

Chapter 16

Periodicals and Book Plates

Periodicals

Prior to 1870 the majority of ringing performances, if nationally publicised, did so through either a local or provincial newspaper. These were extensively researched by Cyril Wratten and others from the 1960s, but this was painstaking work before digitisation of newspaper collections allowed further research to be taken forward from 2000 by John Eisel and others. This work continues but has already resulted in five volumes of *Order and Disorder* being published covering the years up to 1845.

In 1870 a weekly Church of England newspaper paper known as *Church Bells* commenced and continued until 1906. This included a frequent column devoted to bells and bell ringing which was edited by the Revd. H T Ellacombe. In the early years the newspaper supported the Belfry Reform Movement which led to the closer alignment of belfry activities to the church.



This established the feasibility of a regular newspaper devoted to bells and bell ringing and led to the setting up of *The Bell News and Ringers Record*. The first edition appeared on 1 February 1881 with Harvey Reeves as editor, and by 8 April 1882 was sufficiently established to become a regular weekly paper. It continued for a further 33 years with the final edition appearing on 25 December 1915



In the 1890s a lot of change was taking place in the ringing community, not least with the setting up of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers. This together with the Bell News having lost some of its initial vitality led to the publication of a rival newspaper, *Campanology*, on 16 September 1896. But this only lasted a short time with the final edition appearing on 10 March 1897 (26 issues). Another rival was *The Bellringer* but this likewise had only a short shelf life between 5 January 1905 and 1 June 1907 (9 issues). It is interesting the motif used for the latter is based on the reclining lady found on the Ancient Society of College Youths membership certificate cover in Chapter 13.



While *Bell News* had seen off two rival publications the appearance of the *Ringling World* under the editorship of John S Goldsmith on 24 March 1911 proved to be more decisive.

While the *Ringling World* has continued for over a century to the current time its aim to 'record faithfully and promptly the doings of those engaged in the pursuit of bell ringing' appears to have overshadowed the *Bell News* which closed 4 years after its launch.



Change continues with real time electronic reporting through media such as *Bellboard*. It will be interesting to see how much longer printed periodicals continue to be published in paper form.

Book Plates

(i) Early books

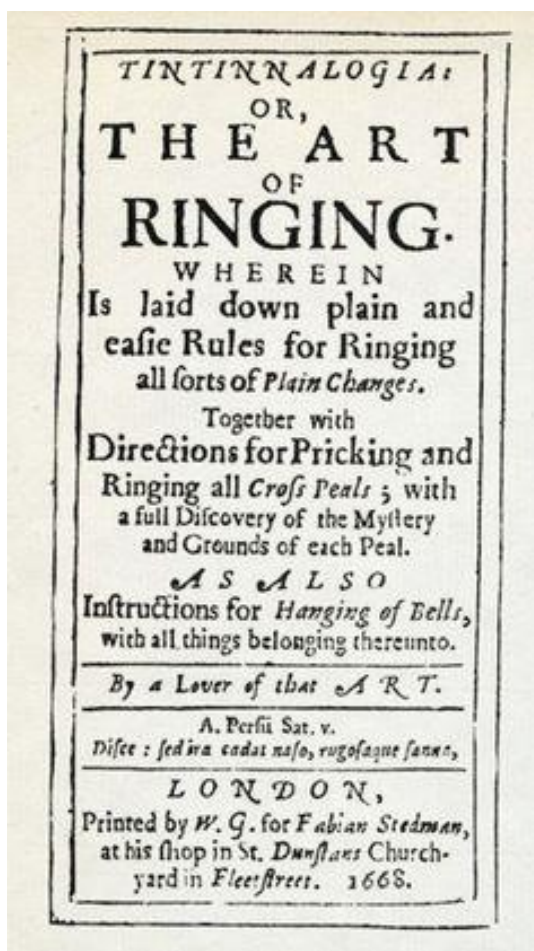
The earliest known text book on bell ringing is *Tintinnalogia, or The Art of Ringing*. It was licensed by Sir Roger L'Estrange, as the law directed, on 1 November 1667 and published the following year.

Many accounts suggest the author was Fabian Stedman, who gave his name to the popular change ringing method, but recent researches have suggested this is not correct. Fabian Stedman was the son of Revd. Frances Stedman, vicar of Yarkhill in Herefordshire, who was christened in December 1640. In 1656 he was apprenticed to the London printer Daniel Pakeman. At the end of his apprenticeship in 1663 he became a freeman of the Stationer's Company and then set up his own business in the churchyard of St Dunstan's, Fleet Street. Stedman was therefore the publisher of *Tintinnalogia* rather than its author, although he may have provided some input to it.

