

The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962
www.omss.ca



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Honorary President

2023 Executive

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Program Chairman

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chairman

Keith Ritchie
Past President

Newsletter for November 2023

Next Toronto meeting Sunday, November 19th, 2023
Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road, Toronto
Meeting starts at 12:30 pm, Doors open at 11:00 am

OMSS Ottawa in person meeting is scheduled for November in addition to online meetings via Zoom which are open to all OMSS members. Contact Bob Thompson at Thompson_robert@rogers.com for details.

On November 11th
'We Will Remember them'



The National War Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier
Ottawa, Ontario



President's Message

November of course is a time of remembrance. Therefore, I must begin this month's message with a thank you to those OMSS members who chose to serve our county and its citizens. "Lest we Forget."

October was a busy month for the OMSS. Both the Ottawa and Toronto chapters continued to be active with in person and virtual meetings in addition to running information displays about the OMSS at hobby shows in Fergus and Peterborough. Thank you to those members that participated in the events to represent the OMSS. A special nod goes to Jeff Duncan who also ran a 'club sales table' at the Fergus show to raise funds for the club. Jeff's ongoing fund-raising efforts help a great deal in keeping your membership dues very reasonable.

In October, the club's own YouTube channel was launched with a two-part interview of OMSS Honourary President, Brigadier General Darrell Dean. I highly recommend taking a few minutes to check out the interesting videos and subscribe to the channel, there is no cost to do so. This month, the OMSS "LinkedIn" page was also launched. These social media channels in conjunction with our Facebook presence will help inform both members and the public with news about the OMSS, the benefits of being a member and the hobby in general. I look forward to future stories about our members and the hobby on our LinkedIn and YouTube channels. I want to thank Mark Silverthorn, the club's Social Media Chairman for all his hard work on these important initiatives which are intended to help increase engagement of existing members and attract potential new members.

I encourage members to get out and represent the OMSS at community events such as hobby or militaria shows as discussed by Jeff Duncan in a story appearing later in Section 2 of the newsletter. If there is an event in your area and you can volunteer some time to arrange, setup and attend a display on behalf of the club, we will supply handouts and pay reasonable table rental costs provided you obtain pre-approval from the OMSS executive. Simply approach one of the club executives in advance with the event details for approval and to get the ball rolling.

In October the club executive committee held its monthly meeting virtually for the first time with Scott Paget participating as the Ottawa chapter representative. The meeting was successful with no technical issues. The committee plans to continue with the trial of using a virtual meeting format for the November executive meeting.

November's Toronto meeting will consist of the OMSS annual general meeting and club auction. I encourage all those that can, to attend this important meeting where elections will be held for the 2024 executive committee. I am hopeful that sometime in the future, members who are unable to attend the meeting in person will be able to join the meeting virtually so that they can also participate. The club's annual member's auction will also take place at the Toronto meeting. So, dig out and dust off those items you are ready to sell. Auction details and tips appear later in the newsletter.

December's meeting in Toronto will be the chapter's annual Christmas luncheon. I look forward to spending time with fellow members in conversation and the sharing of some good food. Details of the luncheon are later in the newsletter.



Did you know?



118,000 Canadians have died in service to our Country

540,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders served in the First World War and 66,000 were killed
1.1 million Canadians and Newfoundlanders served in the Second World War and 45,000 were killed
26,000 Canadians served in the Korean War and 1558 were killed
40,000 Canadians served in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2014 with 158 members killed
130 Canadian Armed Forces members have been killed in other U.N. Peace Support operations
1,800 Canadian Armed Forces members have died in the line of duty since 1947 (excluding Korea)

Note: all numbers are approximate. Source: <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/information-for/educators>

Whats New in the Hobby

November 2023

By Scott Dummitt

The Royal themes are still continuing with the release of the British Toy Soldier Company's new King Charles III in the Air Commodore uniform of the Royal Air Force. Available with the new Royal Dias (2 pc set) or without. The figure is painted in gloss and the dias has the new Royal Cypher on it. The pair sells for approximately \$98.00 Cdn. Also just revealed by BTSC is a set of four figures as they were seen following the late Queen Elizabeth II's casket. The set includes King Charles III, Princess Ann in RN uniform, Prince William in RAF uniform and Prince Harry in morning suit. No word on a price or release date at this time. For more see Toy Soldier Collector Issue 114.



BTSC's King Charles III in RAF uniform with Royal Dias



King & Country's Santa with Snowman & Teddy Bears with Snowman

With Christmas fast approaching, you knew K&C would have something brilliant to release in its Santa Claus line. This year they are releasing a Santa Claus putting a finishing touch on a snowman entitled "***Santa & his Snowman***" as well as a pair of North Pole Teddy Bears listed as "***The Teddy Bear's Snowman***". Both sets are now available at approximately \$118.00 cdn and \$62.50 Cdn respectively. Another nice set for K&C feature three GIs during the Battle of the Bulge warming around an oil drum fire.

Lastly pictured below is John Jenkins Designs newly released Queen's Rangers Grenadiers. The regiment had one company of grenadiers during the American Revolution. The set sells for approximately \$217.00 Cdn.



K&C's "Staying Warm" set featuring three US Army GI's



John Jenkins Designs ARW Queen's Rangers Grenadiers

OMSS Ottawa Chapter Report - October 2023

Submitted by Tom Wright

Hello Gents!

It is getting to be that time of year. Ottawa had highs of only 3 degrees last week. October was also the month of shows for Ottawa. We had IPMS CAPCON 2023, the Ottawa Military Heritage Show and the Ottawa Nostalgia show. Doug and I report on these in the extended version of this newsletter.

This past October we participated in the OMSS Zoom meeting, and held our in person meeting.

The Zoom meeting was on October 24 with 11 participants (7 Ottawa, 3 Toronto, 1 Montreal)

The Show & Tell Topic was "Early Middle Ages" (From collapse of Rome to Battle of Hastings), on which Egor E gave a photo presentation on the "Early Middle Ages" with a focus on the vikings.

