

# THE TALISMANORAK

EDITION NO6. NIGHT-TIME SPECIAL AUGUST 2026 BY KATIE B



## TAKE ME AWAY FROM ALL THIS MADNESS

Loyal readers of the TalismAnorak will notice straight away the obvious difference with this latest edition. Normally published during seasonal events to add an extra bit of spiciness to that cream egg or plum duff, the staff at the Talisman Towers (T.T.) thought that due to a certain event which, unless you have been nailed shut inside a crypt for the last 100 years, you could not but fail to notice. (Thankfully my crypt is not nailed shut; I can come and go as I wish.)

The launch of something really special within our little Talisman community.

A dark, lace-lined, blood-stained box of undead gothic glamour and sexy serial numbers.

But more on that later.

(Sexy serial numbers? You should definitely get out more, preferably during the daytime, and a long, long way away from any firefighting equipment -Ed.)

The T.T. team have been working nightshifts to produce this very unique edition due to the intense heat. It is as if the weather gods have just cracked open their R4th edition Firelands expansion and are placing fire tokens all over the land including one right on top of the T.T. Cripes, it's hotter than the devil's bed-pan here at the moment.

So, bury your tech six feet under, lie back, close the lid and relax in cool, cobweb-strewn silence with this small piece of sanity and bring a deathly peace back to your restless, frantic world.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Edition news

It is our old favourite ... match the dice with the expansion.



Normally a green un-crayoned die for 1<sup>st</sup> Edition but here we see one of those pesky little white dice appearing again in two sets to put a six-sided blue-bottle in the ointment. In the first picture, above, it could be a later edition as one of the stands is missing, but white dice have been spotted in other editions and there was definitely a cross over in production components from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition as this next article shows.

A collection of Talisman: The Magical Quest Game components. The main box is prominently displayed, featuring a large illustration of a dragon and the title 'TALISMAN THE MAGICAL QUEST GAME'. Other visible items include a rulebook, a character card, a treasure card, a spell card, and various dice and tokens. The background is a dark, textured surface.

(No one's thinking that. They are thinking, "Sheesh! She needs to get a life and get out more, preferably during the daytime, and a long, long way away from any firefighting equipment." -Ed)

You've said that already.



A close-up of those folds in the flat board, for all those doubters out there who think the Talisman world is round.



Rolling with the dice theme we do have a blood-red coloured die here ...



....and here, that could be original as there have been numerous sightings now. See previous editions of the TalismAnorak.

As an aside a blood-coloured die would have been the perfect promo for that special new expansion.

#### Talisman magazine articles:

Two more to add to the list from the last edition:

**Imagine. Adventure Games Magazine.** #11 February 1984. Short review by Andy Blakeman on page 38.

**Space Gamer.** #73 March/April 1985. One page review by Mathew J. Costello on page 21.

Thanks to Jordon's Sorcery for finding these two.

His wonderful nostalgic GW Oldhammer videos can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@jordansorcery/videos>

### Blister packs

Dig out the Blistex (other brands are available) for its mini blister time, though this next one is an ill-fitting boot, coast to coast, whopper. On the night-time theme spot the alternative minis in there.



Armoured Toad in a TL5 pack



Ranger Toad in a TL12 pack. Is it a trick of the light or has the Pirate lost his sea legs?



### A blistering headache.

Now this had us all scratching our heads at the T.T.

Chaos Warrior? Check.

Samurai? Check.

Toad? Check.

Warrior? Warrior? Err no.

Orc? Wot?

Woodsman? Really?

Hard core Talisman fans will immediately spot the crack in reality and cry,

“But 2209 (or TL9) should contain the Chaos Warrior, Samurai, Warrior, and Toad,” and they would be right. So, what is going on here? The Woodsman mini is a weird anomaly in the world of Talisman 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition figures, not seeming to appear as part of a TL code in the original advert for the Talisman Adventure expansion minis. His single blister product code (if such a thing exists) being one of those perplexing mysteries that keep us awake at night and haunt our very dreams. Have the Citadel packing Trolls had a bit of a whoopsie here or is this a package re-seal. (In the advert it still seemed to be unopened with no damage to the cardboard.) I suppose the Woodsman could be mistaken for the Warrior by a short-sighted troll but how did the orc get in?

Want to know more?

Check out the Talisman Island here and plunge even deeper into a rabbit hole of perspex and cardboard despair.

