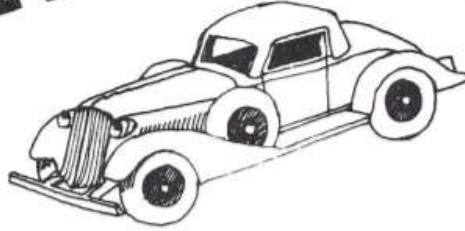


CAPITOL MINIATURE AUTO COLLECTORS CLUB



**APRIL 2025: SPRING SHOW APRIL 6,
2025, NEXT MEETING: TBD**

CMACC MEETING DETAILS

APRIL 2025

DATE AND TIME:

LOCATION:

THEME:

RSVP:

EVENTS: Let me know if you know!

- **April 6, the 107th CMACC Show. Dunn Loring Firehouse, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**
- **Now through third week of April, 2025, Reaching for Perfection, the story of the artistic impact of the Bugatti family (including five Bugatti autos, Art Nouveau furniture, etc.), Academy Art Museum, Easton, MD.**

Editor's Corner

What an issue! The variety of our Club's collecting interests continues to amaze me. In this issue, the complete story of "The Beasts" in both 1/43 and 1/64 scale, a trip to an amazing museum of tow trucks (I never imagined such a thing was possible), and extraordinary farm equipment models—plus OAST of all sorts.

I am getting this out a bit early to remind everybody about our APRIL 6 SHOW at Dunn Loring—Harold, Todd, Jim all say they need more help EARLY!

I want to thank Harold, Todd, and Jack for arranging our meetings over the past several months. I think everyone's energies for April have gone into our Show, and potentially another sale of items from the Gurski collection—if we can arrange another meeting somewhere in there we will, but as of now it's not scheduled.

One more thing to add is that if you can get to Easton, Maryland for the Bugatti Show at the Academy Art Museum it is well worth it, and Easton is a neat little town with some good food as well. The four cars at

the Museum may never be in one place again, and they are unique objects of art, as are the bronzes and the furniture made by the other Bugatti family members. Deb and I went last weekend and I was amazed. I realized that I have now seen two of the four Bugatti Type 57SC Atlantic coupes! The Alfa Club is going on April 5, don't let this get away if you can make it.

Fred

Minutes of the CMACC Meeting of March 16, 2025

By Fred Fravel



Like last month, the CMACC met at the Vienna firehouse board room while Jack's 1/64 show was held on the main floor, hosted by Harold and Todd Blevins. Additional attendees included Doug Campbell (with Joan), yours truly, Bill Patton (and Caroline, and Josh Pinho. Jim Brostrom also came, arriving late due to church. Food was shared with the show—choices of hot dogs with Vienna Inn chili, or barbeque, with coleslaw, drinks and chips—perfect.

It had been a rough month for car clubbers—Fred Harris is still dealing with the need for an oxygen tank at home, and Bill was just out of the hospital after days in E.R. and trying to get the right treatment. Harold and Todd lost five family members and close friends, including Cousin Dave who has been so much help to Nola.

Harold pointed out that our show is April 6 at Dunn Loring, and he asked for Club members to come early for set up and general help. He is also planning another show in Vienna later in the month featuring items from the Gurski collection. Lloyd Ralston from the auction house is coming to see the collection. Harold and Todd have found boxes of boxes for the collection in the garage loft, and have started the process of matching cars and boxes—let me assure you this is no small task. Again, SHOW UP EARLY on the sixth for the 107th CMACC show!

Once Around, Show and Tell

Despite the small crowd, we had a table full of interesting models and stories related to them.

I started off sharing my BBT 1/18 scale Alfa Romeo Tonale. The Tonale is the compact crossover with both gas and electric in the plug-in hybrid version, 280 combined horsepower. I bought the model because I wanted one, and the model was a lot cheaper than full-size. I also had a 1/43 Alfa 1900 Milan Taxi from M4, circa 1955.

Josh brought a 1/18 black Ferrari Daytona as seen in "Miami Vice", complete with figures. The model is by KK Scale models. More in the program writeup.

Doug brought a tractor trailer for Worldwide Transports that he got at FAO Schwarz, and a large blow model of a Greyhound Scenicruiser from Empire Plastics.



Harold brought the catalogues from the Elegance at Hershey and Pebble Beach Concours. The Hershey catalogues brought back memories, one year I went with Jeff and Roger Hirschland—I got the back seat in Roger’s Mustang GT, which was not sized for adults—but I was really glad I got to see it. I took one of Harold’s giveaways as a souvenir.

Program—Topless Vehicles

Doug brought in an interesting Japanese Tin 1950’s VW convertible, with a clear engine cover, roughly 1/18 scale. He also had an open top tour bus from Chicago. The most open vehicle of the day was his 1/43 Wiking 1886 Benz, likely made as a promo for Mercedes Benz.



Josh brought a 1/24 Cadillac Allante convertible by Auto Modello, as authorized by GM. He also had the KK Scale Models 1/18 scale 1972 Ferrari Daytona 365 GTS/4 replica convertible from the "Miami Vice" series. "Miami Vice" aired from 1984 to 1989, and starred Don Johnson (who played James Crockett) and Philip Michael Thomas (who played Ricardo Tubbs). Josh had figures of them both. I did not know until checking that there were two of these "Ferraris", both actually built on Corvette chassis, though apparently the first scene in the first show had an actual Ferrari Daytona.



I brought several open cars. I had two new 1/43 models of Morgan Plus Sixes from the Morgan Motors online shop, both made by Schuco. Both are roadsters, though one of the models is top-up. I brought a 1954 Alfa Romeo 1900C Sprint Pinin Farina Cabriolet in 1/43 by LookSmart, silver with red leather interior, I wish was in the garage. I also brought a 1/25 scale AMT white Corvette friction model, a replica of the very first model car that I had, a dim memory also from 1954. Finally, I also brought an open-top tour bus, but from Paris.



