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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Holy smoke, Batman!

Comics are cheap and cheerful pulp fiction ephemera, right?

Wrong. When a comic is tipped to make anything between US\$0.5-1m (yes, one million dollars), then collectors sit up and start to take notice. US auction house Hake's March sale offered a huge selection of pop culture, rare comics, historical and entertainment memorabilia – and one very expensive read. A fortnight before the sale took place, Hake's had recorded in excess of US\$1m in absentee bids, so clearly this was going to be an exceptional event.

"This is unprecedented," confirmed Hake's President, Alex Winter. "It's a clear indication that rare comic books and blue chip pop culture and entertainment memorabilia has a rapidly expanding fan base worldwide. It also tells us that collectors have listened to the experts. They're going for rarity and the best quality they can afford."

That rarity, of course,

translates into just one thing: expensive artefacts. No surprise, then, that this sale was eagerly anticipated.

Four lots really encapsulate the sort of material that came under the Hake's hammer on the day. First off, that *Detective Comics* publication, which dated from May 1939, and marked the first appearance of Bat Man (as he was then known): a total of 24 bids were made, pushing this iconic superhero's publication to US\$569,000.

A whopping US\$124,023 was also bid on a December 1938 *Action Comics* which carried the second cover appearance of Superman. In the world of the comic



Above: The Holy Grail for the Batman aficionado and at US\$569,273, it ought to be!
Below: Ideal set from 1966 features the caped crusader... and a robot?

collector, art and the hero is everything, it seems. Third, an encapsulated 3.75 inch tall unpainted prototype of the legendary rocket-firing Boba Fett action figure from Kenner's popular 1979 range also had bidders in a lather: 26 bids later, this extremely rare toy closed on US\$86,383. Finally, still on *Star Wars*, a 12 Back blister-carded 4.25 inch tall action figure of Darth Vader from 1978 had the double telescoping lightsabre contained within. This went all the way to US\$64,900, comfortably exceeding the US\$50,000 upper estimate.

May the force (and the bank balance) be with you... ■



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■ AUCTION REVIEW

No breakdowns at Wallis & Wallis!

There was plenty of interest for collectors at the March Wallis & Wallis sale. *Star Wars*, in the shape of a 1977 Kenner 12 inch figure of Han Solo, boxed and with all accessories, was estimated to make £120-150. Along with this there was a Kenner (1983) Y-Wing Rebel Fighter, again boxed and described as in very good condition (estimate

£50-70). Back to planet earth, and to the Automobile Association, which is an ideal theme for anyone collecting breakdown models. A Budgie Toys example, with windows and within its original box, was estimated at £80-120 whilst a Morestone version, equally scarce but with some paint loss to its roof, was hoping to fetch between £100-150. To round off the theme, a more familiar sight was the mint Dinky AA Minivan: this was a second issue and was listed as likely to make up to £70. Still on Dinky, a very scarce American Export Covered Wagon was also going under the hammer. In olive drab with just a few minor chips, this was expected to fetch £80-130.



One of several AA breakdown vehicles to go under the hammer, this was a scarce Budgie Toys example

If US confections are indeed more to your taste, then you'd have wanted to see the huge Hot Wheels variety in blisters. Several lots of the more recent (dating from the early noughties) vehicles, 25 to a lot, were slated for sale but taking pride of place was the sextet of 1969 Redline issues: a 1936 Ford Coupe, a Grand Prix Chaparral, a 1931 Ford Woody, a Brabham Repco, a Hot Heap and a Custom Volkswagen. These were all unopened and mint, with tin badges and on good backer cards. Each was billed to make around £70-80. ■

Left: It's that man again! Kenner Han Solo was a star (wars) lot at the Wallis & Wallis sale.



■ AUCTION REVIEW

Out of this world for C-3PO

The recent Vectris TV & Film sale featured a host of old Marvel and DC comics, *Star Wars* collectables, *Dr Who* merchandise, Action Man, Lego and even some good old home grown children's comics, like the *Beano* and *Dandy*.

The interest in the area of *Star Wars* never abates: take the Master Replicas Limited Edition *Star Wars* Imperial Stormtrooper Blaster, in excellent condition, complete with its box and all inner packaging. True, the certificate was absent but that didn't deter bidders from blasting it all the way to £648 against a £300-400 guideline.

Or the French *Guerre des Etoiles Return of the Jedi* carded C-3PO. One arm was detached, his gold head exhibited signs of rubbing and the blister wasn't perfect; nonetheless the £150 top estimate was laughable, for this camp little plastic robot went into orbit, fetching a stunning £1,050. And that was small beer when compared with the Palitoy/General Mills *Star Wars* Tri-Logo Yak Face. In exceptional condition and mounted upon an un-punched card, it was estimated at



Something to yak about! This ugly *Star Wars* brute sailed past the £1,000 mark at the auction

£1,000-1,200, but went on to make £1,440.

Into the comics: a *Marvel Bronze Age* No1 issue realised £132; whilst the *Marvel Bronze Age Star Wars* comics, numbers 2 to 60 (but lacking No. 42 but including some duplicates) raised £156. But the most unusual lot of the sale had to be the Charlie Chaplin letter from October 1915 to a young fan who had enclosed an image of himself dressed as Mr Chaplin. Although a bit torn and faded, it came with provenance. One for the silent movie era devotee, it was bid to £360. ■

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH

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New collecting magazine



The team behind *Stamp & Coin Mart* magazine are excited to announce the launch of a brand new print and digital publication dedicated to coins and coin collecting.

Entitled *Coin Collecting Magazine*, the first issue of the new publication is being given away with the April 2018 issue of *Stamp & Coin Mart*, on-sale

now and distributed free at fairs and events across the UK.

Content will cover a wide range of coin-related subjects, including: collecting Roman, Greek and Medieval coins on a budget; an introduction to tokens and token collecting; exclusive insight into the growing popularity of collecting Royal Mint commemorative coins, plus a 'Scarcity Index' from

ChangeChecker, detailing the scarcity on modern GB coins. Every issue will also include news, interviews, latest issues, and auction results.

The magazine will also be made available digitally, via its own app, available to download and read around the world on a variety of devices. A second issue of the magazine is planned for later in the year before a regular publication

schedule is decided.

Editor Matt Hill said: 'We're really excited to be publishing a dedicated coin magazine and we have a range of fantastic articles in our launch issue, covering everything from Roman, Greek and Medieval coins to collectable modern 50p pieces, as well as guide to collecting tokens, banknotes and much more. ■

AUCTION REVIEW

A peek at Pook

The 24 March Pook & Pook sale saw an interesting US auction unfold, with some important collections going under the hammer.

A group of military figures from the collection of Jose Chase, of Portland, Oregon, was based around an army of composition wartime soldiers from German manufacturers Lineol and Elastolin/Hausser. Soldiers included those representing the Revolutionary War, WWI and WWII. The variety involved figures in action, some seated and some standing, as well as wounded men. Ancillaries included other essential wartime extras such as nurses, dogs, musicians and

horses. Personality figures were not ignored, either, with Hitler, Mussolini, Goebbels and Goering all making an appearance. To go with these were many wartime accessories: trenches, bomb blasts, warships, fighter planes, tanks, flame-throwers, howitzers and battery-operated searchlights. Interesting to note, a considerable number of these lots came with their original boxes.

A diverse selection of other toys, both European and American, were also up for grabs. Amongst them were three Marklin toys in exceptional condition, including an electric tramway trolley, train station and a double-globe street lamp. However, an outstanding last-minute addition to the sale was

an extremely scarce (circa 1910) Marklin painted tin clockwork musical carousel with original tassel-bordered cloth canopy. Estimated at \$30,000-40,000, it had the makings of a unique piece, since another was not known.

A collection of sleighs, toboggans, wagons, pull-along toys, tricycles and hand-painted sleds were also due to be sold. Of these, one highlight was the circa 1870 hand-propelled, carved and painted horse velocipede, (estimated to fetch US\$2,000-3,000); an extensive hobby-horse selection was also consigned to the auction house. Other nostalgic playtime essentials include a variety of painted figures from the Philadelphia-based Schoenhut toy company. These included a



Velocipede and sleigh were typical of some of the quirky lots that found new owners.

dolls house with accessories, and various animal figures, such as a kangaroo, elephant and zebra, amongst others. Also worthy of mention was the circa-1903 Schoenhut Jolly Jiggers dancing toy in excellent condition (guideline US\$1,200-1,600). A French Tête Jumeau bisque-head doll, complete with its original beaded outfit and leather shoes, was estimated at US\$1,500-2,500.

As is common at US sales, a number of cast iron toys also came up: there were 45 lots in all of which the most interesting had to be a Niederst Co. cast-iron steam shovel (US\$5,000-8,000); a near-mint cast iron police motorcycle (US\$1,000-1,500); and a cast iron Buick formerly of the Perelman Toy Museum in Philadelphia, billed at US\$600-800. ■



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■ AUCTION REVIEW

Tinplate trucks prove attractive



Warwick and Warwick held their diecast, model soldier and toy auction on 221 March. In all, there were 304 lots from which to choose in this the auction house's second event of the year.

The toy section featured some gems, notably a Tri-ang Minic Push and Go Interplanetary Research Unit. There's another version of this toy about, and when complete, it is a real joy to behold. The Warwick and Warwick example was superb, with all the vehicles and components present, and with the bonus of a good box, and it went on to realise £480.

Other interesting toys included a tinplate Bing Fire Station with two fire engines, which also sold for £480. And still on tinplate, a rather attractive

Wells pre-war clockwork Shell BP Tanker certainly drew the crowds; some keen bidding propelled the toy to a creditable £492. Another Wells item (or possibly Minerva) took the form of a Lyons Confectionary delivery van, which drove away to make a stunning £564.

On to the model soldiers section. Highlights included an attractive Britains French Groupe De Debarquement Naval set, which was slightly unusual, with figures and vehicles: this finally stopped at £252. Another lot for the Britains fan took the shape of a lead 21st Lancers set (No. 94), which achieved £120.

As for diecast, all the usual suspects were present. Corgi's Rocket Age models are highly collectable and Warwick and Warwick's Gift Set was eagerly pursued all the way to £384. That other Corgi staple, the circus model vehicle, was represented by a lovely Chipperfields Circus gift set

(No. GS23): all present and correct, with wildlife, this example sold for £360.

We can't omit Dinky, of course, and in this section was yet another example of domestic advertising in the shape of a Guy Robertson's Golden Shred van. Always saleable, this found a new home for just under £200. A companion piece relating to that Great British Favourite, Heinz, took the form of the Big Bedford. Not perfect, but still very collectable, it was bid to £144. Finally, another hot item from Dinky was the Leyland Octopus Flat Truck with chains. This model, whatever its colour scheme, always seems to do well at auction and in March, it was no exception to the rule, with model No. 935 selling for a whopping £900.

The next Warwick and Warwick diecast, model soldier and toy auction will be held on 16 May. ■



■ HOBBY NEWS

Cars wanted

Joanna Wright is curating an exhibition for Fringe Arts Bath during 25 May to 10 June called #getoutofyourcar to highlight the transport issues and pollution in the city of Bath. As part of this, she is trying to get together 25,000 toy cars to illustrate her findings.

To date, she has collected 1000 but is looking for more. She does not want to keep them and would return all of them – any that are unwanted will be donated to charity.

If you can help, please contact Joanna on 01253 11420 or 07582 749865 or visit www.fringeartsbath.co.uk/car. ■



Autocult have announced four new 1/43 scale cars for this month. The first is an unusual Argentinian-made car from 1958 called the Porsche Teram Puntero, of which 144 were made and fitted with a Porsche 356 boxer engine. In their category of "Small Cars" the next releases are the Fiat 750MM Panoramica Zagato, followed by a Walter Regent Sodomka. Sadly only a few dozen were made of these cars during the 1930s. The final new release for this month is the Maybach SW42, as part of the "Prototypes" category. For more information contact www.autocult.com.

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



AVIATION 400 EVA AIR A330-300 B-16332 'JOYFUL DREAM'

Price: £38 Scale: 1/400 Release: out now
Brightly coloured cartoon character livery on this A330-300 model from Aviation 400. Very nicely finished and displays well.
» www.ayrey.co.uk

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Price: £119.99 Scale: 00 gauge Release: out now

Locomotive No.1324 was built at Ashford Works in May 1907, entering traffic as No. 324 at Ashford. The locomotive would have been renumbered as A324 from 1924, before Ashford locomotives had the 'A' prefix changed to '1' from 1931, making the new number 1324 as modelled.

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■ AUCTION PREVIEW

Doing well Down Under

Australia's principal toy auction business, that of Trains, Planes and Automobiles, held a sale on 5 March and interest was again buoyant in the Antipodes.

A Corgi 420 Ford Thames Airborne Caravan, in two-tone mauve, had suffered a little paint loss and bore some scratches. Nonetheless described as good to very good, and in a good box, it sold for AUS\$80 (about £45).

The Winna Bakelite Sports Car, in purple, was

something rather different. Around 90mm long and in very good to excellent shape, this carried a very modest AUS\$20-40 guideline. It aroused a lot of interest and finally sold for AUS\$420 (£240). It was an Australian confection (so a rare sight in Europe); and apparently the winning bidder said that he would have just kept going, since he'd never seen purple Bakelite before...

