

The Doorknob Collector



"JAPANESE FLYING BIRD"
PATENTED JUNE 3, 1879
BY RUDOLPHE CHRISTESEN
ASSIGNED TO RUSSELL &
ERWIN MANUFACTURING CO.

From the President

The 1982 Antique Doorknob Collectors of America convention was a great success.

The convention facilities offered at the corporate headquarters of the Schlage Lock Company were perfect. Viewing their extensive and priceless collection of locks and keys, many dating back to ancient times, was an unexpected bonus.

We enjoyed the fellowship of seeing old friends and making new ones, ample trading and buying/selling sessions, browsing through excellent displays, studying Maud Eastwood's new book, our first auction, presentations by Charles Wardell and Maudie, security provided by the most genial and gracious guards, good food and conversation.

There was of course, the charm of San Francisco in September, many of us took a ride on a cable car just days before the system shut down for repairs.

To top things off there was the open house at Len and Pattie Blumin's intriguing victorian house in Mill Valley among the "young" redwoods.

We thank Emil Miller, the Schlage representative in Omaha, for paving the way for using the convention facilities and to our able program chairman, Len Blumin, who confirms the old maxim, that if you want to get the job done right, give the task to a busy man.

Forty three persons registered for the convention (four were unable to attend) compared to thirty four attending in 1981. Our club now has a total of seventy four members. Numbers do not, however, tell the whole story. In just one year we have successfully formed a club which has accomplished exactly what we set out to do: To associate those interested in collecting antique doorknobs and related hardware. Several people at the convention commented on the enthusiasm, helpfulness and friendliness of our members. Our future as a viable club looks

B R I G H T !

Continued on next page

FROM THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED:

Seven directors were elected at the annual meeting, by-laws were adopted, annual dues were set at \$20. per year or \$150. for a lifetime membership. The membership voted in favor of another convention in September 1983, in the midwestern area of the country.

The following were elected to the Board of Directors for 1982/83

Len Blumin	Mill Valley, CA
Arnie Fredrick	Waverly, IA
John Holland	Phoenix, AZ
Lee Kaiser	Minneapolis, MN
Dorothy Ann Miller	Omaha, NE
Loretta Nemec	Naperville, IL
Charles Wardell	Trinity, N.C.

Following the annual meeting the Board of Directors met and elected the following officers:

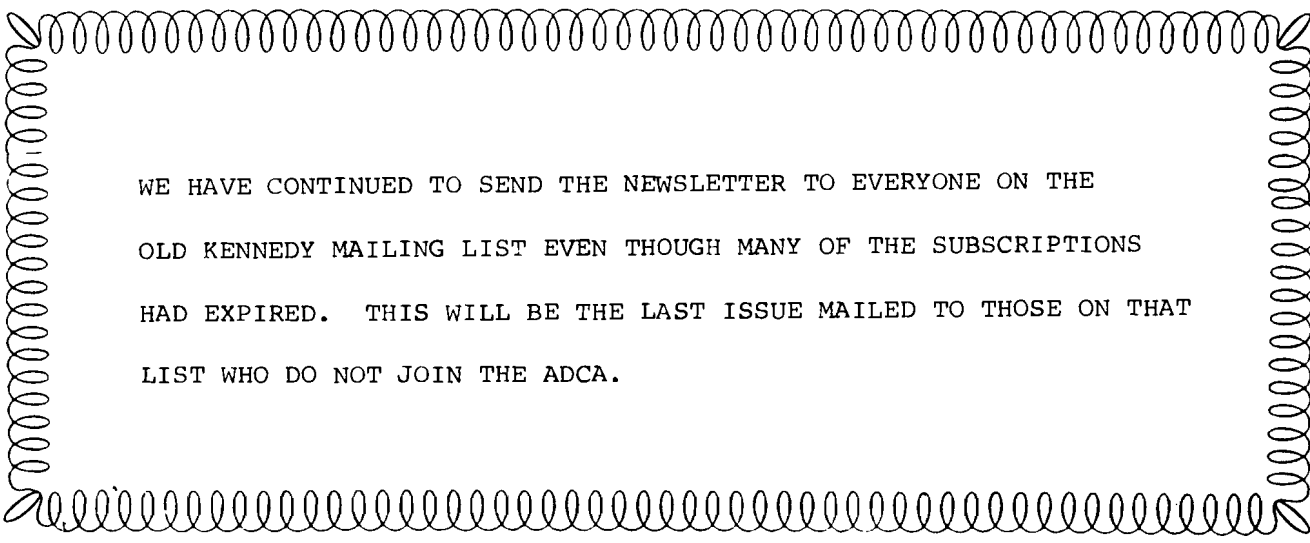
President	Arnie Fredrick
Vice President	Len Blumin
Secretary	Dorothy Ann Miller
Treasurer	Lee Kaiser

Your president appointed Loretta Nemec as convention chairperson for 1983. You will be kept informed as plans are developed and dates and place are established. It is not too early to let us know your comments and suggestions.

