



Newsletter for October 2025

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962



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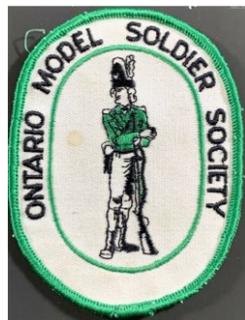
Andy Traverse
Past President

Steve Alexander
Ottawa Chapter Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

Andy Traverse
Program Chair

VACANT
Technical Committee Chair



Toronto Chapter meeting
Sunday, October 5, 2025
Doors open at 11:00 am,
meeting starts at 12:30pm

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion
110 Jutland Road Etobicoke

This month's speaker will be Mark Silverthorn
and the topic is Stop Motion Toy Soldiers Videos



OMSS Virtual meeting
Tuesday October 21, 2025 @ 7pm

Virtual meetings are open to
all OMSS and BMSS members
contact Bob Thompson at thompson_robort@rogers.com



Ottawa Chapter meeting
Tuesday October 28, 2025
@ 7pm

The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Rd.



International Toy Soldiers Club Virtual Meeting
Saturday October 11, 2025
@ 7pm GMT

(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)

Contact HQ@replicametalsoldiers.co.uk for an invitation
Or check out www.internationaltoysoldier.club



BMSS Monthly Virtual meeting
Friday October 17, 2025 @ 7pm GMT

(that's 2pm for most of us in Ontario)

Contact: Jamesopie@yahoo.co.uk for more details.



Ottawa Nostalgia & Collectible Show

Sunday October 19th 2025
9am to 3pm

Nepean Sportsplex 1701 Woodroffe Ave. Ottawa Ontario K2G 1W2
Halls A and B Door Entrance Number 3



Tell us about upcoming hobby related events for the newsletter
Send your announcements to OMSSnewsletter@gmail.com



Greetings fellow members,

It was a real pleasure to see everyone who attended our September meeting inaugurating the Fall 2025 season of meetings. Thanks to Jim Qualtrough for his report to the assembled membership on the success of our annual show in June at the Franklin Horner Community Centre, and also to our own Eric Shaw who gave a most enjoyable and interesting presentation on drawing pictures of uniforms with coloured pencils.

We are all deeply saddened by the recent loss of life member Frank Barrett, which was announced at the meeting. Frank had been around for a very long time and he will be missed. We extend our sincerest condolences to his family.

At our October meeting our guest speaker will be Mark Silverthorn, and we hope for a good turnout to hear him.

On a different topic, in the last month I have received two deliveries of various Expeditionary Force and LOD plastic figures from the Hobby Bunker in Wakefield, Massachusetts. In neither case were they subjected to tariffs, so for those of you who don't know that plastic model soldiers appear to still be covered by the NAFTA, that may or may not come as a relief. Or maybe someone in Customs is sleeping on the job.

I look forward to seeing you all on October 5.

Duncan Johnstone
President

Toronto Chapter News

We had a fascinating presentation at our September meeting by long time member Eric Shaw with a presentation of his colour pencil work.

It was obvious a great deal of effort went into the preparation of the presentation with Eric bringing lots of samples of his art and books of similar work as well as a terrific PowerPoint presentation. Eric's talk was engaging and entertaining as always.



During 'Show and Tell', Keith Ritchie brought in samples of dioramas he is working on and showed the wide variety of products available to recreate scenes such as a autumn ground cover of colourful leaves.

Alex Monsour show us a recent acquisition of a piece he acquired from John Jenkins "Fur Trade series", which in a future newsletter, we will present an article on this topic.

Official 'opening' of Juan's Model Cave



Juan Lopez of the Ottawa Chapter held an open house in September for Society members for an 'unveiling' of his 20 year project building a personal miniature museum of World War II.

The attention to detail is amazing. Each unique display includes a plaque with details and facts of every item.



To the right is Juan's paint shop.

As Bob Thompson would say:
"You can never have too many...."
in this case, ..paints

The Fascinating Helen of Troy by John Jenkins Designs

By David of ToySoldiersClub.com

Back in 2021, John Jenkins started a new collection about the Trojan War and this quickly caught my interest. I've always liked stories, fictional or not, including "femmes fatales" and the Trojan War is a classic for that! So when the collection started, one of my first questions to John was "Will there be a toy soldier version of Helen of Troy"? That was a legitimate question as the first pictures shown to the world were those of soldiers and heroes in combat poses in which Helen would be out of place! Luckily, John quickly reassured me on that and confirmed that she would be there! After four years of waiting, she is finally ready and far better than what I could have dreamed of! There could not be a better timing to have a look at her production story so far and the official pictures!

As some might already know, when John began the Trojan War project, he found most of his inspiration within books of Peter Connolly, a modern illustrator, historian, and storyteller. Connolly's work contained all the building blocks required to bring those heroes of the bronze age back to life. When comparing the figures to the illustration of the book to the work of John Jenkins, we can clearly see the connection. However, the toy soldier versions are different and not exact copies. This is quite a challenge to be unique while staying within something historically accurate and John succeeded to adapt them to his style.

