

5. On **KONSTRUKTOR K.115** (19/530), Michael Denny pointed out that the town of Brest is now part of Belarus, rather than Russia, and that the Éavod in the maker's name should read Zavod (meaning factory or works).

6. From David Hobson. • Another **CONSTRUCTION JEEP** set has been seen, with similar packaging to the one described in 17/469. However it was marked with a KK (see 14/373) in an oval, and in a larger oval, **MARUSAN TOYS \ SAN \ JAPAN**. Also the Flanged Plate was the large, rounded corner type, painted red. The N&B were nickel and the Bolts roundheaded, but the Nuts were hexagonal.

• On **MAKE-AND-KNOW** (see 19/555), there was also a plastic version, a poor quality copy of the original, 1956, **PLASTIC MECCANO**. A leaflet shows models for Sets A, B & C, and has on it, 'Manufactured by Ravindra Plastic Works (India)'; on a Set A box is, 'Sindhvani Toys & Games'.

7. From Don Redmond wrote of a **TECHMASTER** No.50 set corresponding to the one described in 14/391. The N&B appear to be commercial items; the round heads of the Bolts are 5.3mm Ø, and the Nuts 8mm A/F.

8. Kendrick Bisset wrote that he had learnt about some other systems through auction items on the internet. A site called **ebay.com** has a listing site specifically for 'Erector' sets, and OS show up there periodically.

• One such is the **#150 POW'R HOUSE Ferris Wheel** Kit mentioned in 19/552, and it is clearly very similar to the 'mystery' model in *Canadian Meccanotes*. A picture of the set below shows dark coloured Braced Side Supports, spaced apart at the bottom by a red Base with steps pressed into one side. Yellow Radial Arms bolt onto 6-arm Hubs, probably grey plated, and support blue Rim Segments, cranked at each end, 6 to a side. The Rims are channel section; the Arms may be similar or angle girders.



The Base is not shown in the *Meccanotes* model. The 6 Chairs are variously red, blue & yellow, each with a decal of an animal on the back rest - a giraffe, elephant, lion, bear, seal & hippo. No drive can be seen but a **Motor** construction set was available. The illustration gives no indication of size. The box lid has the model, in different colours, against a fairground scene. **POW'R HOUSE** sets were made by Kelmar Corporation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, & a **Sky Ride** set has also been mentioned.

• Another item is a **1943 BILD-A-SET** outfit, with thick paper parts held together with wooden pegs. It is suggested that these materials were used because metal was not available during the war. Some notes on a BILD-A-SET manual cover appeared in 15/426. Bild-A-Set also made a large number of rather nice card buildings.

• Kendrick also sent a list of **screw threads** from a 1924 S.W.Card Mfg. Co. Tap & Die Catalog. So far as 60° U.S. threads go, the sizes over and above those in 7/169 & 16/459, are the US Std: 3/32" x 50 tpi, 1/8" x 32, 1/4" x 27, & 1/2" x 28. New 60° metric ones are 2mm Ø x .45mm pitch, & 2.5 x .45, though compared to OSN 7, most French threads are listed as International (IFS), and vice-versa. Kendrick listed the smaller threads as well, down to 1/16" and the US #0 diameter, if anyone would like details.

• Finally he mentioned that Marx Trains have produced a system called **TIN TOWN**, which is very similar to the 1920s BILT-E-Z (see 14/378). It is being sold (at train shows) as a collectible, not a toy, because of the sharp edges and toy safety requirements.

9. From Jacques Pitrat. • The Wetzel web site (see 19/552) no longer exists, and other 'unknown' metal sets listed were: #510 **MAGNETICKS** (Magnetic Constr., Ohio, 1949); #5804 **CABLE CAR BUILDER** (Schuco, Germany, 1954); #1 **MICKEY MOUSE** Assembly Set (California, 1947); and #1A **MAGNETIC CONSTR. TOYS** (Goodtoy Prod., England, 1915). A lid from a **KUKO** set, by VEB Ankerwerk Schmalkalden, was also shown.

Another interesting site is <http://www.chem.sunysb.edu/msl/LEGO/>; it's mainly Lego but there are also pages on **AMERICAN MODEL BUILDER**, **STANLO**, & **STEEL BUILDER**.

