### Tower

**Architect:** Milton B. Medary (Philadelphia)

**Purpose:** To house the carillon; serve as a centerpiece for the Gardens; the private use of the Bok family.

**Built:** 1927-1929

**Height:** 205 ft. (62.5 meters)

**Weight:** 5,500 tons (5,000 metric tons)

**Structure:** Steel frame with brick walls; outer facing of pink and gray Georgia marble and Florida coquina, a limestone of shell and coral fragments

**Foundation:** 160 reinforced concrete piles, 13-24 ft. (4-7 meters) underground, with a concrete cap of 2 ft. 6 in (.8 meter)

**Sculpture:** Lee Lawrie (New York City)

Herons at the top; eagles at the base of the bellchamber. All sculptures were carved in place.

**Colorful Grilles near the top:**

Ceramic tiles designed by J.H. Dulles Allen (Philadelphia)

**Brass Door and Wrought-iron Gates with Birds:**

Samuel Yellin (Philadelphia);

depicts the Biblical story of Creation

**Inscription under the Sundial:**

This Singing Tower with its adjacent Sanctuary was dedicated and presented to the American people by Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States, February 1, 1929.

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### Inside The Singing Tower

1. Founder’s Room
2. Chao Research Center (Archives)
3. Maintenance Workshop
4. Anton Brees Carillon Library
5. Carillonneur’s Studio
6. Keyboard Room
7. Carillon (60 bells)

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### Carillon

**Bellfounder:** John Taylor Bellfounders, Ltd. (Loughborough, England)

**Size:** 60 bronze bells

**Bell weights:** 16 lbs to 11+ tons (10+ metric tons)

total: 63+ tons (57+ metric tons)

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### Daily Carillon Music

William De Turk, Carillonneur

Concerts

1 and 3 p.m.

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### Is the Tower ever open to the Public?

At the Sustainer Level Membership and above you will receive an invitation for two to one of the four annual Founder’s Room tours! Sign up for your Membership today in the Visitor Center!
Carillonneur

William (Bill) De Turk has been director of carillon services since July 1, 2004, after serving as assistant carillonneur and librarian since 1993. A native of the Philadelphia area, he received a bachelor of music degree cum honore from Heidelberg University in Tiffin, Ohio, and master of music degree in organ performance from the University of Michigan, where he studied the carillon with Percival Price, university carillonneur and noted campanologist. In 1974, he was invited to become our first carillon scholar and worked for one year with Milford Myhre.

Former carillonneur (1981-87) for the University of Michigan, Bill hosted the 1986 World Carillon congress, the first held in North America. Activities of The Guild of Carillonneurs in North America (GCNA) include four years as president and archivist since 1972.

He has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Europe, and has published 11 articles on carillons and bells. Honors include the Berkeley Medal from the University of California at Berkeley for distinguished service to the carillon and a plaque and bell for his extraordinary contribution to the art of the carillon at the combined 12th World Carillon Federation Congress and 39th International Carillon Festival in Springfield, Illinois. Recently he was invited by the Canadian government to present a recital, master class and lecture in Ottawa for the first annual Percival Price Symposium.

## Carillonneur Emeritus

Milford Myhre retired in June 2004 after 36 years as our carillonneur. He obtained his musical training at the University of Nebraska, the University of Michigan and the Royal Carillon School “Jef Denyn” in Belgium. President for both the GCNA and the World Carillon Federation, he has performed in North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand during his distinguished career of more than 50 years. Many of his carillon arrangements have been published and honors include the Berkeley Medal, honorary membership in the GCNA and Guilde des Carillonneurs de France, and an honorary doctorate from the University of the South in Tennessee.

## First Carillonneur

Anton Brees (Antwerp, Belgium) served as our first carillonneur from 1928 until his death in 1967. Named in his honor, the Anton Brees Carillon Library, located on the fifth level of the Tower, is the largest and most comprehensive carillon library in the world.

## For more information

The Visitor Center features permanent exhibits on the history of Edward Bok and the Singing Tower. In the Tower & Garden Gift Shop you can purchase the booklet “Viewing, Understanding, Appreciating Bok Singing Tower,” carillon CDs and other unique gifts from Bok Tower Gardens.