Publishing The Doorknob Collector involves a lot of work and we are grateful to Lee and Jim Kaiser that they are willing to continue as editors.

My best wishes to all of you,

Arnie Fredrick



WE HAVE CONTINUED TO SEND THE NEWSLETTER TO EVERYONE ON THE
OLD KENNEDY MAILING LIST EVEN THOUGH MANY OF THE SUBSCRIPTIONS
HAD EXPIRED. THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE MAILED TO THOSE ON THAT
LIST WHO DO NOT JOIN THE ADCA.

KNOBS FROM HISTORIC HOTELS

William Waldorf Astor opened the Waldorf Hotel in 1893. Opening night became a historic culinary event when the Waldorf salad made its debut. A creation of the famed Maitre d', Oscar.

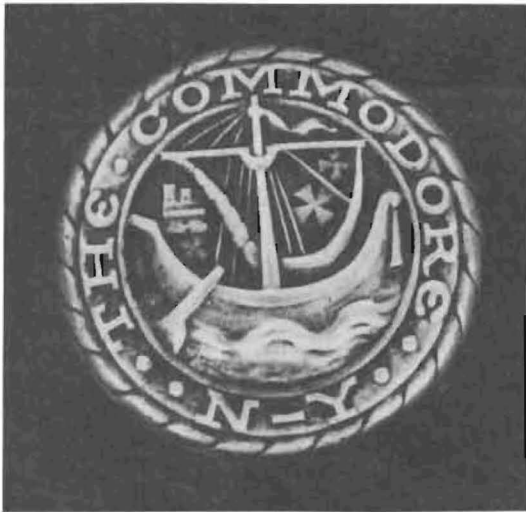


WALDORF-ASTORIA, New York City. (Page 222)



A few years later, William's brother, John Jacob Astor IV, razed his mansion at 5th Ave. and 34th St. In its place, the 16 story Astor Hotel was built. Although the two buildings were separate, they were joined by an enclosed walk providing the linkage that developed into the Waldorf-Astoria.

The celebrated Waldorf clock, a masterpiece in bronze and mahogany, now located in the present Waldorf-Astoria Hotel's elegant main lobby, was commissioned for the original hotel and escaped the auction block when the hotel closed. The clock stands 9 feet tall and weighs two tons.



The Commodore Hotel was closed in 1976. It was completely gutted and rebuilt and is now the Grand Hyatt. The only part of the interior of the old Commodore that remains is the Ball Room.



THE COMMODORE, New York City. (Page 312)

THE E.P. DICK DOORKNOB COLLECTION

My involvement in the restoration of the Bartholmew House Museum in Richfield, Minnesota, an early 1850's farm home, now on the National Registry of Historical Places, led to my interest and fascination with doorknobs.

While looking thru the house for necessary work to be done, I noticed that the doorknobs had been replaced with new contemporary types, with the exception of one, a brown mineral knob. This gave me a lead as to what I should seek as replacements. That was the beginning and I was soon hooked on doorknobs.

Each day as I looked I became more excited about what I was finding and so the collection began and has grown to my present collection of several hundred knobs.

When I started collecting doorknobs at retirement 14 years ago, I thought I was the only collector in that category in the Minneapolis area. The antique dealers and collectors hadn't even thought of knobs as a collectable then. When asked by friends what I was doing to keep busy in retirement, my answer, "collecting doorknobs" raised many an eyebrow, a gesture you as fellow collectors, are well aware of. They soon became converts however, and began bringing contributions to my collection or started their own.

I have collected in a somewhat different manner, concentrating more on a collection of pieces from places of historic interest. These are not all beautiful but represent an era, a specific place in our local history, such as the corner grocery, an old church built by early German settlers, the first school house, etc. - all demolished in the name of progress, but still in the memory of present generations.

