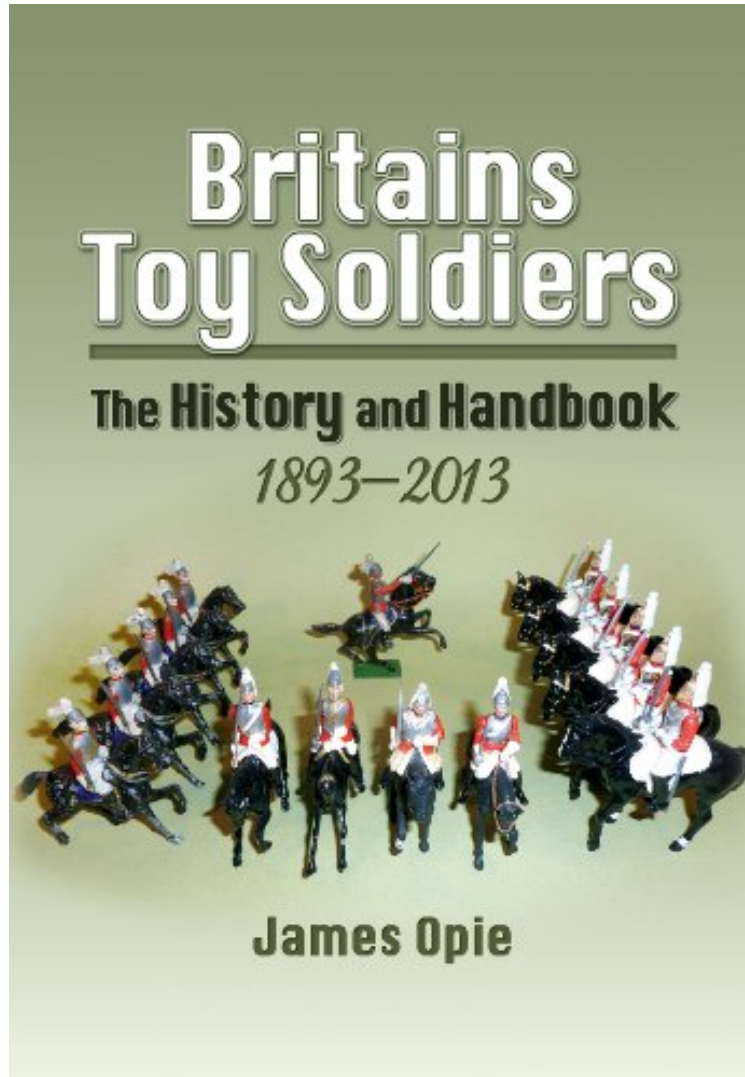


(Download) Britains Toy Soldiers: The History and Handbook 1893-2013

Britains Toy Soldiers: The History and Handbook 1893-2013

James Opie

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James Opie : Britains Toy Soldiers: The History and Handbook 1893-2013 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Britains Toy Soldiers: The History and Handbook 1893-2013:

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with *The Great Book of Britains* in 1993, the centenary of Britains. While that volume is still a definitive work up to 1993, Mr Opie has once again written a definitive volume on Britains with this book. I received it in the mail yesterday and could not put it down. While, naturally, I haven't read every chapter or word yet, I've read enough to be completely positive over the volume and to recommend it enthusiastically to any and all toy soldier collectors, whether or not your collection is composed of Britains. I've been collecting Britains for over 50 years and have assembled a moderate-sized collection of Old Britains lead soldiers, a good portion of the Herald figures, plus Swoppets and Eyes Right figures. I have been fascinated with these excellent figures, and while they are not the only figures I collect, they are the basis of the collection and the overwhelming majority of it. The book is composed of 8 chapters and divides the Britains' production into seven 'ages' of Britains' production. There is also a bibliography and as will some of Mr Opie's books, an Appendix of the listing of Britains' lead soldier production from 1893-1966. Additionally, there is a two-page layout of 'recent discoveries' of Britains' production, previously unknown. Interestingly, on page 378 (of 480 pages) Britains only flat figure is presented, given to Mr Opie by the late Charles Biggs, a figure designer who worked for Britains and who unfortunately died 2013. I had the great pleasure of meeting this gentleman in 1993 at the Valley Forge Show and I was fortunate to do so. This wonderful volume is not a continuation book to any of Mr Opie's work on Britains-it is a stand-alone volume, although if you have Mr Opie's other books (which is also highly recommended) all of them together give a full picture of Britains production of toy soldiers. I do hope that this volume is not the last that Mr Opie produces and the publisher, Pen and Sword, are owed a great deal of thanks from all who collect and enjoy Britains' toy soldiers.

This is the first full-color history of the world-famous toy soldiers to chart the whole story of their development from Victorian table toy to 21st Century collectable. Prior to 1893 the family toy business of the Britain family was struggling as the toy industry was dominated by German manufacturers and importers. Then came the fateful decision first to import, then to design and manufacture, toy soldiers, an area the German firms were particularly strong in. Britains Toy Soldiers were born and soon their boxes stamped with the slogan 'Best Quality English Make' were being eagerly opened by little boys across Britain and then around the world. The rest, as they say is history and it is all captured here by James Opie, the world's leading expert on the subject, as he lovingly traces the varying fortunes of arguably the most famous British toy company. Illustrated with lavish color photographs, many of them featuring items from the author's own collection, the book includes feature sections such as collectors' favorites and prices, high-value and famous sets, artistic highlights, quirks and mysteries. It is without doubt the most authoritative book on the subject and will be welcomed by the thousands of devoted collectors world wide as well as many more with fond memories of childhood battles with these beautiful toys.

...an extraordinary history not just of Britains, but of the hobby. Page after page reveals how the convergence of military history, child's play, civilian themes, floor wars and ceremonial splendor makes people so devoted to collecting old Britains and the latest releases, and wax nostalgic. This exceptional handbook is highly recommended to anyone who has fallen prey to the charms of Britains and toy figures in general. (Toy Soldier and Model Figure Magazine) About the Author James Opie is the toy soldier consultant to Bonham's auctioneers and recognized as one of the world's leading experts on the subject. He has a very significant collection of his own, which he has been building since childhood. For over a quarter of a century, until his recent retirement, James Opie was also editor and buyer for the Military and Aviation Book Society and various other book clubs. He has written seven previous books on various aspects of toy soldier collecting.