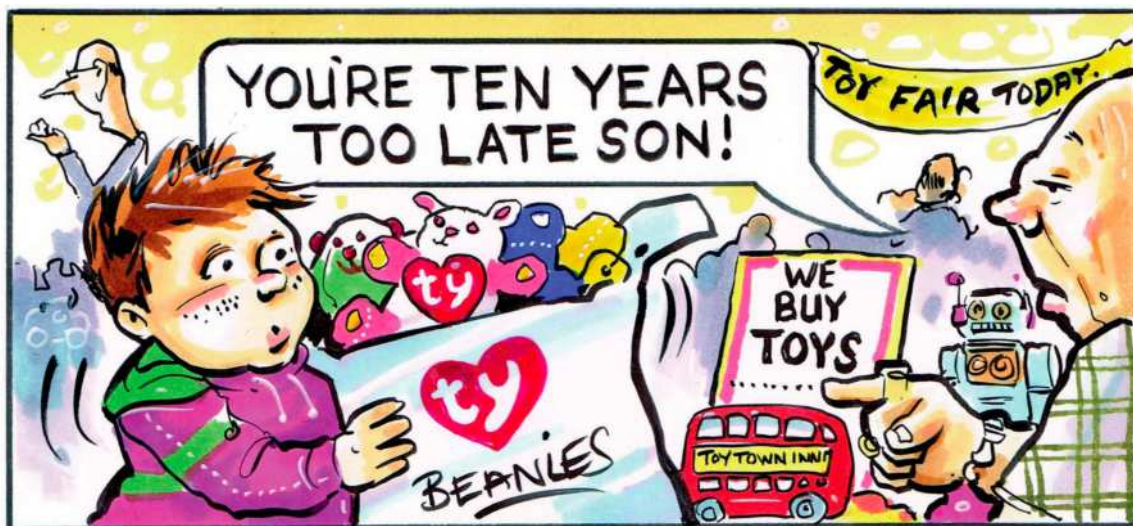
Early Bird Entry from 8am £8.

Adults £4, Senior Citizens £3.50, Children £1

THE BIG ONE IN THE NORTH WEST

280
STALLS





Toy Stories

Ed Karswell remembers short-lived toy crazes... both good and bad!

Just like the classic car magazines, doing endless buying guides to MGB's, the collecting community can also be driven to distraction by the endless reviews of media favourites. The British press are notorious for getting hold of something, wringing the enthusiasm out of it and then moving on to the next 'big' thing.

As a random example let's go back a few decades to the launch of the Smurf figurines. Does anybody now remember the rare Smurf Astronaut? Cod-eyed families would pose on the front of *The Sun* newspaper alongside 'We're rich!' headlines whilst clutching the aforementioned Smurf. Okay so I may have exaggerated but you hopefully get the gist. Next up came the McDonalds Happy Meal toy craze. Toy fairs became infested with the things, much to the consternation to the purveyors of fine tinplate and diecast who believed that even being in the same building with such things would de-value their stock.

The Happy Meal craze was to pale into insignificance once the Beanie Babies arrived. Now, I'm not casting aspersions on the product itself but watching grown men (passive sexism, my apologies) the size of Hulk Hogan

fight it out like toddlers over stalls of tiny stuffed animals should only be seen once, believe me.

The daddy of them all and if I've missed any out, I don't care, was the 1980s Yesteryear boom. Why, because it worked on so many levels. Even Joe Public wasn't satisfied until their corner cabinet was crammed to the gunnels with a collection of garishly liveried vans to show off to their neighbours. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm a huge fan of Matchbox, both the company and the products but it had all got, well, a bit *George and Mildred*.

That other craze, *Star Wars* was almost going the same way, saved only by the phenomenal line of films and the fact that it seems to transcend everything including popular culture. How else could you explain more than a few people listing their religion as Jedi in the Census return?

At the time of writing some things seem impervious to the rise and fall. Did I mention Matchbox? Well, the 1-75 range followers are a cult unto themselves and I cut my collecting teeth on them so I have some experience here. They were proper pocket money toys and often sold in local shops which I think gives them more of a place in family life. Aside

from their quality, like Dinky and Corgi they had a carefully curated image which is still regarded as a 'cool' look today even among non-collectors.

Palitoy's Action Man is another range that has an ardent fan base. For many years shunned by the mainstream, I can remember in the late 80s, a toy fair dealer complaining loudly to the organiser that he did not want a stall selling Action Man beside him. Again, in the UK it is a toy that's almost unique in its quality and look.

However, this is the story now. Dinky Toys, once the byword for both collectability and investment, have seen their stock fall in recent years. I have been snapping up nice Dinky toys for less than I would have paid 30 years ago. Of course, there are exceptions, rare colour variants and pre-War issues being just a couple. I suppose the nostalgia that was the original market driver has come to the end of the road and let's face it, that was one very long road! The same applies to many of the old guard including model railways, both 00 and 0 gauge. I recently witnessed a discussion between enthusiasts bemoaning the fact that Bassett Lowke no longer seemed the hedge against inflation it once was.

It will take some time to sink in and until then places like eBay will be full of vintage toys priced up at yesterday's money.

Oh, and before I forget, what of lead figures, collected even before interest in Dinky toys blossomed? Whilst the military side may be slightly in the doldrums it would seem civilian figures have a far broader appeal. Some of this is no doubt due to their reflection of social history and the fact that there is still so much to learn and discover about the subject. This may be part of the problem for some collectables. When so much is known doesn't that take away some of the fun? The internet, that gave us everything at our fingertips, is becoming less about hunting out rarities and more about affording them.

You may well be thinking, "well every dog has their day" and it should come as no surprise that the toy market is just like any other, subject to the same fads and change. For those entering the hobby it may be that the once unaffordable can now be acquired. For those looking at their collections as a pension pot it may not look quite so rosy. Well, we all know the old adage, "Don't collect for investment, buy what you like". **CG**

MrD Slot Drag Racing

Ann Evans gets out and about to visit model and collectors clubs up and down the country.