Our in-person meeting for October was held on November 1st (We didn't want to miss Halloween and upset the hobgoblins) with about 17 in attendance. Morley V and I reported on CAPCON 2023 and Doug C reported on the Ottawa Military Heritage Show and the Ottawa Nostalgia show. Egor presented on the "Early Middle Ages", and we had 7 show and tell presenters for our topic of "early mediaeval" and other items in their collections.

At our Ottawa meeting we were interested to hear about the new YouTube channel that the OMSS has started. Scott P made suggestions as to how we can help it grow. Bob T discussed the latest for the 'Underground Railroad' that we have made to move miniatures from and to, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. At this meeting, we also had a get-together of 5 of 6 persons, including Bob T, who bought an estate collection of 1/6th scale figures. They discussed how they were going to divide it up.

For more on October and what is coming in November see October in Detail in Section 2 of the newsletter.





Club Auction on Sunday November 19, 2023 at 12:30

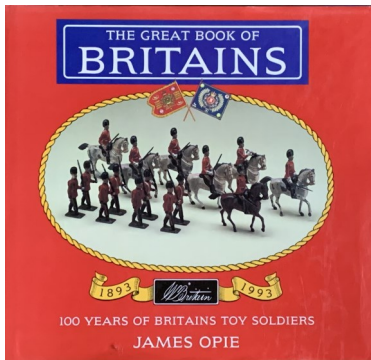
It's time again for the club's annual auction.

This is a great opportunity for members to buy and sell model soldiers for their collections.

The details on how to sell or buy at the auction can be found in the separate document attached to this newsletter

November Club Auction Item

The Great Book of Britains: 100 Years of Britains Toy Soldiers 1893-1993



Published
Nov. 1, 1993,
Hardcover
640 pages



This book is a large format 9¾" X 12" hardcover, 640 pages, copiously illustrated throughout in full colour. This is the largest volume ever produced about the products of a single toymaker with extensive colour and b/w photos, illustrations, appendices, and indices. This is the bible on toy soldiers manufactured by Britains Ltd. It is huge and weighs in at almost 8 pounds!

It retails at a starting price for a good quality used copy at \$279 Canadian on Amazon plus shipping. This copy is in great condition, hardly been used, with no fading of the red cover that is typical with this book. It does NOT include the special edition set of toy soldiers that accompanied the book. We will have a reserve of \$95 to start the bidding.

Tips from our Auctioneer – Frank MacKay

I was flattered and pleased to again be appointed the OMSS Auctioneer. I would like to share a few tips to sellers after several years of experience and observation.

Don't overprice things. You're in a room full of experts, they know exactly what it is and what it's worth. You will not get what you paid for retail. Items that are priced too high most often don't sell. If you start with a low reserve price, you'll be surprised how quickly the bidding goes up.

Arrive early and closely examine anything you may be interested in; it will save time.

Consider contributing an item in as a club donation. You're getting your stuff auctioned for free, shouldn't the club get some benefit? Doesn't have to be a Faberge egg, just something.

Remember to carefully fill out your auction form completely: your name, detailed description and reserve price are essential.

The OMSS YouTube channel is live!



Mark Silverthorn has built and launched the club's own YouTube channel! Be sure to check out the 2 part interview of Honourary President, Brigadier General Darrell Dean as he discusses his interests in the hobby and what he collects.

Mark has more interviews and short movies planned for the channel to keep you coming back for more. He also plans to record short segments of Toronto's in person meetings (with the agreement of the individuals involved) to create a historical record and share with everyone our speakers presentations.

If you are willing to be interviewed about your toy soldier collection or any toy soldier related subject such as modeling or painting tips and tricks, please reach out to Mark Silverthorn, the club's Social Media Director.

Simply go to YouTube and type in "**Ontario Model Soldiers Society**" in the search bar to find the club's channel.

OMSS is now on LinkedIn, too!



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

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

Annual Christmas Luncheon reminder



Toronto chapter will be holding their annual Christmas luncheon on **Sunday December 10, 2023 at Noon** at the Legion. As in previous years, we will be ordering Swiss Chalet and the Legion bar will be open for cold refreshments.

The cost is \$22.00 per meal and Gary will be collecting payment at the November meeting. If members are unable to attend the November meeting they can send a cheque to; OMSS 43 Saugeen Cres, Scarborough M1K 3M8 or e-transfer to omss@bell.net

The club will have coffee and tea available for purchase too.

Members are encouraged to bring along a dessert item to share amongst fellow club members at the luncheon.



"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail."

Benjamin Franklin

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.

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OMSS Toronto Chapter Happenings for October



Toronto's October speaker was **Jeff Duncan** who did a very informative and well prepared presentation on traditional toy soldiers covering all different manufacturers from 1890 to present day. Jeff obviously spent a great deal of time preparing his fascinating presentation.



Peterborough Militaria Show October 22, 2023

Gary Lenius welcomes visitors to the OMSS display. Thanks also to Ian Pearson, Jim Qualtrough, Richard Moore, Scott Dummitt and Scott Milburn for helping out at the show and contributing items from their collections for the display.



Wellington County Modellers Exhibition October 29, 2023

Jeff Duncan's medal winning entries

**We came,
We saw,
We promoted,
We fundraised,
We won!**

By Jeff Duncan



Alex Monsour greeting visitors to the OMSS display

Alex Monsour and myself attended and had a OMSS table at the WELCOME 2023 Guelph/Wellington Model Group model show Sunday October 29th. The model show was at the large Fergus Sportsplex located just 20 minutes north of the City of Guelph. It was an early start as we were there just before 8:00am to setup. The doors opened at 9:00am for competition entries and the public. The admission is \$15 per person (kids 12 and under free). They also charge \$5.00 per entry for the competition to a maximum of \$30. This was their first show since 2019.

A light crowd until around 10:15am then a decent crowd descended. They informed me the attendance was 200 with 225 entries into the model competition. They have with their "Best Of" awards a total of 75 categories with two theme awards. Best Ukrainian Jet and Best Battle of Kurst AFV were the themes for 2023.

