

■ AUCTION REVIEW

Britains sets the scene in Oz

The Australian Trains Planes and Automobiles May sale threw up the usual varied array of collectables. Whilst most *Gazette* readers cannot attend this regular event, nonetheless online bidding is possible if there is something particularly interesting. For the following, as a rough guide, ten pounds sterling equals AUS\$17.

Britains sold well on the day, so we are focussing on this manufacturer here. A Britains diecast Kangaroo with two joeys in excellent condition made AUS\$30. Two Britains diecast zoo animals, to wit an Indian rhinoceros and a Nile crocodile, were

also in excellent shape and contained within in very good original boxes. Against an estimate of AUS\$30-60 they went on to make AUS\$80.

More Britains: the No. 1539 Mammoth Circus Set was a great example of the company's output, bringing together a variety of castings. Containing many animal and human figures and a circus ring, it appeared complete. One figure was missing a hand (perhaps the lion-tamer?), otherwise the contents were all very good to excellent, in a very good original box. Despite an expected high estimate, this big top lot made AUS\$500.

The Britains 24Z Zoo Set also made good money. It included 14 diecast animals, four people, an elephant



Lovely assortment of Britains lead animals, set off by an impressive elephant ride

howdah, palm trees and a large quantity of fencing. Some very slight paint loss in some areas was noted, otherwise this was a great example in a very good original box. Bidders pushed the set to AUS\$410.

For farming folk, the

Britains 55F diecast Model Home Farm Set was attractive. The set was complete with five horses, a farmer, his faithful dog and three trees. Although there were a few small chips on the paintwork, it was nonetheless very good to excellent and

came with a good original box. The estimated sale price was pretty much spot-on at AUS\$260.

Finally, the Britains 08761 Tournament Diorama Set was something a bit different. It included three mounted jousting knights plus six fighting foot knights and came with a diorama base that was complete with tents, trumpeters and spectator stands. An addition was set 08762, set comprising a jousting knight with two foot knights. Overall, it was an impressive, beautifully painted set in excellent condition with excellent boxes. This medieval medley finally found a new home for AUS\$320. ■

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Going off the rails!



This unusual Japanese train set would have been a cheap toy in its day.

The Australian Trains Planes and Automobiles auction went to prove that toys are as big down under as they are over here – and that some are really climbing in value. The June event was notable for its train and railway content and the O gauge items sold well.

A Bassett-Lowke BL99004 O gauge BR ex-SR N Class Mogul 2-6-0 Locomotive and tender was typical of the fare. Bearing No.31407 and finished in sombre black, it was described as very good to excellent. This went to a new siding for AUS\$300.

Stealing to show, though, was the Australian O gauge tinplate bogie Passenger Coach. Probably by Hallman,

it bore a label underneath, stating that it had been purchased from Burgess Pharmacy in Warragamba. Only in fair to good condition, it nonetheless sparked huge interest and the tentative estimate of AUS\$60-100 was soon left behind, fierce bidding pushing this item to an astonishing AUS\$2,700.

Slightly less exciting was a Japanese tinplate

five piece Penny Toy Floor Train, comprising a locomotive and four coaches. With an overall length of approximately 250mm, it was in good condition although the wheels on one coach were not original. This Far East confection sold for AUS\$130. A familiar face was the Dinky 626 Military Ambulance. This example had window glazing and slight paint loss on some

of its edges. Although very good it was contained in a poor box and was bid to AUS\$80.

Finally, a Dinky Set 47 turned up, comprising twelve diecast road signs; it was complete and intact, and exhibited only very slight paint loss. Overall very good to excellent in a good box, the lot went for AUS\$120. ■