## The Ontario Model Soldier Society

Founded 1962 www.omss.ca

Brig. Gen. Darrell Dean (Ret'd) Honorary President

#### 2024 Executive

**Andy Traverse** President

**Duncan Johnstone** 1st Vice-President

**David Dorward** 2nd Vice-President

Scott Paget

Ottawa Chapter Chair

**Gary Lenius**Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Silverthorn Social Media and Program Chair

Jim Qualtrough
Annual Show Chair

**Tom Wright** Technical Committee Chair

**Scott Milburn**Past President

## **Newsletter for January 2024**

# Next Toronto chapter meeting Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Branch 643 Royal Canadian Legion, 110 Jutland Road Doors open at 11:00 am, meeting starts at 1:00pm,

A painting workshop is being run from 11am-Noon hosted by Jim Qualtrough

This month's presentation will be "Canadian Involvement in Afghanistan, 2001-2014" by guest speaker David Dorward

## Next Ottawa chapter in-person meeting Tuesday, January 30, 2024

at The Barley Mow, 1541 Merivale Road. The Show and Tell topic will be "Winter Warfare"



**Virtual meetings** via Zoom are open to all OMSS members.

Tuesday, January 23 @ 7pm is the next "Zoom" meeting.



Contact Bob Thompson at <u>Thompson robert@rogers.com</u> for an email invitation to the next meeting or more details.



## Time to renew your membership!

The cost remains the same as last year: \$40 for regular members and only \$25 for family or junior members.

Gary has made it easy to renew and offers several methods of payment;

- Pay in person at the monthly meeting
- ♦ Send a cheque to: OMSS at 43 Saugeen Cres., Toronto ON, M1K 3M8
- ETransfer: Send it to the email treasurer@omss.ca
- PayPal: send it to the address omss@bell.net

## **President's Message**



. Happy New Year to all OMSS Members and their families.

I begin by welcoming the new Executive which is mostly unchanged with the usual suspects, plus Dave Dorward as the new Second Vice-President. Executive and appointed positions are volunteer in nature and as I look forward to serving you all in 2024 in my new position, I know that I have great Exec-

utive colleagues to work with.

Thank you Scott Dummitt for inviting me to run for President though it was pre-COVID I think. I do know that I had a long apprenticeship, which suited me fine. It was most enjoyable working as Scott Milburn's right-hand man for a year. To be honest, he did everything, I simply sat back.

With a different venue for the 2024 Annual Show, we will be entering new territory with eager anticipation, as the potential for a new future site does indeed look promising. Mark Silverthorn has organized a full speakers itinerary with interesting topics. I do ask the general membership to seriously consider giving greater support in attending the monthly meetings. The speakers go to great lengths to present first class presentations and there is nothing more deflating than to see less than 25 attendees. Notwithstanding this fact, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the core of members who do make the effort to support the speakers and the Society itself every month.

I close my address by recognizing the increasing Christmas goodwill and fellowship that I have noticed among many members during the past few years and personally experience too. The Society has become a place for everyone to truly make friends. This has become an evolving phenomenon.

**Andy Traverse** 



Toronto Painting Workshop

Sunday January 14, 2024

Jim Qualtrough will be hosting

a figure painting workshop from 11am—noon.

Drop in and learn a few tips and tricks.

Jim will have brushes, paint, and primed figures for anyone that wants one, but you are welcome to bring your favorite paint brush and / or a figure you want to work on.







## What's New in the Hobby – January 2024 By Scott Dummitt

What are symbols of Canada? The "Maple Leaf"," Hockey and Lacrosse", "Igloos & Teepee and maybe "Tim Hortons". However instantly recognized all over the world as a Canadian iconic symbol, is the "Mountie". There is always an RCMP figure available at the local souvenir shop in the tourist areas and rightfully so. This month John Jenkins Designs has once again released two NWMP constables from the force's early conception. Both are carrying the lance and are dressed in the Red Serge, however one wears a pith helmet and the other a pillbox cap. The iconic yellow cavalry stripe is missing from the riding breeches as these men are depicted as they would have been in the field in 1873. Jenkins plans to release at least 11 different figures in this series and hopefully Inspector Walsh, who first met with Sitting Bull and impressed upon him to keep the peace while in Canada, and Commissioner George French. The mounted figures



will sell for approximately \$145.00 cdn each. Another interesting figure just released by Jenkins is that of Banard E. Griffiths, better known as "Trumpeter Barney of the Queen's Rangers". Griffiths, a runaway slave joined the British at the siege of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1780. In a letter written by John Graves Simcoe, former commander of the Queens Rangers, to Britain's Secretary-at-War, Sir George Yonge, on March 20, 1789, Simcoe's letter highlighted the exploits of "B. E. Griffiths" during the fierce skirmish at Spencer's Ordinary, Virginia, on June 26, 1781. When the British surrendered at Yorktown, Simcoe made sure that Griffiths and other former slaves that had joined the regiment were safely smuggled aboard HMS Bonnetta so as not to be returned to slavery in the newly formed country. This figure with a unique history will sell for approximately \$72.00 cdn.





