

The
**Ontario
 Model
 Soldier
 Society**
 Founded 1962
 www.omss.ca



Monthly Newsletter for March 2016

Next meeting...

Sunday, 13 March, 2016

Branch 210 Royal Canadian Legion 110 Jutland Road Toronto
 Meeting starts at 1:00 pm. Doors open 11:00 am

Monthly Newsletter for March 2016

2016 Executive

Tom Elliot
 President

Jim Qualtrough
 1st vice president

John Hambly
 2nd vice-president

Gary Lenius
 Secretary/Treasurer

Gail Stone
 Past President

Eric Clarke
 Program Chairman

Frank MacKay
 Journal editor

Norm White
 Annual Show Chairman

Meeting Dates

- 2016 -
 January 17
 February 7
 March 13
 April 10
 June 12
 September 11
 October 16
 November 13
 December 11

Annual Show
Saturday May 14, 2016



Letter from the President

As I write this I am looking out the window, what a fantastic winter leading up to our annual 2016 Spring show.

Scott Dummitt and Jim Qualtrough contacted William Britain Ltd and invited Ken and Erika Osen, I am sure they will have a very interesting display of the latest Britains products and dioramas.

Stuart Hessney from Toy Soldier Magazine will be attending; Stuart has always given excellent support and coverage of our show in TS&MF magazine. He is also a long time member.

Member participation is still the most important ingredient in our great show. It would be greatly appreciated if everyone with a display or competition item advise Jim Qualtrough of their space requirements. This allows Jim to plan and co-ordinate the display areas.

I learn something from every speaker at our meetings, Thanks to Jeff Price for a very interesting and informative talk on the history and people behind the Canadian War Memorials at our last meeting. I expect we will be hearing more from Jeff in the future.

A note of Thanks to Jeff Duncan who has been working on a donation to the club from the estate of a former member George Simpson. There is a nice assortment of figures and books, an opportunity to expand our collections.

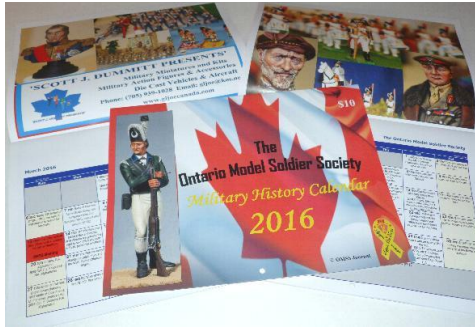
See you at the meeting.

Tom

This Month's Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker this month comes to us courteous of Frank MacKay. Ron Dixon is a neighbour of Frank's and is an accomplished car modeler and caster. Ron's topic this month is on the most up to date methods of casting and the materials used in mould making techniques.

With the rising cost of finished figurines in our hobby, this is an excellent topic to touch on as it will give collectors another way of stretching the dollar plus it gives military miniaturist the added bonus of creating their own subjects. If you want to learn more about creating your own figures, this is the meeting to be at.



OMSS 2017 Calendar Committee Meeting

Please be advised that the Calendar Committee will be convening a brief meeting after the main meeting on Sunday to finalize the division of labour for this year's OMSS Calendar. It's not too late to join: we need researchers, photographers, marketing specialists, you name it--if you'd like to be involved in this creative effort, please don't hesitate to join us.

This Month in History

March 1793 - American soldier and politician Sam Houston (1793-1863) was born in Rockbridge County, Virginia. As a teenager he ran away and joined the Cherokee Indians who accepted him as a member of their tribe. He later served as a Congressman and Governor of Tennessee. In 1832, he became commander of the Texan army in the War for Texan Independence, defeating the larger Mexican army in 1836 at the Battle of San Jacinto. He then served as Senator and Governor of the new state of Texas but was removed in 1861 after refusing to swear allegiance to the Confederacy.



Toy Soldier Judging at the Annual Show

By Guy Elliot

I am one of the Judges for Toy Soldiers (Connoisseur and 1/6 done by others) at our Annual Show. I made a presentation on this topic to the Membership at the October meeting. The Executive asked that I do this Journal Article for anyone who missed that meeting.

