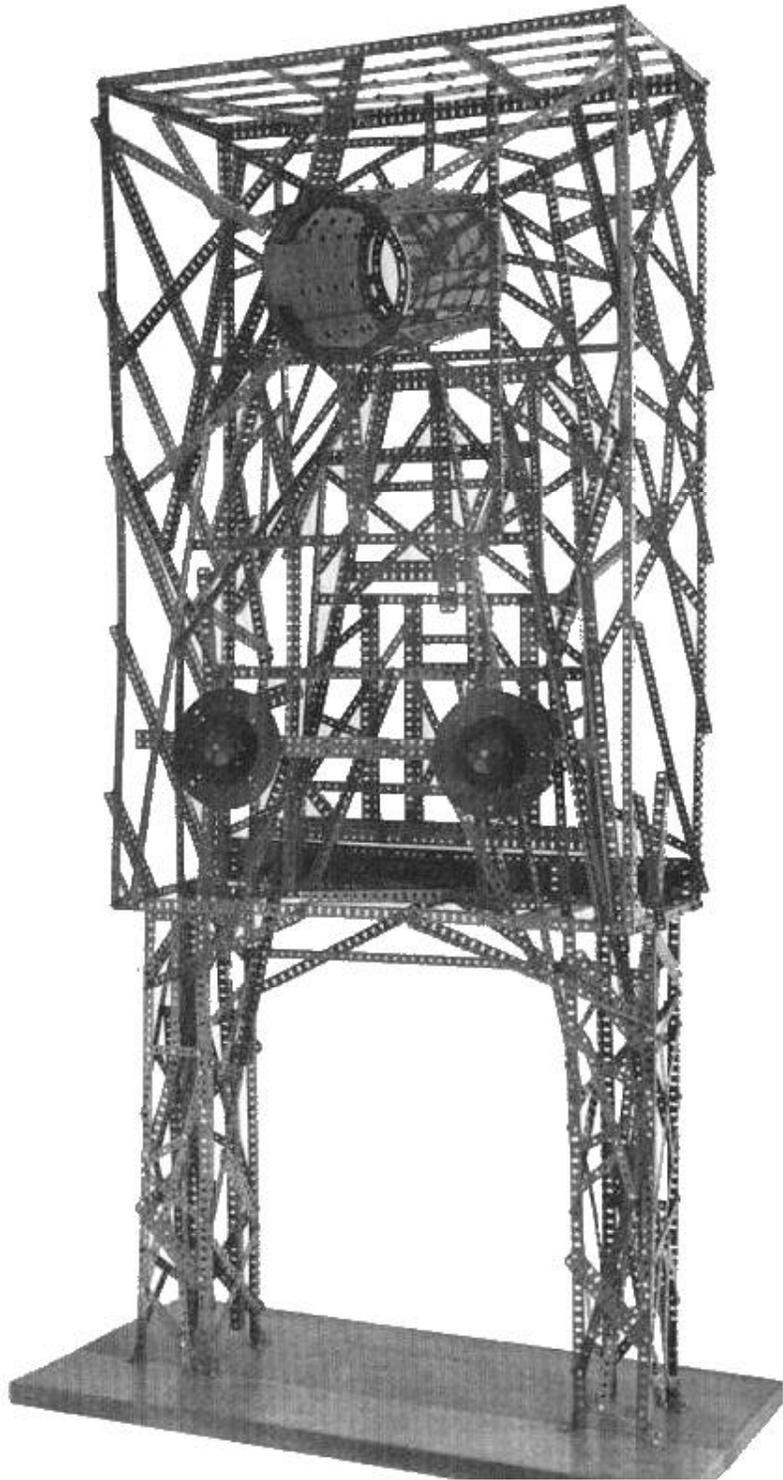




Canadian
MeccaNotes

Sept. 1999



B
A
J

Italian
Art In
Meccano

(see page 14)

Editor's Notes

Many thanks to Don Redmond, Colin Hinz and Colin Hoare for supplying articles for this issue. Don Redmond in particular is to be commended as he has supplied 3 (three) new model plans, one of which appears in this issue. I've seen many photos of inventive model plans published in the Canadian newsletters over the past years - where are all the model plans?



As always, the newsletter is only as good as the contributors. Your articles, photos, model plans, short news items, want, sales and swap ads are wanted. Items in machine readable form (e-mail, diskette) are preferred but everything is acceptable, including good old HB.

Your correspondence is welcome. I haven't received too much since the "June" issue was published due to the short time period but I look forward to your letters.

This issue was somewhat rushed as I'm off on an overseas trip in October. Any correspondence won't be answered until late-November at the earliest. I plan to attend the Toronto Hobby Show this year so I'll have the opportunity to meet some of you in person.

The next issue in December will include: a Skegex 1999 report, All About "RAD" and a review of a computer program for preparing "virtual" Meccano models. I'd hoped to include the latter article in this issue but I ran out of time.

David Williams

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"Written and produced by Meccano enthusiasts for Meccano enthusiasts."

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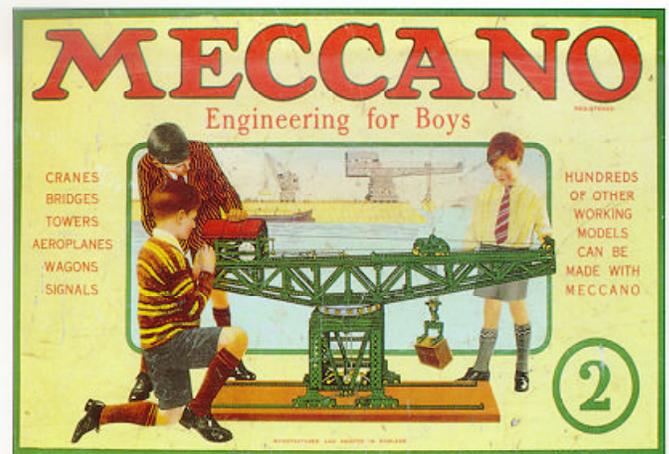
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Meccano Postcards

Pictured above and below are 2 of 4 Meccano themed postcards that my brother purchased in England during a recent trip. He purchased them at the York Museum gift shop. Has anyone seen these for sale in Canada?

David Williams



The Hobby Show 1999

Once again, the Meccano fraternity will be exhibiting at the Hobby Show, which is held annually at the International Centre, on Airport Road, Mississauga. This year the dates are Friday November 5th to Sunday November 7th 1999. Sadly, our numbers will be somewhat depleted this year, following the passing of Norm LaCroix, Terry Stewart and Bill Mair, but hopefully we will have additional new attendees to pick up the slack.



The show hours are the same as in 1998, with set-up being on Thursday afternoon from around 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., with additional time on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The hours when the show is open are Friday from 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

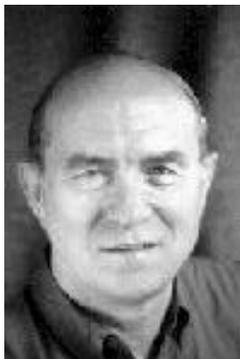
It is vitally important that everyone who plans to attend the show lets me know that they intend to be there. The Executive has been authorized to dispose of Terry Stewart's huge Meccano collection, and we have reached an agreement with the Executors of Terry's estate on the method by which it will be made available to everyone who is planning to attend (see below).

The Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Modelling Association for Meccano & Allied Systems will take place on Sunday, November 7th at 2:30 p.m. The positions of President and Treasurer come up for election at the Annual General Meeting. We also have to find a new Vice-President, now that David Williams has taken on the position of Editor.

All the Executive, including the incoming Editor of the magazine, will be at the Hobby Show.

Please let me know by telephone (905-873-8261), by Fax (905-873-2463) or by e-mail if you plan to be at this show. If you do not let me know, and you are interested in acquiring some of Terry's extensive collection, then you will NOT be included in the lottery - it is as simple as that!

Colin Hoare



Disposal of Terry Stewart's Meccano Collection

Terry's collection of Meccano will be made available to everyone who attends the Hobby Show. Terry's collection is mostly red and green, with many parts in pristine condition. In addition, there are around forty electric and clockwork motors, plus at least one complete model, and many magazines. Among the latter is a complete run of "Constructor Quarterly" from the first issue to the thirtieth, with four of the special binders that could be purchased in order that the magazines could be stored conveniently.

The sale will be done as democratically as possible, and will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday November 6th. It will work as follows:

1. All parts will be sold in Canadian funds at 50% of the latest MW Models List Price, but we will be treating the Canadian dollar and the British pound sterling at par i.e. a part costing £6.70 will cost the purchaser \$3.35. In this way, the collection, as far as possible, will cost 20% of MW prices.
2. Anyone who is interested in buying parts from the collection will have to register with the undersigned prior to the Hobby Show.
3. Purchasers will be limited to purchases of \$100.00 maximum at one time, but may make additional purchases of \$100.00 worth of parts after everyone else has had a chance to go through the collection.
4. The order of names of all registrants will be drawn by lottery, with the first-named individual making his selection first. Once he has purchased \$100.00-worth of parts, he will pay the undersigned, and then his name will go to the bottom of the list.
5. All funds (after expenses) will be turned over to the Executors of Terry's estate.
6. Certain items will only be sold as one lot e.g. the "Constructor Quarterly" collection referred to above, as well as the ten built-up locomotive wheels that Terry assembled for the 2-10-0 Franc-Costi locomotive that he built and exhibited a few years ago, plus a No. 2 Dinky Builder set that is in immaculate condition in its original box. These will be priced by the Executive, and are all in excess of the \$100.00 limit, but will be handled as exceptions.

7. Any disputes regarding this sale will be resolved by the Executive.

Colin Hoare,
President, C. M. A. M. A. S.

Obituaries

Terry Stewart

Terry Stewart passed away at the far-too-young age of 49 on August 26th, 1999. Terry was an outstanding modeller who could always be counted on to arrive at a Hobby Show with two things: a magnificent Supermodel (possibly two), and a pretty girl in tow. He had a great sense of humour, and was one of those eternally optimistic and cheerful outlooks on life - no matter what setbacks had come his way.

Over the years, Terry brought along such fabulous models as the Franco-Costi 2-10-0 locomotive, the Kent Smock Windmill, the Level Luffing Crane, Locomotive & Dock (all superb, and all built from MW ModelPlans) as well as a couple of Brian Rowe's Steam Engines. He also brought along a bus that should have been published as a Model Plan in our magazine, but sadly never made it.

For the past decade, the pretty girl who always came with Terry was a delightful lady by the name of Lorraine Tait, and it is to her, as well as Terry's mother, that we extend our condolences. Terry's wit and modelbuilding skills will be sorely missed.

Bill Mair

We have been led to understand that Bill Mair has also passed away, although the date of his passing is not known at the moment. Bill was one of these men who returned to Meccano late in life, having left it when he was in his twenties. The interest in Meccano was rekindled after he retired, and we had the pleasure of Bill's company for several Hobby Shows. His modelbuilding skills progressed over the years that he exhibited, and he was a willing helper whenever he was around. The sudden death of Bill's wife, Betty, a few years ago proved to be an emotional setback for Bill, and he sold off his collection shortly thereafter. He still retained his interest in the hobby, however, and continued to subscribe to several magazines pertaining to the hobby. In addition, he was seen quite frequently at the various shows around Toronto, and he was always ready to chat.



Dealer Display Motor

I purchased a Meccano collection last year and was told that the motor pictured below powered a Gantry Crane display model in Montreal in the late 1950's. I don't suppose that anyone has a similar motor? It was manufactured by Klaxon Ltd., 201 Holland Park Avenue, London W 11. It's rated at 110V AC, 100 RPM.

