

OTHER SYSTEMS NEWSLETTER

Editor

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OSN 14

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EDITORIAL Once again I haven't been able to find room for news of non-metal systems, and at least for the foreseeable future it's hard to see that enough space will be available to do them justice.

However a solution may be at hand. David Hobson has a particular interest in this area and would be willing, if there's enough support for it, to produce another Newsletter devoted solely to constructional systems with parts mainly of stone, wood, plastic, or any other material that

isn't metal. It would also include all architectural systems because it seems more sensible to keep them all together, given that so many of them are mainly non-metallic in character.

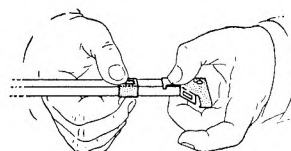
I very much welcome this proposal because it would allow an adequate treatment of a major area which is of interest to many enthusiasts. If you might be interested in subscribing please contact David at 'Woodington', Edford Green, Holcombe, Bath, BA3 5DB, England; or by telephone on 01761 232741.



The PYFYL Toys for Boys and Girls



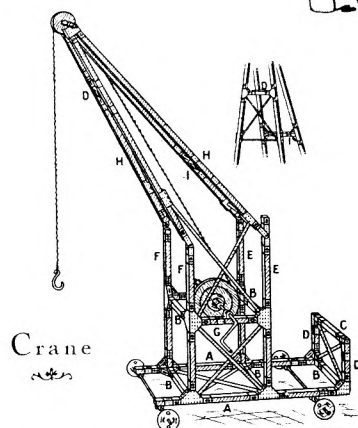
INSTRUCTIONS



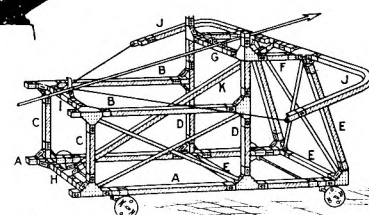
With one hand hold the metallic piece with the spur fastened into the notch, with the other make the locking-ring slip on the branch of the metallic piece.



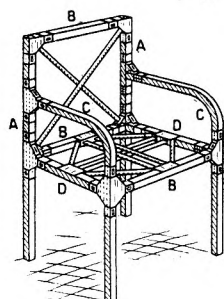
PYFYL is adjusted very easily.



Crane

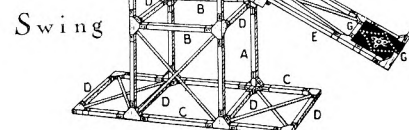
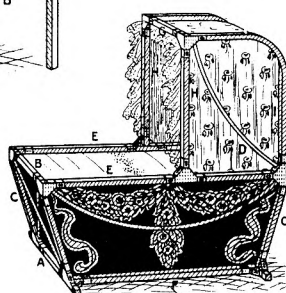


Ballist



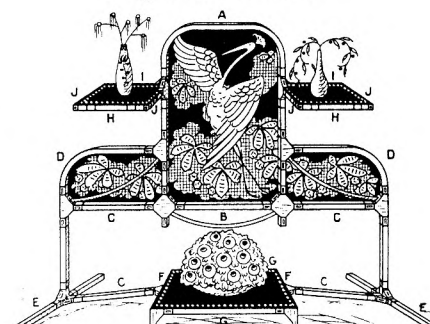
Rustic Arm Chair

Cradle



Swing

Japanese Screen



The 70+ parts in this early French system are made of bamboo with brass fittings. The joints are surprisingly rigid once the sleeves have been pushed home. The main strips, called 'bamboos', are 3mm square in section. Some oblongs of card covered in patterned material are included in the outfits, but most of the decorative effects are left to the ingenuity of the modeller. The illustrations here are from a No.1 manual and I would be grateful for information about larger sets or models.

PYFYLY The standard parts of this unique French system are made of bamboo & brass, and illustrations of them are given in MCS, together with several models. Also some small No.1 Set models were shown in 14/365. Now to hand are:

- A near complete No.18 theme set to make Bedroom Furniture (multi-lingual). With it were manuals for Set 0 (multi-lingual) & for Set 1 (French), and some parts that could have come from either Set. Also an ad leaflet in French overprinted with 1921 prices.
- A No.1 set with manual (English).
- Some details of an English No.2 Set, and a photocopy of its manual (thanks to Kendrick Bisset).
- Photos of another No.2, and of an unused No.3, both English (courtesy Malcolm Hanson).

HISTORY PYFYLY was patented in France (No.489330, application date April 30), and the corresponding UK patent was 100396. It was applied for on April 20, 1916, and accepted on Feb. 2, 1921. It was in the name of Fernand Roger Marcel Philippart, Workman, of Garches (Seine et Ouse). David Hobson kindly sent these details, and pointed out a rather nice sentence in the UK patent, probably a rather literal translation from the French, which casts doubt on the value of metal systems - 'The models which can be constructed from the metallic elements supplied are inelegant and so inæsthetic as to be prejudicial for the education of the eye of the child.' With such sentiments in it, small wonder it took the British authorities 5 years to accept the patent!

Given the 1921 overprint, the Leaflet probably dates from 1920. No other firm dates are known except that PYFYLY was said to be a new toy in the UK in June 1921 (see 18/522). The other documents show some changes in the sets advertised and will be listed in a possible date order. However this assumed order means that the No.4 Set was added to the range and then dropped as other outfits were introduced.

The '**1920' Leaflet** lists Sets 1, 2, & 3, and says that 25, 65, & 100 models are described for them.

Also the following are said to be preparation for 1921:

- 'Boîte No.4, pour Fillettes et Garçons.'
- 'Boîte Inventeur pour Garçons avec moteur et mouvements Pyfyly.'
- 'Et son magnifique Album de Décors qui vous émerveillera.' (... which will amaze you.)

Both No.1 & the No.2 manuals mention Sets 1-3, and also Set 4 as an established fact. The number of parts in the No.1 is given as 226, and in the No.2, 360, and there are 25 & 65 models for them, as in the 1920 Leaflet. A forthcoming Inventor's Box is mentioned in the No.2, including: 'With regard to movements Pyfyly has a practical and elegant solution in reserve. You will be able to construct the most perfect working models with the aid of a motor now being constructed and which, like the rest of the Pyfyly hobby, will fear neither criticism nor comparison.' No other sets are specifically mentioned but photos are shown of rooms containing suites of Dining & Drawing Room Furniture made from PYFYLY.

The **No.18 Model Sheet** mentions:

- A No.0 outfit with 55 models from 145 parts.
- Sets No.1, 2, & 3, with 226, 360, & 670 parts, but 80, 120, 150 models in their manuals (compared with 25 & 65 models for Sets 1 & 2 before - no manuals with these numbers of models are known).
- A series of Furniture Sets No.10-13. No.10 is for 2 Dining Chairs; 11 for a Table & 2 Chairs; 12 for a Sideboard & Flower Stand; & 13 for the Dining Room

complete, with 7 pieces.

