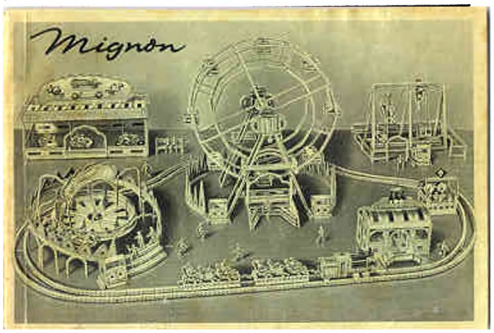
MIGNON With that name you might expect this system to be French, but it isn't, nor is it Austrian as stated in MCS, it is in fact German, and thereby hangs a tale. Ernst Leuthold told me about it when I met him at Skegex last year and subsequently he very kindly sent a manual and a Strip; and there were a few more details in 'Bauklötze Staunen'. MIGNON was made in a town called St. Georgen in the Black Forest, and after WW2 that area was under French control; the local Commander told Gebrüder Staiger, a long established firm of precision engineers, to make toys, and MIGNON was the result. That was in 1945 and initially only Set No.1 was made and it was only available to French children; the following year Set 2 appeared and MIGNON became available on the German market; then Set 3 and a C/W Motor. Production ceased in 1953 due to increased competition from other toys, and the small N&B were difficult for children to handle; some 150,000 sets had been made. (If the N&B are the same size as those used in the Motor, see below, they are M2.5).

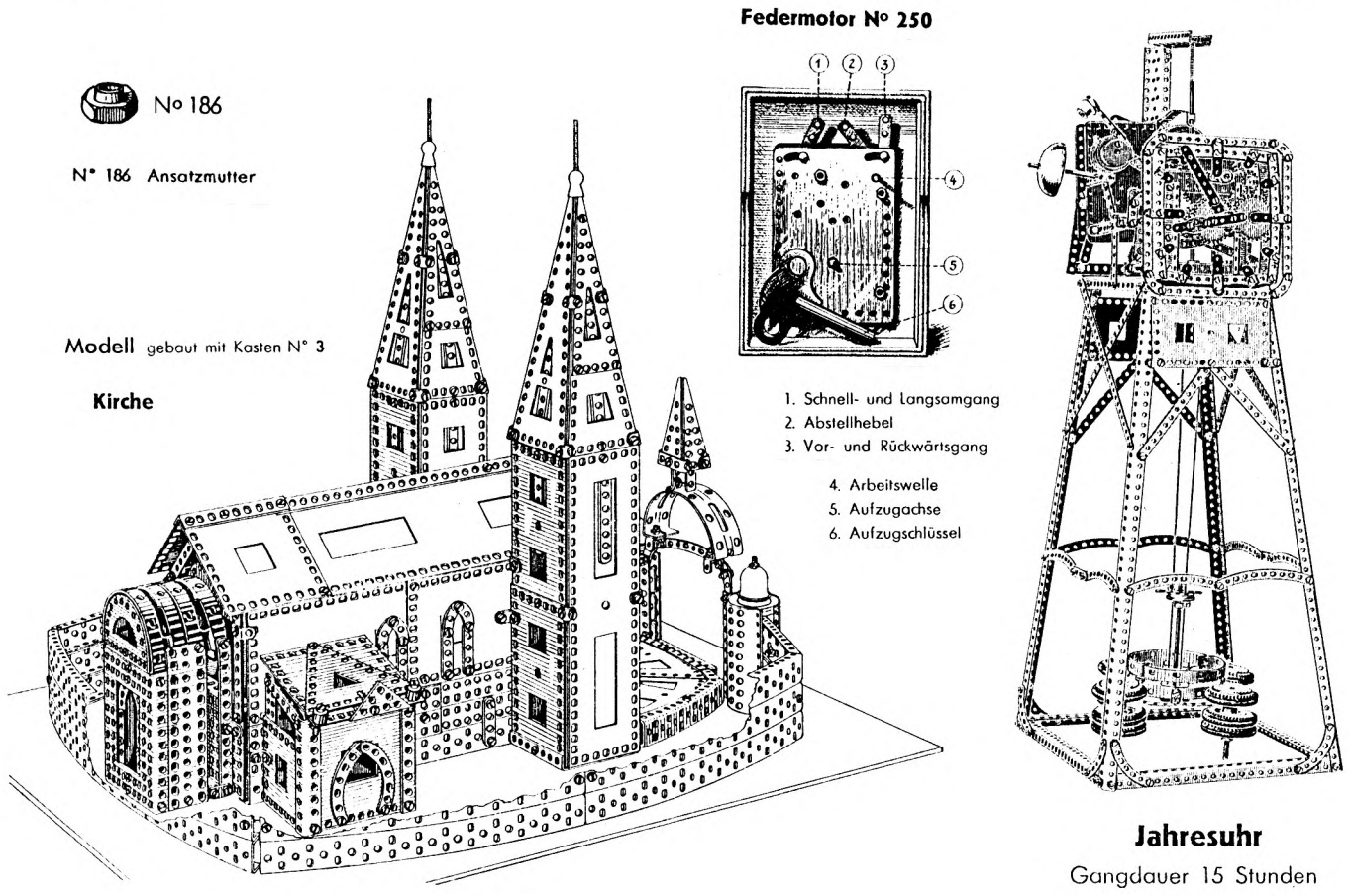
MIGNON parts are very unusual: they are small with the holes at 6mm pitch, and there is a range of 150 parts, all made of aluminium. Apart from Strips, including Slotted and Curved, there are several types of Girder: Flat, Angle, Z section, U section, Straight and Curved, as well as Half Round sections. There are also a good range of Plates of different shapes, you can see some of them in the Church reproduced opposite. Strips and Girders are plain aluminium; the other parts are anodised red, blue, and yellow. Mechanically, there's a good selection of 15 Gears and Sprockets, of which 3 are helicals; most other essential parts are present, including Threaded Rods, but none of the 3 Couplings have any cross bores, and I suspect that they, and the bosses, are single tapped. One deficiency is that there is no Fork Piece and so the universal has to be made from Double Brackets fitted to Threaded Rods. One unusual part is a Spring Washer, and another I'm curious about is a Nut, #186, called Ansatzmutter - I can't find the word in my dictionary but perhaps it's a lock nut?

