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DIECAST

COLLECTOR

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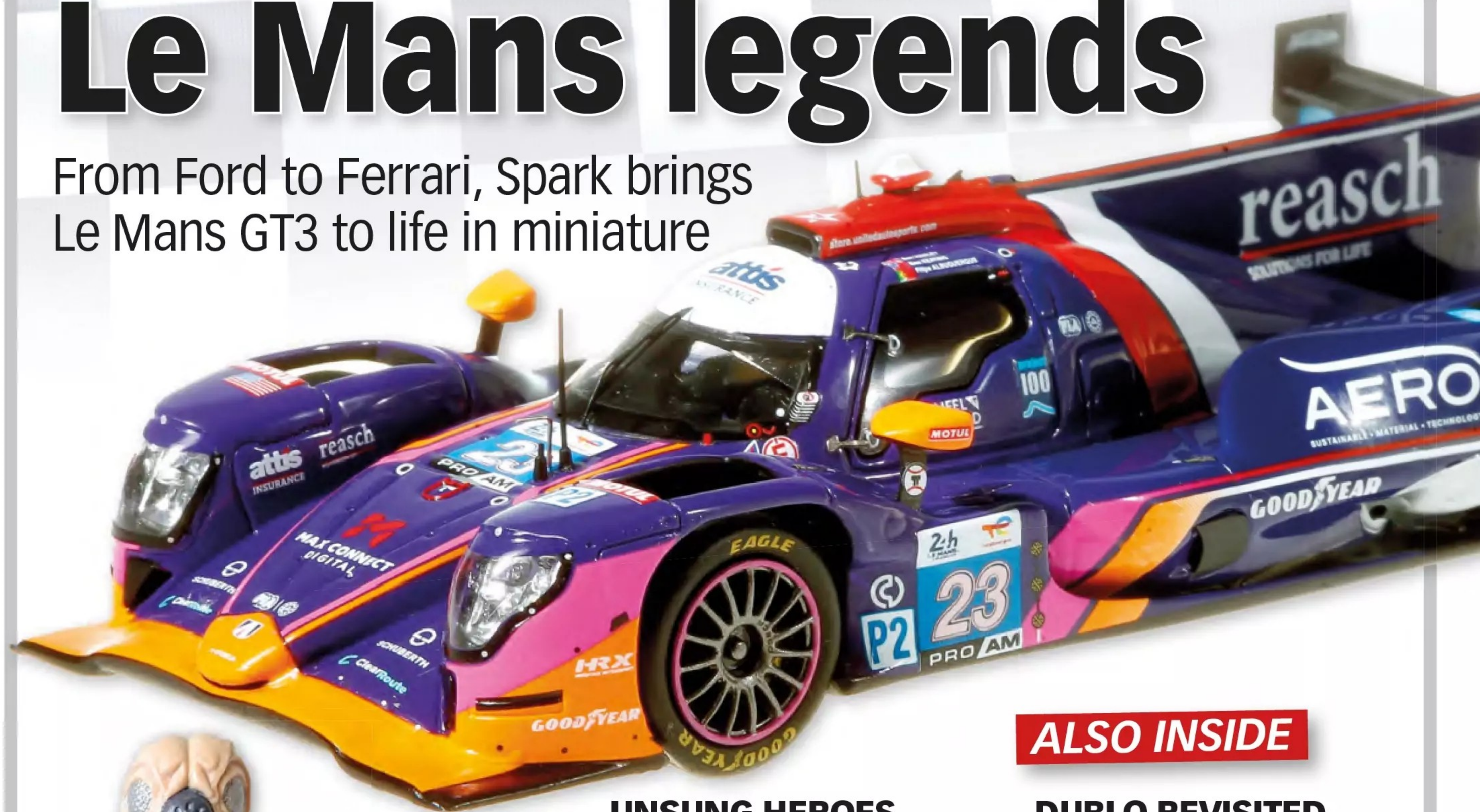
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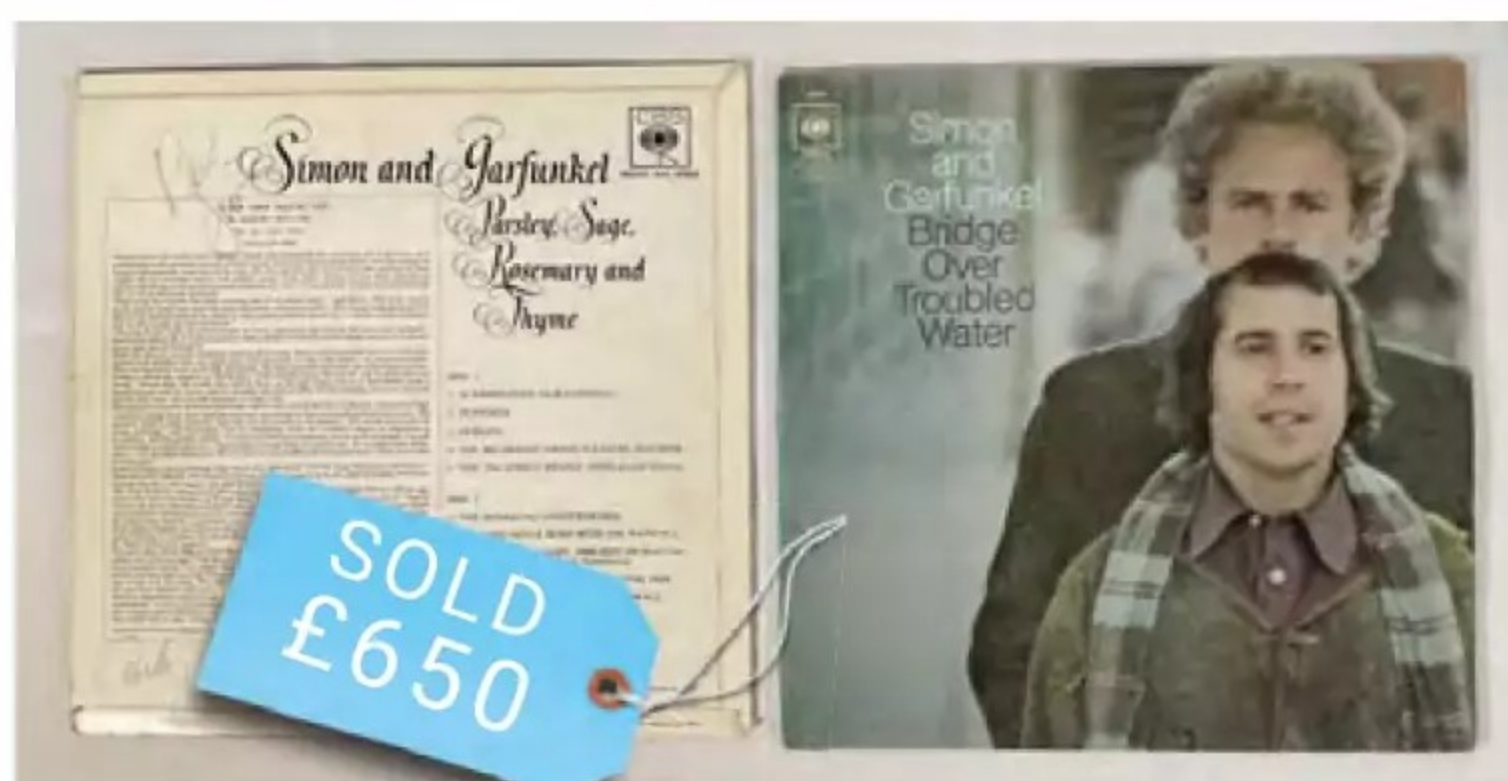


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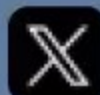
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Turn to page 3 to find out more! *T&Cs apply

A new chapter

EDITOR'S COLUMN



A warm welcome to all collectors! This issue is something special, as it marks the first time both titles have come together under one cover.

Hello, I'm Luke, and I'm thrilled to be the new Content Editor for Diecast Collector and Collectors Gazette. I'd also like to introduce Millie, our Junior Content Editor, and Mike, our Designer, who are both new to the collecting team! And what a time for us all to be joining. As we bring the two magazines together, we're excited to help combine the best of both worlds under one cover.

This merger is a great opportunity to build on what you already know and love, while also opening the doors to new corners of the collecting world. Of course, you'll still find articles on the items you're passionate about from familiar writers and members of the collector community, but we'll also be shining a light on other categories of collecting and welcoming new voices along the way. Collecting takes so many forms, and we'd love this magazine to reflect that diversity, keeping things fresh, interesting and insightful.

Collecting has been a big part of my life for as long as I can remember. As a child, it started with dinosaur magazines and football stickers, then grew into football memorabilia, vinyl records and more. I also treasure a coin collection that was passed down to me by my great-grandfather. And I've kept a few favourite toys from my childhood, including Thunderbirds, Jurassic Park, Aliens and Power Rangers figures, which I've now passed on to my two sons. Those toys from the 1980s and 1990s are now locked in daily battles with modern Marvel figures! Watching my sons enjoy the toys I grew up with shows how collecting carries stories across generations and brings joy to all ages.

Another great part of collecting is the community around it. At every shop, show, or event I've been to, there has always been an inclusive atmosphere with friendly people keen to chat and share their passion. That sense of community is something we want this magazine to celebrate and build on. This is where you come in. Millie and I would love to hear from you, whether it's about your



collecting journey, a fun fact, or a question you'd like to share with the community. You are the experts, and the more we share, the better this magazine becomes. Please always feel free to reach out at CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk.

So, welcome to a familiar yet refreshed magazine with the same passion at its heart. We're excited to fill these pages with features, stories and surprises that make collecting so special.

Happy collecting,
Luke Moss
Content Editor

Fact of the month

We're starting a new feature: fact of the month. Got a surprising, unusual or fun collecting fact? Send it in and we'll feature the best.

Question of the month

We're also kicking off a question of the month. What do you want to ask the collecting community? Share your question and we'll publish the replies.

November's question

Kevin B asks: Do you have any advice or stories about restoring models or toys, such as where to find spares, the best way to spray, or which type of superglue to use? Step-by-step photos of your projects would be great to see.

Email your answers in.
CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk
I look forward to reading your responses.

DIECAST COLLECTOR

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NEWS

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LATEST FROM SOLIDO

SOLIDO continues to expand its 1:18 scale Formula 1 range with the release of the official 2024 season models. Following the success of previous seasons, this new collection is based on meticulous work to reproduce the official liveries and the aerodynamic details specific to each team. Designed in collaboration with our technical partners, these F1 models combine precision, realism, and accessibility. Solido continues to expand its collection with entirely new models, designed from new moulds. True to its DNA, the brand combines authentic details, affordable pricing, and visual

appeal to satisfy collectors from all backgrounds: classics, youngtimers and legendary sports cars.

Two iconic colours for this legendary 1980s sedan. With its sharp lines and period correct wheels, this model will delight fans of the first 3 Series.

The Porsche 911 was a road and track legend, reinterpreted by Solido in 1:43 scale. This 964 RS stands out with its stripped-down look, discreet spoiler, and silver-grey colour accented by black racing stripes.

The legendary Nissan/Datsun 240Z has been reimagined with a widebody! A cult among JDM fans.



NEW MODELS FROM TSM AND TOPSPEED

TOPSPEED and its sister brand TrueScale Miniatures have just announced several new 1:18 and 1:43 motorsport subjects. The highlight for this selection is probably both 1:18 and 1:43 replicas of the Ford Mustang GT3s that were campaigned in the Laguna Seca round of the 2024 IMSA sportscar championship. Ford ran a colourful one-off livery at this race, commemorating 60 years of its Mustang

in competition. The #65 machine driven by Joey Hand and Dirk Muller placed 8th in the GTD Pro category, while the #64 example of teammates Mike Rockenfeller and Harry Tincknell took the chequered flag one position behind it. TSM have also confirmed the release of the Chevrolet Corvette Z06 GT3 and the Lamborghini Countach 1983 Monaco Grand Prix Pace Car. ■



RAILWAY MEMORABILIA SALE ACHIEVES £30,000

300 lots of railway memorabilia was sold by Charterhouse Auctioneers in Sherborne, Dorset. The full collection came from one collector who had amassed the objects over nearly 50 years. Following the collector's death, all items went to the auction house. The thousands of items had filled the collector's bungalow! The sale includes items from post-war British Rail as well as the pre-nationalisation era when individual private rail companies operated steam trains. High selling items included Leicester Square underground sign sold for £780 alongside a lamp with the words 'Portsmouth town' went for £800. Also, a Great Western Railway inspector's cap sold for £100. Online bidders came from all over for a piece of this collection, including people from as far as Australia.

The total hammer price was about £24,000, with the auctioneer's premium taking the total sale to £30,000.

LIGHTSABER SELLS FOR A RECORD £2.7M

A lightsaber used by Darth Vader in the original Star Wars films has sold for £2.7m at auction. The prop was featured in the films *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*. It was said to be the "standout" moment of the first day of sales at the auction held in Los Angeles on Thursday.

The lightsaber was said to be the highest priced Star Wars item ever sold at auction. While the auction took place in California, many of the lots are from UK productions including a bullwhip, belt and holster made for Harrison Ford in the 1989 *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* film which sold for £360,000. Also featured was a Platform 9 ¾ sign used in the *Harry Potter* films which sold for £102,573. The Propstore auction house regularly sells movie memorabilia and collectables, in their auction house in LA as well as online at propstore.com.

FROM the 4th of November 2025 to the 22nd of March 2026, The Cartoon Museum looks to the future – and to the past – to explore comics that went beyond the final frontier and predicted what humanity would look like in years to come. Will the Daleks invade in the year 2150? Did the space travel of Dan Dare or the dystopia of V for Vendetta come true in the 1990s? what will our future look like? Take a journey through time and space and answer these questions and more?

The Future Was Then features over 80 pages of original comic art alongside other items that tell stories about the future of humans from 1980 to 4000 AD. The exhibition includes original work from iconic futuristic worlds such as Tank Girl, Judge Dredd, Black Mirror, Buck Rogers and Thunderbirds, and original artwork by legendary artists such as Jamie Hewlett, Frank Bellamy and Sydney Jordan. Science fiction and dystopian comics gives us possible visions of Earth's future, imagining what may be in store for humanity.

What did comic creators in the past think the future would look like?

Science fiction is a cornerstone genre of comics. The limitless budget offered by a blank page allows artists to create incredible, detailed worlds before our eyes. Over the past hundred years, artists have conjured visions of future police states, intergalactic travel, everyday cybernetic technology, humans leaving Earth and even – gasp – humans using computers every day. Many creators are influenced by the world around them as they create, leaving imprints of their modern day in their future worlds

We will explore this in the exhibition through never



BACK TO THE FUTURE

displayed items from Phoo Action by Jamie Hewlett and Mat Wakeham – a vision of 2004 rooted in the mid-nineties, and a precursor to Hewlett's later work on Gorillaz.

Have any predictions of the future been right?

Creators have explored ideas and visions of the future for over a hundred years in art and comics and have often been influenced by the events that they are living through at the time. Sometimes you can see how this changes an artist's ideas in real time – for instance, as probes sent out across the solar system discovered our closest neighbours were

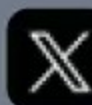
inhabited, artists moved away from fantastical space beasts living on Mars towards uninhabited planets being colonised or fantastical travel in other universes.

Occasionally visions of the future come true. More often they don't! Either way, comics give us a way to consider threats and opportunities for humans and engage with ideas about our own future.

The Cartoon Museum is located at 63 Wells Street, 5-minute walk from Oxford Circus underground station. Head on down to see and experience what we've been talking about here. ■



NEWS

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HORNBY AND SGB LAUNCH NATIONAL COLLECTORS' DAY

COLLECTING continues to thrive in the UK with the culture worth £15bn and there are over 20 million people dedicated to curating everything from rare stamps to vintage model trains, books, and diecast cars. The two iconic heritage brands Hornby Hobbies and Stanley Gibbons Baldwins are proud to announce National Collectors' Day. An annual event on 20th of August to celebrate the enduring passion for collecting and the stories behind every collection. National Collectors' Day will be a chance to celebrate this

timeless hobby, inviting both seasoned collectors and those just starting their journeys to share their stories and treasures. It's a day to reflect on the power of collecting to bring people together, across generations and interests.

To support this initiative, Hornby Hobbies and Stanley Gibbons Baldwins commissioned a major research study into collecting in the UK. Conducted in December 2024, the study surveyed over 3,000 adults to explore motivations, behaviours, and trends within the modern collecting community.



Hornby Hobbies and Stanley Gibbons Baldwins invite all collectors to join in the celebrations and embrace the joy of discovering, collecting, and preserving history. With

strong spending commitments and a rich, diverse collecting community, it's clear that collecting is not only thriving today, but poised to continue shaping the future. ■

NEXT MONTH

DECEMBER 2025 Issue 338



Maisto: the early years of a diecast giant

Beginning as a small plastics company in Hong Kong, Maisto has grown into one of the world's biggest diecast manufacturers.

PLUS...

- Models 'Now and Then'
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FATHER AND SON WIN HOT WHEELS LEGENDS TOUR

ON 26th August at the NEC Birmingham, a classic BMW 3-Series build inspired by Group 2 race cars won the 2025 Hot Wheels Legends UK Tour at SlammedUK's Gravity Show. The result of a passionate 14-year build, the 900kg track-ready E21 was created by a father and son team, Paul and Ethan Foster from Wickford, Essex.

Paul Foster's 1982 BMW E21 3-Series combines aggressive Group 2 styling with bespoke engineering in a true life-size Hot Wheels car. The 345/35/15 rear tyres, fibreglass wide-arch kit, alloy diffuser and deep front splitter give it a muscular stance, while the race livery featuring violet, red and blue accents, is a nod to 80s and 90s BMW touring cars. An original Group 5 rear wing, now with a carbon blade, adds downforce and drama in equal measure, whilst under the bonnet sits a 420 bhp 5.0 litre Rover V8 with twin Jenvey throttle bodies. Other performance features include flame spitting side pipes, DTM Getrag gearbox and Quaife LSD whilst GAZ coil overs and uprated Willwood brakes ensure it handles as well as its looks.

"It's amazing to win the Hot Wheels Legends Tour UK. Built together with my son Ethan, it's part of our family and we'll never sell it. We've both been huge Hot Wheels fans since we were kids. I just can't believe it," says Paul Foster. "Representing the UK at the next round of

the competition is so exciting. Thank you to everyone for the support."

Together with Hot Wheels designer Charlie Angulo, judges Nicola Hume (host of Red Bull's 'Talking Bull' podcast), Jordan Clarke (founder of Slammed UK) and influencer Mat Armstrong scored each entry against design, authenticity and garage spirit criteria.

"This year, the UK once again delivered a lineup of jaw-dropping contenders, each brimming with raw garage spirit, authenticity and the kind of imagination that Hot Wheels enthusiasts crave," says Ted Wu, senior vice president and Global Head of Design for Vehicles and Building Sets at Mattel.

Historic race cars, JDM drifters, time attack competition cars and off-road conversions were all considered as Hot Wheels whittled a diverse array of more than 200 of the UK's finest custom car projects down to a shortlist of seven. Two of these, the Jaguar Mark VII and BMW 3 Series, were fast-tracked to the final, whilst the Volkswagen Polo faced four other contenders in the Legends Tour's biggest UK fan vote yet, receiving 37,006 votes. For the third time, the UK final was open to the public, taking place at the UK's largest modified and supercar show; SlammedUK's Gravity Show at the Birmingham NEC.

Paul's BMW will now head to the European final, one



of several virtual regional competitions, the others being the Middle East, Latin America and the United States. At each regional final, one vehicle will be selected to compete at the Global Grand Finale where the winner will be inducted into the Hot Wheels Garage of Legends™ – a collection of the brand's most iconic and historic vehicles and transformed into a 1:64 scale die-cast, and available

to buy around the world. Partners for the 2025 Hot Wheels Legends Tour UK are Smyths Toys Superstores, Forge Motorsport and Collecting Cars. In addition to Paul's progression to the international stages of the competition, he has won a special selection of gifts from the partners, including a Collecting Cars merchandise bundle and Forge Motorsport voucher. ■

NEWS

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AUTOMOBILIA AND BARGAINS GALORE

JOHN Goodwin's September sale comprised a good selection of toys, alongside various items of motoring ephemera, tools and allied items. Automobilia is still strong: a Super Shell glass petrol globe with a blue tint was a good example, this realising £700, plus fees. A BP Motor Spirit enamel advertising sign, despite being very worn, made £280, and



a Nikki Lauda F1 piston, from one of his 1982 cars, a McLaren MPB4B in which he won the British Grand Prix, made £170.

In terms of toys, a charming item in the shape of a fort, which had been bought from Christies in 1990, stood out. Maker unknown, it featured moving doors and a working drawbridge and came with a hidden underground section. Measuring 60x50x55cm, it sold for £150.

Some great bargains were to be had at the event. The Lines Brothers No 1 Super Garage came, remarkably, with its original box and was a snip at £25. A Marx (No 2734) tinplate and pressed steel mobile crane truck in green, dark yellow and grey was in exemplary condition and also came with a great box: this made £75. A tray of



Robertson's Jam Golly figurines, forming a band, sold for £50 and someone took home a complete Subbuteo Continental Club Edition boxed set, with players, nets, ball and accessories for just a tenner. The Matchbox MF1 Fire Station was in good condition, although its box was tired (£45); while £160 was

very little money for a well-built Pocher kit of the famous Alfa Romeo racing car: these kits were a fortune in their day.

Finally, for card enthusiasts, the Yu-Gi-Oh Blue Eyes White Dragon and the Red Eyes Black Dragon cards from 1996 were a big draw for some: the pair, near mint, sold for £220. ■

COLLECTABLES SHOW HEADS TO THE CAPITAL

LONDON'S Museum of Brands, in partnership with Anderson Entertainment, is to host 'Thunderbirds and Space: 1999 – A Celebration of Sci-fi Toys and Collectables'. The exhibition opens on the 13th of September and runs until February 2026. This is to celebrate the anniversaries of Gerry Anderson series 'Thunderbirds' (first broadcast in 1965) and 'Space: 1999' (first premiered in 1975).

Online sneak peeks show a huge collection of items that will be on display from many

Anderson shows. Some of the pieces are on loan from private collections and are rarely seen by the public.

It has been co-curated by internationally known graphic designer Malcolm Garrett MBE; the exhibition features over 300 curated objects from the Robert Opie collection alongside private collectors' items. As well as sci-fi enthusiasts, the exhibition offers appeal to fans of pop culture and design, highlighting the mid-century aesthetics and



bold visual storytelling that defined Anderson's work. With its colourful, imaginative displays and family-friendly format, it also provides an engaging and educational experience for

visitors of all ages.

The Museum of Brands is located at 111 – 117 Lancaster Road, Notting Hill, London W11 1QT. The museum recommends booking in advance. ■



TRAINS, TRAINS... AND TRAINS

THE Popular Trains auction held by SAS yielded no fewer than 681 lots and encompassed a huge range of scales, from petite to massive. There were bargains to be had, also...

If £35 wasn't a bargain price to buy some useful Tri-ang Battle Space items, to wit a R696 Satellite Launching Car, a R216 Rocket launching car with rocket and nosecone, a Well wagon with Minic crane load, an unboxed Well wagon with Minic tank load and a similar well wagon without load, together with a missile launch wagon and a radar wagon, then I don't know what is.

Fifteen Hornby Skaledale kits, all unmade, together with some accessories, achieved £130; and a Trix 00 gauge pre-war LMS Princess Presentation Set, comprising a LMS maroon 6201 'Princess' locomotive and tender, LMS maroon coaches, a dining car, First Class and Third with Brake and controller, made £160. The whole was in its original presentation case. Another boxed Trix set, with the Scotsman and Pullman carriages, also in OO gauge,

sold for a bit less, at £110.

The serious money at the event gravitated towards the bespoke end of the market. A Carette gauge 1, 4-4-0 engine and tender, lined brown was live steam and made £1,400; while a single Marklin early gauge 1, 28 centimetre GNR First/Third dining car sold for £1,100. Finally, a Bing/Carette (or similar) gauge 1, 4-4-2 locomotive and tender in GNR (Great Northern Railway) lined green livery, bearing the moniker 'Atlantic', really looked the business: this made £250.

One odd (but useful) item was the model maker's lathe, which was accompanied by various textbooks: a low estimate of £80 was rapidly passed, the instrument achieving £210. ■



DIECASTS FOR THE DIEHARDS

VECTIS held a number of sales at the start of September (where do all these toys come from?) and there was much to please the diecast collector in its September 4 auction. Sci-fi and spy themes, as ever, did rather well.

A superb Dinky Toys 359 Space 1999 Eagle Transporter, in a mint bubble, and in green and white with chrome rear thrusters, red side thrusters and its decal sheet, achieved £460; several other Eagle Transporters were sold, but none came close to this one. A Dinky 360 Space 1999 Eagle Freighter, in white and red, closed on £340. The Corgi 270 James Bond Aston Martin DB5 in silver with a red interior sold for £240; and a Corgi Toys 336 James Bond Toyota 2000GT, from the film

"You Only Live Twice", was bid to £150; finally, a Corgi 268 Black Beauty from the Green Hornet television series hit £180. An unusual item was the Corgi Toys Juniors E3019 James Bond gift set taken from the film Octopussy: this included a Range Rover in maroon, with the harder-to-find wheel variation; a horse box and a Micro-jet in red, white and blue. On a mint carded blister, it sold for £120.

Away from diecasts proper, the Scalextric C64 Bentley with a black body and a grey tonneau, driver and racing No.4 decal was boxed and made £140; while a group of Matchbox Regular Wheels and Matchbox Superfast carry cases, comprising 11 in all, raised £200. ■

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.

IMAGINED OVER 90 YEARS AGO, BROUGHT TO LIFE IN 2024 AND NOW AVAILABLE IN 1/18

It is rare that a forthcoming new model release hits so many interest groups and a highly topical subject all in one hit as AutoCult's massive 1/18 Auto Union-Porsche Typ 52 "Schnellsportwagen" does.

The challenge in reviewing it is knowing where to start. Should it be with the model or the full-sized car first conceived back in the 1930s but not actually constructed until nine decades later?

Maybe, first, it is best to take a step back to 2017 when AutoCult's "Set of the year" (#99117) combining its annual book with an exclusive model, brought us a 1/43 representation of the Auto Union-Porsche Typ 52. At that stage and in celebrated AutoCult style, it was yet another of its models of historic 'never made' automobiles brought forward with a best interpretation of surviving scant historical documentation from the Porsche Engineering design office prepared in the 1930s. Now eight years later AutoCult's second bite at the cherry is exactly modelled from the real car, commissioned by Audi Tradition in Ingolstadt and painstakingly built by world leaders in their field Crosthwaite & Gardiner, Buxted, East Sussex, England who already had extensive experience with, amongst many other classics, restoration of the mighty 'Silver Arrows' Grand Prix cars of Mercedes-Benz and Auto Union.

The hereditary of the Typ 52 is that of Auto

AUTOCULT
Avenue 43:
Auto Union-Porsche
Typ 52
Sportlimousine
1935/2024

Scale: 1/18

Price: tba

Ref: 68001

www.
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BELOW The epitome of 1930s "Stromlinie" design further developing the Auto-Union "silver arrows" GP cars the Typ 52 drew together Ferdinand Porsche, Erwin Komenda and Josef Kales during its development before being abandoned in 1935.

Union's intended sibling to that legendary 'Silver Arrows' series of Grand Prix race cars of the 1930s with a fully enclosed body and an unusual seating layout: the driver centrally positioned, flanked slightly aft on either side by passenger seats. Three seats in total in a sumptuously appointed cabin separated from first a stowage cabin and then, at the rear, the powerful 16-cylinder engine. In many ways it was a layout reminiscent of contemporary aeroplane design but intended for 'flying' long distances by road rather than in the air. As such it was intended to be sold to customers for driving in long-distance races such as the Mille Miglia or in sports car competitions such as the endurance races at Spa-Francorchamps or Le Mans.

Appreciation of the interior of scale model saloon cars is often hindered by limited visibility, but make no mistake AutoCult's attention to detail is extensive even if appreciation (and photography!) of it is hindered by the relatively small glazing areas of the Typ 52 "Schnellsportwagen's" windows. AutoCult is best known for its modelling in 1/43 with occurrences of work in 1/18 being comparatively few and far between – its 1/18 model of the Otto Mathé Fetztenflieger released in 2016 in both 1/43 (No 07002, April) and 1/18 (No 80001, November) featured in the May 2021 issue ("Exceptional in every way") being a rare example.

At 300mm long AutoCult's 1/18, Avenue 43 branded, Typ 52 "Schnellsportwagen" is as imposing as it is impressive. Comparison of the model with photographs of the full sized Typ 52 at its presentation and track run at Goodwood Festival of Speed during July last year clearly illustrates the degree of authenticity captured by the model.