Photos by Rob Tysall

MrD Slot Drag Racing club, as the name implies, is all about slot car racing – the vehicles all being dragsters, souped up to reach speeds of 50mph plus in 0.7 of a second. The members meet to race their own dragsters, and when not racing they might be tinkering with motors, painting the bodywork of their cars, or building new models. MrD (the founder of the club) is Steven Dudley of Chelmsford, Essex, a retired Ford mechanic.

The club was established in 2011 after Steven was introduced to Slot Drag Racing at the Slot Rally GB in September 2006. He was instantly hooked on this exciting form of racing and has helped organise events and promote the hobby of scale Slot Drag Racing in the UK ever since.

“I’ve had a lot of help along the way from the people at MrC (Medway Rod and Custom Club) and several others,” he said. “In an effort to gain knowledge and experience, I raced with my son, Matt, in Malta, Germany and France, making valuable friends along the way.

“I finished building the MrD Slot Drag Racing track in January 2011, with help from the members of the Rebel Rousers Car Club and MrC. Since then, we’ve held many events in Chelmsford, Essex, Hoo and Higham in Kent and more recently South Weald in Essex. Our club is also a regular attraction at the UK Slot Car festival and several



LEFT

L-R: Matthew Dudley, Alec Quarman, Dave Allen, Steven Dudley, alias Mr D.

BELOW LEFT

Great fun for all ages.



to adults, with their cars being automatically timed to a fraction of a second. They run three different classes at races. Basically, the difference between the three classes being the motors. Briefly they are:

- **Gasser Class:** Cars must weigh 140 grams with the wheelie bar being 3 inches. These cars will reach speeds of 35 mph in 1 second.
- **The Crazy Horse Class:** There’s no weight limit. Cars can reach 45 mph in 0.8 of a second.
- **The Outlaw Class:** No weight limit. Cars are fitted with a CR106 motor. These will do 50 mph plus, in 0.7 of a second.

“The CR106 motor is half the price and quicker,” said MrD, who is responsible for building the majority of the dragsters in their club. He explained that usually he builds the chassis from bits of stainless-steel tubing and plate soldered together. The wheels, tyres and motors he imports from America. Members buy the body they want for their car which might be as a kit in plastic or resin. It might still be in the bare materials for the owner to paint and decorate as they wish. Or it might come wholly assembled, painted and the decal and detail added.

Many of the slot cars are replicas of well-known, full-sized dragsters, so

local car club shows.”

Collectors Gazette caught up with MrD, his son, Matt and other members of his club at the UK Slot Car Festival held at the British

Motor Museum, Gaydon, in May of this year. They had a very busy stand with their track on 2-metre-long boards which fit together. This enables them to adapt

to the space available at venues. Their track at Gaydon was 22 metres long.

Visitors trying their hand at Slot Drag Racing ranged from youngsters



ABOVE
The starting point.



RIGHT

Blue – Outlaw class
Silver – Crazy Horse class
white – Gasser class

undoubtedly, watching actual dragster racing at circuits and on-line, is an enjoyable and inspirational activity some indulge in. In turn, building, painting and racing replica models is a fun and competitive activity.

“People usually have a variety of cars,” added MrD. “One to race and one spare in case something goes wrong. Lots of people will have four cars and a few will have quite collection of them – 20 or more. The current club champion, Alec Quarman has 24 and his son has another four!”

Cars should be 1/24 or 1/25 scale, although 1/32 scale cars may be allowed, based on the race organiser (MrD’s) decision. Cars must not be wider than 3.25” at any point. There is no weight restriction except for Gasser Class cars which should be 140g minimum. For anyone wanting to know more, the full rules are listed on the club’s Facebook page.

While there are over 600 members in MrD Slot Drag Racing Club online, there’s about 30 members with

between 16 – 24 regularly turning up for the twice weekly club nights, their ages ranging from 12 to 72. They meet between October and April. On Fridays they meet at a school in Chelmsford where they race along the school corridor; and on Sundays at a club in South Weald, Essex when they race all day. The current race charge is £5 per meeting, which covers the hire fee for the two venues. Juniors (under 16 racing with an adult) are free.

“There is always a lot of banter on club nights,” said MrD. “The school corridors are very warm and noisy! There’s also lots of competitiveness amongst members. For the last three years member Alec Quarman has been champion. Usually, the younger members will all go for a MacDonalds afterwards.”

At the UK Slot Car Festival, they had a wide range of dragsters on display. Quite a few belonged to Alec Quarman. He explained that the yellow and black cars

here are replicas of *Street Outlaws* on TV; the yellow car is a replica of Jeff Lutz 1957 Chevy; and there is a black 1970 Nova Murder – the real full-sized vehicle owned by American Shawn Ellington, and has a reputation to uphold of being the fastest street racer in the country.

As well as world famous cars in the field, members also like running the funny and quirky such as Alec’s Chi-Town Hustler. Also, cars from the silver screen, such as the General Lee 1969 Dodge Charger, often referred to as “the General”. This orange 1969 Dodge Charger was driven in the television series *The Dukes of Hazzard*. Providing the drag racer is within the specifications, members can have the car of their dreams!

There’s an invitation from MrD for anyone who would like to go along to a meeting and have a go, they would be very welcome. Simply keep an eye on their group for dates and venues. MrD added, “It’s great fun and very addictive, once you’ve raced, you’ll just want to go faster!” **CG**



ABOVE
A replicas of TV’s *Street Outlaws*’ Jeff Lutz 57 Chevy.



ABOVE
Some unique paintwork on this one!



ABOVE
The Chi-Town Hustler.



ABOVE
The General Lee, a replica of the car from *The Dukes of Hazard*.



ABOVE
Another quirky drag racer.



ABOVE
MrD’s drag racing slot car track, at the UK Slot Car Festival 2022.

