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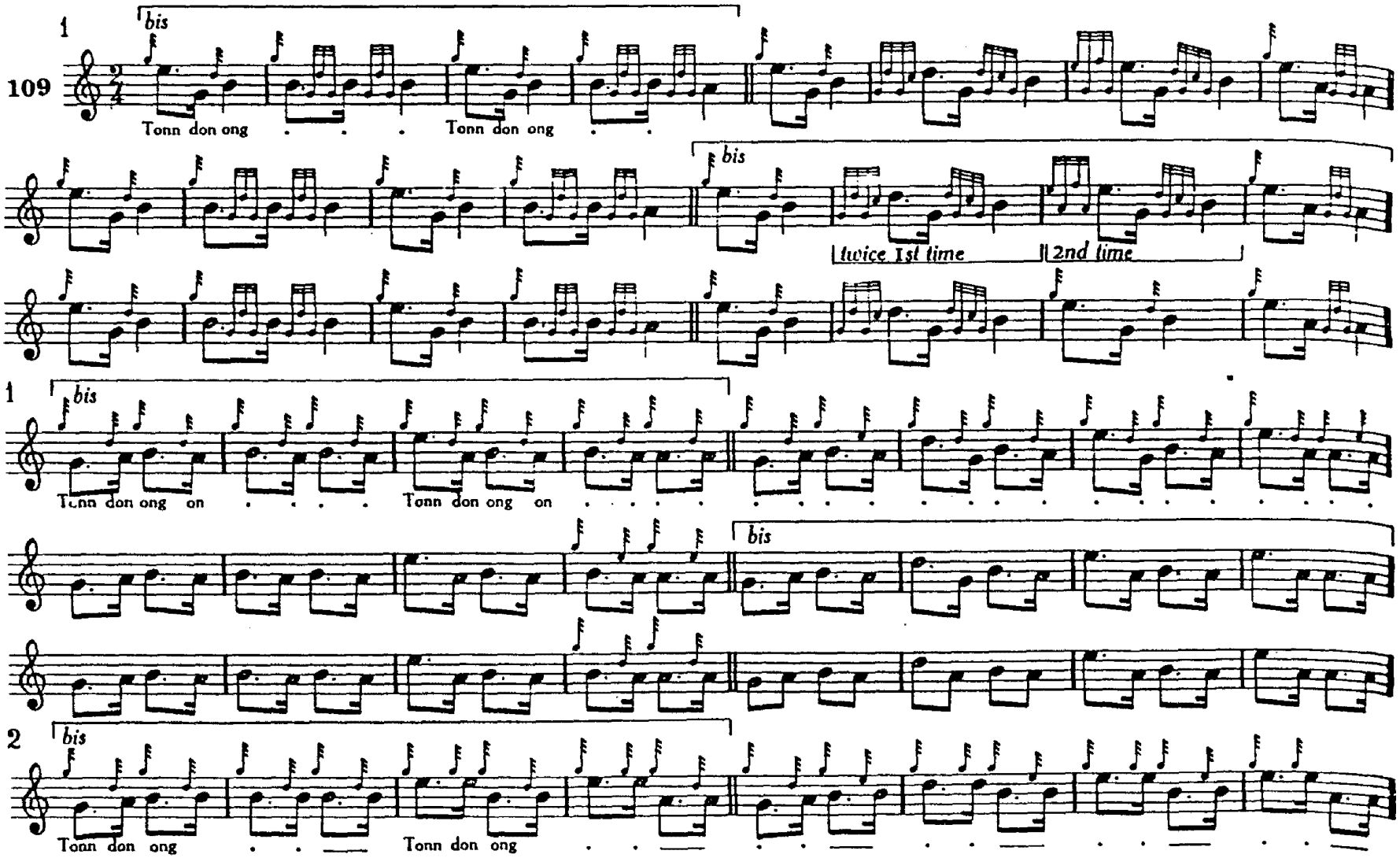