## **Toronto's December meeting review**



A few of our happy diners partaking in a Swiss Chalet festive meal while enjoying the fellowship of other club members.

A special thank you to **Ed Tansley** and **Ian Pearson** for their generosity in donating door prizes for the Christmas luncheon attendees





Members travelled from a far to attend the celebration.

**Eric Shaw** came all the way from Chatham and brought along a few of the projects he is working on to show.

## OMSS Ottawa Chapter Report - Dec 2023 Part 1

Written by Tom Wright

#### **Happy New Year!**

#### November 2023

Yes it is now 2024, but there are some things that took place in 2023 to report on here. We finally have Ottawa in detail for November and a continuation of the CAPCON report in part 2, or the extended version, of the OMSS 2024 Jan Newsletter.

#### December 2023

For December the Ottawa Chapter decided to not have an in-person meeting, but there were still things to see and do, as Mark Silverthorn and Scott Paget put out a number of YouTube videos. Please see the OMSS 2023 December YouTube listing in this newsletter. Also the OMSS held its December Zoom meeting with the new OMSS club president in attendance, Andy Traverse, plus a special guest, Andrew Stevenson, who lives in the UK. By coincidence both Andy and Andrew lived in Croydon England in their youth, and there are more coincidences.

Andrew is currently both a government employee and cottage manufacturer of metal toy soldiers, who Scott Paget met at the London Toy Soldier Show. Graciously Scott connected him up with Rob Thompson to be our Zoom guest. Thank you Scott!

Below is a picture of Andrew and a picture of one of his lines of cast figures at our Zoom meeting, and there are more pictures from Andrew with notes in part 2 of the extended version of this newsletter.





#### January 2024

On **January 13 and 14th** there will be a **not to be missed** special exhibit of **1/6th and 1/32 WWII model soldiers** by our **Juan Lopez** at the Galeries Aylmer Hobbies & Miniatures Festival a few minutes from Ottawa in Aylmer Quebec. Later in the month **Rob Thompson** will be hosting **the first OMSS Zoom** and **in-person** meetings, from and in, Ottawa for 2024.

All the best for the New Year! - The Ottawa chapter



### New videos available on the YouTube!

YouTube Channel: Ontario Model Soldier Society, Presenter: Mark Silverthorn

Videos:

Release date: 30 Dec 2023, YouTube title: The Globetrotting Toy Soldier Collector's Adventures: Part 2

Release date: 23 Dec 2023, YouTube title: Why Napoleon lost Battle of Waterloo?

Release date: 16 Dec 2023, YouTube title: A Club for Toy Soldier Collectors in Ottawa?

Release date: 09 Dec 2023, YouTube title: Stuart Hessney's Toy Soldier Collection: Part 1

Release date: 02 Dec 2023, YouTube title: Interview with editor of Toy Soldier Collector & Historical Figures maga-

zine

YouTube Channel: Scott's Soldiers, Presenter: Scott Paget

Videos:

Release date: 22 Dec 2023, YouTube title: Scott's Soldiers Episode 59,

YouTube Splash page title: London Toy Soldier Show 2023

Remember to click on **LIKE** and **SUBSCRIBE** to show your support and encourage the making of more videos for your enjoyment.



## The Quartermaster's Store—WANTED

Mark Silverthorn is looking for;

1:30th scale WW2-era U.S. paratroopers

in summer colours -and not winter uniforms.

Please contact Mark at; markasilverthorn@gmail.com





Notice that the stiffest tree is the most easily cracked, while bamboo or willow survives by bending with the wind" — Bruce Lee

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.



## **ON PARADE 2024 Update**

Show Chair Jim Qualtrough is well into preparations for the 2024 Annual Show called 'On Parade'. This year's show is being held on **Saturday June 15**<sup>th</sup> starting at 9am. We have moved the show to a different venue which will give us more room for displays, competition entries and vendor tables.

The Franklin Horner Community Centre is located at 432 Horner Avenue, Etobicoke. We will have two good-sized gymnasiums for vendors and displays. The Community Centre has a cafeteria that will be open and available for show attendees.

The competition this year will be larger with lots of room for some significant entries from our members.

