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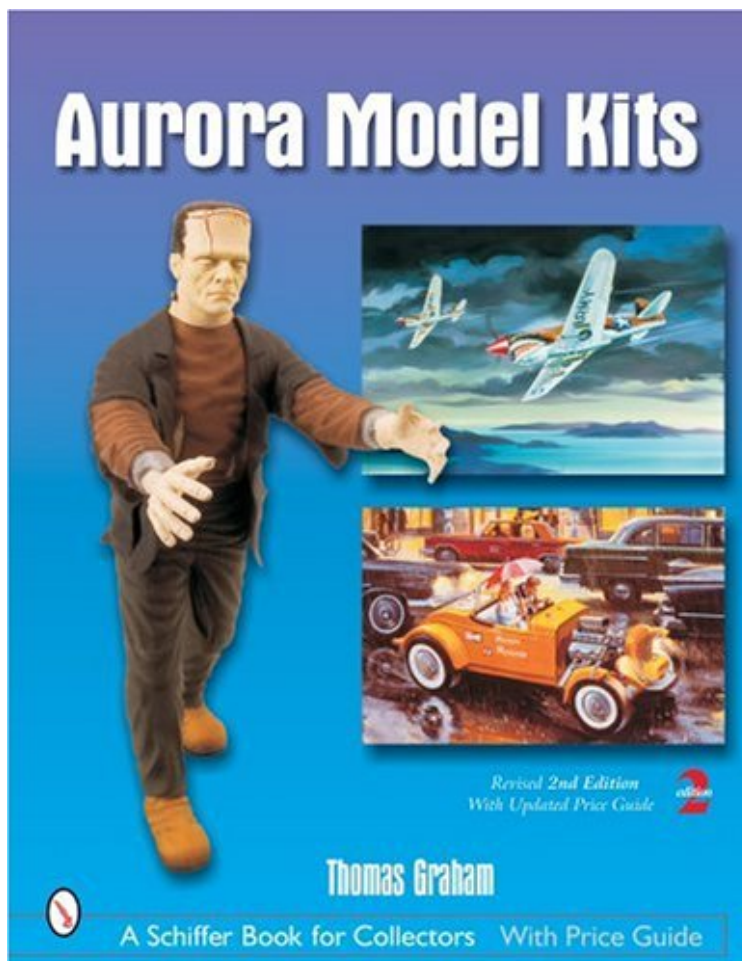
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Thomas Graham

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Thomas Graham : Aurora Model Kits (Schiffer Book for Collectors) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aurora Model Kits (Schiffer Book for Collectors):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Read on Aurora ModelsBy Bomb Man58Like his other books detailing the histories of the Monogram and Revell kit companies, author Thomas Graham has put together an extremely well documented history of the Aurora model kit company; with its humble beginnings in a garage in Brooklyn, through to one of the foremost kit companies that pioneered the figure kit craze, this book contains a nostalgic history of the Aurora company and its unique line of model kits. In a similar fashion to his other works, the author traces the history of the company from its outset and details the various players and their work that went into Aurora, making it a very competitive and unique model kit company. Like most other kit companies of the 1950's, 60's and 1970's, the company sought to focus on cheap, simple kits that boys could build and then come back for another one when their pocket money reserves were built up again. Similarly to the other companies, Aurora branched out, from model aircraft to ships; armour; rockets and hot rods and classic cars. It was almost by accident it then branched

out into the figure kit market and it was here that Aurora is possibly best remembered for its various kits on subjects such as Knights, animals and television's monsters. Subjects such as Dracula, Frankenstein, the Hunchback and so forth set Aurora on a path to explore kit subjects that not many other companies were doing. This led on to other TV series classics like the Munsters, the Addams family and the Marvel superheroes. The author describes Aurora's climb from a small company to one of the foremost figure kit companies with precise detail and sources as, like his other works, he has left no stone unturned in his research, interviewing former employees and using archival material and photographs. Following a similar line from his other works, this book is also rich in photos of all the old kits that were released by the company. Amazingly this company had a very brief lifespan-it was only in existence for twenty-seven years. I enjoyed this book immensely, as with his other works the author has brought back the memories of young boys of the Baby Boomer years who were preoccupied with kit building of some sort and who (in many cases) never really grew out of the craze. The book is filled with photos of the various kits, the box art of the company's products and contains a section at the rear listing all the kits produced by the company and a ready reckoner price listing of what these kits are worth, in good condition and still boxed. In summary and excellent reference on both the history of the Aurora model kit company and its products as well as a time capsule of one of the premier model kit companies of the 1950's through to the 1970's. Rich in detail, reference material and data, this book is ideal for the kit buff, or simply someone who once sat down in those bygone days and stuck a few models together and displayed them around their room. Well done, Thomas Graham and thanks for the memories!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.
Aurora Model Co. History
By DS4U
For those of us who built and enjoyed Aurora models as kids and for those of us still building and now collecting these wonderful old models, this book is indispensable. Simply put, it is one of the best, if not the only, history of this great model company among the first to use injection-molded plastics and copper molds. The prose is warm, affectionate, and, though sometimes chronologically challenged, interestingly presented. The section in the back is a listing of all the models that Aurora made and some that were prototyped but never went into production (with 100's of color photos of boxes and completed model) as well as all of the models that were re-issued (and by whom) to pick up the slack after Aurora's demise in 1977. Again, as the models are grouped by subject (airplanes, cars, figures, animals, etc.) it is a bit of a challenge to understand the order (chronology) of the models as they went into production, however, that said, this is a must-have for any true collector.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Super fun historical reference and reminder of their many kits ...
By Kenneth L.

Horwege
Super fun historical reference and reminder of their many kits that I assembled, and even painted (I was apparently the only one of my model-building compatriots who did) while growing up in the early 50s and 60s. I still have many of the completed projects in my collection!! Their demise, rebirth, and association with Monogram and Revell also is interesting reading. The little factoid that Mort Kunstler, the noted Civil War artist once painted some of their package art was especially intriguing.

Aurora's plastic models of classic Hollywood movie monsters are enduring pop culture standards. Kids and adults around the world recognize Frankenstein, Dracula, the Wolf Man, and the Mummy. Although monsters are Aurora's most famous products, the company created model kits of all varieties, including historic sailing ships, sports cars, moon rockets, military and commercial aircraft, TV stars, comic book heroes, wildlife scenes, knights, and much more, all included in this book. Over 450 color photographs enhance this comprehensive history and guide to Aurora models. The Aurora empire was once the world's largest producer of hobby products. Here, corporation executives, sculptors, artists, and engineers who created Aurora's models tell the story in their own words. Every model Aurora made is described in detail, with information on reissues and current collectors market values. Collectors maintain a brisk trade in vintage Aurora plastic, and new companies continue to reissue some of Aurora's timeless kits.

About the Author
Tom Graham has written extensively on the hobby industry and is the author of Remembering Revell Model Kits and Aurora Slot Cars, both from Schiffer Books. He also is a frequent contributor to Fine Scale Modeler Magazine. A Florida native, he teaches history at Flagler College in St. Augustine.