Bill Patton brought an assortment of convertibles, representing the eight that he has owned. He had an Olds 442 convertible model, a '61 Chevy Impala, a Lincoln Continental convertible, an Austin-Healy 100 (Dinky China model), and a 1958 Buick Roadmaster representing his actual 1958 Oldsmobile 98. Bill related how he got started in models by collecting real Studebakers, and then went to a toy show in Ellicott City where he bought model Studebakers from Ferdinand Zegel (of the CMACC), starting a long connection with fellow model addicts. Caroline's favorite, I note, was the '61 Chevy convertible.



As I mentioned Jim Brostrom also came and brought a number of convertibles, though he didn't get much chance to talk about them. They included a Stamp Models 1/43 Cadillac Series 62 convertible (the yellow one), a 1937 Cadillac V16 Dual Cowl Sport Phaeton (the black one), a 1940 Cadillac Series 62 Convertible Victoria (the red one) and a 1933 Chrysler Imperial Custom Five-Passenger Phaeton (light metallic blue). He also brought the 1/43 Pickwick Nite Coach in Greyhound colors by Auto Cult, very detailed. Doug had one in the newsletter, Jim brought one to the meeting—I had to order one, and also the same model in Pickwick colors! Thanks to the inspiration from my enablers!



OAST- Doug Campbell

After mentioning the DURHAM MODELS (Canada) books last month, I forgot to show another favorite Durham in my collection...this 50's Chevy SHELL service pick up...Durham seemed to include such nice and very realistic loads too, such as seen in rear of this model!



Our 2017 Subaru Forester mileage was approaching 190,000 miles, so we decided it was time for a new car, and as Joan needs the large door handles that go at an angle across the inner front doors to hold onto getting in and out, it seems now that both Subaru and Honda have eliminated these handles from inside doors..just have the little finger openings in the door arm rests...Honda has even eliminated the grab handles ABOVE the inner doors, which she uses...so we bought a 2025 Toyota RAV 4, still with all the safety handles Joan uses, EXACTLY like the 1:24 scale metal KINGSWAY MODELS (Shenrou DAYE Plastics & Arts Enterprises Ltd. Of China) replica, I found on eBay when we got home with the new car , shipped from Sri Lanka.which arrived in our mail about a week later! 4 side doors, hood, and rear hatch open so cleanly on this model, and interior is an exact replica...and sound and lights work, but I haven't had the time to install batteries! It's a shame that the American car dealers no longer stock toy models ! The little"plunger" is included with this model to open doors, hood, and rear hatch!



Back in 1937, a large department store chain in ENGLAND, Lewis's, commissioned a small run of this 1930's delivery van from Tootsietoy of Chicago USA. This example I won in a recent Lloyd Ralston Toys Auction, early March, and it is in amazingly nice condition for being almost 88 years old now...I don't know of any other private-issue Tootsietoy van that was made for the European promotional market, and yet in this recent auction, this was paired with a more common blue "Special Delivery" (has cast letters) van in a lot that brought much less than \$100, yet the Tootsietoy Federal Vans - which I think are somewhat less attractive, some went well above \$ 500 each!...Our 1920's local Baltimore Hoeschild Kohn & Co. Federal van, which I have 2 nice ones in my collection, bid up to \$350 plus 18% buyers fee and shipping! ..This auction was mostly models from the late, famous Broadway producer- Ira Bernstein - who I met at my dinner table years ago at an Antique Toy Collectors of America convention in Delaware, and found we both had similar interests in collecting,, as Ira collected commercial trucks and buses of all kinds!



A neat little recent CANDYLAB TOYS private wooden promotional issue model of an actual van used by The Criterion Closet to promote their films around the USA. This model is only available through the Criterion website, and was not sold directly through CandyLab, who at least kindly advised their collectors of its availability! I just think CANDYLAB's wooden models have such charm!



When the old 60's release of the British Dinky model of this van was released i just could never seem to find one, and prices now on the Dinky original are just too high for me to afford, so on EBAY recently I see that DAN Toys of Paris France (made in China) , like the Atlas, and CORGI recreations, has EXACTLY recreated this old Dinky Toy, complete with the little announcer figure (whose cable attaches into the unit in the rear of the van)! It's just such a charming little ELECTION MINI VAN, and actually with the side lettering screened on, rather than a label..i think its a BETTER model! (www.dan-toys.net)



This was always a favorite CORGI TOY to me, and years ago I gave my original to the late George Grant, so just before seeing Dick's journal article photo last issue, I found a mint, International CORGI (England) Chipperfield's CRANE truck at our local WB&A model train meet for \$10, I was able to get a winning bid on a lot of 3 mint, boxed Corgi models in the recent Lloyd Ralston Auction in Connecticut , and included was the polar bears cage Chipperfield's unit!



In 2024, SAIA motor freight lines , celebrated its 100th anniversary, & just a few days ago I happened to pass one of these exact lettered SAIA Anniversary rigs on the highway, so thought it appropriate to show my 1/64th scale Freightliner cab SAIA Anniversary model truck, which I believe are still available through SAIA's company store.



