

» **PRICE GUIDE:** LATEST TOY AUCTION RESULTS



DIECAST

C O L L E C T O R

Collectors Club
OF GREAT BRITAIN

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The UK's only diecast magazine!

LATEST MODELS

NEW CORGI RELEASES

Reaching new heights as the latest models in the extensive Corgi range are announced

PLUS!
THE LATEST
COLLECTING
NEWS



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LITTLE & LARGE

Comparing models of the same car... but in differing scales!

CLASSIC COLLECTABLES

VINTAGE TV & FILM MODELS

Highlights covering 1956 to 1970



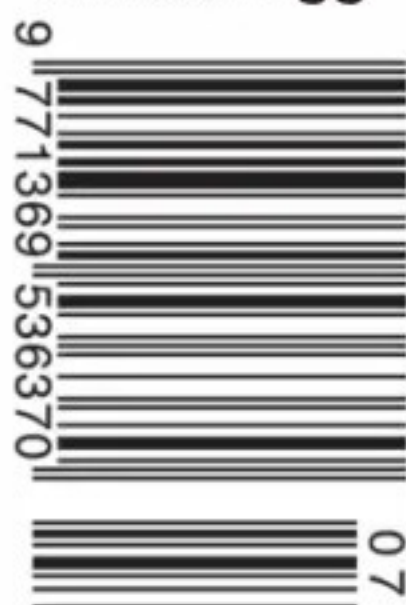
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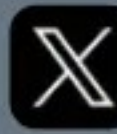


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DIECAST COLLECTOR

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NEWS

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NEW FROM POCHER

POCHER, a leading manufacturer of high-quality model cars, synonymous with precision engineering and unparalleled craftsmanship, has unveiled its latest masterpiece: the Porsche 917 – Gulf Edition. This meticulously crafted model pays homage to the legendary Le Mans 1971 triumph.

The Porsche 917, an iconic vehicle that dominated the tracks in the 1970s, now stands immortalised in a detailed 1/8 scale replica. Designed for discerning collectors and automotive enthusiasts alike, the 312-part model captures every intricate detail and essence of the original racing legend.

The Porsche 917's victory at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1971 marked a historic moment in racing history, solidifying its status as a true legend of the track. Piloted by racing icons Derek Bell, Gijs van Lennep and Helmut Marko, this iconic car showcased unparalleled performance, agility, and endurance, dominating the competition and etching its name in the annals of motorsport history.

Constructed with precision-engineered components and utilising materials including metal, rubber, textiles and premium quality plastic, each Pocher model is a testament to the brand's commitment to excellence. From the meticulously replicated chassis to the finely crafted interior, every aspect of this model exudes authenticity and attention to detail.

The specifications of the model are: length: 522mm, width: 267mm, height: 135mm, weight: 6kg

"We are thrilled to introduce the Porsche 917 to the market," said Scott Elsey, MD, Pocher. "With its unparalleled craftsmanship and attention to detail, this model exemplifies our commitment to excellence and passion for automotive heritage. We believe it will captivate collectors and enthusiasts alike."

The launch of the Pocher Porsche 917 represents a milestone in the world of collectible automotive replicas, offering enthusiasts the opportunity to own a piece of racing history and experience the thrill of historic endurance racing firsthand. Whether displayed as a centrepiece in a collection or admired for its unrivalled craftsmanship, this model embodies the timeless allure of Porsche's racing legacy.

For more information about the Pocher Porsche 917 and how to acquire this exclusive collector's item, please visit <https://uk.pocher.com/>.

LATEST AUSTIN 1300 GT FROM MATRIX

WE'VE just received notification from Spacraft Models that Matrix are planning an upcoming release of the 1971-1974 Austin 1300 GT.

The model will be available from August, and will come in three stunning colours – red, turquoise, and violet.

Unfortunately, we don't have details on the price yet, but it will likely fall within the range of £85-£95. These models will likely be quite popular among British car collectors, so don't hang around if you would like to add them to your collection.

More information can be found at www.spacraftmodels.co.uk or from your preferred retailer. ■



NEW SEASON UNDERWAY TO CLOVERLANDS

FOLLOWING a successful winter of redevelopment, Cloverlands Model Car Museum in Powys, is now open again for its 2024 season.

Home to the largest public model car collection in Wales, the museum is generally open at weekends when the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway is running, although it is always worth checking before you visit. During the winter months many hours were dedicated to improvements, the aim of which was to bring the complete collection of founder Gillian Rogers together, and to bring the entire collection of Formula One cars together on what will become the 'Wall of Formula One'.

Further details about the museum, and its collection, can be found at www.cloverlandscarmuseum.com. ■



NEW ARRIVAL FOR CORGI MODEL CLUB

HAVE you seen the latest addition to the Corgi Model Club range?

The Chrysler Imperial (Corgi No.246) was in the original Corgi range for just two years – between 1965 and 1967 – and included a unique and somewhat ingenious ‘secret’ bonnet-opening mechanism. Operated by applying downwards pressure on the front axle, the bonnet opened just enough to enable it to be lifted. However, this clever method of operation was bafflingly omitted from the box text, giving rise to many believing they had a faulty model!

This classic-era Corgi also featured opening doors, tilting seats, two figures (the female passenger being considerably smaller than the male driver) and a boot/trunk that lifted to reveal a set of golf clubs and caddy. This model is available now via the Club’s website – www.corgimodelclub.com

In other CMC news, the Club has just launched its membership in the USA, which is great news for our American readers! By subscribing they too can sample the nostalgic journey from the 1960s on a totally commitment-free membership – and enjoy discounted prices of between 25% and 40% per model. The dedicated US website can be found at www.corgimodelclubusa.com. ■

RELEASES FROM ESVAL

ESVAL Models have announced an amended and updated release schedule over the next few months. The bad news for British collectors is that the eagerly-awaited 1958 Peerless GT coupe has been delayed until September, whilst improvements were made.

Due any time now, should be two versions of the 1932 Austro-Daimler ADR 8 Pullman Limousine. Next month will see further American cars, the 1957 Studebakers President Broadmoor and Commander Provincial 4-door station wagons, followed by another Austro-Daimler ADR 8, this time five versions of the 1929 Torpedo Roadster. September should bring us the Peerless G.T., in the four variants announced earlier, a racing version in Silver, and road cars in blue, red and green.

These can all be seen in Esval’s latest catalogue, which can be found at www.esvalmodels.com, and your chosen supplier will also be able to give you more details. ■



NORTH EAST TO SEE A SCALE RECOVERY!

SEARCH Impex, the customised promotional model truck specialists, has announced the release of a 1/50 scale Scania S540 High (6x4) heavy recovery truck, customised in Alpha Recovery Ltd’s livery.

This is the second model to be commissioned by Alpha Recovery. The model has been produced exclusively for Search Impex by WSI Models as a certificated Limited Edition of just 155 pieces.

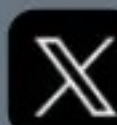
Since incorporation in 1995, Alpha Recovery has grown steadily and successfully over the years and it now boasts an impressive fleet of more than 36 diverse recovery vehicles. It remains a family run business and has evolved to become the North East’s largest specialised rescue and recovery operator, offering a range of services from light recovery through to heavy recovery of vehicles – both on and off road. Additional equipment at Alpha Recovery’s disposal includes crane trucks, forklifts, telehandlers, scrap handlers and JCB’s – all of which can be deployed to assist with clearing up spilled loads.

With its HQ in Dudley, Cramlington (about 7 miles north of Newcastle) and a second depot at Peterlee, it has good road access to major arterial roads in the north east, including the A1 and A19, enabling swift response times when called out to casualty vehicles. The new Scania – on which the model will be based – is the very latest addition to Alpha Recovery’s fleet. The recovery truck will be stationed at the Company’s Cramlington depot and as with all Alpha’s heavy recovery trucks, it is fully equipped to tow hazardous cargos and operated by drivers who are fully trained to the Institute of Vehicle Recovery standards, as well as having ADR qualifications (ADR being a French acronym relating to the transport of hazardous goods by road).

And just like its real-life counterpart, the 1/50 scale die-cast model will be finished in Alpha Recovery’s striking yellow and blue colour scheme, topped off with the fitting registration plate – BU55 SOS – a nod to the operator’s specialist involvement with the recovery of buses. As with the previous DAF XF (8x4) model, the new Scania will make for an attractive and interesting addition to any model truck collection.

Models available from Search Impex, whilst stocks last, are priced at £165 each, including VAT & UK delivery. For details visit the Search Impex website at www.search-impex.co.uk. ■

NEWS

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NEW FROM BHM

FOLLOWING on from the success of the Majesty Classics Standard Companion, British Heritage Models has announced a new, limited edition of the model, in a new colour scheme.

MC17X is the 1961 Standard Companion in coffee and cream. It comes complete with windscreen sunshade, roof rack, twin wing mirrors, twin fog lights, raised aerial, and rear "GB" plates. The model will be limited to 50 pieces, with the issue number stamped on the aluminium, base scutcheon.

Further details can be had from British Heritage Models via www.britishheritagemodels.co.uk, by calling: 01244 320761 or sending an email to: bhm-uk@talktalk.net. ■

DIECAST COLLECTOR BOOKSHOP

AUTOMECH HIGHWAY MODELS-AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY

Author: Paul Brookes

Format: Hardback

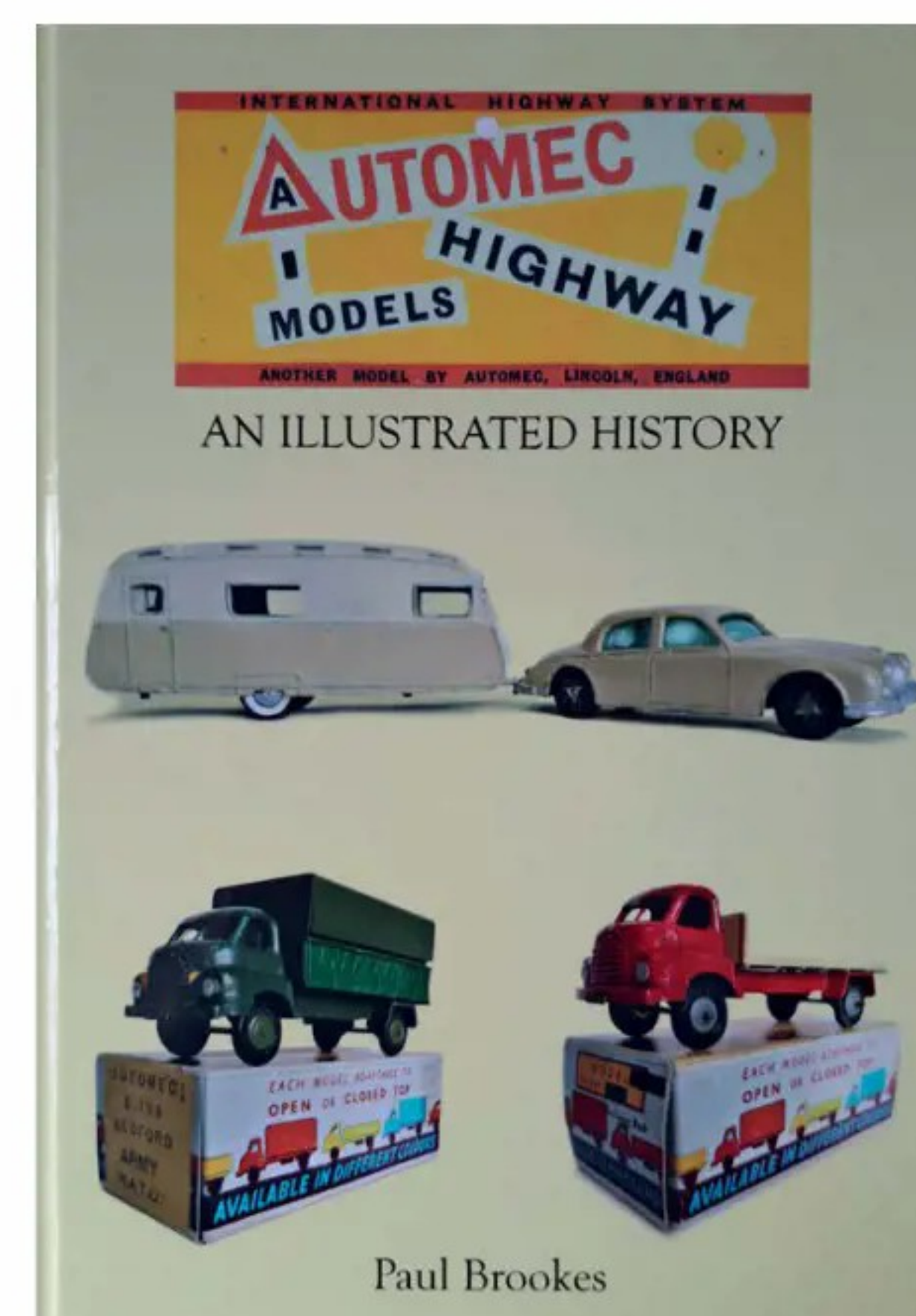
Size: 175mm x 245mm

Pages: 137

Price: £19.95 (plus £4 P&P)

Availability: mastermodels@btinternet.com or call 07788 46879

AUTOMECH Highway Models: An Illustrated History is a comprehensive book that takes readers on a journey through the fascinating world of the Automec company and the models it produced. The book is filled with detailed photographs that bring the evolution of models to life. From the earliest designs to the more modern advancements, the book covers it all, providing a rich historical context for each model. The author's passion for the subject is evident on every page, making it a captivating read for both



enthusiasts and newcomers to the world of Automech highway modelling. Whether you're a collector, historian, or simply intrigued by the evolution of the company, this book would be a valuable addition to any bookshelf. ■

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Heavy Haul Replicas

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GREDDY TENT V1



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MGT00701-R - 1/64 AUDI ABT RS6-R
GLACIER WHITE METALLIC (RHD)



MGT00710-L - 1/64 HYUNDAI I20 N RALLY1 HYBRID
#11 2023 RALLY MONTE CARLO 3RD PLACE (LHD)



MGT00715-R - 1/64 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA RS 2.7
GRAND PRIX WHITE WITH BLUE LIVERY (RHD)

POP RACE



PR640055 - 1/64 PANDEM GR YARIS DARK CHROME
BLACK WHEELS



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SUNLIGHT YELLOW



PR640099 - 1/64 GOLF GTI MKII OAK GREEN



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What's new...

Our team of experts take a look at this month's model releases, including fine handbuilt replicas, scale construction and the latest in farm models.

IT'S BIN DAY – HERE COMES OXFORD DIECAST'S NEWLY-TOOLED REFUSE TRUCK

Dennis Eagle's history dates back to 1907, when the Eagle Engineering Company was incorporated, in Warwick. The company specialised in refuse collection vehicles and road sweepers. In the early 1920s, Dennis Brothers, builder of buses, fire engines, and haulage trucks, began to produce specialised vehicles for municipal authorities. In 1971, Hestair Group bought Yorkshire Vehicles Limited, in Leeds, and Eagle Engineering Co in Warwick. Six months later, Hestair bought Dennis Motor Holdings and thereafter managed the businesses as the Vehicle Division of Hestair Engineering. Municipal bodies were made in Warwick by Hestair Eagle (incorporating Yorkshire Vehicles), municipal chassis were made by Dennis in Guildford, cabs were made in Blackpool. Hestair set up a special Environmental Vehicles Division for its waste management activities. In 1974, the Environmental Vehicles Division was renamed Dennis Eagle.

Dennis Eagle has a long history of innovation in the waste management industry. In 1980, the company introduced the first rear-loading refuse collection vehicle (RRV) to the UK market, which is now the standard type of refuse collection vehicle used in the UK. The company has been a leader in the development of alternative fuel refuse collection vehicles, introducing the first compressed natural gas (CNG) refuse collection vehicle to the UK market in 2004.

OXFORD DIECAST
Dennis Eagle
Olympus Refuse
Truck - Biffa

SCALE: 1/76
PRICE: £31.95
REF: 76DE001

www.oxforddiecast.co.uk



ABOVE There is plenty of detail to be enjoyed at the rear of the vehicle too. All it needs is a couple of aftermarket operative figures!

Today, Dennis Eagle is the market leader in refuse collection vehicles in the UK. The company also exports its vehicles to over 40 countries around the world. It is a subsidiary of the Terberg Group, a family-owned company that has been in business for over 150 years. Terberg is a global leader in the production of specialist vehicles for the waste management, port, and logistics industries.

The Dennis Eagle Olympus Refuse Truck is a rear-loading refuse collection vehicle (RRV) that is designed to be efficient and reliable. It is available in a variety of configurations to suit different operational needs. Key specifications include a compaction ratio of 6:1, a bin lifting capacity of 500kg and a payload totalling 11,000kg. Powered by a 5.2-litre turbocharged Cummins diesel engine through an Allison 3000 automatic transmission, the truck also features air brakes, power steering and air suspension, plus a comfort cab with air conditioning and heating.

Biffa was founded in 1912, by Richard Henry Biffa, as Richard Biffa Limited. The company originally specialised in the removal and sale of ashes and clinker from London power stations. In 1958, Richard Henry Biffa's grandson, Richard Charles Biffa, joined the business and began to grow it organically and by acquisition. In 1971, Biffa was acquired by British Electric Traction (BET). BET was a major electricity company at the time, and it was looking to expand into the waste management industry. The company continued to grow under BET ownership, and it acquired a number of other waste management companies in the UK. It then went through several ownership changes and today it is one of the largest waste management companies in the UK, providing a wide range of waste management services to businesses and households.

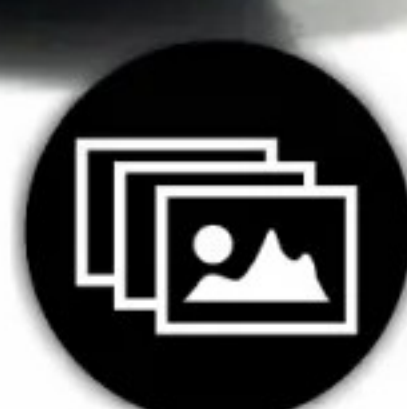
Oxford Diecast's 1/76 scale replica of the Dennis Eagle Olympus Biffa refuse truck is the first example of the fabulous new tooling and is resplendent in Biffa's eye-catching red and white livery. With a perfect finish and neatly applied graphics, it also features great attention to detail throughout.

The second example of this wonderful casting is already on sale. No 76DE002, also priced at £31.95, comes in the equally striking white and red livery of Veolia. ■



EXTRA
360°
VIEW

ABOVE This is the first example of Oxford's fabulous new tooling and is resplendent in Biffa's eye-catching red and white livery. With a perfect finish and neatly applied graphics, it also features great attention to detail throughout.





HAND
BUILT

GOLDVARG
1961 Chevrolet Impala Convertible
– White

SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £110 REF: GC 062A

www.goldvargcollection.com

Great model of this large American open convertible. With rear wheel spats and a neat angled radio antenna. Red side spear and red/white interior. Fully detailed.



HAND
BUILT

GOLDVARG
1948 Buick Roadmaster Coupe –
Cumulus Grey

SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £110 REF: GC 058A

www.goldvargcollection.com

Lovely model of the large streamlined 2-door coupe, with Goldvarg's usual high level of detail. Interior is in light grey, and the twin spotlights on the A-pillars.



HAND
BUILT

GOLDVARG
1948 Buick Roadmaster Coupe –
Allendale Green

SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £110 REF: GC 058B

www.goldvargcollection.com

The other version of the new Buick from Goldvarg, this time in 2-tone green. Extremely good detail inside and out once again, also sports an external sun visor.



HAND
BUILT

AUTOCULT
1953 Ferrari 250 Europa Coupe
Prototype - Dark Blue / Cream

SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £130 REF: ATC 90245

www.autocult.de

Terrific model of this one-off Ferrari coupe, with all the detail inside and out well-replicated. The bodywork looks to be by Pininfarina. Limited to 333 examples.



BBURAGO
Formula 1 BWT Alpine F1 Team A523
2023 - Gasley

SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: £10 REF: B18-38172G

www.oneforfun.com

Bringing up the rear of our recent grid walk is Pierre Gasley's smart looking BWT Alpine. A great replica of the 2023 season car, with spot on detailing and finish.



EXTRA
360°
VIEW

OXFORD DIECAST
Ford Ranger Raptor - Agate Black
Metallic

SCALE: 1/76 PRICE: £12.95 REF: 76FR001

www.oxforddiecast.co.uk

An excellent and highly detailed model with the shape and sleek style of real vehicle captured well, especially for a replica of this scale. Superb job!



EXTRA
360°
VIEW

CORGİ MODEL CLUB
Austin A60 De Luxe Saloon Motor
School Car

SCALE: 1/47 PRICE: £39.99 REF: 236

www.corgimodelclub.com

One the most iconic Corgi Toys of the 1960s, the car features a red wheel on its roof that helps the model to steer, along with miniature instructor and driver.



EXTRA
360°
VIEW

SOLIDO
Porsche 911 RSR Yellow Lafosse /
Angoulet Tour De France 1973

SCALE: 1/18 PRICE: £65.99 REF: SOL 180118

www.solido.com

What a stunning replica! The colours really pop, highlighting the detailed graphics and logos on the bodywork. Interior detail is somewhat limited.

GET DRILLING WITH UNIVERSAL HOBBIES

Launched at Agritechnica last November and now more widely available Universal Hobbies' new Horsch 6.0m wide combination drill is a good-looking model with accurate detailing and many working features.

There are hydraulic pipes for connecting to the tractor, a folding stand, road blocks and two different tractor attachment points provided on the drawbar. The drill also unfolds smoothly into its working position. Both the outer sections and the hopper platform lower together on two rams. Once lowered the access steps to the hopper platform will swing out from their transport position. Correctly sized handrails are detailed on the hopper access steps and platform.

The hopper has a grey plastic cover but it does not open. Under the hopper the seed and fertiliser metering units are detailed and there are grey pipes to the two distribution units. On the frame there are the two rows of freely rotating tyre packers and two rows of freely rotating serrated discs with sideboards detailed. These are followed by 40 seeding coulters. There's a grey pipe to each coulter from the distribution units and each has an opening disc, press wheel and covering tines detailed.

The drill's also provided with road warning boards and folding bout markers designed to mark the tractor centre line. ■

UNIVERSAL HOBBIES
Horsch Ponto 6DC Drill

PRICE: around £86

SCALE: 1/32

REF: UH6605

www.horsch.com



WIKING
John Deere 6R 250 Tractor
SCALE: 1/32 **PRICE:** £124.95
REF: 077870

www.wiking.de

Wiking's updated tractor features a new bonnet, the latest GPS receiver, different driving mirrors and revised cab interior detailing.



UNIVERSAL HOBBIES
Case IH Puma 260 CVX Drive Tractor
SCALE: 1/32 **PRICE:** £77
REF: 6465

www accuratediecast.com

Smart tractor provided with working linkages, steerable wheels and folding driving mirrors. It has a light tan cab interior with red seats.



AT COLLECTIONS
Volvo L60H Wheel Loader
SCALE: 1/32 **PRICE:** £136.99
REF: AT3200120

www.ayrey.co.uk

Accurately detailed and beautifully engineered largely metal loader with detachable bucket. The cab door opens but there's no access to the engine.



AT COLLECTIONS
Hekamp Z-300 Silage Fork
SCALE: 1/32 **PRICE:** £23.99
REF: AT3200122

www.ayrey.co.uk

Smart nine tine, all metal silage fork for AT Collections' Volvo wheel loader. It has red side tines and decals detailed on the back board.

AMAZING DIECAST BARGAINS FROM KEITH'S CARS OF DERBY

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AEC BARREIROS AYATS A-105 SPAIN 1965 29.99



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BERLIET GLM10B WINE TANKER 'VIGNOBLES CARRIERE' FRANCE 1955 26.99



BERLIET VDANG 16 GAZO-BOIS GAS POWERED TRUCK FRANCE 1938 26.99



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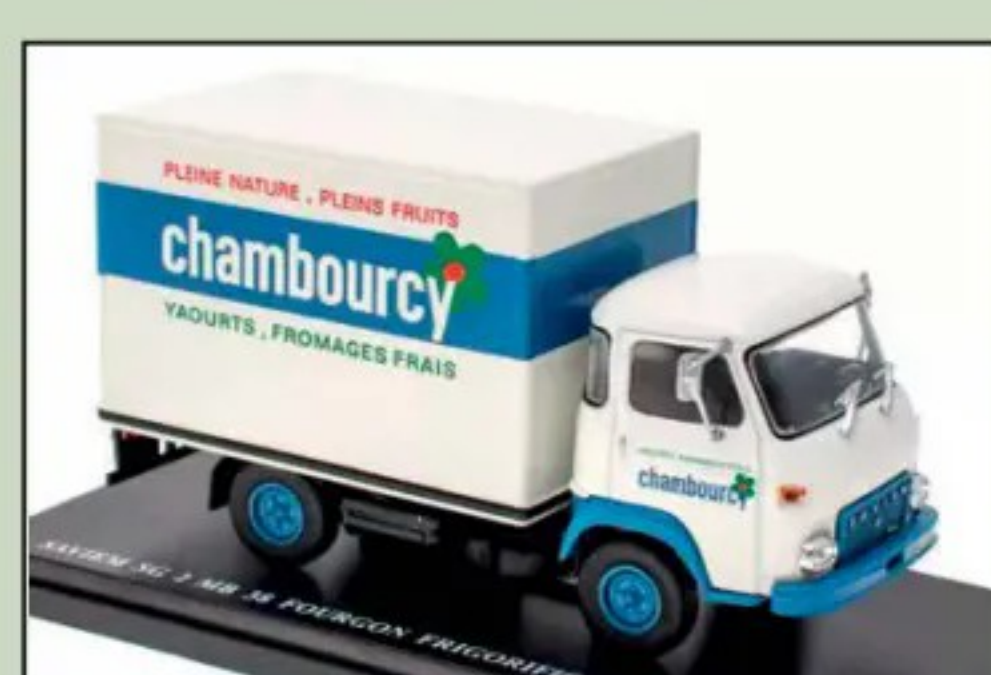
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The popular TV show, *The Professionals*, has led to several releases by Corgi over the decades since the show first aired on British television, in 1977, running until 1983. Spanning five series, a total of 57 episodes were made, filmed between 1977 and 1981.

Focusing on a fictitious law enforcement department known as CI5 (a cross between the real life MI5 and CID), the storyline was that it was to use any means deemed appropriate to deal with crimes of a serious nature that fell outside of the remit of the police, but were also not suitable for the security services or the armed forces.

Led by department head, George Cowley (played by Gordon Jackson), his two best agents were Ray Doyle (Martin Shaw) and William Bodie (Lewis Collins). Doyle is an ex-detective constable from a questionable part of London, while Bodie is an ex-paratrooper, mercenary and SAS sergeant.

Tony Buller, of Professionalmania, has already commissioned two replicas from the TV series through Corgi Premiums, both at 1/43 scale. Following on from the huge success of the Doyle's Ford Escort RS2000 (released in 2022) and Bodie's Ford Capri (2023), Tony's latest *Professionals* release is this twin-pack, featuring the gold version of the Ford Capri Mk3 3.0S in Solar Gold, driven by Doyle in later episodes, and Cowley's Ford Granada Mk2 2.8i Ghia in Midnight Blue.