To understand how the Judges in this category decide what constitutes a Gold Medal entry, think: 'Olympic High Diving Competition'. In that sport an athlete may do a simple dive but execute it perfectly and get a Gold Medal. But they may also do a very difficult dive but only do it well and still get the Gold Medal. The two factors considered are: degree of difficulty and perfection of execution. That is what we consider when looking at a Toy Soldier entry. Each entrant fills out a detailed card to place beside the entry. We look at that card for information and then we look at the overall effect of the entry. As I did at the October Meeting, let me give you two examples from the 2015 Show.

We went over to one of Don Ritchie's entries and said, "This looks very nice." Then we read the information card and found out that all of Don's (60 ? – 80?) figures were cast by him and painted by him. We looked at the figures and the castings were crisp and with no bits of excess metal anywhere. Then there is the painting. It too was just perfect – everything was straight, true and no errors. That is a high degree of difficulty! And the display was done with a good background, a nice layout of figures and pleasing to the eye – it was a Gold Medal entry. Then we turned around and there was Les Eslary's entry. Wow! It just took your breath away to see it. We read the information card and all of the figures were painted commercial figures – no degree of difficulty. But the entry was a series of vignettes all very detailed, well planned and laid out. All the vignettes were related to the other vignettes and all were in sync with the theme: 'Launching an Allied Observation Balloon during the Boxer Rebellion'. This was completely different than Don's but it was also a Gold Medal.

There were other entries in the Competition that fell short in 'degree of difficulty' and / or 'perfection of execution' but which would have made wonderful Displays as the soldiers shown were interesting or had an interesting tale to tell. You may always put anything you wish into the Toy Soldier Competition but now you know what the Judges look for to award a Gold Medal. With regards to the Display portion of the Show, think 'Show and Tell' just as at our monthly meetings. If you have toy soldiers you think are interesting or just very pretty and you think another collector

would enjoy to see – do a Display. Here there are: no judges, degree of difficulty or perfection of execution. Just something you are proud of. It can be big or small – doesn't matter. You don't need to fill out an information card but make your own easy-to-read sign with a brief explanation why you think a viewer might enjoy seeing it. Don't forget that much of your audience will be visitors who know nothing about Toy Soldiers. I do this every year and for me it is a chance to take part of my collection off from the shelves at home and let others see them. I like seeing other Members soldiers very much and I hope they like to see what I have brought. If you are contemplating bring a Display and have any questions, I'm always glad to help.

Keep Your Info with the OMSS up to Date

With people moving, changing Internet companies, phones and so on, we tend to lose contact. Gary Lenius sends out a yearly listing so we can contact each other. Please take a few moments to make sure you have sent Gary your updated information. If you wish your information deleted from the list contact Gary.

NOTE: The OMSS Roster Sheet is not to be used for advertising or selling. It is strictly for the convenience of letting our members know how to contact each other.



William Britain Limited under New Ownership

If you haven't heard yet, William Britain Limited is now under new ownership. Here is a section of the information sent out by the new owners:

“ On September 20th 2005, William Britain was acquired by First Gear Inc. of Peosta, Iowa. During the decade of ownership by First Gear, the 123 year old brand has developed some of the best products the company has ever offered maintaining its place as a leader in the industry.

On February 5th of 2016, William Britain was sold to a new U.S. based company, The Good Soldier L.L.C. of Holland, Ohio. The Good Soldier L.L.C is owned by a small group of investors including John Lord Booth II, Scott & Holly Walter, Dave Youngquist and Kenneth & Ericka Osen. Each of the owners shares a passion for both history and miniatures with a mission to continue growing the W. Britain brand and W. Britain Collector's Club with a refocused energy and additional product offerings.

Certainly any change in ownership of W. Britain will generate a number of questions on the future of the brand and its products. The good news here is that any improvements you may have noticed during the past two years will continue without interruption. The current General Manager & Creative Director, Kenneth Osen will remain in that position as one of the owners, new dedicated staff members will be added and the current creative team will remain completely intact. Ken has been part of the W. Britain team since 2005 and will insure continuity of important ranges and quality.

In addition, the art of Don Troiani will continue to be serviced by W. Britain with expanded offerings and products, including limited edition sets based on Mr. Troiani's art. The first three sets will appear in the Spring catalog, followed by others in 2016.

Hudson & Allen Studio's range of scenic accessories and buildings established in 1991 and owned by Ken and Ericka Osen will also become a Good Soldier L.L.C. brand.

We feel these three brands perfectly support each other in every way.”



Whats New in the Collector's World!

