

## A Victorian Christmas



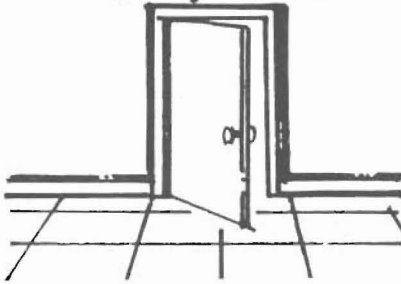
by The Osbornes

During the holiday season our home was one of seven in our community of Birmingham, Michigan open for public touring. The one day tour was to benefit the Special Education Programs of our local High School. Our home was on the "Victorian Christmas" theme, and when it came to the Christmas tree we decided to hang some of our prized doorknobs and plates as

ornaments on the tree. You would never believe the startled looks the tree received! We are not sure if people were more shocked that someone actually collected doorknobs, or why we would hang something like that on a tree. Naturally we received many lovely comments. We thought you would like to know about one more unusual way to display a collection.†

## THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



To those who have not renewed their A.D.C.A. membership for 1992, this will be your last issue. If you have been putting off sending in your 1992 dues, I hope you will send them in very soon.

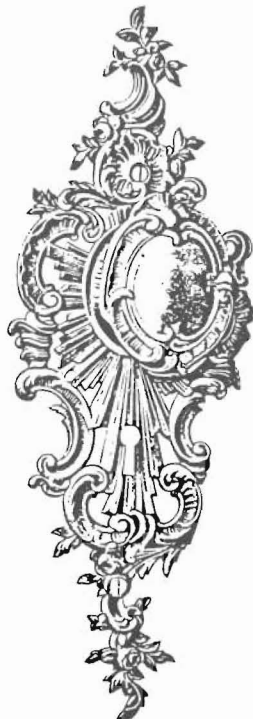
Art Paholke has been a regular feature writer for Key notes, the official publication of the Associated Locksmiths of America. In collaboration with William Sherlock, he did two articles this year.

The June 1991 feature was titled "Are You Sure It Happened This Way?" and the October 1991 feature was "The Nightmare of Compromised Security." These are well written articles and sure get you thinking.

Rosaria Sinisi is now the Art Director on Guiding Light, the CBS Monday through Friday daytime TV program. She serves as a consul-

tant on the Bill Cosby show.

This issue of **The Doorknob Collector** is the 50th issue published by A.D.C.A. It is the 31st issue that Loretta and I have done. We are now well into the sixth year of serving as editors. **The Doorknob Collector** has become a part of our lives. We always look forward to the mail, hoping it will bring news, stories and pictures for future issues of **The Doorknob Collector**. You, as a member of A.D.C.A. are encouraged to contribute. A story, a picture, a want ad, cartoons, or anything you want to share with fellow members is always welcome. †



Dick & Lillian Balasa

### Illinois in 1992

The 1992 ADCA annual convention will be returning to Illinois for the first time since 1983. The convention will take place August 1-4, at the Days Inn, 500 West River Road, Elgin, Illinois.

The convention will be hosted by Lillian and Dick Balasa. The Balasas have chosen a site that is accessible to O'Hare Airport and the expressways.

The proposed activities include several trips to Chicago and area flea markets. Additional information will be published in **The Doorknob Collector** as it becomes available.

### The Doorknob Collector

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# HOLLAND SPEAKS!

by John Holland

## YOU MEAN YOU COLLECT DOORKNOBS? REALLY?

How many times have you had friends, associates and, yes, even family say that to you? I always respond, "Yes, I'm proud to be a doorknob collector."

When you first began, weren't you surprised to learn that others also collect doorknobs and that you were not alone in the pursuit of your hobby?

Weren't you pleased to learn, too, that a book had been published and that now there are three?

Weren't you equally pleased to know that a National Organization existed and that annual conventions are regularly held?

