



MARCEL VAN DEN BOS OWNS WORLDS LARGEST MITSUBISHI MINIATURES COLLECTION

MITSUBISHI MINIATURE MUSEUM OPENS IN BORNE, THE NETHERLANDS

You're ten years old, your father buys a new car, a Mitsubishi, from Garage Bennie Wilmink, and collecting is a genetic disease... That's what happened to Marcel van den Bos. Afterwards he is very glad that his father bought a car of this make, because this is a make in which you can keep the overview. Many other makes have multiple models and that makes collecting more troublesome.

In his childhood Marcel accompanies his father very often to the garage and waiting in the reception he can't resist admiring the miniatures that are in there. From time to time the result is that he may take one of the miniatures home. And that's the beginning... At the bookstore you buy a car magazine, you discover clubs of collectors of miniatures and one day you read that in Houten, the Netherlands, there are regularly enormous fairs of car miniatures.

Global interest

You contact other collectors. The internet appears, the contact with other collectors becomes global. And then an Australian collector of Mitsubishi leaflets, with whom you're in contact, knows a Japanese Mitsubishi fan and brings you in contact with him. With this Japanese man Marcel still has regular contact. One of the things on top of his wish list is to visit him in Japan.

Especially these global contacts make collecting very attractive. In the Far East Mitsubishi sells other models than in Europe, and so other miniatures are sold there as well. Over the internet he tries to buy these miniatures as well and to add them to his collection. In this way other countries like Korea, China and Japan also attract his attention. All of Japan has his interest. And not only the Japanese culture, his garden is laid out as a Japanese garden, and when the architect designed the museum one

of the conditions was that the exterior of the museum was in harmony with the Japanese garden. And that has been achieved!



A real collector always knows things you don't! Marcel explains to me how Mitsubishi got his name and logo. "The logo represents three diamonds. The Mitsubishi concern was founded by three rich industrial Japanese families which started cooperating. In the Japanese language mitsu means three and bishi means diamonds" the proud collector tells me. Besides the miniatures Marcel also collects leaflets, catalogues, newspaper articles and other publications concerning Mitsubishi. Unfortunately he is not able to expose all these things as well. "I regretted that the bigger part of my collection was packed in boxes and that's how the idea of a museum was generated."

There can even be more

The whole collection contains exactly 4.807 miniatures at this moment. Approximately 4.000 of them are in the museum, the rest did not fit in... In another room there are a number of display cases with all kinds of Mitsubishi merchandise: for example caps, water bottles, erasers, stickers, glasses and much other stuff. "A real collector never has enough", thus Marcel, "so, if someone has something from Mitsubishi somewhere: don't throw it away but contact me at: vandenbosmarcel@gmail.com". In the presence of invited guests the museum will be opened the 19th of January. An appointment for a visit can be made through the mail address above. (©HvR)