



**ArchivesSpace**  
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

# **Guide to the Meccano Records, 1912-2005 — 124.2413**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 10, 2025.

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

The Strong

One Manhattan Square

Rochester, NY 14607

[library@museumofplay.org](mailto:library@museumofplay.org)

URL: <https://www.museumofplay.org/collections/brian-sutton-smith-library-archives-of-play/>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Collection Scope and Content Note .....	4
System of Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Related Materials .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	6
Series I: Instruction manuals .....	6
Series II: Still images .....	7
Subseries A: Prints .....	8
Subseries B: 35mm slides .....	9
Subseries C: Negatives .....	9

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong
<b>Source:</b>	Spin Master Ltd.
<b>Title:</b>	Meccano records
<b>ID:</b>	124.2413
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1912-2005
<b>Physical Description:</b>	2.0 Linear Feet (3 legal size document boxes, 2 slide boxes, 1 photo box)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	French
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	Materials are in French unless otherwise noted.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Meccano records document production and sale of Meccano construction sets. The materials date from 1912 to 2005. The records are comprised of set instruction manuals and still images including photographic prints, 35mm slides, and negatives.

### Preferred Citation

Meccano records, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Historical Note

---

Meccano is a brand of model construction system created in 1898 by Frank Hornby in Liverpool, England. The brand's Meccano sets, Hornby Trains, and Dinky Toys were three of the most popular lines of toys in the twentieth century. By 1910 the toys' success prompted Meccano Ltd to export its operations worldwide. Hornby and his son, Roland, formed Meccano (France) Ltd in Paris in 1912. In 1990, Meccano acquired the Erector brand and in 2013 the Meccano brand was acquired by Spin Master Ltd.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Collection Scope and Content Note

---

The records include published instruction manuals for Meccano sets dating from 1912 to 2000. The majority of the instruction manuals are in French with some published in English and in multiple languages. The records also contain still images used as references and marketing for Meccano dating from 1985 to 2005. Still images include photographic prints, 35mm slides, and negatives.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## System of Arrangement

---

The records are arranged in the original order and have been divided into two series. Series II has been further divided into subseries by format.

Series I: Instruction manuals, 1912-2000

Series II: Still images, 1985-2005

Subseries A: Prints, 1985-2005

Subseries B: 35mm slides, undated

Subseries C: Negatives, circa 2000

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong

The Strong  
One Manhattan Square  
Rochester, NY 14607

[library@museumofplay.org](mailto:library@museumofplay.org)

URL: <https://www.museumofplay.org/collections/brian-sutton-smith-library-archives-of-play/>

## Conditions Governing Access

The Meccano records are open for research use by staff of The Strong and users of its library and archive. Some materials may require advanced notice to provide the necessary viewing equipment.

## Conditions Governing Use

Though the donor has not transferred intellectual property rights (including, but not limited to any copyright, trademark, and associated rights therein) to The Strong, they have given permission for The Strong to make copies in all media for museum, educational, and research purposes.

## Immediate Source of Acquisition

The records were donated to The Strong in January 2024 as a gift of Spin Master Ltd. and accessioned under Object ID: 124.2413.

## Processed by

Laura Boland, July 2024.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

Hundreds of publications and construction sets were included in this donation and cataloged.

Spin Master Ltd. records, Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at The Strong. The records pertain to the Earth Buddy and Zoomer toy lines by Spin Master Ltd., which acquired Meccano in 2013.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Toy industry
- Meccano models
- Metal Toys

- Photographs
- Slides
- Construction toys
- Construction sets
- Spin Master Ltd.
- Meccano France (Firm)
- Meccano Limited

## Collection Inventory

### Series I: Instruction manuals, 1912-2000

#### Series Scope and Content Note

This series consists of printed instruction manuals for Meccano construction sets. The majority of the manuals are in French, with some instances of English and multilingual manuals. The materials are housed in 3 legal size document boxes and are arranged chronologically by year.

Of note box 3 folder 21 contains undated booklets: Mechanisms [French]; gears [French]; cassette slide projector [Dutch, French, German]; Trains Hornby [French]; electric accessories [French]; Jean visite le pays Meccano [Jean visits the Meccano country]

Title/Description	Instances	
circa 1910s	box 1	folder 1
1912-1913	box 1	folder 2
1914 [photocopy]	box 1	folder 3
1916	box 1	folder 4
circa 1920s	box 1	folder 5-6
circa 1920s-1930s	box 1	folder 7
Le livre des nouveaux modèles [The book of new models], 1928-1931	box 1	folder 8
1938 [English and French]	box 1	folder 9
1948	box 1	folder 10-11
1949 [German]	box 1	folder 12
circa 1950s	box 2	folder 1
1953	box 2	folder 2
1954	box 2	folder 3-4
1956	box 2	folder 5
1957	box 2	folder 6-8

