



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Toy Soldier Show returns to S.C.
State Museum](#)

Columbia, S.C. – The world of toy soldiers and “military miniatures” is once again featured as the South Carolina State Museum presents its 20th annual Southeastern Toy Soldier Show on Saturday, Aug. 13.

Beginning at 10 a.m., more than 30 exhibitors from across the South will display and offer for sale a vast array of military collectible figures. According to Director of Operations Meika Samuel, "the toy soldiers represent every period of history as well as a variety of decades. Past shows have included such figures as Hannibal and his elephants, Egyptian pharaohs, Vikings, Russian czars and czarinas and knights of the Round Table. There are even miniatures of historical figures such as Henry VIII, Washington, Grant and Lee, Churchill and Queen Elizabeth II, to name a few."

Toy soldiers will not be the only items of interest. Miniature tanks, planes, cannons and vehicles, as well as books, also will be available for purchase from exhibitors. Although many pieces are aimed at the serious collector, enthusiasts of all ages will find many items to tempt them at modest prices.

More military miniatures will be on display in the South Carolina Military Miniature Society's annual diorama. "This year's diorama is an historical depiction of war in Afghanistan in the late 1880s," said Fritz Hamer, chief curator of history. "The British demanded an uninvited diplomatic mission to Kabul in 1878."

Sher Ali Khan, the Amir of Afghanistan, not only refused to receive a British mission

under Neville Bowles Chamberlain, but threatened to stop it if it were dispatched. The mission was turned back as it approached the eastern entrance of the Khyber Pass, thus triggering the Second Anglo-Afghan War. The particular scene of the diorama shows the North-West Frontier campaigns of the Victorian army.

In addition, the Society will set up a number of additional dioramas, from very basic to highly detailed, said the curator. One will depict paratroopers from World War II, while another will illustrate a scene from the Civil War in observance of this year's 150th anniversary of the conflict's beginning.

"These scenes should be fascinating depictions of these unique times in history," said Hamer. "The Society's members conduct extensive research so that each diorama accurately reflects its period. I've worked with this group for 20 years, and every year they produce something amazing!"

Guests also will see living history reenactors on the front grounds. Demonstrations of how soldiers camped out and trained will be presented during the day by the South Carolina Volunteer Infantry. Other military reenactor groups will display a military timeline ranging from the Revolutionary War through Desert Storm and military vehicles from World War II through Vietnam.

This program is included with museum admission or membership. Please contact 803-898-4952, publicprograms@scmuseum.org or www.southcarolinastatemuseum.org for more information.

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CUTLINE FOR SOUTHEASTERN TOY SOLDIER SHOW

Miniature military figures of all sorts and all periods of history can be seen along with equally pint-sized planes, tanks and other military equipment at the Southeastern Toy Soldier Show, Aug. 13 at the South Carolina State Museum.

[Click here to view/download hi-res photo](#)

Photo by Susan Dugan/courtesy S.C. State Museum

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