



DINOSAUR COLLECTIBLES

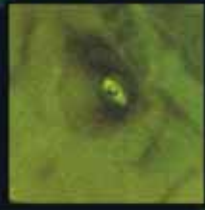


BY DANA CAIN
& MIKE FREDERICKS



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TYCO

DINO-RIDERS

Dino-Riders are the survivors of a devastated planet in a galaxy far from our own. Using S.T.E.P., a time travel device, these human-appearing survivors escape not only their planet, but also their time, and arrive on Earth during the age of the dinosaurs. They befriend the prehistoric animals of ancient Earth and study them in an attempt to prevent the dinosaurs' extinction. When their evil enemies, the grotesque Rulons—humanoids with insect and reptile heads—follow them to Earth, the Dino-Riders harness the power of the dinosaurs to help them in battle. The Rulons also enlist the aid of the dinosaurs, but they enslave them, shackling them with “brain boxes” that force them to cooperate and do the Rulons' bidding.

Two subjects that interest the young and old alike are (1) dinosaurs and (2) outer-space aliens. In 1987, Tyco Industries combined these two arenas to develop a beautifully crafted series of figures and accessories called “Dino-Riders.”

Delays and rising expenses stalled the line's shipping until 1988, but it was worth the wait, as the Dino-Riders toy series quickly became a popular line.

The successful series continued to grow until 1990. During those three years of production, Tyco introduced many scientifically accurate prehistoric animal replicas with moveable limbs and fully accessorized body armor. While

many of the more commonly known prehistoric animals and dinosaurs were included in the Dino-Riders' line, still new creatures, never before seen as toys, were created as well. Alongside the familiar T-Rex and Stegosaurus, Tyco also offered the much less known Torosaurus, Placerias, Kentrosaurus, Edmontonia, and Pachyrhinosaurus.

There were twenty-three different prehistoric reptiles in the series, plus four species of prehistoric mammals in the Ice Age series. Rarest of all the figures are the Pachyrhinosaurus and Chasmosaurus, which were the last figures to be



The Dino-Riders line later introduced Ice Age animals.

released. Also, the flying Quetzalcoatlus was completely repainted in a polka-dot camouflage that is a very rare variation of the original. These three figures came out near the end of the line's run and saw very limited distribution—they were primarily offered in the southeastern United States.

Largest of the figures are the huge Brontosaurus, motorized walking T-Rex and Triceratops, and non-motorized Diplodocus, Stegosaurus, and Torosaurus. The remaining figures are generally much smaller. Most attractive of all are some of these smaller dinosaurs, like the Struthiomimus, Protoceratops, Saurolophus, and Pachycephalosaurus. All of these figures were sold in boxed sets, complete with human or alien figures, battle weapons, armor, traps and equipment, instructions for assembly, and a small comic book containing dinosaur adventures. All of the figures had moveable arms and legs.

The popularity of the Dino-Riders toy line led to the creation of a Saturday morning cartoon show. Producer Jay Garfunkel created the show out of his love for dinosaurs. Garfunkel brought in Paul Kirchner as art director and designer. Popular author and dinosaur enthusiast Don Glut told us that he was a writer for the cartoon series, working with story editor Larry Parr. Glut said that they wrote standard characters and plots into scripts for each episode.

"It was very easy to write," Glut recalls, "And I could often write a complete episode in a day. We intentionally showed the toy products a lot in the cartoon. We would have the characters do outrageous things like having the Pachycephalosaurus bang its head against a rock to cause an earthquake."

Famous dinosaur expert and artist William Stout was on the payroll as an advisor for the TV show. He told us, "It was the classic situation. The producers always want a voice of authority for kids' shows—someone they can point to as an expert, giving the show validity. I got the job, but soon discovered it was a token position. I got credit for the show, but really didn't have much to do with what was used. I re-drew a few sheets they submitted, and I would suggest things like, 'This animal can't do what you are suggesting, but here's one that can.' They always thanked me and seemed to be taking my advice, but in the end, they never changed a thing."

Paleontologist Robert Bakker was an advisor for the Dino-Riders toy line. He left, however, after he told Tyco that designs for toys such as the



The Dino-Riders, Tyco's unique toy line, featured dinosaurs and space aliens.

Pachycephalosaurus and Stegosaurus were scientifically inaccurate, and was informed that no changes would be made.

"The Dino-Riders were the best action dinosaurs ever made," says Dr. Bakker. "Tyco used some really good artists. A couple of favorites of mine were the Pachycephalosaurus and Struthiomimus. The line was aimed at kids, but many of my adult colleagues would want to swipe some of the toys I kept in my office. I designed the Stegosaurus, and everyone liked it, except one marketing/publicity guy. He wanted to change the spikes to a massive size, bow out the legs, give it too many plates on its back—basically make it appear as Stegosaurus appeared back in old movies in the 1920s. I couldn't have my name associated with this design, and soon left the project."