In recent years I have been asked many times to show and talk about the collection before groups. I have everything mounted and can easily transport it for display. I thoroughly enjoy sharing my interest with others. One thing I find most interesting is the surprise and lack of knowledge by my audiences in this facet of history. They are always very interested and have many questions.

I haven't passed up any of the beautiful knobs I have happened upon, though at times the price gave me second thoughts. My collection includes a variety of woods, mercury glass, metals and some of which I believe to be choice pieces. I haven't been particularly interested in manufacturers names or places, but more of dates and the historical significance of the places I find the doorknobs in. Thanks to friends who travel world wide, I have specimens from Norway, Denmark, France, Portugal, and Australia.

During our 54 years of marriage we have travelled at every opportunity. Always with a list of historical museums, houses and shrines, and all the wonders of nature. Becoming interested in doorknobs and related objects has added another dimension to our travels.

Interest in objects of history led to my volunteering as a tour guide at the Bartholmew House Museum and at the Hennepin County Museum in Minneapolis. Through the years I have guided thousands of children and adults on tours and now call special attention to door knobs and related hardware.

My wife has shared, supported and encouraged the collection. We learned much at the first convention in Iowa and regret not being able to attend the San Francisco convention. We miss renewing and strengthening our relationships.

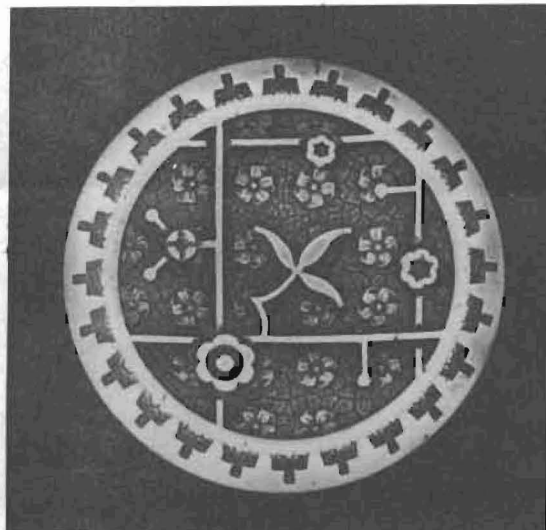
This has all been a wonderful experience and we hope you will all come see us when ever you can.

IN THIS ISSUE THE EDITORS FEATURE THEIR FAVORITE DESIGNS IN PATTERNED METAL KNOBS. LEE'S CHOICES WERE SELECTED FROM A FEMININE APPEAL PREMISE. JK'S SELECTIONS ARE BASED ON PERCEIVED GEOMETRIC GRACE.

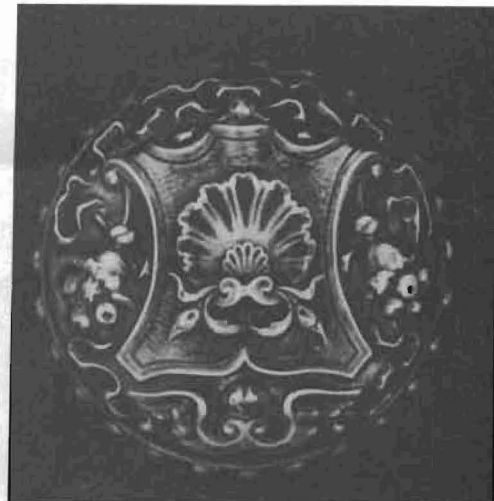
Lee:



Corbin "Munick"

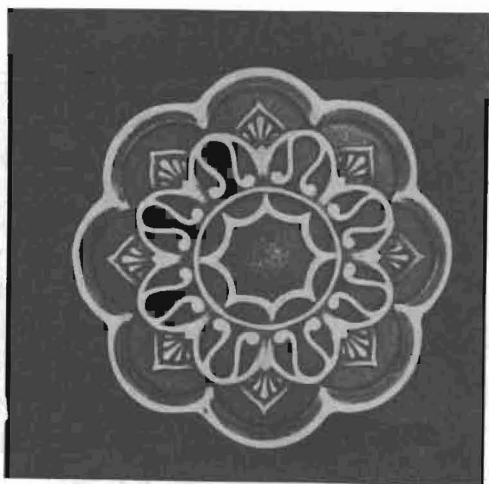


Sargent "Ecado"

