



RESOURCES FOR MODELERS

Tales From A Modeler's Closet

Written by *Anonymous*

Do we ever ask ourselves what is it that we are, or, what do we do that brings us together on the third Friday of every month? If we have, we would probably admit that it is because we are modelers – builders of model ships, cars, aircraft, military vehicles, figures, objects from science fiction, and anything else imaginable.

Of course, we would most likely admit this only to ourselves as our chosen endeavor tends to be a private, solitary, - closet – if you will, hobby. We often fear that many, including our closest non-modeling friends and relations, view this past time of ours as immature or, at least, eccentric. What we rarely think about, and would be reluctant to admit if we did, is that we are much more than builders of models.

We are all craftsmen (craftsperson – to be politically correct) using special tools and finishes to shape plastic, wood and metal into real or fictional objects. We have each developed architectural, engineering, scientific and artistic skills along the way.

We are also historians and researchers. “But I hated history in school>” you say, and “despised doing research for term papers”. But as soon as you picked up an old Hot Rod or Car Craft magazine to find those photos of “Big Daddy’s” Swamp Rat, or purchased a copy of a In Action booklet, you became, for a short time, a historian researching your current or future project.

Now I’m going really deep here, so pay attention. We are also philosophers! To be specific, we are Platonic philosophers. Now this has absolutely nothing to do with a non-romantic relationship with anyone (real or imagined). The ancient Greek philosopher Plato, wrote that humankind, functioning on a higher level, are seekers of the GOOD, the TRUE and the BEAUTIFUL! Now, if this isn’t us, I don’t know who is! We all want to build GOOD models, TRUE to the details of the original subject and we want them to be BEAUTIFUL.

Plato also discussed perfection. It is something we often seek in our models, but never truly achieve. According to Plato, we never will achieve perfection as long as we are encumbered by our physical forms – bodies. Nobody – not the best IPMS OC modeler, nor the Best of Show from the Nationals has achieved it. Plato would have us recognize this while still encouraging us to strive for it. Just do not dwell on the imperfections. Enjoy their improvement from the last effort and strive to lessen the faults in you next effort. Every one of us, at every level, has this challenge. If we accept it we will slowly see improvements in our models and enjoy the heightened sense of satisfaction that comes with it.

I have omitted the title of artist. I think that some of the figures seen in the local shows and contests border on the artistic. Yet the title of artist is a little pretentious for us.

After all, we are replicators and, like graphic illustrators, simply try to duplicate in scale, real or fictional objects that we have seen in person or in photos or drawings.

So there you have it. We are not JUST modelers. We are crafts persons, historians, researchers, philosophers and even replicators. Which leads us back to the question: Why do we come out of our closets or caves on the third Friday of each month anyway? I will try to offer some answers to this question in the next issue of this newsletter.

"Criticism comes easier than craftsmanship" Zeuxis – 4th Century BCE

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