

## Editor's Postscript

The planning to publish a book celebrating 50th anniversary of KATO N-gauge models was started during a discussion with Mr. Hiroshi Kato, the president of Sekisui Kinzoku Co., Ltd., in spring, 2014. Because there is already a book entitled "KATO N-gauge Archives" listing many models published at the time of the 40th anniversary, the contents of a new book targeting different directions were required by the members of the editorial committee. Remembering that the history of Sekisui Kinzoku/KATO is also a history of technological development in the production of N-gauge models and of the consistent effort to improve them, the development in technology as it was applied to N-gauge models was selected as a main subject to be reviewed, both from the aspects of the improvement of products and in the individual production processes. As a book celebrating the 50th anniversary, contents about the market entry into the U.S. and Europe, the establishment of a service center as a domestic base to popularize N-gauge models, and the recent social and educational activities through model railroading were included in addition to the reviews of representative products and of their histories in the company. In Chapter 6, descriptions of the technologies used in the production of N-gauge models in the past and present were included as much as possible within the range available for publication, which was intended to make the younger generation in Japan recognize the importance and the interest of manufacturing as seen through an example of familiar N-gauge modeling. I believe that readers with all different levels of knowledge, experience and age can enjoy the contents and will obtain the new knowledge no matter what page they turn to. N-gauge models today are highly developed so that they became a kind of record of their respective prototypes. I also hope that users will care for the nostalgic old models, which contain the unforgettable memories of younger days, as well as the recent models. I wish to express my appreciation for the support across the world as well as for the collaborators who made this book possible. This book was made possible by Mr. Hiroshi Kato, Mr. Noriyuki Natori, the managing editor of NEKO Publishing Co., Ltd., who left the determination of the subjects included in the book and the schedule to the editorial committee.

In Japan, there are many users across all ages including the very young generation who enjoy N-gauge model railroading. I appreciate again the efforts and the accomplishment by Mr. Yuji Kato, the founder and the chairperson emeritus of Sekisui Kinzoku, Ms. Miyoko Kato, the managing director, and of all persons dating back to the founding of the company who have provided us the great pleasure and treasure that is "N-gauge".

The English translation of captions was prepared in collaboration with Mr. Michael Conway in KATO USA Inc. The authors expect the distribution of the book all over the world.

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Editor-in-chief

Aug., 2015

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