



# The Doorknob Collector

MARCH-APRIL 1980

## EDITORS' NICHE

This newsletter is a delayed edition because of other obligations in March and early April which had to be taken care of by your editors. We thank you for your patience.

Please help us with any information that you come across which might be of interest to our readers. We need your contributions.

In New Jersey "vanity" auto licence plates have just become available within the last year. Rich received as a gift, plates with the letters DORNOB on them. If you are driving through the state and see these plates, you will know that he is ahead of you or you have just passed him.

In our last issue, we printed the address for F.E. Jarvis incorrectly. The correct address is 127 Prospect Ave. N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our apologies for any inconvenience.

Faye and Rich Kennedy  
Editors

## CORRESPONDENCE

In our Nov.-Dec. 1979 issue we mentioned if anyone had noticed those beautiful doorknobs in Dis-

neyworld and Disneyland. Vi Raffin (San Jose, Cal.) dropped us a line and said she had been talking with a person who started working at Disneyland when it first opened and he told Vi that, in fact, the doorknobs were reproductions. That's still hard to believe because there are so many different designs. Many we recognized from our own and other's collections. It seems almost too expensive to make only one or two reproduction knobs. Well, even if they are reproductions, my family and I were greatly impressed at the detail Disney includes in the park and we thank Vi for her information.

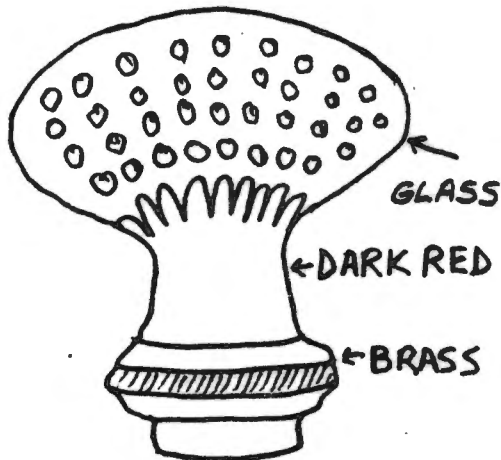
Ed O'Leary dropped us a line back in January and said he was moving to California during the next year and would like it to be known that he is interested in selling many of his doorknobs. If you are interested, contact him at:

313 Stephensen Ave.  
Escanaba, Mich. 49829

Florence Jarvis (Grand Rapids, Mich.) writes:

My sister just returned from Brazil and brought me a beautiful pair of doorknobs. They are glass, clear on the outside with a Bohemian red on the

inside. When viewed from the top it looks like a honey comb with the cells appearing hollow. I really am not sure if it would be called a paperweight because when I pushed a rod up into it, it went in quite a ways. ... The knob is 2" in diameter.



John Holland says he has some emblematic knobs that he would like to trade. Contact him at:

3434 N. 47th Way  
Phoenix, Ariz. 85018

Jerry Johnson (Indianapolis, Ind.) mentioned to us in a note recently that he is in need of six sets of steel Yale knobs and lock sets model AS 185. His address is: 830 E. Southport Rd. Indianapolis, Ind. 46277

## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Our collector this month is from Berkeley Heights, N.J. Greg O'Connor has a most unique way of collecting doorknobs. Unlike most of us who have to visit antique shops and flea markets, Greg finds them while he is at work. As a telephone installer for New Jersey Bell, he has the opportunity to enter people's homes and see the knobs in use.

As Greg put it, "While I'm installing or removing a phone, I'm looking around in hopes of finding an unusual knob. If the

owner is agreeable I swap the new find for one I have in my truck."

Greg's been collecting for about seven years and started when he was living in an apartment and found an old door with some unusual knobs on it. His favorite one is a cut glass knob which came from a very old home while he was doing some phone work there. He has about 150 knobs altogether, including glass to brass, and is willing to trade for like kind.

