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Opening extract from
Ben

Written by
Jack Townend

Published by
V & A Publishing

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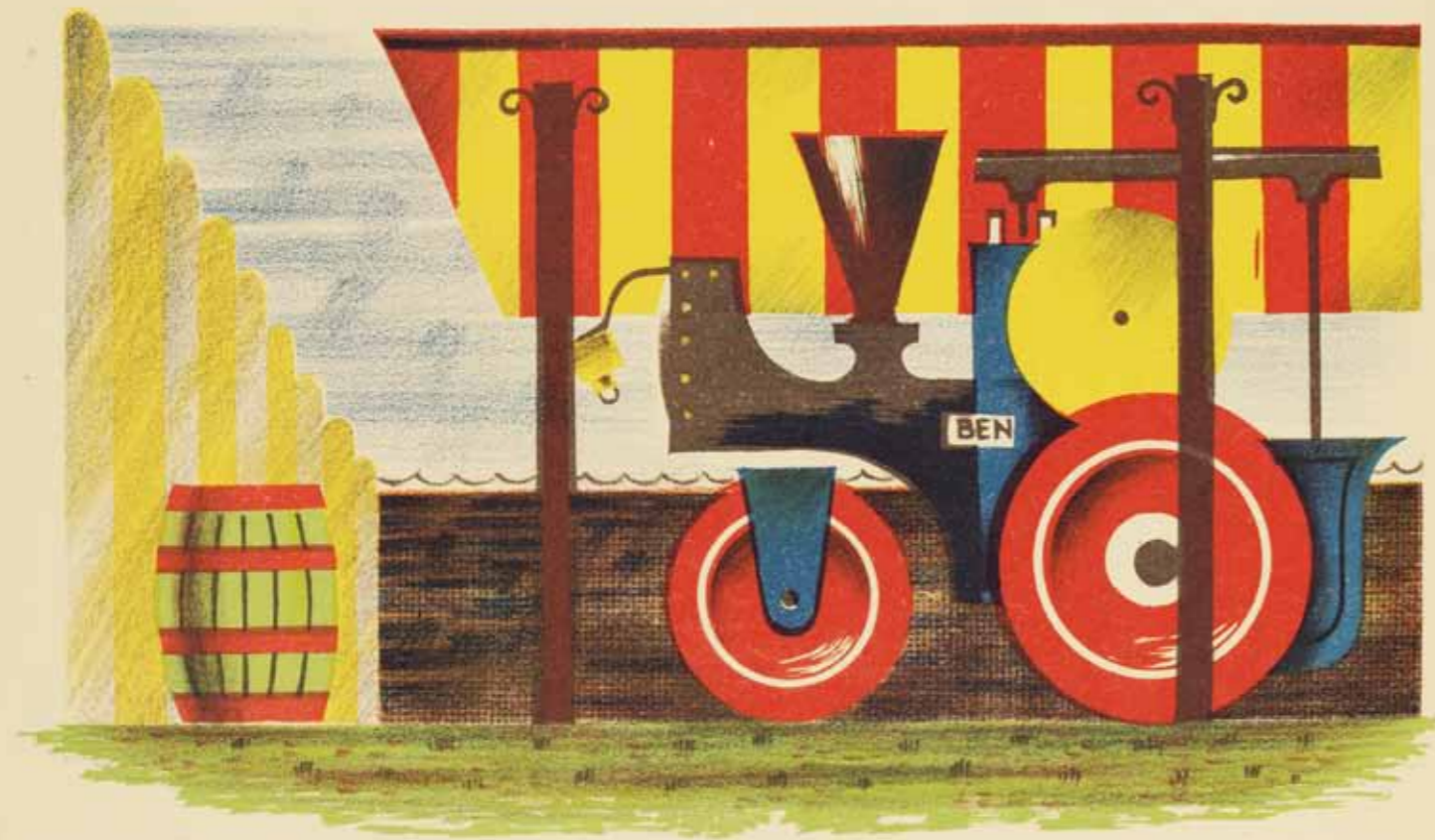
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The title 'BEAN' is rendered in large, bold, light green letters with a black drop shadow. Each letter is decorated with several small black circles, each containing a red center. The letters are set against a blue background with horizontal brushstrokes. Above the letters, a black tractor with large orange wheels is depicted, moving from left to right. A flock of small black birds is flying in the upper right corner. The overall style is mid-century modern and playful.

