

Pierre de la Haye et Fils / une pépinière¹ in 0e (Peter Soonius)

Following a few non-completed projects in 009/H0e, after a long career as an armchair modeller, I finally finished an 0e scale model railway. For three years now, I have also been helping to build a very large model railway in 0n30 in the former model shop of Huub Reijnders in Gouda. Huub fitted some rails and a turntable on a plastic plate measuring 100 x 70 cm over a year ago and challenged me to take action at home myself. I had been resolved for years to build a French theme. With some foresight I once bought some classic French car models in 1:43 scale at a flea market in Lille. In France it appears there is a nostalgic and chauvinist leaning towards the 50s, 60s and 70s of the last century. At that time, major brands such as Citroën, Peugeot and Renault built high-profile models that are still popular. Endless series of miniatures of delivery vans, trucks, tractors and popular car models of the time have been sold by French booksellers. Ideal for modellers because the models were often sold as mini-dioramas complete with figures and some attributes. And all that at a low price, so I could not resist them.

I am one of those modellers who finds a reason to build a fun and detailed landscape around a moving train. Technically therefore it is kept simple. An oval track with three sidings, powered by an antique green Fleischmann power unit. I am happy enough when the Diema diesel loco with its PMT chassis, made by Paul Dirkzwager, does its rounds without any problems.

All buildings result from my own imagination or were inspired by models I have seen on others' layouts. The French model railway magazine *Voie libre* has been a source of inspiration, and Michel Lecoursonnais' model railways in particular. He has built several layouts in which narrow gauge played a leading role, each time using a different theme: a cider distillery, a stonemason, a mushroom farm, a sawmill or a nursery. I used foam board, stripwood, DIY plaster, frames and doors from Grandt Line and Zapf Modell. The wall and roof sheets are by Redutex and Wills. And like most modellers, I always keep my eyes wide open in inexpensive chain stores for anything to my liking. The plants at the nursery are plastic plants from Ikea and Action mixed with products by Heki and Busch. As mentioned before, all figures come from the mini-dioramas purchased in France.

The intention is that one day the layout will participate in the exhibition circuit, beginning with a premiere at the Valkenburg museum on the weekend of 25 and 26 September 2021. I have bookings for two exhibitions in Belgium, but those probably won't happen until 2022. During these exhibitions I promote the Katwijk Leiden steam railway and its model railway exhibition. And naturally I also promote this beautiful hobby, trying to deal with prejudices about this hobby costing a lot of money and space...

¹ (*) Pépinière (v) is the French collective name for a plant or tree nursery or a market garden. And Pierre de la Haye stands for Peter from The Hague, that's where I was born and raised...





At home I am now building an American logging (home) layout in On30, which will be described another time. And as a distraction I will have to complete my two H0e mini layouts. I am already too late for 2020, but in 2021 I will have to finish my St Nicholas diorama where the *Silvolde* tram loco by *De Tramfabriek* plays a leading role.

Finally, I would like to thank all 009 colleagues for their ideas and creativity. I copied the art from you and eventually you shunted me on the right track!