148 Forrest Ave.

Berkeley Heights, N.J. 07922

## GOLD RUSH


Apparently from what we've been hearing, doorknobs have gotten caught up in the gold rush. Several weeks ago, George Doyle (W. Hartford, Conn.) dropped me a note to say his sister-in-law who lives in New Rochelle, N.Y. heard a local radio announcement that someone had sold an 8 pound solid gold doorknob for \$45,000. We have since heard this same story from two other sources, but do not know the exact source of it. We're just hoping it will not be melted down for gold boullion. Did one of you out there buy it?

## QUESTION & ANSWERS

Answers are still coming in concerning the knob pictured in the Nov.-Dec. 1978 issue. Bud Wolski sent this information:

The knob was listed in the 1938 Peabody-Archer Catalog #938 and could have been from another earlier company here is L.A. The pattern was also cast in iron, but not by Peabody. They were a non-ferris foundry only. The Schlegg Lock Company took only part of Peabody. Glenn and Clyde Vance formed Southeast Hardware Mfg. and Earle Whitney Sr. formed "Hardware Design Ltd." Both offered this pattern. "HDL" is now

defunct and much of its patterns were sold to "Seco" (Southeast Hardware Mfg.).

Hope this does not confuse the origin, but I think it may have been created by on Mr. Earle here is L.A. in the early '20's. The bear with his name inside was his logo.  This man was a real artist at the forge and foundry.



## LOCK SHOW

We have received this notice of a lock show:

2nd Annual Midwest Lock and Key Show and Auction  
Saturday and Sunday, June 28,29,  
1980 10:00 A.M. till 5:00P.M.  
at the Leaning Tower YMCA, 6300  
W. Touhy Ave. Niles, Ill.

This is north of Chicago on I94, off at Touhy Ave.--west 2 miles and look for the replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Exhibition tables are \$10.00 each for the two days, admission is \$2.00. To reserve a table, contact Don Friedman, 4900 Jerome, Skokie, Ill. (312) 679-4424

This is the second year of this fine exhibition, selling and trading show. Last year was a rousing success, and this year will be even better. Here are some of the arrangements the have already been made:

1. 300 lock auction on Sun. at 2:00 P.M.

2. Special exhibits
3. All exhibits will be eligible for display awards.
4. All dealers and exhibitors will have locks and keys to sell and trade.
5. Large room with 6 ft. display tables.
6. Lectures on locks and keys by specialists in their own field.

All proceeds will go to the Lock Museum of America, Terryville, Conn.

## EMBLEMATIC KNOBS

Wendell Trumbull (Bethlehem, Pa.) paid us a visit last fall when we photographed these knobs. Most of the knobs pictured are in his collection. The others are from the collection of Richard Kennedy.

As stated in Maud Eastwood's THE ANTIQUE DOORKNOB, often some symbol was employed in the design of the knob which indicated something about the organization. In the City of Newark knob the center appears to be the seal of N.J. with two women and the plough. Likewise, the New York Lodge has a very elaborate seal in the center. Note the six small stars and the one large star as the background. Both of the knobs have the scale in the woman's hand.

The shriner knob features their logo, as does the YMCA, the Commodore Hotel, and the Firemens Insurance Company. The eleventh hour has special meaning to the Masons and also fit nicely on the knob.