BEAN

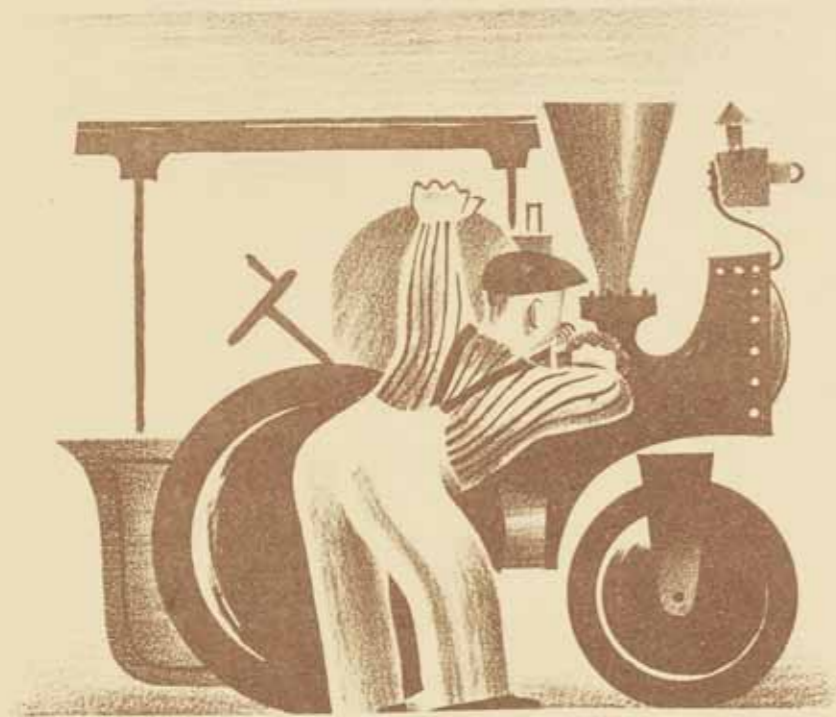
by Jack Townend





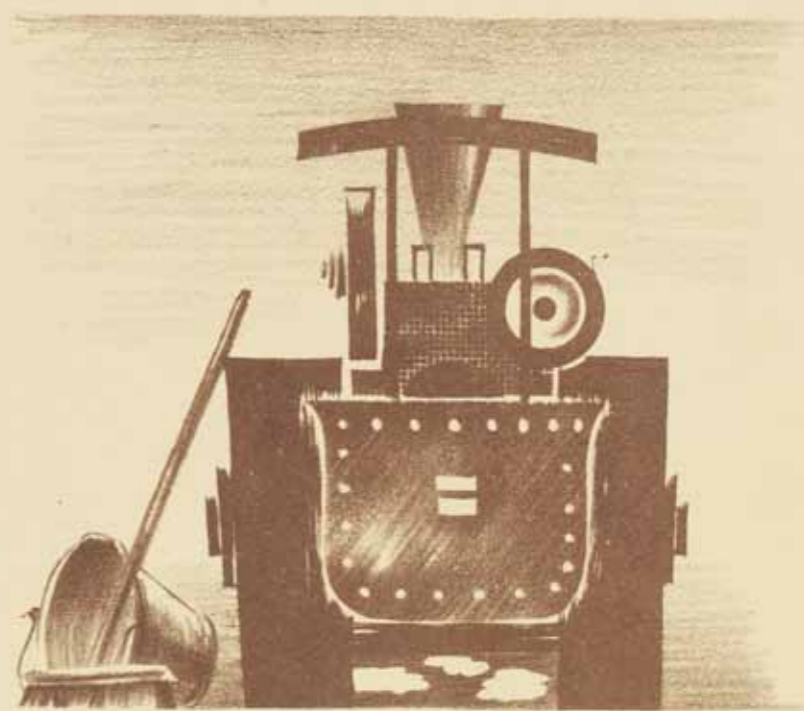
UNDER A SHED

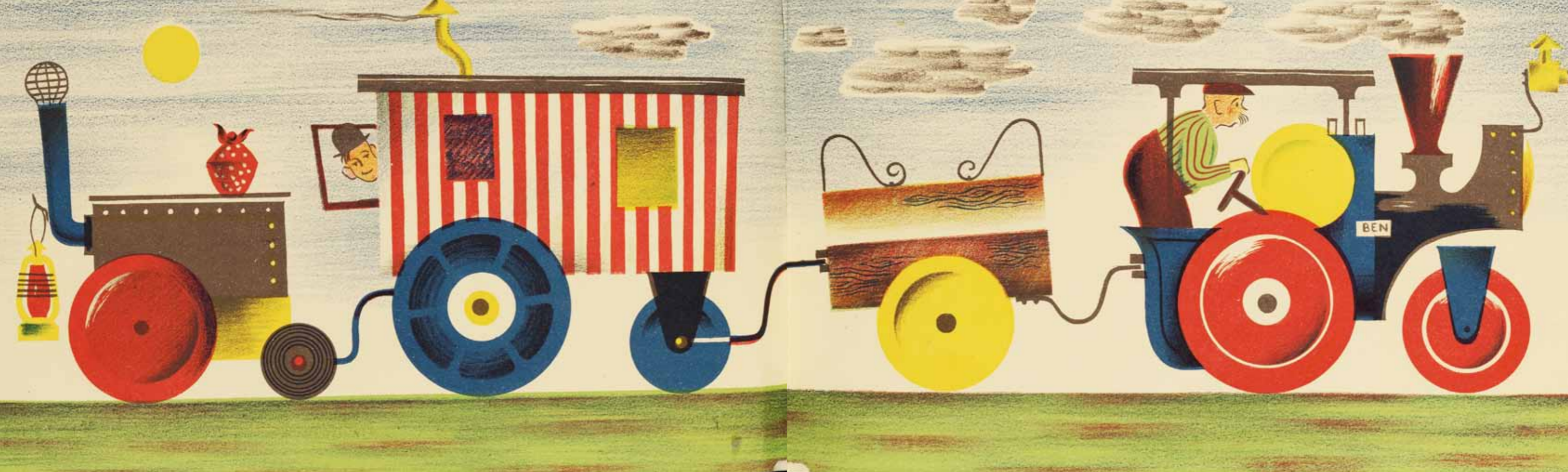
in the corner of the Council yard at Upper Toddington lived a steam-roller whose name was Ben. He was not a very happy steam-roller because never in all his life had he seen any of his brothers and sisters. He didn't even know if there were any other steam-rollers in the whole wide world and he often felt very sad as he sat there all by himself in the corner of the yard.



When Mr. Dodie was cleaning him up Ben felt much happier, but at night, when he was left alone, he always became sad again, and he often used to cry a little, leaving tiny pools of tears beneath his boiler. Then one

day Mr. Dodie told Ben that the road from Upper Toddington to Wibsey was to be made wider and that he would be needed to roll out the new road. Ben was so pleased at this, and next morning, when they set off, he felt very proud.





Through the town they went, Ben with his lamp high in the air, for he always held it like this when he was feeling happy. He had never been so far out of town before and he was thinking of all the new things which he might see. On they went until they reached the Wibsey road and here they stopped and set to work on the widening. Mr. Dodie put up a big sign saying, "DANGER, BEN AT WORK" just to warn anyone who might be coming along the road, and Ben laughed to himself as he rolled his way backwards and forwards over the stones.