Modelled with AutoCult's usual attention to detail and quality it is undoubtedly a significant release from the points of view of both its multiple historical connections and to being a leading contender for "Model of the Year 2025." ■

BELOW This rare excursion into 1/18 by AutoCult brings us this truly impressive Typ 52, modelled directly from the car that was seen, at long last, being put through its paces last year.





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MINI GT

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SOLIDO
BMW 635 CSI (Macau blue)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £54.99
PRODUCT NO: S1810306

www.solido.com

The 1:18 BMW 635 CSI recreates the shark-nose coupe with opening doors, soft-touch tyres, and authentic badging, highlighting the iconic design's appeal.



SOLIDO
Mazda RX7 FD3RS (Pure white)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £54.99
PRODUCT NO: S1810607

www.solido.com

The RX-7's iconic 90s silhouette comes alive with sharp body lines, pop-up headlights, and a detailed interior, a fitting tribute to Mazda's sports car heritage.



OTTO MODELS
Fiat Uno Turbo i.e (Rosso)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £99.95
PRODUCT NO: OT487UV1

www.otto-models.com

The Uno Turbo i.e brings 80s hot-hatch spirit with its Tipo-inspired grille, 118hp upgrade, and compact lines, finished in a vibrant Rosso Racing Red colour.



MAISTO
1978 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am (Black/Gold)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £44.99
PRODUCT NO: 31464

www.maisto.com

The 1978 Pontiac Firebird Trans Am shines in black and gold with opening doors and bonnet, detailed interior, and authentic styling, a perfect tribute to the movie-era muscle icon.



SOLIDO
Autobianchi A112 Mk.5 Abarth (Green)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £58.99
PRODUCT NO: S1803806

www.solido.com

The A112 Mk.5 Abarth stands out in vivid green with gold wheels, rally spotlights, and updated grille detailing, celebrating Autobianchi's feisty and charismatic 80s hot hatch in 1:18 scale.



SOLIDO
Lancia Delta HF Integrale Edizione finale (Red)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £65.99
PRODUCT NO: S1807807

www.solido.com

The Delta HF Integrale Edizione Finale marks the legendary rally car's swansong, with bold red paint, tricolore stripe, fine detailing, and authentic wheels capturing Lancia's iconic 1995 farewell edition.



MAISTO
2022 PORSCHE 911 GT3 (BLUE)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £44.99
PRODUCT NO: M36458

www.maisto.com

The 2022 Porsche 911 GT3 is replicated in 1:18 scale with crisp bodywork, opening doors, and a detailed interior, showcasing Maisto's precise take on Stuttgart's icon.



MAISTO
Lamborghini Countach LPI 800-4 (White)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £39.99
PRODUCT NO: M31459

www.maisto.com

The Countach LPI 800-4 captures Lamborghini's reborn icon with sharp modern lines, opening parts, and detailed interior, a striking 1:18 tribute to the 800hp retro-inspired supercar.

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PLAXTON PANORAMA ARRIVES IN 1:76 SCALE

Chris Hall from Buckie Model Centre has teamed up with Dutch manufacturer Holland Oto to produce a brand-new 1:76 scale of the Plaxton Panorama, a high-capacity interurban coach. Traditionally focused on 1:87, Holland Oto has taken a big step into 1:76 to satisfy the UK bus market, with Chris instrumental in bringing the project to life.

The development was supported by Alexander Dennis, who provided technical drawings, colour codes and specifications to ensure accuracy. From there, Holland Oto produced a prototype that captures the Panorama's distinctive shape and details, making sure no features were overlooked.

Working with several major fleet operators, the team was able to deliver an authentic right-hand drive version – the first Panorama in 1:76 scale. Livery choices already released include Megabus,

Buckle Model Centre
Vehicle: Plaxton Panorama
Scale: 1:76
Manufacturer: Holland Oto
Units: 250 per livery
www.buckiemodelcentre.com

Oxford Tube, Berrys of Taunton, Ridleys, Citylink Gold, Citylink 900 and Stagecoach Long Distance, along with a special Oxford Tube poppy livery.

Each model is limited to just 250 pieces and comes with a choice of three destinations. With continued support from collectors, Chris and Holland Oto hope to expand the line further, offering more UK operators in the future. ■



THE SUPERLOOP BUS MAKES ITS 1:76 DEBUT

Model bus specialists MBC have announced their first Northcord Enviro 400 MMC release for 2025 – the Go Ahead London Superloop SL6. Working closely with Transport for London, MPC has ensured every detail is accurate, and the model will carry full TfL licensing. The finalised design has now been approved, with pre-production samples expected to arrive soon. This marks the very first Superloop model, with more vehicles in the series due in the coming months. ■

MBC
Vehicle: Enviro 400 MMC
Scale: 1:76
Manufacturer: Northcord
Units: 504
www.modelbus.uk





TOPSPEED
Ford Mustang GT3 - 2024 Laguna Seca IMSA - #65
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £229.99
PRODUCT NO: TSM603
<https://www.diecastlegends.com>

This is a detailed scale model of the Ford Mustang GT3 #65, made to replicate the race-spec version used in GT3 racing. The model features an aerodynamic body kit, including a large rear wing, and diffuser.



TOPSPEED
Ford Mustang GT3 - 2024 Laguna Seca IMSA - #64
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £229.99
PRODUCT NO: TSM602
<https://www.diecastlegends.com>

Ford Performance's entry into global GT3 racing. The car showcases a red, white, and blue livery, complete with USAF-inspired graphics including fighter jet silhouettes, detailing along the sides.



TRUESCALE MINIATURES
Chevrolet Corvette Z06 GT3.R - 2025 Daytona 24 Hours
SCALE: 1:43 **PRICE:** £127.99
PRODUCT NO: TSM430895
<https://www.diecastlegends.com>

Its black and gold livery accented by green highlights, this Corvette boasts a bold and aggressive look that captures the essence of endurance racing glamour and performance.



TRUESCALE MINIATURES
Lamborghini Countach - 1983 Monaco Grand Prix Pace Car
SCALE: 1:43 **PRICE:** £127.99
PRODUCT NO: TSM430861
<https://www.diecastlegends.com>

1:43 resin model of the Lamborghini Countach Pace Car from the 1983 Monaco Grand Prix. Excellent detail within the red body. Smooth graphics that stand out in the model.



CAVALLINO
DAF XG 4x2 with Curtainsider Trailer 'De Greef'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €98.00
PRODUCT NO: 20-1327
www.cavallino-store.com

This 3-axle curtainsider trailer paired with a DAF XG 4x2 tractor. The details are cleverly implemented to offer an authentic look at a very impressive price point offering value for money.



CAVALLINO
DAF XG+ 6x4 with Faymonville Trailer 'STE Nieuwleusen'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €110.00,
PRODUCT NO: 20-1316
www.cavallino-store.com

There is a good choice of 3-axle and 4-axle Faymonville trailer models from Cavallino, like this combination with a DAF XG+ 6x4 tractor in the livery of STE Nieuwleusen.



WSI MODELS
Scania R Highline with Palfinger crane and 2-axle Trailer 'Mammoet'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €249.00
PRODUCT NO: 410319
<https://store.mammoet.com>

Mammoet continue to release accurate models from their fleet, including this combination of 8x2 rigid Scania R with a detachable 2-axle trailer and Palfinger knuckle boom loading crane.



WEISS BROTHERS
Terex Franna AT-40 Pick & Carry Crane 'Mammoet'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €219.00
PRODUCT NO: 410307
<https://store.mammoet.com>

This Terex Franna TA-40 pick & carry crane has been developed by Weiss Brothers, resulting in a featured release that includes opening doors, detailed interior and fully operational crane boom.



NZG
Yanmar V7 Compact Wheel Loader
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €85.00
ITEM NO 1092

www.nzg.de

One of two new Yanmar models from NZG, this compact wheel loader is packed with detail, from the rolling wheels and detailed cabin interior to the loader arms.



NZG
Yanmar V8e Compact Wheel Loader
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €85.00
PRODUCT NO: 1093

www.nzg.de

Using the same tooling as the Yanmar V7, this V8e model represents the electric drive machine, with bespoke printing on the sides of the body.



NZG
Hamm HC70i Single Drum Compactor 'Cabin'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €75.00
PRODUCT NO: 1104

www.nzg.de

A surprise release from NZG is the Hamm HC70i single drum compactor which comes with a fully enclosed cabin, complete with detailed interior, chassis frame and smooth rolling drum.



NZG
Hamm HC70i Single Drum Compactor 'Rops'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €75.00
PRODUCT NO: 11041

www.nzg.de

The Hamm HC70i compactor is also available with a ROPS canopy, allowing all the fine details of the operator station to be clearly seen, encircled with metal safety railings.



NZG
Atlas 155W Wheeled Excavator
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €85.00
PRODUCT NO: 1095

www.nzg.de

The Atlas 155W wheeled excavator is finished in the latest corporate colours with lots of detail, the hydraulic hoses and excellent replication of the digging equipment.



NZG
Liebherr A918 Compact Wheeled Excavator 'Generation 8'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** €115.00
PRODUCT NO: 1096

www.nzg.de

The popular Liebherr A918 Compact has been released by NZG, featuring new tooling for the updated style cabin. This model packs plenty of punch, with high levels of detail throughout.



HEAVY HAUL REPLICAS
Mack Titan Tri-Axle Tractor 'Red'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** \$279.00
PRODUCT NO: HHR135C-3

www.heavyhaulreplicas.com

The range of Mack Titan tri-axle trucks from HHR are impressive, like this plain red over red decoration. With an opening bonnet revealing the modelled engine bay, and opening doors.



HEAVY HAUL REPLICAS
Rogers 1950's 90T Beam Trailer 'DeBerardinis Heavy Haul'
SCALE: 1:50th **PRICE:** \$239.00
PRODUCT NO: HHR200-1

www.heavyhaulreplicas.com

The Rogers Beam, an authentic 1950's style trailer which fully captures the operations of the original, from the detachable gooseneck to the ability to remove the 'wobble wheel' axles.

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-  **VA11918** - Ford Cortina Mk4 2.3 Ghia Regency Green.....£34.19
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-  **VA15406** - Ford Capri Mk2 3.0 Ghia Saturn Gold.....£34.19
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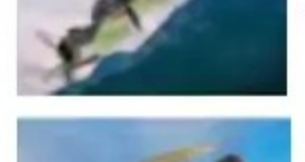
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A CLASSIC COMBINE WITH WORKING CHARM

MarGe Models' all new Lexion 480 combine, a combine Claas launched in 1995, is a high-quality, detailed model. It's largely metal with detachable C750 grain table and two-wheel table transport trailer. On the table the height and forward/aft position of the freely rotating reel is adjustable. There are red pickup tines on the knife, the main feed auger rotates freely and for connecting to the feed elevator the yellow drive shaft. Two stiff rams support the feed elevator.

Cab access steps swing forward when transporting the combine. There's patterned flooring and red fire extinguisher at the entrance to the cab. Like all MarGe Models agricultural models, the cab door does not open but the interior is beautifully laid out and detailed. The grain tank lids open and as they open the auger inside the tank springs up into its working position. A ram swings the unloading auger from its transport to working position.

At the rear the combine's provided with steerable rear wheels and a drawbar for attaching the trailer carrying the table. There's a silver access ladder, straw spreaders and road signage detailed.

Limited to a 2,000 run, the model is available from Claas and its dealer network only.

MARGE MODELS Claas Lexion 480 Combine

PRICE: £190.70
SCALE: 1/32
REF: 0002671810

WWW.
margemodels.shop



BRITAINS
JCB 4220 Icon Fastrac Tractor
PRICE: £50.00 **SCALE:** 1/32
PRODUCT NO: 43421

Production for this special tartan wrapped version of Britains' JCB Fastrac has been limited to 2,500 models. Proceeds to go to My Name's Doddie foundation.

www.ccpowell.co.uk



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www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk



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PRODUCT NO: 43400

Beautifully engineered and detailed newly tooled tractor. It sports New Holland's latest branding, a fully glazed, detachable cab and working linkages front and rear.

www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk



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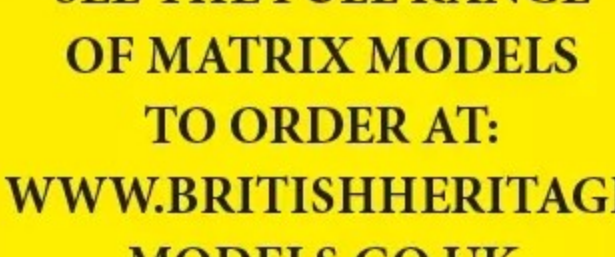


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Last month, we looked at 1:43 replicas of all the cars that entered the top class in the 2024 Le Mans 24H, the Hypercars. Those prototypes follow specific rules and are made exclusively to race in the WEC (World Endurance Championship). We had at least one scale model of each team, showing not only the different shapes of all the cars, but also a variety of liveries, entered by both the works and privateer teams. There was only one prototype missing: the Isotta Fraschini, which has not yet been released as a scale model.

This time, we're featuring the third class in the famous French race, the LMGT3. This is the slower class of cars, behind the second class, named the LMP2 and made entirely by privateer teams that all use the same chassis/engine combination. We're not going to give much attention to this second class for now. What we have here are all the LMGT3 cars entered in the 2024 Le Mans 24H race. All of them are either works teams entries or heavily supported satellite teams, proving that this class matters for constructors. It is also very relevant for drivers, both professional, semi-professional and experienced amateurs.

Like the leading class, the LMGT3 class is also ruled by the BoP (Balance of Performance) that changes different parameters in each car, to equalise performance in all of them and give a winning chance to every car entered. This is the theory, at least. Obviously, not all teams agree with the application of BoP every time. The rules also state that this

The LMGT3 party

Francisco Mota showed last month the Hypercars that entered the 2024 Le Mans 24H race. This time he's joining the LMGT3 party with a very different kind of car.

is a subject that can't be talked about in the paddock or with the Press. Those who break this rule will be fined. So, let's talk about something else, just in case.

HIGH QUALITY RESINCASTS

Following his self-given mission to reproduce all the cars entered in the Le Mans 24H race since the first event in 1923, modelmaker Spark took less than a year to release all the LMGT3 cars entered in the 2024 edition of the race. This is quite a feat, even considering that a few of those models already existed in their back catalogue. In this case, they only need to change the decals and eventually modify a few details.

This is what modelling is all about: details, and here we are facing one of the best model makers in the business. Pick any of these 1:43 scale models and look closely around the body. You'll find an incredible level of detail in some of the pictures João took; it just looks like the real car. Just imagine the level of craftsmanship the workers need to have at the factory to achieve this level of quality in the thousands of models they send to shops

around the world every month.

Looking at the models in these pages, the most attentive of you surely already notice there's a car missing and not a less relevant one: the Porsche 911 GT3 R that won the LMGT3 class in this race. As far as we know, the modelmaker and team owner are still discussing the value of royalties that the first should pay to the second.

JUST ONE LMP2

Just to make sure we covered all types of cars that raced in Le Mans, let's start with a single LMP2, the Oreca 07 Gibson. This is the car that all competitors use in this class, not because it is mandatory, but simply because they believe it is the best option on the market. We chose one of the available models, the colourful number 23. The car has a prototype structure and body, only much simpler to operate than a Hypercar. The model captures the aero vertical fins ahead of each rear wheel very well, plus all the small aeriels and sensors around the body. The headlamps also look very realistic, and the wheels have a colour line, pink at the front and red at the rear. At the rear, we can see all the air scoops to let hot air out

FACING PAGE: From left to right: Aston Martin Vantage AMR GT3 Evo, Ford Mustang GT3 and Ferrari 296 GT3 were some of the best looking GT3 cars entered in the 2024 Le Mans 24h.



ABOVE: Ford Mustang and Lexus RC F have the conventional layout of the front engine and rear wheel drive. Scale models look excellent.



ABOVE: LMP2 is the middle class at Le Mans, smaller and much simpler prototypes, entered by privateer teams. All of them use the Oreca 07 Gibson, not because it's mandatory, but because it is considered the best.

from the mid-engine compartment and the extractor for the floor of the car. This one was entered by United Autosports and finished 42nd.

THE LMGT3 CLASS

We begin the LMGT3 review with a pair of traditionally propelled layout cars: longitudinal front-engine and Rear Wheel Drive. The yellow car with number 44 is a Ford Mustang LMGT3, entered by the Proton Competition team that finished in 31st place. Yellow with black stripes always looks excellent in a racing car, and here the theme includes a galloping horse on each side of the car, a big rear wing (with a "Spark" sticker) and a long front spoiler. It looks just great, as almost all Mustangs do. The model has perfect proportions, great wheels, a realistic rear extractor, and a perfect finish, not excess shine as some

modelmakers tend to do. Next to the Ford, we have one of the two Lexus RC LMGT3 F entered by Akkodis ASP Team. This is a much more discreet car, as is the street version. It has nice wheel-arch extensions, good headlamps and the trademark Lexus front grille. All of this and more is perfectly represented in the scale model. Through the windows, we can see the cockpit, featuring a racing seat and an instrument panel. The shape of the rear extractor is particularly interesting, with four big vertical shark fins.

For the next pair, we have a confrontation between a mid-engine car and a front-engine one. The first is a Corvette Z06 LMGT3 R, and the second is a BMW M4 LMGT3. Obviously, the M4 needs to be higher so the driver can see over the engine. Still, it looks sleek in a conventional way and features a livery similar to another BMW that entered Le

Mans in the 1970s. It has big air scoops on the front bonnet to let hot air escape from the radiators and the XXL BMW double kidney front grille that brought some controversy when the street version was launched. The Z06 LMGT3 looks closer to the road car than the M4, probably because the Z06 you can buy is already a very aggressive design. It has a big front grille for the radiator and nicely designed wheel rims. The front splitter follows the arrow shape of the front, which is nice. The model offers a good representation of the LED front lower spotlights. In the rear, the eyes go straight to the double exhaust pipes, over the extractor. Car 81 was painted in reverse to this 82, the yellow swapped places with the carbon fibre finish. The BMW entered by Team WRT finished 28th, and the Corvette entered by TF Sport finished 38th.



ABOVE: On the left, we have the BMW M4 GT3 with a great looking livery that reminds of a similar one used by BMW in the 1970s. On the right, the Corvette Z06 GT3 R.



BELOW: McLaren 720 S GT3 Evo painted the same colours as the F1 team, against the red and silver Ferrari 296 GT3, this one made by Look Smart.



FERRARI VS MCLAREN

We are more used to seeing McLaren fight Ferrari in Formula 1 than in the WEC. However, both constructors had cars entered in the 2024 Le Mans 24H race.

Car number 59 had a livery with the front 2/3 in carbon fibre and the rear painted papaya. It featured the same race number as the McLaren F1 that won the race in 1995. That was the only difference between the sister car, number 95 (both entered by United Autosports, the team owned by Zak Brown, CEO of McLaren F1) and the windshield sun visor, papaya in the 59 and black in the other. The McLaren 720S LMG3 Evo also resembles the road car. Still, it is even closer to the ground, featuring double winglets at both front

corners and a generous rear wing, held in place by a pair of supports from above. It is what aerodynamicists call “swan necks”, and apparently, they have better efficiency at higher speeds. From the rear view, we can see the wider air scoops compared with the road cars. It did not finish the race.

Next to it, we have one of the two Ferrari 296 LMGT3s, entered by Vista AF Corse, a semi-official team. Painted metallic grey and red, it is not your typical Ferrari livery; however, it still looks great. The shape is as close as possible to that of a road car, and you can see that there is design even in this race version. Just look at the shape of the rear-view mirrors to see what

I mean. There are small winglets at the front, finished in carbon fibre, and air scoops over the front wheels to allow hot air to escape from the brakes. The rear view is simpler than the McLaren’s with fewer vertical fins for the extractor and a simple mesh with a pair of menacing exhausts in rocket launcher style. Car 55 finished in 33rd place overall.

TRADITIONAL VS. ORIGINAL

Once a dominator of the lower class in endurance races, Aston Martin only had two cars running in the 2024 Le Mans edition. Car number 777 was a Vantage AMR LMGT3 entered by the D’Station Racing that finished 36th.

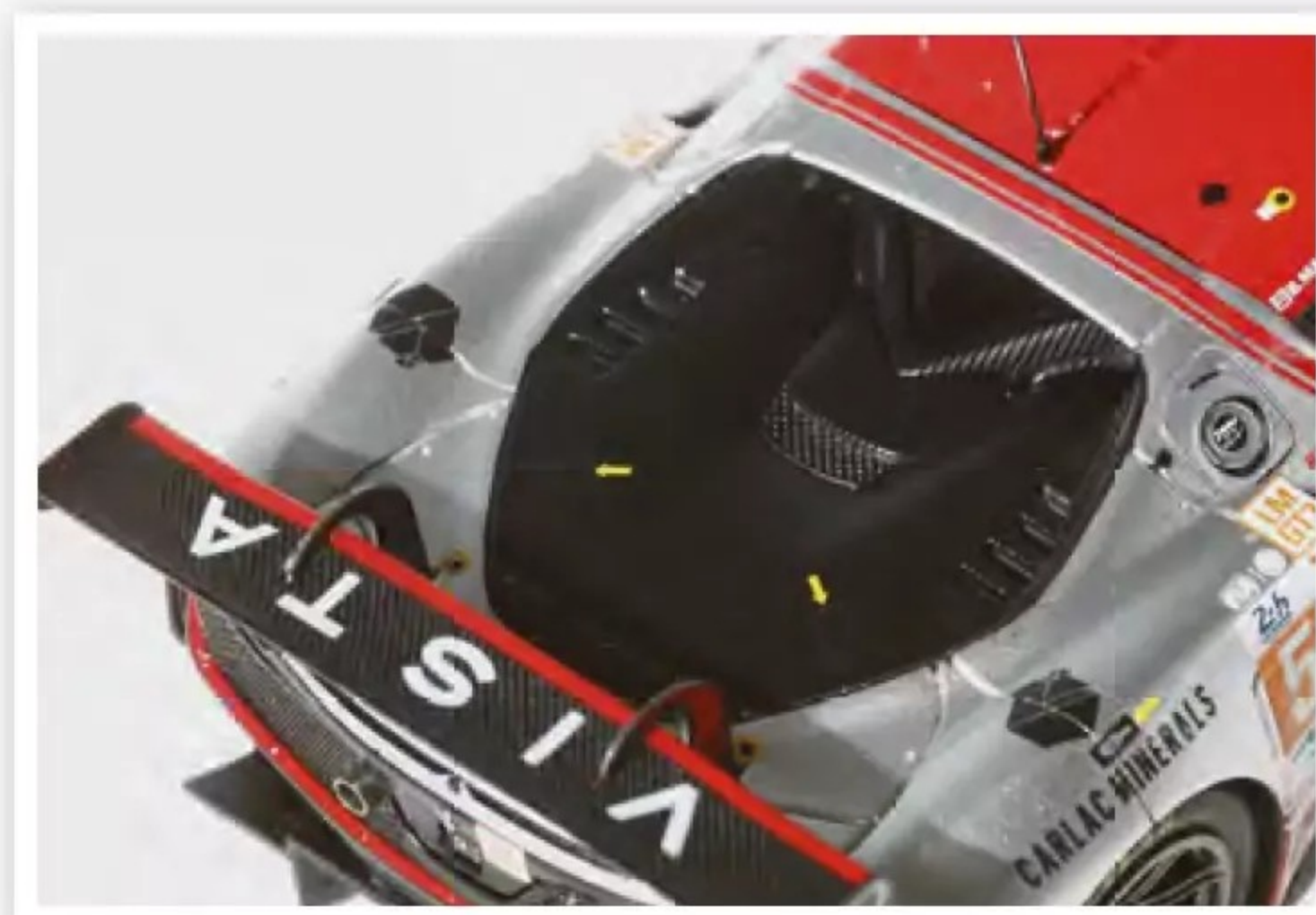


ABOVE: The most spectacular livery made by covering the entire scale model's bodywork with decals.



RIGHT: Lamborghini Huracan GT3 Evo2 shows the complexity of the rear view, perfectly reproduced in 1:43 scale.

BELOW RIGHT: Unfortunately, the mid-engine is no longer visible through a Plexiglas engine cover as in the past in the Ferrari 296 GT3.



Painted a very traditional dark green with a large black stripe, it looks very good. At first, it seems to look like previous Vantages, but all body panels were revised, and the model reflects it.

The last model in this article is the one with the most original livery. It is not a new car; it has been used by many privateer teams in various races where the GT3 class is admitted. And there are a lot of those races around the world, which was one of the reasons the GT3 was also admitted in Le Mans, replacing the much more expensive LMGTE, which could not be used anywhere else except the WEC.

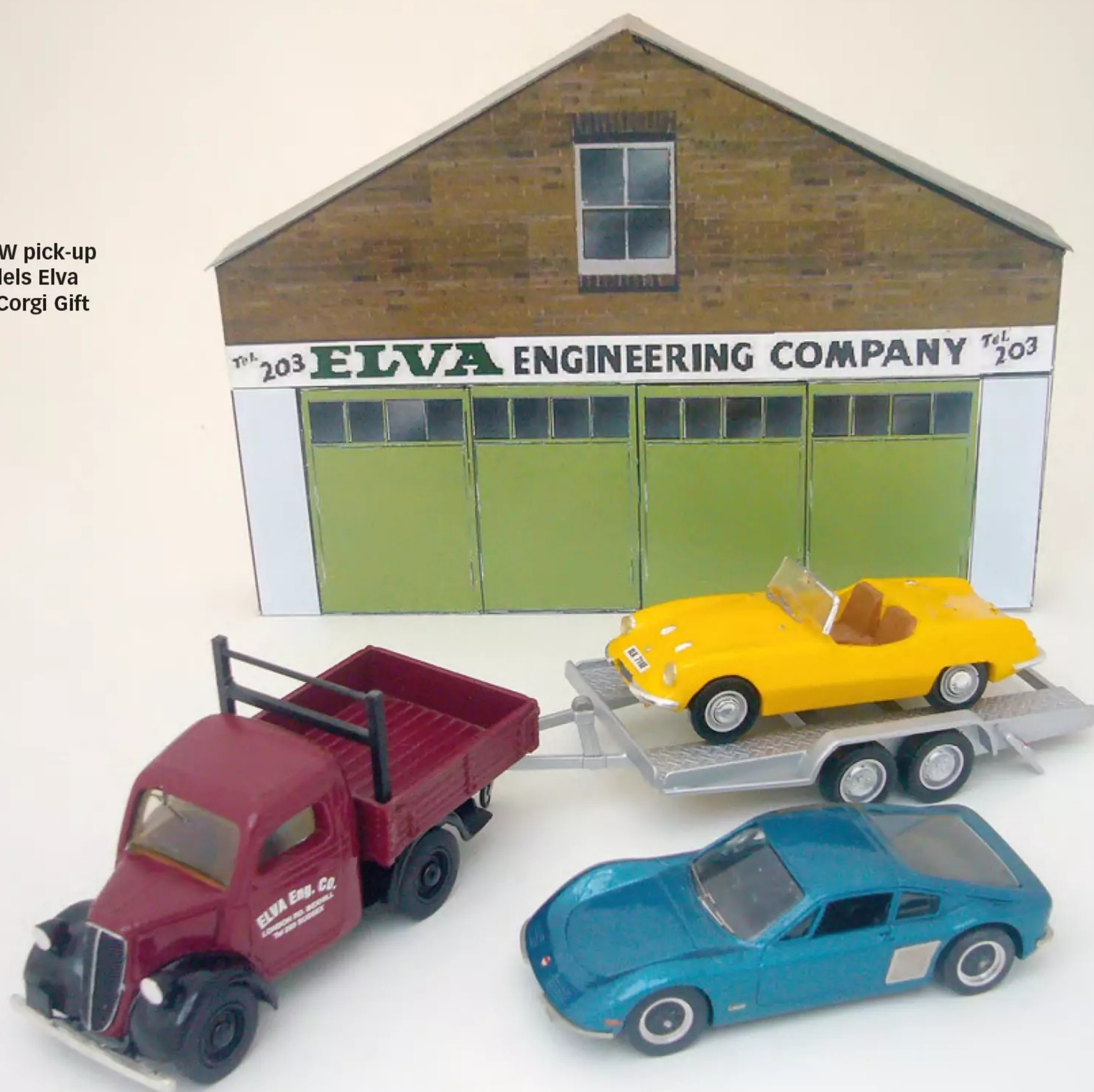
The Lamborghini Huracan LMGT3 Evo2 with race number 85 was entered by the Iron Dames team and driven by ladies only: Bovy/Gatting/Frey. They finished 32nd. The scale model is probably the most difficult to make in this collection, not because of the typical Lamborghini shapes, perfectly reproduced. The model features a scoop on the roof to capture fresh air for the engine, a feature not typically found in a road car. The rear side looks very dramatic, with the exhausts in the middle. The wheels are very nice, both the rims and the tyres, with markings.

The most striking feature of this model

is clearly the body, which is almost entirely covered in decals, resembling real race cars. This is a highly specialised type of work. Written on each side of the car is the motto, "Women driven by dreams." It's an impressive model of the 2024 Le Mans 24H car, sporting race number 85.

