

Miniature Auto

Issue 246

New Zealand

44th year of publication!



Ruby Toys Albion van 'Dinky Style'
See Carville's Model Scrutineer, page 14



Miniature Auto is the bi-monthly newsletter of
The New Zealand Model Vehicle Club (Inc.)

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ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO MA NOW!!

EDITORIAL

Here we are, late again! Humble apologies to all.

It isn't only the farmers that have suffered from the drought so has Miniature Auto as there hasn't been very many donations of late. I really appreciate the efforts made by some Members.

Maybe the newsletter has outlived its usefulness? Or should we be looking at updating our processes and using the 'Net' more? We should have a Facebook page, although I hear enthusiasm for this media is fading.

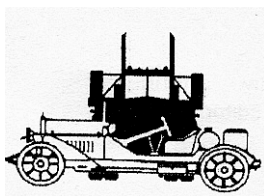
Have you noticed the lack of models being offered to the general public? I don't mean the dwindling number of hobby shops, but the big chain stores. Hot Wheels and Matchbox seem to dominate with the odd one selling Siku. What brought this to mind was looking at Carville Stewart's list of 'eclectic mixture of diecast models for sale, where many of the ones listed, I remember being on sale in New Zealand—makes such as Solido, Norev, Vitesse, Tomica, Shuco and Minichamps—all of which are still in production but have disappeared from the New Zealand market. The ones that still appear such as Oxford and Corgi seem well overpriced especially since we have a strong Dollar.

I can't comment on the kitset scene as I don't consider myself knowledgeable in this field. Are there any Members out there that can update us? I did see the Revell A.E.C Route-master (RML) kit on sale with a price about half that of the Sunstar version, although it did seem a little expensive compared with the price in the UK.

Keep those cards and letters pouring in!

Happy modelling,

Ron



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BRANCH NEWS

Southland Branch Newsletter for January 2013:

Our December meeting took the form of a BBQ at Graham Peterson's home with plenty to eat and very few to eat it. In attendance were Graham, Annette, John, David P and Fred. Apologies came from Bob Robertson and Barry McCorkindale. Competitions were not held. Bob Robertson is back in Dunedin Hospital and has had a second operation. This one was planned to operate on the bits they were unable to get at the first time. There have been a couple of set-backs but he appears now to be on the mend.

Next Meeting will be at the Fire Service Museum, 215 Spey Street, Invercargill on Wednesday 16th January starting at 8:00pm. This should be an interesting meeting as the Museum has another exhibit. Competitions for the night are any vehicle with make or model starting with the letters "L" or "C" (all classes).

February 2013:

Phew!!! It's been hot hasn't it, 34 degrees on our back lawn recently.

Our last meeting at the Fire Museum was better attended with 7 members present: David Peipi, Paul Thompson, Fred Hawkes, John Macgregor and Alan Graves. Apologies came from Bob Robertson, Owen Dickson and Graham Peterson. Our thanks must go to Paul's Car Gallery for picking up the tab for the room rental for the last meeting.

It was decided we will book the Richmond Grove rooms (if available) for the National AGM in May.

Paul has suggested an "Auto Day" at his place where several exotic vehicles would be on display along with the Car Gallery being open. Entry being a gold Coin (a suggestion as yet) with half to the branch and half to the exhibitors. Our input would be to run the raffles.

Talking of raffles, it was agreed at last month's meeting that members bring some loose change and take at least one raffle ticket to help get them sold. We now have one scratchie board under way too.

Bob Robertson is now out of Hospital and is back home again. We wish him a speedy recovery to full health.

Competition Results [L or C]:

Kitsets:	No Entries	
Diecast Large:	1st Paul Thompson	Corvette
	2nd Alan Graves	"05" Commodore
	3rd David Peipi -	Lotus
Diecast Small:	1st Alan Graves -	Commodore Ute
	2nd David Peipi-	Chevrolet Wrecking Crane
	3rd Fred Hawkes-	Mercedes Lorry

Southland Branch Newsletter for March 2013.

Well our February meeting went off well with 5 members present: David Peipi, Paul Thompson, Fred Hawkes, Barry McCorkindale, and Alan Graves. Apologies came from John Macgregor, Bob Robertson, Owen Dickson and Graham Peterson.