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THE GRANGE, BEPTON ROAD, MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX, GU29 9HD

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SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm
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HAWKINGE COMMUNITY CENTRE, HERON FORSTAL AVENUE, HAWKINGE, CT18 7FP

HERNE BAY, KENT

SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm
HERNE BAY HIGH SCHOOL, BULLOCKSTONE ROAD, HERNE BAY, KENT, CT6 7NS

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

SUNDAY 28 DECEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm
SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ

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SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm
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10am - 2.30pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £32
>> Ad £3, Sen £2.50, 1st Ch £2

EAST MIDLANDS (Newark) NEW YEAR'S DAY SUNDAY 1ST JANUARY 2023

Newark & Notts Showground, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY
10am - 2pm >> approx. 200 tables >> 6ft table £40
>> Ad (16+) £5, Sen (65+) £3, accompanied Ch (under 15) free

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 14TH JANUARY 2023

The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN.
10am - 2pm >> approx. 180 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Ad (16+) £4, Sen (65+) £3.50, accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

SPALDING SUNDAY 22ND JANUARY 2023

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10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £33
>> Ad (16+) £3.50, Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY 2023

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10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £33
>> Ad (16+) £3.50, Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

ST IVES SUNDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2023

One Leisure St Ives, Burgess Hall Events & Conference Centre, Westwood Road,
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10am - 2pm >> approx. 125 tables >> 6ft table £33 >> Ad (16+) £3.50 Sen (65+) £3,
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For bookings and further information
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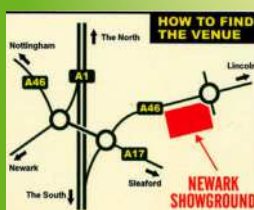
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ADMISSION:

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Obsolete

OZ

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

Hi folks! Well, here I am with my offering for our December issue, pondering on how quickly 2022 passed by? Yes, that long hot summer seemed to go on forever and was very welcome but the autumn passed by so quickly and another year lies just around the corner! It's always tricky adjusting to the advent of winter and travelling to shows and fairs in the dark always comes as a bit of a shock!

Being at shows nice and early often pays off and an early morning trawl around the huge Newark Runway Monday event saw me bag a lovely Lone*Star CUB toy cap gun still with its original holster. I remember having one of these as a kid and fixing it to my belt for a game of Cowboys and Indians out on the street. We always made the most of all those alleyways between our terraced houses... such happy days! It's amazing that this gun has remained with its very delicate holster and survived in such good condition after more than sixty years. What a great find for a tenner! Lone*Star Toys were made by DCMT in North London and the guns are highly sought after by collectors.

Another nice little find at Newark was a small tin which once contained cue tips manufactured by the firm of E.J. Riley who were based in Accrington. Riley's were once Britain's biggest manufacturers of billiard and snooker tables and also supplied all the accessories needed for the game. This little tin was another great find for twenty quid being in such splendid condition. There is a serrated striking edge on its reverse designed to allow to the tin to be used to hold tobacco and

matches once the tips had all been used.

A fiver was all I needed to bag a great little Suprema drawing book printed during World War Two to keep children occupied during long winter nights. Interestingly all the drawings inside the book were based on toys of the times with an interesting mix of Minic and Dinky toys. The artist drew them just as very basic line drawings which the kids simply had to copy and colour.

Recent boot sale buys included a nice small Rowntree's Yorkshire Butter-scotch tin, showing York's magnificent Minster with the royal coat of arms of the King and Queen either side. It dates from the 1930s and was a great little find for a fiver!

My best buy last month had to be a pair of enamel lapel badges showing Doodles, who for several decades was the loveable clown at Blackpool Tower Circus. These badges were sold as souvenirs at the circus usually pinned to a backing card showing a picture of Doodles which he often signed. The badges are both of the highest quality having been made by William. H. Miller in the jewellery quarter of Birmingham. I didn't hesitate to pay the twenty quid ticket price for these two little beauties.

On the selling front a plastic guitar brooch showing a very young looking George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley in the early days of the pop duo they called Wham! They were formed in Bushey, Hertfordshire in 1981 and had their first chart success with *Young Guns (Go for It)* in 1982 which reached number three in the UK charts. A very keen George Michael fan was more than happy to pay my £15

asking price to add it to her ever expanding collection of Wham! memorabilia.

A Matchbox 1-75 Euclid dumper truck in mint-boxed condition soon found a new home with a collector willing to give me £60 for it. The toy was in fabulous condition with a great box to match. This early version is relatively easy to find but the later yellow ones are getting very hard to find, especially the variant with grey plastic wheels which I've been after for years!

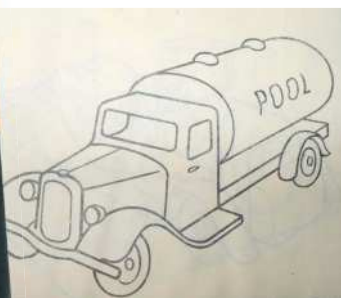
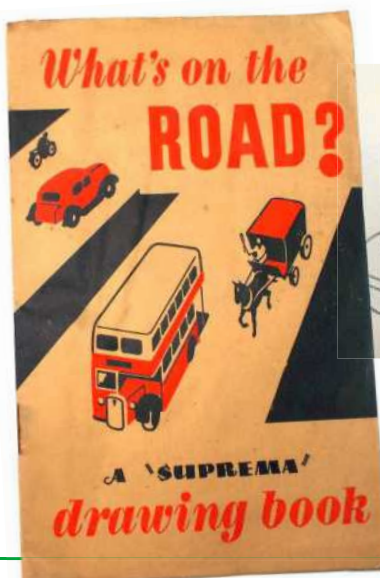
Another item to find a new home very quickly was an old Sunlight Soap tin sign which flew off the shelf at £85. There seems to be so many reproduction advertising signs around these days and some collectors are having trouble detecting fakes from the real things. A good measure of authenticity is if it looks too good to be true at the price being asked it's almost certainly a reproduction.

