

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

COLLECTORS' CORNER

The Pop Culture Collector's Monthly Newsletter

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Trap And Gap Baseplates

In a previous review you've read where I wrote about Strictly Briks, the fun and colorful, snap-together, play Briks that let kids build all sorts of cool buildings, vehicles and just about anything else their fertile, little imaginations can come up with.

Along with the Briks there are Baseplates that the Briks can attach to for extra stability, especially when creating buildings and other stationary projects.

Recently Strictly Briks added a brand new Baseplates set to their already impressive selection.

The Trap And Gap Baseplates notch up the fun with some surprises.

Kids can take it to the next level with two Trap And Gap Baseplates measuring 10 inches by 10 inches, two Stackable Baseplates with the same measurements and 15 Stackers—that's 19 pieces in all!

What makes the Trap And Gap Baseplates kit so much fun is that kids now have gaps, ramps and trap doors for dreaming up new adventures.

Just think of the possibilities: multi-level garages, trap doors to catch bad guys, secret exits and entrances and much more.

Combine with other Strictly Briks Baseplates and Briks and the sky's the limit!

Trap And Gap Baseplates and Strictly Briks are designed for kids five years old and older. Dream-create-grow!



Yu-Gi-Oh! Extreme Force, Portfolio, Sleeves and Case

Just when you thought Konami's Yu-Gi-Oh! Trading Card Game couldn't get any better along comes a brand new Booster Pack that pours on the goodies!

Konami's Yu-Gi-Oh! Trading Card Game Extreme Force Special Edition Booster Pack includes:

- 3 Packs of Extreme Force!
- 1 of 2 Super Rare Variants!
- 1 of 2 Super Rare Preview Cards from the Spring 2018 Flames of Destruction Booster Set!

Have your YGO Trading Cards gotten out of hand? Are they starting to take up too much room, are unorganized and unprotected?

Never fear because Konami has the solution. Pick up several Kaiba's Majestic Collection 50 Tournament Legal Card Sleeves to protect your precious Cards.

To store your Cards be sure to get several Kaiba's Majestic Card Cases that hold over 100 Cards and the 9-Pocket Portfolio that holds 180 Cards, front and back, in its anti-slip pockets.

Play, save, protect and preserve.

For new reviews posted each week, visit www.bamcc.net



Videogames, RAF and WWI

I'll be the first to admit I'm lousy at playing video games. I have neither the manual dexterity nor quick reflexes to play most modern videogames.

My idea of a challenge is a rousing game of Monopoly.

My son, on the other hand, is a pro. Growing up he zipped through videogames at a frantic rate—which didn't help my wallet.

Some of my fondest memories were of him and me playing Mario, Earthworm Jim and Goldeneye.

In fact I still have our Nintendo 64 and Super Nintendo game consoles and a box full of games for both.

I have the Super Nintendo connected to my flat screen TV and every once in a while I play Mario. It's still a lot of fun.

I'm no video game expert by the furthest stretch of the imagination.

When I taught high school video games were always a part of the conversation and many of my students were huge video game fans.

I'm sure they would get a big kick out of Carlton Books new book: A History Of Video Games, by Iain Simons and James Newman,

From consoles, handheld, classic games, joysticks, accessories and everything in between the book offers a deluge of information about videogames complete with color photos and engrossing text that really gets into the meat and bones of the videogame phenomenon.

If you're 'digitally' inclined then this is the book for you to take a 'byte' out of.

England's Royal Air Force (RAF) has been around almost from the dawn off aviation.

In 1918-2018 RAF 100 The Official Story, author James Holland celebrates the Centennial of the Royal Air Force with a wonderful and fascinating new book.

The beautifully bound, hardback book traces the genesis of the RAF starting with WWI up until modern times.

Packed with archival photos the book allows readers to follow the RAF through several wars and peace time.

Key battles, breakout innovations, state-of-the-art technology and aircraft design and much more are all chronicled.

Important historical military and civilian personnel are given their just credit along with the unsung heroes of the RAF.

It's an inspiring and thought-provoking examination of one of the most famous and successful Air Forces in the world.

It was the war to end all wars. WWI was one of the bloodiest and costliest wars of all time and unfortunately it was not the last.

WWI tossed conventional warfare tactics out the window as everything changed. Advances in weaponry, the introduction of heavy tanks and mobilized weapons and aircraft drastically changed the face of war.