David Williams



Subway "Erector" Sets

Back in 1995 when the "new" plastic Meccano was introduced, Subway sandwich shops had a promotion where they sold small introductory "Kids' Pak" of the new parts.

Each package made a single model.

The poster on the right from an Edmonton shop shows the Airplane, Helicopter, Tug-Boat and See-Saw models. Below is the Airplane pak.



Toonerville Trolley

by Don Redmond

The raised base houses a 120V shaded-pole induction motor (better for long-running display models) which drives the trolley's wheels through three stages of Driving Band reduction. The base of course is jacked above the running rails. At each corner of the undercarriage, a coil spring supports the car body



and allows it to rock. At the midpoint of the undercarriage, a strip projects one hole at each side. At the centre point of the car body on each side, a 1-1/2in. Rod projects down from a Double-Arm Crank and engages these projecting holes. There's a small coil spring on each rod above and below the projecting strip, held on by a Collar at the bottom, for additional springing.

The car body is based on the curvature of an 11-hole Meccano curved strip. The floor is based on 25-hole strips curved to that radius, with crosswise strips carrying Flexible Plates for the floor and the end platforms. The sides slope inward and narrow at the top; they are reinforced where possible with strips inside the Flexible Plates — and some of the plates have to be squeezed, or even given an odd extra hole or two. Much fitting is also required for the car ends. The central door goes nearly to the roof.

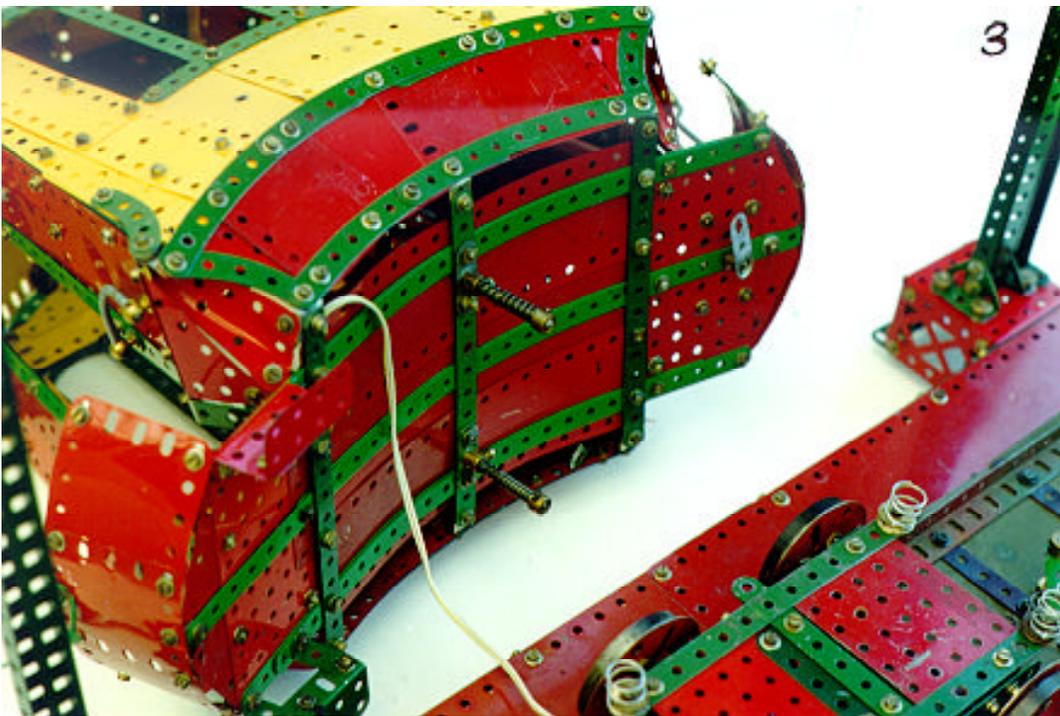
The roof is also based on strips curved and covered with overlapped Flexible Plates. Notice the double S-curve at the eave line on each side. The edges of the roof which hang down over the platforms are late-style Windmill Sails (they appear

black in the photo). A rectangular aperture at the middle of the roof is edged with Meccano-X strips and angle brackets, and topped by a Construction Jeep baseplate which happens to be the right size. (No Meccano plates would produce the right size of cupola roof with a centre hole for the trolley pole.)

Along each side, inside the car body, is a longitudinal seat curved to the radius of the floor. A Gilbert Curved Beam Girder (a curved, flanged, braced girder) gives the effect (at least) of the under-structure of each seat. In one corner is a stove, made of chunky hard plastic Meccano wheels and other suitable round items, supported on Reversed Angle Brackets, and topped by a plastic Gun Barrel or Meccano Junior rod, as-stovepipe. Inside the roof a Coupling is fastened so that the projecting stovepipe (another plastic tube, surrounding a long Threaded Rod) can be screwed into it — but, removed for



Toonerville Trolley and Skipper



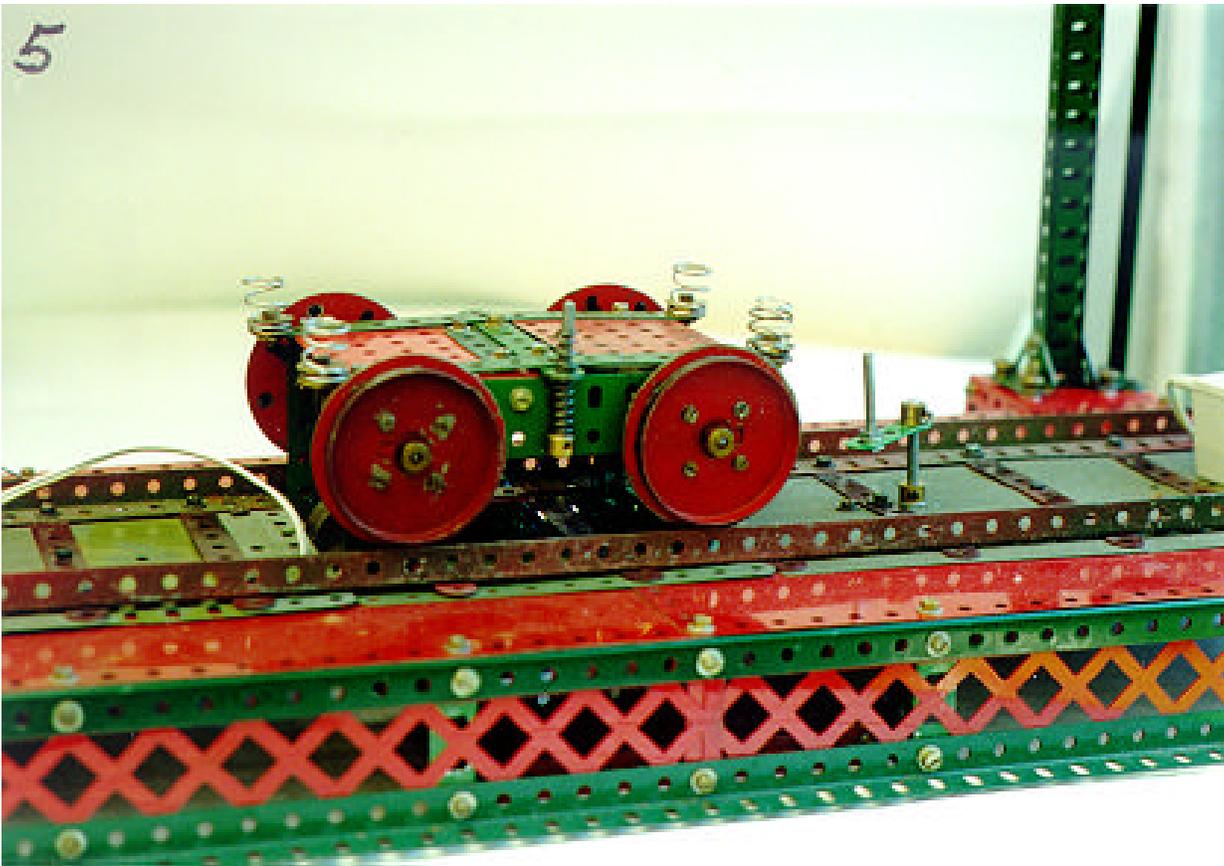
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Underside of Trolley showing sprung attachment points, and crank to operate Skipper's head; on base, corner rocking springs.

Below, rear platform, showing body shape and interior seat.



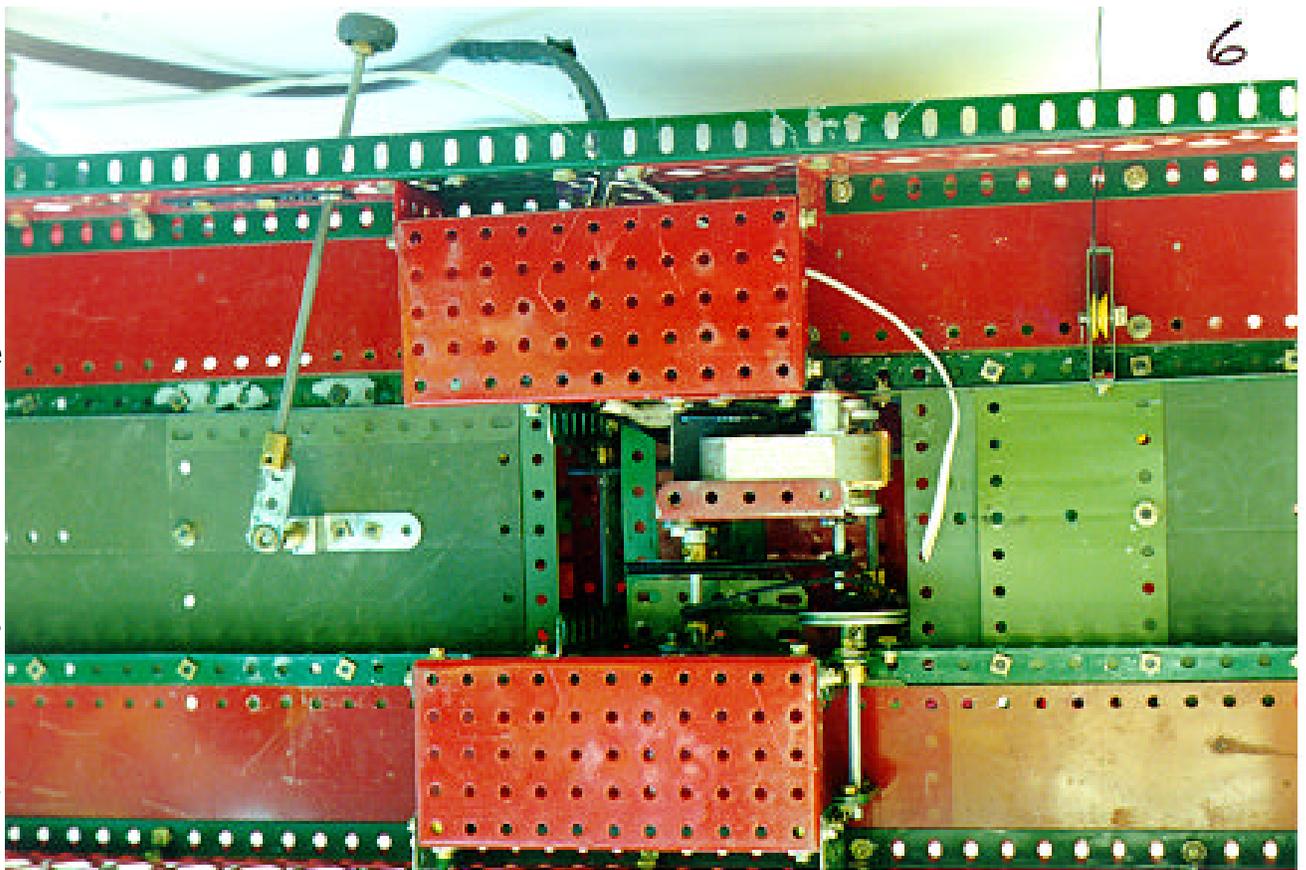
transport. The conical cap on the stovepipe is non-Meccano, an end cut-off a carbon dioxide soda siphon cartridge.

