

CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

STAN & OLLIE

Hong Kong, China, 20th cent.

Moulded synthetic material

H 17, 4 x L 10 x W 7 cm / H 17, 5 x C 5 x W 4, 5 cm

MAHR2015634 / MAHR2015635

These two dolls flesh out the most famous comic pair in the whole cinema history – *Laurel & Hardy* or *Stan & Ollie* – a pair watched and adored everywhere in the world since more than 80 years ago and who became known in Portugal as *Bucha e Estica*.

Although already established in the seventh art, the pair became official in 1927, when they featured the silent short *film Putting Pants on Philip*. They featured more than a hundred of comedies, a sort of movie very popular in the years 20 to 40, known as “slapstick” in the anglophile world and as *pastelão* in Portugal, full of mischiefs, exploring the easy laughter and dubious taste and involving sometimes a certain amount of physical violence. In total, they have appeared together in 106 films: 40 short sound, 32 short silent and 23 full – length; in the remaining eleven, they had just short participations. Their last movie was *Atoll K* (Utopia), in 1951.

Often pointed out as “people artists”, Stan Laurel and Olivier Hardy were much more than laugh stimulators and they were revaluated for their historical acknowledgement. In their most *sui generis* style, with their dreamer side and their physical and clumsy humour, at the end, somehow, they became tragic figures. Curiously , in 2018, it was launched a biographic movie directed by Jon S. Baird, featuring Steve Coogan and John C. Reilly as Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, about the pair digression through Great Britain in 1953, when they tried to bring their careers back under the spotlights, in a world still shaken by the effects of World War II.

These already rare rubber toys that belong to the MAH's Toys and Games collection, sound when squeezed and present in the back the brand “Larry Harmon Pictures Corp.”, the company that, since 1958, acts in the world brands development area, characters representation and merchandising, as in the case of Bozo, the world most famous clown . This company has acquired the Stan & Ollie representation rights more than 40 years ago.