



THE  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
of Cincinnati  
and  
Hamilton County

800 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
45202-2071

Contact  
Phyllis Hegner  
Phone•369•4571  
or  
Richard Helmes  
Phone•369•6959

Fax 513•369•4565

## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

REFLECTIONS ON THE

August 15, 2003

**RIVER**



The Library Celebrates

**TALL STACKS**

Ring in the Fascination of the Verdin Company's Bell Casting Exhibit at the Main Library

(September 4 - November 15)

The Verdin Company, the world's largest supplier of bells and clocks, brings the spirit of its Bicentennial road show to the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County. As part of the Ohio Bicentennial Bell Project, the company has traveled around with the world's first mobile foundry casting bells in every county to celebrate the state's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. Before year's end, all 88 counties within the state will be the proud owners of a handmade bell molded in the American style of the Liberty Bell. While the Cincinnati-based company won't be casting any bells at the Public Library, it will present a special exhibit about its history and the bell casting process, from placing ingots into the furnace and creating the mold to pouring the bell and removing its shell.

From September 4 - November 15, the exhibit will be on view at the Main Library (800 Vine Street) in the Art & Music Department (South building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor). But the best part comes when the bell is hung. Those planning to attend the *Tall Stacks Music, Arts & Heritage Festival* can experience firsthand, Verdin's rare casting of Hamilton County's bell, October 15-16.

## **HISTORY OF THE VERDIN COMPANY**

In 1835, two Verdin brothers emigrated to Yorkville, Indiana from Alsace-Lorraine, France. They were skilled as metal forgers and went into business manufacturing tower clocks. In 1842, they moved their business to the Over-the-Rhine area of Cincinnati, where their first recorded work was a tower clock for Old St. Mary's Church.

Around the turn of the century, they expanded their business to include bell-ringing equipment, and soon they were supplying bells and equipment to churches and towns all around the area.

Today, the company has 35,000 installations worldwide and is led by the fifth generation of Verdins. The Verdin Company's world headquarters is housed in a 150-year-old church, which they completely restored in 1981. They also have two manufacturing facilities, one for bells and bell-ringing equipment, and one for tower clocks and street clocks.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- 200 years ago bells were used to call Ohioans to school and church. They were also rung in village courthouses and on family farms.
- Bronze metal is a combination of 80% copper; 20% tin.
- The largest swinging bell in the world is a Verdin Bell. The World Peace Bell, 66,000 pounds, 12 feet tall, 12 feet wide is on display in Newport, Kentucky in the Millennium Monument Pavilion

√Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: [www.CincinnatiLibrary.org](http://www.CincinnatiLibrary.org).

√Interpreter available upon request for the hearing impaired. Please call 369-6944 (TDD 369-6946) at least one week before program.