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**EDITORIAL** It has taken about 9 months to produce this Issue and I hope to keep to this time scale for OSN 50.

### Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. *Encyclopédie des Jeux de Construction Métalliques* Jean-Pierre Guilbert has revised & updated this excellent compendium of all known metal construction systems, see 43/1292 & 46/1388. Apart from these changes a most useful addition is that all the pages can now be accessed as PDF's as well as WORD documents. As before the DVD includes a useful Database (called an Index) which incidentally is available on its own as a free download (an EXCEL file) from Jean-Pierre on request. Other new features are an alphabetical list of all the systems included, notes on screw threads, and numerous extra photos of various systems. Jean-Pierre's email address is [jeanpierre1g@orange.fr](mailto:jeanpierre1g@orange.fr).

*Encyclopédie des Jeux de Construction Métallique* 49/1484

2. **Snippet. FALCO ELET.** This Italian system was named in 15/426 with the suggestion that it might be related to the German ELECTRIC (see 24/694). The only reference to hand is the manual cover below. Said manual is for Sets 1, 1a, 2, 2a, & 3, and was said to have 42 pages, 23\*16.5cm, and to date from 1933. The PR bottom left is not absolutely clear but might be 'L 160 - 7500 - 7:33 - ?'. The children on the cover are not in the ELECTRIC style,



nor are the Motors and the Crane's Base. Also I don't think there were ever ELECTRIC linking sets. So it remains to be seen if there was more than one version of FALCO ELET.

**FALCO ELET: S1**

[49/1484]



3. **'New' System: NEUER STÄBCHEN-BAUKASTEN.** Urs Flammer sent some details of his set, including the photo above. The box, 25½\*16\*2cm, has a lid with light blue patterned sides. Bottom right on the label is 'No. 3164'; bottom left a logo pierced by 4 arrows with 'W&S/B' in the centre: Guilbert's *Encyclopédie* gives the maker as Werner & Schumann GmbH (Berlin). The Set's date isn't known but Nuremberg museum suggested 1920.

The 4mm Ø wooden Rods (the two arrowed are original, the rest were added to make the Seesaw on the lid) push into the brassed steel Connectors. Of the latter, 2-, 3-, & 4-Way can be seen in the box & the Seesaw on the lid. All have cutaway centres to allow the arms to be bent – through 120° for the 2-Ways at the bottom of the Seesaw's side frames. An Ebay set had a wooden Wheel of about 3½cm Ø with a bore that looked suitable for the Rods, but there is nothing to suggest that it was an original part.

The text on the lid translates as 'Entertaining employment following Fröbel's principles for children', and this brings to mind another 'Fröbel' set, CONSTRUCTION AUX BATONNETS, from the early 1900s at the latest, see 43/1307. Apart from its date (if the 1920 is correct) and its smaller, 2mm Ø Rods, the two seem to be similar in concept.

**NEUER STÄBCHEN-BAUKASTEN: S1**

[49/1484]

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