<https://www.talismanisland.com/miniatures/2nd-edition/blisters/>

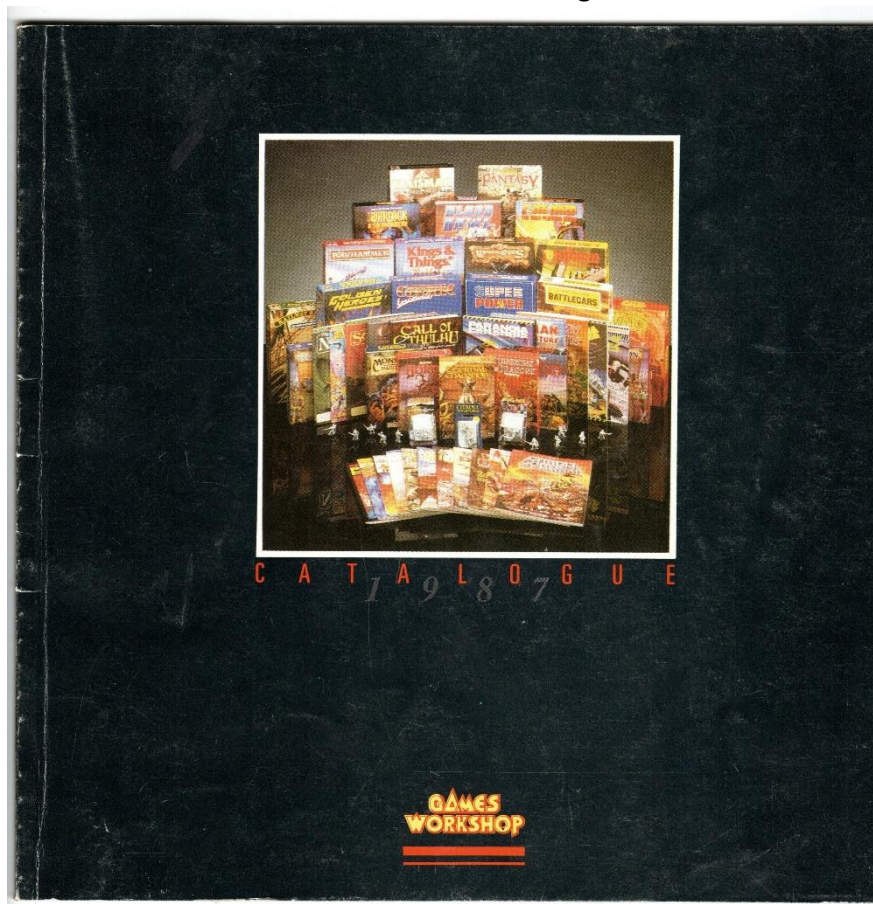


Purple Timescape cards for sale, this time in Canada.

It might just be the photograph but those in the lower picture seem to have a pinkish hue.  
Archivists in the T.T. cellar are still after a Timescape set with purple cards for the collection.



Talisman adverts on the side of the Dragon Masters box.



Talking of adverts, this 41-page 1987 catalogue now adorns the shelves of the T.T. library as it contains some interesting items about Talisman.

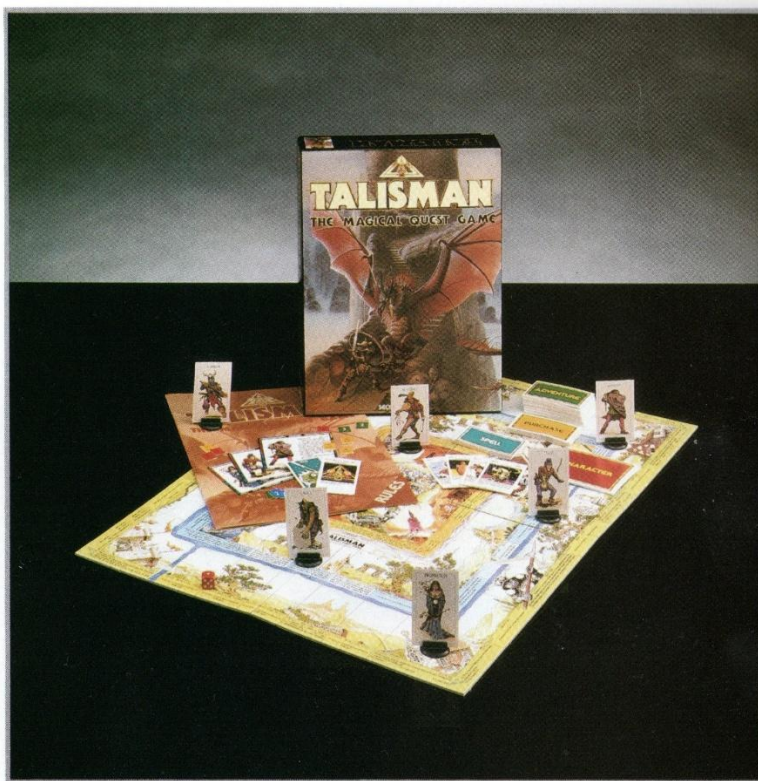
**F**irst released in 1983, **Talisman** became an instant and lasting best-seller. Its full colour artwork and magical setting makes Talisman the most colorful boardgame ever. With its easy to play rules and exciting board, Talisman is a must for anyone interested in fantasy or family games.

Enter the mythical world of **Talisman**, where dragons roam the land and magic really works. As a warrior, wizard, priest, dwarf or one of 10 other characters with special powers, you set off on a quest to find the magic Talisman.

