

MECCANO[®] Magazine

35p

QUARTERLY

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CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

IN FINISHING my July Editorial, I remarked that, in its first 60 years of life, the Meccano Magazine has been through many changes. I also said that there would no doubt be more to come in the future, and how right I was, for a mammoth step forward is imminent. The magazine is changing hands!

Hold it! There is no need for panic. Unlike some past publishing changes, this one is definitely for the better – both for the magazine and especially for you, the Meccano-involved reader.

Many readers will know that Meccano Ltd. took over publication of the M.M. in 1973 to save it from extinction after the previous “outside” publishers decided they could no longer handle it. One of the main reasons why Meccano felt able to do so was because I, a professional journalist, was already employed by the Company and, with the very able assistance of Mike Peddie, was judged capable of producing the magazine, albeit in altered form. It will be appreciated however that, as both Mike and I *already* had full-time jobs, namely handling the Press and Public Relations side of the Company’s operation as well as providing technical, product and general information to our customers, the magazine was an *additional* job. While we have both thoroughly enjoyed it, it has involved a tremendous amount of extra work,

To be honest, the work involved in producing the MMQ, combined with our other full-time jobs, has meant that, for the past three or so years, we have not really been able to do our best with any of our duties. We hope we have performed our tasks adequately, but we have not been able to do all on the Company’s P.R. front that might have been possible, and we certainly have not been able to produce the magazine to the standard that we wished.

ALTERNATIVE

Circumstances being what they were, however, there was no alternative but to struggle on, aware of – and regretting – the magazine’s limitations, yet without the time or facilities to improve things. But now there *is* an alternative! In the past couple of years, we have seen and

admired the growth of the independently-published “Meccano Engineer” from what was originally a Club newsletter, through a period as the “Junior Meccano Engineer” and into its present form as a large-format, extremely well-produced magazine of great interest to all Meccano enthusiasts. Indeed, I would be the first to say that, in many ways, the ME is distinctly superior to the MMQ and I do not hesitate to compliment the ME’s editorial staff – Mike Nicholls and Paul Smith – on an excellent publication.

Which brings me to the crux of the matter. We at Binns Road believe that Mike, with his colleagues at Delta Graphics (formerly M.W. Publications), can make a better job of the Meccano Magazine than can we, under our circumstances. For what we genuinely believe to be the good of the magazine, therefore, we have agreed to transfer its publication to Delta Graphics and this is in fact my last issue as Editor. I will continue to be closely associated with the MM as Editorial Consultant for Meccano Ltd., but, from January, my good friend Mike Nicholls will occupy the Editorial chair.

In “Meccano Miscellany” inside this issue, Mike outlines some of his plans for the magazine and I know they are good. I wish him every success; he has my full support and I am sure that he may count on your support also. Remember, the Meccano Magazine remains the official organ of the Meccano hobby, with every recognition as such from Binns Road. All existing subscribers will continue to receive the new MM as long as their subscriptions last; the only difference is that they will receive a bigger, better, brighter, more interesting *Meccano* magazine than at present.

And last of all – literally – it only remains for me to thank most sincerely all readers and contributors for the excellent support I have been given during my time in the Editorial chair. This has been deeply and genuinely appreciated and I must say it is with a certain amount of personal sadness that I sign off for the last time. Good-bye.

Chris Jelley

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JANUARY, APRIL, JULY AND OCTOBER

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