

LEGEND

Inside this issue

The latest news from Legend makes quite a story. The design department have been working on many new and exciting ideas.

In this, the first issue of Legend Life - we tell you about the new native American Indian designs, the true story of Pocahontas - the American Indian Princess and latest Walt Disney character, and news of the lengthy task of cataloguing all the old designs through Legend's long history, also latest collectors' news.

Please read on and enjoy...

Native American Indians

Due to the continued popularity of the series of American Indians in the current range of wall masks available, Legend are in the process of adding three new pieces. Two already available are a brave, called 'Little Wolf' and a squaw named 'Laughing Water'. Both are plains Indians from the 'Arapaho' tribe in their appropriate tribal costume. The pieces are unusual because they are set into a rock background and are also slightly larger than the usual wall mask size. Both pieces are highly desirable on their own or as a pair and are expected to sell well.

Pocahontas is the third new addition to the Native American Indian collection and is currently being sculpted. 'Pocahontas' was

the princess who saved the life of the explorer John Smith from the hands of her own father the Powhatan Chief who was about to kill him with a war club. Pocahontas begged her father to spare him his life and he agreed. In 1608, during fighting between the white settlers in Virginia and the Powhatons, Pocahontas was lured on board an English ship and held captive. There she met and fell in love with settler John Rolfe, she converted to Christianity and married Rolfe in 1614.

Pocahontas was born in 1595 and died in 1617 from smallpox contracted whilst waiting to sail to America from England, she is supposedly buried in a Gravesend churchyard in Kent, England, but, although a group of wealthy Americans have exhumed many graves in Kent to take her remains back to the USA, she has never been found. Her final resting place remains a mystery.

Her son, Thomas became an important settler in Virginia after his education in England and many Virginian families claim to be his descendants.

The story is certainly intriguing, so much so that the Walt Disney Corporation have decided to make Pocahontas the star of their next feature length cartoon film which will be based on her unusual life story. The model of Pocahontas will be available shortly and of course Collectors' Club Members will receive advance notice.

There seems to be a great deal of sympathy for the Native Americans and their plight when losing their land to the white settlers in the mid 1800's. Legend Lane pride themselves in the level of painstaking research into the background which surrounds each character wall mask produced, coupled with the skill of the sculptors in achieving exact likenesses.

Hollywood Greats

John Wayne has now been sculpted and the model is absolutely superb, however the Wayne family licensing agents have been written to try to obtain permission from them to release the piece, but they seem totally disinterested. This is very frustrating for the Cochranes and also for the collectors who would certainly love to own this head. However Legend will keep trying, and the piece will go into immediate production as soon as permission is given.

Legend are also planning to sculpt Marilyn Monroe and James Dean, subject, once again, to licensing approval. Perhaps collectors would like to suggest other Hollywood stars for possible future production?

Collectors' Club

The Collectors' Club, although still in its infancy, is growing in numbers steadily. Leaflets on joining the Club are now going into every individual box leaving the factory and this should raise awareness of the Club with collectors world wide. One group of collectors which Legend is desperate to re-contact are the many ex-servicemen and women who bought the Legend products whilst stationed in Europe. Nearly all have now returned to the USA and it would be wonderful to re-establish the network via the Collectors' Club. Any suggestions as to how this can be achieved would be more than welcome.

Requests have come through from some members for a list of other member's names and addresses, anyone who would like to participate in this swapping service should contact Legend Lane in writing.

Work has begun on the back cataloguing of all the items ever made by Legend. This is proving to be a marathon task and is extremely involved and complicated; made more difficult by over zealous

workers who have thrown away valuable originals in clearouts over the years.

At the factory in Macclesfield there is a Master Archive room, which is stacked floor to ceiling with originals. This room is steadily being worked through and many treasures are being discovered. A museum area will eventually be set up at the factory to display everything ever modelled which will be invaluable to collectors.

Extra Large Masks

Legend now have on offer some of the most popular wall masks in the range made in a huge format! The size of these new masks is almost that of a baby's face and the effect is truly amazing. So far the following have been made in the new format: Old Salt, The Bosun, Robin Hood, Captain Kid, Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. Orders for these are now being taken.

The Next Issue...

Legend would welcome any articles or suggestions for the next issue of Legend Life, If you have an interesting Legend story to tell or perhaps you want to swap/sell items from your collection please send your contributions to:-

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