The full Illustrated Parts List and set contents are given in MCS, so I will only give details of the Strip that Ernst sent, and of a Motor which I came across in its box some time ago. The Strip is .045" thick and the holes in it are 3.1mm dia; the ends have a 3.6mm radius. Its width is 6.17mm so with the 6mm hole spacing, Strips can't be bolted to a cross member alongside one another, although 2 might be so fitted given that the holes are appreciably larger than the Bolts. The Motor is a jewel. It has red anodised aluminium sideplates with brass bearings for all but the spring shaft, and its 3 levers operate On-Off, Reverse and 2 Speeds. Its size is 75x54x17mm, that's slightly larger than a Magic Motor but the same width. The output pinion has 18 teeth, of, like all the Motor gears, Mod .4; thus much finer than the comparitively coarse standard gears (Mod .8). The motor carries no name or PN; the illustration of it in the Manual is shown opposite.

The smaller models in the Manual are rather above average with in many cases good use of the various Plates in the system, but it's some of the #3 models which really catch the eye. This Set contains 380 N&B and so the models can be quite ambitious: most of them use the C/W Motor which means careful construction I should think, to minimise friction enough. I liked a Lorry complete with a compact differential, and there's a very good 'Tower' Bridge. My favourite is a 'Model' Railway consisting of an oval of track, an Electris Loco and Wagon, a Crane, Signal Box and Signal, Level Crossing, and Watertower. There are several Clocks in the Manual starting with one for Set 1 which has only a minute hand and runs for an hour on a 250g 'stone' or 'piece of metal'. All the others use the C/W motor, the #3 model is a Stop Clock fitted with a compound pendulum, which has hands for minutes and seconds, and has a running time of 2 hours. 3 more are shown on the inside back cover but with no detailed instructions: one has a digital display of hours and minutes, the second is a Wall Clock, and finally the one on the next page, which runs for 15 hours on one winding. Not in the Mike Edkins class, but not bad. What looks like a bell (on the left), is not in the Parts List. At the back of the Manual are good illustrations of the 3 sets showing the layout of the parts.

AMENDMENTS TO MCS (as necessary, depending on version) HOLE DIAMETER: 3.1mm PARTS: 150 COLOUR: Strips, Girders and Brackets are natural aluminium; other parts are anodised yellow, orange, red and blue. MOTORS: 1 Clockwork (PN 250). PERIOD: 1945 to 1953. MANUFACTURER: Gebrüder Staiger, St.Georgen (Schwarzwald). Germany. COMMENTS: Add: Parts are made of aluminium.
AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6: CY: GW.
SUMMARY OF MANUAL. #Name: Mignon #Details of maker: Gebr Staiger, St.Georgen (Schwarzwald). #Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. #Page size: 247x165mm deep. #No of pages: 96 plus covers. #Language: German. #Printing: Cover green-grey halftone; models are black line drawings. #Page Nos of Parts List/Set Contents & highest PN: 90-96,197. #Sets covered: 1,2,3. #No of models for each set: 77,37,21. #Name, Model No, Page No of first & last model of each set: 1: Telefon,1,9; Uhr engang getriebe,77,29. 2: Verandaausstattung,1,30; Drehbank,37,51; 3: Auto "Jeep",1,52; Uhr,21,86. #Other notes: 37 Standard Constructions/Mechanisms are shown on pp3-8. The C\W Motor, #250, is on p89. 3 Clocks without instructions are on the inside rear cover.





SOME NOTES ON KWIK BUILDER There is an account of this Belgian system in MCS but now a few more particulars have become available from Jean-Louis Figureau, who kindly sent details of the parts in his unused No.4 Set, and a copy of its Manual. For those without MCS this is a small system of some 30 different parts; as far as is known the largest Set is the No.4 but the manual cover and the box lid do show other parts, like longer Strips and a larger Wheel, that are not in the #4. The main parts are Strips up to 8 holes long, DAS, and Plates which range from 2x2 holes to 3x9 holes. The width of the Strips and the pitch of the holes are both $\frac{1}{2}$", but the holes are larger than usual at 5mm.