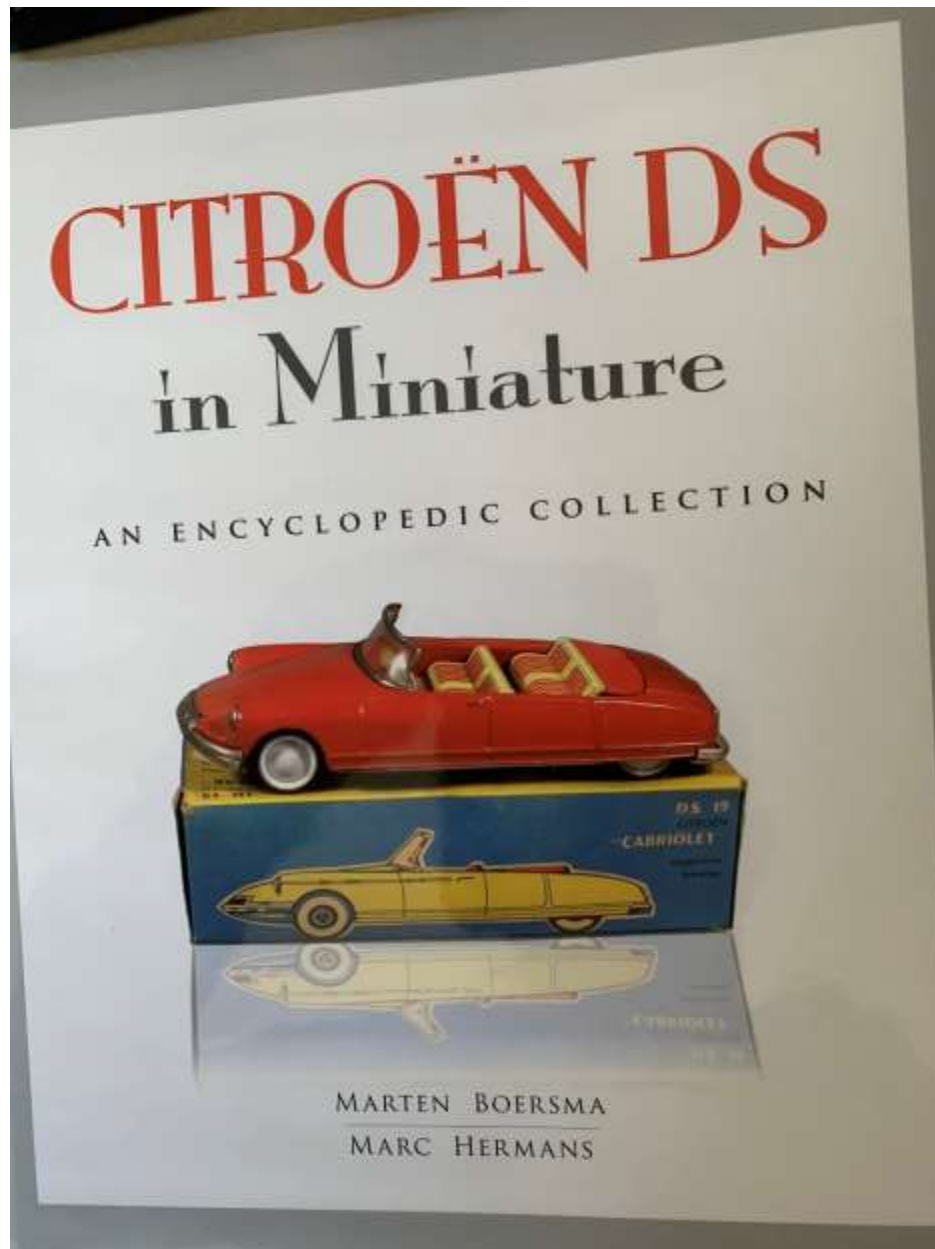
Just recently, fellow club member, Robin Godwin, from Canada, emailed me about a new Tekno model, and it remained me I hadn't had any emails recently from Tekno in Holland, as I hadn't purchased any models for quite awhile, so I guess they dropped my name...so I got back on their mailing list, and noticed on an older Tekno Mercedes Dutch Texaco tanker in my collection that the right cab mirror was missing....and I found it in the box, tried to reattach it and it flew into space "somewhere unknown" from my tweezers! So I contacted Tekno who usually can supply replacements, but alas, they no longer had this old part in inventory, so about a week later the mirror turned up in my vest pocket, and after having to completely remake the tiny side poststhe mirror is now again firmly attached..my model is again perfect! I have pictured the truck here with my Buddy L Texaco pumps and sign. What fun!



Back in the 1990's VITESSE MODELS of Portugal released a nice series of these MACK B model straight box delivery vans, and this one from Norman Brothers Seafood Market of Miami was one I never saw, so recently noticed some on EBay, and now own this mint, boxed example of what I think is the most attractive of the old Mack Vitesse vans...Interesting is how-on-earth Vitesse ever came to model the truck of this old Miami market...Norman Brothers Produce market was a very popular local Miami market, and although I don't like tuna myself, one of their most popular products was their cranberry tuna salad, of which they made & sold over 150 pounds daily mostly on sandwiches! Norman Brothers sadly closed 8/8/2021, as the family just was getting too old to run it longer!



Here's a book I just added to my toy library, although published back in 2015, I just discovered it and found it online in a Dutch museum gift shop, but noticed it was shipped still in original shrink wrap, so mint condition, from that address by the author.. Martin Boersma. The book...CITROEN DS IN MINIATURE- An Encyclopedic Collection- I can only describe as WOW!!!!!!..... It's a few pounds heavy hardback ALL COLOR volume...with 460 pages...and YES....about 4000 or more color photos of just CITROEN DS toy model vehicles! I keep thumbing through the pages, and it's just like having that whole collection right in front of you! I just can't fathom that there are many CITROEN DS toy models out there...,but amongst these beautiful pages of photos...here they ALL are to enjoy! It's having a whole collection of truly fascinating models on your desktop..and I didn't realize that even a few I have here in my own collection, such as the RIO(Italy) funeral hearse car! It's a volume to collect, savor, and just enjoy looking through all those pages of truly interesting models of a beautiful marque! The text is in ENGLISH! This is just a book I keep opening and discovering more of! ..A truly BEAUTIFUL book of really BEAUTIFULL model vehicles...all Citroen DS !!



Just showing 2 sample pages from the wonderful book on CIITROEN DS models....photos here of some of the 4000 shown in this book!!!



