

ITEMS FROM LETTERS.

1. From Roger Baker: "I recently bought a K.W. MASTERBUILDER No.2 Set which was said to be complete, and I was disappointed to find that some parts were missing compared to the Contents List. On then checking I was surprised to find that there were enough parts to make each of the models shown in the manual, and when the parts were packed into the box there seemed no 'spare' holes. It turned out that other, presumably later, No.2 manuals showed contents which corresponded to my set, so there is little doubt that my manual was in error. Does anyone have an illustration showing how this set was originally laid out in its box?"

While writing can I mention the use of rubbers [erasers] for the cleaning and 'light' restoration of parts. I try to do as much of this work as possible dry to avoid using metal polish, which I find smelly, dirty and difficult to remove from inside holes. Ordinary soft pencil rubbers are good for cleaning commutators and similar copper contacts; coarser ink rubbers can be used for polishing harder plated metals. For stubborn stains the carborundum rubbers used for cleaning model railway track are excellent as they will polish nickel for instance, without taking off the plating. A bonus is that as well as removing surface rust they will polish the steel a little giving an acceptable appearance without destroying authenticity. Be careful however the coarser type can scratch the surface somewhat."

And from a later letter: "I recently bought a small clockwork motor - there were no identification marks on it but from its colours (similar to current MÄRKLIN red and green) and the small illustration in MCS, I am sure it is a No.650 MÄRKLIN MARBI. As can be seen in MCS it is slightly larger than a Magic Motor and appears more akin to a scaled down MECCANO No.1. The side plates though are the same distance apart as a No.2, even though it's non-reversing, and it's quite a powerful motor."

Two points on the TRIX article in OSN 7. I have a 2nd Edition TRICY TRIX manual dated July 1955 on the inside front cover, which seems otherwise much the same as the one described. I also own a boxed No.2161 motor with Instruction Leaflet also numbered 2161; it is similar to the 2060 in OSN 7 except that the armature is shrouded. It's in a gold colour with green field coil poles." [This confirms the layout of the 2161 given in OSN 4/52.]

2. Ed Barclay noted that the PRIMUS Gear Wheel he owns has 59 teeth, an unusual (prime) number, but useful to give a  $29\frac{1}{2}:1$  ratio for moon phases of clocks. Also that the teeth are cut like those used in clocks. [W.Butcher & Sons who made PRIMUS were camera makers but didn't make clocks so far as is known. Of 4 Gears to hand, 3 have 56 teeth and one, which came with some CHASSIS parts has 59. Its o/d is the same as the others.]

3. From Peter Kessler: "According to David Grey of Capetown JEP is no longer on the market, a pity, the Army set was just that much better than the Liverpool or French versions."

4. Valerie Young wrote that at one time LYNX Sets were made near her at Woburn Sands and the Instruction Leaflet for a 1A Set she owns bears the legend: 'Sole Manufacturers, The Bay Manufacturing Company, Station Road, Woburn Sands, Nr. Bletchley, Bucks, England. Also of Morecombe, Lancs., and Glasgow.' Valerie also sent some details of a CONSTRUCTO set (called PLEASURE BEACH in MCS), which I hope to include in the next Issue, and mentioned that she once saw an electrical set of the same brand, and it contained a coil among the other parts.

5. From Thomas Keel via Peter Kessler, photocopies of a Swiss TECTO brochure, from the 1940s perhaps, showing Sets A to F, and about 50 wooden parts with tongue and groove joints. Attractive looking models but as space is short just the much reduced illustration right; if you would like more details please ask.

6. Don Redmond sent a correction to his Sector Plate Classification in OSN 8/158. Under B.3(a) Premier is misspelt, and under Aluminium '6x5' needs to be inserted between 'A.2(a)' and 'holes'. And speaking of some STRUCTOMODE parts found in a mixed lot he says: "Pairs of 5.5 and 12.5in. characteristic Braced Girders were what enabled me to recognise it; other recognition features are the large radius strip ends, and for DAS, the end (bent tip) holes are very close to the ends of the strip. Also included were green painted aluminium plates 8.5x 4.375in., with edges raised 1/8in., and two slots 1/2in. long at one end with two little bent tabs at the other. These it is said, are bridge deck panels although no such part is shown in MCS."

7. Derek Moore recalls Matchbox Sets being sold by Woolworths in 1938 when he was 12. His recollection is of the parts being held together by 'wheels' pushed on dowels of about 1/8" dia. The overall size of the box was a probably a little larger all round than a normal, small matchbox. He also remembers

