

The

OCTOBER 1983

NUMBER 8

Doorknob Collector



"JAPANESE BIRDS"

DESIGN PAT. #11226, JUNE 3, 1879

BY RUDOLPHE CHRISTESEN

RUSSELL & ERWIN MFG. CO.

From the President

Over fifty members made their way to the Sheraton Hotel in Naperville, Ill., site of the 1983 convention of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. Good fellowship abounded, enhanced by the gracious hospitality of convention chairperson, Loretta Nemec who was ably supported by husband Ray. We may forget the glittering knobs and displays, but friendships made and renewed will stay with us always.

Highlights of our meeting included talks by Maud Eastwood, Art Paholke, Emil Miller, and myself. A spirited auction was ably conducted by John Holland. Good food and relaxed social hours added to what proved to be a most enjoyable three days. New sidelights to the meeting included the presence of several antique dealers offering reasonably priced hardware and the publication of an attractive advertising program. We owe Loretta our congratulations and thanks for making everything go so smoothly.

The annual board meeting was culminated by the election of Maud Eastwood as a permanent emeritus member of the board of directors. In an effort to promote a "changing of the guard" in our leadership, John Holland has regrettably resigned from the board, and Art Paholke was elected to fill the vacancy. The board elected officers for the coming year, including Len Blumin as president, Loretta Nemec as vice president, Dorothy Ann Miller as secretary, and Lee Kaiser as treasurer.

I am happy to announce that Lee and Jim Kaiser have agreed to serve as editors of "The Doorknob Collector" for another year. There was unanimity of opinion that they have been doing a superb job and are deserving of our highest appreciation. Our newsletter can stand proudly alongside the best publications in its class. But - Lee and Jim need our help, contributions and newsworthy items for future issues are earnestly solicited.

At the membership meeting it was agreed that we should continue to hold the convention on an annual basis. Arnie Fredrick graciously agreed to host the 1984 gathering at Waverly, Iowa. Details of the event, scheduled for the week-end of September 21, 22 and 23rd, will be forthcoming in future issues.

Continued next page

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Editors: Lee & Jim Kaiser, 4125 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

FROM THE PRESIDENT, CONTINUED:

There is no doubt that ADCA is a thriving and growing organization. Our treasury is in sound condition, and certain monies will be expended during the forthcoming year in informing the collector's world of our presence. If you have any ideas about public relations and advertising, please contact publicity chairman, Charles Wardell, PO Box 195, Trinity, N C 27370.

A major goal for the coming year is the establishment of a permanent "archive" for ADCA. Emil Miller has been appointed archivist, and he will need the cooperation of all members who possess information of historical importance relating to doorknobs. Please start making a list of materials in your possession, particularly in respect to old hardware catalogs. You will hear from Emil in future issues.

May you all have a prosperous year, and may Arnie find his "doggie".

Len Blumin

P.S. I hope you liked my book.



"DEAD AS A DOORNAIL"

The doornail in ancient times was a heavy knob against which a heavy metal knocker was struck. Since the doornail was regularly and sharply rapped, it could be assumed that there was no life in it.

The expression was often used by Dickens. In a "Christmas Carol" Old Marley was "dead as a doornail". Shakespeare used it more than once. Falstaff in "Henry IV, Part 2, asks: "What! is the old king dead?" and Pistol replies "As nail in door."

In fact, the expression goes back to the earliest beginnings of English literature, Langland's "Vision of Piers the Plowman" (fourteenth century), in which the expression was used just as we use it today.

From: The Morris Dictionary of words and Phrase Origins"
by William and Mary Morris

Thanks to Charlie Bednar of St Paul for doing this research.

DO WE OWE YOU ?

Due to the lateness of the hour and a shortage of cash to make change, there may be some that did not receive their settle up from the convention auction proceeds.

If you are one that did not receive a settle up, write to Lee Kaiser and indicate the amount due.

+++++

CONVENTION GLIMPSE



ART PAHOLKE GREETSS
OUR "MOTHER" MAUD EASTWOOD

September 20, 1983

Dear Conventioneers,

The convention is over and all pleasant memories linger on. Ray and I would like to Thank everyone who helped make this years convention a success. All the speakers, The people who participated, The ones who took admission, to Charlie for the invocations, John for all he did to put the auction together, to Maude, and Arnie. Richard Balasa who served everyone at the personality adjustment hour, all the others to numerous to mention. Your help made the convention a huge success.