As in past years, we will be asking for help from our volunteers to **set up on the Friday (June 14<sup>th</sup>)** afternoon starting at 3pm until 6pm. We will set up all the competition and vending tables allowing time for the vendors to set up their goods. If some vendors need to come early on the Saturday before the show we will be there from 7am.

Admission for all will begin at 9am this year with an entry fee of \$10.00. Youth 12 and under are free and will receive a gift upon entry.

All Vendors are encouraged to visit the OMSS website for details regarding times and prices. The Community Centre will be supplying the tables for us this year and the majority of those tables are 6 feet long. So, we have dropped the price for these tables slightly and we will negotiate limits to numbers of tables depending on space and availability. It will be very important for you to reserve your tables at the first opportunity.

Thanks to Scott Dummit who did the majority of the preparations for this show as he handed off the torch to me as a well-oiled and organized machine. Bravo for an amazing job.

The Stay Inn in Etobicoke has been generous enough to reserve a number of rooms under the OMSS name for our members wishing to stay just a short distance away. We have a block of 10 rooms reserved for this year's show. There are 5 rooms with two Queen Size Beds and 5 with one King Size Bed. Rooms are \$240.00 each plus tax. The special rate for those booking the OMSS held rooms is only good until the **22**<sup>nd</sup> **May 2024**. After that the rates go up. The Stay Inn is located at: 560 Evans Ave., Etobicoke, ON M8W 2W1. Telephone for feservations is: (416) 259-7899. The rooms will be held either under The Ontario Model Soldier Society or Scott Dummitt.

You can visit the hotel web site at: <a href="https://www.stayinnsuites.ca">https://www.stayinnsuites.ca</a>.

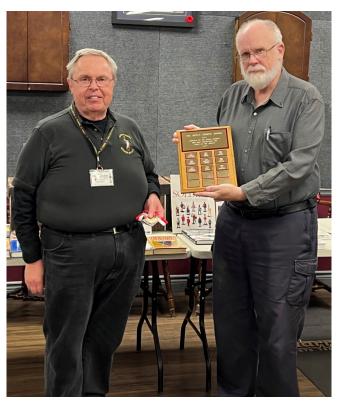
## Don't forget, OMSS is now on Linkedin!



Be sure to check out what's new on Linkedin and connect with others that are interested in model solider collecting .

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

#### **Bryan Gibbons Award Presentation**



**Ian Pearson** receiving the Bryan Gibbons plaque and medal from OMSS president, Scott Milburn.

lan has been a member of the OMSS since 1982 and was the club's competition judge from 2011 through to 2023.

Ian has also been the Club Archivist for the past 17 years and is the author of the club's history book which is in the process of being published

#### **History of the Bryan Gibbons Award**

The Bryan Gibbons Award is presented to the OMSS member who by their actions goes above and beyond contributing towards the betterment of the society. Bryan Gibbins is a former president (1969) who proposed the award and donated the plaque. The current president selects the annual recieptant of this prestigious award which is presented at the club's annual Christmas Luncheon.

### Past Recieptant of the Bryan Gibbons Award

2013 - Harold Morrison

2015 - Tom Elliot

2017 - Brendan Hogan

2019 - Robert Thompson

2014 - Gail Stone

2016 - Scott Dummitt

2018 - Jeff Duncan

2020-2022 - Gary Lenius

## **Induction of the new Ontario Model Solider Society President**



Incoming President, **Andy Traverse** is seen holding the mantle of office, the club's Kukri, following presentation by outgoing club president Scott Milburn

#### **Continued from Section 1 - Dec Zoom Meeting**

## OMSS Ottawa Chapter Report - Dec 2023 Section 2

Written by Tom Wright

#### **Continued from Section 1 - Dec Zoom Meeting**

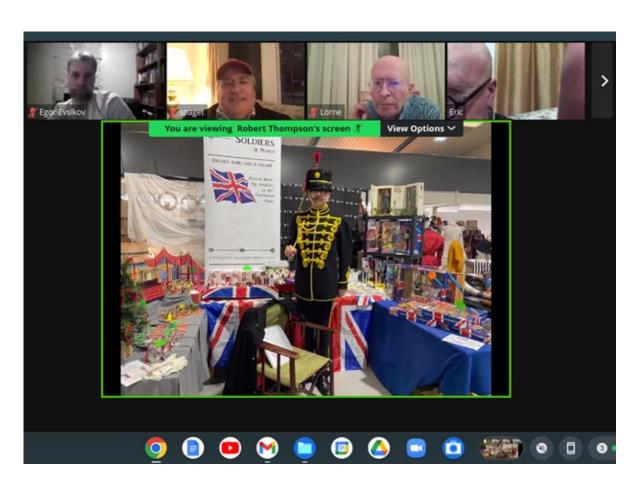
It was fascinating to hear about Andrew's enthusiasm for toy soldiers as a hobby, and how he later became a cottage manufacturer producing toy soldiers on demand. Part of his success was that he was able to acquire much of the Kingcast line of moulds, but perhaps more importantly was his great passion for this pastime.

