

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



Brig. Gen. Darrell Dean (Ret'd)
Honorary President

2024 Executive

Andy Traverse
President

Duncan Johnstone
1st Vice-President

David Dorward
2nd Vice-President

Scott Paget
Ottawa Chapter Chair

Gary Lenius
Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Silverthorn
Social Media and
Program Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Tom Wright
Technical Committee Chair

Scott Milburn
Past President

Newsletter for March 2024

Next Toronto chapter meeting

Sunday, March 10th, 2024

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Etobicoke

Doors open at 11:00 am, **meeting starts at 12:00pm**

This month's presentation will be "The Royals in miniature"
by guest speaker Scott Dummit

A painting workshop is being run from 11am-Noon hosted by Jim Qualtrough

Next Ottawa chapter in-person meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 2024

at The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road.

The Show and Tell topic will be announced later



Virtual meetings via Zoom are open to all OMSS members.

Tuesday, March 20 @ 7pm is the next "Zoom" meeting.

Contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com for an email invitation to the next meeting or more details.



Toronto meeting time has changed!

Effective the March in person meeting,

Toronto chapter meetings will now start at 12:00 noon.

As a result of the executive committee meetings are now being held on a different day, we can start our club meetings earlier. We hope this change will enable more members to attend our meetings by ending the meeting sooner and get everyone on their way to their Sunday dinners.

Don't forget daylight savings time starts on the 10th and clocks go forward 1 hour!



Daylight Savings
Time Begins



President's Message

In this month's message I wish to give recognition to those members who make the effort to bring hobby related goods to sell or swap at the regular meetings. Most are the "regulars" who either sell as part of their commercial enterprises or simply individuals who wish to dispose part or all of their collections. The tables are free and basically there are no limitations, except to say that it is a case of first come first served. While the operating costs are minimized, the logistical exercise involved in packing, unpacking, displaying, repacking and transporting back the same sets every month can be laborious and onerous, especially when one considers that selling toy soldiers can be a slow process. However, I have never witnessed anyone complaining of poor sales. A special mention goes to our Society Table agent, Jeff Duncan who is always diligent in his dedication to his responsibilities. His stock is at times substantial and as a result, he is often the last one to leave the meeting with so much to pack up. I also take the opportunity to thank those members who stay to the end at the monthly meetings and assist in putting the tables and chairs away.

Andy Traverse

Toronto's March Guest Speaker

The guest speaker will be OMSS's own Scott Dummitt. Scott has played with, painted, and collected military miniatures since he was 5 years old. His own collection specializes in "Ceremonial" uniforms particularly military bands and guard units, but over the years he has also managed to obtain a modest collection of "The Royals". Scott's talk will be about the various companies that have produced "The Royals" over the years and not just about Canada's Royal Family but the various figures ranging from the Ancients, to the Napoleonic's to the Middle East and Asia. If you have any interest in the various Royal personalities that have been produced by a multitude of companies over the years, then you won't want to miss this lecture.



Toronto Painting Workshop

Sunday March 10, 2024

Jim Qualtrough will be hosting

a figure painting workshop from 11am—noon.

Drop in and learn a few tips and tricks.

Jim will have brushes, paint, and primed figures for anyone that wants one, but you are welcome to bring your favorite paint brush and / or a figure you want to work on.



Toronto's February meeting review



OMSS Club president, Andy Traverse, shared with members fascinating photos and stories of his battlefield tour of The Peninsular War 1808-1814 for February's guest speaker portion of the meeting.

Club members, Lorne Farr, Frank MacKay and Duncan Johnstone learn some new painting tips and tricks as Jim Qualtrough continued with his popular painting workshops.



Stuart Hessney

Live at the Legion

April 14th at 12 noon



A meeting you don't want to miss!