A #2 **KLIPTIKO** set has a 32 page manual in Dutch, but nothing in Dutch on the lid. The 'importeur voor Nederland' was W.L.M.Weimar of Rotterdam, possibly the same as 'Weimar frères' who were the Meccano 'agents généraux' in the French 1910 & 1911 manuals. [From copies Jacques sent, the manual cover is similar to the UK one that has a large (Eiffel) Tower on the left, and the Contents, for Sets 1-6 & 0-5A, are as p6 of MCS.]

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ESCHO: X1.1,2,3,5 [2]

FIX: X2.5a/6,5b [1]

KONSTRUKTOR [11]: X1.1,2,3/4/5/6,3a/4a/6a,5a,5b [3]

KONSTRUKTÖREN: X1.1,2,3/4/6 [2]

REX: X1.1,2 [1]

STEELBUILDER: X1.2a,3a,5a,7a [2]

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**A DISTLER GIGANT 22511 Set** MCS gives details of all the GIGANT range except this one. A blurry picture of it is shown in 2/13 and a similar colour one will be included among this Issue's web colour images. The details below are taken from a Set which David Hobson kindly lent me. The GIGANT (GIANT is the English language name) parts are similar to TRIX but roughly twice the size in all directions, with 6.4mm holes at 16.0mm pitch. So, unique, formidable parts, and a 17h Strip weighs about 60g (2oz).

The end-opening **box** is made of corrugated cardboard, & measures 31\*44\*4cm. The label is white with blue lettering & a multicoloured picture. The Set No. is on the underside of the box together with '1 DISTLER-GIGANT D236'. The parts are in a grey moulded plastic tray, with the N&B in a similar box (the 'plate' top left in the OSN 2 view is the top of it).

The contents are given in the manual: • 12 each of 5,9, 17h (along the centre line) Strips, & 6 of 13h. • 6 each of the DAS ( $1\frac{1}{2}*\frac{1}{2}+3*\frac{1}{2}*1\frac{1}{2}h$ ) & Double Bracket ( $1\frac{1}{2}*\frac{1}{2}+1*\frac{1}{2}*1\frac{1}{2}h$ ). • 12 A/Bs. • 2 each of the 1 & 2h high Small Double Brackets (all missing). • 12 Discs, 55mm Ø; 6 Large Washers, 26mm Ø; 3 Small Washers, 13.3mm Ø. • 4 black plastic Tyres, 86mm o.d., with radial tread between a circular ridge around each sidewall, towards the bottom, & 2 centrally on the top. • M6 threaded parts. Brass Screwed Rods, 12x 115mm long, and 6x 55mm. 110 machined Nuts, 9.8mm A/F & 4.9mm thick. 80 RH Bolts, 10.0 Ø & 12.3mm u/h. The finish of the N&B is black metallic although many look like plain steel, or in between. • 2 Spanners 118mm long o/a, with 6 holes in the handle, and a wire Screwdriver (missing). • 2 Hooks, 72 mm long.

Apart from the Tyres and the N&B, all the parts are painted a lightish blue metallic.

The manual has 16 unnumbered pages, including covers, 222\*156mm deep. It is all in B&W on art paper with photos of the models. The cover is like the MCS one, with the boy and Mobile Crane shown bottom right in 2/14, except that the text above the logo is DISTLER-GIGANT-GROSS-ELEMENT BAUKASTEN. No mention of the Set No. is made anywhere. After a brief Intro on p2, and the Illustrated Parts/Set Contents on p3, 30 models are shown, with a single photo for 27, and two each for the other 3. There is no text or model names. The first model, on p4, is a Shelf Unit with 3 shelves made from (presumably) card, and the last, on p16, is another view of the Crane on the cover. It is by far the best model, and the only one that uses the Tyres – the others are much simpler, small TRIX-like models, Hammers, Buffers, Scales, a Puppet, etc. The Steam Engine & Derrick shown in 2/14 (but without the Motor drive) are among the best, plus perhaps the Lorry below – it would be about 11" long. Clearly, apart from the Mobile Crane the models don't represent the Set's potential.