Wearing the correct registrations used for filming (OWC 822W on the Granada and OAR 576W on the Capri), both models are beautifully finished and feature plenty of detail. Especially worthy of note are the stunning wheels on the Capri, which were specially commissioned and tooled up at great expense by Tony for his earlier Capri release.

CORGI PREMIUMS /PROFESSIONAL MANIA

Ford Granada Mk2 2.8i Ghia Automatic
Midnight Blue & Ford Capri Mk3 3.0S

SCALE: 1/73
PRICE: £74.99
REF: CP91990

professional
mania@hotmail.
com

Packaged in a bespoke printed cardboard outer, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Tony's Professionalmania concern, both model come safely packed in an easily-removed blister, to avoid any damage in transit, and under the plinth are the necessary accessories to then mount both models to the very effective plinth for display.

This fabulous twin pack is limited to just 750 and are only available direct from Professionalmania. To find out more, drop Tony an email at professionalmania@hotmail.com. ■

RIGHT Packaged in a bespoke printed cardboard outer, which matches Tony's two previous releases, both models display really well.



ABOVE Corgi's two castings of these classic Fords are a real delight and work very well together in this wonderful set.

BELOW Wearing the correct registrations used for filming (OWC 822W on the Granada and OAR576W on the Capri), both models are beautifully finished and feature plenty of detail. Especially worthy of note are the stunning wheels on the Capri.





CONRAD
Liebherr R9800 Hydraulic Backhoe
'Updated Logo'

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €549.00 REF: 2950/04

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

Liebherr continues to commission models with the updated logo, including the flagship R9800 mining monster which will be available soon.



CONRAD
Liebherr R926 Compact Excavator
'COMAT' decoration

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £112 REF: 2204/10

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

A colourful release from Conrad is the Liebherr R926 Compact tracked excavator in the COMAT decoration. The orange and white colours are authentically replicated.



CONRAD
MAN TGX GM 6x4 with Goldhofer
Stepstar Trailer

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £158 REF: 80251/01

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

The first outing for the Goldhofer Stepstar trailer paired with a MAN TGX GM 6x4 tractor rig in a nice orange finish. It features functional folding loading ramps.



KRANLAB
Faun SLT-50 Elephant 'ALE' decoration
for Mammoet

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €189 REF: 410301

<https://store.mammoet.com>

An impressive model of the Faun SLT-50 Elephant heavy tow tractor that is packed with detail and comes with a pair of drawbar towing accessories.



IMC MODELS
Faun Goliath 8x8 'ALE' Decoration

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €185

REF: 410279

<https://store.mammoet.com>

The Faun Goliath is a resin model from IMC with an individual serial number and special packaging. It depicts the heavy tow 8x8 monster finished with ALE logos.



IMC MODELS
Demag AC650 Mobile Crane
'Nederhoff' Decoration

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €650 REF: 32-0191

www.imcmodels.eu

Crane fans will surely welcome this mobile crane from IMC which has been finished in the Dutch Nederhoff company colours. The model is a fully functional.



IMC MODELS
Hydrema 912 GS Dump Truck

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €109

REF: 99-08505

www.imcmodels.eu

A new release from IMC is the small but perfectly formed Hydrema 912 GS 10-ton cabbed dump truck, which carries the 'GS' specification markings.



BYMO
Komatsu PC8000-11 Hydraulic
Backhoe Excavator

SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €TBA REF: 25026-11

www.diecastconstruction.co.uk

The long wait is over for the backhoe configuration of the Komatsu PC8000 mining excavator. The model is highly detailed and functional throughout.

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TEKNO
Volvo FH05 'Rüssel Truck Show
2024' Edition
SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €119 REF: 86162

This special edition, low-roof Volvo FH05 tractor has been produced for the 2024 Russel Truck Show. Overall decoration stands out with sharp graphics all around.

www.tekno.nl



TEKNO
Schmitz Refrigerated Trailer 'Rüssel
Truck Show 2024' Edition
SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €89.00 REF: 85521

Produced for the Russel Truck Show, a Schmitz 3-axle refrigerated trailer sporting the colourful green and white graphics. A partner for the Volvo FH05.

www.tekno.nl



WSI MODELS
Scania R Highline CR20H Flatbed
Truck 'Bredenoord' Decoration
SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: €209.00 REF: 01-3781

A smart-looking truck in the striking colours of Bradenoord, this model has it all, from the Palfinger PK65002-SH knuckle-boom crane to the 20' container.

www.wsi-models.com



DRAKE COLLECTABLES
Mack Superliner 'Late Edition
- Light Blue'
SCALE: 1/50 PRICE: £170 REF: Z01511

Drake continues to produce exacting replicas of well-known branded tractors configured for the Australian landscape, like this late edition Mack Superliner!

www.thedrakeshop.com



KK MODELS
Lotus Esprit Turbo "Movie-Version"
1981
SCALE: 1/18 PRICE: £80 REF: KKDC181191

KK Models retell Bond's lesser celebrated Esprit S3 Turbo (Chassis 10858) in a well formed large scale model with accents of detail that brings good authenticity.

www.kk-scale.de



IXO MODELS
VOLVO 242 "Custom" 1980
SCALE: 1/43 PRICE: €24.95
REF: CLC549N.22

A homage to the Q-Car – IXO creates a menacing Volvo 242 which oozes street cred and is sharply presented via lowered haunches and taut spoiler.

www.ixomodels.com



KK MODELS
Lotus Esprit Turbo Essex 1981
SCALE: 1/18 PRICE: £80
REF: KKDC181193

Utilising the Esprit casting template, this rare Essex S3 Turbo is a very smart choice of Lotus with the precise detailing and expertly matched paint scheme.

www.kk-scale.de



PARA64
De Tomaso Pantera GTS
SCALE: 1/64 PRICE: £14.00
REF: PA-55641-5

Para64 take to the unbeaten path with their presentation of De Tomaso's classic Pantera, which is finely captured resulting in a worthy addition to any collection.

www.paragonmodels.com

Coming soon from Corgi



Corgi has announced its new model releases for the next few months. There's new tooling, some old favourites, and plenty more. Here we highlight just a small selection of what's available...



Eurofighter Typhoon FGR4 ZJ914 'Blackjack', RAF Conningsby, 2021/22 Display Scheme
PRICE: £179.99 SCALE: 1/48 REF: AA29003
Expected: Summer 2024



Westland Lysander Mk.III(SD)JR-P, F/O 'Lucky' Newhouse, RAF No.161 Squadron 'A' Flight, 'Operation Scimitar', 4th-5th August 1944
PRICE: £59.99 SCALE: 1/72 REF: AA36810 • Expected: Summer 2024



North American B-25D Mitchell, 41-30024 'Red Wrath' 498th BS/345th BG, USAAF 5th Air Force, Dobodura Airfield, Early 1944
PRICE: £109.99 SCALE: 1/72 REF: AA35315 • Expected: Autumn 2024



Republic P-47D-28RA Thunderbolt 42-29150 / K4-S 'Dottie Mae', Lt. Henry Mohr,
511th FS/410th FG, USAAF, 8th May 1945
PRICE: £59.99 SCALE: 1/72 REF: AA33827
Expected: Autumn 2024



Hawker Typhoon IB PD521 'JBII', Wing Commander J. R. Baldwin,
C/O No 198 Squadron, 146 Wing, Needs Oar Point Airfield, 1944
PRICE: £59.99 SCALE: 1/72 REF: AA36514
Expected: Summer 2024



NEW MODELS



Rover 3500 SE (SD1) Oporto Red
PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA09015
Expected: Summer 2024



Ford Cortina Mk5 2.0 Ghia S Solar Gold
PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA15004
Expected: Summer 2024



Ford Focus Mk3 RS Police Demonstrator
PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA15304
Expected: Autumn 2024



Ford Focus Mk3 RS Shadow Black
PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA15305
Expected: Autumn 2024



Ford Capri Mk2 X-Pack & Ford Granada Mk2 2.8i Ghia
PRICE: £74.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** CC91991
Expected: Summer 2024



FORD CAPRI SPORTING TRILOGY COLLECTION

- VA13315 Ford Capri Mk1 RS3100 (Marine Blue)
- VA15403 Ford Capri Mk2 3.0 GTS (Black)
- VA10823 Ford Capri Mk3 2.8 Injection Special Turbo Technics (Nimbus Grey & Strato Silver)

PRICE: £108.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VC01302

Expected: Autumn 2024



James Bond Aston Martin DB5 Silver

PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** RT26101S

Expected: Autumn 2024



XJ6 Series 2 4.2-litre Dark Blue

PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA13906

Expected: Summer 2024



Ford Capri Mk2 X-Pack Signal Orange

PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA15402

Expected: Summer 2024



Ford Mustang Mk6 GT Fastback Race Red

PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA15503

Expected: Autumn 2024



Ford Mustang Mk6 Mach 1 Grabber Yellow

PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA15504

Expected: Autumn 2024



Jaguar XJ6 Series 1 Warwick Grey

PRICE: £35.99 **SCALE:** 1/43 **REF:** VA08622

Expected: Summer 2024



Marking 60 years of Majorette

Alex Winson, collector, blogger and now Diecast Collector, went out to Germany to help celebrate a big birthday...

For any brand to last 60 years is incredible. A company taking their first steps in Europe in 1964 would have had to pass the turmoil caused by The Cold War, economic struggles, the collapse of the Soviet Bloc, the explosion of technology and the relentless rise of social media, the COVID pandemic... there's a lot to contend with. To stay on the right side of all that would be hard for any company, let alone one producing something as niche as toy cars.

From 1964 until 2024 many diecast brands have come and gone: Dinky. Tri-ang. Marx. Mercury. Dalia. I could go on. But French brand Majorette is still going strong. A 60th birthday party is a big deal and the company pulled out all the stops to celebrate. As part of this, I was invited over to Germany for the very first Majorette Influencer Event to learn more about the company and celebrate a fine and varied history of diecast. And also to get a sneak peek at what the company is planning for the future. With me I had a

very special model; Majorette number 1.

The origins of Majorette lie not in cars but in model railways. The Véron brothers of Lyon founded the Rail Route company in 1961 to produce scale locomotives and accessories. After seeing the success of England's Matchbox, Emile Veron wanted to begin producing small scale cars. The first Majorette cars were produced in 1964 under the Rail Route name and the "BRM" that accompanied me to Germany (a replica of the P57 Formula One car) was the very first. It was followed by a Porsche 804, a Sovam food truck, Bernard lorry and the nine other vehicles that formed the early Rail Route series. By 1967 the Veron brothers had parted ways (Joseph and Paul Veron went on to found Norev) and Majorette was now a brand in its own right.

By the early 1980s Majorette had become one of the biggest producers of scale automobiles in the world and had taken its first steps in the US. Towards the end of the decade however the company was

ABOVE
Rail Route Majorette no.4 was the Ferrari LM, based on the 1964 Le Mans winning Ferrari 275P.



LEFT
Myself and Majorette division director Markus Hirsch.



ABOVE
Four cars from the new Japan Series.



ABOVE
Fiat 500 from the Vintage Cars Series.



ABOVE
Majorette 1 (BRM) and 2 (Porsche 804).

RIGHT
Majorette no.1 and the Racing Car keeping me company during the event.



struggling. Production facilities in Thailand had opened to counter rising costs in France but quality was declining. By 1992 the brand was liquidated and thus began a series of short-lived takeovers by numerous buyers and a rather sad period in the company history. Simba-Dickie took over the brand in 2010 and began an immediate restructure, effectively rebuilding the company from the ground up. The Thai factories also received huge investments and cutting-edge production technology and the resurgence began.

My love with the brand began strapped into a shopping trolley in the early 1990s during trips to Morrisons supermarket with my parents. I was car mad even by the time I had said my first word, and my earliest Majorette car was a VW Beetle which I adored. I'd pester my forever patient mother and father for others on our shopping trips and later with pocket money I was able to build up a small collection of Majorette which saw many races, stunts, and collisions with skirting boards. As I got older the brand remained

close to my heart as I took my first steps as a collector and then a blogger.

In 2019 I joined the diecast blog Lamley Group as a contributor and chose Majorette as one of my "go to" topics. I reached out to the team in Germany and began a relationship that has allowed me to see first-hand the huge progress the brand are making, and one that led me on a Thursday morning in April to the doors of Simba-Dickie HQ in the Bavarian city of Fürth, accompanied by some of the world's best diecast bloggers and figureheads of the Majorette presence on social media.

The immediate thing that struck me was just how passionate the team at HQ are about their work, and how grateful they are of their fanbase. We were treated to an introduction of the team and a presentation on the history of the brand developed by Majorette expert Marc Des Pouy, who had also brought along a small selection of the 25,000+ Majorette in his collection, accompanied by advertisements and



ABOVE
Citroën HY food truck from the French Touch Series.



ABOVE
Citroën HY van from the French Touch Series.



ABOVE
The new Nissan Skyline R34 GT-R from the Japan Series in an exploded form showing the parts that make up a Majorette car.

ABOVE LEFT
Volvo 240 GL in 60th anniversary colours replicating 1980s Majorette packaging.

BELOW
The Racing Car on the Armco at the Norisring circuit.

packaging spanning the entirety of the brand's sixty years.

It was evident just how proud the staff at Fürth are of this history and the immediate evidence was right in front of us in the showroom in the form of the new models released to celebrate the 60th anniversary.

They include an exact replica of the very first Majorette. Now minus the BRM license, the "Racing Car" is available in the same colours the first Rail Route cars were finished in. Various other releases appear in the 60th anniversary range including the superb Citroën HY, Volvo 240 GL, and Citroën DS 21, the latter two also forming part of the 60th Anniversary 5 pack featuring cars adorned with Majorette logos from across the years.

The new Racing Car casting provided some great company for my Rail Route BRM (including during a later trip to the Norisring Circuit) and in a neat touch made an appearance as place holders at the French style dinner put on for us. Each car had been personalised with our names engraved locally by volunteers at a disability charity that Majorette donate to.

Across the two days of the event we were shown every process of the Majorette diecast, from design to finished product. We were treated to an insight into the Thailand factory, which even in the age of automation still requires a human hand to fit small parts and make the finishing touches. It was pleasing to see there is still a human element in the production process and the efforts being made to minimise environmental impact, with by-products of the casting processes going immediately back into the system via recycling.

It is very apparent that there are diecast collectors and real car enthusiasts behind the scenes at HQ, right up to the very top level. Conversations about real vehicles, diecast finds and personal collections flowed not just from my fellow social media folk, but from the mouths of management. They're passionate about cars and their miniature versions. They want to get things right, and if I needed any proof of that the new Japan Series gave me more than enough evidence.

The development team took a long time to ensure the colour shades of each of the five cars matched an actual shade available from the factory. And knowing how much excitement can be caused to fans of Japanese cars by the words "Midnight Purple", they

made the unique Nissan shade the colour of the R34 Skyline GT-R chase car in the set. Now that is cool.

After a long time spent taking in the new castings being presented, we had opportunity to provide suggestions and feedback to the team and believe me, they do know about the wheel issues on their models! They're constantly monitoring social media, and through such fantastic representatives as Damian Nicholas (head of the Majorette Australasia Instagram and Facebook page) they have valuable insights into the wants of collectors. They're also keen to keep growing with brand and event collaborations and I'm pleased to say the UK is a very important market to them going forward. After a bumpy start in Asda



ABOVE
The BRM and Racing Car casting were with me during the boardroom meetings.



ABOVE
The cars of the new Japan Series.

ABOVE RIGHT
Citroën DS21 recolour from the Vintage Cars Series.



stores there's been a refresh at the UK distributor, and I can already say there are positive steps being made to engage collectors here and provide more opportunity to get hold of Majorette.

So, what of the rest of 2024, and further on, 2025? Well, I've got to remain tight lipped on some of the things I saw but let's just say there's a lot of cool metal on the way. The French Touch series (with liveries based on the culinary specialties of France) is a recognition of Majorette's home nation and will bring two new Citroën HY colours affixed with a new wheel design. The aforementioned Volvo 240 and Citroën DS 21 will slot into the Vintage Cars range in some very neat new colours. And speaking

of the Vintage Cars line-up, British collectors will surely appreciate the upcoming Ford Escort Mk2, sitting on Schmidt TH-esque 5 spokes.

Like your metal to be a bit more modern? Majorette can do that too. From the array of Stuttgart legends in the Porsche series to the Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio and Bugatti Chiron Pur Sport via the Alpine A110 to the current crop of US Muscle cars, there's something for everyone.

This all may sound like lot of hyperbole and over praise but honestly I think it's deserved. There's a lot to be excited about if you're a Majorette collector, and a lot to reassure any future collectors. Sixty years after the first car the future looks brighter now than ever. ■





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1:43 Scale Vanguards - Due Summer 2024



VA08622 - Jaguar XJ6 Series 1 Warwick
Grey.....£28.79



VA09015 - Rover 3500 SE SD1 Oporto
Red.....£28.79



VA15004 - Ford Cortina Mk5 2.0 Ghia S Solar
Gold.....£28.79



VA15304 - Ford Focus Mk3 RS Police
Demonstrator.....£28.79



VA15305 - Ford Focus Mk3 RS Shadow
Black.....£28.79



VA15402 - Ford Capri Mk2 XPack Signal
Orange.....£28.79



VA15503 - Ford Mustang Mk6 GT Fastback
Race Red.....£28.79



Aviation Archive - Due 2024 1:48 Scale



AA29003 - Eurofighter Typhoon FGR4 ZJ914
Blackjack RAF Coningsby 2021/22 Display
Scheme.....£143.99

1:72 Scale



AA36810 - Westland Lysander MkIIa JR-P
No.161 Sqn RAF A Flight July 1944.....£47.99



AA35315 - North American B25D Mitchell
Red Wrath 4130024 345th BG 498th BS Port
Moresby February 1944.....£87.99



AA33827 - Republic P47D Thunderbolt
Dottie Mae 4229150/K4S, 410th FG, 511th
FS, May 8th 1945.....£47.99



AA36514 - Hawker Typhoon IB MN935 JB II
Wing Commander J. R. Baldwin 146 Wing,
RAF, June 1944.....£47.99



1:76 Scale Buses - Due 2024



UK0073 - ADL Enviro 400 Ensignbus 123
SN59 AWV.....£53.60

UK6205 - ADL Enviro 400 Heritage National
Express West Midlands 4722
BU07 LGY.....£53.60

UK6533 - ADL Enviro 400 Brighton and Hove
301 YX69 NVL.....£53.60

UK6535 - ADL Enviro 400 Hampshire Bus
10700 YEL 4T.....£53.60

UK0074 - ADL Enviro 400 Reading Buses
Greenline 782 SN66 WRD.....£53.60

UK6206 - ADL Enviro 400 Reading Buses
Green Express 1208 GO11 LDN.....£53.60



Film and TV Series Vehicles - Due 2024



CC91991 - 1:43 Scale Screen Stars Ford
Capri Mk2 XPack And Ford Granada Mk2
2.8i Ghia *The Professionals*.....£59.99



CC06807 - 1:36 Scale James Bond Rolls
Royce Phantom III Sedan de Ville
Goldfinger.....£28.79



1:76 Scale AEC Routemasters - Due July



E41701 - AEC Routemaster RM8 VLT8 London
Transport Solid White Roundel Route 21 Sidcup
Garage.....£38.20



E41702 - AEC Routemaster RM1127 127CLT
London Transport Red Open Style Roundel
Route 90B Fulwell Garage.....£38.20



E41703 - AEC Routemaster RM1546 546CLT
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E41704 - AEC Routemaster WLT655 (formerly
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Majorette Müller Volkswagens

Mike Pigott looks at a pair of promotional Volkswagens produced by Majorette for a German drugstore chain.

ABOVE
The pair of models showing the opening parts.

High streets in Germany are dominated by three large drugstore chains: Müller, Rossmann and DM (Drogerie Mart). Despite being called drugstores, these shops do not sell medications or fill prescriptions, which are handled by Apotheke stores (pharmacies), instead selling cosmetics, hygiene products and health foods, like the UK chain Superdrug.

Müller & Co was founded in Ulm in 1953, and grew to become one of the largest chains in Germany, with over 500 stores there and many in neighbouring countries such as Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, and Croatia. In addition to perfumes and hygiene items, Müller stores also sell groceries, drinks, stationery and toys. Stores in bigger towns and cities are often very large, and can have as many as five floors, selling CDs and DVDs, electrical goods, and books. Some of the larger stores have enormous toy departments, and sell a good selection of diecast items including Siku, Schuco, Herpa and Majorette models. Like many major diecast retailers,

Müller has commissioned promotional models in its own livery.

MAJORETTE

Majorette was founded in France in 1964, and initially produced good quality diecast vehicles that were similar to Matchbox toys. However, in 2010 German toy manufacturer Simba-Dickie acquired the Majorette brand. The earlier tooling was discontinued, and Majorette was re-launched as a direct competitor to fellow German company Siku, with solid, realistic models that sold at a higher price than Hot Wheels or Matchbox. In fact, little of Majorette's French heritage is evident as most models in the range are of German and international vehicles.

VOLKSWAGENS

The promotional models produced for Müller were quite appropriate for a famous German company, being a Volkswagen Beetle and a Type 1 Bulli van. These models were already in the Majorette range



LEFT
Volkswagen Transporter.

BELOW
A large Muller store in Ulm.
Photo by Mike Pigott.



and were not exclusive castings. The two models were finished in the company's colours of white, orange, and black with printed logos, and were packaged in standard Majorette short blister cards without special branding.

BEETLE

The first model issued was of the iconic Volkswagen Beetle. Judging by the oval rear window and the small taillights, it was based on a 1950s version. It is a very accurate casting, capturing the look of a classic Beetle. The body is painted white, with Müller logos printed on the sides, and a very bright orange imitation fabric sunroof. The front luggage compartment lifts up, but only reveals a bare metal ridge over the front axle. Printed details in silver highlight the headlight bezels, chrome strips, handle, and VW badge on the nose, while the taillights are touched in with red paint. The interior is in black plastic and includes the running boards, while the glazing is clear and incorporates the headlights. The base and bumpers are in orange plastic and the wheels, which are of a silver, six-slot design, are not particularly accurate, they are of a realistic width. Scale is given as 1/64.

BULLI VAN

The second model was the Type 1 Transporter Van, known as the Bulli in Germany. This was one of the new Majorette's most popular models, and several different body styles were produced, including the Transporter, Kombi Van, Samba station wagon and pick-up. The Müller version is again painted white, with an orange roof. The VW logo on the front is printed in orange, as are the sweeping V-shaped trim lines that continue along the body sides. Müller logos are printed on the sides and on the rear cargo door, which opens. The interior is in beige plastic, but is actually the mini-bus interior, as it includes

rear seats that can be seen from the opening rear door. The glazing is clear and incorporates the headlights. The base and bumpers are in orange plastic, and the realistically narrow wheels are of a chrome disc style. The scale is larger than the Beetle, at 1/59.

Whether these models are based on real vehicles is uncertain, although other manufacturers including Wiking and Schuco have produced promotional Müller vehicles in the past, which had very similar liveries. Certainly, the Volkswagen Van would have been appropriate for making local deliveries, and transporting stock to smaller branches. The role of the Beetle is perhaps less obvious; although in the days before digital photography, fleets of Volkswagens were often used for collecting rolls of film to be processed from pharmacies and delivering prints. ■

BELOW
Volkswagen Beetle.



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Post-war British clockwork cars

For a relatively short period after World War Two, several British toymakers combined diecast construction with clockwork mechanisms. **Andrew Ralston** finds out more...

ABOVE
Gaiety's racing car came in various sizes, of which this is the largest (c. 5.25 inches). Photo: Vectis Auctions

Last time (*Diecast Collector*, June 2024) we saw how Mettoy, Wells-Brimtoy and Chad Valley – three of the larger British toy companies known for making clockwork tinplate toys – had a go at fitting similar mechanisms to diecast cars after World War II. All three were in the big league of toymakers, but in the early post-war years the pent-up demand for new toys was such that many smaller makers briefly found a niche with metal products that were often simple and crude but found buyers nonetheless. Extensive research carried out by the noted collector and author Robert Newson has revealed that numerous workshops of this kind operated in London and largely faded away when better quality toys became more widely available on the home market. This process was hastened by the restriction on the use of metal for toys resulting from the 1951 Korean War. This month we'll look at a selection of the more interesting of these ephemeral products, in roughly chronological order.

SCAMOLD

It is hard to find many British diecast clockwork cars made prior to the second World War but there was

a small range of racing cars sold under the Scamold name (a contraction of Scale Models Ltd) launched in 1939. The box states that they were manufactured at the Brooklands race track which soon afterwards concentrated on wartime aircraft production and toy production moved to an address in Malvern, Worcestershire. The 1/35 scale Alta, Maserati and ERA were quite sophisticated for the time, with features such as working suspension and a removable



ABOVE
Gaiety Toys/Castle Art Morgan with plated finish – one of the few models of this distinctive three-wheeler sports car. Photo: Vectis Auctions.



ABOVE
Maserati from the small series of Brooklands-style racing cars made by Scamold. Photo: Vectis Auctions.



ABOVE
Another of the Scamold models, based on the Alta, a British car that became popular with amateur racing drivers in the 1930s. Photo: Vectis Auctions.



ABOVE
An unusual post-war Vauxhall coupé, distributed in 1948 by L. D. Abraham.



ABOVE
Another of the numerous colours found on the Vauxhall. The bright yellow contrasts with the sombre box in austerity-grade cardboard. Photo: Vectis Auctions.

mechanism wound up by a starting handle at the front. The box carried the logo of other cars such as Bugatti and MG suggesting that further models were planned but Scamold did not last beyond 1950.

GAIETY/CASTLE ART

Birmingham-based diecasting business Castle Art Products was founded in 1946 and made racing cars in three sizes (3.25, 4.25 and 5.25 inches respectively), the larger two being fitted with clockwork motors. These are loosely based on Brooklands-style racers, though much chunkier and toy-like than the Scamolds. Yet Gaiety was also capable of making quite accurate replicas, as can be seen from their clockwork-powered three-wheeled Morgan sports car (c. five inches long). These models exist in both painted and plated finishes and carry the maker's name underneath.