The National AGM was discussed and Fred informed everyone that the Richmond Grove Committee room has been booked for Saturday, 11th May 2013, but there will be no competitions this time (sorry but hopefully next time). All members please make an effort to be there - mark your calendars NOW so you don't double book yourselves.

Competition Results: [A or G?]

Kitsets:	No Entries		
Diecast Large	1st	B McCorkindale	X Y Falcon (somebody tell me how that fits an A or G theme?.... :-) Ian)
	2nd	Alan Graves	UX Commodore
	3rd	Paul Thompson	Aston Martin
Diecast Small:	1st	Fred Hawkes	Holden Ambulance
	2nd	Paul Thompson	Austin Cambridge
	3rd	Fred Hawkes	Garrett Steam Lorry

Fred Hawkes

OTAGO:

The February club night attracted a great turnout with a great variety of models entered into the competitions. Marcos Moni bought a model at the start of the meeting and entered it into the competition and won a placing with that model!

DIECAST:	1st.	Graeme O'Brien	Chevrolet Convertible
	2nd	Robert Spratt	Shelby Cobra
	3rd	Marcos Moni	Plymouth Fury
KITSET:	1st	Robert Spratt	Dodge Challenger
	2nd	Shane Arthur	Dodge
	3rd	Shane Arthur	Plymouth

The competitions for the night were for "Your latest model."

Members' choice trophy was won by Robert Spratt with his Dodge Challenger

The 'lucky door' prize was won by Marcos Monti

A good night for our first event for 2013 so we hope that it will jeep on growing.

Eric Brockie

IT'S A KIT!

There have been complaints that there aren't enough articles on kitsets in MA. Also such kitset enthusiasts complain about those model car fans that simply 'pay and display'; that is have no input to the creation of the model.

I spotted a couple of 1:43 metal 'kits' by Bburago at a local hobby shop (and such shops are becoming a rare breed!). To be honest, they are more like an IKEA product – a flat pack product. One of the problems with the normal Bburago 1:43 diecasts is the terrible wheels they are fitted with which are difficult to replace with more realistic ones as they are mounted on axles which are stubs moulded into the base. The 'kits' are fitted with much more realistic wheels which adds to the attraction.

Bburago were originally an Italian firm. The double (Bb) at the beginning of the name is because town names in Italy are not allowed to be used for trade names. Bburago originally started in the town of Burago and they simply added the second b to placate the powers that be. The company is now owned by May Cheong (Maisto) and they are made in China.

Even though Bburago claim 1:43 for the range, they are a little wayward in sticking to the scale with smaller cars, such as the new Fiat 500 made to fit the box so they scale out somewhat larger (1:38, etc.). The two models I bought were probably close to 1:43 and are both Ferraris – an Enzo and a F50.

They come pre-painted (much better quality under Maisto ownership) and fully decorated (no more stickers, but in scale tampo printed 'prancing horse' emblems). There is even a small screwdriver included! All you have to do is assemble it and "Race and Play" according to the box.

Now, does anyone have some real kitset stories? Forward them to MA...

Ron



NEW ZEALAND TRI-ANG DIECASTS

Micro Models by Lincoln Toys out of Goodwood (Australia) are the most well-known 4" diecast toys. The 4" (four inches for those who have forgotten!) have been considered the ideal size for little hands to grasp on to as opposed to those that fit into matchboxes. Lincoln also made a small range of 4" diecasts fitted with friction-drive motors that started life as River Series in England then moved again to Israel to be sold as Gamda Koor. There, of course, there were the Tootsietoy-ish Brentware toys, which were related to Micro Models but made by a different company in New Zealand.

Tri-Ang were also active in the field with their tin-plate cars and trucks along with some plastic bodied cars and vans still with tin-plate base and either fitted with a wind-up motor or friction-drive. It does not seem to be widely known that Tri-Ang New Zealand (Lines Brothers, the parent company had factories in many of the Commonwealth countries at the time - the good old days!), also made a range of 4" diecasts without motors which were actually marked 'Made in New Zealand' on the base. I emphasise this as many of the other New Zealand made toys were not marked as most of the tooling came from overseas. Fun Ho!, of course usually were marked New Zealand but they are in the 4" range.