Meccano also went under the hammer, and it just goes to prove the universal appeal this product has. A Meccano red and green No. 4 Set,

appearing complete, came with instruction booklets and was in good condition with a very good box. It was bid to AUS\$130 (£75). More interesting, though, was the Meccano pre-war biplane, in blue and white. Overall around 450mm, this large model aircraft was complete with propellers and pilot, although as is normal, it had suffered some paint loss and the rubber tyres were somewhat distressed. In all, a good to very good lot which just about cleared its lower reserve to achieve AUS\$320 (£185).

Below: Meccano by any other name, this building set caused a mild buzz on the day.



Bargain of the day might have been this Meccano biplane: it was ripe for some minor TLC.



Still on construction toys, the Buz Builder No. 8 Set (a what, I hear you ask? Buz was the Australian version of Meccano, but whether legitimate or not, I can't say) appeared complete, and came with instructions. Again, very good in a good box, this fetched AUS\$160 (£90).

Railway fans had a look in, too. A Kumata HO gauge brass NSWRR Garratt 4-8-4 4-8-4 locomotive with Kadee couplings was an interesting lot. The auctioneer noted that the foam packaging had stuck to tender in some places and

the loco came untested. In excellent condition and boxed, this achieved AUS\$750 (around £425).

Finally, from Minimodels, was the 529 HO gauge NSWGR Sydney Suburban Red Rattler Set. Comprising motor coach, a dummy motor coach and two double deck trailers, with Kadee couplings, here was a real eyeful. Included were decal sheets and an historical leaflet. Again untested, it was in excellent condition and sold for a healthy AUS\$460 (£260). ■



Above: Purple Bakelite spurred the bidder on to become a Winna for this car.

NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



WHITE BOX RENAULT 4 'CLAN' RED 1978

Price: £26.99 Scale: 1/43 Release: out now Nicely finished and detailed model of one of the run out special editions of the Renault 4. Well observed details mean it displays very well.

» www.ayrey.co.uk

HORNBY B17 CLASS NO. 2864 LIVERPOOL

Price: £95.99 Scale: 00 gauge Release: out now

Relaunched as part of its Railroad brand, this new model has been re-engineered with a new motor moved to its boiler. Smoother running is one benefit, but room for an 8-pin DCC decoder and DCC sound if required in the now more spacious tender will please many.

» www.hornby.com





■ The Vectis Military, Civilian Figures, Equipment & Accessories sale, held on 28 March, featured modern, contemporary, civilian and plastic issues, plus Airfix Archive, vintage Frog Kits; Connoisseur Miniatures from Russia and Plastic Issues - Connoisseur Selection. The sale also featured boxed and unboxed Britains Military Issues, composition & tinplate figures; vehicles & accessories; books, catalogues & ephemera. This set, Lot 6233, included Stadden, Tradition,

Lasset & Similar Makers in 54mm / 1/32 scale White Metal Napoleonic Types, 1970's Issues, comprising: 21 individual foot figures, including Austrian, French Line & Guard and British Types. They were painted to a reasonable standard and some were plinth mounted. There was some paint losses otherwise the figures were in generally good condition. Selling for an impressive £288, this lot smashed its estimate of £60 - £90!

■ EVENT NEWS

Carmarthen moves back to a Sunday

Carmarthen Leisure Centre will be hosting a Toy & Train Sale on Sunday 29 April, between 10.30am and 3.00pm. Organised by Chris Dyer Fairs, this is the first of three such events at this venue in 2018 with further shows in June, October & December.

The leisure centre is a great venue, easily reached from the the A40, and it has level and easy access. The nearby town boasts some excellent shopping facilities (classed as one of the best shopping centres in the Principality) as well as many

hotels and cafes etc for those looking to make a weekend of their visit!

Organizer Chris Dyer said this week: "Carmarthen attracts a wide and varied range of traders from both sides of the Severn Bridge and from as far away as the north of England, the Midlands and Cornwall as well as many more locally-based dealers from all over Wales. A wonderful array of stock will be available and with all the big names such as Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Tri-ang, Hornby, Lima, Wrenn, Bachmann etc. present. Value-for-money

on the stalls has never been better than at present, and traders are always very keen to close a sale. Stall-holders are also keen to buy and to exchange and by all means customers should bring along any surplus items they may have for disposal, even if just for a free valuation. Do raid the attic and the dust-off any old favourites as they could well worth bringing along, if only to find out how much they might be worth".

For more information about this fair contact Chris on 01643 702757 or 07966 694579. ■

My month

Auctioneer and television presenter **Tim Weeks** tells us what he's seen and what he has been getting up to this month.

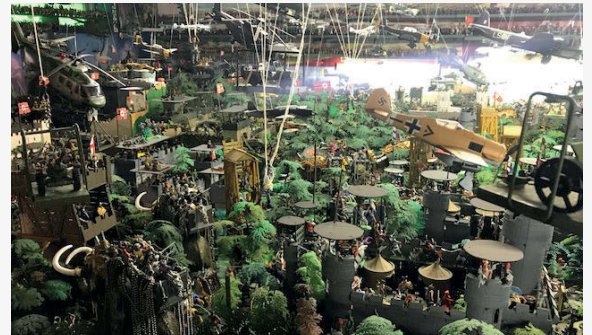


Well February was as equally fun and fantastic and it was freezing and flu-filled! I started the month by being fortunate enough to get a late call from the bosses at *Bargain Hunt* asking me to be a last minute substitute for another expert that had fallen ill. This meant I jumped into my car and drove through the snow for five hours to reach York, which just happens to be one of my favourite cities in the world – what a treat! Unfortunately because I was in such a rush to pack I did forget my tie and as a man that finds the top button of a shirt very uncomfortable I'm hoping that I don't look too much like Tom Selick in *Magnum PI*.

Other than the tie mess up, it went well. We were filming in York Antiques Centre which is a very different environment to shopping at a collector's fair. The main difference obviously being that you don't get to speak with the dealer themselves. As an auctioneer of toys rather than a dealer myself, it is always interesting to get the opportunity to check out what toys are on sale within an antiques centre which is predominantly filled with the more traditional antiques. Well York certainly had its fair share of collectors toys. I saw cabinets full of Dinky & Corgi, lead soldiers, dolls and even carded *Star Wars* figures. My feeling is that the way the popularity in toy collecting is growing, with new collectors coming into the market all the time, this is something that we can expect to see more of at such centres in the future.

February also gave me my first opportunity to take to the rostrum at a toy auction and what an auction it was. I don't want to come across as over excited or misled but are pre-1970's Dinky & Corgi really dead like so many people keep saying they are? It doesn't seem it to me. Sure they may not be achieving the heights of their glory days but the prices that I am experiencing are still making them one of the most sought after toys for an auction house. 'Long live diecast' I say.

To finish the month I completed the final part of the collection of soldiers, figures, diecast models and comics in which the vendor believes there to be over one million items and while I cannot confirm this number (I cannot count that high) there is certainly a lot there. The collection took nine days in total to bring back and I can't wait to get cracking into it, so more madness here we come! ■



HORNBY (R3579) CLASS 800/0 HITACHI BI-MODE TWO-CAR UNIT

Price: £276.99 Scale: 00 gauge
Release: out now

The application of vibrant vinyl colour overlays as worn by 815002 are faithfully represented. Paired with an un-powered model of 800002, the 500 examples produced will allow trains in this early test livery to be run on layouts. Hornby has made use of 'water labelling' and tampo printing to make the complex livery possible. The water labelling technique requires resilient waterslide transfers that are applied by hand.

» www.hornby.com





May 2018 Sale Dates

- Tuesday 15th - Specialist Diecast
- Wednesday 16th - Specialist Diecast
- Thursday 17th - General Toy Sale
- Friday 18th - Model Train Sale
- Tuesday 22nd - Specialist Diecast
- Thursday 31st - Dolls and Teddy Bear Sale

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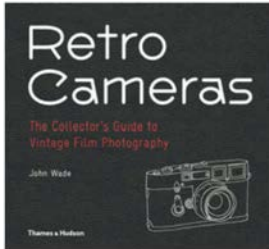


NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

Collector's Bookshelf



Title: *Retro Cameras - The Collector's Guide to Vintage Film Photography*
Author: John Wade
Publisher: Thames & Hudson
ISBN: 978 0 500 544907
Price: £18.95

Surrounded by a digital world, many people are choosing to pursue analogue creativity in numerous forms – from vinyl collections to vintage cameras. Sales of film in all formats are rising, and 60% of those using film have only started doing so within the last five years.

Retro Cameras is a stylish, design-led guide to the coolest, most collectible vintage film cameras still available on the second hand market. It focuses on 100 camera models in detail – from the affordable yet cool to the exotic and highly collectible – encompassing thirteen formats: 35mm SLRs, 35mm Rangefinders, 35mm Viewfinder Cameras, Roll Film SLRs, Sheet and Roll Film Folding Cameras, Twin Lens Reflexes, Instamatics, Stereo Cameras, Panoramic and Wide-Angle Cameras, Miniature Cameras and Instant Cameras.

Combined with a practical reference to discovering the authentic buzz of shooting with film, it is packed with

accessible advice including an in-depth 'test drive' of each camera type, shooting guides, quick buyers' tips and a comprehensive camera care section.

With more than 550 specially commissioned photographs and sharp design direction, this book is targeted at an audience with an appetite for true retro and an eye for vintage cameras as both working tools and design objects. It is a perfect reference for young photographers who want to get creative with analogue photography, while also offering authoritative guidance for more experienced collectors and enthusiasts.

John Wade was the editor of UK magazine *Photography* for seven years before becoming a freelance writer and photographer. He has written, edited and contributed to more than thirty books on the history of the camera, photographic techniques and social history. ■

■ This Steiff Centenary Alfonzo teddy bear, exclusive for Teddy Bears of Witney, recently went under the hammer at Vectis. It is a replica of the red mohair 1908 Steiff bear given to Princess Xenia of Russia by the Grand Duke George Michailovitch. The bear has been faithfully reproduced even down to the clothing and each is individually hand finished. Standing at 12"/31cm he was sold in mint condition, complete with certificates and an original excellent box. He caused a lot of interest and finally made £408.



NEW RELEASES THIS MONTH



**BRITISH TOY
SOLDIER
COMPANY**
WW1 GUNNER
Price: £33
Release: out now

World War I Gunner, mounted on horse back.
 » www.britishtoyssoldiercompany.co.uk

DR WHO METAL EARTH TARDIS

Price: £17.99 **Release:** April 2018

These museum quality 3D models are just the thing to bring a dash of geek chic to any room. Simply pop out the pieces and connect using the tabs and holes – no need for glue or soldering!

» www.forbiddenplanet.com



KING AND COUNTRY POLISH CAVALRY TRUMPETER

Price: \$129.00 **Release:** out now

A dramatic galloping horse and rider in a 'classic' cavalry pose... This trumpeter sounds 'The Charge' as he rides towards the enemy.

» www.kingandcountry.com



NEXT MONTH

JUNE 2018 ISSUE



Image credit: www.toy-fma.com

» INTRODUCTION TO...

We look at the toys found hiding in your breakfast cereal, and discover how collectable they are!

» POPULAR PLASTICS

The rise of plastic toys in the years following World War II.

» PRICE GUIDES & DATES

Your one-stop shop for all the essential info you could need.

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www.collectorsgazette.co.uk

*Editorial contents may be subject to change where necessary

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OF WW2...1940 - c.1955



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NEWS

IN-DEPTH

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It's as easy as ABC!

This issue **Alwyn Brice** does a spot of time travelling.

EXTER-MIN-ATE!
EXTER-MIN-ATE!

For anyone walking past a school playground in the early 1960s, the above cries, yelled in a slightly synthesised manner (not that any nine year-old knew what a synthesiser was), would have had the passer-by muttering about the changing face of education. But the fact was, in 1963, the Daleks arrived on the small screen and for any household lucky enough to have a monochrome television, *Dr Who* became compulsory Saturday evening viewing.

Yes, the Time Lord, who would go through several renaissances in the following years, gripped the (Terry) Nation with his weekly exploits. All manner of weird and wonderful enemies were conjured up by the BBC props department, but none was more memorable (or deadly) than those mutants from Skaro.

Their ongoing popularity has made Daleks a highly collectable commodity. Coming as they did in the 1960s, merchandising rights were well understood, which is why this is a rich vein to mine. Whilst the Time Lord himself is rather mundane by comparison (unless you are into scarves), the Dalek genre has fascinated generation after generation. In the early days Cherilea plastic Daleks could be picked up for a shilling (5p) in Woolworths and their interchangeable body parts meant that various models could be made. There was also a diminutive Dalek Rolykins (a small plastic Dalek running on a large ball bearing) for

the impecunious from Marx: today, originals are hard to find complete.