Andrew is like a one man army. In addition to reproducing the Kingcast lines as they were, he is able to produce **new figure designs** in the Kingcast and Britain's pre-war styles. Plus he does all his own casting and painting. Of additional note, Andrew is even making sets of what W. Britain should have made, but missed. Finally, Andrew has an interest in keeping costs to the end purchaser as reasonable as possible, and one of the things that he brought up was the possibility of joint purchases and bulk shipping.

Andrew was wonderful to listen to, as he is so keen about so many aspects of the hobby, from collecting metal gloss toy soldiers to painting gaming figures. Dennis DeRusha from the Ottawa Chapter said that Andrew will make a lot of people very happy by re-releasing the Kingcast lines as they were, and with new additions. We are certainly hoping to see Andrew again in January at our next Zoom meeting.

His website is: Replica Metal Soldiers & Models https://www.replicametalsoldiers.co.uk/

Please see below Andrew in uniform and some of the toy soldiers he is producing now.



















## You've gotta check these out!

Ian Pearson shared this great website for old photos and information of uniforms from the past.



A Virtual Museum of Victorian-Era British Military Photographs & Associated Research

https://www.soldiersofthequeen.com/

#### Contributed by Frank MacKay

As a Japanophile and a follower of Bushido, I was delighted to discover an animated series currently available on Netflix called "Blue Eye Samurai". It's not some chop-socky Japanese cartoon replete with robots and schoolgirls with giant blue eyes, this is actual art. The plot concerns an outcast young woman with blue eyes in 14th century feudal Japan. She was taken in by a blind master swordsmith who trained her as a samurai and master swordsman. She then embarks on a quest





to eliminate four English traders who intend to bring firearms to Japan and overthrow the Shogun (one of whom is probably her father). As a warning, some of the battle scenes are incredibly bloody and there are some depictions of sex; this animated series was never intended for kids. The animation is about the finest I have ever seen in my life and is meticulously detailed in its depiction of every facet of life in feudal Japan. It isn't a painfully dubbed import either, this was originally made in English and even features the voice of Star Trek TOS actor George Takei as a retainer to a samurai lord.

I binge watched the entire first season of 8 episodes, unable to take my eyes off the screen and was delighted to hear that another season has been ordered by Netflix and I can't wait.

For those members with a fondness for things Japanese, I cannot recommend this series highly enough--it's worth subscribing to Netflix just to watch it!

### London (England) Toy Soldier Show by Scott Paget

London is one of my favourite cities to visit and more so during the Christmas season. The streets are bedecked with lights, the shop windows are decorated and the sidewalks are full of tourists and locals carrying shopping bags of gifts to place under a tree. So what other reason is there to be in London? Well for one, the December 2nd London Toy Soldier show which if you didn't attend is the reason I am writing this article. I was there and it was worthwhile. I know it has its detractors - it's not in central London, it's smaller than 20 years ago, stuff is more expensive, etc, etc. But if you collect 54mm gloss or the pieces / sets that UK makers produce, want to speak with the makers, then London is still the place to go.



The days when you could stop in at Under Two Flags, Tradition of London, Soldiers Soldiers, Grey's Antique Market or the Guards Toy Soldier Store have passed. In fact, other than Andy Morant's stall at the Saturday Portobello Market or The Armoury of St James in Picadilly, there are no more brick and mortar toy soldier stores to be found in London. Yes you could drive all over the UK from Wales to the Midlands, Essex to Wessex to find retailers or visit producers but that would take weeks. Save yourself some time and frustration and go to the London show.

The show remains an intimate and relaxed experience.

The vendors / makers are available to talk, they have brought their wares to sell, and if they don't have it, likely they can make it. The second hand dealers are motivated to close a deal and maybe just maybe that single figure you need to complete your set is sitting on their table.

While several makers were absent this year, and maybe there were fewer attendees than in 2019 when I last visited, I was told there was a rail strike which hampered intercity travel. Regardless Britain's, King and Country, Replica Metal Soldiers & Models (also owners of the Kingcast molds), Asset, British Toy Soldier Company, Little Legion, Thomas Gunn, Grey Goose, Fusilier Miniatures, Tommy Atkins, Saimex, Maison Militaire, MKL, Loggerhead, Irish Soldieirs, and others were in attendance, including second hand dealers.

