



The Doorknob Collector

Number 42

July-August 1990

An all-star cast will be at convention

The 1990 annual ADCA convention is only a short time away. In the last issue we outlined some of the events and activities. For those coming for the first time buying, selling, trading, the auction, and the many displays will be most impressive.

Maybe we did not mention the major highlight of the convention. There will be an all-star cast of doorknobs and a virtual who's who in door hardware collectors. Everyone will be anxious to see if any new knobs have surfaced.

There will be three authors of books on doorknobs, locks and related hardware. Maude Eastwood, Len Blumin and Tom Hennessey have all made major contributions to the field of door hardware. Seeing all three of them together for what is probably the first time will be most impressive. Bring your books along and have them autographed by the authors. Our goal is to have a picture of

the three authors together for our next issue.

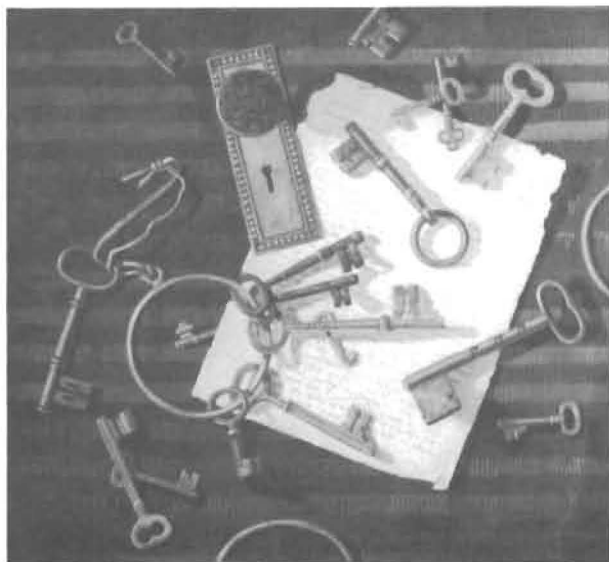
We are also looking forward to seeing Charlie Wardell, who may well have the largest collection of doorknobs in the world. We are eager to see the displays Ed Thrall has in store for us. Ed has been bringing interesting and unusual displays to the conventions since 1983. Now, in his own territory, we wonder if he will outdo himself.

Everyone is a star at the ADCA convention, whether they bring a large amount of knobs, a few or none. The important thing is to come and be counted as a collector or one interested in door hardware.

If you did not receive the 'convention package,' please notify ADCA, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126 or phone 708-357-2381 and we will rush it to you. ■



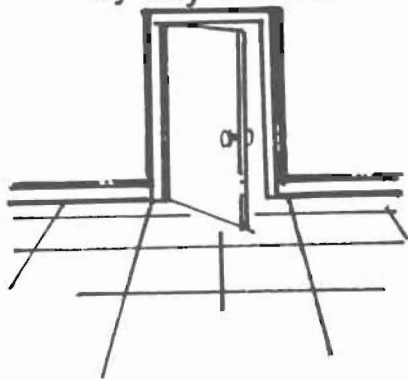
Passage Through Time by Linda Tompkin
(see the open door, page two.)



He Holds the Key by Linda Tompkin
(see the open door, page two)

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



As an editor of *The Doorknob Collector*, my goal is to make the publication as informative and entertaining as possible. The newsletter is an essential link between the membership. As such, you should find news about the club's activities as well as other items keeping with the objectives of the *Antique Doorknob Collectors of America*. As always, your help is encouraged. Let us know about members in the news, upcoming events, and other information you would like to see in the newsletter. Send your comments to Editor, ADCA, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.

Many of you will find renewal notices for 1991. They are being sent one issue earlier than in previous years. ADCA's initial annual membership fee was \$20. Nine years later we still have the \$20 annual membership fee. Most other organizations, such as BCCA, CERA, SABR, etc. have raised their dues in the past nine years. By sending your dues in early it not only gives us a better cash flow position but enables us to take advantage of some short-term investment in-

come. The net result is that you still pay only \$20 a year for your membership.

We are always looking for other sources of income. Members can make donations to the club, not only in money, but may want to leave their collection to the club. Leaving the doorknobs to ADCA after your death could serve two purposes. One, certain items could be included in the proposed door hardware museum. The remainder of the hardware could be auctioned at the convention with the money set aside in a special fund for the museum or other purposes.

The recent death of Vince Noe was a personal loss to Loretta and me. Vince not only gave us much encouragement but also was a frequent contributor in the newsletter.