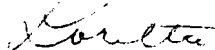
Thank you for the gift, I will treasure the crystal knobs forever. Your choice expressed what eloquent people make up our club. As John Holland once stated "Doorknob collectors are the Cadillac in collectors."

I would like to pass the following poem on to you from Glenn & Junella Leach. I think it expresses everyones feeling.

'Twas the night after the Convention,
When all through the house,
Not a doorknob was turning to let in a mouse.
The collection was settled and we were in bed.
While visions of knobs danced in our head.
Glenn with his steel wool and me with my card file.
Had just used Len's book to work on a pile,
Of "pretties" encrusted with paint and with guck,
That were now all our own (What phenomenal luck!)
We talked of the hours with A.D.C.A.
At a "super" convention that was now tucked away.
In the treasure of memories to be cherished so dear,
So Thank You, Loretta, and we'll see you
next year.

What more could I say but,

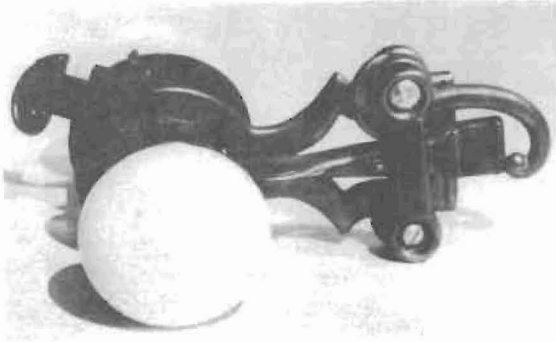
See you next year.



Loretta Nemec,
Vice President

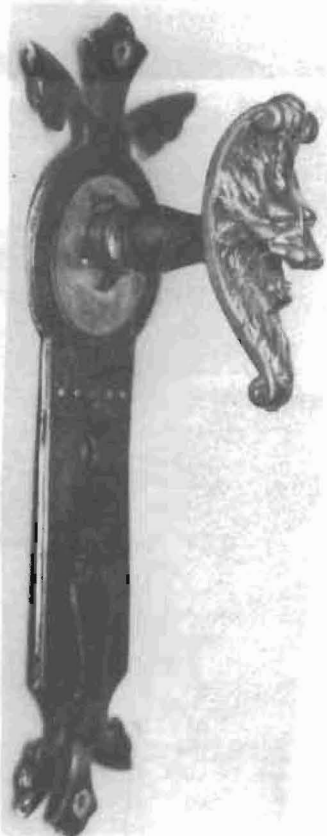
The editors asked Maud Eastwood to send us information on her favorite knobs. She graciously responded with this fine two page presentation.

Because of my pre-occupation with research in the line of our mutual interest, I have chosen the following five specimens as representative of my "special" knobs. Not only am I intrigued with the technical and historical aspects of each, but also--and perhaps more so--with the human drama involved. In this feeling, I am akin to Henry Rene' D'Allemagne, scholar and collector: "He wanted to know how the things he liked were made and by whom, and how they were used and enjoyed, and under what circumstances." (Vera K. Osteia--Introduction to the Dover Edition of DECORATIVE ANTIQUE IRONWORK)



I love the "in-betweeners", the examples of technical advancement long discontinued. (Obtained from S. & J. Penovators) Note the porcelain knobs combined with a lift-latch.

R & E set--patented lock, 188(9)? Evidence of nickel plating still visible. Knob (round) on reverse side is shown on a sheet of R. & E. new designs to be added to an existing catalogue



Ivory knob. The spindle was very old, hand wrought. From which continent it came, or which jungle it roamed in its original state--or who carved it into a knob, I doubt that even time will tell.

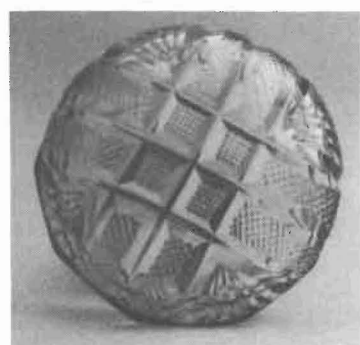
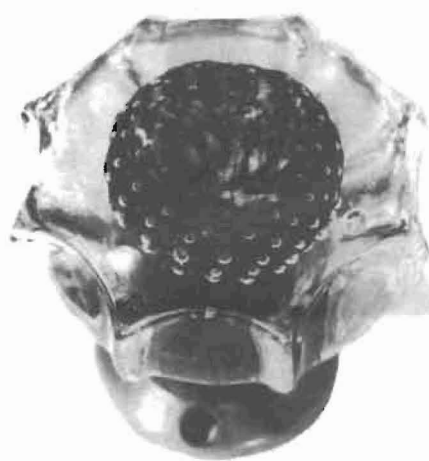


Hand carved wooden knob from the Netherlands. These were considered "inside" knobs, for bedrooms or closets. A gift from Rich Kennedy



I stand literally in awe of the center knob removed from our nations capitol during renovation many years ago. The apparent simplicity, quality of metal and enviable history of contact with important figures--national and international--makes this knob the one that I would least be able to part with.