The venue this year remained at Haverstock School which is an easy journey via the London Tube - Northern Line to Chalk Farm Station, the show is literally 50 meters across the street. There is a canteen at the school which serves from a simplified menu, access to the school restrooms, and a place to sit down and relax. To the subject of money - bring cash. Unless you have an account at Coutts Bank (bankers to the Royal family), they don't take cheques, and I didn't see a local bank or ATM in the area. The show opens at 10:00 am and goes to 3:00 pm. It takes a good hour if you just walk from table to table carefully eyeing everything. But I wouldn't wait for something rare or unique to be around long. If



you see it, need it, want it, buy it. I found that some dealers' prices could be flexible if you buy in volume, but the vendors need to cover off their expenses so bear that in mind. I think you're best time to negotiate is in the second half of the day, but remember, that Britain's Paris Office figure may be gone by 1:00 pm.

So what did I see? Well if you were willing to pick up older sets, or unboxed figures, there were Del Prado, Britains, Timpo and Johilco to be found. There were plastics by Airfix, Britain's Deetail / Eyes Right and others. If you were looking for castings, or a specific figure or set from the current inventories of Thomas Gunn, Britains, King and Country, or the other aforementioned makers, then luck was likely on your side. If you collect 54mm gloss from the current slate of UK makers, this was your chance to spend, or at least talk to them and see what was in the realm of the possible or bespoke. In my opinion, this is what makes the London show more intimate; the ability to talk to Andrew Stevenson, Ken & Ericka Osen, Ted Deddens, Andy Neilson, the Turner family, Harry Kemp, James Opie and others who contribute to make our hobby possible.





My impressions of the December show were overall positive. I don't know how many attended but I still saw people walking around the tables as the closing hour approached. I saw more younger people this year than in previous years. People were buying, and while I don't have any insight into how many Pounds Sterling changed hands, the few vendors I asked directly were happy with the outcome. I think I heard the show is shifting in 2024 to the Midlands, likely in an effort to reach out to collectors in that part of the country. No one I talked to saw that as a negative, and most of the makers are located outside London.

In the interests of full disclosure, I should mention I am also a member (albeit remotely) of the British Model Soldier Society and as a result I have met quite a few BMSS members who are equally generous and passionate about this hobby. As such, it was nice to see several of them at the show and share a few laughs and talk about what we had bought. I of course was wearing my OMSS golf shirt, but that didn't get me as much attention as a few folks who said, 'hey you're that guy on Youtube!'

The London show afforded me the chance to talk with people about our hobby, One of these is Andy Morant who has been selling toy soldiers for 37 years at his stall in Portobello Market. While Andy did not attend the show, he & I met at his residence & spoke for several hours about the toy soldier business, his inventory and collectors in general - this will be part of an upcoming video on my YouTube channel, Scott's Soldiers.

At the show I still managed to have a quick chat with Andy Neilson of King and Country (who told me to say hi to Scott Dummitt), The Britains team (Osens + Ted Deddens), aforementioned Andrew Stevenson and James Opie.

So let's begin with Andrew. He was showing his limited edition sets and Christmas themed items. Andrew's work is unique and collecting toy soldiers is in his blood. He knows the hobby and while I would say his figures are in the Britains style, he is doing what Britains didn't do in its glory days. His figures are dynamic, well painted and are a breath of fresh air/ideas on what can be done. I bought two limited edition sets: the Fort Henry Guard At Ease, and the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment 1868. I will be ordering more because I like his work, but check it out yourself. His Christmas themed sets were limited, unique and with a sense of humour and I hope he returns to this concept next Christmas. Andrew also possesses the Kingcast molds and told me that while he is busy filling orders for his Replica sets. By the time you read this, you will know that Andrew attended the OMSS December Zoom meeting.

I stopped at the William Britain's table and spoke with Ericka Osen about the 2023 On Parade, the RCMP constables I bought there, the new Montcalm & Wolfe figures, and the figures Britain's had laid out on their tables at the show. Later we were joined by Ken Osen and he was showing off their latest concept, a 3D printed resin Sherman Tank with figures and assorted equipment to place on the tank. Extremely well detailed and at first glance easy to assemble, it was not painted but as Ken pointed out this would enable a collector to paint the vehicle to their own preference. I suspect that this item would also be more affordable to collectors given the climbing prices for armoured vehicles currently on the market. Britain's had a large selection of their current inventories be it ACW, Clash of Empires, WW1 or WW2, Village Green, and other ceremonial sets.