Make your plans now to ensure you can make it to our April meeting when our very special guest speaker will be Stuart Hessney, OMSS member and editor of Toy Soldier Collector and Historical Figures Magazine

OMSS Ottawa Chapter Report - March 2024 Newsletter

Hello Everyone,

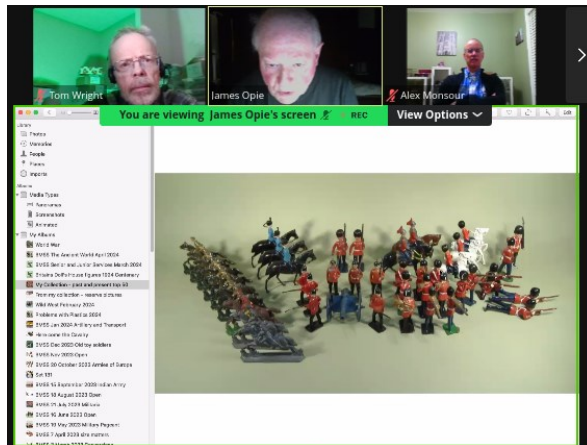
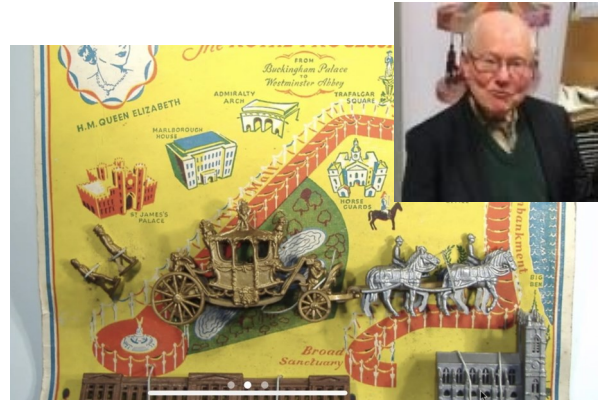
Below I am covering what happened at the Jan 2024 OMSS Ottawa in-person-meeting thanks to Doug's minutes, and the OMSS Feb zoom meeting. Also I have included the final article of the Ottawa IPMS model contest, CAPCON 2023, in the long version of the OMSS March 2024 Newsletter. Finally, I am not sure if Doug's Ottawa Minutes will be included in this edition.

One of Rob Thompson's (the OMSS Ottawa coordinator) goals for the Jan in-person meeting was to recruit volunteers to help run the Ottawa Military Hobby Show at the Walkey Armory. This show would be the one with the most toy and model soldiers of any show in Ottawa. Rob was hoping that the OMSS Ottawa Chapter would be one of the main groups running this event. At our in person meeting Rob outlined the various positions that should be filled to help run this. From what I read in Doug's notes (I was sick that night, so I was not there) there was a response from our members, but it was a bit on the light side. Hopefully we will get additional members to step up at our March meeting on the 27th.

Our Jan show-and-tell of Winter Warfare was well supported. We had quite a few presenters, including four presenters bringing 1/6 and near 1/6th scale figures. Also Julian showed a 1/6th scale war structure that he built for a diorama with 1/6th scale figures, shown below.

February has been an interesting month, with the OMSS Zoom meeting guest being James Opie, all the way from the UK. This was certainly a treat, as he is considered one of the premiere figure collectors in England and in the BMSS. His presentation was most interesting. When quite young there was a point where he could have gone in for model trains, but he is glad he chose toy soldiers. Now after being in this pastime for many years he hopes that there is peace between the model soldier and toy soldier people. Also, he indicated that there is still an interest in toy soldiers, what with the Star Wars figures etc. It is just a bit different than what it was. As a part of this, he showed us an amine figure that he got on his trip to Japan.

We were all very pleased with the meeting including Mr. Opie. As a follow-up I have just heard that the BMSS will be inviting OMSS members to their next BMSS Zoom meeting.



What's New in the Hobby – March 2024

By Scott Dummitt

It's Chinese New Year's again, so many of the major companies have not got a lot to offer this coming month. That said however, both John Jenkins Designs and Thomas Gunn Miniatures have brought out some wonderful figures that collectors will find interesting. First off, John Jenkins is releasing his figure of NWMP Commissioner, George Arthur French. French who had been a Royal Artillery Officer organize the Force when it was first established in 1873. French was a hard driving leader which infuriated both his subordinates and politicians. He resigned from the NWMP in 1876 after the Force was firmly established. The mounted figure of French retails for approximately \$145.00 Cdn



Another set that will interest OMSS members this month is the new figures of the Queen's Rangers marching. Two different versions have been released, one with the rifle cradled and the other with the rifle in the slope arms position. The new Rangers will be available in sets of four figures at \$220.00 Cdn while the set of two retails at \$122.00 Cdn. These sets will fit in nicely with Jenkins recently released Grenadier and Highland Company figures.

