

Bricks and Pieces

A newsletter about LEGO for LEGO collectors



No. 1

Dec 74

Presidential LEGO



Have you ever seen pictures of Mount Rushmore in America where the whole mountainside has been carved into the likenesses of 4 famous American Presidents? If you have then you will probably think that this is a picture of it. But it isn't. It is a LEGO model, built 12 times smaller than the original and "only" as high as a house!

You can get some idea of the size of it by comparing the designer Bjorn Richter, at work on his creation. He

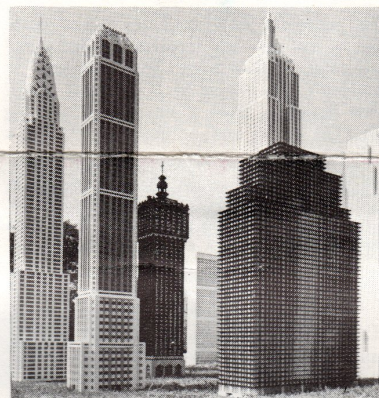


used about 1½ million LEGO bricks and it took him nearly 6 months to build.

A crane was needed to lift it into position and then an artificial mountain was built round it. Now it forms one of the most spectacular sights in the big LEGOLAND childrens park which covers some 15 acres at Billund in Denmark.

Perhaps some of you have been there on your holidays. It certainly is a marvellous place with LEGO models of different towns and villages to see and exciting things to do as well. There's a LEGO train you can ride on, cars to drive, boats to sail in and ponies to ride in the life size wild west town called Legoredo.

New York too



These splendid skyscrapers, up to 10 feet high, are another impressive sight in LEGOLAND. They were built at LEGO's British factory at Wrexham in North Wales and shipped over to Denmark.

Billund, by the way, is only a tiny village in the middle of the part of Denmark called Jutland. LEGOLAND was built there because that is where the main LEGO factory is and the man who invented LEGO still lives there.

Dear Collector

Thousands of people write to us every year with ideas, suggestions, photographs of models they have built and sometimes even complaints.

We thought it would be a good idea to print a newsletter with some of these ideas so that they could be shared by all LEGO fans.

And here it is.

We have called it Bricks and Pieces. We have also marked it Number 1. That suggests that there should be a Number 2 to follow it up. But should there? That depends on you.

We have included a little question slip. If you would like to receive another issue of Bricks and Pieces, fill out your name and address and post it back to me. Then if enough of you are interested we could perhaps print Number 2 next February and send it to you with the 1975 Assortment leaflet, hot from the printers, so you can be among the first to know all about the exciting new sets we will have for you next year.

And after that, well, who can tell? Maybe we could have Bricks and Pieces Number 3 next Autumn. I don't think we could manage more than 2 a year as they involve far more work than you might imagine.

But whatever happens, do send me photographs of any special models you build or interesting stories about things you have done with LEGO. Then perhaps you may find your name in a future edition.

In the meantime, don't forget to post back the question slip.

I hope you have a very happy Christmas.



The Editor
Clive Nicholls

P.S. I don't really write with a quill pen, nor do I have an ink pot shaped like an upside-down 4 stud brick but it is rather a nice idea don't you think?

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2. News from LEGO

Greetings from the LEGO Family



The LEGO Family has proved to be a fantastic success since first coming into the shops this year. So successful that you may have difficulty in buying the Family Set No. 200 as we just cannot keep up with the demand. We will have made more of these sets this year than any other single set in the whole history of LEGO but still it is not enough! But all is not lost because you can get some members of the Family in 6 other new sets Nos. 250, 251, 252 and 263, 264, 265.

In the picture we see the Family out carol singing. Their hats and scarves are just cut out of paper. Dad's moustache too. You could do the same. All you need is some scissors, coloured pens and a little' do of glue — but test the glue on one brick first to make sure it

will wash or rub off afterwards without marking. Try building a king and queen with crowns made of gold paper and fine robes built from LEGO bricks.

27 New sets

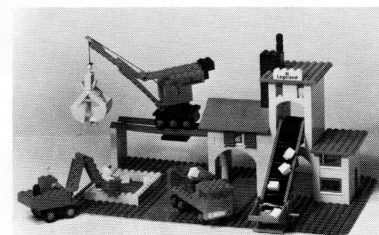
Did you know that there are no less than 27 new LEGO sets for you to choose from this Christmas? Back in January we introduced more of the mini packs which build helicopters, mobile cranes, aeroplanes etc. The LEGO Family and 3 Easy Models sets were new for Easter and then at Whitsun came 3 new dolls house room-settings with figures and 4 little packs of dolls furniture for girls.

Some super new Working Model sets with gears were designed for older boys and a supplementary pack of black and clear bricks was added. On top of all this there are 2 more big Legoland models.

There are now 93 LEGO sets in total so there is something for everyone!



Mainly for girls,
263 Bathroom



Mainly for boys,
360 Gravel works.

Now now. Wot's all this 'ere?

