

SMURF COLLECTORS' CLUB

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NEWSLETTER 7

WINTER 1987

Dear Smurf Collectors,:

We hope everyone has had a wonderful Holiday! We wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

I suppose it is time we let you all in on the very busy and frantic happenings of the last few months.

First of all, let us explain that it is a time-consuming and often very frustrating task for us to accomplish all that we would like for our membership. Three months between Newsletters seem like an eternity but that amount of time is needed for questions and answers to "fly" to and from Europe.

The following is information we have been able to obtain thus far, on a few of the eight 1987 pieces announced in our last Newsletter.

Upon receipt of our first sets of these new Smurfs, we were informed that "PEYO" (Pierre Culliford, himself!) had NOT APPROVED the colors on some of these first-production pieces and that changes would be made. So, what do we do now?

Maybe we are sticklers for details but, in studying these new Smurfs, we noticed a number of MAJOR and minor technical inaccuracies that disturbed us. We took the "Bull By The Horns" and immediately wrote to "PEYO" informing him of our views, objections, etc.

"Peyo's" answer to our first letter was completely UNSATISFACTORY!!!

"Thank you for your kind letter and the interest you show in my Smurf characters."

"I am glad to advise you that, further to reading your courier, the requisite steps have been taken to ensure that the company Schleich GmbH makes the necessary rectifications to these Smurf figurines."

The following are the answers we received to our SECOND letter to "PEYO!"



"PEYO'S" LETTERHEAD: CHARMING

OUR OBJECTION: Sasnette's hair color on the cartoon character is ORANGE, but the figurine has been produced with bright RED hair and then BROWNISH-RED hair. She also should not have freckles on her face, yet the figurine does have freckles!

SASSETTE

ACTION POSES



SASSETTE AS CREATED BY
"PEYO" FOR:

© HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Peyo's Answer: "As far as Sassette is concerned we are glad to advise you that, according to the model in our possession, she does have some freckles (black ones for technical reasons) on her face. However, her hair is reddish-brown and we are contacting Schleich GmbH in order that this be modified."

Of course, this leaves us still in doubt: Will her hair be RED, BROWNISH RED, or will they finally make her hair ORANGE as in the cartoon? STAYED TUNED!

OUR OBJECTION: Nat's hat is completely wrong! I know that the technicians at Schleich can produce a better hat for Nat. The hats on their History Series pieces; Abe Lincoln, George Washington etc., are very creative. Also; Nat is ALWAYS Barefoot (no shoes). This can be done as a few pieces have already been made with no shoes. Example: "Jungle Smurf" and some Super Figurines such as "Hammock Smurf."



SCHLEICH FIGURINE



NATURAL
ACTION POSES

NATURAL AS
CREATED BY "PEYO"
© HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Peyo's Answer: "We would inform you that Schleich came up with quite a lot of technical problems when creating Nat's hat and this will remain unchanged. He is shown wearing shoes since this seemed more adequate for all seasons."

This answer is our biggest disappointment!! In our view, this Figurine varies too much from the cartoon character "PEYO" created! The reason for Nat's shoes also strikes us as downright SILLY!!!!

OUR OBJECTION: Puppy's ears on the cartoon are both different colors. Also, his body appears to be greyish and not brown as the Figurine. "Puppy's ears are, in fact, wrong and will be modified accordingly."

OUR QUESTION: This remains to be seen! We'll keep you posted! Table Tennis has appeared with a WINE colored shirt and then a GREEN colored shirt. I enjoy collecting different color variations. Will this Figurine be made with more different color shirts?

Peyo's Answer: "Indeed the Table Tennis Smurf is going to be made with a shirt of a different colour - it will now be a yellow one - after which no further modifications are foreseen."

OUR QUESTION: Again, this remains to be seen!!! Slouchy should have a button on the side of each of his shoes. Why wasn't the Figurine made to show this?



SLOUCHY AS CREATED BY
"PEYO" FOR:

© HANNA-BARBERA PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Peyo's Answer: "You are quite right in stating that Slouchy should have a button on the side of his shoes but, on making this item, we realized that one was given the impression that they were running shoes so we preferred to omit this detail."