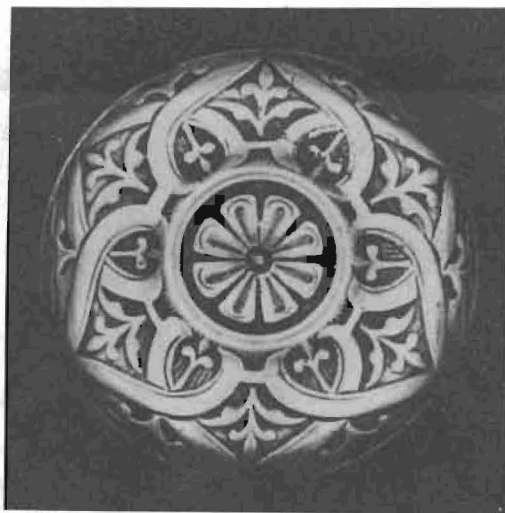


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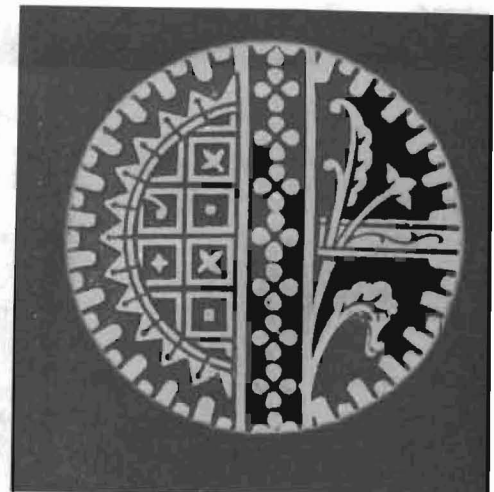
JK:



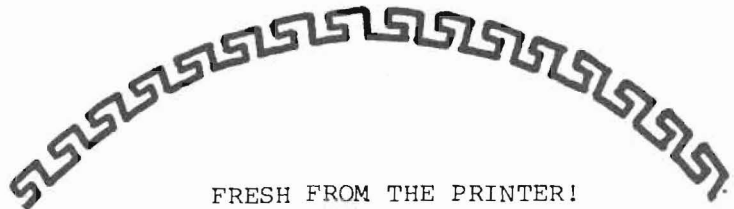
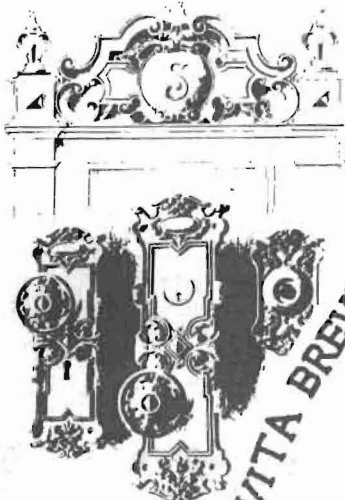
Corbin "Cordova"



Probably designed
by J.J.C. Smith



Sargent "Arcadia"

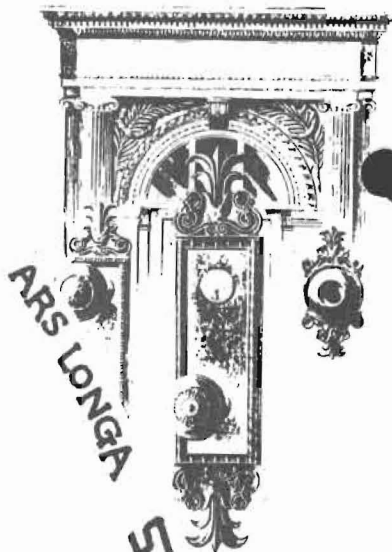


FRESH FROM THE PRINTER!
(Nov. 1, 1982)

ANTIQUe BUILDERS' HARDWARE--
KNOBS AND ACCESSORIES

Reasearch Manual and Collectors' Guide
by

Maud L. Eastwood



A REVISED form of the loose-leaf convention edition of ANTIQUe BUILDERS' HARDWARE will be available for general distribution November 1, 1982. Approx. 225 pages.

(additions to this volume, not printed in time for the convention, will be sent to those parties who purchased the volume at the convention, no chg.)

Housed in an attractive conventional 5½ by 8½ three-ring cover of simulated antiqued leather, this edition is well suited to the serious collector who wishes to have easy access to the material and the option to add his own, or future in-depth segments as they become available, on such classifications as glass, porcelain, emblematic, etc.