In The First World War, in association with the Imperial War Museums, author Gary Sheffield's book examines how the war started its long and bloody years (1914 to 1918) and its turbulent end.

Packed full of historical document recreations, archival photos and battle maps the book goes into extensive detail about the key players, command figures and strategies used throughout the war.

It's a remarkable book that never candy-coats the ugly reality of war. I found it to be an absolutely absorbing read that made me feel as if it was in the midst of battle.

I felt the pain, heartache and fear of the troops while comprehending the sheer audacity and determination by leaders to claim victory despite the cost.

WWI shaped the world we live in perhaps more than any other war.

Tales Of Evil Featuring Man-Monster #3

Back in the mid-1970s Marvel Comics former owner, Martin Goodman, decided to get back into comic books and compete with his former company.

Goodman had always been a wheeler dealer and over the decades developed the un-canny knack for taking chances and cashing in on current crazes.

After having sold Marvel Comics he realized that Marvel Comics growing popularity also meant that lots of cash could be made from merchandizing, etc.

Never one to let an opportunity pass him but he decided to start his own comic book company dubbed Atlas Comics. An interesting note is that Marvel Comics original name was atlas Comics.

Goodman decided to go head-to-head with Marvel Comics even going so far as to hire many of its current and former artists and writers, offer a higher page rate and attempt to copy Marvel Comics look and style.

Unfortunately Atlas Comics was doomed from the start.

Missed deadlines, small profit margins, poor circulation and other problems plagued the company.

Artists and writers were not being paid on time and many of the company's titles were poor imitations of Marvel Comics ideas and characters.

Although the company only published for a year before closing its doors it did manage to publish a few gems.

One of my favorites was Tales Of Evil Featuring Man-Monster #3 that introduced the origin of Man-Monster as created by Gary Friedrich, Tony Isabella and Rich Buckler.

The story centers around rich playboy and former Olympic swimming champion Paul Sanders who in a show of macho to impress two female reporters swims into a strange ocean phenomenon that transforms him into the Man-Monster.

A Bog Beast story was also included in the anthology.

Both series had promise but unfortunately no one will ever know what either series had in store.

Although Atlas Comics no longer exists fans of comic books are starting to take notice of the titles published and a strong cult following has developed.



Paddington 2

He's back! That lovable, fuzzy ball of sweetness and charm: Paddington the bear is back. Paddington returns in an all-new live action/computer animated film courtesy of Warner Bros., featuring most of the original first film's cast.

Crank up the cuteness and family fun as Paddington sets his heart on buying a very special gift for his aunt's 100th birthday.

He takes on a series of odd jobs (you know what happens) and is all set to buy his Aunt's gift.

But tragedy strikes as the object is stolen. That's leaves it up to Paddington and human family and friends to find the culprit responsible.

There's plenty of humor, heart-felt moments, action and adventure as only Paddington can deliver them.

Don't miss this family-friendly film that will touch your heart and make you wish you had a friend like Paddington.

Blu-ray/DVD/Digital extras include lots of featurettes, commentary and more.



TERRORHYTHM

Do you like some martial arts action? Do you relish the idea of thrashing a bunch of bad guys? Do you like music-hard, pulse-pounding music?

Have I got the video game for you! TERRORHYTHM combines the best of music and some serious kick, flip, chop and general mayhem action into a cutting-edge video game available online.

Picture yourself in an ultra-modern, high-tech city where sound is illegal-unless of course you have BIG money.

The only problem is, you're broke-but you love music.

Never one to let a little thing like money stop you, you crank up the sound. Things go pretty good for a few minutes.

That is until the guardians of silence step in to take you down-or so they think!

This is your chance to show them you moves while the background music blares.

You time your attack with the beat of the music. The louder and faster the better as you take on the bad guys with your lightning fast moves and flashing light effects (along with some pretty cool dance moves).

Crank up the difficulty level as the pace quickens, the bad guys increase and the backgrounds shift and change behind you as the music changes.

As a graphic designer I am impressed with the graphics in TERRORHYTHM.

They remind me of high concept Japanese Anime with lots of primary and secondary colors, stylized characters, cool effects and motion graphics and constantly shifting and morphing backgrounds.

Check it out courtesy of Evil Corporation Games.

Play with keyboard, controller or even with USB dance pad. Even an old guy like me can play it.

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