The Tri-Ang diecasts were sold concurrently with Micro Models and the like and had boxes printed in brown on cream I think. They listed the whole range on one panel of the box. Unfortunately I don't have any of the boxes, so if anyone can supply a photo, it would be great.

It must be admitted that the fidelity of the models was not very good, but in general they looked approximately what they were supposed to represent. There were only eight models in the series of which I have seven. The eighth one seems to be eluding me; the road roller, but I do have a photograph of the one in Maurice Woolley's collection.

The 'Models'

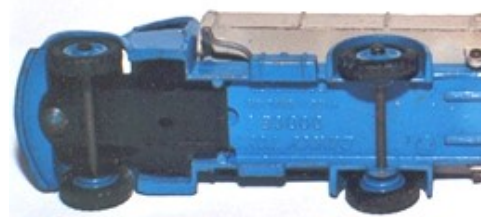
JEEP, US ARMY:

As the real vehicle was quite small, it makes the toy into quite a big scale of about 1:40 or so. Like most of the toys in the range, the proportions are not very good. It seems to be quite stretched in the vertical line, giving it a gangly look. The look isn't helped by the standard wheels that are too small. It is painted overall khaki including the driver and steering wheel. Tinplate base with 'Tri-Ang Toys Made in New Zealand by Lines Bros. (N.Z.) Ltd.' embossed on it and painted black. 91mm long.

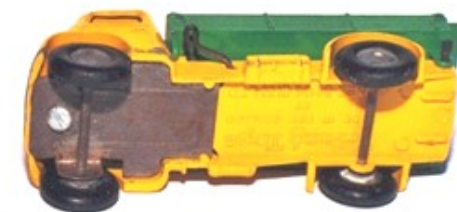


'LONG TIP TRUCK'

Quite a curiosity this one as it is a sort of copy of the Dinky Toys 30m/414 Dodge Rear Tipping Wagon – well the rear half and chassis are as it is fitted with a Ford 7V style cab. Indeed, I have restored one by using the tipping body from the Dinky Toy as a perfect substitute for the original Tri-Ang one. Maker's markings moulded into the chassis with the same wording as the JEEP. Tri-Ang did not nominate the actual prototype their toys were modelled on. Scale about 1:60, 95mm.



Dinky Toy Dodge



NZ Tri-Ang 'Ford'

FORD ZEPHYR SIX Mk.1



This also suffers from the 'too tall' syndrome which is emphasised by it being too narrow. It also has a 'jelly mould' casting tool that tapers out towards the base. Scale is slightly bigger than the Dinky Toy one. Tinplate base with usual wording on it. 102mm long.

JAGUAR XK120 OPEN SPORT.

I guess Tri-Ang deserves the wooden spoon for this one as it is probably the most unrealistic XK120 ever! It is far too narrow but it does have the flowing lines of this classic. There is no windscreen but it does have a sort of an air dam in front of the cockpit. There is a separate steering wheel with four spokes and the seats have a pleat pattern. It is 102mm long.



J

Another 'not-so-good' offering. This one seems to be copied from a plastic bodied Tri-Ang Minic van except the grille and bumpers are part of the casting whereas the plastic version has separate tin-plate inserts. The plastic Minic also has a motor mounted on a tin-plate chassis. This metal one has a very exaggerated 'jelly mould' casting. On the plus side, the rear windows are cast open.

These have been seen with various adverts such as Chesdale Cheese and Royal Mail. It has the usual tin base with the usual lettering. At 85mm long, it is the shortest of the Tri-Ang diecasts.



**MORRIS
VAN.**

ALPHA ROMEO ALFETTA RACER.

Another Dinky Toy copy and probably one of the best in the range. It is bigger than the Dinky Toy one and has a very pronounced join line at the middle. The driver is cast in and is equipped with white overalls and helmet. No racing number. Has bigger tyres than the rest of the range with concave wheels. 110mm long.



TIP

**LONG
TRUCK.**

Tri-Ang has done the same trick with this one as they did with the Long Tip Truck except this time, the Dinky Toys Bedford tipping wagon (25m/410). Once again a Ford 7V style cab substitutes for the Bedford O. However, Tri-Ang has gone one better than Meccano by fitting dual wheels at the rear. The tipping mechanism is the same as the Dinky and has a top hinged tail-board. 100mm long.



