



thin wheel at one end and a Bolt allowing adjustment in azimuth at the other. This holds it fast against a 20mm long shoe above it, which is bolted inside the fuselage and holds the nut for the adjustment bolt fast between its sides. All the parts are brass steel.

COLOURS The parts are painted silver, with red & blue areas in some cases. One lot has all the parts silver but with French roundels on the top of the Wings #1, and 2 of the 4 Wings, #15. The Fin & top of the Tail have French flashes as in the manual photos. (These flashes are on all the known parts and define where the rudder & elevators might be.) Other Wing parts have red on the top of all the wings behind a diagonal from the inboard leading edge to the trailing edge (as in MCS), and sometimes a roundel is added on the silver part of the top wings. A decorated Fuselage Side is red, with the nose & a long, lengthwise teardrop flash silver – on the other side blue replaces the red. A Fuselage Rear Top has a blue top. In lots with these red or blue parts the Propellers and Wheels are red. In one such some of the Struts & U/C Legs are nicked instead of the normal silver paint.

The parts in the MCS set are given as buff, red, & white.

The MANUALS The one with David's set has 32 pages, 186*132mm deep, plus covers. The latter are grey,



and plain except for the black words on the front (left) and the printer 'IMPRIMERIE H.PONTAUT – COSNE –' on the back. After an Intro on pp1-2 there are 2 pages about the parts of full-size aircraft and a little on how they fly, with men-

tion of the role of the elevator & rudder, but not the ailerons. Pages 5 & 6 have the photos of the Sets shown earlier, and 7-12 show Assemblies A – L, from Fuselage to Groupe Moteur (the Large Nacelle). Then come Models 1-7 for the Standard Set, from Avion de tourisme on p13, to Avion de bombardement on p19, and Models 8-19 using the Complémentaire set, from Avion type 'Grand Raid' on p20, to Hydravion torpilleur on p31. p32 is blank. There is a reasonable photo, a parts list, & brief building instructions, for each model. With one or two exceptions the models are interesting looking and credible. The open cockpit looks rather stark and it's perhaps surprising that no Pilot was supplied. The parts seen are well made and fit together neatly, except that there is a small gap between the back of the Cabin Rear Fuselage and the tailplane.

Philip's manual is similar but probably slightly later. The covers are brown and the printer (on p32 with his logo on C4) is A.Waton, St. Etienne. Pages 1-6 are the same but p7 now has a photo of the parts in the Coffret de luxe. Then the Assemblies & Models 1-14 are the same except that different photos are used in some cases and minor changes have been made to 2 models. The earlier Model 15 (a low wing, 3 engine Seaplane) is omitted and thereafter (pp28-31) the Models 15-18 are the previous 16-19. p32 shows the Motor Unit, mentioned but not shown in the earlier version, and how to fit it, and the Adjustable Tail Wheel. The model photos in this edition are clearer than in the first one.

As already mentioned the Instructions for the MCS Standard Set are inside the lid. Not all the detail can be seen but if they contain any general instructions they are much

abbreviated. Most of the space is devoted to the 7 models shown, each with a picture and a few lines of print under it. Only 5 of the models can be seen at all clearly and they seem to be those from the manuals above.

QUESTION Why did none of the makers of Aero sets include items such as (imitation) bombs & machine guns? It would have increased their 'play value' and even a simple release mechanism for bombs could have been included.

SNIPPETS The items in this and all later 'Snippets', are based on pictures culled from eBay, unless stated otherwise.

CONSTRUMECANICO This name is in my Database but with no details except that it is Mexican (and that's in some doubt because I can't now trace where the information came from). But the box lid below proves the name, and from the U-09 Set No., there may have been a number of outfits. The whole lid is in colour with the Crane on a green table, and a



brown-grey wall behind. The models has silver Strips, and probably A/Gs, with red Flanged Plates including a Sector Plate at the back, and blue Flexible Plates. 'METAL BUILDING SET' can be seen on the lid's apron, and the bottom of the box is blue.

A BOYCRAFT SET The metal box below may well be a red herring. It is light blue and has a red label inside the lid with the name, and U.S.A. in small letters under it. To the left are 2 boys standing by a bench which has a vice on its foremost corner, and they are examining a something which can't be seen clearly but doesn't really look as if it's made from the parts in the box. The latter appear to be ERECTOR and are silver, perhaps aluminium, in colour, apart from a red Trunnion, a brass 1" Pulley, and the red/yellow little House. In another view some pages from a manual, almost certainly ERECTOR, can be seen to the left of the box.

I understand that Boycraft made a range of toys but I've no reference to ERECTOR being sold under that name. Probably at some point the empty box was found to be a convenient receptacle for some homeless ERECTOR parts.