I've said that membership has its rewards and being a BMSS member has helped me to engage James Opie over the last year to get his advice on some of my figures and to attend the monthly Zoom meetings he hosts. Now I had mentioned to James this summer that I was planning on attending the London show and without hesitation he asked



me to come to his house at the conclusion of said show; and he kept reminding me throughout the fall of this invite. So at the end of the show, we packed up his BMSS table and caught the tube to Hampstead Heath area where he resides. Obvioulsy James has amassed an enourmous collection to which a large portion is displayed in his toy soldier room designed by his late wife Mary. But the range of his collection is what catches your attention. As you would expect from the emminence grise of William Britain's toy soldiers, most of it is Britain's but not all. It runs from B Series to Paris Office, to well, whatever. As I was gawking at his sets, the door bell rang and the Osens & Ted Deddens joined us. James quickly brewed up a pot of tea, put on some crumpets & jam and we all sat down at the kitchen table. Talk centered on the new Napoleon movie and its errors, social media, On Parade, new figures, the health of the hobby and where it was all going. The conversation was incredibly relaxed, collegial and could have gone for several hours. James sat at the head of the table obviously enjoying the free range of discussion and banter

that was happening. I wish I had filmed this for a documentary. While I won't disclose some of the discussions, the Osens are positive on what Britain's is seeing in terms of demand for figures and responses to their current inventory and where the company is heading. We talked about the impact of Covid on overseas production, the shifts in consumer tastes, ideas for new figures and why, and the creative process of researching, designing and logistics of getting figures to market. All over cups of tea. And yes, the Osens signalled to me that they look forward to the next On Parade, they have a General Brock figure to promote and another RCMP, this time mounted with a lance. Unfortunately I had to leave this party to get back to London, but it will forever be a lasting memory of how there are so many good, kind and passionate people out there collecting toy soldiers.





## **CAPCON** continued from last month... part 2

Written by Tom Wright

Hello,

This is a continuation of my CAPCON 2023 IPMS Ottawa model show and contest article.

In the previous article I was looking at the diorama category. After that I checked the historical figures and Berni Sanders was still pretty much on his own in both Historical figure categories:

Historical Figures 75mm and smaller

Historical Figures larger than 75mm

What to do? Well, the next figure categories were as follows:

Science-Fiction and Fantasy 75mm and smaller

Science-Fiction and Fantasy larger than 75mm

At this time in the morning there were a number of entries in these categories, so that was my next spot to check.

One thing I would like to focus on now is the figure size and categories. A prime example of what I am about to elaborate on is the figure of Yoda. Should this figure have gone in the 75mm and smaller category? I would say no. Yes, the model of Yoda could easily have been at 75 mm or shorter, but this figure definitely is at a larger scale than a regular human figure of the same height.



Why is category size an issue? In a comes down to comes down to 3 things:

- The head size of the figurine
- How close the judge has to get to the model to judge it
- The limits as to how small people can paint

The face of a figure is one of the most compelling aspects of a figurine/model/miniature, so the larger it is the more compelling your miniature is.

For the second item, you want the judge to be as far back as possible when he is judging your figurine. The closer he has to get to your model the more likely he will see flaws.

For the third item, below a certain size it gets harder and harder to paint well.

For these three reasons you place yourself at an advantage to enter the largest miniature you can in a xx size and smaller scale category. For a larger than an xx scale class it becomes more important as to what techniques you are comfortable with. Airbrush tends to take over the larger you get, so if you mainly use paint brushes you would be better off to stick to the smaller scale categories.

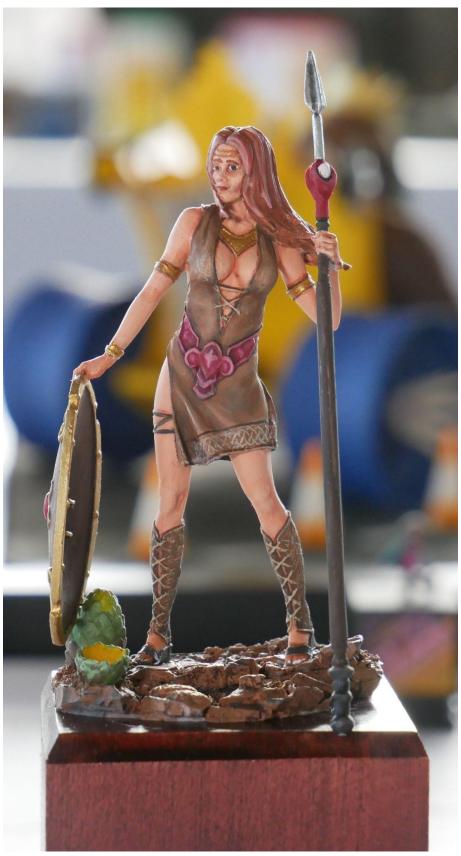
While we are considering size, I would like to point out the great disadvantage single gaming figures are under at IPMS contests. They are at a disadvantage for all the reasons I give above, but also they are at a disadvantage because no one can see them well the way they are displayed.



