

HANNAN'S HANGAR

BY BILL HANNAN

"When it comes to luck or skill, luck is better!"

Our quotation this month is from the *Pacific Flyer*, edited by Wayman Dunlap, and very few model builders would disagree with that conclusion, would we?

IS BIZARRE BETTER?

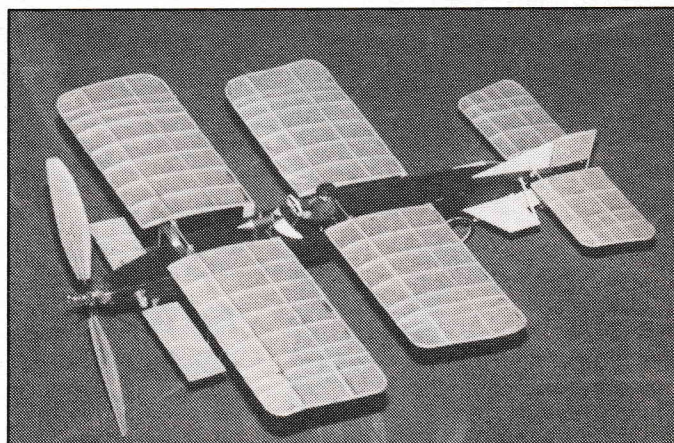
Our photo selection celebrates diversity in flying machines. Aviation history is punctuated with unorthodox designs which seem to hold special attractions for modelers. Why? Let's face it, "plain planes" are often visually boring, and lack the challenges offered by more esoteric aircraft. Of course, when it comes time to make them fly, the aforementioned "luck" may be a vital factor!

The first of our aerial oddities is Richard Granger's tailless Archaeopteryx. (It does have a vertical tail, but no horizontal.) Richard's father and uncle built the full-size prototype during 1930, and it remains flyable today in the famed Shuttleworth collection in England.

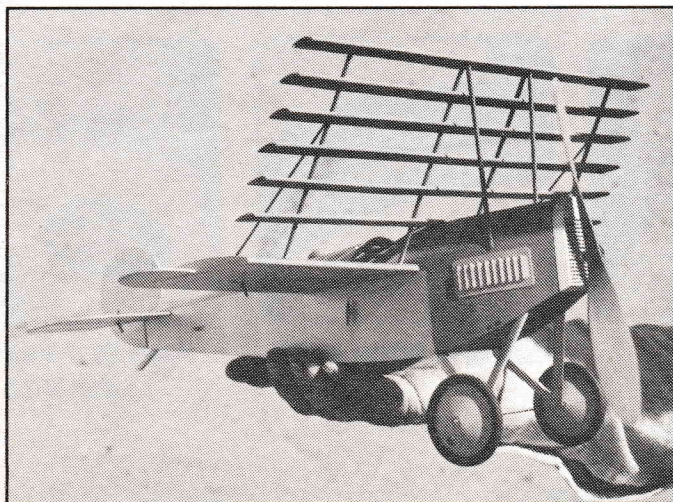
Another unusual model is the 1908 Koechlin Tandem by Benno Sabel of Germany. Benno specializes in offbeat pioneer aircraft, and managed to unearth enough documentation on this rare machine to enable his detailed flying model to be constructed. Certainly it has plenty of area for a Peanut, and lots of visual interest for the spectators.



Richard Granger's electric-powered free flight Archaeopteryx swept-wing tailless is a scale model of his father's full-scale 1930 original (see text). Photo by Reg Boor.



Beautifully constructed 1908 Koechlin Tandem Peanut by Benno Sabel has more area than a Fike and is considerably more challenging!



Otto Kuhn's finely crafted Avro Baby multiplane attracts attention wherever it appears. Photo by Bill Warner.

Next we have Otto Kuhn's unique Avro Baby, featuring "venetian blinds" above its main wings.

The standard Avro Babys of 1919-21 were regular biplanes, however this example, equipped with six narrow-chord airfoils, was tested briefly with unreported results. (Perhaps the fact that there was only one built is report enough?) Needless to say, Otto's rendition is a real crowd-pleaser.

"Gyrobleu" is an original French RC autogyro from the prolific pen of

Georges Chaulet. Powered by an O.S. .46, the 70-ounce model features a controllable attitude rotor and central rudder. Unlike helicopters, autogyros are always in the autorotative mode, thus can usually make successful unassisted dead-stick landings. Since Georges flies Gyrobleu in a field surrounded by dense bushes, it is equipped with an automatic buzzer to assist retrieval, in case of an unscheduled landing in the shrubbery.

Finally, take a look at that exceptionally pudgy little Peanut Scale model of Ray Stits' Sky Baby, which was an aspirant to the "World's Smallest Airplane" title. Andy Clancy's 13-inch span RC biplane is powered by a G-Mark .06, which develops considerably more thrust than the plane's

Getting about

**Avro Baby**

Bert Hinkler's first attempt to fly solo from England to Australia was in this Avro Baby in 1920. He got as far as Rome but had to stop because of engine trouble, shortage of money and a war in Syria. Hinkler shipped the plane to Australia and flew it from Sydney to his home town of Bundaberg where he landed in the street outside his mother's house.

*AVRO UK*