The new facts are as follows: • The Manual contains models for a No.0 Set, as well as those for the Sets 1-4 mentioned in MCS. No Set Contents are given but an idea can be gained from illustrations in the Manual, each box is shown with its lid removed. • The No.0 has Strips from 2 to 7 holes long, 1x3x1 and 1x5x1 hole DAS, 6 Angle Brackets, 2 small Plates, and 15 N&B. The No.1 doesn't follow on directly from the #0; it has no DAS but a 5x3 hole Flanged Plate instead, and its small Plates are in different sizes. The most noticeable difference is the 4 Pulley Wheels and Axles for them. The other Sets progress from the #1 - the No.2 has 8 hole Strips, larger 5x4 hole Plates, a Crank Handle and 1x4x1 DAS. In the #3, 1x3x1 and 1x5x1 DAS are new, and longer 7x2 Plates, but otherwise just more of the same parts. Similarly for the No.4 with the extra parts including a second Flanged Plate and 2 more Pulleys; and with 2x9 and 3x9 Plates as new parts. • The Manual cover is as shown in MCS, and all the text (except the name) is in English and French. The box lids all carry a label with the same illustration as the cover, but surrounded by Strips, and Pulleys of about $\frac{1}{2}$" dia.
• The parts are made of steel; the Strips are painted green, the Plates blue and red, and the Pulleys are polished steel or perhaps nickel plated. The Plates have square corners. All the parts are of good quality.
• Axles are 4.5mm in diameter; the Pulleys which look to be about 30mm dia, have no bosses but are held in place by 'Collars' made of red rubber, one on each side. The thread used is 5/32 BSW; the Bolts are cheeseheaded and the Nuts are hexagon, the large pressed type.
• Turning to the list of parts in MCS, additions are 2, 5 and 7 hole Strips, 2x5 hole Plates, 1x5x1 DAS, and the rubber Collars. Also, in the Manual some of the models appear to have ordinary Spring Clips on their Axles, and what appear to be Washers can be seen. The Fishplate in the MCS list may be the 2 hole Strip already mentioned; as far as can be seen the Angle Bracket is the only part with an elongated hole. The holes in the flanges of the 5x3 hole Flanged Plate can be seen as round in some of the models, also it is the 5 hole sides that are flanged. The tops of 2 of these parts can be seen in the #4 Set shown in MCS but in my NZ version only the end 3 holes of each can be seen as such, the rest are 'filled in' by something underneath, probably packets of small parts.

No date is given in MCS for KWIK BUILDER but Jean-Louis hazards a guess of around 1950. Nor is there any clue as to the manufacturer but as noted in MCS under MERCATOR, the parts of the two systems have similarities - one difference is that the Axle dia in the MERCATOR List is 4.9mm.

SUMMARY OF MANUAL. #Name: KWIK BUILDER. #Details of maker: none. #Dates &/or Ref Nos: none. #Page size: 265x164mm deep. #No of pages: Probably 8 inc covers, none numbered. #Language: French, English. #Printing: the front cover shows 2 boys working on a model aeroplane; there are halftone photos of the outfit models. [No Parts List or Set Contents] #Sets covered: 0,1,2,3,4. #No of models for each set: 6,4,3,9,8. #Name, Page No of first & last model of each set [No models Nos.]: 0: Piece of furniture,2;Ladder,2. 1: Cart,3;Handtruck,3. 2: Sailing cart,4;Tugboat,4. 3: Hay cart,5;Road crane,6. 4: Trolleybus,7;Small truck with eking-piece on wheels,8 [the French version is: Petit tracteur avec allonge sur roues]. #Other notes: details taken from photocopies.
AMENDMENTS TO MCS SETS: 0,1,2,3,4. PARTS: about 28. PERIOD: possibly about 1950. MANUFACTURER: may be as MERCATOR.
AMENDMENTS TO INDEX IN OSN 6: THREAD: 5/32W. DAXL: 4.5.

ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. On TEMSI hole spacing (9/225), D. Courdoux says you can bolt 25-hole TEMSI and MECCANO parts together successfully but of course an Axle Rod won't go through all the holes. Also slight changes in gear meshing, good or bad, can be noticed when using TEMSI Plates. He adds that TEMSI parts are strong and of good quality, and that the red colour they use is specific to them.

2. Al Sternagle wrote that he had come across some MECHANIMALS parts (see 4/66): they are larger than might be expected, for example R-1 is about 7½" long and MB-4 is some 4½" wide. He has many more parts than were shown in OSN, no doubt from the other 'animals' in the series - one triangular piece has a base of nearly 12". Only some of the parts are aluminium, the bulk are of a good quality steel alloy and quite durable, especially the links and joints. The aluminium parts are stamped with their PNs. The thread is probably metric and is about the size of a U.S. No.4. If anyone has the complete building instructions for any of the MECHANIMALS please contact the Editor.

3. On the MIGNON Ansatzmutter (10/263), there was general agreement that it wasn't a locknut. Both Geoff Davison and Don Redmond suggested that 'Ansatz' in this context implied joining or an extension. It's possible that if the part is threaded right through it might be used to join two threaded rods, but why then reduce the size at one end? Or is it intend to be used inside a curved structure to avoid the flattening caused when a normal nut is tightened? Possible but a nut with a radiused end would probably be cheaper and more effective. My favourite suggestion is that it is used with a normal bolt to create a non-sloppy pivot joint for two Strips. The length of the 'extension' would then need to be slightly longer than twice the thickness of the Strips. It doesn't look that long in the illustration and the other thing is that with a 2.5mm bolt in the 3.1mm hole in the Strip, the wall thickness of the 'extension' would be little more than 10 thou. I looked in the Manual to try to see how the part was used: 3 of them are called up for one model and that's all, even though there are 10 supplied in the #3 Set. There are 3 pivoted joints in the model where the Ansatzmutter could be used but it isn't certain that it is. On the other hand I can't see anywhere else in the model where they would be needed for any purpose.

4. René Mikkers sent several items which are included elsewhere in this Issue and also mentioned that he can supply TEMSI and BRAL parts. The leaflet he sent showing the range of TEMSI parts is identical to that in 3/40. He also sent an illustrated List of BRAL parts together with prices. MCS shows most of the parts but additions are illustrated in 7/143, 8/192 and 9/227, though the latter aren't in fact in his List. Prices, in Dutch Guilders, seem reasonable, for example, 1.00 for a 25h Strip, 3.75 for a 49h Angle Girder. Details from R. Mikkers, Wezelstraat 23, 7559AP Hengelo, The Netherlands. Tel: 074-774327 (after 19.00).

