

# Tuesday 25 February 2025

## OMSS OTTAWA FEBRUARY MEETING

OIC – *Steve H*

Minute Man – *Doug C*

Photographer – *Allan M*



### List of Attendees at the meeting:

Steve Hammond, John Shrives, Doug Cope, Francois Brisebois, Michel Caron, Michael Canivet, Kelly Hayes, Bob Thompson, Morley Verdier, Juan Lopez, Solez Lopez, Julian Bomford, Alan MacDonald, Steve Alexander, Mark Hilash, Stanley Kershman

## INTRODUCTIONS

New Attendee introductions? **Solez Lopez** daughter of **Juan L** and a builder of tanks

How are our other 'regulars' doing? - **Brendan H** is off firing big guns

## OMSS CLUB BUSINESS & SPECIAL PROJECT UPDATES

**OMSS Executive Update** – **Steve A** has replaced **Scott P** as the Ottawa Chapter Chair for 2025.  
The great copyright mess of 2025 was noted but not discussed.

**OMSS History Book** – Books are in printing.

**Annual OMSS membership dues** – OMSS Ottawa group submission has been made  
OMSS membership renewals (\$40) will now have to be made via OMSS executive in Toronto

**OMSS Calendars** – 2025 calendars arrived – **Bob T** distributed them to paid up **2024** OMSS members.

**OMSS Zoom Meetings** – **Bob T** still needs help to run the OMSS Zoom meetings  
– **Julian B** volunteered to help **Bob T** with the Zoom meetings

**Ottawa Attendees at On Parade** – 7 June 2025

– This year we must make our own hotel reservations. Still looking for a volunteer to research local accommodations, and secure a block of rooms for OMSS participants. No one volunteered.

**Ottawa Chapter Help** – **Bob T** still Looking for volunteers – In the short term we need meeting hosts.  
**Alan M** volunteered to host March meeting – **Bob T** & **Doug C** worked out a process to develop and distribute monthly meeting agenda. Thanks to OMSS HQ we have a \$35 gift card to use as we wish

**OMSS Ottawa Special Projects** – 4 potential projects:

1. **Dave Waddell** champions mini show concept – [he may be champion but he is still nowhere to be seen]
2. **Juan T** will organize his **Summer Open House**
3. **OMSS Online auction** – **Stanley K** will organize a **live** auction at the Barley Mow and will be the auctioneer. [by the way – kudos to Livingstone who obviously found Stanley – come on, keep up and pay attention there will be a test later]
4. **Spring Trunk Sale?** – maybe – but it is almost spring and no volunteer

**OMSS Ottawa Membership List** – nothing new to report. Contact **Doug C** if you have changes

**OMSS Technical Capacities** – OMSS is still looking for volunteers

## **WHAT'S NEW – CURRENT NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & SHOWS**

### **HOBBY NEWS, COLLECTIONS FOR SALE**

- **Michael C** from former **Toy Soldier Market** – he sold the last of his dancing girls but lots more to sell
- **Scott Paget** - YouTube – nothing new to report
- **Replica Miniatures from England** – On Saturday **Andrew** hosted his first online meeting of the **International Toy Soldier Club**. [See A below] It was a great online gathering of around 10 club members from England, U.S.A., & Canada (**Bob T, Scott P, Eric Shaw, Alex Monsour**) - The North American sales agent for Replica is **Scott P**. **Bob T** will check with **Andrew** to discuss the issue of the colour of the uniform pants on the Jacob the Goose soldier figure.
- **U.S. Boycott - Buy Canadian?** - a brief discussion but not much enthusiasm for a boycott of US companies and their products and one member was heard to say that he may melt down all his Britain's soldiers – seems a bit drastic. However, the OMSS Toronto has invited Britain, a US company, to On Parade. Unfortunately the optics of this action are not good. While most Canadians are searching for a \$5 lettuce that is not from the USA, a bunch of affluent people who collect model soldiers [that is us] are romancing a US company and spending big money to buy its products. And saying 'it's only a hobby' makes it worse not better. As I say, the optics are not good. Enough said but the only known factor about this great bit of nonsense is that prices will go up.
- **Stanley K** had a bundle of soldier related magazines and newsletters – he distributed them to members – no charge – well done Stanley
- **Other News** – **Dan HASELL** brought a list of the items he has for sale – see **Bob T** for details