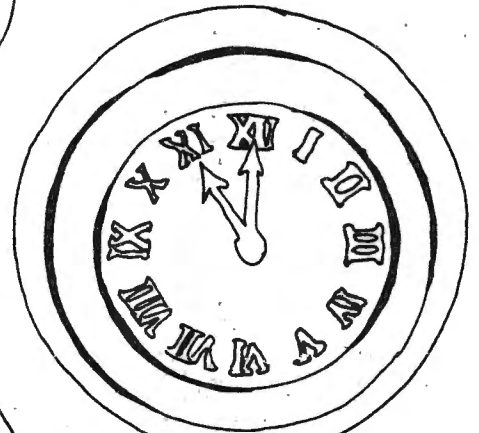
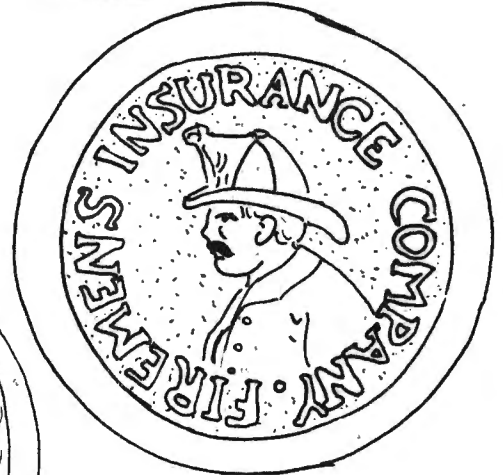
Many of the knobs just have initials which make identification difficult. Maybe one of you know what the initials PB, LC, T, SP, AEL, or KT CO. stand for. Possibly the KT Co. came from Pa. because of the keystone.

Other knobs with initials have been identified. The ST with the T looking like an anchor

is from the Statler Towers, but we do not know which city. Many of you bought the LS knob of the La Salle hotel in Chicago. The GHS stands for Girl's High School in Reading, Pa.

Two of the knobs hail from Philadelphia. They are the Wanamaker knob from the famous department store in that city. The Sylvania knob is from a hotel there.

We did not picture the New York Public School knob because it is nicely pictured in Maude's book. The Board of Education of Newark has the fancy initials NPS paired in the center. New York also had a knob just for its Board of Education building which had an unusual shape also.



MASONIC



SHRINER



YMCA



STATLER TOWERS



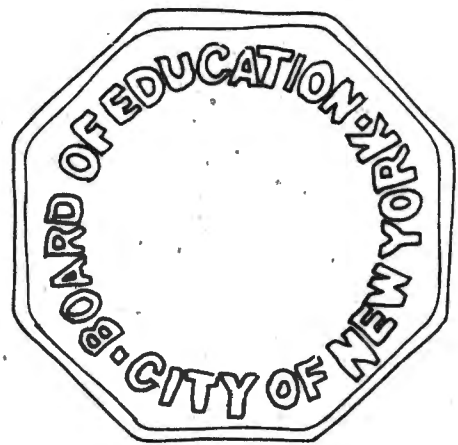
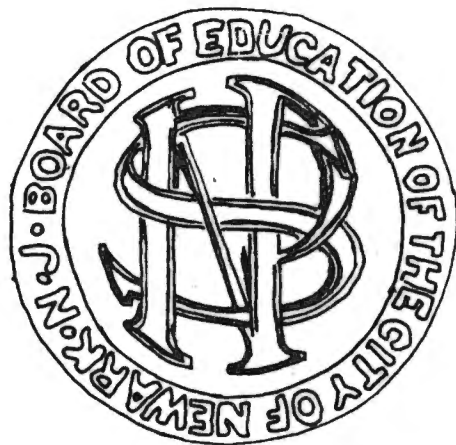
LA SALLE HOTEL



