

## Essay for the Friends No. 17

### Snowdon's Other Publications

Although Jasper Snowdon is best known for two books, *Ropesight* and *Standard Methods in the Art of Change Ringing*, both of which have gone through numerous editions, these are only two of his publications which appeared over a short space of time. I have discussed these two publications before (Essays for the Friends Nos. 6 & 10) and to complete Snowdon's literary work, it is necessary to discuss his other productions. In fact, his first publication was a joint effort with Robert Tuke. In *Church Bells* of 20 January 1877 Jasper Snowdon published a short article on the peal book of the Union Scholars, an early eighteenth century London ringing Society which rang the first peal of Union (Oxford) Treble Bob Major. This peal book was located in the Osborn MSS in the British Museum library (as it was then called), and Osborn had written a short account of the society. On 7 April 1877 it was announced that Jasper Snowdon and Robert Tuke were about to publish a transcript of the records of the Union Scholars, together with Osborn's account of the society. Robert Tuke is not a name that will be generally recognised, but in this time he was a well-known figure. He learnt to ring at Ilkley at the same time as Jasper Snowdon, of whom he was a close friend, and when the Yorkshire Association was established, he became the first treasurer, holding the post for a few years while the association became established. In *Church Bells* it was stated that only a few copies of the transcript would be printed, which would be ready in a few days, and to secure a copy it was necessary to send 7½d. in stamps to Jasper Snowdon in Leeds. Nothing further appeared, and so presumably all copies that were printed were sold quickly. It was entitled *An Account of the Society of Union Scholars*, and there was an appendix written by Snowdon and Tuke in which the

peals rung by the Union Scholars, and compositions used in those peals, were discussed.

In the year after the publication of the Union Scholars book, Snowdon published his first technical book, *A Treatise on Treble Bob. Part I*. On 4 May 1878 he announced that he had placed this in the hands of the printer, and it was advertised as being ready on 13 July 1878. Copies were available from Jasper Snowdon at a cost of 1s. 1½d. post free, and it contained a history of Treble Bob, based on a series of articles that Snowdon had published in *Church Bells* two years previously, as well as technical matters including how to prick touches, and the proof of Treble Bob. It received a favourable review in *Church Bells* a fortnight later, where it was stated that should the sale of the work repay the expense of printing, then Part II would be published.

Sales must have been good enough, for the following year Snowdon published *A Treatise on Treble Bob Part II*, and this was announced in *Church Bells* on 21 June, the cost being 2s. 1½d. post free, either from Snowdon himself or from John Warner and Sons at the Crescent Foundry, Cripplegate. The book contained over 1000 peals on various numbers of bells. Treble Bob was extremely popular at that time (Kent Treble Bob was not called 'Yorkshire Glory' for nothing) but has since suffered almost total neglect, being regarded as a stepping stone to higher things, rather than an end in itself.

1879 must have been a busy year for Snowdon, as in November he published the first edition of *Ropesight*, which fulfilled a long-felt want. (For the full story of this see *Essay for the Friends* No.6) The first edition of the follow-on text, *Standard Methods in the Art of Change Ringing*, was published in 1881. (See *Essay for the Friends* No. 10.) Despite having to see further editions of *Ropesight* through the press, Snowdon still

found time to extend his researches into the history of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, previously published as an article in *Church Bells* in 1876, and publish them in book form in 1884. This book also included instruction in how to ring the method, how to compose in the method, and its proof, as well as a number of peal compositions. It was well received, and a favourable review appeared in *Bell News* on 13 December 1884. The cost was 1s. post free.

At the time of his death in 1885, Snowdon was working on the text for a book on Grandsire, which was completed and edited by his brother William, and published in 1888. Snowdon was commemorated by a stained glass window in Ikley church, subscribed for by the ringers of England, and the joint secretary of the committee that raised the money was Snowdon's old friend, Robert Tuke. However, Tuke did not live to see the window in place. In early 1887 he was injured in an accident in his trap, when his coachman was also injured - evidently he was of substantial means. For his convalescence he decided to travel abroad, and settled in Philadelphia for a while, where he set about teaching a band of change ringers, which he trained up to ring Bob Doubles. Unfortunately, in January 1889 he was involved in a street accident, and died from the consequences at the early age of 44.

