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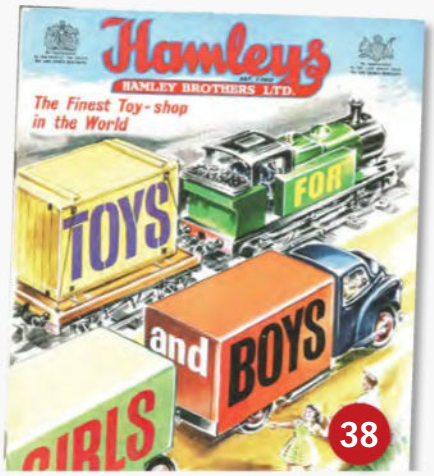
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Turn to page 3 to find out more!





All wrapped up

EDITOR'S COLUMN



We're getting festive with Royal Mail vans and shopping nostalgia, plus Corgi classics and Disney Cars.

Hello, collectors! I can't quite believe we're at the December issue already. Admittedly, I'm not a huge fan of winter (bring back summer, car boots and BBQs!), but at least, for those of you who celebrate it, we have Christmas, the perfect excuse to add to your collections. And if you're stuck for what to buy yourself – or your loved ones, if you're feeling generous – come and join us at one of our BP Fairs, where you'll be spoilt for choice! We have events in Coventry (8 November), Sandown (14 November) and Bolton (22 November) to help you find some goodies to wrap up – or put straight on your shelf if you just can't wait!

So, as it's December, we've tried to make the issue a little festive, as you'll see from the cover. And where better to start than with the company responsible for sorting all those letters to Lapland? Steve takes a look at a pair of Royal Mail vans with a festive twist, which we hope will bring back some nostalgia and happy memories.

We also begin a special two-part feature from Keith, who meets Corgi's Head of Marketing, David Mather, to explore the company's modern direction, product development strategy and the decisions behind its models, as the famous brand celebrates its 70th anniversary.

Speaking of Corgi, we have a brilliant feature from David Lynn, who examines the largely forgotten, non-catalogue Corgi Connoisseur Collection of mirror-chrome-plated British classic cars.

In Driven to collect, we explore Charlie's impressive collection of more than 600 Disney Cars models. My son would absolutely love it, although I'm hoping he won't be competing with Charlie's total any time soon! He does have a few more on his Christmas wish list, though.

Over in Collectors Gazette, we have a couple of festive features for you too. In a Santa special for Collecting Champions, Chris meets Robert Horscraft, a vintage toy collector and trader who also dons the red suit at Christmas – and once held a world record for giving out gifts. Andrew also gets nostalgic as he looks back at the golden days of Christmas shopping, reflecting on the spectacular toy displays created by department stores during the 1950s and 1960s. We've also got Meet the Club, The Thrill of the Chase and an interview with Colin Young, who reflects on his 40-year career in the auction industry, how the auction world has changed and what collectors are buying.

And that's a wrap! I hope you enjoy the issue and that it isn't festive overkill! But if there's one time of year when we can be topical and bring a little festive fun to the magazine, this is it.

Happy collecting,
Luke

DIECAST COLLECTOR

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NEWS

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CORGI BEATS ESTIMATES

A CORGI TOYS GS15 'Silverstone' Racing Layout Gift Set was the star of the latest auction highlights from Vectis, selling for £4,410 against an estimate of £2,000–£2,400.

The extensive set included six model cars, a Land Rover breakdown lorry, trackside buildings, figures, paints and glue, together with its original mat and leaflet.

Rare South African Dinky Toys also attracted fierce bidding. A blue Austin-Healey Sprite sold for £2,083 against a £400–£500 estimate, while a Jaguar 3.4 Litre Saloon achieved £1,960 from an estimate of just £200–£260. Completing the highlights, a Corgi ERF dropside lorry gift set with matching trailer and milk churn load sold for £466 against a £70–£80 estimate. ■



ABOVE The 1960s Corgi Toys GS15 "Silverstone" Racing Layout Gift Set that recently reached an amazing £4,410 at a recent Vectis sale.

ABOVE The Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 195 Jaguar 3.4 Litre Saloon.

FAR LEFT Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 112 Austin Healey Sprite

NEWS

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MONSTER RESULT FOR RARE LEGO DINOSAUR SET

A RARE LEGO *Jurassic World* T. rex set sold for £5,390 in Vectis Auctions' September LEGO sale. One of only 500 produced, the exclusive set remained sealed and was described as being in mint condition. The model, numbered 4000031, was originally presented to selected LEGO employees in 2018.

A limited-edition LEGO C-3PO minifigure sold for £2,082 in Vectis Auctions' September LEGO sale. Released to celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Star Wars*, the chrome-gold figure was one of only 10,000 produced and remained sealed in its original bag. A boxed Mario the Juggler Nintendo Game & Watch achieved £858 in Vectis Auctions' September Retro Gaming sale. Released in 1991, the MB-108 handheld game was the final title produced for Nintendo's original Game & Watch range. ■



NEXT MONTH

JANUARY 2027 Issue 351



Cracking models, Gromit!

We look at Aardman's much-loved Wallace & Gromit and models of their vehicles, from the Austin A35 van to the motorcycle and sidecar.

PLUS...

- Auction results
- All the latest news
- Extensive selection of new model releases
- And much more

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BOXING DAY COMES EARLY

YOU MIGHT want to check your loft, as an empty Dinky Toys box has sold for an astonishing £1,715 at Vectis Auctions! The rare South African-issue box was originally made for the Dinky Toys 555 Ford Thunderbird and carried 'Arthur E Harris South Africa' text. Despite being empty and described as being in poor condition, it raced past its £50–£60 estimate, achieving more than 28 times its upper estimate..■



CAST-IRON TRIO ACHIEVE ASTONISHING RESULTS

THREE vintage cast-iron collectables exceeded expectations at Bertoia Auctions' Mechanical Banks & Cast-Iron Toys sale. Leading the trio was an Arcade REO Royale coupe. Measuring 9in long and presented in pristine condition, the model sold for $3,600 against a $2,000 high estimate. A rare Kenton model of the distinctive 1934 Chrysler Airflow realised $2,700 – surpassing its $1,000 high estimate. Completing the selection was a colourful Hubley Santa still bank. Standing 6in tall, the near-mint example showed very little wear or evidence of use. Estimated at $1,200–$2,000, it eventually changed hands for $3,300.■



THUNDERBIRDS PUPPETS SET TO GO TO AUCTION

ORIGINAL Brains and Tin-Tin Kyrano puppets from *Thunderbirds* are heading to auction in London. The Brains puppet appeared in the original television series and the films *Thunderbirds Are Go* and *Thunderbird 6*. It retains numerous production-made components, including its head, body, hands, legs, internal



mechanisms and trademark glasses. It is estimated at £100,000–£200,000. Created for *Thunderbird 6*, the Tin-Tin puppet remains dressed in its original red flying suit and carries an estimate of £60,000–£120,000. They will go under the hammer during Propstore's Winter Entertainment Memorabilia Live Auction, held from 4–6 December. ■



ABOVE A still from the 1968 Thunderbirds film *Thunderbird 6*.



AARDMAN FAVOURITES BRING CRACKING PRICES

CHARACTERS from across Aardman's 50-year history brought cracking prices when more than 200 pieces went under the hammer at Propstore.

A Feathers McGraw puppet from Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl topped the auction at £56,700. Wearing the villain's memorable red-rubber-glove chicken disguise, it narrowly outsold a screen-matched Wallace puppet from the same film, which achieved £50,400.

A squatting Gromit puppet realised £37,800, while a model of Shaun the Sheep from the forthcoming film The Beast of Mossy Bottom sold for £26,775. A Good Norbot garden gnome from Vengeance Most Fowl also attracted strong bidding, reaching £13,860.

Earlier chapters in Aardman's history were represented by Morph and his mischievous friend Chas. Handcrafted from plasticine by Aardman co-founder Sir Peter Lord and accompanied by his handwritten care instructions, the pair sold for £3,780. Morph first appeared on television in Take Hart in 1977 and became one of the studio's earliest and most enduring characters. Proceeds from the 50th-anniversary auction will support Aardman's talent-development initiatives, including bursaries, skills programmes and training opportunities for emerging filmmakers. ■



New model of the month

Keith D'Souza picks a standout new release. This month, he reviews Cult's 1968 Jaguar 420.

CULT
1968 Jaguar 420
British Racing Green
Price: £184.95 **Scale:** 1:18
SKU: CML289-1
https://cultmodels.com/

The Jaguar 420 has never quite received the recognition it deserves. Borrowing much of the Mark X's imposing styling while refining the proven S-Type formula, it arrived in 1966 as Jaguar's compact executive saloon, combining elegant looks with the marque's silky smooth 4.2-litre XK engine. Yet its timing could hardly have been worse. Overshadowed by the E-Type and, just two years later, eclipsed by the arrival of the all-new XJ6, the 420 remained in production for only a brief period before disappearing from Jaguar's catalogue. Today it stands as one of the firm's most underrated saloons, appreciated by enthusiasts who recognise its blend of understated luxury, capable performance and traditional Jaguar character.

The scale modelling world has largely mirrored that lack of attention. While E-Types, Mk2s and XJs have appeared repeatedly in a variety of scales, the 420 has remained a rare sight in collectors' cabinets. Neo Scale Models produced a respectable 1:43 version several years ago, but it quickly disappeared from sale, leaving enthusiasts with few alternatives. Cult Models therefore fills a genuine gap in the market with its latest 1:18 resin replica.

With three versions available, our review sample depicts chassis P1F4766BW. Registered as LOV 766F, it became a familiar sight on the concours circuit during the 1990s, collecting multiple awards before passing through Historics Auctioneers in 2025. Despite its condition and provenance, it sold for just £3,718, considerably below its pre-sale estimate, making it one of the auction's more surprising results.

The attention to detail is immediately apparent. The overall stance captures the restrained elegance of Jaguar's compact saloon, while the bodywork is exceptionally crisp throughout. Shutlines are consistently fine and evenly applied, allowing the model's proportions to speak for themselves. The subtle curves flowing from the front wings into the rear quarters are faithfully reproduced, while the upright grille and quad headlamps immediately identify the 420 as the missing link between the S-Type and the forthcoming XJ6.

Chrome detailing is particularly well executed. The brightwork surrounding the windows, grille, bumpers and lamps is neatly applied without appearing over-scale, maintaining the restrained appearance of the full-size car. Smaller details reward closer inspection, including the locking fuel filler cap and the correctly reproduced pressed-steel wheel centres, complete with polished hubcaps and bright trim rings. These are the sort of details easily overlooked by many manufacturers but which demonstrate the research behind Cult's latest release.

Inside, the atmosphere of a traditional Jaguar has been convincingly recreated. The contrasting tan leather interior immediately evokes the gentleman's club ambience for which the marque became renowned during the 1960s. The dashboard layout, steering wheel and seating all faithfully reflect the original car, while the wood veneer is tastefully represented without appearing overly glossy. As expected from a sealed resin model, macro detailing is naturally more restrained than on an opening diecast, yet nothing feels compromised when viewed through the generously glazed cabin.

Any criticism is largely confined to the inherent limitations of resin construction rather than Cult's execution. Collectors who favour opening panels will inevitably miss the opportunity to explore the engine bay or luggage compartment, although the payoff is exceptional body fit and crisp panel definition throughout.

The Jaguar 420 may never enjoy the profile of Jaguar's more celebrated models, but that is precisely what makes this release so appealing. Faithfully researched and impressively executed, Cult Models has captured one of Browns Lane's forgotten gems with real conviction. It is another accomplished addition to the catalogue and one that deserves serious consideration from both Jaguar enthusiasts and collectors of significant British classics. ■

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SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £139.99
PRODUCT NO: SS5823

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SUN STAR
Lancia Stratos HF - 1st 1976 Rally Portugal - #1 Sandro Munari (White)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £118.99
PRODUCT NO: SS6015

Taking the victory in Portugal in just under 3 minutes, the Lancia Stratos is the hero car with character and charm deliberately designed for rallying.

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SUN STAR
Mini Cooper S - 1967 Monte Carlo Rally - #177 Rauno Aaltonen (Red)
SCALE: 1:12 **PRICE:** £261.99
PRODUCT NO: SS5323

Defeating Ove Andersson in his Lancia Fulvia in just under 12 seconds, the Mini Cooper S driven by Aaltonen rallied around for an impressive finish.

sunstarmodelcars.com



TECHNOMODEL
Porsche 908/2 LH Flunder - 1970 Hockenheim - #17 Larrouse (White)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £294.99
PRODUCT NO: TEC18328E

Driven in the 1970 Interserie sportscar series, this legendary open-cockpit car specialises in endurance racing and is defined by its long tail, or 'Lang heck.'

tecnomodelcar.com



TECHNOMODEL
Ferrari 512 BB/LM - 1980 Le Mans 24 Hours - #76 (Blue)
SCALE: 1:18 **PRICE:** £294.99
PRODUCT NO: TEC18409G

Driven by Pierre Dieudonne, Jean Xhenceval, and Herve Regout, there are only 25 examples of this vehicle, and represents the end of an era for factory-supported boxer-engine models.

tecnomodelcar.com



CORGI
Ford Escort Mk2 RS2000 Custom (Tuscan Beige)
SCALE: 1:43 **PRICE:** £37.99
PRODUCT NO: VA14911

Nicknamed 'Werthers' due to its toffee hue, the Ford Escort Mk2 with custom Tuscan Beige exterior is a rear-wheel drive sports saloon famed for its drooped nose cone.

uk.corgi.co.uk

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Happy collecting!



CORGI
Vauxhall Nova 1.3 SR (Monaco Blue)
SCALE: 1:43 **PRICE:** £37.99
PRODUCT NO: VA11406

An affordable hot hatch, the Vauxhall Nova was shaped by its lightweight design and boxed wheel arches and played deeply into modification culture.

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CORGI MODEL CLUB
Batmobile and Bat Boat 1967 Gift Set 3
SCALE: 1:50 **PRICE:** £79.99 **PRODUCT NO:** NA

First introduced in time for Christmas 1967, Gift Set 3 brought together the second version of the Batmobile, based on the famous vehicle designed by George Barris and now fitted with a tow hook, and the first-edition Bat Boat. The Bat Boat features the distinctive 'tin fin' design and sits on a diecast metal trailer that can be attached to the Batmobile.

Both vehicles were originally supplied with Batman and Robin figures inside, creating the unusual sight of the Dynamic Duo appearing in two cockpits at once. Corgi Model Club has solved that problem by including all four figures separately, allowing collectors to position them however they wish.

The packaging is another important part of this recreation. It features the illustrated header card associated with the original 1967 release, which was designed to fold flat to prevent damage while being transported to retailers. A yellow plastic insert holds the models securely in place – another detail found in early examples but dropped from later versions of the set.

Also included are 12 yellow rockets, operating instructions, a period-style lapel sticker and an individually numbered Corgi Model Club certificate of authenticity.

Combining two iconic vehicles with authentic-looking packaging and an appealing selection of accessories, this nostalgic release is a fitting recreation of one of Corgi's best-loved Batman gift sets.

corgimodelclub.com



OXFORD DIECAST
Land Rover Series II Tow Truck (Bronze Green)
SCALE: 1:76 **PRICE:** £9.95 **PRODUCT NO:** 76LAN2009

Introduced in 1958, the Land Rover Series II Tow Truck featured rounded side panels to create a wider track. The car was often modified with different roof configurations.

oxforddiecast.co.uk



OXFORD DIECAST
Mercedes Sprinter Van Crouch Recovery (Orange)
SCALE: 1:76 **PRICE:** £12.95 **PRODUCT NO:** 76MSV011

Representing the Crouch Recovery company, the Mercedes Sprinter Van is multi-functional and boasts exceptional reliability and impressive cargo capacity.

oxforddiecast.co.uk



CONRAD
Sandvik Pantera DP1510i tophammer drill rig
SCALE: 1:50 **PRICE:** €155.00
PRODUCT NO: 2530/0

Conrad's popular Sandvik tophammer drill rig has received a significant update, with an all-new tooled main chassis reproducing the latest styling of the full-sized machine and giving the diecast model a noticeably revised appearance.

https://sandvik.prominate.se



DEVELON
Develon DX225 tracked excavator
SCALE: 1:50 **PRICE:** €169.00
PRODUCT NO: 16-1040

Develon continues to produce highly detailed scale models of its construction equipment, as demonstrated by this DX225 excavator, which features linked metal tracks, faithfully replicated digging equipment, a detailed cab interior and realistically scaled safety railings.

https://eu.develonshop.com



YCC MODELS
Liebherr LTM1400-7.1 mobile crane 'Mammoet'
SCALE: 1:50 **PRICE:** €899.00
PRODUCT NO: 410352

YCC Models has produced a true museum-grade replica of the Liebherr LTM 1400-7.1 mobile crane, resulting in one of the most detailed and realistic scale models available, with virtually nothing left to the imagination.

https://store.mammoet.com/



DIECAST MASTERS
JLG 860SJ telescopic boom lift
SCALE: 1:32 **PRICE:** $72.00
PRODUCT NO: 410

JLG continues to commission accurate scale models of its aerial equipment, such as this 860 SJ telescopic boom lift, featuring a fully articulated platform complete with welding station, a functional telescopic boom and steerable axle.

https://jlg.branditpod.com



FIRST GEAR
JLG 450AJ articulated boom lift
SCALE: 1:32 **PRICE:** $57.00
PRODUCT NO: 411

With a fully developed platform, detailed control panel and an authentic range of movement, this JLG 450 AJ articulated boom lift model captures all the features of the full-sized machine perfectly.

https://jlg.branditpod.com



DIECAST MASTERS
JLG AG925 telescopic handler
SCALE: 1:32 **PRICE:** $59.00
PRODUCT NO: 409

The Diecast Masters model of the JLG Agriculture AG925 telehandler features high attention to detail, including an opening cabin door, detailed interior, steering axles, a fully extendable telescopic boom, and a functional quick coupler for attachments.

https://shop.kubota-eu.com/gb



CHINA
Xtreme Engineering XR7038-F telescopic handler
SCALE: 1:25 **PRICE:** $88.00
PRODUCT NO: DIECAST-7038

They don't get much bigger than this, the Xtreme XR7038-F telehandler is a true beast, capable of lifting 30+ tons, the model features a telescopic boom, pitch adjustable forks, steering axles with functional suspension.

https://parts.xmfg.com



CONRAD
MAN TGS NN 8x8 tipper truck
SCALE: 1:50 **PRICE:** €132.00
PRODUCT NO: 81259/04

The MAN TGS NN from Conrad captures the rugged looks of the original well, with working steering, a tipping dump body with pivoting tailgate, spare wheel storage and ladder access, all the essentials have been modelled to perfection.

https://conrad-modelle.de



BP FAIRS

Sunday 8th November - Coventry

The Connexion Leisure Club, Leamington Road, Coventry, CV8 3FL
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £7 | Adults £3.50, Senior £3, Children £1 (under 5s free)

Saturday 14th November - Sandown Park

Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £15 | Adults £8, Senior £7.50, Children £2 (under 5s free)

Sunday 22nd November - Bolton Stadium

Bolton Stadium, The Premier Suite, Burnden Way, Horwich, BL6 6JW
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £9 | Adults £4.50, Senior £4, Children £1 (under 5s free)

Sunday 27th December - NEC Birmingham

Hall 18, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, B40 1NT
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £20 | Adults £11, Senior £10, Children £2 (under 5s free)

Tuesday 29th December - Stafford Showground

Stafford County Showground, Weston road, Stafford, ST18 0BD
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £10 | Adults £5, Senior £4.50, Children £1 (under 5s free)

Sunday 30th December - Doncaster Racecourse

Doncaster Exhibition Centre, Leger Way, Doncaster, DN2 6BB
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £10 | Adults £6, Senior £5.50, Children £2 (under 5s free)

Visit www.bpfairs.com or scan the QR code for all details on the events

EVENTS DIARY

WORLD OF COLLECTING

Sunday 17th January 2027 - Coventry

The Connexion Leisure Club, Leamington Road, Coventry, CV8 3FL
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £7 | Adults £3.50, Senior £3, Children £1 (under 5s free)

Sunday 7th February 2027 - Buxton

The Pavillion Gardens, St. John's Road, Buxton, SK17 6XN
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £7 | Adults £3.50, Senior £3, Children £1 (under 5s free)

Sunday 21st February 2027 - Bolton Stadium

Bolton Stadium, The Premier Suite, Burnden Way, Horwich, BL6 6JW
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £9 | Adults £4.50, Senior £4, Children £1 (under 5s free)

Saturday 27th February 2027 - Sandown Park

Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £15 | Adults £8, Senior £7.50, Children £2 (under 5s free)

Sunday 7th March 2027 - Doncaster Racecourse

Doncaster Exhibition Centre, Leger Way, Doncaster, DN2 6BB
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £10 | Adults £6, Senior £5.50, Children £2 (under 5s free)

Sunday 14th March 2027 - Coventry

The Connexion Leisure Club, Leamington Road, Coventry, CV8 3FL
10:30am - 3:00pm | early bird entry from 8:00am £7 | Adults £3.50, Senior £3, Children £1 (under 5s free)

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BRITAINS
John Deere S7 900 Tracked Combine
PRICE: £164.99 **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** 43425
Well-built metal and plastic model, it weighs 2.0 kg of John Deere's latest flagship S7 combine. Limited to a 2,500-model run, it has flexible, freely rotating tracks with steerable rear wheels. It's supplied with the 45ft HDX45 grain table. This has a three-section articulating bed with draper detail, four support wheels and fixed-height reels. Both the feed augers and reels are driven by ground wheel. To ensure this works, the elevator support rams hold the table on the ground but are unable to hold the table in the raised position.
The fully glazed cab has folding mirrors, painted work lights, a yellow GPS receiver and orange warning beacons. There are hinged steps and handrails on the cab access platform. The cab door opens partially, and the light tan interior has driver and passenger seats, a steering column, and, on the driver's seat, a detailed armrest with a monitor. There's a glazed window in the cab to the grain tank. The tank has the internal feed auger detailed and covers fixed in the open position. A lock holds the folding main auger in the unloading position.
On the right side, the side panel opens, and the engine bay access ladder drops down. Engine covers do not open, but the screen and exhaust are detailed. There are red and white warning boards, taillights, and a 40-speed decal detailed on the combine back panel. For towing a header trailer, the combine has an Ertl-style drawbar.

www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk



BRUDER
Massey Ferguson RB 4180V Round Baler
PRICE: £34.95 **SCALE:** 1:16 **PRODUCT NO:** 02039
High-grade plastic baler with ground-driven pickup, hinged side panels, and an opening tailgate with a spring-loaded kicker bar. It's supplied with one round straw bale.

www.bruder.de



REPLICAGRI
Chevance RCM180 Trailer Black Edition
PRICE: £66.00 **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** REP198
Smart, well-built trailer supplied with both grain and silage side extensions. The body lifts smoothly on the four-stage ram and the tailgate opens on two rams. Production limited to 1,500.

www.replicagri.com



BRITAINS
JCB 80th Anniversary 542-70 Agri Pro Loadall
PRICE: £32.99 **SCALE:** 1:32 **PRODUCT NO:** 43446
This special black-and-yellow edition Loadall features extra decals to mark JCB's 80th anniversary. Limited to a 2,500 model run, it's supplied with three attachments.

www.britainsfarmtoys.co.uk

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Short-lived

It was meant to be the entry model into the Porsche range, but it turned out to be too expensive. In Part Two, **Francisco Mota** picks up the short-lived 914/6 story, focusing on the final years of production and racing.

