

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 Eitech update items in the last issue which had already been covered in OSN 43. Old age & senility creep on! Otherwise, steady as she goes. I little thought when I typed out, pasted up, & photocopied the first, 8-page OSN, that it would continue for 22 years, and that eventually all the pages would be concocted entirely on a computer and printed at home on a little colour printer. Who knows, we might reach No.50, and I say 'we' advisedly, to include all who help, or have helped down the years, with contributions, comments & support. And thanks too to Ebay for all those interesting Snippets.

Shorter NOTES, with thanks to all contributors.

1. **Snippet. 'New' Italian System: IL MECCANICO 900.** The photos of the manual below were taken from the Italian Ebay and it was said to contain 24 blue pages, and to date



FIG.1

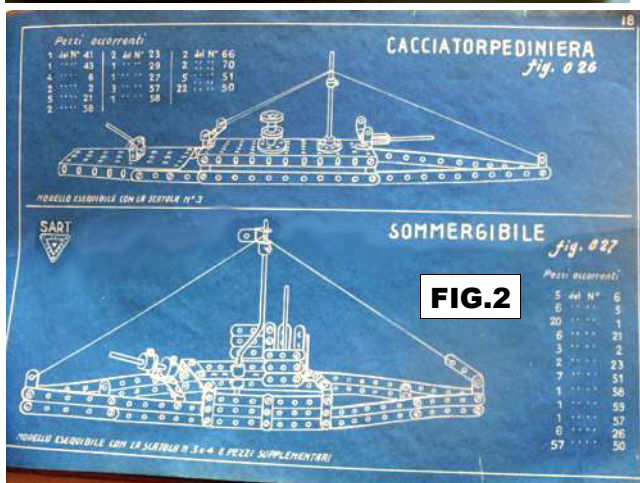


FIG.2

from the 1940s. Also that the maker was SART of Torino (Turin), a name that can be seen above the triangular logo on the cover & the model page above. At first I thought the '900' might refer to a set size but along the bottom of the cover it says that the system comprises 5 sets, Nos.0-4. The 2 models shown, Nos.26 & 27, are on p18 and are for Set 3. The parts look conventional and a 5*11h Flanged Plate & an 8h long Flanged Sector Plate can be seen in the Destroyer. The highest PN in the lists of parts is #70.

IL MECCANICO 900: S1

[45/1356]

2. **The History of German TRIX.** Werner Sticht has written a really comprehensive account – go to www.trix-metaal.nl & click on the link 'Eine Geschichte des Trix-Metallbaukastens'. It is all in German of course but a Google translation works well and there are numerous images and links to others.

TRIX: S6

[45/1356]

3. **'New' Czech System: POPULAR.** The set below is shown on Merkur's website with a date of 1932. It is said to have



been introduced in 1930 and may have included some new parts. It was produced alongside the MERKUR sets but it isn't clear if it was intended for export or as a cheap addition to the regular range. The lid's appearance is radically different to the MERKUR designs of the time and the Set was not mentioned in 1932 & 1933 Czech ads for MERKUR & METROPOL. If the 5*3h Flanged Plates in the box are original they may have been a new part, which was never, as far as is known, used in other sets until the M1 motorisation set in 1970, and then in the 201/202 sets introduced in the 1980s.

POPULAR: S1

[45/1356]

4. **'New' System: JEULIN** From Jean-Pierre Guibert, a new page from his Encyclopédie (see 43/1292, & 44/1324 for J-P's correct email address). Jeulin was an established educational supply house which specialised in scientific and technical material, and produced a series of sets aimed at schools & colleges from 1963 to 1970. The parts were mainly bought-in from Meccano in the standard blue/gold/dark red colours of the period and included Elektrikit items as appropriate. Special parts included Hooks & Weights for use in balances etc, and zinc electrodes in the electrical set. [Cont. >>]

SMALL AD

[45/1356]

