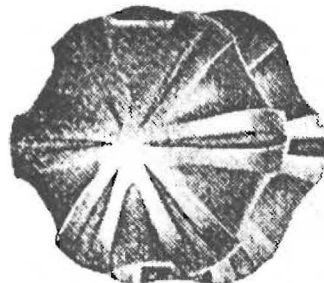
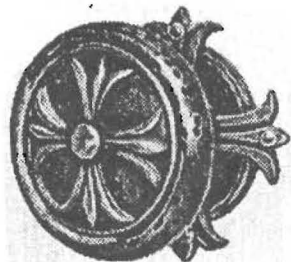




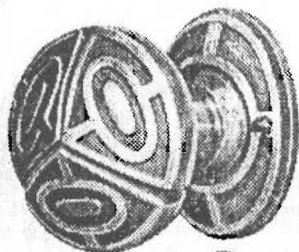
The Doorknob Collector

Number 46

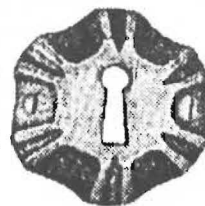
March-April 1991



Knob
No. 70-2 1/4"
No. 070-2
Round
Rose No. 70
Key esc No. 70



Knob
No. 11-2 1/4"
No. 011-2 1/4"
Round
Rose No. 11
Key esc No. 11



Knob
No. 54-2 1/4"
Round
Rose No. 54
Key esc No. 54



Knob
No. 404-2 3/8"
No. 0404-1 3/4"
Round
Rose No. 404
Key esc No. 404



CATALOG
THIRTEEN
1929

Lake Tahoe in August

The 1991 ADCA convention will have Lake Tahoe for a setting. Lake Tahoe is one of the world's most scenic alpine lakes and is less than 60 minutes from Reno.

The visitors guide supplied by the convention bureau describes Lake Tahoe as being "draped over the Nevada-California border. The drive along Tahoe's 72-mile shore line offers a pleasant journey filled with nature's wonders and reminders of the region's adventurous past."

The lake is 99.7 percent pure and visitors who take boat tours are impressed by the depth that can be viewed. During the summer activities include golfing, hiking, swimming,

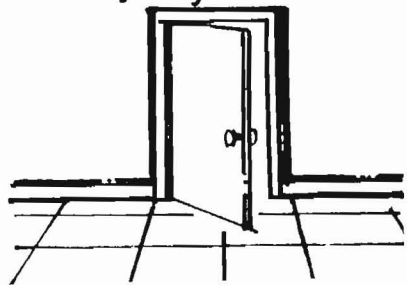
boating, fishing, sailing, horseback riding, biking, etc. On the Nevada side are the casinos and many fine restaurants. Nevada legalized gambling in 1931.

Many people flying to the convention will probably land at Reno and then arrange transportation to the Lake Tahoe area. Reno was founded in the 1860's. It was named after the Civil War hero General Jesse Reno. Reno gained fame during the 30's and 40's as a place for a quick martial divorce.

The entire area has an interesting heritage and ADCA conventioners will want to spend more than just the August 11-14 period to enjoy it.

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



Recently Art Paholke put together a listing of his hardware catalogs and books. There are 12 pages describing the material. This includes number of pages, the date of issue and a description of what each book has in it. To fit this on 12 pages, Art used a set of abbreviations. OH, (Ornamental Hardware) for example, indicates the book has escutcheon plates, doorknobs, locks and hinges. H is for handles, HG for hinges, K for keys and so on. About 220 or 230 books and catalogs are listed.

We would like to see this list expanded to include all known catalogs; those in the ADCA archives and held by individuals. This could be a worthy project to make known what is available and, if possible, who holds the books.

Did you know that Rick Kelly collects bookmarks? He is in the process of starting a club. For more information you can write him. His address is The Antique Bookmarker Col-

lector's Association, 2224 Cherokee Street, St. Louis, MO 63118.

Connie Swaim attended the eight annual Glen Ellyn, IL Antique Show on March 15th and 16th. She was as a representative of Antique Week, which had a booth of reproductions and fakes. Connie will soon be taking on added responsibilities at Antique Week. In this issue of **The Doorknob Collector** we have reprinted Connie's story from Antique Week on Brimfield. For those who have been there and those who want to go, we think it is a most enlightening article. ■



ADCA MOVIE REVIEW

by Debbie Fellenz,
ADCA movie critic

If you haven't seen the movie, "Home Alone" then by all means do so. No other movie has a doorknob scene like this one.

