

*Season's Greetings*

THE BUTLER COMPANY  
PHILADELPHIA

Carillons at Christmas  
Famous  
American Bell Towers

Sample BN 137

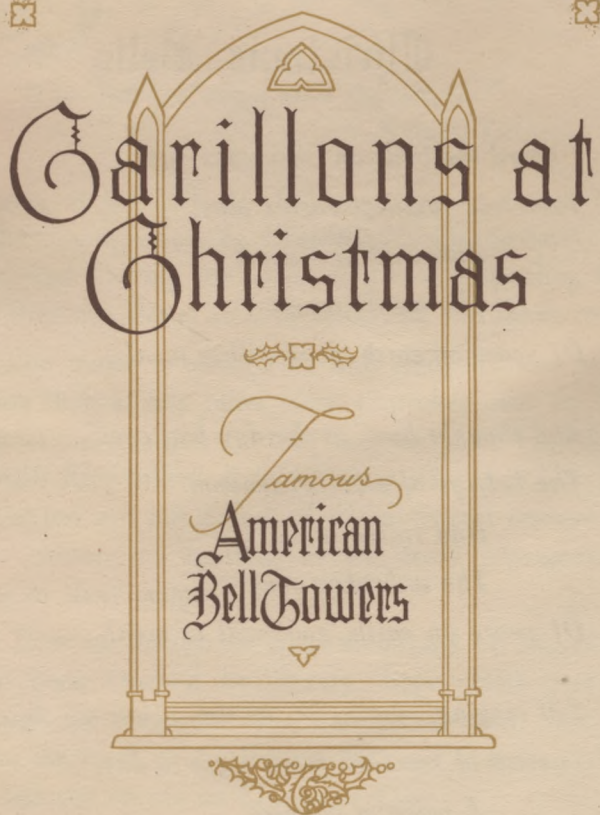




THE RIVERSIDE CARILLON NEW YORK

*James J. Holden*

Carillons at Christmas  
Famous  
American Bell Towers





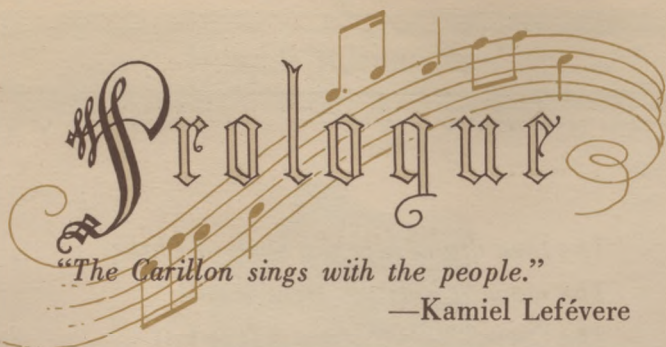
## Christmas Bells

*I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfrys of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*Till ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



# Prologue

*"The Carillon sings with the people."*

—Kamiel Lefévere

Ring of the bells at Christmas time is as universal as the singing of carols. Christmas is appropriately bell time, and hearing the exultant music of pealing bells on Christmas Eve is an experience one will never forget.

Carillon music is understood and enjoyed more at this season than at any other time. Churches over the land—great universities—a bird sanctuary in Florida—a Scottish Rite cathedral in Indianapolis—a public park in Dayton are but a few of the divergent centers that have chosen the carillon as the truly representative voice of their people.

The lives of thousands upon thousands of our people have been touched by beauty, hope, faith and joy through the music of these great bells when they proclaim the birth of the Prince of Peace as they peal the old beloved carols on Christmas Eve.

As these great singing towers carry forth the message of "peace on earth, good will to men," may this booklet commemorating but a few of them carry our best wishes for a happy holiday season.





## Memorial Chapel

*"The time draws near the birth of Christ;  
The moon is hid; the night is still;  
The Christmas bells from hill to hill  
Answer each other in the mist."*

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson

All nations and all faiths ring bells as the universal Christmas music. This is recognized on the campus of the University of Chicago, where three houses designated to serve the religious needs of all faiths—Protestant, Catholic, Jewish—are on the quadrangle.