Early March, brought the RERElease, through the new Corgi Model Club, of one of my favorite old Corgi Toys models, and one that originally was released by Corgi back in 1962, actually had a CMACC CONNECTION! Our late, quite knowledgeable CMACC member, Ron Gladish, was actually the person who first suggested to the folks at Corgi in England, to model this Superior Cadillac Ambulance, as he wrote a letter, as many of us did back then with model suggestions, to the old Corgi Model Club director suggesting they model this ambulance, and I remember him showing me the letters he got back, thanking him for his suggestions,and he was a little "peeved" at the model release that they never sent him a complimentary model, as he assumed they would or had said in one letter to him that they would.....but this was truly an OUTSTANDING Corgi model, and shown in my photo on LOWER box is my original 1962 model..the window graphics were decals back then..on the rerelease at top box the ambulance graphics are painted onto the windows, and the original red light bulbs they couldn't seem to reproduce., so top bulb is a larger clear one. Both also have Corgi's "Trans-O-Light" system to have bulb light also illuminate the front and rear roof lights! My original model has an erratic mechanism on the rear axle to flash the bulb on and off simulating a real emergency light. , In 1966. The mechanism was replaced by some kind of just flashing bulb. . Unfortunately, none of this was able to be duplicated in the reissue model, as far as any type of flashing bulbs. Seemingly the new model just lights as a steady light, although I have not tried a battery in it yet. The brand new issue is sure to be a very exact recreation of that old 1962 Corgi ambulance in most respects though!



Just a view of the differences in the undercarriage lights mechanisms of the Corgi Superior Cadillac Ambulance...1962 at bottom.... 2025 at top!



I'm showing this 1987 Winross release as a tribute to a dear collector friend who just passed away on March 8th in Florida, but who lived here in Maryland for many years and was a VERY active toy vehicle collector! Jack Lindung lived in Hydes, Maryland and a few years ago retired to Florida, but was returned here for his funeral. He was certainly one of the largest COCA-COLA toy vehicle collectors in the world (I'm sure Gael de Courtivron of France , then moved to Florida...had the LARGEST COKE truck collection in the entire world!)..Jack was probably second....and along with his huge MATCHBOX collection, according to his obituary, had at its peak about 18,000 toy vehicles proudly displayed in his home...His Maryland car license plate read "MATCHBX" ! (We could only have 7 characters on plate...so couldn't get "MatchbOx"and like our late Club member, Ferdinand, I always considered Jack as 'larger than life as a collector! He was kind, enthused, and always so helpful to all of us in the old Chesapeake model club. He was a professional stock investor, and worked for a period at Baltimore's old Alex Brown & Sons investment firm, and in 1987, they ordered a very small Winross run of trucks for some internal trucking stocks program, so Jack kindly got a complementary model for me, as these were impossible to find outside the company's use, and rarely seen by collectors! Truly he will be missed, as time - to-time he'd exchanged an email from Florida...he truly will go into our hobby's "hall of fame"!



March 1-9 were the dates of the wonderful 196th Philadelphia Flower Show- now the largest flower show in the world! I have attended every one(except two years during COVID when it had to be held OUTSIDE in a city park, and was a disaster I'm told!) since I went to college, so would have been the 1969 show, (started college in Fall of 68), and Joan has been with me each one since 1976) we were married Fall 75), and its back INSIDE the many, many acre Philadelphia Convention Center in Center City- if you have never attended, put it on your calendar for March of 2026 !....(we have been members of Pa. Horticultural Society- the Flower Show producers- for many, many years too!)..and this year a major Flower Show sponsor was Bartlett Tree Experts- which when I got home from the show put back on display their old plastic model GMC tree truck and chipper unit- made for their advertising by the old DG Productions firm, who also produced many diecast trucks too. This big Bartlett tree truck, shown in my photo is just loaded with tiny details, and most exactly reproduced in miniature Bartlett's actual fleet, which I still see so often here in Baltimore, especially in this Spring time of the year when so much is being done to trees! DG Productions, while in business , really produced some spectacular private commission model trucks, and this one is one of their best I thought!. Model made in China.