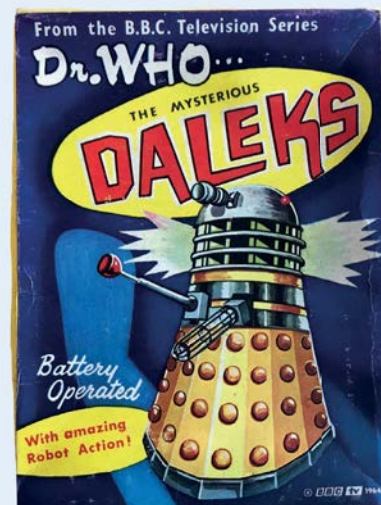
Chad Valley produced huge numbers of toys over the decades and its Give a Show projector was probably in every household by the end of the 1960s. A Dalek film strip turns up with this device for those who are into stills.

The bigger Daleks, though, are what collecting is all about. One of the best was the Marx product which was battery operated and which included flashing lights in the head. I'm not sure where you'd find the requisite battery these days, but it's an impressive model nonetheless. Another delight is the BBC/Palitoy confection. The latter company, renowned for its Action Man, joined forces with the Beeb to produce a talking Dalek. Not a big deal, really; after all, a Dalek's conversational repertoire isn't exhaustive... As with all Daleks, the trick is finding the thing complete because invariably the gun, arm and eyestalk were detachable. Once removed, they become difficult to track down.

Other oddities include the rare Marx Dalek Shooting Game (operating on the principle that the only good Dalek is a dead one); and the 1970s Denys Fisher War of the Daleks game, which contained a selection of these mobile pepper pots. And for the truly bizarre, how about the Dalek Oracle game? As rare as hens' dentures, this worked rather like the Magic Robot game, where a Dalek was placed in a well and surrounded by questions on a big card. He then obligingly pointed to the correct answer on an adjacent sheet. Made by Bell, you'd be hard pressed to find one today with its Dalek intact – but they do turn up. **CG**



ABOVE The famous talking dalek fronts a Jon Pertwee era annual. Its limited vocabulary was a bit of a let-down, though.



ABOVE The BBC weren't slow to see the marketing potential of this new alien: these models aren't too difficult to track down.

LEFT Dalek badges like this one could also be bought separately. I seem to recall replica Beatles guitars made in a similar format from the same type of plastic?

The ride-on railway

Mark Nolan profiles the eccentric garden railway system from Tri-ang Minic.



ABOVE

Beautifully restored Minic loco. Image courtesy of triang.co.uk

For the young, fully certified, swivel eyed train nut, an 8 by 4 layout was never going to be enough. If it hadn't been for the complexity of the joinery, and the inconvenient requirement of being able to get in and out of the bedroom, the FCSETN would have had a spur running out across the landing and round his sister's bedroom before his mother could say "Right, that's enough, I'm making an appointment to have you tested".

The lively train-obsessed mind next alights on the garden. "That rockery could be an embankment, and the compost heap is going to require a tunnel under it". Then it occurs to you, while you're at it, you might as well go up a gauge. And then your

fevered imagination reaches the logical conclusion; what about making it large enough to ride on?

There are several recognised gauges employed in ride on railways. 5 inch works quite well, as long as the track is raised up on piers, so your legs can straddle the seat and dangle down to the running boards.

Next up is 7¼ inch, which is wide enough for vehicles you can (gulp) sit in. Of course, all these types of railway are not really toys. They inhabit a nether world which touches on model engineering, live steam, rideable miniature railways and amusement parks. The sort of trains that could sever a finger if you were careless enough to leave such an appendage on the track. No one would be crazy enough to

make a ride on train set for the domestic market, would they?

Well actually someone was, and they did!

By 1963, the Lines Brothers toy empire was in full cry, with Scalextric and Tri-ang trains in both OO and TT gauge. They also had a factory in Belfast producing Spot-on cars and dolls house furniture, and the Minic factory in Canterbury. Here they produced Tri-ang Minic ships, and Minic Motorways, a realistic slot car system which dovetailed with Tri-ang Railways. That year, they embarked on a most ambitious and unusual project; the design and production of a 10¼" ride on railway which could be run in a suburban garden. The eventual system extended to a locomotive, a coach and track. This was no mean feat, considering that

a project like this now would involve millions of pounds worth of research, tooling and development, which would make it unviable.

THE LOCO

The chosen loco was based on the newly introduced Southern E5001 class (later designated Class 71) designed to haul the Golden Arrow luxury boat train from London to Dover. This was a powerful loco with a striking front end design which still looks good today. Twenty four were built at Doncaster between 1958 and 1960. Unfortunately their third rail electric power supply made them less than useful anywhere outside their Southern stamping ground. As a result, most were scrapped in perfect working order after a motive power rationalisation

COLLECTORS' FACT SHEET

- The site for all things Tri-ang Minic Railway is tmnr.co.uk
- Mike Slatter is the man flying the Minic Railway flag. Email mike@tmnr.co.uk for more in depth info or joining the society.
- A total of 89 locos were built and sold before production ceased in 1966.
- An updated version of the loco was available for commercial use. This had both bogies powered instead of one.
- A headlight and horn were optional extras on the loco.
- There was also a ride on wagon of 'toast rack' design with three seats, armrests and a front safety rail.



ABOVE

The front cover of the Minic catalogue is a superb piece of 60s graphic art.



ABOVE

Postcard showing a Minic railway installed at Butlins holiday camp in Rhyl.

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY**PULLMAN CAR (T.M.N.R. 11)**

The Pullman Coach is gracefully modelled in authentic colours with all the additional splendours of these luxurious cars. As with the locomotive the coachwork rests on a frame of great strength which in turn is cushioned to the track with superbly sprung bogies.

**GOLDEN ARROW LOCOMOTIVE (T.M.N.R. 1)**

This vigorous engine is a younger brother of the celebrated electric Golden Arrow locomotive. The coachwork of especially durable plastic is guarded by an all-metal base plate floating on independently sprung bogies. Coachwork adornment is of the most handsome appearance and the mechanical workmanship of the locomotive is of the highest order.

ABOVE

The Minic Pullman coach was based on a Metro Cammell Mk1 Pullman coach.

ABOVE

The Minic loco based on the SR E5001 (class 71) series of third rail electric locos.

in 1977.

With hindsight, modelling the loco on a prototype, rather than a freelance outline, adds to its cachet and gives Minic's model eye appeal. The body was two plastic mouldings joined together and mounted on a 3/16" steel frame bordered with 1" angle steel. The bogies had cast iron wheels with insulating bushes which picked up power from the track. The rear bogie was powered by a DEC electric motor driving all four wheels via a chain drive. The result was a ride in loco over five feet

ang Minic Narrowgauge Railway). It even had an adapted BR 'lion and wheel' emblem with a Kentish Horse instead of the lion. Louvres and windows were recessed and picked out in silver.

The prototype was chosen as it was up to date, ran past the factory and was an easy shape for tooling and production. It retailed at £110 in 1963.

THE COACH

Like the loco, the coach Minic chose to model also benefited from being based on a recent BR prototype, the Metro

were 6ft long and curves were available in two radii, twelve and eighteen feet. The only other track parts were a limited number of points, a right angled crossing and buffer stops.

Power to the rails was supplied by a 35v 20amp transformer. The loco was not fitted with brakes but could be controlled when the direction lever was reversed.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND

The Minic garden railway system took up too much space to be stocked by a conventional

wonders whether this chapter of English eccentricity ran at a profit or cost the company a lot of money. Possibly it just broke even.

So the upshot is, this is a train which never had the chance to become collectable. There simply weren't enough manufactured and sold. Also it's too big to store, and there aren't enough accessories to keep the collecting bug

stimulated. But every train collector secretly hopes they might find a Minic Narrow Gauge Railway festering in a neighbour's shed, begging to be restored. And if you did, it wouldn't be long before you'd hear your wife saying; "Right, that's enough, I'm arranging to have you tested." **CG**

If it hadn't been for the complexity of the joinery, and the inconvenient requirement of being able to get in and out of the bedroom, the FCSETN would have had a spur running out across the landing and round his sister's bedroom...

long and eighteen inches wide, and weighing in at around 125 kilos! It was capable of eight miles an hour with a load, and could even handle a 1 in 25 incline.

The dashboard panel featured a red indicator light to show track supply and two rotary snap action switches. One had 'Reverse/Off/Forward' and the other was 'Slow/Half/Three Quarter/Full. This was later modified to a simpler single switch giving 'Reverse Full, Reverse Half, Off, Forward Half, Forward Full.'

Body detail included a screen printed 'Golden Arrow' headboard, body side painted green arrows and a plaque with the letters 'TMNR' (Tri-

Cammell Pullman built for the East Coast route. Utilising a two piece plastic moulding like the loco body, it manages to look surprisingly authentic. The moulding was dark brown with the cream sections being painted on. Frame and bogies were the same as the loco but without any drive gear. The coach could carry two people seated on tubular steel seats fitted with hardwood slats.

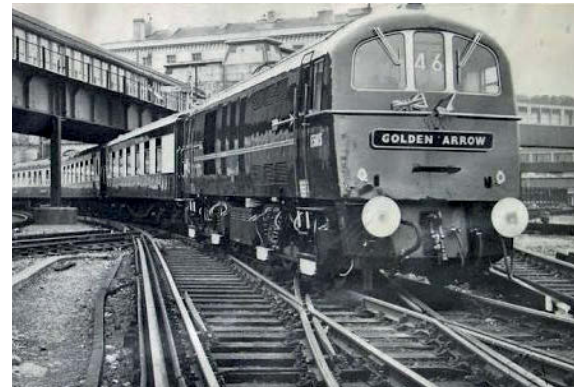
The Pullmans appeared with the names Amber, Amethyst, Emerald, Opal and Pearl. The coaches retailed at around £49.

TRACK AND POWER

Sectional track was made from 16 gauge folded galvanised steel screwed to hardwood sleepers. Straights

Tri-ang train dealer. Therefore they were sold on commission and delivered from the factory, which did not endear them to the retailers. From the advertising blurb; 'Anyone with a reasonable garden, tennis court size, can install a Minic Garden Railway.' However it was obvious fairly quickly that there would not be a lot of sales after the initial purchase. Once you had a Minic Narrow Gauge Railway running round your garden, you didn't need much else.

A lot of sets were bought and installed at holiday camps such as Butlins, which again limited further sales. The range was withdrawn from sale in 1965 without great wailing and gnashing of teeth. One

**ABOVE**

The Golden Arrow luxury boat train leaving Dover Marine in its heyday of Class 71 electric haulage.

**ABOVE**

A recent example of a Class 71 as modelled by Hornby.

Figuring it out

After previously celebrating the anniversary of the LEGO brick, **Rob Burman** is back to commemorate 40 years of the LEGO minifigure.



ABOVE

Over the years, LEGO minifigures have become increasingly more detailed, like these fantastic Disney characters.

After previously celebrating the anniversary of the LEGO brick, this time we're looking at another element that has become synonymous with the famous Danish brand. You see, as well as celebrating the 70th birthday of the LEGO brick, 2018 also marks the 40th anniversary of the LEGO minifigure. That's right, those cheeky little chaps with the claw-like hands first appeared in 1978 and have since grown to become an increasingly collectable item. However, how did the minifigure come about and which ones are the most sought after? Let's find out.

After successfully launching the LEGO building range in the early 20th century, by the 1960s and 1970s, LEGO had become a global phenomenon. However, at this stage the focus was mainly on creating models like cars, trains and

houses. To help stimulate the imagination of children, LEGO decided it needed some little people to accompany these simulated scenes of everyday life. As a result, in 1975 LEGO introduced its first ever figure. Unlike the original LEGO brick, which looks almost identical to those you can find in sets today, the first minifigure only bears a passing resemblance to its modern ancestor. You see, the original LEGO minifigure was a very simply representation of a person. It had a blank yellow head, simply body with no moveable arms and a single, solid leg. As you can imagine the play value was extremely limited so the designers went back to the drawing board to create something more striking.

The team of designers was led by Jens Nygard Knudsen, who set about creating a new prototype. By sawing down and filing standard LEGO bricks, the team started

creating something that looked a little more human. It was no easy task, however, and they went through 50 different prototypes and spent around three years perfecting the design. Their hard work debuted in 1978 as part of set number 600, featuring a policeman and a buildable police car. Just like modern LEGO minifigures, this improved design had moveable limbs and little hands that could grip accessories.

In 1978 LEGO also launched three new themes: Town, Castle and Space. Each of these themes had their own minifigure style to accompany the range, so Castle had knights, while Space had astronauts. To begin with the designs were pretty simple. All the characters had the same face and the male figures wore hats because LEGO hadn't designed a suitable hairpiece for them. Male hair didn't make an

appearance until 1979, so all the blokes were bald!

Throughout the early 1980s LEGO continued to add to the minifigure range. Printing on the tops became more intricate and more accessories - such as spanners or briefcases - were released to accompany the figures. A high point for minifigures came in 1985 as LEGO celebrated its 30th anniversary. To mark the occasion the company released 49 new minifigures for the town series alone - making it the biggest year to date for minifigure production.

The following year saw a brand new development in the figure range: LEGO Technic Arctic Action figures. A little like the more complex Technic set, these larger figures offered more articulation and were more than twice the size of a standard LEGO figure. LEGO released two LEGO Technic figures: Skier (in the Snow Speeder and

COLLECTORS GAZETTE FACT SHEET

- There are approximately 12 minifigures produced every second. By 2006, LEGO had reportedly produced 4 billion minifigures. There are at least 3,655 different minifigures produced between 1975 and 2010 and the number of new minifigures per year is increasing rapidly.

