

THE MALTESE IN THE WORLD

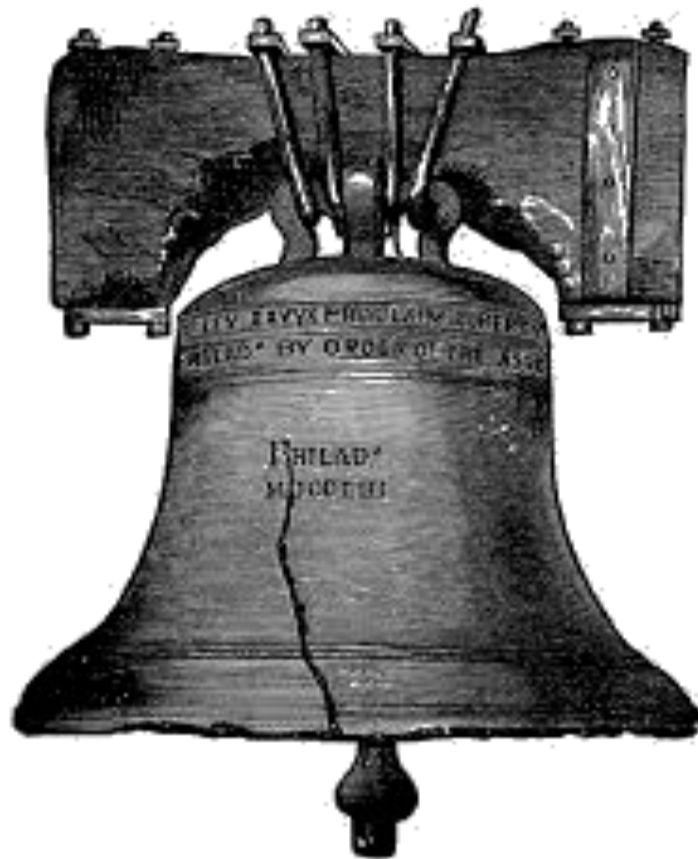
John Pace (Pass) and the Liberty Bell of Philadelphia

The Liberty Bell, the historic and iconic symbol of the American Independence, found in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. was cast by a Maltese migrant John Pace whose anglicised name became Pass.

Pace or Pass, was one of the best bell founders in Malta. His name is stamped on the Liberty Bell or the Independence Bell. He migrated to America when Malta was ruled by the Knights. He was born in Cospicua, a harbour town facing Valletta. A street is named after him in this town.

According to tradition, the bell tolled on

the 7th of July 1776 to summon the citizens of Philadelphia for the reading of the Declaration of Independence. It was later adopted by the American Anti-Slavery Society as a symbol of the Abolitionist movement.



The Liberty Bell

The bell was ordered in 1751 by the Pennsylvania Provincial Assembly for use in the Pennsylvania State House. It weighed 2,080 lbs and was delivered to Philadelphia in late August/early September 1752 via the ship HMS Hibernia. Unfortunately, the bell cracked during testing.

John Pass and John Stow were contracted to recast the bell. The bell cracked again almost a century later in July 1835.



Painting by Jean Leon Gerome showing John Pass testing the Liberty Bell at the Pass and Stow Foundry .



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