

COPY

THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Rochester 3, New York

O A E B

October 28, 1953

Office of the  
Administrative Secretary

Meneely Bell Co.  
22 River Street  
Troy, New York

Attention: The President

Gentlemen:

In 1930 a set of chimes was installed in the Rush Rhees Library Tower of the University of Rochester. These chimes were a gift of the Hopeman family and they were, I believe, cast by your company. We are now engaged in a move to make more frequent and regular use of the chimes than has been the practice at this institution. The students who have formed an organization have asked certain questions about the bells that no one here is qualified to answer. One of the questions is related to the availability of music arranged for playing on our particular set of chimes. I wondered whether or not your office might have information on other institutions with a comparable set of bells with whom we might communicate on the subject of arrangements.

The other matter is related to the peculiar characteristics of our set. It is my understanding that there is not a complete set of bells; three or four are not a part of the set of which perhaps one could be quite important in enabling the chimes to be played in a greater number of keys. Is there someone at your company with whom we might communicate on the subject in order to learn whether or not it would be appropriate to give any consideration to adding a bell or in any way revising the physical arrangements. It must be added that the need for an addition is not strong however because of the highly satisfactory character of the bells as they are now hung, but the question was raised, and I would appreciate any information you may have.

RHM:BH

cc: Mr. Canning -  
Mr. Abbey

Sincerely yours,  
(Signed) Robert H. McCambridge  
Administrative Secretary  
of the University

OVER

COPY

MENEELY BELL CO.

Troy, N.Y.

November 2nd, 1953

Mr. Robert H. McCambridge  
Administrative Secretary  
University of Rochester  
Rochester 3, N. Y.

Dear Mr. McCambridge:

In reply to your letter of the 28th, we are asking Mr. Joseph P. Duffy of Pittsford, Vt., to get in direct touch with you.

The bells you refer to were made by Meneely & Co. of Watervliet, a separate firm operated by another branch of the family. Both this firm and our own are non-operating, due to a combination of restrictions imposed by the Korean fighting and death and retirement on the part of the principles.

Mr. Duffy, who was at one time the manager of our former New York office, has had many years of experience in bell work and is maintaining his active connections. For that reason, he is not only well qualified to answer your questions, but also in a position to help you obtain the things you may need in order to carry out your decisions.

Sincerely yours,

MENEELY BELL CO.

(Sd.) Clinton Meneely

OVER

COPY



November 13, 1953

Mr. Robert H. McCambridge  
Administrative Secretary  
The University of Rochester  
Rochester 3, New York

Dear Mr. McCambridge:

Your kind letter of October 28th, addressed to the Meneely Bell Co. at Troy, N. Y., has been referred to me for attention for the reasons mentioned in Mr. Clinton Meneely's reply of November 2nd.

According to my records, the tower of Rush Rhees Library contains a set of seventeen large bells, the tenor weighing 7500 pounds. The bells were made by Meneely & Co. of Watervliet, N. Y.

I am indeed glad to learn you plan to make more frequent and regular use of the chimes. Frankly, I feel this can best be done by the installation of electric ringing equipment, by means of which the chimes could be played from a piano-like keyboard. Most hand operated chimes are being played in this manner. Only a year ago we electrified the nineteen large bronze bells in the tower of St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, and within the past month we electrified the fourteen large bronze bells at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Newark, New Jersey.

The tower of George F. Baker Library at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N. H., contains a chime of sixteen bells, the largest weighing 5000 pounds. These bells are rung electrically and automatically as well. I know of no published music for your particular set of chimes, but feel that Prof. Maurice F. Longhurst of the Department of Music at Dartmouth College, may be in a position to help you as regards suitable music arrangements.

While I am not familiar enough with your chime to advise whether or not another bell should be added, it would seem to be that seventeen bells should give you all that should be played on bells. As mentioned above, Dartmouth College has only sixteen bells and apparently Prof. Longhurst feels that range is sufficient. Of-course, if due to the peculiar characteristics of your set an additional bell seems desirable so as to play in additional keys, that could be arranged, but I would very definitely advise against the addition of a large number of bells to form a carillon.

Should you consider the installation of electric ringing equipment for your fine chime of bells, it could be installed in place of the present hand clavier -- or, if desired, it could probably be in-



blasesp rnuq cyeates -- ol' jz deatled' jz coltg blorspuzl pe jn-  
for lone jzue crime of pejts' jz coltg pe jnzatjed jn bjase of the  
spontg lon conatder the jnzatjedon of ejetstic jnzatjed adnjment

Page No. 2  
stalled in such a way that it would not interfere with the present manual console.

Mr. Robert H. McCambridge

Needless to say, I am anxious to be of service in any way possible and trust I may have the pleasure of hearing from you further on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

Eastern Representative,  
The I. T. VERDIN Co.

JPD/hs  
The cover of George E. Baker Library at Belknap College in New York

...the cover of George E. Baker Library at Belknap College in New York

...the cover of George E. Baker Library at Belknap College in New York

...the cover of George E. Baker Library at Belknap College in New York

Dear Mr. McCambridge:

Respectfully,  
The University of Rochester  
Administrative Secretary  
Mr. Robert H. McCambridge

November 13, 1953



December 3, 1953

*Indexed  
File*

Mr. George Haas  
Chief Engineer  
The University of Rochester  
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. Haas:

I wish to thank you for the courtesy extended to me when I called at the University yesterday. You were of immense help in locating Mr. McCambridge with whom I had some correspondence regarding the chime of bells on the Campus.

We specialize in the manufacture of electric bell ringing equipment and tower clocks, and I would appreciate your filing the enclosed folder for reference if and when the occasion demands.

We also specialize in modernizing and electrifying old weight driven tower clocks, etc.

With renewed thanks and kindest of personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

JPD/hs

Eastern Representative,  
The I. T. VERDIN CO.