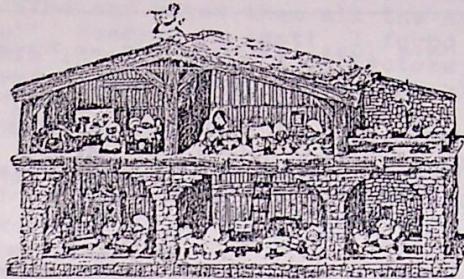
SPECIAL NOTE: ANYONE WISHING TO OBTAIN VAFIATIONS OF THESE PIECES SHOULD PLEASE SEND REQUESTS, WITH A S.A.S.E. TO THE CLUB.

OUR QUESTION: Will the Smurf Train ever be produced?

Peyo's Answer: "Happily, it is quite feasible that the Smurf Train will be put on the market. The project is under discussion at present."

We will stay on top of this situation! We do not know who will produce this item as, it was going to be marketed by Schleich, but made by another manufacturer originally.

When we received notification on "THE HOME," Featured below, we had our doubts as to whether or not it would be a SMURF item, or an all purpose playset for all of Schleich's Figurines. "Peyo" was not aware of it, so I guess it is not smurfy after all. Schleich has informed us that this item will not be produced so it doesn't matter anymore.



FROM THE EDITORS DESK

We would like to thank member Paul R. from In. for his lovely piece of artwork featured on the front page. More about this talented young gentleman in our next Newsletter.

We will also feature, in our next issue, some very special stories and articles about our junior members (under 17 yrs.). Do we have your story? Deadline is February 5th.

Congratulations to Mary Elizabeth B. on becoming Dr. Mary Elizabeth B.!!!!!! GOOD LUCK AND BEST WISHES FROM US ALL!!!!

Our thanks to all members who have submitted magazine articles and news clippings about Smurfs and "Peyo". Please keep them coming! We have even received a French publication with some great photos of "Peyo" and the West German warehouse. Something to keep our translator busy! All those interested in receiving a portfolio of articles and photos (Photocopies) should write and let us know.

Another 1987 endeavor was to obtain publicity for the 30th Birthday of the creation of the Smurfs. We were very pleased with the results. See a copy of our news release as it appeared in numerous Collectors' Publications over the past year. This article has caught the eye of many avid Smurf Collectors as well as new Smurf collectors. We are also being recognized by more and more publications and Syndicated Collectible Columnists.

We hope to fill your albums with Smurf articles in the months and years to come. Enjoy!

Seanne

MYSTERY SMURF!!!!!!

Cast your eyes upon this Christmas ornament Figurine with cord. "BELL RINGER" is its name. It appeared just once in an older Schleich catalog and never again has it been seen! Where is it? What happened to it? The picture shown is not a sketch; it is a photograph of an actual manufactured piece!

Our sources tell us: "As for the Christmas Smurf holding the Bell, this Figurine has never been produced because of Technical problems."

These are the things that keep us on our toes here at the Club. If ONE was manufactured for the photo, more HAZ to have been made! Where are they? It's maddening to know that someone, somewhere, must have the ornament! If any Club members have one they had better place their treasure in a safe deposit box or change their address!

Does anyone admit to owning this piece? If so, verification for our records would be deeply appreciated!!



--"BELL RINGER"
PHOTO OF ACTUAL
SMURF FIGURINE!



THIS IS HOW
IT WOULD APPEAR
IF IT WAS NOT
MANUFACTURED.
A SKETCH!

Ooops! WE GOOFED!! SO SORRY!!

We have just learned that we have been inverting the W? marking!!!!!!

IT SHOULD BE:



Schleich informs us: "This is an abbreviation for the German word Muster (meaning sample). All pieces with this marking remain in our archives. They are on our first sample, approved by our quality control."

Well, some managed to escape as we know from those of us who own pieces with this marking!

AUCTION BLOCK RESULTS

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Item # 169 Baker | \$35.00 | Item # 176 Policeman | \$45.00 |
| Item # 170 Baker | \$45.00 | Item # 177 C.B. Operator | \$10.00 |
| Item # 171 Jungle | \$30.00 | Item # 178 Bricklayer | \$40.00 |
| Item # 172 Secretary | \$13.00 | Item # 179 Baby w Blocks | \$18.00 |
| Item # 173 Super Blackboard | \$40.00 | Item # 180 Violin | \$ 8.00 |
| Item # 174 Graduate | \$25.00 | Item # 181 Soccer on Stand No Bid | |
| Item # 175 Haymaker | \$22.50 | Item # 182 " " " " " | |

ALL MEMBERS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING THIS QUARTERS AUCTION BLOCK LISTING, PLEASE
SEND A S.A.S.E., WITH YOUR REQUEST, TO THE CLUB. IT'S THE BEST YET!!!!