The policeman didn't really say that of course but he was certainly surprised to find a full size mini car built from LEGO "parked" in London's busy Regent St. It was built by our own designers from a mixture of the big DUPLO bricks and ordinary LEGO for a

special motoring edition of the Daily Telegraph newspaper. The headlights lit up but no, there was no motor under the bonnet so it had to be pushed into Hamleys toy shop for display.



LEGO on T.V.

Have you seen the LEGO advertisement on T.V.? I hope you enjoyed it. We had fun making it and so did the 3 children in the film. And the fun of playing with LEGO is what we wanted to show because there are still some children who don't know about LEGO yet.

A shower of Gold

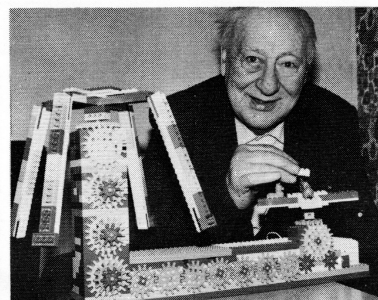
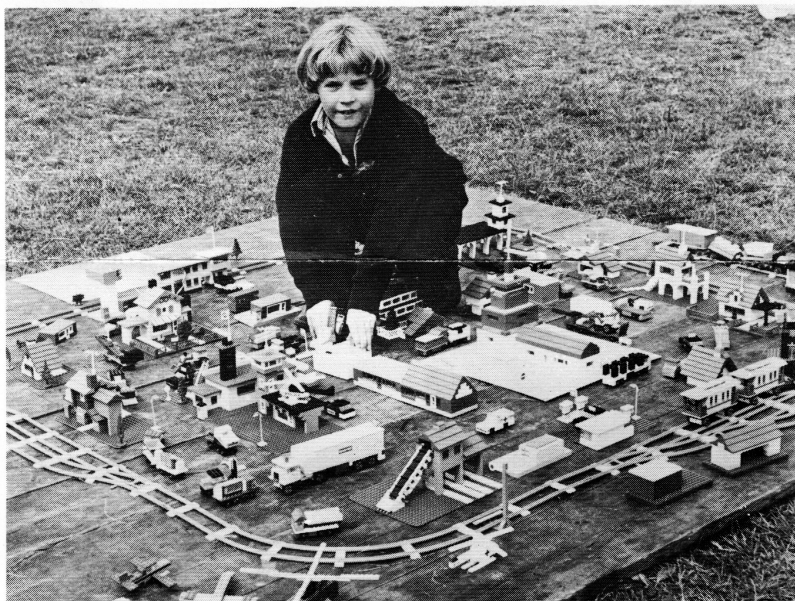
Are you collecting the Golden Studs that are packed in sets now? Thousands of children are and we have had such a huge response that we have had to employ extra staff to deal with them. Hardly surprising when you can claim free gifts worth up to £1.25 for 24 Golden Studs. That's worth thinking about isn't it?

3. News from Enthusiasts

Paul's super display

Paul Bates, aged 10, who lives in Sussex is very lucky to have such a huge collection of LEGO. He is also very clever because he displayed this layout at his school fete and raised money by asking people to guess the name of the village

he had built — at 2p a time. His local paper, The Sussex Express, published this picture and kindly let us show it too. Full marks for your very original idea Paul.



81 and still building

Retired coal-miner Mr. Joe Boddice has two great hobbies — brass band music and building with LEGO.

He's been playing the cornet in Colliery bands for 70 years but his interest in LEGO is more recent. That began when he bought LEGO for his grandchildren and then got "hooked" on its fascination himself. Our picture shows him with a motorised fair ground ride. Just look at all that fantastic gearing!

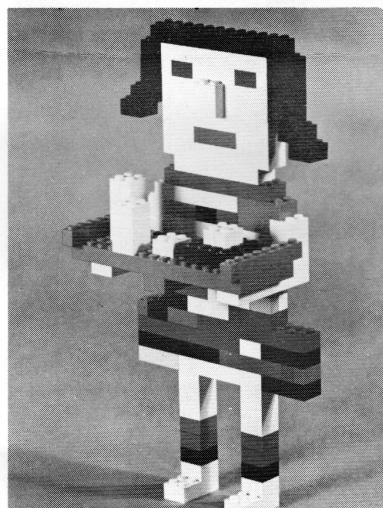
Mr. Boddice is a great believer in improvising with elastic bands, bits of string and even Mrs. Boddice's knitting needles, to get the effects he wants.

May you keep on building for many more years Mr. Boddice.

Breakfast in bed-with LEGO

On Mothers Day, Emma Benison who is 9 and lives in Shropshire, made breakfast in bed for her mother and took it up on a tray. Later she made this model of herself complete with tray. (Notice the pepper and salt too).

What a nice thoughtful little girl you must be Emma. And a good model builder as well. I love your colourful socks!



Businessmen train with LEGO

Did you know that businessmen go to "school" sometimes? They call them "study courses" where they learn how to do their work in new and better ways. Quite often they use LEGO in their training, only they don't just have fun building models. They use the bricks to help them work out problems.

For example, the men in the photograph were set the problem of building a bridge. They had to decide on a design that would give the greatest strength with the fewest bricks. Then they had to work out how long it would take to build and allow for the cost of labour and lots of other complicated problems.