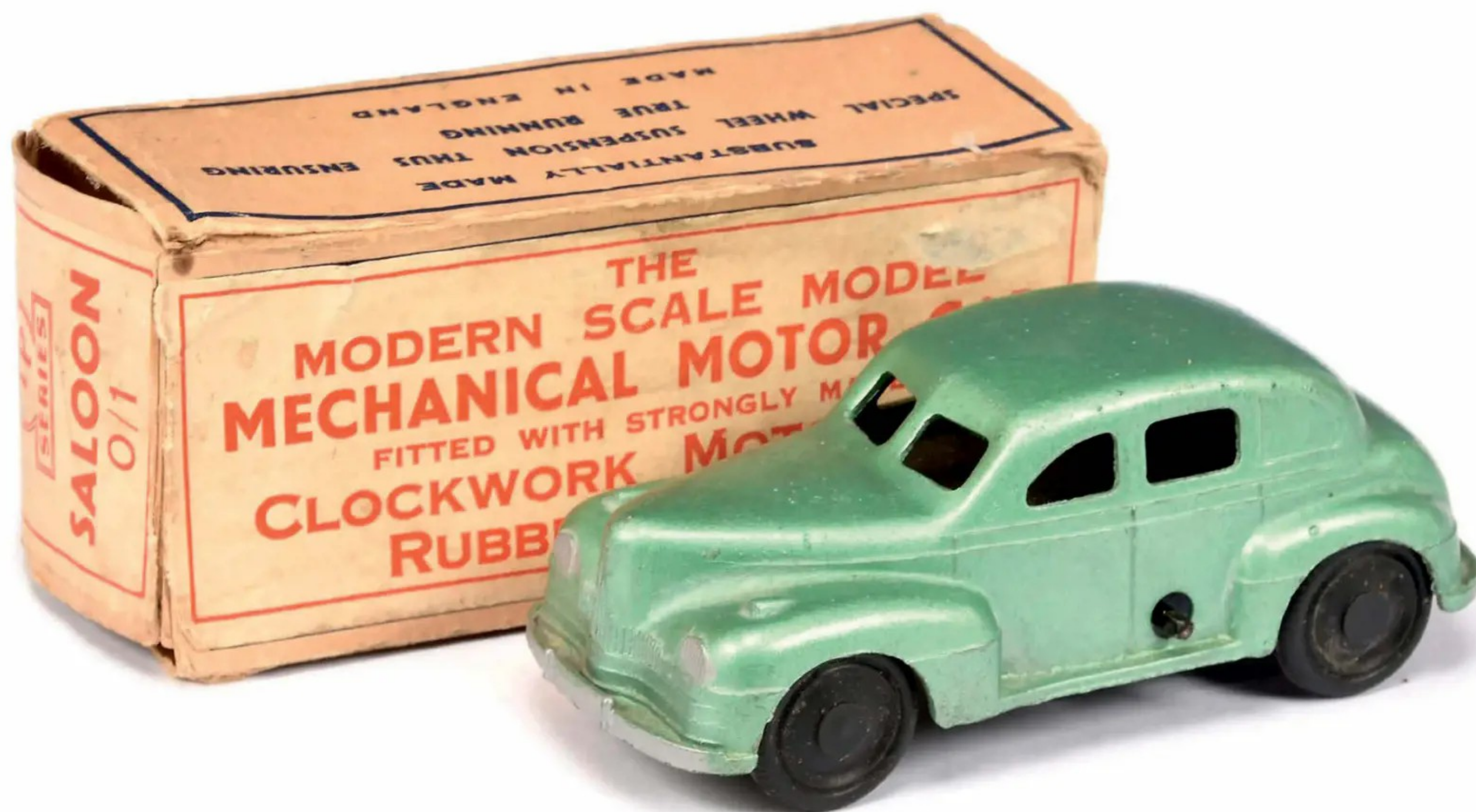
L.D. ABRAHAM

From time to time a mysterious clockwork Vauxhall coupé turns up, simple in style but with the characteristic 'fluted' decorations on the side of the bonnet picked out in silver. The base consists

of a central strip of tinfoil, open on either side. This model has been attributed to various makers without any real evidence; even a boxed one gives no clue, as the packaging is simply a brown card box with a drawing of the car. Once again, it was Robert Newson whose study of 1940s toy trade journals positively identified the model as being advertised in 1948 by L. D. Abraham and Company, of London EC1. This company, which dates back as far as 1890, was originally a distributor of Far Eastern sourced textiles and fancy goods under the 'Telsalda' name which in the 1960s was often found on plastic toy cars imported from Hong Kong. Presumably Abrahams had the Vauxhall made for them by someone else.

BETAL

Betal was a trademark of J. and H. Glasman who were active in the toy industry as far back as 1929. After the war Glasman operated from premises in Plaistow Road, London E15, and at the 1947 British Industries Fair exhibited a wide range of toy products under the Betal name such as carpentry sets, forts, table tennis sets, a bus conductor's set and metal mechanical toys, the best known being a tinfoil



clockwork trolleybus. They also made or distributed a diecast 'Mechanical Midgi-car'. A forgotten batch of these turned up in a warehouse in the late 1970s and for a time the Betal car was often seen at toy fairs. Some have detected a resemblance to a Packard at the front, but essentially the car is a generic forties shape. Maybe that's why Betal just decided to call it a 'Midgi-car'...

KEMBO

Yet another obscure maker of a handful of diecast models, Kembo was a name used by a company called Lovell Bros and Jardine of Reigate, Surrey. Like several other firms, their main business lay in industrial diecasting, with the toys being merely a sideline. In addition to some non-motorised lorries, Kembo made a vaguely Packard-like car, both as a saloon and police car, available with or without a clockwork mechanism.

TOY PRODUCTS LTD

Identified by the initials 'TP' or the brand name Robin Hood, this company operated in Walsall in the West Midlands until going into receivership in 1955. TP are known to have made a group of diecast cars and commercial vehicles, the best-known being an American-style saloon car, a 'Razor Edge' saloon, a hardtop coupé, a sports car and a 'Midget Sports Car' which was such a caricature that it has sometimes been thought to represent a fairground dodgem car! These are mostly generic in style, though various attempts have been made to identify them. Some collectors think the coupé might be a Bentley or a Lea Francis; the suggestion that the saloon is based on a Mercury sounds plausible, while the 'Razor Edge' car is clearly a Rolls Royce. These are all heavy castings of around five to six inches in length, and are generally freewheeling, with covered-in wheelarches and cast metal one piece wheels suspended from within the body rather than on axles. However, the coupé, Razor Edge and American saloons also came with wind-up motors and these have open wheelarches and solid rubber wheels for better traction. These models have

no base plates: the tightly-wound spring and gearing is exposed underneath and safety concerns would certainly rule them out as children's toys today!

RIVER SERIES

Dating from 1953, a little later than most of the toys considered so far, the River Series was a sideline of a metal casting company called Jordan and Lewden of Homerton, London E9. The series consisted of both cars, which are highly sought-after now, and oddly-shaped trucks which have less appeal. The cars will not be discussed here as they have friction rather than clockwork motors, but the forward-control lorry sometimes had a clockwork mechanism, fitted flat under the chassis. After a few years, Jordan and Lewden gave up toy-making to concentrate on industrial casting work and, as is well-known, some of the River Series tooling went to Israel and re-emerged under the Gamda name.

BELOW

Chad Valley Midget Ambulance (left) beside another ambulance by Kay: two of the smallest clockwork diecasts made in the post-war years. Photo: Vectis Auctions.



LEFT Made by Toy Products Ltd of Walsall, this saloon car bears some likeness to a 1940s Mercury. Photo: Vectis Auctions.



ABOVE Betal 'Midgi-Car' came with or without a clockwork motor. A friction-drive version was also produced and the box was over-labelled 'gyro-powered'.



ABOVE Clockwork mechanism of the Kembo is typical of toys of the 1946-51 era.



ABOVE Another minor maker, Kembo, made this vaguely Packard-like car, shown here in Police guise with a huge loudspeaker.



ABOVE Worth mentioning in connection with the clockwork diecast theme are the legendary Foden lorries by Shackleton, frequently advertised in the 'Meccano Magazine' in the 1950s. These were not so much toys as pieces of miniature engineering, boasting features such as "shaft drive, universal coupling and Ackermann-type steering." Selling at a price of more than three pounds in 1956 (equivalent to about £80 today) these were in a very different category to the simple diecast toys discussed here.

ABOVE The concept of the diecast clockwork car continued in Germany. The Schuco Micro-Racer series, for example, dates back to the 1950s and has periodically been put back in production.



ABOVE Though described only as a 'Razor Edge' saloon, the box illustration of this model by Toy Products clearly suggests it is based on a Rolls Royce. It came either freewheeling with metal wheels and covered-in wheel arches, or with clockwork motor, open wheel arches and solid rubber wheels. Photo: Vectis Auctions



LEFT Few would agree with the box description of this River Series truck as a 'realistic toy', but it did have the merit of being clockwork powered. The six cars in the River Series are more desirable, but these had friction rather than clockwork motors. Photo: Vectis Auctions

RIGHT Like the Vauxhall, the Betal Midgi-Car came in various colours.



CONCLUSION

Both major and minor British toymakers offered quite a selection of diecast clockwork-powered cars after the war but the appeal of this type of toy proved to be short-lived. However, various European diecasters such as Solido in France and Schuco in Germany did continue with clockwork diecasts for longer, and they reached their highest level of development in the sophisticated mechanisms fitted to the German Prämata range of cars in the mid-1950s. Schuco's Micro-Racer series survived longer, production being restarted in the 1980s by an ex-Schuco employee called Werner Nutz and continued by the revived Schuco company in the 21st century. These models are, of course, now aimed at adult collectors rather children.

One explanation for the longevity of German clockwork toy production might be that Germany had a very long tradition of producing mechanical toys, whereas in the UK the diecast market evolved in a different direction with the expansion of choice in the form of Matchbox (1953 onwards) and Corgi (1956

onwards), in addition to the ever-growing Dinky range. The smaller players fell by the wayside and in any case clockwork diecasts were probably more expensive to produce, with the mechanisms generally being bought in from specialist makers.

Even today, it's surprising how many of the British toys discussed in these pages turn up at toy fairs in well-played with condition – a fact that is surely testimony to the robustness of their construction. Whatever they lacked in realism, they made up for in play value for children who must surely have cherished them in that bygone era of post-war austerity. ■

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The website www.robertnewson.co.uk provides much fascinating information on the smaller diecast companies of the early post-war era.

<https://vbd3.co.uk/viewtopic.php?t=152> contains an interesting discussion on the TP Robin Hood series and also shows three other lorries carrying a 'Robin Hood, Walsall, England' transfer. The design of these looks quite different from the other better-known issues.





Fast Czech

In recent years, Skoda won several national and international rally series around Europe. **Francisco Mota** looks at the Czech brand's evolution in the sport, through a collection of diecasts representing rally cars produced by the company. Photos: João Carlos Oliveira

Skoda, the car brand from Czech Republic, is one of the top players in international rallying around Europe. The brand produces a special rally version of its hatchback Fabia and sells it to any rally team that wishes to enter rallying in Rally2 class. In several national and international series, this is the top level in the sport. Only the World Rally Championship (WRC) features cars of a higher level, the Rally1 hybrid class. The Rally2 cars are made from a volume-produced car, however, the result is almost a prototype, as only the basic monocoque is retained from the street version. The rally car has a complete roll bar that also works as a secondary chassis, a much more powerful engine and four-

wheel drive, as well as a complete aerodynamic package, rally suspension (gravel and tarmac) and tyres. Skoda has been particularly successful in putting together the Fabia Rally2, the car being the first choice for many privateer teams and drivers, always with close support from Skoda's Motorsport department.

This is recent history as the company's Motorsport involvement started as early as 1905. The Voituretta A was the first car made by the company, then known as Laurint & Klement, and it was winning races from 1908. If we count motorcycle racing, the beginning was even earlier, in 1901. There's a lot to be said about Skoda in motorsport for the following seven decades, but our focus is rallying so let's fast forward to the 1970s.



MAIN IMAGE

Three eras of Skoda in rallying, from left: 1996 Felicia Kit Car, 2016 Fabia R5 and 2006 Fabia WRC, all 1/43 diecast manufactured by IXO.

A small rear-wheel drive, rear-engine two door coupe was entered in national and international rallies. Featuring a 1.3-liter engine, it became known as the “Porsche of the East” and was a regular class winner. Their most famous win was in the 1977 Monte Carlo rally, where the 130 RS clinched first and second places in their category. A small sedan, the 130 LS would follow from 1984, featuring the same mechanic layout, fighting successfully for class honors in the following seasons.

The biggest turn of events arrived in 1991, when the Volkswagen Group bought Skoda. By this time, the rally team was using Favorit 136L, a small front-wheel drive supermini and still aiming at small capacity class wins. They entered the WRC for some events in 1993 and a full season the following year, winning the World Cup in their class. A new model, called the Felicia, followed with something that was broadly speaking an evolution of the previous Favorit, now entered in the Kit Car category, a higher-level class.

Ambition was up for the 1999 WRC season, when Skoda homologated the Octavia WRC, this time it was a car for the top class in the sport. As a medium

sized family car, it was relatively big for the task, so Skoda replaced the Octavia for the Fabia WRC in 2003, still fighting for leading places, unfortunately without great overall results. That made the company rethink their strategy from 2009, abandoning the top class and focusing on the second level rallying, at the time known as the S2000 class. The second-generation Fabia road car was the basis for the 2009 Fabia S2000. Rally results in the following seasons showed the new strategy was right, with Skoda dominating their class in several WRC events. No other car had been as successful in this category before. Fabia S2000 achieved 50 national and international titles worldwide, making it the most successful rally car ever made by the company, until then. It was the model that opened a new business within Skoda, as this specialized rally car was the first sold to numerous privateer rally teams around the world. At the end of production in 2015, 63 cars had been built.

This was something that changed the brand’s approach to rallying and was further amplified for the following third generation Fabia. Launched in

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The biggest turn of events arrived in 1991, when the Volkswagen Group bought Skoda. By this time, the rally team was using Favorit 136L, a small front-wheel drive supermini and still aiming at small capacity class wins.

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ABOVE Two small 2+2 coupes were used by Skoda in rallying, the 1984 MTX 160 RS, on the left (IXO) and the early 1975 200 RS Prototype (Fox18 by Spark).



ABOVE In the 1990s, Skoda started using small front wheel-drive superminis like the 1993 Felicia Kit Car (left) and the 1993 Favorit 136L, both by IXO.

2015, the new model was now named the Fabia R5, according to the new technical rules for class 2 rally cars. The governing body would subsequently change the name of this category to Rally2, in 2020 and that still stands today. Regulations imply a lower price tag for this type of car, compared with the former S2000 and that was one of the reasons for the Fabia R5 success. In 2019, a new evolution version was homologated, known as Rally2 evo. That year, customers driving this rally car won a total of 19 national titles and further four won continental championships, including the world championship for privateer teams. The following season, drivers at the wheel of a Fabia Rally2 won another 14 national titles and a second world title. Skoda launched a new version, called the Fabia RS Rally2, in 2022, based on the fourth generation road car. Better aerodynamics, higher stiffness, more complex electronics, a new stronger engine were part of the improvements. Since 2015, more than 470 Fabia Rally2 cars were sold to privateer teams around the globe. Since 2020, Skoda no longer has a works team, leaving their customer teams to handle rallying activities. However, the Motorsport department improved customer support, not only by selling spare parts, but also providing technical support whenever needed.

SCALE MODELS

Skoda in rallying is a theme that diecast model maker IXO found interesting

enough to invest in. The brand offers almost all of the different cars the manufacturer entered along the years. In this article, all except one are 1/43 scale models issued by IXO. The exception is the oldest model, the red 1975 200 RS, marketed by Foxtoys, but looking exactly as a Spark resincast release. This was a prototype made by Skoda based on the 130 RS, with a bigger engine and wider body. The scale model looks stunning, with its wide wheels and enlarged body, six chromed spotlights and exposed rear exhaust system. There's a lot of detail to be seen inside the cockpit, including two red crash helmets, complete dash and racing seats. This 200 RS entered the Czech national Sumava rally, however it was never homologated for international rallying. Nine



ABOVE The 1984 MTX 160 RS had an aerodynamic body kit and enlarged tracks, front and rear.



ABOVE No shortage of extra spotlights in this 1975 200 RS Prototype, perfectly reproduced by Fox18 by Spark.



ABOVE Mud flaps, exhaust pipe and catches for the rear hatch are some of the details in the Felicia Kit Car by IXO.



ABOVE Very similar to the street car, this Favorit 136L modelled by IXO has excellent headlights.

BELOW Two different eras in rallying: on the left the 2012 Fabia S2000 in snow specification, on the right the 1986 130 LR, one of the smallest Group B cars.





ABOVE Wide and complex rear wing on the 2006 Fabia WRC - very well rendered by IXO.



ABOVE Didier Auriol, world rally champion, drove the Octavia WRC in 2003, his last season as a works driver.



ABOVE Golden wheel rims look superb in the 2017 Fabia R5 scale model.



ABOVE Note air duct on the front bonnet, to allow hot air out of the front of the engine compartment.



ABOVE Fabia S2000 is one of the best Skodas reproduced by IXO, with lots of small details.



ABOVE The pair of WRC cars entered in the early 2000s. On the left, the 2003 Octavia WRC, the other one is the 2006 Fabia WRC.



ABOVE Two unusual liveries for the works team Fabia R5, the red and black was seen in 2016, while the white with blue stripes is from 2017.

years latter, Skoda was still using the same concept of 2+2 rear-wheel drive and rear engine coupe in the 1984 MTX 160 RS. There was a new body styling and further developments in terms of aerodynamics for this car that raced in the national Valasska rally. The Agroteam sponsored car modeled by IxXO looks very close to the real car, looking at period pictures found in the internet. Front end features extra spotlights, wheels look realistic and the exhaust system under the rear bumper is a very nice touch, as well as the tilted rear mud flaps.

The next car Skoda homologated to go rallying was the small sedan 130 LR, a car that remained faithful to the rear engine and rear-wheel drive layout. IXO reproduced the 1986 version as entered in the WRC Sanremo rally where Skoda finished an amazing sixth overall, in the last year of the Group B era. This is another well executed diecast, featuring exact proportions, a very complete livery and good details, like roof aerial, great looking wheels, rear wing and four mud flaps with the brand engraved. Front bonnet has catches on the right side only, that's because it opened sideways.

In the late 1980s, Skoda changed their street cars to a more modern front-wheel drive and front engine layout. The first one was the supermini Favorit, that IXO reproduced as the 136L version, entered in the 1993 Monte Carlo rally. This is a very interesting diecast that captures the essence of this small and humble rally car. The Favorit's basic shape is very well rendered, with excellent headlights and those small wheels. Wing mirrors are race items and the

cabin features racing seats and not much else. The simple livery of the real car is closely reproduced making this diecast look great. Next to it, the Felicia Kit Car seems a full-fledged rally machine, with much bigger wheels, slightly enlarged wheel arches and a more modern styling. The body looks great and features details like the sump guard, mud flaps, metallic catches for the rear hatch and much more inside the cabin. IXO choose the 1996 RAC version, with rally number 27, the driver was no less than Stig Blomqvist, the 1984 world rally champion that finished the event in an incredible third place overall.

From here, Skoda decided it was time to play with the big boys and developed their first top level rally car, the 1999 Octavia WRC, complete with four wheel drive and 2.0-liter turbocharged engine. IXO reproduced several versions of this one: here we have the 2003 Monte Carlo car driven by Didier Auriol, the 1994 world rally champion. He drove the Octavia WRC to a credible 9th overall in what was his last year in the WRC as a works driver. This is an older scale model by IXO, however the quality level was already very high and comparable to what this model maker did later. Overall shape looks correct and detailing includes three roof aerials, plus a TV camera facing forward. The intercooler under the front grille is very realistic and the same can be said about the wheel rims and all the rally accessories inside the cabin. A very nice effort from IXO, just like the second top level car made by Skoda, the Fabia WRC. By 2006, WRC technical regulations had evolved and allowed much bigger rear wings, just like the



ABOVE IXO has a versatile sets of parts to reproduce several versions of its Fabia R5. On the left, the 2017 gravel specification with smaller wheels; on the right the big tarmac wheels.



LEFT Two more class winners, car number 32 won in the 2017 Portugal rally, while car number 25 won in Monte Carlo in 1021.

LEFT Green and white are the official Skoda colours, here with two different liveries.



ABOVE Regulations dictate the size and shape of the rear wing in Rally2 specification rally cars.



ABOVE Air intake for the cockpit with the driver's flag, the Norwegian Andreas Mikkelsen.

one we can see in this MKI Fabia, perfectly detailed. The wide body gives the Fabia a menacing stance, perfectly represented by IxXO. The three colour livery adds to the effect and there are very good details, like the roof aerials, one is event finished in chrome. Works driver Kopecky drove this one to 5th place overall in 2006 rally Spain.

When Skoda decided to downgrade to the second division in the WRC, they launched the Fabia S2000 and IXO followed with a great diecast, declined in several liveries. We have the car driven by Ogier in the 2012 rally Sweden that finished 11th and first of its category. Ogier had already signed for VW, but the Polo WRC was not ready until the following year. So, the team decided to run a Fabia S2000 for Ogier in the championship, while testing and developing their future WRC car. This is one of the best diecasts in this collection, not only because the overall shape looks perfect, but also due to some details like the narrow snow tyres and wheels, only used in Sweden, complete with blue mud flaps. The livery is very simple, but IXO did not fail to notice the pale yellow side sills and front black stripe under the front bumper.

IXO released many Fabia Rally2 versions, with different attractive liveries and specific details for each rally. We have a selection of four, starting with the 2016 rally Barum winner, driven by

Kopecky. An unusual red and black works car that makes great use of this excellent set of parts. This one features wide tarmac wheels and tyres. Next to it, we have the 2017 Monte Carlo car driven by Mikkelsen to 7th overall and class win, featuring a white car with blue stripes, an homage to the 1977 130 RS Monte Carlo class winner. The model comes in tarmac specs, with golden wheels and a single roof aerial. The last pair of models features cars painted the traditional Skoda white and green colours. The 2017 rally Portugal car has gravel wheels painted green and black mud flaps, while the 2021 Monte Carlo has a different livery and white tarmac wheels. They were both class winners, the first one driven by Tidemand and the last one by Mikkelsen. Skoda in rallying probably isn't an obvious collection theme, however sometimes the opportunity to build a small collection comes from what model makers have to offer and this is just the case. ■



BELOW Ixo has released several versions of Fabia R5/Rally2, not only the works cars, but also some cars entered by privateer teams.

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NEO: 1948 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL, V12 LIMOUSINE, DARK BLUE. £59.99



KESS: 1929 DUESENBERG J BERLINE, OPEN TOURER, YELLOW. £64.50



NEO DELUXE: MERCEDES BENZ, 200 W18, OPEN TOURER, CHOCOLATE. £59.50



OTOL MODELS: 1984 NISSAN PATROL, 4X4 VARIOUS COLOURS. HANDBUILT RESIN. £49.50 EACH



CLASSIC COMMERCIALS: THAMES ET6 FLATBED, BRITISH RAIL, WITH PACKING CASE. £39.99



OTOL MODELS: HILLMAN HUNTER MK II, SKY BLUE OR WHITE. £64.50 EACH



DERREZ MODELS: TRIUMPH HERALD, BRABHAM-TUNED, LICHFIELD GREEN. £89.99



CMF: 1927 BENTLEY 6.5, ALAN MANN RACING, "MOTHER GUN". LTD: 300. £79.50



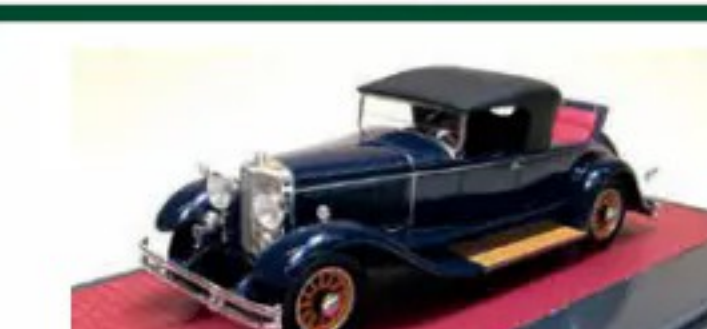
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Feathers in our cap

PART TWO



Now it's the turn of the heavyweight Guys; the Goliath, the Invincible and the Warrior. **Nigel Robertshaw** takes a look at the contemporary 1960s and 1970s toys and models inspired by these mighty machines as they roared up and down Britain's roads.

ABOVE RIGHT

The Petrel Guys were also available in this 1960s Construction Set along with related vehicles and accessories. Hong Kong toys at their most unusual and appealing!

Part 1 of this series (*Diecast Collector*, May 2024) focused on the classic Guy Motors exposed radiator, square cabbed lorries and buses with just a glimpse of the Guy vehicles with concealed radiators and rounded cabs that replaced them from the mid-1950s. Now it's the turn of a new generation of Guy lorries and the toys and models they inspired back in the day.

In 1958 Guy stunned the commercial vehicle world with the introduction of its brand new cab, designed and built by the company. This was carried by the new Mk.II Invincible and was also fitted to the lighter-weight Warrior chassis. The striking cab featured distinctive beefed-up bumpers, a large wrap around windscreen, four headlamps and an export-style sun visor with the interior boasting various driver mod cons. A much rarer and even more exuberant bonneted version was also produced, primarily for overseas markets. This rather less-successful design might not have received a mention here were it not for the two

superb examples which appeared in the toy world, and in amazingly differing scales, as we shall see!

The largest bonneted model might just be one of the biggest diecast toy vehicles ever produced. It was the first of this new generation of Guy lorries and appeared in the toyshops around 1960 but let's leave the biggest and best until last. Instead, we fire-up our Guy story with a somewhat smaller but high quality piece of die-casting from the "Matchbox Series Major Pack" range.

MATCHBOX MAJOR GUY WARRIOR CAR TRANSPORTER

This excellent Car Transporter with its drop-down top deck and loading ramp hauled by a Guy Warrior tractor unit, featuring the striking new cab, first appeared in 1964. The delicately cast front grille carried a slightly later design of front bumper and featured both the "Guy" and "Warrior" names on the front together with a tiny representation of the Indian Head emblem. The turquoise and orange livery





carried “Farnborough Measham” and “Car Auction Collections” lettering which continued through a change in Matchbox branding from the original “Major Pack” (M-8) to the then new “King Size” (K-8) range in 1967. For the final two years of production in 1968 and 69 the colour changed to all yellow although the decals were unaltered. There are some quite rare transitional versions that had the early turquoise cab married with the later yellow transporter body. The model was also the key component in the G-2 Transport Gift Set along with four cars. Catalogues quoted a scale of 1/73 for the Guy Warrior which was deemed to be “OO” scale.

This classic model inspired no less than three distinct interpretations of this Guy Warrior lorry from different Hong Kong makers. The first is to the exact same scale and colours and at first glance it's difficult to distinguish this much rarer version from the Matchbox original.

GORDY MITE CAR TRANSPORT

The model is simply marked “Made in Hong Kong” and carries “Gordy Car Transport” side stickers. The Gordy name together with the brands “Gordy Mite” or “Mini Mite” relate to the US-based importer/distributor. Like most Hong Kong copies of British-made diecast



toys the Hong Kong makers shied away from using the actual vehicle and model names so there is no “Guy” or “Warrior” wording cast on the front or underside of this lorry. One other missing item is the slender central window pillar, there on the Matchbox model and the full-size lorry, but not modelled on this version.

This US brand is better known for its extensive range of British-built Dodge lorries, again copied from the Matchbox (1-75) Series. It's therefore possible that this Guy model also appeared in other versions although I've only seen the Car Transporter, blister packed on a backing card and complete with a load of four different cars.

ABOVE

The Gordy Car Transport model from Hong Kong was a close copy of the Matchbox original, although it omitted the centre window pillar.