All the tools for learning are in place. An established association in existence for ten years, a very well done Newsletter with 59 back issues available to the serious collector. A good selection of hardware catalogs in the Emil Miller Memorial Library with copies available through the Archives Directors. These catalogs have been donated to the library by interested members, and through the effective leadership of **A.D.C.A.**, the basis for continuing education, are available to all members.

**A.D.C.A.** didn't just happen. It was caused

to happen by Arnie Fredrick and the late Emil Miller, even though many persons talked about it. They brought 41 persons to Waverly, Iowa, Mid-America, in September 1981. Among the assembled group, hosted by Arnie and Tedi Fredrick were 21 collectors.



John Holland

It was thru Arnie's leadership that the assembled group saw the need to organize. They set goals and objectives. They recognized the need to strongly emphasize Education. The long range goal was to establish a National Museum, to house and secure the remnants of a lost Art of Doorknobs and related hardware.

They also decided on holding regular annual conventions, and to sponsor a regular Newsletter as a means of educating and communicating the results

of study and research. Arnie Fredrick did the basic work in drafting the by-laws and regulations and being sure it was all done in a legal manner, so **A.D.C.A.** is incorporated in the state of Iowa.

The second convention was held in San Francisco and hosted by Len and Pattie Blumin. The By-Laws were adopted and **A.D.C.A.** became a legal entity. Through Len Blumin's leadership, **A.D.C.A.** took a great step, as he engineered the establishment of the Library and Archives. He also started the first Auction, which became a fund raiser, as well as an opportunity for Conventioneer's to buy and sell and enjoy the fun of a lively auction.

**A.D.C.A.** began to grow in membership largely through the wider distribution of the three published books, the publicity in conjunction with our annual convention and through "word of mouth."

Our newsletter, "The Doorknob Collector," has had a positive effect on membership development. Members seem to come out of the woodwork, but they do keep coming.

Good leadership during **A.D.C.A.**'s formative years were essen

tial to its healthy development.

The "**Doorknob Collector**" was started by Rich and Faye Kennedy. The late Jim Kaiser and Lee Kaiser took over from the Kennedys' after **A.D.C.A.** was formally organized in 1981. They published four issues annually.

Upon Jim Kaiser's demise, Loretta and Ray Nemecek took the rein of editing and publishing. They have gradually increased the publication to six issues a year. **The Doorknob Collector** has become one of the finest Newsletters of its kind among assorted collectors.



#### Newsletters

It continues to be regular, educational, newsy and interesting.

Len Blumin has furnished all the photography and many educational articles.

Maude Eastwood has contributed more to **A.D.C.A.** than any mem-



Maude Eastwood

ber. Her zeal for research and study are unparalleled and she so willingly shares it with the rest of us. She is in constant demand by members and non-members alike to answer questions on any subject relating to Door Hardware. We don't know what **A.D.C.A.** would do without her, we don't want to try.

**A.D.C.A.** has many able members who contribute to its general welfare through working up educational displays for convention goers. Our Dealer members who share their wares gained through hard work and travel. The behind the scenes work done for



Barbara&Steve Menchofer

the auction, the work involved in maintaining the Archives by Steve and Barbara Menchoffer.

Just think 11 conventions have been hosted by ten different members. Doesn't it make you want to volunteer to be a host, to become more active, to write an article for **The Doorknob Collector**, to bring a special display to the convention such as Ed and Flicka Thralls Boards, and now Alex Kunkel has entered the competition for board space.

**A.D.C.A.** has come a long way since September 1981. The status of the Doorknob Collector has risen to new levels. They are now recognized as preservationist instead of junk collectors.

Where do we go from here? We need to continue to show our pride in pursuit of our hobby, by giving talks to other interested groups, to display portions of our collection in Library, State, County Fairs, financial institutions, museums and other public facilities.