We had 8 feet of materials for sale with lots of OMSS promotional material and in person promo opportunities including a 6 foot high roll up banner. The new flyers for our 2024 On Parade show were very well received. We had Britains Ltd's new Deetail line of figures to hand out to the children that were at the show. They were well received by the kids and their parents. Met up with a whole cross section of hobby folks from those that had no idea about us to those that knew about us but never checked us out to previous members that drifted away but were keen on seeing us out and "alive". Just shows the more we get out the more relationships we can build as a Society. We handed out the Show flyers as well to the vendor to assist in driving some new vendors to our upcoming show.

The model show had a second wave of attendees after 1:00pm. They do not close the competition area while judging to my relief. That is a pet peeve of mine when other IMPS shows do this. The vendors (about 40 tables) had a decent day with primarily model kits for sale. If you could not find a kit there you were not looking! They had a small smattering of other items like books, modeling supplies etc. I think I found the only toy soldier set in the place and haggled a great deal from the model kit vendor.

We grossed \$150 in sales at the OMSS table, thanks for the donations, everyone! After the table cost of \$35, we cleared \$115 in funds for the Society. This was great that we could promote the Society and generate some funds for the club too. We donated to their fundraising prize draw a large USS Saratoga Aircraft Carrier model kit that the organizers appreciated.

The awards promptly started at 4:00pm. Frank MacKay would be a little proud. I took his advice and to help show the OMSS members have some skills entered 5 items and won 3 awards. A bronze for the Commonwealth Ferry Gun Boat. A bronze for two my WW2 Ford Seeps amphibious soft skinned vehicles and a Gold for my German WW2 Sturmgeschütz III tank with custom scratch done Zimmerit anti mine paste rounded out the awards.

The Figure category was really light with no more that 8 entries so I was thinking I might load up a bunch of Frank and Ian Peason's figures to fill out the ranks and bring home some OMSS member hardware in 2024.

A rewarding and fun long day for the OMSS and a big thanks to Alex that helped out till well after lunch. We will be back next year.

OMSS-Ottawa Chapter - October 2023 in Detail from Doug Cope's minutes (edited)

2. OMSS CLUB BUSINESS & SPECIAL PROJECT UPDATES

New Business : **Stanley K** asked if our group or OMSS Toronto has a TikTok influencer to boost the hobby ? Apparently there is no such body at present.

2E. The **OMSS Underground Railroad (O.U.R.)** - **Bob T** is going to Toronto November 10 to 14. He has boxes to drop off with **Jim Qualtrough** and will be seeing **Scott Dummitt** at his shop. **Scott P** and **Dennis D** both have items to be picked up from **Scott Dummitt**, **Stanley K** is going to see **Jim Qualtrough** – ergo contact **Stanley K** re possible pickup.

2F. 2023 OMSS Memberships – **Bob T** asks **Scott P** to check why some members who paid OMSS directly have yet to receive their 2023 membership card, i.e. **Doug C** is still waiting ...

2H. OMSS NEWS

– no update on release date for **OMSS 60th Anniversary Book** – the book is now known as ‘Godot’.

- We now have a process in place to ensure a monthly Ottawa meeting article in each newsletter.

Latest OMSS Newsletter is out in 2 weeks **Tom W** is coordinating OMSS Ottawa input ...

- **Scott P** attended OMSS Executive Meeting online – they are currently working on setting up the online meeting in a format other than ZOOM.

- **ZOOM** requires a member to be licensed, **Bob T** suggests that OMSS should have a generic licence so any appointed member could initiate a meeting.

- **Bob T** received an Email from **Jeff Duncan: The Great Book of Britains: 100 Years of Britains Toy Soldiers 1893-1993** Hardcover - Our copy is in great shape, hardly been used and no fading of the red cover.

2I. OMSS Technical Capacities

- OMSS YouTube Channel

- **Scott Milburn** sent the following message from **Mark Silverthorn** to **Bob T**

“It is my distinct pleasure to inform you that earlier today I launched the Ontario Model Soldier Society's new YouTube channel and uploaded the channel's very first video arising from a remote interview with OMSS Honorary President, retired Brigadier **General Darrell Dean**. Here is a link to this first video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xy5u-sdiiMw>” The purpose of this exercise is to boost the hobby. **Scott P** suggests all members should subscribe, listen to the entire message and recommend the site to others.

3. WHAT'S NEW – CURRENT NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

3A. Hobby News, Collections for Sale –

- **Michael C** of former Toy Soldier Market explains the significance of the various cost columns on his lists. He is selling at less than he originally paid for the items.



- **Israel Gencher's 1/6 figure collection** – the 6 new owners were still involved in a lively discussion as to how to divide the collection. Those not directly involved snoozed

4B – Show & Tell Presentations

– Show & Tell topic this month “Early Middle Ages” (and other items)

- **Mark H** had a WWII 1/6th figure that was in the wrong box.

- **Scott Dummitt** – Will order Britain's Club figures as requested. In stock he has:

- John Jenkins – 7 yrs War - Scott bought a collection of long out of stock Jenkins Fr. & Indian wars figures...

- **Scott Pagets's YouTube** – he has had 21000 viewings. Plans to make videos less frequently from now on possibly one per month.

- **Britains 40% off Warehouse Clearance sale** – list of items for sale was sent out by Britains via email.

3B. UPCOMING SHOWS: Show season in Ottawa is largely over for 2023

- **Bob T** reports that the **Hobby Centre** is considering an indoor flea market at their old location

possibly on November 19 - stay tuned.

- **Juan L** asked about making **Bob T's** June show at the Armouries a 2 day show. **Bob T** reports there is a problem with getting sufficient volunteers to run the show. **Doug C** comments that those who are vendors are likely less keen on a 2 day show than those with displays.

3C EVENT REPORTS:

- **Toronto October meeting** – **Jeff Duncan** gave a presentation on the history of toy soldiers.

The November meeting is the annual AGM and auction that is limited to 100 items.

