

Scale Aviation "Unlimited Maces" – Magazine article review

Anders Bruun

Taichiro Yamashita: "Unlimited Maces" (Scale Aviation, Vol. 24, March 2002), published by **Dainippon Kaiga Co. Ltd., Chiyoda-ku, Kanda, Nishiki-cho 1-7, Tokyo 101-0054, Japan** (Phone: +81 3 32947861, fax: +81 3 32947865)

It is not often that I spend a full review on a magazine article, but this is certainly worth an exception - I believe this is quite simply the best Unlimited modelling article ever!

It covers the three Griffon-engined Mustang racers, #38 "Precious Metal", #38 "Miss Ashley II" and #5 "Red Baron". It contains more than 30 pages of SIG member **Taichiro Yamashita's** superb, fantastically detailed drawings, his similarly fantastic 1/48 models, converted from Tamiya P-51 kits and some great photos of the real planes, including some cockpit and landing gear shots.

The drawings show every modification and every single sponsor decal. The drawings clearly show how different the three planes were. The engine positions and thrust lines were completely different, resulting in remarkably different fuselage shapes, as shown by a comparison with a standard P-51D. This is just the kind of stuff that I missed in the Grantham-Veronico "Raceplane Tech" book about the same planes. "Red Baron" (the 1979 "Michelob Light" version) and "Precious Metal" (the 2001



version) are printed in 1/72, with a couple of extra profiles of the 1979 3 Kilometre Speed Record "Red Baron" version and the 1995 "World Jet". "Miss Ashley II" is printed in 1/48.

Dozens of photos show how the models were built – nothing for the "instant gratification kit assemblers", but superb work and a great inspiration to try something similar.

Those who have followed the Pylon1 and WarbirdAeroPress websites will have seen a samples of Taichiro's work before, so you know what to expect. There is only one thing wrong about this article: It is

written in Japanese, with only the photo captions and the explaining text of the drawings in English, which means many of the worlds modellers will not be able to read much of the text. Nevertheless, if you have any interest in the Griffon-engined P-51s you simply have to own this. Full marks!

(For examples of Taichiro's work, see: http://www.pylon1.com/news/trophyroom/ma2_ty/ and <http://warbirdaeropress.com/articles/Taichi/Taichi.htm>)

A big thanks to Scale Aviation for the review example!