We need to search out closet collectors and expose them to the merits and values of **A.D.C.A.** We need to become more convention minded and to sell

(continued p.7)

# Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

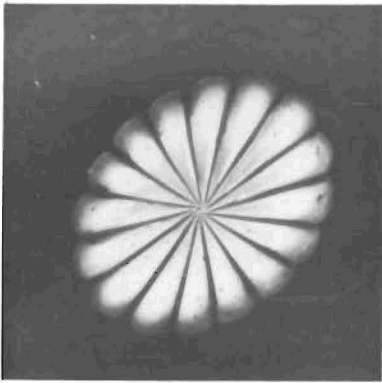
by Len Blumin

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

## OVAL KNOBS

N-149 Through N-154. Oval "fluted" knobs. Simple radiating or parallel flutes have been an effective and admired design motif for ages. Here we see fluted variations on oval knobs, although they were also commonly used on round knobs, where they suggest a sunburst. Most manufacturers used this pattern, often called it "colonial." Became popular after 1890.

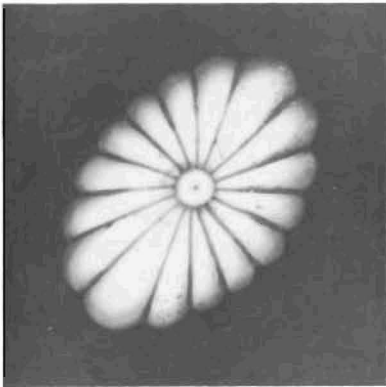
N-149



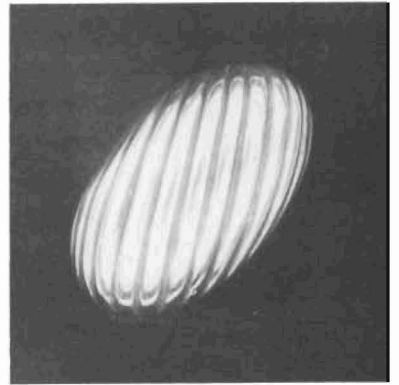
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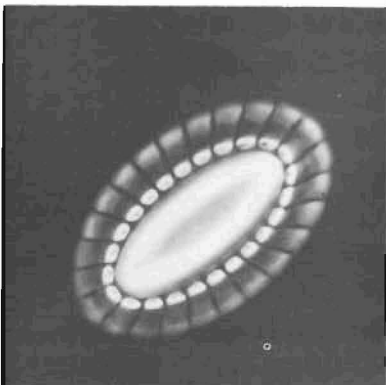
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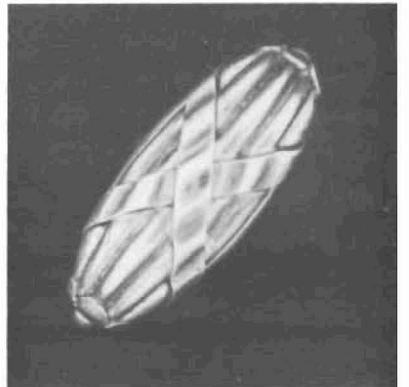
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N-151



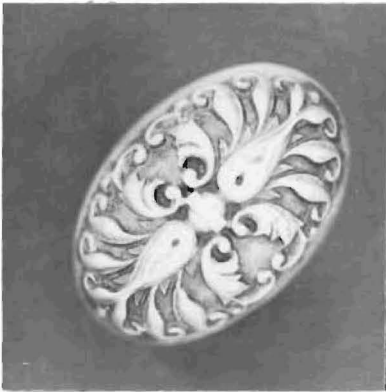
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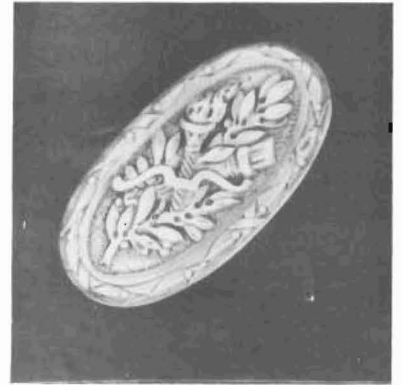
OVAL KNOBS

- N-155 "PAVIA," Italian Renaissance, Corbin, 1905 catalog.  
N-156 Flowerbuds down the center, or are they fuschias?  
N-157 Cast iron. Flowerbuds decrease in size in the border.  
N-158 Louis XVI motif. Several variations, e.g. N-126.  
N-159 "BLOIS," Francis I school, Corbin, 1905 catalog.  
N-160 "LOTUS," Art Nouveau, Corbin, 1905 catalog.