I had trouble seeing even the larger 28mm gaming figures myself, especially if they were farther back on the display table, which they often were. I think this is rather poor treatment of these entries and of the people who paint them. That said I don't believe the IPMS is totally at fault, as there are a number of logistic issues to deal with. This is something I think needs a long term fix, but it is a topic for another day.

I would now like to look at two other figures in the Science Fiction and Fantasy 75mm and smaller category. The first one is of a huntress. I think the person entering this model selected a piece with a sculpt that is quite graceful, so that is a plus. On the down side though, they missed the other basics, and their work on the face of the huntress looks rough.

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Starting with the cleanup of the sculpt, one can see on the nose a rod-like object coming out of the flesh above the model's left nostril. If the person who sculpted this figurine intended this to be a piercing the exhibitor made a major blunder in not painting it a different colour than the skin indicating that it was indeed a piercing of some sort; however, because it is the same colour as the skin we now have to assume it is a manufacturing flaw. Cleaning up the casting of a model is fundamental. Because the person who entered this didn't do this, this entry would be eliminated in the first cut of judging.

The next problem with this figure is the painting. For the most basic paint job you want the features of the face to be accurately filled with solid colours and defined with clean edges.

Up from that you may want to apply a very thin, but dark defining wash. This would only appear in the crevices, adding a little bit of definition and a hint of shading to the piece. Up from that one would want a fully shaded paint job with what looks to be smooth graduations going from light to dark, and then add a little defining wash where there are edges.

Unfortunately the paint job here fell apart at the most basic level. The lips of the huntress were defined in a most coarse manner, so this piece would have been cut in the first round of judging for this additional reason.

The painter of the huntress attempted shading, but as one can see that was not executed successfully here. Large expanses of skin have to be shaded very smoothly, which can take a fair amount of skill and/or time to do properly. Something, hopefully, they will be able to achieve in time, but firstly they need to get their basics up to snuff.

The next figure entry I would like to draw your attention to is that of the Labyrinth character played by David Bowie. Here is an example of blending that works. Starting with the more specular areas such as in the hair we see strong highlights. This is certainly where strong highlights should be. In general hair is a bit glossier than skin, so that is one reason for sharp strong highlights. The other reason is the very small diameter of hair. Note that the sharper, or smaller the item the sharper and harder the reflection should be. That said when grouping a bunch of strands of hair together it is best to look at examples from real life.



Next looking at the face we see a fairly strong but very smooth transition of light to dark. Smoothness is wanted because you are looking at skin on a cheek, which has a relatively large arc compared to the arc, or diameter, of a finger.

The relatively strong transition of light to dark (shading) on scale models is somewhat unique to miniature painting. This transition of light to dark is often exaggerated beyond what you see in real life. That said, it is done by miniaturists to make the figure stand out better to the viewer. It gives better definition to the shape and dimensionality of the figurine, it essentially makes the miniature more appealing to the viewer. That said this effect can be applied too strongly, so in general as the scale of the model gets larger the more reduced this exaggeration is made. It is a bit of a balancing act, which is pushed fairly far in this example.

There are two other aspects of the Labyrinth model I would like to draw your attention to.

These are scope and category. How does scope impact the judging of models? Well if you have two models painted to the same calibre one would generally give the award to the model of greater scope. Greater scope means having more aspects, more complexity, maybe more size - generally more to it. The Labyrinth model had a number of elements that expanded its scope. The main figure and his attire included a number of different materials such, skin, hair, cloth of different types, leather, and metal. In addition to the main figure there was the fantastical chair the figure was sitting on, then there were the stone slabs under the chair, and finally, but significantly, there were the small, but eye-catching animated critters in front.

In general if you can afford the time and can keep up your level of painting, expanding the scope of your entry can help. That said, there is also a risk, because an IPMS contest is based on negative judging, each mistake brings your model closer to being cut. If you become sloppy in executing a larger scope for your entry you will be exposing your entry to more mistakes, possibly being cut before the larger scope of your model can help it.

The second aspect of the Labyrinth model I would like to consider is category.

What category **could** this entry go into? What category **should** this model go into?

If you are entering a figure category should one be able to enter three figures as one entry?

