



OXFORD DIE-CAST

THE OXFORD DIE-CAST GLOBE

PRODUCED FOR THE OXFORD DIE-CAST COLLECTORS CLUB

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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

For the third consecutive year, ODC have been chosen and honoured to be asked to produced the memorial vehicles for the Royal British Legion.

These vehicles are offered via some of the national and regional newspapers - their space given free for this worthy cause.

Remembrance Sunday commemorated at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and attended by Her Majesty The Queen and other members of the Royal family along with the ministries from all the political parties will lay wreaths of poppies as will the leaders of the various forces in remembrance of those whose lives were given for our country and freedom.

The beautiful poem by John McCrae serves this tribute perfectly.

A contribution is made to the Royal British Legion from all sales.

FLANDERS FIELDS

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Shortly days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with
the foe:*

*To you from failing hands
we throw*

*The torch; by yours to
hold it high*

If ye break faith with us who die

*We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Field.*



'Remembrance Sunday' Chevrolet
Model No. CO55
Edition: 7,500



'In Flanders Field' AEC Bus
Model No. B76 Edition: 7,500



'The 80th Anniversary' Model A
Model No. A021 Edition: 17,500



'Lest we forget' Bullnose
Model No. 215G
Edition: 7,500

British DieCaster Catalogue 8th Edition

This fabulous 304 page catalogue gives you the value of all models up to publication including 'Corgi' 'Dinky' 'Matchbox' 'Budgie' 'Spot on' E.F.E. Lledo and of course Oxford Die-Cast.

The catalogue includes many illustrations and thousands and thousands of listings and a valuation of every vehicle.

We have a few available at the price of £17.95 plus £1.00 postage. (\$27.95 plus \$2 postage). *If you want one - hurry.*

A word from *Michael*

Some gorgeous new liveries to feast your eyes on and a new moulding as well! I look forward to getting a few liveries on it and of course the ODC new release!

It's nice not to have a 'Taff's Column' this issue. It always taxes my brain figuring out what he's on about. Taff supporters (if there are any) please don't bombard me with letters of support for him - I'm kind of joking!

Well, only two more Globe's this year and of course another new release. The next one I really can't wait for. You bus lovers will be in your element. I've given a clue, but not too much away I hope.

That's all for now. You all take good care.

Yours sincerely,



Michael

ITS WIZARD



Latest in the 'Comic Cuts' range - again aimed at boys 'Wizard' the weekly magazine introduced in the 1940's it had a cover price of 3d.

The Wizard had a variety of characters such as 'Bouncing Briggs' who appeared as a famous tennis player and features on our Chevrolet. 'Bouncer' was famous for his many feats making the finals at Wimbledon and finalist of 'The Lorry Driver of the Year'. (*didn't he win anything?*).

Ah! He by trade was a general scrap dealer buying and selling scrap metals!

Did you know him Taff?

Wizard was one of those magazines with coloured and cartoon front and back and mostly editorial inside. It ceased publication in the 1960's after approximately 2000 issues.

Model No. CC007 Edition: 2000

The First of the Crop



As promised we see the first of our new models, released this month. The evergreen (orange and white in this case) VW delivery van.

Launched in 1949 as the 'Transporter' it was probably the first van to carry its engine in the back. (Was there another?).

Our model is based on the panel van with opening side doors for kerbside access.

The VW transport Type 2 (our model) was first introduced in November 1949 - 52 years ago. The Type 1 was of course the people carrier or 'The Beetle' which was introduced just after the war.

The Type 2 appeared in many formats and by 1950 an amazing 60 different styles were coming off the conveyor belt every single day of the week!

By 1954 over 100,000 had been produced. In 1967 the last 'Spittie' as it had commonly become known was replaced by a new version - but by then some 1.7 million variants of it had been manufactured in a variety of different designs.

Our launch model is based on the classic colours and style of the early models and will not be liveried. But from now on, all models will be authentically styled and liveried.

We will be launching the ODC commemorative launch model as soon as possible with the ODC logo etc. If you wish to reserve one of these, please do so on the order form today to be sure of your model.

This model is No. VW001 Edition: 2500

NOT TOO POPULAR



In 1979 a number of London RM's were painted and liveried for use on a circular service linking various West End London Stores.

16 buses in all were decorated in this distinct colouring with the advertiser taking the top advertising section.

All the buses

operated from Stockwell to the West End via various routes and our bus would have been seen around Hyde Park corner on a typical shopping day!

The service fizzled out after about 6 months due to lack of usage.

Model No. RM32 Edition: 2000

HOUDINI – The greatest escapologist of all time!



Houdini died October 31st 1926 75 years ago.

He was born on March 24th 1874 in Budapest of Hungarian and German parents. His father was in fact a Rabbi and they were very poor.

Houdini started life as a shoe shine boy earning money towards the family keep.

At the age of 13, he moved to New York earning and sending money home whenever he could. However, the move to New York was to change his life and introduce him to the world of magic!

His first magic shows consisted of cards and other simple tricks and Houdini called himself 'The King of Cards'.

Pretty soon, Houdini began experimenting with handcuffs and using them in his act and by this time, he had an accomplice and they called themselves the Houdini Brothers, performing small escape acts.

In 1894 Houdini was to get married and his wife Bess travelled with him taking the place of his partner as part of the act. (like *Black Bess* did with *Dick Turpin*).

Houdini became well know and invented the challenge escape act. The concept of the escape artist is born!

Houdini began offering rewards to anyone who could restrain him - first in handcuffs but later in all manner of objects, leg irons, jails, a mail sack packing crates, a giant paper bag (without tearing it) and of course the legendary straight jacket being tied with a hundred feet of rope. He would escape in full view of the audience.