A great carillon of 72 bells is installed in the beautiful tower of the university chapel. It was given by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., as a memorial to his mother, and was dedicated November 24, 1932.

The sound of bells is inseparable from thoughts of church and sacred use. This is particularly true at the Christmas season. As Charles Lamb has said, it is "the music bordering nearest Heaven."



Memorial Chapel, University of Chicago



## The Hoover Library Carillon

"Pro pace sono"—"For peace I ring"—is the inscription on the largest of Stanford's bells. The entire set of bells in the Hoover Library Carillon bids us ring in a brighter world; bids us ring in "Joy to the World" all through the year, as well as at Christmas.

The bells in this carillon tell a moving story. This is one of the approximately fifty carillons installed in America between the wars. The bells were cast in Belgium for the Belgian pavilion at the New York World's Fair. They were then presented to Stanford University for installation in the tower of the Hoover Library, as a memorial of the friendship between the Belgian and American people.

The inscription says, in part:

*"The Carillon is a gift to Stanford University from the Belgian American Educational Foundation, with which are associated the Belgian universities and educational foundations, recipients of endowment funds for relief in Belgium 1914-1919."*

From this tower the spirit of the bells of Belgium, the ancestral home of the carillon, rings over America.



The Hoover Library Carillon, "A Tower to Peace"





*The Bok Singing Tower*

*Lake Wales, Florida*

Harmony with the surrounding sanctuary, was the inspiration of this, the best known of all American singing towers. It is beautiful beyond description. The carillon is a tribute from Edward W. Bok, and was dedicated on February 1, 1929, by President Calvin Coolidge.



## Deeds Memorial Carillon

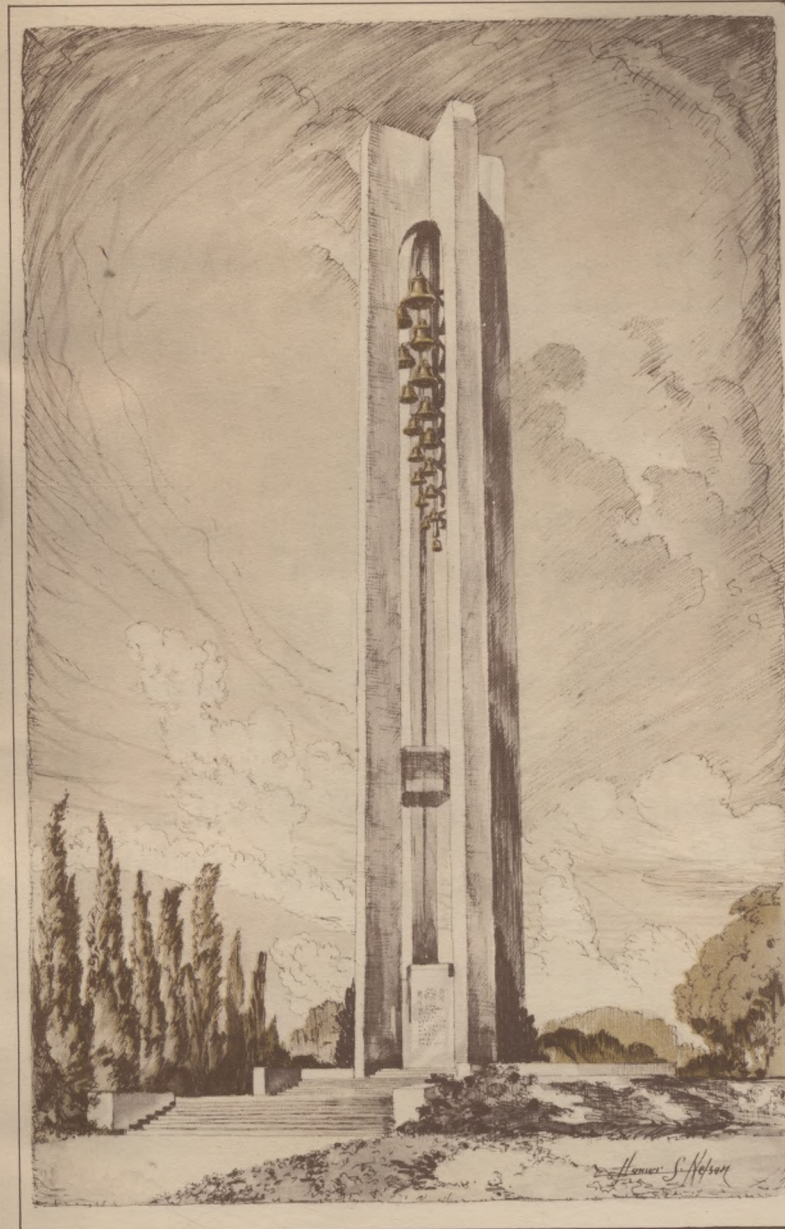
*"Then pealed the bells more  
loud and deep;  
God is not dead, nor does He sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will  
to men!"*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The spiritual fervor and idealism of Longfellow's poem inspired this carillon; truly the "Chandelier of Bells." Into it went the knowledge that the carillon is one of the world's means for teaching the great melodies of our fatherland, and of cultivating our love for the songs we sing at the Christmas season.