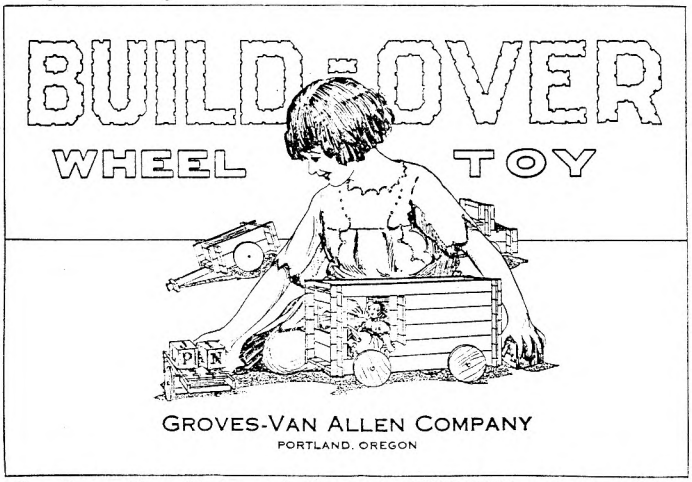
5. Eric Sinton sent a clarification of his remarks in 10/267(8): STOKYS Chain can of course only be used with STOKYS Sprockets. He added that when he dismantled the model in question, a Rack and Pinion Locomotive, which had worked faultlessly for many hours with its STOKYS Sprocket engaging MÄRKLIN Large Toothed Rings straightened into rack form, excessive wear of the Sprocket's teeth was noticed, and their rather 'knobby' shape had changed to something nearer an involute pattern!

And on 9/227: BRAL Copriruota is a Wheelcover (Conical Disc in Meccanoese). The standard steel parts 3044, 45mm for the 50mm, and 3045, 66mm for the 75mm Pulley, have a narrow steel strip rivetted in the central hole. The ends of this strip are bent in such a way as to make it easy to clip the disc securely to the Wheel. The plastic version seems to have a stub axle (also in plastic?) which may indicate some use other than as an attachment to the 50mm Pulley.

6. Roger Baker confirmed my guess (10/247) that the output shaft of the MARBI motor can be repositioned in the corresponding holes on the opposite side of the motor. The drive is taken from the same large gear wheel which is, of course, centrally mounted.

7. Clive Weston wrote that a Mr Rod Moore, the curator of the Cumberland Toy and Model Museum, Cockermouth, Cumbria, Tel: 0900-827606, has several OS in his reserve stock, and that on a recent visit he was able to handle his large collection of ANCHOR blocks. The interesting feature of these sets was that the flat metal parts, apparently used to construct a framework with the stone blocks as infill, were joined by a rod method akin to that of DINKY BUILDER.

8. Kendrick Bisset sent details of a BUILD-OVER Set, but not the one with metal parts listed in my OS Database. Both were made in Portland Oregon, but by different companies, and the parts in this outfit are all wooden. Apart from Wheels and Axles, there are various notched Strips, about 3/16" thick, which slot into one another at right angles. There were 3 sets and the #3 model on the cover of the Manual (below) is called a 'Police Patrol', despite the lady driver. The parts are plain, untreated wood and are not very accurately made.



9. From Don Redmond: 'I saw a RICHTER set recently which contained two styles of braced girders. One was rectangular as in 10/261; the other was curved (humped) at the top.' And on MERKUR ALFI (MCS X1.2): 'The legend 'Vyrobce' etc. says: Manufacturer: Metal Enterprises, OPMH Broumov; I did not find 'stredisko' but it may be plant or unit. Does anyone know what OPMH stands for?'

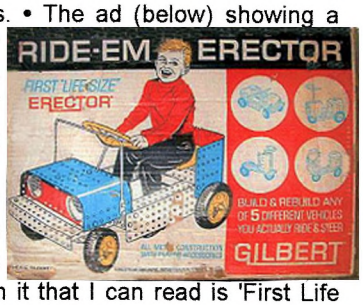
In a later letter: 'In a toyshop in a town near Kingston [Ontario] I noticed a GIRDER AND PANEL set with the name Irwin Toys, of Toronto, the Canadian distributors of MECCANO, on the box. I didn't have the opportunity to open and examine the set, but the illustration much resembles other plastic architectural building sets.'

Don also mentioned an ERECTOR No.100 Set he has acquired, which probably dates from the 1950s. The box is 10½x9x¾" and the lid has the same design as that shown for EL NUEVO ING. ARGENTINO in MCS. There is no manual but a sheet pasted inside the lid shows 10 models. It has the code M3366 on it while the lid has M3409. The

