

The Ontario Model Soldier Society “ON PARADE”

Annual Military Miniatures Competition

As part of its Annual Show “ON PARADE” the Society holds an annual modeling competition. The purpose of the competition is to:

1. Provide a showcase for Society members and other modelers to display their work to their fellow modelers and to the public.
2. Recognize and encourage excellence in modeling military miniatures.

The competition is not just about winning awards. Modelers of all skill levels can benefit from seeing their work side by side with that of other painters. We can all draw inspiration from each others' work. And the display of all facets of the hobby makes for a more impressive public presentation that promotes the Society and the hobby. For those who would rather not compete there is the option of entering figures for display only.

The model soldier hobby encompasses a wide range of interests and the OMSS competition reflects this by including types of entries not found in other shows' competitions. One of these is groups of figures painted in the traditional toy soldier style. (Typically but not limited to glossy finish) These will often be figures cast from home-made or commercial molds. Another unique feature of the OMSS competition is that it includes collectors as well as painters. Collectors are challenged to present commercially produced figures in themed displays and dioramas that are judged on interest and presentation. In recent years enthusiasts of large scale action figures have started to participate in our shows and we have included them in the competition as well.

While the emphasis is on military history, fictional and fantasy figures are welcome.

Unlike most model shows the OMSS competition is not organized in classes. Entries are not segregated by scale, period, subject matter or type. In the absence of a rigid class system, our judging philosophy is to judge the entries based on what they are. Whether it be a single painted figure, conversion or scratchbuilt, vignette or diorama, vehicle or artillery model, toy soldier band, wargaming unit or collector's display, criteria specific to that type of entry will be used to assess how well the entrant has achieved his purpose.

Criteria that our judges use to evaluate the various types of entries are listed later in this document for your guidance.

Awards

There are three levels of trophies, gold, silver and bronze. (in descending order). The number of awards made is at the discretion of the judges based on the quality of the work entered. Entries will be judged in the context of the standards pertinent to the type of entry and relative to the other entries of the same type. Historically our judges have been quite generous with awards.

In addition there are three overall awards:

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| Junior Award | For outstanding work by an entrant 16 years of age or younger. |
| Club's Choice | Best of Show voted by ballot by those attending the show. (Don't forget to vote!) |
| Wellington Cup | Best of Show as selected by the judges. |

Basic Rules and Procedures

1. Entries will be accepted between 8:00 am and 12:00 pm. Late entries will not be judged.
2. There is no fee for competition entry.
3. The competition is open to all. There is no limit on the number of entries.
4. Entrants must register with the committee.
5. An entry form must be completed for each exhibit entered and displayed with it. Entrants are encouraged to provide all relevant information to help our judges.
6. The entrant may choose to enter a number of figures as a group, in which case only one form need be completed for the group.
7. Entry forms must be returned to the committee at the end of the show.
8. Entrants are responsible for setting up their own figures within the competition area. Display materials such as cloth backdrops may be used. The Show committee reserves the right to limit the amount of space used.
9. A competition room is designated for single figures and smaller displays. Space for larger displays is provided in some of the other rooms and in the blockhouse.
10. Competing is optional. For exhibits presented for display only just check off the box on the entry card marked "Display Only, Not in Competition".
11. Where an entry includes figures that have not been painted by the entrant this must be clearly marked. (There is a check box on the entry form for this.)
12. Entries that have previously won an award at an O.M.S.S. Annual Competition are ineligible.
13. Bases are recommended but not mandatory.
14. Questions concerning eligibility are the sole responsibility of the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to bar entries it feels are not suitable for public display.
15. All reasonable precautions will be taken to protect entries while on display. However the O.M.S.S. cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage.
16. The awards will be presented at the end of the show (3:00 pm) in the main room of the "Blue" Barracks (where the vendors are located).
17. Please do not remove any entries before the awards presentation unless by prior arrangement with the show committee.

Judging Criteria

Judging any kind of artistic endeavor can never be scientific and will always be essentially subjective. That being said there are definite things that the judges are looking for when evaluating entries. Some of these apply across the board and some are more particular to the type of entry involved. In this section we attempt to give you some insight into how our judges assess the worthiness of your entries for awards. This should also help you to look at your own work more critically and identify where you can improve.

General criteria (apply to all types of entries)

- Visual appeal, creativity and presentation
- Originality. Interesting and unusual subject matter or a new way to present your models.
- Historical accuracy - there's always a certain leeway about what was really worn on campaign or how dress regulations were interpreted by individual units, so a certain amount of artistic license is acceptable. However outright "howlers" such as British infantry in pink coats will sink even the best executed entry.
- Level of effort, difficulty
- Attention to detail

Painted Figures (figures in any type of entry that have been painted by the entrant)

- Quality of figure (kit, casting or whatever). Even though the entrant may not have sculpted the original figure he did pick it. Poor quality castings or faulty anatomy will detract from the overall success of the entry no matter how good the paint job.
- Quality of figure assembly and preparation. Has flash been cleaned? Are parts well-fitted and does the figure look natural. (Bits falling off or figures leaning at odd angles are definite turn-offs here.)
- Figure animation, conversions or scratchbuilt figures. (please describe on the entry form) - credit for effort, sculpting skill and originality.
- Crispness of painting
- Use of colour and shading
- Painting style. Connoisseur figures, toy soldiers and wargaming figures each have their own styles of painting and entries will be considered in their context.
- Painting criteria will be more critical for single figures and vignettes as opposed to massed displays.
- Painting appropriate to scale (the larger the scale the more detail and subtlety is expected)
- Presentation in use and quality of bases, groundwork and setting, posing of figures.

Dioramas & Vignettes

- Where figures are the work of the entrant see also Painted Figures criteria above. The quality of the figures will be a major consideration in evaluating the entry.
- Where a diorama is primarily peopled by figures not painted by the entrant the emphasis will be on evaluating the scene being presented. The quality and interest of the figures used will be considered, but secondary.
- Basic idea: What is going on? What is the story? Does the scene make sense? - Overall impression?
- Design and composition – How well is it presented? Visually striking? All elements support main idea? Realistic?
- Originality and creativity: What makes the scene special even if it is a familiar theme?
- Attention to detail, human, technical & historical: Does the scene look natural?
- Modeling skills of vehicles, aircraft, structures, etc. – attention to detail. Extra credit for conversion and/or scratchbuilt elements (make sure to note on entry form).

Judging Criteria (continued...)

Toy Soldiers & War Gaming Figures (figures designed for massed displays)

- Criteria given above for Painted Figures apply here.
- Historical accuracy and authenticity including uniforms, weaponry, order of parade and formation of bands
- Does the entry work as a coherent unit or formation?

Collections

- Where an entry consists of a collection of figures that aren't the work of the entrant, then the quality of the figures themselves will be considered secondary to how the entrant has presented them.
- Uniqueness of figures and story told. Does the display work to a theme or is it a hodge-podge?
- Level of thought, effort and planning that went into the presentation.
- Use of supporting materials to enhance the display.
- Overall impression of presentation
- Creativity and imagination
- Difficulty of putting the collection together, e.g., different sources

Hardware (vehicles, artillery, aircraft, ships)

- When figures are included see the Painted Figures criteria above. The quality of the figures is considered in the overall evaluation of the entry.
- Quality of kit preparation and assembly. Has flash been cleaned? Are parts well fitted?
- Extra credit for extra detailing, conversion or scratch-building (please describe on entry form).
- Quality of painting - crispness of detail, use of colour, shading, weathering.