

The Doorknob Collector

FEBRUARY 1987

Number 22



"SNAKES ALIVE"
(see page 8)

ADCA
CONVENTION REMINDER

September 24-26, 1987

Des Moines, Iowa

EXPLORING NEW ENGLAND

Planning a 1987 vacation? Well, like so many midwestern doorknob collectors, we dream of spending a vacation in historic old New England. The dream includes finding some rare doorknobs to add to our collection and a supply of traders for the next convention.

The November 1986 issue of **Yankee Magazine** featured a fine seven page article on architectural salvage operations in New England. Six of them were featured with pictures and resumes of their operations.

The Vermont Salvage Exchange, in White River Junction, Vermont, was of particular interest. A picture showing hundreds of available doorknobs for sale accompanied the article. Vermont Salvage Exchange was started about ten years ago by owner Dave Ferm. He felt there was a need to dismantle buildings so they could be reconstructed. Most older buildings were being demolished. Dave Smith, manager of the company, was quoted as saying, "just when I think I've seen every doorknob ever made, I discover a new one." (Continued page 2)

EXPLORING (continued)

Following is a list of architectural salvage operations in New England as reported in **Yankee Magazine**

CONNECTICUT

Coughlin & Coughlin, Olde Mystic Village, Mystic; 203-536-1460. (Main store in Kingston, Ma.)

Great American Salvage Co., 97 Crown Street, New Haven. Open, 10-6 Mon-Sat, Thurs. till 9. 203-624-1009

Jerard Paul Jordon Gallery, P.O. Box 71, Slade Acres, Slade Road, Ashford; 203-429-7954; by appointment only.

Ted's Sales Room, Route 184, 2440 Gold Star Highway, Mystic; 203-536-0608; open 9-8 Mon.-Wed.-Sat., 12-8 Sun.

United House Wrecking, 328 Selleck Street, Stamford; 203-348-5371; open 9-5 Tues.-Sat.

Willington Antiques, Rte. 32, South Willington; 203-429-4779; open 10-4 daily.

MAINE

Elmer's Barn. Rte 17, Cooper's Mills; 207-549-7671; open 8-8 daily.

MASSACHUSETTS

Coughlin & Coughlin. Elm Street, Kingston; 617-585-6311; open 8-5 Mon.-Fri., 10-5 Sat., 12-5 Sun. (Main store). A second store is located on Merchant's Row, Rte.52, Hanover.

Joneses Antiques and Untiques. Fair Shopping Center (Rte.7), Great Barrington; 413-528-0156; open 8:30-5, daily.

Olde Bostonian Architectual Antiques. 135 Buttonwood Street, Dorchester; 617-282-9300; open 8-5 Mon.-Fri., Sat till 6, 9-1 Sun.

New Boston Building-Wrecking Co., Inc. 84 Arsenal St.; Watertown; 617-924-9090. by appointment only.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Gargoyles & Griffins. Rte. 1, Hampton; 603-926-3744; open 10-5 daily.

Northeast Salvage, Rte. 101A, Amherst; 603-886-4388; open 8:30-5:50 Mon.-Fri., 9-5 Sat., 10-4 Sun.

VERMONT

Great American Salvage Co. 3 Main St., Montpelier; 802-223-7711, open 9-5 Tues.-Sat.

Vermont Salvage Exchange. Railroad Row, White River Junction; 802-295-7616; open 8-5 Wed.-Fri., 8-1 Sat.

Snake Indigestion

Just be thankful he didn't swallow the door...

Iron County conservation agent Mike Christensen is used to calls about problems with wildlife. Usually, it's a squirrel in the attic or a possum in the basement.

But this one had him scratching his head. "I didn't believe the caller, so I went to look for myself. Sure enough, it was just like the caller said—a black snake had swallowed a doorknob.

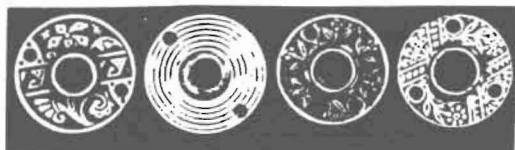
"The five foot snake had a bulge in it about halfway down its body. I could feel an oval-shaped object with a small shaft extending from it. I told the caller that the snake probably would regurgitate it in a couple of days.

"A day later I got a call that the snake had regurgitated a porcelain door knob."