Carol Meermans has told us about a painter who has done several paintings which featured doorknobs. The artist, Linda Tompkin of Uniontown, Ohio, has had the paintings on tour. "Passage Through Time" won an award from *The Artist's Magazine*. Linda found the doorknobs and plates at a flea market. She arranged them into an "aerial-view" still life. The acrylic painting (22x26) is for sale and the asking price is \$2,500. "He Holds the Key" is listed at \$1,200 and measures 19x20.

Tompkin, a realist painter working in acrylics and oils, is a signature member of the National Watercolor Society, The American Artists Professional League and many regional societies. She paints and teaches in

her studios in Uniontown. Her favorite subjects are still life and landscapes. She does commissions - if anyone would like their special doorknobs done. You can contact Linda Tompkin about the availability of the two paintings or a painting you may want done by writing her at 562 E. Caston Road, Uniontown, Ohio 44685. ■



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The Doorknob Collector

Published six times a year by Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, Inc. P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126. Raymond and Loretta Nemeec, Editors. Phone: 1-708-357-2381

Printed by Sun Printing, Naperville, IL
Annual Membership in USA: \$20.00
Foreign rates on request.

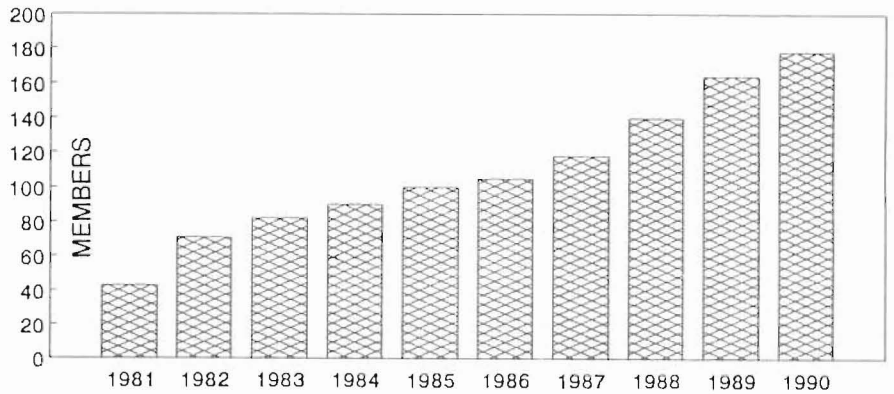
1990 ADCA CONVENTION - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning		9:00 to 12:00 Set up displays, with usual buying, selling and trading	9:00 to 12:00 Late arrivals can set up displays, with more buying, selling and trading	Visit the Thralls and their door- knob collection. Explore 'The Building' built by Ed Thrall.
Lunch		On your own	On your own	Early lunch (Fresh sweet corn and tomatoes)
Afternoon		More buying, selling and Trading	2:00 to 4:00, Open to the public	Trip to Lock Museum at Terryville
Dinner	On your own	ADCA Banquet	ADCA Banquet	On Your own
Evening	Reception	Annual meeting	Saturday night Auction	

Board Meeting to be announced

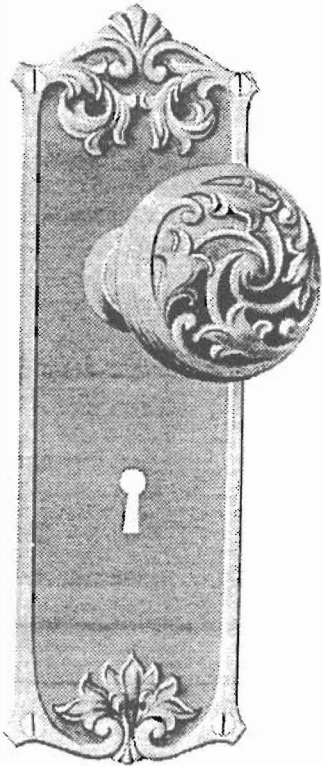
Other possibilities: Trolley Museum, Fire Museum, Clock Museum, Visits to various cities, antique shops and tours.

ADCA MEMBERSHIP BY YEAR



The 1990 **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** membership roster was included with our last issue. The roster included 177 members, an increase of 13 over last year's roster.

The 177 members are located in 37 states and two foreign countries. Canada and Belgium are each represented by one member. California maintained its lead with 25 members. Illinois was second with 17.



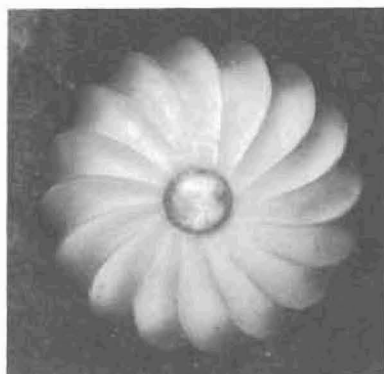
No. 04222 KNOB
No. 04231 Esc.

Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

by Len Blumin

- E-152 Cast Iron
- E-153 Art Nouveau swirl, Pretty.
- E-154 Large sixfold acanthus swirl with star center.

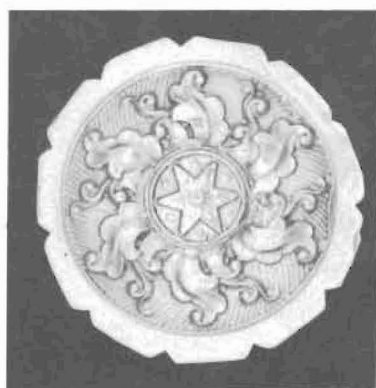
E-152



E-153



E-154



CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Many ask about the identification system we use for doorknobs in *The Doorknob Collector*. Len Blumin, in his book, *Victorian Decorative Art*, wrote, "an attempt has been made to group the knobs according to arbitrary design characteristics, to facilitate the location of a particular pattern." The book lists the various designations by letters A through N. Since the book has been published a 15th letter, "O," has been added. Len stated, "within each group, the knobs shown share a unifying design feature or theme. For instance, in group B the designs are asymmetric, in group G the designs have threefold symmetry, and in group N the knobs are roughly oval in shape."

NEW



This mug was designed and produced for the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. ADCA was founded in Waverly, Iowa in 1981.

The "Doggie" doorknob, cast in bronze, was designed by Ludwig Kruskemper, manufactured by Russell & Erwin, and patented June 7, 1870. It is a beautiful representation of Victorian decorative hardware and a big favorite of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America.

1870

Doggie Doorknob Coffee Mug

By Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

\$6.00 plus \$2.50 shipping

Order Form Enclosed

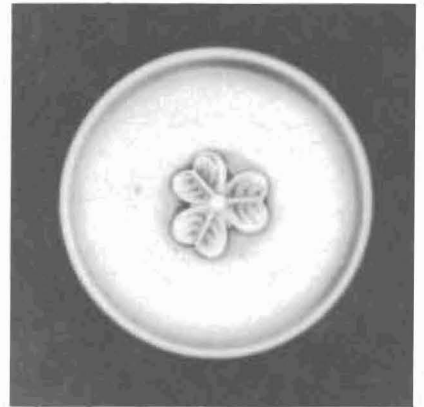
(continued)

- G-137 Three leaves nestled in concave dish center.
G-138 Pretty threefold acanthus swirl from Maldonado.
G-139 Interesting design. Who made it?

Following is an index to the classification system:

- A Representational Designs
- B Asymmetric Designs
- C Odd-shaped Knobs
- D Field or Diaper Patterns
- E Spirals and Swirls
- F Twofold Symmetry
- G Threefold Symmetry
- H Fourfold Symmetry
- I Fivefold Symmetry
- J Sixfold Symmetry
- K Eightfold Symmetry
- L Radial Symmetry
- M Concentric Symmetry
- N Oval Knobs
- O Emblematic and Fraternal Knobs

G-137



G-138



G-139



Letters

Dear Doorknob Collectors,

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND ARCHEOLOGY

Capitol Complex

Carson City, Nevada 89710

(702) 687-5138

I saw your address in an issue of **Country Living**. I collect doorknobs and was surprised but happy to find out there was a club, for people like me. I am 13 and got interested in doorknobs a few year age. Poking around in antique and junk stores with my Mom and Aunt and different people I thought I needed another collection, so I settled on doorknobs. I have found it to be interesting looking for and buying new and different doorknobs.

I have a few bennington and a wooden one that I think is birds-eye maple. I also have a set of big brass levers. I'm not sure you would consider them doorknobs but I do.

Well, the main reason I'm writing is I was wondering if you had a newsletter or any information you could give me. I have included a self-addressed stamped envelope and I would really enjoy hearing from you.

Thank you,
April Waddill
H C R 33 box 220
Elking, AR 72727.

May 9, 1990

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America
P.O. Box 126
Eola, Ill. 60519

To Whom This May Concern:

A doorknob was recently recovered from a artifact looter's dirt pile from a portion of Carson City's Chinatown. As a result of this unauthorized excavation a collection was made by this office of assorted artifacts of which this doorknob is part. A report is in preparation at this time describing the artifacts along with the development of a historical context for this Chinatown.

The purpose of this letter is to seek any information that your organization might have concerning this type of doorknob.