In passing the Motor isn't shown very clearly in MCS & OSN, so below the Lorry are 2 views of it. The grey metal

cylindrical motor drives into the bright metal cased gearbox, and both are mounted on a blue flanged plate, about 6cm wide & 8½cm long. A 10t TRIX-style gear is on the output shaft, and the terminals, and what may be the brush unit, are at the right end of the motor. The lever at the front is no doubt to change gear, and a reverse function is also mentioned in OSN 2.

**Another MICKEY MOUSE Set** Kendrick Bisset has kindly sent details of the Model A outfit. The photo below shows the container, blue & white on red; part of the white on blue Model Sheet; and most of the the set. The contents seem similar to those in the 24/713) but the bossed Axles are replaced by 1" Ø (no doubt like those in the MOUSE sets), & ¾" Bolts on.



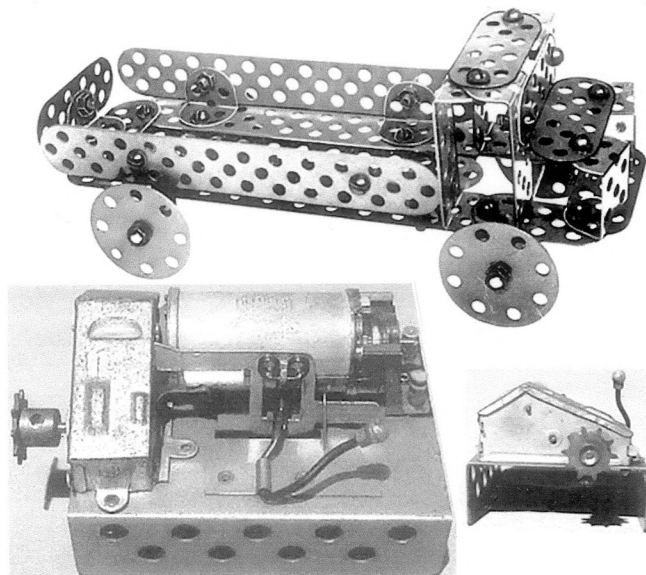
The parts found in the set were: 1 Large & 1 Small Flanged Plate; 6x 4" Strips; 6 Trunnions; 4 'Triangular' Strips ( $\frac{3}{4}*\frac{1}{8}$ "); 8 A/Bs; a Span'driver; 14 square Nuts ( $\frac{5}{16}$ " A/F), 10x ¼" & 4x ¾" u/h RH Bolts. The thread is 8-32, as expected. Compared with the 'S', extra parts are 2 each of Trunnions & A/Bs. Neither is needed for the models on the Model Sheet.

Said Sheet has 'Copyright 1947 by Hollywood Toycoast Inc.' at the bottom, and shows 12 of the 14 models on the 'S' version, but redrawn where appropriate to replace the Pulleys by pairs of Discs, convex sides outwards. An Axle was essential for one of the 'missing' models, and deleting the other made room for the centre text panel. This talks of the 'S' & 'L' sets being available at \$1.69 & \$2.95, and having enough parts (including Tires in the 'L') to build over 50 & 100 models respectively – very many more than on their Model Sheets.

**DER KLEINE ELEKTROTECHNIKER** This German name for the MEHANO Electrical Outfit was mentioned in 22/645 & sets bearing it have now been seen. On the boxes the letters in the 3 words are equal in height, but in a different lid shown on the Mehano web site 'DER KLEINE' is in tiny letters. The English name given there is THE YOUNG ELECTROTECHNICIAN, which does sound rather better than the previous THE LITTLE ELECTROTECHNICIAN.

As with the MEHANO set (see OSN 22), the earlier, similar MEHANOTEHNIKA Electrical Outfit was sold under a number of names, and examples now known are THE LITTLE ELECTROTECHNICIAN (on an English manual), ELEKTRO-PIONIR (German), PIONIR ELEKTRO (on a Yugoslavian manual), & DEN LILLE ELEKTRIKERN (Dutch). The Set Contents in the 2 manuals referred to above are as in MCS, except for the PNs of the Connecting Wire (35 & 36 instead of the 39 & 40 in MCS), but the parts and their names are shown together, and the illustrations of some of the parts differ a little.

