

Left: Corgi's Ruston Bucyrus 19RB shovel.



DG225000
Ruston Bucyrus 19 - Fa
Shovel - Green circa
1937

£19.99

NEW TOOLING

Small Plant & Machinery

Ian Webb visits the largest toy fair in the world at Nuremberg and sees the new releases coming out this year.

The annual gathering of the world's toy industry takes place in Nuremberg with and most of the world's model makers there to show off their ranges and the new models they have planned for us. As in previous years, the Toy Fair was very busy with over 2,000 exhibitors covering every toy imaginable.

However the air of recession is around us and some model makers elected not to attend the show this year. These included

Below: A new Caterpillar paver model from Norscot.

YCC of Taiwan, which last year had some very interesting crane models, and in the model truck area both Lion Toys and Tekno were absent. However all the other big names had their usual impressive stands.

The general comment from the makers was that 2009 had been a difficult year but there was some hope that 2010 would be better and that orders from the main original equipment manufacturers would show improvement. However, some model-

makers look to be hit hard. In particular, Joal of Spain had really nothing of interest this year other than some models which are really toys and of little interest to collectors.

WSI of Holland had a very good stand and there were some exciting new models in addition to its extensive truck range. In particular, Liebherr has commissioned them to produce the LTM 1050-3.1 truck crane and this looks to be a very detailed model which will no doubt also appear in many local company liveries. There was also a Tadano Faun HK70 which is a crane mounted on a five-axle truck chassis. A new model of a Denisson trailer will provide interest to UK collectors and all three models will be available imminently. Although not on display, a Hitachi ZX 870-3 excavator model will be released later this and the photos at the show indicate it will be a must-have model for excavator collectors.

The German company Conrad had a number of new haulage vehicles on display, including some 'old timer' trucks from MAN. The most pleasing thing was that the Conrad models are continuing to see improvement of the detail level. As Conrad models are still made in Germany, the company has found it difficult to economically match the detail level in models coming from China, with its lower cost base. A number of existing models





Above: An old-time MAN truck with skip from Conrad.

also appeared in new liveries.

Corgi had a stand at the show and this company continues to take steps forward since its takeover by Hornby. Corgi is different from many of the other model makers in that it focuses purely on the collector market rather than making models for original equipment manufacturers. Coming later this year is a 1:76 scale model of a Ruston Bucyrus 198B shovel, and Corgi said that it is actively looking at expanding their offerings in the plant and machinery area. As usual, Corgi had a strong range of trucks on view.

One company that has been forging ahead recently is NZG of Germany. It has outsourced its production to China but has



Above: WSI have produced a new model of a Denisson trailer which is extendible.



Above: A Hitachi demolition excavator from NZG.

Right: NZG's R944C tunnelling excavator is something different.



Above: WSI's Tadano truck crane looks highly detailed.

concentrated on maintaining high quality standards. There were four new Liebherr models on display. A Liebherr LR1300 crawler crane was displayed and is huge being comfortably over two metres high fully erected.

An LB28 piling rig will be a welcome addition to this area of modelling, and there was also an R944C tunnelling excavator and a RL64 pipelayer. These should all be available soon and look to be high quality. There was also a couple of New Holland machines on display and the

long-awaited Hitachi demolition excavator looked great too. NZG distributes TWH Collectibles models in Europe so it had some TWH models on display. Of particular interest was a prototype model of the Bucyrus 495HR electric shovel in 1:160 scale, which was still quite large in this very small scale, and was very detailed. It remains to be seen whether this unusual scale finds a market.

Norscot was showing its full range of Caterpillar models, and new on display were four 1:50 scale asphalt paver models which fill a gap in its model range. Motorart of Sweden also had some New Holland models on display for the first time, and the new Volvo EC pipelayer looked impressive.

Overall, Nuremberg 2010 was pretty good as a show and there were plenty of interesting new models. The good news for collectors though is that as this a year in which the triennial BAUMA equipment exhibition is held (in April), there will be more even new models appearing at that show which will make 2010 a bumper year. The only thing collectors will need is a wallet to match. **CPM**

Ian Webb reviews construction models on his website and you can read more at www.CranesEtc.co.uk

