

BIG BEN

Big Ben - the bell tower in London, the part of the architectural complex of the Palace of Westminster.

The official name - "Clock Tower of Westminster Palace", also called "the Tower of St. Stephen. "

**The tower was built in
1858, the clock tower
was set on foot 21 May
1859.**

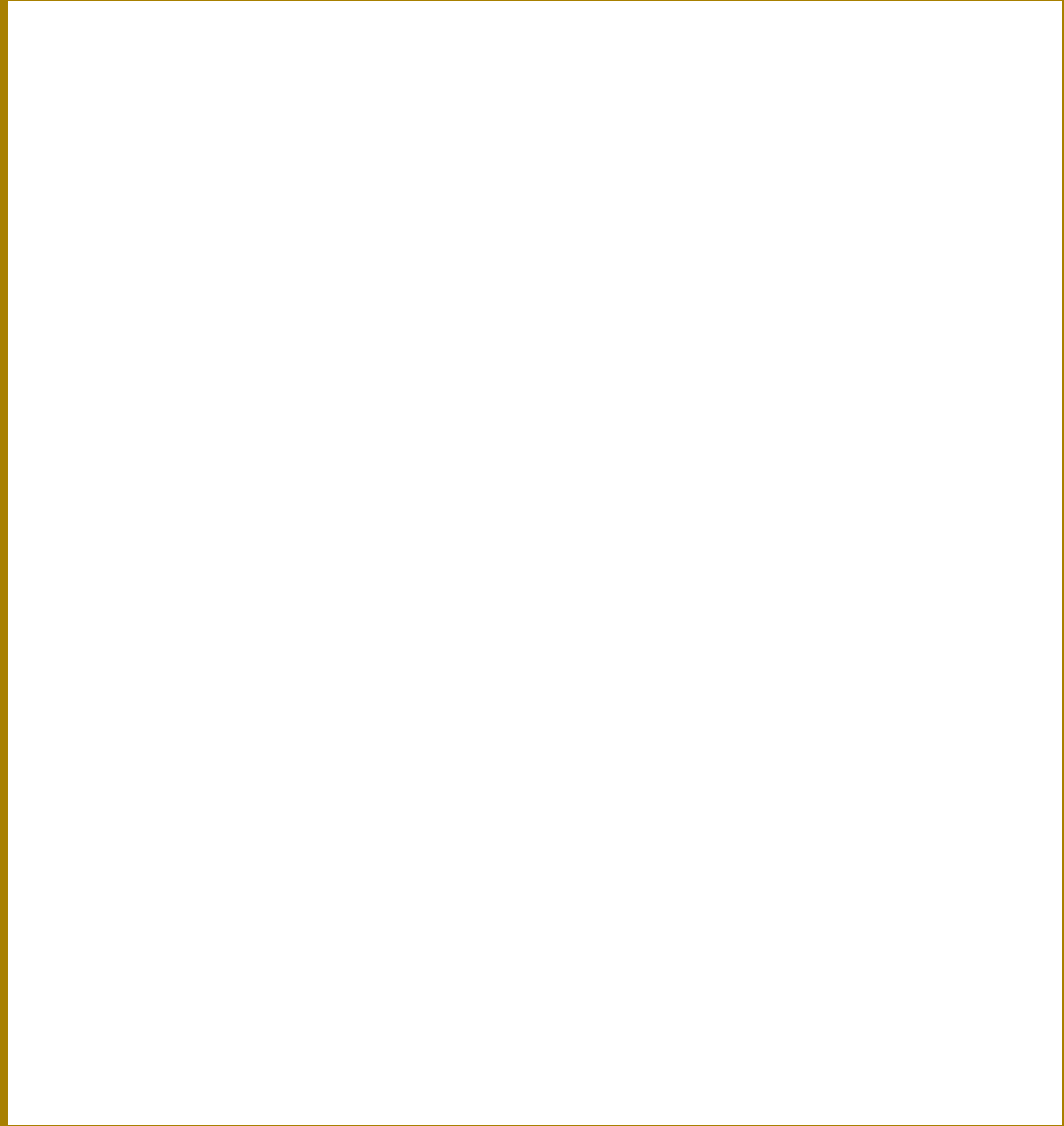
In 1844 by the decision of the Parliament there was established a commission for the construction of the clock tower. The following requirements for clock were: the first hit of the bell should correspond to hour up to a second.

But by 1851, there was found a designer who decided to such a step - Edmund Beckett Denison, who decided to break the record of weight of the bell in York ("Peter the Great") in 10 tons and cast a bell weighing 16 tons.

*Casting was engaged by
George Mears.*

*During the week the
bell was melting
and then 20 days were
spent on the fact that
the metal cooled down
and took shape. It
happened on April 10,
1858*

*And after testing May
31, 1859 the bell
was taken to the
building of the
Parliament with the
enthusiastic cheers of
the crowd.*



However, after 2 months the bell cracked to a huge upset of Denison. Weight of the hammer which beat the bell, was twice as heavy as the maximum possible weight of the hammer defined by George Mears.

During 3 years the bell was inactive, and instead beat off hours bell, responsible for a quarter of an hour.

Later there was made easier bolt , but the crack is still making its presence felt in the world famous chimes.

Iron arrows were poured from a lighter alloy. Clock was opened May 31, 1859. Up to 1912 clock was covered by gas jets, which were later replaced by electric lamps. And on the radio for the first time chimes sounded December 31, 1923.





**The mechanism that activates the hammer of
the bell of Big Ben.**

The name Big Ben is surrounded by interesting stories. The official version: the bell is named after the chief of construction sulfur Benjamin Hall. For its impressive size foreman was given the nickname Big Ben. Another version - the bell got its name from the athlete and boxer of times of Queen Victoria.

*On the perimeter
of the tower on
the right and left
of the clock there
is inscribed the
phrase in Latin:
«Laus Deo»
(«Thank God" or
"Glory to God")*

***There are also
many different
copies of the
famous Big
Ben.***

