

From the Museum Collections

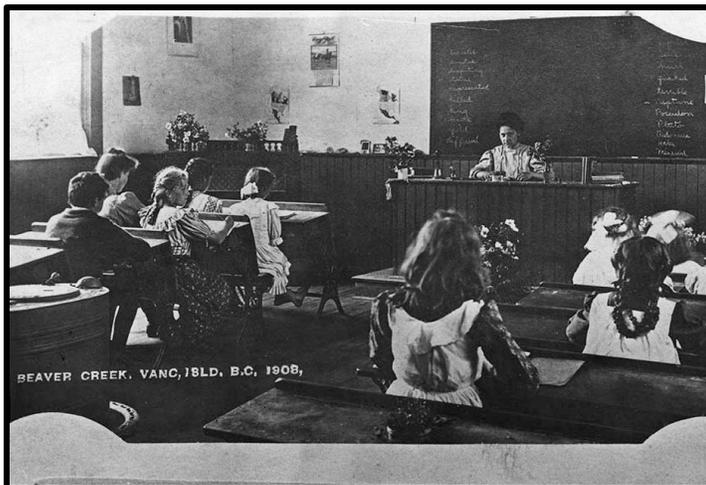
The first bells are believed to be from 3rd century BC and were made of pottery. Around the 2nd century, metal bells were invented using the same process invented for use as finger cymbals. The process of making a metal bell is called *founding*. Schools started using the bell to alert students to the start and end of the school day because many churches shared the same space as the school. Therefore, the bell was an easy way of getting the students attention.

Around 1700, William and Robert Cor in England invented the handheld bell. Most bells have the shape of a hollow cup that when struck vibrates. Bells are usually cast from *bell metal* (a type of bronze) for its resonant properties, but can also be made of other metals depending on its use. The study of bells is called *campanology*. You can



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see this bell in the community case in the Alberni Valley Museum.



AVM PN01058

the front of the class so she had a good view of all the students, no electricity, a wall of windows to the left for light and a large slate blackboard at the front of the class. This photograph is one of nearly 24,000 photographs in the Alberni Valley Museum's collection. You can access this collection from home by visiting: <http://portalberni.pastperfectonline.com/> As the story goes the student brings an apple to the teacher. Have fun making an apple pencil topper.