



New Simpsons • Real Ghostbusters Price Update • WWF



# Tomart's<sup>®</sup> **ACTION FIGURE** DIGEST

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Announcements



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**Real-Ghostbusters  
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## In This Issue...

...AFD presents a price guide feature on The Real Ghostbusters and the story behind the unusual name. Why was it not just Ghostbusters like the film? Find out on page 32. Unproduced figures and a version of the Egon lab playset are being shown for the first time. Readers will also get their first look at the never produced 1988 Gary Larson's The Far Side toyline.

Stan Winston's new series is being shown for the first time along with the new collectible line of Dragon ball figures, Simpsons and the Scooby Doo line that is featured on this month's cover.

The Attack on America is affecting all our lines. AFD examines the initial impact on the toy industry, which was conducting a Pre-Toy Fair 2002 showing at the Toy Center at the time of the attack. See Action News Briefs for details.

Next Issue: AFD launches Figure of the Year Voting. New lines to be shown include the first WWF full body Real Scan series, which ties in with AFD's WWF price guide update feature. The surprise toy line which will be featured in this issue was created as movie props. Get all the details next month.

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## Price Update

The Real

Ghostbusters action-figure line was based on the

1986 "The Real Ghostbusters" animated TV series, which resulted from the 1984 hit Columbia film simply titled Ghostbusters. The main ghostbusting-team characters in the film were played by Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd, Harold Ramis, and Ernie Hudson. The appearance of animated characters and toys were influenced by the film actors. Later

and ghosts are the most valuable, but the whole line has been showing some interesting strength on the Internet and other secondary markets in recent months.

The story on how the series was named is full of interesting twists and turns. The Ghost Busters was originally a live-action Saturday morning TV program for kids, starring character actors Forrest Tucker and Larry Storch, plus Bob Burns in the gorilla suit. The characters were named Spencer, Tracy, and Kong. Younger readers may not recognize the humor. Spencer Tracy was a famous leading man of many films; King Kong was the most famous movie ape.

two additional characters — Winston Zeddemore and Janine Melnitz — were added. First-series characters

The twist was Kong in The Ghost Busters was played by Tucker...the gorilla was called Tracy.

The program was produced by Filmation and aired for two complete seasons starting September 6, 1975 on the CBS network. Fifteen episodes were produced in a breakneck nine-week taping schedule, and ran on a rotating basis...Saturday mornings in '75 and Sundays in '76.

Even though the show continued to grow in popularity, no new episodes were created. Not much thought was given to the property until news began to circulate regarding a script Dan Aykroyd was writing for Columbia Pictures, which was based in part on the 1940 Bob Hope film Ghostbreakers. Due to a legal conflict the name Ghostbreakers had to be changed to Ghostbusters. The executives at Filmation noted the familiar ring

## The Original Four...



RE1001



RE1002



and decided to convert the old live-action idea into an animated series called *The Ghost Busters*. Columbia objected and filed a lawsuit to prevent Filimation from using the name. There was a counter-suit, and the court ruled in Filimation's favor. In return for a handsome payoff, Filimation used its name in front of the title for the Saturday morning TV series, and gave clearance for the film's title to remain as planned. For licensing, however, Columbia was required to use "The Real Ghostbusters" identification on authorized products, including a second animated series.

The Filimation Ghostbusters characters were the "children" of those in the live-action series to prevent any royalty problems. The figures were produced by Schaper in 1986, so one would guess none of the major toy companies wanted to risk offending Columbia Pictures.

Tracy the Ape was the only original character carried over (no royalties required on an ape suit). The figures were extremely well done and a small comic was initially included with each figure. The Ghost Buggy was the standout accessory. It was an incredible transforming car which could become several different surface and "flying" vehicles.

The Kenner toys seemed to go a direction all their own. The snappy purple packaging was a kid magnet for nearly five years. The heroes were done many times over the years. They talked and glowed and were slimed. Ghosts transformed from those seen in the movie — Stay Puff Marshmallow Man and Slimer — to kid-tickling Kenner concoctions such as "Sludge Bucket" and the "Fearsome Flush."

The line represented some of Kenner's most inventive work. The

Haunted Humans series demonstrated some of the first quick-transforming actions seen in figures. The Power Pack Heroes line was one of the first to use oversize mechanized backpacks to provide extra hours of play action.

The line was an international success. Many foreign figure and vehicle packages were closed out in the U.S. as the line began to run its course in other countries. In the end, it was Playmates' Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles which finally did the line in. When Kenner closed the line, there was still a reduced number of items ready for production. There were more figures and Egon's Laboratory. Actually, Tomart has uncovered two different versions of Egon's lab. Both are presented here for our readers. Nothing on either of our source photographs indicates which might have been the final version.