As said at the beginning of this article, let's hope the Porsche 911 GT3 R LMGT3 with race number 91, which finished 27th and won the LMGT3 class, also joins this group in a short time. So Spark can continue its mission of modelling all the cars that ever raced in the most challenging race in the world, the Le Mans 24 hours. ■

RIGHT Ford E83W pick-up
- with Sear Models Elva
on trailer from Corgi Gift
Set 37.



The unsung heroes of the motor racing world

In the fast-moving, high-rolling world of motorsport, it's always the racing cars that get the media attention. But what about the trusty works support trucks and vans that follow the teams, equipped to supply their every need?

The books, films, DVDs, and videos of historic British thoroughbred and sports car club racing are full of wonderful images of the men and their machines, battling against the weather, the track, and, indeed, their own mechanical fallibility.

Even the special coach-built transporters for the racing cars got a lot of publicity and press coverage.

However, the vans and trailers of the smaller companies, which ensured the spares and parts all reached the trackside for the race, rarely got a mention. Yet just occasionally, they were captured on film.

In the early halcyon golden days of the 1950s and

David Wright shines a spotlight on forgotten support vans, revealing their stories and the scale models that keep their memory alive.



ABOVE Morris LD van BMC
- excellent diecast model
of this 1950s van.

1960s, transporters for racing cars began as humble standard-issue vans, towing a trailer with a single racing car mounted on it.

One such example is the Ford E83W pick-up used by Elva during the late 1950s and early 1960s.

No models of this vehicle existed when I wanted to add one to my collection, therefore, a chop was in order. The Ford E83W pick-up pictured here was originally a Matchbox Dinky Collection Radio Times van, with rear van body cut off, a new cab back formed, and a pick-up body made from a Corgi trailer. Note the towing hooks, which are also Corgi.

The accompanying photograph, by kind permission



of Roger Dunbar, shows the pick-up towing a trailer with Elva on board. I used the trailer from the Corgi Gift set 37, and the car is the resin hand-built Elva from Geoff Sears of South Africa.

The Elva car company also ran their very own Morris Commercial PV support van, which takes us even further back, as this vehicle was first introduced by Morris at the 1939 Motor Show. Although the original van has long gone to the great breakers in the sky, Roger Dunbar, who now owns the Elva name, found a similar van in Hull, which was the same year of manufacture, and had been fully restored. Roger bought it in 2006 and set about the cosmetic work of repainting it in the Elva team's colours. This work was undertaken expertly by David Cooper and Tony Brooks of Gerston Farm, Storrington. The van regularly puts in appearances at the Goodwood Revival race meeting and joins the "big boys" in transporter lineups at the historic motorsport shows at Stoneleigh.

Fortunately, I was able to track down a model of the Morris Commercial PV made in resin by Classic Commercials. With the kind help of Roger, who had sets of transfers for a model project of his own, I have been able to create the model you see pictured.

The Morris J Type van succeeded the Morris PV in 1949, and the J type also had a very full and varied life serving many motoring businesses. Being manufactured by Morris, it was not surprising that it should have connections with the Abingdon built MGs.

To recognise this close association, Corgi issued an atmospheric set no. 97695, known as the Abingdon Set, commemorating the MG marque. It contained

ABOVE Original Elva works with Ford and Morris PV.

RIGHT Spark Dodge Travco Team Lotus.



ABOVE Elva Cars Morris PV Commercial van at Goodwood Revival 2007

RIGHT Classic Commercials Morris PV Commercial, created from classic commercials kit.



BELOW
Kenna Models Standard Vanguard transporter.



ABOVE
Vanguards Minivan "John Cooper" - excellent signwriting.

ABOVE
Ford E83W van from SMTS, now Allard Motors work van.

two racing MGAs and a unique Morris J van in British Racing Green, with signwriting declaring it to be from the Competitions Department at Abingdon. Worth about £30 now, it's an easy way to begin this fascinating theme for a collection.

Pete Kenna's range has for some time included this lovely Standard Vanguard Transporter, produced from original pictures. A replica of the real thing is now being made using a Standard Vanguard van chassis and body, with Pete's model serving as a guide.

John Cooper died on December 24, 2000, but his legacy of a phenomenal success rate in everything from the Indianapolis 500 to Formula 1, and with tuned Mini Coopers, will always be a household name. In miniature, this memory has been commercially kept alive by Vanguards, with a perfect starter model in this group of vehicles of Vanguards 14005, the John Cooper cars Minivan. Made in the days when it could proudly state on its baseplate that it was made in England, its British Racing Green livery and nostalgic, precise lettering in white, with red shading for the Cooper name, stand out as an important van as it goes about its business. With a

registration number of 215 XPE, it's also an early pre-1963 vehicle.

Another Matchbox Dinky Toy Collection Ford E83W was commandeered to create the Ford John Cooper van seen here, complete with its very own trailer. The van just needed a Plasticard header board across the roof and a Corgi tow hook, but the trailer is a converted Corgi Pennyburn trailer, with slab sides of Plasticard again, and a tarpaulin top created from an old handkerchief! However, it is, as always, the signwriting on commercial vehicles that brings them to life. After some patient research with the History of Advertising Trust in Norfolk, I had the colours required for the signwriting from my black and white photographs. I then sought the expertise of a master transfer maker, Paul Robson, to create the signs in miniature. I think the result is quite pleasing and does the vehicles justice.

A recent commission from Allard to build some of Western and Auto Replicas' kits of these lovely cars led me to develop a model of the one and only Allard works van, a Ford E83W, using only one black and white photo of this vehicle, based at the firm's headquarters in Southeast London. Fortunately, a more accurate SMTS cast of the E83W was obtained, stripped of its original livery, and sprayed in Ford Meadow Green, likely the same colour as the Allard company's van. Bespoke transfers were made from the original signage shown in the image, and a delightful memento of Allard's past involvement in competition now resides in the Allard Archives.

From their early base in Cheshunt, Lotus also used a van and trailer to move their racing machinery. One picture unearthed shows a Thames 400E van pulling a substantial 2 axle trailer, with an Indy car. These vans were made by Ford from 1957 to 1965, when they were finally superseded by the introduction of the

RIGHT Ford E83W van John Cooper, and trailer - created by the author from a Matchbox van and a Corgi trailer.



BELOW Ford Thames 400E Lotus Cars - Author's chop of a Corgi Airborne Caravan to create the authentic vehicle.



ABOVE Ford E83W Pick-up and trailer.

legendary Ford Transit. Yet again, so far, no model has been made of the 400E van, and the nearest clone is the Corgi 420, the Ford Thames Airborne caravan!

This model was introduced in 1962 and withdrawn in 1966, after a whopping 902,000 had been sold. Not to be outdone, and armed with Milliputt, a hacksaw, and Plasticard, I've tried to replicate the Lotus Cars van as best I can. The Thames caravan had its extended roof surgically removed and replaced with a Plasticard sheet, followed by filler. Next, the windows were filled in, and the doors glued together, their windows also being filled.

The model trailer used is a nicely detailed replica of a 2-axle trailer, certainly capable of carrying a racing car, and very reminiscent of the trailer used by Lotus with the Thames van.

In John Player Special Team Lotus days, several wonderfully liveried vehicles appeared – the first being the JPS Team Lotus Dodge Travco motorhome. Spark has reproduced it to their usual superlative standard, with one of the most detailed interiors I have seen. Cabinets, beds, and plush seating are all clearly visible, the paint finish is wonderful, and the gold transfers superb. The real vehicle was used as overnight sleeping quarters for the team during the fantastic 1973 season, when Emerson Fittipaldi and Ronnie Peterson raced to glory for Colin Chapman's JPS Team Lotus.

Ford, of course, has had a Motorsport Division for many years, and its Escorts have an enviable reputation on dirt and track, but what about their support vehicles? Now there may be others, but the only one I have found so far is the recently introduced model of the Ford Transit van of 1979, seen here in the tell-tale Ford colours of blue and

white. The blue oval discreetly appears on the side panels, and the beautifully made photo-etched roof rack is equipped with a complete set of four spare wheels for the racer of the moment. It's a typical Spark creation, with all the detail and accuracy we have come to expect from their range.

So, the evolution of the works support vehicles, from humble beginnings of pick-ups and trailers, became a fertile ground for colossal coach-built leviathans, the subject of another article entirely.

For the duration of this article at least, the "back office" support vehicles that enable the exotic racing cars to take all the acclaim have become the stars themselves. Whether you collect commercial vehicles, have a racing theme, or have just found a new angle that your collection has not covered yet, I hope you've found the background to some of them interesting. ■



ABOVE Ford E83W van John Cooper - the original.



ABOVE The original Thames Van.



ABOVE Spark Transit vans Ford Motorsport and Firestone thanks to David Turner.

BELOW: Left to right: Model Box, Kyosho and Spark. Note the differences in number orientation as well as the headlight appearance.



This month's 'Little and Large' features the Jaguar E-type as raced by Briggs Cunningham and Roy Salvadori in the 1962 Le Mans 24-hour race, where it finished 1st in class and 4th overall. This was the first of two Le Mans races in which American entrepreneur Cunningham entered a team of E-types; he returned a year later with a trio of lightweight hardtops. The 1962 car was described as "semi-lightweight" and used the familiar-looking coupe body with what appeared to be very few modifications over the standard road car. However, Briggs Cunningham was a racer at heart and a competitive team owner, so there were many changes made under the skin of the E-type to make it competitive. Representing these cars is a trio of 1:43 scale and an unusual (at least in diecast terms) and only slightly larger 1:32 scale model.

Starting then, with the more familiar 1:43 scale offerings. When placed together, the first thing that you notice is not how identical they all are, but quite the opposite, how different they are from each other. Let's take a look at each in turn. The earliest of the 1:43 comes from Italian manufacturer Model Box. At the time of production, these models were considered quite expensive for collectors, as they featured a high level of detail and often included small (and sometimes unique) additional parts. It does, however, capture the shape of the E-type well. The high level of detail includes triple

The spirit of Le Mans 1962

Steve Coles compares how model makers have approached Cunningham's class-winning Jaguar.

windscreen wipers, a missing front bumper (to reduce weight and aid aerodynamics), a missing rear bumper, as well as the correct design Dunlop racing wheels. The door handles are separate items, as are the front indicators and rear lights. It is also worth noting the slanted bonnet number '10' and the lack of stripes at the bottom of the tailgate where another slanted '10' sits. The correct number plate, 1337VC, is fitted to both the front and rear. Although this model is showing its age a little with a lack of detailing around the windows and slightly yellowed decals, when compared to more recent offerings, it is still a superb model.

While known for models of mostly Japanese cars, Kyosho first released their version of the E-type coupe in 1997. In November 1999, they released a 'racing' version (No. 03064A) in the livery of Cunningham's 1962 Le Mans car. This differed from the regular coupe as it was correctly missing front and rear bumpers,

had the additional 'fly screen' a third of the way down the bonnet (something missing from the Model Box version), the small spats just behind the front wheels, and the roof-top fuel filler cap. The interior is also highly detailed, with plenty of dashboard detail included as well as a fitted roll cage. Also, being a more modern model, many of the separate fitted details are finer in their finish. The door handles look less chunky than the Model Box ones, while the rear lights have a chromed edge to them, making them look more realistic. The front '10' is straight on this model, while there is no number on the rear at all, but the twin blue stripes continue down to the lower edge of the rear, just above the number plate. The only minor downside to this otherwise accurate and detailed model is the wheels. While designed to represent the lightweight sports Dunlop wheels, the holes in them are just too big for them to look 'right'.

The final 1:43 scale is a resin offering

RIGHT: Clockwise from rear: 1:32 Saico, 1:43 Spark, Kyosho and Model Box. All four feature subtle differences to the others despite being modelled on the same car.

from Spark. This is highly detailed, as you would expect from Spark and is also highly sought after. The shape is good, but it is the level of detail that sets this model apart from the others, as you expect at a higher price point. The additional fly screen is there, albeit further along the bonnet when compared to the Kyosho. I particularly like the tiny air intakes at the rear of the 'A' pillar, the sliding and part-open door windows and the open rear side windows. A tiny tax disc, which expired in September 1962, is on the front screen – which is a neat touch. This one, like the Kyosho, features a straight '10' on the bonnet, as well as a not-slanted '10' on the lower part of the tailgate and the twin blue stripes.

So, despite all three being based on the same real car, the details of the number positions and stripes differ for each model. Period photos of the real thing are hard to come by, so it's difficult to say conclusively which is the most accurate.

Slightly larger in size is Saico's 1:32 offering. Although this scale is widely recognised as the uniform scale for slot car racing, it is still relatively unused in terms of diecast models (with the exception of popular farming models). The basic shape of this model is good, and being a larger scale has the added 'bonus' of opening doors and boot. The thing that sets this model apart somewhat is that it is clearly a



ABOVE LEFT: Kyosho included the bonnet mounted fly screen. The wheels are not as accurate as the other two 1:43 models.

ABOVE RIGHT: The Model Box example has accurate looking wheels but is lacking the additional fly screen of the other two 1:43 models.

LEFT: Spark's fly screen is made using thinner plastic than Kyosho's, giving it a more realistic appearance. Also visible are the 'A' post air intakes.

'road-going' E-type that's been produced in the livery of the '62 Cunningham Le Mans cars. It still retains the spoked wheels from the Saico road versions, as well as keeping the chrome front and rear bumpers and front grille. It is also missing the spats behind the front wheels and the roof-mounted filler cap, as well as having the wrong number plate fitted. I'm sure with a little work and sourcing some more accurate wheels, this could be 'improved'.

Which is best? That is not so easy to

answer. The Spark is the most realistic, whereas the Model Box has possibly the most charm (these two could have almost featured in a 'Then and Now').

Outside the scope of this feature, but maybe still relevant, I have created several code 3 models of Cunningham's 62 racer. Two Matchbox (one original Lesney and one modern 1-75 size) and a 1:18 Bburago sit alongside these four in my cabinet – quite possibly the most 'Little and Large' examples of a single car I have! ■



Superfast 1969-1982

Charting the evolution of the Matchbox Superfast range during the Lesney years.

MG 1100

Production: 1970-71

Catalogue: 1970-71

Box Styles: F, G

A real favourite from the regular wheels days was MG 1100. The real car was a fabulous little thing with its pretty looks and zippy tuned lump, and the Matchbox was just as appealing.

Painted in a beautiful shade of green, that's the colour that was kept for its Superfast launch, although this quickly changed to a rather marvellous metallic blue. Thankfully, it kept its doggie on the rear seat feature too.

Only ever being produced with narrow Superfast wheels (the wider versions would have looked ridiculous unless it was for a really souped up version), it lasted in the range long enough to get two box styles but was gone from the range by the time the 1972 catalogue came around.

SLINGSHOT DRAGSTER

Production: 1971-75

Catalogue: 1972-75

Box Styles: H

//

The real car was a fabulous little thing with its pretty looks and zippy tuned lump, and the Matchbox was just as appealing.

//

Slingshot Dragster was loosely based on a top fuel dragster, but with a pair of the standard Matchbox V8 engines with their flamboyant exhaust system. It had a driver figure that was mostly obscured by a slightly over-scaled cockpit and a flaming "9" decal along the nose, although some have appeared with the star and flame decal from Guildsman I.

For a model that was only in the range for four years, it came in three distinct colour schemes. It was first issued in hot pink, with a black painted baseplate and black exhaust pipes. This was followed by a very short run in orange, which is considered really rare – although two distinct shades are known, a very vibrant orange and a much lighter shade. The final colour was an unusual metallic steel blue, with red pipes.

FIRE CHIEF CAR

Production: 1976-80

Catalogue: 1976-80

Box Styles: J

Fire Chief wasn't a particularly attractive vehicle, being a generic muscle car type with a long bonnet and very small boot. It was, of course, painted fire engine red, with a 'Fire' label on each door. The base and grille were bare metal, the glazing and roof light were blue tinted, and the interior and hood scoops were chrome. There were no real variations.

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR

Production: 1980-82

Catalogue: 1981-82

Box Styles: L

Painted the regulation Caterpillar yellow, with a bare metal base and engine and a yellow plastic blade, the removable cab was in tan plastic. Unlike Atlas Excavator, it had working rubber crawler tracks.

Since its introduction, the model has been almost ever present in the Matchbox range, wearing a variety of colours. ■



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» WARTIME TOYS

How two World Wars inspired quirky, creative, and now-collectable games

TOYS & COLLECTORS' MODELS

LACY SCOTT
& KNIGHT

est. 1869

Friday 24th October at 9.30am



to include Live steam and sundry related items, all gauges of model railway & railwayana, diecast models including Corgi, Dinky, Matchbox, tinsplate & Triang, juvenalia, Britains & plastic kits etc.

View: Thursday 23rd 10am-5.30pm & sale day from 9am



The Auction Centre | 10 Risbygate St | Bury St Edmunds | IP33 3AA
e oleggett@lsk.co.uk t 01284 748628 www.lskauktioncentre.co.uk



The Silverstone Festival, one of the world's largest historic motor sport gatherings, once again underlined its place at the top of the tree over the three-day August Bank Holiday. The main feature, of course, was the racing, with 20 races over the weekend, many featuring full grids, and all showcasing full-on action despite the rarity and value of the machinery. The full spectrum of historic racing was covered, from early post-war 500 cc cars and Formula Junior, through 1950s - 70s sports and GTs, touring and saloon cars, to more recent Formula One and Endurance prototypes.

Celebrating 75 years of World Championship racing, this year's centrepiece display was of 34 cars representing each of the drivers who won the Championship over the years, right up to the present day.

For model enthusiasts, this year the main attraction was once again RM Toys' huge marquee. Besides the vast range of modern models in all scales from 1:64, including thousands of Hot Wheels, to 1:8, there were dozens of large trays filled with older diecast, generally in good condition, and all at £2.00 each or 3 for £5.00. Again, a massive choice, from classic Dinky, Corgi, and Matchbox of all ages, to older Solido, CIJ and other brands from the past, not seen so often, even a few early handbuilt models. Plenty of temptation, and I admit to succumbing!

The other area of interest to model enthusiasts was in the automobilia section of the traditional car auction by Iconic Auctioneers, albeit at rather more exclusive prices. A set of 16 1:43 competition cars, as driven by the late Ayrton Senna

Speed, style & collectables

From roaring engines to rare models, **Charles Barnett** shares his highlights from this year's Silverstone Festival.



1. "Which one should I choose?" Young enthusiast ponders RM's stock
2. Part of RM Toys' huge selection of £2.00 bargains
3. Early Dinky lorry, unusual French Safir Citroen post van, and others, in RM Toys' £2.00 selection
4. Senna model collection from the auction

larger display space and deeper pockets still, there was a fine 1:5 scale Ferrari F430 from the "Challenge" series in its display case, which sold for £3,120.

So, something for the pocket of every model collector, if we could be tempted away from the racing. The other emphasis of the festival has always been on fun for all family members, and the list of other attractions this year was no exception, with a traditional funfair and carnival rides, games and child-friendly challenges, a wide range of foodie-related events, demonstrations and tasting sessions, the Silverstone Museum and the "Shopping Village".

Next year, the Bank Holiday weekend will see Silverstone host Chris Evans' "Carfest", but there is already talk of a historic racing event taking place, maybe earlier in the year. Watch this space! ■

throughout his career, in a custom-made display cabinet, sold for a healthy £1,140. Most other models were larger-scale and included a beautiful replica of Juan Fangio's 1957 Maserati 250F by Midland Racing Models, which sold for £774. A similar 1954 Ferrari 553 Squalo, the car driven by Froilan Gonzales at the French Grand Prix, also sold for £774. For those of us with



Once hailed as the sleek successor to VHS, the humble DVD first arrived in 1995 and quickly reshaped home entertainment. With crisper visuals, deeper storage, and a treasure trove of bonus content, including director commentaries and deleted scenes, DVDs didn't just play films, they invited fans behind the curtain.

By the early 2000s, they'd turned living rooms into mini cinemas and helped usher video rental stores toward extinction, especially with services like LoveFilm delivering titles straight to doorsteps. Blockbuster, once a Saturday night staple, closed its final UK store in 2013.

In the age of streaming dominance, DVDs are making a surprising comeback, much like vinyl before them. But for savvy collectors, it's not just about nostalgia. Hidden among charity shop shelves and car boot bargains lie rare titles that can fetch serious cash. For those in the know, spotting a collectable DVD isn't just a thrill, it's a potential windfall.

If readers have a library of DVDs gathering dust, now might be the perfect time to search for hidden gems.

DVDS AS COLLECTABLES: HUNTING FOR RARITY

Browsing eBay reveals a thriving market for DVDs, particularly those featuring limited edition packaging, anniversary releases, or out-of-print titles.

Several factors influence a DVD's monetary value, including rarity (such as how many were produced) and Anniversary

The rise of DVDs as collectables

Richard Bevan looks at why DVDs still matter to collectors, from rare box sets to cult classics.

releases, where special editions are tied to film milestones. Hammer Films, which re-releases many of its classic vintage Sci-Fi and Horror movies, recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its cult fantasy-horror film 'Captain Kronos – Vampire Hunter' in a stylish box set that includes artwork and a promotional poster to appeal to Hammer fans. Whether the DVDs of classics are new releases or decades old, the collector's packaging, such as unique box sets and those linked with exclusive merchandise, is an important factor. A prime example is the classic horror movie *The Exorcist*. Over the years, the 1973 global hit has seen multiple anniversary re-releases, including a 25th Anniversary Edition and, most recently, a 50th Anniversary restoration, which was limited to only 2,000 copies.

While streaming has largely taken over the home entertainment market, a niche but strong collector's market still exists for DVDs and, increasingly, Blu-rays and 4K UHD discs. The value of these items is typically driven by rarity, limited editions, unique packaging, and nostalgic appeal, rather than just the film itself.

WHY ARE DVDS STILL COLLECTABLE?

In an era dominated by streaming platforms and digital libraries, the enduring appeal of DVDs might seem surprising. Yet for cinephiles like myself, physical media offers something streaming rarely can, such as extra features, whether it's the director, producer and actors' commentary tracks, or original cinema trailers and behind-the-scenes mini documentaries that are included on the disc. One of my favourite DVD Box Sets in my personal collection is the Ealing Studios DVD Collection, which unfolds into a stylish book strip containing



four Ealing movie classics, embossed with stunning artwork, and featuring a series of postcards promoting Ealing classics. It is these kinds of ‘goody-bag’ additions that offer the DVD viewer more than digital downloads.

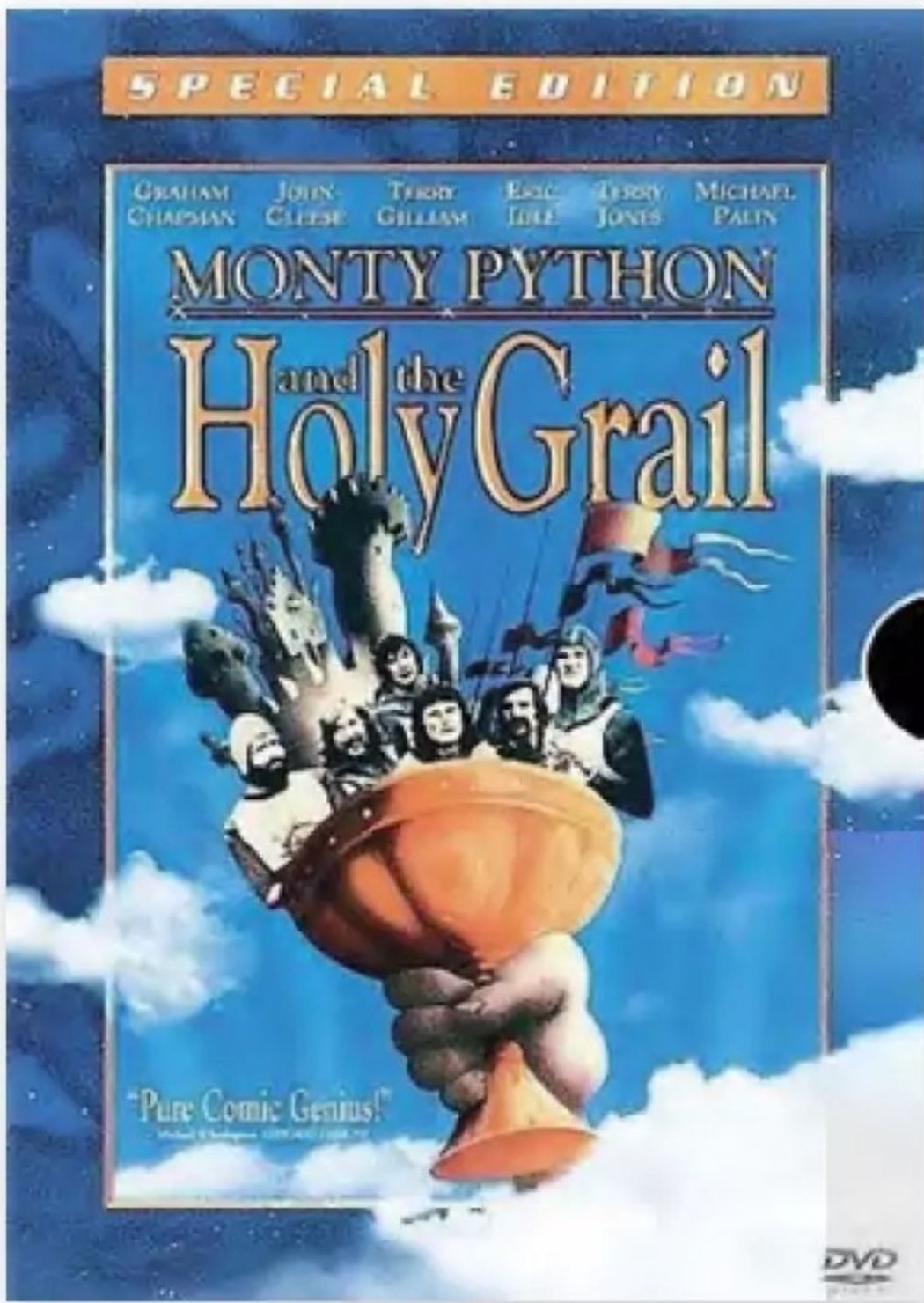
There’s a tactile joy in owning a film you love. The physical presence of the movie, captured in DVD format with its artwork, can conjure memories of first seeing the film in the cinema and the events associated with that experience. Even though the 1972 Bond movie ‘Live & Let Die’ may not be the best in the franchise, owning the DVD and occasionally glimpsing it while browsing through my collection rekindles my childhood memories of first seeing it at the Odeon cinema in Bradford with my mother.

OBSCURE, BANNED AND DISCONTINUED

Some vintage classics or niche titles are unavailable to be streamed, such as the TV cult hit *Twin Peaks: The Entire Mystery*, which includes the long-lost “Missing Pieces” footage, essential for fans and only available on Blu-ray. In other cases, certain movies are unavailable on streaming sites and rarely, if ever, shown or repeated on TV channels. Film critic Maxine Kershaw, who has a personal collection of nearly 500 movies and TV shows on DVD, explains how she searches for her favourite films on disc, which she would otherwise never see again.

“One of my favourite movies is the British cult comedy *Eat The Rich* made by Ch4’s *Comic Strip Presents* team in the early 80s. For some reason, it has never been repeated on television, possibly due to legal issues, and it’s not available in full on YouTube. It’s only in existence as a DVD import, although difficult to get hold of. It’s definitely one I’ll search for to get hold of both for personal pleasure of watching, and also as an investment due to its cult status.”

Maxine believes that *rarity* is the primary reason why movies on the DVD format are so sought after and can increase in value over time. “Finding an old DVD of a film that is no longer available to be seen on any platform really adds to its value. My one regret is that a few years ago I gave away a then two-decade-old VHS cassette of the controversial British flick *Straw Dogs*, which was distributed just at the time the movie was banned by the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) on video. Of course, today the Dustin Hoffman and Susan George starring violent thriller is available on DVD/Blu-ray, but a VHS copy, no matter how ropery with that unique history, would be a rare collectable.”



