

The Bells of Wesleyan University Will Ring Again



A workman adjusts a crane hook on one of the new bells that will be hoisted to the tower atop Wesleyan University's South College. Bell in foreground is one of the original eleven bells that were built in 1916 and installed two years later in the tower.

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MIDDLETOWN, Conn., Nov. 24—The bells will soon be ringing again at Wesleyan University here, thanks to an anonymous gift of \$16,500 and the skill of a Kentucky carillon and organ expert.

The 11 bells in the tower of South College have been silent for several years because of their antiquated arrangement and damage caused by vandals.

However, with the donation the university bought five new carefully matched bells from the Whitechapel Bell Foundry of London—the same concern that cast the original Liberty Bell—and hired James Akright, 36 years old, from Berea, Ky. His log cabin on Christmas Ridge in Kentucky is filled with medieval instruments and a cherry wood-pipe organ he has made.

Although Mr. Akright, a tall, thin and cheerful man, is no musician, his ear is extremely sensitive to the sound of bells and organs, which he calls "my bread and butter." He hopes to have the former "chamber of horrors" in the bell tower turned into a beautifully matched system playable by a rosewood keyboard within two weeks.

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