- **October 14 – CAPCON 2023 – IPMS Show Canadian War Museum**

- Morley V was a vendor and reports that sales were limited. Juan L reports there were the same number of models but fewer vendors. Steve H comments on the good quality of the displays. Tom W put on a slide show – covering the figure and diorama categories - see a photo report later in this newsletter.

IPMS, International Plastic Modellers Society, Guelph Show

- **Alex Monsour & Jeff Duncan** represented OMSS at the show – Jeff won some awards.

- **Saturday October 28 – Ottawa Military Heritage Show** – **Bob T & Michael C** were vendors and reported that sales were good.

- **Sunday October 29 – Ottawa Nostalgia show – Nepean Sportsplex** - **Doug C and Michel C** were vendors. **Doug C** reports that attendance was low and he only sold 1 soldier.

- **Washington Model Show** – **Steve H** attended and he reports that it was mostly plastic models with few toy soldiers for sale.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4A – Presentations

Egor E gives us a slide presentation on the “Early Middle Ages” with maps of the countries as they existed in 900 AD and 1000 AD. Also slides of the uniforms of the times largely The Vikings of the era.



- **Steve H** – put together his model Dragon 75039 German 20mm Flak 38 – also a 1/6 model of the 7.5 cm Pak 40 (7,5 cm Panzerabwehrkanone 40) a German 75 mil-

- **Michael C** had his King and Country Crusaders and Saracens for sale plus John Jenkins Saxons and Normans for sale.



- **Doug C** had 2 camel drummers for sale – while they are from the era of the RAJ surely similar guys were also beating drums in the Early Middle Ages.

- **Francois B** had selections from his most recent acquisitions for sale. Many are from non- regular companies, some from Australia and New Zealand.



Scott P and Francois



- **Bob T** had a Frontier Days set for what he describes as inferior figures but they are Canadian made. He had a set in a plastic box that he bought from Steve A. Also a civil war rebel officer saying goodbye to his sweetheart and a book titled 'Napoleon on the Art of War'

- **Kelly H** had a selection of 30 plastic Crusaders plus one Norman figure.



5A. November Show & Tell Topic:

By vote the topic for the next meeting is 'Something we have not seen before'

5C. Upcoming OMSS Ottawa Meeting Dates:

November 21 - Next OMSS Zoom show & tell topic is: "Toy Soldier Books"

November 28 - OMSS Ottawa Monthly Meeting

Who Knew? Actor Peter Cushing was a member of the BMSS and had a collection of over 5000 toy soldiers!



Peter Cushing 'Little Wars' at home!



Thanks for sharing this bit of trivia with us, Bob T.

CAPCON 2023 Report

By Tom Wright

CAPCON, which stands for Capital Plastic Model Convention, was finally held again this past October by IPMS Ottawa after being closed down by COVID for several years. I looked forward to this show for a number of things. You can see great craftsmanship, great skill and great talent, but also you can see sparks of imagination where different elements are brought together for the first time. It is these sparks that make this show most worthwhile for me.

I thought that I would do a photo article about this convention for the OMSS as I have always been keen on model building and model figures. I do a certain amount of collecting, but I lean a bit more towards the making and painting side of the hobby.

I spent several weeks getting my camera game ready for the show. I wasn't fully sure of what the regulations on the use of tripods would be. I figured I would benefit from a tripod since I wanted to shoot at a mild macro telephoto rather than at a macro wide angle. At these shows one is rather limited in what you can do in controlling the background of a model you want to shoot. A telephoto lens can help by blurring the models that are not the subject of your photo. Also it would allow one to get a closer picture of models further back.

Lighting is another challenge. The room chosen by the IPMS for displaying the models was one of the best spots in the museum, since this room has more daylight coming in than most of the other spaces. That said you cannot count on perfect lighting, and so I usually bring an LED flat panel to provide fill lighting in the shadow and to punch up the colours. I usually put this on a 6 inch mini tripod which can sit on a table or be hand held. It turned out floor standing tripods were permitted after signing a tripod use code of conduct. That said, I was not permitted to sit my 6 inch mini tripod with the small LED panel on the model tables. I had to hand hold it. Fortunately with the camera on the floor standing tripod that was not much of an issue.

This year CAPCON was held at the Canadian War Museum as it has been for the last number of years, and I think it is certainly a prestigious location with large halls and innovative architecture that would humble most convention centres. This year however, getting to the museum was a challenge with all the construction and road closures and detours around it. This was another area I had to prepare for with a careful inspection of maps and museum route directions that it had posted on its website



Construction all around the War Museum

Underground parking at the museum was not too bad



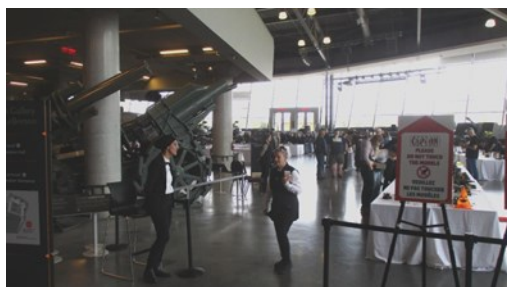
The convention was held in a number of different spaces and rooms. Upon entering the CAPCON convention area, one first encountered the models for auction.



People in lineup to register their models

Then one would pass through tall glass doors to a large curving and descending hallway with bunker-like openings located high up, letting the sky light throw rectangular blocks of light against the opposite wall. Also on the opposite wall were aircraft panels from WWII with artwork on them from that time. I wish I could have photographed some of them, but I had to leave that for another time.

At the bottom was a large space with a great, wide and high window giving the space an outdoor feel. In here were the models between the great window and a grand collection of artillery.



Where should I start, as I scanned the tables a large Godzilla figure diorama caught my eye.



Also I noticed the historical figure category only had 2 figures entered, one being an elderly man sitting on a chair. Curious, I guessed the model of the figure on the chair to be categorised as modern civilian. I would have to have a closer look, but a bit later. Also the show had just just opened and there were still a lot of people still registering their models, so more figures should show up.
(editors note: The man in the chair is U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders at President Joe Biden's Inauguration on Jan. 20, 2021 and became an internet sensation.)