To draw crowds and sell tickets, Houdini would do escape challenges often at police stations in front of newspaper reporters, assuming a headline story. He was soon booked as a 'challenge escape artist' a new form of entertainment. Houdini was by now conquering the world!

He went to Europe in the year 1900. On his return to the United States, he was a bigger star than ever in the country he loved. Soon he was criss-crossing the Atlantic on a regular basis.

By now, Houdini was inventing and performing more and more dangerous tricks, one of which was the underwater packing box escape with tremendous publicity.

Then came the Chinese water torture cell. He was also the greatest illusionist of the day, making the largest object known at the time to disappear, an elephant named Jenny. The act was performed in 1918 at the Hippodrome - New York. Jenny's weight was 10,000 lbs.

Houdini's life was very fulfilled. It included films of his great escapes and he was the only magician to appear in 5 films and In addition, a full length movie was made about Houdini. He went on to be honoured with his 'hand prints' in cement outside the Los Angeles Chinese Theatre.

On October 22nd 1926 whilst performing in Montreal, a young man came back stage and asked him if he could withstand punches to the stomach as he had heard. Unfortunately, before Houdini could prepare his stomach muscles the young athlete began punching him in the middle of his stomach. Sadly, Houdini's appendix was ruptured. Houdini did several more shows in Canada before heading home where he collapsed. The greatest 'ghost buster' of all time died on October 31st 1926 - Halloween!

Not, as many believed, in a failed escape!

Houdini will be remembered as the greatest escapologist of all and his great human deeds involved his care for other magicians and the upkeep of their graves around the world.

Houdini not only earned a place in history, but the dictionary as well!

The delightful set of 4 vehicles come in a display box and features.

The Chevrolet - 'The Houdini's'

The Model A - 'Harry Houdini King of Cards'

The Bullnose - 'Master of Mystery'

The Model T - 'Houdini'

Each set can be purchased at the 4-3 price of £14.85 (\$24.95) plus 50p (\$1) towards extra postage.

The set is No.11 and the edition 2000 sets.



A drop of the hard stuff



Ballantines

Whisky

A fine brand of whisky brewed in Scotland with an old family name. Now part of the Allied Domecq range.

*Model No. 137T
Edition: 12,000*



Courvoisier

E'm delicious, one of the finest French brandies and gold medallion winner.

*Model No. C60
Edition: 12,000*

The Streets of London

Pall Mall - Piccadilly - Mayfair

Pall Mall - the name deemed to give an air of sophistication to the brand. One could imagine strolling down Pall Mall with the handsome cabs going about their business - a top hatted gentleman carrying a cane! Puffing gently on his cigarette holder perhaps!

Piccadilly - could be found way back, in fact to the turn of the century.

It carried 'Grand Prix 1911' on its earlier packs and one assumes it won some award for fine tobaccos. The brand still carries the same logo 'Grand Prix' but has dropped the 1911 section.

Interestingly, the early pack refers to 'extra size' cigs and latterly to 'larger size' but both seem the same size!

Again, a sophisticated area of London and one associated with wealth.

Mayfair - once more signifying upper class and elegance - Mayfair - a stroll along it with its lavish shops and fine perfumeries. The Mayfair brand was very prominent in the 30s/40s.

These three delightful vehicles available as a single purchase, though would make a nice little set.

*Pall Mall Bullnose
Model No. CIG23
Edition: 2000*



*Piccadilly Model A
Model No. CIG21
Edition: 2000*



*Mayfair Model T
Model No. CIG22
Edition: 2000*



THE GUNPOWDER PLOT!

The discovery of gun powder and the invention of the first fireworks are traditionally credited to the Chinese, although India is also a likely source. The sound of these first fire-crackers, which appeared about 1000 years ago was so loud that the Chinese believed the noise would scare away evil spirits. Then almost any event such as a birth, weddings, Coronation, or New Year celebration, even death, became a fitting occasion for their use!

(If they chase away evil spirits, maybe we'll send a few in Taff's direction).

Fireworks, as we now know them are not a million miles away from what they were like centuries ago - instead of explosives built into a cardboard tube as now - it was bamboo cases or rolled paper tubes filled with explosives.

Of course today, fireworks are still used world-wide for celebrations, but none more than in the UK on November 5th to commemorate the 'Gunpowder Plot' and dear old Guy Fawkes.

The good old favourites like 'bangers' 'catherine wheels' 'jumping jacks' (or bettys) rockets and volcanoes and not forgetting the sparklers are still very much part of the old traditional fireworks box along with many more elaborate ones today!



Years ago opening a box of Brocks or Lion's fireworks was in itself almost like opening a Christmas present - seeing the various fireworks with their blue touch paper wicks. The times these fireworks were handled in and out of their

box before the big night. The bangers at 1p each, ideal to throw through someone's letter box or in their dustbin (not for young members reading) or placed like a mine in the ground and watching the earth fly everywhere as it exploded, and letting off jumping jacks behind folks backs and waiting for them to jump all over the place as well. Anyway, back to the plot (sorry)!

Fireworks made their way into Europe around the end of the 12th century, probably carried back from the East by the Crusaders and used in religious festivals and other events.

The Italians were the first manufacturers of fireworks in Europe and the undisputed masters through to the end of the 17th century.

The two gorgeous vehicles both in our 'Corner Shop' range are:

Brocks Bullnose Model No. CS011 Edition: 5000

Lions Model A Model No. CS012 Edition: 2000