NEWS

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ABOVE Although the car may be unremarkable, set 600 is notable because it introduced the modern style of LEGO minifigure.

Air Rescue Unit sets) and the Pilot (included with the Polar Copter and Prop Plane sets). Unfortunately the pair were never as popular as their smaller cousins and the Arctic Action range was discontinued the following year. LEGO tried to introduce larger figures again in 1994 as part of the Belville series. Aimed at young girls, the Belville characters were very doll-like in their appearance with more detailed faces and outfits but once again they didn't match their tiny, yellow pals.

development since they were first invented - came in 1999 with the launch of the first *Star Wars* minifigures. Initially based on the new film (the *Phantom Menace*) these were the first ever licensed minifigures from LEGO and paved the way for figures based on the likes of Indiana Jones, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Harry Potter, etc.

In fact, it's one of these *Star Wars* figures that has become almost legendary among collecting circles. A little like his rocket-firing counterpart, the Boba Fett included as part

as a collectable icon was cemented in 2010 with the launch of the collectable Minifigures blind bags. Each series of these figures comes sealed in bags, so you never quite know what you're getting! As a result, the second hand market exploded with people selling their duplicates online or even at toy fairs. Now they're a regular sight around the country at swapmeets. The Minifigures series also spawned the creation of another highly sought after figure: Mr. Gold! Released in

All the characters had the same face and the male figures wore hats because LEGO hadn't designed a suitable hairpiece for them. Male hair didn't make an appearance until 1979, so all the blokes were bald!

As the years went by the minifigure designs became more complicated with elements such as different facial expressions, cloth capes, glow in the dark elements, headgear and new hair styles all being introduced across numerous sets. However, as mentioned in our previous article, the 1990s were a difficult time for LEGO, as more and more children played with videogames rather than traditional toys like LEGO. As a result the biggest development for minifigures - arguably the biggest

of the Cloud City set (#10123) in 2003 has shot almost to the top of the collectable list. This unique variant of the famous Bounty Hunter was the first to have printed arms and, due to the short production run of the Cloud City set, he's become exceptionally hard to find. In fact, it regularly trades for more than £250 on eBay. In a similar vein, another rare find is Aang from the *Avatar* the Last Airbender range. Only two sets were ever released in 2006 - the lowest number of sets ever released for a LEGO theme.

The minifigure's reputation

in 2013 only 5,000 were made and it currently re-sells for more than £1,000.

Unfortunately for collectors, many of the most expensive/rare Minifigures now tend to be sold at special events like Comic Cons - so unless you fancy making a trip to San Diego Comic Con each year, it's difficult to purchase minifigures as an investment. However, as a collectable in itself, there's no denying that these cheerful people are some of the most charming collectables around (even if they might not always be the most valuable). **CG**



ABOVE The minifigures series of collectables have proved to be one of LEGO's greatest successes and the range regularly tops the list of most popular toys.



ABOVE The introduction of *Star Wars* characters into the minifigures range helped to boost their popularity.

BELOW In 2013, the hunt was on for Mr. Gold. LEGO only produced 5,000 of these and popped them in blind bags across the globe.



Small scale. rivalry

Andrew Ralston looks at 1950s competitors for the Matchbox series



ABOVE

Benbros Gypsy Caravan and Milk Cart, in the earlier TV Series boxes. *Photo courtesy of Vectis Auctions.*

imitation is said to be the sincerest form of flattery. If that's the case, the management of the Lesney company must have felt very flattered indeed as, within three years of the launch of the Matchbox 1 - 75 series of small scale diecast miniatures in 1953, at least three of their competitors tried to do something similar: Benbros came up with the TV series, Charbens brought out their 'Old Timers' and Morestone launched the 'Esso' series.

All of these ranges tried to imitate the two things that had made Matchbox toys such a success: the models were smaller and

therefore cheaper than the likes of Dinky Toys and they came in a distinctive style of packaging in an attempt to establish a brand identity as Lesney had done so successfully with their blue and yellow cartons that looked like boxes of matches.

Benbros, a north London-based firm founded by brothers Jack and Nathan Benenson, was the first to take on Matchbox. Their idea was to use boxes that looked like a TV set - the latest status symbol in the early fifties. The TV boxes were used from 1954 until about 1957, when they were replaced by a more colourful red and yellow 'Mighty Midget'

design, and these remained in production until 1965.

An indication of how times have changed can be seen from the choice of numerous horse drawn vehicles such as a milk cart and gypsy caravan. Motor cycles were more common on the roads in the early fifties, too, and Benbros modelled an AA side car combination and a Vespa scooter. Several items like the Bedford Milk float, Coca Cola truck and ERF tanker are copied from Matchbox subjects, though in general the quality is not as good. Often, for example, the item was assembled prior to painting and then spray-painted, making the wheels the same colour as the body. Benbros made three attempts at American cars - a Hudson, Ford convertible and Chevrolet Nomad station wagon - but these are clumsy efforts. On the other hand, some Benbros subjects, like the Foden tractor and timber trailer or the Land Rover, have considerable charm.

In 1956 another Matchbox rival appeared on the scene, this time from Morris and Stone Ltd, who had been offering some larger diecast toys under the Morestone name since the late 1940s. Once again, the packaging was the key thing, and

Morris and Stone had an arrangement with Esso to make boxes in the style of Esso petrol pumps (albeit hugely overscale ones compared to the size of the models!) The first batch of twelve contained several AA vehicles and interesting public service vans as used by the Post Office for mail and telephone repairs. The range was expanded to around twenty subjects and some of the cars, such as the Rover 105, Austin A95 Westminster estate car and Volkswagen are to a better standard than the Benbros efforts, though the 'Esso' series Ford Thames van was perhaps the lowest point of the range. Most of the subjects were original choices, but there's a Packard convertible that definitely looks like a scaled-down copy of the larger Dinky Toy.

The Esso boxes only lasted a few years, but many of the models reappeared under different names and in different packaging styles such as the 'Modern' or 'Mobile' Vehicle Series or as Budgie Toys and these, with the addition of further new items, continued until about 1970.

Yet another range to take at least some inspiration

BELOW

Though fragile in construction, the Charbens models were certainly colourful. *Picture courtesy of Vectis Auctions.*



BELOW

Another selection of Esso models: GPO van and AA and RAC motor cycle patrols. Photo courtesy of Vectis Auctions.



from Matchbox was the 'Old Timers' series from Charbens, launched in 1955. Like Benbros and Morris and Stone, this series followed in the footsteps of Matchbox by offering small-size diecast models in an eye-catching box style, this time based on a luggage trunk. But Charbens showed more originality in their choice of subjects, cashing in on the

the more realistic Matchbox Models of Yesteryear which arrived in 1956.

Kemlows, a diecasting firm best known for making the 'Master Models' series of railway accessories, introduced some small vehicles in 1954 under the name 'Wee World', including a cement mixer, tractor and fire engine, and later followed this up with the

Charbens and Kemlows ranges all followed Matchbox in trying to make their mark through packaging style. They had something else in common, too: they gradually fell by the wayside, unable to make any serious impression on Lesney's ever-expanding sales during the 1960s.

These minor diecast lines could be criticised for being crudely made and derivative

Remember, though, that it's the boxes that make the difference – just as they did when they were first introduced all these years ago.

growing interest in veteran and vintage cars resulting from the popularity of the 1953 film *Genevieve*, which dealt with the famous London to Brighton veteran car run. The first two subjects modelled were the Darracq and Spyker that appeared in the film. As well as more obvious vehicles like the 1906 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost, there were also some real oddities like a nineteenth century Grenville Steam Carriage and a 1909 Albion. The range remained in production during the sixties though it was soon eclipsed by

short-lived 'Sentry Box' series of Matchbox-sized military vehicles. Once more, the appeal came from the packaging, designed to look like a soldier's sentry box. The range comprised a Bedford lorry and an armoured car, both available with or without a gun trailer, plus a tank and a Mighty Antar transporter. Sold mainly via branches of Woolworth's stores, these do not seem to have lasted beyond the early sixties.

Though made by separate, fairly small, toy companies, the Benbros, Morestone,

in design but they still have plenty of appeal to collectors. The Charbens veteran cars are the most affordable and can still be picked up, boxed, for £10 - £20, though many suffer from metal fatigue. The Esso models can fetch more than double that sum and the Benbros Mighty Midgets seem to be increasingly sought-after at the moment.

Remember, though, that it's the boxes that make the difference – just as they did when they were first introduced all these years ago. **CG**



ABOVE Royal Mail Land Rover and AA Motorcycle – two of the most attractive Benbros models.



ABOVE Opening the end flap on the 'Esso' series boxes turned the box into a miniature petrol pump. The models are (left to right) the Austin Healey, Wolseley Police Car and Volkswagen.



ABOVE 1903 Standard from the Charbens Old Timers Series. These pre-dated the Lesney Models of Yesteryear which soon became more popular.



ABOVE Ford Thames van was one of the less realistic models in the Esso Series and only had a short production run. Photo courtesy of Vectis Auctions.

Best of British

Meccano magazine

Brian Howes looks back at the history behind this ever popular publication.

My memories of *Meccano Magazine* date back to the early 1960s, those wonderful pre-computer days when boys had a myriad of hobbies and pastimes to share and enjoy.

Despite its title, constructing models from Meccano was, by then, just a small part of the overall content of what lay within the pages of this wonderful magazine, eagerly awaited each month. I loved opening the first page to reveal the inside cover, festooned with a splendid array of Dinky Toys, all in full colour. And there were yet more to drool over on the outside back page, many of which were exciting new releases. The first few pages were

always dedicated to advertisements for toys and games before the main event began with an introduction by the Editor, who I then recall being Geoffrey Byrom.

A quick scan of the contents would reveal all manner of interesting articles ranging from *Windmills of the World* and *Police Dogs on Patrol* to the latest explorations of space by Russian and American astronauts. I also fondly remember one article where leading motoring correspondent Jerry Ames travelled to the headquarters of Meccano in Liverpool to test drive its latest slot car racing game Circuit 24. Ames challenged the Editor to a race on the Hornby test track each of them racing two cars simultaneously over the four lane circuit. You can guess what toy was top of my list for Christmas that year.

Trains were always in high profile in *Meccano Magazine*, as were planes, buses, ships and bridges. Dinky Toy news was obviously one of my favourite sections during the 1960s by which time *Meccano Magazine* had become a hugely popular general hobby magazine aimed at boys of all ages. It even included a few pages dedicated to stamp collecting, then a hugely popular hobby among schoolboys. This was a far cry from the first issue of *Meccano Magazine* which was published way back in the autumn of 1916.

To begin with *Meccano Magazine* was a simple four-page broadsheet black and white affair almost like a news sheet or advertising leaflet. Edited by Frank Hornby himself, these early issues were distributed bi-monthly with an American version published under the title of *Meccano*



ABOVE

Always bright, colour and eye-catching these covers date from 1930 up until 1949.



ABOVE

Building fine models what what *Meccano Magazine* was all about to begin with.

Engineer, which was distributed a month ahead of the UK edition. The first issue, dated Sept/October 1916 featured drawings of a Meccano loom and a tall construction site crane typical of general early Meccano literature. The aim of the magazine, according to its strapline, was 'To help Meccano boys to have more fun than other boys.' One of its early series of articles was penned by Frank Hornby detailing the history of the company and how it was founded, this was repeated again in 1937. Initially the publication was issued free of charge until 1918 when a price of two-pence was charged for four single issues including postage. After the formation of the Meccano Guild in 1919 *Meccano Magazine* carried regular information

PRICES

No. 0 Standard Set	14/-
No. 1 Standard Set	21/-
No. 2 Standard Set	21/6
No. 3 Standard Set	22/6
No. 4 Standard Set	22/6
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DINKY SUPERTOYS

Superior Models in Miniature

Adverts in full colour helped to boost the sale of Dinky Toys, what boy could resist these temptations of these classic Supertoys?

RIGHT

FAR RIGHT

Bayko was one of the most popular toys advertised within the pages of *Meccano Magazine*. Here a train is arriving at Bayko-loo!

NEWS IN-DEPTH PRICE GUIDE YOUR HOBBY

for Guild members along with articles and updates.

Engineering remained the main focus as it expanded into the 1920s and in September 1922 it began to appear on a monthly basis. Up until issue 35 (June 1923), each title had been numbered sequentially, but from July 1923 the numbering system was changed and this issue emerged as Volume 8, issue number 7 instead of number 36. It was the first Meccano Magazine to have an individual cover although only printed in two colours. Under the new page numbering system, the editorial content began with page number 73.

The first Meccano Magazine with a full colour cover appeared in December 1923 and since then the front covers have become an iconic art form in their own right, always spectacular, always

to be the halcyon years of Meccano Magazine seeing the launch of the wonderful Constructor models and the Modelled Miniatures Series which later evolved into Dinky Toys.

Although the Meccano factory was severely restricted in production during World War Two Meccano Magazine continued to be published, albeit in a smaller war economy size with fewer inner pages from January 1941 onwards.

After the war the smaller format was maintained throughout the 1950s until reverting back to its former larger size in 1961.

