

MECCANO



OUR MAIL BAG

The Editor has a little talk in this column with his Meccano boys. Whether he has space to reply to them all here or not, he is always glad to hear from them. He receives hundreds of letters each day, and only those which deal with matters which are likely to interest other Meccano boys can be dealt with here.

Correspondents will help the Editor if they will write on one side of the paper only.

B. M. A.—Thanks for your interesting letter. We look upon you as an old friend. Very pleased to note that after so many years you are keener than ever.

J. A. J., Walthamstow.—Pleased to hear that your teacher thinks Meccano better for demonstrating than the school apparatus, and that you enjoy your science lessons so much.

W. J., Briton Ferry.—“The *M. M.* is a paper to be proud of.”—And so say all of us. Good luck to all the Meccano boys in Briton Ferry.

W. F. N., B.S., Forest Hill.—Glad to hear that Meccano has been such a help and an economy to you in designing new machinery. We hope your boy will follow in his father's footsteps. If he can build models at four years of age he promises well. Your praise for Meccano is greatly appreciated.

G. H., Richmond.—That's right; write us occasionally and let us know how you are progressing. The word “Meccano” is our registered trade mark. Our Meccano boy in the check jersey is just a sturdy British boy who helps us to make Meccano known to all you other boys.

P. D., Ashford.—Send on your book of inventions to us whenever you like; we shall be glad to see it. Each model sent in for competition should be accompanied by a separate entry form.

R. B. L., Eastbourne.—“All Meccano boys are ‘our most welcome friends.’ There are hundreds of thousands of you.

A. D. R., Kirkcaldy.—Why be disheartened because you did not win a prize in the last contest? That is not the British spirit. Come, come, A. D. R., we shall expect another effort from you.

A. R. D., Blackburn.—You seem very anxious about our health. Yes, we have heard that “an apple a day keeps the doctor away,” and we believe it. We have also heard that “an onion a day keeps everybody away,” and we believe that also. We will take care of ourselves, A. R. D.

A. D. K.—The word Meccano should be pronounced with the “a” broad, as in father. You will receive your entry form by post.

Val Dack.—Sorry we made such a mistake. Next time we will call you “Miss.” We always extend a cordial welcome to Meccano girls.

S. D. O., Kentish Town.—Pleased to hear you find the *M. M.* “perfectly ripping.” For pronunciation see reply to A. D. K.

J. F. S., Birmingham.—Prize list sent to you by post. We may enlarge the *M. M.* a little later. Your remarks about the clergyman who is so fond of Meccano are very interesting.

H. C. C., West Kensington.—Very interested in knowing how you boys get up every morning at 5-30 to make models. Your “tip” to oil the spindles and gear wheels of the motor is a useful one.

C. D. R., Ipswich.—Your brother must be fond of Meccano if he makes a saint of it. Hope he is better now. Good luck to you both.

L. V., Manchester.—Your suggestion for a Meccano Correspondence Club is noted. We have a scheme along these lines under consideration.

A. R., Stroud Green.—Glad to have you say “the Meccano Magazine is a jolly fine idea.” It's jolly fine of you to say so. Best wishes for a quick recovery.

H. H., York.—Every boy stands an equal chance in the prize competition. Any model which shows merit is sure of a prize. Your friend was wrong, and you were quite right.

J. E., Denton.—“I had a shot at your last competition, but drew a blank; however, I see where I failed, and intend to try again.”—That's the spirit, J. E. Robert Bruce's spider figured it out in just the same way.

T. E. B., Barrow.—It is always a pleasure to have such a nice letter as yours from parents. Hope your son will win a prize.

L. T., Alderley Edge.—You shall hear all about those early struggling days. Watch the next few issues.

O. E. K., Boston, Lines.—“The other night I was playing with Meccano and a knock came to the door. A voice said ‘All lights out!’ which means that there is a Zeppelin raid on. It was a great nuisance to have to put away my Meccano because of the Germans. Our form had for an essay ‘Your favourite toy.’ All the boys (15 in number) except two wrote about ‘Meccano.’—We have read your interesting letter several times. Write us again.

