

THIS NEWSLETTER IS SUPPLIED ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS FOR THE PERSONAL USE OF THE RECIPIENT FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES ONLY

EDITORIAL This Issue has 28 pages instead of the usual 32. This change will also apply to any future issues and, in the face of repeated rises in postal charges, is to avoid having to increase the subscription rates for the printed version of OSN.

For anyone who hasn't come across them there are now two important sources of 'Other Systems' information. The first is that all of Jean-Pierre Guibert's Encyclopédie (see 52/1580) can now be seen at http://www.mecca-clocks.fr/accueil_autres_systemes_01.htm. Simply click on the initial letter of the system in question. Jean-Pierre's 'Database' can be downloaded from one of the small mauve panels below the initial letters – it is labelled 'Index de tri des jeux fichiers Excel'. The other mauve panels provide other useful information.

The second source is an extension of Timothy Edwards Meccano website to cover Other Systems. It contains all the information from MCS and my Database, plus scans of manuals, etc, and sometimes photos of sets. The scans can be downloaded. The address is <https://meccanoindex.co.uk/Other/index.php?id=1601635899#>. Access to a system is via its initial letter from the A-Z along the top. Other useful options under 'Other' Systems Home include downloading all the MCS pages, and a search facility of the Database for any combination of 12 parameters. Examples for 1, 2 & 3 parameters are 'Screw Thread'; 'Country' and 'System Type'; 'Material', 'Hole Pitch' & 'Hole Diameter'.

Finally on a sad note, Jacques Pitrat died unexpectedly in October 2019. Over the years he contributed many articles to OSN, often with details of rare or unusual systems. His last article will appear in the next Newsletter. For me Jacques was the ideal correspondent, always patient and helpful with my queries and questions. I'll miss you Jacques.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **FERMO**. A set of this German system from 1946-47 was described in 27/784. Its 3 main parts were Triangular Plates, the largest with a centre cutout the size of the smallest. The Manual though showed the largest with no cutout, and also the Pulley with boss was not illustrated (though it was listed as PN 18). Now Angel Rodriguez Palacios has provided details of his outfit dated March 1946. It is without doubt earlier than the OSN 27 set, its large Triangles have no cutout, it has no Pulleys, and there is no mention of the Pulley in its manual. Like the OSN 27 set it contained the 2 sizes of Disc that can be used to make pulleys.

FERMO: S4

[54/1644]

2. **Gilbert's MECCANO Products**. Kendrick Bisset showed a display of these recently and 24 photos of them can be seen at <http://www.nzmeccano.com/image-141249>. After the photos is a link to download notes on the various items. These include details of the relationship between the 1928 'Hornby' sets and the 1929 'Gilbert' outfits, as well as notes on all the later Gilbert ones, right through to the 1937-38 blue & gold sets. Also covered are the Liverpool made sets sold by Gilbert in the US, and oddball items such as Puzzles, a Foundry Set, and a model Greenhouse.

Also included, BOLTLESS BUILDER, the set below, said to



be from 1937. Kendrick wrote that it may have been a prototype, though a few examples of it are known to exist. Possibly it was intended to replace MECCANO MORECRAFT when that system left the Gilbert camp. The connections of the parts, using dimples and holes, did not make a secure joint and it is hard to imagine that BOLTLESS BUILDER would have been especially successful.

GILBERT MECCANO: S4
[54/1644]

BOLTLESS BUILDER: S1
[54/1644]

3. **TITAN Phases**. Details of two phases were given in 26/761 & 45/1381. The first had parts with a dull grey metallic finish, the second had nearly twice as many different types of part, and they were painted, with black Strips, green A/Gs, and red & blue Plates. Now Timothy Edwards has pointed out that there was also an in between phase similar to the first but with painted parts.

TITAN: S3

[54/1644]

OSN Subscription Rates, Printed Version The price per Issue, including postage is £6.50 for UK; £8 by air to Europe & surface anywhere; £9 by air outside Europe. **Back Issues** For the zones above : OSN 1: £1.50/£4/£5; OSN 2,3: £3.50/£5.50/£6.50 each; OSN 4-27: £5/£7/£8.50 each; OSN 28 on: £7/£8.50/£9.50. (All colour & some B&W issues are on loose double-sided sheets.) Postage at cost on multiple orders. **OSN by PDF** The current Issue of OSN is also available as PDF files sent to subscribers as email attachments as pages become available. Their content is identical to the printed version. A £10 subscription covers the current & any later Issues. **Payments** Please make cheques etc payable to P.A.Knowles. Remittances must be in Pounds Sterling (GBP) or, as cash in Euros or US Dollars (£1=€1.1=\$1.3). Payments may also be made using PayPal (in Sterling please). **Small Ads** Short ads are free to subscribers (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask). Ads are sent by email to PDF subscribers.

SUBS: OSN Printed Version
Your Credit Balance:
was £ after OSN 53
was £ after your remittance
 of £
is £ after this Issue
Please send at least £ if you
wish to receive the next Issue.
SUBS: OSN PDF Subscribers:
See panel left.