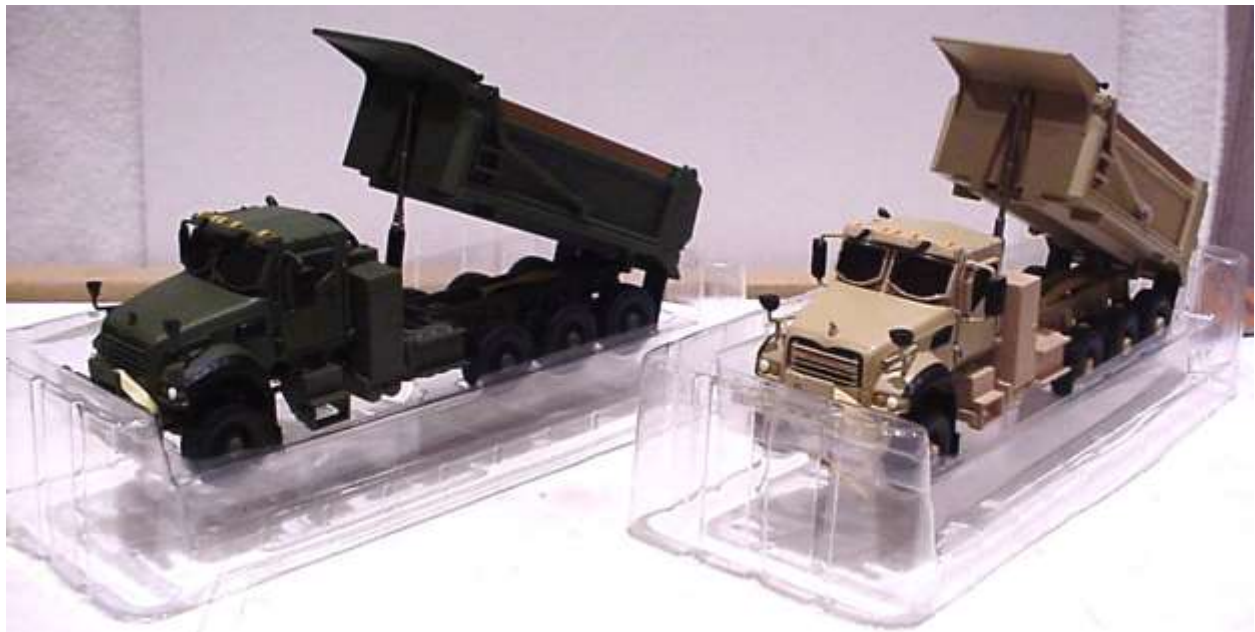


OAST-Joe Golabiewski

U.S. Army Mack M917A4 ARMORED DUMP TRUCK by FIRST GEAR

In early 2024 First Gear produced a 1/50th scale model of the MACK DEFENSE M917MA4 Armored heavy Dump Truck. It was released in an olive drab and a desert tan color. The model measures in at nearly 8" long.

In real life this truck measures in at over 24' long, has a gross capacity of 87 tons, is based on the commercial Mack Granite chassis and is designed specifically for the U.S.Army. It is an 8 wheel drive unit with an armor plated cab to protect the troops from hostile fire and it can operate in an environment down to minus 40 degrees F.









OAST-Josh Pinho

I just got around to setting up the Miami Vice set I brought last meeting. Figured this picture would do it more justice. {See the description in this month's Minutes—Ed.}



OAST-Bob Short

1/43 Show Report from Chicago

The show is actually quite small. A lot of very nice 1/43--I'm like a kid in a candy store!.











Jeff Lane has announced this as the show model this year—1959 Cadillac.

Countryside Classic Toy Show

Not much to report about the Countryside Classic toy show today.

I purchased a Danbury Mint 1940 Ford Convertible for cheap and a Franklin Mint 1958 Plymouth for reasonable but not fantastic price .

A lot of the 1/43 guys set up there as well but foot traffic was way down from previous years as were sales.

Perhaps the snow that started about 8 A.M. was a factor ,who knows as the sub freezing temperatures 2 years ago did not affect attendance.

We enjoyed the weekend and fellowship with fellow collectors from all around the country.

Goldvarg '48 Pontiac prototype—



OAST-Dick Williams

Here are a couple of new items I acquired this month:

The first is a 1:64 Chinese Police KaiRui rollback wrecker by XCARTOYS. This is a very detailed model, with mirrors made of flexible plastic, chassis details and spare tire, and operating rollback bed and extending tow assembly under the body. The only drawback is that the tolerance of the rear ramps is so tight that I can't get them to drop into the down position over the metal tabs without risking snapping something. I bought this on Ali Express for a decent price, \$20 including shipping.



The other item is one of the latest 1:64 police models from 596, a Chevy Tahoe in Minnesota State Patrol colors. This is one of my favorite state agency colors and graphics, and I believe this is the first 1:64 model of a Minnesota State Patrol vehicle. It's marked as a Commercial Vehicle Enforcement unit. The details include a raised Chevy bowtie on the grille, nicely detailed wheels, tiny MSP license plates, clear headlights and a lot of small lettering, some so tiny I can't read it. This one came from eBay. All the other sellers wanted about \$24 for this model, but one was asking less than half that price.



Presidential Limousine 'The Beast' or 'Cadillac One' in 1/43 and 1/64 Scale

By Joe Golabiewski

As of the beginning of President Donald Trump's second term, there have been three unique iterations of this unique presidential automobile. The first unit went into service with the George W. Bush administration in 2001 and remained until 2009 when Barack Obama became president. Models of these three iterations are available in 1/43 scale, and now of the two most recent versions in 1/64 scale.

The Beast in 1/43 Scale:

Beast #1

Beast #1 was custom built, designed and engineered by a research and development team at General Motors with a contract from the U.S. Secret Service and was designed to the exacting standards of the Secret Service while maintaining design cues from the current Cadillac Deville or DTS, the info on this Beast is not clear as to what model Cadillac it is supposed to represent. The reason this new limo was produced was the fact that Cadillac no longer produced a car suitable for conversion into a presidential limousine and the previous unit with the additional armor and amenities that were added to the car by the Secret Service taxed the limousines beyond their limits, resulting in failing transmissions and suspensions and failing brakes. The contract awarded to GM to design this vehicle was nearly 20 million dollars.





Beast #1 was actually based on the platform of the Chevrolet Suburban that was the commercial unit sold to the general public and the limo body was built on this platform. The front clip with the headlights and the tail lights and the trunk lid were identical to those used on other Cadillac production models. This beast featured five inch armored doors, sealed compartment with it's own air supply, run flat tires. reclining rear seats with massaging. No info was provided as to the engine that propelled the vehicle and there is very little info provided since the unit is under the control of the Secret Service. The weight of this limousine was nearly 14, 000 pounds,

Beast #2

Beast #2 was placed into service in 2009 at the beginning of the Barack Obama administration and remained in service until 2018 at the very beginning of the first Donald Trump administration. This limo was based on the GMC Topkick medium duty truck platform and the body was built around this large truck. This Beast is akin to the Cadillac DTS for sale and includes the front clip and rear trunk and tail lights to make it appear to be a standard Cadillac limousine. Since it is built on a truck platform, the limo is slightly higher than the Bush unit it replaces.





Beast #2 weighs in at over 18,000 pounds which is much heavier than its predecessor and it rides on Kevlar filled Goodyear Regional RHS tires that are usually reserved for medium and heavy duty trucks. The body is made of ultra-high strength armor plating and 5" bullet proof glass and it also carries a supply of blood matching the president's blood type in a refrigerated compartment in the event of an emergency. Given the unit is 8 years newer than Beast #1, it is equipped with all of the newest and latest electronic gear and communication devices.