The content never varied and continued to feature light and heavy engineering, scientific and technological developments and features relating to trains, planes, bridges and boats and futuristic looking modes of transport such as monorails, hovercrafts and jet planes.

So many feats of great British and worldwide civil engineering

To begin with Meccano Magazine was a simple four-page broadsheet black and white affair almost like a news sheet or advertising leaflet.

eye-catching and always exciting images of cranes, trains, boats, ships, aeroplanes and all manner of engineering imagery from around the world.

Meccano Magazine provided a great launch pad for the introduction of Hornby Trains in 1920 and the two products were soon firmly bonded together within its pages. Emerging technology in the field of radio and electricity also provided further editorial opportunities as did the 1924 Empire Exhibition held at Wembley Park about which a fascinating series of articles was penned by Hubert Lansley.

By the mid-1920s Meccano construction had advanced considerably and enthusiasts were able to construct more and more complicated working models by following instruction articles in the magazine. These included an in-depth series called Standard Mechanisms which commenced in November 1925 and taught Meccano builders new techniques whilst maintaining the best of general good practice.

By December 1928 the circulation had climbed to a very healthy 91,000 copies. The 1930s became what many Meccano enthusiasts consider

and transport related projects were featured in Meccano Magazine through the years that its volumes became respected as an encyclopaedia of engineering knowledge.

During the early 1960s a series of printing and publishing changes began taking effect led by the fact that Meccano Magazine was starting to lose its popularity and becoming difficult to print and distribute at a profit. Firstly it was taken over by its printer Thomas Skinner who then handed it over to Model & Allied Publications of Hemel Hempstead. Publication then briefly stopped in 1972 before a return the next year as a quarterly publication. Clearly times were getting hard for Meccano Magazine as the British toy industry hit a decline. Limping along through the 1970s it later incorporated other publications like the Junior Meccano Engineer and Meccano Engineer but sadly its days were numbered.

The publication lasted until the spring of 1981 when owners Airfix Ltd were liquidated.

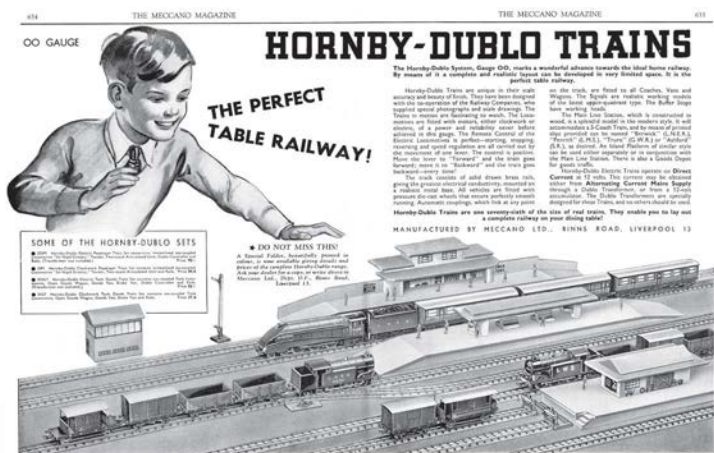
This brought to an abrupt end the 65 year reign of a magazine still often referred to as the best boys periodical of the twentieth century. And who could argue with that? CG



ABOVE Issue 10, October 1953. Image: arsenalonnetwofive.files.wordpress.com



ABOVE Meccano "X"-Series Models: Further Examples of Model Construction", Meccano Magazine, March 1933. Image: Brighton Toy and Model Museum.



ABOVE 1938 Hornby-Dublo range, showing wooden stations. Image: Brighton Toy and Model Museum.

More information

An archive of the Meccano Magazine has been produced and made freely available online. Details can be found at: www.meccano.magazines.free.fr

An introduction to... Advertising posters

Posters weren't made to last, so tracking down the oldest advertising in the world in good condition can be a herculean task



ALL ABOARD!

CLOCKWISE FROM

TOP LEFT J Howard Miller's iconic Rosie the Riveter has far outlived its World War II heritage and is now an established feminist icon symbol; French art nouveau star Theophile Steinlen's ad for Paris' Le Chat Noir remains an inspiration to art students; This piece by Peter Ewart is hugely striking and evocative; British artist Mabel Lucie Attwell is known for advertising work just as much as she is her children's illustrations.

Of all the assorted commercial industries, it may come as a surprise to hear that travel is one of the more sought after when it comes to vintage advertising poster collecting.

Of this particular scene, railway posters are a favourite. The earliest examples would often incorporate prices and timetables, as well as of course some attractive scenery from whichever popular destination was on the route.

In fact, the history of railway advertising can be traced back all the way to the birth of the US railroad itself, with the very first railway – the First Continental Railroad – being advertised from the moment it opened in the hope of luring farmers and entrepreneurs to the Wild West. Canada followed suit with extensive marketing to promote

RIGHT David Klein's 1957 ad for US airline TWA used abstract imagery to sell New York as a holiday destination; This 1935 British Airways ad selling flights to Scandinavia typically fetches around £3,000.

The total amount expected to be spent on advertising across the globe in 2018 is somewhere around £390 billion. Compare that, for instance, to the annual budget for the NHS of £120 billion, or NASA's £13.8 billion yearly spend. People care about advertising things to other people. A lot.

Of the many assorted forms the dark art of advertising now takes, it all started with the poster. The first ad posters were hand painted and are typically lost to history. However, once mass production kicked in, poster runs would typically number anything between one or two hundred to a few thousand copies. Longevity was never the goal, alas – most posters were expected to be rained

on, covered up or torn down. Finding these originals, therefore, is no easy task and most that do survive only do so because they were never actually displayed.

Several factors determine a poster's value. Some were created by artists who are now admired (Cheret, Toulouse-Lautrec, Cappiello, Mucha and Cassandre are a few famous examples) while others are valuable purely due to rarity. The condition obviously has a huge bearing, as does the subject matter.

The latter will vary tremendously, of course. We tend to think of ad posters as being for consumable objects – drinks, cosmetics, cars and so fourth – but in fact the variety of ad posters is really quite overwhelming. Subjects include events,

political candidates, holidays, TV shows or simply just brands. Sectors such as travel and aviation wholeheartedly embraced poster advertising, and as such there are many collectors of aviation and railroad posters.

It's also common to find vintage posters that have been lined to linen for preservation, and many examples on the modern market will have undergone repair and restoration. This can include painting over stains or repairing a tear. All of these will hit the valuation, but in some instances such examples still remain highly desirable due to the elusive nature of pristine originals.

When rare perfect examples do surface, they can fetch tremendous sums. In 1963, during an office

its first railroad in the 1880s.

Many of the artists who drew these went on to become big names in their own right, and plenty of collectors will specifically seek out the work of Hugo d'Alesi, Emile Cardinaux or Adolfo Hodenstein, all of whom were all active in the late 1800s. Early 20th century favourites include A. M. Cassandre, Roger Broders and Tom Purvis.

Aviation posters, meanwhile, actually outdate the commercial aviation industry, with the earliest examples advertising exhibitions or balloonists. Early 20th century posters then moved on to the introduction of new aircraft, and from the '30s onwards the large passenger airlines began to dominate the scene.

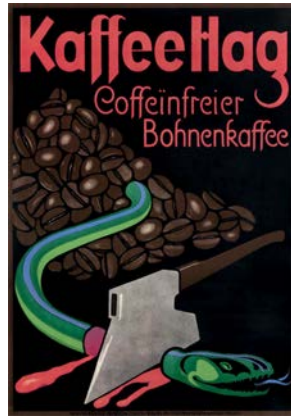




ABOVE
This 1895 ad for absinthe by Belgian artist Henri Privat-Livemont remains a lithographic masterpiece.



ABOVE
An original promotional print for the Swiss resort of Forsanose sold for £350 in 2012.

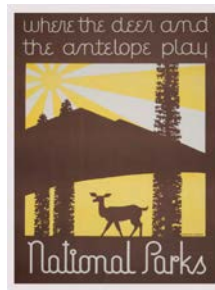


ABOVE
Lucian Bernhard's 1914 poster Kaffee Harg was designed to sell decaffeinated coffee.

STONE LITHOGRAPHY

Prior to the 1930s, the vast majority of poster ads were produced using a technique called stone lithography. This method saw each colour being hand drawn or painted onto a separate slab of porous stone. The poster itself is then 'fixed' to the stone with a special type of acid. Paint is then reapplied to the stone and is passed onto the poster via pressure. Once dried, the process would be repeated for each of the required colours.

All of which was hugely inefficient and eventually gave way to more commercially viable techniques such as photo offset and silkscreen, but the vibrancy of colour and texture achieved with stone lithography remains unmatched, even to this day. It comes as no surprise then that stone lithos are among the most collectable examples on the market.



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Max Huber's poster for the 1948 Monza Grand Prix is still possibly perhaps remains his most recognisable and influential work; US artist Jessie Willcox Smith was prolific at the turn of the 20th century and has a big following; This Palace Hotel ad by Emil Cardinaux dated to 1920 sold for £20,000 in 2012; Dorothy Waugh died in 1996 at the age of 100, and her work remains hugely popular; Fortunino Matania's Southport Lido ad fetched £6,200 in 2010.

renovation in Paris, workmen discovered hundreds of ad posters by Toulouse-Lautrec. Even as far back as the 1970s these were fetching as much as \$800 each, but today they can cost in the region of \$25,000. Arguably the most famous piece, a 3-sheet Moulin Rouge poster, previously achieved £315,000 at auction, making it the most valuable poster ever sold by

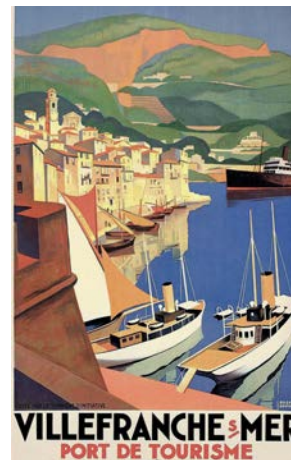
Christie's. The good news is that some originals remain relatively affordable in comparison. Edward Bawden's The City, which was used to advertise the London Underground and is extremely iconic, can be had in good condition for as little as £800 for those who strike lucky at auction. Original travel posters from unknown or uncelebrated

artists can often be had for merely a few pounds, yet remain both fascinating and visually appealing. Indeed, a newcomer could splash out as little as £100-£200 and grab themselves perhaps a dozen or more authentic prints that would live up any living space – although there will be costs involved in appropriately displaying and caring for paper prints.

Aside from condition, the main factors that determine current market prices are quite straightforward. Anything by a recognised artist is nearly always keenly sought, while certain subjects tend to see elevated prices – ocean liners, cars and, oddly, skiing remain firm favourites with collectors. These tastes shift with the wind, however, so what is desirable today may

not necessarily still be so tomorrow – cigarette ads, for instance, have suffered a huge decline in demand.

The International Vintage Poster Dealers Association (ivpda.com) is a great resource for finding trusted sellers, while posters.com is a good source for modern reproductions. **CG**



ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT

Toulouse-Lautrec's Moulin Rouge currently stands as the most expensive advertising poster ever sold, fetching £315k at Christie's; A copy of Man Ray's minimalist Keeps London Going Ad sold for £42,000 in 2007, and still stands as a record holder for travel posters; Roger Broders' 1930 design depicting a port view of Villefranche-sur-Mer fetched £5,000 in 2011; The work of Russian designer Maria Nesterova-Berzina is highly recognisable and sought after; Edward Bawden's iconic The City can sometimes be had for under £1,000 on the current market.

eBay

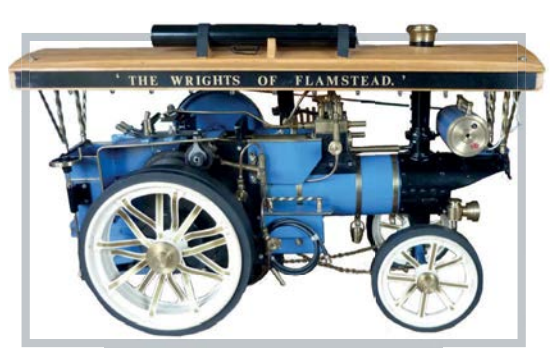
From collectables of the future to old favourites, eBay always manages to produce some amazing finds... and even more amazing prices!



↑ Vintage Hotwheels Redline UK Twin Pack - VW Beach Bomb Light My Firebird. Rare mint on card model from 1971, all original and complete. Sold for £2250 (48 bids).



↑ Lili Ledy red cape Bib Fortuna Star Wars figure HK AFA 80 Loose, complete and accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from Tom Derby. Sold for £2050 (34 bids).



↑ Markie Duchess of Malber 1/10 scale live steam traction engine. This item was made especially and it has only been fired on a few occasions, having spent most of its life in a glass case. It was sold with all relevant paperwork including the boiler test certificate. Sold for £1920 (21 bids).



↑ A wonderful Austin J40 pedal car, almost complete but the old restoration job now needs a little fettling. Sold for £1650 (9 bids).



↑ An original condition Matchbox Regular Wheels 46a Morris Minor, with a tan body, black base and metal wheels. The box had some wear although all end flaps are present and it displayed nicely. Sold for £1631 (22 bids).