LEFT

Two versions of the finely cast Matchbox Guy Warrior Car Transporter, the boxed Major Pack and the later yellow King Size model.

BELOW

The main models from Part 2 of this Guy lorry review. (L-r) Petrel, Matchbox, Gordy, National Toys, Husky x2, Corgi Juniors x2 and Kiko, Brazil. They give a good comparison of size and scale although the Mettoy Guy is so big that it cannot be included in the line-up!



LEFT
The Petrel range copied the Matchbox Guy Warrior cab and added six different bodies as seen here.



The next replica is rather different. This time the Hong Kong maker copied the Guy tractor unit from the Matchbox Car Transporter, again to the same scale although with a lengthened wheelbase, and then added at least six different lorry bodies; although there was no artic car transporter in this line-up.

PETREL TOYS GUY LORRIES

This Petrel branded range again omitted the “Guy” and “Warrior” name from the front panel but surprisingly there is the merest representation of the Indian Head as found on the original Matchbox model. This Hong Kong model does have the central windscreen divide although, as with all three Matchbox copies reviewed here, there was no friction motor.

The early versions had solid plastic wheels and crudely applied silver trim to the bumpers, lights and grille area. From around 1970 this embellishment was deleted and the wheels gained plated hubs and wide rubber tyres. The range boasted a huge variety of colours as the four separate sections used to create some versions generated dozens of potential colour combinations.

The six applications mounted on the Guy Warrior chassis were a Tanker, Concrete Mixer, Flat Truck with crates, Break-down Truck, Dump Truck and Girder Truck. The Guy was also used as a tractor unit hauling a low-loader trailer. These models were available individually packed on blister cards or were sold in Gift Sets sometimes featuring all six versions or alongside a selection of other related models.

The third copy of the Matchbox Guy Warrior is a little smaller than the two reviewed so far.

NATIONAL TOYS GUY LORRY

I’ve not seen this National Toys version sold individually but it was part of at least two different Hong Kong-produced Gift Sets. Both these sets featured other vehicles including another Matchbox Major Series copy, the impressive Cooper-Jarrett liveried US-style Inter-State Double Freighter. The Guy Warrior appeared as a simple open wagon or as a much more complex tractor unit attached to a large car transporter trailer complete with a six car load. The tractor unit is a direct copy of the Matchbox model but the transporter trailer was possibly inspired by a Norev model as surprisingly it is not a reproduction of the Car Transporter trailer seen on the original Matchbox version.

These fragile and rather charming little Guys were sold as cheap throw-away items and are now very difficult to find. A good deal more plentiful on the collector’s scene is an extensive range of British-made Guy lorries.

HUSKY GUY WARRIOR TANKERS

When a Shell-BP liveried 6-wheel Tanker joined the Husky range in 1964 no-one could have predicted that this would be the forerunner of a large and complex series of Guy Tankers that were to appear over the next decade and more. The Husky brand was produced by Mettoy (the makers of Corgi Toys) and was sold in the UK exclusively through the Woolworths chain of high street shops.

The first Guy Warrior Tanker casting had an oval tank with the front lights and bumpers formed as part of the plastic chassis/baseplate of the model. In 1965 a Milk Tanker and a less-authentic looking US Army Tanker joined the original fuel Tanker (now with Shell decals) in the Husky line-up.

Within a couple of years a new updated, and slightly larger, Husky casting was introduced which had a squarer tanker body and a more robust die-cast base, still incorporating the front lights and bumpers. Although relatively well detailed for such a small model neither this casting nor the earlier one featured the “Guy” or “Warrior” name on the front panel although these names were specified in the catalogues and on some of the packaging. Esso branding replaced the Shell liveried tanker and right at the end of Husky production much more realistic wheels with separate rubber tyres were



ABOVE This Blackpool seaside emporium was selling-off 30 year old stock back in 1998. Here’s the display of its 25p Petrel lorries; a bargain!

BELOW The National Toys Car Transporter was part of an impressive gift set which included two American rigs again inspired by Matchbox Major Pack models.



Corgi Juniors variants line-up including the rare Shell promotional issue in yellow. "Super-fast Whizz Wheels" make an (unwelcome) appearance! Not sure that rivals Matchbox would have been happy with the "Super-fast" reference.



ABOVE A selection of Husky Guy Warrior Tankers including the US Army and Milk Tankers.

FAR RIGHT A large Matchbox inspired US Inter-State Freightner makes an unusual pairing with a Guy Warrior Dropside Wagon. It's another charming 1960s set from National Toys of Hong Kong.

added which significantly enhanced the appeal of these models. We're now moving into the late 1960s; a period of great change in the toy world...

CORGI JUNIORS GUY TANKERS

The exclusivity arrangement with Woolworths ended in 1969 and the Husky range, including the fuel Tanker (the US Army and Milk Tankers had been dropped from the line-up), were rebranded as Corgi Juniors. This must have been a hastily arranged change as many models in the new range, including the Tanker, were issued with makeshift "Corgi Juniors" adhesive stickers attached to the bases. Unfortunately, and in a very short space of time, these authentic looking toys were no longer what your average Corgi Juniors buyer wanted!

The new Corgi Juniors range was almost immediately impacted by the invasion of Mattel's Hot Wheels and out went accurate scale models in favour of futuristic go-faster vehicles mainly designed to run on flexible

track systems. Corgi reacted by significantly revamping its Juniors range, including the Guy Tanker casting which received wider wheel-arches to accommodate its six much larger Whizzwheels. A little later a new plastic baseplate was added which significantly changed the front-end appearance as this only incorporated the headlights (and not the bumpers and grille). A little surprisingly the "Guy" name reappeared on the new baseplate of these models. These Whizzwheels versions of the Tanker were issued in various fuel distributor liveries. The last of this British-made line ended in the early 1970s but this still wasn't the end of these Guy Tankers.

KIKO CORGI JUNIOR GUY TANKERS

It appears that the tooling for various Corgi Juniors models was subsequently shipped to Brazil and produced under the "Corgi Junior, Kiko" brand name. The Tanker, still with "Guy Tanker" lettering on the underside was produced in a colourful assortment of fuel company liveries, many unknown over here. The models moved away from the blister packs associated with UK production and were packaged in traditional and rather colourful card boxes. These Brazilian Kiko toys seem to attract prices well above their British-made counterparts.

Let's now go back to 1964 as Husky released two Guy Warrior based models in that year; the Tanker that we have just seen and a very different looking bonneted model which appeared in two versions. Fortunately the subsequent story of these models is not as long and complex as seen with the Tankers.

HUSKY GUY WARRIOR COAL TRUCK AND SAND TRUCK

This model is based on the unusual and quite rare normal control (bonneted) version of the 3-axle Guy



BELOW The three main front-ends found on the Husky/Corgi Juniors Tankers. (L-r) oval tank version, larger square tank casting and final revamped base and front-end design.

Warrior more associated with export markets than with use in Britain. Both these Husky models used the same lorry casting featuring a high-sided body and the only difference related to whether there was a black insert to represent the load for the Coal Truck or a brown one for the load on the Sand Truck.

In line with the Tankers described above the original Husky versions, later fitted with realistic wheels with cast hubs and rubber tyres, were rebranded as Corgi Juniors around 1969. The final issues of the Sand Truck from the early 1970s went on to receive Whizzwheels although it's likely that the Coal Truck had been deleted from the range before this final change.

It seems that the tooling for these bonneted Guys did not make it over to Brazil which is a shame as this style of large bonneted truck would have been much more appropriate in this part of the world.

For our final Guy lorry we stay with the bonneted Guy and also with Mettoy (the owners of the Husky and Corgi brands) but move up massively in scale to meet some monsters of the diecast world.

METTOY GUY INVINCIBLE HEAVY TRUCKS

Back in the late 1950s Mettoy were enjoying significant success with its recently introduced Corgi Toys range. Quite why it wanted to expand its diecast operations into a series of massively larger toys, which were significantly more expensive and were always likely to have limited sales potential, is a little unclear. Nevertheless around 1959 Mettoy launched a range of large-scale diecast Heavy Duty Trucks based on the rare and unusual bonneted Guy Invincible lorry. These models seem to have been developed from similar US-made Buddy L large scale trucks (based on Diamond Ts) which were marketed (and perhaps manufactured for a short period) in Britain by Mettoy immediately prior to the introduction of the Guy range. The three new models, all featuring an accurate representation of the newly introduced Guy cab, were the Heavy Recovery Truck,



ABOVE The bonneted Guy Warrior Coal and Sand Trucks from Husky and Corgi Juniors showing the colour and wheel variants available.



ABOVE An extract from the 1961 Mettoy catalogue enthuses over the features to be found on the Heavy Recovery Truck. It was priced at 59/6d, making it a seriously expensive toy.



ABOVE All the big Mettoys boast a large tool chest and a detailed engine compartment under the opening bonnet with its fixing stay.

LEFT A close-up of the huge Mettoy showing the Guy Invincible badging and Indian Head motif.

the Heavy Duty Tipper Truck and a variation of this version, the Sit-n-Ride Heavy Truck which featured a large steering wheel, child's seat and a working horn. All boasted opening bonnets with a detailed engine, a tool chest complete with miniature tools and a front metal panel displaying the "Guy" and "Invincible" names together with a well detailed Indian Head emblem.

By 1961 the Recovery Truck was the only version illustrated in the catalogues. Given the giant size of these models the two Tipper Trucks featured a rather flimsy tipping mechanism which may have contributed to their early demise.

The design and development work undertaken on this unusual bonneted Guy model most likely resulted in its later inclusion into the much smaller Husky range. There was a change of name from Invincible for the large scale model to Warrior for the Husky version but both these types of Guy lorries shared the same cab design.

THE BUSES AND COACHES

We've ended with some massive Guy lorries but as in Part 1 we conclude our review of Guy commercials with a look at the bus and coach toys and models of the period. Guy buses and coaches were reasonably commonplace on Britain's roads back in the 1960s and some provided standout memories in my youth.

There were the distinctive 6-cylinder Guy Arab double deckers with their radiators protruding well ahead of the driver's cab and giving them a rugged no-nonsense style all of their own. There was also a local independent that operated a former Guy Arab demonstrator which still retained its "GUY 3" registration; what might that be worth today? Moving to slightly newer Guy buses that were operating in the 1960s my memories relate to the infamous Guy Wulfrunian double deckers. Sadly





ABOVE The Kiko, Corgi Junior branded Guy Tankers from Brazil. Much rarer than their British-made counterparts.



ABOVE Tri-ang Toys scaled-up its Spot-On model to create the large Sit-'n'-Ride Toys Coach. It's shown alongside the more popular Routemaster. Has anyone got, or even seen, the Guy Coach?

this vehicle was something of a disaster for both Guy and its main bus operator, Wakefield-based independent West Riding. Suffice to say that I used to have a 15 mile each way daily commute on a Wulfrunian so imagine my surprise when one day I climbed that (dangerous?) forward facing staircase only to find my coveted front seat (and many others) railed-off and permanently out of use. The Wulfrunians were experiencing massive engineering problems and the premature end of these remarkable vehicles was nigh.

Unsurprisingly there were no Wulfrunian models in the toyshops and there appears to be only one model of a Guy bus or coach available during the 1960s/70s. Once again, and sadly for Guy, the full-size version was also a major disappointment.

SPOT-ON GUY WARRIOR MULLINER LUXURY COACH

Spot-On was innovative with its choice of toys but modelling a brand new vehicle that was making its debut at a Commercial Vehicle Show was always going to be a risk. Unfortunately this Guy Warrior coach fitted with Mulliner coachwork was an unsuccessful combination which did not go into volume production. It featured very large glass and Perspex domes fitted both front and rear which proved difficult to represent in miniature giving the model a less than pleasing appearance. Having said that, this is now a rare, desirable and expensive model with some of the four or more colour combinations fetching some serious money on the obsolete collectors market.

Like many Spot-On models (all built to 1/42 scale) it was short-lived, lasting from 1961 to 1963 only. Spot-On was part of the Tri-ang Toys Empire evidenced by the

“Tri-ang Tours” decal fixed to the rear of the coach. Tri-ang also produced another version of this unusual Guy coach...

TRI-ANG SIT-'N'-RIDE TOYS COACH

This large scale Coach, “made from a new type of moulded plastic” to quote the catalogue joined Tri-ang’s Sit-'n'-Ride Toys range as the stablemate to the much better known Routemaster Bus. Designed “for kiddies to sit astride and learn to steer” it featured in the Tri-ang catalogues from 1964 to 1966 only. Although the double decker Routemaster is well known I’ve not seen this substantially scaled-up version of the Spot-On Guy Coach; is there one out there?

TOUGH GUYS

The current collectable scene features a huge number of Guy vehicles, both lorries and buses, from brands such as Corgi, Lledo, EFE, Britbus and Base Toys, not to mention the replicas from Atlas Dinky and Dan Toys. Most versions are produced in a wealth of different colours and liveries and the variety currently available would truly overwhelm the classic old toys reviewed here. This two part review of the toys and models available when Guy vehicles cruised along (or in many cases slogged up and down) Britain’s roads has been a little more manageable. There’s been a varied and interesting selection of old toys and models, some well-known, others less so, but by its very nature there must be a few items that have been missed. Come on guys, have a think and let me know? ■

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to James and Craig for their help with this piece.

BELOW Know your Guy Tankers! Left to right: (1) Husky oval tank with plastic base. (2) Husky larger casting with square tank and die-cast base. (3) Husky with more realistic wheels. (4) Corgi Juniors version with authentic wheels. (5) Corgi Juniors version with Whizzwheels. (6) Corgi Juniors Whizzwheels with plastic base and modified front panel. (7) Corgi Junior Kiko version made in Brazil.



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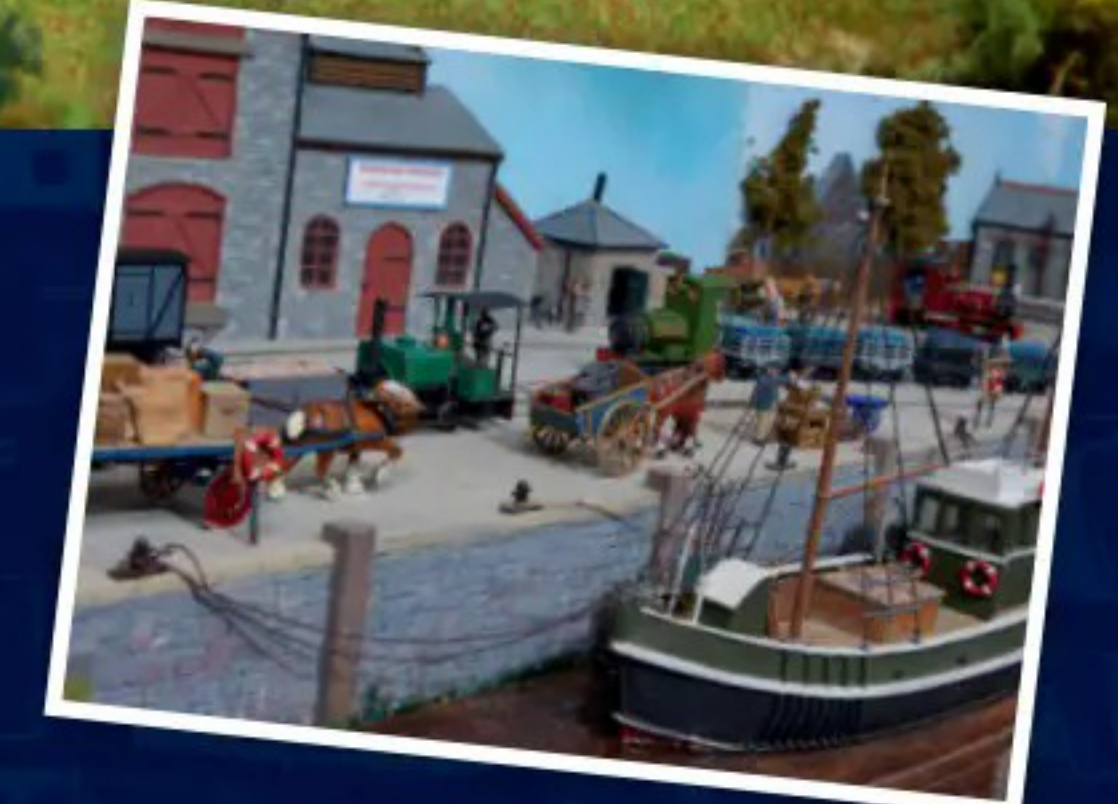
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Stamp cover for Fun-Ho!

Christopher Moor discovers that the reach of Fun-Ho! went further than just diecast toys. Here he looks at postage stamps, and the First Day Covers they appeared on...



Toys have always featured on postage stamps, and diecast favourites are no different. This large Racer (No.80) is the second Fun Ho! diecast aluminium toy to appear on a New Zealand postage stamp. In 1999, the first, the Fire Engine fixed ladders (No.161) was depicted on the 40c denomination stamp from the Nostalgia series. The 190mm racer has the top right position on the miniature sheet of nine x \$2 stamps in the Mid-century Toys issue, introduced by NZ Post this past southern hemisphere winter.

NZ Post promotes the stamps as toys made in New Zealand and loved by children in the years after World War Two ended in 1945, when toy imports were often scarce.

On the top row, seen above right, are a homemade wooden hospital ship (built in World War Two when toys could have a war theme), a Hercules brand pressed steel tractor, and the Fun Ho! racing car, while row 2 has a tinsplate tip truck by Lines Bros., a 'Luvme' brand teddy bear, and a wooden train built from toy blocks. Row 3 has a paper doll (once owned by a girl living in Wellington), an H E Ramsey wooden Mary Lou doll from the firm that made Buzzy Bee, New Zealand's most famous toy, and a Pedigree brand Maori doll from the 1960s.

On the stamp, the Large Racer is called 'Fun Ho! racing car', and in mid-1940s Fun Ho! advertised it as the 'Racing Car'. The model debuted in the Wellington factory during 1942, before manufacture at New Plymouth and two sites at Inglewood. Original models were produced for 23 years until 1965. During the model's catalogue life, it came with solid metal, solid rubber and plastic wheels. Records show 15,000 units produced between 1947 and 1951, and have the 1947 price as 4/11d (49c).

The Fun Ho! National Toy Museum at Inglewood provided the image of the original Large Racer, circa



ABOVE
A First Day Cover showing the Large Racer and toys from the top and middle rows of miniature sheet.

FAR LEFT
A Large Racer as depicted on the Mid-century Toys stamp.

LEFT
The miniature sheet of the Mid-century Toys stamps is the only way the stamps can be bought. Buyers may break up the sheets to use the stamps in the post.

1950, which featured on the Mid-century toy stamp.

Since 1996, the museum has produced reproduction models of the Large Racer and other toys from the original moulds. The toys are labelled 'Repro' on the underside, and have a baked enamel paint finish and more hand detailing than the originals.

When the TVNZ1 crew recently filmed a segment at the museum for the programme *Seven Sharp*, Richard Jordan, one of the toymakers, told New Zealanders the Large Racer is his favourite Fun Ho! toy.

The Large Racer stamp from Mid-century Toys is available on the miniature sheet and a First Day Cover. To order visit www.collectables.nzpost.co.nz/stamps. ■



ABOVE
Fun Ho! Large Racer No.80.



Rover P6 3500

In which **Steve Coles** compares models of the same car... but in differing scales!

Rover had, during the post-War years, developed a reputation for making upmarket, sensible, if rather conservative, cars. The P4 became known as ‘Auntie Rover’, while the P5 was a logical development of this formula. That, however, all changed in 1963 when Rover launched the P6, known as the 2000. It was not only advanced for Rover, but was also considered ‘cutting edge’ within the motor industry at the time with a de Dion tube suspension at the rear (a kind of more complex non-independent suspension), disc brakes on all four wheels and a fully synchromesh gearbox. The chassis design featured non-stressed panels bolted to a structural frame which was inspired by the Citroën DS. All these advancements won the Rover 2000 the inaugural ‘Car of the Year’ award; not bad going considering they were still making the very traditional design P4 at the time! During its lifetime the P6 received two significant updates; in 1968 Rover launched the V8 engined 3500 and a mid-life facelift in 1970 to create the series 2 cars; easily identified by the black front grille and air intake, as well as revised dashboard layout. Production lasted until 1977 by which time over 320,000 P6s had been made.

This month’s *Little and Large* feature focuses on two groups of the same vehicle.

IN THE BLUE CORNER

One of my favourite Vanguards castings from the Lledo days is the Rover P6 in both 2000 and later 3500 forms. I can still remember how pleased I was with the Zircon Blue 2000TC (VA27002) I bought at the Classic Motorshow at the NEC, Birmingham a few years after it was released. The ‘100th anniversary of Rover’ 3500 V8 model in Zircon Blue from 2004 also looks superb, and highlights the changes made



ABOVE Front to back: Zircon Blue, Corsica Blue and Scarab Blue. The black vinyl roof looks good and the boot mounted Rover badge is clearly visible on the Scarab Blue.





ABOVE Only the painted headlights give the much smaller 1/76 away.



ABOVE Even the front bumper over-riders are the same shape.

BELOW Nose to nose and the colour difference is quite obvious.



ABOVE Rear details are all excellent, but particularly impressive are the badges.



ABOVE The last P6 to be produced. Corgi have got the Avocado Green colour spot on. Oxford's is too 'green'.



ABOVE Rear detailing of this pair is excellent.



ABOVE The neat '3500S' wing badge of Corgi's 1/43 model is seen over the bonnet of the smaller, but equally impressive, Oxford Diecast.



that became the series 2 cars. This model shows off the additional chrome trim well against the dark blue paint. In terms of details, the badges are accurate and well-proportioned and the lights, despite being painted on their chromed bases on the rear, are really well done. The matt black used to replicate the vinyl roof and C-pillar is really well applied, as is the fine silver edging to it. The wheels are also very neatly finished and are correctly of the type used on the 3500 model (as opposed to the brighter stainless steel Rostyles of the 3500S model). I've also included the Corgi Vanguards release from 2015 of the German specification 3500S in Scarab Blue (mostly as I'm fascinated by the very subtle differences between the two very similar models). Apart from a slightly different shade of blue and the representation of the rubber end-caps for the rear bumpers the most obvious differences are the bootlid mounted Rover badge, used to cover the fitting for the boot mounted spare wheel option and the slightly different shades of the interiors. With these two Vanguards Rover's I've put Oxford Diecast's neat little 1/76 Rover P6, finished in Corsica Blue. The first things that you notice about this trio is how similar these three different shades of blue are; something that was typical during the life of the P6. This one also has a black as opposed to cream/tan interior. Despite its much smaller size, the details are great! I'm particularly impressed with the model's badges, even the tiny wing 3500S badges, and the Viking Longship Rover badges. The front grille is also worthy of note with its fine silver finish, as are the wheels that look like scaled down versions of those found on the two Vanguards models.

IN THE GREEN CORNER

The very last P6 off the production line was a 3500S painted in Avocado Green. This car was registered VVC700S and, having been displayed most of its life, has covered less than 13,000 miles and has never been restored. It has also been the subject of two models; in 1/43 by Corgi as part of their Vanguards range and by Oxford Diecast in 1/76.

Like their blue counterparts, both models capture the essence of the P6 well and there isn't really anything between them in terms of exterior details, even down to the tiny badging. The larger scale of the Corgi provides a more detailed front grille and the air scoop below the bumper is a little more accurate in terms of scale. The only small difference is Corgi's has the boot lid mounted Rover badge, used to cover the hole made by having an externally mounted spare wheel. In fact, the only notable difference is the colour. When compared with the real thing, Corgi seem to have got it pretty much spot on. The Oxford model is too, well, green! When compared together, this looks a little odd as it's the same car, with the same registration plate but it is a totally different shade of green. Despite this obvious difference, they do make a lovely pair of models.

Despite this obvious difference, the Avocado Green cars do make a lovely pair of models. But for me, the quintessential colour has to be the blue. It really looks spot on, suits the shape of the P6 and just seems to remind me of Rover P6s I remember seeing as a child. ■

PART
ONE

Corgi TV & Film

One of the successes of the Corgi Toys range during the 1960s was the introduction of diecasts modelled after cars appearing in popular TV series and movies. Here **Gijs Noordam** tells us more.

ABOVE

The Saint's Volvo P-1800 (No.258) with its "civilian" predecessor (No.228).

It all started with *The Saint's* Volvo P-1800 (No.258) that was released in the spring of 1965. Roger Moore, the archetypal English gentleman, played the role of The Saint in the very popular TV series with the same name. Corgi used the basic Volvo P-1800 (No.228), painted it white, added a driving figure with a tuxedo and the logo of The Saint on the bonnet. Three variations of this logo exist: in black on a white bonnet, in white on a red bonnet and in white on a blue bonnet. The last version is scarce and in total 1,159,000 (+ 1969 sales) cars were sold. A huge success for a relatively simple car.

In October 1965 Corgi released the even more successful James Bond Aston Martin DB5 No.261). Using the existing Aston Martin body (No.218) which was actually a DB4, Marcel Van Cleemput and his staff cranked the model with three features not shown before: ejector seat with flip-up roof, rear bullet-proof shield and flick-out overriders and hidden machine guns. The figure of James Bond nicely resembles Sean Connery who drove this car in *Goldfinger*. Also "the baddie" appears to have walked in directly from the picture: an Asiatic gunslinger in a blue overall. A total of 3,974,000 (+ 1969 sales) were sold.

In January 1966 *The Avengers* set was released as Gift Set 40. A great set of two cars that were already available in the Corgi range and could be converted with

little modification into a new TV related Gift Set: the 1927 3 litre Bentley (No.9002) and the Lotus Elan S2 Roadster (No.318). The figures of John Steed (Patrick Macnee) and Emma Peel (Diana Rigg) were of course included. Emma in her very '60s white trouser suit and French beret, with John in a classic Saville Road outfit and bowler hat. A wonderful diorama offers ample room for both cars, Emma Peel standing next to her car and Steed's 3 umbrella's. On the back of the diorama there is an "in depth" story telling that the cars of cinema and TV heroes and heroines were chosen with great care to fit the characters. 190,000 (+1969 sales) passed the counter.

By already having a basic model at hand that could be re-engineered to fit a special edition, the Oldsmobile *The man from U.N.C.L.E.* (497), released in August 1966, showed once again Corgi's prowess. The pre-existing Oldsmobile Super 88 Sheriff Car

RIGHT

James Bond Aston Martin DB 5 (No.261) with its "civilian" predecessor (No.218).





ABOVE Napoleon Solo takes a shot at the bad guys; Batmobile (No.267).



ABOVE The Batmobile (No.267) with both Batman and Robin figures included.



ABOVE "The World of Wooster" Bentley (9004) with blundering Bertie Wooster and his clever manservant Jeeves.



ABOVE Aki Wakabayashi at the wheel, one of the scarce lady drivers in the Corgi range.