• Another series with Sets 14-17. No.14 is for 2 Drawing Room Chairs; 15 for 2 Drawing Room Armchairs; 16 for a Centre (low) Table & a Couch; & 17 for the Drawing Room complete, with 6 pieces.

• And finally No.18, the Bedroom complete, with 5 pieces (Bed, Dressing Table, Chaise Longue, Chair, & Work Table); and 19 for a Chest of Drawers & a Screen (which are shown in the No.18 Model Sheet as extras for the Bedroom).

The **No.0 Manual** claims 154 (not 145 as before) parts for the Set, and shows 33 models, plus the 26 letters of the Alphabet.

The other sets listed are:

- Nos.1-3; and, not mentioned anywhere before, 0A, 1A, & 2A linking sets.
- The Bed, Dining, & Drawing Room sets without any Set Nos.
- A 'series of 'Knick-Knacks: Baskets, Flower-stands, etc.'
- 'Outfits for boys : Aéros, Engines.' (in French: Aéros, Machines).

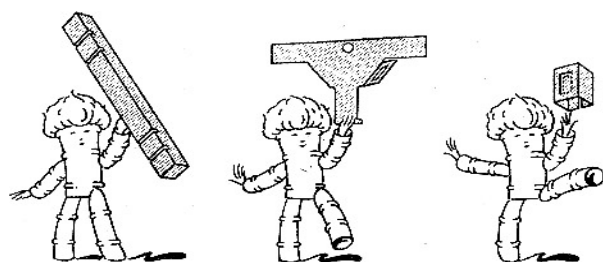
'Decoration Albums Nos.1, 2, 3, Home Decoration.'

Names & Addresses The No.1's & the No.2 manual were printed by Keller, 88 Rue Rochecouart, Paris, and published by 'la S. A. J.' ('the S. A. J. Co' or 'the S. A. J. & Co' in the English versions), 136bis Rue Beccaria, Paris. The No.0 manual has PYFYLY, 136bis Rue Beccaria, Paris on the back cover, and was printed by E. Benaud, 25 r. Pastourelle, Paris. No company or printer is given on the other material.

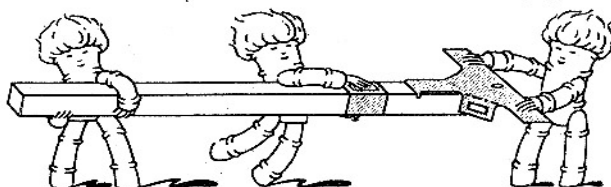
A French **patent** is claimed (Breveté S.D.G.D.) on all the French language literature, but where there is English text only 'Patent applied for' - thus the latter should indicate a date before Feb. 1921 if the status of the UK Patent was kept up-to-date in the literature.

The PARTS and their use. The 76 parts in the system, about half of them metal, are shown in MCS, but some details, and the way they are used, may not be entirely clear. **Structures** are made from the 13 lengths of 3mm square bamboo Strips (33-339mm long), and the same material formed into various 'U' and other shapes. (The Strips are numbered 3-30, and the number represents the nominal length of the Strip in the Units shown on a full size scale, up to #24, in the manuals. At a glance one might assume that each Unit is 1cm but in fact it is about 11.3mm, so a #24 Strip is 271½mm long. Marks showing the unit divisions are on the bottom side of the Strips but the end units are only 10mm, so the actual strips are about 3mm shorter than shown on the scale in the manuals.) Each Strip has 2 notches near each end, and joints are made using small brass Fittings, 20 in all, 8 of which incorporating a hinge. In the diagram on the next page the lip on the end of the Fitting is engaged in a notch, and then the two parts are locked together by sliding a dimpled Sleeve, 5mm long, over the lipped end. It works surprisingly well and gives quite a rigid joint. Even stronger beams can be made using Fittings with pairs instead of single lugs, so allowing 2 parallel Strips, 3mm apart, with a Fitting at both ends. The rectangular hole in the diagonal lug on the side of the Fitting is to receive diagonal Bracing members, about 1 mm square in section - they improve the appearance of models but do not carry loads. The Bracing Strips have to be cut to fit from 12cm long lengths, and are flexible enough to be bowed and inserted after the rest of a structure is complete.

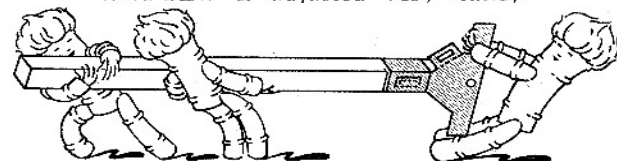
5 types of 'wheel' are shown in the Illustrated Parts, 4 wooden **Pulleys**, #1-4, and the **Roller**. The latter is made



PYFYLY presents its 3 essential elements

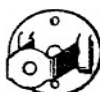


PYFYLY is adjusted very easily.



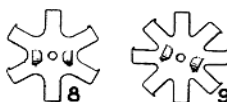
PYFYLY is as firm as a rock

from a blued steel Boss, called a Collar which is sprung into 2 pressed through tunnels in an 11½mm brass disc. This disc has a centre hole and 2 small holes near the edge. The complete Roller is shown right.



The other 4 wheels are wooden **Pulleys**. #1 & 2 are turned, of 12½ & 24mm Ø; the 24mm has a Roller nailed to one side (through the 2 small holes) to give it a hub.

#3 & 4 are built up with 4 & 6 spokes, and scale at 72 & 100mm Ø. In each the spokes are attached to a centre Fitting (#7, & #8 right) which has the 2 slots to take a Boss.



If a fast Wheel is needed a rubber **Axle Stop** can be fitted inside the Boss. The small Pulley can only be held fast by pushing an Axle Stop against either side of it.

This last method may have been found unsatisfactory and may have led to the introduction of **another Pulley**, made of brass, found in some sets but not shown in the manuals. It is made from 2 identical 17½mm discs, with 2 slots & 2 holes in each. They are riveted together through the holes, and a Boss can be fitted to the slots in either side.

Axles are steel, sometimes brassed, and 1.74mm Ø. Four are shown in the Illustrated Parts but 5 have been seen in different sets, and their lengths are not entirely consistent. In the No.1 & No.2, both incomplete, they are respectively 45 & 112mm, and 79, 101, 124 & 215mm. In a complete No.3 they are, by scaling, 44, 85, 111, 133 & 218mm. Only one of the two sizes of Crank Handles shown are in the Sets and they are 117, 113 & 118mm in length o/a.

Other parts not named or referred to in the manuals, nor shown in the Illustrated Parts, are what have been called **Cushions** – oblong pieces of card with rounded corners, in at least 5 sizes, covered with a heavily patterned floral fabric on one side & brown paper, glued on, on the back.