Jasper Snowdon's legacy to the Exercise was the articles and books that he had written, and his brother William continued with the publication of such texts as *Ropesight* and *Standard Methods in the Art of Change Ringing*, with updated editions. He also published a new edition of *A Treatise on Treble Bob*, Part I, in 1902, although, as far as I am aware, a second edition of Part II was never issued. However, a second edition of Grandsire was published in 1905, and an entirely new work was written by J. Armiger Trollope, and published as part of the Snowdon series in 1948. It was reprinted in 1973.

Also in the Snowdon series, *Stedman*, written by the Rev. C.D.P. Davis, was published in 1905, and this incorporated Jasper Snowdon's history of the method. A facsimile of this classic work was published in 2008. J.A. Trollope also rewrote this book, and this appeared in 1938. Finally, *Surprise Methods*, the last new work in the Snowdon series and written by William Snowdon, was published in 1927. This still owed much to Jasper Snowdon as it incorporated an updated version of his history of the method that first appeared in *Church Bells* in 1875.

Details of all the works in the Snowdon series, apart from *Ropesight* and *Standard Methods*, can be found in the table in the centre spread of this Essay.

### **Holdings of the Central Council Library**

The Central Council Library holds copies of all the editions of Snowdon's other publications which are mentioned in this Essay, with the surprising exception of the Union Scholars booklet. I am aware that a facsimile edition is available on the internet, and it is also available as an e-book, but would like to think that an original copy could be found for the Central Council Library. We also have still to find a first edition of *Ropesight*!

<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Edition</b>	<b>No. of pages</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Snowdon, J.W. & Tuke, R	An Account of the Society of Union Scholars ... and an Appendix by Jasper W. Snowdon and Robert Tuke	John Dale and Co., Printers, Bridge Street and Leeds Road, Bradford	Bradford	1877	First (only)	49	
Snowdon, J.W.	A Treatise on Treble Bob. Part 1.	(The author)	Leeds	1878	First	xv + 86	
Snowdon, J.W.	A Treatise on Treble Bob. Part 1.	Wells Gardner, Darton & Co.	London	1902	Second	x + 98	Edited by Wm. Snowdon
Snowdon, J.W.	A Treatise on Treble Bob. Part II.	Yorkshire Post (Printers)	Leeds	1879	First	XV + 121	
Snowdon, J.W.	Double Norwich Court Bob Major	Wells Gardner, Darton & Co.	London	1884		viii + 71	
Snowdon, J.W.	Grandsire, its Peals and History	Wells Gardner, Darton & Co.	London	1888	First	viii + 202	Edited by W. Snowdon, with memoir of J.W. Snowdon, and an appendix by Rev. C.D.P. Davis
Snowdon, J.W.	Grandsire, its Peals and History	Fred. R. Spark and Son	Leeds	1905	Second	viii + 240	Edited by W. Snowdon, with memoir of J.W. Snowdon, and an appendix by Rev. C.D.P. Davis and the Thompson papers
Trollope, J. Armiger	Grandsire	Miss M.E. Snowdon	Cartmel	1948		130	An entirely new edition
Trollope, J. Armiger	Grandsire	Christopher Groome	Kettering	1973		128	Reprint of the 1948 work
Davis, Rev. C.D.P.	Stedman	Fred. R. Spark and Son	Leeds	1903		vi + 270	With a history of the method by J.W. Snowdon and various appendices
Davis, Rev. C.D.P.	Stedman	Ellis Publications	Surrey, B.C.	2008		vi + 270	With a history of the method by J.W. Snowdon and various appendices. Facsimile reprint of the 1903 edition.
Trollope. J.A.	Stedman	Miss M.E. Snowdon	Cartmel	1938		150	Incorporating the history of the method by J.W. Snowdon
Davis, Rev. C.D.P.	Surprise Methods (selected and popular) for 6 and 8 bells.	Whitehead and Miller, Ltd.	Leeds	1927		127	Incorporating the history of the method by J.W. Snowdon

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CENTRAL COUNCIL OF  
A  
CHURCH BELL RINGERS

# TREATISE ON TREBLE BOB.

PART I.