Original sketch of the figure by John Jenkins

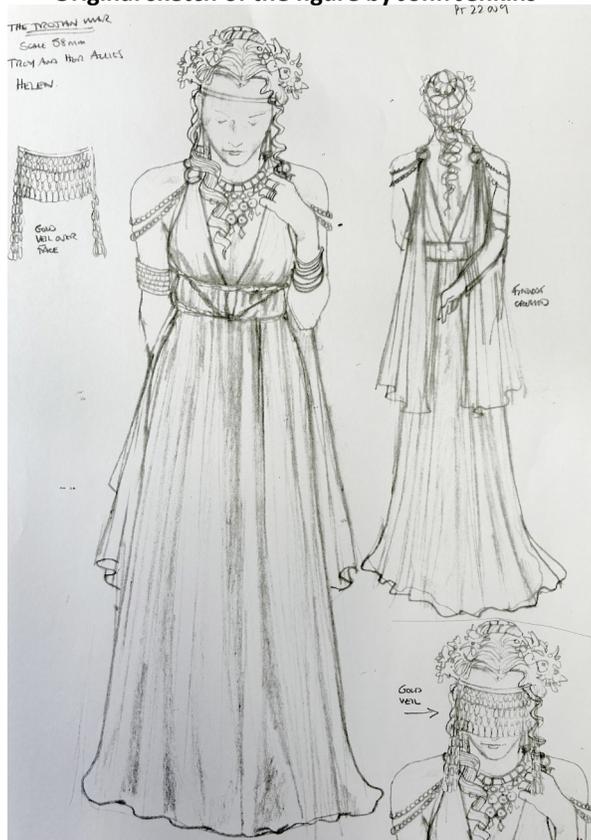


Illustration from the book "The Ancient Greece of Odysseus" by Peter Connolly depicting various heroes of the Trojan War.

However, when it comes to depicting the most beautiful woman in the world, no book can help! Sculpting physical perfection is probably the greatest challenge of every sculptor and this is especially true at a super small 1/30 scale! John talked about that challenge back in 2021 when I inquired if there will be a toy soldier version of Helen, but he also told me he had a plan to make this possible.

"There will of course be a Helen figure. The face that "launched a thousand ships", or if sculpted by myself, a face that "could sink a thousand ships"!"

It's always a challenge how to depict such beauty. My inclination is to give the figure a veil and suggest the beauty, rather than depict it. People's imagination is greater than reality."

Yes! A clever veil does the trick and it's magnificent! Thanks to the imagination, suggesting is more powerful than actually showing. This approach can be seen in many horror movies, when a monster stays within the shadows and scares the whole audience, but it also has its place when it comes to beauty! (Or when drawing a sheep in the middle of the desert...)

The Fascinating Helen of Troy by John Jenkins Designs

(conclusion)



Priam's Treasure

Beyond the purpose of suggesting a beauty greater than what can be sculpted, the idea of having a veiled figure also relies on historical artifacts. There is a complex head ornament that was discovered by the controversial German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann that actually served as an inspiration for the veil on that figure. Discovered in 1873 in what is now northwestern Turkey, this veil and other artifacts were part of a gold cache nicknamed Priam's Treasure. Schliemann, convinced that he had discovered the mythical city of Troy, presented his finding as such, but was later proven to be wrong. Despite that, Priam's treasure had a big impact on how people depicted this era. Even if the artifacts found there were not from Troy, they were still dated between 1500 BCE and 1000 BCE, so they *COULD* have been representative of the fashion during the Trojan War.

To the left is the hairdress that inspired the veil on the figure. Sadly, Priam's Treasure was looted by the Soviets during the Second World War and is on display in Moscow at the Pushkin Museum, making it extremely hard to see for most of the world today.

And below is the final result. A splendid but quite intriguing miniature version of Helen of Troy. Interestingly enough, she actually has a real face sculpted, but it's hidden by a laser cut metal veil. However, I would advise to never remove it as it might destroy the magic!

What is also really fantastic with this figure is that she creates fascination by using contrasts. She has several elements on her that are coming with their opposites and this makes her even more intriguing. First, she has a super simple white dress, but the upper part of her body is covered with opulent jewelry. The veil hides her true emotion, but she has the glimpse of a smile on her lips while she plays with her hair. She is the peak of antique civilization, yet she kept a connection with nature by the flowers in her hair. Every detail on her has an opposite that makes the observer unsure about how to deal with her. One moment, she looks friendly and approachable, but the next she looks unreachable as a godlike entity that no mortal should even dare to look at. And this is probably this strange contrast that makes her even more interesting.