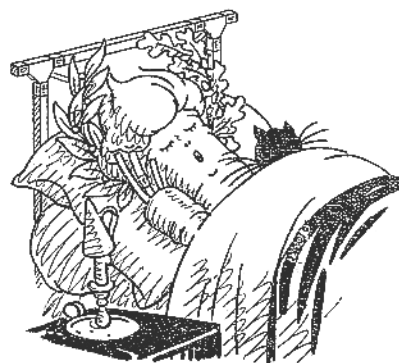
The **instructions** in the manuals are not easy follow at first but once mastered models are easy to build, provided

the right number of Sleeves are put on each Strip for the intermediate Fittings before the end ones are locked in place. Much dismantling though can be needed to add an extra Fitting to a completed structure.

Bob Pyfyly, the lumpy looking lad doing the work in the drawings left, would no doubt say that it teaches the young to plan ahead. There's Michette (right) as well as Bob, but all she is shown doing is snoozing with her cat (below, right), demonstrating the comforts of a PYFYLY Bed, no doubt.

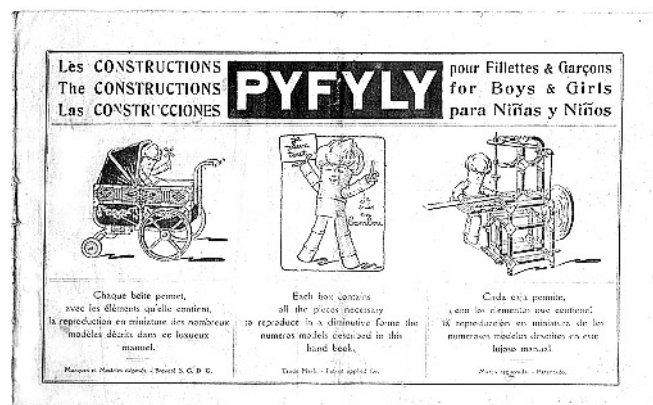


Many of the models include solid side areas, floors, etc, but no indication is given of whether the **Cushions** are to be used for these. Often they are not the right size to fit into frameworks. Perhaps they are in the sets to give builders the idea of making more suitable ones for the individual models.



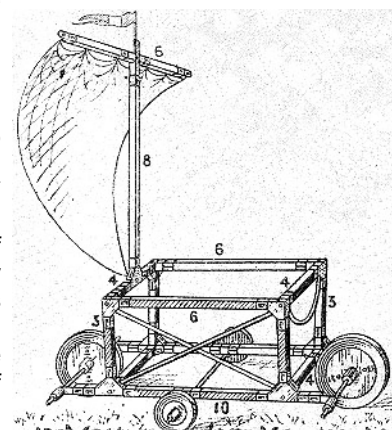
The No.0 MANUAL

This manual is in French, English & Spanish, and has 16 unnumbered pages, including covers, 244*152mm. Like all the Manuals it is printed in green with shaded line drawing of the models. Unlike the other Manuals the cover (below) has



no Set No., only 'Each box contains all the pieces necessary to reproduce in a diminutive forme the numeros models described in this hand book.' Inside there is just 'BOX No.0 CONTAINING 154 PIECES' before the model section. pp2-3 explain PYFYLY's many merits and have small drawings of Sets 0-3; p4 has the usual Illustrated Parts; and pp4-5 detailed instructions. The 33 models are on pp6-14, from The TABLE to BALANCE, and in addition the PYFYLY ALPHABET is on p13. pp15-16 have the list of the other sets already mentioned, and various larger models.

The models are mostly small items of furniture, with the usual



elaborate decorations to be supplied by the builder, but there are also a few others including a Windmill & Steam Hammer with cord drives, and the 'Sail-Sledge' shown in the last column. From the models the Set must contain 2 each of Pulleys #1 & #2.

The No.1 SET This is in a blue box, 35½*13½*3cm, with a

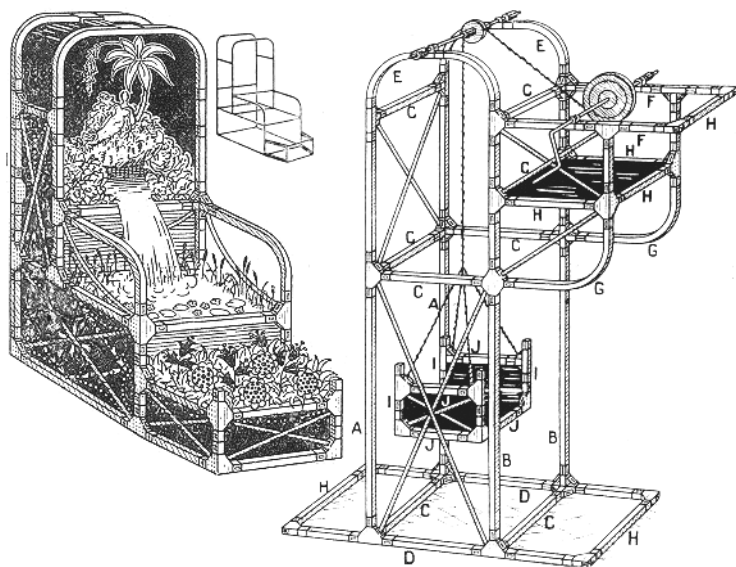


hinged lid, and the label below, 31½*11¼cm. The models on it are not in the Manual. The parts are strung onto cards, one stuck to the inside of the lid, and others within card partitions in the base. The cards are printed with the name, & sometimes the number of the set, and marks to indicate the positioning of some of the pieces.

No **inventory** is available for this set but it probably includes 1 each of Pulleys 1 & 2, and 4 Rollers. Also 2 Cushions, 6*6cm.

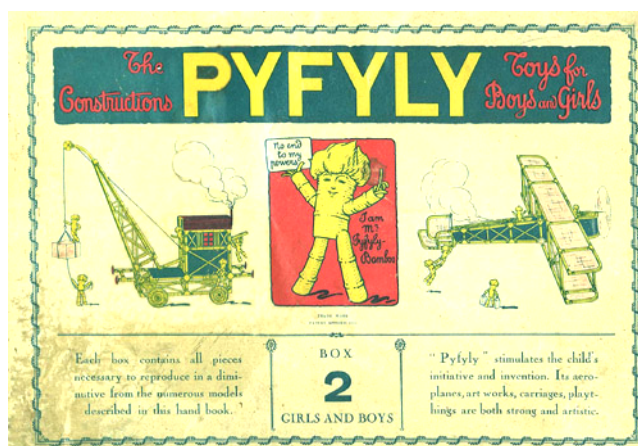
The **Manual** has 24 unnumbered pages, including covers, 319*119mm, and the cover is exactly the same as the lid label above, except that it is printed in green with no other colours. The Illustrated Parts are on pp2-3, the Intro & Instructions on pp4-9, and the 25 models on pp10-22. They start with a Rustic Chair and the last is a Lift. p23 has photos dining and drawing rooms filled with Furniture, and the back cover has a photo of a Twin-Engine Biplane outside a Hangar, and ads for Sets 1-4, & 'detached pieces'.