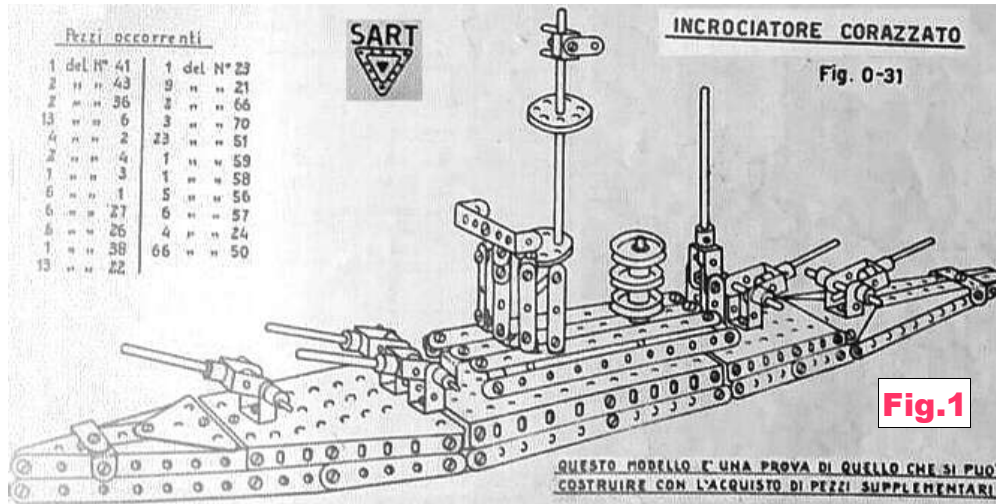
Wanted Anything relating to **CHARPENTO**, and I would welcome contact/correspondence with others about it. Please ring Gary Maslin on 01635 200460 or write to 'Carlisle' Curridge Road, Curridge, Thatcham, Berks, RG18 9DH

Snippet. More on the Italian IL MECCANICO 900

These notes add to those in 45/1356 and are based on the 3 photos from a 33 page No.4 manual offered on Ebay recently. The first page is the front cover and it is identical to Fig.1 in OSN 45 (with the same method of binding the pages together) except that it has '4' on a small orange circle after 'CATALOGO' (under the name), and there are 7 sets, N.1-7, mentioned at the bottom instead of 5, N.0-4. The bottom line on the page says, as before, that one should specify the SART brand when buying more parts.

One wonders if Sets 5-7 were additions to the range because of the system's success, or whether they were withdrawn in the light of poor sales, and the No.0 was added to try to attract customers who might then buy a larger set. Odd that, unlike most makes, there seems not to have been any linking sets.

The other two pages are blue as in OSN 45, but in B&W here for better clarity. One has the Armoured Cruiser below,



the other the illustrated parts list in Fig.2.

Many of the parts in Fig.2 look like MECCANO and notes on the others ('Sart parts') are given in the list that follows.

#1-8, 3,5,7,8,9,11,17,25h Strips. **#11-15**, 4,7,11,17,25h Flat Girders. **#16-20**, 4,7,11,17,25h A/Gs (the ends look to be near square). **#21-29**, MECCANO-style Brackets. (**#26,27** are 8, and 11?13mm across, Meccano's 8mm wide Single Bent Strip, #102, was added in 1916 but the 14mm wide 1" D/B, #11a, was not introduced until 1962). **#27A**, DAS. **#30**, probably similar to Meccano's original Eye Piece. **#31** Sart Spring Clip. **#35**, Triangular Plate. **#36,37**, Sart Trunnions. **#38,39**, DAS. **#40**, Sart Curved Strip. **#41**, Flanged Plate 5*11h. **#42**, 11h Sart Braced Girder. **#42A**, Perforated Plate 5*8h. **#43**, Flanged Sector Plate, 8h long. **#44-53** Sart variants: **#44** Car Radiator; **#45**, Tyre; **#46**, Propeller Blade; **#47** Hook; **#48** Crankshaft; **#49,49A** Pulley Blocks; **#50** hexagonal Nut & cheeseheaded Bolt; **#51** Spacer; **#52** Coupling; **#53** Crank. **#56-58A** Axles. **#59** Crank Handle.

There is no indication if the above were the parts in the system or just in Set 4, but in any case they would have been a Pulley for the Tyre, and no doubt other parts – wheels & gears are mentioned on the Manual's front page. In fact Pulleys can be seen in the Cruisers's funnel in Fig.1, probably #70, and 2 Wheel Discs on the mast, #66.

The Armoured Cruiser in Fig.1, is Model 0-31 on p21. No set is mentioned but it is said to need some extra parts. The two widths of the 2h D/B are used in the gun mountings and at the base of the rear mast.