(No.237) and standard saloon version No.235) formed the basis for this "Trush-buster" as used in the successful TV-series that started in September 1964. Napoleon Solo at the wheel and next to him Ilya Kuryakin, both firing their guns from the side windows. Of great detail are the 3 bullet holes in the front screen. According to the text on the diorama U.N.C.L.E. stands for United Network Command for Law and Enforcement, an "organisation pledged to protect the welfare and interests of people and nations anywhere in the world from the forces of evil". So you could say the armed wing of the United Nations. The Headquarters of U.N.C.L.E were situated a few blocks away from the United Nations building. A blue and a more scarce white version of this car are known. Total sales: 1,479,000 (+1969 sales).

Another TV and film related blockbuster was the Batmobile (No.267), released in October 1966. Around 5 million Batmobiles were sold, becoming the best selling car for Corgi. The figures of Batman (alias Bruce Wayne) and Robin The Boy Wonder are included. The first version of the Batmobile had gold hubs and red bat emblems. The diorama coming with this first type is full of action, the Batmobile racing

through the cave, slashing a chain with the blade up front, at the same time firing its rockets from behind the cockpit. On the back of the diorama the Batman story is summarized in English, French and German.

February 1967 saw the release of the *The World of Wooster* Bentley (No.9004), identical to the Bentley in the Avengers Gift Set. There is some doubt whether Bertie Wooster and his manservant Jeeves who played the leading parts in the famous books by P.G.Wodehouse, drove a Bentley. In any case, a Bentley was used in the BBC TV series *The World of Wooster* and Corgi happened to have one in stock. Marcel Van Cleemput considered the model somewhat of a flop as sales in 1967 only reached 34,000. Nevertheless a clever extension of the production life of this wonderful Bentley!

With some small modifications Corgi generated another nice Gift Set from existing models like Batman's Batmobile and Batboat (Gift Set 3), issued in June 1967. Take the original Batmobile (No.267), fit a tow hook, add the hull of the Dolphin 20 Cabin Cruiser (No.104) with a new superstructure, large fin and Batman logo, use the Wincheon Trailer in a shortened version, equipped with square mudguards

// There is some doubt whether Bertie Wooster and his manservant Jeeves who played the leading parts in the famous books by P.G. Wodehouse, drove a Bentley. In any case, a Bentley was used in the BBC TV series *The World of Wooster and Corgi* happened to have one in stock. //



and two springs to clip on the Batboat, paint the trailer gold, add some operating and secret instructions and a new Gift Set is born. With sales figures over 1.5 million to boot!

The James Bond Toyota 2000 GT (336, October 1967) was again a wonderful film related model. This time from the Bond film *You Only Live Twice* in which a young Sean Connery is rescued by Aki Wakabayashi of the Japanese Secret Service, from Osato's gunmen in a cream white Toyota 2000 GT Convertible. The Toyota only existed as a saloon, two convertibles were especially made for the picture and one is still surviving in the Toyota museum. The special feature is of course the rocket firing mechanism in the boot. It sold a total of 768,000 (+1969 sales).

Daktari was a big success on British television and November 1967 saw the release of the *Daktari* Set (Gift Set 7). Once again it appeared a lucky coincidence that Corgi had the Land Rover (No.438) used by Dr Marsh Tracy already in the range. It only needed some restyling with zebra striping and the addition of figures of the doctor, Judy the chimpanzee, a tiger on the bonnet instead of the spare wheel and the doctor's assistant Paula sitting astride Clarence, the lion. The box has an appealing top card showing Clarence, the doctor and Paula. On the back Judy shows an elephant with a dental problem the way to the Wameru Sub-district hospital.

The Green Hornet's Black Beauty (No.268), released in November 1967, and selling 345,000 (+ 1969 sales) was based on an American TV series. Although the Green Hornet had the lead in the series, in real life the actual hero turned out to be Kato, played by Bruce Lee. It was the first time that his Kung Fu fighting style was seen outside the movie theatres of Chinatown. The masked figures of the Green Hornet and Kato are seated in the back and behind the wheel. The Green Hornet fires his gun from the open window. Together with the rocket firing platform behind the grill at the front, the boot with



ABOVE
Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (No.266).

a launch pad for plastic radar scanners, green windows and an enormous Green Hornet logo on the roof. This is a great, but possibly somewhat underrated, model.

The second version of the famous James Bond Aston Martin DB5 (No.270) was issued in February 1968. It now had the correct silver spray and with added features compared with the first issue of October 1965 (No.261). It had sales of 1,172,000 (+1969 sales). The added features were the three-sided revolving number plates at the front and the rear, and the fitting of tyre slashers in the rear wheels.

Another make-over of the Land Rover (No.438), was in the style of the *Daktari* Set. Now white with the same black striping, brought the Lions of Longleat as Gift Set 8 in August 1968, with 357,000 (+ 1969 sales). Included are a warden standing up from the cabin through a manhole and a lions den in which we find Clarence from the "*Daktari*" Set, be it without his glasses and 2 other new lions who would re-appear some months later with the Scammel Chipperfield's Menagerie Transporter (No.1139).

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (No.266, November 1968) was modelled after the car that starred in "The most

ABOVE
The Saint's Volvo P-1800 (No.258) with its "civilian" predecessor (No.228).



ABOVE
A close-up view of the figures included with Chitty Chitty Bang Bang (No.266).

Sources: *The Great Book of Corgi* by Marcel Van Cleemput; *TV & film diecasts* by Dean Sheperd in *Diecast Collector* July 2010; *Corgi - it(s) figures!* by Gijs Noordam, produced in various *Diecast Collector* issues during 2015.



Daktari Set (Gift Set 7).



ABOVE
James Bond Aston Martin DB 5 (No.270), 2nd version.



ABOVE
Oldsmobile "The man from U.N.C.L.E." (No.497) in blue metallic and white version.



ABOVE
The Green Hornet's Black Beauty (No.268).

fantasmagorical film ever made", based on a children's book by Ian Fleming. A complicated model with a lot of nice details like the serpent horn, the exhaust system, the bonnet strap and of course the flip-out wings operated by the handbrake.

Included are the four figures from the film, Caractacus Potts played by Dick van Dyke, his two children and Sally Ann Howes as Truly Scrumptious. Packed in a very nice box, the car rests on a platform that gives the impression that it is flying through the clouds. Also included was a diorama with the castle of the wicked Baron and his balloon. 776,000 (+1969 Sales) were sold.

The Monkees Monkeemobile (No.227, December 1968) copies the dragster type of car used by the American pop band The Monkees in the popular TV series. The band was composed of Americans Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith and Peter Tork and Englishman Davy Jones, hence Mike, Davy, Pete and Micky. The Monkees scored a number of international hits, including *Last train to Clarksville* and *I'm a Believer*. Although it is a detailed model there are not the usual gadgets that Corgi included in its earlier TV and film related issues. 82,000 (+ 1969 sales) Monkeemobiles were sold.

The Beatles' Yellow Submarine (No.803, February 1969): originally written by the Beatles as a children's song, turned out to be a big hit and inspired a United Artist animation film in 1968. Corgi was asked to reproduce the submarine on small scale, using numerous stills from the film and adding John, Paul, George and Ringo popping up from two hinged hatch covers. The first version had a yellow and white hatch cover, the second two red ones like in the film. In total a meagre 44,000 (+ 1969 sales) were sold. Apparently the market was not waiting for this type of model, notwithstanding the many Beatles' fans all over the world.

Noddy's Car No.801) was released in July 1969, and although it includes some nice figures from Enid



ABOVE
James Bond Toyota 2000 GT (No.336) with the re-issued model in the 007 Series (65102).

Blyton's children's books, it is completely out of line with the other Corgi range of the 1960s. Nevertheless 280,000 (1969 sales) were consumed by the market.

In the Giant Daktari Set (Gift Set 14, May 1969) we find again a clever combination of previous models, with some modifications. The Land Rover with the same "menagerie" as the earlier Daktari Gift Set (7), the Bedford Giraffe Transporter No.503) now repainted in jungle colours and decals of the "Wameru sub-district" like on the Land Rover and the Dodge "Kew Fargo" Livestock Transporter (No.484), having changed its load of pigs for a mother and baby elephant and also a jungle "Wameru sub-district" livery. Included is a diorama that can serve as a background for the models. 110,000 (+ 1969 sales) of these sets were sold.

We finish this decade of TV & Film related releases with The Hardy Boys' Rolls-Royce (805, June 1970). Marcel Van Cleemput admits that this psychedelic update of the Classics Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost 1912 (No.9041) should never have been. It is not clear whether he said this because of disappointing sales figures or tarnishing of the original model. After the Monkees Monkeemobile (No.227) and the Beatles Yellow Submarine (No.803) this was the third rock band that received its own Corgi status. The box tells us a little more about the background of The Hardy Boys. Joe and Frank Hardy (saxophone and guitar), sons of the famous private eye Fenton Hardy, are teenager detectives, using their rock band as cover for their war against crime. Assisted by the other band members Chubby Morton (drums), Pete Jones (guitar) and Wanda Kay (vocals) they solve. One only wonders why criminals did not go immediately underground when they spotted this brightly coloured vintage car. ■

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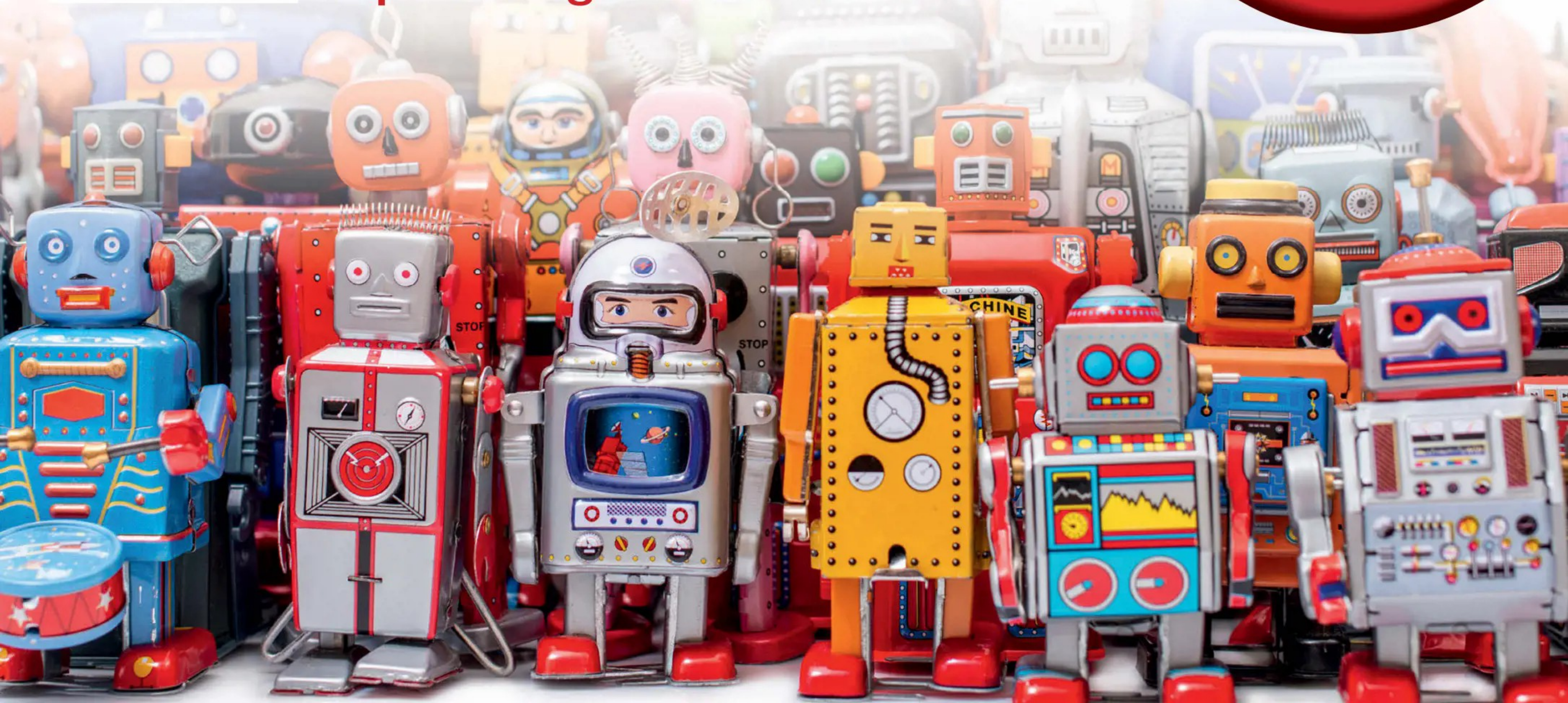
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TOY TALES

Ed Karswell ponders the wonderful world of model collecting.

"Sorry, it wasn't me, honest..."

Being a long-time eBay fan I'm fascinated with how the site influences peoples buying behaviour, particularly when it comes to collectables. By 'collectables' I really mean obsolete items, unlike currently produced goods one can order at any time. The very nature of obsolete goods make their purchase a singular experience.

Just take into consideration knowledge. Knowledge really is power on eBay. For example, if you spot a mis-described model you have the opportunity to bag it for a song. Conversely, if you decide to buy outside your comfort zone you could end up landing a lemon, and paying over the odds to boot. The key is trying to work out if the descriptions match up with the photos which is rarely as easy as it sounds.

The whole process would appear to be an exercise in planned jeopardy. There is a lot of gambling going on, on all sides here, and for some mind boggling reasons to boot. Some individuals bid on items they don't want just for the thrill of it. They either like the idea of running the other person up or for the danger that they may actually win on a whim. We can blame this state of affairs on dopamine, a chemical released into the body when we experience pleasurable situations. It gives us a high which leads us to seek another hit as soon as we hit a low. However, I'm not sure this will explain why you have 16 identical Dinky Toy taxis on your shelf. "Just one more"... that's what they all say!

Then there's the FOMO factor, otherwise known as the 'fear of missing out'. This being the reason nobody under 30 can go more than two minutes without looking at their phone. Checking what's just come onto eBay is very similar. One keeps looking at the listings either to jump on a bargain or just to see what's on offer. I liken it to the people at

toy fairs who start to rummage through your stock whilst you're still setting up your stall. It's rude but strangely understandable.

All these observations aren't to damn eBay though, far from it. I well remember first going on there and seeing toys I didn't know existed and things I'd only seen in books... and all for sale! Far from killing the hobby as some predicted, it opened it up to far more people, and presented them with many more possibilities. Gone were the years one would spend trailing around toy fairs hoping to find that certain model. Now you could have your pick from say, five or so that were on offer at any given time.

The knock-on effect for the hobby would prove far reaching, what with previously

old dealer once advised me, "stop messing around and pay the man. If something is cheap it can be for a multitude of reasons so one should not immediately dismiss something on a low price alone".

However, my favourite eBay stories are the 'drunken purchases' which are apparently so numerous they have websites dedicated to them. Most people, unless temperance, have at least one. Mine was to rashly bid up on a vintage Matchbox Brooke Bond van that was for sale in the States after downing several beers. In the morning, I realised I'd won the van at roughly 3 times its value. Hangover notwithstanding I honoured the deal. There were no, "Sorry, mistake, my five-year-old son got to my computer and bid on it..."

...if you spot a mis-described model you have the opportunity to bag it for a song. Conversely, if you decide to buy outside your comfort zone you could end up landing a lemon...

unknown variants and makers all coming onto eBay and adding to the wealth of knowledge already harvested. In fact, just visiting regional eBay sites is like a journey into an undiscovered land. My schoolboy French is considerably better having spent many an hour perusing the delights of JEP, Joustra, CIJ and the like on eBay France.

eBay may be known primarily for its auctions but of course there are things offered at set prices, known as buy-it-now. There are those that have an in-built resistance to paying the ticket price on anything. This can even extend to things that are patently under-priced. I've seen rare toys for sale at half their market value ignored because of the buy-it-now stigma. As an

excuses here. Imagine my delight when it arrived with a huge undisclosed factory fault that initiated its return and a full refund much to the chagrin of the seller. A pyrrhic victory as there was a fair amount of angst and self-chastisement involved. After all this is small fry compared to other people who after a tippie splash out on real cars and then have to explain to their spouses (and occasionally their bank manager_ why they did indeed buy that rusty Austin Allegro from a village in Latvia which they now have to go and pick it up.

Luckily mine was a sufficient wakeup call or I too would undoubtedly be writing this gazing mournfully out on my drive from some rusted out Allegro. From Latvia. ■



Corgi through the years

Rick Wilson continues his series of year-by-year articles from the beginning of the brand in 1956. We continue the series with the models released during 1974.

With a total of 19 new releases throughout 1974, this is another year where we can just about cover them all in one go. As mentioned at the end of last month's instalment, the new range of racing cars dominated proceedings this year, but that doesn't mean that there wasn't a good variety of subjects released.

The year started with the first new releases landing in February. These were two models of a similar futuristic, attractive, fantasy style – No.700 Motorway Service Ambulance and No.701 Inter-City Mini Bus. Both lasted until 1980 and sold very well throughout their lives (865,000 and 453,000 respectively).

Fast-forwarding to April (no new releases during

March), Corgi moved into the big-time with its first ever 1/18 scale model, and it was a real beauty! No.190 JPS Lotus Formula 1 was basically a double-sized version of its incredibly popular, 1/36 scale No.154 release. With a lot more detail, the model also featured removable wheels, with wheel nuts spun off by an included wheel jack. Oh my! Lasting until 1977, this black and gold masterpiece sold nearly 350,000. Also in April, we got No.400 Volkswagen Motor School Car. At 1/43 scale, based on the same tooling as the earlier VW releases, this attractive Beetle featured a golden steering wheel on its roof, which turned the front wheels. Another good seller, it sold well over 350,000 in its one year on the shelves, before it was replaced by itself as No.401 in July 1975, in a larger box and with a set of bollards to

BELOW
No.701 Inter-City Mini Bus.
Image: Rick Wilson



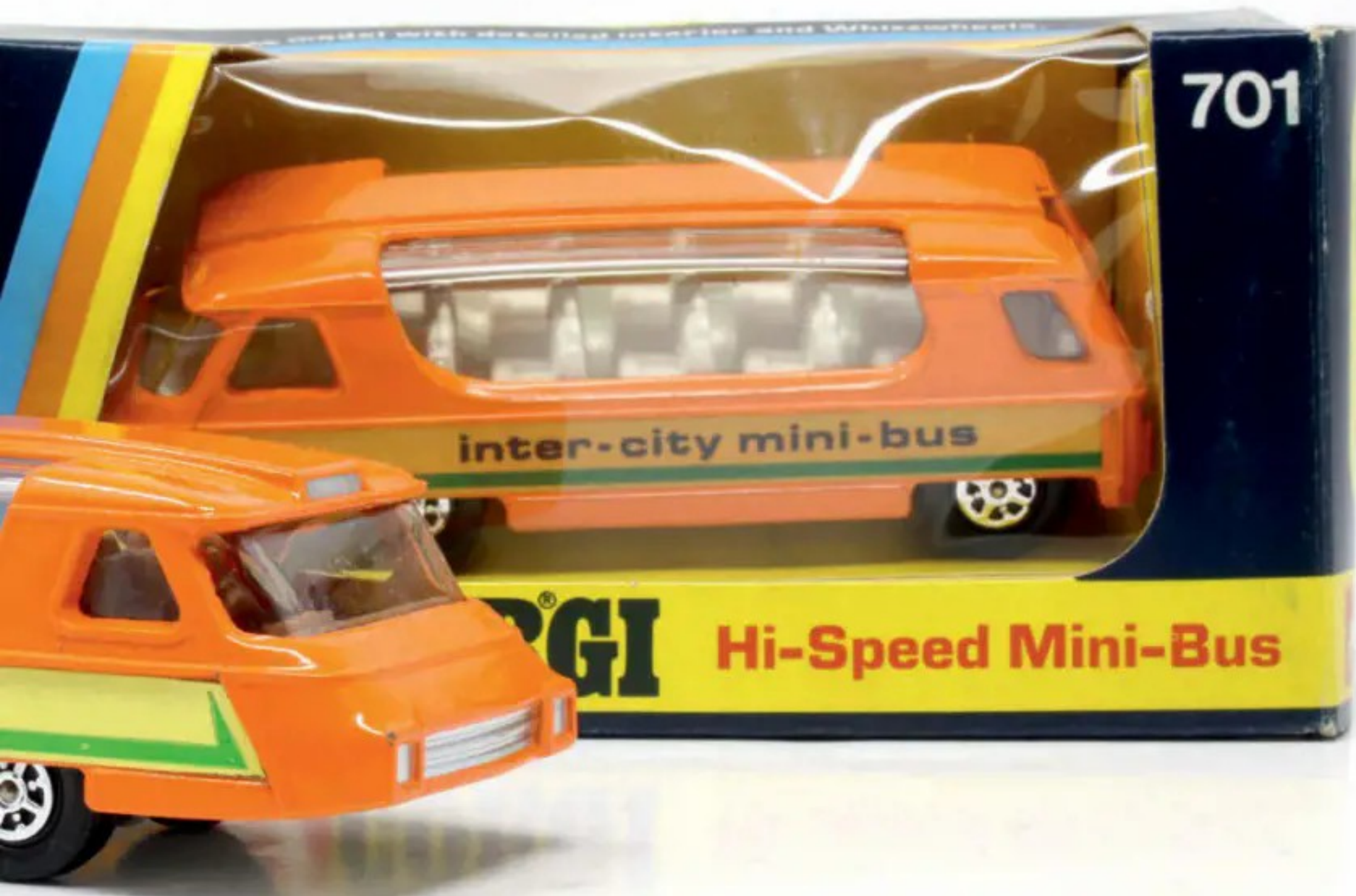


ABOVE
No.700 Motorway Service Ambulance. Image: Rick Wilson

LEFT
No.155 UOP Shadow, No.156 Graham Hill's Embassy Shadow, No.190 JPS Lotus Formula 1, No.158 Elf Tyrrell-Ford F1 and No.159 STP Patrick Eagle Racing Car. Image: Rick Wilson

drive around.

The following month, in May, No.54 Massey Ferguson MF 50B Tractor with Shovel was released, which was based on the No.50 tractor released in 1973, but with a newly-designed shovel attachment. This was usually yellow, with red wheels, but can also be found in orange and white. It sold well, passing 600,000 units before its withdrawal in 1981. Also released in May was the first of the 'Major' for the year, in the shape of No.1102 Crane Fruehauf Discharge Dumper. At 1/48 scale, it made for an impressive vehicle and featured a Berliet cab attached to a long diecast trailer. Fitted to the latter was an orange plastic dumper body. Underneath the trailer



chassis were two doors that could be opened to discharge the dumper load by turning a wheel on the side of the body.

June saw three new releases, two of which were identical 1/36 scale racers in differing liveries. No 155 UOP Shadow (black) and No.156 Graham Hill's Embassy Shadow (white with red striping) replicated real cars. The boxes for both were very attractive – No.155 reflecting the US-based sponsorship of UOP and No.156 carrying the colours of its sponsor, the red, white and gold of Embassy cigarettes. Later in the production run, No.156 was called just "Graham Hill's Shadow", although the box retained the Embassy colours. Both last until 1976 and sold around the 300,000 mark each.

Following on from the success of the first military releases in the series, in 1973, another three appeared in the early summer months of 1974. The first of

CORGI TOYS 1974 RELEASES

No	Title	Scale	Released	Withdrawn	Sales
54	Massey Ferguson MF 50B Tractor with Shovel	1/43	May	1981	605,000
155	UOP Shadow	1/36	June	1976	304,000
156	Graham Hill's Embassy Shadow	1/36	June	1976	291,000
158	Elf Tyrrell-Ford	1/36	September	1978	370,000
159	STP Patrick Eagle Indianapolis Racing Car	1/36	July	1976	289,000
190	JPS Lotus Formula 1	1/18	April	1977	347,000
286	Jaguar XJ 12C	1/36	December	1979	476,000
287	Citroën Dyane	1/36	December	1978	385,000
400	Volkswagen Motor School	1/43	April	1975	373,000
403	Thwaites 'Tusker' Skip Dumper	1/36	July	1979	412,000
700	Motorway Service Ambulance	-	February	1980	865,000
701	Inter-City Mini Bus	-	February	1980	453,000
902	American M60 A1 Medium Tank	1/60	July	1980	239,000
903	British Chieftain Medium Tank	1/60	June	1980	277,000
905	SU 100 Tank Destroyer	1/60	September	1977	196,000
906	Saladin Armoured Car	1/57	September	1977	214,000
1102	Crane Fruehauf Discharge Dumper	1/48	May	1976	146,000
1103	Chubb Pathfinder Airport Crash Truck	1/48	September	1980	202,000
GS4	Country Farm Set	-	July	1975	123,000

Source: The Great Book of Corgi 1956-1983



ABOVE
No.1102 Crane Fruehauf Discharge Dumper and No.1103 Chubb Pathfinder Airport Crash Truck. Image: Vectis



ABOVE
No.400 Volkswagen Motor School. Image: Vectis

ABOVE LEFT
No.54 Massey Ferguson MF 50B Tractor with Shovel
Image: Vectis

LEFT
No.287 Citroën Dyane. Image: Vectis



ABOVE
No.190 JPS Lotus Formula 1 close up on wheel removal detail. Image: Rick Wilson



ABOVE
No.403 Thwaites Tusker Skip Dumper. Image: Vectis

these was a very popular and more modern-looking British tank. An all-over Drab Olive paint job was not so visually appealing as the earlier releases but was, nevertheless, a realistic one. For the first time, a different firing method was employed – the barrel was still pushed back in to load, but this time the firing action was activated by pushing a red plastic button at the rear of the rotating turret.

As summer progressed, July brought a further four newbies. Gift Set 4 Country Farm Set, which comprised No.54 Massey Ferguson MF 50B Tractor with Shovel coupled to the Topsy Nipper trailer, now painted red. The set also included a plastic hay load, with figures on top of the pile, plus plastic fences, two sheep and a sheep dog. Yet another racing car released was this time an American Indianapolis racer, No.159 STP Patrick Eagle Indianapolis Racing Car, complete with the victorious Gordon Johncock inside the cockpit, waving to the crowd, having just won the 1973 Indy 500. A different direction for the next release, moving into the world of construction with No.403 Thwaites 'Tusker' Skip Dumper. At 1/36 scale, it had a tipping dumper section, released by pulling the steering column. It sold well, with over 400,000

leaving the shops before it was withdrawn in 1979. The second of the year's military releases, No.902 American M60A1 Medium Tank in US Army livery, was modelled at 1/60 scale with the usual excellent finish and fireable shells.