ABOVE: Monty Python & Holy Grail's Special Edition DVD has a value of around £300

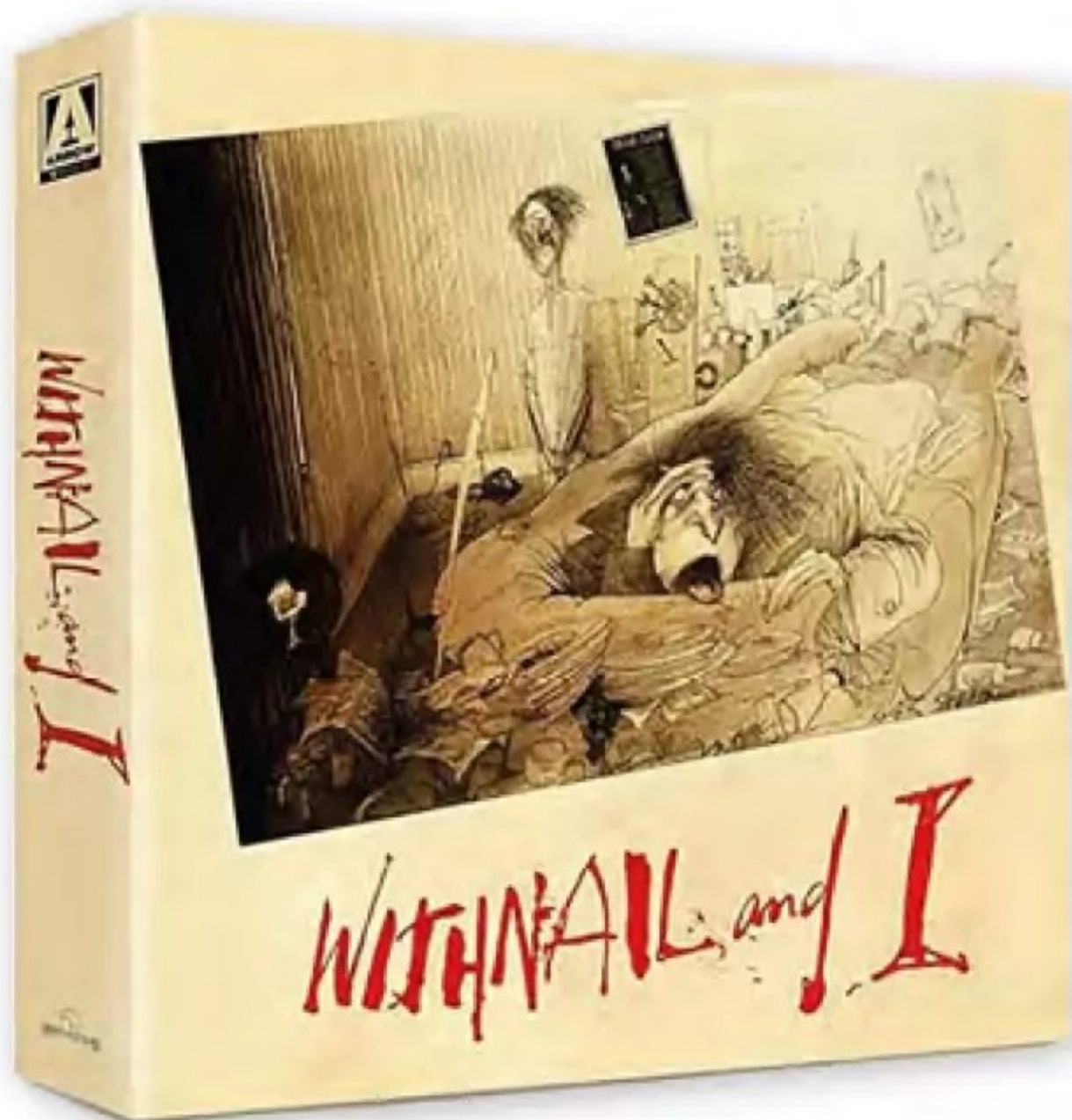


ABOVE: The Exorcist : 50th Anniversary DVD, with a value of £190-250

DVD & BLU-RAY BOX SET GOLD

Whether readers are keen to collect specific DVD and Blu-ray box set titles due to nostalgia or simply as financial investments, the following titles are currently the most collectable.

- **The Godfather: The Coppola Restoration Limited Edition (1972-1990):** Although it’s a Blu-ray set, it’s frequently mentioned in DVD value lists due to its desirability. £300.
- **The Avengers ‘62-64 - Emma Peel Mega Set (1961-1969):** Valued around £275.
- **The Wicker Man - Wooden Box Limited Edition (1973):** Another uniquely packaged set, worth around £225.
- **The World at War - Ultimate Restored Blu-ray Edition (1973-1974):** A highly regarded documentary series, this restored Blu-ray set can go for around £225.
- **Quatermass Collection - Limited Edition Box Set (1953-1979):** A sci-fi classic collection, valued at about £225.
- **Peeping Tom (Criterion Collection Region 2) (1960):** Criterion Collection releases are often valuable due to their quality and special features. £200.
- **The Beatles Anthology DVD Box Set (1995):** £175.
- **Red Dwarf - Just the Shows DVD Box Set (1988-1999):** £150



ABOVE: Withnail & I DVD, with an estimated value £175-200

Whether you’re a seasoned collector or rediscovering your nostalgia for DVDs, there’s no doubt that physical media has carved out its own dedicated fan base, resisting the digital tide and proving that old-school entertainment still holds value. Ryan Toomey, editor of *Film Geek*, rather succinctly summed up the appeal.

“Collectors and cinephiles prize DVDs for their nostalgic value, the desire to own a piece of cinema history, and the joy of collecting. Rare DVDs become popular auction items because they offer collectors the chance to own something unique and often irreplaceable.” ■

The Exorcist	50th Anniversary re-release (2000 copies)	£192
The Wicker Man	Limited Edition DVD	£225
Carry On Films	Complete Collection Box Set (1958-1992)	£350
Monty Python and the Holy Grail	Limited Edition Castle Box Set (1975)	£300
Blade Runner	Ultimate Collector's Briefcase Edition (1982)	£300
Withnail & I	Limited Edition Tin Box (1987)	£175
Twin Peaks	The Entire Mystery Blu-ray Box Set (1990-1991)	£225
Mighty Morphin Power Rangers	Red Ranger Helmet DVD Replica	£881
Anime Box Sets	Out-of-print limited editions	Up to \$3,000 USD

TOP-PRIZED DVD COLLECTABLES: For serious collectors looking at DVDs as investments, here are some highly coveted titles that readers should keep an eye out for, or in their own collections.

BELOW: Hornby Dublo Pre-War 3-rail EDL1 streamlined locomotive 'Sir Nigel Gresley' LNER 4498. Originally available either clockwork or electric powered.



1. Hornby Dublo Bristol Castle. Precise rivet detail cement the loco as a benchmark in diecast modelling. 2. Hornby Dublo Standard Class 2-6-4 tank 4MT BR. Great for freight or passenger trains, with excellent proportions and detailed valve gear. 3. Hornby Dublo West Country Pacific 34005 'Barnstaple'. Another fine model with diecast body and a powerful ringfield motor. 4. Hornby Dublo EMU. While realistic, it suffered from limited play value but is now very collectable.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Meccano's return to toy making after the Second World War. Mark Nolan re-assesses the impact, success and decline of the iconic 'Dublo' brand of model railways.

Hornby-Dublo, launched in 1938 by Meccano Ltd, stands as one of the most influential developments in model railway history. It not only established standards that are still in use today but also reshaped expectations of detail, scale fidelity, and electrical operation in toy trains. Across its lifecycle (1938–1964), Dublo evolved from a robust three-rail system to finely detailed two-rail models, reflecting advances in manufacturing, materials, and electrical engineering, while also succumbing to economic and competitive pressures.

ORIGINS AND STANDARDISATION

Meccano's launch of Hornby-Dublo drew on decades of expertise. The firm had dominated the interwar toy market with Meccano construction sets and Hornby O gauge trains. Supported by an unrivalled distribution network and the influential 'Meccano Magazine', the company had the means to introduce a smaller, more sophisticated railway system.

The system's core standards proved pivotal: OO scale at 4 mm to the foot, running on 16.5 mm gauge track, became Britain's de facto standard. Equally important was the choice of direct current (DC) electrical operation, allowing simple polarity reversal for forward/reverse running. This avoided the complex mechanical reversing units required by

Hornby-Dublo revisited

Mark Nolan re-assesses the impact, success and decline of the iconic brand of model railways.

earlier alternating current (AC) systems, such as those used by Trix.

Though two-rail DC would later become the industry norm, Meccano initially favoured a three-rail tinplate system. The centre rail provided reliable current collection, with the return via both running rails. This offered robust electrical pickup and low maintenance thanks to self-cleaning shoe collectors, whereas two-rail systems demanded cleaner track and wheels. For operators at exhibitions, three-rail Dublo stock often still runs more reliably than two-rail equivalents.

ENGINEERING AND DETAIL

Hornby-Dublo models were revolutionary in fidelity and engineering. Locomotives and rolling stock were produced with diecast metal chassis and bogies, while wagon and coach bodies used tinplate. This hybrid construction balanced robustness, weight, and affordability.

Detail fidelity was striking for mass-produced models; locomotive wheels were fine and spoked rather than solid. Brake gear and underframes were moulded

in detail, even if strengthened with webbing. Prototypical proportions ensured recognisable models.

Two flagship locomotives launched the range: the workaday N2 0-6-2T tank engine, and the streamlined Gresley A4 pacific, supported by teak-finished articulated coaches. Both were offered in clockwork and electric versions. This precision engineering, combined with new permanent magnet technology for efficient motors, gave Hornby-Dublo a decisive lead over rivals like Trix.

POST-WAR ADJUSTMENTS

World War II production halted model development, but the hiatus proved useful. When production resumed in 1948, Meccano streamlined its range: Clockwork drives were abandoned, focusing solely on electric operation.

Coupling systems were redesigned. Pre-war sprung automatic couplers proved fragile and lacked automatic uncoupling. Post-war Dublo adopted Peco's simpler, reliable design, enabling mechanical or remote uncoupling.



1



2



3



4

Accessory development also advanced, with tinplate signals, buffer stops, and modular wooden station buildings forming part of an expandable system. However, shortages of metals during the Korean War (1951–53) delayed repainting into British Railways liveries and slowed development. Once restrictions eased, Meccano accelerated expansion.

THE GOLDEN AGE:

The period 1953–1958 marked Dublo's technical and commercial peak. Standout locomotives epitomised Meccano's die-casting mastery. The BR Standard Class 4 2-6-4T (1954) boasted excellent proportions, detailed valve gear and versatile operation in passenger or freight roles, while the GWR Castle Class 4-6-0 (1957) featured precise rivet detail and was celebrated as a benchmark in diecast locomotive modelling.

By the mid-1950s, Dublo offered a mature system: comprehensive locomotives, coaches, wagons, accessories, and a robust three-rail track system. Yet external pressures were mounting.

TWO-RAIL CHALLENGE

Though three-rail offered operational reliability, scale modellers increasingly demanded two-rail realism. The absence of a central rail was visually compelling, and competitors such as Tri-ang capitalised on this shift. Meccano hesitated, reluctant to abandon their loyal three-rail base.

When they finally committed in 1958, the transition was costly. A complete two-rail system was introduced virtually overnight, while continuing to support three-rail, doubling production complexity. Locomotives were updated and included a Bulleid Pacific and an EMU set. The EMU, while realistic, suffered from limited play value but is now highly collectable.

The track system highlighted Meccano's engineering ideals but also their missteps. Nickel silver two-rail track was well proportioned, but the use of 'live frog' turnouts demanded complex wiring, deterring average users. Self-isolating points had to be rushed out later, under the name of 'Simplec'. Geometry was also overly complex compared to Tri-ang's simpler solutions.

Despite technical brilliance, Dublo's two-rail products were expensive to manufacture, reliant on costly die-casting at a time when competitors used cheaper injection-moulded plastics.

DECLINE AND COLLAPSE

Commercial difficulties compounded technical challenges. Meccano's ethos of uncompromising quality, such as die-cast over plastic, and live frog points over simpler geometry, meticulous liveries, left them with premium products priced beyond the reach of a shifting market. Overproduction, declining sales and institutional inertia created a perfect storm.

In February 1964, Lines Brothers (Tri-ang) acquired Meccano Ltd. Remaining stocks of Dublo were liquidated. Clearance bundles included locomotives that today command high collector values. The Hornby name survived only through rebranding as "Tri-ang Hornby," with Dublo's incompatible couplings and track largely abandoned. A few Dublo wagons and locos lived on under Wrenn and later Hornby ownership, but the original system was effectively extinct.

TECHNICAL LEGACY

Hornby-Dublo's influence is enduring. OO/16.5 mm standard remains dominant in UK model railways. Its DC electrical system set the norm for polarity-based reversing. Die-cast engineering gave models longevity; many Dublo items survive in working order. Super Detail wagons remain benchmarks, with some moulds reused for decades. The modular plastic buildings such as the Terminal/Through Station, still inspire admiration for their modular design.

Collectors value early pre-war models and late-period rarities most, particularly two-rail versions with unique running numbers. Idiosyncratic items, such as the six-wheel passenger brake van or the electric loco with working pantographs but no accompanying overhead catenary system, exemplify Dublo's eccentric but ambitious engineering spirit.

COLLECTABILITY

Hornby-Dublo's trajectory illustrates the tension between engineering perfection and market pragmatism. Technically, it set standards for fidelity, robustness, and electrical operation that shaped the hobby for generations. Commercially, its reluctance to embrace plastics and two-rail operation early enough, combined with high production costs, proved fatal in the face of nimbler competitors.

Yet Dublo's legacy remains profound. Its products bridged the divide between toys and scale models, embodying both robust play value and technical sophistication. Today, collectors and enthusiasts continue to celebrate Dublo not only for its role in standardising OO gauge, but also for the extraordinary craftsmanship and technical ambition that made it one of the most iconic names in railway modelling. ■

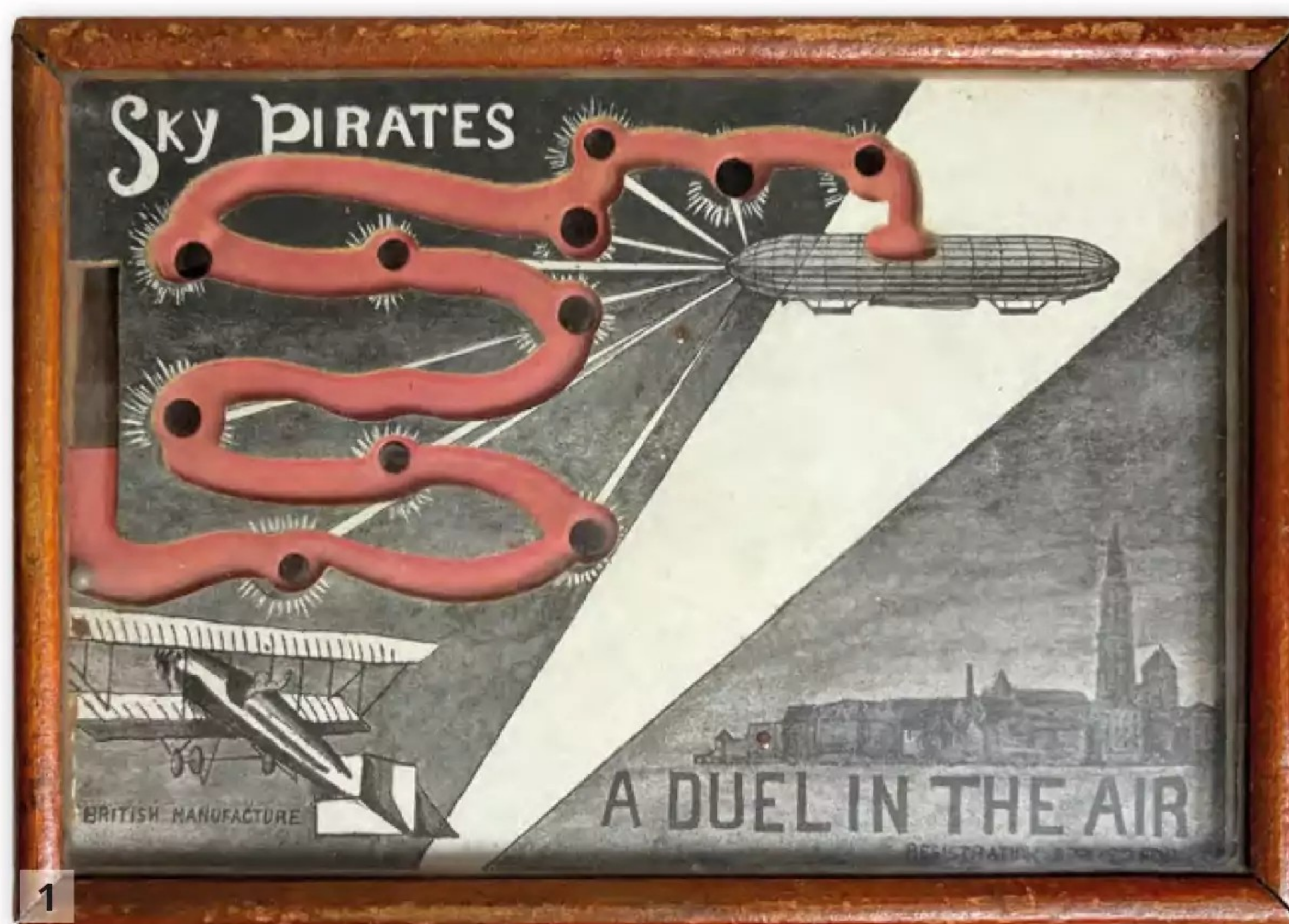
Whilst we tend to think of playthings as goods that equate with peaceful periods in the history of mankind, it's a fact that some only made their entrance once hostilities broke out. Whether belligerent actions were seen as a jingoistic conduit for the launch of a new toy, or whether the manufacturers concerned saw war activity merely as an alternative string to their corporate bow, is a moot point. Certainly, materials shortages were felt by all, which inhibited toy production. Games, then, tended to be simple affairs – and there's a whole subset that owes its creation to animosity between countries.

LOOKING BACK

The First World War has been described as the conflict to end all wars, but that didn't stop Germany from treading a similar path a couple of decades later. The Great War, one that saw stagnant trench warfare and long periods of inactivity on the part of troops, is well documented. Post and parcels were enthusiastically received by troops, and whilst it would be tempting to imagine the distractions covered in this article being sent by well wishers, that would be rather more fanciful than factual. These curios were probably aimed at the youngsters back home who (mercifully) were spared the full picture of what was happening in France and elsewhere.

Thus, during WWI, handheld games lent themselves to an audience that was aware of the ongoing struggle, yet aside from the odd Zeppelin raid or someone coming home on leave, arguably had little else to relate to. For the makers, the general lack of raw materials probably curtailed full-blown manufacture – but clearly wood, card and glass *were* available, and so the puzzle containing ball bearings found favour. Whilst the concept of the handheld dexterity game wasn't new (its origins go back to the latter part of the 19th century), the themes themselves most definitely were; and by linking the puzzle to the ongoing conflict, the makers touched a chord that resonated with many.

Whilst it's very difficult to date these puzzles, the subject matter does help enormously. Hence looking at the examples here, it's easy to attribute the Sky Pirates and the Trench Football puzzles to the 1914–1918 era. WWII was more mechanised but again the images or the wording helps: Rafie's Rollicking Trip to Berlin encourages you to take the RAF on a bombing mission to Hitler's heartland – and there's even a cartoon image of the Führer himself to reinforce the message.



On the ball

Strangely, the two World Wars contributed some very specific games to the marketplace. Alwyn Brice has more.

THE MAKERS

In terms of British manufacturers, two names stand out. R. Journet was exceedingly well known as a purveyor of small, pocket-sized puzzles: trading as far back as 1891. This London company produced over 100 different puzzles and dominated the marketplace. Most puzzles were small but it did venture into a larger format. The above-mentioned Rafie puzzle is an example; the other shown, that of

Air Raid, is more standard in size, and comprises a movable aircraft that carries ball bearing bombs, with targets waiting below. It's an infuriating game to play, though!

Arguably the most famous WWI games, though, are bigger, and hail from the R. Farmer & Sons company, about which I have been able to find virtually nothing, save that their wartime output ended with the Treaty of Versailles. The Silver Bullet

1. My favourite: the large dramatic Sky Pirates is really evocative of the era

2. One of R Journet's wartime puzzles: manoeuvre the aircraft and discharge its load

3. This small, handheld game of unknown manufacture requires much dexterity



(or The Road to Berlin) takes the player through various cities in order to reach the coveted destination, whilst Trench Football (which surely must have been a good seller, given its theme), requires the player to outfox all the WWI German top brass, evade the Kaiser's gaping mouth and score the winning goal. On the reverse of the game (if you are lucky) is a label denigrating, one by one, the German staff who appear in the maze.

The Zeppelin games shown have different rules: one requires the airships to be shot down in sequence via the ball bearing whilst for the other, avoiding the holes and hitting the Zeppelin is the object. Both are fantastic examples of a manufacturer's ingenuity in cashing in on the reality of the infrequent airship raids experienced during the Great War: Sky Pirates is from R Farmer whilst the Anti-Zep, unfortunately, bears no maker's name.

Over in the USA, such games were probably fewer, since Americans as a nation were mostly far removed from the actual war zones. That said, some "doughboys" were involved – and one or two companies saw fit to commemorate their deeds with these dexterity puzzles.

Tin, as opposed to wood, seems to have been more common for the structure of the puzzle here. Again, I've turned up a Zeppelin game (albeit a very simple affair); and the other example shown can only serve to accentuate the grim humour engendered amongst the PBI (or Poor Bloody Infantry): delousing, personified in a game that involves manoeuvring little capsules into a netted enclosure. Charming...

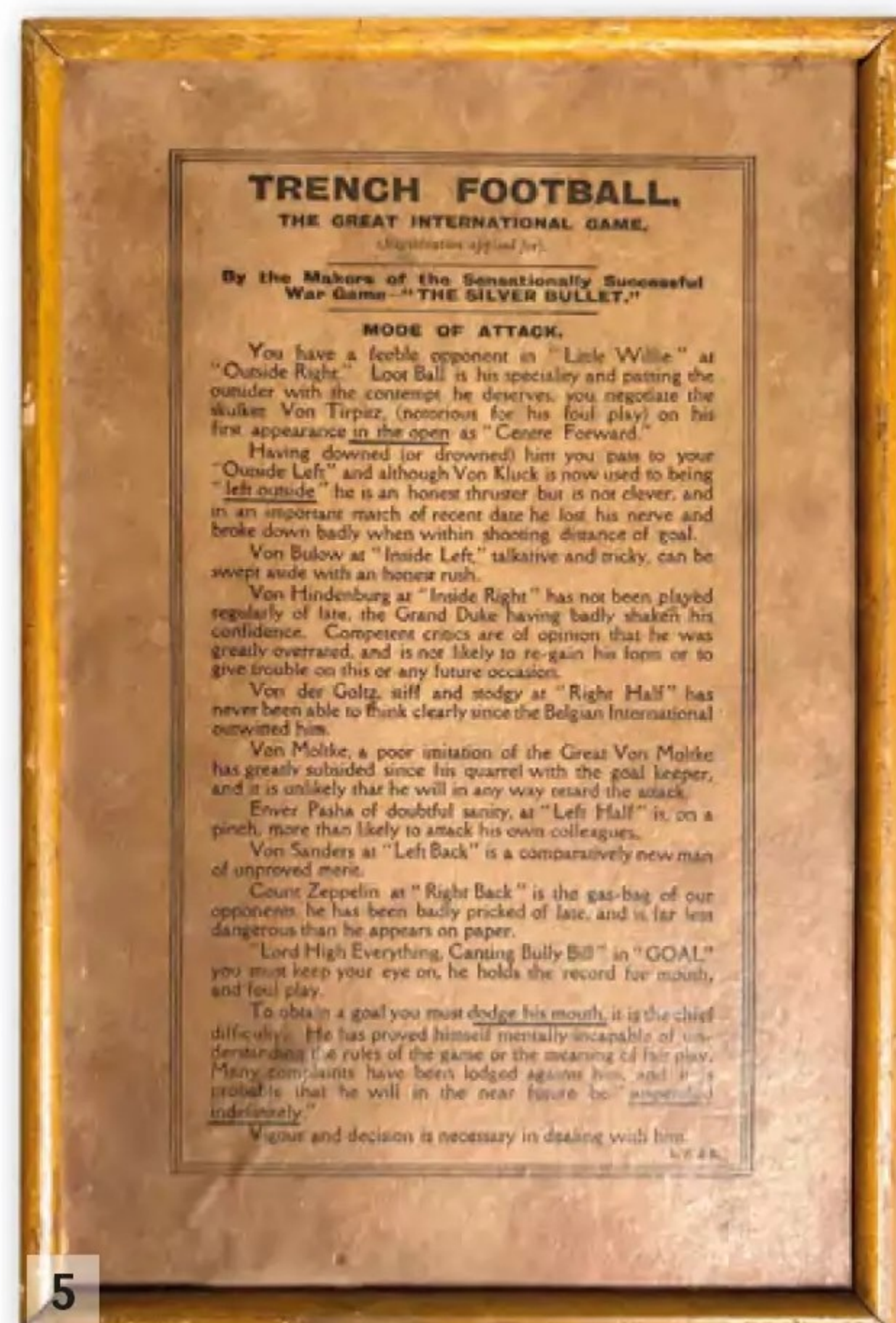
COLLECTING TODAY

If you decide to collect these artefacts, bear in mind that they are now considered antiques by the marketplace. Many have survived, despite their simple construction;

4. Only the Brits could come up with a national game with which to defeat the Kaiser

5. Reverse of the Trench Football game, with some cutting remarks about the German team...

6. Negotiating the road to Berlin via various cities. The moniker Silver Bullet was used on other puzzles, incidentally



equally, many have perished, since damp and card don't mix too well. Aside from eBay, it pays to take a look at specialist auction houses; and remember that militaria fairs can also throw up these oddities. Prices vary, with the rarest puzzles commanding three figures. If cost is a factor, the now defunct high street retailer Past Times produced its own Trench Football game, which apes the original – although some of the German names have been slightly altered (possibly for copyright reasons).

This article, ultimately, has only scratched the surface of the subject; I'm sure that with a bit of diligence, you will find other interesting puzzles out there. ■

7. Simple, two inch handheld ball bearing puzzle from the USA. This zeppelin needs to get its bearings...

I was recently looking back at some old copies of the Gazette and was reminded of an article I wrote a couple of years ago about the Star Wars Empire Strikes Back Stormtroopers in Hoth Battle Gear, my favourite figure. I'd noted it was my favourite figure from the original trilogy of films, despite these soldiers only appearing for 28 seconds and not having any dialogue between them!

This got me thinking again. Which were the most obscure characters and creatures that Kenner chose to add to the original series of 96 figures? That's 96, including the Rebo Band and not including any variations of the same figure, hair colour, paint variations, etc? I should also add that I totally understand why obscure characters were chosen ahead of those who actually played a more significant role in the film. I believe this was one of the key reasons for the action figure line's success, both at the time and in subsequent years of collecting. Kids loved the weird and wonderful alien creatures, more so than old men or women characters who lacked action features and playability. Governor Tarkin (Peter Cushing) was a key character who never got an action figure in the original series, but perhaps Snaggleteooth was a better action figure choice? Let's discuss. So here are my thoughts on the most obscure characters to make it to the figure range. You might disagree, let's see.

The first 12 figure releases all seemed pretty logical to me. The curiously named Death Squad Commander was perhaps the weakest, but he was a good 'army builder' imperial figure and close enough to the troopers on the Death Star. So, the second wave is the best place to start. We (I was one of those kids!) needed a Luke pilot for our X-wing. But the other seven figures, in my mind, mostly seemed to cater for the Cantina playset and the Land of the Jawas playset. Four aliens: Greedo, a good choice after his altercation with Han Solo, who, incidentally, did shoot first; and Walrusman, who had a pop at Luke at the bar but ultimately came off worse when Obi-Wan stepped in, equally worthy! So our first two obscure figures in this study are Snaggleteooth and Hammerhead! Snaggleteooth, do you even remember him in the film? My original VHS copy of Star Wars didn't even feature him in its 16:9 made-for-TV format! It was only in a later widescreen format that I obtained in the 90's that you could see him on the far left of the screen while Han and Chewie chatted at their table in the bar. Hammerhead - we did see him sitting at another table for a few seconds. Did he warrant a figure, though, ahead of, say, a Cantina Band member or Walrusman's mate Dr Evazan ("He doesn't



Left: Lando Calrissian in Skiff Guard Disguise and EV-9D9 - both featured in Return of the Jedi.

Obscure extras that became collectables

James Orwell recalls some classic Star Wars action figures that might have passed you by.

like you, I don't like you either!")? For variety of colour and alien species, I guess so, but obscure, he sure was. As for the aforementioned droids, R5D4 (blew a gasket after Uncle Owen bought him) is good. The Power Droid would later have a cameo in all three films, and the poor fellow got tortured in Jabba's dungeon in Return Of The Jedi, so in retrospect, yes, fine. Death Star Droid, though? Debatable, since this silver version only appeared sat down in the Jawa Sandcrawler. The version we actually saw walk down a corridor in the Death Star was black, wasn't he?

Next, the Empire Strikes Back series one. Bosk - only got a few seconds but did speak at least. Bepin Guard - whilst I don't

recall this specific mustachioed character, like Rebel Soldiers and Ugnaughts, we let him pass as he represents an army or group of guards who did get exposure, generally speaking. But I give you.... FX-7! Really? A motionless Dalek wannabe droid with multiple arm-probing-things, and a big claw! He appears for two seconds, giving Luke's Bacta Tank a wake-up jolt. Kenner couldn't even find a suitable photo of it for its card back. They had to use some made-up space scene. Playability 1 out of 10, screen time two seconds! Did he really warrant being one of the first 11 figures from the world's most eagerly awaited sequel?