The wizard is long dead, but his Crown of Command awaits the one brave enough to venture through the Portal of Power to the deadly Inner region. However, bravery is not enough, for to survive the rigours of the Plain of Fire, a magical Talisman is required.

You are one of the many adventurers searching for the Wizard's Crown. During your adventures you will meet powerful enemies, discover friends and magical objects, and meet many strange beings. When you have gained sufficient power, you can cross the last and most dangerous region, but no matter how powerful you have become, your journey will be in vain unless you have first found the Talisman.

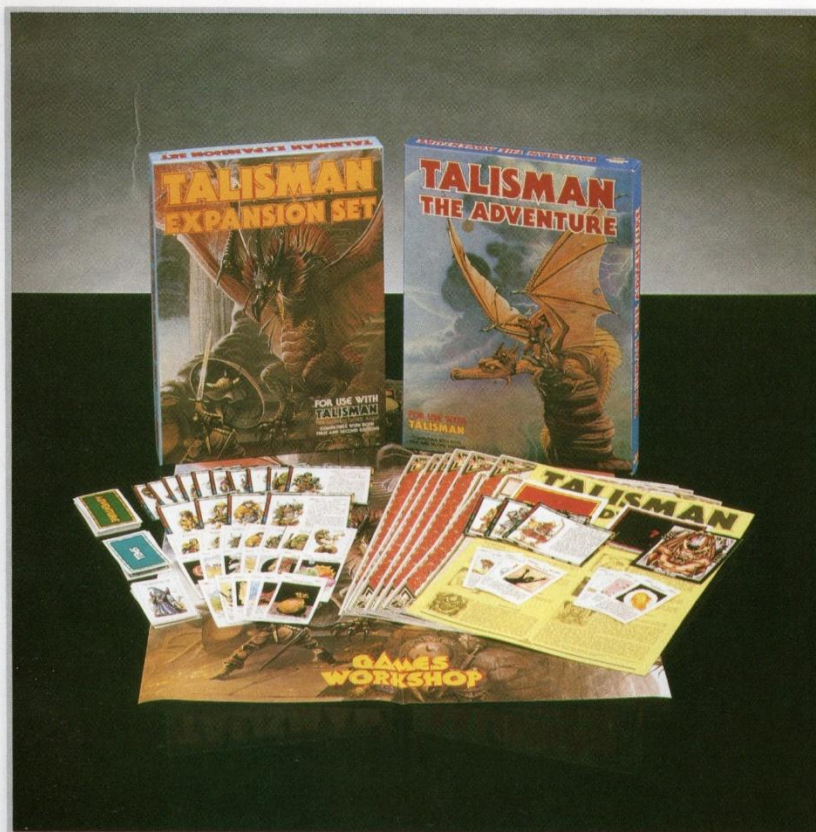
**The Second Edition of this marvellous game contains:** 1 Playing Board depicting the magical kingdom; 14 Character Cards detailing special abilities with 14 matching cards and 6 plastic bases to represent the characters on the board; 104 adventure cards detailing monsters, treasures, spirits, strangers, places, objects, followers and events; 24 spell cards detailing many fabulous spells; 28 purchase cards detailing the many items that may be bought; 4 colour Talisman cards, 4 Toads and 4 alignment change cards; 140 die-cut counters representing gold, lives, strength and craft; 1 six sided dice for movement and combat; Clear and concise rules.



## TALISMAN

THE MAGICAL QUEST GAME

**£12.95** Boxed Game for 2-6 players



## TALISMAN EXPANSION SET

Talisman Expansion Kit: **£4.95**  
Game supplement

## TALISMAN THE ADVENTURE

Talisman the Adventure: **£4.95**  
Game supplement

**T**he Talisman Expansion Set adds a whole new realm to this popular boardgame. It contains a new set of characters, spells, events, followers, objects and strangers on full colour cards, making this game even more fun than before. Now players can face even more perils as they search to find a Talisman. But all is not lost, during the search, players will encounter new allies and be able to draw on a wider range of spells.