A family goes away on vacation and accidentally leaves their son home alone. He defends his house against two burglars. One effective way is the use of a heated coil around the front doorknob. When the would be thief reaches for the knob his hand is burned so badly he is almost knocked off the porch. Interestingly, the brass doorknob has the letter "M" embossed on it, signifying the family's last name.

By the time this newsletter comes out, "Home Alone" may be available on video or at second run movie houses. It is definitely worth seeing, with the doorknob scene being an added bonus. The adults in the audience seemed to enjoy it more than any one else. ■

Convention update...

Co-chairperson of the 1991 ADCA annual convention. Marge & Joe Bornino, have a new address. It is P.O. Box 11999, South Lake Tahoe, CA 95708.

The Doorknob Collector

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Should quality figure in doorknob pricing?

by Maudie Eastwood

Reference to knob pricing or value is rarely seen in print or heard in conversation. Is it becoming as mute a topic as religion or politics on fun night? Seriously, has the time honored custom of equating quality with value come to doorknob collecting? Shouldn't it? Coin collectors have long used this principle.

Price coverage has been down-played in our specialized field largely in deference to those, right or wrong, who feel that price-setting will kill the market. However, accepting quality as one basis for establishing value can hardly be called price setting. Discriminating toward an end, yes. Price setting, no.

Newcomers would stand to gain the most from a comparative doorknob rating. Initially, these folk lack even rudimentary knowledge of how to assess the worth of the specimen they find. To see a newcomer at convention, especially on opening day, is to witness compound frustration. How can they be expected to compete in the trading, buying and selling processes? (See Rinker on Trading, *AntiqueWeek*, 8-12-90, Pg.6.)

Old-timers to door-knobbing move along more or less comfortably in their customary groove. They know what they have and what they want. They pay more than they wanted for



one specimen and not as much as expected for another, seldom questioning prices. They feel that it all averages out in the long run. Their guides are their pocket books and intuition.

But then comes convention. Pace accelerates; pressures enter. Suddenly a seller has a dozen buyers, not just one. A buyer is confronted with on-the-spot competition. Pressure is exerted to trade knobs of different types and quality. What to do? Dickering for doorknobs begins in earnest.

As with pricing, there are no set rules for dickering. Approches are as varied as the individuals involved. There are the idealists who breathe a rarified air; the Len

Blumins and the Emmet Weimers. Len is likely to throw in a couple extra knobs just for good measure. The Weimers are religious about their profiteering. They opt for a decent return on their sales and no more, regardless of going prices.

Then, there are the rest of us bungling along. We worry if too much is asked or paid, worry if not enough was asked or paid. We say we want the other party to be happy with our offer, and then worry if they really are, even as they accept. Then, to compound our misery, people like Ray Nemeč who throw a mass of lovely, cleaned knobs on their convention table along with a sign that says, "**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. TAKE ALL YOU WANT FOR \$2.50 EACH.**" This, at the 11th hour when you have spent all your allowance. (Even Loretta was caught by surprise.) (continued on page 7)



Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

by Len Blumin

(The following regular feature is a supplement to Len's excellent book,
VICTORIAN DECORATIVE ART)

- 0-142 Treasury Seal, Hopkins & Dickinson, See ABH, page 116.
0-143 Illinois, State Seal. Unusual "winged" version.
0-144 Colorado State Seal.
0-145 Treasury Seal, Hopkins & Dickinson. See TDC #35.
0-146 Unknown. Great knob for the warden's office in federal prison.
0-147 Georgia, State Seal.

0-142



0-145



0-143



0-146



0-144



0-147



- 0-148 State University of Iowa. Cast iron.
 0-149 University of Iowa State. Cast iron.
 0-150 ADCA seal laser-cut on walnut. See Doodknob Exchange, this issue.
 0-151 Frisco Railroad.
 0-152 Massive star design. Impressive. Texas lonestar?
 0-153 LUXOR Hotel. Wrought emblematic knobs were unusual.