Still on the subject of old advertising signs a lovely old

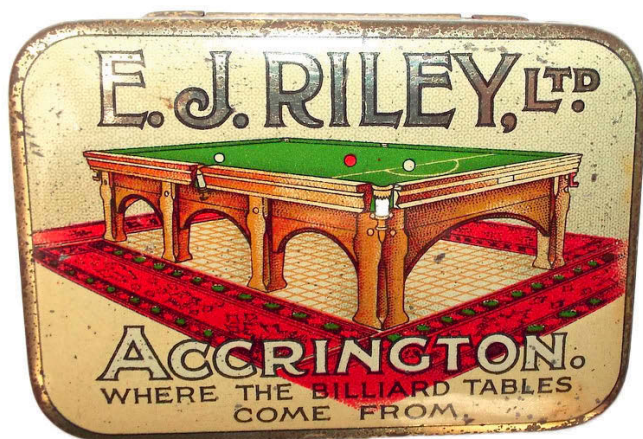
Robin Starch cardboard sign that was found in an old grocery store many years ago sold for £150 to a keen collector of old shop memorabilia. The scene depicted was a real winter wonderland and a stark reminder of what might lay around the corner as the winter sets in! Thankfully we don't seem to be getting those heavy snowstorms we used to. I still have memories of that amazing winter of 1963 when we had several months of snowy weather which just about brought the country to a standstill.

Last but not least on the selling front a lovely little Matchbox Toy collectors' button badge showing the 1c Road Roller found a new home for a fiver. These badges used to be common but are much harder to find these days.

Well that's about all for our December issue folks, happy hunting as the winter takes hold and I hope you have some great finds in the weeks leading up to the festive season. Happy collecting as always, and be lucky. **CG**



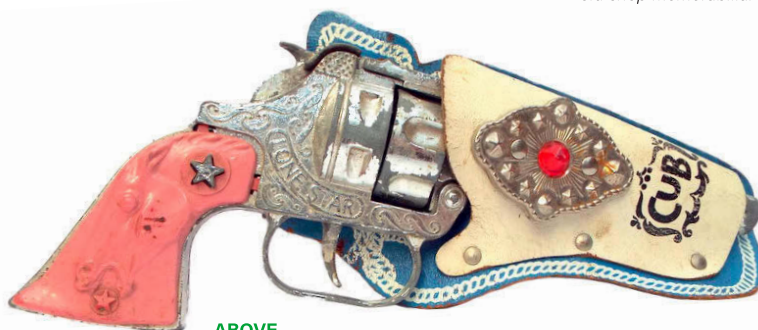
ABOVE
This very basic drawing book was printed during WW2 with the illustrations all based on MINIC and Dinky toys.

**ABOVE**

Riley's of Accrington in Lancashire specialised in snooker tables and all the various accessories required by snooker and billiard halls.

**ABOVE**

All original, this tinplate Sunlight Soap sign soon found a new home with a collector of old shop memorabilia.

**ABOVE**

This Lone Star CUB cap gun was found in a house clearance with its original holster still in great condition.

**LEFT**

A great little bargain for a fiver, this Rowntree's Butter-scotch dates from the 1930s.

RIGHT

This really cool plastic guitar brooch dates from the 1980s when young guns Wham! Shot into the charts.

**LEFT**

Two variations of the enamel badges sold at Blackpool Tower Circus where Doodles the clown entertained crowds for several decades.

BELOW

A terrific winter scene from Edwardian days reminds us of the harsh winters we once knew. This old advert was snapped up quickly.

**ABOVE**

Not quite as common as they used to be, this Matchbox collector badge sold for a fiver.

**ABOVE**

Always a hugely popular Matchbox toy this Euclid dumper had survived in wonderful condition. It was one of the very early toys in the 1-75 series.



»EVENTS THIS MONTH

FAIRS

19 NOVEMBER

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

20 NOVEMBER

- **Lincolnshire**, J&J Fairs,
01522 880383
- **Potters Bar**, Joe Lock,
07810 513576 or 07866 641215
- **Walsall**, Transtar Promotions,
01922 643385
- **Worthing**, SRP Toy Fairs,
07739 998012
- **Haydock Park**, Tony Oakes,
01270 652773 or 07825 631323

26 NOVEMBER

- **Midhurst**, SRP Toy Fairs,
07739 998012
- **Ludlow**, Tony Oakes,
01270 652773 or 07825 631323

27 NOVEMBER

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

29 NOVEMBER

- **Garstang**, Janet Pearson,
01282 439009

30 NOVEMBER

- **Tonbridge**, Joe Lock,
07810 513576 or 07866 641215

3 DECEMBER

- **Maidstone**, Mike Spencer,
01622 298159 or 01732 840787

4 DECEMBER

- **Polegate**, Eastbourne Historic Vehicle Club,
www.ehvc.biz
- **Kempton**, RM Toys,
023 9238 1529 or 07957 823507
- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs,
01373 452857 or 07917 125641

8 DECEMBER

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

10 DECEMBER

- **Gateshead**, Jim Corr,
07504 035955
- **Hawkinge**, SRP Toy Fairs,
07739 998012

11 DECEMBER

- **Stafford**, BP Fairs,
01604 846688 or 07966 527177
- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard,
01823 480097

17 DECEMBER

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

18 DECEMBER

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

AUCTIONS

18 NOVEMBER

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

19 NOVEMBER

- **Newark**, Northgate Auction Rooms,
01636 605905
- **Spalding**, M&M Auctions,
01775 724939

23 NOVEMBER

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

24 NOVEMBER

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

25 NOVEMBER

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

26 NOVEMBER

- **Kings Langley**, Excalibur Auctions,
02036 330913

29 NOVEMBER

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

30 NOVEMBER

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

2 DECEMBER

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

6 DECEMBER

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

7 DECEMBER

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

13 DECEMBER

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services,
01635 580595
- **Stockton on Tees**, Vectis,
01642 750616

14 DECEMBER

- **Newbury**, Special Auction Services,
01635 580595
- **Stockton on Tees**, Vectis,
01642 750616

15 DECEMBER

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

16 DECEMBER

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

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Corgi Models



Price Guide

SAMPLE

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Mettoy

Corgi Toys - 1956 - 1983

Corgi Toys were launched in 1956 by the Mettoy Company which had itself been founded in Northampton by Phillip Ullmann in 1933. The 'Mettoy' name was derived from the first three letters of 'Metal' plus 'toy' – the company's main product range being composed of lithographed metal toys. In 1948 Mettoy produced its first cast metal toys and called them 'Castoys'. The Castoys models contained a clockwork motor and when the first Corgi Toys models were introduced they also contained a mechanism. This, plus the introduction of window glazing, gave Corgi a competitive edge against its great rival, Dinky Toys.