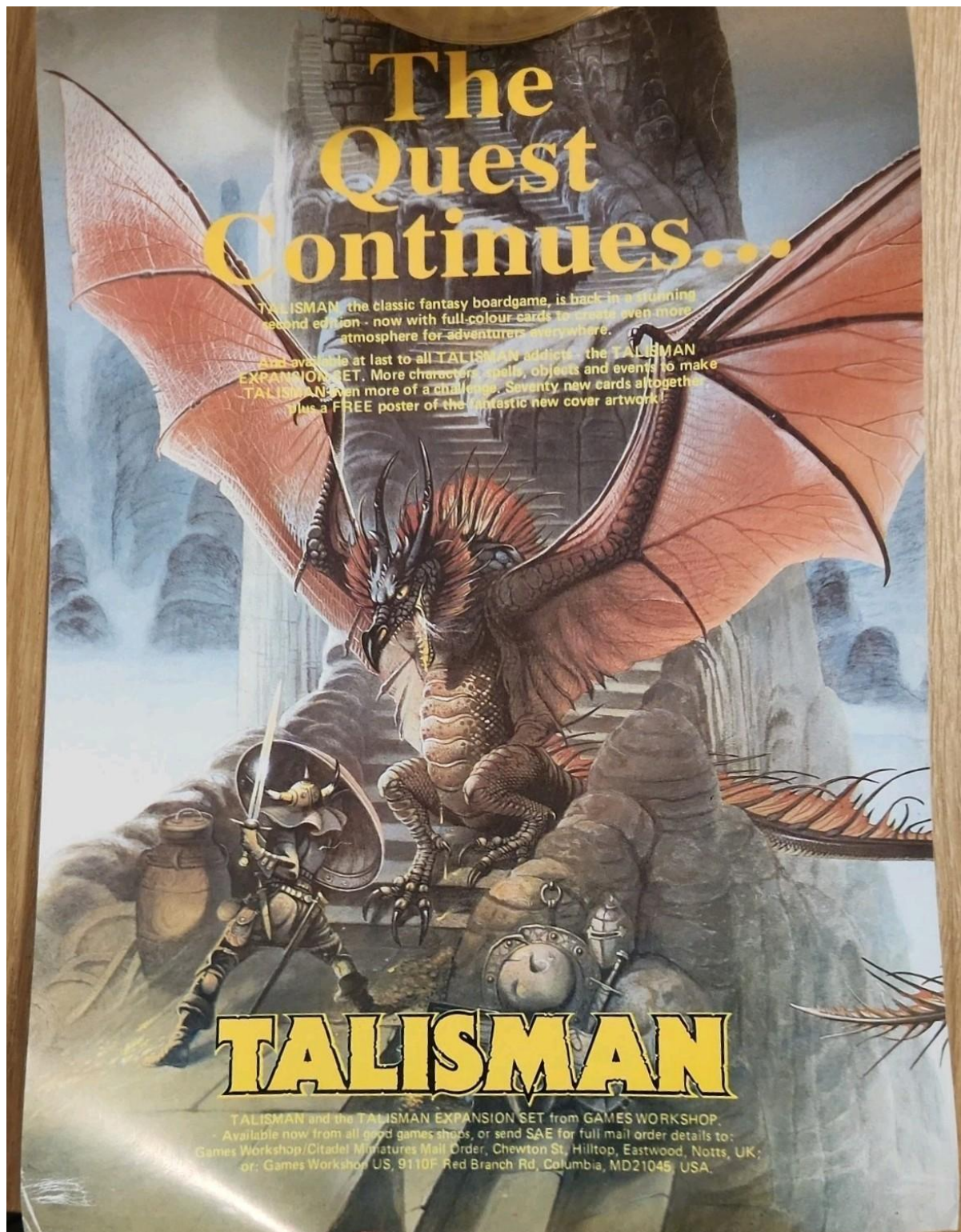
**The Set contains:** 36 new Adventure Cards including new monsters, spirits, strangers, places, objects, followers and events; 6 new Spell cards with new mighty magics; 14 new Character Cards with special abilities and 14 accompanying Character Movement Cards; 1 full colour Talisman poster.

**T**alisman the Adventure takes this best-selling game to new heights of adventure. Talisman the Adventure adds five alternate endings. No longer can you be sure of finding the Crown of Command when you leave the Valley of Fire. In its place you might find the Demon Lord, Pandora's box, the Dragon King, the belt of Hercules, or the Horrible Black Void! Talisman will never be the same again!

**This set contains:** 37 new Adventure Cards including new monsters, spirits, strangers, places, objects, followers and events; 11 new Spell Cards detailing the new magic available; 8 new Character Cards featuring special abilities with 8 Character Movement Cards; 6 new Alternate Ending Cards detailing exciting new climatic finishes to the game; 6 new Talisman Character Sheets to enable neat and easy use of abilities, gold and cards; 1 Sheet of Rules explaining the new cards and expanding the original game.

### Poster Girl

A couple of dealer promo posters came up for sale recently that were snaffled up by the T.T. purchasing department. This first one was a bit of a Tavern gamble. A4 in size it could have just been a scan from a magazine but upon arrival was clearly old. The back was yellowed with age and bore the smudged remains of old Blue-tac on the back.



This 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition poster is a whopper and was bought from an ex-game shop owner in America who had had it folded in an envelope since the mid 90's.



It is 100" by 81" but despite its size it actually contains less of Geoff Taylor's amazing artwork than the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition box lid.



One of the chief complaints about Talisman is that a game can go on for too long, a fact sternly refuted by this loyal Talisman fan after a recent game.



You know something in the all the years I've been reading vampire literature and as someone who, like Morticia, cherishes her moon tan I'd never thought of that. Damn!





## A monstrous monster



At Expo in 2024 whilst attending for the launch of the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, I picked up this 3D printed 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition dragon from the wonderful Harbour Master of Talisman Island, Jon New.

Intending to paint it at some point I put it on top of my display cabinet. It then spilt its guts all over the top as the belly split open and a liquid goo ran out. Jon said just to bin it as it hadn't cured properly and the goo was really toxic.