The Skipper's legs are non-Meccano: feet and trousers are perforated plastic hair rollers, which happened to be the right color (brownish) and size. His body is black plastic plates, with brass-colored Meccano washers and round-head bolts as buttons. His shoulder structure is made of strips sharply curved, and topped by three black Wheel Discs. His arms are Sleeve Pieces, with copper 1/2in. tubing fittings at the elbows: 90 degrees right, 135 degrees left, and joined as necessary by hidden Couplings. Upper and lower ends are Chimney Adaptors, the top ones hinged to the shoulder structure, the bottom ones with hands made of Narrow Brackets. An 11-1/2in. Rod projects up from below the front platform, up through the body, through the centre hole of the middle Wheel Disc, with a stack of 3/4in. black Washers for a neck, to the head. This is made of white Flexible Plates, with features (and a cotton beard) added, and a uniform cap made of black and yellow Flexible Plates. The top of the hat is one of the new small Flanged Plates, with a Crank across the middle into which the long rod is fixed. Under the platform another Crank is on the bottom end of the long rod. On top of the long base, between the running rails, can be seen a rod projecting up carrying a Crank with a Threaded Pin on it. This slips into the Crank on the Skipper's mechanism, when the car is in place, and is operated by another crank and pull-rod at the side.



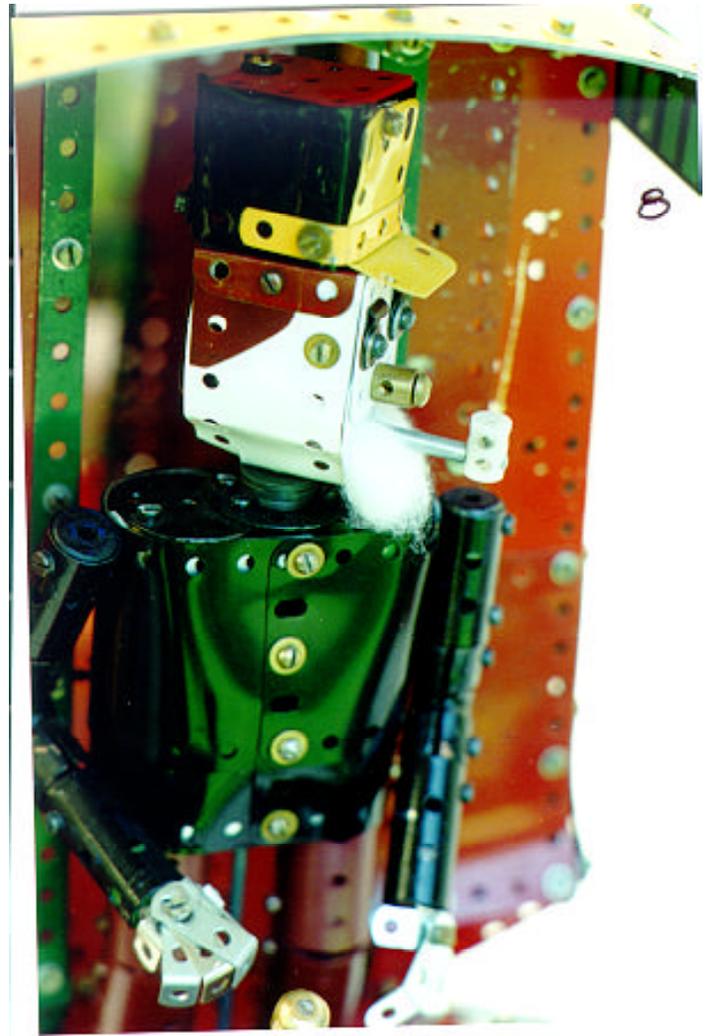
Base, with undercarriage (wheels supported free of rails) and crank to activate Skipper's head.

Underside of base, 120V motor, crank to activate Skipper's head, and cord to rock car body.





"The Skipper's" head swivels left and right.



Left, the model as displayed at the 1998 Toronto Hobby Show.

Going Beyond the Range: A Survey of Replica and Unusual Parts

The range of "bona fide" Meccano parts has long had a number of imitators and also innovators of non-standard parts. Some of these non-standard parts are similar to regular Meccano parts but in new sizes, such as 15 1/2" angle and flat girders, 2 1/2" diameter gear rings, or 65-tooth gears. Other parts are similar to those found in "other systems" such as Märklin, Stokys, or Gilbert Erector. Yet other parts are even more imaginative, such as cylindrical girders or exotic angle plates. While many of these parts are made by enthusiasts who have machine shop access, there are also a few businesses that produce and stock these parts as regular inventory.

As this is meant to be merely a survey of parts sources, in-depth reviews of specific parts will not be included here.

Ashok K. Banerjee, PO Box 4149, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380 009, India. Phone: +91 79 675 2974, Fax: +1 815 366 1289, E-mail: ashok.k.b@vsnl.com

He supplies a variety of sheet metal and brass parts which are made to his specifications. The steel parts are priced as unfinished, but may be supplied with powder-coat or nickel or zinc finishes at extra cost. Brassware parts may optionally be gold-plated (and who said Meccano wasn't a rich man's hobby?) at extra cost. He will manufacture gears, including bevel and helical gears and gear rings, with any practical non-standard number of teeth at no extra cost, provided that a dozen are ordered, as all spur gears, pinions, and gear rings are priced by the tooth.

In addition to replicating standard Meccano part designs (though often with non-standard size additions), Ashok provides a number of parts first introduced in "other systems" (particularly Märklin) and by other manufacturers of non-standard parts (some Exacto and MW parts, especially). However, he also sustains ongoing development of a variety of parts never seen elsewhere, such as his specially formed handrails, shock absorbers, and large-diameter brass cylinders.

Dennis Caswell, 108 Princetown Drive, Unit 5-A, Frederick, Maryland, U.S.A., dennisc@xecu.net.

Dennis makes 12 1/2" x 2 1/2" flexible plastic plates from new plastic stock he buys in large sheets. The plastic stock is thicker and a little stiffer than Binns Road or Calais plastic flexplates, and thus Dennis' parts are more suitable for "filling in" expanses in large models. I've seen these parts in medium red and black.

Dennis is also undertaking to reproduce brassware parts, in essence carrying on Norm LaCroix' work. Before Norm's passing, he was able to impart some of his extensive part-manufacturing knowledge to Dennis, and thus Dennis is able to produce parts whenever he has machine shop access. The samples I've seen were well made and true. Contact Dennis for more information on this new endeavour.

[Update: Dennis is temporarily working in the northeastern USA, and might not be able to produce more parts until his return to Canada.]

Dr. Jorge Emilio Catella, Talcahuano 1257, 1° Piso, 1014 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

He supplies brassware parts, including cranks, fork pieces, universal joints, and the like. A few years ago I purchased some of these parts, and they were of excellent quality.

Mike Dennis (MECAREP), 102 Broadstairs Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 2RU U.K.

He apparently has a well detailed catalogue with interesting parts. I confess I haven't yet requested one, so I have to go on the hearsay of a few other enthusiasts. He asks £1.50 + SAE for a catalogue, which is awkward from this side of the Pond and additionally that price is probably valid only within the UK, so perhaps the best approach is to send him a £5 note and ask that the excess be credited to the first order.

Eccentric Meccano Mecca, Park Lane, off Park Street, Madeley, Telford, U.K.

Produces a variety of zinc-plated steel structural parts in small production runs. I purchased a variety of channel girders a few

years ago, and they were well-made and of a good design.

Exacto (Alberto Mario Richini), Rosario 552, 9o.C, 1424 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Absolutely the great-granddaddy of parts producers, Exacto made parts under licence as Meccano Argentina for a few decades, until the collapse of Binns Road brought an end to the arrangement. In addition to most of the parts in the standard Meccano range, Exacto produces hundreds of new parts of Richini's own design. These parts broaden the range considerably, and include many new sizes of structural parts and gears, as well as cylindrical and narrow angle girders, circular parts, large diameter axle parts, brackets, and L-girders. The 11" diameter geared bearing plates are a wonder to behold.

Because Exacto's parts range is so vast, stock is not maintained of all items. Therefore, considerable delays may arise when purchasing parts directly. This may be alleviated, albeit at extra cost, by purchasing parts from a stocking distributor (see below).

David F. Fellows, 14 Church Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5PX, U.K. E-mail: arun_micro@compuserve.com

David works in a modern sheet-metal shop, and produces parts for his own use and sells off the excess. These parts are laser-cut (no stamping burrs!) and, for plain steel parts, are either nickel or zinc plated. Most current production is either stainless steel or brass, however. Currently available parts include 24 1/2" angle girders and narrow angle girders, brass circular plates, channel girders, brass nut strips, and gear rings.

Frizinghall Models and Railways, 202 Keighley Rd., Frizinghall, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD9 4JZ, U.K. Phone: (01274) 542515, Fax: (01274) 498281.

In addition to stocking Exacto and Meccano parts, they also supply some other reproduction and special parts.

Bruce Geange, 4 Winchester Street, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Bruce produces zinc-plated narrow strips, with either conventional (1/2") hole spacing or 1/2" spacing. These are 23 1/2" long but

may be supplied cut to shorter lengths at extra cost. I have not seen any of these parts so I cannot comment further.

John Hornsby, 1, Charnwood Close, High Crompton, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 7LY, U.K.

John's sole product is a tiny thrust bearing, only 3/8" diameter. It consists of a 3/8" diameter brass washer with 6 holes drilled round the edge along with 6 ball bearings to sit in the holes. A regular No.38 Washer on either side (not supplied by John) complete the bearing. As of early 1998 these were £1.50 a set.

Robert Kanen, 5 Cassia Court, Wantima, Victoria 3152, Australia. Phone: 61 041 2318857, Fax: 61 3 9887 2315.

Sells Meccano France parts, as well as a variety of non-standard parts.

Ets. Maillot, 3 bis rue Salazard BP19, 33560 Carbon-Blanc, France. Phone: (+33) 05

Stockist of Meccano France parts, as well as a broad range of unusual non-standard parts. I wish I could come up with a need for their 18 1/2" diameter circular plates, as the mind boggles at the thought of such an exquisite and extravagant item — obviously I'm not trying hard enough.

Simon Moody, "Mara", 1122 Blue Mountains Road, RD1, Upper Hutt, New Zealand. E-mail: moodys@ihug.co.nz

Simon produces a variety of brassware parts, including a sort of "universal attachment device" which is a 1/2" brass cube tapped in all three dimensions.

MW Models (Geoffrey Maxwell Wright), 4 Greys Road, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG9 1RY, U.K. Phone: (01491) 572436, Fax: (01491) 571175, E-mail: geoff@mwmmodels.telmet.com.

A source of Meccano France parts, as well as new and used Binns Road parts, and an increasing variety of proprietary non-standard parts. These include structural parts and gears in non-standard sizes, reproductions of long-obsolete parts, as well as original parts of Geoff's devising.

Nick Rudoe (M-Plus parts), 62 Courthouse Road, London, N12 7PJ, U.K. E-mail: n-rudoe@discon.co.uk

I confess I have only a contact address for Nick, nothing more.