A selection of the models was shown in OSN 14 – overall there are still many domestic items but the mechanical models include a Bobbin Winder, a Carding Machine, & the Lift below right. Also below a Spring, that is a little waterfall half way up the exotic looking scenery. Full marks for originality, but I wonder what mama, or maman, thought about the water feature.



The French version of this Manual is identical apart from the language.

The No.2 SET The box is similar in style to the No.1, but brown and larger, 26½*34¼*3cm. Again the parts are on cards in the bottom & in the lid. The label, atop the next column, again nearly covers the lid, and again the models on

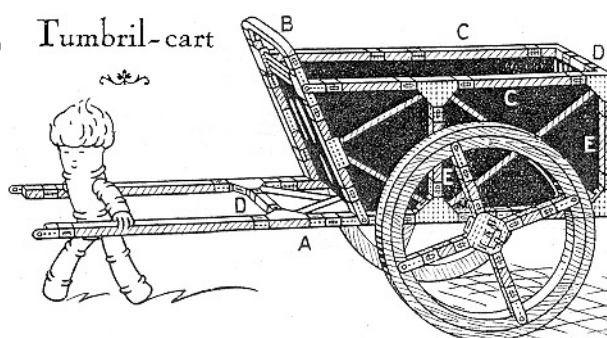


it are not in the Manual, though a slightly simplified version of the Crane is included.

An **inventory** for a No.2, with 21 of its 360 parts missing, is available on request. The main parts include 70 Strips & 10 Formed Strips; 76 Fittings with 135 Sleeves for them, 2x 4-spoke, 4x 24mm, & 1x 12½mm Pulleys; 6 Axles & a Crank Handle; and 2 Small Propeller Blades. Also 1 very large Cushion, about 10*13cm & 4 with sides of 6-8cm.

The **Manual** has 32 unnumbered pages, including covers, 319*238mm (twice as deep as the No.1), and the cover is again an all green copy of the lid label. The Intro is on p2, the Illustrated Parts are on p3, & the Instructions are on pp4-6. pp7-13 have the 25 No.1 models, exactly as in the No.1 manual. p14 starts with the announcement about the Inventor's set & Motor, and after that the first No.2 model, a Dining-Room Chair. The rest of the 40 No.2 models follow and the last one is a Lathe on p30. The two sides of the back cover are similar to those in the No.1 manual.

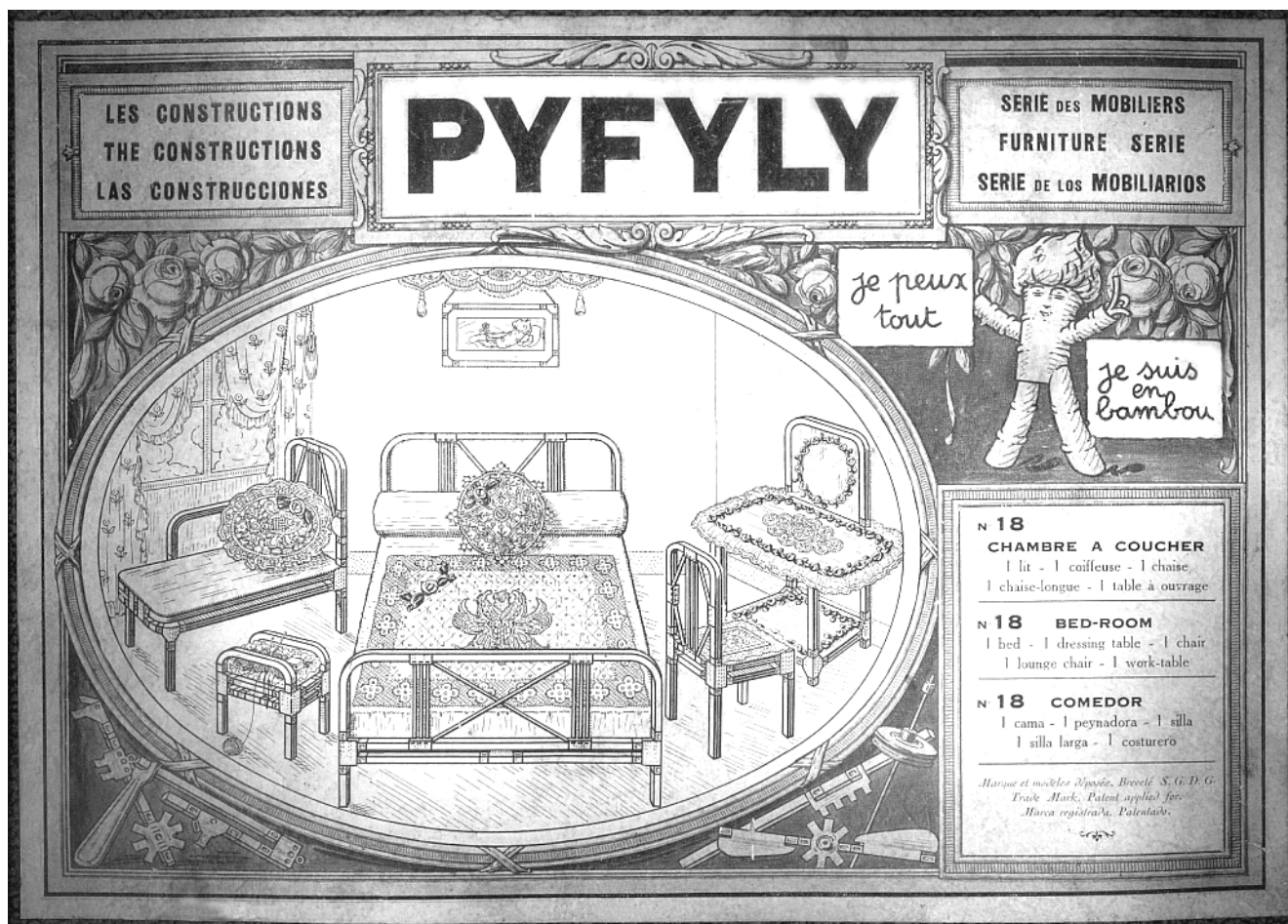
The No.2 models still include much Furniture & the like, but there are also some more ambitious models. Some are shown in MCS/FB, among them a Mobile Crane, a Letter Balance, & a Lathe, and others include a Gondola, a Roundabout, the Tumbril-cart below, and the Aeroplane shown on p844 – it has moving tail surfaces and a rubber band to drive the propeller.