Well, I nearly did, but as it was hovering over the wheelie bin, I thought it was a real shame to throw away all his hard work so decided I would just use it as a garden ornament until it fell apart.

I put it in a metal biscuit tin and left it outside on top of the coal bunker over the winter.

And there it sat until April 2025.

With the first sunny weather I thought perhaps I could put it in a sunny spot in the garden, upside down, which I did.

I even tried positioning a mirror to get the sunshine inside.

UV being apparently useful in curing it.

And once again there it sat until October.

The damage didn't seem to get any worse and the goo stopped coming out so I decided to break off the dragon's deformed 'bomb door' belly and repair it the best I could with Milliput.

Before I did so I filled it with kitchen roll just to soak up anything that might appear.

Once sealed, I then filled in all the join lines with Milliput, gave it a damn good wash and then undercoated it with Mephiston red rattle can.

It then sat on top of my cassette deck tower until April 2026.

With no reaction to the paint and no other cracks appearing I decided it was safe to spend a bit of time painting it.

I must admit I was completely out of my depth and comfort zone painting something this big.

It took me a week. My paint table is only little, sitting in the kitchen and my brushes are designed to paint eyelashes on 28mm vampires. Not something this heeeeuuge.

Even the simple task of holding it to rotate round as I was painting it was hard work (it is bloomin' heavy) and I ended up destroying two of my good brushes. Each scale was painted separately ... 4 times running up through various highlights and getting a good effect on the wings scared the kak out of me as I didn't want to muck it up. Thing is as well, with a 28mm mini you exaggerate the highlights to make it pop. With this, it's so massive it makes its own natural highlights.



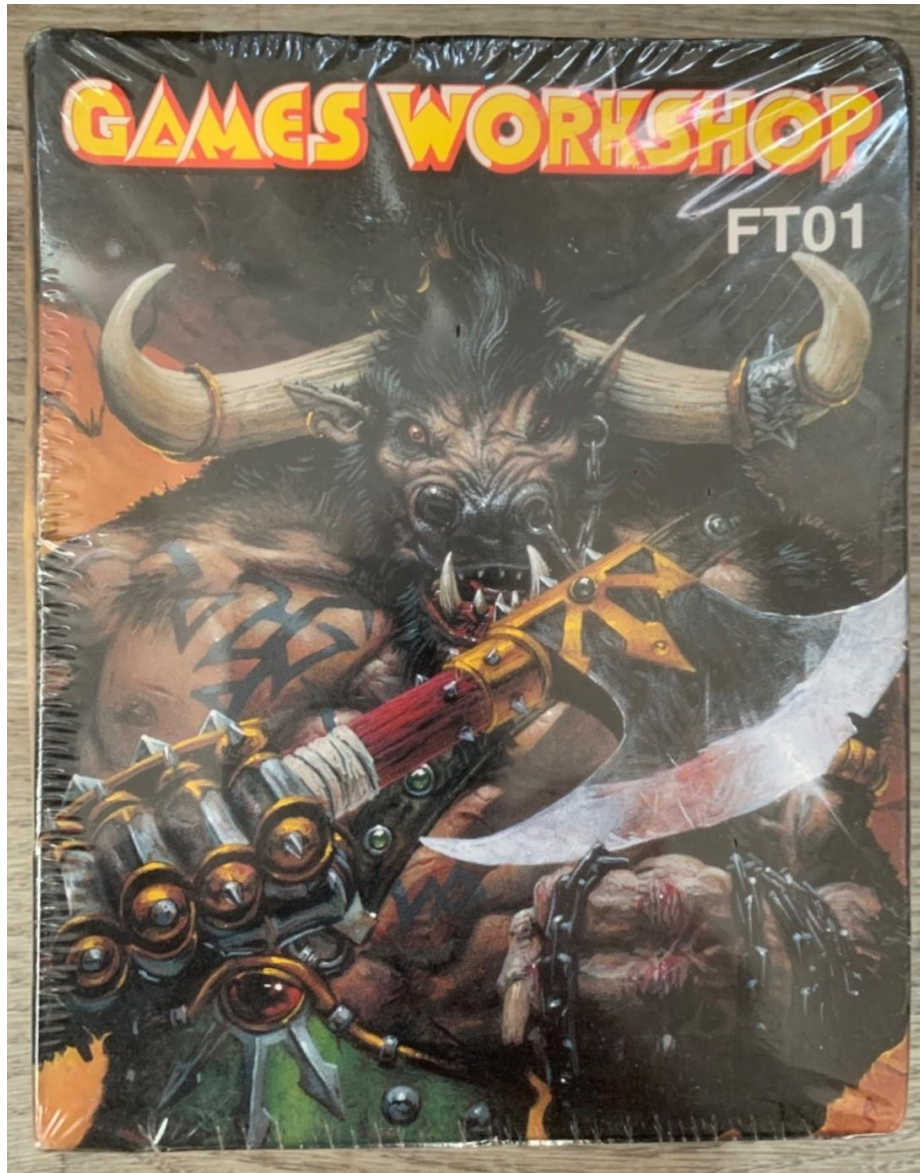
"I think we are going to need a bigger tower."