Distributors

These do not manufacture parts, nor do they supply proprietary parts. They are, to the best of my knowledge, distributors only. Some sources of used "other systems" parts are included in this list.

Pandy's Collectibles, 16 Palmer St., Medford, Massachusetts, USA, 02155. E-mail: pandyscol@aol.com, website at <http://www.pandys.com>.

A source of reconditioned Gilbert Erector parts and sets.

Joel Perlin, 1111 Acapulco Court, Oxnard, California, USA, 93035. Phone: (805) 985-5498, Fax: (805) 963-4668.

Joel sells Meccano, Exacto, and used Gilbert Erector parts, as well as complete antique sets of numerous construction systems in collectible condition.

Earl Pitts, 26 Dyer Court, Cambridge, Ontario, CANADA, N3C 4B8. E-mail: 102260.2432@compuserve.com

Earl has some spare parts inventory of a Korean construction set system, largely if not entirely Meccano compatible, which has several ingenious parts which are not part of the Meccano range.

Valley Transport Inc. (Roy Zuelke), PO Box 2184, Rogers, Arkansas, USA, 72757. Phone: (501) 636-4312.

A great source of parts made by Exacto, Märklin, Temsi, and of course Meccano.

Wagner and Sons Toys, Inc. (Mike Wagner), 28 E. Willow St., Carlisle, Pennsylvania, USA, 17013. Phone: (717) 258-0839. E-mail: mwagner@wagnerandsonstoys.com

A great source of used Meccano parts, including pre-War parts, as well as Gilbert Erector parts, some extremely cheap Gabriel

Erector parts, as well as various sets.

More Information Required

I have heard that the following people produce parts, but I have incomplete information. More details would be most welcome!

Walter Ashburn, from Australia I believe, who produces (or has made for him) Angle Girders, Strips, Flat Girders, 5/32" Whitworth Nuts and Bolts etc.

Dave Doddrell, from Australia.

John Ince, from New Zealand. He sells gears made by Peter King.

Peter Matthews has some unique parts such as part 106X which is a standard roller with no groove in it, I hear. I've no contact info, though.

Alan Middleton, from Australia.

Derek Strickland's Progress Products. I have an address (Boatleys Cottage, Kemnay, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire AB51 5NA, U.K.) but I've no idea if he's still producing parts.

Defunct

These sources of parts are no longer active.

Mick Burgess, UK.

Ken Gordon, Australia.

Norm LaCroix, Canada.

Ivan Maykels, UK.

Rudi Schipperus, Canada.

Ron Stutter, UK.

Acknowledgements

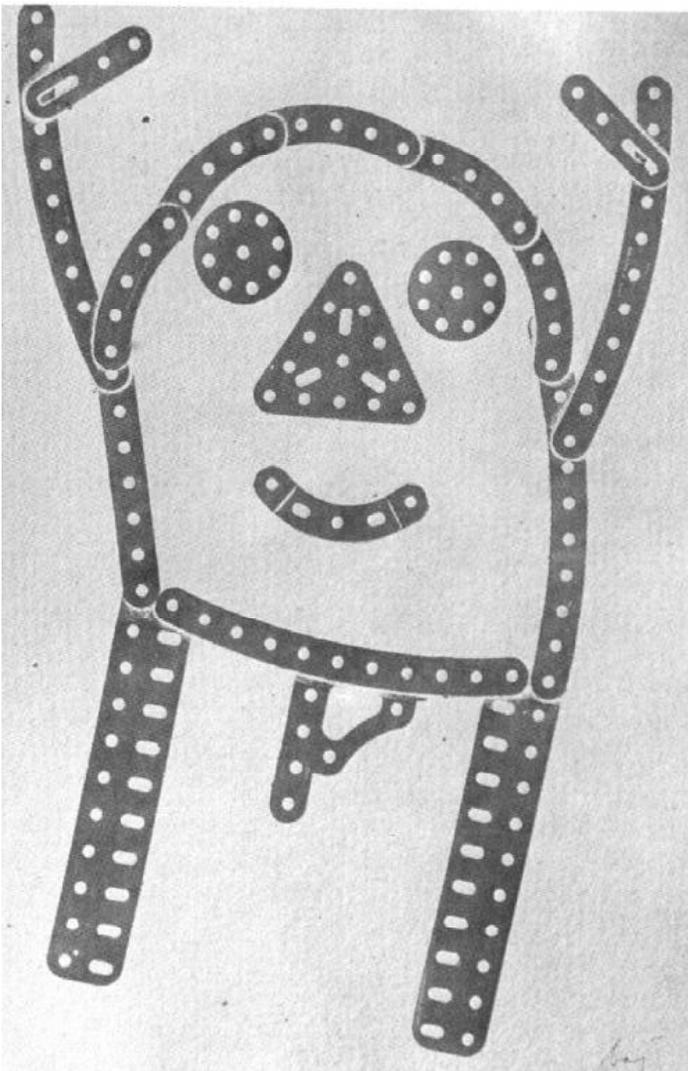
This article would not have been possible without the kind assistance of Michael Adler, Don Blakeborough, Wes Dalefield, Charlie Pack, Tony Press, Nick Rodgers, Kees Trommel, and several of the parts producers themselves.

Baj - Italian Art in Meccano

The Italian artist "Baj" started using Meccano, Marklin and other construction systems in his art in the 1960's.

Enrico Baj was born in Milan in 1924. He was very young when he started painting and studying at art schools. He founded something called the "Nuclear Paint Movement" and published in 1952 in Brussels the "First Manifesto of Nuclear Painting"

Between 1963 and 1965, he worked on large Meccano constructions, some sort of machine - robot - puppets. These useless machines reappeared in 1984 when he built 43 Meccano sculptures for "Ubu Roi" by Alfred Jarry, the father of Pataphysics ("the science of imaginary solutions"), put on stage by Massimo Schuster for the Arc-en-Terre Theater in Marseille and performed over 230 times throughout the world.

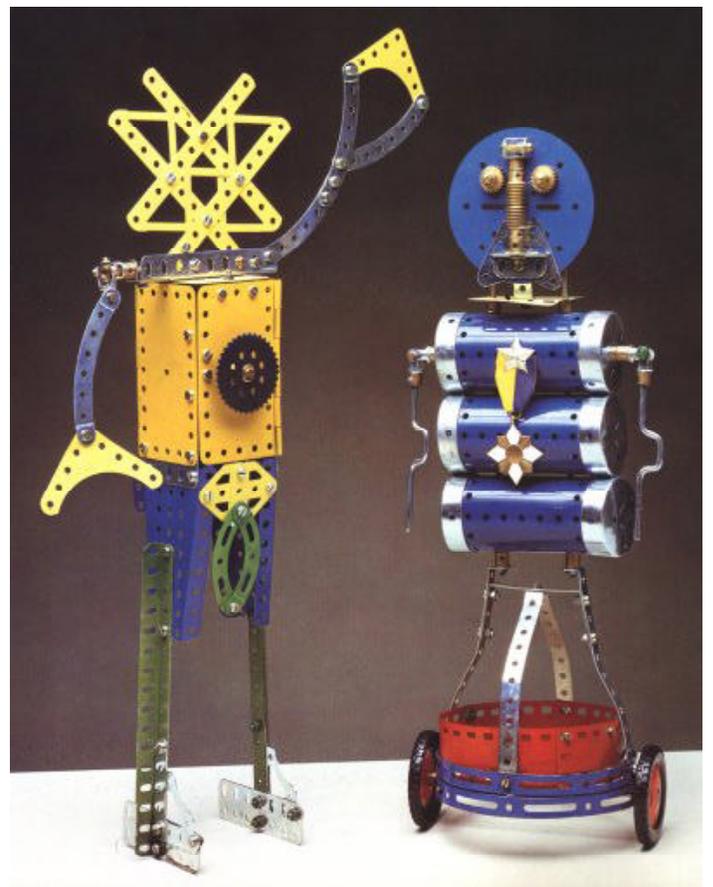
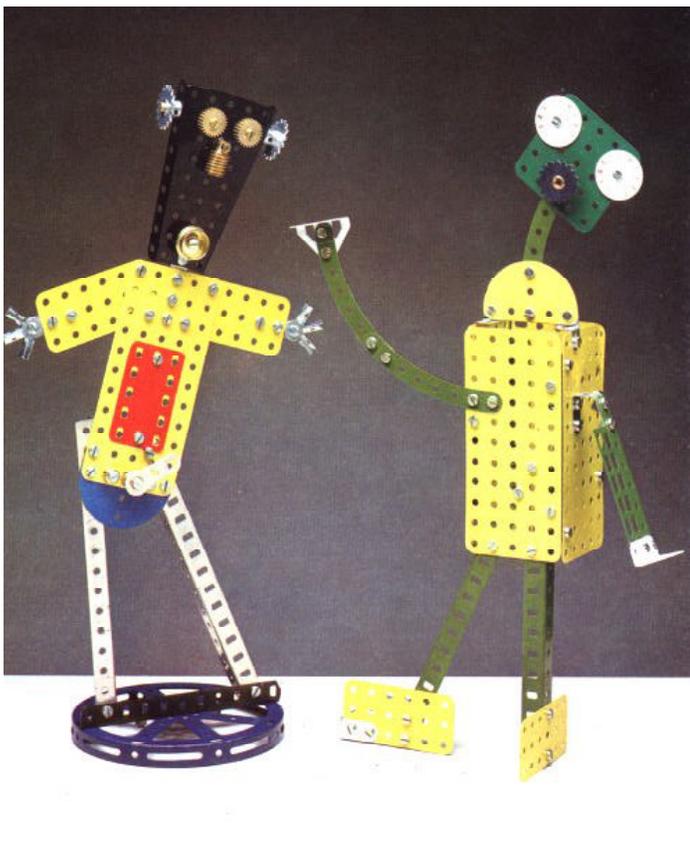