Corgi Toys were named after the Welsh breed of dogs and this logo will be found on virtually all the Corgi packaging. The models were produced in Swansea by Mettoy Playcraft Ltd, hence baseplates are marked 'Made in Gt. Britain'.

The development of the Corgi Toys product range was largely instigated by Howard Fairbairn, a Mettoy company director. Prior to his director appointment, he had been Head of Development at the Birmingham Aluminium Casting Co and had considerable diecasting experience. The first truly Corgi Toys product was No. 200 Ford Consul in 1956.

Corgi has always been famed for its model innovations. This was especially true when it was able to promote its models as 'the ones with windows'. Additionally, greater realism was achieved over time with, for example, better detailing of its wheel hubs.

Corgi introduced various model ranges which have stood the test of time. Today, virtually all the Corgi models produced in the 1950s and 1960s are highly sought after. In particular, models such as the range of 'Monte Carlo' Minis, the Gift Sets, Farm Tractors and the 'Chipperfield's Circus' items are very collectable. In addition, television and film related models such as Batman, James Bond and similar models command a very high price at auction.

In 1983, the Mettoy company went into receivership and Corgi Toys became the subject of a management buy-out. From this time, the emphasis changed from the mass-production of toy vehicles to mainly the development of authentic limited edition models aimed at adult collectors – the 'Corgi Classics' range. Regrettably these items fall outside the scope of this publication. However, collectors requiring information on Corgi Classics are recommended to join the Corgi Collectors Club.

The editor wishes to thank all who have contributed to these greatly revised listings.

Corgi Toys Identification

Often referred to as 'the ones with windows', Corgi Toys were the first manufacturer to produce models with that refinement. Some of its first models also had a mechanical motor. Spring suspension was introduced from 1959 and, in 1960, the first diecast model to have an opening bonnet. The first models were based on real cars of the period. Similarly, with the launch of the 'Corgi Major Toys' in 1959, models of real commercial vehicles were available and competed with the Dinky 'Supertoys' range.

In the 1960s Corgi produced many successful film and TV-related models. Probably the best remembered was the James Bond Aston Martin which sold in huge quantities in the autumn of 1965. Indeed, such is the popularity of the model that various versions have been marketed over the last 40 years and are still available to the present day!

Corgi introduced many new features in the 1960s such as: jewelled headlights, an opening bonnet revealing a detailed engine, an opening boot to store a spare wheel, self-centering steering, and ruby rear lights, to name but a few. Innovations were frequent and imaginative throughout the 1960s. Further examples include the 'Golden Jacks' built-in jacking system, which enabled models to have 'take-off' wheels. A 'Trans-O-Lites' system was also introduced, whereby light rays were captured and fed through prisms to illuminate the headlights. 'WhizzWheels' and the slightly larger scale of 1/42 were introduced in the 1970s.

All these aspects influenced Corgi sales and boosted its popularity. Models were continually upgraded and given new features, such as suspension, interiors or even a new colour scheme, in order to enhance their desirability. Models were used in a new way – perhaps as part of a gift set. Cars could be included in the 'load' for a car transporter, while other vehicles became the towing unit such as the Land Rover in Gift Set 17, the Ferrari Racing Set.

Two of the major influences upon the value of the toys continue to be related to the condition and the quantities produced. Some Corgi Toys were simply not as sought after by children when they were first issued. These would have been manufactured in smaller quantities and are often the more valuable items to collect. One might deduce that the more obscure or unusual colour used for a model would have affected how many were sold at the time of release. This would also have influenced the withdrawal date of any vehicle. Some of the very rare items were only produced for one or two years and in low quantities.

A good example of this is the Heavy Equipment Transporter No 1135. Released in 1965 and withdrawn in 1966, it recorded 28,000 sales. In contrast, the Ferrari Berlinetta 250 Le Mans Car No 314, was also released in 1965 but withdrawn in 1972 with recorded sales of 1,598,000 (+1969 sales). Both these models appear on page 166 in *The Great Book of Corgi*. The Berlinetta's mint and boxed value in this 16th edition is cited as £80-110, whereas the Heavy Transporter with red interior, boxed and in mint condition is listed as £450-500. Some vehicles, which may have been less popular as toys are now highly sought after as rare collectables.

A market strategy favoured by Corgi was the launching of a replica model car simultaneously with the real car. To date simultaneous launches have occurred with Austin Metro, Ford Escort, Triumph Acclaim, Ford Sierra and the MG Maestro 1600, which is a unique record. Corgi was the first diecast manufacturer to introduce the dimensions of light, sound and movement into its models by using the micro-chip in its 'Corgitronic' range. The models 'come alive', for example, by just pushing down on the rear axle or, in the case of the Road Repair Unit, by pressing the workman to activate the pneumatic drill sound. Others (like the Sonic Corgi Truck) can be operated from a remote control handset.

Some early Corgi Toys were produced in either the normal form or with a friction-type flywheel motor. Exceptions were the sports cars and trucks which could not be converted to take the flywheel. The mechanisms were not robust and were phased out in 1959.