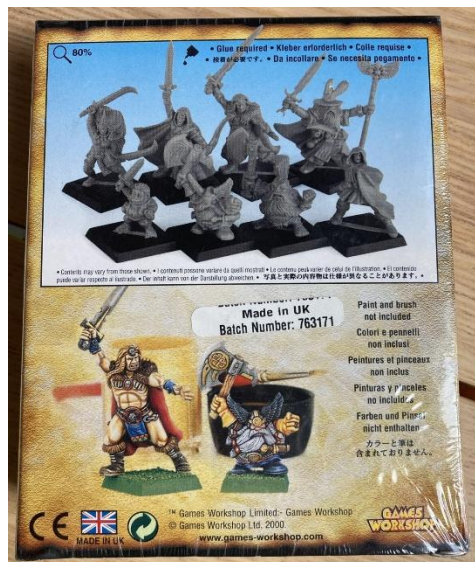
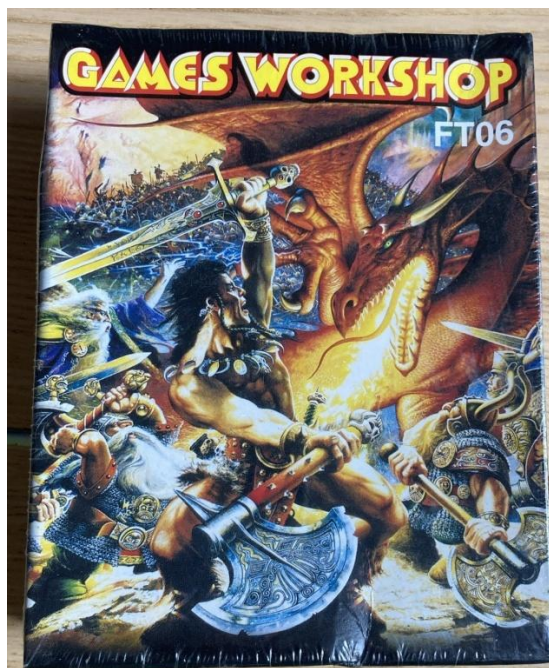


Mother and daughter.

### IT'S NOT A TOY!

Some fascinating component and product codes for the Games Workshop Toy Box series containing miniatures used in 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.







Product Code 99 12 02 99 009  
Component Code 99 28 0299 007



From Talisman Island:

*"The plastic Wood Elf Archer was a great miniature to use as he is from the same range of Warhammer boxed sets as the Black Orc, Chaos Beastman, Chaos Dwarf, Chaos Warrior and Skaven. Who knows? It is always possible that the figure was earmarked for the character from the start, but we'll probably never know!"*

More details here:

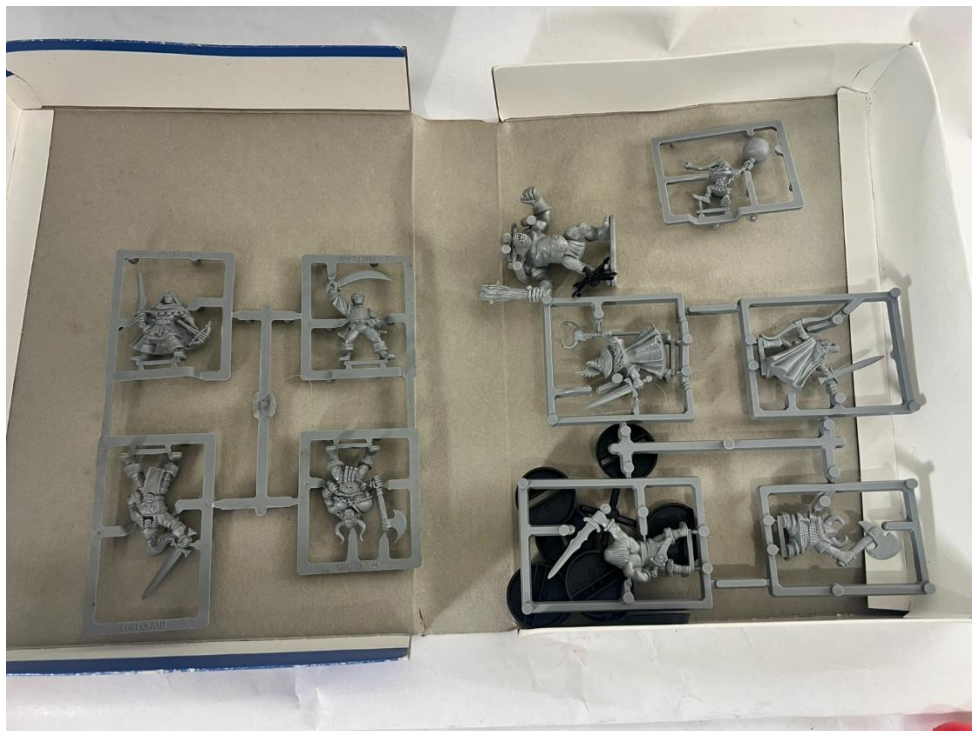
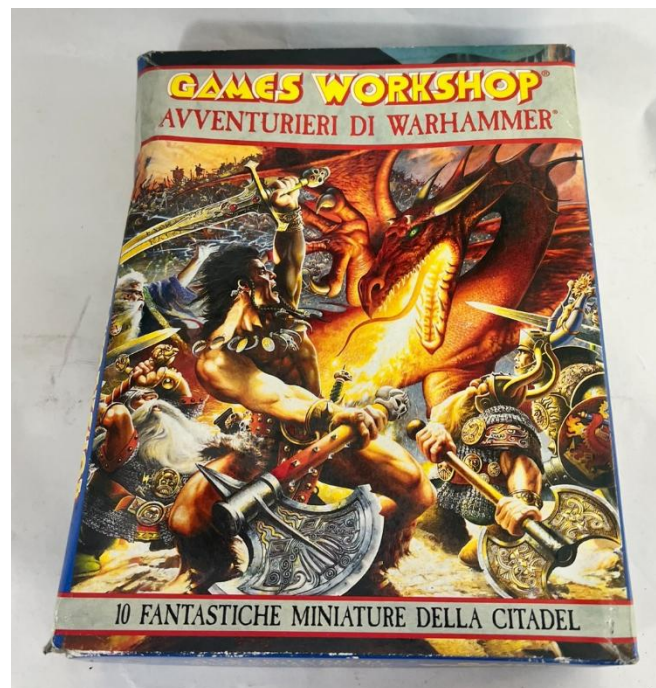
<https://www.talismanisland.com/miniatures/3rd-edition/unreleased-characters/>