Porsche wanted to broaden its range, offering an entry-level model that complemented the 911 line-up. The 914/6 was the project that received the "go ahead" from top management: a small two-seater with a mid-mounted, air-cooled flat-six engine, a removable Targa top, and a very low waistline. The car had an intriguing, symmetrical design from front to rear that didn't fail to turn heads on the streets of the French Riviera or California.

Early in the design phase, Porsche's bean counters decided the production costs were too high for the 914 to generate any meaningful profit. Therefore, they encouraged management to form a joint venture with another carmaker to split the design, development, and production costs. The obvious choice was Volkswagen, because of the family ties between the two companies. A unwritten agreement was made, where both companies had their own version of this new VW-Porsche model, each with different engines: a flat-four for VW and a flat-six for Porsche. The rest were common parts, though some settings differed, such as suspension, steering, and tyre size.

Porsche took care of design and development, while VW was responsible for production planning.

The car was built by both Porsche and VW on two different assembly lines: Karmann built for VW, and Porsche built its own cars. The business plan was highly favourable to Porsche, and that became obvious when VW's management changed. The new executive board did not find the agreement fair to VW and, because it wasn't a written contract, decided to change a few things, including having Porsche contribute a larger share of expenses. Obviously, the final cost of a new Porsche 914 was no longer much lower than a Porsche 911T, leading Porsche to discontinue the car after a short production run of only seven years and a total of 118,978 cars built, including VW and Porsche versions.

MOTORSPORT LIFE

It may have had a short life, but the Porsche 914 had an extensive racing and rally life, entering some of the most famous motorsport events in the early 1970s. In the last issue of Diecast Collector, we published "Porsche 914 - Part One", where we looked at some 1:43 scale models that illustrated the early period, representing street cars as well as works cars entered in the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the "Marathon de la route", as well as concept cars shown at motor shows.

For Part Two, we have more 1:43 scale models, this time from the famous Monte Carlo Rally, Daytona 24 Hours, and some wild IMSA cars from the USA. We've also included a couple of extreme road cars. So, let's go for it!

MONTE CARLO 1971

Porsche 914/6 needed some serious publicity after it was launched to the public. The car was seen as something

Photos: João Carlos Oliveira



ABOVE From left - 1977 IMSA GTU champion, Austrian Touring car contender and street 914-6.

weird because of its symmetrical side view. However, it was still a Porsche, and the best way to prove its reliability and speed was to enter cars in motorsport. That department at Porsche AG had a strong reputation among the motorsport fraternity. They took three cars from the assembly line and prepared them to challenge dry tarmac, wet tarmac, or snow-covered tarmac that most editions of the Monte Carlo Rally had to "offer" competitors. The cars looked great, painted orange, the colour of official Porsche works rally cars. They had enlarged wheel arches, wide Fuchs wheels, four spotlights each and a lowered suspension setting. The targa top was kept closed, obviously, and its original black colour contrasted nicely with the body colour, as did the black bumpers.

Rally cars still wear big white roundels with black racing numbers. And those are bigger in diameter than the side of the 914/6, so they needed trimming.

This "armada" got a lot of attention from the public and rivals. Aside from a few small stickers and numbers, the cars looked identical. Spark made three rigorous 1:43 scale models that represent faithfully each 914/6. Even the small cabin features a roll bar, racing seats with harnesses, and all the small instruments and a fire extinguisher. Swedish driver and co-driver Björn Waldegaard and Hans Thorszelius finished third with car number 7, beaten by a pair of Alpine A110S. The other cars did not finish the rally. With this third place, the message was clear: the 914/6 had been beaten only by two highly specialised Alpine-Renault A110 rally cars

JÄGERMEISTER

Jägermeister is one of the most collected liveries in motorsport scale racing and rally cars. In a couple of "Racing Colours" episodes, we have already covered many scale models sponsored by this brand. The herbal German liquor is very well known around the world mainly because of the money they invested in motorsport. Even though it had a short life, the Porsche 914/6 also wore the orange and





TOP Ready to tackle the 1971 Monte Carlo rally, the works Porsche 914-6 armada of three identical cars.

ABOVE A Porsche 914-6 transformed to go racing in the USA championships looked like this. Models by Spark.

RIGHT This 914-6 was a star in Austrian Touring championship. The livery is the reason why Schuco reproduced it.



dark green livery with the brand's logos. The model we have here is a diecast made by Schuco, replicating a wide-body version that entered the Wien Aspern round of the Austrian touring car championship. It looks very good, obviously with fewer details than the rally version, but featuring a roll cage and racing seat inside the cabin. Race results were hard to find for this one, but we were still able to discover the driver's name: Dieter Bohnhorst.

RACING IN THE USA

The USA market was the biggest for the 914/6, as it was for any Porsche model, at the time. The company convinced its VW partner to sell the flat four in the US as a Porsche too, to avoid confusion among American buyers: "Is this a VW or a Porsche?"

For some local races, many modifications were allowed to the base car, at least, much more than in Europe. So when the 914/6 started being prepared for circuit racing on the other side of the Atlantic, it really got wild.

We have a pair of those: the white car with racing number 62 raced under Group 5 regulations at the 1980 Daytona 24 Hours. The body shows all the typical changes of this regulation, like enlarged wheel arches, wide wheels, a deep front spoiler, and a rear wing. This Spark resin cast includes all of those features, plus a safety net in the driver's glassless window. It also features four big spotlights for night driving. The car was driven by Jim Cook, Bill Koll and Greg LaCava. They won the GTU class with 632 laps completed.

The black car is a 1977 prototype, with a lowered roof, an even wider body and wheels, and a low rear wing. This one sits even lower and features several extra cockpit details, like a red tube to bring fresh air to the driver. The car won that year's IMSA Championship in the GTU class, driven by Alan Brooking, John Clever, Jeez Cisino and Jerry Woods.





EXTREME ROAD CARS

As often happens with cars that have a career in motorsport and come back with a reinforced image, the Porsche 914/6 also got some special road versions. Spark reproduced the 1973 914/6 in road trim, featuring lowered suspension and no targa top. The car looks great with those Fuchs wheel rims and painted dark metallic blue. All the chrome is there, around the windshield, side window triangles, and the targa roll bar. Even the bumpers have generous chromed surfaces. Looks clean and mean.

The white road car is even more special. This one is the 1972 Porsche 916. It features different-style bumpers, enlarged wheel arches similar to those used on the rally version, and wide aluminium wheels with black central inserts. The car sits much lower than a conventional 914/6 and features a single side exhaust pipe instead of the typical central double-pipe system. All the bodywork was made by Baur, the German "carrozeria", and is painted white, including the roof targa top that is made of steel and welded to the body to increase stiffness. Only the side sills are grey.

Only eleven prototypes of the 916 saw the light of day between 1971 and 1972, all using variations of the 911's flat-six, from 190 to 300 bhp. In the end, the project was deemed too expensive to fit under the Porsche 911S or even the 911 RS price tag. It looks great, and the 914/6 probably would have sold more if it had a version like this from the start.

The Porsche 914/6 is part of the carmaker's story, surely not one of its most successful chapters. However, the basic principle proved right decades later. When the Boxster launched, it followed a similar line of thinking: a smaller two-seater convertible with a mid-mounted engine. The big difference was that, while the 914/6 had to look for an outside partner to form a joint venture and save money, Porsche chose another path with the Boxster. Instead of an outside partner, they looked inside and concluded that enough parts and production could be shared between the 911 and the Boxster to make a business case for both. Some say that, with this strategy, Porsche even made more profit from the 911. After all, Porsche proved as adept at developing a profitable business case as it was at building sports cars. ■

TOP A The unicorn, the Porsche 916 of which only 11 prototypes saw the light of day, model by Schuco.

ABOVE This is the standard Porsche 914-6, lower than the VW 914-4 and featuring the Fuchs rims.



The Taranto Swordfish

Jarrod Cotter looks at a new Corgi model which captures an iconic biplane torpedo bomber that was involved in one of the Royal Navy's most daring raids.

Newly released by Corgi is this 1:72 scale model of Fairey Swordfish Mk.I P4154/4M of No.815 Naval Air Squadron, HMS Illustrious, as flown in the Battle of Taranto in November 1940 (AA36312).

HISTORY

Introduced to service in the 1930s, the Swordfish was a medium-sized biplane torpedo bomber and reconnaissance aircraft with a fabric-covered metal airframe and had folding wings. In service, it received the nickname 'Stringbag'.

The primary weapon of the Swordfish was the aerial torpedo, but the low speed of the aircraft and the need for a long straight approach made it difficult to attack well-defended targets. Swordfish torpedo doctrine called for an approach at 5,000ft followed by a dive to torpedo release altitude of just 18ft. Maximum range of the early Mk.XII torpedo was 1,500 yards at 40 knots and 3,500 yards at 27 knots. The torpedo travelled 200ft forward from release to water impact, and needed another 300 yards to stabilise at a preset depth and arm itself. Ideal release distance was 1,000 yards from the target.

The Swordfish could also be used as a dive-bomber. During 1939, Swordfish on board HMS Glorious participated in a series of dive-bombing trials, during which 439 practice bombs were dropped at dive angles of 60, 67 and 70 degrees, against the target ship HMS Centurion. Tests against a stationary target showed an average error of 49 yards from a release height of 1,300ft and a dive angle of 70 degrees. Tests against a manoeuvring target showed an average error of 44 yards from a drop height of 1,800ft and a dive angle of 60 degrees.

After more modern torpedo attack aircraft were developed, the Swordfish was redeployed successfully in an anti-submarine role, armed with depth charges or eight 60lb RP-3 rockets and flying from the smaller escort carriers, or even merchant aircraft carriers (MACs). Its low stall speed and inherently tough design made it ideal for operation from the MACs in the often severe mid-Atlantic weather. Indeed, its take-off and landing speeds were so low that, unlike most carrier-based aircraft, it did not require the carrier to be steaming into the wind. On

occasion, when the wind was right, Swordfish were flown from a carrier at anchor.

MODEL HISTORY

On the night of November 11/12, 1940, the Fleet Air Arm launched one of the most audacious naval air strikes of the Second World War. With Italy's powerful navy threatening British forces across the Mediterranean, Operation Judgement was conceived as a bold solution, sending ageing Swordfish against the Italian Fleet moored in Taranto Harbour. Twenty Swordfish attacked in two waves, armed with torpedoes and bombs.

Swordfish 4M, crewed by Lt(A) H. Swayne RN and Sub Lt(A) J. Buscall, formed part of the first wave's torpedo attack. Flying at extremely low level, they lined up on the Battleship Littorio and released their torpedo from just 400 yards, passing through the ship's masts during their daring pullout. The torpedo struck home, causing serious damage to the Italian warship. The raid proved devastatingly effective, demonstrating that even the most powerful battleships were vulnerable to air attack.

This successful operation showed that the aircraft carrier and its aircraft would now dominate naval warfare. The tactical lessons learnt at Taranto were studied intensively by Japanese naval commanders, directly influencing their planning for the Pearl Harbor attack the following year.

THE MODEL

This model comes painted in sea grey and green topside camouflage, with black undersides. The paintwork and detail printing are done to a very high standard.

It features a spinning propeller, crew figures and a torpedo which attaches to the underside. The observer's gun can be moved up and down. Perhaps most impressive is the fine wire rigging added to the model, which also features folding wings.

The model has a length of 15cm, a height of 6cm and an unfolded wingspan of 19cm. It has a limited edition production run of 900 examples.

At the time of writing, it had sold out direct from Corgi, but could still be bought from some good retailers. It has a recommended retail price of £64.99. ■



The rigging wires can be seen well here.



This view of the model shows off the camouflage scheme well.



This view shows well how the wings fold.



The Swordfish comes supplied with a sturdy display stand.



A photo montage showing the Corgi model of Swordfish I P4154/4M as if attacking shipping in Taranto on the night of November 11/12, 1940. All model images courtesy Corgi.



The Renovation Game: Part Eleven

This month **Ian McDermott** delves into the world of spares.

If you're reading this piece, it's safe to say that as a collector, you're possibly looking for spare parts either to restore or for code 3 building.

HOW LONG IS A PIECE OF STRING?

It's a fact of life that the best place to buy spare parts right now is online. You can find them at Toy fairs, but it will likely be limited to things like tyres, etc.

There are, of course, the big guys we all know that do a vast range of parts, such as Steve Flowers, Dinky Club, and modelcarparts.com. These cover all the main diecast makers and a lot of the smaller ones too. Let's not forget eBay. There are a lot of stockists and manufacturers who only operate through eBay. It can be a good idea to cultivate a good relationship with a supplier. I have actually managed to have discontinued stuff cast up in the past just by asking nicely!

TRANSFERS

When it comes to transfers, try to find a supplier whose transfers are as faithful to the originals as possible. Too often, makers use the wrong colours or fonts. So do some research before you spend out. Black square decals do an excellent job in this regard. Their Triang Minic selection is particularly good with regard to authenticity. Preparation for applying transfers is key; always make sure there's no grease or dirt on the area receiving the transfer. I've ruined countless ones by applying them too soon, but that's another story.

BOXING

The difference between a poorly scanned and printed box and a very good reproduction isn't always apparent in the pricing. There are still many shoddy homemade boxes on the market purporting to be 'crafted' or similar. One or two people are really good. DRRB boxes have been around a while, and their quality is consistently good. 20th Century Box is another outfit that produces excellent boxes, along with many rare ones. So, in all, you may have to do more than a little detective work if you're after real quality for your collection.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Everything is fine if you want mainstream bits, but what if you're collecting something a little more varied? If you collect European tinplate, particularly French, then Le Garage du Camion Rouge may well be your first stop. They produce some truly beautiful spare parts. Retro toy spares found on eBay include a large range of items for Britain's, Taylor and Barrett and Johillco, etc. The quality of the castings, in particular, is superb, so don't give up if you have something rare or obscure that needs parts.

SCRAP BOX

A good thing is to always look out for parts. At toy fairs, on eBay, in fact, anywhere. Models in various states of disrepair will usually have something to harvest. Minics with no paint but working motors, Corgi racing drivers' drivers loose at the bottom of a spares box, it's all good stuff. It will all come in handy one day, honest! Well, it's been a whirlwind review, but hopefully it has at least provided some inspiration on where to start. I, however, will have to work on my transfer applications!

Next time, I'll take a look at keeping it original. ■

TOP **Not all boxes are created equal. This is an example where quality is always worth paying for.**



ABOVE **Why bother keeping all those bits? It all becomes useful at some point, that's why!**



ABOVE **Transfers can make or break a restoration, so always compare the artwork with the original.**



Driven to collect

Charlie's 600-strong Disney Cars collection is all about fun, play and personality, proving that models don't need to stay pristine to be enjoyed.

WHAT GOT YOU INTO SCALE MODEL COLLECTING?

I didn't really set out to build up a collection, but I have always been interested in vehicles of any sort, both full-size and scale models. My dad still has some of his old Corgi and Dinky models from when he was a kid, so I played with them a lot. We go to a lot of car shows, so I've always picked something up from one of the stalls there. Before I knew it, I had all sorts of diecast cars, buses and trucks, then started building up my own collection of Hot Wheels cars and 1:24 scale Monster Trucks. The real starting point was when I first saw the Disney movie *Cars* and discovered the diecast model characters from the film. My parents bought me the main character, Lightning McQueen, soon afterwards and that was the start of my main collection. I still have that model and have added the various Lightning McQueen variants that have been released from the *Cars* range.

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

My collection is definitely for play rather than display, so I have always enjoyed playing with my cars. They are not kept in pristine condition; some of them have plenty of chips and dents, and I certainly never leave any in their boxes! I like to set up long lines of cars across the floor for Mum and Dad to trip over! I have approximately 600 models from the *Cars* range and Mattel keep producing new lines, so it will definitely be an ongoing obsession. My dad has bought me a few GreenLight Collectibles models over the last couple of years, but I think they're mainly for him really – he especially likes the detail in the *Hitch & Tow* series!

WHAT ARE YOUR HINTS AND TIPS ABOUT COLLECTING?

If your collection is anything like mine and is for playing with, then buying pre-owned models is an excellent way to pick up rarer models at a reasonable price. Also, don't worry too much if there's a model you like but it's probably out of reach due to affordability or rarity. It's supposed to be a fun hobby, not something to get stressed about – sooner or later, another one will probably turn up. Trust your instinct – that's normally a good way to approach model collecting.

WHAT IS THE HOLY GRAIL THAT IS MISSING FROM YOUR COLLECTION?

There are so many models in the Disney *Cars* range that there are plenty I would like to own. The one I would probably like the most is a character called Barry Diesel. He's modelled on an American RV and is now very rare. I actually had the chance to buy one a few years ago but thought it was too expensive. But since then I've spent more on less interesting models. My advice is this: if you see something you like and you can afford it, then go for it. ■





TOP I really like the models that are based on the old-time racers, especially the classic American cars. The Mario Andretti car is based on a 1967 Ford Fairlane and I love its shape.
ABOVE Ducky Fauntleroy is based on the NASCAR racers of the 1950s and I really like the shape and style of these old American racing cars. There are lots of little details to look at, and I especially like the racing decals and some of the funny spoof sponsors.



TOP This view shows part of Jim's collection on display, with wall-mounted cases filled with models running up the staircase. Even this impressive section represents only a fraction of the wider collection, which Jim says now totals more than 200,000 diecast models.
ABOVE Floyd Morgan is based on the dirt-track racers from the 1950s. That's one of the things I like about collecting the older cars, as there are so many different shapes and designs.

What we reckon

In a world of collectors obsessed with social media likes and stereotypical popularity, Charlie's philosophy in collecting is so refreshing. As collectors, we keep forgetting that these wee models at the end of the day are just toys, but are conditioned by brands to "go for the chase". Charlie's disregard for MIB examples and happiness in playing with them allows him to fully enjoy his collection as was intended. Charlie has also realised that his buying strategy – as a collector who "plays", affordability is key, so buying pre-owned is a very smart move to add to the collection, but also not break the bank.
Keith D'Souza



Royal Mail Vans

In this month's 'Then and now', **Steve Coles** looks at a pair of Royal Mail vans with a festive twist.

For decades, this time of year has seen thousands of people in the UK busily writing Christmas cards and getting them ready to post. Then there are those people like me who always leave until far too close to Christmas. The question of 'When is the last posting date?' used to be answered with helpful adverts on Royal Mail vans that collected and delivered the post in November and December. This month's 'Then and now' covers two such vans that feature last-posting-date posters.

Ford launched their radically styled Anglia 105E saloon in 1959 and also developed a small panel van version to replace the ageing Thames 300E van. The Thames 307E, as it was known, was launched in 1961 in both 5cwt and 7cwt (or approximately 250kg and 350kg) versions. By 1965, Ford had renamed the vans using the Anglia name. When Lledo launched their new Vanguards range of consistently scaled models in 1996, a 1:43 Ford Anglia van was included in the range. That first year saw four different versions released, starting with VA4000 in Royal Mail livery. According to the fact card under the vac-formed tray, the Post Office were the largest fleet user of the Thames/Anglia 307E vans.

A TIMELY REMINDER

You could distinguish between the 5 and 7 cwt versions by their different front grille designs. The 5cwt version had a grille of painted horizontal slats similar to that on the basic 105E Anglia, while the 7 cwt featured a full-width metal grille of bright mesh, almost identical to that of the Anglia deluxe model. Lledo cleverly designed the front bumper, indicator and grille as a single piece, allowing for both these different variations.

This first Royal Mail van from 1996 is finished, as you would expect, in a somewhat familiar shade of bright red. The passenger door carries a round Post Office stamp-style logo (known as a roundel) which shows which Postmaster the van was allocated to, in this case Post Office Chesterfield, as well as the van's serial number. The Royal Mail logo and the Queen's Cypher are on the rear wing, just above the wheel arch. There is also a number 18 (fleet number?) on the rear door. The headlights are just round 'chromed' inserts, although they do have a silver-painted headlight eyebrow above. The bonnet badge is just a silver shape that is vaguely the same shape as the actual badge. Door handles all round are also painted silver, as is the fuel cap. The rear lights are painted red and orange. The wheels are black and are fitted with chrome hub caps. They are the same wheels that Lledo fitted to the Anglia saloon, albeit usually painted grey or white. The front indicators are painted orange, and this van wears the smaller grille. Still, instead of the correct painted horizontal slats, it incorrectly features a small chrome grille of horizontal bars.