The No.3 SET The box is dark blue, and again similar in style, but larger, it scales at 39*32cm, and there is a separate tray for the Wheels and most of the Fittings. The Strips are all in the bottom of the box, and the Cushions, Axles, & Propeller Blades are in the lid. The label is the same as the No.2 except for the set number.

No **inventory** is available for the No.3 but most of the main parts can be seen from a photo of an unused set. They include 2x 6-spoke, 4x 4-spoke, 8x 24mm, & 2x 12½mm Pulleys; 8 Rollers; about 150 Fittings, 4x 'L' & 9x 'U' Formed Strips; 8 Large & 10 Small Propeller Blades; 14 Axles & 2 Crank Handles; and 1 Large & 8 Small Cushions.

[Cont. >]



The No.18 SET This is the Bedroom Set. The box is a dark grey mottle, 34*25*5¼cm, with the B&W label above, 28½*21cm, on the separate lid. Below the completed model, with all except the floor in the Set. The Backdrop is 25cm

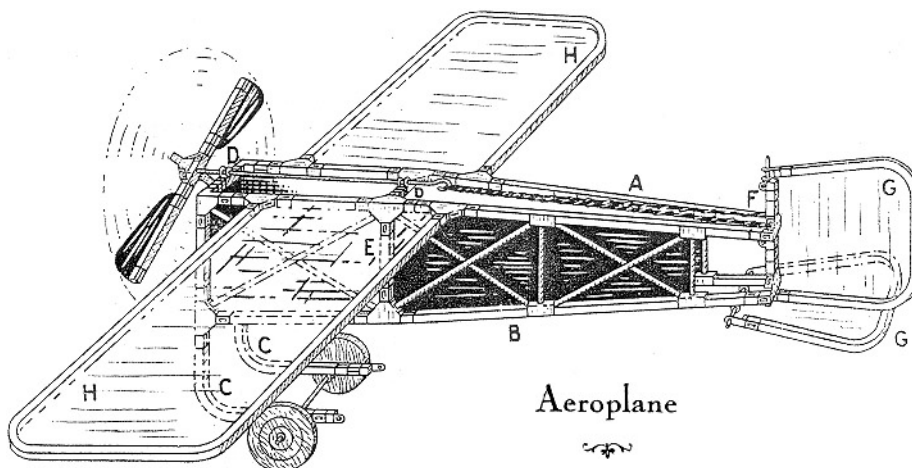
deep, 33cm across the centre, with 18cm wings. There are 2 layers of parts in the box with 3 of the usual style cards in the bottom and one in a deep tray above. The latter has a small card box for the Sleeves, 8*3½*1cm, stuck on one



corner. The wording on the cards is in French & English but the label & manual are in Spanish as well. The Backdrop folds up and is tied down inside the lid by narrow pink braid.

The Parts – the frameworks for the different items are made from standard parts. Most of the special parts - the Seats for the Chair & Chaise Longue; the Top of the Work Table; and the Top, Back, & Shelf of the Dressing Table - are made like the Cushions. They are all covered with light blue material and backed with white card. The exception is the standard Cushion used for the Work Top which, although it fits, may not be the original part. The other two special parts - the Mattress & Bolster – are card shapes covered with the same material. The Mattress measures 18*13½*2½cm. Most of the light blue parts are trimmed with white lace glued on, and a mirror is glued to the Dressing Table Back. Embroidered pink flowers/green leaves are used as decoration in some corners of the lace and around the mirror & Dressing Table Top.

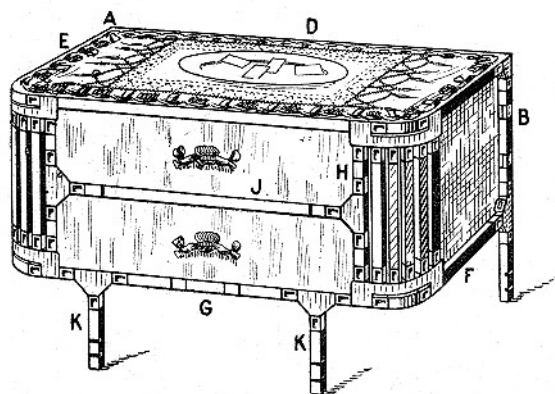
The **Model Sheet** is 652*248mm deep, folded into four, and is printed in the usual dark green. The front has ads for



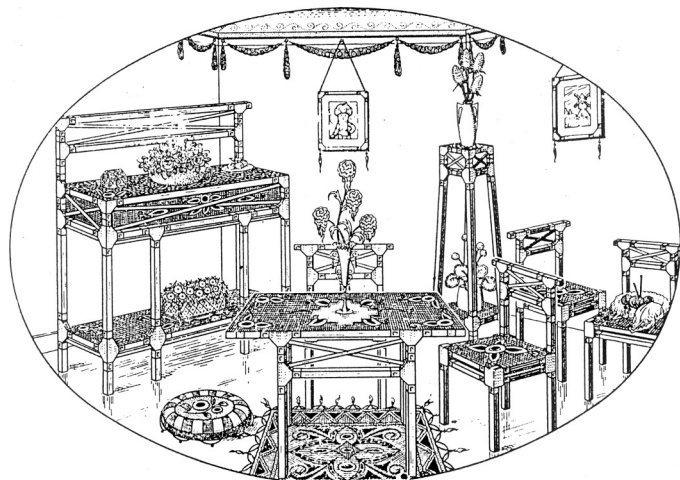
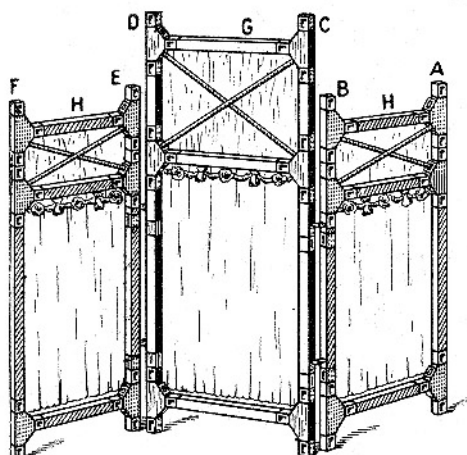
Sets 0-3, and all the Furniture sets are listed on the back. All the rest is taken up with a general view of the room, as on the lid, diagrams of the models' frameworks, with most members lettered, and detailed drawings of those parts.

Also included are full instructions for the Set 19 Chest of Drawers & Screen, and these models are shown below. Below them are general views of the Dining & Drawing Room Furniture, taken from the No.18 Model Sheet.

