

Jeremy

MINIATURE BRITISH BUILDINGS ARCHIVE

Registered Charity No.1204102

Created 19th July 2023 as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation using the Commission's standard 'Foundation' model constitution.

Annual Report and Accounts year ending 30-9-2024

Trustees - Jeremy Julian (Commission contact)

Patricia Hymers James Day Mark Hickmott Chris Boutal

Brian Salter (Archives) Head Office - 20 Layard Drive, Wimborne BH21 1TF

Objects of the Charity -

To advance the education of the public in the subject of miniature British buildings and their creation by providing the public with access to an archive of miniature model buildings and resources including building construction toys, kits and literature which illustrate and trace the development of model building systems, methods and craftsmanship as a record of social history.

THE FIRST FOURTEEN MONTHS -

- from the charity's formation up to the date of this report has already encouraged further involvement by others to continue their researches into the subject. Although research in itself is not normally considered a charitable occupation, the retention, continued preservation and availability of the results are a main original reason for the Archives formal organisation. Additionally, an already existing exhibition of British building toys can now be supported and some highly relevant publications expanded upon. All are biased towards the aims of the charity, not the collector. By actively pursuing these avenues further a vastly wider audience will be within reach.

An immediate bonus was to become involved in both the physical movement and legal saving of 'Tinkleford' Miniature Dorset Village, Swanage. Last seen in public c1965 and previously on three different sites, it was amongst the earliest to charge for entry, possibly the earliest, in the later 1920s. It was transferred into the ownership of Swanage Museum in November 2023.

In September 2023 'Introducing the Miniature British Buildings Archive' was published (ISBN 978 - 0 - 9955814 - 87), some 32 pages to explain the unique and diverse range of miniature interests covered. It has proved an immensely valuable 'tool'.

For the 2024 season of Wimborne Model Town five new 'low-level' work-in-progress exhibits were added to the Life Before Lego exhibition.

In March 2024 the world famous 'Bayko' name and trademark were transferred to the Archive, without charge. The name is the best remembered brand of British building toy (1934 - 1964) and now has a safe home.

May 2024 saw the chance encounter with a one owner collection of Robert Stubbs Tudor Houses, an iconic dolls house brand. Here the Archive is only generally interested in the architectural modelling and in this case these excel. It has been possible to record a fair cross section of the production including some unique survivors eg The House That Moved, 1961 Exeter.

Throughout the period some effort has been extended in the direction of miniature buildings as souvenirs of heritage attractions. One was soon singled out for extra attention - Anne Hathaways Cottage, recognised instantly throughout the land and beyond. It was in the `business` from the 1890s (and much earlier privately) and so covers nearly all methods of production and presentation since the industry became seriously commercialised. It speaks near perfectly for this whole specialisation, what the MBBA terms Interest 3 - Ornamental and Collectable.

Various small donations of vintage building toys have been received, almost entirely as a result of Life Before Lego. A standard donation form is available although many do not wish to record the matter. On two unrelated occasions, two fairly limited non original boxes of Bayko have produced unique back- stories. They are both retained as found and presented complete with some very interesting period re-packing,

All in all, the Archive has grown in some really diverse sectors, encouraged without a doubt, by the future security engendered by the registration. Further publications are envisaged and much thought is now being given to other moves forward, despite some Interests actually still being slightly embryonic.

Financial Statement

As of the above date the Archive has not been involved in any financial transactions and no account is in operation. Working expenses are minimal, mainly of a domestic nature, and borne totally by the trustees. An agreement dated 10th August 2023 absolves the Archive at this time from overheads. No fund raising activities have been undertaken or are proposed.

This report has been agreed by the trustees and signed on their behalf