## Review: LEGO® Minifigure Year by Year: A Visual History

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Images by Dorling Kindersley™ Limited

**LEGO®** Minifigure Year by Year: A Visual History

By Daniel Lipkowitz

Dorling Kindersley™ Limited

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In this section we normally write our opinion about some books we receive to be reviewed. But this time I am going to explain how I collaborated in the amazing book published last October by Dorling Kindersley (DK) about the small inhabitants of the LEGO world.

To start off I should say that I was not in direct contact with DK. This experience could be explained by anybody because it all started by a thread posted at brickset.com. DK was asking for fans to collaborate with a book about minifigures. Since the minifig is my favourite part of LEGO, and I have minifigures from my childhood until the present day, I decided to write a mail to the address that was published, offering my minifigs if needed

When I had already forgotten about the book I received a mail from Helen Murray with a spreadsheet attached, and the request to provide as many minifigs as possible from the list, excluding the ones they had from other fans or from LEGO.

I checked the list and I saw a lot of minifigs I could provide. It took me around 2 weeks to collect them all and send them to UK. It was a race for me, because my collection is spread over 4 different locations. I had to spend tens of hours at my parent's house, the family holiday house, a warehouse and my own flat, searching for the minifigs.

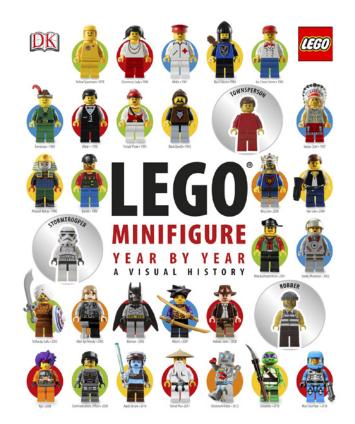
I like some special themes that are not usually liked by most of the AFOLs, i.e. LEGO Sports. That's why I could provide most of the minifigs of those themes. Moreover, I also have some veyy special minifigs in my collection, like the promotional minifigs of the LEGO Fan Weekend in Skaerbaek, or the commemorative minifigs of DeBouwsteen.

Once I had all the minifigs I could find (around 150 of them) I packed them all individually and each one was labelled with the Bricklink code, year and my name. Following instructions from DK, I sent an insured parcel by courier and the minifigs went to DK headquarters to be photographed.

After more than one month without any news, I received a new mail saying that my minifigs were being shipped back to Barcelona. Once I received them, I was asked to fill in a form and DK paid the expenses of the initial shipment.

During 5 months, no more news came from DK. They were working on editing the book. But one day in September, a couple of weeks before the official launch, I received an unexpected parcel. When I opened it, I found the book "LEGO® Minifigure Year by Year. A Visual History" and I quickly started to read it. It didn't take me a lot of time to start to find some of my minifigs. It was a strange sensation. I had read a lot of books about LEGO and, for first time, it was not only a book but also a part of my life inside it. I felt really proud to have collaborated with DK and, while reading, I was saying myself "Here it is one of my babies, here another...".

DK did a presentation of the book in London and some celebrities were invited. To commemorate this event, DK produced a very limited edition of the book at minifig scale. Some days later all the people who collaborated with the book received a copy of this amazing goody by way of a thank you for our collaboration. My copy is #042 and it is one of the biggest treasures of my collection, more for its meaning than for its exclusivity.





The book starts with an explanation about the design of the minifigs, and a timeline explaining all the changes and additions along the years. After that, there are 5 main sections: Minifigs of the 70's, 80's, 90's. 2000's and 2010's. Of course, each section is bigger compared to the previous ones, just because of the increase of minifigs and themes over the years. Between those sections, there are some 2-page special sections where some facts of the minifigs are highlighted, like exclusive minifigs, the evolution of the facial expressions, and many others. The quality of the pictures is really high and most of the minifigs were photographed, instead of using rendered images. All the minifigs have a small description and some

of them also feature facts, discovering some of the secrets behind them.

Of course I recommend you to get the book and read it. Not only because a number of fans have collaborated in it, but also because you can read and explore the history of these "minimen" that steal our hearts.

Acknowledgements: Dorling Kindersley Ltd.