MidWest Outdoors November, 1986

The Doorknob Collector

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AN EVERLASTING METAL CLEANING AND BRIGHTENING LAB

by Charlie Wardell

The doorknob collector, as all collectors, desires his treasures in their nicest condition but grease, dirt, paint and corrosion often remains after years of usage. A little work performs wonders on such antiques and the true beauty is revealed.

The following list of materials - not really everlasting is both economical and efficient and may be use in the kitchen sink with safety.

1 quart hardwood ashes (sifted)
2 cups white vinegar
1/2 cup table salt
1/2 cup baking soda
Four plastic 1 gallon jugs (cut away the top), 1 brass brush (suede brush), water, rags.

Mix the ashes with 1/2 gallon of water to a soupy mix in one jug. In another jug mix the vinegar, salt and 2 cups water. In the third jug mix the baking soda with 1/2 gallon water. The fourth jug contains three quarts of water for rinsing.

To remove grease and paint, soak the hardware overnight or longer in the ash mix, (a caustic). Rinse and brush away the loosened grime with the brass bristles. Repeat if necessary.

To brighten tarnished brass or to remove rust from iron, immerse the hardware in the vinegar-salt solution for fifteen minutes (longer if badly corroded). This solution is an acid and, after rinsing, the hardware must be dipped into the baking soda solution to neutralize any acid remaining in the knob. Brush vigorously and the metal will shine brightly.

Don't intermix the solutions and do rinse the hands often. A brass bristle brush is specified to prevent scratches.



Remember, the caustic (ash) mix must be used first, rinse well and follow with dipping in the acid (vinegar) mix. Rinse well and dip in the soda mix, then brush thoroughly.

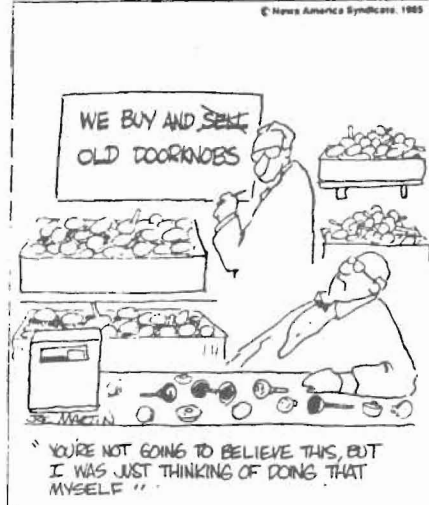
An old toothbrush and a piece of copper wire will be helpful in difficult cases. Paste wax may be applied for extended shine.

The use of a steel brush is permissible if cleaning iron hardware and will even expedite the work when chucked in an electric drill. Never use it on brass as it takes away the detail and leaves scratched.

Mirror-like surfaces are obtained by using high speed-rouge-charged buffing wheels. That is for another article.

PORTERFIELD BY JOE MARTIN

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ORNAMENTAL DESIGN IN ANTIQUE DOORKNOBS

by Len Blumin

FRATERNAL KNOBS

(The following is the second supplement to Len's excellent book, **VICTORIAN DECORATIVE ART**, and additional supplements will appear as a regular feature.)

Many fraternal organizations and "orders" had knobs fashioned for their lodges. Featured here are knobs from the Mason 0-201, Knights of Columbus 0-202, Knights of Pythias 0-203, Eagles 0-204, Elks 0-205, and Moose 0-206.

0-201



0-204



0-202



0-205



0-203



0-206



OVAL KNOBS

- N-113 VITTORIA - Corbin, 1895 and 1905 catalogs.
N-114 ALDEN - Russwin, 1900 and 1909 catalogs.
N-115 VINCA - PENN. Common knob.
N-116 CAMBRIDGE - Lockwood, 1900 catalog.
N-117 Unkown.
N-118 ARCADIAN - Yale & Towne, 1910 catalog.

N-113



N-116



N-114



N-117



N-115



N-118



Reflections By Maud Eastwood

When I received our Editor's directive: "I want a story of you and the knobs for a future news letter", my first reaction was much the same as when I recently received a one-line request penciled on a post card, to tell the writer all I knew about doorknobs!!!! Where to start and where to stop?

I have difficulty in remembering a time when I was not interested in doorknobs. Even as a child on the farm, I remember white knobs. Occasionally they were used as substitutes for nest eggs. Then, as a teenager working in a seaside resort, I was introduced to glass and mottled, brown knobs. Still later, during a summer session of medical attention in Portland, I discovered bronze Victorian hardware. Doorknobs seemed always to take my eye.