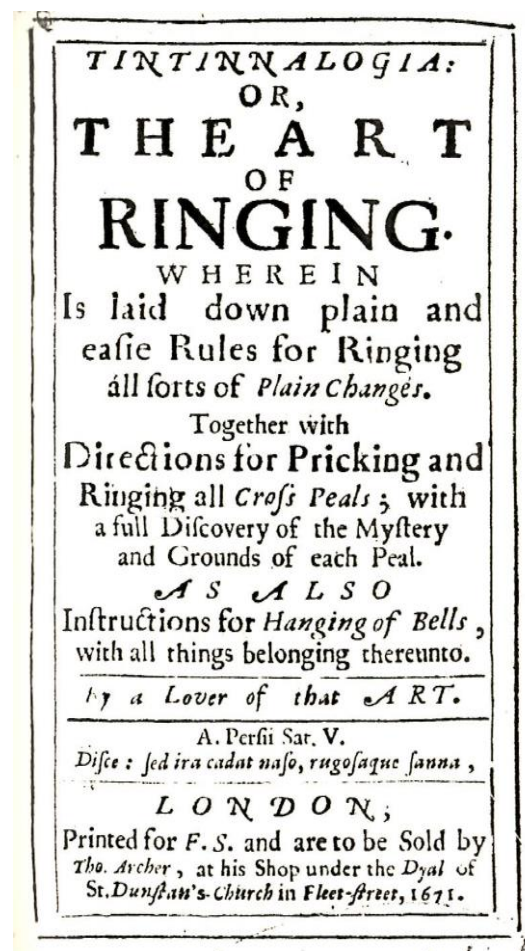
Further research has identified Revd Richard Duckworth as the book's author. Duckworth is thought to have originally come from Lancashire and may be the person who was christened at St Peter's, Bolton on 20 July 1631. He graduated from Oxford University (New Inn Hall, now part of Balliol College) and was made a Fellow of Brasenose College on 28 January 1651 before being appointed Junior and then Senior Bursar there. While at Brasenose he took his

BD degree and eventually became rector at Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire on 30 March 1680 as well as being a school master there. He appears to have had a long interest in bells both during his time at Oxford and then Steeple Aston. He died on 19 July 1706. It is not known how Stedman and Duckworth met, but Stedman's brother Francis may be the same person who was an undergraduate at Oxford at the same time as Duckworth.

While in London, Fabian Stedman joined the Scholars of Cheapside before becoming a member of the College Youths, serving as Master in 1682. In later life he changed professions to become a clerk to the Audit of Excise and died in 1713. He was buried at St Andrew Undershaft, Leadenhall Street, London one of the few remaining undisturbed burial sites at churches in the City of London.



1st edition (1668)

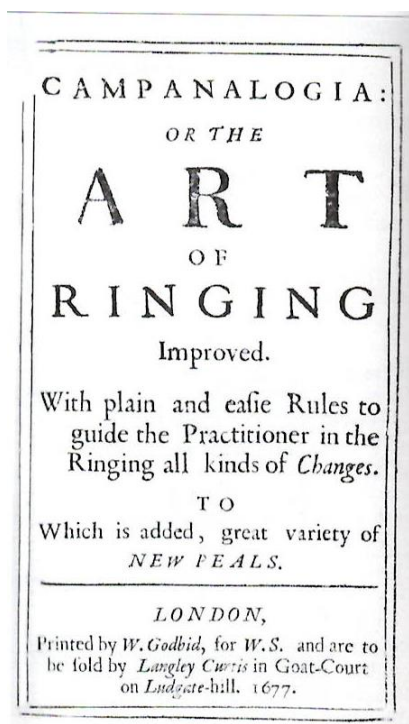


2nd edition (1671)

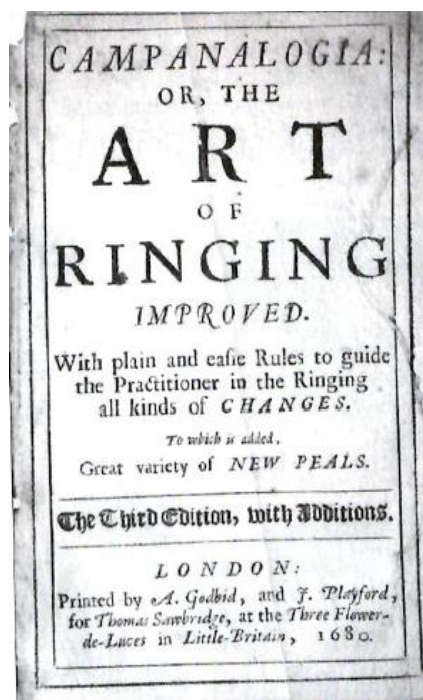
Tintinnologia must have been successful as a second edition was published in 1671. However, this is the same book but with an amended title page.

