

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

**EDITORIAL** First, apologies for the Eitech update items in the last issue which had already been covered in OSN 43. Old age & senility creep on! Otherwise, steady as she goes. I little thought when I typed out, pasted up, & photocopied the first, 8-page OSN, that it would continue for 22 years, and that eventually all the pages would be concocted entirely on a computer and printed at home on a little colour printer. Who knows, we might reach No.50, and I say 'we' advisedly, to include all who help, or have helped down the years, with contributions, comments & support. And thanks too to Ebay for all those interesting Snippets.

### Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

#### 1. Snippet. 'New' Italian System: **IL MECCANICO 900**.

The photos of the manual below were taken from the Italian Ebay and it was said to contain 24 blue pages, and to date



FIG.1

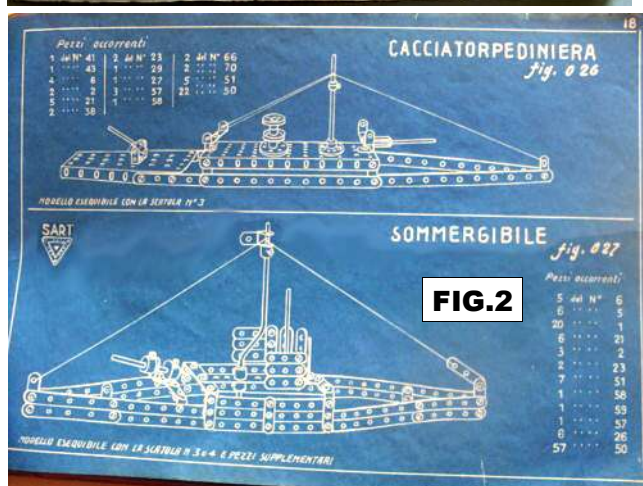


FIG.2

from the 1940s. Also that the maker was SART of Torino (Turin), a name that can be seen above the triangular logo on the cover & the model page above. At first I thought the '900' might refer to a set size but along the bottom of the cover it says that the system comprises 5 sets, Nos.0-4. The 2 models shown, Nos.26 & 27, are on p18 and are for Set 3. The parts look conventional and a 5\*11h Flanged Plate & an 8h long Flanged Sector Plate can be seen in the Destroyer. The highest PN in the lists of parts is #70.

**IL MECCANICO 900: S1**

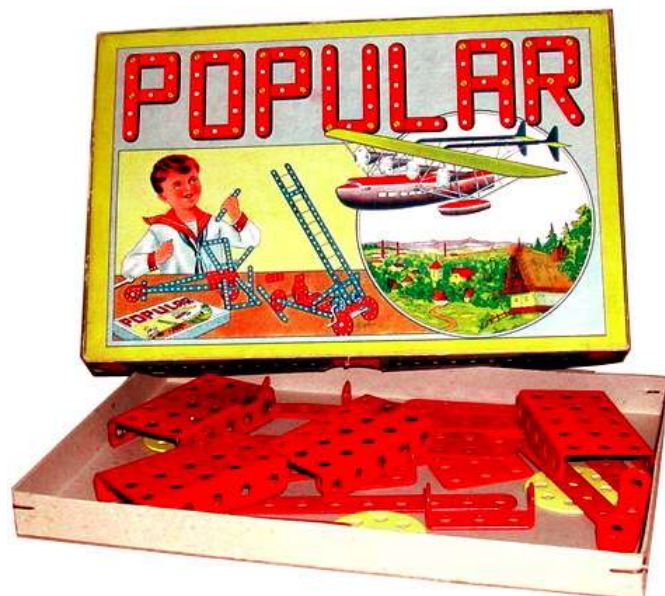
[45/1356]

2. **The History of German TRIX.** Werner Sticht has written a really comprehensive account – go to [www.trix-metaal.nl](http://www.trix-metaal.nl) & click on the link 'Eine Geschichte des Trix-Metallbaukastens'. It is all in German of course but a Google translation works well and there are numerous images and links to others.

**TRIX: S6**

[45/1356]

3. **'New' Czech System: POPULAR.** The set below is shown on Merkur's website with a date of 1932. It is said to have



been introduced in 1930 and may have included some new parts. It was produced alongside the MERKUR sets but it isn't clear if it was intended for export or as a cheap addition to the regular range. The lid's appearance is radically different to the MERKUR designs of the time and the Set was not mentioned in 1932 & 1933 Czech ads for MERKUR & METROPOL. If the 5\*3h Flanged Plates in the box are original they may have been a new part, which was never, as far as is known, used in other sets until the M1 motorisation set in 1970, and then in the 201/202 sets introduced in the 1980s.