The material in ANTIQUe BUILDERS' HARDWARE is intended to provide a background of pre-knobbed devices, and the indentifying information for cateloging a collection available to the author at this time, plus many interesting sidelights.

A Perfect (soft) Bound edition will also be available for the collector who prefers this type of binding, Nov. 1st.

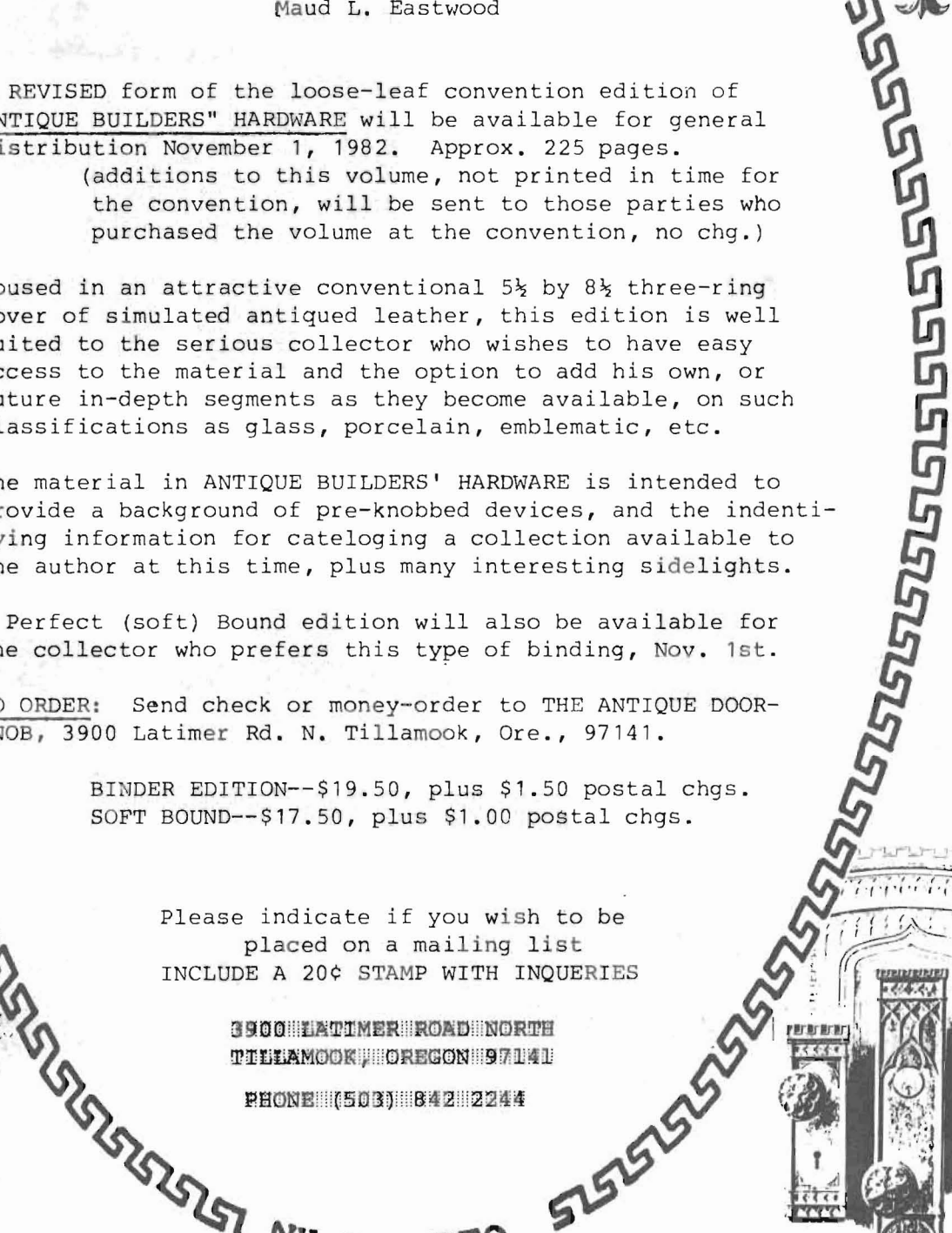
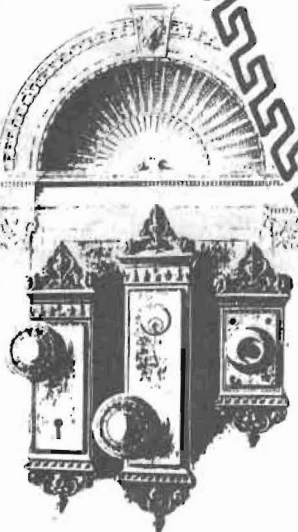
TO ORDER: Send check or money-order to THE ANTIQUe DOOR-KNOB, 3900 Latimer Rd. N. Tillamook, Ore., 97141.