### **UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:**

- **BMSS Zoom Meeting** – **Friday 7 March** – Show & Tell Topic will be “all things colourful”
  - James Opie hosts the BMSS Zoom Meetings
- **OMSS Toronto 9 March Meeting** - Guest speaker will be **Andy Traverse** report on his battlefield tours (postponed from February meeting due to snow day)
- **Ottawa Nostalgia Show** – **16 March** – Ottawa Nepean Sportsplex - **Doug C** to be a vendor – toys for sale
- **OMSS 18 March Zoom Meeting** – Show & Tell topic is “Military Music”
- **BMSS Auction** – **21 March** - only of use if you are in the UK
- **OMSS Ottawa Monthly Meeting** – **Tuesday 25 March** – **Alan M** will be host
- **Prescott 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Model Train Show** – **Saturday 12 April** - **Doug C & John S** will be vendors
  - there will be soldiers and other toys for sale at this event.
- **Ottawa Military Heritage Show** – **Saturday 26 April** Nepean Sportsplex –
  - **Michael C, Bob T & Steve A** to be vendors – soldiers for sale
- **Aylmer Hobby Show** – **26 and 27 April** – in a shopping mall – note conflict with show above

- **London Toy Soldier and Historical Figures Show - 10 May -** London, England
- **OMSS On Parade – 7 June** - Toronto
- **Military Hobby Show** – Walkley Road Armoury – there is hope that there may be a show – stay tuned
- **Chicagoland Toy Soldier Show – 28 September**
- **Ottawa Nostalgia Show – 19 October**

## EVENT REPORTS:

- **OMSS Ottawa - 28 January Meeting** – 18 Attendees - Show & Tell topic was “Battle of Bulge & WW2’
  - Many great presentations – see extensive minutes attached to the February meeting announcement
  - OMSS has commented on great effort with **Doug C’s** minutes and **Alan M’s** photos
- **BMSS Zoom Meeting** – Friday 7 February – Show & Tell Topic was “Russo-Japanese War”
  - Steve A** was on the meeting ZOOM and **Eric Shaw** gave a talk
- **OMSS 18 February Zoom Meeting** – Show & Tell topic was “Civilians”
  - 10 attendees (5 Ottawa, 2 Toronto, 1 Montreal, 2 England)
  - **Steve H** showed photos of his visit to the Toy Soldier Shop, Washington DC
  - Lots of great Civilians photos (**Steve A** has an inexhaustible supply of civilians)
  - **Eric Shaw**, of Sarnia. gave extensive presentation on toy soldier and plastic civilian model kits.
  - **Bob T** gave photo presentation of his quest for **Army & Navy Drolleries artwork** series [See B Below]
- **February OMSS Toronto Meeting** – Snow meant that attendance was low – Guest speaker was to be **Andy Traverse** and his report on his battlefield tours – Andy’s presentation postponed to March meeting
- **613 Flea Market** – Lansdowne Park - scheduled Saturdays - **Michel C** has been selling a few toy soldiers at his booth each show, and **Steve A** is a vendor with a booth full of his toy soldiers for sale. Because of nice weather last show sales were slow – **Bob T** tried to park in the area but no joy and went home.

## Show & Tell Presentations – Show & Tell topic this month is ‘Civilians’

There was shock and awe when **Steve H**, the host, had us do the presentations in reverse order with **Bob T** going first – a radical change. Will we ever recover?

- Bob T** – a 1988 Britain price list from the late Dick Mallot and a 1/35 field toilet in box and medical personnel
- at stone wall roller from TEMU
  - **Armies in Plastic** – bag of figures and fortress artillery – 18 and 24 pounders – [See C Below]
  - art work by Louis
  - a native warrior in a ‘trade coat’ by Britain’s – [See D Below]
  - he displayed several versions of the same Drolleries figure [See B Below]





## Steve A – 2 chateau like buildings

- Beefeaters of unknown composition
- An RAF 80 mm pilot







**Juan L** – told a tale of his daughter selling a pile of stuff for him at a show

**Julian B** – An Auberge 1/6 display with 5 figures – 2 at one table with wine, a solo in red at a table, a waitress and a guy with a gun hiding inside - He made the tables and chairs as well as the building



**Doug C** — a two-holer outhouse with a character on one throne

- **New Ray Toys** tow truck with wrecked car bearing a **White Rose** gasoline insignia [See K Below]
- And a **New Ray Toys** blue Buick with 2 plastic figures – [See E Below]