Then, for a period of circa 30 years, that interest so early sparked, lay virtually dormant while I matured, followed a profession and married. My husband, Norval, and I happily raised three children and became business people before the opportunity opened to return to that interest. However, three occurrences fanned the flame: The complexity of producing ornamental metallic knobs was driven home to me as I sought to have four filigree cabinet knobs reproduced for an old apothecary chest; stopped to visit the patent section of the famed Franklin Institute and the Philadelphia Athenaeum's catalogue archive whetted my interest; viewing the early Pennsylvania collection of door hardware at the Doylestown Museum made me aware of regional influences in different eras.

Therefore, when a health imposed, early retirement allowed un-restricted return to my old, part-time hobby, I was somewhat ready to move ahead. Research material available from the Multnomah County Library in Portland, allowed me to put together the first definitive work on this specialized



subject. The year was 1976. During the late 1970's several serious collectors "surfaced," kindly saying that the advent of this book, **THE ANTIQUE DOORKNOB**, was the cause. Among these names would be collectors who were instrumental in forming the club, the **ANTIQUÉ DOORKNOB COLLECTORS OF AMERICA**. To these early members, I owe a primary debt for additional material and artifacts loaned, that would become the basis of my second volume, published in 1982. To the club in general, I further am in debt for the gift of a lifetime membership and other courtesies extended from year to year.

Gradually, a wealth of material has accumulated as a result of following leads found in patent copies, catalogues, manufacturers lists, early trade and tariff reports and bulletins and articles of building and hardware interest. Avenues opened to obtain further material from museums and domestic and foreign firms of early origin. Ultimately, contact was made with artisans, representatives and workmen of the "old school," who were intimately connected with various

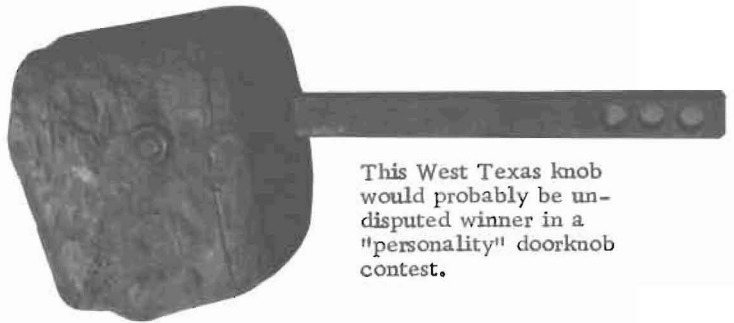
companies producing much of the early hardware. With this material at hand, compiling a major work on the subject of old Builders' Hardware--once considered an impossibility--can now become reality.

In short, such is my story. I happened to have been in the right spot at the right time, with the right inclination and a lot of wheelbarrows (Dutch for helpers) to open to me a life that is "out of this world." To arrive at the place where one's fun can also be useful and contacts can turn into best friends, who could ask for anything more?

As for my knobs, my collection is eclectic and research oriented. As such, I do not restore the surfaces to "show" condition, usually removing only foreign accumulations. The individual pieces are not affixed in permanent displays for they are often required to complete specialized exhibits. Each piece has been closely examined for technical differences and identification. My 3000 specimen collection cannot compete in number or elegance with many of the collections in our club--only in diversity. Had I, in my possession, the many knobs loaned me for research, that would be a different story. I have been known to say with sincerity that to me,

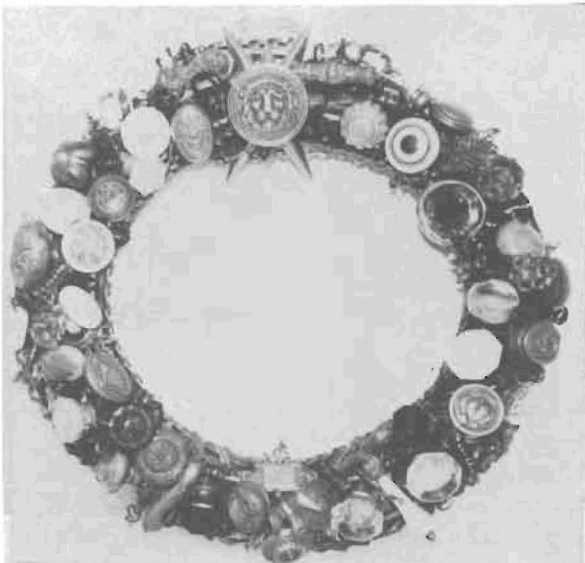
owning hardware is secondary to researching hardware, yet I cannot deny the thrill of the "hunt". Knob "fever" can be just as devastating to the knob collector as is buck fever to the deer hunter; we have been known to do rash and impulsive acts in the name of acquiring a prize piece.