The next two Empire series then brought us Cloud Car Pilot. Presumably chosen



1

by Kenner to help push their poor selling Twin Pod Cloud Car, but in the film itself, you only see the profile of his head in the cockpit for one second. Again, the card back had to use a still from the archives, not a movie scene. Then we have the other Bounty Hunters. Most of us will forgive Kenner this, as IG88, 4-LOM, Zuckuss, and Dengar, who all appeared alongside Boba Fett and Bossk and did nothing more than shuffle from foot to foot (or was that my imagination?) for a few seconds, did have cool playability and weapons. These guys also provided two free figure promo options for Kenner (4-LOM) and Palitoy (Dengar).

Then we have Return of the Jedi. This is where Lucasfilm, and subsequently Kenner, went into a little bit of an alien/Muppet/teddy bear overload. Let's discuss Ewoks! Wicket was a key character. Paploo and Teebo did memorable things in the film, for example, stealing a speeder bike and pointing a spear at our Rebel heroes, respectively. But the other five Ewoks we were offered? There's my 'army builder' theory, I guess, but out of 96 figures, did we really need eight different Ewoks? Answer = No.

Then in Jabba's palace, Bib Fortuna and the Gamorrean Guards, 8D8 and EV9D9, they all did stuff. Weequay got involved in the Sail Skiff scenes. Most of the others were just filler, though. Klaatu (in two versions!), he barely appeared in the film but did feature quite prominently on a Jabba's Palace jigsaw puzzle I had. Ree Yees, screen time four seconds, I remember getting quite excited in the film when Luke was dropped into the Rancor pit by Jabba. Squid Head, Yak Face, Amanaman, Barada, Nikto, like I say, filler. They all had a playability factor, though, and that's what we keep coming back to. Collectable representations of key film characters, they aren't, playable action figures for kids, they



2



3

most certainly were. A-wing and B-wing pilots: the latter was particularly obscure in the film but suffice to say that Kenner would then release both a B-Wing and, in its death throes of the Droids series, an A-Wing vehicle, so they must have seen the added value of more pilots.

And finally, I present you with my last two examples. Both are quite different, and both extremes of playability. Our penultimate character is Imperial Dignitary. The most useless character in the entire run! If he had fought with our Rebel droid FX7, I would have wanted them both to lose! A wrinkly, Emperor-like-faced, Cardinal-type character in a purple gown. His hands couldn't even hold a weapon. Useless! One of the few examples where Kenner lost the playability plot.

And last but not least, (or as far as film seconds go, perhaps he is least?) I give you Prune Face! In 1984, my schoolmates and I actually thought this guy was a new Bounty Hunter, for a fourth film, maybe? But no, he was actually a Rebel Commando and sat in the shadows of the Rebel briefing room prior to the Endor mission. He wasn't even in focus! But he was a pretty cool figure! Army fatigues, eye patch, cloth cape, rifle. All the ingredients of a playable action figure, and a weird alien face. Shame about the name, though!

And that concludes our study of obscure characters from the original trilogy films. If we were to examine the 21st-century



4

1. Bounty Hunters Zuckuss and 4-LOM.
2. Greedo and Walrusman played a noticeable part in the first film, but Snaggletooth and Hammerhead barely featured.
3. Jabba's goons. Nikto and two Klaatu versions.
4. Cloud Car Pilot and B-Wing Pilot. Does anyone honestly remember seeing them?



Above: Prune Face. Bad name, nice sculpted figure. But he passed in the blink of an eye!

figure releases, including all 11 Star Films and the spin-off TV series, we could take action figure character obscurity to the next level. We'd also need a book to cover the topic, not 1300 words. But in this article, I think we can conclude that about 25% of the Kenner's original 96 figures played no significant role in the films whatsoever! Yet as kids then, and collectors now, we absolutely love them all! ■



1

Hi folks. Now I'm retired there's so much more time for me to potter about at home and really enjoy my toy collection.

I've also revived my passion for building model kits from plastic and white metal, and there's nothing I like more than creating unique Code 3 models from scrap bits I find lying about.

There's also more time to get out and about. I often pick a place and trundle slowly around the charity shops, antique centres and weekly market stalls where there are usually a few toy sellers. I can't afford to shell out big bucks these days, but as long as I unearth a few interesting bits and bobs, that's all I hope for.

Like the other day, after a fairly blank outing, I spent twenty minutes diligently rummaging through a big box of hollowcast farm pieces. I emerged with a stiff back but also two nice little pre-war Dinky items. Best of all, I bagged them for just a couple of quid each. They must have slipped into the box by mistake years ago.

One was the 12a Royal Mail pillar box and the other a 49c THEO petrol pump in pre-war blue (it appeared in brown after the war). Unfortunately, the pump had lost its white rubber hose many moons ago, but I can't complain at the price I paid. They'll now stand proudly next to the relevant Dinky Toys in my display cabinet, which I must admit is looking very overcrowded.

Another great hollowcast discovery was a walking boy Jonathan of Cadbury's Cococub fame. I snapped it up for £40 as it was in slightly better condition than the one in my full set of Cococubs. All real

Bargains, badges and bulldozers

Our monthly gaze into the weird but wonderful world of collector/dealer, **Obsolete Oz**. Buying and selling since the 1970s, Oz has developed a great knack for unearthing amazing finds.

characters and all with great names.

Speaking of characters, I also found a Milky Bar Kid Sheriff's badge for a fiver at a huge flea market in Worcestershire. These were sent out as part of a Nestlé marketing promotion back in the 1960s. If I remember rightly, you had to collect Milky Bar wrappers and send them off.

Just as luck would have it, at the same show I picked up a Lone Star Cub pistol in its original holster. It was the perfect accompaniment for the badge. It was fresh off a house clearance van and I was more than happy to hand over a tenner for it.

Lone Star produced a wide range of toys beyond guns. A nice little badge I found in a local charity shop for £1 highlighted this. It was worn by members of the Lone Star Flyers Racing Club. The Flyers came from the old Impy Toy Series, with Impy cars given new faster wheels and screw-on base plates. This was Lone Star's response to the instant success of Mattel's Hot Wheels.

A Matchbox SF-1 Superfast Speed Set

seemed like a good buy for a tenner at the local car boot sale, if only for the lovely box artwork. It now looks great alongside my Superfast collection. This was one of several track sets released in the 1970s to complement the Superfast series.

At an antique fair I also picked up a BR whistle for £20. It evoked visions of another form of speed, as I imagined it being used to whistle off some of those fabulous Deltic diesel locomotives of the 1950s and 60s. I had a great time at a Diesel Gala event recently where two mighty Deltics were put through their paces. What a sight, and what a sound.

On the diecast front, I couldn't resist a Matchbox 18d Caterpillar in great condition and still with its original tracks. This was the fourth and largest version of the Lesney Matchbox Caterpillar bulldozers, made from 1964. I went through a few of these as a kid, the blade usually breaking after rugged play in our miniature clay quarries in the back garden. Happy days.



2



3

The asking price of £30 seemed really reasonable, especially when you think a round of drinks costs not much less these days.

Another swapmeet buy was a Dublo Dinky Austin Loadstar, which reminded me of the lorry that delivered coal to our house in the 1950s. I snapped it up for £40 at a Toy Fair to add to my collection.

We used to undo the cellar grate for the coal man to tip the sacks down, and I remember their sooty faces being more than a bit scary, though I was only about four at the time. I also fondly remember my grandma buying me one of these Dublo Dinkys for my birthday in the early 1960s when the original price was 1/6d. The Loadstar was later adapted for the British Army as the 4x4 Austin K9, another wonderfully reliable vehicle.

Finally, I struck a deal with a fellow tin collector to get my hands on a Mackintosh's Toffee windmill I'd wanted for years. It cost me some good cash plus a couple of tins, but at least I got it in the end. The sails are attached to a clever mechanism and rotate when the handle on the side is turned. These toffee tins were meant to be played with as toys once the sweets were gone, and were mainly produced for the Christmas market.

Well, that's all for another month folks, as it starts to become noticeably cooler at the car boot fairs and markets. Dig out those winter woollies once again, keep yourselves warm while you're out hunting for goodies, and as always, be lucky. ■



4



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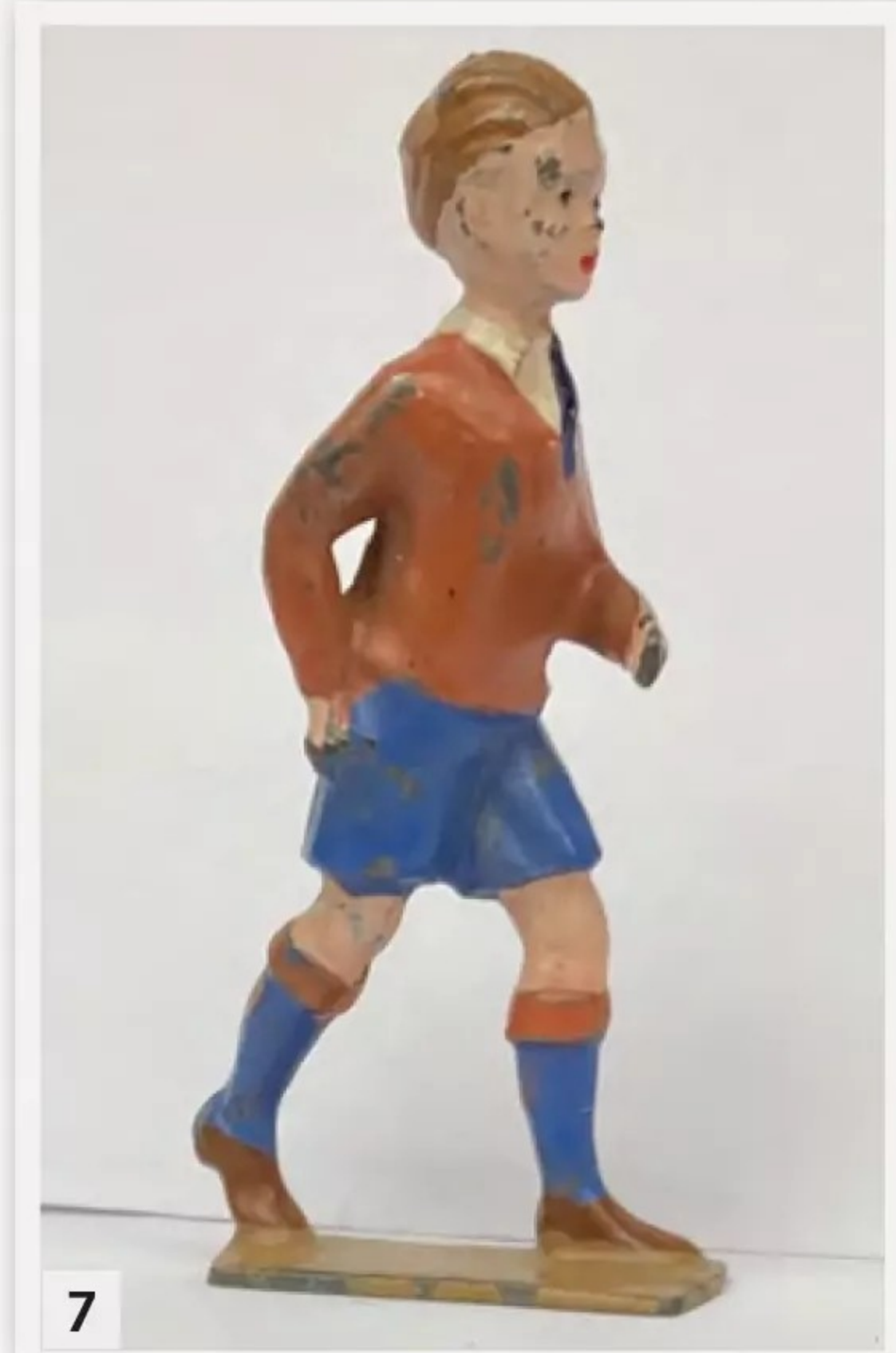


8

1. Lone Star Cub pistol with matching holster.
2. Oz couldn't resist this Matchbox Caterpillar bulldozer, having had several as a boy.
3. This Dublo Dinky Austin Loadstar reminded Oz of the one he got for his birthday in the early 1960s, priced at 1/6d.
4. Fished out from a box of hollowcast farm models and animals, these two pre-war Dinky items were a great find.
5. This British Railways guard's whistle was a good find at an antique fair and now joins Oz's railwayana collection.



5



7



9

6. Milky Bar Kid Sheriff's badge.
7. This Cadbury's Cococub Boy Jonathan replaced the one in Oz's own full set of Cococubs.
8. Oz finally landed this Mackintosh's Toffee windmill after striking a deal with a fellow tin collector.
9. A Lone Star Flyers Racing Club Badge.



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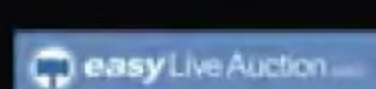
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Remembering the land that time forgot

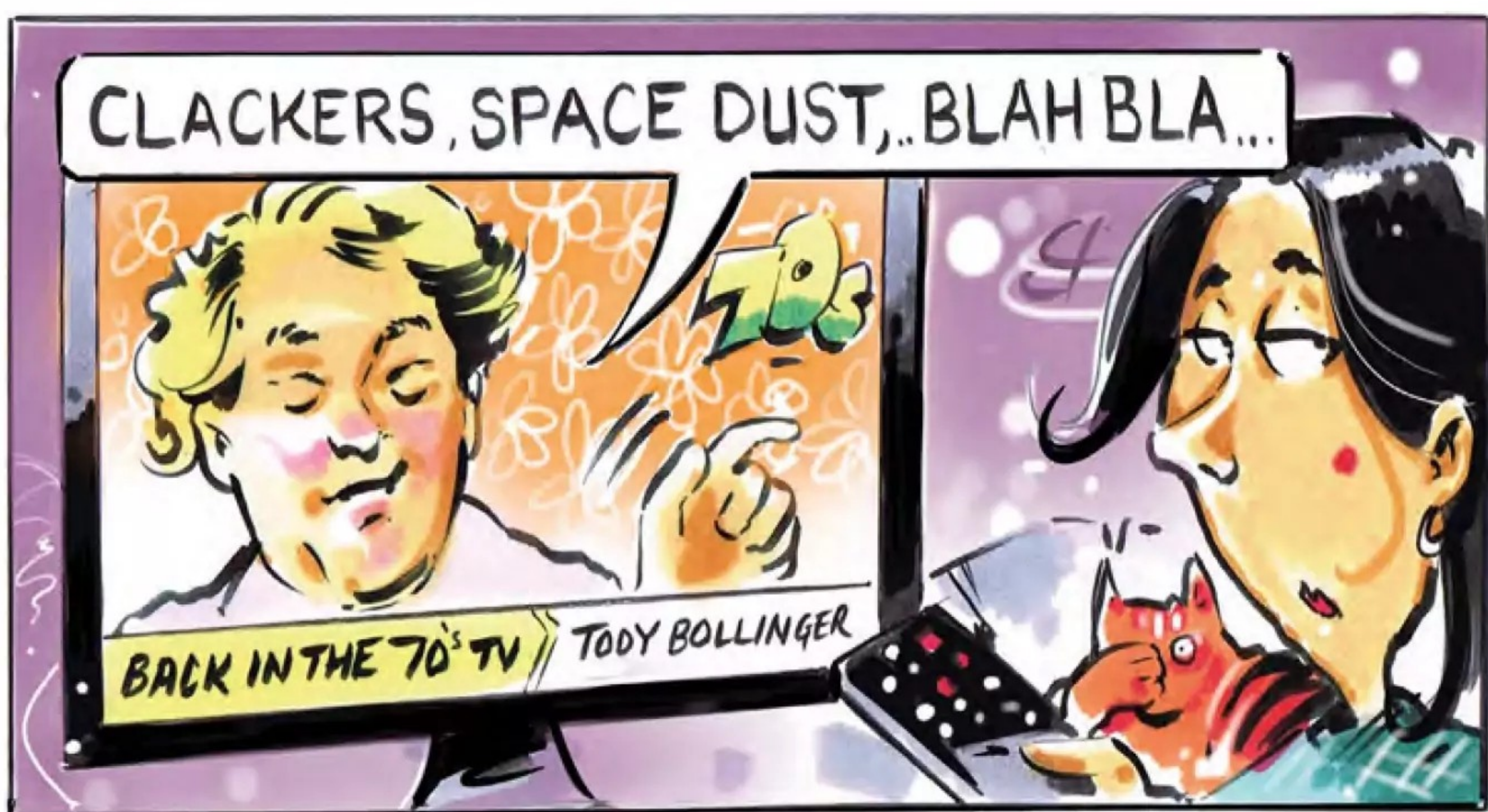
Ed Karswell ponders the wonderful world of model collecting.

It seems to me there are two types of nostalgia: Popular and personal. Popular nostalgia is the kind that pops up on TV with minor celebrities waxing lyrical over *Sindy* dolls, *Kerplunk* and *Hornby* railways. It's a collective nostalgia that everyone's meant to know and share. I'm sure it steers the audience into believing they experienced things that they never actually did. As we know, real recollections tend to be more nuanced and sublime than this.

So, what examples can I bring to bear? Well, when my brother was in the Sea Cadets, I would test him on his Morse code using my Action man Morse code manual. He passed too, just in case you doubted the authenticity of Palitoy's finest! My brother remembers it well too although it was over 45 years ago. I also remember buying a Womble glove puppet, the great Orinoco. he would sit with me when I watched the *Wombles* on TV. If that's not a surreal scenario I don't know what is.

Then there was the Airfix kits. Amazingly one of the first kits I made, a Spitfire, still resides at my parents' house. I made it with my dad too: how clichéd is that! We also made a Messerschmidt 109 which sadly melted under a deluge of glue [sorry cement]. I also made a model of Fokker triplane whilst on a sleepover at my grandparents. The red paint I applied so thickly never really dried out... ever.

Now I laughed at my kids when they wanted to take everything with them to minor social functions whilst completely forgetting filling a photo mail away envelope full of my matchbox cars to attend a 10th Birthday party that was, wait for it, next door. I even remember the



cars I took. Honestly Doctor, I'm not making it up. Then recently my memory was jogged about a battery-operated game called *Demon Driver*. By way of a small steering wheel and a re-circulating track mechanism you could while away hours and dopamine hit after dopamine hit with thrills and spills. God, I loved that toy and had completely forgotten about it until an article in this very magazine. I may have to go and find one now.

Board games usually made me, well, bored really apart from the classic haunted house from MB games. I wasn't really interested in the game but for the set that was the board. It was so theatrical I used all the figures included to build my own narrative, including the ball bearing going down the chimney and staircase. Of course, this didn't go down too well with my brother who had set up all the cards, the dice etc and read all the rules and was ready to play. Speaking of my brother, he's six years older than me so his toys were of a slightly different era. His annuals for

example looked strange to my eyes too, I mean, who the hell were Freddie and the dreamers? And why didn't they show *UFO* on TV anymore? In fact, he had the classic line up of toys really. There was the silver Corgi James Bond DB5, virtually all the Dinky Gerry Anderson models, the *Star Trek* enterprise, bit of century 21 etc. He also wistfully reminds me that I had a hand in destroying most of them too.

Going back to travelling with toys, when I was very small, just like Andy in *Toy Story* there was one toy that went with me everywhere. It was my Marx Chief Cherokee and before Action man arrived on the scene this was my toy of choice. Not only that but for my birthday I also acquired the Tepee... OK, Wigwam! If memory serves me correct, the Chief barely fitted into it. There was also a horse which I think may have been the wrong one. My parents had form when it came to picking horses, but I'll leave it there.

Chief Cherokee, a *Star Wars* lightsabre and an Airfix SLR Rifle were the only toys to survive my childhood. I'm sure everyone else has the same sort of memories of toys, after all that's why we're reading this publication. So, it's all very well to have some TV chef waxing lyrical about stickle bricks but if you've never fired a Remington cap gun until the hammer sheared off you don't know what you're on about! ■

'I also made a model of Fokker triplane whilst on a sleepover at my grandparents. The red paint I applied so thickly never really dried out... ever.'



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Life living in a city meant that I did not often go out in the countryside. However, on occasions while out with my parents, we would pass tractors working in the fields. But I did not know what the makes were. I had, of course, my Dinky Toys Massey-Harris and Field-Marshall tractors and assorted trailers for them, plus farm tractors by other toy manufacturers.

The Dinky Toys farm gained another tractor, the David Brown Tractor No. 305, in October 1965. It is seen in the *Meccano Magazine* of that month in the colour advert on the back cover, which says that it is “*With ‘hydraulic’ lifting gear that really works!*”. In the review it states: “*Turning to the Dinky Toys model, this sports so many fascinating features that I hardly know where to start. Perhaps most important, however, is the unique feature I mentioned earlier, which is the steering system. This is ‘working’ in the sense that the position of the front wheels is controlled by the driver’s steering wheel in the cab.*” The review also noted: “*The front axle, incidentally, not only swivels for steering,*

BELOW: The David Brown Tractor together with Disc Harrow number 325



The David Brown Tractor

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

but also tilts for travel over rough country.”

The model is in red with a removable yellow cab and yellow wheels. There are *David Brown 990* labels on the engine cowling sides and a paper radiator label. It came in an illustrated card end-flap box and also in yellow card and cellophane Visi-Pack boxes.

Two years later, in 1967, it was replaced by a white version of the model with the same working features. This had *David Brown Selectamatic 990* labels on the engine cowling sides and a red and silver radiator label in the modified plastic radiator. This came in a plain card end-flap box with a picture of

ABOVE: David Brown Tractor no 305 the first model in red and yellow, then in white with red wheels and finally with white wheels.

the tractor. A later model had a red engine and red wheels and was sold in a blister pack before deletion in 1972.

The *Meccano Magazine* of July 1966 illustrated the “*New! D.B. Tractor and Disc Harrow*” on the back-page advert as No. 325 with a price of 12/6. This set was reviewed in the September issue, which stated that it was a new version of the original tractor: “*The David Brown people have completely re-styled the full-size machine and this latest Dinky Toy is based on the modified version.*”

During 1967 the Dinky Toys catalogue illustrated the David Brown Tractor and Disc Harrow as No. 325. It shows the tractor in white with the brown engine and the Disc Harrow in white with red rear panels. The set was contained in illustrated card end-flap boxes with an internal packing piece, and was deleted in 1973.

The Dinky Toys models are based on the David Brown Selectamatic 990 tractors. The company was founded in 1936 and was a joint project with Harry Ferguson to build the Ferguson-Brown tractor. In the 1970s they were sold to Tenneco of America, and in the late 1990s to Textron. ■



Into Autumn

As I write this at the point August turns into September the leaves are, seemingly early for the time of year, already starting to fall. Those autumnal colours of them prompting thoughts of Halloween not being far away and a nagging subconscious awareness of being haunted..

A PROPHECY (DIE)CAST

Haunted by my own words from mid 2022 in my former, tail-end, column *Signing Off*.. where the imminent and potential Corgi Model Club releases were the topic of conversation. Until last month I had held out against tumbling down that slippery slide of temptation so well known to collectors. Perhaps foolishly although immersed in pangs of nostalgia and one of my own specialist subject interest areas I had mentored myself not to fall for the

Stephen Paul Hardy senses tinges of nostalgia amongst the of excitement over recent diecast model releases as we head into Autumn.

re-released East African Safari and Polizei Beetles unless, that was, an unforeseeable third release happened – and then (maybe) buying all three.

Maybe then I was tempted – or was it provoked? – fate three years ago by taking about potential of the Politie Kever variation of Corgi's model #492 because it has haunted me ever since. And particularly so since the announcement in January that it was scheduled as a forthcoming 2025 release.

Being serious though several things occur to me. Firstly: as I'm sure the majority of readers know anyway the original Dutch Politie version had such a significant rarity

factor its reissue was sure to attract many one-off online buyers who were not Corgi Model Club subscribers. That in itself raises the interesting issue of how many more similar restricted market livery models might now follow its success? Ones such as the Corgi #416 Land-Rovers for the Belgian market in T.S. ('Touring Secours') livery?

Secondly: that the vast majority of those 1960s era castings now being brought back to life are first and foremost beautiful scale models with some superb detailing that just happened to be toys. Those VW Beetles are perfect cases in point. One of the reasons we had them as kids back in the mid 60s was that the base model, enhanced by having



ABOVE Six decades after first being released these new reissue Beetles from the Corgi Model Club are once again delighting diecast model collectors.

the extra cost factory option “American bumper” rear wing stone guards and VW embellished mud flaps, was exactly of our first family car. A brand new 1966 VW Beetle.

That brings me to my third and final point. I have fallen for new scale model cars in the past on a nostalgia driven yearning for the real car but never before have I bought one, let alone three, replica toy cars driven totally by the comforting pure nostalgia for the toys of my childhood. These three Corgi VW Beetles #256 - Volkswagen 1200 in East African Safari trim of 1964 and the pair of #492 - Volkswagen European Police Cars of 1966 are then the first - and highly probably the last - I have fallen for. Yet they bring me back full circle to where I started. Being interested in model cars as miniatures rather than toys now almost six decades ago. Maybe that is as good a place as any to end on.

THE DYNAMIC MARKET

In addition the current roll out of those Corgi Model Club releases underlines what I think is one of the important current trends in the world of diecast collecting.

A world that is expanding and diverging exponentially. They demonstrate that there is still undoubtedly a market hunger, driven by nostalgia, for diecasts that were former childhood toys. Similarly, as illustrated by many recent releases, there is a nostalgic hunger for models of cars that we spotted on the street during our childhood, teens or early adulthood. New releases for example from Oxford Diecast's 1/76 range through to Cult Scale Models 1/18 range underline exactly that point and with a noticeable nod to the former halcyon days British motor industry.

Which raises another fact: choice preferences through identifying with the buyers home market marques.

Throw into this kaleidoscopic range of marketplace choice the ongoing diversification by model manufacturers to cover more and more scales within their ranges. At the same time the level of detail that once upon a time could be anticipated in the smaller scales is being totally rewritten. For a simple illustration of all of this we need to look to the Asia's Far East where there are scale models appearing in the fast growing Chinese home market

of incredibly detailed 1/64 models from a similarly fast growing number of emerging model producers of cars only manufactured in China. An apparent shift from 1/18 to 1/64 also seeming to be the favoured manufacturing scale in China adding an additional dynamic which I anticipate we are going to see a lot more of as we head towards 2026.

However diecast model manufacturers trying to cover the significant automotive markets - notably North America and the most nationally distinctive ones in Europe - with targeted subject releases is nothing new. A quick check back to the Corgi Model Club catalogue proves that point for the 1960s. Yet probably one of the leading manufacturers currently (overtly) courting markets in this way is French manufacture Solido which has, over the recent past, distinctly sectioned its catalogue by differing national emphasis - and fashion themes.

SOLIDO SNAPSHOTS

A sample then of recent 1/18 releases in the wide ranging coverage from Solido

■ **Honda Civic (EG6) – 1991 (S1810405 Aztec Green Pearl)** A nice capture of this smoothly styled, very popular, Honda Civic EG6 in Japanese market RHD guise with good detailing over a glossy, sparkly, paintwork.



ABOVE resplendent in Arena Red this 911 (993) Turbo is one of Solido's very best Porsche releases of 2025 so far.

ABOVE RIGHT brand new tooling from Solido brings us this superb BMW E21 323i.

■ **Toyota Gr86 – 2024 (S1813602 Pearl White LBwk Body Kit)** One of the latest *Solido WORKS* collection offerings making a stark contrast to the standard street version Civic above thanks to its fashionable LB-Works body kit in satin black over white. In RHD this typifies the contemporary far eastern led fashion in customisation on a Japanese marque donor car.

■ **Mercedes Mercedes-Benz 190 (W201) EVO II –1990 (S1801012 Black)** Glossy and very, very, black this is another recent release in the *Solido WORKS* collection portraying contemporary eastern led fashion in customisation on with a Euro' twist.

■ **Subaru Impreza S5 WRC99 – 2001 (S1807409 Tap Rally Portugal #38 Heath/Lancaster)** Something totally different to the *Solido WORKS* collection this release from Solido's *Competition* collection makes a striking contrast to the already well represented range of rallying Subaru's from Solido. The dazzling finish makes a dramatic change from the more usual Sonic blue and yellow Subaru motorsport liveries. A bonus is this is another release having distinct British connections.

And my pick of the crop ...

■ **Volkswagen Golf IV R32 – 2003 (S4313604 Tornado Red)** One of the latest releases in Solido's excellent current 1/43 series comes this Golf IV R32 this time in perfect Tornado Red. It just looks so good with superb finish and very good detailing it really does beg the question as to whether 1/43 done well is actually really better for this sort of car than 1/18.