Stedman wrote his own book, *Campanalogia or the Art of Ringing Improved*, in 1677. The contents highlight the significant developments that had taken place to change ringing over the short intervening time. As for the earlier book the printer used by Stedman was William

Godbid (WG) and copies were sold by Langley Curtis in Goat Court on Ludgate Hill. Some researchers have suggested the further initials (WS) on the title page were for William Smith, who was also a College Youth in London at this time, but this cannot be collaborated.



1st edition (1677)



2nd edition (1680)

A second edition followed and then a further edition entitled 'The Third Edition with additions' in 1680, but the latter is identical to the original version but with a revised title page. A newspaper advertisement appeared in 1697.

*** * * Campanalogia: or the Art of Ringing Improved.
With plain and easie Rules to guide the Practitioner in the
ringing of all kinds of Changes. The Second Edition.
To which is added, great variety of New Peals. Printed
for George Sawbridge at the three Flower-de-luces in Little
Brittain.**

The Post Man and the Historical Account, 6 November 1697

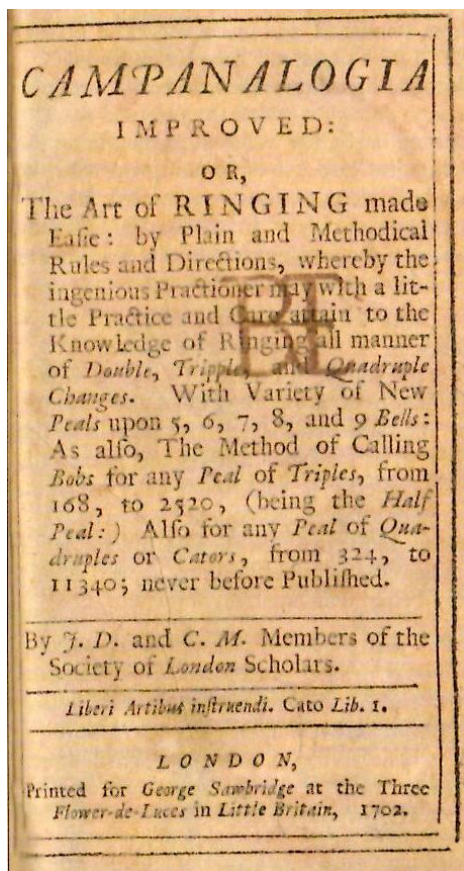
But sales appear to have been less successful and led to a further re-issue with a revised title page and reset Epistle Dedicatory in 1698.

With the rapid developments in change ringing, particularly in Minor methods, a revised version of the book was required. This was prepared by John Doleman (JD) and another ringer not identified (CM). The title page states they were both members of the Society of London Scholars. The new book published in 1702 was accompanied by newspaper adverts to promote it.

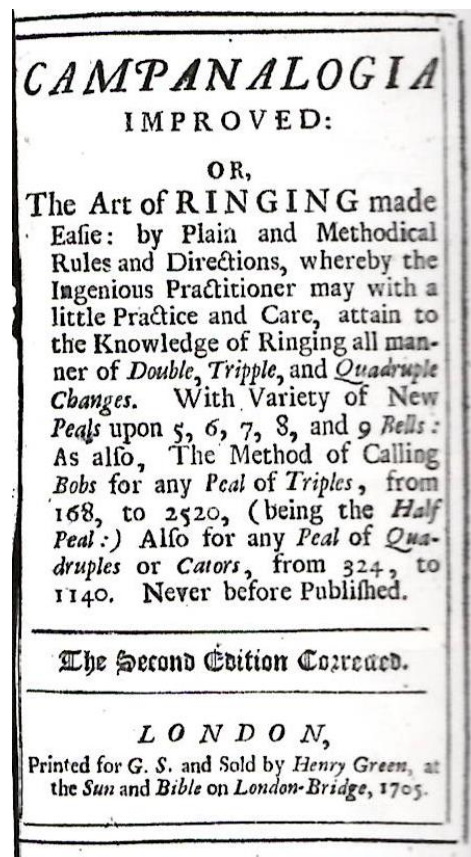
Campanologia Improved: Or the Art of Ringing made easy; by Plain and Methodical Rules and Directions for Ringing all manner of Double, Tripple and Quadruple Changes. With Variety of new Peals upon 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 Bells: As also the Method of Calling Bobs for any Peal of Triples, from 168, to 2520, (being the Half Peal :) Also for any Peal of Quadruples or Catons, from 324, to 11340; never before Published. Printed for George Sawbridge, at the Three Flower-de-Luces in Little-Britain. Price Bound 2 s.