CAPCON Report (continued)

I decided to get down to business and start photographing. Then a friend showed up who I hadn't seen for some time. Earl Atkins is his name. He started the Neapan Model builders Group in Ottawa, which I attended for a number of years some time ago. It was sort of an alternative to the Ottawa IPMS.

Unfortunately I couldn't chat for long, since I had to get down to photographing and my time was limited.

I started with Dioramas, which is one of my favourite types of models. For this show the category of Diorama was broken down into a number of subcategories.

Diorama Categories	Sponsored by
D-01 Aircraft	Michael Virr
D-02 Military Vehicle/Ordinance	Jim Coles
D-03 Figure	Rowsome Family
D-04 Ship	Rowsome Family
D-05 Automotive	VetBuild
D-06 Real Space	Wayne Giles
D-07 Science Fiction/Fantasy	Minitel Corporation
D-08 Vignettes	Brian Latour

Note the sponsors. We (OMSS-Ottawa) should have offered to sponsor the D-03 Diorama Figure Category. Hopefully, next time I will have my act together and I will bug Rob Thompson, our OMSS Ottawa Chapter coordinator, about this for the next time.

One of the interesting things about these categories, is that a diorama is to tell a story, and to tell a story figures are usually involved, so figure subcategory, or not, figures are shown in most dioramas. From this thinking is a separate fig subcategory necessary? The answer is yes, but that is a topic for another day.

The first photo I took #532 was kind of off the beaten track; it was rail-way related in the automotive category. It was a Canadian National mixed terrain vehicle. I didn't know they used such a thing. Also as I mentioned we have some figures- qty 2.

This unique diorama, which brings seemingly unrelated things together, is one of the great things I like about these shows.



CAPCON Report (continued)

The next shot of interest #535 was in the Ship Diorama category, I believe. Here you have workers in blue overalls and white hard hats working in an industrial-like environment, but because we do not have an industrial diorama category, I would bet that it is in the ship category rather than military. Note again the use of figures to tell a story. Here there are two stories and 3 figures. On the seated figure I like the straps, harness and metal clasps and retainers. I thought this was a great example of worker PPE in scale, and it something I had been thinking of doing myself for a modern subject. The ship, or part of, is not something you see in scale every day. I believe it would have had to be all researched and entail scratch built, or 3D printed? There were also nice details such as the chains, and clear water bottle, and the manufacturer or inspection plates on the equipment. I not sure of the scale. It may have been 1/64th to 1/48th. I am not sure where the figures would have come from. Note to self, I should have photographed the entry sheet on this one, because I am guessing on so many things for this one. This was indeed another unique scene, of great scope in a small space that was expertly executed.



The next two photos show the challenge of making model contest categories. Firstly of interest is picture #536. Here we see 4 personnel in a German field kitchen. What diorama category is this in? Off hand, I would have put it in the D-03 Figure category or the D-02 Military Vehicle/Ordinance category. That said, if put in D-02 where is the vehicle? Are the two wagons



vehicles? In my mind a vehicle would come with a motor, a truck, a tank, etc. But what about a pedal bike? Well I looked it up and it can be any conveyance including a cart, or a sled. What about a horse and carriage?

CAPCON Report (continued)

The next picture of interest is #538. In this diorama we see 5 figures that take up less than 1/50 of the space or size of the scene with a great church in the background.

What category should this go into? I believe this was put in the D-03 Figure Diorama sub-category. That said, I find it an awkward fit, and there are a number of reasons for this. Firstly there was no category for structures, or environment in the diorama category. This however is not unusual for scale plastic model shows. If you look at the categories you see mainly vehicles (planes, military vehicles, ships, or sentient entities, sorry for having to use the word "entity" I had to be very broad here (people, mammals and other species, also imaginary entities or characters such as demons, fairies, gods, comic book or animation characters, aliens and artificially sentient entities, but there are no categories for structures or architecture, other than maybe miscellaneous. I once entered a micro-hydro station in an IPMS model show and you can imagine what category it went into.



CAPCON Report to be continued next month...

BICORNE Hat — from Wikipedia

The bicorne or bicorn (two-cornered) is a historical form of hat widely adopted in the 1790s as an item of uniform by European and American army and naval officers. Most generals and staff officers of the Napoleonic period wore bicornes, which survived as widely-worn full-dress headdress until the 20th century.



Napoléon Bonaparte in his characteristic side-to-side bicorne hat



Grand Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz wearing a fore-and-aft bicorne



Horatio Nelson with his bicorne hat with jewelled Chelengk decoration) in 1799

Brock's Monument National Historic Site

Those who designed Brock's monument put the hat on fore and aft.

I wonder if Britain's will include the lighting rods in their model?



....And let's face it when a General or an Admiral gets up in the morning who is going to tell him that he put his bicorne hat on the wrong way.

Early Middle Ages

(Ottawa's Show and Tell topic for October)

Written by Doug Cope, information from Wikipedia

- From the late 5th or early 6th century through the 10th century.

Significant events:

- The Chinese first produced gunpowder, the compass, and printed books.
- The Japanese developed a constitutional government and new forms of art and poetry.
- The Europeans took the first steps toward representative government.

Early Mediaeval Battles that Changed the World

Battle of Châlons – June 20, 451 – Romans, Visigoths and allies versus Huns and allies

Some historians do not believe the battle was that significant, but others see it as the beginning of the end of the Hunnic Empire

Battle of Hulao – 28 May 621. – Tang dynasty versus Sui dynasty

The Tang dynasty (618-907) is regarded as a golden age of Chinese civilization, but it would have not been possible if they had not replaced the Sui Dynasty. This would happen at the Battle of Hulao.

Battle of Badr – 13 March 624. – Muslims under Muhammad versus Quraysh tribe

While only a few hundred people fought on each side, this battle, fought in western Arabia, was instrumental in the establishment of Islam. During the battle the Qurayshi side broke and fled. The victory for the Muslims would ultimately lead to Muhammad returning to Mecca, and the religion of Islam spreading throughout the Arabian Peninsula.