■ **Porsche 911 (993) Turbo – 1997 (S1810102 Arena Red)** To be fair this one has been to hand and waiting to get a look in since earlier in the year. Porsche is consistently one of Solido's more prolific themes (with a lot more new toolings coming next year it would seem...). This is



LEFT In Saphirblau (and Kastanienrot above) it needs a second glance to realise these are photos of Solido's new model not the real thing.

one of the very best this year – it just looks fabulous and the excellent paint finish, carefully matched to the factory shade, vies with GT Spirit finishes.

■ **BMW E21 323i – 1980 (S1812801 Saphirblau Metallic, S1812802 Kastanienrot Metallic)** Without question my 1/18 Solido choice of the month goes to this pair. With several manufacturers currently focusing on BMW styling of the 1970s through into the 1980's the choice is wide and competitive but this new tooling from Solido is right at the top of the list. With its traditional kidney grill and sharp edge line styling carried over from the 1960-70s "Neue klasse" models everything from overall proportions down to small details about this one looks superb.

■ **Renault 4L GTL (S1200201 'Clan' Red)** Usually 1/12 scale has become associated with (expensive) highly and intricately detailed museum quality hand built models or limited production runs of exotic or super-car automobiles from some of our prestige range manufacturers. This one bucks all those trends in delightful fashion marking Solido's recent excursion beyond 1/18 scale.

I hope very much that Solido announce further companion models at Spielwarenmesse 2026 because the model and the concept behind the subject choice is

a breath of fresh air. Whilst 1/12 brings it's challenges on display cabinet space it does afford the opportunity of proportionally better model detailing quality than with 1/18. Something that Solido have taken full advantage of and what is very interesting for example is just how well that quintessential Renault grey plastic trim comes through the modelling process.

A super model: its fun, its colourful, it has a tactile charm and looks totally the part in its "Clan" Edition finish with spacial interior trim.

OTTOMOBILE SNAPSHOTS

It's a while since I dipped into the OttOmobile catalogue even though the regular monthly releases of its superb quality releases just keep coming.

Whilst OttOmobile's equivalent of the Solido's *WORKS* collection is its *PROJECT CARS* collection. With a wildly vibrant growing selection of tuned and heavily customised creations the collection has a dedicated and growing following. Instead of highlighting some of the most recent Project CAR releases though I thought that I'd focus on three examples of OttOmobile's



ABOVE Solido's Toyota Gr8 in fashionable LB-Works body kit guise.



ABOVE OttOmobile's Mercedes-Benz E55 AMG perfectly detailed right down to the filigree bonnet badge.



ABOVE Solido's nice capture of the very popular Honda Civic EG6.

RIGHT The latest in Golf GTI fashion statements from Ottomobile.



superb portrayals of factory produced top-end versions. So with traditional teutonic engineering and build quality captured in high quality 1/18 sealed resin:

■ **Mercedes-Benz E55 AMG W210 - 2001 (OT459 Brilliant Silver)** It may be a classic example of a wolf in sheep's clothing but believe me there is absolutely nothing sheepish about the look of the W210 with its AMG makeover. It's true much of the AMG enhancements are "under the skin" - like the 354 bhp 5.5-litre V8 engine (E55) but even so the exterior exudes an unmistakable air of engineered high performance in a tastefully subtle exterior.

The traditional metallic silver paintwork is classic choice of finish. Modelled flawlessly it makes an excellent setting to the modest amount of chrome work detailing fronted by a perfect, filigree, reproduction of the Mercedes-Benz bonnet badge. Superb automotive engineering perfectly captured

■ **BMW 3Series M3 (E46) GTR Coupe - 2001 (OT1128 - Silver)** Also superb in (teutonic) metallic silver comes the challenge from the Munich stables of BMW.

Rather more overt that the AMG E55 - partly because it is based on the two door coupé instead of Mercedes-Benz's use of a four door, three box, saloon - the M3 GTR flaunts itself through its styling enhancements. Look past those and all the traditional BMW finishing touches are there authentically modelled in excellent quality. A stylish head turner with engineering to match the image conveyed sat on eye catching replicas of those fabulous BMW alloy rims.

■ **Volkswagen Golf GTI VIII - 2024 (OT1137 Moonstone Grey)** And so to the third of the trio and where personal taste threatens to intrude on an objective opinion thanks to the Volkswagen Group's

current apparent infatuation with solid grey paintwork right across its passenger car range. For me the GTI, in any of its generation iterations, is a car that looks at its best in red, white and other vibrant, visible, 'sporting' colour paintworks. Having got that off my chest and accepting the fashion conscious probably disagree the grey is, like the two silver metallics, flawless with a deep gloss finish of consistent depth of colour - well you know what I mean. A feat that I reckon is probably more difficult to achieve than even with black.

Authentically portraying the current generation Golf perfectly by way of its excellent modelling this is surely a 'must have' for many GTI fans and recording as it does an apparently current buyer preference choice of finish.

Of the three its probably no surprise given my Solido choice (and overriding my personal subject area bias) its the BMW M3 GTR that takes first place. ■

PRICE GUIDE

Rounding up the latest toy sales from across the country with a brief visit to specialist auction rooms...



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CP23 Triumph Saloon "West Yorkshire Police". Off white body, orange side flashes, roof box with blue light and with accessories - LTD 20/100 - Mint in a Near Mint Box with paper label. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CC01 Ford Capri 3 Litre Custom. Two-tone Deep Coral body with cream lower sides - LTD 06/25 - Mint in a Excellent box with paper label. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CP19 Triumph 2000 Estate "Hampshire Constabulary". White body and roof box with blue light, and with accessories - LTD 17/50 - Mint in a Excellent Plus box with paper label. **Sold for £280, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Abbey Classic Kits (1/43rd) AC04A Triumph 2.5PI Estate. Valencia blue body - Mint in a Excellent box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CS04B Wolseley 6/110 "Nottinghamshire Constabulary". Off white with blue roof light and with accessories - LTD 03/25 - Mint in a Near Mint Box with paper label. **Sold for £400, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CM23 Morris Oxford Traveller. Grey with wood effect side and rear panels - LTD 133/600 - Mint in a Excellent box with paper label. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Abbey Classic Kits (1/43rd) AC08 Ford Zodiac MK3 Saloon. Arizona Gold body - Mint in a Excellent box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Abbey Classic Kits (1/43rd) AC05 Triumph 2.5PI Estate. Jasmine (pale green) body - Mint in a Excellent box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CS17 Ford Zephyr "Bradford City Police". blue body and roof light and with accessories - LTD 04/25 - Mint in a Good Box with paper label. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CM22 Austin Ruby. Red body with black roof and chassis and with accessories - LTD 210/600 - Mint in a Excellent Plus box with paper label. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Abbey Classic Kits (1/43rd) AC08 Ford Zodiac MK3 Saloon. Monaco Red body - Mint in a Excellent box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ SMTS (1/43rd) RL43LE Jaguar XJC Big Cat Road Car. green with display plinth - Mint in a Excellent box with paper label. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CS17 Ford Zephyr "Somerset Constabulary". Green body with blue roof light - LTD 77/100 - Mint in a Good Plus box with paper label. **Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Crossway Models (1/43rd) CS21 Wolseley 6/110 "Lanarkshire Constabulary". Black body with off white lower sides, blue roof light and with accessories - LTD 25 (Prototype)- Mint in a Excellent Plus box with paper label. **Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Abbey Classic Kits (1/43rd) AC05 Wolseley 18/2200. Reynard Gold Body with black roof and with accessories - Mint in a Excellent box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Minichamps 1/18 scale diecast Williams Renault FW14 F1 racing car model, Ayrton Senna and Nigel Mansell taxi ride British GP 1991. Model at least near mint, and still factory tied to inner tray, box excellent. **Sold for £140, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♦ Minichamps 1/18 scale diecast Ayrton Senna Racing Car Collection Williams Renault FW16. model in mint condition in at least near mint box. **Sold for £70, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♦ Minichamps 1/18 scale limited edition (of 4999) diecast F1 Scuderia Toro Rosso STR3. S. Vettel, winner Italian GP 2008, model mint in at least near mint box, complete with white card outer shipping box. **Sold for £80, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♦ Rare Minichamps 1/18 scale diecast Mercedes AMG Petronas Team F1 W65 #44. Lewis Hamilton 2014 World Champion special presentation model on metal display plinth with years GP races/position and points displayed, model mint in plain brown card box. **Sold for £110, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♦ Minichamps 1/18 scale limited edition Brawn GP BGP 001 #22. Jenson Button, Brazil GP 2009, model in mint/as new condition in mint box. **Sold for £130, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♦ SMTS (1/43rd) CL70 Jaguar XJS. White body with display plinth - Mint in a Excellent box with label. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ SMTS (1/43rd) CL97 AC Cobra 427. Metallic dark red body with gold stripes with display plinth - Mint in a Excellent box with label. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Minimarque (1/43rd) Factory Special GRB112 MGB GT MkIII. Red body with open sunroof with signature case - Mint in a Excellent box with label. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Corgi Aviation Archive (1/72nd) AA32617 Avro Lancaster Bomber "Wing Commander Leonard Cheshire. Camouflage green and brown with "RAF" roundels - Near Mint in a Excellent box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Corgi Toys 270 "James Bond" Aston Martin DB5. Silver body with red interior and tyre slashers, with "James Bond & Bandit" figures, gold front and rear bumpers - Excellent overall. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Triang Spot On 106 A/1 Austin Prime Mover. Orange cab and trailer with silver inner back, black chassis, cast hubs, cream interior and steering wheel - Fair to good in a Fair lift off lid box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Liebherr, Hydraulic Excavator R 996, boxed. Although unchecked for completeness condition generally appears to be Excellent in a Good box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Corgi, a Trade Box of 97101 Scilly Isles Vics Tours Bedford OB Coach. Although unchecked for completeness condition appears Excellent to Near Mint within Fair Plus trade box. **Sold for £30, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ CMC M-100-004, 1:18 Scale, Bugatti Typ 35 Grand Prix, boxed. Although unchecked for completeness condition generally appears to be Excellent in a Good presentation box & Good outer sleeve. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Minichamps (Paul's Model Art) 1:18 scale 738113 Ford Escort I RS 1600 RAC Rally 1973. Although unchecked for completeness, condition generally appears to be Excellent Plus in Good Plus outer box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Corgi, a 1:50 scale No.CC11914 ERF EC Nooteboom Step Frame Trailer & JCB JS220 Excavator. Limited edition. Not checked for completeness. Condition generally appears Near Mint in Excellent box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Corgi, Heavy Haulage, a 1:50 scale No.CC13816 Mercedes-Benz Actros Nooteboom Low Loader & Volvo EC210 Excavator - JB Rawcliffe & Sons Ltd. Limited edition. Not checked for completeness. Condition generally appears Near Mint in Excellent box. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Corgi Toys, a 1:50 scale No.1131 Carrimore Detachable Axle Machinery Carrier. With Glidamatic suspension. Condition generally appears Excellent, showing only light edgewear and some minor marks, in Good to Excellent illustrated box with age-related wear and minor crushing to one end flap. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Minichamps, a 1:12 scale Suzuki RG 500 - Barry Sheene World Champion GP 1977. Detailed model with race fairing accessories and presentation box. Condition generally appears Near Mint in Excellent display packaging. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ Corgi Heavy Haulage No.18004, Scammell Contractor with 2 Dyson Trailers and Crane Girder Load - Siddle C. Cook. Limited Edition boxed set. Contents appear Near Mint, in Excellent lift-off lid box with only light storage wear. **Sold for £45, Vectis Auctions, August**

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♣ **Corgi Lancia Fulvia Sport Zagato No. 332.** metallic blue, mid blue interior, cast hubs and folded leaflet, generally excellent in good plus box. **Sold for £30, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, August**



♣ **Corgi No. 337 Chevrolet Corvette Customized.** yellow, red interior, cast hubs, Go Go Go/race #13/Lazy Bones/eyes, etc. decals (some minor wear), generally excellent in good plus box. **Sold for £30, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, August**



♣ **Dinky Guy "Spratt's" Van No. 917.** cream back, red cab and chassis, Supertoy hubs and black smooth tyres, generally good plus in good plus box. **Sold for £80, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, August**



♣ **Dinky Vega Major Luxury Coach No. 952.** off-white, with purple side flashes, blue plastic interior, generally excellent in excellent to good plus box. **Sold for £70, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, August**



♣ **Dinky Canadian Fire Chief's Car with windows No. 257.** generally excellent in good plus box, red beacon, Fire Chief decals to two doors and spun hubs with black treaded tyres. **Sold for £40, Griffin's Auctioneers and Valuers, August**



♣ **Old Cars (Italy) Fiat "Ferrari" Racing Car Transporter.** red, black, silver and chrome trim - Excellent Plus to Near Mint (left side reflector is loose but present), polystyrene tray is Near Mint in an Good Plus green and gold carded picture box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ **Dinky 956 Turntable Fire Escape** red including plastic hubs with black treaded tyres, silver and black platforms, chrome ladders, with windows, good condition. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ **WSI Models 1:50 Scale No.02-3843 DAF XG+ 6x2 Tag Axle Wrecker Falkom Heavy Recovery Truck "Richford Motors".** "Lest We Forget", with unattached accessories, Limited Edition 270/280, although unchecked for completeness, condition is Excellent to Near Mint. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ **Tecnomodel Mythos series highly detailed 1/18 scale limited edition Ferrari.** 308 GTB Turbo Daytona 24h 1981 #10 C.Facetti/M. Finotto, a stunning resin model in mint condition in excellent box. **Sold for £85, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♣ **Corgi Aviation Archive 1/72 diecast AA38203 Douglas C-47 Dakota Mk.III.** 271 Sqn RAF Flt. Lt.S.A.Lord VC, Arnhem 1944, limited edition 617/1300, model compete and in at least near mint though very slightly dusty previously displayed condition. **Sold for £60, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♣ **Corgi Aviation Archive 1/72 diecast AA38205 Douglas C-47A Skytrain, 81st Troop Carrier Squadron.** 436th Troop Carrier Group Membury 1944-45, limited edition 334/1000, model compete and in at least near mint though very slightly dusty previously displayed condition, box at least excellent. **Sold for £75, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♣ **Corgi Aviation Archive 1/72 diecast AA37201 HP Halifax B.Mk.II Series 1.** 36 Sqn 1942, limited edition 1563/2310, sadly missing all bomb bay doors, otherwise the model would be in at least near mint though slightly dusty previously displayed condition. **Sold for £70, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♣ **Corgi Aviation Archive AA34809 Vickers Armstrong Wellington Mk.1A 'R for Robert.'** model in overall excellent condition but please note aerial and raised tailwheel missing, no CoA, model a little dusty, box very good. **Sold for £42, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 205 Lotus Cortina rally car.** comprising a white and red body with blue interior and racing No. 7, housed in the original picture sided all-card box. **Sold for £70, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♣ **Dinky Toys No.133 Cunningham C-SR Road Racer in White, No.31.** with blue stripes and driver, housed in pictorial card box. **Sold for £40, Ryedale Auctioneers, August**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 172 Studebaker Land Cruiser.** comprising a pale green body with green hubs, in the original all-card box with correct colour spot, near mint condition, box good. **Sold for £50, Lady Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Dinky Toys, 238 Jaguar D Type Racing Car.** turquoise body with yellow plastic hubs and yellow driver, housed in the original all card box. **Sold for £120, Lady Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 106 Austin Atlantic.** comprising a light blue body with a red interior and red hubs, finished with silver detailing, in the original correct colour spot all-card box. **Sold for £60, Lady Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Dinky Toys No.133 Cunningham C-SR Road Racer.** in White, No.31 with blue racing stripes and driver, housed in pictorial card box (BG-E-BG) repainted stripes. *Sold for £90, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 185 Alfa Romeo 1900 Super Sprint.** comprising a yellow body with red interior and spun hubs, housed in the original all-card box (E-NM,BG) some light retouches to the sides. *Sold for £90, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Toys 154 Hillman Minx Saloon.** Green body and hubs, in original correct colour spot box, (VG-BG). model with playwear. *Sold for £75, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Toys No.162 Ford Zephyr saloon.** comprising two-tone blue body with grey hubs, housed in the original all card box with correct colour spot. *Sold for £80, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Toys, 192, Desoto Fireflite Sedan.** grey body with red stripe and red roof, spun hubs with white tyres, in the original card box. *Sold for £140, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **French Dinky Toys No.24N Citroen Traction Avant.** 11BL in black body with yellow ridged hubs and tinplate bumper, loose example. *Sold for £85, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **French Dinky Toys 544 Simca Aronde.** in pale grey body with greyish-blue roof, silver trim, chrome convex hubs with white tyres in the original card box. *Sold for £75, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **French Dinky No.542/24ZT Simca Ariane Taxi.** black body with red roof, convex steel hubs fitted with white tyres, roof sign, in the original all-card box. *Sold for £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **French Dinky Toys No.1435 Citroen Presidentielle.** finished in dark grey body, silver/grey roof, chrome concave hubs complete with bonnet emblem and flag, housed in the original card box with protective bubble and instructions. *Sold for £320, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **French Dinky Toys No. 556, Citroen ID19 ambulance.** grey body with cream roof, aluminium concave hubs in the original yellow all card picture sided box. *Sold for £110, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **French Dinky Toys 898 Berliet Low Loader.** finished in orange, including trailer with yellow concave and convex hubs, with correct dark grey transformer load, model with some light playwear. No plinth but has top insert. *Sold for £150, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **French Dinky Toys No. 514 Alfa Romeo Giulia 1600TI.** comprising of white body, red interior and spun hubs, housed in the original picture sided card box with viewer hole. *Sold for £160, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **French Dinky Toys 528, Peugeot 404 Pininfarina Cabriolet.** metallic blue body, red interior, driver, plastic windscreen, spun hubs, in the original card box. *Sold for £110, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Original French Dinky No.881 GMC Circus Lorry and Trailer "Pinder".** comprising of GMC Truck, maroon with maroon hubs, yellow rear body, black plastic cab roof, with winch and decals applied,, in near mint condition. *Sold for £340, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Toys No. 930 Bedford Pallet Jekta van.** comprising orange and lemon yellow body with yellow cast hubs and Dinky Toys livery, sold in the original blue & white striped lift-off lid Dinky Toys box. *Sold for £150, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Toys, 902 Foden flat truck.** 2nd cab, red cab/chassis, mid-green flatbed and hubs, rare example, housed in striped Supertoys lift-off lid card box and cab packing piece. *Sold for £170, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Toys, 513, Guy Flat Truck** with tailboard, grey body and back, with matching hubs and black chassis, housed in the original card box. *Sold for £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Toys 942 Foden 14-Ton 'Regent' Tanker.** 2nd type dark blue cab and chassis, red/white/blue tank, red hubs, comes in the original striped picture box, lovely example in excellent original condition. *Sold for £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*



♣ **Dinky Supertoys No. 986 Mighty Antar low loader with a propeller.** comprising a red tractor unit with grey low loader trailer and matching grey Supertoys hubs, with pallet and bronze plastic propeller load, in the original blue & white striped picture lift-off lid box. *Sold for £140, Lacy Scott & Knight, August*

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♦ **Dinky Toys No. 941 Foden 14-ton Mobil Gas tanker.** comprising of red body with matching hubs and Mobil Gas livery, fitted with black tanker ladders, and fuel caps, housed in the original blue & white striped all-card box. **Sold for £130, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♦ **A Sunstar 1/24 scale limited edition model of an RT series 501 London Transport Routemaster.** in red body with Kia Ora livery, housed in a polystyrene-packed pictorial card box, with plastic film packing. **Sold for £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♦ **Sunstar 1/24 scale limited edition No. 2911 Routemaster.** 50th Anniversary of London Transport in gold, housed in a polystyrene-packed pictorial card box with a certificate. **Sold for £60, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♦ **Sunstar 1/24 scale limited edition model of a No. 2927 1948 Routemaster.** RT Series 1045 London Transport with Halibor Orange livery in green body, housed in a polystyrene packed pictorial card box with a certificate. **Sold for £160, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♦ **Sunstar 1/24 scale limited edition model of No. 2928 RT Series 852 Routemaster Coach 1948.** London Transport in red body with Hovis and Butter for Tea livery, housed in a polystyrene-packed pictorial card box with certificate. **Sold for £170, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♦ **Sunstar 1/24 scale limited edition model of a No. 2922 RT Series Routemaster 1955.** London Transport in green body with Smarties livery, housed in a polystyrene-packed pictorial card box with certificate. **Sold for £150, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♦ **A Wrenn 'OO' Gauge/4mm Boxed Ref No W2237 4-6-2 Bullied Pacific Steam Tender Locomotive.** BR satin green, orange/black lining, renamed/renumbered "Sidmouth" R/No 34010, a very good untested conversion, fair box with paperwork. **Sold for £80, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A Hornby 'OO' Gauge/4mm Ref No R3842 Class W1 4-6-4 "Hush Lush" Steam Tender Locomotive.** LNER green with R/No 10000, DCC ready, very good untested boxed condition with detail pack and paperwork. **Sold for £90, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A Heljan 'OO' Gauge/4mm Ref No 76031 BR Metro-Vick Class 76 Twin Pantograph Bo-Bo Locomotive.** BR blue R/No 76014, with full yellow ends, very good untested boxed condition with paperwork. **Sold for £90, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **An Ellis Clark 'O' Gauge/7mm Ref No E10195 Wickham Trolley and Trailer.** with DCC sound; finished in engineer's yellow, very good untested boxed condition with paperwork. **Sold for £120, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A Ellis Clark 'O' Gauge/7mm Ref No E1018 Wickham Trolley and Trailer.** 0-4-0 in BR yellow with R/No TR18, very good untested boxed condition with paperwork. **Sold for £100, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A boxed Bachmann OO gauge "Evening Star" 9F locomotive in BR Green ref 32-850A.** lightly weathered and detailed (smoke unit, firebox flicker and crew) and reportedly DCC sound fitted by Olivia's Trains (instructions in box), unopened detail pack and etched nameplates included, untested. **Sold for £110, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A boxed Bachmann OO gauge ex-LMS Crab locomotive.** ref 32-176 renumbered to 42700 in BR lined black livery, reported DCC sound and detail. **Sold for £90, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A Real Track 'OO' Gauge/4mm Ref No 156-312 Class 156 Diesel Multiple Provincial "Super Sprinter".** decoder fitted, twin sound to both carriages, in very good untested boxed condition with manual. **Sold for £160, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A Vulcan 'O' Gauge/7mm Kit Built Peckett 0-4-0 Saddle Tank Steam Locomotive.** built/painted to a good standard, finished in unlettered industrial green with R/No 6 - untested, unboxed. **Sold for £80, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A 'O' Gauge/7mm Kit Built 0-6-2 Tank Steam Locomotive.** BR black with R/No 58915, very good build, with motor, all buffers and couplings, coal plus footplate staff, etc, unboxed, untested. **Sold for £70, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♦ **A Slater's Kit Built 'O' Gauge/7mm 0-6-0 Steam Tender Locomotive.** a Matthew Kirtley Design in LMS black with R/No 2630, 2630 a Class 700 entered service in 1870 and was in Derby 04/1948, a good build/paint, with motor, finescale wheels, all buffers, etc. **Sold for £140, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**





♣ A Brass Kit Built 'O' Gauge/7mm Hughes 2-6-0 Crab Steam Tender Locomotive. B.R R/No 42812: built to a good standard, . **Sold for £300, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♣ A Kit Built 'O' Gauge/7mm Class 3F 0-6-0 Steam Tender Locomotive. finished overall in satin black with R/No 3578 to tender, a good build and paint, untested, unboxed. **Sold for £110, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♣ A Marklin Gauge One/10mm Maxi Lok 01 0-6-0 Steam Tank Locomotive. two rail L.G.B compatible; finished in black, green and red with "Max" nameplate to cab, excellent untested unboxed condition. **Sold for £80, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♣ A L.G.B Ref No 20670 'G' Gauge/10mm Diesel Track Cleaning Locomotive. finished in L.G.B yellow with R/No 2067, MTS/DCC fitted, with manual, in good untested boxed condition with spare track cleaning wheels and abrasive rings. **Sold for £150, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♣ A L.G.B 'G' Gauge/10mm Ref No 37674 RhB "Arosa". all 2nd Blue Passenger Coach, excellent boxed condition. **Sold for £100, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♣ An Ace Trains Boxed 'O' Gauge/7mm 4-6-2 Coronation CLASS Steam Tender Locomotive. L.M.S lined crimson lake "City of Lancaster" R/No 6243 - The locomotive is suitable for two and three rail systems, the model is in very good untested condition with paperwork. **Sold for £290, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♣ An Ace Trains 'O' Gauge/7mm Two Or Three Rail "Schools" Class 4-4-0 Steam Tender Locomotive. Southern (Maunsell) lined olive green "Eton" R/No 900, very good boxed condition (one buffer detached, in box), untested, slight staining to box lid. **Sold for £340, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♣ A Mamod M.S.S Gauge One 0-4-0 Live Steam Tender Locomotive. gas-fired (tank in cab), finished in maroon, black and bright metal, very good, untested, unboxed condition. **Sold for £110, Sheffield Auction Gallery, August**



♣ Graham Farish N Gauge Collectors Club Limited Edition Fowler Class 4f Locomotive & Tender. No.58, S & DJR blue livery with certificate No.273 of 504, appears complete and in very good condition, with unopened accessory pack, box complete and in good condition with only very minor wear. **Sold for £70, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, August**



♣ Farish N Gauge Longmoor Military Railway Special Collectors Edition Train Pack. No.370-400, comprising WD Austerity class 2-8-0 locomotive and tender 'Sir Guy Williams' No.400, with three LMR Suburban coaches all in LMR blue livery. **Sold for £110, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, August**



♣ Bachmann OO Gauge 31-760NRM 4-6-0 GNR (Great Northern Railway) C1 Atlantic Class Steam Locomotive. No. 251, produced exclusively for National Railway Museum. Condition is Fair to Excellent (damage to smoke door) in generally Excellent box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ Bachmann 32-753 Class 57/0 Freightliner Diesel Locomotive No. 57011 "Challenger". Condition is Excellent to Excellent Plus in Good to Good Plus box. **Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ Bachmann 32-702DC Class 46 BR Diesel Locomotive No. D188, DCC on Board. Condition is generally Near Mint (buffer detached but present) in Excellent to Excellent Plus box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ Bachmann 32-782 Class 37/0 BR Diesel Locomotive No.6801. Paperwork indicating Loksound has been fitted to this Loco. Condition is Near Mint in generally Excellent box and outer sleeve. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ Bachmann 32-727X (Limited Edition) Class 66 GBRf Europorte Diesel Locomotive No. 66745 "Modern Railways". produced exclusively for Key Publishing. Condition is Near Mint in Excellent. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ Hornby (China) R1251M Rovex Centenary Year 2020 Train Set (Limited Edition). Comes with BR Black Princess Royal Class 4-6-2 No. 46201 "Princess Elizabeth" loco, 2x BR Maroon coaches, Track & Controller. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ Bachmann 31-235Z (Limited Edition) 2-car BR Class 205 (Thumper) DMU. produced exclusively for KMRC. Condition is Excellent to Near Mint (connecting rod on one unit is detached) in Good to Excellent Plus boxes and outer sleeve. **Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ Hornby (GB) R2077 (Limited Edition) "The Merchant Venturer" Train Pack. containing 4-6-0 BR King Class Steam Locomotive No. 6026 "King John", 3 x brown and cream Mk.1 Passenger Coaches with coachboards, Condition is Near Mint in Excellent box. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ Golden Age Models OO Gauge M280M brown and cream Devon Belle Pullman Observation Car with two-tone (grey/white) roof. Condition is Near Mint to Mint in Excellent Plus box. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, August**