Thomas Gunn Miniatures have just released three female WWII WRAF figures. While two are dress as WRAFs, they were produced as British SOE agents in training. The description of the SOE by the National Army Museum reads: ***"Formed in 1940, the Special Operations Executive was an underground army that waged a secret war in enemy-occupied Europe and Asia. Its agents demonstrated incredible courage and resourcefulness in their guerrilla war. By working with resistance forces, they provided a boost to the morale of occupied societies."***



Gunn's new figures from Left to Right portray Yolande Beekman, RAF Aircraft Ferry Pilot Joy Loft-house and Yvonne Cormeau. The figures retail for approximately \$74.00 Cdn each. They have been released as a limited edition of 100 each and are sure to be popular with RAF and Secret Agent fans. Gunn plans to release more SOE figures in the upcoming months.



New videos available on the YouTube!

Mark Silverthorn continues with producing more great videos for members enjoyment.



A new video features Juan Lopez of the Ottawa chapter of OMSS.

Juan has spent years creating a collection of WW2 One-Sixth Soldiers representing 73 countries that fought in that conflict. In this video Juan describes the process of creating these soldiers.

Also be sure to check out several short videos Mark has produced on a variety of interesting hobby related topics.



Scott Paget also continues to publish great new videos on his channel **"Scott's Soldiers"** on a regular basis. Be sure to check them out too!

Simply go to YouTube and type in **"Ontario Model Soldiers Society"** or **"Scott's Soldiers"** in the search bar to find the channel you are interested in.

Remember to click on **LIKE** and **SUBSCRIBE**; there is no cost to do so and it shows your support and encourages the making of more videos for your enjoyment.



A special thank you goes out to Alex Monsour for stepping in and editing the February newsletter to enable me some greatly appreciated time to recharge my batteries.

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn.
News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to scottm33@live.ca.

Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings.
Articles that cannot be accommodated will be forwarded to the Journal Editor.



Competition Entries for the OMSS “On Parade” Show (Part 1)

By Keith Ritchie, Head Judge

In an earlier newsletter article, I provided some thoughts on what the characteristics that I and other judges, particularly going forward, will exhibit in judging competition entries in the On Parade show scheduled for June 15, 2024, and going forward. This is in no way suggesting that prior judges, headed by Phil Andrews and Ian Pearson, and which of which I had occasional experience, acted differently. But now we have new judges, and bring some different background and knowledge.

At the same time, there are several documents, going back to the International Judging Criteria that evolved over time and that were championed by the Military Miniature Society of Illinois (MMSI) that are the starting point. There are also thoughts by prior OMSS judges and experienced members that have provided a basis for judging since the early 2000s, particularly to account for how the hobby has evolved, as well as the OMSS, and some unique features of the OMSS On Parade show.

One key difference of our On Parade show is the range (categories) of entries that we allow, compared with other shows. Other shows focus on military miniatures, generally assembled (or converted) and painted by the entrant. This includes dioramas to put the figure(s) and other equipment in some context, to establish them historically and/or to best present the figure. The MMSI criteria are directed at these modelled and painted figures, often referred to as “connoisseur” figures.

However, the hobby has evolved over time, and even the members of the OMSS and other clubs have as well. The quality of poses, detail and painting of manufactured figures has increased, with the rise of matte 60mm (1/30) scale figures from Britains, King & Country and other manufacturers since the late 1990s. Many members are aging, and may not be making and painting figures as much – or at all – and it is hard to match some of the quality of manufactured figures. Thus, collecting toy soldiers is often more prominent than making model soldiers.

We have also seen the rise of the 1/6 hobby, particularly since 1999. This was an evolution of the original G.I. Joe action figure introduced in 1964. However, G.I. Joe changed over time. While the 1/6 (12”) figure did continue, it became more of a limited version aimed at collectors, while it was replaced by a new line of 6” toy figures (and on which some movies were based, many years before last year’s success with a certain female doll). While 1/6 G.I. Joes continued, it was really in the late 1990s when some other manufacturers introduced their lines, but with a focus on improving the quality and accuracy of uniforms, equipment and weapons. In my view, a big step forward occurred in 1999-2000 when Dragon Action Figures and Sideshow entered the market. Dragon brought its research and modelling expertise to its line, while Sideshow brought its own approach and quality research (and also did bring insight from the acclaimed movie producer (and toy soldier collector) Peter Jackson on some of its offerings). The 1/6 hobby continues, but peaked around 2013, when Dragon Action Figures largely exited the market for several reasons, economic and otherwise.