ITEMS FROM LETTERS

1. Numerous points of interest from Jeannot Buteux. • A Swedish set called **LEKSAKSSAMLARMARKNAD** that he saw at a Toy Fair in Helsingborg, Sweden.
• An unknown **aluminium system** with an unusual pattern of Braced Girders, but unfortunately too expensive to buy.
• A plastic set called **TEX** but also, according to one source, a metal set with the same name.
• An early 1916 version of the French **CONSTRUCTOR** system with parts similar to those in MCS but black, and up to twice the size.
• **DELOUTAX**, another translation of the Japanese name for DELTAX/DERUTAXE, see 11/288.
• Another recently discovered Scandinavian system, **DVS INGENIØR**.
• A manual for Danish **TEKNO** dated 1931, which is several years before previously known dates. [TEKNO has TRIX-style parts but a much larger range including more gears and circular parts. The Manual's date is only just after the original German Patent of September 1930 and it would be of interest to know the range of parts in the 1931 Manual.]
• News of a new Dutch set called **MECHATRONICA**. It seems to be intended for industrial use and is composed of a selection of TEMSI red and green parts, including the Temsi version of the 6-speed Richard motor, plus special parts, probably mostly electr(on?)ic. Shown in the brochure is an automatic beer pump which fills a glass placed on a stand in the machine. [The ultimate exhibition model?] The Set costs f 295 (plus tax) and the address of the manufacturer is BTC-Metaal, Postbus 2600, 3430 Nieuwegein, Fax 03402-53188. [I understand that this Outfit has been on sale for 2 or 3 years but is no longer available.]
• **Temsi** (11/292) has licensed production to various firms including **ESCHO-PLAST**.
• On **A.W.S.** (11/294), it appeared in about 1947 and one set known was marked by its purchaser as being bought at Baden-Baden in Sept 1952. [The reason I think the Manual in OSN 11 was from the 1930s is that the highest prize mentioned in it was parts to the value of RM5 - a sum that would have bought a MÄRKLIN No.0 set, say, in the 30s, but very little, I suppose, postwar.]
• Other colours for some **ÉCÉPÉ** and **MÉCANIC** parts (12/314) were tried, green for example and grey Wheels. The brackets around the Sets E and D bis mean that they were not available until towards the end of the ÉCÉPÉ period.
• On **MECHANIKUS** (12/321), a HELLER-MÉCANICUS set was bought [new?] in Belgium in about 1980 and enquiries made it clear that it was not connected with the French toy firm Heller. A town Schmalkalden was mentioned several times in the Manual and it turned out that it was in what was East Germany.
• **BURGSTÄDTER** (12/324) has also been sold under the names **PLASTICART** and **PLASTIKART**.
• A bridge made from the **LILIENTHAL** parts (11/295) is on display at the Deutches Museum in Munich.
• **TUBA** was also made in Berlin and it appears to be the same as the UK version shown in MCS. The Plates were available in gold, yellow, green, red, and blue, and were also sold as special kits.
• Two different versions are known of **FIX, HOHA, GLOBUS** and **IMPERATOR**.
• On **METEOR** (12/302), its period was from the 1930s to at least the 1950s, and a nickel finish was used before painted parts were introduced. Parts from a 1950s set were brass plated.
• On **MIGNON** (10/262), one Angle Girder has been found which is made of steel, nickel plated.
• There were actually 10 'Groupes' in **MULTIMOTEUR** (12/304), the 10th being 'Traction Électrique'. Each Groupe is composed of several sets with a total number of between 70 and 100. From Groupe P (Prospection), sets P6, P8, P11, P12, and P13 are known but there were others, though not all were necessarily on sale at the same time. There was only one manual with the P13. Other examples are the '1er Cycle' with 25 sets from C10 to C34, and 'Mécanique' from M80 to M99. Members of Constructorama possess many sets, some 20 manuals, and in particular the 6th edition (undated) of the 'documentation général'.
• **COZZONE** (12/313) was mentioned in a Dutch book, and the date given for a set shown in it was 1952.
• A **Märklin** catalogue of display models for dealers, some of which are 3 or 4m long.
• And a couple more new names, **MAKKO** and a German system called **FERROX**.

2. From Richard Symonds. • The ad (below) showing a photo of the box lid (or manual cover) of a second-hand **GILBERT RIDE-IT ERECTOR** set. That's a new name to me. The main illustration is of a fairly modern looking boy in the driving seat of a Jeep type vehicle. The only printing on it that I can read is 'First Life Size Erector' and 'Build ..... any of 5 different vehicles you actually ride and steer'. Apart from the Jeep, the 4 other vehicles are probably shown in the white circles, but only one, a 3-Wheel Scooter, can be clearly seen.



• A photo of some yellow and green parts that were all in one lot from a Toy Fair. Some are **THE ENGINEER**, see 12/328, and others seem compatible, including a 47.5mm dia Pulley with no holes in its face, a small Dredger Scoop, and a Flat Trunnion with 7 holes, 2 of them elongated (opposite). Some of the other parts might be for a road grader or snow plough, and are painted the same green and have the same hole size. Finally a canvas belt, 2" wide and 36" long with 10 nickeled Scoops, 1" by 2" wide, clipped to it, and some wooden rollers, 1" dia x $2\frac{1}{8}$" long, with Axles, 4"x$\frac{3}{16}$" dia through them.

• A copy of an American fortnightly advertising paper called **Toy Shop**. Over 200 pages full of small ads but only 6 classified for OS, including 3 wanted and 2 for current spares, and I didn't spot any OS in a quick look at the dealers' lists. Full details on request.

3. David Hobson sent one or two items on **Gilbert** in the UK. The 1921 GPO London Trades Directory lists The A. C. Gilbert Co. as a manufacturer of Gilbert toys, and scientific and educational toys, at 125 High Holborn, WC1. In a local South London paper (The Blackheath Guide and District Advertiser), Gilbert toys and ERECTOR were prominent for the first time in the 1921 pre-Xmas ads. They included: • Dubois of Lewisham who advertised various sets from 7/6, and the No.6 'includes a powerful motor which will operate any ERECTOR model'; also **'The New Wheel Toy'** which made 12 models, 32/6 [see 8/198]. • John H. Bailey of Blackheath had, as well as the full range of MECCANO and PRIMUS outfits, **Gilbert sets**, including the Hydraulic and Pressure Set, the Light Set, the Gilbert Air-Kraft, Mysto Magic, etc. Mr. Bailey also announced, 'I have procured at low price a number of the Gilbert Machine Guns (B654). These I am offering at the absurdly low price of 5/11 each. These Machine Guns have a steel barrel and fire a wooden

seem to correspond to these MERKUR ones. Clearly the sets are no longer progressive. No non-standard colour parts can be seen.