↑ This Corgi Car Transporter 41 may well have been an empty box but its condition proved very attractive to collectors. The number of bids made go a long way to prove this! Sold for £1189 (42 bids).



↑ The early Woodgrain Dungeons & Dragons box sets are legendary, and date from the earliest days of the hobby. They were printed in small numbers and hand assembled by Gygax and friends. This is the third printing, of which only 2-3,000 were originally produced. Sold for £1346 (8 bids).



↑ Rare Billy Bookworm Pelham Puppet. Billy was one of three characters from The Bookworm Family and is from circa 1949. Both the puppet and box were in excellent condition for their age. Sold for £1494 (18 bids).



↑ A rare and near mint model of the Spot On 110/A Petrol Tanker, with its near mint original box. All side and rear transfers complete but with the usual age transparency. Both front and rear reg plates complete with intact registrations TXY 120. Sold for £1077 (10 bids).

NEWS

IN-DEPTH

PRICE
GUIDEYOUR
HOBBY

↑ A vintage Kenner Star Wars AT-AT. It had the correct catalogue sticker on side of the box as well as the 3 carded figures. 100% complete with unused sticker sheet, and original chin guns. **Sold for £1069 (30 bids).**



↑ A job lot of four 1/14 scale Tamiya Trucks, all mint in box and looked to be brand new and untouched. **Sold for £1030 (15 bids).**



↑ This large Lockheed Electra Airliner from the 1950s/60s had an impressive 45cm wingspan... it also weighed an impressive amount too! **Sold for £890 (16 bids).**



↑ Boxed and unused, this Britains British Army Infantry Officers set (No 1908) contained 5 figures from King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, Coldstream Guards, 7th Royal Fusiliers, Queen's Own Royal West Kents, King's Royal Rifle Corps and Grenadier Guards. **Sold for £946 (27 bids).**



↑ Vintage Len Insull ventriloquist puppet from the 1950s. He was only 27" tall with a paper mache head, weighted eyes and moving lower lip. The base of the body is wood, while his arms and legs felt like they were stuffed with straw. Superb, untouched condition. **Sold for £1020 (34 bids).**



↑ Tri-ang Spot-on 703 4 Piece Gift. The models all appeared to be in near mint condition, while the box had some edge wear. The set consisted of a Jaguar S Type, Vauxhall Cresta, Ford Zephyr and a Morris 1100. **Sold for £925 (2 bids).**



↑ This vintage Action Man from 1980 came complete with its original box and carded missile assault weapon. **Sold for £860 (26 bids).**



↑ This first issue Corgi Toys Gift Set No.23 Chipperfields Circus was sold in original condition. The seller noted that it may have the odd scuff and the transfers were not applied to the cages. **Sold for £720 (21 bids).**



↑ A Matchbox Regular Wheels No.31c Lincoln Continental, in rare metallic lime green. The model was in mint condition with no noticeable floors and came with an excellent box. **Sold for £822 (34 bids).**



↑ This rare spinning 1966 Mettoy Batman target game came complete with the original toy Bat gun, 3 darts, stand and tinplate dartboard. The seller claimed they are impossible to find, so a must have for any Bat Cave! **Sold for £750 (35 bids).**



↑ This King Bee Lemon Kirby version of Zollmen's Mad Baron was released in 2009. It came with two building and hand/claw attachments. **Sold for £827 (20 bids).**



↑ This tinplate Nomura Space Patrol car with lightning gun was made in Japan in 1960. The car appeared to be in excellent condition for its age and was in working order. There are no nasty dents or scratches, just a few very light age related marks. **Sold for £667 (12 bids).**

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SAS
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Leominster, Tel: 01568 611122
www.brightwells.com/antiques-fine-art

Brightwells
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■ TAMLYN & SON AUCTIONEERS
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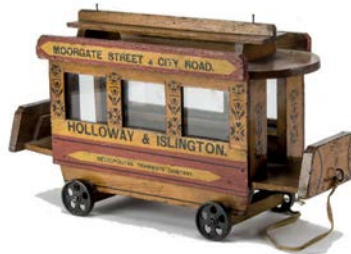
PRICE GUIDE

This month we cover the recent Tri-ang sale at **Special Auction Services**. Here are just some of the many large scale lots that went under the hammer...

**TRI-ANG
SPECIAL**



✦ A large G & J Lines wooden horse-drawn Gypsy Caravan with Royal Coat of Arms, varnished wood with red lining, front and rear door with circular window, large spoked metal wheels with brass hubs, steps to rear. Slight wear and sides a little splitting. **Sold for £800, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A fine G & J Lines No 2 wooden tram floor toy circa 1900, varnished wood with red painted sides, printed paper labels for 'Metropolitan Tramways Company.', Moorgate Street & City.' and 'Holloway & Islington' each side. Very slight wear. **Sold for £380, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A rare G & J Lines Wooden Doll's Motor Limousine circa 1912, transfer paper 'caned' side and radiator grille, brass rosettes to bonnet, printed patterned paper flooring and upholstery. **Sold for £520, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A Lines Bros. Baker and Confectioner wooden hand cart, varnish now discoloured to look green, red lining, spoked metal wheels with black rubber tyres, top opening to reveal various loaves of bread. **Sold for £420, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A Tri-ang wooden Carter Paterson Ford Van, painted green with black roof, original transfer signs to sides and roof, rear opening doors, tinplate radiator grille, wheels and mud guards. **Sold for £460, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A large Tri-ang wooden London Transport Double-Deck Bus, with tinplate General radiator grille, open cab, paper 'The Fairycycle' advertising, Strand to Liverpool Street destination, Service 123 and electric lighting. **Sold for £850, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A Triangtois wooden Fire Engine 1920s, painted red with yellow lining, bell, ladder, lithographed tinplate radiator and black circular label to back. Good, some restoration. **Sold for £260, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A Triangtois wooden blue Bull-Nose Doll's Series Taxi, with aluminum radiator, opening passenger doors, metal wheels with rubber tyres. Good, professionally-restored. **Sold for £380, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A Tri-ang wooden pull-along steam roller, painted red, black and green with yellow lining, tinplate tread to wheels, tinplate boiler door and triangular transfer. **Sold for £120, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A Triangtois for J Langley & Co wooden horse-drawn milk cart, metal wheels with brass hub, painted wooden horse with original wheeled platform, tinplate milk churn and buckets, black Triangtois roundel and J. Langley & Co Ltd. **Sold for £380, Special Auction Service, March.**



✦ A Triangtois wooden open top General Double-Deck Bus, Service 123, Liverpool Street from Hammersmith Bdy., advertisements for The Fairycycle and metal wheels with black rubber tyres. **Sold for £620, Special Auction Service, March.**



♣ A Triangtois or Tri-ang style wooden six-wheeled Carter Paterson Van, painted green and black, replica transfer to side, open cab, rear opening doors and metal wheels with black rubber tyres. *Sold for £320, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Tri-ang wooden horse-drawn farm cart, varnished wood cart with metal spoked wheels rubber tyres, tilt action, opening tail-gate, Tri-ang logo to front and painted horse on wheeled platform. *Sold for £85, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Tri-ang wooden hangar, painted dark green, tinplate glazed windows, front opening, windsock on pole and Tri-ang roundel to front. *Sold for £210, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Tri-ang wooden British Merchant Liverpool No 3 Coastal Steamer, painted cream, black and red, electric motor, funnel, ventilators, portholes, cargo holds, Tri-ang transfer and working rudder. *Sold for £240, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Tri-ang wooden Noah's Ark, painted red, white and yellow with stencilled windows; a replica ramp; Mr. and Mrs. Noah made of rubber; and nine pairs of wheeled plastic animals. *Sold for £120, Special Auction Service, March.*

♣ A rare G & J Lines wooden Carousel Ride circa 1910, with three carved and painted wooden galloping horses and three two-seater boats. Hand-cranked mechanism causing music to play and the carousel to go around. *Sold for £360, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Tri-ang carved wooden Push Horse 3003, painted, leather tack, metal and wood push handle and wooden base, metal wheels and black rubber tyres. *Sold for £260, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Tri-ang wooden No 2 Greenhouse, tinplate and glass windows, hinged roof, door, internal staging including double tier centre stand and Triangtois roundel to outside. *Sold for £190, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Tri-ang Series Mechanical Toys Magic Sports Car No MT4, clockwork, green chassis, mudguards and dummy hood, folding windscreen, steering and electric headlamps, in original box. *Sold for £520, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A rare Tri-ang pressed steel Glasgow Corporation Double-Deck Bus, chrome-plated radiator grille, No.42 Glasgow and Glasgow coat of arms transfers and pull-operated bell. *Sold for £600, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Lines Bros Tri-ang pressed steel clockwork No 1E Saloon, painted dark green with opening doors, red wheels with black tyres and electric headlamps. *Sold for £500, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Lines Bros Tri-ang pressed steel clockwork No 1E Saloon, painted beige and red with opening doors, black rubber tyres and electric headlamps. *Sold for £500, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Lines Bros Tri-ang Series lithographed tinplate Shell Motor Petrol Tanker, No.52/1 red, yellow and black with driver, clockwork motor and white rubber tyres. *Sold for £400, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Tri-ang Toys tinplate Saloon Car, No.541, painted green and red with lithographed tyres and driver and clockwork motor, circa 1937. *Sold for £160, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Lines Bros Tri-ang Series lithographed tinplate Motor Lorry, No.50/1 red with black and white lining with driver, clockwork motor and white rubber tyres. *Sold for £160, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Lines Bros Tri-ang Series lithographed tinplate Motor Dust Lorry, No.51/1 red cab and yellow back with black, yellow and red lining, driver, clockwork motor and white rubber tyres. *Sold for £160, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Lines Bros Tri-ang Series lithographed tinplate Motor Box Van and trailer, No.53/1 blue with white and black lining, clockwork motor and white tyres, repainted roof, corrosion to drivers door, key end broken off mechanism, wear to advertisements. *Sold for £130, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang clockwork tinplate No.1 Sports Car, painted grey, folding windscreen, steering wheel and lithographed tinplate Tri-ang Cord 935-135 wheels. *Sold for £380, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel Green Line Single-Deck Bus, 704 Tunbridge Wells to Windsor via London, chrome-plated radiator, pull-operated bell and black rubber tyres. *Sold for £360, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A rare Tri-ang pressed steel dark turquoise Green Line Single-Deck Bus, with destination 704 Windsor, via Victoria, chrome-plated radiator, black rubber tyres and pull-operated bell. *Sold for £360, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel Diesel Series Mobile Concrete Mixer, No.6011, painted red and blue with black rubber tyres and operating instructions. *Sold for £150, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel London Transport Single-Deck Bus, chrome-plated radiator grille, No.9B, black rubber tyres, pull-operated bell and 'British Made' cardboard tag. *Sold for £620, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel Thames Trader Breakdown Truck, painted blue and yellow diecast cab, blue steel back with transfers of saluting man, operating crane and black rubber tyres. *Sold for £220, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel 300 Series Long Distance Transporter, painted red cab and mudguards, dark turquoise back, chrome-plated radiator grille, transfers to side, opening back and six black rubber wheels. *Sold for £210, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel Bedford Breakdown Lorry, No.6165, with tinplate radiator, red wheels with black rubber tyres, working crane and Tri-ang transfer on roof. *Sold for £130, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A rare Tri-ang pressed steel Thames Trader 'Pickfords' Mechanical Horse and Pantechnicon, diecast cab, opening rear doors, uncoupling mechanism and black rubber tyres. *Sold for £270, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel 300 Series Horse Transporter, painted red and white with transfer to sides, opening rear doors and side door, brown and white horse plastic horse on wheels and black rubber tyres. *Sold for £260, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel 200 Series Transport Van No 200, paper advertisements on side for Frog Penguin aircraft, Pedal Motors, Tricycles, Pedigree Pets Soft Toys and Dolls, Pedalkars and Wakouwa. *Sold for £160, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel Thames Trader Mechanical Horse Rocket Transporter, steel US Army rocket, winching mechanism and six wheels with black rubber tyres. *Sold for £360, Special Auction Service, March.*