Our On Parade show is relatively unique in its evolution to allow displaying of manufactured figures and 1/6 figures in addition to connoisseur figures. This is appropriate, as it:

- Recognizes the evolution of the hobby
- Recognizes the change in membership and what and how they collect and participate in the hobby
- Facilitates and encourages participation by all
- Provides opportunities for members to display their skills, knowledge and efforts
- Provides a wider range of displays to attract the general audience
- Provides a basis to allow for continued evolution of the OMSS and our show, in line with how the hobby evolves – in terms of technology (e.g. 3D printing), membership, etc.

Competition Entries for the OMSS “On Parade” Show (Part 1) continued

This provides a wider range that I believe attracts a wider audience. At the same time, allowing for these different categories poses challenges for judging the entries – since the judging criteria do not apply uniformly across all categories. As a primary example, painting criteria, very important for the connoisseur category, is much less important for dioramas of manufactured figures or for 1/6 figures. We have thus had to develop guidelines and criteria, and weights, appropriate for each category of entry. I will try to deal with the categories, and some other relevant factors, in this and in subsequent articles.

The thoughts are my own, but are based on my experiences and observations at On Parade and other shows, and also is an attempt to integrate, at some level, the informed thoughts of several others that currently exist in at least eight other documents.

“Connoisseur” category

While the MMSI International Criteria encompass all range of assembled and painted toy soldiers – from detailed, artist-quality painting with oils, detailed shadowing, etc., down to traditional gloss toy soldiers, my experience is that “connoisseur” is generally recognized as the former now. I can recall very few entries that I have seen at the Valley Forge/East Philadelphia show that I would recognize in the tradition toy soldier format.

There is a wide but valid range for painting styles, and there are advantages and disadvantages to each. The detail and realism of a well-painted matte connoisseur figure or bust must be admired. However, well-painted gloss figures should be recognized for the painter’s skill. They may not show the same level of detail – which is influenced in part by the decision to attain a gloss coat. (I recognize that some modellers, and even some manufacturers, have used an approach of making gloss figures by painting a gloss finish over a matte-painted figure, but even there the painting does not match that of a true connoisseur figure (e.g., St. Petersburg)).

Yet, gloss figures assembled and painted by the modeller are valid. These may be from kits (e.g., Tradition, Rose Miniatures), re-casts and/or conversions. The modeller will pay more attention to some details, or make varied positions or figures not included in a manufactured set (e.g. a specific musician in a band. Further, modellers may produce uniform variations and include details not included in manufactured versions. OMSS members will recognize that my late brother, Don Ritchie, did this, and expended a lot of effort on researching, casting and converting, details and painting uniforms and bands, and he just exemplifies what some other past and present members do.

Even in the matte category, I think that there is a range of “connoisseur” figure painting. I recognized this from a visit to the toy soldier collection at the Frazier Museum in Louisville a number of years ago. There were a number of displays of St. Petersburg figures, often of ancient Egyptians, Romans and Greeks and of medieval soldiers. The painting and detail of all of these displays was unmatched. But these displays also looked unnatural, as there was no weathering. I was reminded of some of the colour pictures in 1960s-1970s era books on ancient civilizations, showing (for the Egyptians) uniform white tunics and orangish skin tone. I distinguish this from the more realistic matte painting with shading/shadowing that manufacturers (e.g., Britain’s, King & Country, First Legion) and many modellers use. However, I also recognize that there is not a clear distinction, as modellers/painters may satisfy both. For example, while the painting of the figure may be a real detailed “connoisseur” style, some weathering and more detailed construction and painting of the groundwork and other equipment and accessories make the figure and its “environment” more natural and realistic.



Competition Entries for the OMSS “On Parade” Show (Part 1) continued

There are really 3 sub-categories in the traditional “connoisseur” category:

1) **Connoisseur painting.** This refers primarily to detailed “artist-quality” painting. The MMSI International Judging Criteria were largely based on this style (and the next one). Larger scale figures (120mm, 90mm, even 75mm) are often done in this approach. Some 54mm/60mm figures are also done in this way. The skill and execution of the modeller/painter, as well as their research and knowledge, is what is important here. It may be for a single figure, weapon, or bust, or for a group of figures. For groupings, the figures may or may not be directly related to each other. As an example, I think to displays at several Valley Forge/ East Philadelphia shows. At the 2023 show, many exhibitors used velvet cloth over various risers to show their figures and busts, demonstrating their quality and range of their skill. And I acknowledge that there are many examples of this in past On Parade shows, by members and other entrants. Judging of these figures will be most closely judged in accordance with the MMSI-based International criteria. This includes details such as assembly (e.g., clean-up of mold lines, filling of gaps), as well as painting (details such as eyes, shading and toning) and display. Historical accuracy, will also be considered.