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♦ **Rapido Trains OO Gauge LNER Dynamometer Car (1948 version 2).** produced exclusively for Rails of Sheffield. Condition is Mint in Near Mint box. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Wrenn W2261 4-6-0 LMS Royal Scot Class Steam Locomotive No. 6102 "Black Watch".** Condition is Near Mint in generally Good box complete with instruction booklet and Royal Scot instruction sheet. Base is stamped 90936. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Trix Twin 3-Rail 4/540 4-6-2 LNER black A3 Class Steam Locomotive No. 4472 "Flying Scotsman".** This Very Rare Locomotive is in generally Fair to Good Plus with some signs of damage/fatigue around right side of cab. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **DJH (Model Loco) EM Gauge ML4 Limited Edition 4-6-2 BR Standard Class 6 Steam Locomotive No. 72003 "Clan Fraser".** Built to a professional standard. Condition is Excellent Plus in Good Plus box. **Sold for £150, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Trix N Gauge Steam Loco - 12406 Dampfloek BR42 9000, Trix Profi-Club Modell 2002.** Excellent to Near Mint box, Loco appears Near Mint. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Wrenn W2293 4-6-0 LMS unlined Royal Scot Class Steam Locomotive No. 6141 "Caledonian".** Condition is Near Mint in generally Fair to Good Plus period 4 box. **Sold for £440, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **DJH OO Gauge K41 4-6-2 BR Britannia Class Steam Locomotive No. 70016 "Ariel".** Built to a Good standard. Condition is Good Plus to Excellent (unchecked for completeness) in Good box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **DJH EM Gauge K92 2-6-0 BR Standard Class 2 Steam Locomotive No. 78016.** Built to a Good standard. Condition is Good to Good Plus in Good Plus box. **Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **HAG HO Gauge RAe SBB/CFE Overhead Electric Railcar finished in red and silver.** Condition is Excellent in generally Good but worn box. **Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Wrenn W2294 4-6-2 LMS photographic grey Princess Coronation Class Steam Locomotive No. 6234 "Duchess of Abercorn".** This Locomotive has been repainted to an Excellent standard. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **DJH or Similar EM Gauge Kitbuilt BR (NE) Black D20 4-4-0.** Built to an Excellent Standard and DDC fitted. Condition is Good Plus to Excellent. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Hornby O Gauge E220 4-4-0 Loco and Tender LMS maroon "Compound" No. 1185, 20 volt electric.** Condition is Excellent with some slight chipping on tender and has been little used. **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Hornby Dublo 3-Rail EDL2/D2 4-6-2 LMS Princess Coronation Class Steam Locomotive No. 6231 "Duchess of Atholl".** Rare factory repair issue by using "Duchess of Montrose" body complete with EDL12 inscription to underside of cab roof and fitted with smoke deflectors. Condition is Fair to Good. **Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Wrenn W2274 4-6-0 LMS lined crimson Royal Scot Class Steam Locomotive No. 6125 "Lancashire Witch".** Fitted with 5-pole armature. Condition is generally Near Mint. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Pro-Scale EM Gauge BR Express Blue Princess Royal Pacific No. 46206 "Princess Marie-Louise".** This Locomotive has been built and painted to a professional standard. Condition is Excellent in Good boxes. **Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **NER Days (Medley Models) O Gauge 4-6-4 LNER Gresley W1 Class "Hush Hush" Steam Locomotive No. 10000.** Built to a Professional Standard but body is loose from chassis. Condition is generally Excellent (unchecked for completeness). **Sold for £560, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Wrenn W2236 4-6-2 BR West Country Class Steam Locomotive No. 34042 "Dorchester".** Condition is generally Excellent with minor paint chips in Good Plus period 2 box complete with correct period instruction booklet. Base is stamped Packer 6. **Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Alan Gibson EM Gauge BR Green Long Firebox Jubilee No. 45732 "Sanspareil".** This Locomotive has been built and painted to a professional standard by Mike Edge. Condition is Good Plus Excellent in Good box. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Gaugemaster OO Gauge Model LT Rolling Road.** Condition is Excellent to Excellent Plus (unchecked for completeness) in Good to Good Plus. **Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, August**





♣ N Gauge Fleischmann Piccolo German Starter Set. boxed 9367 set, comprises Diesel locomotive 218 410-9 and two bi-level coaches all in DB red/grey, together with track and controller, appears complete but unchecked, G-E, box VG. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Minitrix N Gauge German Triebwagen. cased 12526 ET 87 three car electric railcar in maroon DB livery, DCC decoder installed, G-E, case VG. **Sold for £80, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Dapol for Hatton's boxed 00 Gauge 10000AP LMS black 10000 Diesel Locomotive. excellent condition, in original box, very good. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Hornby for 'Steam' Museum of the Great Western Railway boxed 00 Gauge R3165 Limited Edition GWR green Star Class 4-6-0 4003 'Lode Star' Locomotive and tender. Ltd Ed 541/1000, in original box, VG, box VG. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Rare Rovex for Gamage's 00 Gauge Princess Elizabeth Goods Set. comprising BR black 46201 'Princess Elizabeth' Locomotive with plastic Driving wheels and plunger pick ups. **Sold for £200, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Hornby China 00 Gauge L & MR Stephenson's Rocket Train Pack. boxed, R3956 Rocket Mail Coach train pack, comprises locomotive with tender and three coaches, VG-E, box VG-E. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Heljan 00 Gauge Diesel Locomotive Kestrel. boxed, 4000 limited edition Brush prototype Kestrel HS 4000 in mustard yellow/brown livery. **Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Heljan 00 Gauge Electric Locomotive EM2. boxed, 77011 produced for Olivia's Trains, EM2 E27005 in BR lined green livery, VG-E, box VG-E. **Sold for £60, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Heljan 00 Gauge Metropolitan Bo Bo Locomotive. boxed, 9003 Sherlock Holmes London Transport No 8 in red livery, G-E, box G-E. **Sold for £110, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Kernow Model Rail Centre Beattie Steam Well Tank Locomotive. boxed K2051 Beattie Well steam tank locomotive 30587 in BR black, G-E, box G-VG. **Sold for £50, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ 00 Gauge kitbuilt LMS blue Streamline Coronation Class 6221 'Queen Elizabeth' Locomotive. and Tender. **Sold for £90, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ 00 Gauge kitbuilt painted by L W Goddard. 1986 MR crimson lake Kirtley 690 Class 4-4-0T No 692, built and finished to an excellent standard, VG-E. **Sold for £240, Special Auction Services, August**



♣ Siku (SikuControl32) Radio Controlled Model Truck issue. comprising Scania and Schmitz dump trailer. **Sold for £160, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ Siku (SikuControl32) Radio Controlled Model Truck Issue. comprising MAN Low Loader. **Sold for £150, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ Kolegend Toys 1/14 High Detail Radio Control Tracked Excavator. Looks to be without obvious sign of fault. In original box. **Sold for £65, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ Universal Hobbies 1/32 farm model issue. Box with some minor storage wear. **Sold for £130, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ Universal Hobbies 1/32 farm model issue comprising Case IH Quadtrac 620 - 20th Anniversary Edition. Contents secure in box. No immediate sign of fault. **Sold for £150, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ Hot Toys Limited Movie Masterpiece Series issue comprising Star Wars StormTrooper figure. Appears excellent, never removed from box with original inner packaging. **Sold for £130, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ Gentle Giants Ltd issue comprising Star Wars Boba Fett Statue Limited Edition 5035/6500. Appears excellent in original box and packaging. **Sold for £110, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ Hot Toys Limited Movie Masterpiece Series issue comprising Star Wars 'Mandalorian Royal Guard' figure. Appears excellent, never removed from box. **Sold for £140, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ Hot Toys Limited issue comprising Star Wars Darth Maul figure with Sith Speeder (Special Edition). Appears to be without notable fault in original packaging and box. **Sold for £190, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**

» PRICE GUIDE



♦ **Universal Hobbies 1/32 farm model issue comprising Claas Matador Gigant Combine Harvester.** Excellent and not previously removed from box. **Sold for £140, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♦ **Lego - A boxed Lego Sopwith Camel # 3451.** The set has been previously built and the parts are now bagged, the vendor believes it to be complete, we have not checked this. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Tri-ang - A rare 1969 Tri-ang TM1520 Armoured Car pedal car.** The green pedal car measures approximately 91cms in length and comes with U-shaped steering wheel, mounted gun shield, plus its 'rat-a-tat' gun. **Sold for £260, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Transformers - Hasbro - A factory sealed 2010 Power Core Combiners Over-Run with Stunticons set # C-1063B.** The items appear Mint in a Good box with some storage wear. **Sold for £30, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Transformers - Hasbro - A boxed 1984 dated Transformers G1 Decepticon Leader Megatron with accessories and paperwork # 5793.** The items appear in Excellent condition, there is no deterioration of the chrome finish and no cracks visible. **Sold for £320, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Transformers - Hasbro - A boxed 1984 dated Transformers Decepticon Warrior Thundercracker # 5782.** The model appears in Excellent condition with all accessories and the instruction sheet. The outer box is Fair with wear and creasing, the inner packaging card is still present with both bubbles still partly attached. **Sold for £75, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Transformers - Hasbro - A boxed 1985 dated Transformers Decepticon Ramjet # 5984.** The model appears in Excellent condition with all accessories, unused sticker sheet, instruction sheet and tech specs decoder. The outer box is Good with some storage wear and creasing. **Sold for £50, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Transformers - Hasbro - A boxed 1984 dated Transformers Decepticon Warrior Skywarp # 5783.** The model appears in Excellent condition with all accessories, instruction sheet and tech specs decoder. **Sold for £45, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Transformers - Hasbro - An unboxed Transformers G1 Stunticon Leader Motormaster.** The model appears in Excellent condition with accessories, instruction sheet and tech specs decoder. This also comes with the other 4 x models, Dead End, Breakdown, Wildrider and Drag Strip which combine to make Menasor, they do not have boxes. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Transformers - Takara Tomy - A boxed Japanese language Transformers Collection Starscream # 9.** The model appears Mint with accessories in a Good box with some storage wear. Unchecked for completeness. **Sold for £70, British Toy Auctions, September**



♦ **Takara Tomy Japanese Transformers Masterpieces MP-5 Megatron.** Excellent to Near Mint, Complete, within Good Plus packaging. **Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Hasbro 1989 GI Joe The Action Force Rolling Thunder vehicle & figure.** 3ft long for 3 3/4" figures, unchecked for completeness or correctness, within Fair packaging, Good. **Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Hot Toys DC Batman The Dark Knight The Joker Heath Ledger 2.0 action figure.** 1/6th Scale, DX11, Near Mint to Mint, within Excellent. **Sold for £170, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Lego (sealed) Harry Potter Fantastic Beasts Mini Figures #6213829.** limited edition, twenty-two to collect, containing sixty blind bags, Mint. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Playmates Bandai Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Bebop figure.** UKG Graded 80% CARD 80 BUBBLE 85 FIGURE 85, upon 1989 un-punched 20 back card *France. NB: *Has been incorrectly graded as "France" card back - when it is German. **Sold for £200, Vectis Auctions, August**



♦ **Playmates Bandai Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Michaelangelo figure.** UKG Graded 80% CARD 85 BUBBLE 85 FIGURE 85, upon 1989 un-punched 20 back *France. NB: *Has been incorrectly graded as "France" card back - when it is German. **Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ **Mattel Masters of the Universe Dragon Blaster Skeletor vintage action figure.** #9017, 1984, Near Mint to Mint, within Good Plus sealed bubble (slightly yellow), upon Good card back. **Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ **Palitoy (Mego) Incredible Hulk 5 1/4" diecast action figure.** Near Mint to Mint, within Fair Plus to Good box (discoloured, torn and creased in places). **Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, August**

♣ **TYCO Dino Riders Pterodactyl with Llahd Heroic DinoRider.** within Good to Good Plus sealed box; slight mildew smell otherwise Good Plus to Excellent. **Sold for £340, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ **Kenner Star Wars Jawa (with Vinyl cape) 12B vintage action figure.** Condition Good to Good plus. **Sold for £2,700, Vectis Auctions, August**



♣ **Mid 20th C Elastolin French Army wooden and tinplate horse drawn covered wagon.** with two French soldiers, two horses and covered cart / wagon. **Sold for £60, Wessex Auction Rooms, August**



♣ **Scalex tinplate friction driven racing car comprising Jaguar in red.** Generally good, some notable surface marks and wear. In good to very good original box. **Sold for £60, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, August**



♣ **Bandai large scale tinplate and friction drive model of a Volkswagen Beetle.** comprising metallic red body with lithographed tinprinted interior,. **Sold for £85, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Tipp Co, Grober Rennwagen tinplate and friction drive model of a Racing Car.** metallic blue body with driver figure, racing number 22, working order. **Sold for £140, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Schuco No.5700 Synchronatic Packard Tourer.** battery-operated tinplate model is cream, with tinprinted seating, plated parts, comes with steering wheel accessory and 3 bollards. **Sold for £160, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Wells of London, tinplate and clockwork 2-door saloon.** cream and green with red roof and running boards, single fixed key mechanism, length 21cm, excellent condition. **Sold for £180, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Lehmann No. 771 tinplate double door garage, complete with the original Lehmann No. 765 Sedan.** comprising of the cream body with green foliage and brickwork effect fixed key clockwork mechanism. **Sold for £150, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **A Wells of London tinplate and clockwork military open back truck.** comprising of camouflage decorated body, with brown grille and matching hubs, fitted with single fixed key mechanism, length 22cm, condition VG. **Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Tri-Ang Minic No.40M tinplate and clockwork Mechanical Horse and Trailer.** grey cab and red trailer with chrome hubs, housed in a Minic labelled card box. **Sold for £120, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Modern Toys Tinplate Battery Operated x80 Planet Explorer Flying Saucer.** together with a Tinplate KO Toys Gearing Robot. **Sold for £150, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Chad Valley "Harborne" No.10001 streamlined racing car.** tinplate and clockwork, orange and cream with matching orange hubs, fixed key mechanism, length 19cm. **Sold for £65, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **A Philip Niedermeier of Germany tinplate and friction drive model of a Jaguar XK140 Police.** car comprising cream and blue body with silver baseplate and in the original green and white pictorial all-card box (VG,BG). **Sold for £45, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **Minimodels, tinplate and clockwork model of the Railton land speed record car.** aluminium silver body with flag transfers. **Sold for £550, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **A Schuco No. 1006 Moto-drill motorcycle.** comprising of orange and cream motorbike with lithographed engine and exhaust detail,, length 13cm. **Sold for £55, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



♣ **A Bandai GT car series.** tinplate and friction drive model of a Lotus Elan comprising blue body with lithographed tin printed interior and black plastic steering wheel, housed in the original window box. **Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, August**



eBay

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



↑ **Item:** EFE 38701 Midlands Scottish Alexander Y Type S/D Bus 1:76 4mm Scale
Condition: Model and box are both in very good condition.
Sold for: £180 (21 bids)



↑ **Item:** 1/18 AutoArt Lancia Delta S4 Tour De Corse 1986 Toivonen/Cresto #4 88620
Condition: New condition with original box and certificate of authenticity.
Sold for: £290 (1 bid)



↑ **Item:** Minichamps 1/18 - Williams F1 - Taxi for Senna
Condition: Brand new in original box and packaging, signed by Mansell
Sold for: £311.64 (1 bid)



↑ **Item:** TEKNO 1/50 Scania S Series 770 BM Transport Frost Edition *Limited Edition
Condition: New condition with the original box and packaging
Sold for: £186.19 (8 bids)



↑ **Item:** Sunstar 1:24 Diecast (2923) London Bus RT402 1947 HLX219 Ltd Edition MIB
Condition: Great condition, no scratches or marks, in original box and packaging
Sold for: £510 (19 bids)



↑ **Item:** Eaglemoss - 1:8 Scale Aston Martin DB5 Diecast Model
Condition: great condition, only a few marks on the tyres and dust in the interior, exterior is pristine, without a box



↑ **Item:** Burago 1/43, No.4174, Mazda RX7 GR.2, #40 Blue Diecast Model Car With Box.
Condition: excellent condition, no marks visible on the car, only small wear and tear on the box.
Sold for: £161 (23 bids)



↑ **Item:** TOMY Back to the Future: DeLorean Time Machine 1:10 Diecast Model 47555CS
Condition: Brand new and in original packaging and box
Sold for: £323.21 (2 bids)



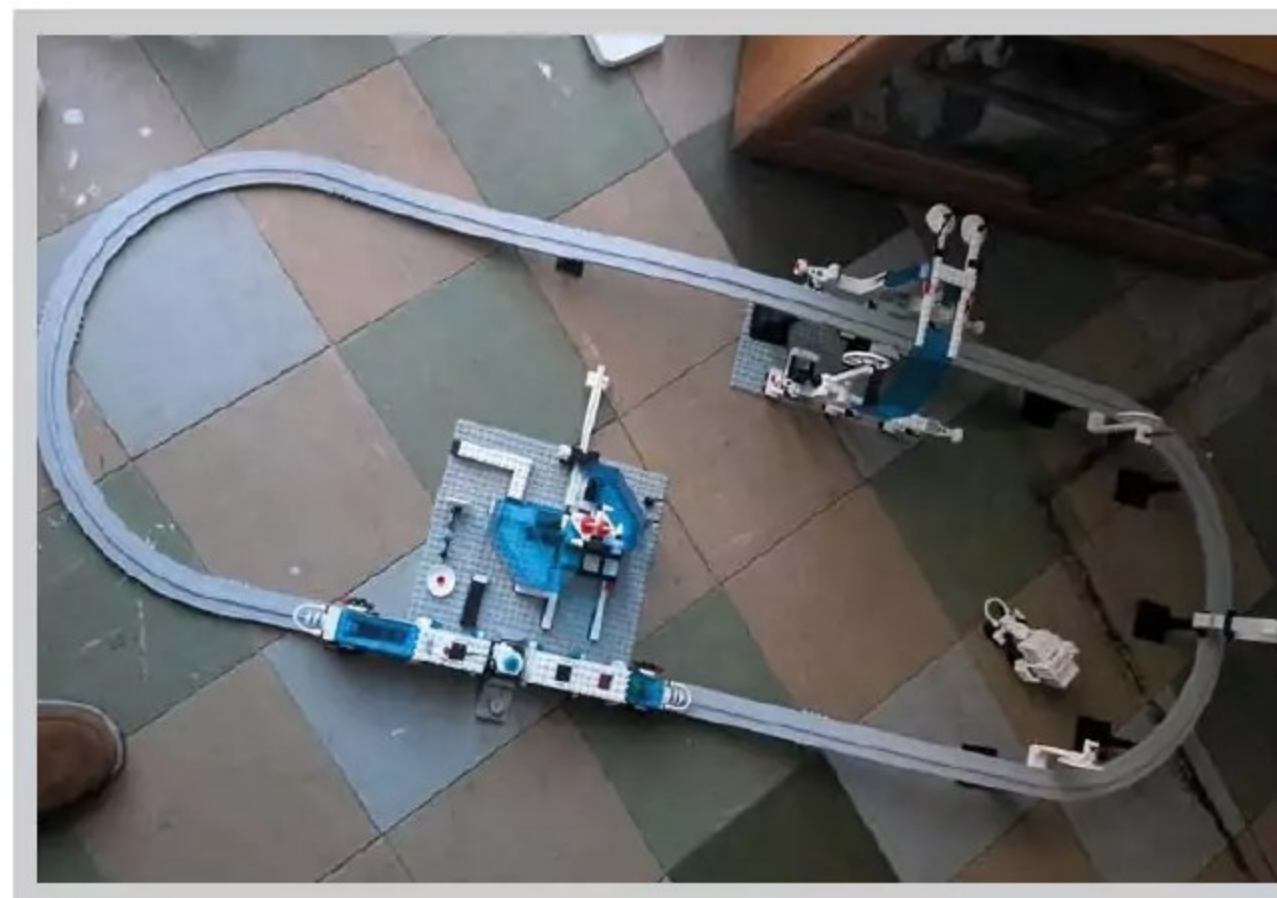
↑ **Item:** Dinky Toys 941 Foden 14 Ton Tanker Mobilgas Diecast
Condition: Mint condition, with original box, slight wear and tear to the box
Sold for: £161 (39 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** Vintage Tinplate toy Ambulance car NE-Kur toy factory turkey 1970s
Condition: small damage to the front and back bumpers, otherwise in good condition with original box



- ♦ **Item:** A Vintage Japanese Tin Plate Robot
Condition: good condition, unknown if it works as it comes without batteries. Age based wear and tear, without a box
Sold for: £181.86 (12 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** Rare Vintage LEGO Space Futuron #6990 Monorail Transport (Complete) (Working)
Condition: Great condition, wear and tear to the box but is fully working and complete.
Sold for: £410.20 (7 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** LEGO Genuine Star Wars Chrome Darth Vader 4547551
Condition: Mint condition, no cracks, unboxed
Sold for: £197.78 (13 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** 1939 Pinocchio Walt Disney, Vintage Marx Wind Working
Condition: good condition, obvious age wear, but works perfectly
Sold for: £131.43 (2 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** Vintage Bluebird Disney Polly Pocket 1996 Alice In Wonderland Playset
Condition: Great condition, comes with all characters, unboxed and visible age wear
Sold for: £298.77 (20 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** Big Bus Vintage Battery 'Y' Trademark G.M. Coach 3113 Litho Tin Toy Japan + Box
Condition: good condition and in original box, doesn't come with batteries but the lights have been tested and work



- ♦ **Item:** Britains Set #437 Lead Toy Soldier Officers Of The Gordon Highlanders
Condition: good condition, in original box, obvious damage from age wear and tear
Sold for: £469.35 (12 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** Lead Toy Soldier WWI Pilot In Tin Sopwith Camel Biplane
Condition: great condition, appears dusty and slightly scratched, with a clean would be good as new, unboxed



- ♦ **Item:** Tamiya Clodbuster 4x4 Vintage Rc Car 1980s Antique Toy beaties original bag
Condition: good condition, comes in original bag with charger and other accessories
Sold for: £178.89 (32 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** Booklin Models - '50th Anniversary' - 1969 Chevrolet Camaro Z28 in Blue
Condition: Brand new condition, with all the official certificates
Sold for: £213.88 (20 bids)



- ♦ **Item:** Otto Ford Fiesta XR2 MKII 1:18 Scale Model Car Very Rare
Condition: excellent condition, obvious dust, with a clean will be mint condition, unboxed
Sold for: £360.19 (19 bids)

RIGHT The Austin Montego saloon in Clove Brown — one of just 50 handbuilt Lansdowne pieces.



It's been five years since Lansdowne collectors had a fresh release to get excited about — but the wait is finally over. An all-new Lansdowne model has appeared after that long hiatus, following the release of the previous Lansdowne model, the Ford Consul Mk.I, and the announcement that the Lansdowne Collection was to be discontinued. Fortunately for Lansdowne collectors, and those who collect models of British cars, that wasn't to be the case. Early in 2025, the first all-new Lansdowne model became available, and what a success it has been — one colour selling out almost immediately, and the second colour down to the last two at the time of writing.

That model is the 1984 Austin Montego 1.6L, available in two colours: Clove Brown and Moonraker Blue Metallic. Hot on the heels of the saloon, Lansdowne released the estate version in August 2025. As with the saloon, two colour choices were offered: Champagne Beige and Oporto Red. Production was limited to 50 pieces of each colour of either model.

But what about the real car? Austin Rover had been searching for a long-overdue replacement for the Morris Ital and the Austin Ambassador, as well as a competitor for the Ford Sierra and Vauxhall Cavalier. British Leyland's need to develop a mid-sized saloon for the 1980s was pressing after the demise of the Marina II

An '80s saloon reborn in scale

Lansdowne's Austin Montego returns in 1:43 scale. Mike Coupe takes a closer look.

and Triumph SD2 (the planned Triumph Dolomite replacement), and the failure of the Triumph–Morris joint project. The only design left on the table was the LC10 (Maestro) saloon.

The decision was taken to develop a full range of medium cars from this single platform to save costs. The Montego design, therefore, was a hybrid effort involving several designers, including David Bache and his replacement, Roy Axe. Using the compact S-Series engine meant the Montego would feature a lower bonnet line and a longer, more tapered nose. The Montego was a classic three-box design; the styling of Roger Tucker's saloon (boot and bonnet) was grafted onto the centre section of Ian Beech's Maestro design. Because the Maestro's doors were retained, the longer Montego required a sixth window to be

incorporated — resulting in a rather fussy appearance at the rear of the car. With a few minor tweaks, Roy Axe approved the design for production in 1981.

On 25 April 1984, the Montego (code LM11) was launched, initially as a four-door saloon, alongside the MG Montego 2.0i. This came just two months after the Morris Ital was discontinued, although the Ital Estate remained in production until August 1984. The British Motor Show of 1984 also saw the launch of the Montego Estate.

The Montego was available with a range of engines: 1275cc (1.3, saloon only), 1598cc (1.6, 1.6L and 1.6HL), 1994cc 2.0HL (aspirated and fuel-injected, generating 100 bhp and 115 bhp respectively), and 1994cc 2.0HLS. There was also a luxury Montego Vanden Plas and an MG Montego. Diesel-powered Montegos were introduced in 1998.



LEFT Moonraker Blue finish for Lansdowne's new 1:43 Austin Montego, a colour that sold out fast.

BELOW Rear view of the Lansdowne Montego, complete with authentic badging and trim.



In addition to the colours chosen for the Lansdowne models, a further eight colour choices were available to the Montego buyer.

Initially badged as the Austin Montego, the "Austin" name was dropped in late 1987, with the car marketed simply as the Montego. This made it the last Austin-badged car, ending a brand that had been in use for 80 years.

Unfortunately for the Montego, sales were disappointing. Only 34,700 were sold in the UK during its launch year, with poor build quality, reliability issues, ongoing industrial disputes, and a long development phase (dating back to 1975) all hampering success. However, the estate version fared better and was considered more of a success story. In total, 572,600 Montegos were sold between 1984 and 1994, before being replaced in 1993 by the Rover 600.

That's the story of the full-size car — but how does Lansdowne's 1:43 version compare? Unlike its showroom counterpart, the model has been an instant success, with collectors snapping them up quickly.

A CLOSER LOOK

The model is described as an Austin Montego Saloon on the box and on the ID plate on the underside, but as an Austin Montego 1600L on the Brooklin website. On closer inspection, the boot badging identifies the model as a 1.6HL — which has a higher specification than the L. Similarly, the 1.6L has a higher spec than its 1.3 counterpart, and it is here that confusion arises. The 1.6HL sports a silver radiator grille and chrome door handles, whereas the Lansdowne model grille and handles are painted body colour in both cases (as per the 1300). The hub caps, however, are correct for the 1600.

Such discrepancies are not uncommon, especially when restored full-size cars have been fitted with incorrect replacement parts, or due to the scarcity of authentic spares. Aside from this, the appearance of the model is excellent. Every detail is captured — from the small reversing light separated from the brake lights and indicators in the rear cluster, to the tiny "blip" on the roof where the radio aerial fits. The estate is designated a 1.6L according to its boot badging, though otherwise the comments remain the same apart from the door handles, which are picked out in black.

The windscreen wipers are finely cast, and the model sports correct door mirrors on both sides. The black window surrounds, windscreen trim and rubbing strips are all finely applied, and appear to be painted rather than separate castings. All lights (front and rear) have clear lenses, correctly coloured, and all badging is applied as transfers. A departure from Brooklin tradition is the use of printed number plates bearing the model number, rather than an authentic registration plate (e.g., the Estate wears a "B" plate instead of an "A").

The interior is an accurate rendition of the real car, complete

with patterned seats, headrests, steering wheel, dashboard and fascia. Although the instrumentation is cast in rather than separately detailed, everything is represented. The door panels are also part of the casting but feature full detailing. Peer into the rear of the estate and you may even glimpse a couple of black suitcases.

The Clove Brown Montego and Champagne Beige Estate feature pale beige seats with brown door panels, parcel shelf and dashboard, while the Moonraker Blue and Oporto Red Estate versions have pale grey seats, with the remainder finished in mid-grey.

Unlike previous Lansdowne models, the base is plain, with only the tail end of the exhaust pipe showing. This is more in line with SMTS models than traditional Brooklin/Lansdowne examples.

How does the Lansdowne measure up dimensionally? By my measurements, compared with official dimensions, the model is a little overscale, but not enough to be obvious. The Lansdowne Montego measures a scale length of just over 15 feet, compared to the real car's 14¾ feet. The model's width is much closer at 5¾ feet against the actual 5½ feet. The wheelbase is near enough spot on.

Despite the minor discrepancies noted, the Lansdowne Montego is more than an acceptable addition to the Lansdowne Collection and will no doubt be welcomed by loyal collectors of the brand, and by enthusiasts of British car models — particularly those who prefer white metal over other mediums.

One omission worth noting is the lack of a rear-view mirror. This is the most visible interior feature from the outside, and including it would enhance the model's realism. Small quibbles aside, this is exactly the kind of handbuilt release that shows why Lansdowne still holds a special place in many collections. ■



A-Z of diecast

This month, **Alwyn Brice** is involved with the letter S.

If you are a regular visitor to swapmeets, then you'll have come across the odd example of diecasts from Shackleton. They tend to stand out, these lorries, for they are often wearing colourful liveries, and are sometimes accompanied by a trailer.

Clockwork-powered creations, they were the brainchild of one Maurice Shackleton, who traded under the moniker of James Shackleton; based in Cheshire, this enterprise actually started off with wooden toys before moving into the diecast scene.

Partly because Foden lorries were a common sight in the years subsequent to WWII, this was the choice for the owner; added to that was the fact that he had actual experience of working at the Foden factory. The venerable Foden flatbed FG6 formed the basis of the range and production appears to have lasted until about 1952, a time that saw other diecast manufacturers begin to suffer materials shortages, brought about by the Korean War. Much attention was paid to these lorries in their design and assembly: upwards of 65 parts were used in their construction and, since everything was done in house, their overall cost reflected this. Initially retailing at £2 19s 6d (almost £3), these models were definitely not for the impecunious. The Dyson trailer appeared after the war, in 1949, and subsequently a tipper lorry was added to the range. This is now a highly sought after model because of its short production run; equipped with steering and a working tipper body, unfortunately its inherent fragility has occasioned a shortage within collecting circles: typically they sell for anything from £300 upwards.