RE1003



RE1004

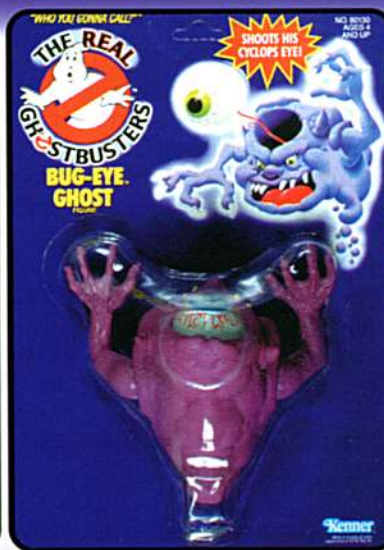




RE1005



RE1006



RE1011



RE1012



RE1013



RE1014



RE1021



RE1022



RE1016



RE1023

REAL GHOSTBUSTERS, THE (Kenner) 1986-90  
 RE1001 Peter Venkman  
 w/Grabber Ghost 12 30 65  
 RE1002 Ray Stantz  
 w/Wrapper Ghost 12 30 65  
 RE1003 Egon Spengler

RE1004 Winston  
 w/Chomper Ghost 12 30 65  
 RE1005 Stay-Puft  
 Marshmallow Man 10 25 60  
 RE1006 Green Ghost (Slimer)

RE1011 Bug-Eyed Ghost 10 20 40  
 RE1012 H2Ghost 10 20 40  
 RE1013 Bad to the Bone Ghost 10 20 40  
 RE1014 Squisher w/Ecto Plazm 10 18 25  
 RE1015 Banshee Bomber





RE1024



RE1025



RE1026



RE1031



RE1032



RE1033



RE1034



RE1035



RE1036



RE1041



RE1043



RE1051

RE1016	w/Ecto Plazm	6	12	20	RE1021	Peter w/Grotesome-Twosome Ghost	10	15	25	RE1025	Janine Melnitz w/Tickler Ghost	12	15	25
RE1017	w/Ecto Plazm	5	10	18	RE1022	Egon w/Soar Throat Ghost	10	15	25	RE1026	Slimer w/Proton Pack	20	40	70
RE1017	Ecto Plazm, 4 colors, w/ghost, ea	5	10	18	RE1023	Ray w/Jail Jan Ghost	10	15	25	RE1027	Stomach Stuff w/Brain Matter	6	12	18
Fright Features Ghostbusters RE1021-24														





RE1052



RE1053



RE1054



RE1055



RE1061



RE1062



RE1063



RE1064



RE1065



RE1066



RE1071



RE1072

Haunted Humans RE1031-36  
 RE1031 Mail Fraud 5 12 25  
 RE1032 Terror Trash 5 12 25  
 RE1033 Hard Hat Horror 5 12 25  
 RE1034 Tombstone Tackle 5 12 25  
 RE1035 X-Cop 5 12 25  
 RE1036 Granny Gross 5 12 25

RE1041 "Pull Speed Ahead"  
 ghost w/T-Stick Ghost 5 10 18  
 RE1042 "Green Ghost Gooper"  
 slimer w/Ecto-Plazm 12 25 40  
 RE1043 Boo-Zooka w/Boo-Lets 8 15 22  
 Super Fright Feature Heroes RE1051-05  
 RE1051 Egon Spengler

w/Slimey Spider 8 12 24  
 RE1052 Janine Melnitz 8 12 24  
 w/Boo Fish Ghost 8 12 24  
 RE1053 Peter Venkman 8 12 24  
 w/Snake Head 8 12 24  
 RE1054 Ray Stantz 8 12 24  
 w/Monster Mouth





RE1055	Winston Zeddemore w/Meanie Wienie	8	12	24	RE1064	Quasimodo	7	10	20	RE1072	Janine Melnitz w/Swinewhine	5	10	20
Classic Monsters RE1061-66					RE1065	Werewolf	7	10	20	RE1073	Peter Venkman w/Ghoulgroan	5	10	20
	RE1061	Dracula	7	10	20	RE1066	Zombie	7	10		20	RE1074	Ray Stantz w/Vermoan	5
RE1062	Frankenstein	7	10	20	Screaming Heroes RE1071-75					RE1075	Winston Zeddemore			
RE1063	Mummy	7	10	20		RE1071	Egon Spengler w/Squidsquale	5	10	20				





RE1101



RE1102



RE1103



RE1104



RE1105



RE1106



RE1111



RE1112



RE1113



RE1114



RE1115



RE1131

w/Houndhowl	5	10	20
Goblin Goblins RE1081-83			
RE1081 Nasty Neck	5	10	20
RE1082 Terrible Teeth	5	10	20
RE1083 Terror Tongue	5	10	20
RE1085 Fearsome Flush	5	10	20

Mini-Ghosts RE1091-95			
RE1091 Finger Pop Fiends	5	9	16
RE1092 Fright Feature Slimer	5	9	16
RE1093 Mini Goopers	5	9	16
RE1094 Mini Shooter	5	9	16
RE1095 Mini Traps	5	9	16

Power Pack Heroes RE1101-06			
RE1101 Egon Spengler w/Crazy Copter	5	9	18
RE1102 Janine Melnitz w/Racin' Wringer	5	9	18
RE1103 Louis Tully			









RE1300



RE1206



RE1212



RE1213



RE1208



RE1210



THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

"WHO YOU GONNA CALL?"