Model boxes often contain much more than just the basic model. Prices shown in the catalogue assume that not only is the model in pristine condition, but that it is accompanied by all the original additional contents. These can include extra card packing, inner card or polystyrene trays, pictorial stands, plastic protectors, transit card protection intended for removal by the retailer, instruction and information leaflets, catalogues, consumables (such as unopened packets of rockets, decals, etc). This particularly applies to some novelty and film/TV models, e.g. Nos 268, 277, 497, 511, 1123, 1139, 1144 and Gift Sets 3, 10, 20 and 21. A further example relates to the early 'blue box' models each of which should contain a concertina catalogue leaflet plus a 'Join the Corgi Club' leaflet. If original items are missing, e.g. the plastic dome protector included with 511 Chipperfields Poodle Truck or card protectors with other models, it will affect the price that a model will achieve.

Boxes: July 1956 - blue box, January 1959 - yellow/blue box (Two-tone cars were first to use them) December 1966 - Window box (2 square window ends) May 1973 - Angled window box (one square window end, coloured lines around box) 1980 - yellow window box, 1987 New style Corgi logo box.

Whilst every effort has been made to describe models and, where known, their accompanying contents, any further information would be welcomed. The Corgi trademark is used by kind permission of Hornby Hobbies Ltd.

Mettoy Diecast Toys - The 'Castoys' Series

Castoys were produced by the Mettoy Company between 1948 and 1958 and were instigated by a request from Marks and Spencers for a robust, long lasting toy. The models were made of zinc alloy and were initially advertised as 'Heavy Cast Mechanical Toys'.

Generally, they had windows, a clockwork motor and brake, plus black rubber tyres on cast hubs. Of the original issues, only two models, No 840, the 'Eight Wheel Lorry' and No 870 'Delivery Van' remained in production after 1951 and these were packaged in attractive yellow/red boxes which displayed a picture of the model inside. The later issues of the Delivery Van with their various attractive body designs are now rare and sought after items.

The following listing contains all the information available at present. The editor would welcome any additional information on body colours and variations.

Market prices shown here are for guidance only. They refer ONLY to mint models in pristine boxes that are complete with all of their original contents. MPR = Market Price Range.

Model and details MPR

Large scale models 1/35

Presented in yellow/red endflap boxes each displaying an excellent picture of the model contained within.

Handcart 19??

With 'MILK' logo and Milkman. £150-175

718 Paxton Observation Coach 1956-58

Metallic blue and gold body with silver raised roof section and base, red door with brown plastic male passenger. Destination board shows 'PRIVATE' and registration 'MTY 718' £250-350

Metallic brown and pink body with silver raised roof section and radiator, with green female passenger £200-300

810 Jowett Javelin 1948-51

Cream, red or green body, red interior, 'MTY 810', clockwork £100-200

820 Streamline Bus 1948-51

Cream, green or red body, clockwork mechanism, red pressed tin seating, solid rubber wheels, unpainted chassis. Registration No 'MTY 820' £200-250
As previous model but with opening door, registration No. 'MTY 720' £200-250

830 Racing Car 1948-51

Light green, 6" long approx, 'METTOY' cast in base, tinplate hollow printed wheels with motor and brake £100-200

840 Articulated Lorry 1948-58

Metallic blue cab with grey rear body, silver radiator and hubs £350-400

850 Fire Engine 1948-51

Red body, silver ladder and crank £100-200
Red body, silver extending ladder, no crank £100-200

860 Tractor 1948-51

No models seen but shown in 1951 catalogue with yellow/red body NPP

Model and details MPR

863 Ferguson TE20 Tractor and Trailer 1950

Red/blue tractor, yellow trailer, red hubs, painted plastic driver £200-300

870 Delivery Van 1948-51

Plain, without advertising, dark blue, cream, green or red £200-300

870 Delivery Vans 1952-55

With advertising or logo 'EXPRESS DELIVERY' yellow or blue body with red logo and design on sides, clockwork £300-350

'POST OFFICE TELEPHONES' 1955-58

Green body, white logo, Royal crest in gold, silver two part extending ladde... £300-500

'ROYAL MAIL' 1955-58

Red body, silver trim, yellow logo and Royal crest, 'MTY 870' £300-500

'AMBULANCE' 1955-58

Cream body, blue logo on sides.. £200-300

'BOAC' 1956-58

Blue body, silver trim, white 'Fly By BOAC' on roof £400-600

920 Luxury Motor Coach

Red with silver wheel flash, clear plastic see-through top showing red seats, with movable figures and luggage. Illustrated box £75-100

Special 1/18 scale issue for Marks and Spencer

'VANWALL' Racing Car 1958

Diecast body, perspex screen, driver, 'VANWALL' transfers, 'push and go' motor in some. 'The famous British Racing Car Grand Prix Winner' cast in base. green body, racing number '7' or '18', no Mettoy logo on base. £200-250

French blue body, racing number '20', no Mettoy logo on base £450-500

Red body, racing number '7' or '5' no Mettoy logo on base £350-450

Model and details MPR

Cream body, race No. unknown NGPP

Small scale models 1/45

Karrier Bantam Soft Drinks Van 1955-57

Dark red body, number plate 'CWS 300', spun huns, logo on rear: 'CWS SOFT DRINKS - THIRST COME - THIRST-SERVED' £300-400

'Miniature Numbers' series

502 Standard Vanguard Saloon 1951

Shown with green body in catalogue, (2 7/8" inches long) £60-90

505 Rolls-Royce Saloon 1951

Red or blue body, 3" £60-90

510 Standard Vanguard Police Car 1951

Black with white 'POLICE' logo on doors; roof siren and bell £60-90

511 Standard Vanguard Taxi 1951

Shown in 1951 catalogue with yellow body and red roof rack £60-90

512 Standard Vanguard Fire Chief 1951

Red, white 'FIRE CHIEF' on doors; single silver ladder on roof £60-90

Larger versions:

602 Standard Vanguard Saloon 1951

Blue body shown in catalogue (larger version of 502, 4) £60-90

603 Standard Vanguard Saloon 1951

As 602 but with automatic 'to and fro' bump feature £60-90

605 Rolls-Royce Saloon 1951

Yellow body shown in catalogue (larger version of 505, 4) £60-90

606 Rolls-Royce Saloon 1951

As 605 but with automatic 'to and fro' bump feature £60-90



This lavish 164-page guide to the tanks of WWII covers everything from the light tanks of Japan in the Far East, to the British tanks of the Western Desert Campaign, PLUS the Soviet tanks on the Eastern Front and the range of Panzer models deployed by Nazi Germany throughout the war.