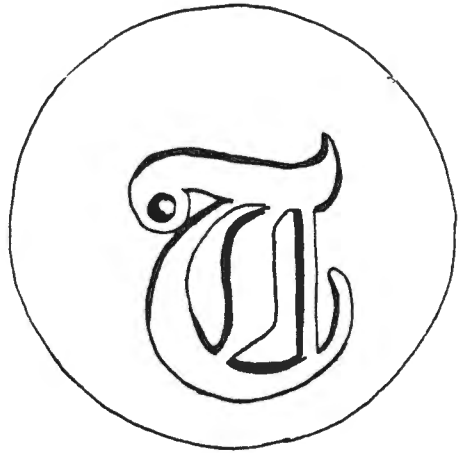
GIRL'S HIGH SCHOOL

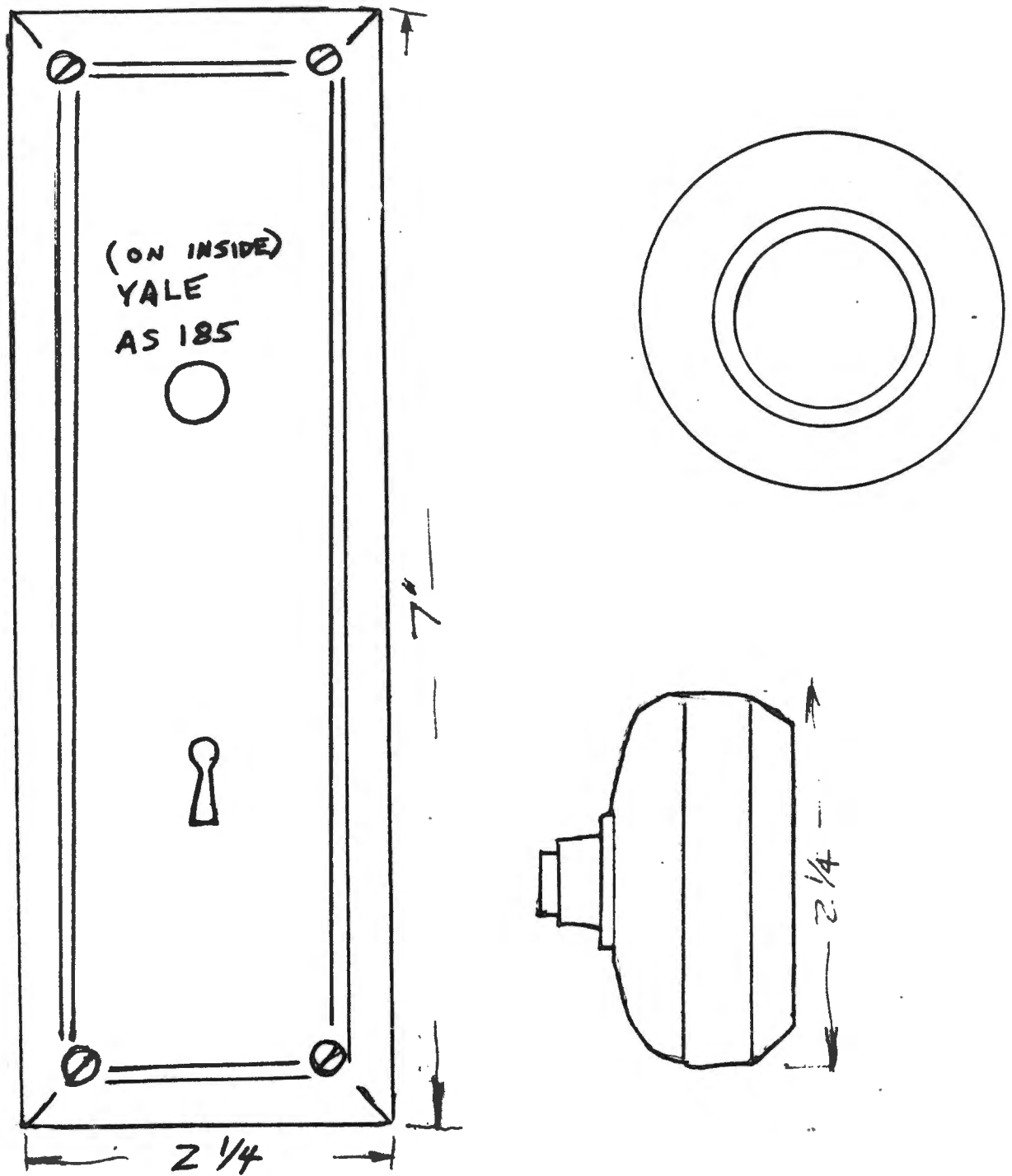


SYLVANIA HOTEL



UNIDENTIFIED





Steel Yale knob and lock sets needed by Jerry Johnson. See pg. 2.