The Deeds Memorial Carillon is a memorial to Col. and Mrs. Edward A. Deeds, presented by them to the people of Dayton, Ohio. The tower, built of granite, steel and limestone, is 183 feet high. It is dramatically simple, terminating in noble arches. Suspended from the cross-shaped intersections of the arches, and in full view from all directions, is the chandelier of bells.

It is dedicated to "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men." To listen to "Silent Night" coming from the thirty-two great bells in the tower is truly one of life's inspirational experiences.



Deeds Memorial Carillon, Dayton, Ohio



## Scottish Rite Cathedral

LeRoy Campbell said: "For scores of years people have reveled daily in the music of the Carillon; it has bound itself into the very heart and soul of the common folk. Through war, peace, sorrows and rejoicing, people have listened to the bells." It can also be said that during days of rejoicing and happiness—the Christmas season—the bells resounding the old, beloved carols have their greatest message of joy.

Christmas is the true bell time. While nations and peoples have distinct yule customs, the use of bells at Christmas is international. Bells are the universal Christmas music, and from association with the ringing of bells at Christmas, stems the use of bells as harbingers of peace.

*"But they my troubled spirit rule,  
For they controll'd me when a boy;  
They bring me sorrow touch'd with joy,  
The merry, merry bells of Yule."*

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson



Scottish Rite Carillon, Indianapolis, Indiana



## The Portuguese Fisherman's Carillon

This carillon, in the Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage, Gloucester, Massachusetts, was the first carillon dedicated in the United States. The bells were paid for by the patiently accumulated pennies of the Portuguese fishermen of the community. It was dedicated July 23, 1922. Cardinal O'Connell was present at the inauguration and played one of his own compositions. The bells were cast in Belgium and were admitted free of duty by a special act of Congress.

The carillon and church overlook a stretch of gray New England seacoast, where the music of the carillon welcomes the fishermen home from the sea. Recitals are given during the summer, attracting people from all over the land, but it is at Christmas time that the carillon is in the hearts of the people, with its folk songs and Christmas music.

For romance, and intimate association, this carillon is closer, perhaps, to its people than any other in the land.



*The Fisherman's Carillon  
Church of Our Lady of Good Voyage, Gloucester, Massachusetts*



## In Memoriam

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

—Alfred, Lord Tennyson

### *The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon*

Riverside Church, New York  
(see front cover)

The greatest carillon ever installed, 72 bells, is the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Carillon in Riverside Church, Morningside Heights, New York City.

The tower is 100 feet square at the base and 392 feet high. It overlooks Columbia University, Grant's Tomb, the Hudson River and, to the south, the spires of the city. It gave its first recital December 24, 1931.