2) **Matte figure painting.** The second sub-category, to my way of this, is what I term “matte figures”. I liken it to what I see as the offerings of Britain’s, John Jenkins, and others in the 60mm range. The figures are generally detailed in sculpting and posing. Painting is quite detailed, but where I distinguish it from the connoisseur sub-category is that there is more attention to weathering (in addition to shading and toning), with the aim of getting a more realistic depiction. Many of Britain’s recent matte figures display this approach well, with fading and dirt dry brushing augmenting the realistic appearance of the figure. I recognize that there is no distinct line between this sub-category and the connoisseur sub-category above – there is very much an overlap, and the distinction is often subjective. (An example is that Britain’s brought out a few figures over a decade ago in a Connoisseur range. This included two mounted French Napoleonic figures, a Hussar and Cuirassier. I have these in my collection. They are better painted than those of Britain’s matte offerings at the time, and featured steel sword blades. However, since that time, Britain’s has used steel sword blades in some matte figures, and sculpting and painting quality has improved.) Nonetheless, my own perspective in looking at a display of a figure or a set of figures is that I often do note a difference.

While single figures are possible, it is more common to see a set of figures (although the set does not have to be large). The figures may often be presented as part of a diorama, to give them context. I might point out that additions of details such as fences, tools, animals, buildings (or building facades) may be used to enhance the historical context of the figure or figures. Grouping of figures, such as discussed for connoisseur figures, is also common. In general, judging will also be based on the International Criteria from the MMSI. It is hard to identify the distinction between this and the previous sub-category, and it may often come down to the judges’ impression of the planning and execution of attention to detail and realistic portrayal.

3) **Gloss figure painting.** This is the traditional toy soldier style, dating back to the late 1800s. Most manufacturers produced toy soldiers in this style up to the end of the 1900s. Britain’s continues to produce soldiers in this style, although most of its offerings are matte. Other companies, such as Tradition of London and The British Toy Soldier Company continue to produce gloss painted toy soldiers. I am not talking about manufactured (including painted) figures and sets here, but at figures assembled (including conversions) and painted by the exhibitor, with the painting done in gloss. The figures may be from offerings of firms like Tradition of London, Rose Miniatures, etc., and include many small home business firms. Repaints, recasts, and conversions of old toy soldiers from Britain’s, Mignot, and other manufacturers recognize that gloss painting requires a different painting skill. This knowledge is based on not only observations of collections of members, particularly those of my late brother, but also discussions with Ted Deddens (TedToys and Britain’s) who prefers the gloss toy soldier style for his TedToys offerings.

I mostly see gloss figures done as sets more so than as single figures. Marching units and bands are common examples. However, I will also point to the custom sets of the late Guy Elliott, showing small sets (a few figures, of figures and a vehicle. Often gloss painted sets will be displayed as part of a diorama, and example of which could be a band marching down a street, with civilian observers and building facades. Other displays may have associated militaria, books, record covers, etc., that enhance the display. One example that I recall from an On Parade show at Fort York nearly ten years ago, was a display of toy soldiers in a custom-built old toy soldier shop façade. Judging will be based on the painting in the gloss toy soldier format, along with the display (i.e., both the figures as a set and how the diorama or setting “tells a story” about the figures.

Competition Entries for the OMSS “On Parade” Show (Part 1) conclusion

I have offered a lot of thoughts here. I am not trying to discourage anyone or make it harder for people to make their entries – in fact, it is to the contrary. I am putting down my thoughts, but I am not proposing any real changes from the approach that previous panels have used in judging assembled and painted figures, whether single or displays. Nor am I suggesting any real departure from the MMSI-based International Criteria. These displays show the thought, planning, skill and execution of the entrants, and we want to encourage this.