What makes this model stand out, however, is the advertising along the van



sides. While this one doesn't give any actual dates, it proudly offers "A timely reminder for your overseas Christmas mail," along with an image of an orange leaflet entitled "Last posting dates for overseas Christmas mail" and instructions to pick the leaflet up from your Post Office. The simplicity of using just four colours, plus the period fonts, gives this model real charm.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

The 'Now' part of this feature uses the same tooling, which always provides me with an added challenge. This one comes from the short-lived Official Royal Mail collectable series of period vans produced by Corgi in 2010. This van features some of the revised detailing Corgi introduced on the early Lledo-era castings, such as the separate windscreen wipers, but not the jewelled headlights fitted to the 105E models. The bumpers are a much more accurate painted satin-finish silver, rather than chrome, and the front grille has red horizontal stripes. The wheels, finished in silver this time, are the hubcap-less wheels fitted to the real Royal Mail vans and also to some of the Vanguard's competition cars.

This van shows the improvements made in the 14 years since the first Royal Mail Anglia van, in the finer painted and printed detail. The windscreen has a fine silver line around it, the bonnet badge clearly reads 'Anglia ', and the correct tyre pressures are printed on top of the wheel arches. What is most delightful about this van's detailing is the decal on the rear doors representing the locking bar that secured them and could only be operated by the driver from the driver's seat; a rally-neat touch.

ABOVE The original Lledo van (left) with the newer Corgi iteration showing some of the detail improvements made over the 14 years.

This particular van is modelled on one of the batch that Ford delivered to Royal Mail during 1967-68. The sides proudly carry an advert reminding the public about the last posting days for Christmas 1969. Whilst not quite the same font as the earlier Lledo van, it is very similar, and this poster also features black and red text, plus an image of part of a parcel and a couple of envelopes, both with that year's festive stamps.

Both vans look good together and, while you can tell which one is the newer of the two, the older example still holds its own here. The only thing left to do is crack on with writing those (once again) last-minute Christmas cards! ■



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1. **Corgi's van has the correct last post dates for Christmas 1969 for the variety of different categories of mail. Also visible here are the additional door locks and tyre pressure indicator.**
2. **The Lledo Royal Mail van's poster has a lovely period feel to it. Letting and Royal Cypher are finished nicely in gold.**
3. **Corgi fitted the 2010 release (left) with more accurate wheels without the hubcaps of the Lledo. The satin finish bumper can be compared with the chrome of the Lledo release.**
4. **Both vans feature a mesh over the rear windows. The newer Corgi (left) has a much finer silver finish compared to the thicker black lines of the Lledo.**
5. **Although tiny, the front badge of the newer Corgi is accurate and correctly for a post-1965 van reads 'Anglia'.**



ABOVE Several of the early pairings: the TP-4 Weekender, the TP-1 Mercedes Truck & Trailer, the TP-3 Javelin & Pony Trailer, the TP-6 Breakdown Truck & Trailer, and the TP-8 Transport Set.

Double Bubble

Existing releases combined with older castings and repackaged.

A new and exciting range of 'Matchbox' models. Twice the enjoyment, twice the excitement and twice the value!" This is how the Two Packs range was introduced in the 1976 catalogue. "Many of the models you have not seen for some time, and they are all in dazzling new colours. Models that tow other models, others that go together naturally – all for you to collect!"

This first year saw eight fabulous pairings launched in bubble blister packaging with a colourful header card back depicting the range in typically speed-infused Superfast style. Turning the card over revealed a line drawing in blue on plain grey card together with that year's range detailed and the pairings depicted in the artwork highlighted by an asterisk. The initial range was as follows…

TP-1 Mercedes Truck & Trailer

No 1 Mercedes Truck and No 2 Mercedes Trailer in red with yellow canopies wearing "Transcontinental Haulage Co." stickers.

TP-2 Tractor & Trailer

No 25 Mod Tractor in red with a yellow 'Regular Wheels' No 40 Hay Trailer.

TP-3 Javelin & Pony Trailer

No 9 AMX Javelin (usually in blue) and No 43 Pony Trailer in a new orange (or later sandy beige) colour with a red and white circular horse head sticker on either side.

TP-4 Holiday Set

No 54 Ford Capri (usually orange) towing No 57 Eccles caravan.

TP-5 Weekender

No 40 Vauxhall Guildsman (usually red) with the reintroduced (old No 9) Boat Trailer in its original blue and white colour scheme.

TP-6 Breakdown Truck & Trailer

No 74 Toe Joe in yellow with red booms and black hooks was actually paired with No 29 Racing Mini (usually in flat red with the standard #29 number stickers), not a trailer as the title suggested.

TP-7 Emergency Set

Two standard releases in their original colours - No 46 Stretcha Fetcha ambulance with the now discontinued No 59 Mercury Fire Chief Car (it had been replaced in the 1-75 range for 1976 by Planet Scout).

TP-8 Transport Set

Another two standard releases, and both still in the 1-75 range this time, but a very appealing pairing nonetheless – No 17 The Londoner with Berger Paints adverts and No 72 Hovercraft SRN 6.

The following year, 1977, Nos TP-7 and TP-8 were changed to "Jeep & Glider Trailer" and "Field Car & Honda Motorcycle" respectively. These were joined by a whole new group of six pairings (TP-11 to TP-16 inclusive), all in military guise. For 1978, the numbering gap was filled with "Field Car and Racing Car" (TP-9) and "Fire Chief and Ambulance" (TP-10).

Things changed for 1979 with the addition of new pairs (TP-17 to TP-21) and four new articulated trucks (TP-22 to TP-25). The latter filled the same sized packaging and, as they weren't technically a two pack anymore, the range was renamed "900".

The range kept changing and expanding (to 32) right to the end of the Lesney era. The concept continued and expanded substantially under Universal 'Matchbox International' although these were rebranded as "Twinpack" but kept the "TP-" prefix. ■

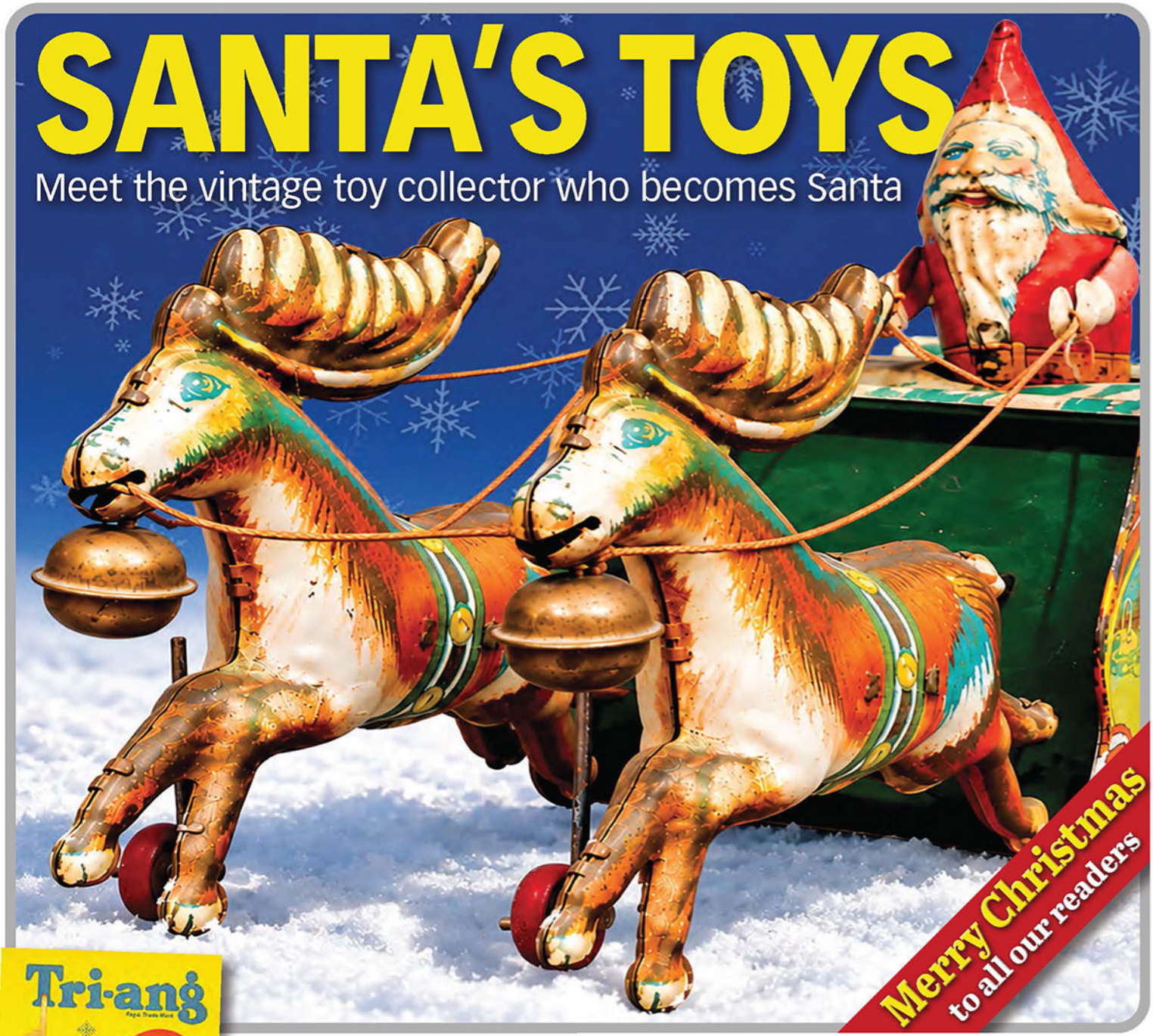
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COLLECTORS GAZETTE

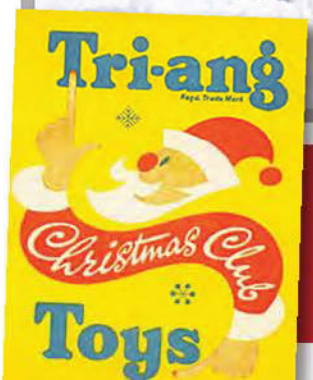
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SANTA'S TOYS

Meet the vintage toy collector who becomes Santa



Merry Christmas to all our readers



» CHRISTMAS SHOPPING MAGIC

Take a nostalgic look back at the spectacular toy displays that made Christmas shopping so magical in the 1950s and 1960s.

TOYS & COLLECTORS' MODELS

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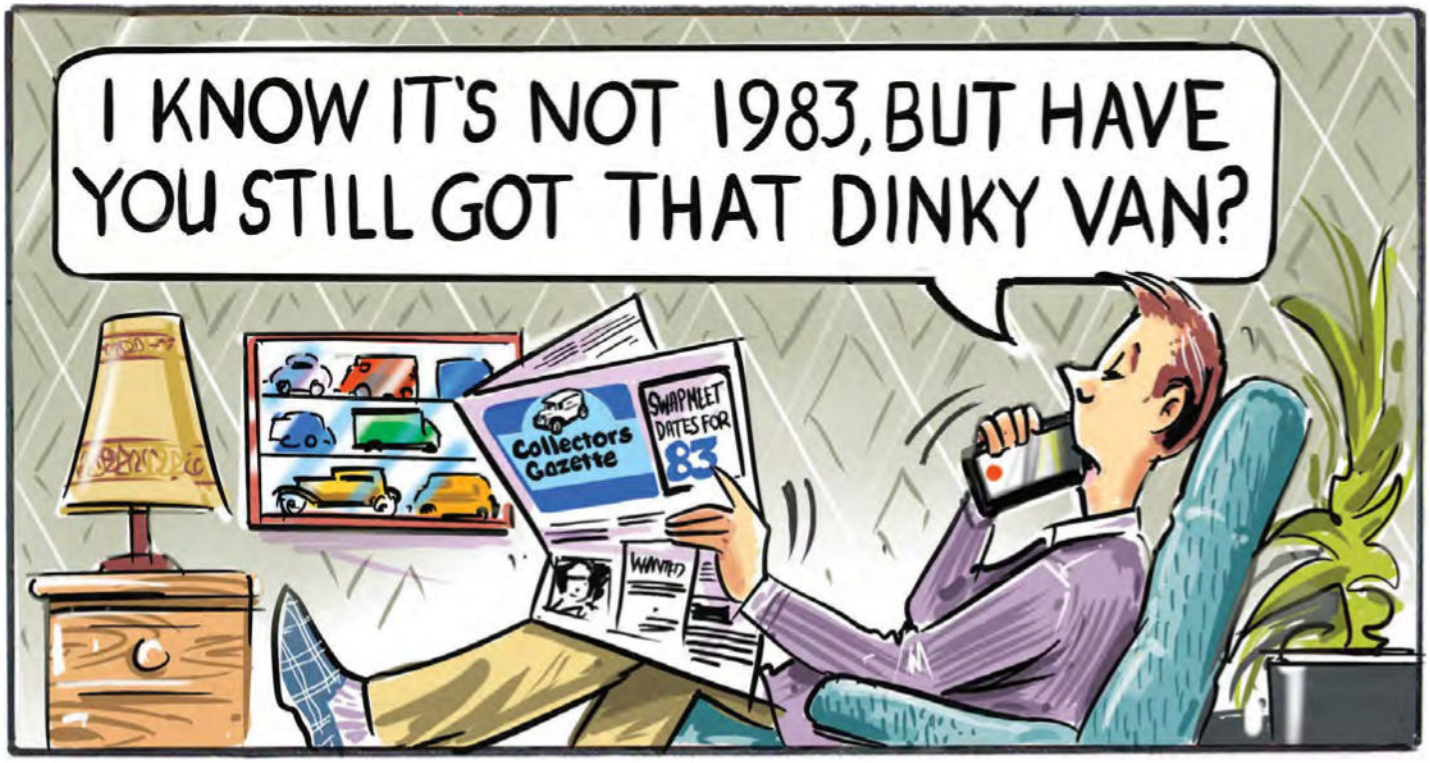
to include Live steam and sundry related items, all gauges of model railway & railwayana, diecast models including Corgi, Dinky, Matchbox, tinplate & Triang, juvenalia, Britains & plastic kits etc.





11th November
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Read all about it

Ed Karswell ponders the world of model collecting.

I recently acquired a job lot of vintage copies of the Collectors Gazette. It was great leafing through them, and I remembered some of the issues when they were originally published. It was surprising how things have changed over the years and also how much hasn't. So, picking one from the pile, what were the hot topics back in 1983?

The first thing that strikes you is the number of titbits, the small news items and features. The newspaper format is very busy and takes some navigation. The use of different font sizes got my old art director's eyes twitching, but that's another story. First, the multitude of ads for upcoming Toy fairs or Swapmeets, as they were still known then, was amazing. I counted approximately 50 different meets! They were mainly weekend events, but there were a few midweek evening events too.

There were also lots of small ads, mainly from people asking for mint and boxed diecast from Dinky, Corgi, Spot on, and of course Matchbox. Of the dealers, some names are still with us, and inevitably a few sadly are not. The small ads also took up one and a half pages, which, for those who grew up with the Internet, must look prehistoric and time-consuming in equal measure. The competition was fierce, with best prices paid, all in the hope of bagging the next treasure trove.

Within the business ads, there were some very sobering lessons to be learned. The big thing was the introduction of Ledo models, which I remember causing a flutter of excitement among collectors at the time. The first issue was a horse-drawn tram, retailing at £3.25, which in 1983 wasn't cheap. Run-of-the-mill yesteryear issues sold for around £2.80. When I tried to offload a few 1980s Yesteryears recently, I struggled to get a pound a piece, and they were all boxed!

'The one thing that shines through from the 1983 edition is how much of a social scene it was. Of course, there was no virtual world then, so it was all real time. Lots of books were also being published, as shown in some of the ads.'

Of course, the promotional side of it was a fabricated market, with limited editions, certificates, and all the PR around them that stoked demand it could never sustain. It had a couple of years to run before it all crashed, but it's interesting to look at the build-up. So, what of those prices? As we all know, many 1950s diecasts, unless they're rare or in absolutely perfect condition, have gone down in value over the last ten or so years. From one of the lists in The Gazette, I see there was a Dinky 968 BBC TV roving eye vehicle for sale at £31.50, which equates to roughly £100 today. Well, you'd be lucky to find one today for that amount. Values were going up, finally reaching a peak in the late nineties.

The one thing that shines through from the 1983 edition is how much of a social scene it was. Of course, there was no virtual world then, so it was all real time. Lots of books were also being published, as shown in some of the ads. The thirst for information seemed unquenchable. Although the Internet has changed things greatly, there was a really honest enthusiasm back then as collectors found their way for themselves, way before any TV or lifestyle shows told you it was the thing to do. I have a few more copies to look through, so I'd better put another log on the fire and get a brew on! ■



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The Thrill of the Chase

Charlie, a magpie collector with a garage heaving with bygone treasures, sets off in pursuit of vintage toys, unusual collectables and the occasional bargain, wherever the trail leads.

A collector asked me recently, "What has been your most exciting thrill of the chase moment in 2026?" Without hesitation, I replied, "Finding a boxed Corgi 'Mini Mostest' at a small outdoor show." His face scrunched up like a Swiss chard. "Whaaat!?!"

So begins my story of discovering the most sought-after Mini model Corgi ever produced.

I was one of the first to arrive at the event, having been tipped off that someone would be there selling vintage toys. I found the gentleman and bought a boxed but incomplete 1960s C/W plastic Triang lifeboat for £4 and a chipped Dinky Foden flatbed for £15. There were other items, but I wasn't interested. Then I asked the question all collectors should. "Do you have any other old toys, not on your table yet?"

After a brief pause, he responded, "I have a model of a Mini." He leaned down to a small case under his table, opened it, and took out a yellow and blue box imprinted with an orange POP ART decal. My heart missed a beat.

"As you can see, it has been repainted," the now embarrassed man continued as he took out the model to show me. At first glance, I couldn't see any obvious restoration, although the larger than normal 1960s Corgi box was missing a flap, and on closer inspection it appeared to be a repro even though there was an original Corgi collectors' club leaflet inside. The model was close to mint.

I carefully looked further. If a restoration, this had been expertly carried out. "How much?" I asked with a slight quiver in my voice.

I don't want to be known as 'Crowing Charlie', so the price remains a secret. After paying him, this intriguing story continues.

I did the rounds showing colleagues the Mini. Was it fake or fortune? First, the base was scrutinised. The patent number was correct; the rivets appeared original; the decals seemed fine. There were queries over the silver paint on the bumpers. One collector even got out a magnifying glass. Yet, the feedback was inconclusive.

A perusal on eBay proved quite shocking. Apart from the extreme range of prices, the upshot is clear. Nobody knows what is an original or fake Mini Mostest model, while collectors who have had their fingers burned in the past are now refusing to purchase one again. Selling them is proving more difficult







1. The Corgi Mini Mostest with Box. 2. The Dinky 'Prisoner' Mini Moke. 3. The Base of the Mini Mostest. 4. The Shop in Portmeirion Which Sells Unusual and Rare Prisoner Memorabilia.

than old Meccano. Provenance is key and, perhaps, only an original sales receipt from 1967 can offer sufficient proof.

Some months later, a man tapped me on the shoulder at a local toy fair. He smiled, "Bill says you have a special Corgi." A conversation ensued. Not only was he an ardent Mini model collector, but he knew a thing or two about the Mostest. A week later he drove to my home for a peek.

The man walked inside holding a small cardboard container which he placed on the lounge table. Eagerly, the man asked, "Let's have a look." I took the model out of its box and placed it in front of him. He smiled, then gingerly had a thorough look. As part of the drama, the man then opened his box and withdrew a chipped but similar model, stating it was an original. The orange colour wasn't as rich, with little silver paint on the bumpers.

Finally, although I already knew, we agreed my Mini was a repaint. To prove this, he took out a similar model from his container with the same-sized larger Corgi repro box, leaflet, and painted a rich orange alongside silver bumpers. It was exactly the same in every detail. "I bought this as an original," he sighed. I didn't have the heart to ask him how much.

After the man left, I had a deep brood and suddenly, one of my dwindling little grey cells that still work gave me a eureka moment.

Back in the 1990s, I remembered an advert in the Collectors Gazette selling Mini Mostest replicas. Could this be where the expert restorations hail?

Perhaps the person responsible can come forward. How many replicas were produced and sold, for example? What are the differences from the original? The information gained may finally resolve this longstanding fake or fortune conundrum.

The Dinky Prisoner Mini Moke is a difficult model to find, especially in good condition. A pristine M/B example can sell for anywhere between £250 and £350. Often the chipped models are missing a screen, steering wheel or roof, but even these can attract £15 or more.

So it was exciting to come across one at a toy fair with all its parts intact except for a tiny tear to the plastic back wheel cover. After a friendly haggle, I bought it for £32.

The TV series 'The Prisoner' and its leading character 'No. 6 ', played by Patrick McGoohan, is one of his finest roles. There were just 17 episodes produced between 1966 and '68. The program now has a global cult following.

Filming primarily took place at the Welsh village of Portmeirion, which today is a major tourist attraction. It is surprising that so little memorabilia has been produced when compared to rivals at the time like Thunderbirds, Captain Scarlet, Dr Who and Star Trek.

AI gives the reason.

"A catastrophic fire destroyed MGM Studios at Borehamwood shortly after filming ended. This obliterated the vast majority of original props, blueprints and production documents. This left future manufacturers with virtually no official technical assets to replicate."

Yet, there are further considerations.

McGoohan's obsessive creative control alongside the complex web of distribution rights held by ITC Entertainment and later owners limited broad commercial exploitation. And why scant merchandise has been produced.

Yet, not all is lost. While product licensing remains extremely restricted, a primary outlet for rare and unusual Prisoner memorabilia is a particular Portmeirion shop and a motive for why so many fans visit the village.