A leaflet in German advertising the ELEKTRO-PIONIR set is dated 1964-65.





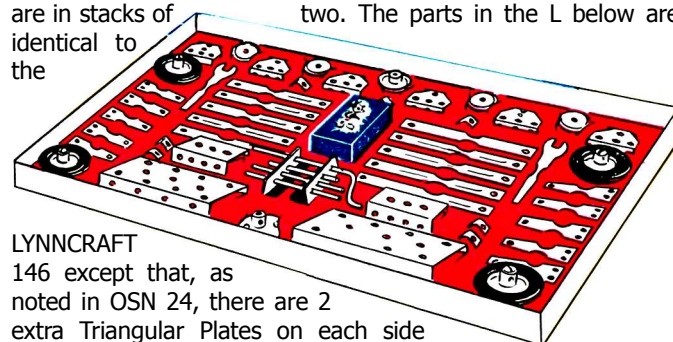
**EDITORIAL** Nothing that needs any comment comes to mind, so I'll take this opportunity to thank all those who send me news & contributions, and those, sometimes unsung, who help when I get stuck over a language problem, etc. The Newsletter would be much more difficult to produce, and would be of lesser quality, without you all. And thank you also to those who simply subscribe to OSN, because in doing so you ensure that it remains viable.

## Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **MICKEY MOUSE** Kendrick Bisset sent a scan of a page in the March 1948 Playthings which announced the S & L sets (see 24/713). They were manufactured by Hollywood Toycraft Inc., 6223 San Fernando Road, Glendale 1, Calif. Sales representatives were Bernard Funk, 200 Fifth Avenue, New York; Al Auger, 1355 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal; & D.D.Ottsoff Co., Second Building Sante Fe Building, Dallas, Texas. These MICKEY MOUSE sets were very similar to LYNNCRAFT, the latter made by the Lynncraft Engineering & Manufacturing Co., also of Glendale 1, but no street name is known. Both sets were illustrated in the ad and compared with the smaller LYNNCRAFT outfit the extra parts in the S below



are 4 Pulley Discs, & 2 A/Bs (beneath the Pulleys in the top corners of the box - the other 4 are either side of the Flanged Plate: in the LYNNCRAFT they are all to its right). The 4 Tyres are in stacks of two. The parts in the L below are identical to the



LYNNCRAFT 146 except that, as noted in OSN 24, there are 2 extra Triangular Plates on each side and 2 extra A/Bs (between the Trunnions and the Strips).

The Sets retailed at \$1.69 and \$2.95.

The canister Set A described in 27/808 was featured in an Ebay snippet of a trade ad, said to be from 1948. Two other outfits are mentioned in it, no doubt the S & L. Not much of the wording can be seen but the maker is the same and the prices are \$3.??, \$6.??, & \$13.?? They would probably be the wholesale prices for 6 sets and the A would retail at about \$1.

## MICKEY MOUSE: S1

[39/1164]

2. **TECHNICO** Some notes on his parts & manuals from Urs Flammer add to the details in 36/1071. He described the parts as elaborate, precisely made, and no doubt expensive at the time. They include both types of joint shown in the UK patents (see 24/686), and a wooden Baseboard, 165\*265mm, as in Urs's model below. The Saw Bench is a No.6 manual model



and Urs added the 2-stage transmission from the Pulley with winding handle on the far side. The Rods are brassed steel and the structure was rigid but difficult to build, and not helped by the 3 threads used, 3, 3.5, & 4mm Ø. The Cube Hub (PN1) has a 8mm side.

Urs has two manuals, both in German, a 1-5 and a 1-10. Neither is quite complete but they have virtually the same content as the English 1-10, with a similar cover design and the same models - ending with No.66 on p24 for the 1-5. The dimensions in these manuals are given in inches, as in the English version, but the parts were almost certainly designed using the metric system. This may point to the German editions being produced after the English one.

No trace of a German patent has come to light but there was an American one, No.1400066 of Dec. 13, 1921, although the application was filed in July, 1914. The patentee's name and address are as in the UK patents, and the Patent's content covers the same ground as the two UK ones.

## TECHNICO: S1

[39/1164]