For September, there were four new releases. No.158 Elf Tyrrell-Ford was another 1/36 scale Formula 1 car, replicating the racer that Jackie Stewart had used to clinch his third World Driver's Championship, in 1973. It was a popular model, lasting until 1978 and selling well past the 350,000 mark. The second new military release, again at 1/60, No.905 SU 100 Russian Tank Destroyer, had an extra feature that none of the others did – these were activated by

BELOW
Gift Set 4 Country Farm Set. Image: Vectis





ABOVE
No.902 American M60 A1 Medium Tank. Image: Rick Wilson



ABOVE
No.905 SU100 Russian Tank Destroyer. Image: Rick Wilson



ABOVE
No.906 Saladin Armoured Car. Image: Rick Wilson



ABOVE
No.903 British Chieftain Medium Tank. Image: Rick Wilson

CORGI TOYS 1974 RELEASES PRODUCTION COLOURS		
No	Title	Colours produced
54	Massey Ferguson MF 50B Tractor with Shovel	Yellow/red or orange/white
155	UOP Shadow	Black
156	Graham Hill's Embassy Shadow	White/red
158	Elf Tyrrell-Ford	Blue
159	STP Patrick Eagle Indianapolis Racing Car	Red
190	JPS Lotus Formula 1	Black/gold
286	Jaguar XJ 12C	Red/black, tangerine/black, blue/black, red, or blue
287	Citroën Dyane	Yellow/black, green/black, or bronze/black
400	Volkswagen Motor School	Dark metallic blue
403	Thwaites 'Tusker' Skip Dumper	Yellow/red
700	Motorway Service Ambulance	White/red
701	Inter-City Mini Bus	Orange/yellow
902	American M60 A1 Medium Tank	Blue/sand/olive
903	British Chieftain Medium Tank	Dark drab green
905	SU 100 Tank Destroyer	White/grey
906	Saladin Armoured Car	Dark drab green
1102	Crane Fruehauf Discharge Dumper	Yellow/orange
1103	Chubb Pathfinder Airport Crash Truck	Red
GS4	Country Farm Set	Yellow/red tractor with red trailer

Source: The Great Book of Corgi 1956-1983

a push-button to the rear of the body. Pushing it the first time made the soldier pop up (assuming he had been pushed down into place) and a second push then fired the shell. Marvellous! I wonder how many hours of my early life I spent playing with this one? The diminutive No.906 Saladin Armoured Car, the third new military model for 1974, was manufactured at a slightly larger scale, but the difference is not really obvious and it certainly adds a degree of variety to the series. Firing action is of the push button at the back of the turret variety. The final release for the month was a biggie! No.1103 Chubb Pathfinder Airport Crash Truck, at 1/48 scale, made for a hefty casting and it even had a working water pump feature and a batter-powered siren. Resplendent in red with silver flashing and chrome details, it had epic play value, which goes a long way to explaining why it lasted until 1980, selling over 200,000 units.

Jumping to December now (no new releases during

the intervening months), we finally had our first 1/36 scale road cars of the year. No.286 Jaguar XJ 12C came in a variety of colours – red with a black roof, tangerine with a black roof, metallic blue with a black roof, all-over red, or all-over blue. A really lovely model, with opening doors, it proved popular – selling nearly half-a-million before its withdrawal in 1979. No.287 Citroën Dyane was another multi-coloured release, being available in yellow (varying shades), green or bronze, all with a black sunroof panel. Lasting until 1978, it too sold well, with sales figures approaching 400,000.

Looking ahead to the next instalment, covering the releases during the first half of 1975, there was a good variety of new releases to come. With more military and racing releases, plus a rather fabulous commercial vehicle, the first half of the year proved a great success, but there was much more to follow in the second half (covered in two issues time). ■

RIGHT
No.286 Jaguar XJ 12C in various colours. Image: Vectis



A-Z of diecast

In which **Alwyn Brice** takes a look at what's available under the letter F.

Ah, que c'est belle, cette gamme!
I'll come clean – I'm a Francophile. Part of this love of all things French stems from a degree in the language, coupled with extensive travels throughout the land of Gauloises and garlic, although an early interest was sparked by those fantastic Historex plastic kits of the Napoleonic period.

Whilst homegrown Dinky Toys need no introduction from me, as they were considered a couple of issues back (*Ed - May 2024 issue to be precise*), their French counterpart does. French Meccano began production in Paris in the early 1930s to capitalise on a construction product that, in all fairness, had been around for a while; and this manufacturing initiative would in time lead to the decision to fabricate Dinkys, albeit under a French moniker. According to what I've read, by the mid-1950s the French company at Bobigny was churning out Dinky toys at the rate of 24 models a minute – so clearly demand was there.

Needless to say, French Dinky toys were primarily, er, French in their outlook; that said, the company gave more than a passing nod to what was happening across the La Manche. Much of the French production was geared to the domestic market, naturally reflecting French cars and commercial vehicles of the period (although not exclusively French vehicle makes), but a percentage of the range did take a trip across the Channel (and indeed, elsewhere), and consequently served to whet the appetite of the foreign collector.

Thus for many years the two Dinky ranges co-existed in a peaceful manner: *entente cordiale* at its best. Any British Dinky collector seeing the French counterpart for the first time could not but help be impressed by their quality, I feel. There's something about French Dinkys that makes them just that little bit better than the homegrown product. In particular, the company's military range was certainly more exquisite than that of the British army, as modelled by English Dinky. Paint finish was excellent and several of the vehicles benefited from additions, such as a camouflage net or a detachable aerial. And the French designer's imagination was very evident in the output: just take a look at the fully functional AMX scissor bridge tank (way ahead of its time) or even better still, the desirable Brockway Bridge Carrier set, which included ten bridge elements, two inflatable pontoons and even a paper terrain base. How's that for value?

Whilst the olive-green tint may not be to everyone's taste, there are plenty of other French Dinky models to tempt the Euros from the wallet.



ABOVE French Dinky toys weren't all French: here is an early Fiat 500.

RIGHT French Dinky's Brockway Bridge Layer was one of the company's highlights in terms of play value.



ABOVE Not so common: FGT trademark as found on some castings.



Ultimately, it was an unusual scenario, that of one company operating at two locations in different countries (although, of course, Dinky did explore Indian production with its Nicky Toys range). French Dinky production ceased in the early 1970s, so there's a finite age span, should you want to start collecting.

FORGOTTENTOYS

If you've not come across the initials FGT before, then don't worry – for you are most probably in good company. I must confess that I hadn't either, until quite recently. A small range, with only token wheeled transport, has meant that this particular



ABOVE Bentley 8-litre from Fulgurex: this was the archetypal super car of the inter-war years.

LEFT Scarce, but occasionally found, a Fulgurex model car won't be cheap.



ABOVE An FGT fire engine with a flexible hose (but, strangely, no ladder...)

LEFT Carrying real wood, the Willeme transporter certainly looks the part and is a pleasing commercial vehicle.



ABOVE Engine bay of the Mercedes SSKL reveals the extent of detailing that has become a Fulgurex trademark.

LEFT The immortal 2CV: French Dinky toys don't come any more evocative than this grey example.



company is almost unheard of today, and is yet another example of a manufacturer whose products have slipped down the back of the sofa of time.

One Fred Taylor gave his initials to the brand and he, as some readers may already know, was half of the famous Taylor & Barrett company, whose diecast

output was as vast as it was varied.

One of the two companies formed on the break-up of the Taylor and Barrett partnership in 1945 by Fred Taylor was F G Taylor & Sons, with FGT also being used to represent "For Good Toys" (or so it is believed). The company shared out the old Taylor & Barrett moulds with Barrett & Sons and, where they didn't have a suitable mould, they simply re-made their own version. FGT was particularly well-known for detailed tradespeople sets, including such olde worlde models as a brewer's dray. The company, like many others of that era, converted to plastic products in the 1960s and finally closed its doors around 1980.

The fire engine shown here is typical of the FGT output and the overtones of Taylor & Barrett are quite evident. However, I confess to being at a loss when it comes to stating quite how many vehicles you'll find bearing the FGT initials on the underside; and for those completists out there, you'll need to know that the moniker wasn't confined to vehicular output, either, since it can be found on a range of countryside castings, for example. A very common item here is the hen coop, with its folding down access door. However, a bit of patience may well yield other wheeled transport.

FULGUREXCEPTIONAL

I'm sure that there are *Diecast Collector* readers out there who know a lot more than I about Swiss manufacturer Fulgurex. I've gleaned a little from the internet but, despite having contacted the company in my best French, I have not been able to add anything new by way of information.

The company started up just after the second world war and was based in Lausanne; one Antonio Coluzzi was the brains behind the enterprise, whose interest in tinplate trains is thought to have prompted the decision to get into manufacturing. A collaboration in 1962 with Tenshodo led to brass model output – but of trains and rolling stock, not cars. HO/OO, O gauge, I gauge and N gauge models soon established the company's credentials within the scale model railway world. The quality was (and indeed still is) exemplary, which led Fulgurex in the 1970s to investigate the production of pre-WW2 model cars in 1/12 scale.

Sadly for the collector, this branching out didn't get very far. In the event, three models (perhaps more?) were on the drawing board: a Bentley 8-litre, a Mercedes SSKL and a Bugatti Type 59. Only the first two saw light of day, the Bugatti being shelved through, it is thought, sheer cost.

Whilst I have been unable to unearth actual numbers, the cars were certainly limited edition models, constructed from nickel and brass parts, and featuring fully functional steering and suspension. With an opening bonnet to reveal a detailed engine, each miniature benefited from leather seats and a finely finished dashboard. The Bentley was about 42cm long, giving it great presence when displayed. And, being limited, Swiss and precision made, both models were very costly when released. When they (occasionally) turn up at (typically at auction these days), they command much interest. Perhaps not strictly diecast, but worthy of inclusion in this series, I feel. ■

Images courtesy of eBay, Christie's and Bonhams.

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Superfast 1969-1982

Charting the evolution of the Matchbox Superfast range during the Lesney years, from 1969 to 1982.



No.
48

Number 48 during the Lesney-era Superfast range comprises a dumper truck showing off a new colour scheme, the Pi-Eyed Piper car and a strange-looking forklift...

DODGE DUMPER TRUCK

Production: 1970-72

Catalogue: 1970-72

Box Styles: G, I

Changing from its all-over red regular wheels colour, Dodge Dumper Truck, with its working tipping action, sported a new colour scheme of mid-blue cab and chassis with a bright yellow dumper body.

Appearing initially with narrow wheels, these later changed to the wider variety and this suited the look of the truck even more. Another useful commercial vehicle, it finally made way to another fanciful car creation in 1972.

PI-EYED PIPER

Production: 1972-77

Catalogue: 1973-77

Box Styles: I

Pi-Eyed Piper was a companion model to Big Banger, and used most of the same components. The main difference was the engine, which featured eight huge



ABOVE Sambron Jacklift gave good play value with its elevating forks section.



ABOVE Early and late run wheels styles on Sambron Jacklift for comparison.

pipes (rather than the blower of Big Banger) plus four big exhaust pipes on each side. This presumably accounted for the "Piper" in the title.

It was painted metallic dark blue, with amber windows and a decal with number 8 over a stars and stripes motif on the roof.

In 1977, the casting was yet another of the ones used for the American limited editions. Called White Lightning, it was white with red and orange tampos, and with black (rather than chromed) pipes, as shown in the centre above.

SAMBRON JACKLIFT

Production: 1977-82

Catalogue: 1978-82

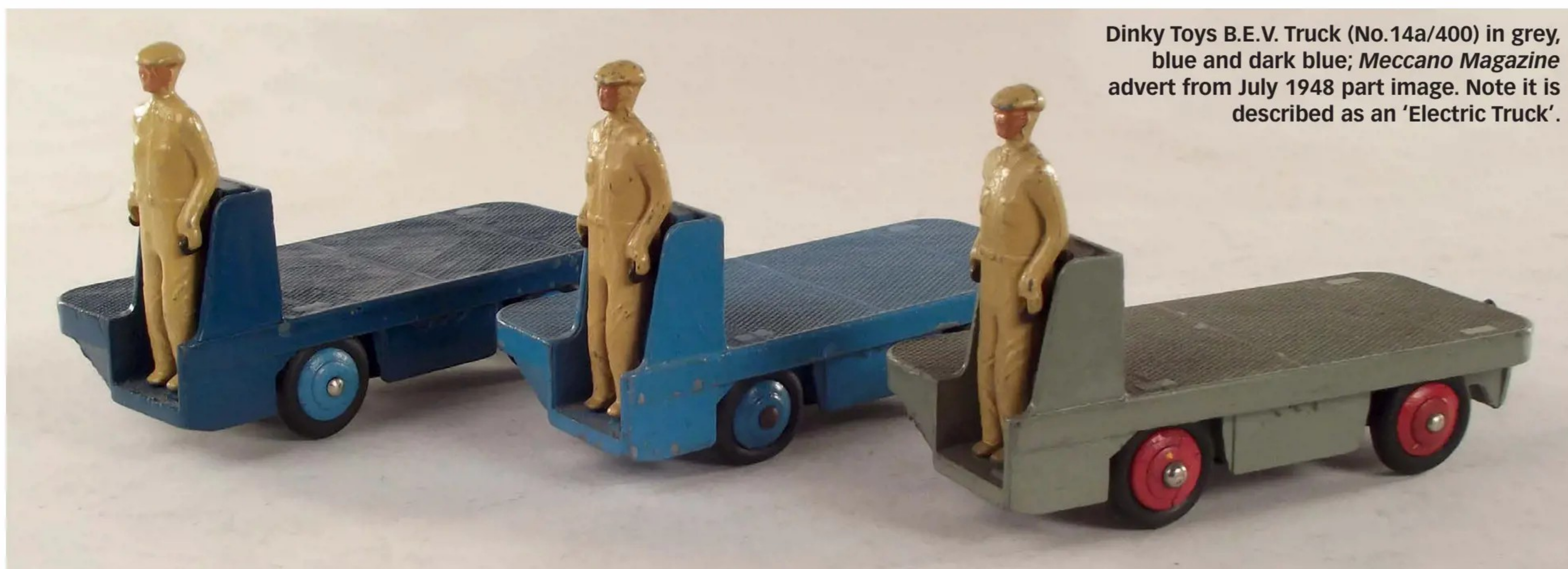
Box Styles: K

Sambron Jacklift was a strange-looking, angular forklift truck with an offset cab. Made by a French company, Sambron, it was more of a telescopic loader or equipment handler than a forklift, and could be fitted with various tools besides lifting forks.

The model was painted yellow with a black base. Unfortunately, the cab was unglazed, which spoils the overall effect. The fork and lifting arm were initially in yellow plastic, but could also be found in black. The cantilever-arm lifting function was quite well reproduced, and it lifted containers convincingly. ■

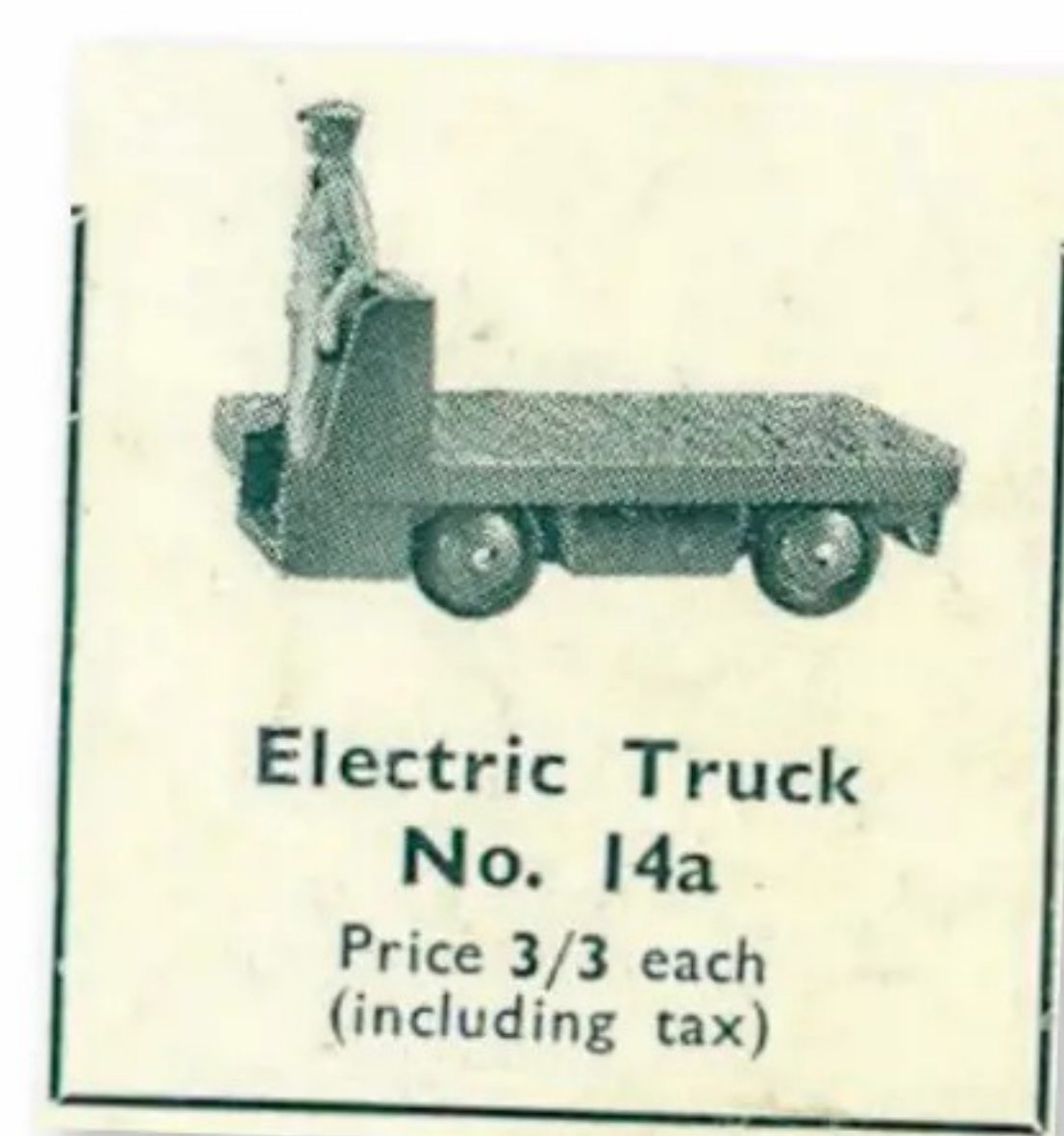
TOP VINTAGE MODEL

DTCA Chairman, **Michael Driver**, picks another vintage favourite from Dinky...



Dinky Toys B.E.V. Truck (No.14a/400) in grey, blue and dark blue; *Meccano Magazine* advert from July 1948 part image. Note it is described as an 'Electric Truck'.

The B.E.V. Electric Truck



Every day it seems we need to move something and carry it to another room or outside. This is of course part of life in the world of work where products and equipment, needs to be moved. When I was young, I used to pass factories and would see trucks and trollies loaded with goods on their journeys through production or ready to take for delivery. These flat bed trucks were electric powered and operated by a worker standing on a platform at the front and would sometimes come outside to a waiting lorry. This type of vehicle was captured by Dinky Toys.

The Dinky Toys model was the Electric Truck (No.14a) which was introduced in July 1948 and in the August *Meccano Magazine* it is then designated as the B.E.V. Electric Truck. In that issue it is described as 'The Dinky Toys model is a life like reproduction of the B.E.V. platform truck in which every important external feature is clearly displayed. There is a wide platform of ample length, providing the maximum space for a load; underneath is a representation of the battery box; and at the front is the driver's platform, where the driver himself has one foot on the brake pedal and controls the power and steering by means of the



ABOVE A modified Dinky Toys B.E.V. Truck to produce the trailer which was never made.

levers provided.'

The model was in grey with red wheels, blue with blue wheels and some had red wheels and dark blue with light blue wheels. The driver is in beige overalls and there is a tin plate tow hook at the rear. In the Dinky Toys colour catalogues it is always illustrated in blue with blue wheels. The model was sold in yellow trade boxes containing six models and the first boxes had the number 14a and then the boxes had the 14a and 400 numbers.

The Dinky Toys Collectors' Association

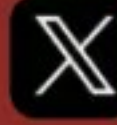
The more unusual Dinky Toys are always interesting to collectors and they appear in the DTCA Journal on occasions. If you would like to find out more details or join, then visit the website at www.dtcawebsite.com

As with all the other Dinky Toys it was renumbered to number 400 in 1954. It now came in an illustrated yellow card end flap box and was then deleted in 1960.

Interestingly a factory drawing of 1948 was made for a trailer for the Electric Truck with the title 'Platform for B.E.V. Truck Trailer' but no model reference number is given. Unfortunately, a model was never produced. However, some years ago I came across a modified Dinky Toys Electric Truck which had had the front platform cut off and a wire tow bar fitted for towing by the Electric Truck. It would have been a good Dinky Toys addition!

The company started out as British Electric Vehicles in 1905 in Southport at the Churchtown works. In 1925 they were bought by Wingate & Rogers who's special controllers they had been using. A further takeover in the 1990's was by the Pikrose Group based in Oldham using the name of the Ferranti Engineering Company until 2005 but still under the BEV name. They also exhibited at the 1924 British Empire Exhibition and included the small battery truck with a tight turning circle suitable for industrial use. ■

AUCTION NEWS

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ELMER'S AUTO AND TOY MUSEUM COLLECTION SELLS WELL AT MILESTONE AUCTIONS

Last October antique and vintage toy fans added a new chapter to the legend of Elmer's Auto and Toy Museum, which closed its doors in 2022 after 28 years of operation. Stoked by intense media coverage and toy-hobby chatter, bidders worldwide set their sights on rarities from the Wisconsin museum's archive of 25,000 toys and paid estimate-shattering prices at Milestone's first of a series of sales. After the event, collectors clamored for more and asked when the next auction of museum treasures would take place. The answer was, on May 11 at Milestone's suburban Cleveland gallery.

The museum's vast and storied collection of American, European and Japanese toys was built over 50+ years by an inveterate gearhead and visionary of the toy hobby, the late Elmer Duellman. "Everybody knew Elmer, or if they lived overseas, they knew of him. He had an army of pickers from coast to coast, and if necessary, he would drive through the night in a blinding snowstorm just to pick up a toy, motorcycle or car that he wanted. He was

the king of all toy networkers, with a reputation for tracking down rare toys that was second to none," said Miles King, co-owner of Milestone Auctions.

The 774-lot May auction traverses scores of categories, such as diecast cars, tin windups, battery-operated toys, pressed-steel trucks, Japanese tin cars, Dooling gas racers, and both automotive and character toys from Germany's pre-war era.

All a child of the boomer generation needed in order to feel like a worksite foreman was a junior-size hard hat and a Tonka pressed steel toy. Tonkas were built to last, and many have, but because kids often gave them a workout in dirt mounds of mud puddles, they incurred a few battle scars along the way. Elmer's collection boasts a number of beautiful examples that managed to avoid rough play, including some hard-to-find boxed sets. A 1955 Tonka #775-5 Road Builder Set that consists of a semi with lowboy trailer, steam shovel, road grader and dump truck comes in its original, correctly partitioned box. Its pre-sale estimate is \$1,500-\$2,000 but finally sold for \$5,000. Also,



a 1959 Tonka #B-207 Hi-Way Construction Set with a lowboy truck and trailer, dragline, road grader and dump truck in its original box was entered with an \$800-\$1,200 estimate. The hammer fell at \$1,650.

"What collectors love most about the Elmer's museum archive is the variety. Elmer was a nonpartisan toy buyer. As long as it was in excellent condition, and especially if it had its original box, Elmer was interested. American, European, Japanese – he liked it all," Miles

King observed. "Based on how geographically diverse the bidder base was for our first offering of the museum toys, we're expecting that many from outside the United States will return for round two on May 11th, especially for the Lehmann, Gunthermann and other German toys."

For additional information on any item in the sale, call 440-527-8060, email info@milestoneauctions.com or go online at www.milestoneauctions.com. ■

DIECAST AT WARWICK & WARWICK

The diecast section of the latest Warwick and Warwick toy auction saw a bidding war with Lot 202, a collection of modern vehicles selling for £1,800. Lot 204 contained examples of Corgi, CIJ, EFSI, Matchbox, Solido, Siku etc and sold for £1,550.

There was a very attractive Corgi section within this auction including lot 230, an Avengers

vintage Bentley and Lotus Elan S2 No.40 selling for £170. Lot 231, a Batboat on Trailer No.107 sold for £130 and lot 232, a Volkswagen 1200 in safari trim No.256 sold for £130.

Lot 246, was a collection of earlier boxed Dinky cars and included Sunbeam Alpine Sports No.107, Rover 75 Saloon No.156, Ford Zephyr Saloon No.162, Sunbeam Rapier Saloon

No.166, Singer Gazelle No.168, Studebaker Golden Hawk No.169, Studebaker President Sedan No.179. This lot sold for £675.

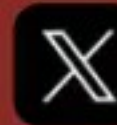
The penultimate lot of the diecast section, lot 277, was a Solido collection. It contained Alpine Gendarmerie No 192B, Ford RS Turbo No.1350, Peugeot 205 GTI No.1349, Simca 1308 No.39 etc and sold



for £430.

The next diecast auction will be held on Wednesday 17th July 2024. ■

SALE RESULTS

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From collectables of the future to old favourites, online auctions will always manage to produce some interesting finds... and occasionally, even more amazing prices! We visit auction houses and sites for this month's results.