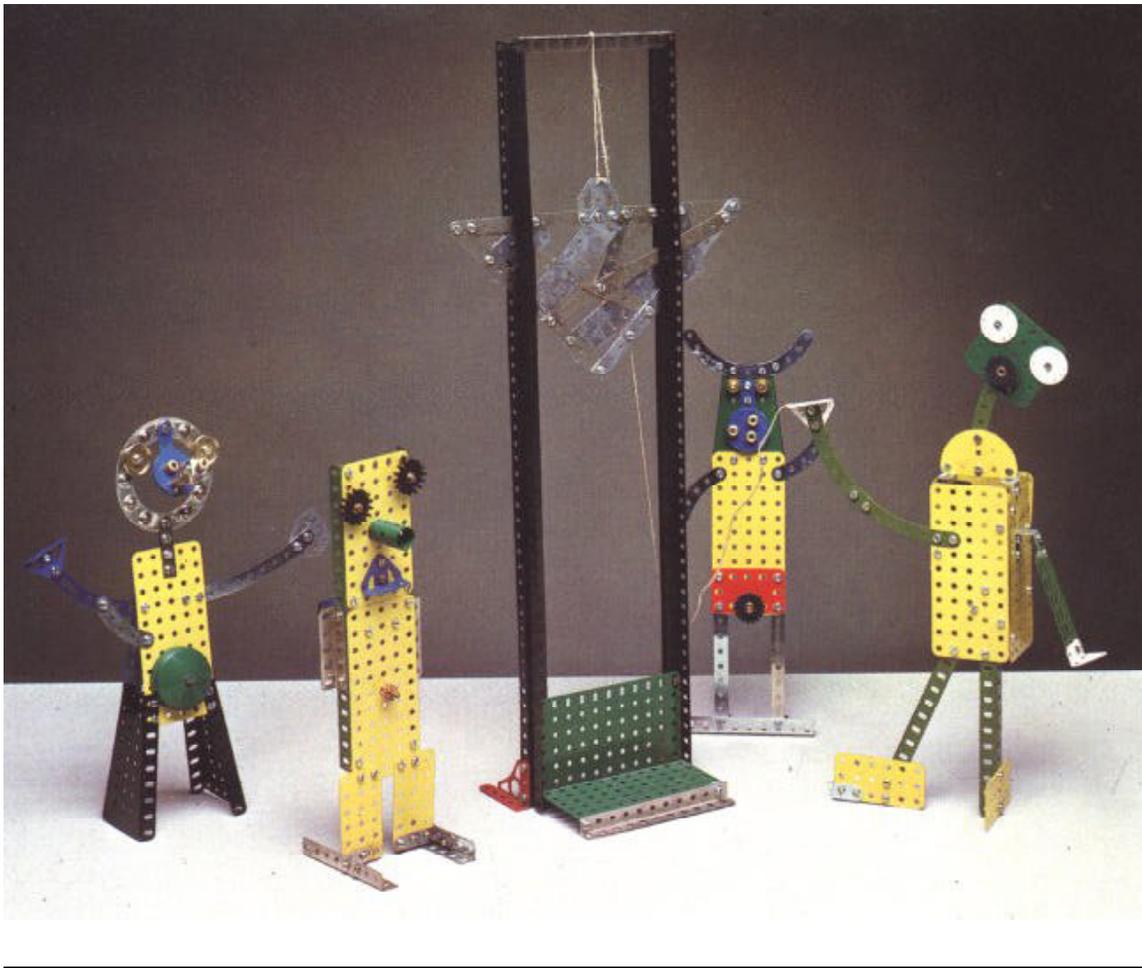
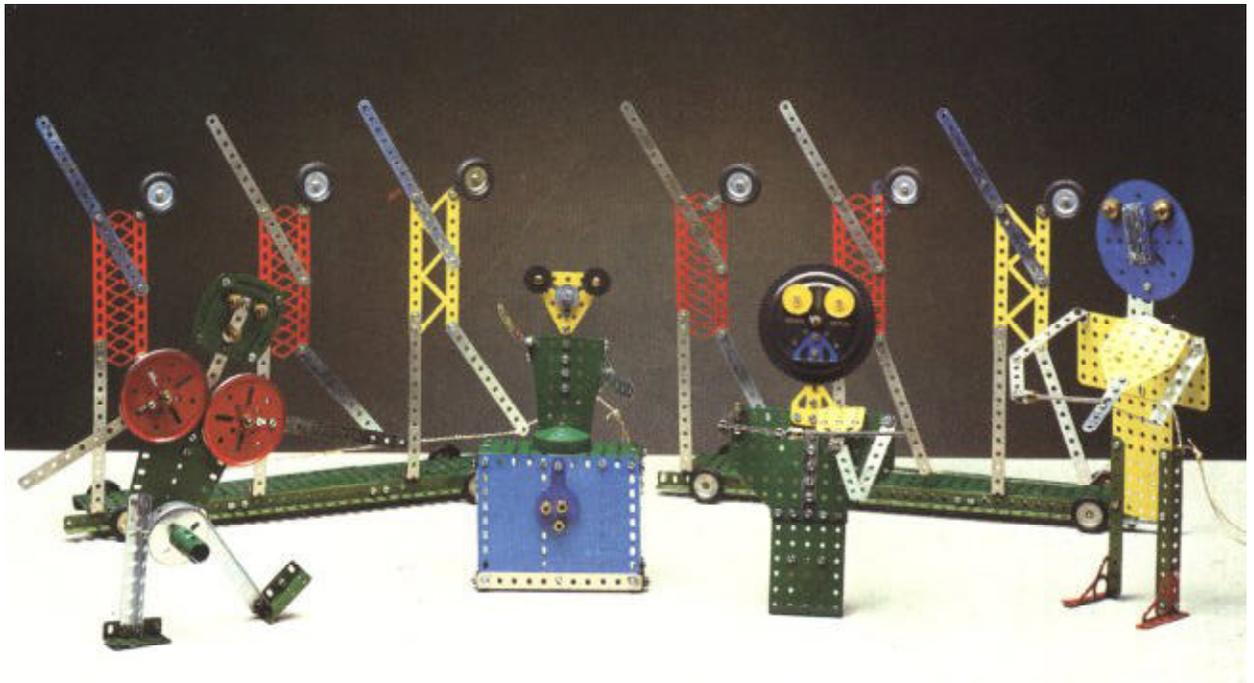
His latest exhibition was in the Modern Art and Contemporary Art Museum, Nice, France.

Thanks to Oliviero Olivieri <ooliver@iol.it> for these photos from an exhibition catalogue:

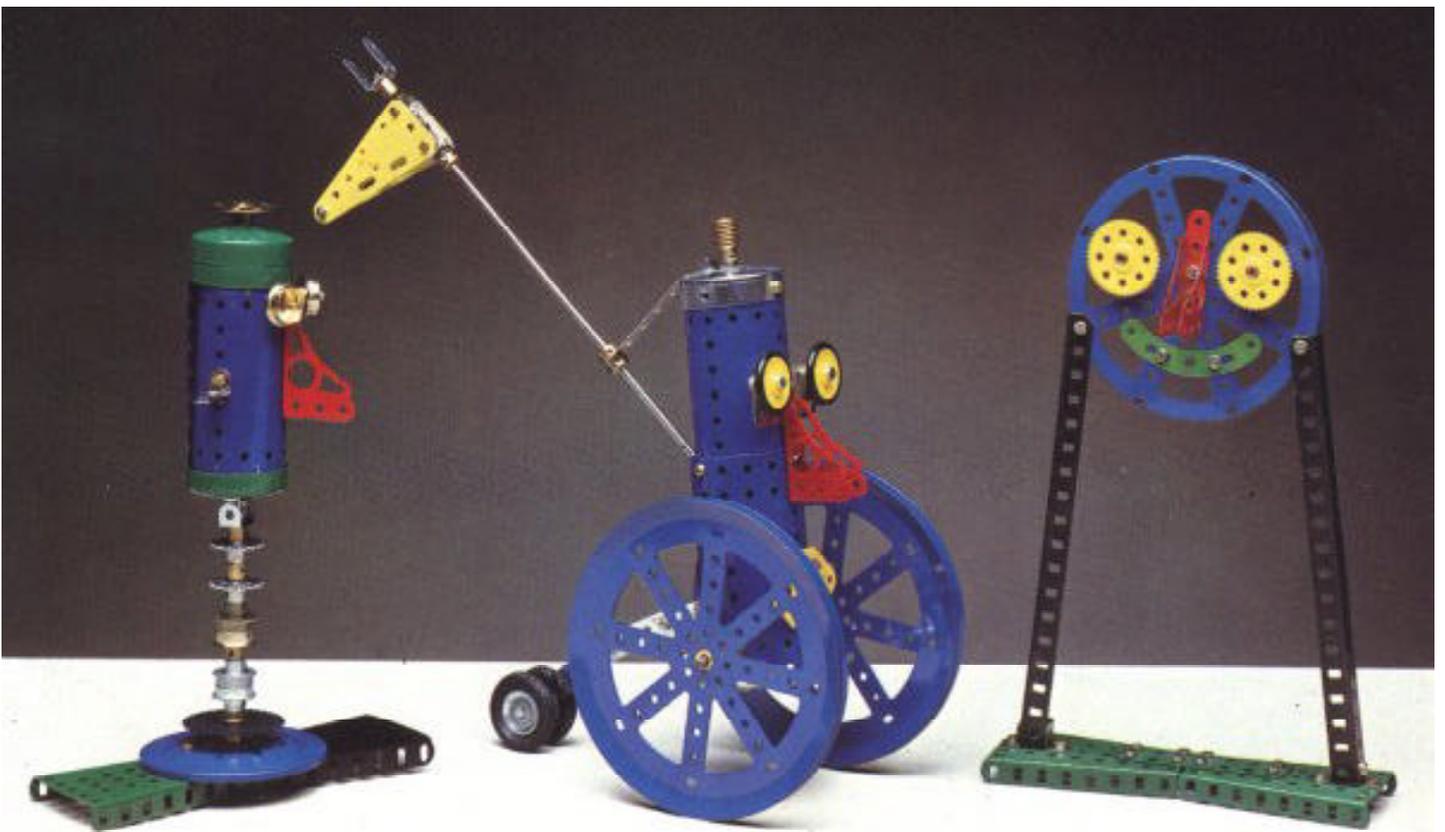
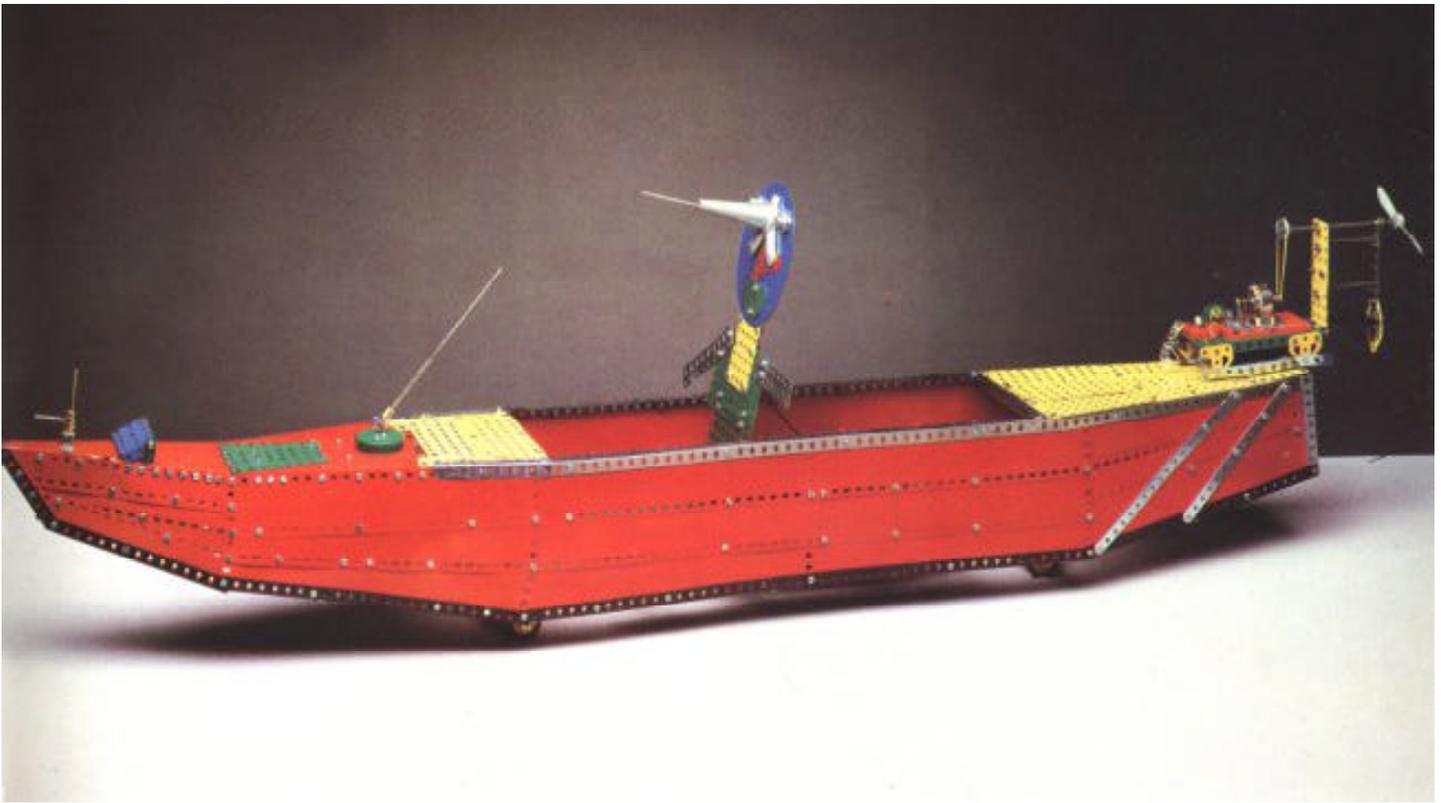
Baj, du General au particulier
 Regione Autonoma Valle d'Aosta
 Fabbri editori, Milano 1985
 Photos: Mario Carrieri