Beast #3

Beast #3 is the newest presidential limo that went into service in 2019 at the tail end of Donald Trump's first administration and into Joe Biden's complete administration and now is serving the second administration of Donald Trump. Because of the addition of the latest advanced equipment and improved gear necessary for the President to stay current while in Beast #3 the weight has substantially increased to a mighty 22,000 pounds. This limo is hermetically sealed against chemical attacks, is equipped with run flat truck tires and has smoke screens and oil slicks as defensive measures against attackers. The design on #3 has the grille and the headlamps from the Cadillac Escalade and the Escala concept car. The limo is approximately 6 foot tall.



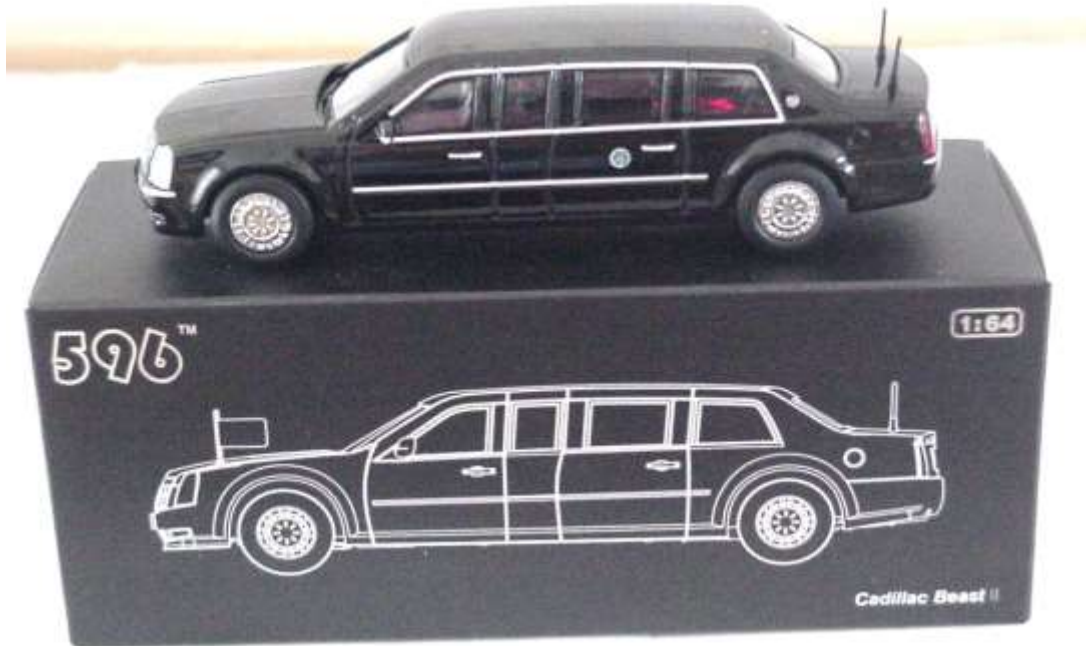
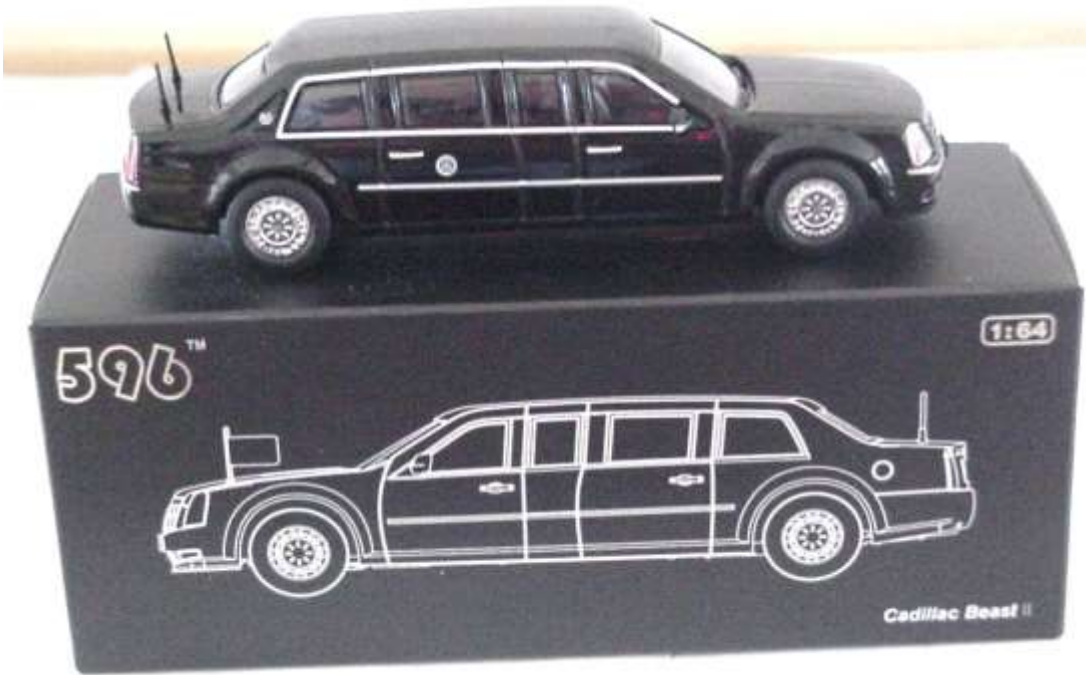


This is just a microcosm of the info available on the internet, I attempted to select a few snippets to show three scale models of presidential limos that are all manufactured in China.

The Beast in 1/64 Scale

In addition to the 1.43 models featured above, I just found these (2) Cadillac limos on a Japanese website. After looking at the photos on the web I decided to give them a shot, they were not overly expensive, and the shipping was free. Each one measures about 4-1/2 inches long and the detail is very nice, these could be made for TOMICA, of course all Tomica which were once made in JAPAN are all Chinese produced today. The detail is so fine, even the wheel covers are unique and match those on the full-size limos.