John Jenkins Designs – 1759 British Longboat Set

It seems the talk of the Chicago Show last fall was John Jenkins Designs British longboat depicting the late night journey up the St Lawrence of British troops on 12 September 1759. There was an unpainted prototype of the ship's boat at the show for collectors to get a good look at. Well now the finished product is available to see and it is magnificent. The long boat itself with oars extended measures 14 ½" wide by 15" long. It is crewed by 13 Royal Navy ratings of which there are 5 different poses, and carries 24 Grenadiers of the 15th Regiment of Foot.

The story of how the British troops navigated the river at night and landed at a location up river beyond the city is known by almost any Canadian school boy who attended school from the 1900s to the 1960s. It is an important moment in our history as it decided which of the world's two great nations, at the time, would control the fate of our country. John Jenkins Designs has brought that part of history to life with this long boat set. The price of the set is steep and with the present Canadian money exchange it will make collectors really think before purchasing the set. The long boat itself is \$178.00 US, the 13 piece Royal Navy Crew is \$330.00 US and the 24 Grenadiers (two sets of 12) work out to \$760.00 US. With the present money exchange, and sales tax, that works out to a whopping \$2090.00 Canadian. Jenkins is offering smaller sets of both the RN Crew and Grenadiers, so an interested collector could build up this set over a period of time while John Jenkins Designs still has it in stock. This would surely be a center piece set for any hobbyist who adds it to their collection.

ON PARADE 2016 Show News

We are glad to announce that William Britain Limited and Hudson & Allen Studios will once again be displaying at our annual show and competition. Erika and Ken Osen have confirmed that both companies will once again be setting up displays at our show. Both Ken and Erika are more than happy to hear your comments and answer any questions you have at the show. In addition W. Britain Ltd has kindly donated two counter display boxes of DeeTail plastic figures for the society to give out to children (12 years and under) at the show. You can contact Hudson & Allen Studios regarding purchasing from them directly at the show.

Vendor Registration – Vendors, now is the time to get your registration forms and cheques into Gary Lenius. Tables are already selling fast and it is on a 'first come - first served' basis. Organizers will try and accommodate returning vendors in their usual locations; however don't leave things to the last minute or you may miss out. Registration forms can be printed off from the OMSS web site or contact Gary at the meeting.

Shows and Events

Upcoming Shows

Toronto Military Shows

Saturday February 6 at General Sikorski Hall in Oshawa

All shows 8:30 am to 2 pm. Admission \$8.

Quarterly militaria shows

Website torontomilitaryshow.com

Peterborough Militaria Show

15 October 2016

The show runs from 9 am to 2:30 pm and is located in the Armoury at 220 Murray Street in downtown Peterborough.

HeritageCon Ten - Sunday March 20 2016 in Hamilton, Ontario see www.ipmshamilton.ca for details

BuffCon 33 - Sunday April 10, 2016 in Buffalo, New York see www.ipmsniagarafrontier.com for details

TorCan 2016 - Sunday May 1, 2016 in Brampton, Ontario see www.torcanmodelshow.com for details.

Collectible Shows

Check out www.collectorshows.ca for some other locally hosted toy, train, and nostalgia shows

On Facebook?

Make sure and check out our Facebook group maintained by Dave Norman. Lots of interesting postings.
www.facebook.com/groups/577999975631964/

Looking out for each other

Know of a member who's been ill or in hospital? Let Gail Stone know so that we can send them the Society's best wishes.
Contact Gail at 905-332-0653 or by email at gstone4@cogeco.ca

DID YOU KNOW!

The Town of Ajax, Ontario is named after the British cruiser HMS Ajax. During the Second World War the location for the city was a munitions plant. The area was building up and when it came time to decide a name for the newly founded community, they chose the name of the Ajax after Commodore Harwood's flagship during the naval battle with the German Pocket Battleship Admiral Graf Spee. Harwood's cruiser squadron of HMS Ajax, HMS Exeter and HMS Achilles (later changed to HMNZS) met the Admiral Graf Spee off the coast of Paraguay. After a brief naval battle the German ship put into the port of

Montevideo and due to neutrality laws was only granted 72 hours to make ready for sea. By this time British counterintelligence had spread the rumour of capital ships waiting at the mouth of the River Plate, and rather than have his crew killed off needlessly, Captain Langsdorff scuttled his ship. Today you will see reminders of the Ajax, Achilles and Exeter's crews (plus those of the RN Frigate Ajax, commissioned in 1962) in the municipality as any street that has an anchor or ship on its street sign is named after a crew member.