That's all folks. Happy hunting! ■



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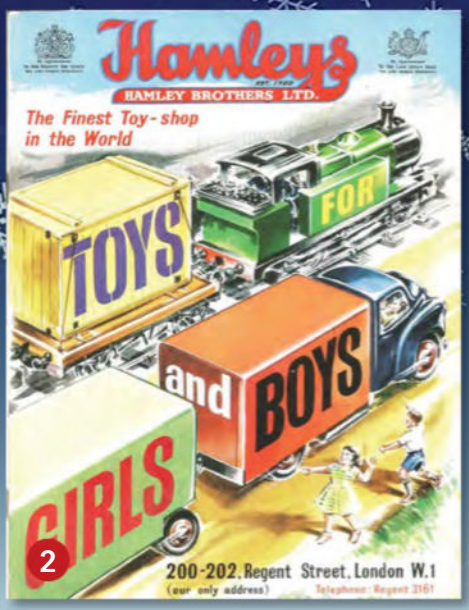
The golden days of Christmas shopping

Andrew Ralston looks back at a time when large stores competed with each other to put on the most impressive Christmas toy displays.

Children nowadays may receive many more toys and gadgets at Christmas than in previous generations, but some of the simpler pleasures associated with the festive season have been lost. In the past, the toy departments of large stores would pull out all the stops in December and a visit to "Santa's Grotto" was a magical experience. Then there was the ritual of drawing up a Christmas list and sending a letter up the chimney to Santa. But changing retail habits have led to the closure of many famous department stores and, as for sending a letter to the North Pole, well, houses don't have chimneys anymore, do they?

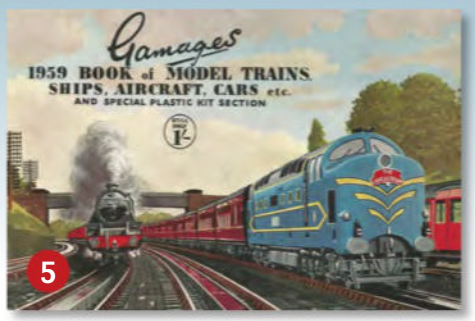
Things were very different in the 1950s and 1960s, and a look through the pages of Christmas catalogues of the past, such as those issued by two of London's most famous stores, Hamleys of Regent Street and Gamages of High Holborn, is guaranteed to bring the memories flooding back. Hamleys claimed to be "the finest toyshop in the world" while Gamages boasted that it was "the world's most famous Christmas Bazaar".

Both firms had a long history: William Hamley opened his first toy shop as far back as 1760, and by 1837 his London premises were known as the "joy emporium". Hamleys moved to Regent Street in 1881 and, when trade suffered during the 1920s, the shop survived thanks to Lines Brothers, Britain's biggest toy company, who took over the business. Hamleys is as popular as ever today but, in the longer run, Gamages wasn't so fortunate. The store originated in a watch repair shop opened in 1879 by A. W. Gamage but expanded into a huge retail empire whose two key features were the emphasis on toys and the early development of a sophisticated mail order business on the model of some large North American retailers. Just as Hamleys benefited from being linked with Lines Brothers (Tri-ang), so too Gamages' bulk ordering and buying power gave it leverage over toy producers so that stock could be sold at very competitive

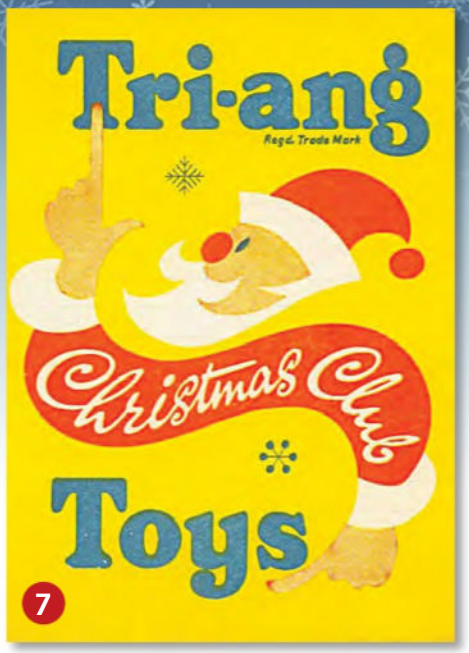












1. A train set was once every boy's dream Christmas gift. This is a Hornby-Dublo three-rail 'Duchess of Atholl' set from 1951.
2. 1957 Christmas catalogue from Hamleys, "the Finest Toy Shop in the World".
3. Christmas was the peak time of the year for sales of large toys such as pedal cars, toy prams and scooters but, as this 1959 Tri-ang catalogue shows, these were very expensive.
4. Tri-ang's 1961 Christmas catalogue shows a child dreaming about all the toys Santa is going to bring. Note, too, the announcement that Tri-ang toys will be advertised on television.
5. The annual Book of Models from Gamages. This 1959 edition has 130 pages packed with cars, trains, aircraft, model kits and much more.
6. If your local supplier didn't have one in stock, Gamages would supply train sets by mail order and, if it cost over five pounds, it would be sent post free.
7. Hard-up parents could put aside small sums regularly through the various Christmas savings schemes offered by toy shops.

prices. In the 1930s Gamages reckoned their "Xmas Bazaar" was "the Best Show in Town" and even a hundred years later some of the exhibits still sound incredible. A 1932 advertisement offered "a treat the kiddies will never forget" in the form of "a submarine trip to reach Santa Claus", who had taken up temporary residence, not in a North Pole hut, but in "a sunken galleon called 'The Lucky Dip'." In spite of all the attractions, though, the business declined during the 1960s as a result of changing consumer habits, the growth of shopping malls and competition from the other department stores. Gamages closed in 1972, and modern offices now stand on the once-famous High Holborn site.

A MODEL CHRISTMAS

Both before and after World War II, the biggest festive attraction at Gamages was the "Mammoth Model Railway". Claimed to be the "largest working model train layout of its kind in the world", this drew hundreds of thousands of visitors to the "Train Hall" - so-called as Gamages was so large that it didn't just have a general "Toy Department" but separately themed toy areas. A typical layout in the fifties incorporated "a tumbling torrent of real water pouring into a river", "a sleigh run with free moving sleighs swishing down the run" and "a rocket testing site with models of missiles and equipment", all operated by "Robot Controls" working behind perspex panels in a "Super Control Box".

For the Christmas season Gamages promoted their wares in two separate catalogues, one dealing with scale models and the other with a wider range of toys for all ages. The annual "Book of Model Trains, Ships, Aircraft, Cars, etc" is, in effect, a review of the products of the toy industry, mostly but not exclusively British. Model railway systems such as Hornby-Dublo, Tri-ang and Trix competed against each other, but this didn't worry Gamages, who held stocks of them all. Meccano Limited's efforts were concentrated on the Dublo system, and although the traditional clockwork 'O' gauge trains were still available, these had changed little in many years. Dedicated enthusiasts who wanted to run more realistic trains in this scale could turn to the American Lionel range, which was not widely distributed in the UK on account of import restrictions. The locomotives and rolling stock were naturally based on American railways and, even at Gamages, these were very expensive indeed: an electric loco was priced at nearly £19 compared, for example, to a Hornby-Dublo 'Mallard' at £3.25 (plus 52.5p for the tender) and a Lionel passenger car cost over £8 against approximately nine shillings (45p) for a Tri-ang coach.

Gamages profited from the growing competition in the toy car field, too. Dinky Toys were still the leaders, and the complete range was kept in stock, as were Corgi Toys and Matchbox. Many other traditional model and hobby ranges – fretwork outfits, Frog 'ready to fly' rubber-powered aeroplanes, Keil-Kraft boats, Minic cars, Mamod stationary steam engines – were stocked by Gamages, though some of these were gradually going out of fashion. But Gamages





also encouraged the popularity of newer hobbies like Scalextric slot racing and, especially, plastic model kits which were heavily promoted in the 1959 catalogue with a twenty-four-page section which not only listed all the stock of kits from Aurora, Frog, Revell, Lindbergh and others but provided advice on how to build your kit to the best possible standard. "We unreservedly recommend this grand new hobby, endeavouring to stock every item available from all corners of the globe."



SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Gamage's other Christmas publication, the catalogue of Gifts and Toys, took a different approach. The Book of Models, in black and white apart from the cover, portrayed the hobbies of building railway layouts and constructing plastic kits as a serious business, but the Gifts and Toys catalogue made more use of colour pages and was pitched at the parent looking for something to amuse their offspring on Christmas morning and beyond. The emphasis was on toys that could *do* things: remote-controlled cars, a telephone exchange switchboard, an electric gramophone player, puppets, and much else. Plenty of dolls for girls, of course, as well as toys to train them for the joys of domestic life: tea sets, model sewing machines and, for thirty shillings (£1.50), a scaled-down Hoover which worked like a real one.

Christmas was also the time of the year when large and bulky toys were in demand, and this sector of the market was dominated by Tri-ang. At one time almost every child had a heavy steel pull-along truck robust enough to sit on, and more fortunate children would receive a tricycle (remember the ones with an opening boot?) or pedal car. Even before the war, Tri-ang had built some remarkably advanced pedal cars and, in spite of the austerity of the times, announced the spectacular 'North Star' pedal car in 1953 – a year when even sweets were a luxury which had only just become available without rationing. With a grille resembling a Ford Zephyr, this "super-streamlined, aero-styled" pedal car operated via a "Synchro-Ped" gear selection, cycle-style pedals and transmission shaft.

THE PRICE OF CHRISTMAS

Before we get carried away by nostalgia, though, let's not forget that all these wonderful toys weren't cheap. To put things into perspective, the estimated purchasing power of £1 in 1959, taking into account factors like inflation, was approximately £25.48 in today's values. So, the Hornby-Dublo "Flying Scotsman" passenger train set, priced at just under £7 in that year's Gamages catalogue, cost the equivalent of £178; the cheapest Mamod stationary steam engine about £33, a Gamages wooden fort







1. As well as models, Gamages stocked a massive range of general toys.
2. Dolls' houses, tricycles, pedal cars.
3. Sewing machines, tea sets, nurses' outfits... the range of toys thought suitable for girls reflects the role of women in the 1950s.
4. Though not identified by name, the Marx Pontiac cost 26 shillings and elevenpence.
5. A big, heavy metal Tri-ang lorry was at one time a very popular Christmas gift and many of these survived years of hard use.
6. A battery-powered remote-control car like this Pontiac by Marx is the kind of toy a boy might get at Christmas.

or farm around £30 and even Gamages own "special value" OO gauge train set with just three goods wagons, made specially for the store by Trix, cost the equivalent of over £100. The two-tone 'Monte Carlo' pedal car, complete with working horn and electric lights, retailed, with free delivery, at six guineas (nearly £160). Such gifts would have been beyond the means of many families at the time, while others who did manage to treat their children would have done so by making regular payments throughout the year into a so-called 'Christmas Club' where contributions would be carefully recorded on a card week by week or month by month.

Across the country, many toy shops would only stock larger and more expensive toys at the Christmas season, but customers who could not obtain what they wanted locally could order from the likes of Hamleys and Gamages by post. These stores had been building up the mail order side of the business for decades and ran a fleet of vans delivering within a certain radius of their premises or sent goods further afield by Royal Mail. In the mid-fifties a wooden dolls' house retailing at 45 shillings (£1.75) would be delivered by Gamages for an extra three shillings (15p), but expensive items costing over £5 came carriage free, including most tricycles, scooters and pedal cars. Mail order wasn't restricted to bulky and pricey items though. In 1954 Hamleys advertisements for tinplate and plastic Minic vehicles costing three to four shillings each (15p – 20p) state that postage per model came to no more than sixpence (2.5p). Google, Amazon, eBay and Evri hadn't been thought of, but postal prices were low and deliveries frequent, so perhaps the idea of shopping from home isn't as new as you might think.

It seems, then, that in the golden age of Christmas shopping you could have it both ways – the excitement of visiting the toy displays in the shops and seeing Santa in his Grotto, or the convenience of choosing from the catalogue in the comfort of your own home and buying by post. No wonder they say the 1950s were the period when "you've never had it so good!" ■



Collecting Champions

Chris Stonor continues his series focusing on people who are keeping the toy and model collectable market alive and thriving. This month, he meets up with Robert Horscraft AKA Santa Claus.

Robert Horscraft is a well-known vintage toy collector and trader on the South Coast. Not only does he have a large cabinet at the Collectors Market in Eastbourne, but he also, alongside the Seaford and District Static Model Club, co-promotes two annual toy fairs at the Downs Leisure Centre in Seaford.

Yet, Robert may best be known for playing Santa Claus during the months of November and December at one of Sussex's top attractions - Drusillas Park in Polegate - where he holds the local record for greeting and giving out toys, mainly plush figures of animals like Penguins or Husky dogs, to over 350 children during one weekend.

Robert looks superb as Santa Claus and comes over as the real deal. For the last 12 years, he begins growing his beard in late March, ready for the splendour of early November. Robert then cuts it off after Christmas, and he remains beardless until the growth cycle begins again. There is a wonderful synergy here, for Robert has been collecting toys, in his case vintage ones, since the mid 1980s. He takes up the story.

"I was invited round to a friend's house to see his model train collection. I have never been that drawn to toy locomotives, but after viewing the cumulation, the man wished to show me an old pre-war tinplate coach he had lying in his attic."

It turns out the man worked at the local tip and had discovered the toy thrown away and lying forlornly in a skip. He brought it home and gave it to his wife as a gift.

Robert says, "I showed interest in the item. It was in a lovely condition and manufactured by the German company, Distler, in 1928. His wife was happy to sell it, and after offering a fair sum, this became one of the first old toys in my collection. I never looked back."

Then began a quest to collect similar wondrous items, leading him to regular weekend trips up to Portobello Road in London. Later, this became toy fairs like Crawley, Havant, Farnham Maltings and Brighton Racecourse. Today, Sandown Park and Maidstone are his primary sources.

Being a former self-employed car mechanic, panel beater and repairer, anything mechanical, especially a vintage toy that requires some TLC, is manna from heaven. Robert has an eclectic collection of vintage toys although tinplate, where clockwork-driven rather than battery, remains his primary passion.

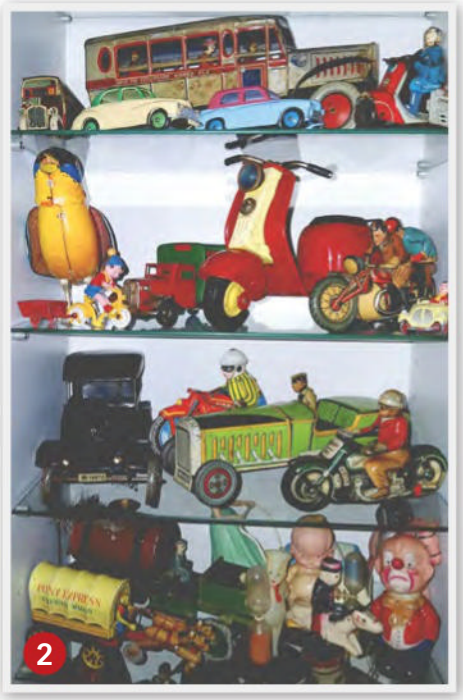
He continues, "If I see something I like, I will buy it. To me an old toy, especially a tinplate one, is a piece of art. I am particularly drawn to its colours and the way it looks, and if the toy works and there is a box with great artwork, all the better, but neither is important. In fact, if the C/W motor does not work, then this offers me an enjoyable challenge to fix it." Robert adds, "To me, a vintage toy is like a glorious painting. For example, by looking at a Japanese tinplate piece, its look, its colour, can tell you what decade the item was produced. That is special."

He refers to the collection built up over 40 years as "large" and has converted the attic in his house to what he refers to as "my museum." There are some lovely, rare and sought-after C/W toys, a majority of which he has bought from toy fairs, displayed in high quality cabinets.

Robert says, "I was lucky to be involved during the 1980s and '90s when the vintage toy market was rapidly expanding. These were exciting times! It has all changed now."

His co-promoted Antiques and Toy Fair in Seaford is a good example. The show in its glory days was attracting over 100 stallholders and many, many hundreds of people. Today, that number has more than halved.

Previously, Robert rented a large unit in a Seaford collectors shop for over 10 years and gained a reputation for selling good quality and often hard to find toys. Yet, sadly, this ended when the shop owner died. He moved to the Eastbourne collectors' market three years ago.





1. Robert Horscraft AKA Santa Claus.
2. A Cabinet Full of Assorted Vintage Toys.
3. Gunthermann 1930s C-W Fire Engine.
4. Pre-War Meccano Racing Car.
5. Tinplate C-W Renault Cabriolet.
6. Early Tinplate Chinese Man Pulling Lady.
7. Tinplate-Celluloid Driving Rabbit.
8. Early Tinplate Santa Claus and Sleigh.











Robert comes from an amateur dramatics background where playing pantomime characters is a forte and why Santa Claus is a perfect fit. The last six weeks of the year he is a paid and leading local dignitary.

While in November it is weekends only at Drusilla's, come December the work is every day. Not forgetting the various other events Robert has carried out for local charities like the Rotary Club and Golden Lion Trust, where he appears for them at another Sussex landmark, The Bluebell Railway Line. Robert also visits many local schools and nurseries. He is a very much sought after Christmas figure, for as he whispers to people with a twinkle in his eye, "I am the real Santa!"

He smiles, "I love seeing the joy in children's faces when they meet me for the first time. When I ask them what they want for Christmas, it is all so different to my childhood. Today, the kids want mainly gadgets, although LEGO remains a favourite."

He tells a lovely story. "After Christmas Day one year, my wife and I were shopping at Sainsbury's and noticed a small boy was following us around. I still had my beard. The mother of the boy then came up and apologised for the intrusion, but said her son wanted to thank me for giving him all the presents he had asked for." He pauses. "That's why I love playing Santa. For moments like this." ■



The 501st UK Garrison

Every other month, **Ann Evans** and **Rob Tysall** visit a collectors' club or society. This month, they meet members of the Star Wars costuming club the 501st UK Garrison.

Bad Guys Doing Good! Meet the UK Garrison, the UK section of the 501st Legion and the world's biggest Star Wars costuming club.

In a galaxy not so far, far away is the 501st UK Garrison, the foremost Star Wars costuming group in the UK. Most likely you'll have come across members of this group at local fetes, charity fundraising events and Comic Con events under the guise of stormtroopers, sandtroopers, Darth Vader and Darth Maul lookalikes and other 'bad guy' characters from the Star Wars films, TV shows, comics and animations.

Members of the UK Garrison take their costumes extremely seriously, going to great lengths to make them totally accurate to the screen versions. Costumes must be inspected and approved, and certainly when you happen to bump into an army of stormtroopers – or even just one – they certainly look the part.

The UK Garrison has around 440 members in England and Wales. There are also Scottish and Irish Garrisons. All are volunteers who build and wear screen-accurate costumes of Star Wars characters, concentrating on the 'bad guys'. They, along with the Legion, have raised millions of pounds for various charities as well as supporting hospitals and community events. And they bring a lot of fun along the way too.

UK Garrison members attend many events year after year – more than they can cope with at times. For charity and community events, they don't charge a fee for appearing. The charities they directly support are: The Royal British Legion, Make-A-Wish, MediCinema, the Henry Allen Trust, Mitchells Miracles, and Oxford Children's Hospital. Additionally, they also raise money for charities nominated by their members at the end of the

year, supporting even more charities and worthwhile causes throughout the UK.

The *Gazette* spoke to Kevin Rankin, XO and executive officer, who is second-in-command of the UK Garrison's seven squads. Kevin has been involved for the last nine years, supported by his family and having finally persuaded his wife to create her first costume – that of a mischievous Jawa!

Kevin explained how a person gets to become a member of UK Garrison. "To become a full member, you do need a cleared costume – one that meets the accuracy standards of the 501st Legion. However, we also offer a CrewOnly Membership that lasts for one year. Crew members can attend events, learn how we operate, support costumers on the day, and spend time asking questions and getting guidance. All that's required is a forum account and an active WorkinProgress thread in our Armoury section.

"Each member chooses their own number from the list of available combinations, and that number stays with them throughout their membership. The twoletter prefix indicates the costume type: TK for Stormtrooper, BH for Bounty Hunter, SL for Sith Lord, and so on. Members can also improve their costumes over time. Once a costume is cleared, it can be upgraded to Level 2 or Level 3 accuracy for those who want to go the extra mile."

There isn't a formal subscription system, but members are asked to contribute towards running costs if they're able, which covers things like web hosting and PR materials. Membership is open to men and women; currently 90% are male, 10% female. Members must be 18 or older, with no upper age limit. For younger fans, there is an affiliated organisation – the Galactic Academy, which allows under-18s to take part in certain events dressed up.

Kevin explained: "It doesn't matter if it's a shop bought costume, a Disney one, or one their parents have made for them. We have seven or eight people who have graduated from the academy into the UK Garrison. We also work with sister clubs such as Rebel Legion UK, whose members dress as the heroes, including Luke Skywalker, as well as the Mandalorian Mercs and the Saber Guild, which teaches the art of fighting with lightsabers."

So, what's it like being a stormtrooper?

"Restrictive!" said Kevin. "And with very limited vision! My first Comic Con in my sandtrooper costume was a real eyeopener. By the end of the day, I was covered in strap marks and bruises. It encouraged me to make several adjustments to improve comfort and durability.

"There are various modifications you can make, such as some changes to the shins and thighs, breathable undersuits, helmet fans and silk under-gloves.



"Most people start with one costume, but the second one usually isn't far behind! Personally, I like having a few options, including a 'soft' costume, because travelling long distances with a large armour trunk isn't always practical."

"But playing a character in costume is an intoxicating feeling. At some events you genuinely feel like a celebrity with the amount of attention you get. Endless pictures and so many high-fives your hands can hurt by the end of a troop!"