In a subsequent piece, I will cover entries under Manufactured Figure displays and 1/6 Figures. And it is with these categories of displays that I see the OMSS differs from connoisseur shows like Valley Forge/East Philadelphia. Further, I will touch on some more general thoughts on kit-bashing, conversions, touch-ups, historical accuracy, and others.

ON PARADE 2024

Presented by the
Ontario Model Soldier Society

**Saturday June 15
2024**

9 am to 3 pm

**Admission \$10
(children under 12 free)**

Free Parking

See massed displays of
Model Soldiers in
Military Parades,
Bands
and Dioramas.

Highly detailed
connoisseur figures.

1/6 scale action figures.

Military vehicles,
artillery and more.

The show includes our
annual modelling
competition,
which is open to all.

**Franklin Horner
Community Centre**
432 Horner Avenue Toronto (Etobicoke)
M8W 2B2

New Larger Location for 2024!



Shop our extensive flea market
for hobby merchandise.
The latest figure releases
as well as vintage toy soldiers,
books, prints, hobby tools and
supplies and much more.

Show details at www.omss.ca
Show Contact: Jim Qualtrough 416-543-0873
email omss@bell.net

Canada's Largest Model Soldier Show

A recent journey of discovery in Argentina

By Andy Traverse

During my recent annual trip to Argentina, my mission in Buenos Aires was to seek out the toy soldier scene. As a world-class city the impressive sites, museums, harbourfront and restaurants serving the best beef dishes on the planet (my opinion), will not disappoint the visitor. The tourist district in Buenos Aires is safe as the presence of security is very heavy, though I would advise anyone to walk around alone late at night.

I sought to find El Templario Toy Soldiers at the San Telmo Fair in the Dorrega area, where the market stretches at least one kilometre. Following the instructions on El templario's website, I looked for the flags to locate the booth as I waded through the very busy streets. Once I arrived at the stall, I introduced myself in Spanish only to be told in English that Roberto, the owner was expecting someone from Canada as the word had filtered down along the digital highway. The connection was instant, and it was a pleasure to meet him and his wife, Paola.



The stall was packed with toy soldiers, mostly boxed glossy sets. The central theme of the toy soldiers on display was South American Armies. Part of my mission to El Templario was to acquire figures for my friend Jeff Duncan. The choice was extensive with the bulk of the sets based on uniforms during the 19th Century. Relatively unknown to many, there were some brutal wars fought during that period in South America. I looked at Argentinian artillery (Andes Regiment), Cazadores de Necochea Argentinian Presidential Guard, Correntinos (Hunters), Brazilian Cavalry and infantry, Chilean Grenadiers, Columbian Police Cadets, British and Italian Legion figures, Peruvian Legion Guard, Venezuelan Infantry and Paraguayan Guards. In addition, El Templario manufactures Canadian WW1 infantry, French and British Napoleonic Figures, German, Russian, Spanish, and British Colonial sets. I finally purchased two sets at the "local rate".

Roberto's website can be accessed at el-templario.com.

After leaving his stall, I wandered around for a few hours discovering many more dealers selling toy soldiers including wargame figures. It felt as if I was attending "On Parade" but without the competition displays.

Buenos Aires was a stopover and before I left Roberto gifted me a figure of a gaucho. How fitting since I would spend the next two weeks on ranches run by South American cowboys. I flew 1200 miles south to the tip of mainland South America, though there were no toy soldiers to find in the semi-arid, wind-swept treeless plains east of the Andes. The scenery is breathtaking and the fly fishing first class.



Final CAPCON 2023 Report

By Tom Wright, OMSS Ottawa Chapter

This is my final report on CAPCON 2023, the IPMS Ottawa model show and contest held in the fall of 2023.

Near the end of my visit at CAPCON 2023 some more figures finally showed up for the historical figure categories. Unfortunately they were mainly entered by one person, and mostly they were busts, so near the end of the show only a handful of people had entered the historical figure categories. There was the entry of Bernie Sanders early on, and by mid afternoon there had been an entry of over 10 busts and a figure or two by one to three people. This was certainly not what a show organizer would want for these categories. In short, the number of people entering the historical figure categories was abysmal.

I would now like to look at a few of the models that were entered. First, looking at the Bernie figure I saw that a photo of a seated Bernie was included with the entry. Looking at the figure in more detail it was of quite a good overall likeness to the figure of Bernie sitting in the chair in the photo provided. I found, though, that the head of the model figure is relatively a bit wider at the temples than what is shown in the photo. In the notes it says the figure was 3D printed. I didn't get a chance to see if the person entering the Bernie figure was involved in the development/design/digital sculpting of the figure. If he had, it would expand the scope of this entry in my mind.