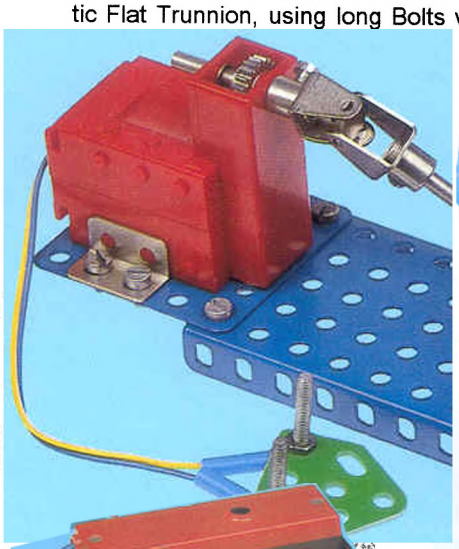
The name 'CROSS' is shown on the front and back of the Leaflet several times, and is prominently shown on most of the set lids. It is no doubt the name of the company that now makes MERKUR. Under it on the back is a name 'Ing. Jaromir Kriz' (perhaps the proprietor - Ing. probably indicates a qualified engineer), and the address, Nádrazni 289, at the same town as before, 549 54 Police nad Metuji. The phone/fax is (0042) 0447 94166/94450. The other, limited wording is in Czech/German/English/Spanish/French.

Absent from the Leaflet and therefore probably quite new is the **Motor/Gears Set**. Its parts are housed in a pale yellow translucent moulded plastic tray with a clear push down lid. This packaging sits in a card outer tray which slides into a sleeve measuring 9.7*6.9*1.4". On top of it the Motor and Battery Box are shown in colour on a blue ground, and on the bottom, Sets 3-7, as on the Leaflet.

The set cost the equivalent of £7 and the contents are as follows:

- The Geared Motor (below) is as shown in all the illustrations, but the top of the actual gearbox is rounded over and fully enclosed. The case is orange plastic except for a red inner face to the gearbox extension; it measures 50mm overall, excluding the (standard diameter) shaft, by 30mm wide, by 53mm high. The method of mounting it is unusual - two 2h long A/Gs are bolted to the model with their round holes engaging the LEGO-like studs that are provided on the sides and top and bottom of the motor casing. The terminals at the ends of the leads are shown bolted to a plastic Flat Trunnion, using long Bolts which receive the push-on clips on the Battery Box leads. With the specified 4.5v, the no-load output speed is about 170rpm, and the torque feels adequate for small and medium size models. There are probably 3 pinion/gear reduction stages and each can't be much more than 3:1, which would give a motor speed of around 5000rpm. If the motor is of modern design that's perhaps rather low, and the rated voltage conservative.
- The Battery Box (below the Motor) takes 3 C cells and is in 3 parts, with a red bottom, a black top, and a black inner housing for a cell at 90° to the others. Top left on the front side is a black spring loaded switch for forward and reverse; a similar switch on the back face isn't used.
- A 17t Pinion and a Worm (BZP); a 34t Gear (painted yellow); a 50t Gear and 2 15mm o.d., 25t Bevels, (black plastic with nickel bosses); a 50t Contrate (painted blue).
- A Coupling (nickel); 2 Universals (see below & 9/215, BZP, 39mm o/a); a 100mm Driving Band (black rubber, about 3mm wide, perhaps #2309); a flat Screwdriver, #1080, and Spanner, #1085 (BZP). 2x2h A/Gs (BZP).
- All parts that aren't plastic are made of steel including all bosses; their design is unchanged though I don't recall a 2h A/G from before. The parts are well made though the paintwork and BZP aren't quite perfect, and the Screwdriver doesn't fit the Grub Screws and some of the Set Screws. What a pity that BZP is replacing the much richer looking (and more durable) nickel plating.

The Leaflet with the Set is a single sheet, 15*42cm, folded in two. The cover is similar to the sleeve and 5 mechanisms are shown on the other pages, including a Differential. All need extra constructional parts of course and most need more Gears than are in the 2.1 Outfit. So is there a larger Gears Set, a 2.2 perhaps? As on the Leaflet, and the sleeve, the wording is in 5 languages.



MIGNON - the Ansatzmutter and other Parts Sven-Ulrich Glage has kindly sent a few MIGNON parts including an Ansatzmutter, the purpose of which was debated in 11/298. First the run of the mill parts. A Plate, #178, .42mm thick, anodised yellow, and a plain aluminium 3h Flat Girder, .99mm thick, both look like their illustrations in MCS, with BRAL-shaped elongated holes, 4mm long o/a. 3 different Strips range from 5.97 to 6.25mm in width, and are from 1.05 to 1.16mm thick. The N&B are nickel plated brass - the Nuts are machined, 4.5mm A/F and 1.6mm thick; Bolts have cheeseheads 4.0mm Ø by 1mm deep, and the lengths in the Parts List include the heads. The thread (including the Motor N&B) is not M2.5 as suggested in OSN 10. The o.d. varies from 2.51 to 2.57mm and the pitch is .45mm - from 7/169 it may well be a Löwenherz thread. The Washer, #145, is aluminium, 8.1mm Ø. The parts seen are well made except that all the holes in one Strip are slightly offset from the centreline.