▲ A Tri-ang pressed steel Metal Milk Lorry, lithographed tinplate radiator, wheels with rubber tyres and six Triangtois Dairy lithographed tinplate milk churns. *Sold for £130, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A rare Joitoys Wooden open top Omnibus, painted yellow and green with red lining, wire steering wheel, stencilled radiator grille, coppered tin label JOIBOY on carriages of a train 'Strength in the Toy is Joy for the Boy' and cast iron wheels. *Sold for £320, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Swallow Toys steel and wood Milk Delivery Lorry, painted red and green with yellow lining, Swallow Toy sticker to cab roof, eight lithographed tinplate Swallow Dairy milk churns and white metal wheels with black rubber tyres. *Sold for £190, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ An SFA France 756 clockwork Military Motorcycle and Sidecar, white lithographed tinplate with dark blue detail, red driver and passenger with machine gun. *Sold for £260, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Structo No 12 Automobile Deluxe, blue painted steel, crank handle keywind mechanism with gears, Structo transfer to grille, windshield, dummy hood and spare wheel. *Sold for £140, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Structo Traction Engine and Trailer, painted green and red steel, crank handle keywind mechanism and brake, wooden home-built showman's caravan. *Sold for £120, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Meccano pre-war No 2 Motor Car Constructor, made up as boat-tail racer, painted blue and cream, red seats, white-clothed driver with red helmet, clockwork and transfer to rear. *Sold for £580, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Burnett Ubilda racing car, orange lithographed tinplate with black lining, No1., clockwork and electric headlamp, in original box. *Sold for £340, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ An early Wells clockwork lithographed tinplate ambulance, cream with black detail, red cross to roof and back, driver, Wells logo on side and W1929 number plate. *Sold for £200, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Hessmobil flywheel-drive lithographed tinplate Open Tourer, red with black and white lining, No.16 on radiator, JLH on doors, driver and hand crank. *Sold for £260, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A wooden S S Prince Edward Coastal steamer, painted black, red and cream, brown deck, clockwork motor, funnel with Prince of Wales feathers, porthole, cargo hold and lifeboats, circa 1930. *Sold for £120, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Swallow Toys United Dairies Horse-Drawn Milk Float, painted wood with transferred signage and Royal Household By Appointment coat of arms, four hinged doors, metal spoked wheels with rubber tyres. *Sold for £550, Special Auction Service, March.*



♣ A Swallow Toys Wooden Pratts Spirit Delivery lorry, painted red with black detail, lithographed radiator, transfers to side, wooden wheels and four Pratts High Test Petrol cans. *Sold for £620, Special Auction Service, March.*



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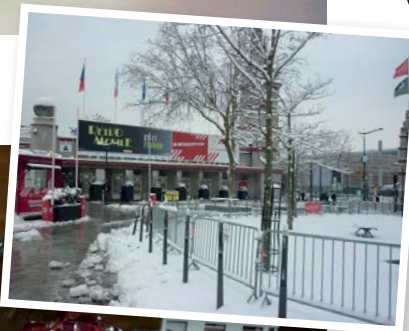
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Retromobile Show 2018

Andrew Ralston crosses the Channel to visit the show which claims to have 'something for everyone'



ABOVE A special display of early Renaults celebrating 120 years of the marque. **RIGHT** Snow caused traffic problems in Paris in February, making the Metro the best way of reaching the exhibition centre at Porte de Versailles where the Retromobile show is held.



ABOVE Plenty of mint and boxed Dinky Toys to choose from at the stand of the Galerie du Jouet Ancien, a Paris-based dealer in obsolete toys.

Hheavy snow covered Paris in early February, but it didn't dampen the enthusiasm of thousands of model collectors and classic car fans attending the 43rd annual Retromobile show. Fortunately, the Metro line to Porte de Versailles takes visitors right to the entrance of the vast Parc des Expositions where the show extends over three spacious halls.

'Something for everyone' might sound a bit of a cliché but it's the only way to describe the attractions of Retromobile. Around 600 vehicles of all types were on show. For truck fanatics, there was a display marking the centenary of the birth of Paul Berliet while motor sport fans could gaze in admiration on a display of Abarths as well as the 4.5 litre Bentley that won Le Mans in 1930, on loan from the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. The Renault

marque received a special focus as this year is the 120th anniversary of the founding of the company by Louis Renault in 1898 in a shed at the back of the family garden in Boulogne-Billancourt. A selection of tanks from the 1917-1937 period, on loan from the Saumur Tank Museum, reminded visitors that Renault didn't just make cars and trucks. As well as all that, something which makes Retromobile stand out from many other classic car events is the presence of manufacturers' stands,

creating the atmosphere of an international motor show.

Viewing all these exhibits is a thrill for anyone who is a transport enthusiast, but those who make the annual pilgrimage to Retromobile – and there are plenty of British visitors – will above all hope to pick up something for their collections. For the privileged few, that might mean the purchase of an exotic classic car at the Artcurial auction where a 1955 Mercedes Benz 300SL 'Gullwing' fetched nearly 1.2 million Euros and a 1938 Bugatti Type 57C Atalante Coupe set a world record price for that particular car of 2,903,200 Euros.

Most visitors, however, would be happy to go home with some model cars for their showcases and, in spite of the growth of internet trading, there seemed to be even more traders selling models than in the previous few years. Unlike most other cities, Paris is fortunate that it still has quite a few specialist dealers who have shops, and those looking for top quality obsolete diecasts in mint and boxed condition would make straight for the stall of Galerie du Jouet Ancien as much of the stock usually to be seen in the shop premises in the rue des Grands Augustins was transferred to Retromobile and displayed on a huge stand. Some typical mint boxed examples on sale included a Spot-On Renault Floride at 169 Euros, Dinky Superior Criterion Ambulance (139 Euros), French Dinky Simca Chambord (179 Euros) and Peugeot D3A 'Postes' van (129 Euros). Highly-sought after among French collectors are the early 1950s plastic



ABOVE The Art of the Car: this Mini was made out of beer mats!



ABOVE Some of the model manufacturers such as Spark had their own display and sales stands.



ABOVE Paris toy dealer Dan Toys offers an extensive range of Dinky replicas. Some of these Guy vans are finished in liveries inspired by other Dinky models such as the Trojan van.

Norevs in the 'wood crate' style boxes, with prices for these now being comparable with equivalent diecasts of the period. Asking price for the Ford Vedette breakdown truck, for example, was 145 Euros. Browsing the stands clearly demonstrated that the presence of the original box is crucial to the value of a model: a nearby stall had some of the same Norevs, in good unboxed condition, for a tenth of the price.

Another top Paris antique toy dealer is Bertrand Bigaudet (www.artstoysanddesign.com) who used to have a shop near the Arc de Triomphe. This is now closed and, after an absence of some years, Bertrand is now exhibiting his stock again at Retromobile. This year he had an impressive array of CIJ models on sale and a variety of rare Spanish cars by Rico and Paya. He also speaks fluent English which is a great advantage! So, too, does Marc Mesnil who has taken over a business called 'La Boîte à Jouets' which specialises in garage accessories, circus vehicles and obsolete models.

For a more modest outlay, there were plenty of stalls piled high with the 'partwork' diecasts that are so popular in France, many of which are now available at discounted prices and numerous specialist dealers in modern brands such as Neo, Matrix and Spark were in evidence too. Some of these manufacturers, like Spark, had their own sales stands. However, perhaps the most interesting development in recent years has been the Dan Toys range – Dinky Toy replicas made from the same

tooling as the Atlas Dinky series but produced in a wider range of colour schemes. One of the latest issues is based on the Dinky Triumph TR2 in six different competition colours and this will certainly appeal to collectors in the UK. A novel idea is to create something new by applying to one van a livery that Dinky used on another. Thus, the Dan Toys Guy van can be found not only in original liveries like 'Lyon's Swiss Rolls' and 'Slumberland' but in the finishes first seen on the 1950s Dinky Trojan such as 'Oxo', 'Brooke Bond Tea' and 'Cydrax'. The Guy also comes in the two-tone blue colours of 'Capstan' cigarettes originally used on the Dinky Morris Commercial van – something that would be unthinkable today on a toy meant for children!

Of course, old and new model cars aren't the only items that collectors were taking home from Retromobile. Anything automobile related – pedal cars, advertising plaques, mugs, car sales brochures and even original paintings on a motoring theme – were on sale, with prices to suit any budget. France had several pedal car manufacturers such as Eureka and MG (Morellet et Guerineau) and one trader specialising in these had a selection of Renaults and Citroen at prices ranging from 800 to 3000 Euros according to condition. Often, he said, enthusiasts who owned the real vehicle would buy one of these to display alongside it.

If you've never been to Retromobile, it's an unforgettable experience for any motoring enthusiast or toy collector. Keep it in mind for February 2019! ■



ABOVE Familiar to all collectors of French Dinky Toys: the special-bodied Citroen Limousine built for President de Gaulle.



ABOVE Vast expanse of sales stalls catered for every collecting interest.



ABOVE Early plastic models by Norev fetch comparable prices to their diecast equivalents.



ABOVE Marc Mesnil of 'La Boîte à Jouets' had some interesting obsolete toys for sale as well as a range of garage accessories and figures.



ABOVE If you've got a barn full of classic cars, you can purchase some vintage-style petrol pumps to display alongside them.



ABOVE Vintage pedal cars are popular among members of the classic car fraternity who like to display them beside the real vehicles.

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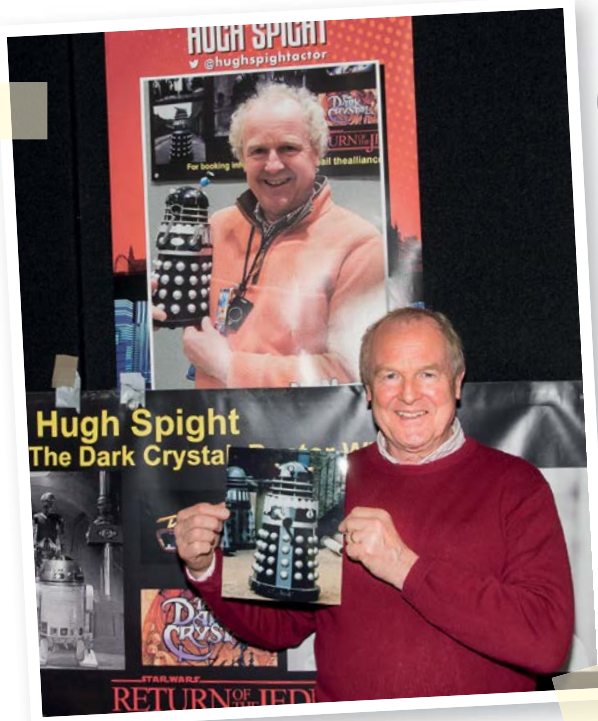
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The secret life of actors

Ann Evans talks to an actor more used to working with Jedis, Muppets and Daleks...



As collectors know, toy fairs and Comic Con events are often the places to find rare and unusual items, and the MCM Comic Con held at the Birmingham MCM saw the appearance of a *Star Wars* actor who many fans had thought they would never track down.

"I am a bit of a rarity," said Hugh Spight who played a Gamorrean Guard in *Star Wars - Return of the Jedi*. He was the guard who escorted Han Solo, played by Harrison Ford, down to the dungeons. It was a part that Hugh was delighted to play, and understandably, he was very excited when he went along to the premier of the film with family and friends back in 1983. However, when the credits rolled, his part was credited not to Hugh Spight - but Hugh Spirit. To

say he was devastated would be an understatement.

Hugh then went to Germany to appear in a musical. He found himself so busy that he remained working and living in Germany for 15 years. Meanwhile Comic Con events really took off, and *Star Wars* fans got many opportunities of meeting up with actors who played Storm Troopers, Imperial Officers, Ewoks as well as the main character parts - except for the Gamorrean Guard who tangled with Han Solo.

"I'd heard about these shows," Hugh said, "but didn't know much about them. Then I was tracked down and everything opened up for me."

The confusion over his name in the *Star Wars* credits had meant that show organisers hadn't been able to contact him. That has now all changed, and

Hugh is attending conventions all around the world, and thoroughly enjoying them.

Throughout his career as a full body puppeteer, dancer, actor and entertainer, Hugh has appeared in numerous productions, though it's doubtful you will ever have seen his face. With his stilt-walking experience, he was one of the Landstriders in *Dark Crystal*. He has also worked with Jim Henson on *The Great Muppet Caper*, *Doctor Who* and *The Elephant Man*.

As *Star Wars* fans will know, Landstriders were long-legged quadrupeds that moved with great speed. Hugh said: "As a Landstrider, I worked on stilts with a safety harness. And with 60% of my body weight supported by the harness, I could gallop. It was the first time this had ever been done. I mimicked the movement of giraffes to get the effect."

Hugh also had an important role in *Doctor Who*, as one of the original Supreme Daleks. He recalls how tricky it was to get inside the Daleks, especially as some of the original Dalek operators had been invited to return and operate these. "Some of the operators were a bit ancient, and couldn't get their legs over!" Hugh said mischievously.

And he recalls a particular incident in the filming of the 1988 series *Remembrance of*

the Daleks in which Sylvester McCoy plays the 7th Doctor. "They had to blow a Dalek up, so we went down to some railway arches in London, filled a Dalek with explosives and set off an almighty bang. But what the BBC had forgotten to do was inform the police and fire service that they were going to make a huge explosion. So, we had police sirens and the

emergency services rushing to the scene. And remember this was during the IRA troubles and in London."

Hugh now travels to Comic Con events in various parts of the world, and is always happy to chat to fans about his career. He added: "But being the guard who wrestled with Harrison Ford and won - well, I can dine out on that story!". ■

RIGHT

The Dark Crystal is a 1982 high fantasy adventure film directed by Jim Henson and Frank Oz. Hugh was one of the The Landstriders - gentle but very protective creatures in the world of Thra.



ABOVE Hugh Spight and his Dalek. Photo by Rob Tysall. RIGHT The seventh Doctor, Sylvester McCoy, and his Dalek - this time in kit form.

Where's the Kaboom?

Ann Evans goes in search of collectables that are out of this world. Photos by Rob Tysall.

