

Herald Sheepdog Running A Study



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Background

Origin

The sheepdog running was created by Herald Miniatures and could have been sculpted by Roy Selwyn-Smith, Norman Sillman or George Musgrave.

Production Run

The sheepdog running was introduced in March 1957. It was available with black paint (H1579) and tan paint (H1580), see Colours. In 1959 the numbers were combined as the Herald and Britains ranges were merged, with both colours thereafter known as H2221 (and later 2221).

Year	Cat. No.	Price* (s/d)
1957	H1579,80	8
1958	H1579,80	8
1959	H2221	8
1960	H2221	8
1961	H2221	8
1962	2221	8
1963	2221	7.5
1964	2221	7.5
1965	2221	7.5
1966	2221	8
1967	2221	9
1968	2221	9
1969	2221	10
1970	2221	11
1971	2221	1/-

* - Prices shown are for January of that year, except 1957, which is March.

Replacement

The sheepdog running was replaced by 1972. It may have been as early as 1970 when the sheepdog lying was withdrawn, but it is difficult to tell as the catalogues show illustrations instead of photographs before 1972. The replacement has a similar pose, but has less hair around the mane and belly and a stiffer tail.



Mouldings

There are two different mouldings for the sheepdog running. The detailing differs most noticeably in the tail and the mane. Differences can also be seen in the shape of the face and ears.

Moulding 1



- The tail is a relatively uniform depth.

Moulding 2



- The tail is deeper with a more undulating profile along the bottom.

Moulding 1



- The vertical line highlighted with a red spot continues for the length of the mane.

Moulding 2



- The vertical line highlighted with a red spot ends in a 'V' shape and then continues.

Progressions

The sheepdog running was modified three times.

Progression 1

1957



- 'ENG' is stamped on the back left leg.
- 'HERALD' is stamped on the back right leg. (It is unusual to see Herald spelt out on a model)

Progression 2

~1963



- 'ENGLAND' is added to the belly. (The smaller 'ENG' and 'HERALD' marks remain)
- The hair lines around the belly and the bottom of the mane are changed slightly in the process.

Progression 3

~1967



- The detailing of the hair is redefined. This is most noticeable on the mane, tail and sides of the belly.

HINT: Zoom in to this one with the '%' option on the toolbar.

NOTE: Before the lines were re-defined, the moulds had started to deteriorate and examples can be found with flat patches on the mane.

Progression 4

~1968



- The plastic is changed from Polythene (~2.3 grams) to PVC (~3.5 grams).
- Highlights are added to the mane of the black painted model (see Paint).

Colours

Plastic

There is only one basic plastic colour, white. It was finished in both black and tan paint, both of which ran for the entire production period. It was also available in a rust colour in limited numbers. The rust colour may have predated the tan or run simultaneously, but it is early.

Black



Tan



Rust



Paint

The paint is applied in the same pattern throughout production:

- Painted legs, body and top of the head.
- Unpainted tail and belly.
- Highlights on the mane for the tan finish, but generally not for the black finish.
- Occasional highlights on the mane for the black finish during the last progression (PVC).

Please note that the paint was applied by hand and as such exceptions do occur.

Availability

Known Types

I believe there are 18 combinations of Progressions, Mouldings and Colours to collect, as shown in the table below:

		Black	Tan	Rust
Progression 1	Moulding 1	Y	Y	?+
	Moulding 2	Y	Y	Y
Progression 2	Moulding 1	Y	Y	X
	Moulding 2	Y	Y	X
Progression 3	Moulding 1	Y	Y	X
	Moulding 2	Y	Y	X
Progression 4	Moulding 1	Y	Y	X
	Moulding 2	Y	Y	X

Key

- Y Definitely exists
- ?+ Probably exists
- ? May exist
- ?- Probably doesn't exist
- X Doesn't or almost certainly doesn't exist

Rarity

- Progressions 3 seems to be the rarest with Progressions 1 and 2 the most common.
- Neither moulding appears rarer than the other.
- The black and tan finishes were made in approximately equal quantities.
- The rust is difficult to find.

Information

Aim

The aim of this project is to detail every significant variation produced. The initial version is produced through a combination of my experience as a collector, studying the examples I have available to me and talking to other collectors I know. However, I cannot possibly hope to have covered all variations in this way. It is my hope, therefore, that as other collectors read this, they will send me details back on anything missed. These will then be incorporated so that a new version can be produced and redistributed. Perhaps by pooling knowledge in this way, one day all variations will be covered!

Scope

This project is limited to Britains and Herald plastic farm animals and figures introduced before the major reworking between 1969 and 1971. Figures that were not replaced during this period will be covered up to 1971.

Contact

If you have any comments or can help fill in any gaps (information on variations not covered, prices missing in the Production Run table, or examples not listed as 'Y' in the Known Types table), please get in touch. If you could send pictures with as much detail as possible please, that would be most helpful.

I can be contacted at BritainsFarm@hotmail.co.uk, or via my website <http://www.britainsheraldfarm.co.uk/>.

Tips

- The photos are often larger than shown. This means you can zoom in for more detail without losing clarity.
- If the cursor changes to a hand image when it is moved over a word, clicking on it with the left mouse button jumps to that section. To jump back, press the left cursor key whilst the *Alt* key is held down.

Glossary

Gate Point

The gate point is the place where the sprue joins the cavity of the mould. This often leaves a small, untidy lump when the figure is separated from the sprue. Sometimes (in the older examples) this was cut off, often leaving flat patch.

Mouldings

These are variations that were available simultaneously. Sometimes several moulds were created for the same figure to increase the production rate. Each could vary slightly due to work done on the mould after it had been created from the original.

Polythene

The plastic used for the earlier (pre ~1968) Herald and Britains models. It has a matt look to it, as does the paint. The paint tends to flake off in chunks. Compare to PVC

Progressions

These are variations that occur throughout the figures history. These typically include:

- Enhancements/alterations to add extra detail or compensate for degradation in the mould;
- Rebranding of the Herald figures as Britains or England;
- Switching from polythene to PVC plastic;
- Significant changes to the colour/paint.

Although I am confident of the order of the progressions, the dates given are often a 'best guess', based on boxed sets and relative production.

PVC

The plastic used for the later (post ~1968) models. It has a glossier look to it than the earlier polythene, as does the paint. The paint tends to rub off with excessive handling and in earlier examples can feel a bit sticky. Despite the fact the PVC models tend to be slightly smaller than their earlier polythene counterparts, the higher density of the PVC means they weigh about 1.5 times more. You need some good jewellers/herb scales to detect this with the smaller models.

References

Title	Author	ISBN	Purchase
<i>Suspended Animation</i>	Peter Cole	1 900898 04 7	Replicants Plastic Warrior
Description: A fascinating insight in to the history and pre-history of Herald plastic figures and there incorporation in to Britains. Includes an appendix listing the entire plastic figure production of Herald and Britains through to 1999.			
Title	Author	ISBN	Purchase
<i>The Great Book Of Britains</i>	James Opie	1 872727 32 8	Out of print
Description: An excellent, year-by-year summary of Britains and Herald models from 1893 to 1993. Contains plenty of colour pictures.			