0-148



0-151



0-149



0-152



0-150



0-153



Everything you wanted to know about Brimfield . . .

by Connie Swaim,

Reprinted with permission of the author, Connie Swaim. The story appeared in the October 1, 1990, issue of *AntiqueWeek*. If you would like more information or a free sample of *AntiqueWeek*, write to Connie Swaim, Assistant Editor, *AntiqueWeek*, P.O. Box 90, Knightstown, IN 46148.

If you are now considering making your own pilgrimage to Brimfield, cut out this column — after you get done reading it of course — and put it somewhere safe. This is the *Connie Swaim Guide to Attending Brimfield and Living to Tell Your Friends About It*.

Start by making an \$8.95 investment in two publications.

The first is the "Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Guide to the Brimfield Outdoor Antique Shows." This publication lists some of the promoters along with the dates of their shows. It does not list starting times. What I liked best about the publication was that it answered the most commonly asked questions about Brimfield. For instance, you can find out about companies that will ship your antiques as well as the locations of 24-hour cash machines. There is an overview of exactly what Brimfield is as well as advertisements for motels, bed and breakfasts and antique shops. A map of downtown Brimfield is also included.

This was the first year for this publication, but Maureen Solomon, executive vice president of the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce, said that next year's publication will be bigger and better. Her office fields hundreds of questions during the weeks before each market opens. Her advice is to make your reservations as soon as possible if you want to stay within easy driving distance of Brimfield. During the Brimfield shows the Chamber contacts local hotels and motels and keeps a list of those that have vacancies.

The main drawback to this guide is that it only lists the Brimfield promoters who are members of the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce. It is not a complete guide to all of the shows. I think it is still worth ordering for the other information it provides, and Solomon was one of the nicest people I talked to in trying to find information about Brimfield. The cost of this publication is \$3. The new issue will be out early next year. Write to the Quaboag Valley Chamber of Commerce, 418 Main St., Palmer, MA 01069 and ask for the 1991 "Visitor's Guide to the Brimfield Outdoor Antique Shows." Don't forget to enclose \$3. For more information call (413) 283-6149.

The second publication you will need is the *Brimfield Antique Guide*. This is a newspaper-format publication with articles on antiques as well as a great deal of advertising for local antique shops, restaurants, motels and points of interest.

Publisher Robert Brown gets a gold star in my book if he keeps on his present course. He says he will list information on

all of the promoters, their show dates and starting times, whether they advertise or not. This is a hard decision to make when you are putting out a paper that depends on its advertising revenue to make money. Brown said most of the show promoters do take out large ads which provide more information than his listings. The guide also has a detailed map that illustrates where all of the shows are located.

I used the *Brimfield Antique Guide* every day that I was in Brimfield. I needed it because all of the shows opened at different times and, of course, I wanted to be there at the start of each one.

This publication was also in its first year. It comes out three times a year, about a month before the opening of each show. Brown said next year's maps will be better and he expects the publication to stay around 40 pages.

The cost of the *Brimfield Antique Guide* is \$5.95 for all three 1991 issues. For information contact Brimfield Publications, c/o Brimfield Video, Rt. 20, Brimfield MA 01010, phone (413) 245-9329.

The Sturbridge Information Center also provides information, but I couldn't find out exactly what they would send you. Because their information is free, it can't hurt to write the Sturbridge Information Center, P.O. Box 66, Sturbridge, MA 01566.

There is also a recorded message that gives information about the Brimfield shows. Currently the message is giving tentative dates for 1991 and says to call again after October because of the special town council meeting which could change the show dates. By the way, the meeting still hasn't happened yet. When a decision is made we hope to have an article on it. The number for the recorded message is (413) 245-7479.

Since several of the Brimfield promoters also advertise in *AntiqueWeek*, you can be sure you are getting up-to-date information just before the shows open.

If you don't want to drive to Brimfield, you might try a tour bus. One tour company that leaves from New York City is Antiques/Mainia Bus Tours. This company takes visitors to May's and J & J Promotions shows. Tour promoter Stephen Cohen said the bus will have you there at the opening bell both days and the package includes overnight accommodations. For information contact Stephen Cohen, P.O. Box 867, New York, NY 10150-0867 or call (212) 752-0268.

Now for my own advice based on my recent trip. If you don't make your preparations in advance you aren't going to have any fun. You need to find a motel within 20

to 30 miles of Brimfield. By the time you are done walking the fields you aren't going to want to drive very far.