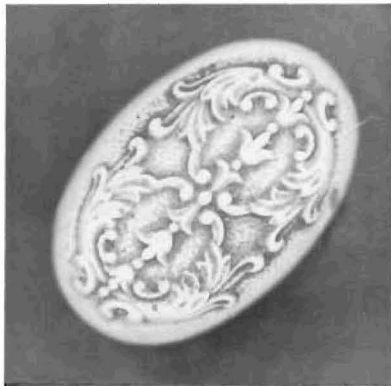
N-155



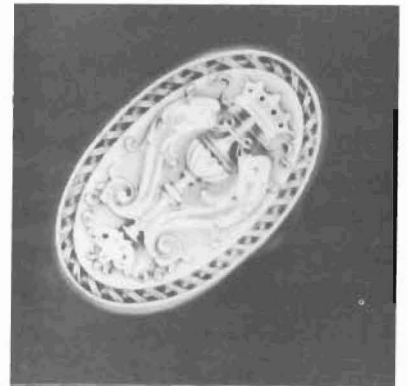
N-158



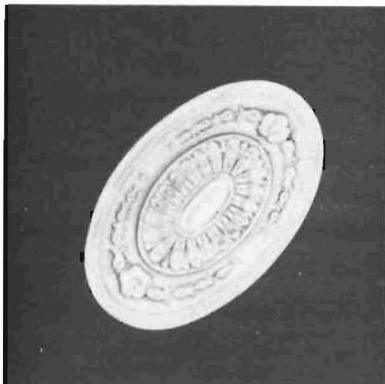
N-156



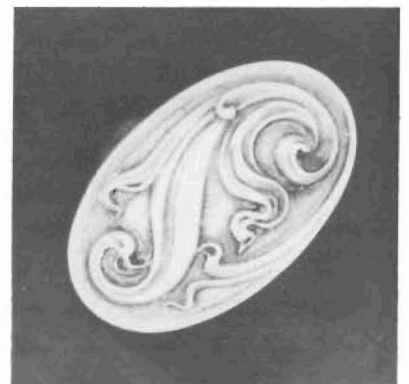
N-159



N-157



N-160



4, 1, 3, 4, 5, 2, 21, 3, = 110

by Win Applegate

There is a small church in New Jersey. If you visit, the congregation is friendly and the services and other programs leave you with a warm feeling.

Upon closer inspection, the church is in a growing community but now lies in the shadow of new yet larger churches. Not only is the church leadership always the same but new members never seem to be included. The word is, "if you are not from one of the three or four original families, you will never really "belong."

This scenario is not reflected in your **ADCA**. It would have been, in some respects, a natural thing for this to happen here. The original founders of **ADCA** have been willing, for the future of your organization, to encourage participation by newer members.

If we were into Madison Avenue talk, the title of this article would be called something like a "grabber" because its purpose is to grab ones attention so they will read on. In case you have not yet made the connection, it is the membership number of each president of the **ADCA**. Beginning with your



Win Applegate

first President John Holland (#4) to Len Blumin's (#3) second tour, their numbers read "Charter Members".

The significant point is not President Applegate, but that his membership number is 110. His contribution to the club is something for reflection in years to come, but pride should be taken now in the fact that the original leadership of your club has practiced what John Holland preaches in his Tenth Anniversary speech "encourage and involve new members". If anything can, this will do the most to ensure the future of your **ADCA**. †



D-120



HOLLAND...(from page 4)  
attendance.

We may want to consider regional conventions and informal gatherings of collectors in order to learn from one another.

We readily encourage you to use the available tools of **A.D.C.A.** Try to acquire the 59 back issues of **The Doorknob Collector** and don't forget the catalogues from the Archives for your own home study and research.