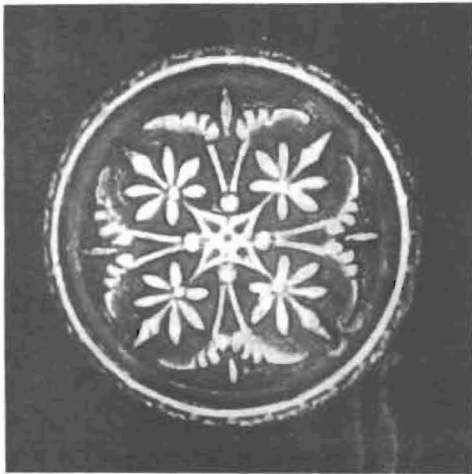
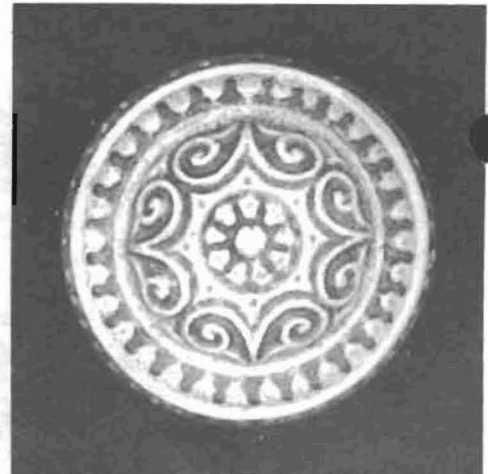
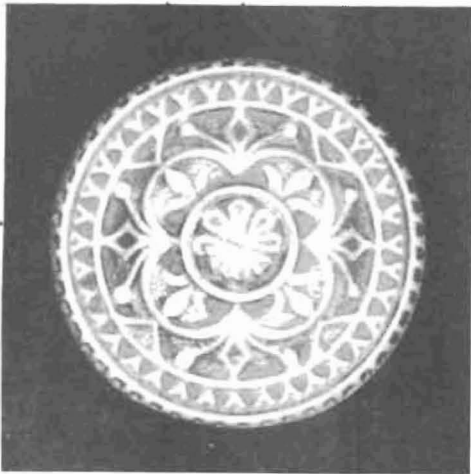
A paper-weight type. Free blown center, finished in a mould. Believed to be of foreign make.



Cut glass--blown. Baccarat of France claims this pattern. The shank dates this knob circa 1835.

The winged M is the symbol of the Multnomah Athletic club in Portland, Ore. Things Oregon (particularly when bearing my initial) are dear to my heart.

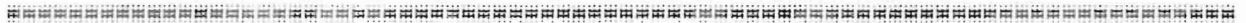




WHAT KIND OF KNOBS ARE THESE ?

THIS TYPE OF KNOB WAS USUALLY CAST IN IRON
NOT FOUND ON ORDINARY DOORS
MAXIMUM SIZE, USUALLY TWO INCH DIAMETER
CONSTRUCTION: "SINGLE LAYER"

Answer on last page



CONVENTION GLIMPSE

Two gentlemen absorbed in the subtleties of a specimen.

Jim Kaiser and Charlie Wardell



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For those who did not have the opportunity to see Len's book at the convention, we highly recommend it. The book is a valuable source of reference for identifying knobs and for trading. The photography is superb. You will like the design classification system, and the price is right.

IT'S DUES TIME

Dues for 1983/84 remain at \$20. Send your check now...so you won't miss any issues of The Doorknob Collector.

We thought it would be interesting to tabulate the kinds of vocations or professions doorknob collectors come from. Please give us this information on the dues renewal form below. If you are retired, list your former vocation, if family membership, list information on both. If you have already paid the current year dues, send the form with just the vocational information.

ANSWER: These knobs operated the small rim locks on victorian screen doors.

Thanks,
The Editors

detach & mail

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

Membership dues for the year beginning November 1, 1983, \$20. (lifetime membership \$150.)

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