The Post Man and the Historical Account on 2 April 1702 (a similar advert also appeared in the Daily Courant for 4, 7 and 10 July 1702 suggesting sales had been disappointing)

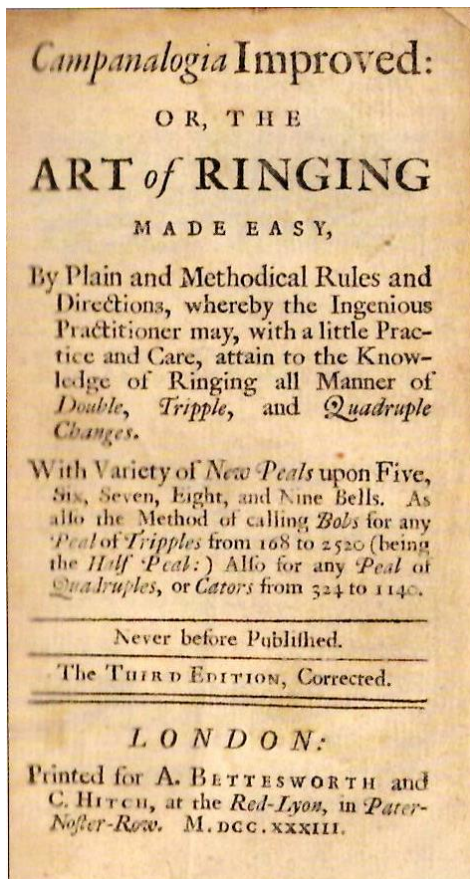
Three years later a 2nd edition followed in 1705 followed by a 3rd edition in 1733, 4th edition in 1753 and then finally a 5th edition in 1766.



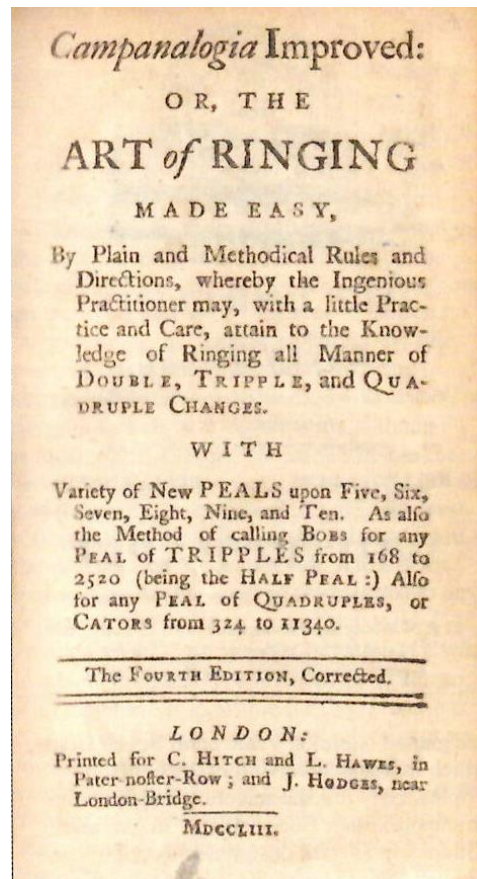
1st edition (1702)



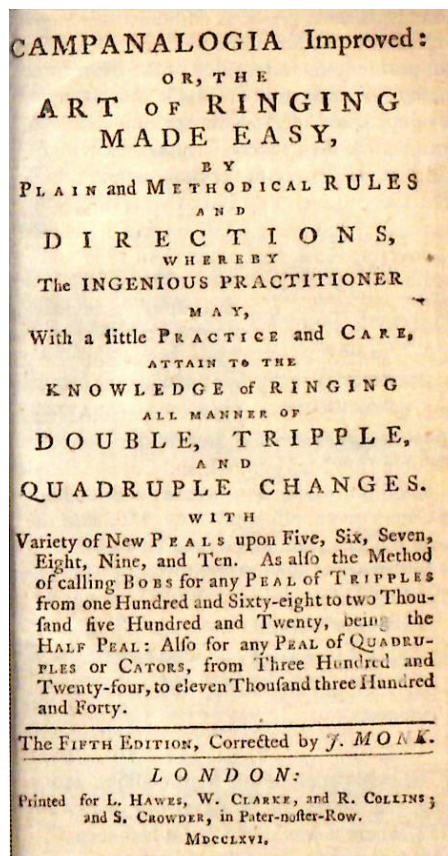
2nd edition (1705)