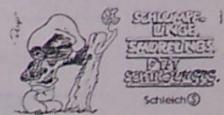
BUY - SELL-TRADE

AD #

63 FOR SALE- For the Advertising and or Paper Collector. Item Below measures 16 by 2", German Market only. In Full color. Great item! Very limited supply.



64 For Sale- Advertising Sticker for the New Smurflings, German Market ONLY. Measures 4 3/4 by 2 1/4". Limited Supply



65 For Sale- Portfolio of Smurf Sketches (Animation Drawings) from the Hanna Barbera Studios.

66 For Sale- Full Color Book and Stereo Cassette of "The Smurf Eating Bird" by Starland Music, License by Peyo 1983

67 WANTED - 1983 Smurfette Calendar with pages of Stickers in the back. Mint Condition only.

HOW TO ANSWER AN AD...REPLY TO THE AD NUMBER AND SEND TO THE CLUB WITH A S.A.S.E.
HOW TO SUBMIT AN AD...SEND AD TO THE CLUB AND IT WILL BE PUBLISHED A.S.A.P.

COLLECTORS COMMENTS

"Do you know that a Smurf Park will open in France in 1989? I assume they will sell a lot of Smurf items. I will, of course, go there in 1989."

Mrs. U. of W. Germany

GREAT IDEA!!! WE COULD HAVE OUR FIRST SMURF CLUB CONVENTION IN FRANCE!!!!!!
ARE YOU INTERESTED? Write to us with your thoughts!

September 1987

London was "abso-smurfly" terrific! Spent the 1st week searching through all the flea markets and antique shops hoping to find a gold mine. Nary a Smurf in sight. I was depressed and disappointed. But undaunted, I didn't give up. Went to Brighton (sea-coast town) during the end of the first week and things "brightened" up (no pun intended)! In a toy store there, I got two Smurf Jeeps (blue and pink) made by a company named Burago. They are new (1984) but it was the first Smurfy thing I saw and I was ecstatic. Later that day I came upon Smurf Fudge. Yum-real creamy fudge in the shape of Smurfs. Doubt that I'll ever eat any of it-but a neat item for my collection.

Upon our return to London in our 2nd week, I got hold of the Yellow Pages and called every toy store I could find and asked them all the same proverbial question- "Do you carry any Smurf items?" Success at last! I found 4 stuffies including a 16" Smurf by Chad Valley. This is definitely a collectors item and by the looks of it this Smurf was well loved. Super Smurf variations all in German boxes. French lucite key chains, Italian "puffi" in little metal cases. About 150 2" figurines all made in W. Germany and different from the U.S. (Hong Kong) productions. So I really made out terrifically. I even found the Discovery Smurfs series (History) made in Macau. My original set was made in Hong Kong.

The variations in color and some design elements are very striking and as I am becoming increasingly aware - they are endless.

I didn't get to Paris on this trip as I had intended to do because after getting there I found out I needed a visa. The lines were too long to wait on to get one processed so I'll have to save Paris for my next sojourn.

MY TRIP WAS AN AMAZING SUCCESS!

Nicholas U. from N.J..

KINGS ISLAND, OHIO

HANNA-Barbera LAND

August 1987

The Smurfs are not played up at Kings Island any more or anyless than the rest of the Hanna Barbera Characters. As you can see in one of the pictures, we saw Papa Smurf that hugged my boys while we took a picture. That's the only "LIVE" smurf we saw the whole day.

When my sister went last year, she won a lot of Smurf figures and key chains at the skee ball pavillon, but none were left this year.

In several of the shops that sold toys, we could find just a very few Smurf figurines none of which we needed. Most available are keychains-American Smurfs and again nothing we could use.

The store in Hanna-Barbera Land has one section of Smurf related items. Stuffed Smurfs, T Shirts, all kinds of school items (paper clips, erasers, pens, pencils, rulers, tape dispensers, pencil sharpeners.) From the way the salesgirl spoke, the Smurf items are gradually being depleted and not too many new items are coming in.