A steel A/G was mentioned in 13/360, and Sven wrote that he has an early, unboxed No.1 Set in which all Strips, DAS, A/Gs, and Brackets are made of nickel plated steel. One of the parts he sent, a 5h Strip, was nickeled, but the base material is brass, not steel. Its width & thickness are within the range given above for aluminium Strips.

The Ansatzmutter is made of brass, but not nickel plated, and it looks just like the illustration in 10/263, a Shouldered Nut in fact. The nut part is 4.50mm A/F and 1.53mm thick, and the extension is 3.07mm Ø and 1.09mm deep. The only use I can see for it is to provide a pivot for a Strip, and as such it would be a worthwhile part in any comprehensive system, particularly where the standard Bolts are considerably smaller than the holes, as is the case with MIGNON.

In the manual model in which it is used (#18 for Set 3), it appears to secure a long Bolt to the structure, head inside, and the extension outwards of course. Then locknuts are used to retain the Strip in place on the extension with suitable end float. It would be more elegant, and save a Nut, if the Bolt were turned around (head outwards) and locked to the structure by the Ansatzmutter on the outside, extension outwards, and an ordinary Nut on the inside.

disappointing for a set that cost so much, though it does contain 4 motors (albeit 6v).'

• 'I also have the **Cable Car Set** and it makes up into a very attractive model that works quite well, and follows real practice in some respects, with steel cable, well articulated pulleys that move nicely over the saddle on the intermediate tower, etc.' [The Robot Set, #1007 was mentioned in 2/16, and the Cable Car, #1057, from the mid-1980s, in 10/266. In neither case was there an illustration but the ones below

will give an idea. The Car is made from special parts, and the body is shown blue with a white roof, and yellow tinted windows; all the Strips and Girders are orange.

7. From Don Redmond. • The **EZY-BILT** Contrate is distinctive with a very rounded edge (⅛" rad.) and the teeth actually cut into the curvature. It is nickel with a brass boss.

• On **DÖCO** (15/413), it was displayed in a 1920 Canadian Centre for Architecture exhibition at Montréal, and the catalogue describes it as 'a wood and metal system; split-pin rivet assembly; includes design book; box 10.5*37* 24.9cm; parts: bars 24.7*0.8cm, clamps 0.8cm, discs 6.8cm; punch press 8*34.3*13.9cm.'

• The **STRUCTO** Worm (see 15/424) is a rather crude looking item of the same alloy (zinc?) as the Gears, and with noticeable flash and mold marks. The teeth look rather chewed but it has probably had much use.

• In a mixed lot, a yellow plastic Wheel, with a square-section rubber Tire, 1.5" o.d., marked **BILDIT**. That's a new name but was it a constructional system? The bore appears to have been drilled out to about 3/16".

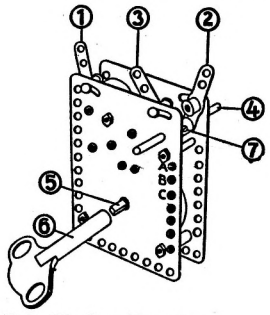
8. From Jeannot Buteux. • The French patent for **SPEDICON** (see 17/470) is No.923760, and it was granted in 1947.

• **MAC et NICK** (17/472) was also patented, by a M.Cosneau in 1948, No.936145. [No equivalent UK patent is known.]

• Manuals in French have turned up for **STRUCTATOR** and **KLIPTIKO**.

• A **PYGMÉE** (16/448) set has been found for the first time: it's in a metal box and includes a complete manual.

9. Following the notes on the **MÄRKLIN** Chassis in 17/482, Josep Bernal sent a photocopy of a 4-page Leaflet in French (Refs: Ta 07 33 m & *F.* M446) showing the parts in the Nr.1105L **Motor Truck Body** Set, and how to assemble them onto the Chassis. The details of the parts have been included in an Extra MCS Sheet.



Nr. 1 = Schnell- und Langsamgang
Nr. 2 = Abstellhebel
Nr. 3 = Vor- und Rückwärtsgang
Nr. 4 = Arbeitswelle
Nr. 5 = Aufzugsachse
Nr. 6 = Aufzugsschlüssel
Nr. 7 = Arbeitswellenrad mit Gewindestift.

10. Thomas Keel sent a photocopy of the Instruction Leaflet, in German, for the **MIGNON C/W Motor** Nr. 250 (right), which was described in 10/262. The holes A,B,C in the side-plates allow a 12t Pinion on the output shaft, 4, to mesh with the other 3 Gears in the system, or their positions can be reversed for higher speeds.

EXTRA MCS SHEETS The Sheets listed here are available at 15p per Sheet plus postage. That makes £4.65 for all 31 Sheets.

MCS Amendments, List No.6 [1]
AKRON: X1.1,2/6,5,5a [2]
ENGINEERO: X1.2,4,5,6 [2]
E.Z.: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]
FAC: X1.1, [1]
FAC [a]: X1.3/4,3a/4a,5 [2]
FAC [b]: X1.6,6a [1]
FAC [c]: X1.2,3,4-4l,5-5b,5c/6,6a,6b [9]
INSTRUCTO: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]
KONSTUKTOR [10]: X1.1,2,4,5 [2]
KONSTUKTOR-MEKHANIK [2]: X1.1,4/6,4a/6a/7,5 [2]
KONSTUKTOR SHKOL'NIK: X1.1,2,4/6,4a/6a,5 [3]
MAKUMAL: X1.1,5 [1]
MÄRKLIN: X2.3a/4b,5 [1]

ACCOUNTS Dear Subscriber,
Your remittance of received with thanks.
Your credit balance after deduction for this Issue and
is Please renew your subscription if you wish to receive the next Issue.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES For 1998 (OSN 18 and 19), including postage, at Printed Paper Rate where appropriate: UK £6; airmail to Europe and surface mail anywhere, £7; airmail outside Europe, £8. **BACK NUMBERS** For the zones above: OSN 1: £1/£1.30/£1.50; OSN 2,3: £2.30/£2.70/£2.90 each; OSN 4 onwards: £3.60/£4.10/£4.50 each.