**Product Code 99 12 02 99 010**  
**Component Code 99 28 02 99 008**  
**Interior shot of the sprue fixed up figures.**

Loyal readers: I appreciate there is a lot of exciting new information for your beautiful brains to take in, so why not pop out and make a cuppa, grab a biccys and come back for some more fascinating Toy Box filled wonder?

It was this interesting item that grabbed my attention and drew me under its hypnotic gaze back to the GW Toy Box range. Check out that box. Note how it folds open rather than just the standard flap arrangement: see above. Unique to the Italian version perhaps or did other foreign versions open in the same way?



Jon has a superb page all about these Toy Box sets on the Island. Why not set sail in the 'Demeter' and explore its distant shores here:

<https://www.talismanisland.com/miniatures/3rd-edition/gw-toy-box-range/>

(IT'S NOT A TOY)



## **5<sup>th</sup> Edition and the main event.**

On the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 a tattered, blood smeared piece of parchment was nailed onto the Talisman Island notice board proclaiming the arrival of a sinister opponent into the Talisman world.

New for 5<sup>th</sup> edition it was the terrifying ....

(Wait for it, wait for it) .....

cue sinister organ music,.....

the howling of wolves,

the screams in the night.... ..

**It's the .....**

# CLOWN OF WOOD

## SAGA

Expansion



Dan dan daaaaah!

"Psssst"

"What?"

"I don't think that's right"

"What do you mean it's not right"

"The clown thing. I thought it had vampires and stuff in."

"Perhaps they are Vampiric clowns"

"What made of wood?"

"Yeah"

"So what about the stake through the heart thing? Surely if they are made of wood...."

(OH! FOR GOODNESS SAKE IT'S **'THE CROWN OF BLOOD EXPANSION'**. Just get on with it so we can all go home - Ed)

"Is the crown made of wood?"

(You've been warned - Ed)



For our loyal British readers this expansion will not be available in the UK until next year which is really bizarre. As a Goth and huge Talisman fan since the 1980's I had to have this expansion so I paid the exorbitant postage and bought a copy from Australia. Along with Jon New, the Talisman Tavern boys, GlenOneN, Lord Zodz and Paul Grogan there are probably only five or six copies in the UK to the best of my knowledge. Why Avalon Hill decided to delay shipment to the very country where most of Stoker's book is set is beyond me.

Anyway, why not visit the Talisman Tavern for a swift half before heading up to the spooky castle on the hill that all the locals tell you NOT to visit. But what do they know.

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheTalismanTavern>



The family so far. Box serial number of my Australian import copy is V-3712A 60171.

It will be interesting when it arrives in the UK to see if there any differences in the codes.

Unlike clowns, Vampires are not new to the Talisman world having featured in earlier editions stretching back through the ages of time.



Figures from left to right for those interested in the creatures of the night:

R4th Edition, Vampire Hunter (boo hiss), Blood Moon Expansion

R4th Edition, Vampiress, Highland Expansion

3rd Edition. Additional character from the Dragon's Tower article White Dwarf No.185 May 1995.

Figure release in White Dwarf No. 183, March 1995.)

1st/2nd Edition home brew NPC. Citadel, C18 Night Horror range, Vampire attacking.