The doorknob appears to be made of a white ceramic material. The surface finish is smooth with numerous small indents or blemishes. The finish color is shiny white. A chip in the surface reveals a subsurface texture like fine granular sugar and dull white in color. In profile, the shape is an elongated oval while the top view is circular. The approximate diameter is 2 and 1/8th inches. The thickness (from front surface to where it meets the metal) is approximately 1 inch. The metal portion is badly corroded.

The questions I have are: Is there a particular name, style, type for this doorknob?; Who might have manufactured this style of doorknob and where is the manufacturer/s located?; and What range of dates (suggested manufacturer's production years) can be assigned to this style of doorknob?

Any information that your organization can pass along to me concerning this type of doorknob would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,


William White,
Planner/Historic Archeologist

1989 - 1990

ANTIQUÉ DOORKNOB COLLECTORS OF AMERICA Board of Directors

President	Len Blumin #3	Mill Valley, CA
Vice President	Win Applegate #110	Hamilton Square, NJ
Secretary/Treasurer	Ray Nemecek #8	Naperville, IL
Board Member	Bill Byington #41	Iowa City, IA
Board Member	Dean Campbell #11	Newberg, OR
Board Member	Mark Davidovich #25	Carpinteria, CA
Board Member	Maude Eastwood #2	Tillamook, OR
Board Member	Arnie Fredrick #1	Waverly, IA
Secretary to the Board	Julie Mann #70	Speedway, IN

A pawn shop called The Doorknob?

by Debbie Fellenz

Have you ever seen a pawn shop called The Doorknob? That is what the enclosed picture seems to show.

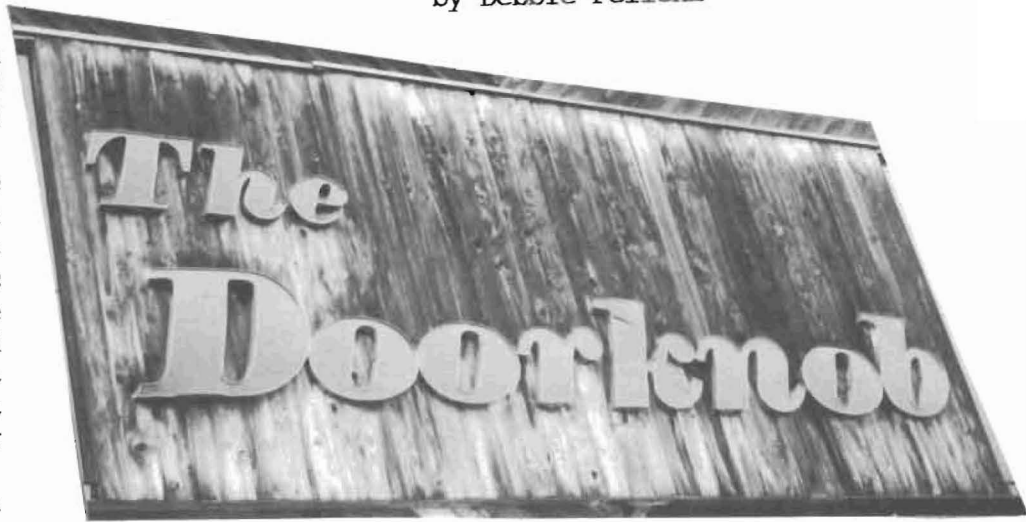
Rick Kelly and I were driving through Florida last year and spotted what appeared to be a woman's dress shop called The Doorknob. It was late and we were tired so did not stop then. We found it again, a year later, after some searching.

Now, The Doorknob is a pawn shop. Curious about the name, we stopped to find out more about it.

The Doorknob was a ladies' dress shop. Jim Harkins and his wife opened the shop in Marianna, Florida. They gave it the name since they thought customers would "turn the doorknob and walk into fashion." A few doorknobs adorned the walls of the shop as decorations.

Now the Harkins are in the restaurant business and a pawn shop occupies The Doorknob space. Rick and I ate at their restaurant and the desserts were great!

Soon the doorknob sign will be taken down and the doorknob displays dismantled. Some of the doorknobs will live on in my collection. So, you never know in what kind of place you will find a doorknob! ■



Obituaries

VINCENT J. NOE

Vincent J. Noe, a member of the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** since 1982, died on May 28, 1990, in Metamora, Illinois. Death was the result of chronic emphysema. He was 73 year old.

Born March 31, 1917, in Metamora, he married Florence Martin on May 18, 1946, in Peoria, Illinois. She survives. Also surviving are two sons, Stephen of East Peoria, and Major Mark of Champaign.