One of the long range objectives of **A.D.C.A.** is to establish a museum. We might begin by creating a Central Depository for acquiring Museum quality gifts as they become available as "seed knobs" and related hardware for a future Museum.

You bet I'm proud to be a Doorknob Collector. AREN'T YOU? †

# Dealer at the ADCA

by Debbie Fellenz

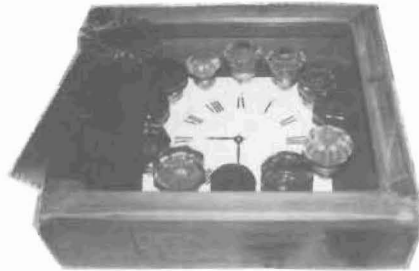
What is it like being a dealer in the A.D.C.A.? The main difference between being a dealer and a collector is profit. I buy door-knobs to sell and hopefully will make some money, while collectors buy at a reasonable price for enjoyment. Since I also collect colored glass knobs I try to buy one to keep and one to sell to pay for the one I kept.

Many times I get carried away and will pay too much for a knob, consequently losing money. Other times I pay \$5.00 for one that I can sell for \$50.00. Unfortunately that doesn't happen very often though or I could retire!

I try to at least double my money (some dealers call it keystoneing) on anything that I buy. That may seem like a lot but I have to figure my expenses in that. I have monthly bills such as utilities and advertising and yearly bills such as insurance and licenses.

When doing the A.D.C.A. convention I figure expenses such as gas, food and hotels. We do two out-of-town flea markets a month so figure the booth

rent and salary for a shop watcher in that. I always buy something at the flea markets so that makes it worth the time and effort if sales aren't good.



Glass Category Second Place

Winner (see p.6 #49)

I have to keep a large variety of stock to please everybody. Some people will buy only fancy brass knobs while others want black porcelain. It would be nice to handle only things that I like but that wouldn't be practical or profitable. (I'd want to take everything home!)

Many people come into the shop and ask where I get everything. Most of the stock comes from flea markets, walk-in's, call-in's, garage sales, and pickers. Pickers are people who know what I'll buy and hunt for it.

I spend a lot of time cleaning and

sorting once things find their way to the shop. Most people want things highly polished, while others (doorknob collectors) don't. Everything in the shop is in an organized fashion so that an item is easy to find when looking for it.

I grew into the antique business naturally since my parents and brother also have shops (my parents have retired). I started out 15 years ago doing brass polishing and selling brass and copper accessories. Now Rick Kelly (my husband) and I have a three story building full of architectural antiques and furniture.

The shop is on a street of 50 antique shops in South St. Louis, known as Cherokee antique row. Most customers are local restorationists who need hardware for their houses. This can range from a single doorknob to a whole house full of hardware, lighting, and plumbing.

Almost daily, people come into the shop and talk about what they they threw away and what their grandmother had. I knew an antique

(continued p.9)



Dealer..(from page 8)

dealer who had a sign in his shop that read "The only one interested in what your grandmother had was your grandfather!"

An antique dealer never goes on a real vacation. There's always a flea market to go to or an antique shop to stop at or a garage sale that can't be passed by. The good thing about that is that most trips are tax deductible.

One man came into the shop and found an odd piece of hardware that he had been searching for.



He exclaimed, "this isn't a shop, it's a service to the community!" It's a nice feeling to be able to help someone like that.