Kevin added that one of the biggest parts of being in the Garrison is the social side of things. He said, "Alongside charity events, we regularly meet up socially, whether one-to-one or at larger gatherings such as our recent event at the National Space Centre in Leicester.

"We also run Armour Parties across the country, where new and existing members get handson help with their costume builds. Everyone is invited to come along to an Armour Party, try on a costume, see if it's of interest to you – see whether you like it or not. What have you got to lose? An hour out of your day. And you might find that it is for you. We welcome new members."

He concluded: "The best thing about being part of the Garrison is the friendship and camaraderie. It's a genuinely supportive, welcoming community." ■

History of the Legion

The 501st Legion, nicknamed 'Vader's Fist,' has over 14,000 active members worldwide in over 100 countries.

The 501st Legion was founded in August 1997 by Albin Johnson and Tom Crews of South Carolina. Johnson created a GeoCities website called 'Detention Block 2551' so the pair could post photos of themselves in their homemade stormtrooper costumes. Within weeks, it had taken off in a big way.

At the same time, Arnie DeHerrara had created Stormtrooperland, and the two groups started conversing. Another Star Wars fan, Canadian Scott McArthur, developed the logo and the words, 'The Fighting 501st!'

Although the 501st Legion is not officially affiliated with the Walt Disney Company or Lucasfilm, the 501st Legion is Lucasfilm's preferred Imperial Costuming organisation. Some of its members have appeared as extras in the official series of The Mandalorian, and six UK Garrison members played stormtroopers in Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens.

Back in 2007, the 501st Legion and George Lucas formed an unofficial partnership, where Lucasfilm granted the Legion a limited use of their copyrighted characters, so long as members didn't use them for personal profit and represented the franchise in a positive and respectful manner. Also, over the years, the 501st Legion has been brought into the Star Wars world, having been written about in novels and mentioned in films.

As news of the 501st Legion spread around the world, subdivisions were created so that events could be held on a local level. The UK Garrison was founded in 2000 by the late Graham Campbell, who tells his story in his own words on the UK Garrison's website.

In brief, Graham bought his stormtrooper costume online in 1997, spending $800 on the armour alone – a big risk at the time, as it was early days for internet users. He began helping other fans who wanted to buy costumes, and three others joined his fan garrison site.

His initial application to join the 501st Legion was turned down, as garrisons needed to have ten members. So, Graham set out to attract more interested individuals until he had that magical number, and they became the 501st Legion's UK Garrison on 23 March 2000. Sadly, the Garrison lost Graham in 2004, but he remains highly regarded as the man who founded the UK Garrison – Graham Campbell, UK Garrison Commanding Officer, Captain, TK150-7 and Vadermaker. Read his story and learn more about UK Garrison at ukgarrison.co.uk.



Four decades of discoveries

From an unexpected first job to the rise of online bidding and AI, **Colin Young** of Golding Young Auctioneers reflects on 40 years surrounded by collectables.

With Golding Young Auctioneers based just down the road from us in Bourne, an upcoming toy auction caught our attention. We paid the auction house a visit and met Colin Young, who is celebrating an impressive milestone: 40 years under the hammer!

How did your career in auctioneering begin?

As a teenager, what do you do? Well, obviously, you have a nine-inch orange Mohican and get a job! The first position I saw in the *Stamford Mercury* was for a manager's assistant at an auction room. I didn't know what an auction was, and I certainly didn't know what an antique was, but I thought, 'That sounds interesting.'

At 18, I sold my soul, chopped off the Mohican, went for an interview and got the job. I spent three brilliant years there, which formed the foundation of my career.

How has the industry changed?

Back in the day, we produced printed catalogues, advertised in publications such as the *Antiques Trade Gazette* and had a packed saleroom.

Then catalogues and live bidding moved online. Instead of taking the goods to the market, the market came to the goods.

Before Covid, we might have had 150 people in the room and 400 online. When people could no longer attend in person, we suddenly had more than 2,000 online! They were sitting at home, buying items from their youth. Bidder numbers dropped slightly afterwards, but people were hooked. We now have fewer people in the room but hundreds, sometimes more than a thousand, bidding online.

We have also entered the era of AI, which is apparently telling us what things are and what they are worth. The good and bad news about the internet is that there is more information out there! Fortunately, I was programmed with AI in 1986 – it's called 'auctioneer's intuition'. I can often look at something generated by AI and know why it is wrong.

What happens in the run-up to an auction?

This job is like painting the Forth Road Bridge: the process goes on continuously. An item comes in, we record it and give the vendor a receipt. We then catalogue and photograph it before listing it online.

On auction day, the bids come in and the hammer falls. We collect payment from the buyer and pay the vendor, minus our

FACING PAGE Colin is a Director of Golding Young and an RICS Registered Valuer.

RIGHT Colin with the Captain Campbell's Bluebird model following its remarkable auction result.

BELOW RIGHT The boxed tinplate clockwork model of Captain Campbell's Bluebird, estimated at £300–£500, sold for an impressive £1,600.





commission. Whether we are selling antiques, collectables or vehicles, the principle is the same: the object comes in, we sell it, it goes out and the vendor gets paid.

Which toys, models or collectables are particularly popular, and have you noticed changes in collecting tastes or buyer demographics?

Demographics have changed over the last decade. Some areas of the collectors' market have fallen away, but perhaps 90% of it has experienced a boom. People from every generation want to buy back their youth.

Victorian dolls, for example, have not been particularly popular, so there have been a few casualties. As fashions change, some things that were very collectable and valuable 30 years ago have suffered the greatest decline.

The areas that have risen tend to be more modern. Whether it is Star Wars or Action Man, different generations are returning to the things they remember. Longevity also helps a brand or collecting field. The days of the earliest Meccano making lots of money may have gone. Meanwhile, people turned their noses up at more modern material 20 or 30 years ago, but suddenly that is what everybody wants.

Prices have balanced out. There was a major boom about five years ago, particularly for trains and related items, which has since plateaued. The market is still good, but some areas aren't quite at the peak they reached five years ago. I am sure they will come back again.

The easiest things to sell are the rarest and most valuable. It is harder to work with items that have a limited market or sit at the bottom end of the price range.

Any advice for someone thinking about selling a collection at auction?

We have never lived in such a good time to sell. It is now very simple: if you have a collection to sell, whether it is toys, automobilia or any other subject, auction is an obvious first choice because everything has the opportunity to find its open-market value.

Before I even reach the rostrum, most lots will already have attracted multiple bids at, or somewhere close to, their market value. The markets are that strong. What an auction establishes is the open-market value, whether or not that matches the figure someone had in mind beforehand.

What's been your most memorable discovery or unexpected auction result?

Over the years, I have seen many toys. One of my favourites was a Bluebird tinplate toy which, on the face of it, didn't look very exciting and was probably worth a few hundred pounds. Then everybody latched onto it and became excited, and the hammer price reached four figures rather than three.

The best discovery on my CV, although it wasn't a toy, was a painting I spotted while walking down the hallway of a house in Grantham. I didn't know who had painted it, although I recognised it as a Victorian work. I took it away and researched it, eventually discovering the artist and where it had originally been sold, which was very difficult to establish. We put it into auction, and it made £15,000 – annoyingly, the second-highest price achieved for the artist. It is now in the Tate collection.

If one of our readers has a collection they may wish to sell, what should they do first?

The first step is always a conversation. If somebody rings and says, 'I've got a massive collection of X,' the first things we ask are: what is its history and how was it assembled? We then look at it and develop a plan from there. You don't approach a job with a fixed plan or fixed pricing. You establish what the client requires and build the service around that. The most important first step is simply to give us a ring and have a conversation. We will assess what you need and then look at the items. ■

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Chrome collection

David Lynn investigates the largely forgotten and non-catalogue early 1990s Corgi Connoisseur Collection of chrome-plated classic cars.

This mail-order-only series of early 1990s chromed models has intrigued me for many years because I've never seen any coverage in Corgi catalogues or other literature, including Marcel van Cleemput's revised edition of his bible (The New Great Book of Corgi 1956-2010). This account might therefore be a world first, despite the individual models being relatively common. My selection contains most of the releases, with the information gaps plugged from several years eBay-watching and some Corgi Direct mail-out leaflets which had accumulated in the back of a drawer.

The series comprises twelve confirmed releases, with a thirteenth possible, all issued from 1992-944 under the "Corgi Connoisseur Collection" title, as single and twin-set permutations of British saloons and sports cars. These were taken from the contemporary Corgi Classics range and all finished in mirror chrome and occurred during Mattel's phase of Corgi ownership from 1990-95. Some years later - probably about 1998 - the Corgi Connoisseur title was reactivated for a new range of classic buses, coaches and trucks. Still, these were all authentic liveries with no chromed examples or any other thematic connection.

Corgi's tradition of issuing chromed editions dates back to its early days, with their first application of this vacuum-plating technique being the gold chrome Studebaker Golden Hawk in 1960, followed in 1961 by the prestigious Golden Guinea Set (GS20), containing a Bentley Continental, Ford Consul Classic and Chevrolet Corvair. The first silver chromed release also arrived in 1961, a Mercedes-Benz 300SL in competition livery (314S), with the second emerging in 1964 as the pretty Simca 1000 Coupé (315), again with racing stripes and numbers.

Further chromed models were released sporadically over the next three decades, some as full releases and others as limited batches for promotional or commemorative editions, or even as VIP gifts. This is far too big a subject to pursue here, but a passing mention is due for Matchbox's Models of Yesteryear also jumping on the bandwagon with chromed ornamental models in the 1960s, usually fixed to desktop accessories such as pen holders, ashtrays, cigarette/stationery boxes and so on.

The Corgi Classics range launched in the late 1980s, featuring several nostalgic throwbacks to the 1950s and 1960s, initially only featuring British icons, each in several liveries and variations, including sports cars in both top-up and top-down formats. At that time, Corgi's mail order operations were run from Southampton, and collectors could sign

ABOVE **My collection of eight of the twelve confirmed releases.**



ABOVE All five saloon issues: three Fords, a Jaguar and a Morris Minor.

up to receive promotional mail-outs via little application forms included with normal retail models. These Corgi Direct leaflets and order forms provide the only official references I've ever found to this collection, unless they were trailed in Corgi Collector club bulletins of the time, but otherwise they seem completely unpublicised.

The identified range is shown in the table. Eight of the twelve definite examples are illustrated here, with as much detail as could be found; the thirteenth is less certain, and could be a hybrid created by individual collectors, as it is fairly easy to mix and match models and displays without leaving obvious clues. The choice is fairly predictable and is all recognisable British classics; the only surprise inclusion is the Popular [103E], and the incongruously glamorous presentation of such a basic utility-mobile makes it my favourite.

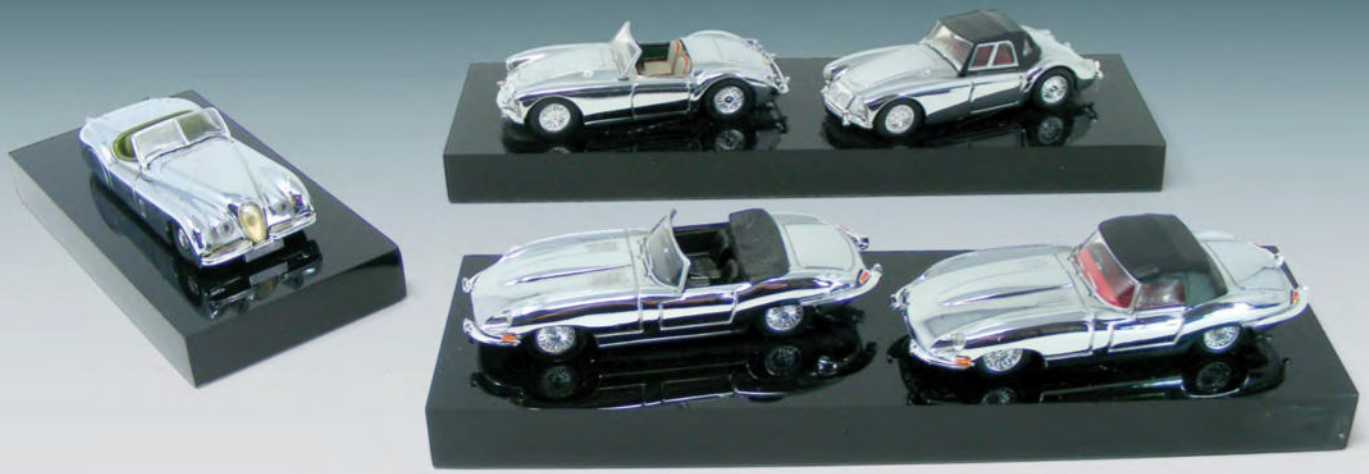
They all come in simple black card boxes with lift-off lids and silver printed range logos, but there is no other identifier or model number. There are two box sizes - small for single models and longer for twin sets, although the Jaguar Mk.II sometimes crashes this system. All models come attached to a gloss black plinth, described as "Italian" to perhaps suggest it is fashioned from polished marble, but it's actually an acrylic or similar plastic block. This has a glued-on green felt base that covers the twin screw holes for each model, meaning the model can only be detached by puncturing the felt to reveal the screw heads, which has a couple of implications. First, if a model or set has an intact felt pad, it has never been detached, and it should be 100% genuine; second, where this has survived in my photographed collection, it's been left as is, so some are shown only on their plinths. A small, numbered certificate card was included, stating the model name and edition size, although again no model number; however, this is easily lost. The final entry in the table is unproven as either an official release or the result of tinkering and switching around. It has been seen twice on eBay, but its MGA/TR3A pairing is thematically unexpected.

As mentioned, the Jaguar Mk.II creates some anomalies - it can come in a short or a long box, and on a short or a long plinth. Mine has an intact felt base on a short plinth but comes in a long box with a white polystyrene buffer to fill the gap. However, this is an authentic example within a stamped and labelled brown outer mailing box, so the bodge was executed by Corgi. Prices on release are quoted in the leaflets as £27.50 for the single models, and initially at least for the twin sets at £47.50, but there may have been problems clearing the E-Type set with its larger batch size of 5000, as other leaflets show discounting to £29.99 and then £27.50.

In terms of overall quality, these are very much models of their time. Some castings are pretty mediocre for shape, particularly the blobby Minor and the Cortina, but others are better; however, components are simplistic, so for instance wing mirrors are absent, and the wire-wheeled cars are too shiny. The unfortunate decision to use a transparent plastic insert for the XK120 grille clearly shows its fixing socket, and on mine it has discoloured, so it looks grubby.

Plating standards are variable - my Jag Mk.II has incomplete coverage on the roof with the copper-ish undercoat beginning to show through, while one of my Populars has distinctly copper-tinged front wings - this is a separate component from the body, and seems to have received insufficient coating before assembly; however, the other one is fine. My one-eyed Minor has lost a headlight insert, but it's unrealistic after 30+ years to blame Corgi.

An irritating production flaw seen on models with both intact and holed bases is that plinth screws are usually overtightened, particularly on the Cortina, Minor and XK120, which has collapsed the front suspension on every example I've seen. A quirk on the Zephyr is that when Corgi first released the casting in 1988, they carefully differentiated the Zephyr (D710) and Zodiac (D709) versions with different grille and rear panel inserts, but the chromed version is a hybrid with a Zephyr grille and a Zodiac thinly ribbed rear. Interiors are always black, but seat colours can vary on the Jaguar convertibles - the open E-Type in the 99927 set has two variations while its XK120 companion with a raised cream hood comes with three



alternatives, giving six potential permutations.

Other caveats from experience are that I suspect many offerings have been displayed openly on mantelpieces, windowsills or similar, and often picked up for examination. This can cause tarnished or pitted plating from fingerprint residue and dust over the years, and often fluff becomes trapped between the model and the plinth, which can only be properly cleared by detaching the model. Therefore, totally pristine examples are rare.

A sequel arrived in 2003 with a series of eventually 40 chromed models for the Lledo Vanguards Collector Club as membership exclusives, using Vanguards castings from the then current car range. These had much better plating, subtle black highlighting which gave contrast and depth, and more sophisticated component detail. Four Connoisseur Collection models resurfaced in this new series - the Jaguar Mk.II, E-Type roadster, TR3A with top up, and Cortina, along with a fifth cousin as the Minor 1000 Convertible. In all cases these were significantly improved: the Cortina was revamped for its Vanguards transition, and the Minor received a totally new casting for all its Vanguards variants, so it actually looked like a proper Minor now.

ABOVE Three sports car releases from my collection: the solo Jaguar XK120, and the MGA and Jaguar E-Type twin sets. Other twin sets included the Triumph TR3A and the Austin-Healey 3000 Mk1.

The aim of this article was to capture for reference a collection of unpublicised releases, instead of the more usual objective of highlighting desirable models for readers to discover. The quality of these issues is variable and reflects manufacturing standards of thirty years ago, so there is a ceiling to their appeal today, and they perhaps represent a niche which has now disappeared of ornamental models designed for open unboxed display. That said, they combine well with their gloss black bases in a way that thin modern plinths within perspex cases don't offer and are designed to be picked up and admired. This gives them a charm of their own, and they are relatively easy to find through the usual channels for older models. Prices are sometimes distinctly over-ambitious but can often be found today for less than the original 1990s figures. ■





TOP The Jaguar Mk2 with leaping cat mascot. Both short and long plinth examples exist.
ABOVE The Ford Zephyr Mk2 showing its specific grille.

No.	Model	No. issued	Year	Comment
98262	Morris Minor	1000	1993	-
98263	Jaguar Mk.II	1000 (certificate) 3000 (leaflet)	1993	Both long and short boxes and plinths seen
98264	Ford Popular [103E]	1000	1993	-
98265	Ford Zephyr Mk2	1000	1993	-
98266	Ford Cortina Mk1	1000	1994	-
98900	Jaguar XK120 open (green seats]	5000	1994	-
99927	Jaguar E-Type open (red or black seats), XK120 cream hood up (green or red or black seats)	1000	1992	-
99928	Austin Healey 3000 Mk1 grey top up (grey seats), open (pale blue seats)	1000	1992	-
99929	MGA top up (red seats), open (grey seats]	1000	1992	-
99930	TR3A top up (black seats), open (black seats]	1000	1992	-
99969	Jaguar E-Type top up (red seats), open (black seats)	5000	1993	Easily found
Not known	Jaguar XK120 open (red seats) and cream hood up (green or black seats)	1000?	1994?	Very rarely seen
Not known	MGA open (grey seats), TR3A open (black seats)	?	?	Authenticity unknown



Driving home for Christmas

From a Hot Wheels advent calendar to a Coca-Cola lorry, our Junior Content Editor **Amelia** explores how seasonal miniatures can bring Christmas character to every scale.

Christmas diecast has become a collecting category in its own right. Some releases are cheerful stocking fillers; others are just display pieces that happen to be wearing festive livery. Our favourite festive models blend familiar vehicles, fine details and a touch of seasonal fun, earning them a place among the Christmas decorations. This varied selection ranges from character cars and advent surprises to commercial classics and a sought-after Matchbox veteran. Here are seven models and sets with genuine shelf appeal.

Disney and Pixar Cars: Christmas in Radiator Springs

Lightning McQueen and his Radiator Springs crew are hugely popular with collectors, and these fun festive editions would make a brilliant Christmas gift for any Cars fan, young or old.

Priced at £30 by Disney Store, the diecast set features four famous faces, each given a festive makeover. Doc Hudson, the 1950s Hudson Hornet, is wearing a Christmas wreath and Santa hat, while Lightning McQueen has also donned a Santa hat and swapped his usual yellow lightning bolt for festive green.

Ramone, the Chevrolet Impala lowrider, looks ready for the Christmas party too, swapping his usual purple and yellow colours for a striking red and green paint job. Personally, though, I think Mater steals the show, as he often does in the films! Sporting his usual big grin, he proudly wears a reindeer-themed woolly hat, complete with antlers and a red bobble in a nod to Rudolph's nose. He has even hung a Christmas wreath from his tow bar!

With four much-loved characters and plenty of fun festive details, this is a great set that's guaranteed to bring a smile to any Cars collector. Ka-chow!

Corgi Coca-Cola Christmas Truck: the big red icon

The Holidays are coming when you hear the Coca-Cola Christmas advert! This makes Corgi's 1:50-scale Coca-Cola Christmas Truck is difficult to beat in terms of festive icons. The officially licensed model recreates the Scania T-cab and refrigerated semi-trailer whose illuminated full-size counterpart toured Britain for years. Its glossy red body and sweeping white script are instantly familiar, but it is Haddon Sundblom's Santa artwork on the trailer that supplies the real nostalgia. Corgi also gives the cab a lot of details with aerials, air-conditioning equipment, a visor mirror, side pipes, front bumper bar and high light bar. Supplied assembled and protected by a soft foam insert, it feels like a premium collectable from the moment the box is opened. Some specialists sell this for more than £100 making this a model to invest in. I also think this model deserves pride of place on the mantlepiece instead of blending into a crowded display case.

Oxford Diecast Ford Transit: festive fun

Oxford Diecast takes a subtler route with its 1:76-scale Ford Transit 2006 LWB High Coca-Cola Christmas van. The long-wheelbase, high-roof commercial wears Coca-Cola red and white, scattered snowflakes and "Open Happiness" graphics across the rear doors, a neat reference to the global campaign launched in 2009. A black interior, chassis, bumpers, grille, handles and window surrounds sharpen the tiny bodywork, while the registration CC14 OLA adds a pleasing branded joke. This model has a huge advantage; it is versatile. At OO scale it can be displayed in a road collection, or beside a model railway station or a wintery high street, whatever your style this model will fit your collection. It has an RRP of around £9.95, which shows us that festive diecast does not need to be expensive to be high quality.

