

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2016)
Heft: 126

Artikel: Nürnberg Toy Fair report
Autor: Jesson, John
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-854045>

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Nürnberg Toy Fair Report John Jesson

The list of Swiss-outline models newly announced at Nürnberg this year is on the Society website, but what else did the Toy Fair have to show us?

Well for a start there were a few Swiss items from less well-known manufacturers. Alphamodell makes HO-scale signals, including Swiss signals. This year, improvements are made to both the 'System L' signals (those we oldies think of as the standard Swiss colour-light signal system), using LEDs giving a brighter light and the 'System N' signals, where plastic components are replaced by metal. Dingler make high-quality Gauge 1 models, including Gauge 1m items. This year they are making a model of the RhB Ge 6/6 'Crocodile', in various forms. The model has two coreless motors and sprung axles. Panier has been around for years, mostly making kits of narrow-gauge prototypes. Coming this

year is a kit in H0m scale for the Appenzeller Bahn BCFm 2/4 railcar No.56. Having first made an appearance at Nürnberg some years ago Hack concentrate on girder bridges of various types, sizes and scales. Pleading guilty to over-confidence, I had failed to properly examine the new items this year, so failed to note that the very nice girder bridge, available in HO in two different lengths, is in fact modelled on the RhB Rhein bridge at Reichenau. The complete bridge can be made by combining one long bridge with two short ones. A selection of O-scale wagons of the Tössthalbahn (Winterthur – Bauma – Wald) is available in both kit and ready-to-run form from HRM. A steam loco is promised for the future. A further version of the SBB Bm 4/4 is coming from L.S.Models, No.18441 in red, was present.

Faller, as well as introducing an impressive monastery, are making a rather dilapidated wooden structure suitable on all sorts of HO scale layouts, and also a very nice horizontal steam engine driven by an electric motor. Faller's products, and those of the other well known scenery manufacturers, are fairly easy to get hold of in Britain, but I find that it is always worthwhile taking a look at some of the less well-known names. However, some of these are now far better known than a few years ago and Artitec is one of these, whose offerings this year include a Kaelbe diesel road-roller in HO, together with small tar ovens. For both HO and N scales they make a modern fork-lift truck and a rather nice garden greenhouse. Manufacturing scale model loads for both rail and road vehicles is the niche that Bauer have



Fulgurex O gauge 'Red Arrow' with the front cover removed, showing the inside detail.

MODELLING NEWS

developed. There is a very comprehensive selection in all of the smaller scales that goes far beyond the more common loads of coal or sand for open wagons. Of particular interest is their wide range of loads for flat wagons. One of the bees-in-my-bonnet is empty wagons – nothing wrong with this of course, but in my view the purpose of wagons is to carry things! VK-Modelle were showing their range of Swiss bus and trolleybus models.

A few years ago, Hobbytrain announced two sets of coaches for a vintage 'Orient Express', both in N and HO scales. This year, advance samples were on display. The complete train comprises 5 vehicles – 3-coaches and 2-vans. Last year, Roco introduced a model of Re6/6 11662 in green. Märklin have gone into buildings in a big way. Apart from the industrial models, there is an attractive goods shed based on a Württemburg prototype. The stand of the Märklin Empire is about four times the size of any other company. Finally, UK manufacturer Peco - is firmly established at the Toy Fair, and is 70 years old this year.

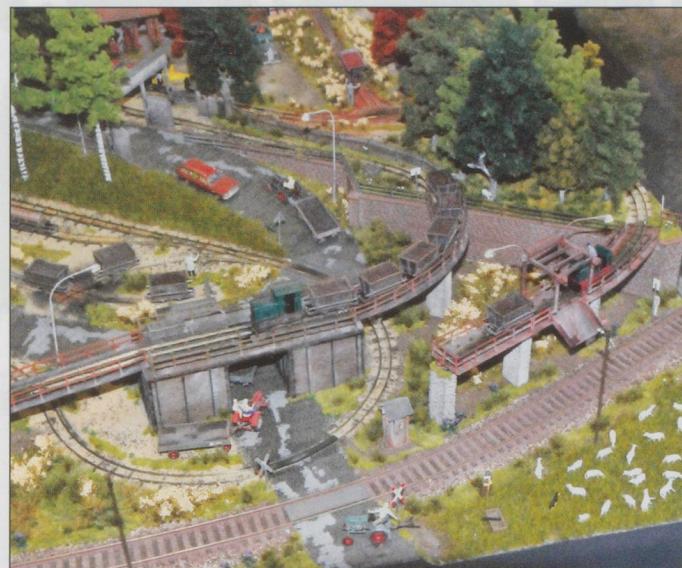
Editor's comment – It is a pity that the bold wording on the Peco stand appeared to be only in English – at a Toy Fair in Germany! However, these days English is the accepted "business language", so perhaps it is not too surprising. 



ABOVE: Railpool zebra-striped TraxX loco. TOP RIGHT: One of the Busch dioramas, showing their industrial system. BOTTOM RIGHT: One of this year's new models from the Swedish manufacturer NMJ. Not only are the models exquisite, I have it on excellent authority that they run very well.

Scale Rail International

The launch of 'Scale Rail International' came about following the cessation of 'Model Trains International' magazine, on the retirement of the editor Chris Ellis. A small group decided that it would be a shame to lose a modelling journal that not only cut across international lines, but also was the only one left that retained an independence from the trade, and had the promotion of small personal model railway layouts at its heart. After a period of discussion 'Scale Rail International' was produced with much of the ethos of MTI, but in an easy to store compact style and in full colour – something that MTI had not done. Many of the contributors to MTI have transferred to Scale Rail International including MTI's former editor Chris Ellis. The accent is very much on modelling, but with plenty of prototype articles on some of the more quirky lines and ideas for layouts representing the same. In the first year countries such as France, Norway, East Germany, Bulgaria and the USA have been featured, not forgetting a substantial amount of UK railway subjects. The modelling scales have spread from N gauge up to garden lines of 7 1/4" gauge running on battery power. The magazine is published bi-monthly by subscription only, except for sales at a few model railway exhibitions and some selected model shops. The cost is £21.60 for six issues. Further details can be obtained from scalerailinternational@gmail.com or on www.scalerailsint.blogspot.co.uk. 



SCALE RAIL INTERNATIONAL

No 2