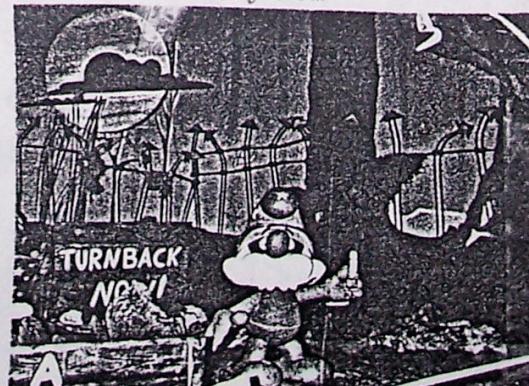
Most of the pictures are taken on the "smurf Enc hanted Voyage" Ride. You sit in boats and ride through while "Smurfy Music" plays. There are individual scenes of Smurfs, Gargamel and Azrael. At the end of the ride is a Christmas Scene. There is Santa Smurf in his sleigh and in the sky above blue birds pulling the sleigh.

They have Smurf Goodies available at the "Smurf Goodies" snack counter. Cotton candy (blue of course) and Smurf Ice Cream (also blue).

We truly enjoyed our day! The main street at the entrance is nothing but shops and pretty water fountains in the center. At closing of the Park there is a 5 minute show of fireworks every night.



A Smurfy Mom



OUR VISIT TO NEW YORK AND THE SMURF COLLECTORS' CLUB
HEADQUARTERS

August 1987

In late August our family took a trip to New York City, to visit friends and family. While there we decided to try to see "The Smurf Lady", as my kids affectionately call her. We called Suzanne from a little fish market, for directions to her house. After passing through city streets, asking more directions at 2 gas stations, and going to the wrong "church on the corner", we found her! The kids thought it was exciting, not knowing the area, they remarked, it was like a treasure hunt!

When we arrived at Suzanne's house we truly did find a treasure. It was wonderful to see that the Smurf Collectors' Club was being run by a warm, caring and dedicated lady. Her smiling face at the door made us all feel welcome. The kids still laugh at her first remark, "You see kids, I'm not BLUE, I'm just like you!" It was a great ice breaker for the kids. They felt relaxed and at home. I have four children, but only three marched into her home. My little one is a toddler.

The collection Suzanne has is so unbelievable! The variations are endless. I saw a lot of items that I have in my collection, but ten times more that I don't! She had items I never knew existed, because I had never seen them or heard about them in our Newsletters. When Suzanne says, "We are only getting started" it is an understatement.

Wouldn't it be great if we ALL contributed information on the hundreds of different items ever made of the Smurfs, and put the pictures and descriptions together in a book or catalog? I'm sure there are many collectors, like myself, that haven't seen or heard of a lot of different Smurf items, and would love this information. I'm sure, that with the entire memberships help, Suzanne would take on this challenge. Let's all help!!! Write our Club with information and or requests.

The Club office is clean, well organized and has a computer which helps keep everything in Apple Pie order. With all the beautiful Smurfy things around the office, anyone would be happy to work there.

Our visit had to come to an end, which made the kids sad. All the way to Jersey, to visit an uncle, the kids talked about Suzanne, the Club and all the Smurf items they had seen.

The next day we went on a shopping spree in the Bronx. Our goal was to find a pair of rainbow Converse sneakers for Tanya, my oldest girl. We didn't find the sneakers, but I DID find some Smurfy items, that I had just seen at the Club for the first time. Needless to say, I spent the money for the sneakers on the Smurfs! Tanya didn't mind, as a matter of fact, she was tempting me to pull out my charge card and really go on a Smurfy shopping spree.

The following day we were on our way home. There wasn't a dull moment for 8 hours. We talked about our visit, our shopping trip, the sights and even our future trips to New York. Visiting the Smurf Collectors' Club was the HIGHLIGHT of our trip.

Thanks Suzanne for the Club and the wonderful work you do for all of us!

G. Smith, VA.

The following is from Tanya, Mrs. Smith's daughter.

I enjoyed my visit with you. I liked your huge collection of Smurfs. I went crazy over your 1" Bully's. Your variety of Soccer Smurfs on the platforms, with the different uniforms.

I thank you dearly for showing us your spectacular collection of Smurfs!

