

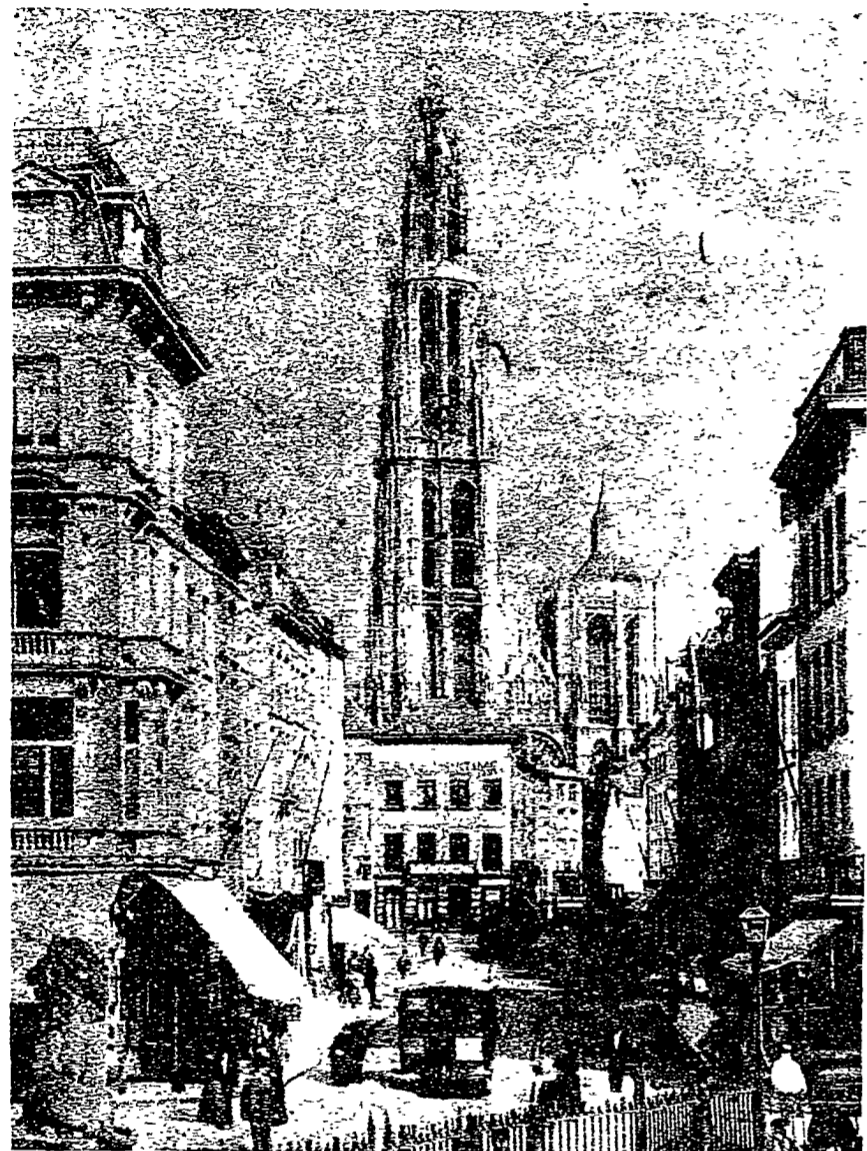
Carillon Tower Planned as a Victory Memorial: Music of Bells, One ...

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Carillon Tower Planned as a Victory Memorial

Music of Bells, One Provided by Each State and Territory, Would Sound Over Washington as Daily Reminders of America's Part in the World War



Antwerp Tower and Carillon, Where the Music of the Bells Floats Out to Sea to Greet Incoming Mariners

A MUSICAL peace tower, to commemorate at Washington the victory over imperialism, is the plan of the Arts Club there. Although details for a nation-wide appeal are not yet complete, many endorsements of the idea, novel in war memorials in this country, have been received.

The unique feature of the proposed memorial is that the tower be provided with the greatest carillon in the world, one of fifty-four bells, a bell for each State, the District of Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippines, and Cuba. Each State and possession is to provide its own bell. Prominent citizens, in several instances, have guaranteed the bell for their native States, but the aim is that the money be raised by popular subscription in each State, in order that a wide-spread public movement be at the base of the memorial.

Each bell, as planned, will carry the name of the State and an appropriate inscription. While the bells will vary in size from a smallest of less than fifteen pounds to a largest of nearly tons, individually they will be of equal importance in the great musical instrument.

There is no carillon in this country, and if the memorial is completed as planned, it is predicted that the music of the fifty-four bells, heard over the city, would become one of the distinguishing characteristics of the capital and perhaps, in the recollection of the playing of some patriotic piece, that which would linger the longest in the memory of the visitor. The nearest approach to the carillon in the United States are chimes, composed of a few bells of narrow musical range. The bells of a carillon, fixed and immovable, are rung by hammers and are played automati-

cally or by a keyboard, like an organ or piano. They have a range of four octaves or more, and consequently in chromatic power have a breadth comparable to a piano or organ, with bells representing the tones and half-tones instead of strings.

In the most recent carillon, consisting of forty-two bells and dedicated last August at Queenstown, Ireland, the achievement was made for the first time of tuning to equal temperament, just like a piano or organ, so that music may be played with equal facility in any key. It is said the bells are tuned to the accuracy of a single vibration. The Queens-

town carillon is soon to be eclipsed by one of forty-nine bells at Rotterdam, Holland, which will hold the honor of being the largest in the world until the proposed carillon of fifty-four bells is installed at Washington.

Belgium is looked upon as the home of the carillon, and it is there that the art of carillon playing reached its highest development. J. Marion Shull, the artist who originated the idea of the memorial here, first pointed out that such a monument would be also a fitting tribute to the little nation that took the first brunt of the onslaught of the Germans and held them while France gathered her forces at the frontier.

