

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

EDITORIAL First, apologies for the lateness of this Issue. As some readers will know it is because I had, unexpectedly, to have a heart operation.

For the future, I plan to continue to produce OSN but regrettably it is probable that Issues will appear when they are ready rather than with their current, twice a year, regularity. This for several reasons, but mainly because changes in my personal circumstances, quite unconnected with the operation, will mean that I will be unable to spend as much time on hobbies as I've been able to up until now. I'll give updates as to progress on my OSN website from time to time.

SHORTER NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **Snippet. A NECOBO Clockwork Motor.** Having expressed surprise in 44/1334 that there were no NECOBO Motors, the one right was offered on Marktplaats soon afterwards. No doubt its one lever would be a brake and so it would be non-reversing. What looks like a brass Pinion may have been misplaced on the winding spindle.

A Price List in the lot with the Motor lists Sets 0-6 plus the Junior outfit; Sets 0A-5A; and the Mechanism Sets A-C. But there is no mention of the Motor.

NECOBO: S5

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2. **Guibert's Encyclopédie.** Jean-Pierre Guibert continues his good work in updating his Encyclopédie des Jeux de Construction métalliques, and the 2012 version, on a DVD, runs to over 400 pages with details of some 800 systems. As well as new and 'new' systems, many of the earlier entries have been revised and more detail added.

The format is as before (see 43/1292) and each page can if desired be printed off as an A4 side. It may be hard to see the details of some images such as Illustrated Parts but all those I tried could be easily read after using the WORD Zoom facility. Also with WORD (though not with WORD Viewer) any image can be copied, and then enlarged after pasting it onto a blank page. Thus just the enlarged image can to be printed off.

The DVD also includes an updated Database called an 'Index', again with the same format as before.

All in all a very useful reference, and having some years ago produced some Sheets to update and add to the now long outdated MCS, I understand just how much work has gone into J-P's Encyclopédie.

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Encyclopédie des Jeux de Construction

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3. **'New' System, ALFLEX.** Urs Flammer wrote of 2 sets found in Switzerland. The models on the lid label above are MIGNON (see 10/262) and a photo of the base tray of one of the sets looks identical to the later MIGNON No.3 in terms of both the parts and their layout. (The later MIGNON sets had fairground models, as opposed to 'Tower Bridge' on the lid label.) The manual is in French and is identical to the French edition of the one described in OSN 10 except that the Mignon name has been removed from the cover and the maker's name from the back cover. In fact neither 'Mignon' nor the maker is mentioned on the inside pages of any of the later manuals (the ones with fairground models on the cover, see OSN 10). In passing, details of the MIGNON manuals, as well as the sets, & the system's history, are given in www.mignonbaukasten.de.

Although the two sets were found in Switzerland Urs discovered that the Alfex name was registered as a brand (concernant un jeu de construction) on 19 July 1947 by René Guichard, in Paris. The registration was in the BOPI (Bulletin officiel de la propriété industrielle) under licence No.378.421, page 1809.

MIGNON was of course made in Germany by Gebr. Staiger of St. Georgen and it is possible that the ALFLEX sets were a special order imported by a retailer, perhaps French, perhaps Swiss. But if the latter why was the Alfex name used? It is even possible that there was a French ALFLEX system quite unconnected to the Swiss sets.

ALFLEX: S1

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4. **Freundeskreis Metallbaukasten at BEBRA** Model building is alive and well in Germany – an email-based group called Freundeskreis Metallbaukasten (Friends of MCS) hold regular meetings at Bebra, a town near the centre of Germany, chosen to minimise travel distances.

This information from Thomas Morzinck and he included the links below which show the models at the 2011 meeting. Feast your eyes (there is no associated write-up).

<http://www.metallbaukasten-eiermann.magix.net/meine-alben/!oa/6413895/>

<http://www.metallbaukasten-eiermann.magix.net/album#/meine-alben/!oa/6413895-75780919/>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q082IjIvYc>

Freundeskreis Metallbaukasten

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