Tyco also produced three video tapes for kids to enjoy, documenting the adventures of the Dino-Riders in the prehistoric era. The third adventure depicts the Dino-Riders and the Rulons doing battle in Earth's Ice Age, when the Dino-Riders accept the help of Neanderthal and Cro-Magnon humans, Woolly Mammoths, extinct wart hogs, ground sloths, and saber-toothed cats. Toys representing these animals, sold in 1990, were very well done, showing how the figures actually improved as the line progressed.

The first series of dinosaurs included Diplodocus, Deinonychus, Quetzalcoatlus, Styracosaurus, and a Pterodactyl. Each included a figure or two to ride each beast. The evil Rulons were packaged with the mighty T-Rex, Triceratops, another Deinonychus (the same figure as the one packaged with the Dino-



An evil Rulon riding a T-Rex fitted with a "brain box" battles the heroic Dino-Riders on the cover of this toy box.

Riders), Pteranodon, Monoclonius, and Ankylosaurus. Each dinosaur wore an array of removable armor plating and laser cannons or other weapons. Three of the Rulons' dinosaurs included traps to help catch and stop the Dino-Riders from escaping. One, two, or three Rulons were included with each dinosaur, depending on the size of the dinosaur. The T-Rex and Triceratops were battery-operated for motorized walking. Tyco seriously considered making the dinosaurs talk—both in the cartoon series and the toy line—but decided to stick with scientifically accurate animals.

The Dino-Rider and Rulon humanoid figures were also sold in carded two-packs, separate from their fighting dinosaurs. There were eight first-series and eight more second-series cards produced, with two figures on each. There were also six Dino-Rider Commandos released. Each card held one of these figures, plus fighting accessories.

The line was an immediate success, so more dinosaurs with figures were produced. The second series included a huge Brontosaurus that carried a squadron of flying Rhamphorhynchus bombers. Also in the second series were Torosaurus, Edmontonia, Stegosaurus, Pachycephalosaurus, Struthiomimus, Dimetrodon, and Protoceratops for the Dino-Riders. Added to the Rulon arsenal were a Saurolophus, Kentrosaurus, and Placerias.

A third and final series was started with the aforementioned Chasmosaurus, Pachyrhinosaurus, and revamped Quetzalcoatlus. The line's popularity had lost steam by this point, and no more pieces

were added. Few people wanted or even had the opportunity to buy these last three figures, and they are very desirable with collectors today. It was also about this time that the four prehistoric mammals were issued, plus six cards of Ice Age cavemen and aliens.

All of the Dino-Riders prehistoric animals have been carefully sculpted and usually utilized the latest scientific data of the day. Each was cast in hard plastic with some parts made of a softer vinyl. The air-brushed paint jobs on the toys were superb. Some of the video tapes sold in toy stores included a green, hard plastic, hollow T-Rex straddling the tape box. Marvel published a short-lived Dino-Rider comic book series. Fans could join the Dino-Riders Club by mailing in three Dino-Riders points (proof-of-purchase seals) and \$3.50. Members received sixteen Dino-Riders collector's cards, a membership card, an iron-on emblem, and the official newsletter.

Even after the Dino-Riders series was gone, some of the identical prehistoric animal figures were re-released by Tyco for the Smithsonian Institution Collection Series and their comic-book-based "Cadillacs and Dinosaurs" line of toys. Not all of the dinosaurs were re-issued making those that were not potentially more collectible.

Merging dinosaurs and space aliens into a toy line worked well for Tyco for a time. The Dino-Rider toys were attractive, museum-quality pieces. While geared for children and rough play, they are also collectibles for all ages that will be desirable for years to come.

—Riff Smith and Mike Fredericks

DINO-RIDERS VALUE GUIDE

Ankylosaurus with Sting, first series, 1988 (fig. D-1)	\$20-30
Brontosaurus with Ion, Serena, and Ayce, second series (figs. D-2 and D-3)	60-75
Chasmosaurus with Lava, third series, 1990 (figs. D-4 and D-5)	80-120
Deinonychus (fig. D-6) with Rulon, dinotrap, first series, 1988	25-35
Deinonychus with Sky, first series, 1988	20-30
Diplodocus (fig. D-7) with Questar, Mind-Zel, and	



Fig. D-1: Ankylosaurus



Fig. D-4: Chasmosaurus



Fig. D-2: Brontosaurus with box



Fig. D-5: Rare Chasmosaurus mint in box



Fig. D-3: Brontosaurus with Dino-Riders and battle accessories



Fig. D-6: Deinonychus



Fig. D-7: Diplodocus



Fig. D-9: Edmontonia



Fig. D-8: Dimetrodon



Fig. D-10: Edmontonia with Axis box



Fig. D-11: Giant Ground Sloth



Fig. D-12: Kentrosaurus



Fig. D-13: Killer Wart Hog



Fig. D-14: Monoclonius



Fig. D-15: Pachyrhinosaurus

Aries, first series, 1988	35-45
Dimetrodon (fig. D-8) with Shado, second series	\$20-30
Edmontonia (fig. D-9) with Axis, second series (fig. D-10)	25-35
Giant Ground Sloth (fig. D-11) with Ulk, Neanderthal Caveman, Ice Age Series, 1990	50-100
Kentrosaurus (fig. D-12) with Krok, second series	25-35
Killer Wart Hog (fig. D-13) with Zar, Cro-Magnon Caveman, Ice Age Series, 1990	50-100
Monoclonius (fig. D-14) with Mako, Rulon, first series, 1988	20-30
Pachyrhinosaurus (fig. D-15) with Atlas, third series, 1990	80-120
Pachycephalosaurus (fig. D-16) with Togg,	