3rd edition (1733)



4th edition (1753)

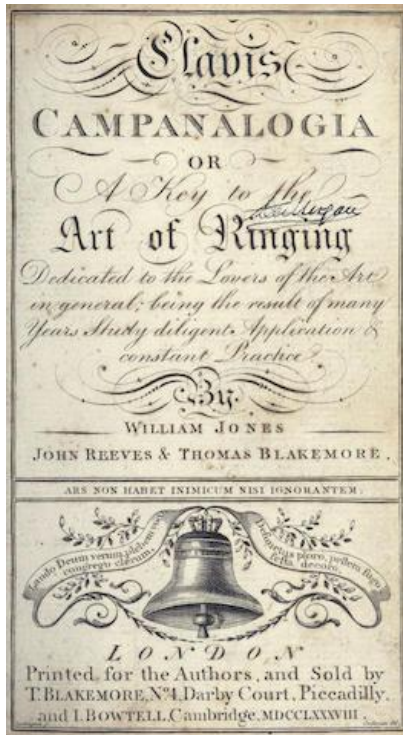


5th edition (1766)

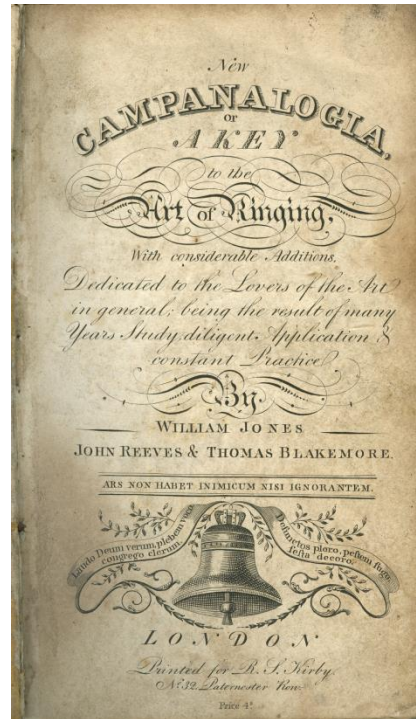
The final edition is known as 'Monk's edition' from the title page stating that the book had been corrected by Joseph Monk who was a prominent member of the College Youths at the time.

While *Campanalogia Improved* was to serve as the main change ringing textbook throughout most of the 18th century it was clear that a new publication was required. This was met by *Clavis Campanalogia or the Art of Ringing* which was first published in 1788. It was co-authored by Thomas Jones, John Reeves and Thomas Blackmore who were London-based College Youths. It was subscribed for by ringers from across the country, with the exception of Norwich, possibly as the result of a visit there by the College Youths in 1785. At the time the Norwich ringers were possibly one of the most advanced bands and had a fine ring of 12 bells at St Peter Mancroft to practise on. When the College Youths, whose party most probably included Thomas Blackmore then collecting material for his new book, heard them ringing Stedman Cinques they were 'greatly astonished'. After the visit Thomas Blackmore stayed behind, at the College Youth's expense, with Christopher Lindsey a Norwich ringer who himself was gathering information on recent ringing developments. It is thought Blackmore having easy access to Lindsey's papers privately made copies to bring back to London. Needless to say the Norwich ringers were considerably offended.