COMMODE - CHEST of DRAWERS - COMODA

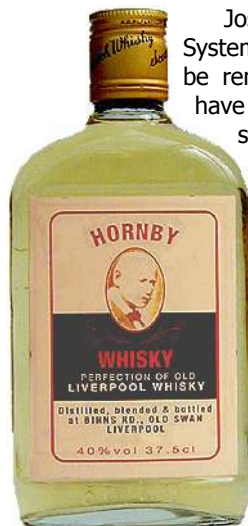


PARAVENT - SCREEN - BIOMBO



EDITORIAL This time I would like to remember two 'Other Systems' men who died recently, Karl Debik in July, aged 82, and Josep Bernal Moreno in February, aged 87.

Karl was a well known German collector of constructional sets, and while always a STABIL-boy at heart, in his working life he became a university professor of child psychology. He will be best known to most readers for his contributions to Baukästen, which drew on his in-depth knowledge of the history and development of all types of constructional toys. After his retirement he achieved a dream by founding the Bauspielhaus museum, (www.bauspielhaus.de) in his home town of Löbau. It has a display which includes many rare items but children can also play with 'old-fashioned' toys. Karl regarded toys as a bridge to connect people of different ages and of different countries.



Josep was a great MECCANO and Other Systems enthusiast and his models will long be remembered by those lucky enough to have seen them. Many were of conventional subjects but my favourite was a very large model of an ornate, wrought iron, street lamp bracket standard, beautifully detailed and finely modelled, a joy to behold. In lighter vein I'll also remember the bottle of his 'Hornby' whisky (left) that he once gave me - I said I'd keep it and we'd drink to Meccano in its centenary year. For one reason or another that didn't happen but as a happy result I still have it as a souvenir of a great guy. Here's to your memory Josep.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. The two **DAN DARE** Noses below are identical except for their 'windows'. The one on the left is probably the original type & the 15 pane pattern is painted on (or perhaps it is 3 transfers). This is the type shown in: the 1953 advert announcing DAN DARE; in all the models in the manual; & in the Illustrated Parts



(the drawing in the latter is identical to the one shown for AJET elsewhere in this issue). The second type with 9 impressed panes is the one much more commonly found, and is the pattern shown in the Patent (see 14/366). The parts that contained the first type of Nose were the remains of a Spaceship set and apart from the Nose, were entirely as would be expected.

DAN DARE: S1

[37/1100]

2. David Hobson showed me an unused, still strung, No.2 **KWIK BUILDER** set. It corresponded almost exactly with the one described in 28/827, including the manual, but the N&B were different with an M4 thread instead of $\frac{5}{32}$ " BSW. The details of the N&B were as before except that the CH Bolts had 6.9mm Ø heads and the Nuts were only 2.0mm thick.

KWIK BUILDER: S3

[37/1100]

3. Another item from David, a 1920 **PYFYL** Price List. The sets are listed on the front, and are as on the 28/840 Leaflet prior to the 1921 overprinting. On the back is a list of extra parts packs Nos.1-12 and A-Y. #1-6 contain various mixes of straight Strips, plus Sleeves, and #7-12 likewise but with curved instead of straight Strips. The lettered packs have selections of the metal and all the other parts. Even a summary would take too much space but I can send details to anyone who needs them. #W-Y deserve mention though: they are the fabric covered parts for Chairs, Armchairs, & a Table, and each is said to be 'recouverte en soie impression exclusive' which I take to mean 'covered in rayon (or possibly silk) with an exclusive pattern'. Though hand stitched they were not particularly expensive, Fr.2.50 maximum compared with the other Packs at Fr.2 or Fr.2.50 for most, and up to Fr.5.50 for a few. Sets 1-3 cost Fr.19.95, Fr.49, & Fr.99 at the time.

PYFYL: S6

[37/1100]

4. **Snippet: MECANEX** This Swiss system was said to have aluminium parts and it no doubt dates from WW2 or soon after. The makers name on the lid below is E. Musitelli & Cie.,