**POPULAR: S1**

[45/1356]

4. **'New' System: JEULIN** From Jean-Pierre Guibert, a new page from his Encyclopédie (see 43/1292, & 44/1324 for J-P's correct email address). Jeulin was an established educational supply house which specialised in scientific and technical material, and produced a series of sets aimed at schools & colleges from 1963 to 1970. The parts were mainly bought-in from Meccano in the standard blue/gold/dark red colours of the period and included Elektrikit items as appropriate. Special parts included Hooks & Weights for use in balances etc, and zinc electrodes in the electrical set.

[Cont. >>]

### SMALL AD

[45/1356]

**Wanted** Anything relating to **CHARPENTO**, and I would welcome contact/correspondence with others about it. Please ring Gary Maslin on 01635 200460 or write to 'Carlisle' Curridge Road, Curridge, Thatcham, Berks, RG18 9DH



The latter, 'machines électriques', is shown below and



'éléments MECCANO' can be seen under the JEULIN name.

The other sets, all shown on the Encyclopédie page, were: 'initiations-nous à la mécanique' including Gears; 'études leviers et balances'; and 'construisons circuits électriques'. All have the same style of packaging, and lids with a photo of a boy & a girl, but set on different background colours. An electric motor could be made from the Machines Électriques outfit, but otherwise nothing is known of the scope of the sets or whether they included a manual or instruction sheets.

**JEULIN: S1**

[45/1357]

**5. WIFRA & EBERT MERKUR Sets.** These were mentioned in 40/1196 and were small sets with parts for the model(s) on the lid, and probably others in a model leaflet – almost certainly all were existing MERKUR models.

The Merkur website shows photos of 6 WIFRA sets, each labelled with a date of 1988. The sets, with the model(s) on the lid in brackets are: Flugzeug (Shoulder Wing Monoplane); Gärtner mit Zwei Karren, see OSN 40 (Gardener with Two Barrows); Gelände-Rennwagen (Off-road Racer); Güterwagon mit Schranken, right (Goods Wagon with Level Crossing Barrier); Hubschrauber (Helicopter); Windmühle (Windmill).



Only one EBERT set is shown and it is dated 1992. Apart from the name the lid it is identical to the WIFRA Flugzeug, and since the EBERT Hubschrauber lid in OSN 40 is the same as the WIFRA one, it is quite likely that there were other EBERT sets matching the WIFRA ones.

The sides of the EBERT boxes carry the KOMEB logo, right, which was shown



on a set containing a MERKUR Motor etc in 26/760. Said set is actually shown on the Merkur site and is dated 1992. Broumov under the logo is a town some 10km from Police nad Metuji, and together they are MERKUR's home towns. The WIFRA box sides have the logo right with Kovopodnik above it (the company's name while it was nationalised) & Broumov underneath.

**MERKUR: S9**

[45/1357]

**6. Snippet. Another 1913 TOY BUILDER Outfit.** This Ebay set below has a wider selection of parts than the Sears 10 cent



**FIG.1**

one described in 28/833, and would have been capable of building more elaborate models, but unfortunately there was no model sheet with it. The box's lid was used only in 1913, and there is a much better photo of it in OSN 28. It was said to measure approximately 10\*5", about the size of the 10c set. Some of the parts such as the Girders with flanged rather than formed edges, and pulleys made from 2 Pulley Discs & a steel Tyre held together by a threaded brass Hub, confirm the 1913 date – all these parts were changed for 1914.

The Set Contents label below was stuck inside the lid, and



**FIG.2**

interestingly it is headed 'CONTENTS OF ERECTOR NO. 0.' Greenberg lists a No.0 for 1913 but gives no details beyond saying that its box was 11\*7\*3/4", that it cost 50c, and built 13 different models. I wonder about the 13 models, 69 were claimed for a later No.0 with a very similar inventory to the Ebay set, and when TOY BUILDER sets were next sold in 1915 the smallest had 47 parts for '100 Toys'.

**TOY BUILDER: S2**

[45/1357]

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**Small Ads** Short ads are free to subscribers; insertion guaranteed in OSN 46 if received by mid-February (but repeats may not always be possible, please ask).

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