Beast #2 in 1/64 Scale:



International Towing and Recovery Museum Visit

By Dick Williams

Ruth and I went to Atlanta last September to attend the VMI-Georgia Tech football game with Michael and his wife (don't ask about the score!). We managed to see four automotive museums on the trip; one of them was the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame and Museum (<https://towingmuseum.com/>) in Chattanooga, TN (also home to the Coker Museum, which I saw last month on another trip). I've wanted to visit this museum for a long time, mainly because I like old trucks, and particularly tow trucks (sort of "adjunct" emergency vehicles). I was not disappointed – this museum isn't particularly large, but it has a great variety of immaculately restored tow trucks from various eras, the lighting is pretty good, and it has a large variety of model trucks, mainly of diecast metal and wood.

Why Chattanooga? A group of towing professionals called "The Friends of Towing" started the museum as a mobile exhibit in a semi-trailer, including the Hall of Fame of towing. When they decided to establish a permanent museum in 1995, Chattanooga was chosen because of its reputation as the "birthplace of the tow truck," where Ernest Holmes Sr. invented the first tow trucks and, with his son, established the Ernest Holmes Co. Holmes's first tow truck was a modification of his 1913 Cadillac Model 30 in 1916, and he patented his "split boom" wrecker invention two years later. The twin booms were used to anchor the truck on one side and recover a vehicle with the other boom. This concept was the basis for all of Holmes's wrecker designs for years, and is immortalized in diecast by the Corgi Holmes Wrecker (two examples of which are in the museum). Holmes also owned the first independent auto repair garage in the city. His company supplied thousands of wreckers to the US military in World War 2 (he died about a month after VE Day). His son took over the company and it eventually became part of Miller Industries, which remains a top manufacturer of tow trucks and recovery equipment in Tennessee.

The tow trucks on display include various types of towing equipment, not only Holmes products. A replica of the first tow truck, the 1913 Cadillac, is there with photos of the original. A 1913 Locomobile with a Holmes wrecker bed also is on display. "International" is sort of a misnomer, as only one of the trucks, a tiny Japanese 1970 Cony 2-cylinder truck, is not an American product. The 1:1 collection also includes several tow trucks from the 1920s through the '40s, a WW2 military wrecker, and some unique vehicles like "the world's fastest tow truck" and a massive Autocar that carries the largest wrecker ever built, a prototype for a military wrecker that was never adopted.

I was enthralled by the display of model trucks, including many First Gear models and a huge Lego Technik tow truck kit. Most impressive were a series of wooden models, a collection belonging to WreckMaster Inc, a towing and recovery training company. The diecast models included Danbury Mint, Corgi, Tootsietoy, Solido/Toner Gam and other brands. The basement held several more 1:1 scale tow trucks and collections of pedal car wreckers and vintage gas pumps.

Well worth a visit, especially since you can take in the Coker Museum on the same day. Enjoy this tour...



- 1) The Holmes Company built this replica of their first wrecker, based on a 1930 Cadillac Model 30, in the 1950s. It's displayed with photos of the original wrecker "No. 1." The first-ever patented wrecker bed with its twin-boom design was called the Holmes 680.



- 2) This 1913 Locomobile Model 48 is equipped with a Holmes 485 wrecker bed – so named because it cost \$485! The 485 also was developed in 1916 but not patented until 1919.



- 3) Here's the Corgi Major Toys #1142 Holmes Wrecker, built on the same Ford tilt cab chassis used with their semi-trailer. I have the tractor-trailer from my childhood but not the wrecker, though I've always liked this model.



- 4) Graham Brothers built trucks for Dodge in the 1920s. This 1926 Graham Bros. truck carries a 3-ton crane built by American Chain & Cable Co. of York, PA. This was the foundation of what became the Manley brand that was a major producer of towing equipment for decades.



- 5) This 1932 Indiana truck was the first "heavy wrecker" in the state of New York. The owner of Bartnick's Garage in Utica equipped the chassis with a custom-built wrecker. The cab is a modified Brockway design.



- 6) 1946 Chevy AK series truck with Holmes 525 12-ton (each boom was rated at 6 tons capacity) medium wrecker body.



- 7) This 1:24 1946 Dodge Power Wagon is one of my favorite Danbury Mint models, but I don't have one in my collection – yet. It seems to sell in the \$110-160 range on eBay.



- 8) I had to include this one for Todd – the Lego Technik tow truck.



- 9) This wooden model of a 2007 Kenworth 1075 Century rotator took Wesley R. Knecht, the builder, more than 200 hours to complete.



- 10) This is a rare 1950 Mack A-Model wrecker equipped with its original Holmes W-45 15-ton heavy wrecker body. The truck is rare because the A-Model was only produced for three years (1950-53) and not many original wrecker versions remain.



11 & 12) WreckMaster, a towing training company in Amherst, NY, has donated or loaned a collection of large-scale wooden model trucks and smaller diecast wreckers to the museum. The wooden trucks such as those in this photo were built by woodworker Mike Roberts, two large black rotators were used in the company's training programs, and the smaller diecast trucks such as those in the case above the black truck were used in a diorama at the company's headquarters.



13) 1943 Diamond T 969 truck with Holmes W-45 wrecker. Holmes made the W-45 from 1941 to 1949, manufacturing more than 7000 units. This wrecker was one of many used along the U.S. Army's Red Ball Express supply routes in France and Belgium.



14) Corgi limited edition model of the Diamond T military wrecker in the diecast display.



15) The pedal car display in the basement – all of them are wreckers!



16) The real rarity here is the wrecker body, a Holmes W70, the largest mechanical wrecker ever made, one of four built in 1953 for the U.S. military, which decided not to put it into service. It was sold at auction in 1960 and installed on a 1961 Autocar chassis and operated from Baltimore north to the Delaware state line on I-95. More than 2400 hours of work went into its restoration before its debut at the Baltimore tow show in 2001.