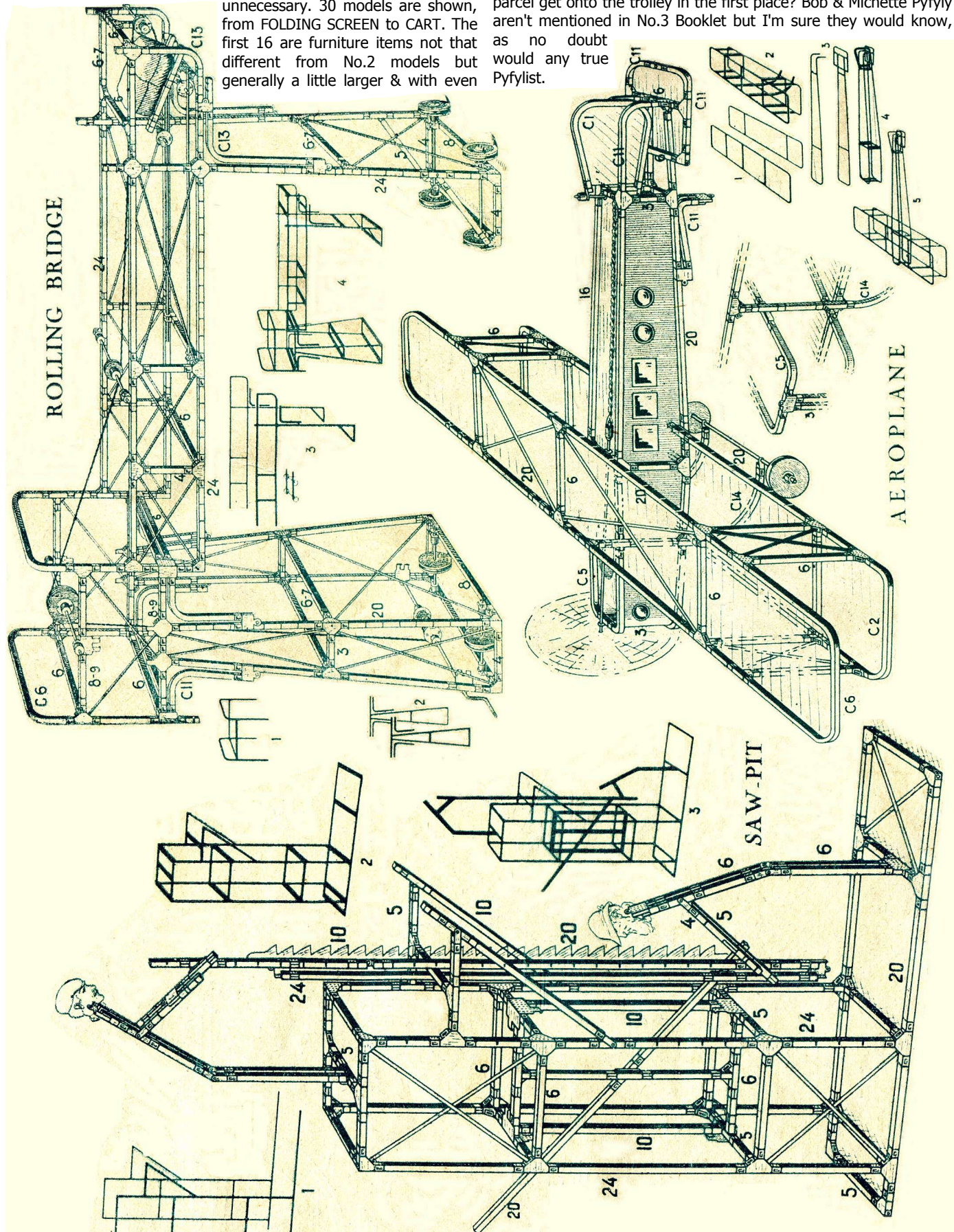


of Fleurier, a town some 40km north of Lausanne. The parts in the box below mostly have a MÄRKLIN look to them though the slotted end holes in the DAS are not echoed in the top



PYFYLY No.3 Set Manual The No.2 manual was described in 28/842 and until recently it was the only manual in the few No.3 sets seen. But a No.3 now to hand has also an 8 page booklet in English headed 'Models constructed with Outfit No.3 containing 670 pieces'. It is the English edition, printed in dark green like the No.2, and has the same page size, but no covers – they may be missing but more likely there were none. In a short introduction it is said that only general views of the No.3 models are given since those 'Pyfylists' who have made the No.1 & 2 models will have sufficient skill to make detailed instructions unnecessary. 30 models are shown, from FOLDING SCREEN to CART. The first 16 are furniture items not that different from No.2 models but generally a little larger & with even

more elaborate decorative panels (not included in the Set). Among the rest are 8 wheeled vehicles – Carts mostly, fair models but not over exciting, though a Hydroslide is unusual – a rubber band driven propeller mounted high above the deck of a boat running on small wheels. Finally some reasonable working models: 2 with a propeller atop a high tower, a Double Swing, & the 3 below (with all the original details, at full scale). They look possible, more or less. In the Rolling Bridge I suppose the trolley with the 'parcel' on it is hauled along the rails to the right end and then tipped to launch the parcel into space. But how did the parcel get onto the trolley in the first place? Bob & Michette Pyfyly aren't mentioned in No.3 Booklet but I'm sure they would know, as no doubt would any true Pyfylyst.



PYFYLY News. It was noted in 28/840 that 2 manuals were published by 'la S. A. J.' and since then an Ebay item gives the wholesaler for PYFYLY as Ste Anonyme pour l'Exploitation de Jouets of, as before, the rue Beccaria address. In the same ad the date given was 1920-25.

The No.18 Chambre à Coucher/Bedroom set was described in 28/843 and recently examples of the other two main furniture outfits came to hand. **The Salon/Drawing Room set** was in a purple box 34*26*3½cm with a label similar to the Bedroom set but with the centre illustration as bottom right in 28/844. The set was unused, complete with instructions, but it didn't contain the cardboard Backdrop Walls which were in the Bedroom set – lost perhaps in the intervening nearly 100 years. The parts were on 4 cards, 3 in the base with the parts attached, usually singly, in the usual PYFYLY way, and one glued inside the lid with the Panels (previously called Cushions) & a small box of Sleeves, marked Bagues, glued to the card. The instructions, 4 sheets 161*123mm, were loose inside the wrapper below, a single sheet doubled over. It could be used for any of the Furniture outfits, and Nos.10-18 (see 28/840) were advertised on the back cover.

The Salle à Manger/Dining Room set came with its various models already assembled (except that the thin diagonal bracing was missing), and with no instructions. The box is dark olive green, 34*26*13¼cm, the depth much greater than the others and one of

the sides is hinged to drop down to extend the bottom. The lid was as usual but had no label, and nothing to indicate that there had ever been one. The photo below shows the furniture items (with my added bracing) standing on the simulated wooden flooring. The inside box 'walls' are brightly decorated in a rather un-Pyfyly style, but look to be original. The flooring in the bottom of the box is a cardboard sheet which can be lifted out. It has a dozen or so small holes in it so no doubt items had originally been attached to it. The model that was described by the Ebay seller as a bunk bed is called a Buffet/Sideboard. As a means of displaying the furniture the low 'walls' are thought less satisfactory than having a Backdrop in that some of the furniture is taller than the walls. I wonder if this was an early set and later ones had normal boxes with a Backdrop. Or was it a prototype which was never marketed? An indication of the set being early is that the Tool is flat as shown in the manuals, rather than, as in all the other Tools seen, having the centre impressed, see below. On the

Fig.1



Fig.3

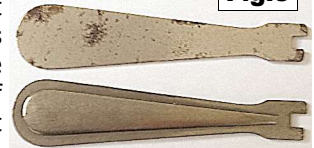


Fig.2



OSN 52/1593

PYFYLY: S7

Snippet. FIPS: 'New' German System Three identical sets, said to be from c.1930, were offered on Ebay. In a prewar dictionary Fips was 'an agile little man', & Wandelbare (under FIPS on the box lid right) I'll translate as Changeling for want of a better word. Each set has 8 parts: 4 Strips & a Triangle which push into the Base & the circular Head & Body. Models are about 10cm high.

Fig.1



Fig.2

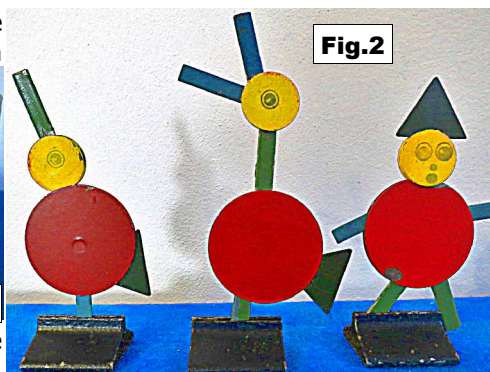
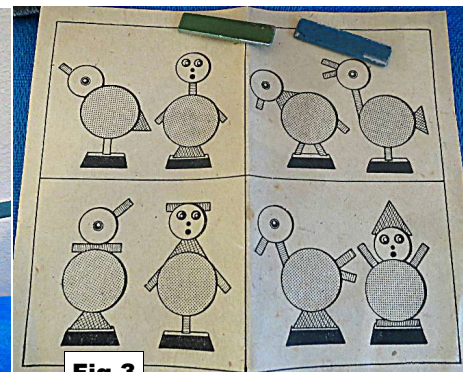


Fig.3



OSN 52/1593

FIPS: S1

PYFYL: Bits & Bobs A No.0 set seen on Ebay (discussed later) has a Price List which includes sets already known (0,1,2,3; the Furniture sets 10-19; & Albums d'Écor 1 & 2), plus a new set and a new accessory, neither noted before.