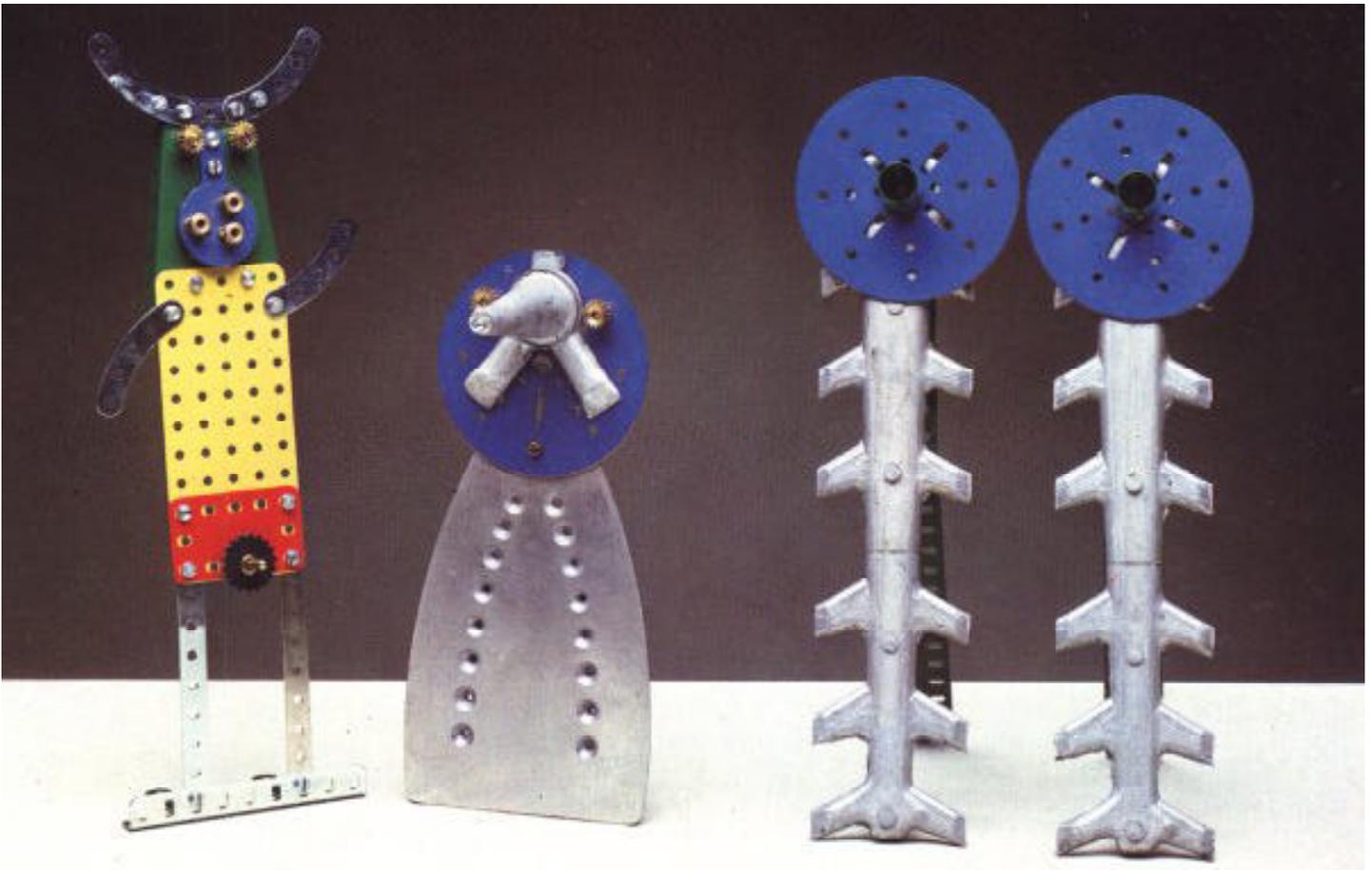
David Williams





*A
competition
for the next
hobby
show: most
artistic
model?*





Bridge Art by Chris Burden

Another artist who has more recently used Meccano and Erector in his works is Chris Burden, an American. His latest exhibition "The Bridges, the B-Car and the Speed of Light Machine" at the Magasin 3 Stockholm Konsthall includes "The Bridges, 1997-98", four new bridges built of toy metal



construction parts. These are all "performance sculptures".

The bridges are built of massive quantities of Meccano and Erector parts, both modern and antique. Many of the parts were supplied by Joel Perlin.

1. The Mexican Bridge measures 9 1/2 feet tall and 16 feet long. "The serpentine reverse arches and the soaring fragile grace of this bridge are elegant and sensuous." This bridge is a model of a three arch bridge designed in the 1860's, but never built,

for the fledging Mexican railroad system to span the 1000 foot wide Metlac Gorge. This bridge is high enough to walk under.

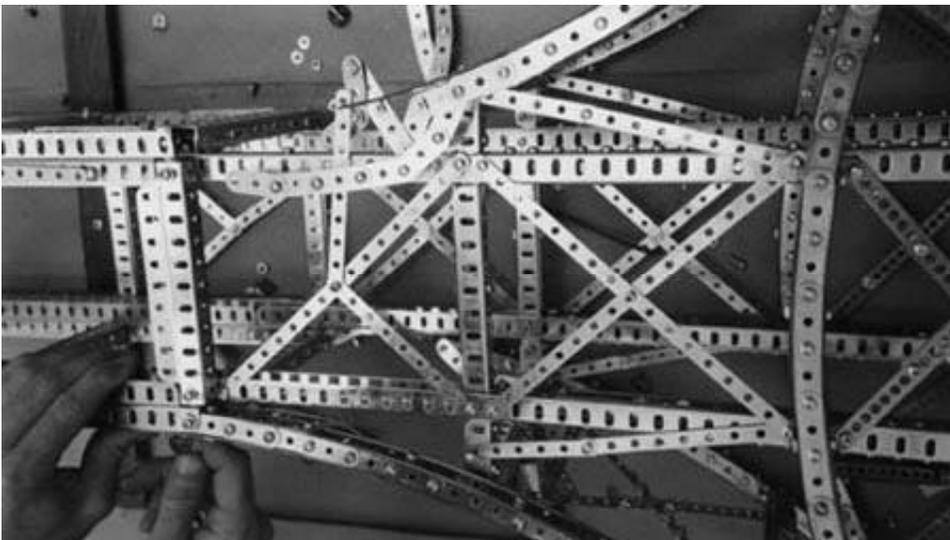
2. Hell Gate is a model of New York's famous Hell Gate bridge, which crosses the East River. This bridge was built in the early 1900's and is still in use today. The model measures 29 feet long and 6 1/2 feet tall and is approximately 1/40th the size of the actual 1017 foot bridge span.

3. The Antique Bridge, is based on a 1916 illustrated Erector Set advertisement. The ad shows three boys, one working at each end of the bridge and the third sitting on top of the middle of the bridge.



4. The 1/4 Ton Bridge, was built to be strong enough to support the artist's weight with a minimal amount of parts. Like a real bridge, the thin diagonal struts attaching the deck to the arch actually transfer the considerable load to the arch and prevent the span from collapsing.

David Williams





A
24⁹⁹
5-toy set



B
39⁹⁹
10-toy set



C
59⁹⁹
20-toy set



D
99⁹⁹
30-toy set

BONUS*
Power screwdriver



E
17⁹⁹



F
29⁹⁹



G
42⁹⁹



H
42⁹⁹



J
79⁹⁹



K
109⁹⁹

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Each allows building of a number of toys (each one at a time). Movement by gear, pulleys, driving belts. Parts compatible with other Meccano sets. Includes parts, screwdriver, wrench, instructions. Ages 8-12 years.

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Multi-toy sets (E-K built one at a time) for action and adventure. Each main toy is transformable. Includes decals, tools and instructions. Ages 6-9 years.

(E) Advance Scout, 28 pieces* can make 3 different toys. Amphibian toy with 1 trooper, working missile launcher, front steering, antenna, headlight.
061 550 327 - Each.....17.99

(F) Airborne Support, 51 pieces* can make 3 different toys. Helicopter with 1 trooper, winch with net, spinning blades, headlights.
061 550 331 - Each.....29.99

(G) First Strike Squad, 86 pieces* can make 3 different configurations. Amphibian toy with 1 trooper, working winch, trunk, antenna, headlights.
061 550 326 - Each.....42.99

(H) Hit 'n' Run Raider, 103 pieces* can make 3 different toys. Amphibian toy with wheels that can switch from vehicle position to a base position. With 1 enemy, working missile launcher, antenna dish, flag, trunk and headlights.
061 550 328 - Each.....42.99

(J) Patrol Cruiser, 208 pieces* can make 4 different toys: assault vehicle, protection vehicle, crane and investigation vehicle. With 1 trooper, 1 enemy. With driving sticks in the crane cabin, winch, trunk, antennae and headlights.
061 550 329 - Each.....79.99

(K) Command Centre, 305 pieces*. 3 toys in 1: command centre, quad tracked tire vehicle, tank unit. Multiple models can be made at same time. 2 troopers, 1 enemy, protective panels, ramp for base, roof, winch, missile launcher, computer screen, antenna, meeting table and trunk.
061 550 330 - Each.....109.99

*Set piece counts are approximate

Sears 99 Catalogue

On the left is a page from Sears 1999 toy catalogue showing this year's Meccano line.