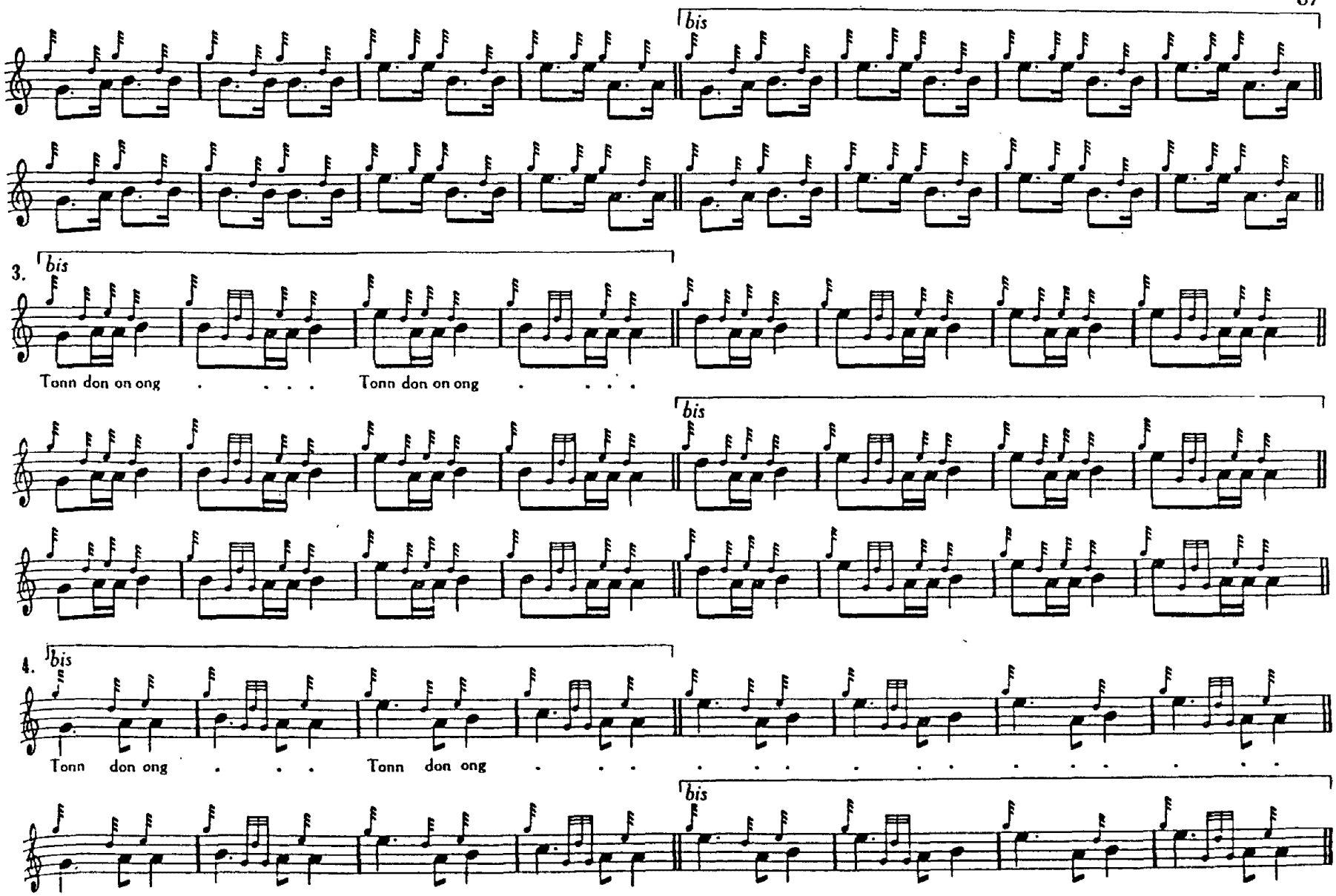
VILLAGE CHURCH BELL (A descriptive pibroch) THE PIPER ON THE HILL-SIDE IMITATES THE BELL