Battle of Fontenoy – 25 June 841 - Carolingian Empire's Lothair I, versus his 2 brothers

Not much is known about this mediaeval battle, but it ended with a victory for Charles the Bald and Louis the German. Two years later the Treaty of Verdun was signed, which ended the war and created the states that would become France and Germany.

Battle of Hastings – 14 October 1066 – Anglo-saxons versus the Normans

The death of King Edward the Confessor in January of 1066 would lead to a scramble for power in Anglo-Saxon England. The country would see two invasions – the first by King Harald Hardrada of Norway, which would be defeated by Harold Godwinsson. Harold would then have to defend his claim to the throne against William, Duke of Normandy. The clash between the Anglo-Saxons and the Normans would take place near the village of Hastings, in a day's long encounter that would leave Harold dead. By the end of 1066 William was crowned King, and the Anglo-Norman era had begun.

Battle of Manzikert – 26 August 1071 – Turks versus Byzantine Empire

The defeat at Manzikert is widely seen as the beginning of the decline of the Byzantine Empire, with the Seljuqs and other Turkish peoples coming to dominate Anatolia. The Byzantines would also call on Western Europe for more military reinforcements – this would be one of the catalysts for the First Crusade (1095-1099).

Europe

The Early Middle Ages (or early mediaeval period), sometimes controversially referred to as the Dark Ages, is typically regarded by historians as lasting from the late 5th or early 6th century through the 10th century. They marked the start of the Middle Ages of European history, following the decline of the Western Roman Empire, and preceding the High Middle Ages (c. 11th to 14th centuries).

The period saw a continuation of trends evident since late classical antiquity, including population decline, especially in urban centres, a decline of trade, a small rise in average temperatures in the North Atlantic region and increased migration. The Eastern Roman Empire, or Byzantine Empire, survived. However in the 7th century the Rashidun Caliphate and the Umayyad Caliphate conquered the southern part of the Roman territory.

Many of the listed trends reversed later in the period. In 800, the title of Emperor was revived in Western Europe with Charlemagne, whose Carolingian Empire greatly affected later European social structure and history. Europe experienced a return to systematic agriculture in the form of the feudal system, which adopted such innovations as three-field planting and the heavy plough. Barbarian migration stabilized in much of Europe, although the Viking expansion greatly affected Northern Europe.

Rise of Islam - 632–750



From the 7th century, Byzantine history was greatly affected by the rise of Islam and the Caliphates. Muslim Arabs first invaded historically Roman territory under Abū Bakr, first Caliph of the Rashidun Caliphate, who entered Roman Syria and Roman Mesopotamia. The Byzantines and neighbouring Persian Sasanids had been severely weakened by a long succession of Byzantine–Sasanian wars, especially the climactic Byzantine–Sasanian War of 602–628. Under Umar, the second Caliph, the Muslims decisively conquered Syria and Mesopotamia, as well as Roman Palestine, Roman Egypt, parts of Asia Minor and Roman North Africa, while they entirely toppled the Sasanids.

In the mid-7th century, following the Muslim conquest of Persia, Islam penetrated into the Caucasus region, of which parts would later permanently become part of Russia. This expansion of Islam continued under Umar's successors and then the Umayyad Caliphate, which conquered the rest of Mediterranean North Africa and most of the Iberian Peninsula. Over the next centuries Muslim forces were able to take further European territory, including Cyprus, Malta, Crete, and Sicily and parts of southern Italy.

Islam eventually penetrated into Eastern Europe in the 920s when Volga Bulgaria exploited the decline of Khazar power in the region to adopt Islam from the Baghdad missionaries. The state religion of Khazaria, Judaism, disappeared as a political force with the fall of Khazaria, while Islam of Volga Bulgaria has survived in the region up to the present.

In the beginning of the period, the Slavic tribes started to expand aggressively into Byzantine possessions on the Balkans. The first attested Slavic polities were Serbia and Great Moravia, the latter of which emerged under the aegis of the Frankish Empire in the early 9th century. Great Moravia was ultimately overrun by the Magyars, who invaded the Pannonian Basin around 896. The Slavic state became a stage for confrontation between the Christian missionaries from Constantinople and Rome. Although West Slavs, Croats and Slovenes eventually acknowledged Roman ecclesiastical authority, the clergy of Constantinople succeeded in converting to Eastern Christianity two of the largest states of early mediaeval Europe, Bulgaria around 864, and Kievan Rus' c. 990.

Eastern Europe - 600–1000

Slavic tribes

The Early Middle Ages marked the beginning of the cultural distinctions between Western and Eastern Europe north of the Mediterranean. Influence from the Byzantine Empire impacted the Christianization and hence almost every aspect of the cultural and political development of the East from the pre-eminence of Caesaropapism and Eastern Christianity to the spread of the Cyrillic alphabet. The turmoil of the so-called Barbarian invasions in the beginning of the period gradually gave way to more stabilized societies and states as the origins of contemporary Eastern Europe began to take shape during the High Middle Ages.



[Slavic](#) tribes in central, eastern and southern Europe during the 7th to 9th centuries

RUSSIA

The history of Russia begins with the histories of the East Slavs. The traditional start date of specifically Russian history is the establishment of the Rus' state in the north in 862, ruled by Varangians. In 882, Prince Oleg of Novgorod seized Kiev, uniting the northern and southern lands of the Eastern Slavs under one authority, moving the governance center to Kiev by the end of the 10th century, and maintaining northern and southern parts with significant autonomy from each other. The state adopted Christianity from the Byzantine Empire in 988, beginning the synthesis of Byzantine and Slavic cultures that defined Russian culture for the next millennium. Kievan Rus' ultimately disintegrated as a state due to the Mongol invasions in 1237–1240. After the 13th century, Moscow became a political and cultural magnet for the unification of Russian lands. By the end of the 15th century, many of the petty principalities around Moscow had been united with the Grand Duchy of Moscow, which took full control of its own sovereignty under Ivan the Great.