"Rare" Meccano Operating Dealer Display - Mississippi River Boat

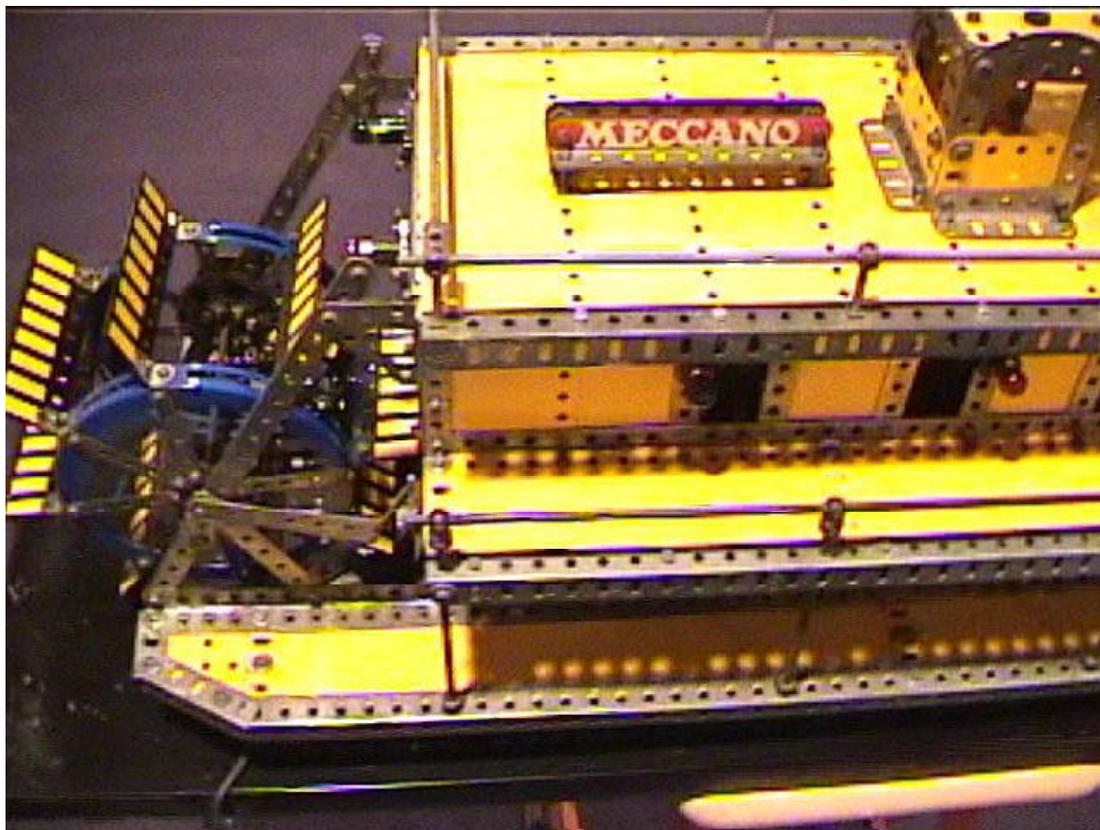
Back in August, a New Jersey seller on the ebay auction site offered this interesting "Mississippi River Boat" model for sale.

According to the seller "This is an operating display model of a Mississippi river boat made at Binns Road for FAO Schwartz in New York. This display was so popular that Schwartz ultimately convinced Meccano (France) to produce 50 special sets of the model exclusively for FAO."

Does anyone have further information on this set? Is it as rare as the seller claimed?



Overall View

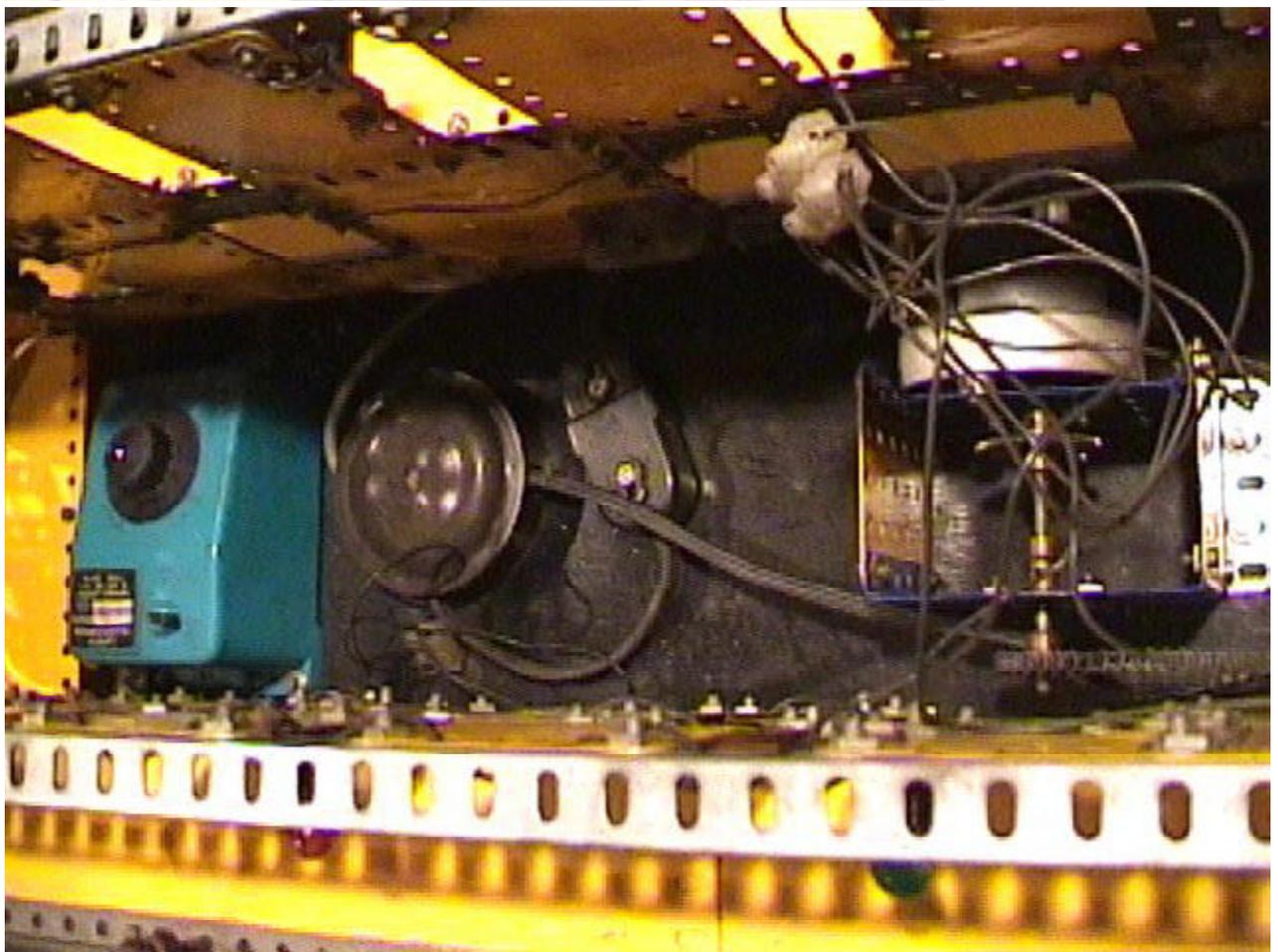


The Stern



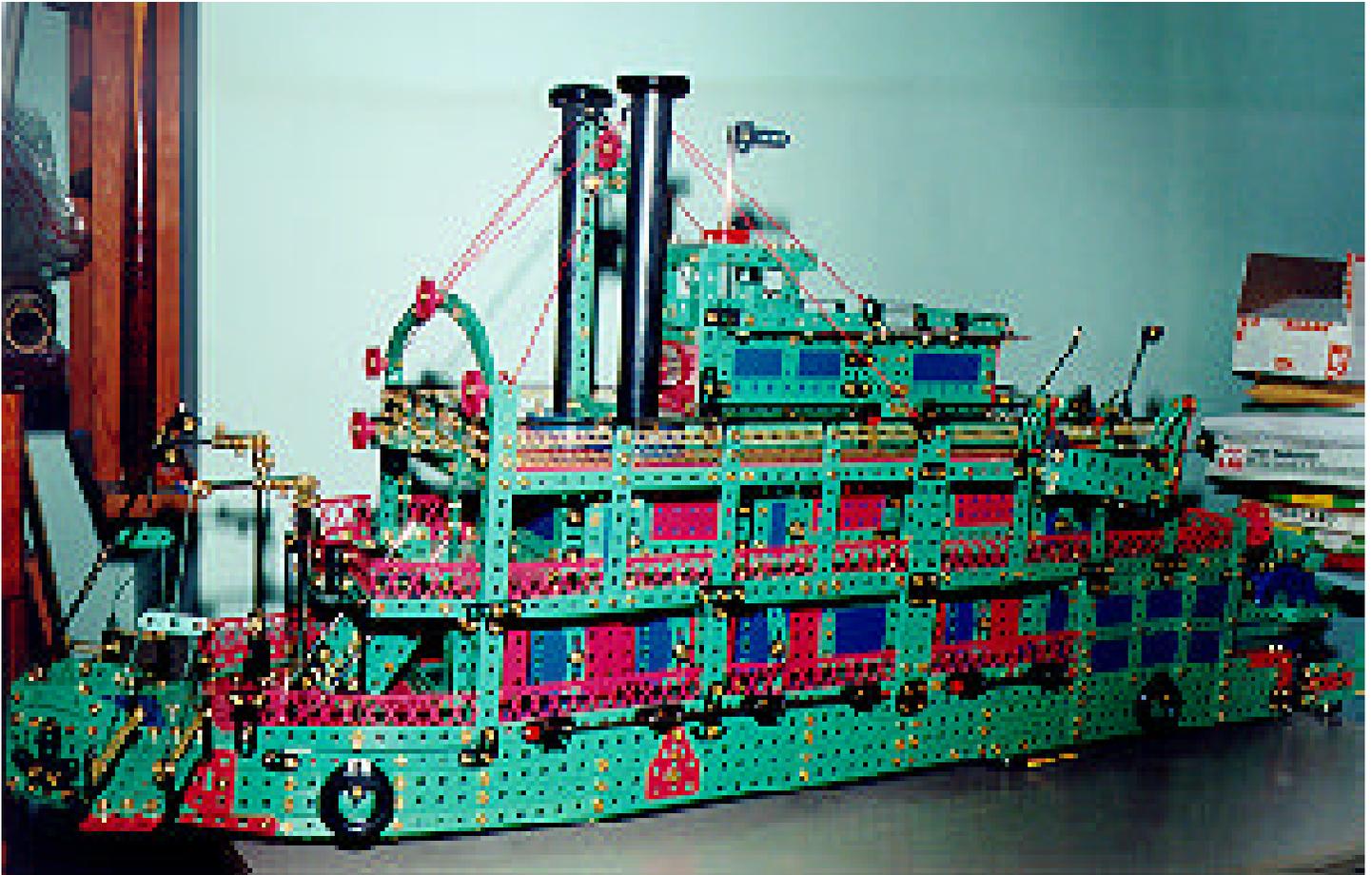


Below, the operating motor.



Marklin Mississippi Steamer

In comparison to the Meccano dealer model, below is a photo of a completed "Marklin Mississippi Steamer" model. This model was released by Marklin as a one-model kit in 1993. The model in the photo was constructed by Gordon Frank.

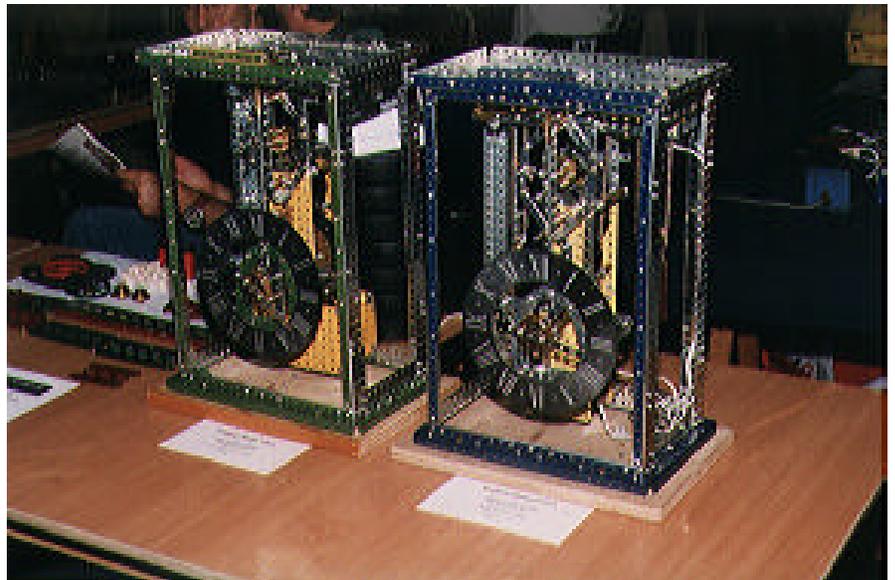


Skegex 1999

The next issue of Canadian MeccaNotes will feature an article and photos of Skegex 1999 by Colin Hoare.