**Mark H** — a series of 1/6 scale highlander figures which he admitted were dolls – circa 1960





**Alan M** — He had 96 largely flat figures at 40 and 50 mm – likely factory painted and pre-WW!

- 1 figure from the **Boxer Rebellion** [See F Below]
- A **DINKY** artillery piece – [See G Below]



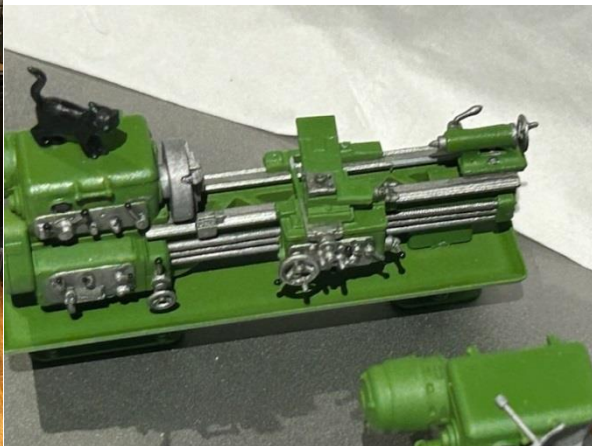
**Michael C** – he had 16 different categories of King and Country figures for sale  
Ethiopian, WWII, Crusades, 1967 6 day war, Greeks, Persians and others



**Steve H** – he once had his own machine shop and he has duplicated many of the machines in miniature.

His aim is to model the Henschel plant that built Tiger Tanks in WWII – [See H Below]

- **Japanese machines – 3 in boxes 1/20<sup>th</sup> scale**
- **Civilian figures** by **Dinky** from the passenger and hotel staff sets
- **Factory workers** in 1/35 scale
- **2 Dinky cars**