1st/2nd Edition home brew. Delany King Spell Toads. Vampyre Toad.

3rd Edition. Alternative 3rd Edition card/miniature from the Games Trade Magazine (March 2003) using the really nice Mordheim vampire with cloak spread.

R4th Edition home brew NPC. Reaper Dark Heaven Legends, Vampire, Rafael Maladoni and victim, sku:02136.

At the back:

R4th Edition Vampires Tower. SpareOom Studio 3d print. (Leavon who runs the site has a whole range of lovely 3d print scenery for R4th edition.)

2nd Edition Vampire card. Artwork by Aly Morrison



Details of the cards and where they are from, from top to bottom:

**1st Edition** none

**2nd Edition**

Vampire and Vampire Bats in the Adventure expansion

Home brew 2nd Edition. This adventure card came in a set I got off e-bay called Msys and Magic. No idea who did it or why.

My own Vampyress 2nd Edition card. I have the Reaper miniature Monique Denoir to match the artwork.

**3rd Edition**

Two characters. The first from the Dragon's Tower article in White Dwarf No. 185, May 1995. Vampire figure release White Dwarf No. 183, March 1995.

The second was as an alternative 3rd Edition card/minature from the Games Trade Magazine (March 2003) using the really nice Mordheim vampire.

Vampire Lord Dragon's Tower card.

**4th Edition** none

**R4th Edition.**

**Blood Moon Expansion**

One character. Vampire Hunter.

Four adventure cards. Two Wooden Stakes (hisss), Vampire Prince, Vampiric Thirst and Vampire Bats.

**Highland Expansion**

One character. Vampyress

**Dungeon Expansion**

Three Vampire Bats, (what did you expect in a dungeon?) One Vampire Prince.

**Dragons Expansion**

Grilipus's Vampiric Dragon

**The Nether Realms Expansion**

Vampire Prince (He does get about a bit)

**The Deep Realms Expansion**

Vampire bats.

There is also a digital only Character Vampire for Talisman Classic.



The four new miniatures in the expansion. Yeah, yeah more minis I hear you moan but what about the really interesting stuff. Are there any markings or serial numbers?

Well, all have rather fascinating information on their bases. L-R:

Van Helsing #G2805

Fanged Toad #G2805

Mina Harker #G2805

Dracula #G2805 but this is where it gets cheeky. He has an additional number on his base in white 60161. Ooooh.

"Which one drives the honk, honk car with the wobbly wheels and collapsing doors?"  
(WHAT? -Ed)



A rather spooky shot of the miniatures photographed in front of a mirror. But where's Drac?



The fact that I cannot  
explode into a thousand  
bats to escape awkward  
social situations is a  
constant source of  
irritation.



Change the words 'awkward social situations' to 'poor dice rolls and crap card draws' and we could have a new Talisman T-shirt there.



We had a fantastic couple of games both against Dracula and playing him which were really intense.

"Clowns work in tents."

"Yeah, circus tents."

"And perhaps they've got Holy Water in their squirty flowers."

"Yeah, and they could kill the circus by going for the juggler."

(RIGHT that's it I'm ending this right now. -ED)

Rats. As I have to go, the review of the game and more photos can be found on Board Game Geek

<https://boardgamegeek.com/thread/3735838/post-game-review>

### One last thing

Much to the chagrin of UK Talisman fans there was not a trace of Talisman at the Birmingham Expo in May. However, the American Gen Con did get a little promo Toad which the overseas procuring department from T.T. is at this very moment looking at purchasing.





**Note the additional white code number similar to Drac's**



Interesting about the 'Toad 1' number on the base of the mini with three, yes three, different serial numbers. Oh my word!

The white 61101 number is the same style as the 60161 number on Drac's base.

I checked the other Toads from the expansions to see if they were numbered.

The Unicorn Toad is just shown as 'Toad 1' #G1505

The Minotoad is just shown as Minotoad with no serial number.

Fanged Toad is 'Fanged Toad 1' #G2805

Now a word from our sponsors:



"You put the stake in Drac and put the freshness back ..  
...put the stake in Drac and put the freshness back"



Count Toadula. He's the one to cause you serious coughin' by putting a frog in your throat.  
(That doesn't make sense. Toads and frogs are different-Ed)

Well, as the sun claws its way over the horizon (And the Editor sharpens his stake) I must away.  
I hope you've enjoyed this consecrated, earth filled edition of the TalismanAnorak.  
Stay up to date with all things Talismanniny on Jon New's Talisman Island

<https://www.talismanisland.com/>

And for all your Talisman themed merch why not browse this little haunted shop:

<https://www.talismanrealm.com/collections/all-talisman-merchandise>  
(Can we have a Crown of Blood T-Shirt please?)



Count Sockula and Nosferatooe, the perfect footwear for playing the Clown of Wood expansion.

So, fangs for supporting this publication (I know, I know but I couldn't resist it) sleep tight, pleasant dreams, may your God bless you were ever you are, be nice to each other and remember Vampires are not real .... unless you count Dracula.