Early Middle Ages - China

The realm saw a period of unity with the Sui dynasty unifying the realm in the late 6th century, soon giving way to the long-lived Tang dynasty (608–907), regarded as another Chinese golden age. The Tang dynasty saw flourishing developments in science, technology, poetry, economics, and geographical influence. China's first officially recognized empress, Wu Zetian, reigned during the dynasty's first century. Buddhism was officially adopted by Tang emperors, while orthodox Confucianism was articulated by scholars. Thus, "Tang people" is the other common demonym for the Han ethnic group.

After the Tang's decline led to the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period, the Song dynasty (960–1279) saw the maximal extent of imperial Chinese cosmopolitan development. Mechanical printing was introduced, and many of the earliest surviving witnesses of certain texts are wood-block prints from this era. Song scientific advancement led the world, and the imperial examination system gave ideological structure to the political bureaucracy. Confucianism and Taoism were fully knit together in Neo-Confucianism. Over the course of the 13th century, the Mongol Empire conquered all of China, culminating in the Mongol Yuan dynasty founded in 1271.

Japan

Around the 3rd century BC, the Yayoi people from the continent immigrated to the Japanese archipelago and introduced iron technology and agricultural civilization. Because they had an agricultural civilization, the population of the Yayoi began to grow rapidly and ultimately overwhelmed the Jōmon people, natives of the Japanese archipelago who were hunter-gatherers. Between the fourth and ninth centuries, Japan's many kingdoms and tribes gradually came to be unified under a centralized government, nominally controlled by the Emperor of Japan. The imperial dynasty established at this time continues to this day, albeit in an almost entirely ceremonial role. In 794, a new imperial capital was established at Heian-kyō (modern Kyoto), marking the beginning of the Heian period, which lasted until 1185. The Heian period is considered a golden age of classical Japanese culture. Japanese religious life from this time and onwards was a mix of native Shinto practices and Buddhism.

The Indian subcontinent

Early mediaeval India began after the end of the Gupta Empire in the 6th century CE.[126] This period also covers the "Late Classical Age" of Hinduism, which began after the end of the Gupta Empire, and the collapse of the Empire of Harsha in the 7th century CE; the beginning of Imperial Kannauj, leading to the Tripartite struggle; and ended in the 13th century with the rise of the Delhi Sultanate in Northern India and the end of the Later Cholas with the death of Rajendra Chola III in 1279 in Southern India; however some aspects of the Classical period continued until the fall of the Vijayanagara Empire in the south around the 17th century.

From the fifth century to the thirteenth, Śrauta sacrifices declined, and initiatory traditions of Buddhism, Jainism or more commonly Shaivism, Vaishnavism and Shaktism expanded in royal courts.

From the 8th to the 10th century, three dynasties contested for control of northern India: the Gurjara Pratiharas of Malwa, the Palas of Bengal, and the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan.

The Chola Empire emerged as a major power during the reign of Raja Raja Chola I and Rajendra Chola I who successfully invaded parts of Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka in the 11th century. Lalitaditya Muktapida (r. 724–760 CE) was an emperor of the Kashmiri Karkoṭa dynasty, which exercised influence in northwestern India from 625 CE until 1003, and was followed by Lohara dynasty. Kalhana in his *Rajatarangini* credits king Lalitaditya with leading an aggressive military campaign in Northern India and Central Asia.

The Hindu Shahi dynasty ruled portions of eastern Afghanistan, northern Pakistan, and Kashmir from the mid-7th century to the early 11th century. While in Odisha, the Eastern Ganga Empire rose to power; noted for the advancement of Hindu architecture, most notable being Jagannath Temple and Konark Sun Temple, as well as being patrons of art and literature.

AMERICAS

Maya, A.D. 250-900

The Maya civilization was one of the most dominant Indigenous societies of Mesoamerica (a term used to describe Mexico and Central America)

The Classic Period, which began around A.D. 250, was the golden age of the Maya Empire. Classic Maya civilization grew to some 40 cities, including Tikal, Uaxactún, Copán, Bonampak, Dos Pilas, Calakmul, Palenque and Río Bec; each city held a population of between 5,000 and 50,000 people. At its peak, the Maya population may have reached 2,000,000 or as many as 10,000,000.

In the highlands of the Yucatan, a few Maya cities, such as Chichen Itza, Uxmal and Mayapán, continued to flourish in the Post-Classic Period (A.D. 900-1500). By the time the Spanish invaders arrived, however, most Maya were living in agricultural villages, their great cities hidden under a layer of verdant rainforest.

From the late eighth through the end of the ninth century, something unknown happened to shake the Maya civilization to its foundations. One by one, the Classic cities in the southern lowlands were abandoned, and by A.D. 900, Mayan civilization in that region had collapsed. The reason for this mysterious decline is unknown, though scholars have developed several competing theories.

AFRICA

Mediaeval African History from 500 to 750 CE

Egypt has a rich documented history, and this is still constantly evolving with discoveries. The weakening of the Roman Empire's rule forced Rome to pull its support from parts of Africa. The Arabic nations to the East, ruled by Islam rather than Christianity, were eager to fill the void. As early as 639 CE, Islamic Arabic forces were moving into North Africa, and by 642 CE, their conquest of Egypt was successful. The Arabic invasion and subsequent spread of Islam would prove beneficial, and religious prosecution was largely absent in the Islamic caliphates, kingdoms ruled by Muslim Caliphs. Scholars of all nations and faiths were welcome; this time was a sort of Golden Age among the North African Islamic states. Islam had the largest religious influence over Africa in the Middle Ages.

Around this time, possibly starting as early as the 5th century and likely coming to its height around 800 CE, the sub-Saharan trade route began to be heavily used. Crossing the desert was made possible by the domestication of camels. Gold-rich nations in the middle of Africa now had access to direct trade routes with Egypt and from Egypt to trade routes across the Mediterranean into Europe. The European kings could never have enough gold, and they paid handsomely for it with goods from Europe, especially salt. This trade helped to expand the use of these trade routes.