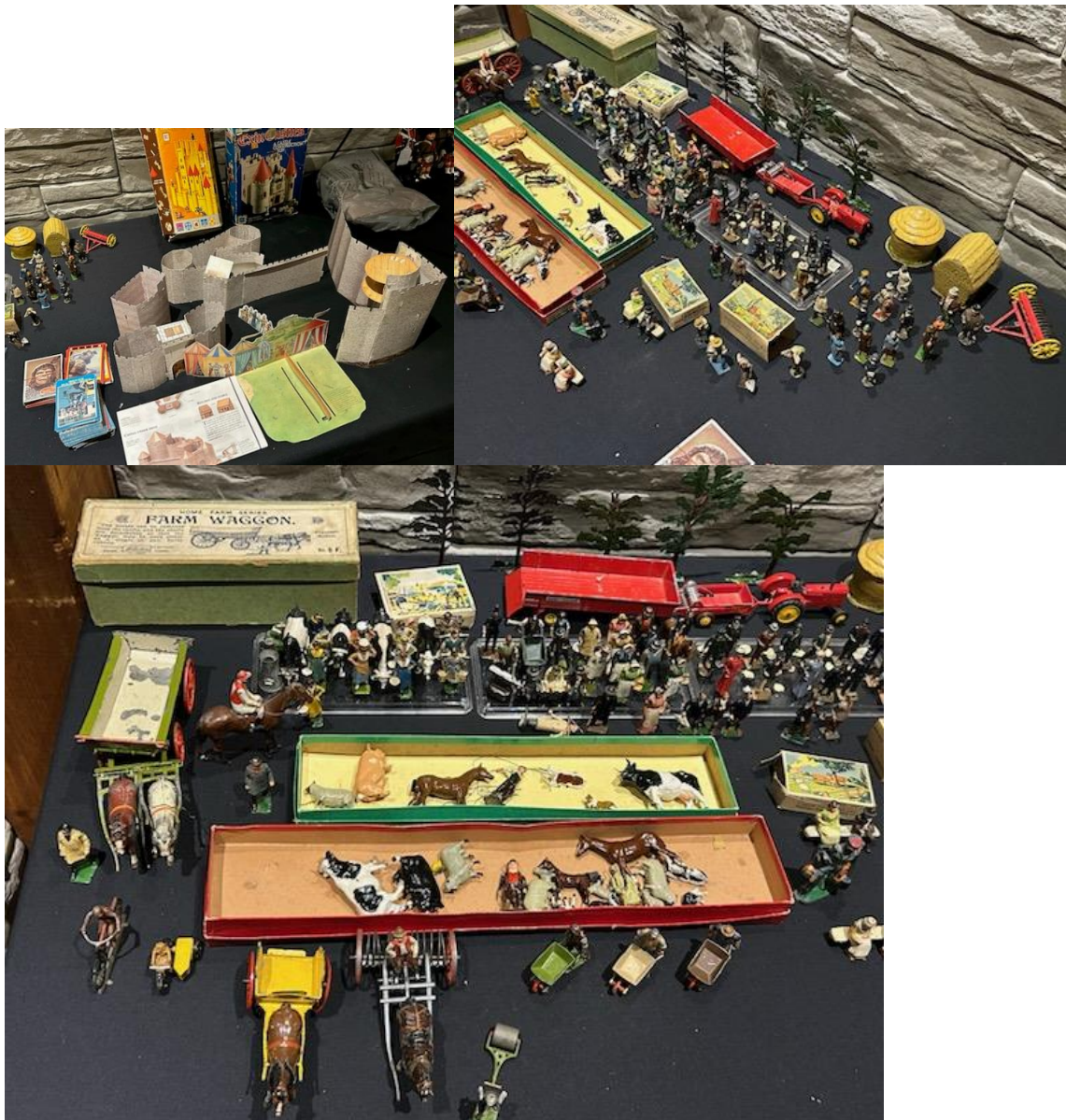




**Kelly H – a 1/6 scale motorcycle in box**

- **John Hill & Company or Johillco** gentleman farmer figure [See J Below]
- **Britain's farm wife** in 6 different colours – plus a milk maid
- **Britain's railway figures** – circa 1900
- **Britain's Edwardian figure** that evolves to a flapper





**Francois B** – many figures for sale but unfortunately he had to leave early once again

## **MEETING ADJOURNMENT FINAL POST**

### **Upcoming OMSS Meeting Dates:**

- March OMSS Toronto Meeting – Sunday 9 March
- March OMSS Zoom Meeting - Tuesday 18 March – Show & Tell Topic is **Military Music**
- March OMSS Ottawa Monthly Meeting - Tuesday 25 March – Show & Tell Topic is  
**Tanks and Armour**

**Meeting Adjourned**



# ADDITIONS

## A] International Toy Soldier Club <https://www.internationaltoysoldier.club/>

Founded by Andrew Stevenson, a passionate collector and the visionary behind Replica Metal Soldiers & Models in 2024, our club offers a vibrant space where aficionados of all levels can come together to celebrate their love for these timeless figurines.

At the International Toy Soldier Club, we believe that toy soldiers are more than just collectibles; they are a window into history, a celebration of craftsmanship, and a source of endless fascination. Our platform is designed to foster connections, facilitate the exchange of ideas, and provide a showcase for your prized collections.

Whether you are a seasoned collector with years of experience or someone just beginning your journey into the world of toy soldiers, you'll find a welcoming community here. Share your stories, display your collections, and engage with fellow enthusiasts who share your passion. Join us and immerse yourself in the rich and diverse world of toy soldiers.

At the International Toy Soldier Club, our mission is to create a thriving global community for toy soldier collectors and enthusiasts.

The first Club VIDEO CALL was Saturday 22nd Feb.