Town of Ajax Crest



HMS Ajax Ship's Crest

George Simpson Estate OMSS Donation Sale by Jeff & Heidi Duncan

The Society has taken possession of a significant donation from the Estate of the late George Simpson. George's daughter Susan contacted us and we made arrangements for the donation due to her families pending move to a new home. She remarked several times how much her Dad enjoyed the Society and friends he had within it. Her family wanted to see some of his collection go back to those who shared his passion for military history, toy soldiers and connoisseur figures.



George Simpson

George was an early member of the OMSS since the mid-late 1960's and he passed away approximately ten years ago. He was an active Toy Dealer taking part in many shows in the Toronto area. He was a veteran of the Second World War serving with the 48th Highlanders in Italy. He returned to Italy as part of a 48th Highlanders tour just prior to his death.

After taking the better part of a couple of days to obtain, organize and price all the donations we will be selling it at our March OMSS meeting. We

will not be doing the monthly draw in March. Some of the donated items include about 40 castings primarily of Roman and barbarian tribesmen by Sovereign Miniatures. They are 80mm and almost the best castings I have ever seen, truly awesome figures. One of the casting sets is of a Roman Scorpio and 2 man crew. In addition a 10 piece Corgi 80mm Scots Guards band and a variety of smaller military miniatures.



As well we have a fantastic collection of books many real hard to find and/or expensive titles. A few titles include *The Great Book of Hollowcast Figures* by Norman Joplin, *Britains Civilian Toy Figures* by Norman Joplin, *The British Soldier 1944-45*, *The Canadian Soldier 1940-45*, Dan Troiani's *Soldiers in America*, *The Art of the Toy Soldier* by Henry Kurtz. The most impressive book is *The Complete Bill Horan* published by Andrea Press. He is a world renowned master craftsman at sculpting and painting figures. The book has a Prologue by our Shep Paine and is over 275 pages of full thick photo gloss images of his complete works. The book for its size weighs a ton. On Amazon.ca is going for over \$180.00C a copy. Almost all the books are in new (almost) never looked at condition.



Everything is priced and we will have the sale start at 11:30am to give more members a chance to pick some finds rather than just the early birds to the meeting. The prices in keeping with the quality of the donations are reflective in not being “cheap”. The books range from \$5.00 all the way into the \$75.00 range. If two people want the same book we will take the highest donation over the asking price. The Bill Horan book will be sold by a Silent Auction page with a reserve of \$100 and the cut off of the bidding is when our meeting is over. Any unsold items will be available to general public at the show at Fort York in May. Some photos attached for a little preview.

DISCURIO LIMITED UK Music Distributor

Society Member Frank Barrett sent us the information on a British based music distributor carrying Canadian Forces CDs. Frank thought the musically inclined members of the society might find this of interest. You can check DISCURIO Ltd. out at:

<http://www.lpmilitaryrecordings.co.uk/>

Currently being carried by DISCURIO are CDs by:

The Governor General’s Foot Guards

The Central Command Band of the Canadian Forces

The Royal Highland Regiment (The Black Watch) of Canada

Ontario Model Soldier Society Members do Well in Atlanta

OMSS Members, Ian Pearson, Phil Andrews and Bruce Sundstrom recently attended the 2016 Atlanta Model Figure Show, sponsored by the Atlanta Military Figure Society. The show was held at the Atlanta Marriot Century Centre from the 19th to the 21st of February.



Bruce Sundstrom Display

Both Bruce and Phil had entries in the show and when it was all over Bruce had won a Silver medal for an Andrea figure of a medieval knight titled - *Sir Louis De Nevers 1346* and a Bronze for his vignette using Forces of valour figures titled - *Joint Operations; US army Rangers and Navy SEALs* while Phil took home a Bronze award for his *1st Canadian Para Batt. Flamethrower*. Congratulations to our travelling competitors and we look forward to seeing what you enter at ON PARADE 2016.



**Phil Andrews’
‘1st Canadian
Para Batt.
Flamethrower’
figure circa
1945**

**The newsletter is edited by Scott Dummitt.
News items and notices can be submitted to gijoe@kos.net or 705-939-1028
Articles must be submitted no later than 14 days before monthly meetings**