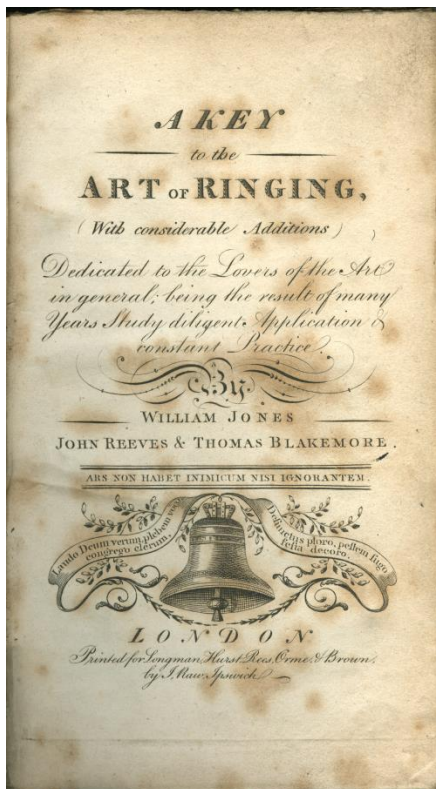
The fine title page was drawn by John Cadman. He was also a College Youth who had taken up responsibility for writing up peals for the College Youths (see Chapter 17 for examples of his calligraphy work). *Clavis* proved to be a commercial success with 500 copies printed and sold. The London publisher R S Kirby bought the copyright and reprinted it with some additions in late 1808/early 1809 (2nd edition). A 3rd undated edition followed in June 1812 with a dated final 4th edition published in January 1815. This last edition was most probably in response to the appearance of another new book *Campanalogia* by William Shipway, published in three parts in 1813, 1814 and 1816 respectively.



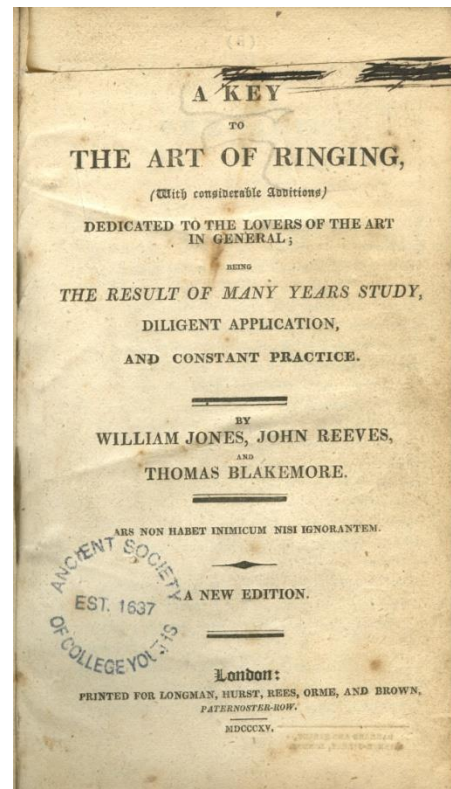
1st edition (1788)



2nd edition (1808/9)



3rd edition (1812)



4th edition (1815)

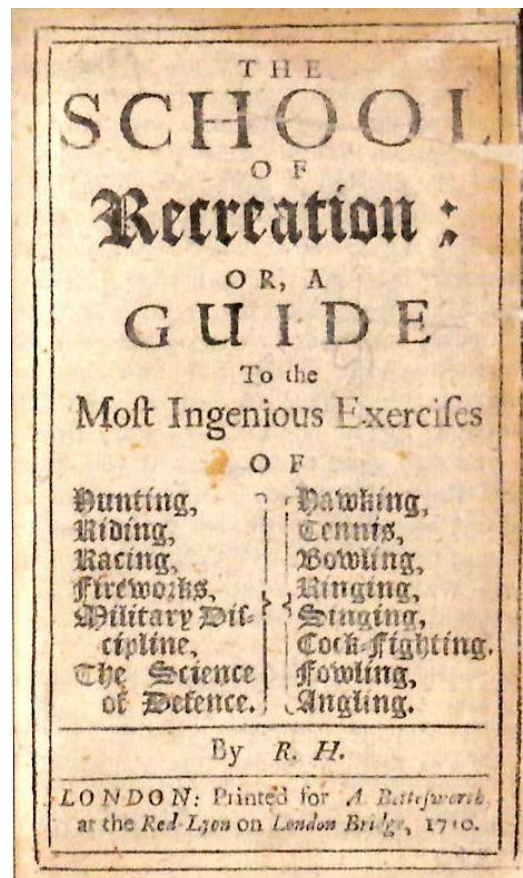
Although not devoted entirely to bell ringing the development of ringing as a hobby was captured in other publications at the time. These include *The School of Recreation* by Robert Howlett which has a section on ringing. It went through many reprints and was extensively

advertised. Adverts are known to exist in the *Flying Post* or *The Post Master* between 24 August 1699 and 31 October 1700.

THE School of Recreation : Or, a Guide to the most Ingenious Exercises of Hunting, Riding, Racing, Fire-Works, Military Discipline, the Science of Defence, Hawking, Tennis, Bowling, Ringing, Singing, Cock-Fighting, Bowling, and Angling. Price 1 s.

Further adverts appear for presumably a later edition in the same newspaper from 23 January 1701 to 13 March 1707.