- **Item:** Mattel Hot Wheels Drag Team Ed Shaver AMX
Condition: excellent to near mint, with a couple of dark spots/toning and age-wear
Sold for: £4944 (54 bids)



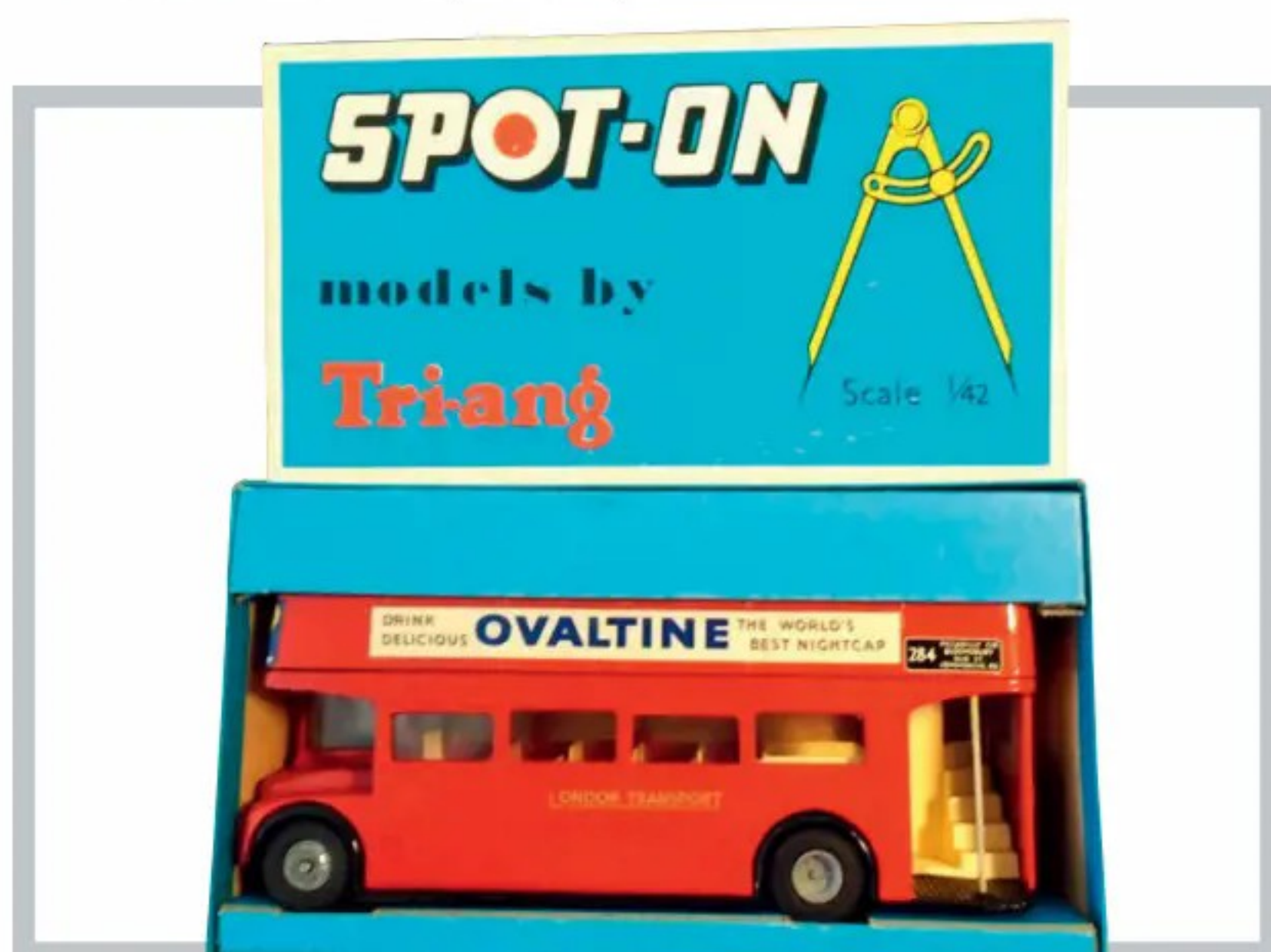
- **Item:** Lone Star Impy Super Cars presentation set
Condition: models are mint, inner casing has some splitting, outer box has minor damage
Sold for: £450 (2 bids)



- **Item:** Hot Wheels Redline Heavyweights Moving Van
Condition: excellent, sealed in original blister pack including the collector's button
Sold for: £770 (21 bids)



- **Item:** ERTL Airwolf Helicopter with rotating blades
Condition: mint in box - a true collector's dream and a piece of television toy history
Sold for: £510 (32 bids)



- **Item:** Tri-ang Spot-On 145 Routemaster bus
Condition: all original with box and leaflet, shows some very minor shelf-wear
Sold for: £664 (16 bids)



- **Item:** Hot Wheels Rumbler RRRumblers Bold Eagle and Rider
Condition: scarce version with red rider, excellent with very slight tarnishing on frame
Sold for: £824.89 (27 bids)



- **Item:** Hot Wheels VW Kool Kombi in green (from Toy Fair 2013)
Condition: small scuff on the back of the car, acrylic case has a crack on the front
Sold for: £510 (20 bids)



- **Item:** Hot Wheels Redline Heavyweights Race Team fuel tanker
Condition: excellent and complete in blister pack (unsealed) with collectors button
Sold for: £585 (17 bids)



- **Item:** Black Rat D8 2U Dozer and Black Rat Athey Wagon
Condition: excellent with minor paint chips and slight flaking on the towing eye
Sold for: £565 (3 bids)



- **Item:** Corgi Toys James Bond models in presentation carry case
Condition: all models appear to be excellent and hardly used, missing outer boxes
Sold for: £510 (56 bids)



- **Item:** Britains Livestock Truck with animals and accessories
Condition: as new, never played with although outer box showing wear and tear
Sold for: £535 (34 bid)



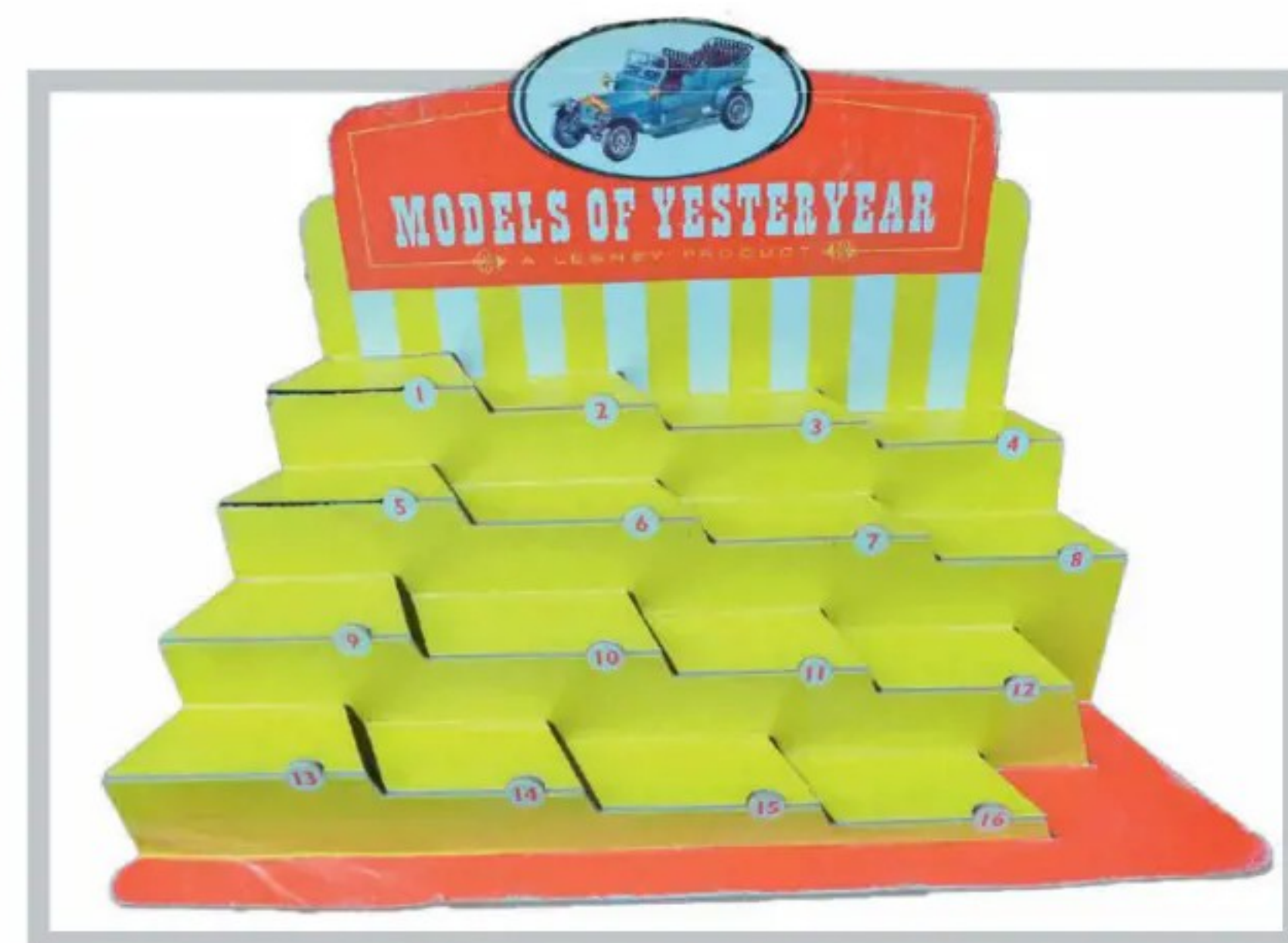
- **Item:** Hot Wheels Rumbler RRRumblers Bone Shaker
Condition: with scarce lime green rider, good for age with no damage to handle bars
Sold for: £525 (21 bids)



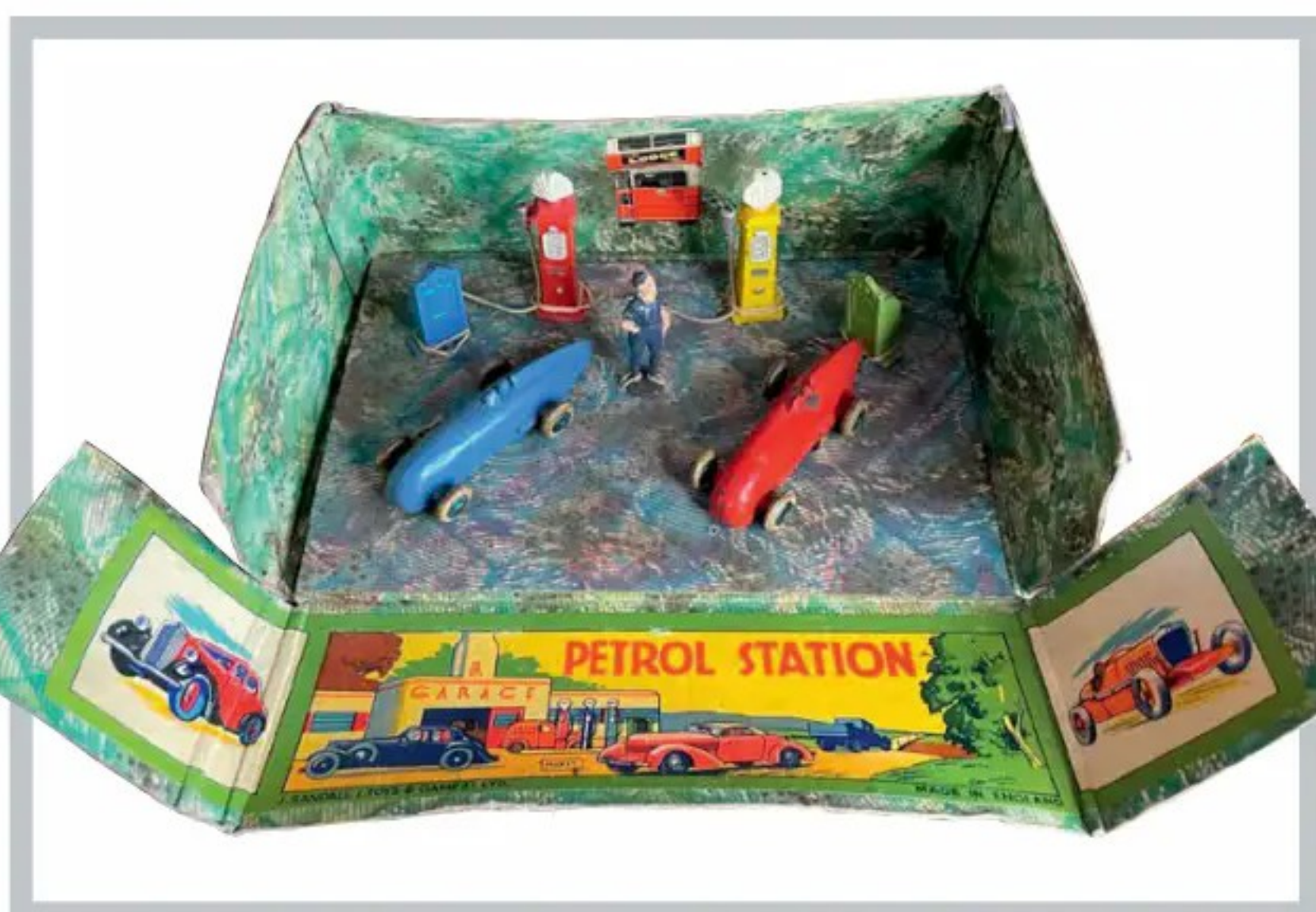
- **Item:** Corgi Toys Agricultural Gift Set No.5 Massey-Ferguson 165 Tractor
Condition: signs of play wear to the models however good overall with all original pieces
Sold for: £521 (27 bids)



- **Item:** Mattel Hot Wheels Redline VW Volkswagen Beach Bomb
Condition: near mint with minor paint loss/wear and a little age-related wear to the base
Sold for: £540 (26 bids)



- **Item:** Matchbox Models of Yesteryear cardboard shop display
Condition: good for its age, however edges show a lot of age-related storage wear
Sold for: £631 (21 bids)



- **Item:** Merit Petrol Station set
Condition: 1930s boxed set with a missing lid, otherwise complete with all pieces
Sold for: £500 (2 bids)



- **Item:** Hot Wheels Redline Heavyweights Tow Truck
Condition: excellent in sealed blister pack, creasing and damage to original card backing
Sold for: £485 (22 bids)



- **Item:** Eaglemoss Aston Martin James Bond DB5
Condition: good and clean example, but in need of some tidying up
Sold for: £510 (26 bids)



- **Item:** EXOTO 1/18 1954 Jaguar D-Type 'OKV 501
Condition: model excellent, however sold with no box or internal packaging
Sold for: £2350 (35 bids)



- **Item:** Corgi Toys No.453 Commer Refrigerator Walls Ice Cream Van
Condition: near mint with no modifications and comes in its original packaging
Sold for: £1251 (11 bids)



- **Item:** Matchbox Superfast No.5 US Mail Jeep
Condition: pre-production colour trial, excellent to near mint, rear axle bent, no box
Sold for: £437.77 (10 bids)



SALE RESULTS

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■ **Sunstar 1/24 Scale Bus, boxed 2925 1948 RT 597 HLX414 in green London Transport Livery**, with packaged wing mirrors and certificate 683/768, very good to excellent, box good to excellent. **Sold for £210, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Sunstar 1/24 Scale Routemaster Bus, boxed 2908 RM870 WLT 870 First Routemaster with a Leyland Engine in red London Transport Livery**, with packaged accessories including wing mirrors and certificate 1563/4500, very good to excellent in a very good to excellent box. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Sunstar 1/24 Scale Routemaster Bus, boxed 2901 RM8 VLT 8 The Original Routemaster**, with packaged accessories including wing mirrors and certificate 3955/4000, very good to excellent in a very good to excellent box. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Corgi Major Simon Snorkel Fire Engine, boxed 1127 Simon Snorkel**, generally good, remains of felt tip name on one side, good, box very good. **Sold for £20, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Corgi Aviation Archive D Day 75th Anniversary Douglas C-47 Skytrain**, boxed, 1/72 scale, AA38210 Douglas C-47 Skytrain That's All Brother 438th troop carrier group RAF Greenham Common 1944 Lead D Day Aircraft, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Corgi Aviation Archive Boeing Flying Fortress**, boxed 1/72 scale AA33318, Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress Flak Eater US Eighth Air Force, Chelveston 1944, with certificate, very good to excellent, box excellent. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Corgi Aviation Archive Handley Page Halifax**, boxed, 1/72 scale, AA37209 Handley Page Halifax B.III Expensive Babe, RAF 51 Sqn, Snaith March 1945 Halifax Centurion, with certificate, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Corgi Aviation Archive English Electric Lightning**, boxed 1/48 scale AA28402, English Electric Lightning F6 RAF 74 Sqn The Tigers RAF Tengah, Singapore 1949, with certificate, very good to excellent, box very good. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Corgi Aviation Archive Short Sunderland**, boxed 1/72 scale AA27502, Short Sunderland 422 Sqn RCAF Pembroke Dock, dusty from display, with certificate, good to very good box good. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Corgi Aviation Archive 1/32 Scale DE Havilland Mosquito Black Rufe**, boxed AA34605, Mosquito FBVI NS850 Black Rufe 418 City of Edmonton Sqn, RCAF 1944, some dust from display appears undamaged, with stand and collectors card, packaged accessories, unchecked for completeness, good to very good, box fair to good, some staining on one end. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, April.**



■ **Matchbox Regular Wheels No.18a Caterpillar Bulldozer**. Displays generally excellent with little sign of wear in excellent B1 Type Box. **Sold for £75, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Matchbox Regular Wheels No.G6 Truck Set containing 8 vehicles as shown**. Set is factory sealed with wrapper hence contents assumed excellent. Box structural integrity also excellent, one small <1cm split to wrapper. Comes with outer sleeve. **Sold for £180, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Matchbox Regular Wheels No.G6 Commercial Truck Gift Set**, comprising eight commercial vehicles as shown. All mostly very good to excellent with only the odd minor sign of wear. All contained in a very good box (with only minor wear) including inner tray. Hard to find set. **Sold for £500, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Matchbox Original No.CS30 Retailer's Cardboard Display Stand**, appears generally excellent. Scarce to find in any condition. **Sold for £300, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Matchbox Roadway series No. R1 Foldaway Flyover**, factory sealed in wrapper. **Sold for £170, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Matchbox Roadway series No. R2 Building Construction Site**, factory sealed in wrapper (split). **Sold for £170, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Matchbox Roadway series No. R3 Foldaway Farm**, factory sealed in wrapper. **Sold for £240, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Matchbox Kingsize No. K10 Pipe Truck**, displays excellent in very good original box. **Sold for £65, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Matchbox Superkings No. K11 Car Transporter**, displays excellent in very good original box. **Sold for £55, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **An unusual Matchbox Japanese Export Issue Carry-Case**, rare, generally excellent. **Sold for £190, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Dinky No. 437 Muir-Hill Loader Tractor**. Yellow, silver engine, red hubs. Displays excellent in excellent box. **Sold for £55, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Dinky No. 439 Ford D800 Snowplough and Tipper Truck**. Metallic blue cab with pale blue back. Generally excellent, ex shop stock hence any blemishes are from factory. In very good to excellent original packaging. **Sold for £70, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Dinky No. 251 Johnston Road Sweeper**. Displays generally excellent, touch in to passenger door. In very good box with inner packing. **Sold for £45, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Dinky No. 956 Turntable Fire Escape**. Metallic red / silver. Displays excellent with little sign of wear in generally excellent box, including inner packing etc. **Sold for £55, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



■ **Dinky No. 966 Marrel Multi-Bucket Skip Truck with windows**. Lemon yellow, grey. Displays excellent with little sign of wear in good to very good box, inc inner packing piece. **Sold for £75, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, April.**



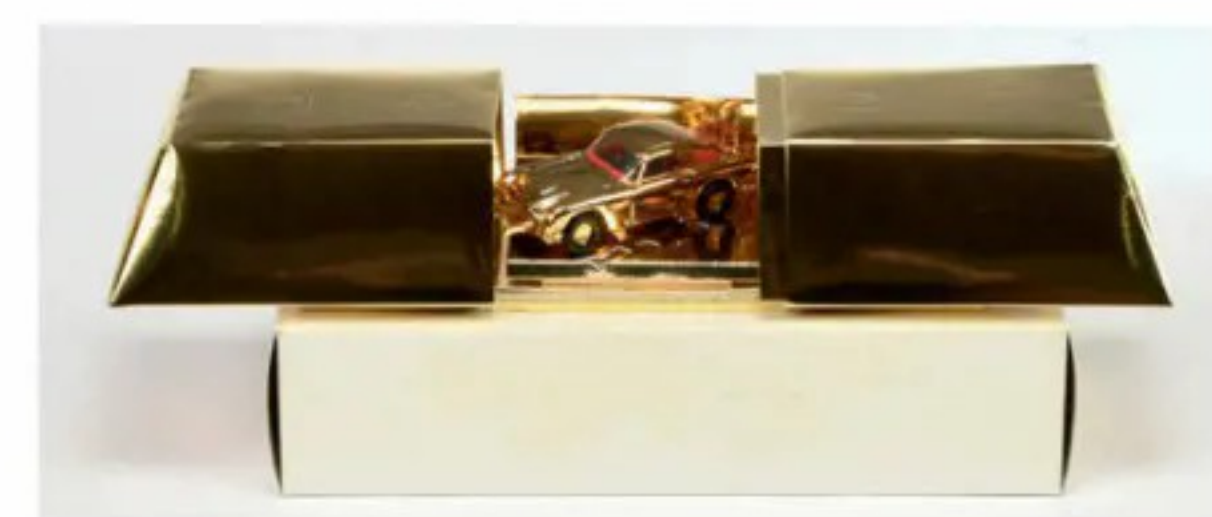
■ **Corgi Toys 268 "The Green Hornet" Black Beauty**. Black body, green windows, spun hubs. Good plus bright example in a good plus to excellent blue and yellow carded picture box including inner pictorial stand with loose missiles, spinner and instruction leaflet. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 336 "James Bond" Toyota 2000GT Taken From The film "You Only Live Twice"**. White body, black interior with "AKI & James Bond" Figures, red aerial, chrome trim and wire wheels. Good plus (rear suspension is weak and boot does not close flush) in a good plus to excellent blue and yellow carded picture box (missing inner tray and instruction pack) with yellow missiles. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Dinky Toys 105 "Captain Scarlet" Maximum Security Vehicle**, (1st issue), white body red stripes and base, chrome trim and cast spun hubs with radiation box (without aerial). Good in a fair to good carded picture box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys "James Bond" Aston Martin (1/36th scale)**, gold plated issue with red interior and "James Bond & Bandit" figures. Mint including Ingot presentation box with "Corgi James Bond 02" in printed stamp on top, comes with correct plain outer transit box and occupied with original British Airways competition winning letter dated 27th March 2003. Only 100 in total were produced and this one was given to British Airways as a promotion for the In-flight world brochure magazine. **Sold for £1000, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Juniors E3019 "James Bond" Set From The Film "Octopussy"**, Range Rover Maroon, beige interior, Horse box Trailer and Jet aircraft. Mint on an excellent plus blister card. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Juniors 1008 "Popeye" Paddle Wagon**, yellow body, blue chassis, Waterwheels and with 3 x figures. Near mint (some small factory assembly marks) on a excellent bubble pack. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Juniors 1008 "Popeye" Paddle Wagon**, yellow body, blue chassis, Waterwheels and with 3 x figures. Near mint (some small factory assembly marks) on a good plus bubble pack. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 270 "James Bond" Aston Martin DB5 (2nd issue)**, silver-grey body, red interior with "James Bond & Bandit" figures, gold bumpers and trim, Whizzwheels. Good plus in a good (slightly grubby) striped window box. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 266 "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang"**, with 4 x figures - fair in a later "25th Anniversary" fair to good 98751 window box. **Sold for £35, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi toys 271 "James Bond" 1/36th Scale Aston Martin DB5**, silver- grey, red interior with "James Bond & Bandit" figures plus spare (1st issue) with 4-spoke wheels. Good plus in a fair striped window box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 431 Volkswagen Pick-Up**, yellow body and back, red interior and plastic canopy, silver trim and spun hubs. Excellent (couple of small marks on sides) bright example in a good plus to excellent blue and yellow cared picture box. **Sold for £180, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 433 Volkswagen Delivery Van**, two-tone white and red, lemon interior, silver trim and spun hubs. Excellent plus in a good plus carded picture box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 422 Bedford "Corgi Toys" Van**, yellow body with mid-blue ribbed roof, silver trim and spun hubs. Good plus example in a poor carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 1147 Scammell "Ferrymasters" Truck and Trailer**, white and yellow cab with red interior, yellow trailer with plastic covers, cast hubs. Excellent plus in a fair to good blue and yellow window box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 1134 Bedford Type S Articulated Military Tanker "US ARMY"**. Drab Green Cab, tanker, filler caps and gantry, spun hubs. Good plus in a good blue and yellow carded picture box with inner packing piece. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 1126 Ecurie Ecosse Racing Car Transporter**, blue body with yellow lettering, brown interior, silver trim and spun hubs. Good plus in a fair blue and yellow lift off lid picture box with good plus inner carded tray. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys GS24 "Constructor" Gift Set**, containing 2 X Commer Chassis, red and white with 4 X detachable backs plus accessories. Conditions are good plus bright examples in a fair blue and yellow carded picture lid and Polystyrene tray with correct large instruction/ collectors club leaflet. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Rockets D906 Jensen Interceptor**, Fluorescent Pink body, white interior and amber windows. Excellent plus (some small factory assembly marks) in a fair (sealed) blister card with key. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Rockets D901 Aston Martin DB6**, gold body, lemon interior and green windows, with key (loose label). Near mint on a good plus (sealed) blister card. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Rockets D902 Jaguar XJ6 Saloon**, Metallic Green, white interior and clear windows with key (loose label). Near mint on a good plus (sealed) blister card. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Rockets D903 Mercedes 280SL**, Metallic blue body, white interior, clear windows with key. Near mint (some small assembly marks) on a good plus (sealed) blister card. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Rockets D904 Porsche Carrera 6 Racing Car**, yellow, red bonnet, blue windows and racing No.19 with key. Near mint (some small assembly marks) on a good plus to excellent (sealed) blister card. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Rockets D909 Mercedes C111**, Red Body, white base, chrome interior, blue windows with key (label loose). Near mint on a good plus to (sealed and slightly creased) blister card (small pen price mark). **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Rockets D910 GP Beach Buggy**, Fluorescent Green, black interior with key. Near mint on a good plus to excellent (sealed) blister card. **Sold for £40, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3005 "Leisure-Time" Gift Set**, 8 x pieces Ford Transit Mini Bus, Volkswagen Saloon (Beetle), Jeep plus others. Conditions are generally near mint to mint in an excellent plus (factory shrink wrapped) blue and yellow presentation box with detailed picture. **Sold for £540, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3009 Service Station Set**, 3 x Vehicles (1) NSU RO80 - Purple with black bonnet (2) Guy "ESSO" Tanker - White and (3) Wrecker Truck - Blue plus "Sales Corgi Juniors Service" Blue plastic building with yellow petrol pumps. Near mint to mint on a near mint blister card. **Sold for £380, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3019 "Agricultural" Gift Set**, Land Rover With pony Trailer and Pony figure, Tractor, JCB Tractor and Tipper Trailer (missing cattle trailer) plus 2 x plastic out buildings. Near mint to mint, inner plastic tray is good plus with a good plus window box with "Tested By The Corgi Technocrats" large front flash. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 211 Studebaker Golden Hawk**, Blue body, gold flashes, silver trim and flat spun hubs. Near mint in a good plus display well blue carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3020 "Club Racing" Gift Set**, 7 Pieces- Ford Capri, Land Rover Wrecker, Ford Escort MK1 Rally Car Plus others. Also comes with cones and figures. Conditions are generally excellent plus to mint, inner plastic tray is excellent, outer blue and yellow window box is good plus. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3020 "Club Racing" Gift Set**, 7 Pieces - Ford Capri (rare unlisted colour light blue and white, Land Rover Wrecker, Ford Escort MK1 Rally Car, also come with cones and figures. Conditions are generally excellent plus to mint, inner plastic tray is Excellent, outer blue and yellow window box is good plus with "Tested By The Corgi Technocrats" large flash. **Sold for £420, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3021 "Emergency 999" Gift Set**, 6 Pieces - Ford Holmes Wrecker, Ford Capri "Fire Chief", Volkswagen Saloon (Beetle) "Police", Coach - Orange also come with cones, signs and figures. Conditions are generally excellent plus to mint, inner plastic tray is excellent, outer blue and yellow window box is good. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3021 "Emergency 999" Gift Set**, 6 Pieces - Ford Holmes Wrecker, Ford Capri "Fire Chief", Volkswagen Saloon (Beetle) "Police", Coach - Purple also come with cones, signs and figures. Conditions are generally excellent plus to mint, inner plastic tray is excellent, outer blue and yellow window box is good with large "Tested By The Corgi Technocrats" flash (small mark where label has been removed). **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys Juniors 3028 "Race track Special" Gift Set**, 7 Pieces - Range Rover "Crash Tender" - Red, Land Rover Wrecker - Red, Ferrari 512 - Maroon plus others with cones and figures. Excellent plus to mint, inner plastic tray is good, outer carded window box is good plus. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 150 Vanwall Formula 1 grand Prix Racing Car**, mid-green body, silver trim and front vent, figure driver, flat spun hubs and racing No.7. Good plus to excellent (couple of minor chips on front nose) in a good plus blue carded picture box. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 200 Ford Consul Saloon**, fawn body, silver trim, flat spun hubs. Good plus to excellent (couple of small chips on protruding edges) still a bright example in a good plus blue carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 207 Standard Vanguard Saloon**, two-tone very pale green with red upper, silver trim and flat spun hubs. Excellent plus in a good plus blue carded picture box with colour folded leaflet. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 207 Standard Vanguard Saloon**, very pale green with red roof, silver trim and spun hubs. Excellent plus in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 208S Jaguar 2.4 Litre Saloon**, primrose yellow, red interior, silver trim and spun hubs. Excellent plus in a good plus to excellent blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 210 Citroen DS19**, metallic green, black roof, silver trim and flat spun hubs. Near mint in a good plus blue carded picture box. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 215S Ford Thunderbird Open Sports Car**, red body, yellow and silver interior with figure driver. Excellent (steering wheel loose but present) in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 220 Chevrolet Impala**, coral pink body, lemon interior, silver trim and side flashes, flat spun hubs. Excellent plus in a fair picture box. **Sold for £40, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 224 Bentley Continental Sports Saloon**, two-tone black and silver, red interior, chrome trim, spun hubs with grey tyres including correct spare. Near mint in a good plus picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 229 Chevrolet Corvair**, blue body, red interior, silver trim and flat spun hubs. Fair to good in a good blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £35, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 234 Ford Consul Classic**, deep cream body, pink roof, lemon interior, silver trim and spun hubs. Good plus still a lovely bright example in a good blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 235 Oldsmobile Super 88**, steel blue with white side flashes, red interior, silver trim and spun hubs. Near mint in a good plus displays well blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 238 Jaguar Mark X Saloon**, Light Blue, red interior, silver interior, spun hubs and with large and small luggage cases. Good plus to excellent in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 238 Jaguar Mark X Saloon**, Steel Blue, red interior, silver interior, spun hubs and with large and small luggage cases. Excellent in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 238 Jaguar Mark X Saloon**, Metallic cerise, lemon interior, silver interior, spun hubs and with large and small luggage cases. Excellent plus in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 239 Volkswagen 1500 Karmann Ghia**, cream body, red interior, silver trim, spun hubs and luggage case. Good plus in a good blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 245 Buick Riviera**, gold body, red interior, chrome trim, wire wheels and grey plastic tow hook. Good to good plus including blue and yellow carded picture box with correct instruction/collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 246 Chrysler Imperial**, Red body, light blue interior with figures, chrome trim, cast hubs and complete with Golf Trolley and Bag. Excellent in a good plus to excellent blue and yellow carded picture box with inner packing ring. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 249 Morris Mini Cooper 'Wickerwork'**, Black body, red roof, lemon interior, 'Wickerwork' Side and rear panels, silver trim and cast hubs. Near mint in a excellent blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 252 Rover 2000**, Steel Blue body, red interior, silver trim, spun hubs and 'Trans-O-Lite' headlights. Excellent (some small marks on side handles) in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box with collectors club folded leaflet. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 259 Le Dandy Coupe**, Metallic Maroon, yellow interior chrome trim and wire wheels. Excellent plus (some minor marks to bumpers) in an excellent blue and yellow carded picture box with price label attached to one end. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 300 Austin Healey Sports Car**, orange-red body, cream seats, silver trim and flat spun hubs. Excellent plus in a good plus displays well blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 302 MGA Sports Car**, green body, cream seats, silver trim and flat spun hubs. Good plus still a lovely bright example in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 325 Ford Mustang fastback**, white body with red stripes, pale blue interior, chrome trim and cast hubs. Excellent (some small marks to bumper edges) in an excellent plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 327 MGB GT Sports Car**, red body, pale blue interior, chrome trim, wire wheels and black luggage case. Near mint in a good plus to excellent blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 411 Smiths Karrier "Lucozade"**, yellow, body grey side opening door, silver trim and flat spun hubs. Excellent (small roof marks) in a poor to fair blue carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 412 Bedford "Ambulance"**, Cream body, silver trim, flat spun hubs. Excellent (some small marks on bumper front edges) in a good plus displays well blue carded picture box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 428 Smith's karrier Ice cream Van "Mister Softee"**, two-tone cream and light blue, pale blue interior with figure, silver trim and spun hubs. Excellent (usual small box rub wear marks on roof) in a good plus blue and yellow carded picture box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 447 Ford Thames Ice Cream Van "wall's"**, light blue with cream back, chrome trim, spun hubs and cream interior. Excellent lovely bright example in a excellent blue and yellow carded picture box including inner pictorial stand with ice cream seller and boy figures. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys 453 Commer Refrigerator Van**, dark blue Cab and chassis, cream back, silver trim and flat spun hubs. Excellent overall (couple of small marks) in a good blue carded picture box. **Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, May.**