Having an antique shop is demanding, time-consuming, and confining, but at the same time it's educational, unpredictable, and fun. Many people think this is a glamorous business but since I can never get my hands completely clean I certainly wouldn't say that! You have to love this business to be in it and I do! †

Dolores & Debbie Fellenz

DECEASED MEMBERS OF ADCA  
NECROLOGY

Emil Miller,	Omaha, NB	March 2, 1984 - Age 66
Lionel Moes,	Olympia, Wa	February 4, 1985 - Age 40
Liz Fowler,	Portland, OR	March 11, 1985
Patrick Cody,	Holmes, PA	November 1985
Darrell Razor,	Bellevue, WA	November 1985
Charles King,	Moline, IL	November 1986
James Kaiser,	Minneapolis, MN	February 11, 1987 - Age 60
Evelyn Nichols,	Flint, MI	February 23, 1987 - Age 65
Ralph Chelin,	Princeton, IL	April 10, 1987 - Age 72
Roy Schorek,	Moline, IL	December 23, 1987 - Age 60
George Clark,	Milford, CT	January 18, 1988 - Age 74
Irma I. Dick,	Minneapolis, MN	July 14, 1989 - Age 82
Jimmie Meadows,	Fort Smith, AR	August 4, 1989 - Age 58
Eugene Morris,	Forest City, IA	August 28, 1989 - Age 70
Nels Nelson,	Minneapolis, MN	September 1989 - Age 80?
Max H. Liesman,	Des Moines, IA	May 26, 1990 - Age 73
Vincent J. Noe,	Metamore, IL	May 28, 1990 - Age 73
Tecla A. Snow,	Nashville, MI	April 24, 1991 - Age 63
Adair Stroing,	Chico, CA	June 18, 1991 - Age 67

# The doorknob exchange



## FROM THE ARCHIVES WITH ARCHIVISTS

Steve/Barb Menchhofer

Thanks to Sharon and John Decker's letter, we discovered the 34 Questions and Answer booklet was incomplete. While checking the booklet, we found the reason why. The last sentence on the Memorandum page states "All members are asked to give their responses (opinions) to questions 30 thru 34." These pages list the answers to questions 30 thru 34 from club members who attended the convention that year. After talking with John Holland, he was able to furnish the missing pages. If you have a copy of this booklet and would like to have the missing pages, please write or call us and we will send you a copy of them. †

The theme for the 1992 convention will be on, Chicago Hardware Mfg., Co. and United States Steel Lock Co.

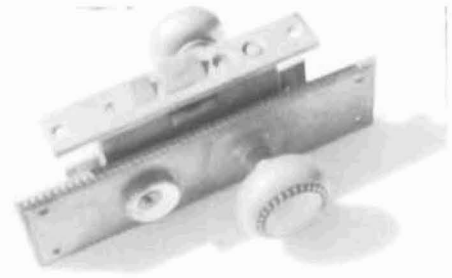
Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge.

**FOR SALE.** Grand Lodge Knights of Pythias - Indiana doorknobs & escutcheon plates. (See **The Doorknob Collector** #22, page 4, O-203.) Small knob with escutcheon \$22. Large knob with large escutcheon \$32. Steve Menchhofer (#60), 5538 West 25th St., Speedway, IN 46224. Ph: 317-291-6043.

**FOR SALE.** "10 Sets" Russwin Lock Set (see picture) \$30 per set. Bill Hart (#108), 1937 Mosrer Dr., Henderson, NV 89015. PH: 702-565-4752.

**FOR SALE.** If you are passing through San Diego, make sure to stop at Liz's Antique Hardware (#111), 3821 Park Blvd., San Diego, Ca 92103. An extensive inventory of over 300,000 pieces of door, window and lighting hardware and furniture dating from 1950 on back.

**FOR SALE.** Back issues of **THE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR**. \$2 each. Send for list of available issues. The Doorknob Collector, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.



## ROSTER UPDATE No. 4

The following are additions to the 1991 ADCA roster which was enclosed with the May-June 1991 issue of **The Doorknob Collector**.

#266

H. Weber Wilson  
24 Franklin St.  
Newport, R.I. 02840

#267

S. Douglas Staszek  
245 Lake St.  
Barrington, IL 60010

#268

Joe Goodson  
101 Yankee Court  
Rockwall, TX 75087

#269

richard Wise  
814 Bangs St.  
Aurora, IL 60505

#270

Richard D. Hausman  
Belding Heminway  
1430 Broadway  
New York City, NY 10018

## Address Changes:

#51

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Hot Springs, AR 71909