Vince, owned the Noe Lock Shop in Metamora for a number of years. As a result of his lock shop he became interested in the history of the lock and door hardware companies. This led to his becoming a member of the Lock Museum and later **ADCA**.

After attending the annual **ADCA** convention at Naperville, Illinois, in 1983, Noe presented the idea of awards for doorknob displays at future conventions. Awards were made at the 1984 convention for the first time.

A collector of door hardware for over 20 years, he was often interviewed by newspapers and television stations.

MAX H. LIESMAN

Max H. Liesman, 73, died of a stroke on May 26, 1990, in Marshalltown, Iowa. He and his wife, Barbara, were charter members of the **Antique Doorknob Collector of America**.

Mr. Liesman was born in Kellogg, Iowa, and had lived in Des Moines for 50 years, where he retired from the City Hall finance department.

Barbara is the actual doorknob collector, concentrating on knobs from the Des Moines area. The last convention Mr. Liesman attended was in 1986 at Minneapolis.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Anna Holstine of Cedar Rapids and Julia Robinson of Waterloo and one grandchild.



Antique Doorknob Collectors of America welcomes letters from its readers. Address all correspondence to "Letters to the Editors," P. O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126. ADCA reserves the right to edit all submissions.

CLASSIFIED AD SECTION



FROM THE ARCHIVES WITH ARCHIVISTS

Barb & Steve Menchhofer

NOW! WHAT DO I DO!

So...your catalog copies have arrived. You have looked through them and now you are wondering what to do with them--how to save wear and tear on them as you are scanning through them. How to keep them from getting soiled, how to preserve them. Well members, how do you keep your catalog copies looking good? If you would like to share your ideas with everyone, write to us and we will put them in one of our future articles.

In the meantime, we will share our way with you. We purchased clear vinyl pages, insert two catalog pages back to back in each vinyl page, then we put all pages of the catalog together in a three-ring binder. Each catalog is done this way. What works for us might also work for your. If your way is better or different than ours, let us know.

We would like to thank all of you who ordered catalogs this time and we appreciate your patience in waiting for your orders to be filled.

Don't forget to visit the Archives table at the convention! We will see you there. ■

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

FOR SALE. Huge selection of cast & stamped knobs and complete lock sets. Brass, steel chrome and wood available. Send us your requests. Refer to Victorian Decorative Art numbers, or send drawings or photocopy. Architectural Antiques (#213), 801 Washington Av. N., Minneapolis, MN 55401. Phone 612-332-8344. Attn: Carol.

FOR SALE. Very extensive sets of Norwalk "Marquis" (N-101 Victorian Decorative Art) interior and exterior knobs, mortises, drawer pulls, plates, etc. Probably enough for an entire house. Selling as a set only. Beautiful condition, Serious buyers inquire. Architectural Antiques (#213), 801 Washington Av. N., Minneapolis, MN 55401. Phone 612-332-8344. Attn: Carol.

WILL TRADE. Board of Education of the city of Detroit, in Bower-Barff cast iron with satin black luster. (The face of the knob has a lady and child with mountains and trees in background. Also has a banner with the latin word 'Sigiturad Astra').Wanted another emblematic or other knobs of equal value. Have several. John Holland (#4), 3434 N. 47th Way, Phoenix, AZ 85018. Ph:602-840-1945.

WANTED.J-201 knobs. Rosaria Sinisi (#223), 16 Clifton Place, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Phone 718-638-4966. (See pic. page 8.)

ROSTER UPDATE

Address change:
Bill Eastwood #124,
1118 142nd Place, SE
Mill Creek, WA 98012-1368.

James P. Anderson #88
3041 6th St. S.W. #7
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405.

Additions

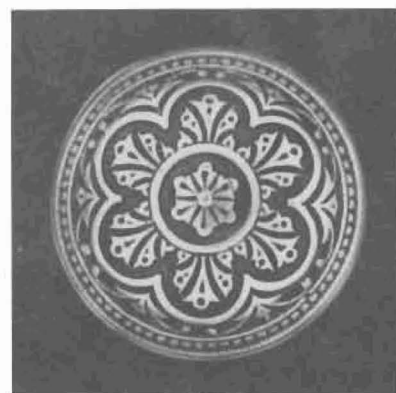
Tom & Constance Skymyer
#220
23 Elm Drive
Medford, NJ 08055

Rovert J. Harrington #221
6 Village Road
Milford, CT 06460.

Keith Curry #222
P.O. Box 621
Alexandria, Va 22314.

Rosaria Sinisi #223
16 Clifton Place
Brooklyn NY 11238.

Joe Przyjemski #224
1036 Bedford Road
Carlisle, MA 01741.



J-201