THE AS BELLS OF ON OSTEND'S CARILLON Wapenplein + Place d'Armes + Market place + Waffen platz + Oostende

What is a carillon.?

A carillon is a musical instrument which consists of a series of bronze bells placed in chromatic position, (3 or 4 octaves) which resp. tongues are linked to a keyboard. The bells are suspended as close as possible, each one beside the other one in a frame, and as near as possible to the key-board, in order to obtain a short and direct linkage.

The keys of the key-board are placed in the same order as the keys of a piano key-board, enabling the carillonneur to play all kinds of musical arrangements. In many cases, a device completes the key-board of the carillon, in order to perform automatically some merry tunes each half hour.

The Ostend carillon.

Fortunately since 1965 is the city of Ostend proud again to own his carillon as before World War II.

Forty-nine splendid bells, exactly tuned, are hanging in the tower of the Hall situated on the Market place. Those bells have been casted by the world famous bell foundry PACCARD at Annecy in France und were fixed in the tower by the Flemish Firm CASTELEYN from Kuurne near Kortrijk.

Each bell can be separately hit by the carillonneur.

The biggest bell, the Victory-bell weighs 2.250 Kg. and bears the name of the first Belgian King LEOPOLD 1st., the smallest bell weighs 9,100 Kg., the total weight of all the bells being 12.390 Kg.

The ten most important bells all bear the name of one of the members of the Royal family :

King LEOPOLD 1st.	2.250 Kg
Queen LOUISE-MARIE	1.670 Kg
King LEOPOLD 2nd.	1.400 Kg
Queen MARIE-HENRIETTE	1.165 Kg
King ALBERT 1st.	980 Kg
Queen ELISABETH	815 Kg
King LEOPOLD 3rd.	680 Kg
Queen ASTRID	570 Kg
King BOUDEWIJN 1st.	475 Kg
Queen, FABIOLA	400 Kg

The Ostend carillon is tuned in Ré, i.e.one tune higher as usually. It means that if the carillonneur wants to play a concert with a brass-band or a wind-band, he needs to transpose his score 2 tunes lower before the performance, in order to obtain a perfect harmony.

The recitals.

The municipality of Ostend organises the recitals during summertime, and further on feast-days as 1st of May, Easter, Ascension day, 11th.of november etc...
But during the whole year, on Saturday's and Monday's people can enjoy the recitals performed by Prof. Ephrem DELMOTTE, Master-carillonneur who has got a world-wide reputation.

Programmes of these recitals are available (free of charge) at the desk of the office for tourism at the Market place.

Visits to the tower and the carillon.

Enjoy yourself and pay-a free visit to the tower and you will be amazed to see the Carillonneur in his cabin, hitting the key-board. Believe it, it requires a lot of efforts as well as physically as intellectually to perform cheerful tunes.

Prof. Ephrem DELMOTTE was born at Renaix.

As a world-wide well knowed Master-Carillonneur, he has performed recitals in many countries as: The Netherlands, France, Denmark, Norway, West Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Switzerland Portugal (Fatima) and Israel (Jerusalem), and also in most of the Belgian cities where a carillon is installed.

Himself was a pupil of the late Jef DENIJN, and he can now be proud to have been the teacher of several Aspirant-carillonneurs in many countries in the world. Be sure Ostend and its people are actually proud to have such an illustrious inhabitant as the Prof. Ephrem DELMOTTE.

In conclusion.

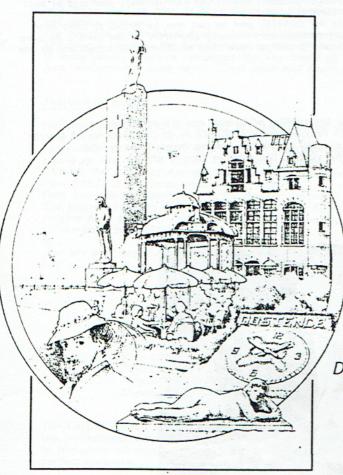
Enjoy yourself, pay a visit to the carillon of Ostend and its performer. The point of rendez-vous with Prof.Ephrem DELMOTTE is at the entrance of the tower of the Festival Hall, 20 minutes before the staring hour of the recitals. YOU will be very welcome. The visit to the cabin is free of charge.



prof. ephrem delmotte

't Centrum

Restaurant Taverne Tea-Room



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