Now, those funny, intrepid heroes from the highest-grossing movie comedy of all time... Columbia Pictures' "Ghostbusters".... bring all the fun and excitement home, along with a wild assortment of ghosts, weapons and accessories.

These are the same characters kids everywhere will be watching on "The Real Ghostbusters" animated series, beginning Fall 1986 on ABC and being joined by 65 syndicated episodes in Fall 1987. So the toy excitement will really be supernatural! With exciting Action Figures, Ghosts, Goop, the ECTO-1™ ambulance, role-playing toys, even softgoods.

THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS. They're new. They're different. They're heroes so popular, it's... scary! and they're from Kenner.

# THE REAL GHOSTBUSTERS

Original two-page spread introducing The Real Ghostbusters toylines in the 1988 Kenner Toy Fair catalog.



RE1207

The Real Ghostbusters may have been Kenner's biggest line between Star Wars and Batman, but going into the '90s it was Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that would rule the action figure aisles. Very few of the new items for the 1991 line were produced. The Ecto-Glow Heroes saw very limited release, but the Backpack Heroes, Glow Copter the Fire Frighter and Egon's Lab playset didn't make production.



- INFLATABLE GOOPER GHOST -





# The Unproduced Figures

The Backpack Heroes features a mechanism that would allow captured ghosts to escape from the "containment unit" and grab the Ghostbuster!



Egon Spengler



Winston Zeddemore



Ray Stantz



Peter Venkman



The Glow Copter would have been released to coincide with the Ecto-Glow heroes. Notice the groovy glow-in-the-dark features?



Glow Copter



The Fire Frighter vehicle would feature a claw feature that would help capture those stray ghosts.

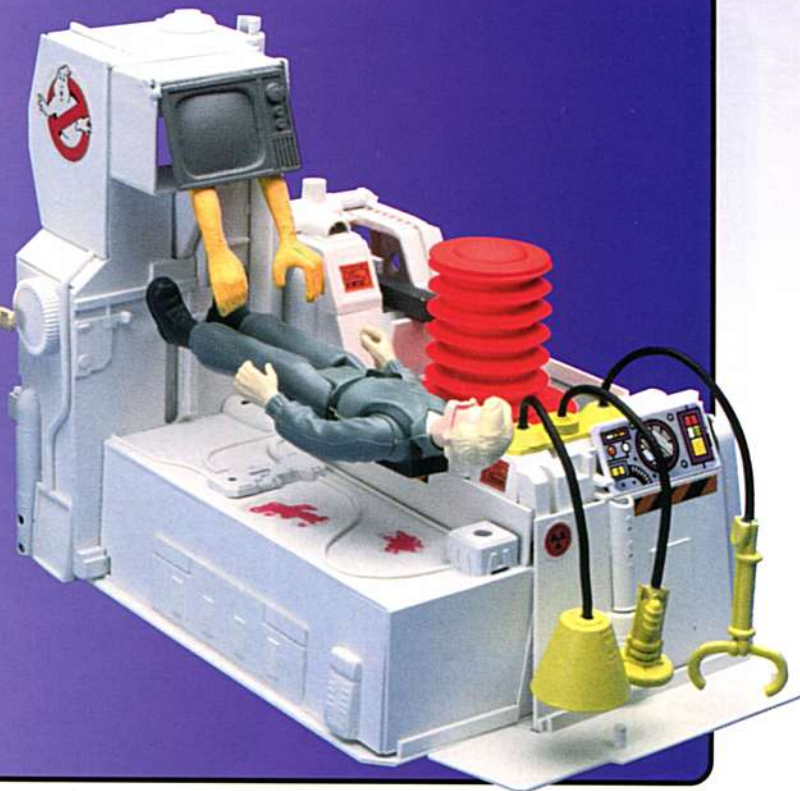


Fire Frighter Vehicle





Multiple versions of Egon's Lab are shown here. The playset went through several revisions before it was finally canceled. The photo shown in the box above is the shot taken from of the 1991 Kenner Toy Fair catalog. The feature of having a ghost reach down and grab the Ghostbuster seems to be the only concept that remained thru all versions.



Jordan Hembrough of Hollywood Heroes represents the artists and/or owners of some of the unproduced materials shown in this article. Contact him by e-mail at [hheroes007@aol.com](mailto:hheroes007@aol.com) or write to Hollywood Heroes, 82 Fairview Avenue, Suite 5, Westwood, NJ 07675 for more information and available materials.