

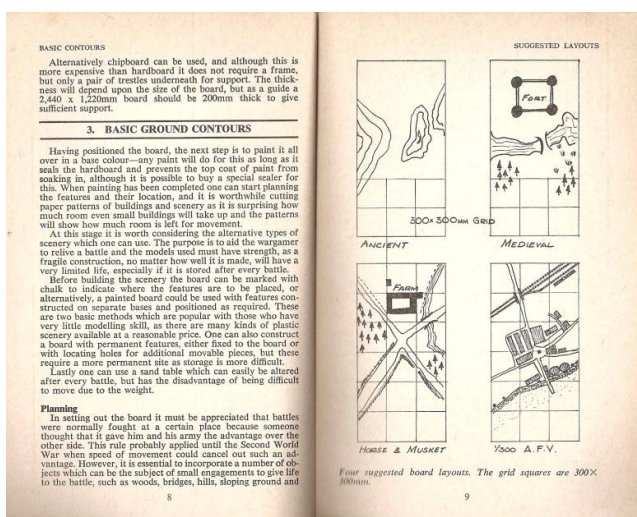
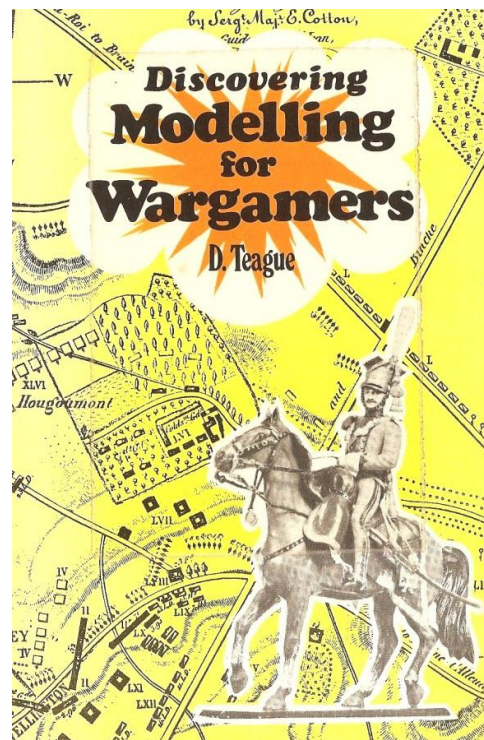
'Discovering Modelling for Wargamers'

By D. Teague

Review by Jonathan Aird

Dennis Teague was a modeller and wargamer, the proprietor of The Armoury and a mover and a shaker in the British Model Soldier Society and The Society of Ancients. At the time of writing this slim volume, he had been an active modeller for more than 30 years. In an enthusiastic manner, he attempted to pass on some tips on modelling that the reasonably practical wargamer could make use of. As well as the making of scenery -- including hills, trees, rivers and buildings -- he also covered the construction of a suitable wargaming base board and offered tips on painting and colour blending for use on the armies that would march across the newly made terrain.

The book has chapters addressing different time periods and geographical locations and discusses the applicable nature of the terrain and the style of building, with accompanying sketches of typical constructions and a few line drawings that provide the basic dimensions and a few hints on the construction of several building types. The only really detailed step-by-step construction advice given is for the baseboard and the natural terrain features, such as hills and trees. The lack of step-by-step detail does detract from the content, as it seems that a lot of pre-knowledge on the part of the reader has been assumed. The chapter on figure painting techniques would now, sadly, rank as very introductory advice indeed and reflects an era in which there were only limited numbers of enamel paints available to the would-be painter.



It would seem that either Mr Teague or the typesetter of the book was a devotee of the metric system -- nothing wrong with that of course, however the favoured unit of measure is the millimetre. This produces some rather clumsy sentences, such as this one discussing the size of the playing board a wargamer should construct: "A room of about 3,050mm x 2,135mm will probably have an inward opening door which reduces the space available. The clearance all-round the table should be roughly between 616mm and 462mm" Quite -- clearly 457mm will be too little, and 621mm is more than

you'd ever need in a 10' x 7' room!

There is little to get very excited about here and this book is really for the completist only, as you'll probably find more and better information in a couple of issues of *Battlegames* or *Military Modelling* magazine. On the other hand, it is a very small book, and the required investment will be low -- a couple of pounds at most (my fairly recently acquired copy was the princely sum of 30 pence!).

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