Approaching his 70th year, Marvin the Martian is still looking good – and still trying to blow up the earth! This cute but despicably dangerous Martian made his first appearance on *Looney Tunes* in 1948 in the Bugs Bunny cartoon, *Haredevil Hare*. Poor old Bugs had been sent on a mission to the moon, where he encounters Marvin and his K-9 accomplice who were on a mission from Mars to blow up planet earth. Fortunately for us earthlings, Bugs Bunny manages to save earth, but accidentally blows up the moon instead leaving just a crescent which he, Marvin and K-9 end up dangling from. Bugs has the last word as the cartoon ends with him yelling in that familiar Brooklyn accent, “Get me outta here!”

Marvin the Martian is more quietly spoken even though his voice, and that of Bugs Bunny, was voiced by American actor Mel Blanc. He was responsible for Marvin's voice for every cartoon until 1987. Plus he was also the voice for Woody Woodpecker, Daffy Duck, Sylvester the

ABOVE Marvin in his spaceship.

BELOW Marvin and K-9 ready for action.



Cat, Tweety Bird, Porky Pig and many other popular characters.

While Marvin doesn't have a mouth, he has the most expressive eyes, eyebrows and body language, brilliantly animated to show his every mood and intention. And despite not having a mouth he certainly has lots to say for himself; usually about blowing up earth using an Illudium Q-36

Explosive Space Modulator – which looks remarkably like a stick of dynamite. His catch phrases include: “Where's the kaboom? There was supposed to be an earth shattering kaboom.”

Marvin the Martian was the brainchild of American animator, producer and award winning director Isadore “Friz” Freleng who became well known for his work with Warner Bros *Looney Tunes* and *Merrie Melodies* cartoons. Freleng was also responsible for Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig, Sylvester the Cat and many more cartoon characters. He based Marvin on the concept of the Roman God Mars, with his green skirt and helmet.

In Marvin's debut appearance back in 1948, he wasn't given a name but made his entrance in his green Mars to Moon Expeditionary Force Ship. Later, in the 1952 Bugs

Bunny cartoon *The Hasty Hare* he was the Commander of Flying Saucer X-2. As his popularity grew, and he began to have his own merchandise, the name Marvin the Martian was adopted, which suits him very well.

Chuck Jones directed every Marvin cartoon until 1987, and Marvin has been making regular appearances through the decades right from the 1940s. In the 1950s he was in *Hasty Hare*, *Duck Dodgers in the 24th Century* and *Hare Way to the Stars*. In the 60s Marvin was in *Mad as a Mars Hare*. 1980 was a busy year seeing him in *Spaced Out Bunny*, *Duck Dogers and the Return of the 24th Century*, Bugs Bunny's *Burstin Out All Over* and a cameo appearance in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. Throughout the 1990s and 2000s he's appeared in a further 13 cartoons, the latest

being *Looney Tunes: Rabbits Run* in 2015, produced and directed by Jeff Siergey.

For collectors of Marvin the Martian and K-9 there is a wealth of collectables to look out for, although I must admit to not having spotted many at toy fairs until recently. At Burton Railway Society's toy fair we go chatting to Adrian Brooks who is a massive fan of Marvin and who had brought along some of his collection that he was willing to part with.

Over the years lots of Marvin and K-9 themed items have been created: T-shirts, mugs, prints, figures in various poses, Pop Vinyl Figures, bobble head toys, pens, badges, collector's plates, ceramic cookie jars and even Marvin tea pots... which I couldn't resist buying when I spotted one on Adrian's stand. This family sized teapot made in 1999 is going to be a great talking point when I next have guests round.

Animation art is also a popular collectable and a glance at the auction houses show that prints of Marvin's scenes from cartoons have fetched four figure sums. In recent years Warner Bros have been producing collectables of their cartoon characters, including Marvin and K-9. The flow of new products makes the turnover very fast, so many items are only available for a short while. Hence they soon become rare and sought after.

Happily, I have my Marvin the Martian teapot, and I shall be hanging onto it. Cup of tea anyone? ■

BELOW Marvin the Martian spaceship digital clock.



ABOVE Marvin and K-9 tea pot.

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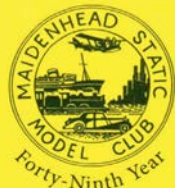
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22 APRIL 18

- **Exeter**, Bulldog Fairs, 01373 452857
- **Orpington**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Macron**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Durham**, Bowburn Toy & Train Fair, 01709 790603

24 APRIL 18

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

27 APRIL 18

- **Alfreton**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790

28 APRIL 18

- **London**, BMSS, 01895 832757
- **Beaconsfield**, Peter Levison Toy & Train Fair, 0208 205 1518
- **Worcester**, Tony Oakes Toy Fairs, 01270 652773
- **Rugby Vintage**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 846688
- **Horsted Keynes**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

29 APRIL 18

- **Lincoln**, J & J Webb, 01522 880383
- **Essex**, R & G Toy Fairs, 01206 251351
- **Wirral**, Barry Stockton, 0151 3343362
- **Birmingham**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 46688

- **Chester-Le-Street**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955
- **Northfleet**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Eastleigh**, Steven Clements Fairs, 01380 725322
- **Carmarthen**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757

5 MAY 18

- **Windsor**, Maidenhead Static, 07825 564960
- **Hawkinge**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Brecon**, Chris Dyer Fairs, 01643 702757

6 MAY 18

- **Newton Abbot**, Ray Heard, 01823 480097
- **Worthing**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **York**, J & J Webb, 01522 880383
- **Falkirk**, McLaren Models, 01324 624102

8 MAY 18

- **Hook**, Steven Clements Fairs, 01380 725322

9 MAY 18

- **Hertford**, Joe Lock, 07866 641215

12 MAY 18

- **Oxford**, Richard Atkins Toy Fairs, 01869 347489
- **Nelson Treeharris**, Martyn Parry, 07990 752102
- **Cardiff**, Film & Comic Con, www.filmandcomic-concardiff.com

13 MAY 18

- **Ashfield**, Malcolm Townsend, 07951 072790
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- **Walsall Wood**, Transtar Promotions, 01922 643385
- **Haydock Park**, Barry Stockton, 0151 3343362
- **Cardiff**, Film & Comic Con, www.filmandcomic-concardiff.com

15 MAY 18

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17 MAY 18

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19 MAY 18

- **Gateshead**, Jim Corr, 07504 035955
- **Bournemouth**, Film & Comic Con, www.film-and-comic-bournemouth.com

20 MAY 18

- **Doncaster**, Barry Potter Fairs, 01604 46688
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- **Orpington**, SRP Toy Fairs, 07739 998012
- **Plymouth**, Events Frontier, eventsfrontier@hotmail.co.uk

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29 MAY 18

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

AUCTIONS

20 APRIL 18

- **Poole**, Cottes, 01202 723177
- **Stockton-on-Tees**, Vectis, 01642 750616

21 APRIL 18

- **Hanham**, East Bristol Auctions, 0117 967 1000
- **St Albans**, Excalibur Auctions, 0203 633 0913
- **Ilkley**, Hartleys Auctions, 01943 816363

25 APRIL 18

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

26 APRIL 18

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

27 APRIL 18

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

30 APRIL 18

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9 MAY 18

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11 MAY 18

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15 MAY 18

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17 MAY 18

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18 MAY 18

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

19 MAY 18

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21 MAY 18

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22 MAY 18

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31 MAY 18

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O

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Z

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

Hi folks! Welcome to spring, that exciting time of the year when we look forward to a new season of buying. A time when we can certainly expect some great bargains starting to appear as the weather finally warms up and more and more outdoor events re-open.

Talking of bargains I had a great little find the other day at an Antiques fair scooping up a lovely old Rowntree's Cocoa enamel sign for a hundred quid. The Ferret was really jealous when he saw it as he's very partial to a good enamel sign. I took one

motoring collectors'.

Old beer mats can be worth a bob or two if they date from the pre-war years. I bought a box full of them a few weeks back for just four quid not really knowing what was in the box. No pre-war mats sadly but there were a few nice bits such as a BOAC beermat advertising the Comet 4 Jetliner. I know there's great interest in aviation memorabilia so you never know, it could be worth a few quid?

Cadbury's Cococub figures can turn up anywhere and they are often mistaken for farmyard animals. I spent a good hour carefully

making them up. I found an old unmade 4mm kit of a Scammel Showtrac lorry recently at a boot sale and snapped it up for a fiver. These great little white metal kits were originally made by Scaledown models and used to sell for about twenty quid each. These were the only 4mm Showtracs fairground modellers could get until the recent Oxford Diecast range came on the scene.

On the selling front a nice early tin from the Birmingham firm of Facchino's soon found a buyer who was interested in all things ice-cream related. It had originally contained

collector. I remember these being given away by Wall's ice cream vans back in the 1960s.

Talking about giveaways a Six-Five Special songbook, given away with Roxy love story magazine in 1958, sold for a fiver to a keen record and pop memorabilia collector. I remember Six-Five Special well, five past six every Saturday night with Don Lang's fabulous old theme tune blasting out of the telly and Pete Murray's face soon appeared on the screen. Great days and great music!

A Matchbox 1-75 Series model of a Bedford Dunlop van (25a) in stunning condition with a really crisp original box soon sold for sixty five pounds. It was the best condition of these little Bedford vans I'd ever had and was worth every penny. A lot of 1960s pop groups bought these Bedford CA's to transport them and all their equipment around from gig to gig, they were really reliable workhorses.

Finally a quite scarce Village Church Number Two series Airfix kit from the 1950s sold for fifteen quid to a model railway enthusiast who collects mainly unmade kits. These are getting harder and harder to find as the years roll on. I can remember them being in Woolworth's stores on revolving stands... now I really am showing my age.

Well that's about all for yet another month folks. Spring is finally here so get out there and enjoy the early sales and shows and, as always, be lucky! **CG**

It's interesting that Facchinos, who were clearly originally from Italy made a strong point of printing 'Made in Britain by British Workpeople' on the side of the tin.

look at it and sealed the deal without hesitation. It's totally unrestored and in stunning nick with a really glossy surface almost as good as the day it left Rowntree's factory in York in the 1920s.

Another lucky recent find was a nice little Perspex key ring advertising Cleveland Petrol that was found at the bottom of a tin full of old buttons bought at a boot sale for a couple of quid. It was issued by Hill's motor garage in East Harrow. Most petrol companies gave away these key rings to customers in the 1950s and they are now quite sought after by

sorting through a massive collection of hollowcast farmyard figures the other day trying to identify any rarities that might be lurking in with them and actually found three Cococubs all in good condition. So Dumpy Doo, Badger Bill and Mrs Cracklegoose all found their way into my bag for two quid each. I could hardly straighten my back when I stood up having been hunched over that box for an hour... age is certainly beginning to catch up with me!

Its always amazing how many people buy kits but never get around to

ice cream cones when they first came out and were a bit of a novelty. Before this ice cream was licked from a glass called a 'pennylick' until they were considered to be unhygienic. It's interesting that Facchinos, who were clearly originally from Italy made a strong point of printing 'Made in Britain by British Workpeople' on the side of the tin. Ice cream memorabilia is keenly collected these days hence the tin sold for twenty pounds. Still on the subject of ice-cream a nice old Walls Kerb Driller button badge sold for a fiver to a badge



Found in a button box Oz bought for a couple of quid this Cleveland Petrol key ring dates from the 1950s and is a collector's item.



ABOVE
Three Cococubs were the result of a long search through a big box of farmyard animals.

Made from the early type of Airfix plastic this Village Church kit is not that easy to find and soon found a new owner willing to pay fifteen quid for it.



ABOVE
This Matchbox 1-75 Bedford CA in Dunlop livery soon found a buyer willing to hand over £65 for it.



ABOVE
What a find... this scarce beer mat advertises the classic BOAC Comet 4 Airliner.



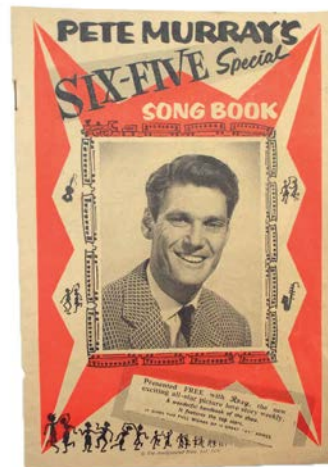
Oz never hesitated when he set eyes on this lovely old Rowntree's Cocoa enamel sign and quickly handed over the cash.



ABOVE
Bought by an ice-cream memorabilia collector this rare tin once contained ice cream cones made by Facchinio's of Birmingham.



Given away by Walls ice-cream vans in the swinging sixties this Kerb Driller button badge sold for a fiver.



LEFT
A free gift with Roxy magazine in the late 1950s this Six Five Special song book has survived amazingly well and sold for a fiver.



One of those kits that gets bought but never made, this white metal 4mm Scammell Showtrac was worth every penny of the five pounds Oz paid for it.

COLLECTORS GAZETTE

TOP TIPS

BUTTON BOX BONANZA

Tins and boxes full of old buttons are great hunting grounds for small collectables as illustrated by the key ring mentioned above. Also in the box with it were several diecast wheels, some old Dinky toy tyres, a few old marbles, two badges and three old silver threepenny bits. It always pays to thoroughly check out any old tins or boxes containing buttons and other household bits and bobs.

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