17) Few of the model trucks on display have any information with them; I'm thinking that this truck looks a lot like a Smith-Miller model – perhaps Doug can tell us?



18) The title of "World's Fastest Wrecker" is displayed on the fender of this Chevy Silverado tow truck. It set a speed record of 109.33 mph at Talladega's Alabama International Motor Speedway on August 1, 1979.



19) This is a really nice garage scene diorama – note the Snap-On Tools van on top of it.



20) The diorama was on the top shelf of one of several cases of diecast and plastic wrecker models, showing the large variety of models on display. There were many others I haven't pictured in this article.



21) 1952 Ford F-6 truck with Holmes 460 "Speed King" wrecker body. This is a 3-ton power operated boom setup.



22) This tiny Japanese 1970 Cony wrecker has a 2-cylinder engine. Ruth would call it "cute." The museum allows visitors to sit in this one and we both posed in it. It's almost like a kid's wrecker. It was intended for towing Japanese cars (which mostly were small anyway in 1970) in narrow urban streets where a normal-sized wrecker wouldn't fit. The original design was by Aichi Aircraft Company, better known for the infamous "Val" dive bombers that attacked Pearl Harbor and American ships in WW2. The company eventually was taken over by Nissan.



23) This 1947 GMC COE truck is equipped with a custom boom built by a bus company to tow buses.



24) This 1929 Chrysler wrecker began as a 2-door rumble seat coupe. Chrysler merged with Dodge in 1928 and gained access to their truck parts inventory. As Chrysler didn't have a production pickup truck, this car was converted to towing duty by replacing the rear end with a bed and 3-ton Weaver crane unit, and replacing the rear axle with a Fargo truck unit. I don't know if this was a one-off or a limited factory production item.



25) John Stuppy, whose family owned a car dealership and wrecker service in Missouri for 53 years, owned a variety of tow trucks that he displayed in parades. He bought this cart, which originally was a fuel truck, and converted it to a tow truck sometime after 2004. It's appropriate to call it a cart, because it's about the size of a large go-kart.



26) The Indian Motorcycle Company made this 1942 "dispatch tow" motorcycle. It could either be used as a package delivery (the "dispatch") or by car repair shops to pick up and deliver customers' cars at their homes. The rider would go to the customer's house, attach the bike's tow bar to the car's rear bumper, and tow the bike back to the garage. Apparently it was fairly common in "the old days" for garages to provide this service. This is a rare bike for obvious reasons, since WW2 stopped civilian motorcycle production; this was the last year for this DT model. The bike was purchased in pieces in 2001 and restored in 2005, winning the Antique Motorcycle Club of America's Winner's Circle award.

From farm-to-table...toy models even teach us how!

By Doug Campbell

In a recent auction at Harry's Toy Auction in Leola, Pa., where I still go to live auctions on Friday nights , and do their online auctions, often still finding a new Winross truck or two , amongst dozens of other models I've won over the years at Harry's, since about 1988 ...I won an unusual Kenworth Winross tanker - one of just 50 produced in 2003 by the "second": owners of Winross (just before bankruptcy of that second owner) and when I got home, my curiosity was aroused as to who this "PIK-RITE" firm was who ordered those special toy tankers back in 2003. So I went onto their website and found them still alive and well, and producing also , amongst other heavy industrial products, a line of FOOD VEGETABLE HARVESTERS. After my call to order a neat TOMATO HARVESTER t-shirt, (yes I'm also a t-shirt nut too, have about 200 from our travels, , restaurants, etc., as I wear one each day!) which unfortunately is out of stock 'til Summer or so, they were fascinated to hear I had one of those old Winross trucks, so sent along a few other t-shirts and a hat, and a really great brochure/booklet on their line of vegetable harvesters...tomato, bell pepper, chili pepper (yes it's a different vehicle!), carrots, and cucumbers...it's been fascinating to learn from Pik-Rite how those five vegetables are harvested in huge bulk quantity by their fascinating machines ...all this kind of stuff just fascinated me...and although they don't have toy replicas of their harvesters, I see 3 here in my collection to feature this month for my article..

It's just fascinating to me to learn from PiK-Rite's literature, how Heinz gets all those bizillions of ripe tomatoes they need to make their delicious ketchup, and how those hot chili peppers get into my favorite hot sauces- which are from Captain Mowatt's of Portland, Maine—i have 4 different flavors of those here now I enjoy on so many foods!(Joan is not a HOT sauce person though!) ...and how delicious carrots and cucumbers come into our salads...all picked from specialized vehicles, as are all the delicious French Fries and potato chips and all POTATO products we all enjoy are harvested by specialized VEHICLES! So, let's look at the toy harvesters in my collection....

Here's the little 1/64 Winross PIK- RITE (One of only 50 made!) tankers that got me started doing this article!



Here's a photo of a REAL Pic Rite TOMATO harvester at work! All this for a bottle of ketchup !



In all metal 1/42 scale by Tonkin Replicas, made in China for Lenco Advanced Farm Equipment of Michigan, this highly detailed model is a Lenco 2000 4-Row self-propelled Airhead POTATO Harvester! Your French fries, baked potatoes, and potato chips all come from what this fascinating machine does! The model comes packed with a brochure on the REAL harvesters!



A topside view of my 1/42 scale Lenco 4 row self-propelled Airhead potato harvester! Maybe the most complicated model vehicle in my whole collection!



At a massive 23. Inches long, this plastic and metal 1/32 scale model is by SIKU of Germany- an SUGARBEET harvester! = the Eurotiger XI ROPA harvester. Everything works on this incredible model vehicle!



Roughly side view of SIKU (Germany) Sugarbeet harvester...even rear engine compartment opens



In 1/32 scale plastic and metal from SIKU of Germany...a GRIMME SF 150-60 POTATO DIGGER ...full of details....13 inches long...all conveyers are working!



Right side view of potato digger by Siku of Germany...even tiny driver figure included! Front wheel steers.





From Facebook, sent by Bob Short!