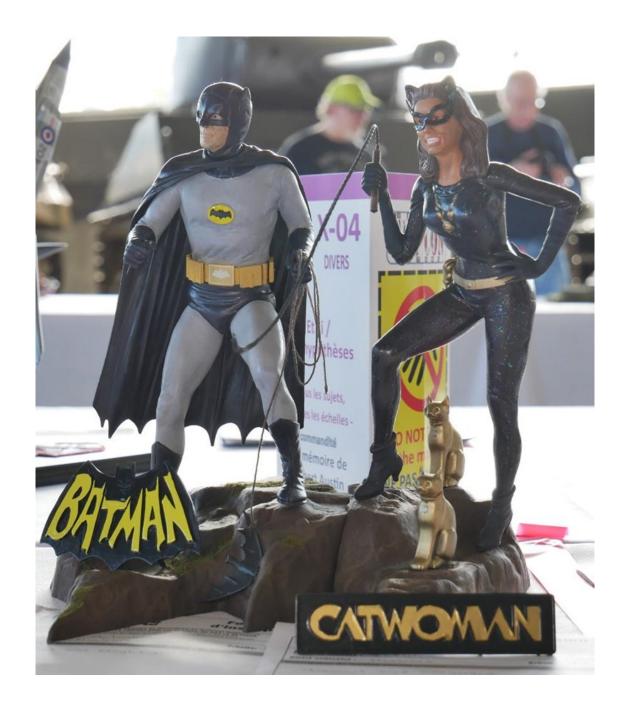
Since the Labyrinth model has three faces, two showing excitement and one showing contemplation, I would argue that there are three figures in this entry. From this one may argue that this entry should have gone into the vignette category, or possibly even into the diorama category. There are further examples of where one draws the line in defining a category. The OMSS has quite a different philosophy as to how models are categorised (or is that <u>not</u> categorised?) for the On Parade entries. How are apples and oranges compared, for example? This is certainly a topic for another day.

I would now like to look at the Science fiction and Fantasy larger than 75mm category.

Here I would like to focus on a few issues. Firstly I would like to consider locality. Meaning how unique are your entries to your city. Will you see the same cross-section of entries in another city, or are the entries quite unique to your geographical location?

I found the entries in the Ottawa IPMS Science fiction and Fantasy larger than 75mm category to be mainly of North American comic book characters, painted by model builders at a modest to mid level of craftsmanship. I don't know how much of this is local to Ottawa. When I was a model judge at Anime North in Toronto female figurines over 75mm were fairly popular, so I am a bit surprised at their absence at this Ottawa model show. I guess though, to make a fair comparison of locality one would want to compare an Ottawa IPMS show to a Toronto IPMS show.

Moving on, looking at shading for the large scale figures I found the contrast from light to dark to be reduced as it should be, but it was reduced too much in most cases.



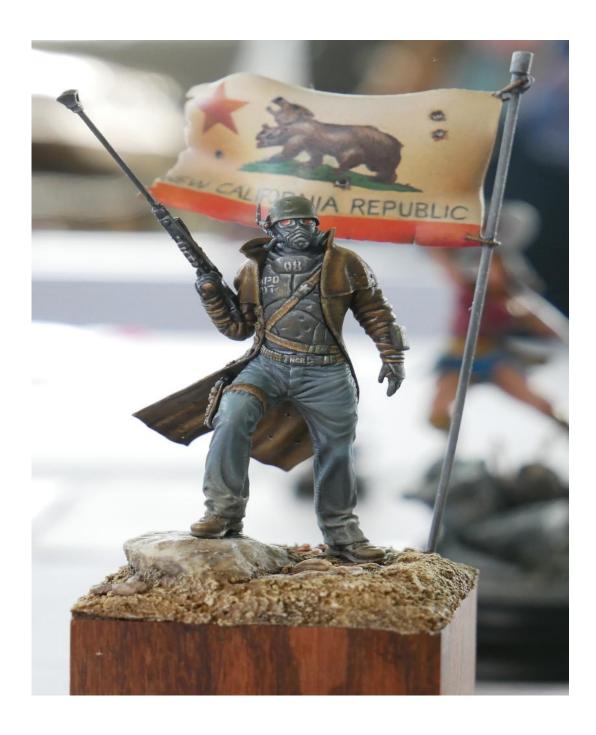
I could not detect any shading or highlights on the face of the Batman figure, and on the Catwoman figure I could only detect a little bit of shading, but no highlights. Certainly there were opportunities missed on the painting of these larger figurines. That said, tinting and shading on larger figures can be a lot of work without an airbrush, so they may have recognized their limitations and largely settled for a basic paint job.

The Wonder Woman figurine had the basics right with smooth solid colours to start with, and with well defined elements. Look at all the stars. Very well done. Also they painted visible, but subtle, transitions from light to dark on this model possibly using an airbrush. There were only one or two small spots where the shading was a touch rough. Here it looked like they used a brush. In general though, I think they did quite a pleasing job.



Well, that's all for this time. The next category I will be looking at will be busts. To be continued in the next Newsletter...

Finally, one more entry from the Science Fiction categories. The Republic of California, will this remain fiction or will it become reality?



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