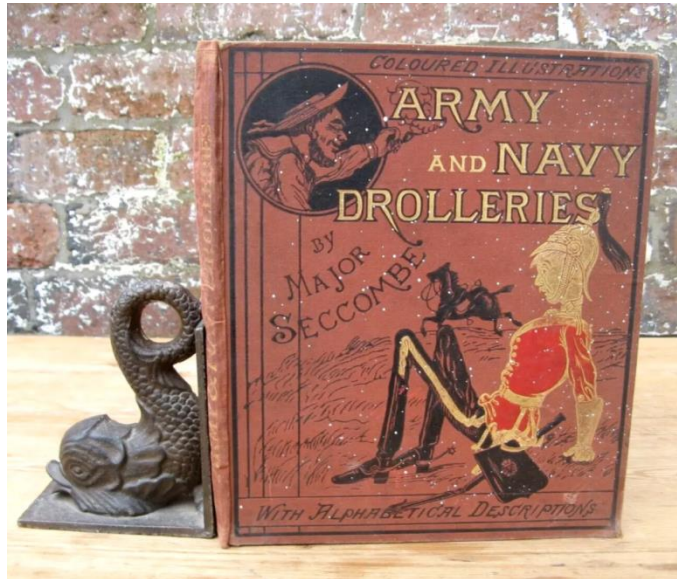
## B] Drolleries

from Wikipedia



A drollery, often also called a grotesque, is a small decorative image in the margin of an illuminated manuscript, most popular from about 1250 through the 15th century, though found earlier and later. The most common types of drollery images appear as mixed creatures, either between different animals, or between animals and human beings, or even between animals and plants or inorganic things. Examples include cocks with human heads, dogs carrying human masks, archers winding out of a fish's mouth, bird-like dragons with an elephant's head on the back. Often they have a thematic connection with the subject of the text of the page, and larger miniatures, and they usually form part of a wider scheme of decorated margins, though some are effectively doodles added later. The word comes from the French *drôlerie*, meaning a joke. In English, "drolleries" is a term in the 18th century for genre paintings of low-life subjects,

# The Army and Navy Drolleries – from Wikipedia



[PS: How many out there had not heard of 'drolleries' until this came up?]

## C] Armies in Plastic

<https://www.armiesinplastic.com/>

Armies In Plastic, Inc.,  
designer of  
historically-accurate plastic toy soldiers,  
depicting armies and battles from  
around the world.

**ARMIES in PLASTIC**  
1/32 scale (54mm)  
Soft Plastic Figures

Manufacturer  
Distributor

PO BOX 67076  
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio  
44222  
Call: 330-571-7343



## D] Trade Coats

<https://aparclofstroudsduffieldsblanket.weebly.com/trade-coats.html>

Trade Coats in the Colonial Southeast and some obligatory thoughts on waistcoats



Native reenactors seem to be drawn to “trophy coats” as their choice for outer wear for some odd reason. Yet, the historic record is glaringly lacking in references to the widespread wear of clothing ripped from the bodies of the slain enemy... so why is it so popular? Honestly, that is beyond the scope of this article. However, what Natives **actually** wore in the 18th century Southeast is the target of this writing.

If Indians were not wearing trophy coats, then what were they wearing? Well, I am glad you asked! **Trade coats, not trophy coats.** There are hundreds and hundreds of references to coats procured specifically for the Indian trade from a very early date. In the Colonial Records of South Carolina, there is an interesting exchange where the red wool coats sent to Fort Loudoun had to be turned back by Demere because they were so inferior that he couldn't even issue them to his soldiers. Regardless of their quality, it was red wool trade coats which the Indians of the SE were demanding.

But what did these coats look like? That is a much harder question. Unfortunately, none of the thousands of simple English trade coats survive intact. The remains of a trade coat were recovered from Conestoga Town, dating to the early 1760's. The garment was examined by Laura Johnson in her essay, “Goods to clothe themselves.” Sadly, her understanding of period fashion diminished her interpretation of the remnants. Thankfully, however, Mark Hutter of Colonial Williamsburg undertook a project to faithfully reconstruct the coat with great attention to detail.

It is this reconstruction which my thoughts of design are drawn from, combined with pricing and various descriptions of the trade common trade coats (which were not elaborately decorated with metallic braid) as “jackets”. “Jacket” in the mid-18th century is now accepted to generally mean a shorter coat, with trim to non-existent skirt pleats, cuffs, and sometimes even a collar. My interpretation is that of a blend between a coat and a waistcoat; a coat in that it has full cuffs, and buttons at the top of the side vents; a waistcoat in that there are no pleats in the skirts.

## E] NEW RAY Toys Company Limited <https://www.newrayusa.com/>

5407 Daniels Street Chino, CA 91710 Toll Free: (877) 863 – 9729 [sales@newrayusa.com](mailto:sales@newrayusa.com)

New-Ray Toys Company Limited is a Hong Kong-based company, specializing in the design and manufacturing of die-cast and plastic toys. Established in 1987, New-Ray is expanding rapidly with offices being set up in the U.S.A and China.

Our state-of-the-art factory in Dong Guan, China has sophisticated printing machines that produce products with complex graphic designs in excellent quality, and making creative packaging. The factory is fully developed with cutting edge technology, all at one location, that enables New-Ray to maintain good production control, absolute product quality assurance, expeditious delivery lead times, with all New-Ray toys accounted at very competitive prices.

Die-cast scale models are one of the best highlights of our extensive product lines. With over 200 licenses, there are more to come. We are determined to increase licenses range and are fully committed to investing sumptuous amount on licensing. One of a successful marketing philosophy is “always giving choices” to customers. We do not only aim at giving extensive choice of licenses, we also produce a wide range of die-cast models such as cars, motorbikes and trucks scaled down to various sizes to suit adults as a collector item, or children of all ages to play with. Scale models are also further extended to play sets.