THE School of Recreation : Or, a Guide to the most Ingenious Exercises of Hunting, Riding, Racing, Fire-Works, Military Discipline, the Science of Defence, Hawking, Tennis, Bowling, Ringing, Singing, Cock-Fighting, Bowling, and Angling. Price 1 s. Sold by *H. Rhodes*, at the *Star*, the Corner of *Bride-lane* in *Fleet-street*.



1710 edition title page

Another fine title cover from that period can be found in *A Garland of Bells, wherein each rings to its proper tune*. This is an anonymously compiled collection of verse printed in Newcastle in 1815.

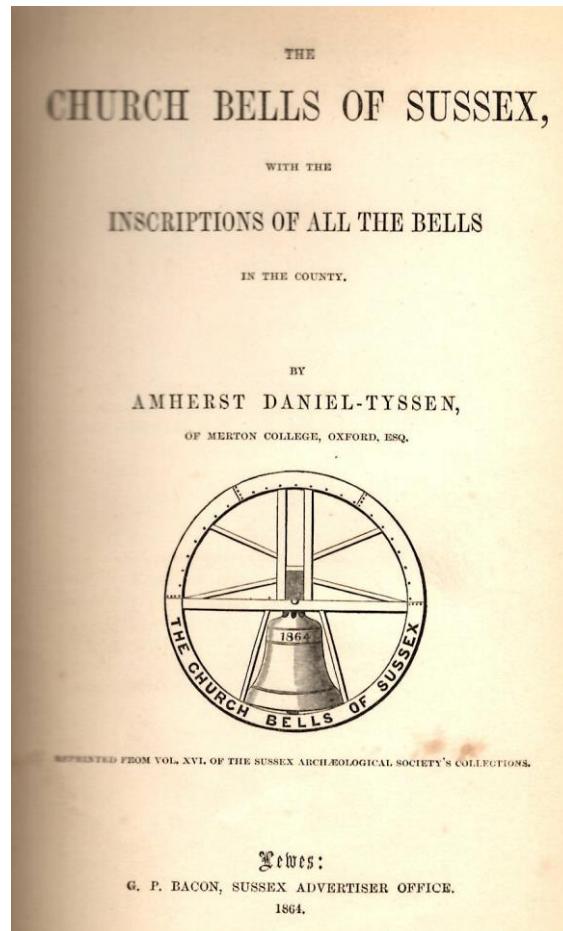


(ii) County books

Following the Belfry Reform Movement and alongside the setting up of county and diocesan based territorial bell ringing societies, there appears to have been an emerging interest to document bell installations in an area. Early authors were those clergy who were either practising ringers or had an interest in bells. Rather than visiting all the churches to examine the bells and make detailed notes to later write up, many simply wrote to their colleagues asking for details of the installations at their own churches which were then used to produce a county book. From the end of the 19th century this work was also taken up by other non-clerical historians including Thomas North and J C L Stahlschmidt who wrote up a number of areas, together with others who tended to concentrate on a single county.

An early territorial listing of bells was *An Account of Church Bells with some notices of Wiltshire Bells and Bellfounders* (1857) by the Revd William Lukis. While this publication listed some rings it was not comprehensive but set the scene for later work. The first comprehensive book listing all the rings of bells in a county was *Church Bells of Sussex* (1864) by Amherst Daniel-Tyssen of Merton College, Oxford. It first appeared in the transactions of *The Sussex Archaeological Society* (Volume 16, 1863) before being published as a separate publication on its own a year later. This was updated by Tyssen nearly 52 years

later with the additional information first appearing in *The Sussex Archaeological Society* (Volume 57, 1915). This was accompanied by the publication of an updated book the same year, but its contents simply comprise of reprinted pages from the 1864 edition with the additional material added as a separate section. Both editions have an attractive title page.



Title page from the 1st edition of *Church Bells of Sussex*

The print runs of many of these books was limited and certain examples can be found as an imperial standard size with a restricted handful of what are commonly known as large paper copies. An example is *Church Bells of Huntingdonshire* (1899) by Revd T M N Owen. The standard version (super royal octave, 18.0cm by 25.5cm) had a print run of 200 copies, while the large paper copy (imperial quarto, 26.5cm by 34.0cm) was limited to 30 copies.

It was also common practice to use adverts in church or ringer based newspapers, as well as flyers, to publicise the forthcoming book.

NOW READY FOR THE PRESS.

The Church Bells of Kent:

THEIR
FOUNDERS, INSCRIPTIONS,
TRADITIONS & USES.