This special collector's magazine is split into handy sections such as famous tank commanders, Allied tanks, Axis power tanks, tank battles of WWII and tank media.

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CORGI

The early years...

Gijs Noordam guides you through the early days of Mettoy and the launch of Corgi Toys

Wars always cause havoc, destruction and human suffering but sometimes something good comes from them. The German pre war toy industry was concentrated in Bavaria, where successful and innovative toymakers like Tippco had their workshops. Their main products were pressed tin toys, most of them with clockwork mechanisms. Tippco was founded in 1912 by Mr and Mrs Carstens, maiden name Tipp. In 1913 Philip Ullman joined the company and who was later followed by the son of a South African cousin, Arthur Katz. Ullman and Katz, like many German toymakers were Jewish and had to flee from the rise of National Socialism that in the early Thirties was particularly strong in Bavaria. In 1933 they both took refuge in England, a country with which the German toy industry had traditional long relations.

In Winteringham they set up The Mettoy Company Ltd, which continued the earlier German production of tin toys with clockwork mechanisms. The business again proved successful and many tin toys were exported to America which explains the strong position that Corgi Toys would acquire in that market in the late Fifties and Sixties.

During World War II the British toy industry was ordered to contribute to the war effort. Like other toymakers Mettoy changed to producing Jerry cans, shell fuses, landmines and magazines for Sten and Bren guns. Mettoy showed its quality and was awarded by the Ministry of Supply the management of a new factory complex in Fforestfach on the outskirts of Swansea in South Wales. By the end of the war this would provide Mettoy with a jumping board to the future. The new and extended factory was opened in 1949 by King George VI and there all administration was centralised, including tool and sample making, design and

“ Like other toymakers Mettoy changed to producing Jerry cans, shell fuses, landmines and magazines for Sten and Bren guns



Left: Karrier "Bantam" Two Tonner (455);
The first Corgi: Ford Consul (200)
Above: "Battle of scales"; Massey
Ferguson Combine (1111)



development. Mettoy's board consisted of Arthur Katz and Philipp Ullman and they were joined by the latter's son Henry.

Tin toys appeared somewhat outdated by the time Mettoy started making cast aluminium clockwork models for Marks and Spencer. These new models were possibly inspired by the success of Dinky Toys with its zinc alloy cast toys. The models were produced by the Birmingham Aluminium Casting Company under the name Castoys. In the early 1950s Howard Fairbairn, in charge of development of Birmingham Aluminium, made the switch to Mettoy in order to supervise and develop their investments in pressure die casting. For this and other new products a new company was formed, Playcraft Toys Ltd.

Due to the Korean war in the early '50s the use of zinc, the main metal used in diecasting, became restricted but when this ban was lifted Mettoy started to have a go at market leader and monopolist Meccano and its successful Dinky Toys. Through its old contacts Mettoy employed skilled German toolmakers and hired the very talented designer Marcel Van Cleemput, a Frenchman whose life



Above: the first 7 models selected by Howard Fairbairn and Marcel Van Cleemput: Ford Consul (200), Austin Cambridge (201), Morris Cowley (202), Vauxhall Velo

and career are described in more detail in the previous feature.

A Karrier Bantam carrier promoting CWS soft drinks served as a pilot for the new Corgi Toys range, named after the national Welsh dog and a tribute to the Fforestfach factory in Wales. The fact that at that time the young Queen Elizabeth II was often spotted with Corgi pet dogs may have been a lucky PR coincidence.

Marcel Van Cleemput contributes the successful launch of Corgi Toys mainly to the drive and single-mindedness of Howard Fairbairn who only thought Corgi. Together they selected 7 popular British saloon cars of the era, the Ford Consul, Austin Cambridge, Morris Cowley, Vauxhall Velo, Rover 90, Hillman Husky and

Riley Pathfinder, the latter having the advantage that it could easily be “made over” to the police car that was in use by various police forces of that time.

A problem however was scale. Looking at Dinky Toys they found that no standard scale was used at all and they consequently created the Corgi bible of scales that kept the scale of each new model within a certain predetermined size. And indeed, with due respect for Dinky Toys, if one compares similar models made by Dinky and Corgi, for instance the Jaguar 3.4 where you will find the Corgi model (208) to have a more robust and “real life” appearance compared to the Dinky (195).

Fairbairn and Van Cleemput also realized that in beating

Dinky at its own game Corgi should offer something special and they decided that all models should have windows. “The first with windows” became the new and inspiring slogan. To add further advantage over Dinky they added a secondary line of these models with a mechanical flywheel device that by retracting the car, would propel it forward. Their inspiration came no doubt from the earlier tinplates with a clockwork mechanism but regrettably the idea was short lived due to disappointing sales, especially in export markets. It did have the advantage that by installing the flywheel, Corgi had to redesign the tinplate chassis to a diecast base that gave another sales argument over Dinky.

The distribution of the new range, including the flywheel line, started in July 1956 and did well. That same year Corgi added a number of British sports cars, notably the Triumph TR2 (“frog eye”, 301) and Austin Healey (301) that are still much sought after classic cars nowadays. Also a series of Bedford “Utilicon’s” vans were released in different liveries, showing that Corgi at an early stage understood that by doing so it could sell more of the same without extra design and tooling cost. Also another British workhorse of the era made its entrance, the Commer lorry, one of them already showing the upcoming trend of merchandising model cars: the Commer “Wall’s” Refrigerator Van promoting Wall’s

ice cream on the side panels (453).