## **F] Boxer Rebellion**

from Wikipedia

The Boxer Rebellion, also known as the Boxer Uprising, was an anti-foreign, anti-imperialist, and anti-Christian uprising in North China between 1899 and 1901, towards the end of the Qing dynasty, by the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, known as the "Boxers" in English due to many of its members having practised Chinese martial arts, which at the time were referred to as "Chinese boxing". It was defeated by the Eight-Nation Alliance of foreign powers.

Following the First Sino-Japanese War, villagers in North China feared the expansion of foreign spheres of influence and resented the extension of privileges to Christian missionaries, who used them to shield their followers. In 1898, North China experienced several natural disasters, including the Yellow River flooding and droughts, which Boxers blamed on foreign and Christian influence. Beginning in 1899, the movement spread across Shandong and the North China Plain, destroying foreign property such as railroads, and attacking or murdering Christian missionaries and Chinese Christians. The events came to a head in June 1900, when Boxer fighters, convinced they were invulnerable to foreign weapons, converged on Beijing with the slogan "Support the Qing government and exterminate the foreigners".

Diplomats, missionaries, soldiers, and some Chinese Christians took refuge in the Legation Quarter, which the Boxers besieged. The Eight-Nation Alliance—comprising American, Austro-Hungarian, British, French, German, Italian, Japanese, and Russian troops—moved into China to lift the siege and on 17 June stormed the Dagu Fort at Tianjin. Empress Dowager Cixi, who had initially been hesitant, supported the Boxers and on 21 June issued an imperial decree that was a de facto declaration of war on the invading powers. Chinese officialdom was split between those supporting the Boxers and those favouring conciliation, led by Prince Qing. The supreme commander of the Chinese forces, the Manchu general Ronglu, later claimed he acted to protect the foreigners. Officials in the southern provinces ignored the imperial order to fight against foreigners.

The Eight-Nation Alliance, after initially being turned back by the Imperial Chinese military and Boxer militia, brought 20,000 armed troops to China. They defeated the Imperial Army in Tianjin and arrived in Beijing on 14 August, relieving the 55-day Siege of the International Legations. Plunder and looting of the capital and the surrounding countryside ensued, along with summary execution of those suspected of being Boxers in retribution. The Boxer Protocol of 7 September 1901 provided for the execution of government officials who had supported the Boxers, for foreign troops to be stationed in Beijing, and for 450 million taels of silver—more than the government's annual tax revenue—to be paid as indemnity over the course of the next 39 years to the eight invading nations. The Qing dynasty's handling of the Boxer Rebellion further weakened their control over China, and led to the Late Qing reforms.

## **G] DINKY TOYS**

from Wikipedia

Dinky Toys was the brand name for a range of die-cast zamak zinc alloy scale model vehicles, traffic lights, and road signs produced by British toy company Meccano Ltd. They were made in England from 1934 to 1979, at a factory in Binns Road in Liverpool.

Dinky Toys were among the most popular die-cast vehicles ever made – pre-dating other popular die-cast marques, including Corgi, Matchbox and Mattel's Hot Wheels.

Vehicles commercialised under the "Dinky" name include cars, trucks, aircraft, military, ships.

Pre-war history





Dinky 23e model of George Eyston's land record car, "Speed of the Wind". The toy was made from 1936 to 1956.

Frank Hornby established Meccano Ltd. in 1908 to make metal construction sets. The company later moved into model railways, with its O gauge clockwork trains appearing in 1920. In the early 1930s, Meccano made many types of tinsplate and other metal cars, such as its Morgan and BSA three-wheelers, mostly in kit form. In 1933, Meccano Ltd issued a series of railway and trackside accessories to complement its O gauge (1/45) Hornby Trains model railway sets. The accessories were first called "Hornby Modelled Miniatures", but in the April 1934 issue of Meccano Magazine, they were given the name "Meccano Dinky Toys" for the first time. In August 1935, the name Meccano was dropped and the marque became DINKY TOYS, which lasted until 1971. By December 1934, the Dinky name was also used for the "Dinky Builder" sets, which were coloured flat metal pieces that could be hinged together to make buildings and vehicles.

One story about the origin of the "Dinky" name is that it derived from a nickname that a friend gave to Frank Hornby's daughter. Another version is that when one of Hornby's daughters-in-law first saw the models, she called them "dinky", a Scottish word meaning "neat" or "fine".