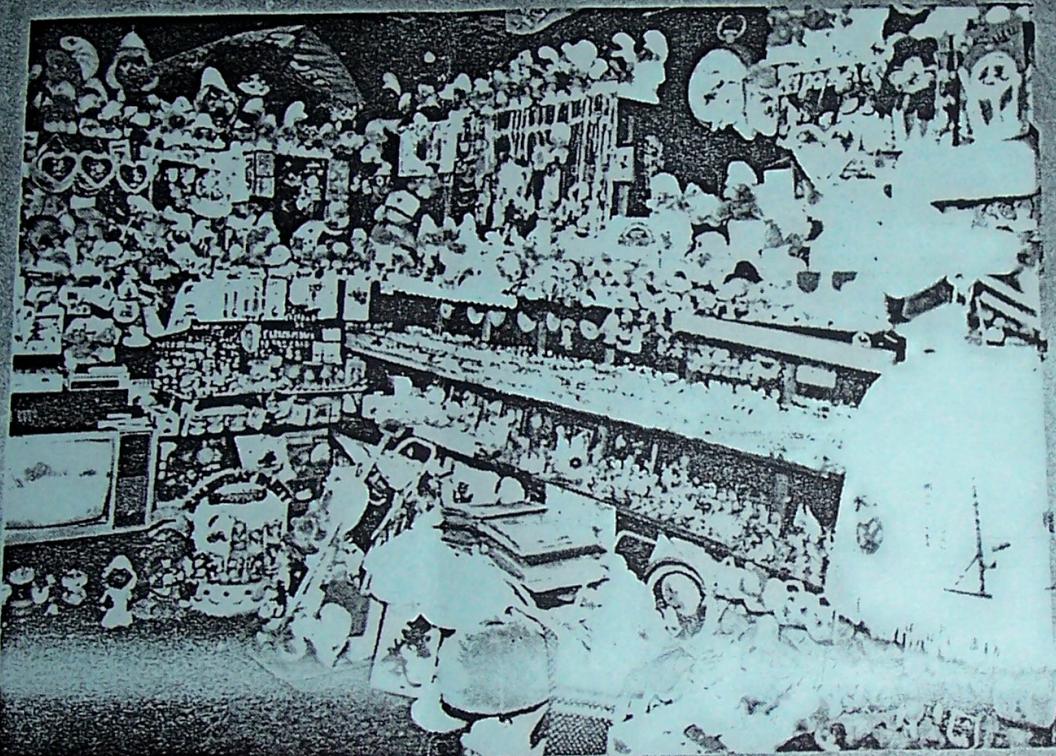
Your newest Smurf fan,
Tanya

TO ALL SMURF COLLECTORS' CLUB MEMBERS:

VISITING NEW YORK? GIVE US A CALL! OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN!

Smurf Collectors' Club

Smurfs Happy 30th Birthday 1957-1987



Once upon a time, not so long ago, in Brussels, Belgium there lived a kind cartoonist, PIERRE "PEYO" CULLIFORD. He so loved the world and all of its people, he conceived an idea for a fairytale. It had 100 new characters looking somewhat like people, only more cuddly, three apples high and blue in color.

Now all PEYO (his chosen name) needed for his wonderful little blue people was a name people could identify them with. He gave this a lot of thought but couldn't come up with anything that fit. Then one night at the dinner table he happened to ask his father to pass the salt and pepper, calling them "SCHTROMPF" a French colloquialism meaning "watchamacallit." In Dutch this translates to SMURF.

And so, quite by accident LES SCHTROUMPGS/THE SMURFS were born. They first saw the light of print throughout Europe in 1957 as a comic strip in the pages of the comic weekly Spirou under the title of JOHAN ET PIRLOUIT. PEYO's first creation begun in 1947, which PEYO had brought to Spirou in 1954.

From this strip evolved his most enduring creation LES SCHTROUMPS/THE SMURFS. It soon became the main staple of Spirou and reached unheard of heights of popularity internationally by way of 25 best selling books and toys throughout Europe.

PEYO has won honors for his creations with several cartooning awards.

continued from previous page

PEYO found an audience among adults as well as children. "In Europe I know doctors and lawyers who have come home exhausted and picked up one of my books and were totally relaxed. It's a form of recreation."

The World of Smurfs is, indeed, worldwide! Smurfs, as we know them in the English-speaking countries, answer to many other names: Schtroumpf in Belgium and France; Puffi in Italy; Pitufos in Spain; Sumafu in Japan; Smolf in Denmark & Norway; Schlumpf in West Germany; Smurfen in Holland; and Ha-dar-door-seamn' in Israel.