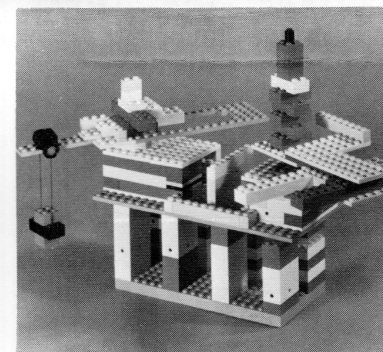
It's all very serious but I think they are enjoying themselves as well, don't you?

Photograph from International Management



A "feeling" for LEGO

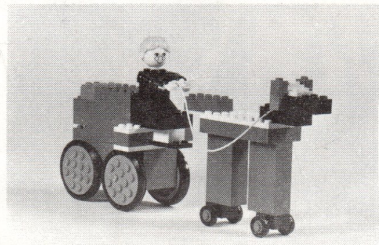
This model of an oil rig was built by Clive Carter-Smith of Pudsey. Clive is 13 and you may think there is nothing very special about the model for a boy of that age — except that he has been totally blind since he was 2½ years old so he has never seen even a picture of an oil rig. His mother explained to him what one looked like and I think you will agree that he got very close to it with this model.



Clive has also built super models of aircraft, ships and fairground roundabouts. He goes to an ordinary comprehensive school with sighted children too and his determination not to be disadvantaged by his blindness is most impressive.

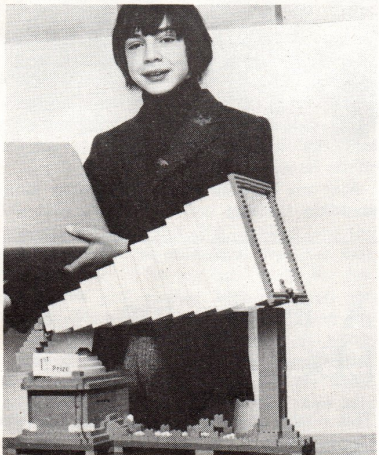
4. The Model Page

Granny Cart



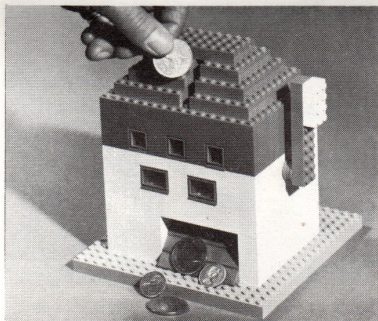
Robert Tailby of Leeds is 7 and built this amusing little motorised model which he calls a Granny Cart. The motor is built into the cart so that the cart pushes the horse along!

Gramophone



David Gayther (13) of Newbury entered this splendid model of an old fashioned gramophone in a LEGO Building Competition run by a local shop. Not surprisingly he won first prize.

Scrooge's one armed bandit



Put your money in the top and pull the handle. The machine "pays out" or else swallows the coin, so it is either a money box or a "one armed bandit". It was built by Susan Harrop (10) of Altrincham. What a clever way of saving your pocket money, Susan.

Story-book town



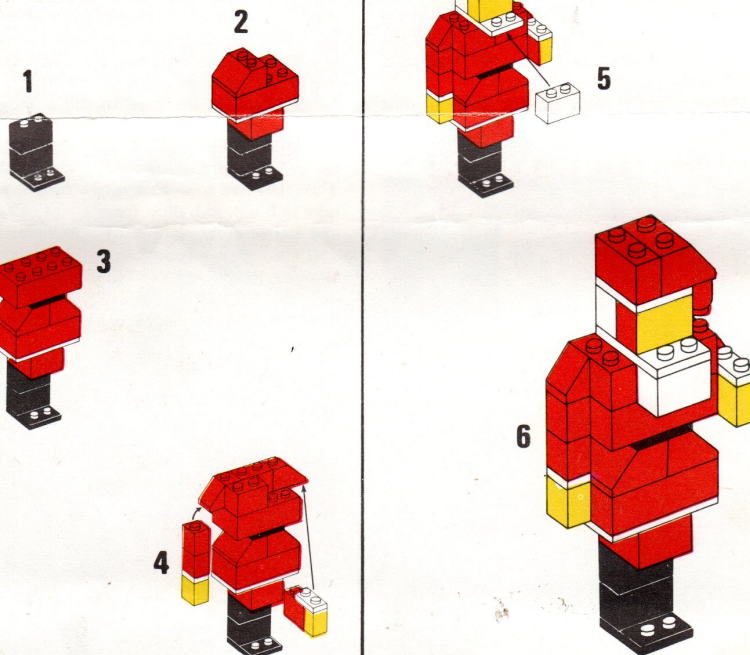
By contrast with your models here is something built by our own 2 model makers at Wrexham, David Lyall and Ken Jones. This

"gnomes village" has been shown in big shops in several towns. Perhaps you have seen it?

Build your own Santa says David Lyall



This Santa was designed by model maker David Lyall for Bricks and Pieces for you to build. It would look good on your Christmas tree or perhaps even as a decoration for your Christmas cake?



Happy Christmas!