

Small Categories Series

Bells

Here's a small category that is sure to ring your bell! Bells!

There are different kinds of bells, of course, but I think that when most Americans think of bells, they think of the Liberty Bell first, and you'll certainly find a lot of those among the bell covers you'll find. Some nice ones are pictured below.

The history of bells started with the advancement of metallurgy in ancient china. In 2000 BC, fist bells started to appear, slowly managing to infuse themselves into Chinese culture, religion and the way of life. As the centuries went on, creation of bells became an art, giving artist a chance to infuse on them various images and themes that attracted the attention for Royalty and nobility in China. They changed the way how bells were used, creating from the an item that symbolized wealth, power and influence. However, this all changed when bells started spreading across Asia from rich India to the land of the rising sun Japan. This expansion provided several important changes in the way bells were used – smaller bells were openly used by people who wanted easy way of conveying information across large distances (notifying end of a work shift for example), musicians of all sorts adopted small and precisely made bells as important instrument, and most importantly, religions such as Buddhism, Hindu, Shinto, and even Ancient Egyptian religion of sun gods. These religions proved to be crucial for adoption of bells all across the world, and many of their early bell uses still survive today in numerous religious ceremonies, traditions and public superstitions that were created by the people themselves.