I stayed in Sturbridge, which is only about 10 miles from Brimfield. This was a great drive. There was only one day when I had to wait in traffic. But don't count on this. I was told that at times the traffic has been so bad that it could take as long as an hour to get from Sturbridge to Brimfield. It just depends on the shows and how many people attend.

Take lots of \$1 bills. The goal is to park and get into the shows as quickly as possible. You move along much faster if you have exact change. Waiting for someone to dig out change for a \$20 could mean the difference between taking home that special prize and watching someone else walk away with it.

The admission price for the shows ranged from \$2 to \$3. Parking ranged from \$2 to \$5. Some of the shows let you park on the grounds, while others did not have parking. I paid \$3 everywhere I parked. I don't think the \$5 parking places put you that much closer and the \$2 places were about a half mile from the first show.

All of the fields I visited had plenty of portable restroom facilities, but there were no flush toilets. I was impressed with how clean the portable facilities were. Unfortunately none of the restrooms had a place to wash your hands. Luckily before I left for Brimfield a reader called to suggest I take Wash'n Dri towelettes (mini washclothes with bacterial-killing soap). You can get them in individual packs. Believe me, you will feel much better if you have them with you.

All of the fields I visited could have used more food and drink stands. Some fields only had one food counter, while the others had two. This means that when you are in a field of 700 dealers, a cup of coffee may be a long way off. The lunch lines were long at all of the fields. If you need to stop occasionally for food like I do, leave the fields (all of the fields stamp your hand so you can get back in). There are all kinds of food stands lining the highway in Brimfield. I left the field, got my food and returned to the show in less time than it took for people to get through the field's food line. There also aren't many water fountains. I only saw one in each field and it always had a line. If you can find a way to carry water with you, you won't regret it.

No matter where you park, you are always going to be a good walk from your car. Take something with you to carry your purchases in. I carried a heavy-duty Boy

(continued on page 8)

Doorknob pricing from P.3

If age, scarcity and quality are the three criteria for placing value on antiques and collectibles, then for doorknob purposes, quality would be the least controversial and most apparent and easily established. Age? The oldest knobs are most often the plainest and knob collectors prefer the ornate. Scarcity? Maybe today, but tomorrow? Unsuspected sticks have a way of surfacing overnight.

Without a doubt, selective buying is on the increase. Growth in this field has seen greater importance given to displaying. Quality becomes a greater factor. However, a dyed-in-the-wool doorknob collector would still rather have a worn or dinged knob of a specific pattern than to not have the pattern at all.

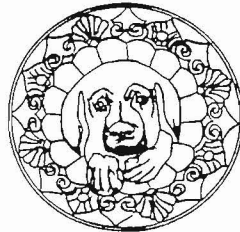
But what about those oldies where damage is obvious? Knobs where the clarity of design has been dulled by the

use of acids in cleaning, or a coarse wheel? Knobs where the plating or portions of outer "skin" are missing, exposing a significant amount of base material? Knobs with wrench marks or broken shanks? Knobs in mint condition are rare, those of average condition, the majority and those irreversibly damaged, minimal in number. Doorknobs are a hardy lot.

The knob chosen to illustrate this article is an extreme specimen: a battered knob. Hard use was coupled with mistreatment. The rim is damaged and the Greek Key border gouged. Over one half of the skin is gone from the face, and border. Originally, the knob wore a full skin of copper or copper alloy that covered a base material of either cement or spelter.

By manufacture, it was not designed to give good service. In its present shape its best hope for sale was as a throw-in with a group of knobs or as a singleton to illustrate a point. It is not material for a show piece, even though like knobs in good shape would command an excellent price.

Currently, the only helps in evaluating doorknobs will be found in the Collector's Guide in the back of **ANTIQUÉ BUILDERS' HARDWARE**, notations in Len Blumin's **VICTORIAN DECORATIVE ART**, and the various articles that have appeared in our newsletter. However, these references deal with manufactured quality, only. This article is suggesting greater notice be given to acquired quality as a more realistic gauge of current value. ■



A.D.C.A.

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 Kreusinger, 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.