C. S., Shoreditch.—If you have been using Meccano since 1901 you must be one of our oldest Meccano boys. I note that you saw a soldier with his broken ankle bound up with Meccano strips. Many are the uses to which they have been put, from stirring tea to spanking naughty children.

W. K. J., Cambridge.—If your wishes bear fruit we have a very prosperous career before us. Thanks for suggestion re pawl. This will be kept in mind.

F. G. P., Dublin.—We wouldn't breathe a word to a soul about your trouble. Still the price is low, and think of the wonderful value you will get. Write again.

W. B., Battersea.—Your letter makes us blush. We are glad to know that Meccano gives such pleasure to yourself and your friends.

G. S., Richmond.—“I find that vaseline is a very good thing to clean Meccano parts with; it stops the rust.”—Other Meccano boys please note!

J. P., Brixton Hill.—We like your letter and note your appreciation of the No. 0 Outfit. No boy need hesitate because he can only afford a No. 0 or a No. 1. With the No. 0 he can build 78 models, and with the No. 1, 105 models, each one excellent, and capable of giving hours of play.

W. H. V. D., Worcester.—Your suggestions all seem practical, and are welcome. We will consider them very carefully. In filling in your entry form it will be sufficient for you to say that you have a No. 0 with additional parts.

Henry, Kent.—“Meccano is lovely on rainy days.”—How about the other days, Henry, and the dark Zeppelin nights?

G. A., Beckenham.—Do not worry about the danger of the *M. M.* going under because of the shortage of paper. We will publish it if we have to use tissue paper.

W. L. C., Walton.—“I often feel sorry for the boys who do not know of the pleasure and fun afforded by Meccano.”—They do miss a big lot, W. L. C., but they are all coming in by degrees.

J. B. H., Barnard Castle.—“The Meccano Magazine is just what is needed to make all Meccano boys feel like a sort of brotherhood, all interested in a real good means of learning and having ripping fun.”—We could not have expressed it better ourselves.

W. S., Nelson.—Mention the matter to your father. He knows Father Christmas, and a hint from him would go a long way. Don't stay up late at night again, even to read the *M. M.*

S. M., Kensington.—Because another boy told you he had an outfit which beat Meccano hollow, you “beat him hollow with a black eye.” You are hereby appointed Meccano light-weight champion of Kensington.

C. S., Belvedere.—Thanks for very nice letter. You will be even more interested in future articles by Frank Hornby. A more absorbing story of early struggling days was never written.

E. H. M., Birmingham.—Glad to know that Meccano is “an endless source of pleasure and instruction” to yourself as well as to your boy. Spend an hour with the Meccanograph, and then write us again.

H. S., Johnstown.—“When I came here none of the lads had heard of Meccano, but I've awakened them up.”—We have thousands of friends just like you, H. S., and you occupy the warmest spot in our heart.

T. R., Matlock Bath.—“I am very pleased to be remembered by you and it plainly shows what a jolly good pal you are to all Meccano boys throughout the world.”—We shall try to live up to this very flattering description.

S. P., Hawarden.—Your statement that yourself and your father made “thousands of models” with Meccano is a tall one, but we believe you. Thanks for your gear-wheel suggestion, which will be considered.

Hy. P., Dalston.—“My daddy bought me a Meccano for a present. On looking at the lid I notice that the little boy's hair is parted on the wrong side.”—You have put us in a corner, Henry. We have looked in the mirror but this has given us no help. Our parting commences just over the left ear and finishes just over the right. Our artist is coming round to see us next week, and if you will keep quite still you will hear the thud from where you are.

C. J. S., Bletchingley.—Your foreman was evidently impressed with your knowledge of engineering. Glad Meccano has been such a help to you. Thanks for good wishes.

B. B., Shrewsbury (Miss).—We welcome you as a reader of the *M. M.* and a Meccano devotee. Thousands of girls get as much pleasure from Meccano as the keenest boy. Write us again soon.

W. P., Brightlingsea.—There are many Meccano Clubs throughout the country, and we are arranging a scheme for each of these to get the benefit of the others' labours. Let us know how you run your club, what rules you have, and how often you meet.