SMALL ADS Up to about 150 words free for each subscriber in each Issue; above that by arrangement. Insertion guaranteed in OSN 19 if ads reach the Editor by the end of July 1998.

PAYMENT Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances in other than Pounds Sterling will be cashed locally and the resulting Sterling credited, but bank charges are usually prohibitive. However U.S. Dollar bills are acceptable at an exchange rate of £1=$1.60. Overseas subscribers need not send sums of less than £5 for Back Numbers, purchases from the Editor, etc, until it is time for subscription renewal.

35

OTHER SYSTEMS NEWSLETTER

OSN 35 OCTOBER 2006

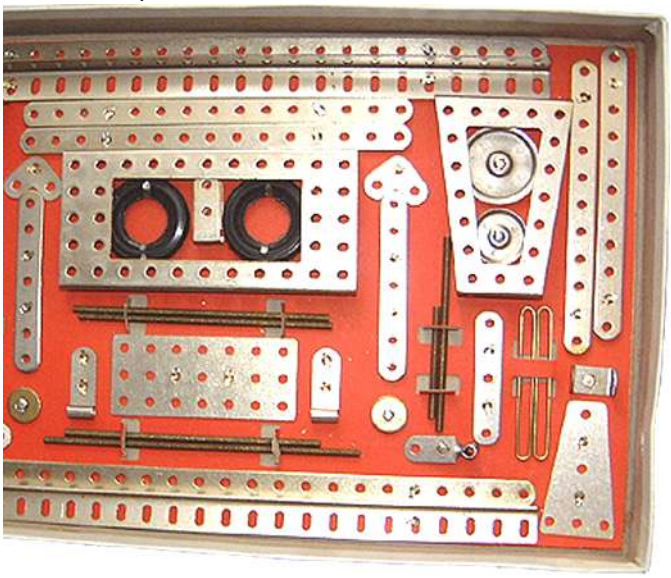
Editor Tony Knowles
7 Potters Way
Laverstock
Salisbury
SP1 1PY
England

Email: tony@osnl.co.uk

EDITORIAL Apologies if this issue is a little later than usual getting to you, and for any slippages in future Newsletters which may occur. My enthusiasm remains undimmed, but less gets done each day as the years roll on, and I am finding some difficulty in producing an issue every six months. No need to make any decisions at the moment but perhaps one day it may be necessary to increase the interval between issues, or change to OSN appearing irregularly as each issue is completed. I'll give details on the OSN web site if significant delays in future issues are likely to occur.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. On **TECO**, see 34/1027, Jacques Pitrat has the No.IV Ebay set and confirmed that it is very similar in content to a STABIL Nr.51, with a second main card of parts, as below (symmetrical left & right). All the parts on it look like STABIL except that the Pulleys have no face holes. There are 4 of each size of



Flexible Plastic Plates on the small card. The parts are well made except that the gold paint is flaking off the 14 & 28t metal Gears. As might be expected from a STABIL inspired system the holes are 4.2mm Ø at 12.5mm pitch, and the thread is 5⁄32" BSW. The hex Nuts though are a little larger than STABIL. No Trunnion of any sort was in the Set.

TECO: S3 [35/1036]

2. Jacques also sent a reference to an excellent web site about **MIGNON**: www.mignonbaukasten.de/. It has pictures of all the sets, manual pages, leaflets, etc, as well as a history of the system, and photos of many attractive non-manual models. I hope to include a brief summary of the history at a later date.

MIGNON: S1 [35/1036]

3. Another web site worth mentioning, **www.merkur.co.uk**. The M8 set (see 21/613 & 27/790) is on sale there and full details of the set are shown, with excellent photos of the trays of parts, and all the pages of the manual including the illustrated set contents.

MERKUR[1]: S4 [35/1036]

4. **Snippet. 'New' System: WIMA**. Below the Ebay photos

of this small German system, said to be incomplete. I'm not sure if the red mark on the boy's sleeve is a tear in the label or a 'blot'. Most of the parts look conventional: 5 & 11h Strips, DAS, Angle & Flat Brackets, a 5*11h Flgd Plate, 2h Ø Pulleys, Axles, small hex Nuts, fillister Bolts, and a Spanner. There are 2 possible 'foreigners'. One, the two circular parts that look like ballraces, even if the Wheels of the Crane on the lid do seem to have some face holes. The other is the 'strip' whose end can be seen poking out aslant from below the end of the top 11h Strip in the photo. It looks to be flat on the bottom of the box and if so its holes are much nearer the edge than in the other Strips. Also 6 & 10h Strips can be seen on the lid but that may be artistic licence.

WIMA: S1 [35/1036]

5. Don Redmond wrote that he has seen **MEKANIX** sets (see 34/1009) in Canada with the name DOLLARAMA (a chain of 'dollar stores') on them and a Montreal postcode H4P 1M2. Also China as the country of origin. The boxes are 16½*11½*2½cm and the inside packaging is similar to that of the OSN 34 sets.

POLYLONG (MEKANIX): S8 [35/1036]

6. Also from Don, after a discussion with Kendrick Bisset. Tinplated Strips & Brackets, instead of nickel parts, may be found in **U.S. MECCANO** sets prior to the Elizabeth Meccano factory opening (and making tinplated parts) in 1922. They