By J. C. L. STAHLSCHMIDT,
*Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Founders;
Member of the Royal Archaeological Institute; Author of "Surrey Bells and
London Bellfounders," "The Church Bells of Hertfordshire," &c.*

IT is now some thirty years since the collection of bell-inscriptions, and the necessary researches into old records throwing light on their founders, have become a serious business with a few working antiquaries. The work then initiated by the Rev. W. C. Lukis has in course of time developed into a systematic undertaking. It was soon seen that a careful exhaustive examination of the contents of the belfry of every Church in Great Britain was the first desideratum. Accordingly, from time to time, books have been issued dealing with the Southern, Midland, and Eastern Counties of England, in full detail.

The author, encouraged by the very kindly reception of his former attempts in the same direction, offers the present work as a contribution to the subject, and believes that it will be acceptable to those interested in Bell-lore, and to archæologists in general, both in the County of Kent and elsewhere.

The County of Kent, from the campanist's point of view, is an unusually interesting one. The per-centage of "ancients" is not large, by reason of its position as a home county, and the consequent great facilities which existed for re-casting rings of bells during the 18th century. Still there is large compensation in the local bell-foundries, which are traceable as far back as the year 1325, and which, in the


Part of flyer used by Stahlschmidt for *Church Bells of Kent*

Ready for the Press, fully illustrated.

Dedicated, by permission, to the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, D.D., F.S.A.

WILL INCLUDE THE COLLECTION OF THE REV. J. T. FOWLER, F.S.A.

MINUTE of the Lincoln Diocesan Architectural Society. "That this Committee have heard with much satisfaction of the proposed publication of a Work on the Church Bells of Lincolnshire, corresponding with similar Works on the Bells of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, by Thomas North, Esq., F.S.A."



Some Opinions on Mr. North's former Bell Noth.

"Thanks to the devotion of inquirers like Mr. North, we shall, in course of time, possess accounts of all the bells in England, but no compiler is likely to surpass Mr. North in care and diligence. This is a good deal more, seeing what excellent volumes have thus devoted to the subject."—*Antiquarian*.

"Once after another the bell lists of the different counties are being collected and published, and none of them better than those which have been undertaken by Mr. North."—*Notes and Queries*.

"Have been studied by the historian of English manners."—*Standard*.

"An unexpectedly pleasant book."—*Saturday Review*.

"We recommend [our readers] to see for themselves how excellent a work of the kind it is."—*Gleaner*.

"And we may take this opportunity of expressing an earnest hope that the matter will be held not unimportant in the much greater work on the Church Bells of Lincolnshire by a goodly number of subscribers, without whose help no books of this kind can be brought out. Lincolnshire will, we believe, afford a greater amount of interesting matter than any of the counties Mr. North has hitherto undertaken, and it might also be said, have a greater number of supporters."—*Archæological Journal* for 1869, p. 441.

"We are happy to know that Mr. North, who is fully acquainted as a compiler of church bells, is engaged on the great county of Lincoln."—*Church Bells*.

"We shall gladly welcome the work on the Church Bells of Lincolnshire which he [Mr. North] has in hand."—*Antiquarian*.

"We must not omit to call attention to the engravings—some of these are of great beauty."—*Antiquary*.

"I think your book a very complete and thorough account of our Northern bells."—*The Very Rev. John Arden, Companion*.

"The beautiful of what such a book should be."—*The Rev. H. T. Edmonds, F.S.A.*

The Church Bells of the County and City of Lincoln:

THEIR FOUNDERS, INSCRIPTIONS, TRADITIONS, AND PECULIAR USES,
WITH A BRIEF
HISTORY OF CHURCH BELLS IN LINCOLNSHIRE,
CHIEFLY FROM ORIGINAL AND CONTEMPORANEOUS RECORDS,
BY
THOMAS NORTH, F.S.A.,
*Hon. Mem. and Hon. Sec. of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society,
Hon. Mem. of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society, &c., &c.*

IT is proposed to publish this work (which will be in Fcap. 4to., cloth, and will contain about 950 pages of letterpress with nearly 200 Illustrations) by subscription. It will be uniform in size with the Author's "Chronicle of the Church of S. Martin in Leicester," "The Church Bells of Leicestershire," "Northamptonshire," and "Rutland," and will be price Two Guineas to Subscribers.

Part of flyer used by North for *Church Bells of Lincolnshire*

Further details of county book publications, both as transactions of the local history society and in book form, can be found in the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers (CCBR) Library Catalogue.