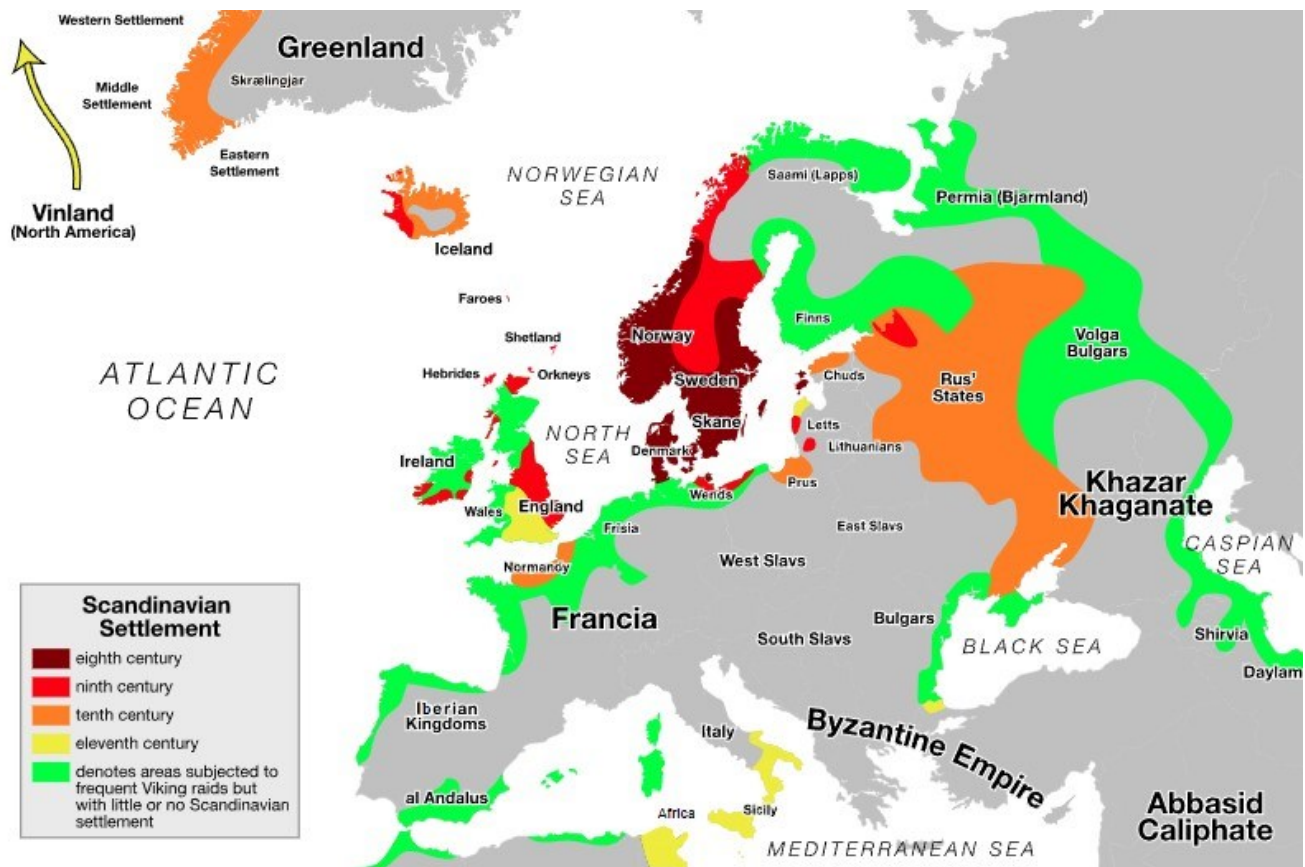
Mediaeval Africa From 751 to 979 CE

One of the first mentions of coastal East Africa in European history was during the 1st century, from a Greek merchant guide. Historians believe that the Swahili people occupied this African region sometime before 1,000 CE, but little is known for sure. There does appear to be a link between these people and both the Roman and later Byzantine Empires, but it is uncertain. Historians know that sometime near the 8th century, Muslim traders permanently settled this region. These settlers provided a link to central and northern Africa, and would later be the avenue toward Islamization.

In these early centuries, Islam rose to importance in Africa. It was a unifying force, chaining caliphates and kingdoms across northern Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe. The spread of Islam coincided with a Golden Age in North Africa and the Middle East; during this time, the people of these regions placed great importance on the studies of philosophy, mathematics, and science. Religious tolerance was the norm, and the Muslim people did not try to establish missionaries or force conversion on the people of other religions. Yet, as Islam acted as both a religious and political system, many people did convert to this religion.

The Mali Empire, Songhai, and Ghana, which were the three most important empires in Africa during this period, all adopted Islam. This unifying series of laws helped the growth of all three of these large empires.

VIKING Age (793-1066)



During the Viking Age, the Vikings (Scandinavian warriors and traders) raided, colonized and explored large parts of Europe, the Middle East, northern Africa, as far west as Newfoundland.

The beginning of the Viking Age is commonly given as 793, when Vikings pillaged the important British island monastery of Lindisfarne, and its end is marked by the unsuccessful invasion of England attempted by Harald Hårdråde in 1066 and the Norman conquest.

The age of settlement began around 800 AD. The Vikings invaded and eventually settled in Scotland, England, Greenland, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Ireland, Livonia, Normandy, the Shetland islands, Sicily, and Vinland, on what is now known as the Island of Newfoundland. Swedish settlers were mostly present in Rus, Livonia, and other eastern regions while the Norwegians and the Danish were primarily concentrated in western and northern Europe[citation needed]. These eastern-traveling Scandinavian migrants were eventually known as Varangians (væringjar, meaning "sworn men"), and according to the oldest Slavic sources, these varangians founded Kievan Rus, the major East European state prior to the Mongol invasions.

The western-led warriors, eventually known as Vikings, left great cultural marks on regions such as French Normandy, England, and Ireland, where the city of Dublin was founded by Viking invaders. Iceland first became colonized in the late 9th century.