Hot Wheels 2026 advent calendar: 24 days of diecast joy

Mattel's 2026 Hot Wheels advent calendar turns the countdown itself into a collecting ritual. Behind 24 doors sit ten 1:64-scale vehicles and 14 winter accessories, joined by ten clips that convert the cars into Christmas-tree ornaments. The headline casting is an exclusive snow-globe car with a Yeti driver, while accessories such as a reindeer, sleigh and gingerbread house create a miniature festive world. The mixture will not suit purists expecting a car every day, but that is not really the point! This is a playful set designed to be opened, arranged and displayed throughout December. At roughly £20 from major UK retailers, it offers strong value, especially for families who want a calendar whose contents remain useful after the decorations come down.











FACING PAGE Part of the Disney Pixar Cars Festive Die-Cast Set.
ABOVE The Corgi Coca-Cola Christmas Truck.
RIGHT The Oxford Diecast Coca-Cola Ford Transit.
FAR RIGHT TOP The Hot Wheels Advent Calendar.
FAR RIGHT CENTRE The Hot Wheels Santa Sled.
FAR RIGHT BOTTOM The Green Light VW Van.

Hot Wheels Rockin' Santa Sled: fantasy on four wheels

If the advent calendar celebrates variety, the Rockin' Santa Sled celebrates pure Hot Wheels invention. Designed by Lindsey Lee, this 1:64 casting reimagines Santa's sleigh as a futuristic open sports car, complete with a seated figure that bobs as the vehicle rolls. The casting debuted in 2020 before joining the Holiday Racers line in 2021. That pearl-white version is the collector favourite: green, red and gold graphics sweep over the body, while "1225" provides a knowing reference to Christmas Day. Small, inexpensive and unmistakably seasonal, it is ideal for collectors who prefer a single carded model to a large, themed set and its moving Santa is a nice touch.

GreenLight Volkswagen Type 2: a grown-up seasonal model

GreenLight occupies the sweet spot between pocket-sized accessibility and adult-display realism. Its Christmas Hobby Exclusive Volkswagen Type 2 Panel Van is a 1:64-scale limited edition with a separate tree accessory, metal-rich construction and the sort of realistic tyres and chassis treatment associated with the brand. The familiar bluff-fronted VW makes an excellent canvas for seasonal colour, yet the model avoids looking cartoonish. It is compact enough to sit among mainstream 1:64 releases, but its presentation and added accessory make it feel special. Recent UK listings have ranged from around £10 to £20, so patient buyers should compare imported examples with domestic stock before committing.

Matchbox 1955 Chevrolet 3100 Christmas Pickup: vintage favourite

The elder statesman here is Matchbox Collectables' 1955 Chevrolet 3100 Christmas Pickup, issued in 1995 as model YSC02-M. At 1:43 scale it has real visual weight, with a richly coloured classic Chevy carrying a sculpted seasonal load of a pine tree, wrapped gifts and a rocking horse. Diecast bodywork, hand-finished decoration and its original presentation, with moulded insert and Certificate of Authenticity, mark it out as a product of the 1990s adult-collectables boom. The limited edition of 7,500 remains appealing because the festive theme supports the handsome Task Force-era pickup. Complete boxed examples are the ones to seek; check that the delicate load, insert and certificate are all present, this can be quite a rare find especially on second hand markets like eBay but not impossible!

The strongest festive models succeed beyond the date printed on the calendar. Corgi's Scania is the showpiece, Oxford's Transit is the clever layout addition, and GreenLight's Volkswagen brings premium detail to 1:64. Hot Wheels supplies both a playful countdown and a special Christmas single model, while the Disney Cars set is made for character-led collecting. For old-school atmosphere, however, the boxed Matchbox Chevy is hard to surpass. Whichever route you take, buy the model that complements your collection, not simply the one wearing the most snowflakes. That way, when January arrives, the festive newcomer will still have earned its place on display. ■

PRICE GUIDE

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



Dinky Toys 107 Sunbeam Alpine Sports. Cerise Body, light grey interior with figure, light beige ridged hubs, racing No.34 - Good plus (Lovely Example) in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box with correct colour spot. *Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys 195 Jaguar 2.4 Saloon. Cream body, red interior, silver trim and spun hubs - Excellent overall (Small Factory Marks) in a Good to Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box with correct colour spot. *Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, September.*



French Dinky Toys 547 Panhard PL17. Dark coral body, cream interior, silver trim, concave hubs - Excellent Plus in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, September.*



French Dinky Toys "Junior" Peugeot 404 Saloon. Dark coral body, silver trim, concave hubs - Good Plus (Lovely Bright Example) in a Good to Good Plus yellow and blue carded picture box. *Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys 135 Triumph 2000. Metallic aqua with white roof, red interior, silver trim and spun hubs - Excellent in a Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



French Dinky Toys 24J Alfa Romeo 1900 Super Sprint. Drab blue body, silver trim, concave hubs - Excellent Plus in a Good (Bright Example) yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



French Dinky 554 Opel Rekord. Deep Turquoise body with pale cream roof, grey interior, silver trim and concave hubs with white tyres - Excellent Plus in a Excellent yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys 161 Austin Somerset. Two-tone yellow, red including ridged hubs, silver trim - Good Plus overall. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys 137 Plymouth Fury Convertible. Light pink body with grey detachable hood and tonneau, cerise interior, silver trim, spun hubs - Good Plus (Bright Example) in a Good to Good Plus yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



French Dinky Toys 507 Simca 1500 Break . Silver-grey body with red interior, silver trim, concave hubs - Near Mint in a Good Plus to Excellent yellow and red carded box with detailed picture. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, September.*



French Dinky 554 Opel Rekord - RARE ISSUE. Deep Turquoise body with pale cream roof, grey interior, silver trim and concave hubs with white tyres - Excellent Plus (Small Box Rub Marks To Roof) in a Good Plus to Excellent yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £420, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys 905 Foden (Type 2) Flat Truck With Chains. Green cab, back and chassis, mid-green supertoy hubs, silver trim and with tow hook - Excellent (Slight Rusting To Chains) in a Good blue and white striped lift off lid picture box. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys 170 Ford Fordor Sedan. High-line Two-Tone Cream, Red including ridged hubs, silver trim (large baseplate lettering) - Good Plus including yellow and red carded picture box, with correct colour spot. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



French Dinky Toys 532 Lincoln Premiere. Metallic green body with dark green hood, silver trim and side flashes, concave hubs with white tyres - Excellent in a Good Plus (Displays Well) yellow and red carded picture box. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



French Dinky 556 Citroen ID19 "Ambulance Municipale". Grey body with cream roof and interior, silver trim, concave hubs - Excellent overall (Small Marks to Edge Of Roof) in a Good Plus Yellow, blue and red picture box. *Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys 917 Guy (Type 1) "Spratt's" Van. Cream, red cab, chassis and supertoy hubs, silver trim - Good Plus (Lovely Example) in a Good blue and white striped lift off lid picture box. *Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 148 Ford Fairlane. Bright Blue body with cream interior, silver trim and chrome spun hubs with white tyres - Fair to Good. *Sold for £460, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 186 Mercedes 220 SE. Pastel Blue body with cream interior, chrome trim and spun hubs - Excellent Plus in a Good. *Sold for £480, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 112 Austin Healey Sprite. Blue body with cream interior, silver trim and spun hubs - Excellent overall (Lovely Example). *Sold for £1,700, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 528 Fiat 1800 Station Wagon. Pale grey body with red interior, silver trim, spun hubs with white tyres - Good Plus overall in a Poor Correct Issue yellow and red carded picture box with "Arthur E Harris South Africa" Text. *Sold for £1,100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 554 Opel Rekord. Blue body with pale grey interior, silver trim, spun hubs with white tyres - Good overall (Still A Bright Example). *Sold for £520, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 195 Jaguar 3.4 Litre Saloon. Red body, cream interior, silver trim and spun hubs - Fair (Bright Example). *Sold for £1,600, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Dinky Toys (South African Issue) 194 Bentley S2. Drab Green body with red interior, figure driver, black tonneau, chrome trim and spun hubs - Good Plus to Excellent. *Sold for £800, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Corgi Toys 267 "Batman" Batmobile. Near Mint in a generally Good Plus striped window box with pictorial header, Also with yellow missiles attached to spure. *Sold for £340, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Corgi Toys (Juniors) 1012 "James Bond". Overall Condition is Near Mint (Some Small Marks to Label) on a Good to Good Plus (Sealed) Blister Card. *Sold for £500, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Corgi Toys (Rockets) D923 "James Bond" Ford Escort MKI Taken From The Film "On Her Majesty's Secret Service". White body, with racing "007" stripes, red interior and racing No. 7 - Near Mint on a Good Plus (Sealed) blister card with Flash. *Sold for £260, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Boxed Sun Star 1/24 scale No. 5003 1947 Bedford OB Duple Vista Coach FOT 214 King Alfred Omnibus Company Ltd diecast model. diecast excellent overall, box very good overall. *Sold for £55, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed 1/18 Paul's Model Art Minichamps Porsche 956L ICKX / Bell 1st 24H Le Mans 1982 diecast model. Excellent condition. *Sold for £85, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed ltd edn Anderson Entertainment Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds Thunderbird 2 Limited Edition 2024 diecast model. with ltd edn COA No. 1 of 2000 pieces, excellent. *Sold for £220, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed ltd edn Anderson Entertainment Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds Thunderbird 4 diecast model. with ltd edn COA No. 0572/2004, excellent with some wear to bend of lid. *Sold for £110, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Midsummer Models ltd edn MSM009 Burrell Showman's Engine Lightning II diecast model. with certificate, excellent box, model very good, slight damage to top. *Sold for £240, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed 1/18 AutoArt Classics Division Aston Martin DB5 LHD Green diecast model. diecast excellent, box very good overall. *Sold for £70, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Corgi 806 Lunar Bug diecast model. in excellent condition with very good box showing some storage squash to window. *Sold for £48, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Dinky UFO 353 Shado 2 Mobile diecast model. in very good condition with some tred wear, good box. *Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Dinky UFO 352 Ed Straker's Car diecast model. in metallic gold, diecast very good box goodd requires reglue to one side, and shows some creasing. *Sold for £110, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Dinky Joe 90 108 Sam's Car diecast model. in powder blue wth yellow interior, excellent condition with minimal wear, inner display stand very good and with 'WIN Most Special Agent/ lapel badge and instructions. *Sold for £170, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Corgi 267 Batmobile diecast model. very good condition with both Batman & Robin figures, secret instructions, peel off label and 6 x missiles, inner display stand very good with good outer box showing some creasing. *Sold for £220, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



A Sun Star 1:24 Scale Diecast Model #2906 SRM 25-850 DYE Routemaster Bus. Model appears sealed in original packaging, inner box contents unchecked. Small bagged parts noted. Boxed, with certificate. *Sold for £80, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A Sun Star 1:24 Scale Diecast Model #2904 RMC 1453 Routemaster Bus, 453 CLT London Transport, The Original Green Line Routemaster Coach. Model appears sealed in original packaging, inner box contents unchecked. Small bagged parts noted. Boxed, with certificate. Minor tear and some scuffing to box noted. *Sold for £90, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A Sun Star 1:24 Scale Diecast Model #2911 RM1983 Routemaster Bus, ALD 983B 50th Anniversary Of London Transport, gold. Model appears sealed in original packaging, inner box contents unchecked. Small bagged parts noted. Boxed, with certificate. Some scuffing to box noted. *Sold for £100, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A Sun Star 1:24 Scale Diecast Model #2907 RM 2191 Routemaster Bus, CUV 191C London Bitter, Shillibeer, Watney's. Model appears sealed in original packaging, with one tape corner loose noted. Inner box contents unchecked, with small bagged parts noted. *Sold for £110, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A Sun Star 1:24 Scale Diecast Model #2905 RM 686 Routemaster Bus, WLT 686 Vernon's Pool. Model appears sealed in original packaging, inner box contents unchecked. Small bagged parts noted. Boxed, with certificate. Tear to one box end noted. *Sold for £100, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A Sun Star 1:24 Scale Diecast model #5004 1947 Bedford OB Duple Vista Coach, HAA 558 Hants & Sussex Motor Services Ltd. Model appears undisplayed. Small bagged parts noted. Boxed, with certificate. Some scuffing to box noted. *Sold for £75, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A Sun Star 1:24 Scale Diecast model #5004 1947 Bedford OB Duple Vista Coach, HAA 558 Hants & Sussex Motor Services Ltd. Model appears undisplayed. Small bagged parts noted. Boxed, with certificate. Some scuffing to box noted. *Sold for £75, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A Sun Star 1:24 Scale Diecast model #5003 1947 Bedford OB Duple Vista Coach, FOT 214 King Alfred Omnibus Company Ltd. Model appears sealed in original packaging, inner box contents unchecked. Small bagged part noted. Boxed, with certificate. Minor tear to box noted. *Sold for £80, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



Original Corgi No.497 Man From Uncle Thrush-Buster. Overall very good plus / excellent, boxed with original inner tray, slight crushing / small tears, sellotape to outer box, inner tray very good, complete with original ring and cardboard ring packing pieces. *Sold for £190, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



Original Corgi toys No.318 Lotus Elan S2. overall condition very good, slight mark to rear transfer. *Sold for £35, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



Original Corgi Toys No.321 Monte Carlo Mini Cooper S No.52. overall good plus / very good, chipping to raised edges, boxed. Staining, crushing and small tears to box. *Sold for £65, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



Original Corgi Toys No.155 Lotus Climax Formula One. overall very good plus, boxed, crushing and small tears to box. *Sold for £20, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A single Universal Hobbies 1/16 diecast model DOE-130 Four-Wheel Drive Tractor, blue. Displayed but no obvious faults. Boxed with original styrofoam inner, as shown. *Sold for £110, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A single 1/16 Universal Hobbies diecast model of a Doe Triple D articulated tractor in orange and blue. in original box with polystyrene inner. Displayed, but no obvious faults. *Sold for £110, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A single Universal Hobbies 1/32 diecast model of a Massey Ferguson 760 combine harvester. with header attachment included. Boxed. No obvious sign of fault. *Sold for £70, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A single Universal Hobbies 1/32 diecast model of a CLAAS Tucano 450 combine harvester. with header and grain trailer accessories. Displayed but no obvious faults. Boxed. *Sold for £70, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A single Wiking 1/32 diecast model John Deere 6930 tractor. Boxed. Appears complete with no obvious faults. Box with storage wear. *Sold for £130, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Wiking 1/32 diecast model of the Grimme SE 260 Bunkerroder potato harvester. Boxed. No obvious faults. Box excellent. *Sold for £85, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A G&M Originals 1/32 diecast model of a Marshall MP-6 tractor in orange. Boxed. Excellent. *Sold for £65, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A G&M Originals 1/32 Field Marshall tractor. Boxed. Excellent. *Sold for £80, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Universal Hobbies 1/32 diecast Ford 7810 tractor. Tractor World Special Edition, chrome plated finish. Boxed. Appears complete with no obvious faults. Box very good. *Sold for £150, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Universal Hobbies JCB Major Loader Mk 1 Excavator 1/16 diecast model. Boxed. Appears complete with no notable faults. Some signs of display wear. *Sold for £380, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Universal Hobbies 1/32 diecast model Ford 7810 tractor, Special Edition metallic blue finish, "30 Years of the Ford 7810" limited edition issue. Boxed. Appears complete with no obvious sign of notable faults. *Sold for £160, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Universal Hobbies 1/32 diecast model of the Ford 7810 tractor, Special Edition in Gold, limited edition 15/30. Appears complete with no obvious sign of notable faults. Boxed. *Sold for £440, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Cult Scale Models 1/18 diecast model of a Ford Cortina 1600E in gold metallic finish. Limited Edition. Excellent. Boxed. *Sold for £180, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



An original Triang Spot-On diecast petrol tanker truck with green cab and red tank. carrying Shell BP Petroleum Products livery, as shown. Good to very good, some minor age related wear. *Sold for £170, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Spot-On Models by Tri-ang 1/42 Mulliner Luxury Coach in blue and grey with Tri-ang Tours livery. Generally very good, some signs of age related wear. *Sold for £220, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Franklin Mint Precision Models diecast Freightliner C.O.E. tractor unit in black with chrome detail work. Has been displayed but generally good to very good with no obvious sign of significant fault. Boxed. *Sold for £280, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A Creative Masters 1/24 diecast model of a Ferrari 330 P4 racing car in red. Excellent. Boxed. *Sold for £55, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



A diecast bus model from Sun Star 1:24 Scale. Bedford OB Duple Vista Coach, as shown. A diecast bus model from Sun Star 1:24 Scale. Bedford OB Duple Vista Coach, as shown. *Sold for £65, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



Universal Hobbies 1/16 diecast farm model issue comprising Ford 7000. Excellent and appears without fault in original box. *Sold for £95, M & M Specialist Auctioneers, September.*



CORGI 261 James Bond Aston Martin DB5 complete with inner packing. secret instructions and spare bandit - Very Good in Very Good box. *Sold for £150, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



A CORGI 267 Rocket Firing Batmobile with Batman and Robin. complete with inner packing, operating instructions, 10 rockets (8 still on sprue) - Excellent in Good box. *Sold for £160, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



A 1:24 scale SUNSTAR London Transport Routemaster. Jacobs Cream Crackers' advertising livery, complete with certificate and mirror pack - excellent in Very Good box. *Sold for £90, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



A 1:24 scale SUNSTAR 'Silver Lady' London Transport Routemaster. Daily Express' advertising livery, complete with certificate and mirror pack, appears unused as new - excellent in Very Good box. *Sold for £130, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



A boxed 'CMC Exclusive Modelle' Mercedes-Benz Racing Car Transporter 1954/55 "The Blue Wonder" 1:18 diecast model. Good condition, not in original box. *Sold for £280, Spicers Auctioneers, September.*



Corgi Toys No. 270 James Bond Aston Martin DB5 comprising a silver body with red interior. x3 driver figures and a bandit figure, sold in the original window box. *Sold for £90, Lacy Scott & Knight, September.*



Kyosho 1/18th scale diecast model of a BMW X5 xDriver48i. finished in black and housed in the original ploystyrene packed box. *Sold for £90, Lacy Scott & Knight, September.*



Kyosho 1/18th scale diecast model of a BMW Z4 E89. finished in silver and housed in the original box. *Sold for £100, Lacy Scott & Knight, September.*



Autoart Motorsport 1/18 scale No.80353 Bentley Speed Eight 24-hour Le Mans 2nd 2003. housed in a plastic display card box. *Sold for £70, Lacy Scott & Knight, September.*



Matchbox Superfast MB1 Jaguar XJ6 Factory Colour Trial. blue body with matt paint finish, clear windows, tan interior. Excellent unboxed with thin factory paint finish to base. *Sold for £80, Oberon Auctions, September.*



Matchbox Superfast 3b Monteverdi Hai Factory Pre-Production Colour Trial. sky blue body with racing number 3 hood label, light blue windows, ivory interior, bare metal base - Near Mint with just a couple of tiny chips to drivers side sill. Very desireable colour trial. *Sold for £700, Oberon Auctions, September.*



Matchbox Superfast 23a Volkswagen Transporter Camper Van Factory Pre-Production Colour Trial. Excellent Plus - although the model has not been played with, it has been very neatly paint super-detailed. Still looks great on display. *Sold for £1,100, Oberon Auctions, September.*



Boxed EFE Rail Bachmann OO gauge E86012 LSWR Cross Country 4 Coach Pack SR Maunsell green Set. Good and complete set. *Sold for £120, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Bachmann NRM Locomotion OO gauge 31-725NRMC City Class 3717. City of Truro Great Western Garter Crest locomotive. *Sold for £140, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Pre War Hornby O gauge LMS 4-4-4 locomotive. Good condition, in maroon with tender. *Sold for £95, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Hornby O gauge 4-6-0 LMS 1185 locomotive. Good condition,in maroon livery, with key. *Sold for £60, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Hornby OO gauge R332 High Speed Train Pack. Good and complete set. *Sold for £46, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Dapol OO gauge OLIV003 Class 73 Charlotte GBRF 73141 locomotive. Good condition. *Sold for £100, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Hornby Dublo S65326 Electric motor coach (EMC) contained within an 3233 box. Good condition, in original box. *Sold for £95, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1038 The Boxed Set Orient Express. complete and excellent, with outer trade box. *Sold for £160, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1057 The Royal Train electric train set. appearing complete. *Sold for £95, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Heljan OO gauge 3313 33004 Blue DCE locomotive. Good condition, in original box. *Sold for £70, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Hornby OO gauge R1153 London 2012 Olympics Electric Train Set. Good and complete set. *Sold for £65, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



A 5 Inch Gauge Part Built (or dismantled) Stirling 8 Foot Live Steam 4-2-2 Steam Locomotive. The model is MISSING numerous small parts, including most backhead controls and instrumentation. Originally would have been a good build and paint, finished overall in green and bright metal. *Sold for £200, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A 5 Inch Gauge Winson "Pug" Coal Fired Live Steam Class 21 0-4-0 Saddle Tank Shunting Locomotive of the L.Y.R., finished overall in black with R/No.12 to cab sides. An original example of the class is preserved on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway. In good untested condition, boiler certificate, expiry date 02.07.28, chipping to paint work, some corrosion, oil residue. *Sold for £1,150, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A 7 1/4 Inch Live Steam Narrow Gauge Kerr Stuart "Wren Class" 0-4-0 saddle tank steam locomotive, from a design by Ken Swan, complete with a "Ride On" tender / truck. The model is in very good untested condition, finished in maroon, green, black and bright metal, named "Roderic No.1" on brass plates to tank sides. *Sold for £2,500, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A 5 Inch Gauge Live Steam B.R. Standard Class 9F 2-10-0 Tender Locomotive, BR Black, R/No. 92004.Coal fired with all buffers couplings etc. The model appears to have been laid up for some time with resultant patination to paintwork. *Sold for £2,100, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A 5 Inch Gauge Live Steam L.M.S. 4-6-0 Royal Scot Class Tender Locomotive. L.M.S. maroon with yellow lining, - coal fired." a good example of its class that lends itself to a renovation/ recommission project. *Sold for £1,450, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Dapol 00 gauge Great Western mogul locomotive "4321". in lined green livery "DCC & Sound" on box (ref 4S-043-009S), untested, in good apparent condition with etched numberplates in box. *Sold for £100, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Dapol 00 gauge Class 122 railcar "SC55013". in BR blue "DCC fitted" on box (ref 4D-015-004D), untested, no couplings, otherwise in good apparent condition. *Sold for £80, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A scratch/kit-built 0 gauge Maunsell six-compartment Brake Third coach. with interior figures, playworn, missing corridor connections. *Sold for £70, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Jouef HO scale SNCF electric locomotive BB 13017, "DCC Sound" on box. in blue livery for Strasbourg depot (ref HJ 2336 S), untested, in good apparent condition in a good box. *Sold for £130, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Heljan 00 gauge North British prototype diesel locomotive "10800" in BR green. untested, in good apparent condition. *Sold for £80, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