I had a look at the painting work on the Bernie figure that the person entering this did. I would say it was a fairly decent basic paint job, but with some rough spots. I say that the paint job was fairly decent, because the paint was applied smoothly and fairly cleanly at the edges. Also it was fairly well colour matched to the colour photos of Bernie in this scene. That said, I say the paint job was basic, because there was no attempt to highlight and shade the face of the figure. There was some basic shading on the jacket, but that was all.

Final CAPCON 2023 Report, continued



I say the painting was rough in spots as per the dark area above the left eye of the figure. I did not see this darkening of the skin on pictures of this scene on the internet. Also I found the painting of the eyes to be rough as shown. Possibly the glasses on the figure interfered with the painting of the eyes. I noted that the eye-glasses were 3D printed on the head of the figure. I think I would have tried printing the glasses separately, or to have made them out of brass wire. It would have made it easier to do a clean paint job of the eyes. Finally the finish on the clothing was not properly controlled. I found the finish on the pants of the figure to be between satin and semigloss. Pants should normally be matte (matt or mat) ie flat on a model or connoisseur figure. Only for a toy soldier should they be glossy.

In conclusion I mainly like the idea that the person who entered this got a unique figure made, with a pretty good likeness of the seated Mr Sanders in the picture. I applaud this originality.

The next figure I would like to look at is a bust of a Roman. Even though it is not a "figure per say" I am bringing this up because of the work on the eyes. What I didn't mention in my previous article on busts was that the whites of the eyes are not white. If you look closely at the whites of the eyes on this bust you will see that the whites are a light pinkish grey that blends into the rest of the face. Also the iris is of a similar brightness to that of the skin, but in this case even brighter in areas, like a prism. This all counters the "raccoon" eyes that one often sees in the works of new figure painters and in toy soldiers where the whites of the eyes are painted with an actual white. One other thing I would like to mention on this bust is the blending and shading. Both are superb, and may be the best of the bust entries.

Final CAPCON 2023 Report, continued



Going back to the full figures there were one or two other figures entered, and they were Asian warriors. Unfortunately I do not have a picture of them here. I am not sure if they were done by the same person who did all the busts, but they were of a similar approach to the Asian warrior bust that I reviewed in my last article.

Final CAPCON 2023 Report, conclusion



At the end of the show what were the results? I looked this up several months later. For the historical 75mm and smaller I saw that there were no entries?! This was worse than I had thought. There were absolutely no entries in the Historical Figure Category of 75m and smaller. I thought a few of the figure entries may have been 75mm or a touch smaller, but that appears to not have been the case.

For the Historical Larger than 75mm Figure Category, Jules de Raucourt had first and second place with the two Asian warrior figure entries. It looks that the two Asian warrior figures that I was wondering about, were both entered by him, and he was also the individual that flooded the show with busts. At three dollars an entry Jules was not holding back. Then again, if you were as far away as Quebec City the cost of travel would have been much in the same ballpark.

As mentioned, Jules dominated the Busts Category. With his quality and quantity he didn't leave much room for others. In this category he took 1st and 3rd. I was a bit surprised though. His Asian warrior bust, which I reviewed, got edged out of second place by the Queen of the North bust (the Game of Thrones bust, which I also reviewed).

Paul Bornn got third place with his Bernie figure in the Historical Figure 75mm and Larger Category. That said, he was lucky that Jules only entered two figures. There was something else though, Paul Bornn and his Bernie figure also won another figure award. Here someone with a bit of inspiration, and doing something a little different got some extra recognition. Bornn and his Berie figure got the Figure Theme Award of People in Famous Photographs. Cheers Paul! From this, I am glad the Bernie figure didn't do too badly after all.

Well, this wraps up my review of CAPCON 2023 from a figure perspective. Certainly the low number of entries in the historical figure categories is of concern, but that is a topic for another article another day.

Don't forget, OMSS is now on LinkedIn!



Be sure to check out what's new on LinkedIn and connect with others that are interested in model soldier collecting .

Go to LinkedIn and type in "**Ontario Model Soldiers Society**" in the search bar to find the club's channel