At the right, Jack Partridge built not one but two Arnfield clocks, one as designed by Michael Adler and one powered by a Tensator spring at Skegex 1998. This photo is courtesy of John Evans of Wales.

Skegex is organized by the North Midlands Meccano Guild.



MECCANO **OCEAN LINER CONTEST**
CONCOURS "PAQUEBOT"

THE MOST CREATIVE MECCANO CREATION WILL WIN THIS GIANT MECCANO OCEAN LINER!
LA CRÉATION MECCANO LA PLUS NOVATRICE GAGNERA CE GEANT PAQUEBOT MECCANO!

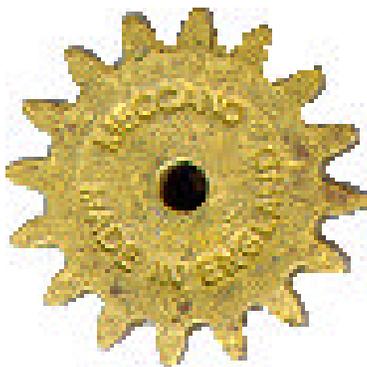
\$5,000
RETAIL VALUE
VALEUR DE DÉTAIL

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Aucun achat n'est requis pour participer au concours.

IRWIN

Consumers Distributing Distribution aux Consommateurs

I don't suppose that anyone knows who won the above 1995 contest?

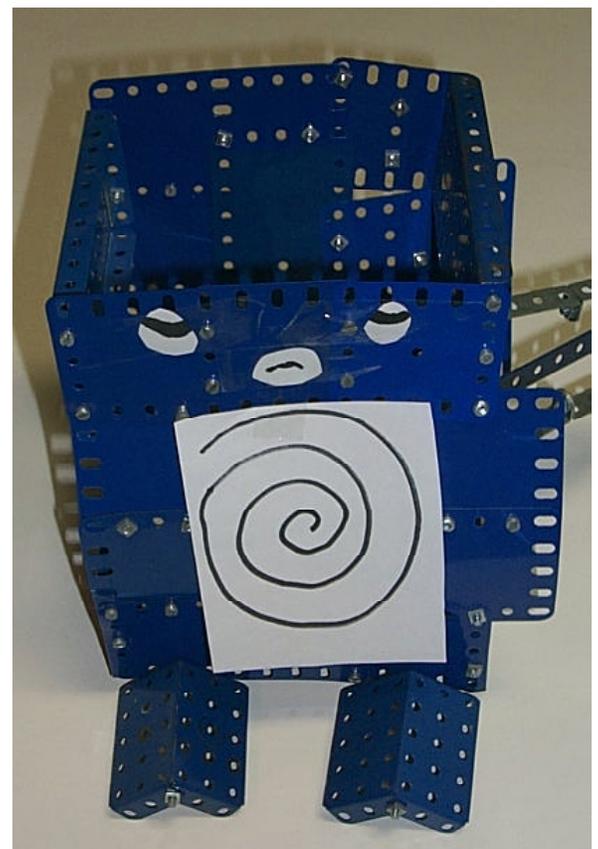


Pokemon - Poliwrath

To amuse kids at an exhibition you need to keep up with the current fads.

This is model of a mythical creature "Poliwrath", featured in Saturday morning "Pokemon" cartoons, as modelled by my daughter.

David Williams



Mysterious, Weird and Downright Un-natural Parts

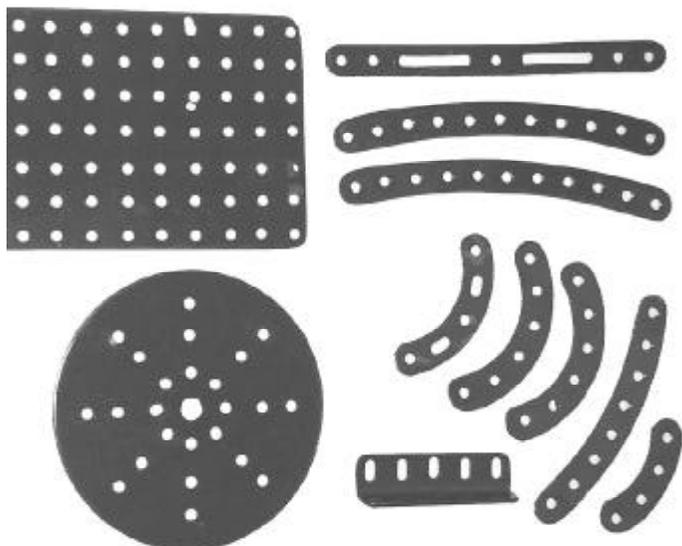
Whereas there are numerous sources of useful, non-standard parts, there are nonetheless parts that turn up in oddball parts lots that are harder to explain. Some of them are merely mysterious, but often the rest of the lot ought to have never existed. I've decided to show off a few of these items.

First off, a Double Angle Strip or perhaps a wide Double Bracket. It's similar to Exacto part 11b, or Meccano France 48e without the centre hole. Six of these turned up in a large 1930s set, and are clearly a manufactured item. The enamel, presumably original, is turquoise in colour. These are nicely produced parts — but where did they come from?



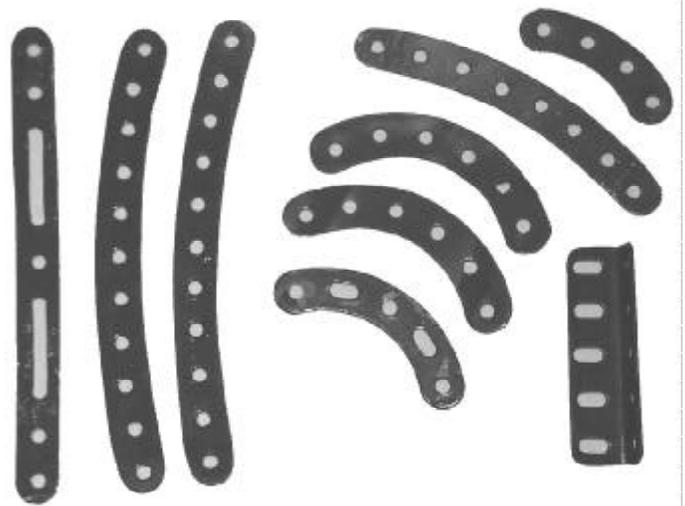
Six of these turned up in a large 1930s set, and are clearly a manufactured item. The enamel, presumably original, is turquoise in colour. These are nicely

Second, the abovementioned part's antithesis. This solitary item, which disgraced an otherwise tidy nickel set from the Teens, could be confused with a Meccano Double Angle Strip no.46. That is, if one were to ignore the irregular end radiusing, randomly misplaced holes, sloppy bends, hole burrs, and striations that suggest the thing was made



of hot rolled steel. The nickel plating implies that this was a manufactured object —so who was merely pretending to produce construction sets some eight decades ago? (And don't say "Structomode" — even their standards were far superior to this sort of rubbish.)

And lastly, the malformed home-made projects of some unknown tortured soul, found in an abundant lot of mostly 1970s parts. Granted, horribly perforated home-made strips and flat plats turn up too frequently for comfort, but this perpetrator had unusual flair. Note that, despite miserable metalworking, there are two original curved strip designs, and also the two big



circular parts. Forming the circular flange is probably the trickiest operation in making these parts, but here this was done rather well, peculiarly enough. The Hub Disc is particularly inept, with one of the round rim holes having vanished right into its neighbouring slot!

My guess is that this last lot of parts were produced by a high-school student, as a project for a sheet-metal shop class. Perhaps the instructor made the flanges on the circular parts, and left the young lad to finish off the job. At any rate, while I've got a bunch of wacky "conversation pieces", they're certainly not something I could build into a model. Fortunately, they cost me an insignificant amount of cash to acquire.

Colin Hinz

More photos overleaf ...



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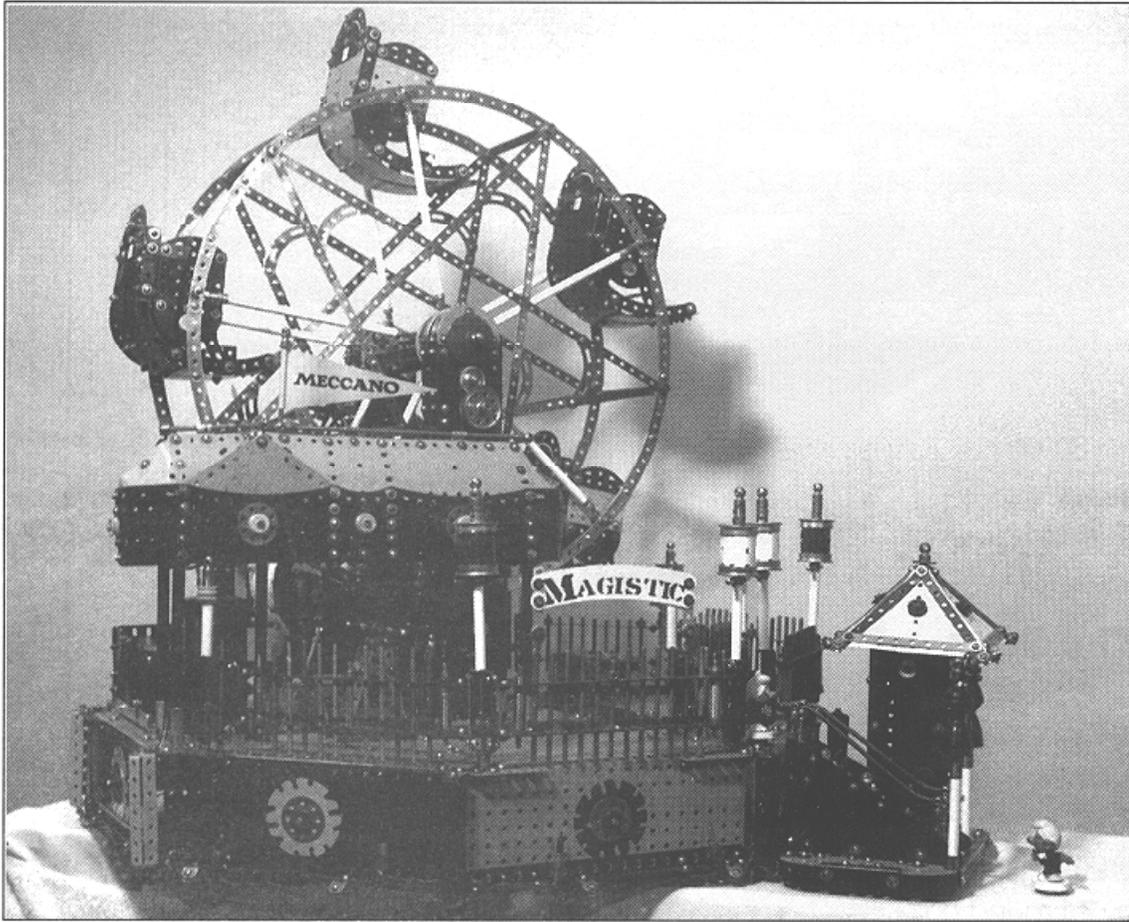
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Canadian Special Model Plans CSM15 Old Tyme Ferris Wheel



CSM15: Designed by Ernest Chandler. Rebuilt and described by Jerry DuBois. This 16 page model plan is available for sale for \$12 including postage or 4.95 British Pounds + postage from MW Models. A full parts list is available on the CMAMAS web site, <http://www.edmc.net/cmamas/>.

Model Plans and Canadian MeccaNotes Back Issues

Can be obtained from:

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