The New Set called Grande Roue [Big Wheel] cost 20fr (but blurry so possibly 30, or even 50fr). A No.0 cost 9.??fr. The blurry Grande Roue set number is above '19'.

The New Accessory: Séries d'Intérieur They are listed under the Albums d'Écor, and, like the latter, are priced at 2 or 3fr. Given the content of the 'Albums' described below, I wonder if the Séries d'Intérieur were cards to form indoor walls and provide room settings for furniture models.

Album d'Écor Sheets. The Ebay photo of the 4 Sheets below, with a Salon set, are said to be 'album de décor' extras to the Set. Each contains parts for particular models: all on the



bottom right sheet are for a Windmill, those on the bottom left for a Cradle, and the two top sheets are mostly for furniture models. 3 are marked [1] and so may be from Album 1, or the [1] could indicate that they are for No.1 models (all 3 are for No.1 manual models. Fig.2, from elsewhere, shows a complete Fig.1 Sheet, and another seen for the Cradle is identical to Fig.1 except that the mauve colour is a light blue.

The No.0 Set. There are small drawings of Sets 0-3 in the OSN 28 No.0 manual and, like the No.1 (see 28/842), the No.0 box is shown as long & narrow, but appreciably smaller. It was something of a surprise therefore to see a No.0 (the Ebay set mentioned earlier) with the lid right. Its contents and manual cover look to be identical to the No.0 in 28/841, except that the Fig.4 set includes cardboard parts cut from a sheet like the

Fig.4

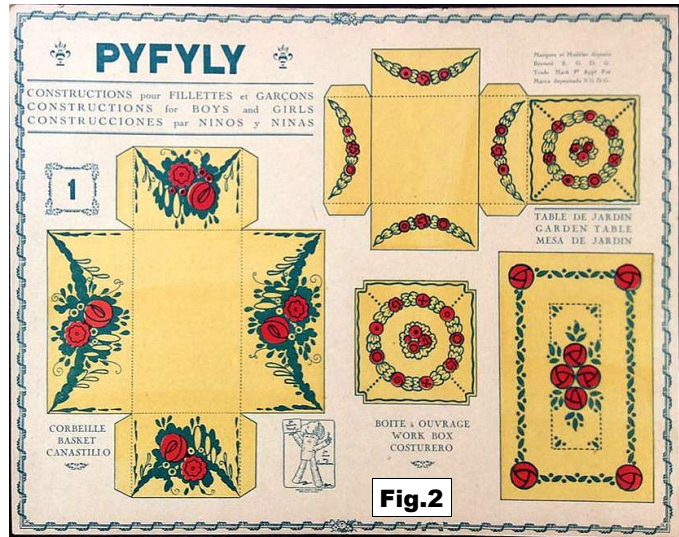


Fig.2

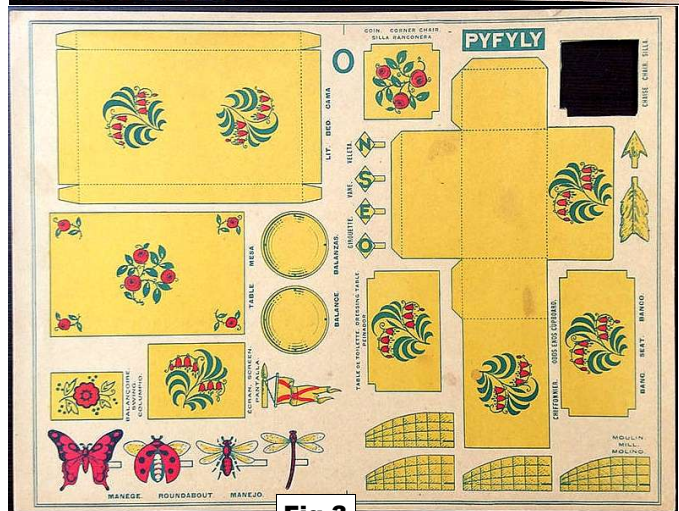


Fig.3

one top right in Fig.1. An uncut example of this sheet (again from elsewhere) is shown in Fig.3. It is marked '0' and the parts are for No.0 models. And in fact their manual illustrations do include such models with floral designs on them, though they are not the same as on the Fig.3 parts. So was this Sheet another from an, as yet unidentified, Album or was it just included in the Set?

Since no other known sets include Sheets of this sort it may be that this No.0 was an early set and when the sheets were dropped a smaller box was possible. Or was it a late attempt to make the set more attractive?

PYFYL: S8

OSN 54/1646

Snippet: the HUSTLER Demonstration Set

The set right was seen on Ebay and looks to be complete, including its paperwork, except that if there was ever a label on the plain cardboard lid, it has disappeared.

The box (right) scales at 7½*4¾" and has a selection of parts from the Action Toy Builder [ATB] set (see 25/746). It was intended to promote the ATB set, and it cost 10 cents against \$1.50 for the 'real thing'.

There were two sheets of paper with the Set. One, folded in 4 to fit into the box, was a full colour ad for ATB on one side, with a set surrounded by the 12 models in the 1928 edition manual. There was a letter on the other side starting 'Here is your little Demonstration Set of Hustler Action Toy Builder' and going on to encourage purchase of an ATB set.

The other sheet, folded in two, has a similar message on

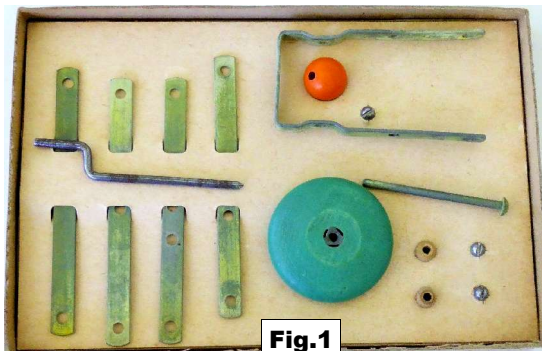


Fig.1

one side, and on the reverse 6 models that could be made with the Demo Set. One is shown in Fig.2, another is a simple [Spinning] Top, the others simple items of machinery, a Buzz Saw for example, all operated from the Crank Handle, mostly through a Cord drive.

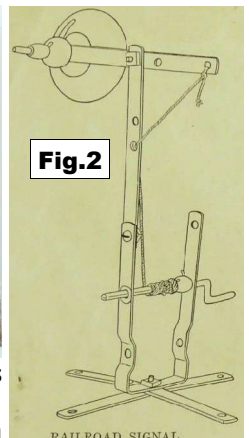


Fig.2

HUSTLER ACTION TOY BUILDER: S1

OSN 54/1646