By J. D. R. WATT

To get the Bell note correctly in regular even rhythm throughout, it should be played "Tonn-don-ong," to get the right effect of a single bell




bis
3.
bis
Tonn don on ong . . . . Tonn don on ong . . . .
bis
4.
bis
Tonn don ong . . . Tonn don ong . . . . . .
bis

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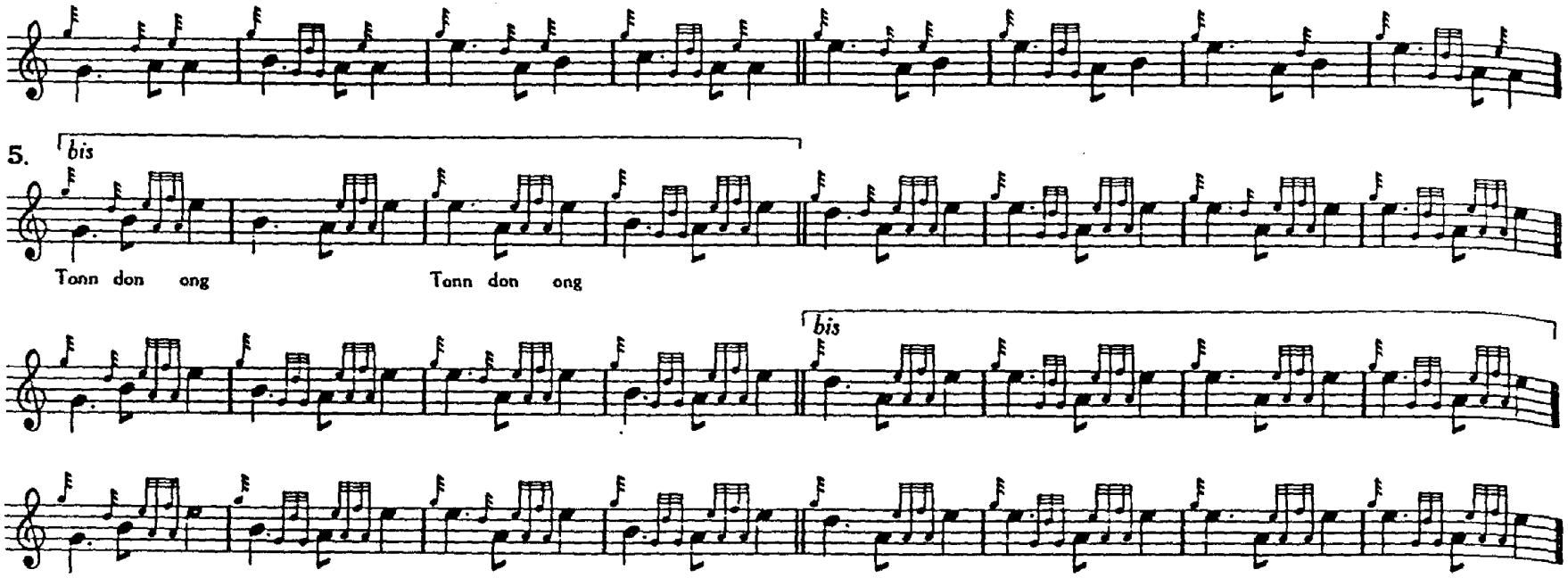
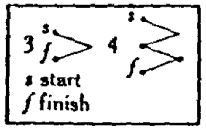


THE VILLAGE CHURCH BELL

A Piper friend of the writer, who spent his boyhood days "within sound" of three Highland church-bells learnt their "song," which has remained with him all his life. Now the ringing of a church bell is an art, and needs to be learnt, and the knack or trick of it acquired; One reason for the remembrance of the same being the occasion of the appearance of a new bell-ringer when the whole countryside around knew the difference and laughed at his efforts.

Start with 'Ton don ong for a while, making a 'Torluath' of three notes of it. Then pulling harder it becomes 'Ton don on ong'; When it is in full swing the last beat, *ong* in each case, is long, and starts to die out in each case before the next *Ton* accent. When it is in full swing it is '*Ton* don Ton *don*'. The accented beats proving the 'Torluath' correct. A good player can change from one set of beats to another at will! Some manage to get in an extra small beat of the 4 note beat like 'Ton Ton don onn on'. The pulling has to be timed exactly. The ringer does not look up but goes by sound.

To follow the bell-clapper with the eye (as an experiment), stick a small white feather on the end of the clapper, then hold the Bell over the mirror as in the 4-note movement the clapper moves too fast for the unaided eye. In the 3-note movement the clapper strikes once on the impulse side and once on the opposite side—once again on the impulse side. In the 4-note movement it strikes three times on impulse side and once on the opposite side. As the rim of the bell is swinging in space the clapper does not strike the rim of the bell in the spot in space as is shown here at *s*. *f*.



scientific facts and one also knows the correct bell note by ear.