Comparison of the Dinky Bedford (left) with the Tri-Ang 'Ford 7V' (right).



ROAD ROLLER.

I can't tell you much about this as I do not have one in my collection. I was able to take a photo of one, so you will have to make up your own description of it! It is quite big so must be more than the 4" size.



Photo courtesy of Maurice Woolley.

CRAVILLE'S CAPERS

The Next generation Takes Over

Those of you that visited Christchurch before the earthquakes will remember the unique mixture of real classic vehicles, models, books, motoring art, car pamphlets and memorabilia that was Fazzaz. Nowhere else in the world have I seen a shop with such an eclectic mixture.

The business was located in a former Bain's Warehouse unreinforced masonry building on the south side of Litchfield Street. The building suffered greatly in the February 2011 earthquake. It was not alone, as now, only two of the buildings on that side of the street in that block now survive.

It is my understanding that the vehicles were rescued before demolition, as was a small portion of other stock, possibly thanks to some judicial "looking the other way" in the fast demolition that took place in this part of the red zone. Many of the models, books and memorabilia were seen being tipped into the huge demolition pile in northeast Christchurch.

Fazzaz was owned by John and Gavin Bain, descendants of the original Bain family that operated retail and wholesale businesses from both the Litchfield and Madras Street premises. You will be interested to hear that the next generation had "taken over." Fifth generation, Andrew Bain, has started a new business called **Bain's Classic Motor House**. It is located in another historic building, now considerably strengthened, that was the former Donagheys Rope Works on the outskirts of the small North Canterbury town of Waikuku, on the main highway some 30 kms north of Christchurch.

His business is in its infancy, but he is selling classic cars, books, art, memorabilia and models on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sundays. His website is www.bains.co.nz

Coming next issue:

**Tonka—
Intercars
1:43 cars from
New Zealand.**



MICRO MODEL LTD PROMOTIONALS PART 1

It is hard to believe that it is nearly 10 years since the last of the 'new' Micro Models were produced by the Meates Family in Christchurch. As a convenience, the 1990s/2000s production is referred to as the Micro Models Limited (M.M.L) series as opposed to Goodwood/Brent, Lincoln Industries, Matai and Torro ones (and not forgetting Weico, Model Cars of the World white metal reproductions and Micromodels plastic reproductions from Western Australia).

This article will only concern itself with the promotional models made for specific customer (Code 2 if you like), but due to M.M.L's policy, all were available to the general public as well. There are a surprising number of these promotionals. M.M.L did not use a consistent cataloguing number system for these issues.

Some may be surprised but our Club received the first models from the newly formed M.M.L used to celebrate our 25th Anniversary, way back in 1994.

MM002 International van 'N.Z.M.V.C'

Painted red all over with black chassis. Painted detail to grille and hub caps. Silver wording and Club logo. The first batch sent South to Dunedin went missing and replacements were supplied by M.M.L at short notice. It seems the 'missing' ones had a fully painted van body (replacements unpainted underneath) and the series was XC xxx serial whereas the replacements were XE xxx (xxx for the actual serial number). Came with box and Limited Edition certificate.



The two
IH vans.
issued,

original issue. Of course you may wonder how the 'missing' one is able to be shown. This was a sample only and not part of the shipment.

MM002
Front—as
rear—the

Continued next issue....

MODEL SCRUTINEER

Over the years a number of Dinky Toy look-alikes have been marketed. These have usually been quite basic castings, with no interiors or windows and with wheels that are simple hubs with smooth rubber tyres. Another has just been released, called Ruby Toys. They follow the concept, with a Dinky Supertoy like box tray with lid complete with flash design, though in different colours. John Hope has created Ruby Toys 'to make available to fellow collectors a range of models of some of those commercial vehicles that, in the nineteen forties and fifties, were a common sight on Britain's roads, but which were never modelled by any of the die-cast toymakers of the period.. All Ruby Toys models will be produced in certificated limited editions, usually of one hundred models, and once a particular model is sold out no further copies will be made.'

