

Collecting Meccano Dinky Toys

A New and Fascinating Hobby



THERE is a peculiar fascination about miniature reproductions of familiar things. We pay little attention to the normal full-sized objects to be seen every day in our streets and elsewhere, but a miniature reproduction of one of them immediately attracts our notice, and most of us feel a desire to possess it!

Some years ago a set of platform accessories—luggage and truck, milk cans and truck, seats, and automatic machines—was introduced with the object of making Hornby Station platforms more realistic. This proved immediately popular, but Hornby Railway owners were not satisfied. They demanded miniature railwaymen and passengers to give "life" to the platforms, and in response to this demand two further sets of figures were produced, one consisting of station staff and the other of typical passengers. Miniature train sets followed, each made up of a locomotive and two or three coaches or goods vehicles.

The requirements of railway enthusiasts were thus fairly well provided for, but nothing had been done for those whose interests lay in other directions. We were repeatedly asked for other miniatures, mainly of motor cars, aeroplanes and ships; and finally it was decided to introduce a comprehensive series of models under the general title of Dinky Toys. This series met with an enthusiastic welcome, and it has been rapidly extended until it now includes well over one hundred items, with many others in active preparation.

The Dinky Toys form the most attractive set of miniatures in existence. They are well designed and beautifully finished in colour, and they include the utmost amount of detail possible in such tiny reproductions. All of them form delightful ornaments for table or mantelpiece, especially if arranged in sets. In addition many of them can be used with striking effect in Hornby Railway layouts, to which they add a remarkable touch of realism. This is specially the case with layouts incorporating some of the Countryside Sections. Horses, cattle and sheep can be placed in the fields, and pedestrians and motor vehicles of various types distributed at suitable points along the roads. The effects that can be produced in this manner are quite extraordinary, and the general scheme can be varied almost indefinitely.

With a few exceptions all the Dinky Toys are arranged in sets, but every item can be purchased separately. One of these sets, or even a single model, forms an ideal Christmas present.

The train sets, of which there are four, have already been mentioned, Set No. 17 consists of a locomotive and tender, coach and guard's van, and Set No. 20 of a tank locomotive, two coaches and guard's van. For those who

prefer goods trains there are Sets No. 18, consisting of a tank locomotive and three open wagons, and No. 19, comprising a tank locomotive, an open wagon, a petrol tank wagon and a lumber wagon. By purchasing additional coaches or wagons these trains can be increased to quite impressive proportions, and as all the items are to the same scale the trains can be rearranged and made up in any way desired.

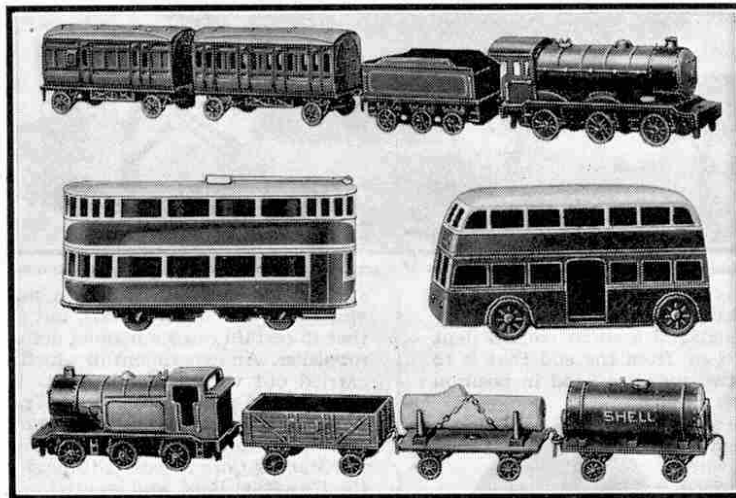
Motor car enthusiasts are particularly well catered for. Set No. 24

alone includes seven different types of up-to-date private cars, ranging from a sports two-seater to a handsome limousine, together with a splendid model of a typical ambulance. All these vehicles are fitted with rubber tyres and silver-plated radiators. Then there is Set No. 25, which provides an equally attractive collection of

commercial vehicles. There are six of these, an open wagon, a flat truck, a covered van, a petrol tank wagon, a market gardener's van, and a tipping wagon that actually tips!

Another interesting model is the Racing Car (No. 23). This is a realistic little model of a typical modern speed car. It is fitted with rubber tyres and is obtainable in a variety of attractive colours. Even more striking is the "Airflow" Saloon (No. 32). This is an exceptionally handsome model, which demonstrates excellently the principles of streamlining. It is fitted with rubber tyres, silver-plated radiator and bumpers, and is obtainable in various colours. Still another very attractive vehicle is the "Holland Coachcraft" van (No. 31). This is a model of one of the most modernistic commercial vehicles now on the road.

Turning now to aeroplanes, we find six splendid models in Set No. 60. The largest of these is a realistic reproduction of an Imperial Airways liner, which gives a good idea of the massive proportions and handsome appearance of these machines. Smaller but equally



This illustration shows two of the Meccano Dinky Toy Train Sets, the Tramcar and the Motor Bus. The Racing Car, which is available in a variety of sporty colour schemes, is shown below.