S. C., Norwich.—The increase in the price of the Manual is of course due to the enormous increases in the prices of paper and printing. Unfortunately, these prices are going up all the time, due largely to the restrictions on the import of paper, as you suggest.

R. C., Kelvedon.—Your friend will have received the *M. M.* by now. We hope your daddy will soon be safely back again helping you to build more models. Please send our best wishes to him.

E. M., Glasgow.—“My father bought me a No. 1 outfit when I was three years and two months old, and he said it was a sight for sore eyes, to see my grand-father, nearly 70 years old, and I, making the Telpel Span, and enjoying it.”—We should think so indeed. We are glad to know that after eight years of model building you are a keener Meccano boy than ever.

S. S., Southampton.—You say you know that it would be a “great trouble” to us to bring out a magazine for each Meccano outfit. It would be worse than that. S. S. For you even to suggest such a thing is unkind.

D. P., Harold Wood.—It is impossible to publish full instructions for building models in the *M. M.* Why not get a new Manual?

J. C., Middleton.—Don't worry because you are only a little Meccano boy. All little Meccano boys grow into big useful Meccano boys.

W. P., Horwich.—Thanks for your good wishes which you have expressed so nicely. We may increase the size of the *M. M.* later, but, apart from other considerations, the present paper restrictions make things difficult, as you most thoughtfully point out.

E. T., Manchester.—“I got a No. 1 Meccano Outfit for last Christmas, and Christmas Day was a day of pleasure for dad and I.”—Meccano has brought a merry Christmas to many thousands of boys in past years, and will gladden many a young heart this coming Christmas Day.

J. E., Penzance.—“I purchased a No. 2 Meccano for my little boy about two years ago, and I can honestly say I have never spent money to better advantage. It has been the means of bringing him untold hours of delight, in which I have often participated.”—In our advertisements we used to say “You buy it for your boy and you play with it yourself,” but what brings most happiness to us is the knowledge that Meccano, in countless instances, such as your own, brings father and son together in affectionate co-operation.

Letters from Meccano Boys

We receive many very fine letters from Meccano boys, and as we believe that some of them would interest our readers, we propose printing them in the *Meccano Magazine* occasionally. Below we give two which have recently been addressed to us. One is in French from a successful competitor in our last contest, and we hope many of our boys will find pleasure in translating it.

Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital,
Alton.

Dear Sir,—I am a cripple, and have spent four years on my back. For two years I have had a Meccano, from which I and the other boys have had fun and amusement, and the boys often say to me they wish they had a big Meccano like I have got. A little time ago I made a Roundabout. It was my idea, and Sir William Treloar came round the wards and he saw my model. At first he did not believe that I made it, but after he was so pleased that he shook hands with me and congratulated me. Ever since then I have felt more pleased with myself for being a Meccano boy and to be able to shake hands with Sir William Treloar. My father came a little time ago to see me, and he never knew I had a Meccano till then, and when he saw a model I made he told me not to give it away and I am sure I will not, because I like it so much. I like the new girders very much, and the models look much better with them. I cannot write very well as I am on my back, so I hope you don't mind. Will you please tell me when results come out?—Yours truly,

P. SINGER.

Pertuis du Sault,
Neuchatel,
Suisse.

Monsieur,—Si vous saviez avec quelle joie j'ai reçu votre lettre et votre cheque; je vous en remercie infiniment. Ce prix m'encourage énormément; et j'ai déjà commencé les plans d'une nouvelle construction pour le prochain concours. Mon petit frère s'intéresse aussi beaucoup en Meccano, donc vous voyez ce que le Meccano est pour nous le plus beau de nos jeux.

Mes parents m'avaient conseillé de m'acheter une bicyclette avec mon prix mais j'ai préféré la boîte Meccano No. 6 que je desirais depuis longtemps.

Pourriez-vous, s'il vous plait monsieur, m'envoyer quand il aura paru le livre du concours 1915/16 contre remboursement, j'aimerais beaucoup l'avoir.

Recevez, monsieur, mes sincères salutations et encore tous mes remerciements et ceux de mes parents, votre reconnaissant.

PIERRE ATTINGER.

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