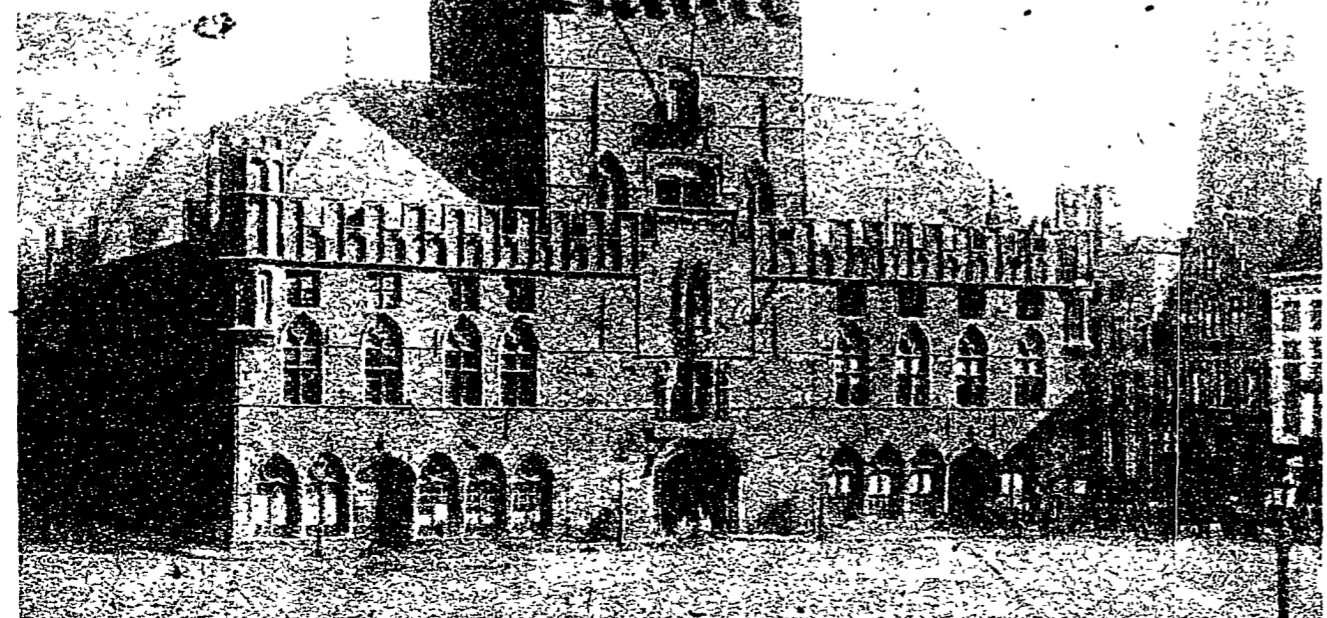
The carillons of Antwerp, Bruges,

Ghent, Termonde, Louvain, and other Belgian towns were all famous in Europe before the war, but many of the Belgian bell towers are now in ruins and the bells removed to Germany. Germany must return the bells and the towers are expected to rise again.

No one invented the carillon. It just grew, beginning with a harsh necessity. The development of the carillons of Belgium and Holland has been on a civic basis, and even where they are connected with a church or cathedral they are still under the administration of the civil authorities. More than this, it is pointed out by the proponents of the memorial at Washington, they have stood for centuries as the mark of civic freedom, epitomizing the love of liberty that first led to the erecting of towers with an alarm bell, a privilege wrested from feudal overlords to call the people in common council or for defense when their liberty was threatened. Then a clock was added, and by and by additional bells that served as warning that the hour was about to strike; more bells, and then some unknown genius rigged a clavier to the bells, and so the carillon of today came to be.

Now the carillon has its Paderewskis and its Bauers, whose playing charms great audiences. More than 30,000 persons have been known to gather for a concert by Josef Denyn, probably the most famous of all the masters of the carillon, at Malines, where once a week it has been the custom to give a concert on the bells of St. Rhombold. It was here that Denyn sat on the day in 1914 when the Germans were on the outskirts of the town and played the Belgian national airs to hearten the Belgian soldiery to the last. The tower was not destroyed, though hit by German shells; one smashed the keyboard, after the master had made his escape. The clavier was replaced after the departure of the Germans last June, and when President Wilson visited Cardinal Mercier he was greeted by "The Star-Spangled Banner," played on the carillon by Denyn. It is the intention to have Denyn give the first of the national concerts on the proposed carillon at Washington.

Further to enhance the proposed carillon with a peculiar memorial significance, bills have been introduced in Congress to grant the use of 200,000 pounds of brass shell cases, or other brass or copper salvaged from the battlefields



Bruges Tower and Carillon, Made Famous Throughout America by Longfellow.

of France, to be used in the making of the bells. War metals from each of the allies will also be sought for the bells. Representatives of the principal nations concerned have promised their co-operation with this part of the program, according to a member of the Arts Club

Special Committee on the National Peace Carillon project. Further to add to the representative character of the memorial, it is planned to have in the carillon tower individual blocks of stone of historic import, one each from Veidun, the Aronne, St. Mihiel, and from the ruined

cities of Belgium, such as Ypres, Louvain, and Termonde.

The location of the tower in Washington and the final design will be determined by the National Commission of Fine Arts. Members of the Special Committee in charge of the project are: W.

B. Westlake, President of the Federation of the Citizens' Associations, Chairman; Captain W. I. Chambers, U. S. N.; H. K. Bush-Brown, sculptor; Dr. Erwin F. Smith, Mrs. L. Mac D. Sleeth, Miss Mary A. Cryder, F. H. Droop, and J. Marion Shull, Secretary.