In 1965, Schleich (a West German firm), started marketing delightful "Cartoon Character Collectibles" in the form of 2" figurines. These Smurf figurines are a great favorite among collectors who thrive on the challenge of eventually assembling a complete set. Such a set would consist of hundreds of pieces. In addition, fascinating variations were made, many of which are very RARE and considered "Gold" by the serious collector. Serious Smurf collectors have it all: Destroyed molds, discontinued markings, and even some one-of-a-kind paint variations. All figurines are hand painted; human errors are often found on pieces.

Of course, The World of Smurfs also offers the collector a full range of highly diverse items: Absolutely everything from Animation Art to Posters, Postcards and Zipper pulls. Smurf Memorabilia from the 50s and 60s are highly sought after.

In 1986 collectors united with the formation of the Smurf Collectors' Club. (200 members) Some of the members have traveled all over Europe to collect Smurf Memorabilia. There is even someone who dreams of someday opening a Smurf Museum. He owns Memorabilia in every language mentioned above. His collection numbers in the hundreds of thousands, everything and anything pertaining to Smurfs.

For more information please contact Mrs. Suzanne Lipschitz, Founder of the Smurf Collectors Club, 24 Cabot Road West, Massapequa, New York 11758.

continued to next page

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THANK YOU TO TERESA C.
FROM PA. FOR CALLING
THIS PUBLICATION TO OUR
ATTENTION!

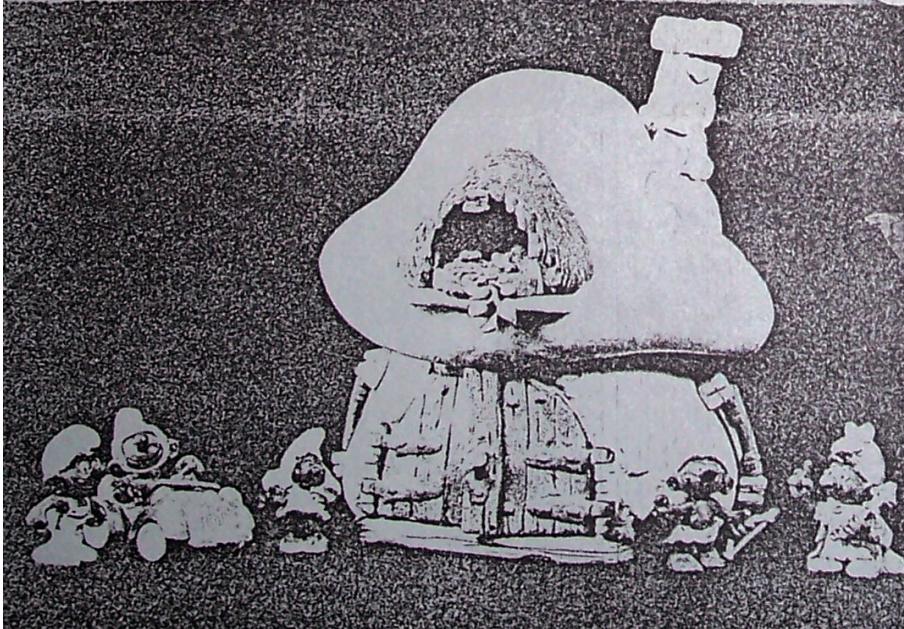
COLLECTING PLASTIC TOYS

If you want to explore a new area of toy collecting, plastics may be the field you're looking for. Manufacturers have produced thousands of plastic toys since 1940. These include such popular toys as the *Star Wars* figures and the Smurfs. You may wonder why you should consider collecting toys made so recently. During the past 50 years, collectors have learned that toys that are popular when new are popular when old. This is especially true of toys based on movie, television or cartoon characters. *Star Wars* toys and Smurfs are good investments.



William C. Ketchum Jr.

Ketchum, William C., Jr. *Toys & Games*. Washington, D.C.: The Smithsonian Institution, 1981.



Soft plastic Smurf figures, made in Germany, 1965 to the present. The figures are 2 inches to 3 inches high. The buildings are 4 inches to 6 inches high. You can buy new Smurfs for about \$2 to \$3 apiece. Buildings and other accessories sell for \$5 to \$15. Smurfs are already being collected. The value of discontinued figures is increasing.



Smurfs are among the most popular collectibles around today. Some of the earliest models like the ones above are already drawing high prices. Those pictured here are valued at \$20 to \$30 each.