To conclude, it might have taken years to "see her face", but that waiting was justified. In the world of toy soldiers where most of the femme fatales fall short, this version of Helen of Troy clearly steals the show! By going for a veil to show a mysterious beauty instead of going for a more revealing figure, John was able to come with a character that is mysterious, intriguing and very unique. But after seeing Helen, I can only dream of how magnificent other "femmes fatales", such as Salammbô, Salome and Judith would look if depicted by John Jenkins.

Thank you to David of ToySoldiersClub.com for contributing this story

Available now exclusively to Ontario Model Soldier Society members!

The OMSS has a few remaining limited-edition figures that was created by William Britain Limited for the Society.

General Arthur Currie, 1918, - William Britains Ltd #10073



1/30 Scale
Matte Finish

Only \$40.00 to OMSS members!

See Gary Lenius at the next Toronto meeting or contact him at; omss@bell.net

*Special thanks to **Scott Dummitt** for all his hard work with William Britain Ltd in the research and design of this figure.*

60 Years of
Getting the
Lead Out!

A History of
**The Ontario
Model Soldier
Society**
1962-2022

By
Ian V. Pearson



A few copies of the OMSS Anniversary Book are still available.

Should you wish to purchase a copy, contact Gary at one of our Toronto meetings, or by email at omss@bell.net

The book is \$30 per copy, in addition to postage should you wish for it to be mailed.

Thanks to **Ian Pearson** for sharing this with us.



IPMS 2025 International Convention Hampton Roads Virginia / August 6-9 2025

Phil Andrews and Ian Pearson attended the IPMS Convention after a 17-hour drive. This was hampered by heavy traffic around Philadelphia and heavy construction in Hampton Roads. Crossing the Chesapeake Bridge and Tunnel was really an interesting experience. Days Inn was next door to the Convention Center with several good places to eat in the local area.

The show itself opened at 1PM with two very large halls (model displays and vendors). The first day the tables were just starting to fill with some amazing displays in various categories. The vendor's area was exceptional with excellent selection of new products, old kits and research material.



The drive home was the same with a 2 hour stop at Baldwins Used Book Store in West Chester, just west of Philadelphia. The hundred-year-old book store offered an amazing selection of material. If you're in that area, its worth the time to visit.

Next years show is in Fort Wayne Indiana on August 5-8. One interesting item about the show is the **Tiger Meet**. This is a place for your models to be seen and admired without having to enter in the National Contest. Model clubs, special interest groups, group builds as well as individual are welcome to participate. There will be over 70 tables in separate room dedicated to the Tiger Meet. This is a good chance for everyone to show their models and experience an international show.

More Upcoming Events....

Ottawa Militaria Show

Saturday October 25, 2025

08:30 am—2:30 pm

Nepean Sportsplex

1701 Woodroffe Ave, Nepean, Ontario K2G 1W2, Canada

<https://ottawamilitariashow.com/>



50th ANNUAL MMSI CHICAGO SHOW

October 17, 2025 (Friday) - 3 p.m. to 8 p.m.

October 18, 2025 (Saturday) - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chicago Marriott Schaumburg 50 Martingale Road Schaumburg, IL 60173



The juried exhibition hosted by the **Military Miniature Society of Illinois** features the work of modelers from around the world displaying painted miniature figures and original sculptures. Subjects range from historical to fantasy topics, armored and other vehicles, airplanes, ships, dioramas and vignettes. Come enjoy our 50th show!

The vendor area offers model kits, paints, tools, books about the hobby and more.

Admission is \$10 (free for children 12 and under). Admission includes entry to the display area and vendors section, an auction of finished work, and free educational and “how-to” seminars and presentations. Plenty of free parking at the Marriott Hotel.

For information on how to enter your work in the show along with more about this event and the MMSI, visit our website: www.military-miniature-society-of-illinois.com



You won't want to miss October's meeting !



Join us at Toronto's October meeting for a presentation by Mark Silverthorn on the topic of creating stop motion videos using Toy Soldiers.

If you are interested in a sneak peak of what can be done, check out Mark's first attempt at making such a video at;
<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/J2JAP0oXsu0>



The Quartermaster's Store



Frank Barrett Collection for sale

Frank Barrett's family is looking to relocate his beloved toy soldiers to a new home to be enjoyed by others.

The collection includes Bastion, Britains (ancients, modern, limited editions, and plastic "eyes right"), CBG Mignot (Napoleonic), Ducal, Marlborough/Blenheim, Nostalgia, Soldiers' Soldiers, Steadfast and Tradition. Many are in their original boxes.



One of his prized possessions is the Marlborough Delhi Durbar series. He has the entire procession of elephants, handlers, regiments, and accessories.

Frank also has a collection of military bands (foot and mounted) casted by Gord Dumbleton that Frank counted as some of his favourite figures.



Our aim is to sell to likeminded collectors.

Please contact Frank's son, Grant at;
Grantbarrett3@hotmail.com



"Chains of habit are too light to be felt until they are too heavy to be broken."
Samuel Johnson / Warren Buffett

The newsletter is edited by Scott Milburn
News items, notices and upcoming events can be submitted to
ommsnewsletter@gmail.com