

## J Armiger Trollope



*A portrait from Bell News (1896)*

One of the outstanding personalities of the first half of the twentieth century was Jabez Armiger Trollope ('Jimmy' to his intimates). Born in Norwich in 1876, he learned to ring there in 1892. In 1897 he became a representative member on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers and an honorary member in 1900, a position he held until his death in 1947. He served with distinction on several committees, where his extensive knowledge of composition was put to good use.

In 1902 he moved to Ealing and although initially he spent much time on his other interest of photography he returned to his main interest of ringing. He is remembered best as a distinguished historian of the Exercise. During the 1920s and 30s, while not working, he spent much time in the British Museum where he researched his monumental history of London ringing in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In 1934/35 he acted as editor of *The Ringing World* when J S Goldsmith went on the 'Great Adventure' to Australia. When Goldsmith became ill early in the second world war, Trollope took over as editor, and continued after Goldsmith's death. Little was happening during the war years, and it was only Trollope's wealth of knowledge that could be printed to fill the pages that kept the paper going during a very difficult time. In 1946 he resigned as editor after an unfortunate dispute, and he died in the following year.

Part of Trollope's manuscript was used as the basis for his book on the College Youths, published for the tercentenary in 1937, and other sections were used during the war years (and reproduced at various times since), but the bulk has never been published. It is now in the Central Council Library, and consists of about 7,000 pages written in Trollope's large copperplate handwriting. It is illustrated with prints, photographs and pen-and-ink drawings drawn by Trollope.