1958	box 2	folder 9
1963	box 2	folder 10
Dinky Toys, gears manual B, 1963	box 3	folder 1
1964	box 3	folder 2
1965	box 3	folder 3
1966	box 3	folder 4
1967 [Dutch, English, French, German, Italian]	box 3	folder 5
1968	box 3	folder 6
1969	box 3	folder 7
circa 1965-1975 [Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish]	box 3	folder 8
circa 1970s	box 3	folder 9
Mechanisms set [English], 1975	box 3	folder 10
Livre de modèles électriques no. 1 [Book of electrical models], circa 1980s	box 3	folder 11
circa 1980s [Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish]	box 3	folder 12
Hyper space [English], 1981	box 3	folder 13
1981 [Arabic, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Spanish]	box 3	folder 14
Special model leaflets, 1986	box 3	folder 15
Meccano de l'espace [Space Meccano], 1988	box 3	folder 16
Amatori modellismo meccanico [Mechanical model amateur group] newsletter, no. 3 [Italian], January 1991	box 3	folder 17
Kemex chemical experiments for set nos. 0, 1, 2/3 [English], undated	box 3	folder 18
Instruction sheets and misc. pages [some in English], undated	box 3	folder 19
Unidentified instruction booklet, missing cover, undated	box 3	folder 20
Booklets, undated	box 3	folder 21
Bart Smit house collection installation manual, Tecc Meccanos [Czech, Dutch, English, German, Spanish], undated	box 3	folder 22

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Series II: Still images, 1985-2005

## Series Scope and Content Note

This series contains still images of Meccano products and references. The series is further divided into subseries by format. The materials are comprised of photographic prints, 35mm slides, and negatives. The materials are in the original order and housed in 1 photo box, 2 slide boxes, and 3 envelopes at the back of document box 3.

### Subseries A: Prints, 1985-2005

Title/Description	Instances	
Santa Maria, circa 1990s	box 3	folder 23
Paris Auto Show inspiration [copy], 1991	box 3	folder 25
Meccano planes and vehicles, correspondence - New Zealand Meccano club, 1996 and undated	box 3	folder 26
"Show room 2000", circa 2000	box 4	folder 1
"Photos-profils: coast guard, AT3", 2000	box 4	folder 2
"Show room 2000 and profils MPS 00-AT, 2 and 3", circa 2000	box 4	folder 3
Meccano vehicles and architecture models, circa 2000	box 4	folder 4
Buils from Calais factory, circa 1990s	box 4	folder 5
Action Troopers, 1999	box 4	folder 6
Santa Maria, circa 2000	box 4	folder 7
Santa Maria transparency, circa 2000	box 4	folder 8
Tour de Pise [Tower of Pisa], circa 2000	box 4	folder 9
Remorqueur [tug boat] transparency, circa 2000	box 4	folder 10
Remorqueur [tug boat], circa 2000	box 4	folder 11
Cargo transparencies and prints, circa 2000	box 4	folder 12
Cathédrale de Barcelone [Barcelona cathedral] transparencies, circa 2000	box 4	folder 13
Cathédrale de Barcelone [Barcelona cathedral], circa 2000	box 4	folder 14
TGV/Train à Grande Vitesse [high-speed train] transparencies, circa 2000	box 4	folder 15
TGV/Train à Grande Vitesse [high-speed train], circa 2000	box 4	folder 16
Tower Bridge transparencies, circa 2000	box 4	folder 17
Tower Bridge, circa 2000	box 4	folder 18
Manège avion [airplane ride] transparencies and prints, circa 2000	box 4	folder 19
Camion Americain [American truck], circa 2000	box 4	folder 20
Camion-citerne [tanker truck] transparency and prints, circa 2000	box 4	folder 21



Camion-benne [dump truck] transparencies and prints, circa 2000	box 4	folder 22
Concorde transparencies and prints, circa 2000	box 4	folder 23
Fusée Ariane [Ariane rocket] transparency and prints, circa 2000	box 4	folder 24
Moulin D'Amsterdam [Amsterdam mill] transparency, circa 2000	box 4	folder 25
Porte avions [aircraft carrier] transparency and prints, circa 2000	box 4	folder 26
Pantin [puppet] #1, 5203M6, 1987	box 4	folder 27
Robot, Peter Kaan transparency, circa 2000	box 4	folder 28
Bar transparency and prints, circa 2000	box 4	folder 29
Eiffel Tower transparency, circa 2000	box 4	folder 30

### Subseries B: 35mm slides, undated

Title/Description	Instances	
Santa Maria, undated	box 5	section 1
Tour de Pise [Tower of Pisa], undated	box 5	section 2
Renorqueur [tugboat], undated	box 5	section 3
Navire [ship], undated	box 5	section 4
Cargo, undated	box 5	section 5
Cathédrale de Barcelone [Barcelona cathedral], undated	box 5	section 6
TGV /Train à Grande Vitesse [high-speed train], undated	box 5	section 7
Tower Bridge, undated	box 5	section 8
Manège avions [airplane ride], undated	box 5	section 9
Camion Americain [American truck], undated	box 5	section 10
Camion-Benne [dump truck], undated	box 6	section 1
Concorde, undated	box 6	section 2
Fusée Ariane [Ariane rocket], undated	box 6	section 3
Porte Avions [aircraft carrier], undated	box 6	section 4
Old fashion, undated	box 6	section 5
Pantin [puppet], undated	box 6	section 6
Voiture [car], undated	box 6	section 7
Bar, undated	box 6	section 8

### Subseries C: Negatives, circa 2000

Title/Description	Instances		
"Show room 2000", circa 2000	box 3	folder 24	envelope 1
"Photos-profil: coast guard, AT3", 2000	box 3	folder 24	envelope 2
"Show room 2000 and profil MPS 00-AT, 2 and 3", circa 2000	box 3	folder 24	envelope 3

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)