SHINING STAR

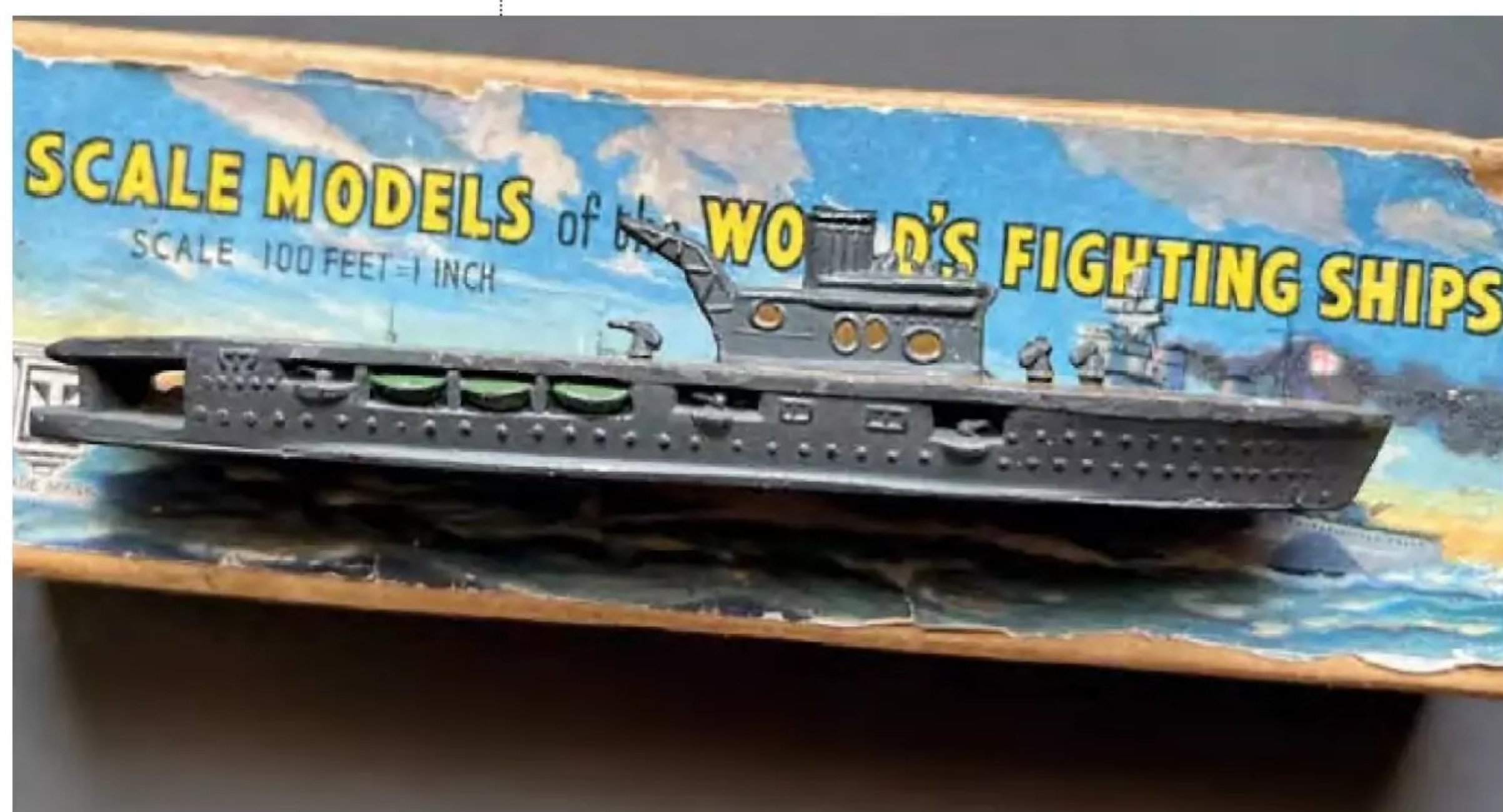
So... 1/12, 1/18 or 1/24? You choose. Macau-based Sun Star's output majors in the bigger scales, which has permitted a useful degree of detail in its range of vehicles.

ABOVE
Stunning Audi Quattro in metallic lilac from Sun Star: this is 1/18 scale



ABOVE
Not so common boxed selection of Royal Navy ships from Treforest Mouldings

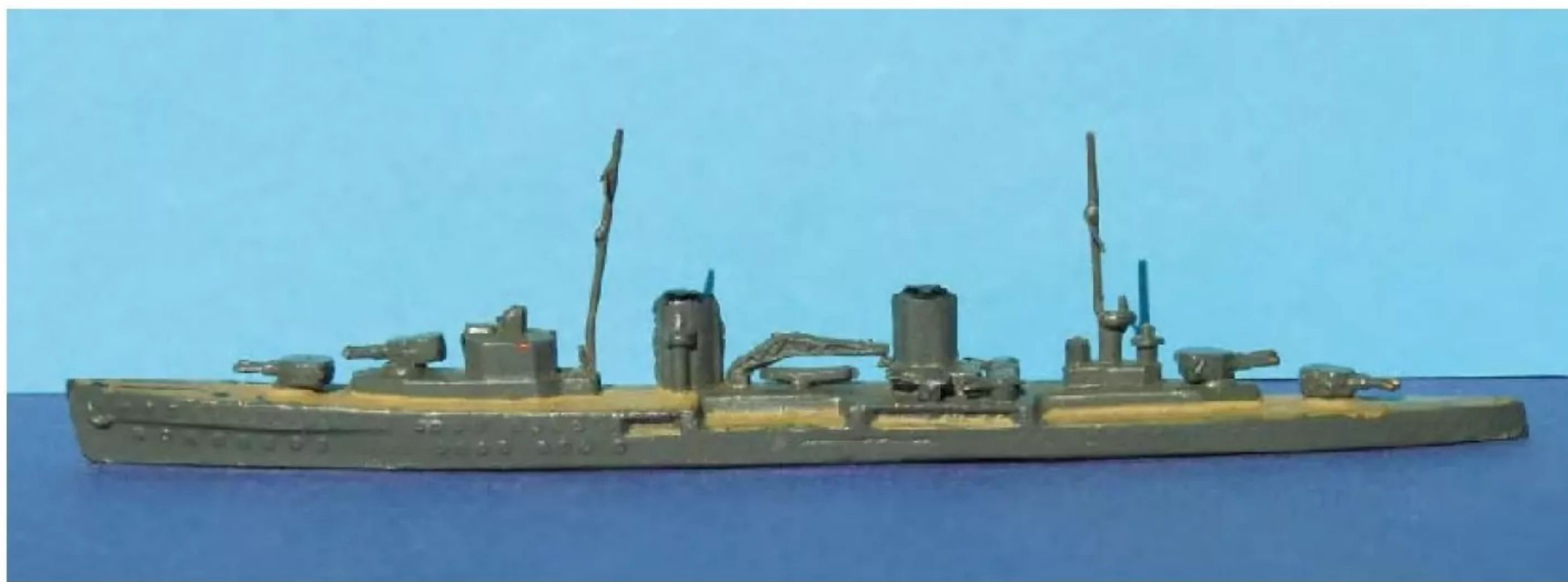
BELOW
Interesting aircraft carrier from Tremo shows colourful box art



An offshoot of the parent business that has been involved in the construction and building sectors, along with that of real estate, the company launched into the model vehicle sector in 1989. Some years later it would acquire the European manufacturer Vitesse, which sits well within its portfolio, adding the popular 1:43 scale to the proceedings.

To say that the company's range is colossal would be the understatement of the year. Just take a look at the website – there are pages and pages and pages of vehicles from which to choose. In terms of era, it's all there, especially in 1:18 scale, from the humble early American highway pioneers (like the Ford Model T and 1904 Buick) through to 1960s classics and right up to modern times, with both road and race-liveried transport.

Whilst the 1:12 scale range is more finite, it does offer a mouth-watering selection of Morris Minor and VW Beetle and VW campervan variants: buy one and you'll probably want another. Attention to detail is most evident: on the Morris Minor convertible, for example, the distinctive gap between the side windows and the hood frame is accurately captured. (Admittedly, the car's side pinstriping might be a

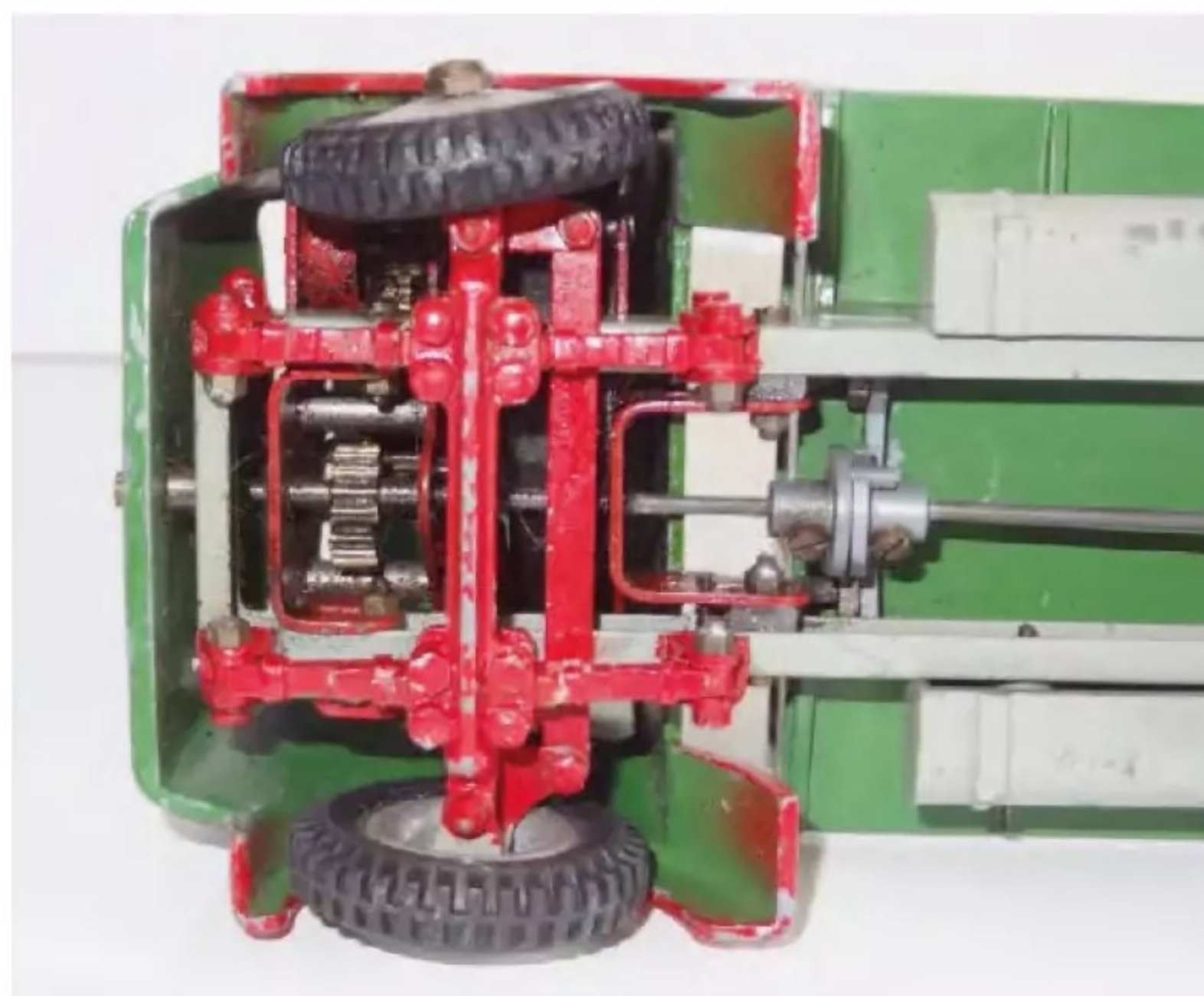


TOP LEFT
The Royal Australian Navy's HMS Sydney, from Tremo

TOP RIGHT
The Shackleton Dyson trailer was a later addition to the range

RIGHT
Just as the collector likes them! Bright and cheerful Foden from Shackleton

BELOW RIGHT
Shackleton's intricate steering and clockwork mechanism on view here



TOP
Delectable Sun Star Greenline double decker has steerable wheels and opening doors

MIDDLE
Beautiful early Austin 7 (ie Mini) from Sun Star captures the essence of the real thing

BOTTOM
Art of the state? The irregular Trabbie, in 1/18 scale, from Sun Star

little too thick – but at least it's present). Then again, there's the 1949 VW Beetle cabriolet: not only does the fabric top unlatch and fold down but you can also jack the car up and remove a wheel (and its nuts), just like the real thing. Opening doors, bonnet and boot all add to the appeal of the model. The highly-regarded split screen Samba minibus with its plethora of windows is also to be found within the range.

In the 1:24 scale you can delight in good old London Transport in the shape of the Routemaster bus from the 1940s and the 1950s: choose from town or country livery and a selection of evocative advertisements. Even more interesting (to this writer, at any rate) are the 1940s Bedford OB coaches, which always put me in mind of the St Trinians films of the era; you can almost picture them bursting with yelling girls and hockey sticks protruding from the windows.

It goes without saying that these models are created with care and with precision. In 1:12 scale, oft-skimped details like wipers are carefully modelled, which gives each model a huge lift. Paint finish is excellent and you'd be nit-picking to find much wrong with these vehicles. Consequently, they are not exactly cheap, with as-new examples commanding £250 upwards.

THE SHIPPING FORECAST

On to the letter T: and we'll start with Tremo. Nothing to do with four (or even two, come to that) wheels, Tremo was the model name arising from the company Treforest Mouldings, which operated out of Wales, and was one of a tiny number of toy makers historically based there.

Production of the company's waterline ship range dates back to the years prior to WW2 and whilst at the cessation of hostilities in 1945 it recommenced manufacture, this was short-lived because of a factory fire. The company was also known for other lines that included lead figures, a small selection of WW2 British aircraft of Dinky size and, bizarrely, garden gnomes.

Founded by an ex-employee of the respected Wiking factory in Germany, the company's output was prodigious, and ran to several hundred waterline models. Tremo was a rival to Tri-Ang in the shipping stakes and it looked not only at the Royal Navy for inspiration but further afield, too.

Submarines, destroyers, battleships, cruisers, minesweepers, trawlers, corvettes... you name it, the company produced it. Hand-painted and retailed in

plain, utility card boxes, these ships were very much a product of the time. Groups were also available in small sets within lidded display boxes. Quality was acceptable (an interesting feature was that of the swivelling gun turret), although today they might not bear too close scrutiny.

The company of Julius Kohnstam (better known as J Kohnstam) was a principal retailer of the Treforest Mouldings output (and under Richard Kohnstam, rose to fame with the Moko brand); this enterprise had various fingers in various (toy) pies and it was only when Lesney awakened to the fact that its Matchbox range was going to take the world by storm that it ended the business partnership with that company, and invested in its own distribution network.

Readily available today (although you might struggle to find every model), they vary enormously in price. Boxed examples command a premium; and where unboxed models are concerned, not all are readily identifiable because markings on the hollow underside can be so faint as to be illegible. ■

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Total Price			

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Christopher Moor, from New Zealand, shares his story. "I sold my collection in 1965 and thought that was the end of it. My mate Graeme had moved away, and I'd lost contact with the collectors I knew from school, so I sold the models to a family friend.

Thirty years later, one Sunday morning in 1995, I detoured into a diecast swapmeet on the way to the supermarket and walked out a 'born again' collector.

At first, I set myself a strict rule: my new collection would only contain 1/43 scale models of cars currently in production. I ordered a few modern Minichamps from sellers at the fair and thought that would be enough.

I kept to that plan until eBay came into my life in 2000. While browsing the listings, I found an almost perfect salmon pink Dinky Cadillac Eldorado which I just had to have. It was a model I'd owned as a teenager, and holding it again felt like no time had passed. The Cadillac started a chain reaction.

Soon my 'fab four' 1960s Corgi Toys joined the collection: the Bentley Continental, Jaguar Mk X, Rover 2000 and Mercedes-Benz 600 Pullman. Each still had the clever features and sheer presence that had won me over back in the 1960s.

From there, more favourites followed. I picked up a Dinky Nash Rambler at a fair, tracked down my childhood favourite Morris Oxford in green, and added a Rolls-Royce Phantom V with opening windows. Earlier pieces such as the Triumph 1800, Rover 75 and Armstrong Siddeley reminded me why I had fallen for Dinky in the first place.



2



3



1

Your collection

Every collector has a story. Each month we feature one of our readers and the treasures that mean the most to them. Want to share yours?

Email CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk

Not every addition came from eBay or swapmeets. One of the few models I actually bought at an auction was a Corgi Trojan Heinkel bubble car, a little cutie that still makes me smile.

There is a charm about those basic early 1950s Dinkys that later Dinkys (and Corgis) lack. Their simplicity is the reason for their lasting attraction. Even with playwear or restoration, they hold a special kind of magic.

Today's collection is based on the now, not nostalgia, but I still allow myself the occasional detour. My latest indulgence? A 1/64 Hot Wheels Lucid Air, in four different colours." ■



4



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6



7

1. A Dinky Triumph 1800; 2. A Dinky Cadillac Eldorado; 3. A Dinky Morris Oxford;
4. A Phantom V with opening windows;
5. A Dinky Rover 75; 6. A Dinky Nash Rambler;
- and 7. A Corgi Jaguar Mk X with luggage.

YOUR LETTERS

This is your space to share thoughts, tips and questions with other collectors. Write to us at **CollectingEditorial@warnersgroup.co.uk** and you could see your letter featured here.



BELOW: Conrad's superb CASE CX 800 Demolition excavator

■ Hard-to-find excavators

I have just bought August Collectors Gazette and see you have started selling models. Is this going to be a new thing? If so, would it be possible for you to sell excavators in 1:50 gauge, please, as I collect them? As to try and buy them out of collectors' magazines is impossible, they only sell them to trade in bulk. Thanks.

MJ Penin

Hi MJ. Yes, we're always updating the range and adding new items to the Model Shop. We'd love to help with the excavator, but we don't have any 1:50 in stock yet. Keep an eye on the Model Shop section in the mag and on our website, as that's where new arrivals appear. If there are other models you'd like to see, please let us know. We love hearing everyone's suggestions.

■ Editorial at the heart

WHAT I missed about DC was an editorial. The only magazine I know without one. I find the editorial the heart of any magazine. Looking forward to yours.

Ian A

Hi Ian, thanks for your feedback. We're always happy to hear suggestions on how to improve the magazine and make it what readers want. You'll be pleased to know the editor's column is coming back, starting with this issue. Hope you enjoy it.



■ Collectors' corner

WILL the new mag have a letters page? As I think this is a great point of contact for collectors to voice their opinions or ask model queries. I'd also like to see a return of Desert Island Diecast, as I love seeing other people's collections. And more Toy Fair reports, please.

Kevin B

Hi Kevin, thanks for your feedback and suggestions. You'll be pleased to know there will be a letters page, and here it is! We're also introducing a "question of the month" feature, where we put reader questions out to the collecting community. To kick things off, we're starting with yours about restoring models. Hopefully the replies will help your future projects. And yes, we'll also be showcasing other people's collections, and Toy Fair reports are definitely something we'll look at including. Cheers.

www.j-jwebbtoyfairs.com

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LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2025
The Exhibition Centre, Lincolnshire Showground, Lincoln, LN2 2NA
10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Ad (16+) £3.50, Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

SPALDING SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2025
Springfields Events & Conference Centre, Camelgate, Spalding, Lincs PE12 6ET
10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Ad (16+) £3.50, Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2025
The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN.
10am - 2pm >> approx. 180 tables >> 6ft table £40
>> Ad (16+) £4, Sen (65+) £3.50, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

LINCOLNSHIRE SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2025
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10am - 2pm >> approx. 150 tables >> 6ft table £35
>> Ad (16+) £3.50, Sen (65+) £3, Accompanied Ch (15 and under) Free

NEWARK THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY 2026
Newark & Notts Showground, Winthorpe, Newark, Nottinghamshire NG24 2NY
10am - 2pm >> approx. 200 tables >> 6ft table £45
>> Admission (16+) £5 per person

BRENTWOOD SATURDAY 10TH JANUARY 2026
The Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9NN.
10am - 2pm >> approx. 180 tables >> 6ft table £40
>> Admission (16+) £4 per person

For bookings and further information please telephone Lorraine on **01522 880383**
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MINSTER

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Hornby Dublo pre-war buff 'Esso' Tanker



Hornby Dublo pre-war DL7 C/W GWR 0-6-2T Locomotive



Never Was 3-rail Stanier Black 5 Locomotive by Ian Coburn



Wrenn Golden Arrow 'City of Wells' Bulleid Locomotive



Hornby 0 gauge 20V 'Princess Elizabeth' Locomotive



Hornby 0 gauge 'Fyffe's' & 'Cadbury's' Vans



Hornby No.2 C/W Special 'County of Bedford' Locomotive



Hornby 0 gauge LMS E220 Locomotive No.2270

Live auction commencing at our Leominster Saleroom at 10am on Thursday 6th November, online bidding available with easyliveauction.com and the-saleroom.com. The saleroom is open for viewing on Tuesday 4th & Wednesday 5th November between 9am and 5pm and on the morning of the sale from 8am.

www.minsterauctions.co.uk
info@minsterauctions.co.uk
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Steve Clements Fairs

HOOK

Tuesday 14th October
&
Tuesday 11th November

Community Centre, RG27 9NN 6:30pm - 8:30pm

WICKHAM

Sunday 19th October

Community Centre, Mill Lane, PO17 5AL

10am - 2pm

SWINDON

Sunday 2nd November

Grange Leisure Centre, SN3 4JY

10am - 2pm

STONEHOUSE

Sunday 9th November

Nr Gloucester Magpies Social Club

10am - 2pm

01380 725322 / 07732 330305 stevedevizes@aol.com

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MUSSELBURGH SPORTS CENTRE

101 Newbigging, Musselburgh, EH31 7AS

10:30am-3pm

- » • Admission: Adults £4.00, Children/Senior Citizens £3.00, Early Bird £7
- Buy, sell and swap trains, diecast cars, buses and trucks, soldiers and more!
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BROMLEY, KENT

SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 9.45am - 1.15pm

BROMLEY HIGH SCHOOL, BLACKBROOK LANE, BROMLEY, KENT. BR1 2TW

RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm

SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ

BROMLEY, KENT

SUNDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm

BROMLEY HIGH SCHOOL, BLACKBROOK LANE, BROMLEY, KENT. BR1 2TW

MIDHURST, WEST SUSSEX

SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm

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

BROMLEY, KENT

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm

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RAYLEIGH, ESSEX

SATURDAY 27 DECEMBER 9.45am - 1.15pm

SWEYNE PARK SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH, ESSEX SS6 9BZ

BROMLEY, KENT

SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 9.45am - 1.15pm

BROMLEY HIGH SCHOOL, BLACKBROOK LANE, BROMLEY, KENT. BR1 2TW

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TOYFAIR TIMES

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Mike Spencer
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- **Crewe,**
Crewe Model
Engineering Society
01270 505781

5 OCTOBER

- **Gateshead,**
Jim Corr
07504 035955
- **Kempton Park,**
R M Toys
02392 262446/07957 823507
- **Needham Market,**
Stowmarket Railway Club
01379 668657

9 OCTOBER

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

11 OCTOBER

- **Oswestry,**
Jackson & Jackson Events
07967 681080

12 OCTOBER

- **Rayleigh,**
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
07977 646386/07889 901729
- **Liphook,** David Parsons
07742 609865
- **Shepton Mallet,**
Bulldog Fairs
07379 578083

14 OCTOBER

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

19 OCTOBER

- **Plymouth,**
Plymouth Diecast Club
01752 846250
- **Windsor,**
Maidstone Static Model Club
07895 581631
- **Wickham,**
Steve Clements Fairs
01380 725322/07732 330305
- **Ashington,**
David Parsons
07742 609865

25 OCTOBER

- **Blackpool,**
Jim Corr
07504 035955

26 OCTOBER

- **Bromley,**
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
07977 646386/07889 901729

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

28 OCTOBER

- **Garstang,**
Emanuel Fairs
07564 773121

1 NOVEMBER

- **Leeds,**
Barry Rennison
0113 2363695

2 NOVEMBER

- **Harrogate,**
Dalesman Diecasts
01943 873420
- **Rayleigh,**
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
07977 646386/07889 901729
- **Swindon,**
Steve Clements Fairs
01380 725322/07732 330305
- **Kidderminster,**
Tony Oakes
01270 652773/07825 631323

8 NOVEMBER

- **Oxford,**
Richard Atkins
01869 347489

9 NOVEMBER

- **Rainton,**
Jim Corr
07504 035955
- **Stonehouse,**
Steve Clements Fairs
01380 725322/07732 330305

16 NOVEMBER

- **Spalding,**
J & J Fairs
01522 880383
- **Bromley,**
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
07977 646386/07889 901729
- **Newton Abbot,**
Ray Heard
01823 480097
- **Potters Bar,**
Joe Lock
07866 641215
- **Ashington,**
David Parsons
07742 609865



ABOVE: Visitor's browse the pre-opening of last year's Ashington Toy Fair.

22 NOVEMBER

- **Musselburgh,**
Jim Corr
07504 035955

23 NOVEMBER

- **Midhurst,**
KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
07977 646386/07889 901729

AUCTIONS

3 OCTOBER

- **Canterbury,**
The Canterbury Auctions
01227 763337

4 OCTOBER

- **Canterbury,**
The Canterbury Auctions
01227 763337
- **Excalibur Auctions,**
Kings Langley
02036 330913

6 OCTOBER

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

8 OCTOBER

- **Washington,** Toovey's
01903 891955

9 OCTOBER

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

14 OCTOBER

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

18 OCTOBER

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

24 OCTOBER

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

29 OCTOBER

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

6 NOVEMBER

- **Leominster,**
Minster Auctions
01568 600929

8 NOVEMBER

- **Excalibur Auctions,**
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11 NOVEMBER

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19 NOVEMBER

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First of many cars driven by Barbie was an Austin Healey. (Photos: Vectis Auctions)

Barbie behind the wheel

Hazel Ralston returns with her insightful bi-monthly female perspective, this time exploring Barbie's first foray onto four wheels.

One of the ongoing themes of this column is to explore the traditional division between “toys for boys” and “toys for girls,” and quite often it emerges that the distinction isn't quite as rigid as might be thought. It wasn't quite as simple as “cars for boys and dolls for girls”! What about G.I.Joe – “America's Moveable Fighting Man” – and his British equivalent, Action Man, for example? In spite of their macho image, they were essentially dolls for boys, though makers Hasbro in the USA and Palitoy in the UK strenuously avoided the suggestion, as this would certainly not have helped sales.

If boys could play with action figures, then girls who liked Mattel's hugely popular Barbie doll could get an archetypal boys' toy to put her in – in the form of a toy car. Launched in 1959, Barbie was the inspired creation of Barbara Handler, who, with her husband Elliot, had founded Mattel Inc. Barbie was claimed to be the first mass-produced doll in the USA to have adult features, and 300,000 were sold in the first year. In 1962, she took the wheel of her first car, an open-top Austin Healey 3000, though it was not named but simply called “Barbie's Own Sports Car.” Mattel themselves were so busy churning out the dolls that they subcontracted the car to another big American toy company, the Ideal Corporation, who had been one of the pioneers in the use



Top: 1962 vinyl carrying case for the Ken doll.

Above: Box of the Healey carries the trademark of Ideal, the toy company who made the car for Mattel.

Left: 100 piece jigsaw shows Barbie sitting on the bonnet of her car while Ken goes to buy ice creams.

of plastic in toys in the post-war period. These early plastic cars were usually cheap and cheerful playthings, but the Healey was a much more detailed and sophisticated model. It had to be pretty big, of course, to fit Barbie inside, so it measured eighteen inches in length. The larger dimensions made it easier to fit detailed features, such as a separate windscreen and plated grille, bumpers, dashboard, and imitation ‘wire’ wheels, enhanced by whitewall tyres. Most examples were moulded in a kind of salmon pink shade with turquoise seats, but other colours, such as lilac, do turn up from time to time. The Austin Healey inspired various related products as well. You could buy a 100-piece jigsaw showing Barbie sitting on the bonnet, touching up her make-up while her boyfriend Ken goes into a diner and comes back triumphantly brandishing two ice cream cones.

A second vehicle quickly followed in 1963, described as “Barbie and Ken's Hot Rod.” Modified vehicles of this type were fashionable among young American speed merchants in this era. The catalogue tells us that “Now Ken can take Barbie and Midge [her friend] for a ride in his Hot Rod”. If Barbie was previously quite capable of handling a powerful Healey, you might wonder why she suddenly needs him to drive her. However, in the early sixties, Mattel was probably less interested in conveying messages about female independence than in widening the market and selling more toys. ■



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