CONTAINING

THE HISTORY OF TREBLE BOB; WITH AN EXPLANATION OF THE IS AND OUT-OF-COURSE OF THE CHANGES; THE MATH OF PROGRESS TEACHERS AND PRACTICE; THE QUALITIES AND MODE OF TRANSMISSING BEATS; WITH ELABORATE INSTRUCTIONS FOR IMPROVING BEATS; AN EXPLANATION OF LOCKWOOD'S SYSTEM OF COMPOSITION, AND LINES ON CONDUCTING AND CALLING BOUNDS.

BY

JASPER WHITFIELD SNOWDON,

*President of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers; also a Member of the Eborac Academy Society of Change Ringers; the Ancient Society of College Youth; the St. James's Society of Change Ringers; the Waterloo Society of Change Ringers; and the Norwich Diocesan Association of Change Ringers.*

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE AUTHOR, OLD BANK CHAMBERS, LEEDS.

1878.

The title page of *A Treatise on Treble Bob Part I.*

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF

A CHURCH BELL RINGERS

# TREATISE ON TREBLE BOB.

PART II.

CONTAINING

PEALS OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, MAJOR, ROYAL, AND MIXED, WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE VARIATIONS, ARRANGED UNDER A DISTINCT SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION; WITH REMARKS UPON THE SEVERAL QUALITIES TO BE FOUND IN THE VARIOUS CLASSES; AND PARTICULARS OF THE FIRST TIME OF PERFORMANCE, ETC.

BY

JASPER WHITFIELD SNOWDON,

*President of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers; also a Member of the Holy Trinity Society of Change Ringers; the Ancient Society of College Youth; the St. Anna's Society of Change Ringers; the Waterloo Society of Change Ringers; the Norwich and Ipswich Diocesan Associations of Change Ringers; and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.*

LONDON:

PRINTED AT THE OFFICE OF THE YORKSHIRE POST, 23, ALBION STREET.

1879.

***A Treatise ...Part II just contains peal compositions.***

THE METHOD  
OF  
DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

OR  
PRICKING AND RINGING THE METHOD,  
WITH  
A COLLECTION OF COMPOSITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR PROVING THE SAME;  
ALSO  
A HISTORY OF ALL PEALS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN  
RUNG IN THE METHOD.

BY  
JASPER WHITFIELD SNOWDON,

*President of the Yorkshire Association of Change-Ringers; also a Member of the Hbley Amateur Society of Change-Ringers; the Dublin-uniform St. Paul's Society of Change-Ringers; the Birmingham St. Martin's Youth; the Ancient Society of College Youths; the St. James's Society of Change-Ringers; the Waterloo Society of Change-Ringers; the Norwich, Gloucester and Bristol, Durham Diocesan and the Midland Counties Associations of Change-Ringers; and the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.*

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

LONDON:  
WHEEL GARDNER, DARTON, & Co., 2, PATERNOSTER BUILDINGS.

1884

CENTRAL COUNCIL OF  
CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Despite the popularity of DNCB, this book was never reissued



SNOWDON'S CHANGE-RINGING SERIES.

“GRANDSIRE”

THE METHOD,  
ITS PEALS, AND HISTORY.

BY THE LATE

JASPER WHITEFIELD SNOWDON.

WITH PORTRAIT AND MEMOIR;

EDITED BY HIS BROTHER, WM. SNOWDON,  
*President of the Yorkshire Association of Change-Ringers;*

TOGETHER WITH AN

APPENDIX,

BY THE

REV. CHAS. D. P. DAVIES, M.A.,

*Late Scholar of Pembroke College, Oxford; Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association; Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the St. James's Society, the Oxford University Society, the Oxford Diocesan Guild, the Devonshire Guild, the Midland Counties' Association, the Herefordshire Guild, the Herefordshire Association, the Worcester Association, the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, and Honorary Member of the Cheltenham Society.*

PRICE TWO SHILLINGS.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.

LONDON:

WELLS GARDNER, DARTON, & Co., 2, PATERNOSTER BUILDINGS.

1883.

POST FREE FOR 2S. FROM WM. SNOWDON, OLD BANK CHAMBERS, LEEDS.

Jasper Snowdon's last, posthumous, textbook.