■ **Matchbox Superfast Ford Zodiac in lime green with wide wheels #53**. The car appears in near mint condition with a couple of very minor rub marks on high points in a very good box with all flaps intact. **Sold for £95, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **An unopened Corgi Lincoln Continental Limousine #262**. The car appears very good to near mint with the usual deterioration of the chrome finish on the bumpers. The card backing has some creasing around the edges and the blister is coming unstuck at one end. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **An unopened Corgi 007 Aston Martin DB5 in the early pictorial wing flap packaging #270**. The car appears mint though slightly dusty as the bubble pack has come unstuck at one side. The card backing has some wear and creasing and appears in fair to good condition overall. **Sold for £200, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Corgi Chevrolet Corvette Stingray Coupe #300**. The car appears in very good condition with only a few marks. The box is also very good. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Corgi Ghia L6.4 in blue with red interior #241**. The car appears in very good condition with some light marks, the box is very good with the original leaflet included. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Dinky Jaguar D Type # 238**. The model appears in near mint condition with only a couple of minor marks, it would benefit from cleaning. The box is fair, two inner end flaps are detached but are still in the box. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Corgi The Southdown Gallopers carousel in 1/50 scale # CC20401**. It appears in good condition in a fair box with storage wear. There is no certificate, flag pole or transformer included. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Norev #187721 1/18 scale Fiat Jardiniere 1960**. The model in cream appears to be in mint condition, housed within a mint window box. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Norev 'Show Room' #181610 1/18 scale GT by Citroen**. Appears to be in mint condition, housed within a mint window box. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Sun Star 4612R 1/18 scale 1975 Ford Escort Mk2 Sport**. The model in white appears to be in mint condition, housed within a mint window box. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Norev #182713 1/18 scale Ford Capri 2.8 Injection 1983**. The model in black and silver appears to be in mint condition, housed within an excellent to near mint slightly dusty window box. **Sold for £80, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Matchbox Superfast Double Track Race Set # SF-5 and a boxed Loop Set # SF-2.** Both contain track, accessories and cars but are unchecked for completeness. The items show signs of age and use and appear fair, the boxes have heavy wear and missing end flaps. **Sold for £20, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed Minichamps #150137030 1/18 scale Morris minor Cabriolet.** The model in blue appears to be in mint condition, housed within an very good plus window box with some storage related lights marks. **Sold for £25, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed AutoArt #77101 1/18 scale 1998 Mitsubishi Pajero LWB.** The model in metallic blue appears to be in mint condition. The window box is slightly dusty and the cellophane window has worked loose from the box, otherwise appears to be in fair plus condition. **Sold for £35, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed 1/18 scale Greenlight #12839 'Steve McQueen Bullitt' 1968 Dodge Charger.** The model appears to be in mint condition and is housed in an excellent window box, contained within an excellent outer card sleeve both with some minor wear. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed limited edition Corgi Fair Ground Attraction carousel in 1/50 scale #CC20402.** The items is in excellent condition but the flagpole is missing. The item comes in its original polystyrene packing in a very good box with some storage wear. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **A boxed limited edition Corgi Fair Ground Attraction carousel in 1/50 scale #CC20401.** The items is in excellent condition and comes in its original polystyrene packing in a very good box with some storage wear. **Sold for £40, British Toy Auctions, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys No.2145 Ford Thunderbird, red over grey,** overall very good plus, one chip noted to roof, boxed, creasing/slight tears to internal in one end. **Sold for £35, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys No.215 Ford Thunderbird Open Sports, white,** overall good plus, slight chipping to raised edges, boxed, staining/rubbing to box. **Sold for £20, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Corgi Toys No.389 Reliant Bond Bug 700ES, orange,** overall very good, one or two minor chips to door edge, boxed. **Sold for £45, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Corgi No.246 'Crysler Imperial', maroon,** complete with driver, passenger and golf clubs, overall very good except chipping to raised edges on one front wing, boxed creasing to box. **Sold for £28, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Dinky Super Toys No.948 Tractor-Trailer McLean,** overall good/good plus, some chipping to raised edges, trailer undamaged with transfers intact, boxed, slight rubbing to box. **Sold for £45, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Dinky Toys No.169 Studebaker Golden Hawk, cream/green,** overall very good, boxed, some staining/rubbing/creasing to box. **Sold for £22, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Dinky Toy No.172 Studebaker Land Cruiser, tan/cream,** overall very good/plus, one or two minor chips noted, boxed, slight rubbing/staining to box. **Sold for £30, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **French Dinky No.25D Plymouth Belvedere, red/grey,** overall very good, excellent, boxed, some rubbing, old pen marks, creasing to box. **Sold for £38, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Dinky No.174 Hudson Hornet Sedan, (with windows), cream/red,** overall good plus, very good, some minor chipping to raised edges, boxed. **Sold for £38, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Dinky Toys No.143 Ford Capri, white roof/turquoise,** overall very good, one or two chips on raised edges, boxed, tears to edges of the box. **Sold for £30, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**

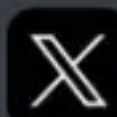


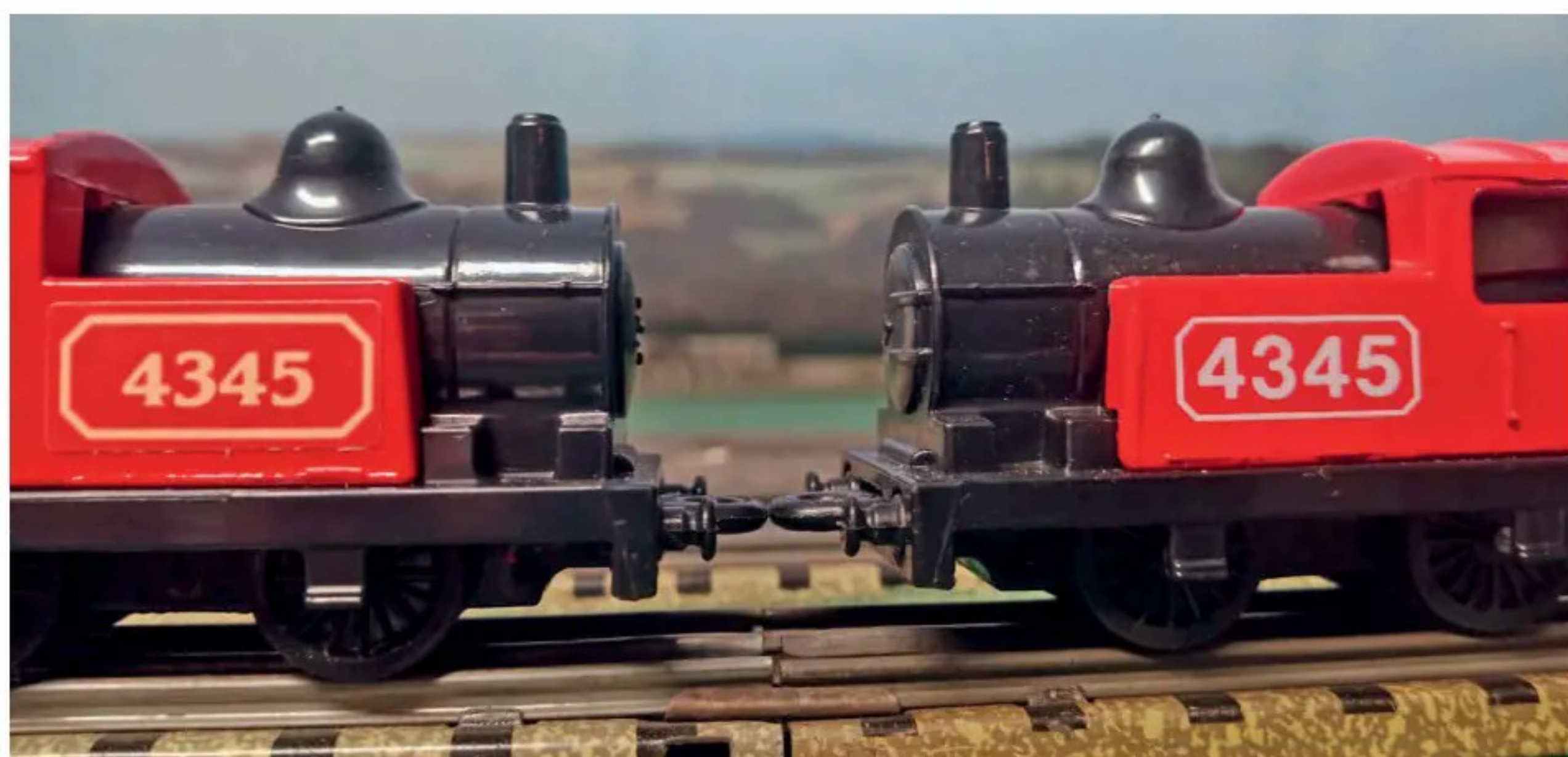
■ **Dinky Toys No.194 Bentley Coupe, overall very good,** slight mark to one rear wing, screen unbroken, boxed, slight creasing to box/staining to one flap. **Sold for £32, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**



■ **Dinky Toys No.109 Austin Healey 100 Sports, yellow,** overall good plus, some rubbing to transfers and chipping to raised edges, boxed, some staining to box. **Sold for £25, Sheffield Auction Gallery, May.**

Dear Editor

FOLLOW US AT  @ccofgb  @CollectorClubGB  CollectorsClubOfGreatBritain  CollectorsClubofGB



MATCHBOX TRAINS

■ I write to you with reference to the Matchbox Trains article in your May 2024 issue. To the best of my knowledge there are at least two-colour versions missing; the colourful “123”-loco and the white loco and waggon.

I would also like to highlight that the Caboose came at least in 2 colour variants: red with darker plastic upper part and green with lighter plastic upper part.

The red engine came with a labelled “4345” (above left) or with a printed “4345” (above right). The red engine “GOLD RUSH” for Australia also has a print on the roof.

And at last, you see another green engine.

Axel Valentiner-Branth, email

ED Hello Axel! Thank you for getting in touch and filling in some of the gaps in this article. Being able to add to the models in this range is really useful!



BOUGHT FROM RUSSIA, WITH LOVE...

■ I look forward to receiving my copy of *Diecast Collector* each month. In the June 2024 edition there was an item in the ‘sale results’ (page 64) section showing a Russian Lada Niva, under the title ‘Caenaho Moskvich Lada Niva 4x4’.

The model was actually made and distributed by Novoexport of Russia for sale outside the ‘Ironcurtain’ to Western countries.

The model shown is a second issue with the chrome wheels, the original issue had silver painted wheels and front mudflaps plus greater under bonnet detail including a distributor cap! Today the original version could sell for thousands of dollars believe it or not!

Here is my 1981 second issue with matching trailer, purchased from Modelauto, Sun Street in Haworth, West Yorkshire, who later had a bigger shop on Gledhow Valley Road, Leeds. The Haworth shop then only opened on Sundays, both shops were absolute emporiums.

Roger Broughton, email

NO HOLDING BACK...

■ So I’m a new but fairly regular reader now after having first picked up on the magazine since just before you took over and having grabbed a bargain bundle of old ones at the first toy fair I checked out recently. I gather I’m what you refer to as a “youngtimer” according to Stephen Paul Hardy’s rather patronising ramble in your June issue. Well, we might go clubbing but some of us are pretty sharp model collectors too. Especially in the area of the small 1/64 size cars. I’m not talking here about the same sized stuff my granddad drools on about, but the new stuff especially from Japan and China.

I’ve been reading the comments over the past few months about the direction you should be taking the magazine if you want us in our teens and twenties to get into the model car scene. I totally agree with the Jurassic age comments. You really have to change gear into the twenty first century because there is far too much mid-twentieth century nostalgia by white beards at the moment. Don’t get me wrong, some of the stuff is cool – like the comparisons Steve Coles make which are kind of interesting and informative but you really do need to check out a lot more of the current scenes and tastes.

Oh and last of all I really don’t get the obsession with authenticity in the big 1/18 stuff. If you like it, who cares if it was really made like that or not?

Oliver Walker, email

ED Well Oliver, I suspect you’ve put the cat among the pigeons...

TOYFAIR TIMES

FAIRS

6 JUNE

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

9 JUNE

- **Shepton Mallet**, Bulldog Fairs,
07379 578083
- **Orpington**, SRP Fairs, 07739
998012/07498 912091
- **Rainton**, Jim Corr Toy, Train &
Sci-Fi Fairs, 07504 035955
- **Newton Abbott**, Ray Heard,
01823 480097/0771 7278420

11 JUNE

- **Hook**, Steve Clements Fairs
01380 725322/07732 330305

15 JUNE

- **Maidstone**, Mike spencer
01622 298159/01732 840787
- **Alresford**, Bob Leggett
07836 734311

16 JUNE

- **Midhurst**, SRP Toy Fairs
07739 998012/07498 912091

18 JUNE

- **Wootton Bassett**, Steve
Clements Fairs, 01380
725322/07732 330305

22 JUNE

- **Oswestry**, James & Jackson
Events, 07967 681080/07904
777605

25 JUNE

- **Garstang**, Kevin Wright, 07908
494097

30 JUNE

- **Worthing**, SRP Toy Fairs,
07739 998012/07498 912091
- **St Ives (Cams)**, J & J Fairs,
01522 880383

6 JULY

- **Musselburgh**, Jim Corr, 07504
035955
- **Brecon**, James & Jackson
Events, 07967 681080/07904
777605

7 JULY

- **Rayleigh**, SRP Fairs
07739 998012/07498 912091

9 JULY

- **Hook**, Steve Clements Fairs,
01380 725322/07732 330305

14 JULY

- **Walsall**, Transtar Promotions,
01922 643385
- **Orpington**, SRP Fairs, 07739
998012/07498 912091
- **Lincoln**, J & J Fairs, 01522
880383

21 JULY

- **Wickham**, Steve Clements
Fairs, 01380 725322/07732
330305
- **Port Sunlight**, James &
Jackson Events, 07967
681080/07904 777605
- **Tenterden**, SRP Fairs, 07739
998012/07498 912091
- **Spalding**, J & J Fairs, 01522
880383
- **Potters Bar**, Joe Lock, 07866
641215

AUCTIONS

8 JUNE

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

10 JUNE

- **Runcorn**, British Toy Auctions,
01928 579032

13 JUNE

- **Sheffield**, Sheffield Auction
Gallery, 0114 2816161

17 JUNE

- **Runcorn**, British Toy Auctions,
01928 579032

19 JUNE

- **Online**, C & T Auctions, 01233
510050

21 JUNE

- **Bury St Edmunds**, Lacy Scott
& Knight, 01284 748625

22 JUNE

- **Newark**, Northgate Auction
Rooms, 01626 605905

26 JUNE

- **Sedgemoor**, Greenslade
Taylor Hunt, 01278 410250

6 JULY

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

16 JULY

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

17 JULY

- **Warwick**, Warwick & Warwick,
01926 499031

24 JULY

- **Leyburn**, Tennants
Auctioneers, 01969 623 780

Steve Clements Fairs

HOOK

Tuesday 11th June

Community Centre RG27 9NN 6.30pm - 8.30pm

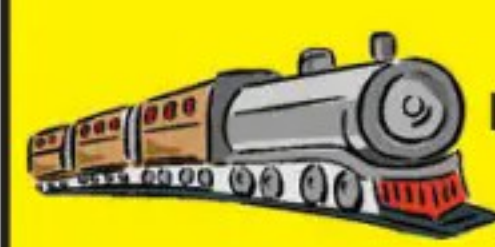
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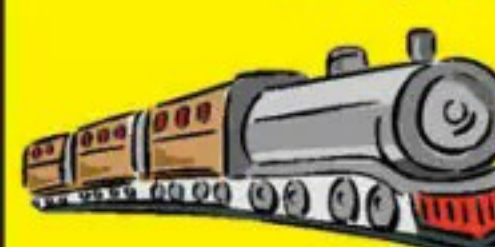
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A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE

Hazel Ralston considers the world of model collecting, through different eyes...

Dinky Toys & the woman driver

The subject has been debated endlessly: are men better drivers than women? *Harper's Bazaar* (which, for those of you who don't know, is a ladies' fashion magazine) reckoned that women were safer drivers, quoting statistics from 2017 which state that 79% of motoring offences taken to court in the UK were committed by males.

A look through the adverts in old motoring magazines sheds some light on bygone attitudes to women behind the wheel. Often women are pictured beside the car to enhance the impression of style, but generally it's a man who is driving. From time to time there's an acknowledgement that women did drive cars, but the tone is often condescending. A 1957 advert for the Reliant Regal three-wheeler suggests that a husband should purchase this as a second car for his wife. "Who takes your children to school? Who carries home that heavy shopping? Your wife, no doubt – but not in your car. Give her a second thought – buy a second car...". Not the kind of sales pitch that you'd find today.

All this led me to wonder where the woman driver fits in to the world of miniatures. As toys and models reflect the real motoring scene, we would expect to find some female drivers behind the steering wheel of diecast cars. In September 1963 the *Meccano Magazine* hailed "the most exciting month since Dinky Toys began" thanks to the launch of the Triumph Spitfire with two new features: a lady driver in blue with headscarf to protect her hair from the wind, and a removable seat belt, reflecting the growing emphasis on safety in the car industry.

Three years later, the same lady had decided to go to France where the French Dinky factory put her behind the wheel of a DAF, a car which at the time was often



1 1957 advertisement suggests that a husband might buy his wife a Reliant Regal but he wouldn't let her drive his own car! **2** Putting a woman at the wheel of the Triumph Spitfire was a new departure for Dinky in 1963; **3** In 1966 she appeared again in this French Dinky Peugeot 404 cabriolet; **4** Solido of France had already thought of the idea some years earlier.

seen as ideal for women drivers thanks to its 'variomatic transmission' system which made driving easier. But she also drove something a bit more glamorous in the shape of the French Dinky Peugeot 404 convertible. While the originals are now of course rare, replicas of both these French Dinkies appeared in the Dinky Atlas series a few years ago.

One reason why French Dinky borrowed the female driver from the British Binns Road factory might have been that the rival diecast range from Solido had already put a woman at the wheel of some of the sports cars in their 100 series introduced a few years

earlier. The series included popular European open cars of the era such as the Alfa Romeo Giulietta Sprint, Mercedes 190SL, Renault Floride and Simca Océane. Both male and female figures were available and it is quite easy to swap them around, but it seems that most examples of the Floride and the Simca that come up for sale have the female driver, possibly because both these cars were seen as suited to fashionable women at the time. Conversely, Solido's more muscular and high-performance American V8-engined Ford Thunderbird generally has the male driver in charge.

More on this topic next time... ■

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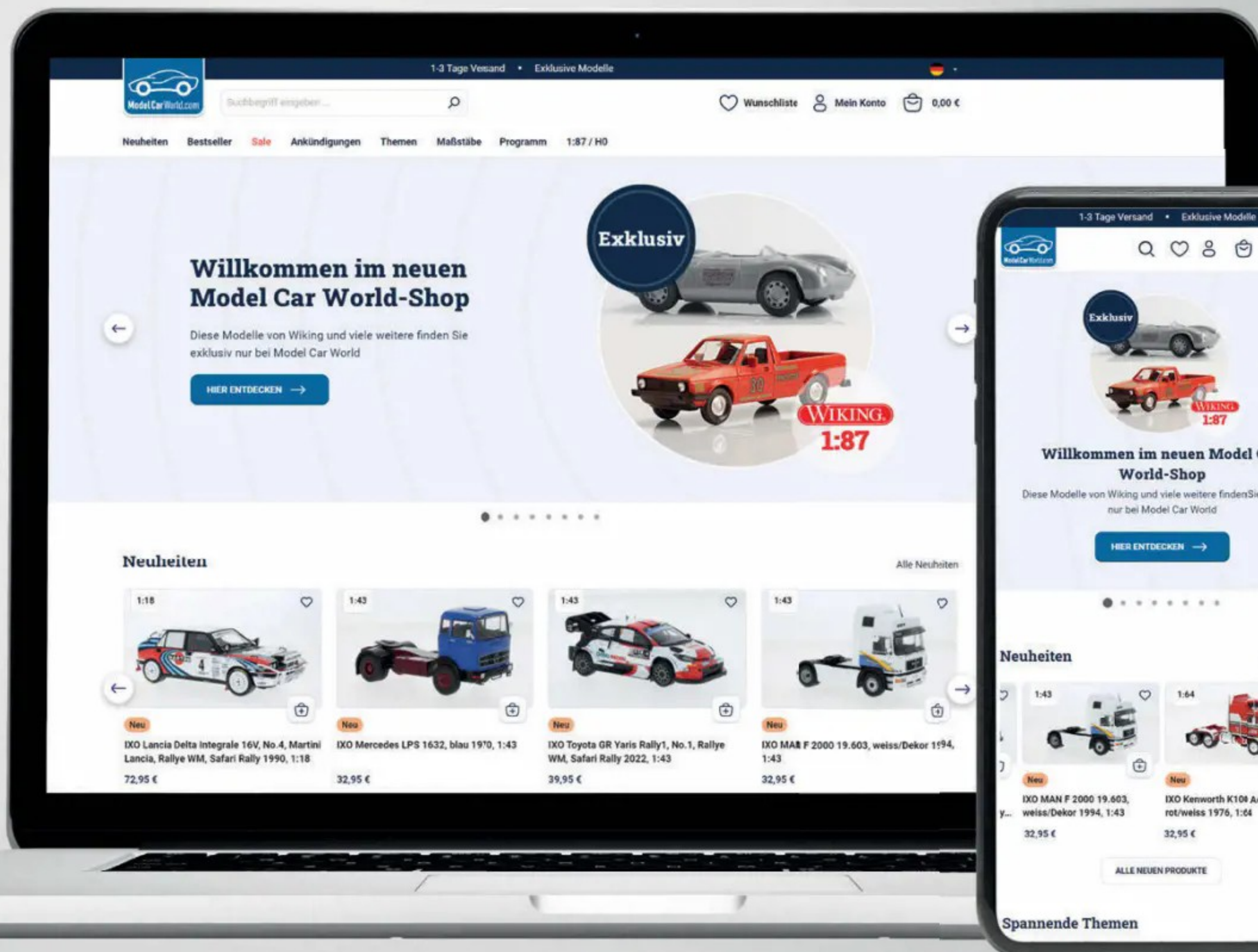
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