## HJ The Tiger Tank and Henschel - from Google and Wikipedia



The Tiger I and Tiger II tanks were built by Henschel and other German companies during World War II.

- The Tiger I was built by Henschel at their factory in Kassel, Germany.
- The hull was built by Henschel, and the turret was made by Wegmann AG.

The Tiger II was a German heavy tank of the Second World War. The final official German designation was Panzerkampfwagen Tiger Ausf. B, often shortened to Tiger B. The ordnance inventory designation was Sd.Kfz. 182. (Sd.Kfz. 267 and 268 for command vehicles). It was also known informally as the Königstiger (German for Bengal tiger, lit. 'King Tiger'). Contemporaneous Allied soldiers often called it the King Tiger or Royal Tiger. The Tiger II was the successor to the Tiger I, combining the latter's thick armour with the armour sloping used on the Panther medium tank. It was the costliest German tank to produce at the time. The tank weighed almost 70 tonnes, and was protected by 100 to 185 mm (3.9 to 7.3 in) of armour to the front. It was armed with the long barrelled (71 calibres) 8.8 cm KwK 43 anti-tank cannon. The chassis was also the basis for the Jagdtiger turret less Jagdpanzer anti-tank vehicle.

Development started in 1937 with a design contract awarded to Henschel. Another design contract followed in 1939, given to Porsche. Both prototypes used the same turret design from Krupp. The main differences were in the hull, transmission, suspension and automotive. The Henschel version used a conventional hull design with sloped armour resembling the layout of the Panther tank. It had a rear-mounted engine and used nine steel-tired, eighty-centimetre-diameter overlapping road wheels per side with internal springing, mounted on transverse torsion bars, in a similar manner to the original Henschel-designed Tiger I. To simplify maintenance, however, the wheels were only overlapping without being interleaved—the full Schachtellaufwerk rubber-rimmed road-wheel system that had been in use on nearly all German half-tracks used the interleaved design, later inherited by the Tiger I and Panther.

## J] **John Hill & Company or Johillco** from Wikipedia

John Hill & Company or Johillco was a British toy company specialising in the manufacture of hollow-cast metal and later plastic toy soldiers becoming second to W. Britain in popularity. It is unknown where the name of John Hill came from.

John Hill & Co was started in 1898 by a former employee of W. Britain named Mr F. H Wood. In contrast to Britains, Johillco was the first British hollow-cast figure company to sell their figures individually leading to competition from Britains who later began to sell individual figures and figures painted less ornately to be sold in variety stores like the F. W. Woolworth Company.

Johillco also manufactured Coronation and other souvenir items. The firm's original factory was located at 2-22 Britannia Row, Islington, London but the factory was bombed during World War II. In August 1946 the company reopened under new management in Plumbe Street Burnley. Also after World War II, Johillco's chief figure designer Wilfred Cherrington in conjunction with a Mr. Leaver started his own company called **Cherilea**. In their book *The Art of the Toy Soldier*, the authors note that due to the cheapness of the figures and the individuality of their poses, Johillco figures were found more in working-class homes than the expensive Britains that came in boxes of rigid identical poses. The authors also noted the company probably used a variety of sculptors leading to various grades of quality of Johillco figures, that the authors call "the good, the bad, and the ugly".

In addition to toy soldiers and cowboys and Indians, Johillco made many figures of knights and a movie tie-in set of figures from MGM's *Quo Vadis* (1951 film) as well as spacemen. Johillco was slow to realise the effect of production in plastic. From 1956 they began making plastic figures in their hollow-cast moulds under the name of Hilco but the company ceased in the early 1960s.

## K] **White Rose Gasoline** from Wikipedia

White Rose gasoline was a Canadian brand marketed by the **Canadian Oil Company** (later National Refining and then McColl Frontenac) from 1905, and acquired by Shell Canada in 1962, where the White Rose brand was discontinued.

It initially used the name for its stove gasoline and in 1905 began using it for automotive gasoline as well. For advertising Canadian used the "Boy and Slate" signs that Charles L. Archibold had conceived in 1920.

From the early 1910s **Canadian sold White Rose Gasoline**, En-Ar-Co Motor Oil, and Black Beauty Axle Grease. National Refining had conceived the name "White Rose"



City of Toronto Archives. Series 1424. 91461\_0022\_00005