Fig. D-16: Pachycephalosaurus



Fig. D-17: Placerias



Fig. D-18: Protoceratops



Fig. D-19: Pteranodon



Fig. D-20: Pterodactyl

second series	25-35
Placerias (fig. D-17) with Skate,	
second series	\$25-35
Protoceratops (fig. D-18) with Kanon,	
second series	20-25
Pteranodon (fig. D-19) with Rasp, Rulon,	
first series, 1988	20-25
Pterodactyl (fig. D-20) with Llahd,	
first series, 1988	20-30
Quetzalcoatlus (fig. D-21) with Youngstar,	
first series, 1988	20-30
Quetzalcoatlus (polka-dot version) (fig. D-22) with	
Algar third series, 1990	80-120
Saber-Tooth Tiger (fig. D-23) with Kub,	
Cro-Magnon Caveman, Ice Age Series,	
1990	50-100
Saurolophus (fig. D-24) with Lokus,	
second series	25-35
Stegosaurus (fig. D-25) with Vega and Tark, second	



Fig. D-21: Quetzalcoatlus



Fig. D-22: Quetzalcoatlus, polka-dot version



Fig. D-23: Saber-Tooth Tiger



Fig. D-24: Saurolophus



Fig. D-25: Stegosaurus



Fig. D-26: Struthiomimus



Fig. D-29: Triceratops



Fig. D-27: Styracosaurus



Fig. D-30: Triceratops in box



Fig. D-28: Torosaurus

series	25-35
Struthiomimus (fig. D-26) with Nimbus, second series	\$25-35
Styracosaurus (fig. D-27) with Turret, first series, 1988	25-35
Torosaurus (fig. D-28) with Gunner and Magnus, second series	30-35
Triceratops (figs. D-29 and D-30) with Hammerhead and Sidewinder, first series, 1988	40-55
Tyrannosaurus Rex with Krulos, Bitor, and Cobrus, first series, 1988 (fig. D-31)	60-80
Woolly Mammoth (fig. D-32) with Grom, Neanderthal Caveman, Ice Age Series, 1990	50-100



Fig. D-31: Tyrannosaurus Rex



Fig. D-32: Woolly Mammoth



Figs. D-33 to D-36: Cavemen figures

*Dino-Riders: Human and Alien Figures
(figs. D-33 to D-36)*

Astra, Commando Series, carded, Tyco . . .	\$7-12
Bomba, Commando Series, carded, Tyco . . .	7-12
Faze, Commando Series, carded, Tyco	7-12
Glyde, Commando Series, carded, Tyco	7-12
Kameelian, Commando Series, carded, Tyco	7-12
Rok, Commando Series, carded, Tyco	7-12
Boldar & Termite, 2" figures, Series One, Tyco	10-15
Mercury & Fang, 2" figures, Series One, Tyco	10-15
Mind-Zel & Fire, 2" figures, Series One, Tyco	10-15
Nova & Demon, 2" figures, Series One, Tyco	10-15
Orion & Six-Gill, 2" figures, Series One, Tyco	10-15
Proto & Rattler, 2" figures, Series One, Tyco	10-15
Quark & Finn, 2" figures, Series One, Tyco	10-15
Questar & Krulos, 2" figures, Series One, Tyco	10-15
Graft & Kraw, 2" figures, Series Two, Tyco . .	12-15
Hondo & Drone, 2" figures, Series Two, Tyco	12-15
Mind-Zel & Sludj, 2" figures, Series Two, Tyco	12-15
Neutrino & Poxx, 2" figures, Series Two, Tyco	12-15
Serena & Skwirmy, 2" figures, Series Two, Tyco	12-15
Ursus & Snarrl, 2" figures, Series Two, Tyco	12-15
Youngstar & Dedeye, 2" figures, Series Two, Tyco	12-15
Agga & Gill, Ice Age two-pack, Tyco	12-18
Ecco & Squish, Ice Age two-pack, Tyco	12-18
Onk & Buzz, Ice Age two-pack, Tyco	12-18
Tor & Gorr, Ice Age two-pack, Tyco	12-18
Urg & Rayy, Ice Age two-pack, Tyco	12-18
Wizz & Gitz, Ice Age two-pack, Tyco	12-18

Other Dino-Rider Collectibles

Comic books, Dino-Riders, issues 1-3, Marvel Comics, 1989, each	\$1-2
Lunch kit, Dino-Riders, plastic, Aladdin, 1988	10-15
Membership kit, Dino Riders Club, 1989 . . .	20-30
Video tapes, 1980s-1990s, each	10-15
Video tape premium, T-Rex, hollow dark green hard plastic, shrink-wrapped to tape	5-10