In 1956 Corgi also launched the Corgi Model Club, a clever way of creating a bond with young collectors. The Corgi Club published a newsletter on a regular basis and each subscriber received a numbered certificate of membership and a cast Corgi lapel badge. A big force behind the Corgi Club was its secretary Bill Baxter who was much involved with Corgi's marketing, advertising and PR.

In 1957 the Corgi range was rapidly extended. Helped by the introduction of the first Corgi catalogue showing models to come, and new folded leaflets in all boxes showing other Corgi models, plus advertising on television and in youth magazines. Retailers also agreed to automatically take monthly new sample releases that helped production planning.

The new models that year included the Karrier "Bantam" Two Tonner (455), based on the earlier Mettoy C.W.S. soft drinks van; a Jaguar 2.4 Litre Saloon (208 and 208M) that was named Mark 1 after the introduction of the Mark 2; Land Rover 109 W.B. (406) that was to become the first of more than 10 million pieces sold in different guises; and the Bedford TK with Carrimore Car Transporter (1101), the first Corgi Major and also the basis for the first Corgi Gift Set. As a possible tribute to Van Cleemput's French roots the Citroën DS 19 (210) was released at the end of that year as the first foreign car in the range and the first to have a diecast base outside the flywheel line.

In 1958 Corgi enhanced the playability of its models by designing trailers, a service ramp and Carrimore Low Loaders with a detachable rear axle. The first "Rocket" models made their entry and in general Corgi improved quality so that new items could withstand a four foot drop test from a filing cabinet! The greatest



Left: Karrier "Bantam" Two Tonner (455); The first Corgi: Ford Consul (200); Bedford TK Cab with Carrimore Transporter (1101)
Above: "Battle of scales"; Massey Ferguson Combine (1111)

non-event of that year (as Van Cleemput puts it himself in his Great Book) was the simultaneous introduction of a real life new Rover and its model, the famous Road Rover (intended 212) that did not make it but certainly influenced the design of the first Range Rover. Regretfully the few castings, made by Corgi in great secrecy, were melted down when Rover ditched the project, with only 2 models and boxes surviving somewhere in the cabinets of very lucky collectors.

In 1959 Corgi did some re-vamping of existing models, like a two tone colour variation of the original saloon cars that were released in 1956 and a Jaguar re-make into a fire chief car (213). But there were also new castings like the Ford Thunderbird (214), made up from a separate main body and



hardtop. The same construction was used for the sleek and famous Mercedes 300 SL Hard Top (304). Also, a wonderfully tooled Massey Ferguson Combine (1111) entered the arena of farm related toys. The innovation of the year was spring suspension, "Glidamatic" that was even registered by Corgi as a trademark and would soon be the standard on all new Corgi releases.

The first car to be fitted with this ingenious system of two wires staked to the inside of the chassis and resting on the axles was the

Renault Floride (222). It was also the first to have new vacuum formed interior with a steering wheel fitted.

The end of the decade was near but the Sixties were already waiting around the corner promising to become possibly the most exiting part of Corgi's history.

Sources: "A concise history of Corgi TOYS and other Mettoy products" by Rod Ward, "The Great Book of Corgi" by Marcel Van Cleemput

Commer Constructor set-GS24



Released: August 1963 Withdrawn: 1968 Sales: 345,000

Corgi Toys first released the Commer $\frac{3}{4}$ ton chassis in the form of the No 464 County Police van in June 1963, followed by No 465 Commer Pick-up one month later featuring the innovative Trans-o-lite system that used natural light to illuminate the headlights using a clear plastic moulding between the cab roof and the front of the cab.

If this wasn't exciting enough, there was a fantastic surprise in store for the following month, August 1963, which saw the release of the Pick-up as part of the superb Gift Set 24 Commer Constructor Set.

The set comprised two basic Commer cab and chassis units, one red and one white, plus four different interchangeable backs, a milk bottle load, a bench seat and a milkman figure. From these, a variety of combinations could be

built up, offering plenty of playability. The parts were packaged in a Styrofoam moulded base with an attractive box lid depicting the eight combinations possible and this initially went on sale for just 15 Shillings.

The red Trans-o-lite chassis was joined by a white version without the feature and the four backs made either of these into a van, an ambulance, a milk float (hence the milkman figure) and a pick up. The latter was yellow, so when matched with the red chassis, this combination was the same as the No 465 release the previous month. The combination of the white chassis with the ambulance back was released separately in February 1964 as No 463, and with the milk float back as No 466 in April 1964. The van, although never released in the colours from the set, was the basis for several



releases in ensuing years. Corgi certainly made good use of the basic casting!

Available until 1968, the Commer Constructor Set achieved sales of 345,000 and, as a result, this means that there are still many available today although, given the superb playability of the set, most of these are in varying states of playworn condition.

A collage of various Corgi model toys. At the top, a silver rocket with a red nose cone and the letters 'TBI' on its side. Below it, a red and yellow Corgi Toys box for a 'WHITE WHEELS' model, featuring an illustration of a red car. In the center, a green Corgi model car. To the right, a purple Corgi model car with the license plate 'UEC 603M'. At the bottom, a white Corgi model truck. The background is a mix of light blue and yellow. The text 'Corgi Model' is written in a large, blue, curved font across the top, and 'Price Guide' is written in a large, blue, curved font across the bottom.

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**James Bond
Moon Buggy**
Released: June 1973 150th Anniversary: 1973 Suggested Price: \$80,000

For a reader with relatively low sales expectations, the success of *Crash* has taken the publisher and the author by surprise. "I was only looking for a single issue," says Miller. "It is a very well-conceived idea, and we did the magazine a high price at its outdoor launch. Due to the superior quality, it has been accepted by retail stores and at the moment we are well beyond its first issue. The picture magazine, thanks to the quality available through its superior price, is

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ears...
days of Melting

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