My favorite knob? My choice is subject to change. My favorite knob and the one I would least like to give up, may not be the same knob. This year I traded off a knob that last year I would not have considered trading. (What the new owner does not realize, is that we own that knob jointly! Like my children who are grown and married, they may belong to someone else now, but first, and still, I consider them mine. In MY heart that knob is half mine.)



This West Texas knob would probably be undisputed winner in a "personality" doorknob contest.

The major portion of my collection is of U.S. origin. However, incorporated are knobs from Spain, France, Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, Ireland, Australia and England. Many of the specimen were traders; many gifts. Some were paid for dearly; some picked up for a pittance. Rather than to illustrate my collection with individual pictures, I offer a composite to represent my holdings. The idea was suggested by our daughter, Jodyne Holloway, and executed by my husband and myself. I must seek her advice more often, for her knob wreath idea netted a first prize at the Tillamook County Fair and Best of the Show at our 1986 ADCA convention.



FROM THE ARCHIVES
by Dorothy Miller



At the time of the convention in Minneapolis, several of our members took advantage of the opportunity to use the catalog copies that were on the archives table. A number of designs were identified and dated and other information gleaned. Certainly those people who researched items would testify as to the usefulness of these copies.

Here is a chance for you to get your own catalog copies so that you can do your research at home rather than having to wait for the limited time that you have during the convention.

In this issue of **THE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR**, you will find an up-to-date catalog order blank, which contains a complete list of the catalogs currently available for purchase. This order blank contains a description of the various order categories and the prices.

Please get your orders and checks to me by April 1, 1987. I will then have all copies made at the same time, thus saving wear and tear on our master copies.

Let me encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity. You are sure to find your interest in your doorknobs heightened and expanded.

From the Editors' Desk...

KEEP THE MATERIAL COMING

We want to remind all ADCA members that this is your newsletter. The material and information contained in **THE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR** comes from you...the members. If you think there is too much coverage of something that does not interest you then maybe it is time for you to set down and write an article on your favorite doorknob subject and send it in.

CLASSIFIED AD SECTION

Members are reminded that your dues entitles you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge.

FOR SALE or trade, one pair of snake escutcheon plates. (See picture on page 1). The snakes have eyes. Plates have a dull silver color plating and are made for knobs that go straight through. Alex Kunkel, Star Route, Twin Falls, ID 83301, 208-655-4381.

WANTED, To trade for or buy, The Commodore Hotel Sailing Ship Doorknob (pictured on page 5, 0-106, **The Doorknob Collector**, issue #22.) Donald Pearson, 38 Judson St., Canton, NY 13617.

WANTED, One pair of elongated roses #1189, page 123 or #2028, page 126 in **Antique Builders Hardware**. Also looking for pair elongated roses #1128, page 122. Alex Kunkel, Star Route, Twin Falls, ID 83301, 208-655-4381

WANTED. I am a relatively new member of ADCA and am a physician in Buffalo, NY. I have not been able to attend an ADCA convention because of my schedule but hope to make the 1987 convention. In addition to collecting doorknobs, I collect all types of Victorian era hardware.

I am particularly interested in drawer pulls, cupboard catches and turns, window furniture and shutter hardware. If you have any that you would like to sell or trade, please write. Dale Sponaugle, M.D, 577 West Ferry St., Apt.#1, Buffalo, NY 14222.

OOPS!!!!

On page 4 in the December issue (number 21), pictures 0-101 and 0-102 were reversed. 0-101 is the Seal of the Department of Treasury. 0-102 is the Seal of the United States.

ANTIQUe DOORKnOB COLLECTORS OF AMERICA

CATALOG ORDER FORM

Copies of the catalogs listed below are available to members at the price indicated, which includes shipping charges. Copies are loose leaf, and unbound.

There are three possible order categories, but each catalog may not be available in all three categories. These three categories are:

Complete catalog. In the case of a builder's catalog, the book has been copied in its entirety. In the case of a general hardware catalog, only the builder's hardware section has been copied.

