

Essay for the Friends No. 11

PUBLICATIONS OF THE COLLEGE OF CAMPANOLOGY

The College of Campanology (1955-1966) was the brain-child of Albert York-Bramble. Manned entirely by volunteers, it became quite a large organisation with college officials in thirty-five English counties and six other countries of the world. At its peak it had twelve governors, five administrative staff, and 32 tutors with 12 examiners. It came into being like this.

In the post-war period of the late 1940s, men and women were being demobilised from the forces and were setting out to build a new life for themselves. They wanted something different from what they had had in 1939, and started by throwing out the party who had run the country during the war and electing a new government. The urge for change spread through industry and also throughout the country and ringing was no exception. New bands were formed, and some of the new tutors imparted their knowledge to their recruits utilising the skills they had gathered at university or whilst carrying out war work.

During 1955 Albert York-Bramble published a series of articles in *The Ringing World* entitled "Topic of the Month". He could write with authority: his obituary describes him as a brilliant mathematician, and had had a career in teaching, lecturing and technical writing. The topics covered various subjects, the first of which was "Peals, Public Opinion and Progress", which advocated reducing the length of peals to 3,000 changes. The second was "Blue Book and Register", which suggested that a comprehensive list of methods (the Blue Book) ought to be prepared together with a numbered list of all rung peals (the Register). His third topic was an "Instructional Manual", which detailed how to teach

bell handling, learning a method, good striking, conducting and composition.

He developed the views put forward in this "Instructional Manual" into the tenets of the College of Campanology, attracting many well-known ringers to join in his vision of an ordered and well-structured system of teaching ringing. He wrote the first part of the manual on "Bell Handling and Control and the Elements of Method Ringing", and this was serialised in the *Ringling World*, inviting comments from readers.

These were not slow in coming. He recorded that he received many of these and was able to revise the first draft. It was the letters that were published in *The Ringling World* that were to prove damaging to the idea of the College. In each of his one-page articles he had put forward many good ideas but in a rather pedantic style. His article on peals had offended some senior peal ringers, who in general did not want to see the length of peals reduced. Another of his subjects, "The Ringers' Parliament", was critical of the Central Council which he considered autocratic rather than democratic. Certain council officials and members took umbrage at this. The fifth questioned whether every ringer was doing his or her bit to improve ringing. This didn't please some people. Another included "Method Structure", and his views on this clashed with those dictating it at the time.

These opponents seized on three points: his setting up of the College without seeking the prior support of the Council; the issuing of certificates and diplomas to students who successfully completed the course, and the "wasting" of space in *The Ringling World* through the lengthy publication of the manual. At the Central Council Meeting at Chelmsford in 1957 a motion deprecating the awarding of academic titles in ringing was

passed, but another refusing to officially recognise the College or to publish the College's Manual of Training in *The Ringing World* was extensively discussed but left on the table.

Despite the adverse publicity from this and letters published in *The Ringing World* the College carried on, achieving many of its objectives. It ran the first residential weekend ringing course at Dillington House, Somerset, in 1959 and the first one-day course for instructors in 1960. It ran instructional courses for some years, but eventually associations began to run their own. After ten years of life the College closed down, inserting a notice of dissolution in *The Ringing World* of November 4, 1966. Albert York-Bramble died on April 22, 1974 after some years of ill-health, but his name will always be associated with the College of Campanology.

**Publications of The College of Campanology,
40 Parkstone Avenue, Southsea, Hants:**

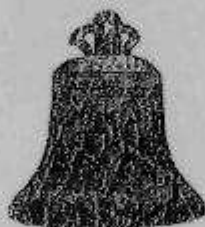
1. *"Bell Handling and Control in the Elements of Change Ringing", Manual of Ringing Training, Part I, nd (1957), 104pp, 205x160 mm, duplicated typescript on foolscap paper with printed card cover.*
2. *"Tests for Certificates of Student and Tutor", Supplement to Part I of the Manual of Training, nd (1957), 7pp, 205x164 mm, duplicated typescript on foolscap paper with paper cover.*
3. *"Bell Handling and Control in the Elements of Change Ringing", Ringers' Manual of Reference, Part I, 2nd revised edition, nd (1960), 104pp, 205x160 mm, duplicated typescript on foolscap paper with printed card covers.*
4. *"Tests for Certificates of Student and Tutor", Supplement to Part I of the Ringers' Manual of Reference, nd (1960), 7pp, 205x164 mm, duplicated typescript on foolscap paper with paper cover.*
5. *"Method Structure in Change Ringing", A E C York-Bramble, Part II of the Ringers' Manual of Reference, 1965, 280pp, 200x170 mm, duplicated typescript on foolscap paper, hardbound.*

MANUAL OF RINGING TRAINING -- PART I



BELL HANDLING & CONTROL
IN THE
ELEMENTS of CHANGE RINGING

(The "Cathedral" planned course of tuition)



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RINGERS' MANUAL OF REFERENCE
PART I

BELL HANDLING & CONTROL
IN THE
ELEMENTS of CHANGE RINGING

(The "Cathedral" planned course of tuition)



Second (revised) Edition

Printed cover to the 2nd edition of Part I of the Manual 1960

"PRO DEO ET ECCLESIA"

BELL HANDLING and CONTROL

in the

ELEMENTS of CHANGE RINGING

** ** *

Being

Part One of the Ringers' Manual of Reference

or

The 'CATHEDRAL' planned course of elementary
tuition.

** ** *

For use in Ringing Schools,
For guidance of Instructors and
For the aid of Learners, this handbook is
compiled and edited in accordance with the
invited views of ringers generally, after
a draft publication, for their consider-
ation, in "The Ringing World".

(Please note especially pages 2, 4 & 5)

Second revised edition.
(1st Edition published....1957)

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Title page to the 2nd edition of Part I of the Manual 1960

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COLLEGE of CAMPANOLOGY

Tests for Certificates
of
"Student" and "Tutor"

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I
of the
MANUAL OF TRAINING

Obtainable at cost, 7d. (including postage) from
The College Registrar,
32 Barkstone Avenue,
Southsea, Hants.

COLLEGE OF CAMPANOLOGY

" PRO DEO ET ECCLESIA "

Tests for Certificatees

of

"Student" and "Tutor"

SUPPLEMENT TO PART I

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The College Registrar,
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Southsea, Hants.

title page/cover to the 2nd edition of the Supplement to Part I of the Manual 1960

METHOD STRUCTURE IN CHANGE RINGING
(An Introduction to its Theory and Technology)

Compiled from an unpublished original work entitled
"Principles of Method Structure in Campanology"

and being

PART II of THE RINGERS' MANUAL OF REFERENCE

Published by
THE COLLEGE OF CAMPANOLOGY
("Pro Deo Et Ecclesia")

PATRON:
The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Portsmouth,
J.H.L.Phillips, D.D.

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Principal,
College of Campanology,
42, Parkstone Avenue,
SOUTHSEA, Hants.

Title page to Part II of the Manual 1965