Doggie Doorknob Coffee Mug

By Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

\$6.00 plus \$2.50 shipping

ADCA, Dept C, c/o Bill Byington
415 Magowan Ave., Iowa City, IA 52246

The doorknob exchange

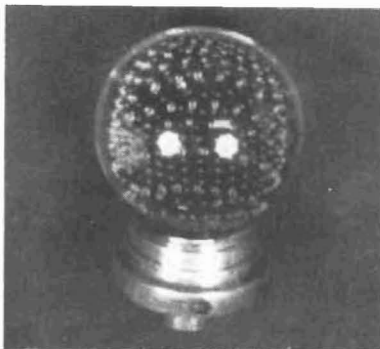
Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge.

BUYING, SELLING, TRADING. Doorknob, and related hardware. The Antique Doorknob Museum & Shop. "In Historical St. Peters Village." Call Wed-Sun 12-5, 215-469-0970 or write to P.O. Box 7, St. Peters, PA 19470. Bill Causey (#155).

FOR SALE. From thousands of miles of searching, over 300 different doorknobs, as a collection only, at \$10.00 each. On VCR tape, contact Ed Thrall (#53), 143 Chamberlain Rd., Broad Brook, CT 06016. PH:203-623-5278.

FOR SALE. Antique Doorknob Collectors of America Sweatshirt. All sizes, all colors. Doggie doorknob likeness on sweatshirt. Price \$16.50 each. ADCA, Dept. S, c/o L.C. Bolen (#113), 17 Tree View Drive, Apt. B, Lithonia, GA 30038. Ph:404-981-1752.

FOR SALE. ADCA club doorknobs. Walnut body, brass stems, design in club logo. Laser engraved. \$27 each includes shipping. ADCA, Dept. D, c/o Bill Byington, 415 Magowan Ave., Iowa City, IA 52246. PH:319-338-0982.



FOR SALE. Doorknobs and related hardware in good quality and quantity as well as almost any type of door to place it on. Also parts of house of almost any vintage. David Olafsen, 20048 Free Church Road, Caledonia, IL 61011. PH:815-389-2728.

FOR SALE. Book, Victorian Decorative Art, by Len Blumin. Supply very limited. May be last chance to order, \$11 (includes postage). ADCA, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.

WANTED. I am looking for a smooth, clear, leaded glass doorknob. It is the shape of a sphere. Inside the ball is a helix of bubbles. It is called Pairpoint glass or "controlled bubbles." Mike Chace (#234), R.D. No.2 Bayberry Lane, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549, PH:914-234-3984.

WANTED. Trade or buy, knob with three running deer. Ed Thrall, (#53), 145 Chamberlain Rd. Broad Brook, CT 06016. PH:203-623-5278. ■

Brimfield from P.6

Scout backpack mounted on a frame. It worked great. I also saw people carrying cloth bags or pulling small carts or wagons. Almost everyone at Brimfield had some way to carry purchases.

As I said in a previous column, you will need good shoes. My new shoes, which are a cross between a hiking boot and a running shoe, worked great. My legs still hurt at the end of four days of constant walking, but at least I could still walk. I doubt that any shoe will keep you entirely comfortable after so much walking.

Remember to rest occasionally. There are so many antiques and collectibles to see that it is easy to just walk by booths without really looking at what is inside once you get tired. In the larger fields I tried to take at least one break halfway through. I stopped and ate a cookie. It is easy to think that if you don't keep going you will lose out on a great buy, but if you are so tired that you barely notice what is in a booth, you will miss it anyway.

Don't ignore the smaller shows that have been open all week because you figure all of the best buys will be gone. I went to the fields whose openings I could attend first, but then I hit the other fields and actually found two of my best buys that way.

If you are the kind of person who doesn't have to be at a show right at the opening bell, you might consider visiting each show about an hour after the opening. I had to go through each show twice because on my first pass many dealers were still unpacking.

When you go to Brimfield remember that antiquing should be fun. You are going to get hot and tired and grumpy. Take along plenty of patience.

Now you know more than I did when I set out for Brimfield. I hope this helps you avoid some of the pitfalls I encountered. Mark your calendars for May, July or September and have a great time. ■

TAHOE SANDS INN CONVENTION REMINDER

Mark your calendar. August 11-14 are the dates set for the 1991 ADCA annual national convention. It will be held at the Tahoe Sands Inn, 3600 Highway 50, South Lake Tahoe, CA.