

Farewell Woolworths – you were well worth it

Stanley Holloway was trying to describe in the monologue.

During the war my youngest uncle (aged about 9 at the time) was apprehended in Woolworths in Northampton trying to steal an atlas. He didn't like his evacuation billet and wanted a map for his plan to run away and find his way back to Bethnal Green.

My earliest specific memory of Woolworths is of my father buying me a Airfix model making kits of Joan of Arc and Henry VIII. He later added Richard the Lionheart and Edward the Black Prince which I spent happy hours arranging in mock minibattles. Joan and Richard usually won.



Woolworths became a solidly working class shop. Unlike the stigma attached to the relatively recent arrivals the "Poundshops" Woolworths was respectable and sold some quality goods. There was a range of crockery called Homemaker, a typical 1950s style of cups saucers and plates decorated with a transfer print of furniture and kitchenware. I didn't like it then, I still don't like it now but it has become very collectable for those with the retro taste and pieces in good condition command a good price on e-bay.

advertises with very well known celebrities to