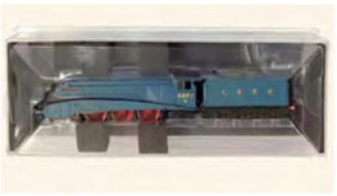
A boxed Heljan 00 gauge North British prototype diesel "10800" in BR green. untested, in good apparent condition. *Sold for £65, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Dapol N gauge A4 class locomotive "Golden Eagle" in LNER green. untested in good apparent condition. *Sold for £75, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Dapol N gauge A4 class locomotive "Silver King". valenced in LNER silver (ref 2S-008-013), untested, with accessories, in good apparent condition. *Sold for £85, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Dapol N gauge A4 locomotive "Sea Eagle" in LNER blue with valences (ref 2S-008-012), untested, in good apparent condition, missing accessory pack. *Sold for £80, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Dapol N gauge Class 121 railcar in Chiltern Railways blue. untested in good apparent condition. *Sold for £65, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Dapol N gauge Class 142 twin-unit railcar. in Manchester PTE orange "DCC fitted on box" (ref 2D-142-004D), untested, in good apparent condition. *Sold for £90, Sheffield Auction Gallery, September.*



A boxed Graham Farish N gauge railway Southern Railway 4CEP 4-car EMU. 7105 (372-675), comprising a powered driving car and four coaches. *Sold for £150, Gorringes, September.*



A boxed Broadway Limited Imports HO gauge railway brass 3-car City of San Francisco E6 A-B-B set train pack. comprising A-PWD, B-PWD, B-DUMMY, U.P. SF-4, SF-5, and SF-6 (783), with instructions. *Sold for £120, Gorringes, September.*



A boxed Hornby Hobbies 00 gauge LNER class B17/5 4-6-0 tender locomotive. East Anglian 2859 (R30136). *Sold for £100, Gorringes, September.*



A Bassett-Lowke 0 gauge 3-rail electric class A3 LNER Flying Scotsman locomotive. 4472, repainted and with some modifications. *Sold for £85, Gorringes, September.*



A Bassett Lowke 0 gauge tinplate LNER Princess Elizabeth 4-4-0 tender locomotive. 2265, for 3-rail electric running, in lined green livery. *Sold for £70, Gorringes, September.*



A Bassett Lowke 0 gauge tinplate LMS Royal Scot 4-6-0 tender locomotive. 6100, for 3-rail electric running, in maroon livery, in restored condition. *Sold for £120, Gorringes, September.*



A Bing for Bassett Lowke 0 gauge tinplate LNER class D2 4-4-0 tender locomotive. 4390, for 3-rail electric running, in lined green livery, possibly converted from clockwork running. *Sold for £110, Gorringes, September.*



Hornby OO Gauge R1173 Western Master Digital Train Set. Boxed, appears complete but unchecked. Condition appears Good to Good Plus. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Brawa HO gauge 0411 Class 234 DB diesel locomotive. Boxed. Condition appears Good Plus to Excellent. Box is Fair to Good. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Hornby O Gauge E220 Special 4-4-0 Loco and Tender LNER green "Yorkshire" No.234, 20 volt electric. This is the rare Yorkshire version of the LNER No.2 Special E220 Loco and Tender. Produced only for a short time circa 1934/1935. Condition is Good to Good Plus, left side step is damaged in generally Good Tender box only. *Sold for £240, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Ace Trains O Gauge E/17 Bo-Bo Metrovic Metropolitan Red Diesel Locomotive No. 19, 3-rail Electric. Condition is Near Mint in Good Plus to Excellent box. *Sold for £300, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Hornby OO Gauge R3216 Class 67 Bo-Bo Diesel Electric Locomotive No. 67026 'Diamond Jubilee' in DB Schenker silver livery. limited edition of 500. Boxed. Condition appears Excellent to Near Mint. *Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Fleischmann HO gauge 4460 3-car DB ICE High-Speed Train Set. Boxed. Condition appears Good Plus to Excellent. Box is Fair to Good *Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Hornby O Gauge No.3C/No. 2 Special 4-4-2 Loco and Tender LNER green "Flying Scotsman" No.4472, clockwork. Condition is Fair to Good. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Ace Trains O Gauge C/26S Metropolitan Coach Set consisting of All 3rd, All 1st and 3rd/Brake Coach. Condition is Near Mint in Excellent box. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Mountain Model Imports On30 scale MMI#DC1099-3 2-8-2 K-36 locomotive and tender D&RGW 486. Boxed. Condition appears Mint to Mint. Box is Near Mint to Mint. *Sold for £360, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Fleischmann HO gauge 4472 2-car NS (Nederlandse Spoorwegen) EMU running number 942, finished in yellow and blue livery. Boxed. Condition appears Good Plus to Excellent. Box is Good Plus to Excellent. *Sold for £90, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Kitbuilt/scratchbuilt O Gauge Southern Railway T9 4-4-0 locomotive and tender, finished in green with running number 287. Built to a good standard but repairs and finishing required, unboxed. Condition appears Good to Good Plus. *Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, September.*



LGB G Scale ref. 2701D 0-6-2 Tank Locomotive, finished in black with red lining, running number 6 and named "KINTYRE". Fitted with radio control but no transmitter included; some cleaning required. Boxed. Condition appears Good to Excellent. *Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Roco HO gauge 63734 SBB Re 6/6 Cargo electric locomotive. Boxed. Condition appears Good Plus to Excellent. Box is Good to Good. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Hornby-Dublin pre-war 3-rail electric EDL1 Locomotive No. 4498 "Sir Nigel Gresley" and tender in LNER blue. Unboxed. Condition appears Good Plus to Excellent. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Kitbuilt O Gauge 3-rail BR green Jubilee Class locomotive. built to an excellent standard. Condition appears Good to Good Plus. *Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, September.*



LGB G Scale ref. 22801 Deutsche Reichsbahn Class 99 6001 2-6-2T Steam Locomotive in black and red livery. fitted with radio control but no transmitter included, some cleaning required. Boxed. Condition appears Good to Excellent. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Brawa HO gauge 0412= '3 mal DB 234' locomotives pack. comprising three DB Class 234 diesel locomotives in varying promotional liveries. Boxed. Condition appears Good Plus to Excellent. Box is Good to Good. *Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Hornby Dublo 2-rail 3235 4-6-2 BR West Country Class Steam Locomotive No. 34042 "Dorchester". Condition is Good Plus in Good box and complete with instruction booklet dated 3/61, amended instruction sheet and guarantee slip. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



J & M models Gauge 1, LSWR third class coach. Some ware and missing details. Unboxed. Condition appears Good to Good Plus. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Roundhouse Engineering 16mm Scale 45mm Gauge Live Steam "Lady Anne" locomotive, finished in green as "Campbeltown Loch" HLR. Condition appears Good to Good Plus. *Sold for £800, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Lego - Boxed Lego Star Wars 75327 Luke Skywalker (Red Five) Helmet Collection set. sealed and excellent. *Sold for £60, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Steiff - Bagged Steiff 667954 Teddy Bear Kapitan 1910 replica. exclusive to North America, with ltd edn COA No. 00786/1910. *Sold for £140, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Steiff - Boxed Steiff 404009 55PB 1902 Replica Teddy Bear. with ltd edn COA No. 02548/7000. *Sold for £100, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Steiff 690778 No. 209 Aunt Lucy Bear. complete with umbrella, certificate and paperwork, excellent condition. *Sold for £280, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Star Wars - Boxed Hasbro Star Wars Obi-Wan Kenobi The Black Series Darth Vader Premium Electronic Helmet. contents excellent, box very good overall with some light edge wear. *Sold for £70, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Star Wars - Boxed Hasbro Star Wars The Black Series Ezra Bridger Force FX Elite Lightsaber. Excellent condition. *Sold for £75, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Boxed Hasbro Marvel Studios Legends Series Captain America Brave New World Shield. Excellent condition. *Sold for £80, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Action Man - Boxed Palitoy Action Man 'The Soldiers' Frogman Outfit. complete with bubble unremoved from backing card, excellent. *Sold for £150, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Action Man - Boxed Palitoy Action Man 'The Soldiers' Mountain and Arctic Outfit. complete with bubble unremoved from backing card, 1 inch tear to side of box otherwise excellent. *Sold for £120, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Original carded Playmates TMNT 1988 Heroes In A Half Shell Michaelangelo figure, unpunched, sealed and card in very good condition overall. *Sold for £150, Wessex Auction Rooms, September.*



LEGO - Star Wars LEGO set 10188 Death Star. Set has been opened and made previously, with instructions. Unchecked for completeness. *Sold for £170, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



KENNER / STAR WARS - A Return of the Jedi 1983 sealed carded figure 'Bib Fortuna'. 65 Back (No Logray/Chief Chirpa), yellowed bubble, unpunched. *Sold for £65, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



KENNER / STAR WARS - An Empire Strikes Back 1982 sealed carded figure 'Luke Skywalker (Bespin Fatigues). 48 Back (Free Admiral Ackbar/front sticker), clear bubble, Walmart price sticker to front - Excellent on excellent card. *Sold for £280, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



KENNER / STAR WARS - A Return of the Jedi 1983 sealed carded figure 'Han Solo (in Trench Coat)',. 77 Back (Free Anakin Skywalker/front sticker), yellowed bubble. *Sold for £110, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



KENNER / STAR WARS - A Star Wars 'Power of the Force' 1984 sealed carded figure and coin 'Luke Skywalker. 92 Back, slightly yellowed bubble, slight curvature to card, Walmart price sticker to front - Excellent on Very Good card. *Sold for £400, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



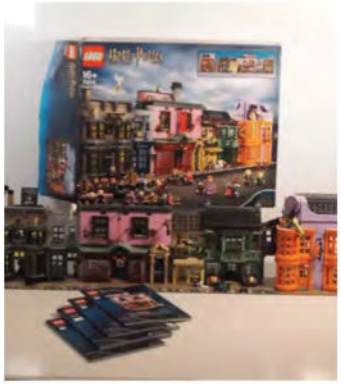
KENNER / STAR WARS - A Return of the Jedi 1983 sealed carded figure 'Princess Leia Organa (in Combat Poncho)'. 77 Back, yellowed bubble, unpunched, slight creasing to card. *Sold for £90, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



KENNER / STAR WARS - A Star Wars 'Power of the Force' 1984 sealed carded figure and coin 'Amanaman. 92 Back, yellowed bubble, unpunched card, Walmart price sticker to front - Excellent on Very Good card. *Sold for £250, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



LEGO - Creator 10214 Tower Bridge - has been opened and made previously, kept all in bags. Instructions also present along with small Lego versions of the Eiffel Tower and Empire State Building, model only. Unchecked for completeness. *Sold for £110, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



LEGO - Harry Potter LEGO set 75978 Diagon Alley. has been opened and made previously, with instructions. Unchecked for completeness. *Sold for £160, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



LEGO - Harry Potter LEGO set 71043 Hogwarts Castle. has been opened and made previously, with instructions. Unchecked for completeness. *Sold for £85, Excalibur Auctions, September.*



A BOXED AND SEALED THE LORD OF THE RINGS BARADUR LEGO ICONS SET, Lego Number 10333 with 5471 pieces and Ten Minifigures including Sauron, Mouth of Sauron, Orc, Frodo, Sam and Gollum and Gothmog. the set is presented in original packaging with intact security seals, the box presents some light wear and creases from storage. *Sold for £240, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, September.*



A BOXED AND SEALED 2020 LEGO IDEAS 017 NASA APOLLO SATURN V ROCKET. original security sealed numbered 36S2, perforated handles untouched, little wear but some scuffs and creases. *Sold for £160, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, September.*



A BOXED THINKWAY TOYS DISNEY PIXAR TOY STORY 4 SIGNATURE COLLECTION BO PEEP AND SHEEP SET. other than the box being distored model appears to have never been out of the box, tape to the base has been cut with none to the top panel. *Sold for £200, Richard Winterton Auctioneers, September.*



Mego Mister Fantastic action figure, ref. 51313/5/F. Condition appears Near Mint to Mint. *Sold for £160, Vectis Auctions, September.*



A Charlie Bears limited edtion Snuffles teddy bear from the 2012 Secret Collectors Club. limited to 600 bears, designed by Isabelle Lee, dark brown plush and tag certificates. *Sold for £70, Special Auction Services, September.*



A 1930s Alpha Farnell teddy bear. Light brown alpaca plush, clear and black glass eyes with painted backs. coming slightly onto pads, swivel head, jointed limbs with Alpha Farnell label. *Sold for £290, Special Auction Services, September.*



A Chiltern Hugmee teddy bear, 1930s. Pronounced clipped muzzle, black stitched nose, smiling mouth and claws, swivel head, jointed limbs with velvet pads. *Sold for £100, Special Auction Services, September.*



Kenner Indiana Jones Indy as German Soldier. loose action figure complete with rocket launcher weapon accessory. AFA graded 85 NM+ in an acrylic display case. Condition appears Near Mint. *Sold for £140, Special Auction Services, September.*



Hans Biller (Germany) Clown in Car. a lithographed tinplate toy, c1940-1949, featuring a clown in a blue chequered jacket and red fez driving a red car. Condition appears Good. *Sold for £50, Vectis Auctions, September.*



TPS Clown on Roller Skate. a c1950s lithographed tinplate novelty toy featuring a clown with a red hat, checked shirt and fabric trousers standing on a single large roller skate. Condition appears good. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Chinese Space Commander Ship. 'Made in China' tinplate and plastic battery operated (untested but had clean battery compartment) space vehicle, finished in light blue and grey with a clear dome and astronaut pilot, some small scuff to edges, within box. Condition appears to be good. *Sold for £280, Vectis Auctions, September.*



KO (Japan) Jupiter Robot. a battery operated robot in blue plastic with tinplate details. It is untested but has clean battery compartment (some tarnish/rust spots to chrome parts). Condition appears Good. *Sold for £110, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Lehmann No.765 Sedan, Pre-War. a green tinplate car featuring detailed spoked wheels and clockwork (fixed key mechanism, untested). (spidering to roof paint, some scuffs/ paint loss to edges and wheels). Condition appears Good. *Sold for £80, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Mettoy large scale tinplate Rolls Royce. dating to circa 1940's, the car is finished in blue and cream with a tinplate uniformed chauffeur inside, driven by clockwork (fixed key mechanism, untested). Condition appears Good. *Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Nomura Skyliner Sports Car. a battery operated tinplate model in red and white, presented within box (slight edge wear). Condition appears Good. *Sold for £220, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Chad Valley (UK) Harborne 10003 clockwork Racing Car. a circa 1948 tinplate model finished in yellow and red, driven by a clockwork mechanism. Condition appears Good. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Modern Toys (Japan) Masudaya Space Capsule 6. an early 1960s tinplate and plastic battery operated space toy, finished in blue lithographed tinplate with red and yellow detailing. Condition appears good. *Sold for £140, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Schuco 4012 Radio Car. a red tinplate model featuring green seats, a tinprinted interior and with retractable aerial. Condition appears Excellent. Box is Good to Good Plus. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Goso Tinplate Transport Van. a lithographed tinplate commercial vehicle featuring "Intern. Transport Co." to both sides. Condition appears good. *Sold for £60, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Ichiko Chevrolet Police Car. a black and white tinplate model. The vehicle features tinprinted details and interior, and is presented within box. Condition appears Good. Box is Good. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Joustra (France) Trolley-Bus "Geant" . a green and cream tinplate model featuring battery powered electric lights and a clockwork motor with a fixed key mechanism. The mechanism is untested and the model shows age related wear. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Wells (UK) Ð a tinplate racing car finished in red and yellow and sporting racing number 77. The model is driven by a clockwork mechanism with a fixed key. Condition appears good. *Sold for £70, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Japanese (maker unknown) tinplate fire engine. The vehicle is friction powered and displays well (shows age related wear). Condition appears Good. *Sold for £320, Vectis Auctions, September.*



CIJ (France) Renault Viva Sport large scale tinplate car. a green and cream tinplate vehicle featuring rubber wheels. It is driven by a clockwork mechanism. Condition appears Fair to Good. *Sold for £120, Vectis Auctions, September.*



CIJ (France) Renault 4CV tinplate car. a grey tinplate model featuring spray painted details, two decals and rubber wheels. Condition appears Good to Good Plus. Box is Good. *Sold for £130, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Gama Tinplate Clockwork Montage Tank. Camouflage green, brown and tan, metal rollers with black rubber tracks - Good (does have crazing to paint) comes with REPRODUCTION box. *Sold for £100, Vectis Auctions, September.*



Gama Tinplate Clockwork Montage Tank. Dark greyish-green with dark grey metal rollers and black rubber tracks - Good to Good Plus in a comes with a REPRODUCTION box. *Sold for £30, Vectis Auctions, September.*

eBuys

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



Item: Joyride Starsky & Hutch Ford Gran Torino
Condition: Autographed model from the popular TV show. Model is in good condition.
Sold for: £300 (11 bids).



Item: Minichamps 1/18 1977 Maserati Khamsin Pauls Model Art PMA Diecast.
Condition: Very good condition.
Sold for: £271.50 (29 bids).



Item: Britains Farm Ultra Rare Model Deutz-Fahr DX 92 Deutz Set 9637 1:32 Trailer.
Condition: As New Condition.
Sold for: £463.58 (2 bids).



Item: Tekno 1:50 Scania R580 Malcolm Group Braveheart longline Diecast Tractor Unit.
Condition: Good condition model, not dusty.
Sold for: £611.10 (11 bids).



Item: Dinky Lady Penelope's FAB 1 Pink Car.
Condition: This rare Dinky Toys toy brings a touch of nostalgia to any collection. Pristine condition.
Sold for: £298.66 (25 bids).



Item: CMC M-132 Aston Martin DB4 GT Zagato 1961, Metallic Green 1:18.
Condition: This model is in near pristine condition.
Sold for: £410.00 (2 bids).



Item: CMC Maserati Transporter Fiat Rn2 Bartoletti.
Condition: Near mint condition.
Sold for: £645.00 (56 bids).



Item: Corgi Toys, Batmobile Batboat & Helicopter.
Condition: Original condition in original box.
Sold for: £737.00 (21 bids).



Item: Rover P6 Model 1/18 Scale Diorama.
Condition: Customised with an abandoned car.
Sold for: £303.13 (17 bids).



Item: Vintage 1960's Japanese Tin Plate Battery Operated Talking Robot.
Condition: Item is in vintage condition.
Sold for: £335.00 (28 bids).



Item: Vintage Japan Tin 1962 Ford Station Wagon Toy Car Friction 12.
Condition: Nice original finish. Friction works.
Sold for: £977.79 (27 bids).



Item: Prince Skyline Friction Tin Toy.
Condition: Item is in vintage condition. Signs of age & wear.
Sold for: £316.00 (21 bids).



Item: Ancient Bing Mohair Teddy Bear.
Condition: Circa 1910-12, signs of age and wear with blemishes on the right arm.
Sold for: £556.76 (19 bids).



Item: LEGO Harry Potter Hogwarts Castle 71043.
Condition: Item is new, in original packaging and sealed.
Sold for: £307.79 (29 bids).



Item: 1950s Yonezawa Moon Rocket XM-12.
Condition: Great condition and in full working condition.
Sold for: £511.50 (32 bids).



Item: LEGO® Star Wars 75313 UCS AT, rare model.
Condition: Good condition, in original packaging.
Sold for: £624.76 (34 bids).



Item: Bandai 4084 Kingsize Volkswagen Sedan.
Condition: In original illustrated box.
Sold for: £264.33 (35 bids).



Item: Jellycat Medium Bashful Calico Kitty.
Condition: Good condition..
Sold for: £405.00 (15 bids).



Item: Vintage Marx Sparkling Rocket Fighter Ship Wind-Up Tin Toy.
Condition: Good condition with original box.
Sold for: £276.41 (6 bids).



Item: Cast iron horse drawn ice wagon by Hubley.
Condition: Fair condition, unboxed, visible wear and rust due to age.
Sold for: £480.52 (25 bids).



Item: Strauss Toy Co. Tin Windup Santa Sleigh with Original Box Rare.
Condition: Very nice overall condition.
Sold for: £616.82 (38 bids).



Corgi (Part I)

Keith D'Souza speaks with Corgi's Head of Marketing, David Mather, in Part One of a two-part special.

Corgi is in its 70th year of diecast model production, having undergone significant change throughout its history. For many collectors, the brand represents playability and innovation, having taken on Lesney head-to-head in the fiercely contested toy market of the 1960s, '70s and early '80s. Fast forward to today and the focus has shifted towards collectability, celebrating motoring culture through road and screen while ensuring the Corgi name remains relevant in the 21st century. Diecast Collector was delighted to speak with Corgi's Head of Marketing, David Mather, to discuss what makes a modern-day Corgi, the thinking behind today's product range and the challenges involved in bringing new models to market.

How would you define the core identity and direction of the Vanguards range today?

