

The **No.8** looks unused. It is in an attractive wooden box, 53*34*15cm, with a hinged lid, and a hinged drop-down front giving access to 5 wooden trays. One has a corner cutout to accommodate a Boiler in the tray below. Most of the parts are clipped to orange cards with the small parts in 7 green, round boxes, probably plastic with AMI moulded into the lids. The label inside the lid is similar to the 1-2 manual but the model on it is a Lifting Bridge. There were 3 manuals with the Set, a



1-3, a 3-5 & a 6-8, and all have the type of cover above. In all they were was said to have 550 pages with 150 in each of the two larger ones, and 1500 models for Sets 3-8!

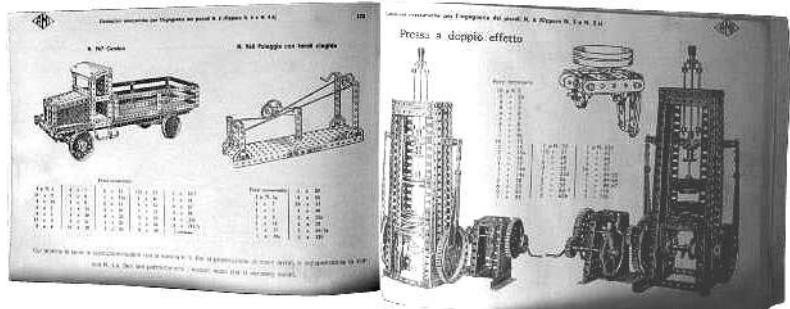
The No.8 is a big set and the Ebay photos show each of the 5 trays. It is obvious that they contain many different parts not in the 1-2 manual, Braced Girders for instance, and Tyres, Contrates, Sprockets, & Gear Rings. Also among the Ebay photos, most of a 6 sided parts leaflet on which can be seen parts which match most of those in the corresponding parts of the AMI-LAC parts list. The two lists are not in quite the same order though and because some of the Leaflet isn't shown, one can't be sure which of the AMI-LAC parts were not in the AMI range. Another item in the AMI leaflet is the sideplate Motor which continued into AMI-LAC.

So it seems that AMI developed both in terms of the range of sets, the range of parts, and perhaps the man-

uals (they had new covers at any rate). Turning to the **set contents**, those for Sets 1-4 & 1a-3a in the 1-2 manual are identical to those for the same AMI-LAC sets in MCS. However although an AMI-LAC manual cover is shown in MCS I suspect that the Set Contents there, for Sets 00-5, is actually for AMI. If so, the AMI range of sets at that stage had increased from 1-4 to 00-5, and sets 6-8 were still to come. There is no Set Contents in the AMI-LAC No.9 manual but the total number of parts in the sets is given and roughly it seems the AMI 00-3 became the AMI-LAC 1-5; while 4 & 5 became 6 & 7 but with fewer parts. The AMI-LAC No.7 had 580 parts, against 651 in the AMI No.5. Possibly the AMI 6 & 7 became the basis for the AMI-LAC 8 & 9 but there is no firm evidence for this. If correct though it may have been that AMI-LAC decided to see how sales of the larger sets went before deciding whether to have a prestigious No.10 based on the AMI No.8 (which was said to weigh 17kg).

Going back to the parts, the **colour scheme** in the No.8 is: light green Strips, DAS, A/Gs, & longer Flat Girders; dark green Flanged Plates, Braced Girders, & some Brackets; medium red Eccentrics, Trunnions, a few Brackets, & circular parts of 6cm Ø & above (the Flanged Disc scales at 9.5cm; the 3" Pulley is the later type and is shown thus in the parts brochure); bright smaller Circular parts but the 28mm Flanged Wheel is brass; light blue Flanged Sector Plates & Windmill Sails; blue Flexible Plates; blue-grey Boiler with dark, perhaps black, ends. A few of the small parts are chemically blackened.

All that is known of the **6-8 manual** are the 2 pages below that were shown on Ebay. The Press on the RH page became a No.8 model in the AMI-LAC manual with identical illustrations but neither of the other two models were included in it.



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AMI-LAC: S3

Snippet: 'New' System

Another METALLBAUKASTEN

'Früh übt sich ' on the sliding lid of the set right is the first part of a German proverb which ends '..were ein Meister will'. In English one might say 'Practice early if you want to become a master (craftsman)', and this sentiment is illustrated on the lid by the boy with his Crane and the man with his real crane in the background. The logo in the bottom right corner is made up of the words 'Kühle Spiele Halle' and possibly this could indicate a firm called Kühle making Spiele (= toys etc) in the town of Halle.

The largest town called Halle is some 30km east of Leipzig, and this seems the most likely given that Leipzig was a centre of toy making. If so it would have been in what was East Germany after WW2 but there are no signs of East German officialdom on the lid. So the Set could be from pre-WW2 and this would justify the date of c1930 claimed in the Ebay ad. But immediately postwar could also be possible, before the



apparatchiks got into their stride. And of course it might have been a West German Halle.

The box measures 30*23*3cm and the Ebay ad mentioned 'Nr.301/302', presumably the set designation, and probably the text under the logo on the lid. The Strips & Plates look as if they might be aluminium and scaling from them gives a hole pitch of around 1.5cm. Likewise the wooden Wheels are 2-2½cm diameter.

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METALLBAUKASTEN [6]: S1