Selected pages. Included are: title page, finish or other general hardware information pages, pages showing doorknobs, escutcheons, flush pulls, store door locks, push plates, cremone bolts, some mortise locks with ornate faceplates, a few rim locks, furniture hardware, doorbells, keyhole plates, and limited miscellaneous hardware items that are offered in the same designs as shown for knobs and escutcheons. In some cases, a few padlocks and keys are included.

Knob design pages. These pages pertain strictly to knobs and possibly some levers and escutcheons. Title and finish pages, if available, are included.

<u>NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF CATALOG</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
<u>Baldwin Hardware Manufacturing Corp.</u> - 1976 Contains some illustrations of the Limoge porcelain knobs that some members acquired during the 1985 St. Louis convention. 8 page bulletin	\$2.00	_____
<u>Bayer-Gardner-Himes Co.</u> - 1925 Catalog #2 101 total pages 81 Selected pages 50 Knob design pages	\$9.80 \$6.00	_____ _____
<u>Chicago Hardware Mfg. Co.</u> - 1895 Catalog No. 6 240 pages Complete catalog 180 Selected pages 43 Knob design pages	\$28.80 \$13.00 \$5.20	_____ _____ _____
<u>The Corbin.</u> - 1902 - 1903 Schools of Design 37 pages taken from 23 volumes of monthly bulletins	\$4.50	_____
<u>P & F Corbin FRATERNAL EMBLEMS</u> - No date. Complete Catalog - 23 pages	\$2.80	_____

<u>Lockwood</u> - 1953 Bulletin with the history of Lockwood, going back to Nashua Lock Co. 39 Selected pages	\$4.70	_____
<u>Lockwood Manufacturing Co.</u> - 1914 804 pages Complete catalog 436 Selected pages 136 Knob design pages	\$96.50 \$52.40 \$16.40	_____ _____ _____
<u>Maymore Brand Builders Hardware</u> Catalogue No. 1C - July 1912 Includes 19 page price list w/illustrations Complete catalog 101 pages 27 Selected pages	\$12.00 \$3.30	_____ _____
<u>Mallory, Wheeler & Co.</u> - 1882 catalog. 332 pages 104 Selected pages 42 Knob design pages	\$12.50 \$5.30	_____ _____
<u>A.G. Newman</u> - No date or catalog number. Number of pages unknown. Previously known as Newman & Capron. 35 Knob design pages	\$4.20	_____
<u>Norwalk Lock Co.</u> - 1890 Catalog 376 pages 184 Selected pages 80 Knob design pages	\$22.10 \$9.60	_____ _____
<u>Phoenix Lock Works</u> - 1894 Complete catalog - 159 pages 41 Selected pages	\$19.10 \$5.00	_____ _____
<u>Reading Hardware Co.</u> - 1897 690 pages Complete catalog 398 Selected pages 25 Knob design pages	\$82.80 \$47.80 \$3.00	_____ _____ _____
<u>Russell & Erwin</u> Volume No. 2 - 1875 Total number of pages unknown. 36 Knob design pages	\$4.40	_____
<u>Russell & Erwin</u> 1897 Catalog 280 pages 94 Selected pages (47 pages)	\$5.70	_____

Russwin Hardware - SCHOOLS OF DESIGN

No date 70 pages
Complete catalog \$4.20 _____

Sargent's Artistic Hardware

No date - Approx. turn of century
335 pages
130 Selected pages \$15.60 _____

Skillman Hardware Manufacturing Company

1909 Catalog
Complete catalog - 80 pages \$9.60 _____
13 Selected pages \$2.00 _____

United States Steel Lock Co. - 1907

Clinton, Iowa
Catalog No. 6
231 pages
Complete catalog \$27.80 _____
122 Selected pages \$14.70 _____
20 Knob design pages \$2.40 _____

United States Steel Lock Co.

Supplement No. 1 to Catalog No. 6
33 pages
Complete catalog \$4.00 _____

Weiser Hardware Mfg. Co. - 1929

79 pages
Complete catalog \$9.50 _____
10 Knob design pages \$2.00 _____

Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.

Catalog No. 10 - 1884
384 pages
Complete catalog \$46.10 _____
152 Selected pages \$18.30 _____
17 Knob design pages \$2.50 _____

Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.

Catalog No. 12 - 1889
Total pages unknown
18 Knob design pages \$2.60 _____

Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.

Catalog No. 14 - 1893
299 pages
92 Selected pages (42 sheets) \$5.60 _____

Send orders to: Dorothy Ann Miller, 8074 Cedar Street,
Omaha, Nebraska 68124. Include payment with order.

Ship to: _____
Name

Address

City State Zip