BINDER EDITION--\$19.50, plus \$1.50 postal chgs.
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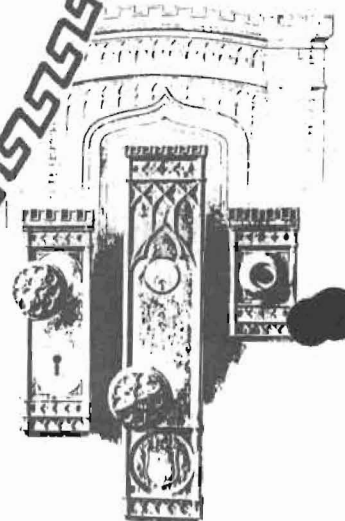
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NIL SINE DEO



FROM THE EDITORS

Last June we had the pleasure and good fortune to visit Pat Cody in Holmes, Penn. for the purpose of buying hardware from his extensive collection.

We enjoyed the visit and improved our collection markedly. What seemed incongruous was with all of this great hardware in the basement the door knobs were missing on both the front and back doors.

Pat still has lots of doorknobs and related items for sale. His prices are fair. You will have to visit Pat to determine if he has anything you need as he does not have a catalog or pictures. His address is 2100 Forrester Ave., Holmes, Pennsylvania. (just minutes from the Philadelphia airport) Phone: 215-586-4382

Addressing fellow members of the Kiwanis Club of Sedona, Az. Emmet Wiemer pointed out that doorknobs and doorlatches were one of the reasons for the Revolutionary War.

"Colonists were prevented by the Crown from making door closures. Everything had to be imported from England. It was an affront to freedom. Blacksmiths went underground and made door latches anyway. One of the first doorlatches was a leather thong slipped through a hole in the door. Pull on the leather thong and it lifted the latch inside. That's where the expression 'the latch string is out' originated."

DOOR KNOB COST CRITICIZED

Madison, Wisc. The Wisconsin Building Commission has been asked by a legislator to reconsider the spending of \$143,000 to replace hardware on office doors in the Capitol.

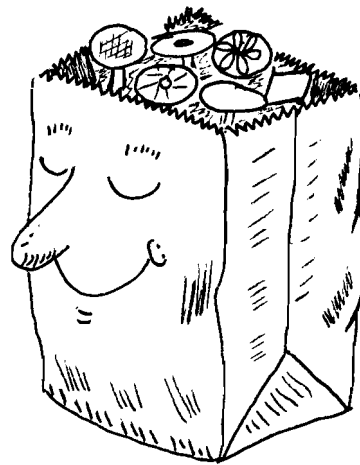
The restoration of the building includes purchase of 300 historically significant doorknobs at \$72 each. Rep. John McEwen said the action by the commission was rash.

At the conventions we asked Maudie Eastwood if we had the name of one of the designers (J.J.C. Smith) correctly shown in the last issue of the DC.

This authoritative reply was received:

In 1869 at a meeting of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, it's 69th meeting, the secretary, S. Kneeland, gave this report on the accomplishments of the Metallic Compression Casting Company, of Boston, Mass. Jessie Locke, Treasurer of this company enumerated the claims and Messrs. Smith, the inventors, explained their methods. This erroneous recording has led to the assumption that three were involved, when in actuality, only one man, John Joseph Charles Smith, was the inventor.

Later, The Russell and Erwin Manufacturing Co. took steps to become the sole owners of this process of injecting molten metal into molds under pressure. These patents enabled R & E to become leaders in the production of fine cast victorian hardware of excellent quality and design.



TRADING TIME WAS FUN

----- Detach and Mail -----

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

Membership dues for the year beginning November 1, 1982 is \$20 (Lifetime membership \$150)

Name(s)

Mailing Address

Renewal
 New Member

City

State

Zip

Make checks payable to The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America
Mail to Lee Kaiser, 4125 Colfax Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN 55409