In terms of defining Vanguards today, it's best to start with an understanding of how the range began – British vehicles that were produced in the 1950s and 1960s. From our sales data based upon vehicle subjects, we see that this original intent for the Vanguards range has shifted. Interest in subjects from the 1950s in particular has dropped – a Morris Minor can take over three years to sell through a thousand units. So the Vanguards range today is primarily focused on cars from the 1970s and 1980s, with the occasional foray into more modern subjects to appeal to newer audiences beyond the core collector demographic. We're seeing that subject interest is being driven by shifting demographics of nostalgia over the desire for 'the car you wished you'd had but never did.' But with a wider lens to the future as well, we could foresee the Vanguards brand name representing all ICE vehicles. One thing is for certain: you'll never see an electric vehicle enter the range.

Collectors often mention wanting a clearer understanding of the range's long-term theme or strategy — is that something Corgi has considered communicating more openly?

We're actually working our way towards something along these lines – we carried out an insights piece in late 2024 which gave us a steer on a limited range of subject interest for Vanguards, which in turn has helped us with the planned ranges up to and including 2027. We'll soon be issuing a new and much larger survey – literally everything we've been asked to produce – to see how they land amongst the collector base and a wider external audience. We've just completed this with our Aviation Archive range with a list of 42 different subjects, yielding some interesting and surprising results, which in turn has given us direction on research material for brand new model subjects for at least the next five years. The aim would be to share these details with our collectors once plans are fully in place. There is also, though, a marketing need to maintain an element of surprise – if we revealed the next three years' worth of models at once, where would be the excitement of the reveal? Ultimately, this is how we have to work when we're planning our ranges; licence agreements involve vehicle subjects planned a long time in advance.

Ford subjects clearly continue to sell strongly, but some collectors are becoming restless with the perceived over-reliance on Ford models. How do you respond to that feedback?

The frustration is understandable, but our current reliance on Ford is a necessity. We have pretty definitive evidence that Fords sell more strongly than our more recent new tools from other marques. That is where the business has directed us to lean towards with our capital expenditure and recolour options over the past few years. It's a stated aim to keep introducing or reintroducing other model marques, but we have to base that on how we see the sell-through progressing.

Is broadening the marque mix beyond the established best-sellers a priority moving forward?

Absolutely yes! This is where the market research piece I've mentioned comes into it. The 2024 piece was extremely useful as it gave us the confidence, but also the evidence to work on subjects that weren't Ford, like the Range Rover Classic and the MGB GT. The latter actually performed better in the survey than many Ford subjects, which is why it's happening. Our future marketing insights work will give us the next indication of where we should go next. The key element though, is that we are a business at the end of the day, so we need to produce subject matter that people want to buy at a suitable volume.

British Motor Heritage and Rootes Group vehicles remain notable absences in Vanguards — what is currently preventing those marques from appearing?

At risk of this turning into a theme, we currently feel that we need the evidence to have the confidence to proceed. However, we do have the licence for BMH and are cooking up something nice for the 2027 range.



FACING PAGE Bare metal engineering sample of the new-tool Ford Cortina 1600E
ABOVE First Vanguard on display at the Wonderworks Museum in Margate
RIGHT A sneak peek at the clutter of the Vanguards pre-production sample shelf in the CORGI office
FAR RIGHT Selection of actual Ford paint swatches – note the slight variance in colour on the Ultimate Green swatches for the Ford Focus Mk2 RS – all these swatches feature different finishes.





Are licensing or tooling constraints the main barriers when it comes to expanding into less represented British brands?

Neither would really be an issue – obviously tooling new models costs money, so there are a variety of internal decisions that have to be made, and licensing requires confidence in a piece of relevant subject matter before we approach the licensor of that particular vehicle.

The Austin Montego is frequently mentioned by collectors as a missing mainstream British car. Why has it yet to receive the Vanguards treatment?

A very specific request! Obviously this will be going into our research piece to come. Other Austin subjects we've tested have sat in the middle of the pack, so they have dropped down the list of priorities for development.

More generally, are there important British cars from the 1950s, '60s and '90s that you feel the range still needs to cover?

Yes, definitely. There are some clear holes we need to fill, and we are very aware of this.

How much influence do collector requests genuinely have on future model selection?

We've had a habit of listening and collating but not doing anything with the requests until now. They've often turned up in either isolation or as an excellent self-commissioned research piece by some notable groups on social media. What we are doing now is to take those subject requests and make use of them in our commissioned research to come.

To what extent does projected sales performance determine whether a model gets approved?

This is the big one, as it's really the single most important influence on internal approvals. Projected sales performance has to be balanced against investment and thus return on any new project we undertake. We're a business so we have to make things that will sell. Over the last decade, some of our products have not performed well. This has steered the approvals towards subjects such as Ford, as we can see we get the return more quickly. ■



Persuading Uncle

Alwyn Brice looks at screen stars and their miniature cars. In this issue, he considers pairings.

It might not surprise you to learn that James Bond's creator, Ian Fleming, had a hand in the production of the Man from U.N.C.L.E. (the United Network Command for Law Enforcement). A bit of a mouthful for a moniker, I think you'll agree, and akin to some secretive department in Orwell's novel, 1984, this outfit was fronted by Napoleon Solo (played by the suave Robert Vaughn) and his Russian (Scottish, actually!) sidekick, Illya Kuryakin. (The inclusion of a Russian ally, in retrospect, was quite a brave move on the part of the creators at the time of the Cold War, one feels.)

NOT GOING SOLO

This US television series ran between 1964 and 1968, totalled just over 100 episodes and somewhat naturally led to the creation of films, too. Spies and spying were hot topics in the mid-sixties, and a rash of specialist agents appeared: Modesty Blaise, Danger Man, The Avengers and Man in a Suitcase were just four examples of the genre. In common with some of the foregoing, the television series thus made the leap to the cinema; and a total of eight U.N.C.L.E. films were made, which doubtless helped establish the brand.

Set in vibrant New York (although filming for the television series was mostly shot in California), the duo reported to one Alexander Waverly; the workings of the organisation were, oddly, tucked away behind a tailor's shop. When the series was reimagined in 2015, the UK and Italy became the favoured locations.

In terms of transport, Solo and Kuryakin favoured an Oldsmobile Super 88, a typical slab-sided, large-engined creation of that era. The dearth of what we would term sportscars in the US possibly led to this choice, although it was easy to represent such a vehicle as being a bit tweaked in terms of power. The 'Olds' blended in with the cars on the street, of course, so the pair would be somewhat inconspicuous, unlike some of their successors, who plumped for more outlandish or flamboyant transport.

Naturally, spin-offs in the shape of various types of merchandise quickly appeared: guns and rifles, badges, books and bubble gum cards (A&BC Gum were quick to issue a set of 55 monochrome cards in 1965) all appeared. And of course, the wheels were a desirable franchise – this fell to Corgi.

Corgi was well placed to manufacture the car, having introduced the Super 88 Oldsmobile in 1962 as a standard saloon or a county Sheriff's transport. A bit of fettling was required for the Thrushbuster version: the roof siren which operated the figure inside, a couple of spotlights on the bonnet and different wheels were all called for. Oh, and a dark bluey/mauve paint job, together with a bonnet sticker that announced to the world who was in the car. Not the subtlest of additions (but then Corgi had deemed it necessary to add a stick man decal to the Saint's Volvo). Waverly's ring was included (not sure why), and so it's important to ensure that it is included in any potential purchase. Overall, it's a pleasing model in retrospect, and the limited numbers finished in white command a premium. To compare it with the original vehicle is difficult over here, since it's a rara avis in that respect.

Corgi's offshoot Husky produced the rather more interesting U.N.C.L.E. transport in the shape of the Piranha: this vehicle was the work of AMT, and was designed by Gene Winfield and Sam Fouse. Originally the



ABOVE Corgi saw fit (eventually) to release Lord Brett Sinclair's Aston Martin; the Dino is a code model.
FACING PAGE The rarer version of the Thrushbuster in cream: possibly an export market run, to judge by where most of them are located.

Dodge Charger was lined up as an option, but this fibreglass creation, with gullwing doors and powered by a Corvair engine, at just 40 inches high, was a far better (and truly eye-catching) bet. Not used much in the television series, it was nonetheless equipped with various gadgets. Husky's diminutive representation actually permits the launch of rockets and even features the agents, recognisably painted, sitting inside. It's extremely hard to find this model in mint condition now, and if you've the blister, you're doing well. Restored and repackaged models are about, though.

CLASS DIFFERENCES

We leave New York for the more familiar environs of the UK. Lord Brett Sinclair and Danny Wilde were poles apart in terms of social status, but this unlikely duo paired up to become The Persuaders in 1971. Shot in the UK as well as France and Italy, here was a mock serious crimebusting series. The unruffled and titled Roger Moore and carefree millionaire Tony Curtis took the roles, and rubbed along from episode to episode, putting wrongs to right. (In real life, the pair had a slightly uneasy relationship, by all accounts). The premise of pairing a Brit with a Yank was presumably effected with a view to cleaning up with the series in the US; in the event, The Persuaders found more fame in other countries. Just 24 episodes were filmed; Moore subsequently went on to tackle the 007 role and the rest, as they say, is history.



As a series that didn't take itself too seriously, it excelled, and the big budgets allowed for extensive outside footage, often in exotic locations (some of which were pinched from Moore's Saint days). What goes around, comes around…

If nothing else, the Persuaders was memorable for its vehicles. The best of British was exemplified by Sinclair's yellow Aston Martin DBS, the last of the DB series cars; luxurious and a true grand tourer, it carried the torch on from Sean Connery's outing in Goldfinger. Danny Wilde's Ferrari Dino 246 was the opposite: a racy, curvaceous slice of Ferrari's output, it was any teenager's dream car. (Strangely, real Dinos went through a doldrum phase, as some didn't regard them as a true Ferrari – but values have since picked up, and you'd be looking at £250,000 as a minimum today).

Despite the undoubted appeal of the







1. The boys: their different backgrounds and cultures contributed to the success of this tongue-in-cheek series.
2. A double window box was never manufactured, the Ferrari being a reworking of the Maisto model by an enterprising seller. One for the completist?
3. Hard to find in good condition, the diminutive UNCLE Piranha car benefits from a rocket launcher.
4. The Husky Piranha usually turns up in this kind of condition; for some reason, most seem to have led hard lives.

Persuaders, in terms of the potential franchise, very little was produced. Indeed, only recently have collectors' cards appeared; as for the cars, there was nothing at the time. If you're a fan, you'll know that Corgi has released (retrospectively) Moore's yellow DBS in suitable window box packaging: of Chinese manufacture, it's not quite up there with the best in this scale, but it's pretty accurate, nonetheless. A figure of Moore is included. Poor Wilde has nothing to run around in, but one or two enterprising individuals on the internet are offering a twin car set, the Dino being a reworked Maisto model. Sounds like a good solution to me! ■



LEFT **Although most Flowers lorries were flatbeds; this drop side still looks authentic, especially with an appropriate load. This started life as a British Rail Bedford TK.**

A home-brewed fleet

Steve Coles set about expanding his Flowers fleet by creating his own period lorries. In this second feature, he takes a closer look at his own creations.

Last month I showcased the models I own that have been produced by the likes of EFE, Corgi and Matchbox depicting the Flowers Brewery delivery lorries. This second part is going to look at the models I have created myself using appropriate-looking base models.

While scrolling through eBay one day, I discovered a 1:76 Lledo drop-side Leyland in a rather familiar shade of primrose yellow, with a dark green chassis and wheels. It was in the livery of Aizlewoods Mill from Sheffield (which, being Sheffield-born and bred, caught my eye anyway), and I thought to myself, 'That looks a bit like some of the Flowers trucks I have! I wonder if I could turn it into a Flowers one?' This was the start of a journey that has taken me a few years to complete.

I knew people who could print waterslide decals for me through contacts in numerous model-related Facebook groups, but first I needed to create a master sheet ready for printing.

My starting point was to buy a variety of period Flowers beer mats. I scanned these, then cropped the images of Shakespeare and the Brewmaster figure into individual images. I spent some time looking at fonts and matching them to the styles on the beer mats and the black-and-white photos I have of Flowers trucks. Once I was happy with the couple of fonts I chose, I turned each typed logo into a JPG file that could be easily resized. So I had my decals; now I just needed to find some suitable lorries.

The process of stripping paint, washing, preparing, priming and painting is one I know in principle. In practice, I can never seem to find the right conditions for the spraying to be successful.

I decided my best option was to find suitable coloured lorries and remove their existing decals. Searching for yellow, pale yellow and cream lorries in both 1:76 and 1:50 yielded quite a number of possibilities.

A few of the yellows turned out to be too bright and a couple of the cream ones looked too pale, almost white. But that still left a good number.

BUILDING THE FLEET

After the Lledo Aizlewoods Leyland, next up was a pale yellow B-T Models Albion Reiver in the livery of Edward Beck and Son. Some carefully applied acetone nail varnish remover on a cotton bud soon removed the name from the cab doors and headboard. Next, I dismantled the lorry to remove the tyres so I could repaint the red wheels dark green using Humbrol Enamel no.30 (named dark green). Once they were dry, I reassembled the lorry and began deciding which decals to use. In most cases, I simply tried to make each lorry a little different, using various combinations of logos or changing the main font colour.

A second B-T Models I found was another John Aizlewood Mills Leyland Octopus. Apart from removing the name decals but keeping the '12' fleet number, I opted to keep the wheels black this time, as the black chassis and wheels made a nice contrast with the green chassis and wheels of the Lledo version. Although both appear very similar, they are sufficiently different shades of yellow



to make them worthy companions (I do wonder if back in the 1950s and 60s all the Flowers lorries were the exact same shade anyway).

My next target was the evergreen Bedford TK. I'd spotted a couple of potential candidates from the Gilbow Railway Collection, using the EFE tooling (as by this point Gilbow owned EFE). Both are finished in an all-over cream (or pale yellow, depending on the light) British Railways livery. One is a dropside, and one is an articulated flatbed. For this pair, I kept the chassis black but painted all the wheels dark green, using the same Humbrol enamel paint as before. The smallest font size decal was used for the edges of the flatbed, with the dropside wearing the same decals as the previous Leyland Octopus dropside. The dropside TK has the Bedford griffin logo picked out, but the artic doesn't, so an arched logo fitted nicely on the front.

While searching for 1:50 Corgi TKs online, I found another perfect candidate: model 22503, which is a cream with black wheels/chassis in Guinness livery. This being from the time just about any commercial vehicle in Corgi's expansive range got the Guinness treatment! Being just all over cream meant it was a simple job to remove the Guinness decals and begin adding my own. Being a larger 1:50 lorry, there was also little more scope for logo choice and a chance to use some of the larger sizes I'd had printed. I'd also sourced a selection of both 1:50 and 1:76 (these being EFE or Gilbow branded railway accessories) loads in the form of barrels and bottles in crates. These were fitted loosely and in various combinations on the lorries, to allow for future changes.

RAISING THE BAR

It was around this time that I also found a couple of black and white photos of two different Flowers Brewery Mobile Bar lorries. In both cases they were of articulated tractor units with what I felt looked like the sort of larger horse-box type trailer seen in the 1960s. What also struck me was it looked rather a lot like the 1:50 horse-box trailer Corgi had recycled from their 1980s toy range and reissued as part of the classics range during the late 1990s and 2000s. A quick search



TOP This Corgi Trackside Leyland Octopus is the same tooling as the Lledo. Steve decided to keep the flatbed brown to add contract to the others which have yellow edges.

ABOVE Corgi's 1:50 Bedford TK artic flatbed looks convincing as a Flowers lorry. Once the original Guinness livery was removed, new decals were easily applied to the larger size.

FLOWERS BREWERY – PART II



ABOVE Although Steve was unable to find any photos of a Flowers Bedford TK, these make a smart looking set.

BELOW Steve used a Whitbread Horse transporter to look like a re-liveried ex-Whitbread Mobile Bar



found a brown Seddon Atkinson Horse Transporter Set in the livery of Whitbread. As Whitbread had taken over Flowers, this seemed a perfect opportunity.

My decals were printed on clear decal paper, so most would be hard to see on the brown paint; although I did have some yellow Flowers Mobile Bar printed on a brown oblong, the yellow would still not show up. My solution to this was to paint some white oblongs on the sides and then apply the decals on top. The end result is by no means perfect, and one day I might well come back to this one. However, in my head at least, it looks like it could have easily been an ex-Whitbread Mobile Bar that had had Flowers logos quickly applied for an event.

The final, and most recent, code 3 in this little collection is a Lesney Bedford TK. Originally, this one was sold as Major Pack No.2 in the livery of Davies Tyres, meaning an orange cab and silver trailer. Mine was sourced from eBay, already repainted pale yellow with the trailer plain silver. A little paint chipping adds period patina to it, increasing its charm. Logos were added in the same way as the others to give a nice period-looking Flowers box van (remember EFE's yellow cabbed articulated box van from Part 1? Well, you get the idea of what I was going for).

I'm quite sure there are no doubt experts out there who could get a more professional looking finish. Or those who could tell me that some of these trucks simply wouldn't have been possible because of their age and the post-Whitbread liveries used. However, as a little part-time project that required not too great a skill set (and certainly no spray painting), I'm pretty happy with my results. ■

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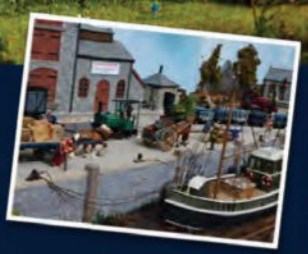
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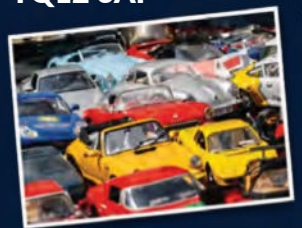
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  07534 939022

NOVEMBER 9TH
- **Coventry**
  BP Fairs
  07833 093619

NOVEMBER 10TH
- **Hook**
  Steve Clements Fairs
  07732 0330305

NOVEMBER 14TH
- **Sandown Park**
  BP Fairs
  07833 093619
- **Oswestry**
  Jackson & Jackson Events
  07967 681080

NOVEMBER 15TH
- **Ashington**
  David Parsons
  07742 609865
- **Spalding**
  J & J Fairs
  01522 880383
- **Malvern**
  Bulldog Fairs
  07379 578083
- **Rainton**
  Jim Corr
  07504 035955

NOVEMBER 21ST
- **Hawkinge**
  KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
  07977 646386 or 07889 901729
- **Exeter**
  Bulldog Fairs
  07379 578083

NOVEMBER 22ND
- **Bolton Stadium**
  BP Fairs
  07833 093619

NOVEMBER 22ND
- **Potters Bar**
  Joe Lock
  07866 641215 or 07810 513576
- **Walberton**
  David Parsons
  07742 609865

NOVEMBER 28TH
- **Brentwood**
  J J Fairs
  01522 880383

NOVEMBER 29TH
- **Harrogate**
  Dalesman Diecast
  01943 873420
- **Glasgow**
  Jim Corr
  07504 035955
- **Walsall Wood**
  Transtar Promotions
  01922 643385
- **Steyning**
  David Parsons
  07742 609865

DECEMBER 3RD
- **Theydon Bois**
  Joe Lock
  07866 641215

DECEMBER 5TH
- **Maidstone**
  Mike Spencer
  01622 298159 or 01732 840787

DECEMBER 6TH
- **Polegate Eastbourne**
  Eastbourne Historic Vehicle Club
  www.ehvc.biz
- **Kempton Park**
  RM Toys
  02392 262446 or 07957 823507
- **Newton Abbott**
  Ray Heard
  07717 278420
- **Lincoln**
  J J Fairs
  01522 880383

DECEMBER 8TH
- **Hook**
  Steve Clements
  01380 725322 or 07732 330305

DECEMBER 13TH
- **Gateshead**
  Jim Corr
  07504 035955
- **Bromley**
  KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
  07977 646386 or 07889 901729



This Dinky SHADO 2 model recently sold for £80 at Wessex Auction Rooms.

DECEMBER 13TH
- **Shepton Mallet**
  Bulldog Fairs
  07379 578083

DECEMBER 15TH
- **Wootton Bassett**
  Steve Clements
  07732 330305 or 01380 725322

DECEMBER 20TH
- **Rayleigh**
  KRJ Vintage Toy Fairs
  07977 646386 or 07889 901729
- **Port Sunlight**
  Jackson & Jackson Events
  07967 681080

DECEMBER 27TH
- **NEC Birmingham**
  BP Fairs
  07833 093619
- **Llandudno**
  Jim Ricketts
  01492 517004

AUCTIONS

NOVEMBER 4TH
- **Warwick**
  Warwick & Warwick Auctioneers
  01926 499031
- **Leyburn**
  Tennants Auctioneers
  01969624281

DECEMBER 7TH
- **Newbury**
  Special Auction Services
  01635 580595

NOVEMBER 11TH
- **Online**
  Lacy Scott & Knight
  01284 748625

NOVEMBER 14TH
- **Kings Langley**
  Excalibur Auctions
  0203 6330913

NOVEMBER 18TH
- **Warwick**
  Warwick & Warwick Auctioneers
  01926 499031

NOVEMBER 23RD
- **Chelmsford**
  Stacey's Auctions
  01268 777122

NOVEMBER 24TH
- **Bury St Edmunds**
  Lacy Scott & Knight
  01284 748625

NOVEMBER 28TH
- **Kings Langley**
  Excalibur Auctions
- 0203 6330913

DECEMBER 9TH
- **Sedgemoor**
  Greenslade Taylor Hunt
  01278 410250

DECEMBER 12TH
- **Kings Langley**
  Excalibur Auctions
  0203 6330913

DECEMBER 15TH/16TH
- **Newbury**
  Special Auction Services
  01635 580595

DECEMBER 16TH
- **Online**
  Lacy Scott & Knight
  01284 748625

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SUNDAY 4th APRIL - HARROGATE
SATURDAY 3rd JULY – PUDSEY
SATURDAY 18th SEPTEMBER - HARROGATE
SATURDAY 20th NOVEMBER – HARROGATE
SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER – PUDSEY

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Children £1
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