The first model in the range is of an Albion large delivery forward control van. It comes in eight liveries, mine being a red/orange body, white roof and with OXO decals. There is no mention of scale, but it reminds me of the Dinky Guy vans. It is quite a 'chunky' model, at just over 110 mm long, and the paint finish is very good.

The website, www.rubytoys.co.uk, shows that ten models are planned altogether, with a Dennis Brewers Dray and an Shelvoke and Drewery Refuse Wagon the next two planned.

Carville



Albion van of Carville's

See front cover for photo of the Ruby Toys



THAT'S NEWS? - THAT'S NEWS!

Corgi—various scales and ranges. Mid 2013 listings:

- 1:76 Original Omnibus Company:
Wright Eclipse 2 (various liveries)
- 1:43 Vanguard
Leyland Mini Clubman 1275 GT BMW 325i Alpina C2.5 convertible
BMW 325i 2 door Sport
Vodafone McLaren Mercedes F1 Collection
MP4-28 2013 race car as driven by Jensen Button, Sergio Perez and Gary Paffett
- 1:50 modern commercials:
Scania R (facelift) Volvo FH (facelift)
- Aviation Archive.
1:72 Boeing B17F Flying Fortress plus Messerschmit BF109G-6
1:72 Vickers Wellington Mk.II with Merlin engines
- Corgi Toys (no set scale and simplified)
Scania fuel tanker 'Eddie Stobart' Scania van 'Eddie Stobart'
Mercedes hi-top van 'Eddie Stobart' Freight diesel loco and flat car
- Rail Legends (1:120—'TT' gauge)
A4 class streamline various finishes Britannia Class 4-6-4 loco
Castle Class 4-6-0 loco.

Premium X 1:43

- Ford Country Squire 1964 Stutz Blackhawk Hawk open and closed
AMC Pacer 1975

Spark 1:43 resin fully finished models:

- Chevrolet Corvette Sting Ray 1963 Toyota TS030 Hybrid Le Mans 2012
Lotus Evora GTE Chevrolet Camaro Chaparral 1970
AC Cobra Sebring 12hr. 1963 Fiat 500L 1968
Lola B12/60 Toyota LM 2012 Lotus Elan S3 FHC 1965

Minichamps 1:18 and 1:43:

- Dubonnet Hispano Suiza H6C 1938 Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3
McLaren Ford M23 Yardley J.Ickx '73 McLaren MP4-12C 2011
Volvo 240 turbo IPS Motorsport Opel Rekord D Coupe 1975
Lamborghini 350GT 1964 Opel Rekord C Coupe 1966
Opel Rekord D Caravan 1975 Triumph TR6R m/c (1:12)

J Collection 1:43:

- Nissan X-Trail Barbados Police Toyota 86GT 2012
Mitsubishi i-MiEV Hong Kong Police.

MODEL MART.

FOR SALE:

An eclectic mixture of diecast models for sale. Most are obsolete, some going back to the 1970's, many are boxed and in good near mint condition. The list can be sent to you by snail mail or email, and photos can be arranged if you would like to see specific items. Please contact:

Makes available include:

Solido, Norev, Mercury, Mebetoys, Minialuxe, Politoys/Polistil, Marklin, Eligor, Winross, Gama, Siku, Matchbox, Tomica Dandy, Rextoys, Bburago, Mattel, Old Cars, Nacoral, Jue, NZG, Giodi, Corgi, Vitesse, Brooklin, Edai/Technica, Oxford Diecast, Lion Toys, Mini-champs and Super Champion. Most are 1:43 and in mint condition.

Carville Stewart at PO Box 42, Sefton 7445, North Canterbury

or carvillestewart@gmail.com

FOR SALE:

I have a few kits of both military vehicles and aircraft of the scale of 1:35th vehicles plus both 1:48th and 1:72nd of aircraft. The 1:72nd scale aircraft of mainly bombers. I haven't the means to put up photos of such at the moment but I give you my word they are all in perfect order. If you know of anybody who may be interested in these they can email me at the below

e.mail. **warrenandfely@xtra.co.nz**

Wanted wanted Wanted wanted Wanted wanted

Kitset News,

Diecast News.

Any Hobby News whatsoever!