



The Doorknob Collector

Number 60

July - August 1993

The President's Corner

by Win Applegate

"**READ THIS ONLY IF YOU HAVE** decided not to accept our invitation"...how many times have you seen this in your mail?

This article need only be read by members who have never attended a convention and who are apprehensive about doing so.

At times, I have been accused by those dear to me of telling a long story to make a short point. It looks like this in one of those times, hence, the caveat.

This is a true story.

My friend Darwin lives in what most of us would call a very, very nice neighborhood. Recently, a young couple, lets call them Danny and Shirley, moved in. In conversations with their new neighbors, Shirley confessed that they felt that they had "traded-up" too much and did not know what was expected of them in the community.

It was apparent that they were trying too hard to "fit in" and were concerned about offending their neighbors.

This brings us to late one Saturday afternoon. Going out for a social engagement, Darwin was ready much before his wife.

While walking in his yard, he waved to Danny who was cutting his grass in an outfit we are all familiar with...sweat shirt, shorts and old sneakers.

Looking at his own landscaping, Darwin noticed an azalea bush that had been missed the week before and proceeded to get the extension cord and clippers to give the bush a touch-up.

...You guessed it! When Darwin again looked over, there was Danny cutting his lawn in shirt and tie, slacks, sport jacket and good loafers.

Now! If you are thinking about attending your first **ADCA** convention but are concerned about being:

1. Out of place
2. Over dressed or under dressed
3. Not having doorknobs good enough to display.
4. Trying to break in to what must certainly be a close-knit group.
5. Just too timid or apprehensive for your own good.

I can only tell you "**don't be.**" Without covering each of the one through five's, you will have to take my word that you will feel at home among a group of fine people. You will not be the only first-timer there...because of the geography, the attendees always vary.

The second true story is that I attended my first convention "cold turkey." I never spoken to another collector, I had obviously never seen another collection and did not know what others considered the finer points of collecting.

That year (1987), I took first place in the display contest. (He won by displaying only one knob. *ed.*) So you never know...

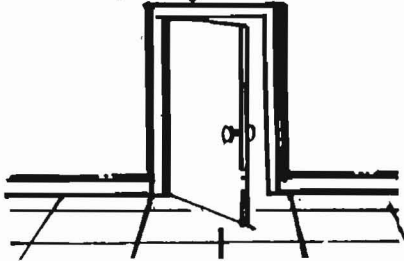
If you have never attended and are "iffy" about going, why don't you send in that application, plan a long weekend in the Washington area, pack some casual clothes and some knobs that you like and look forward to some fine fellowship with people with the same interest as you.

Still have any questions? Call me..
(609) 586-7285

1993 ADCA Convention, Gaithersburg, MD, October 8-11

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



I am now in the second half of my twelve week rehabilitation program. If it wasn't for the scars on my chest and left leg I would probably forget that I had open heart surgery in April. Again, I want to thank all of you for your kindness.

Several of our members have had surgery in the past few months, among them John Holland, Lee Kaiser and Ray Zyc. We hope they are all well on the road to complete recovery.

To those who have missed our regular feature, Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs, we expect to resume it in the very near future.

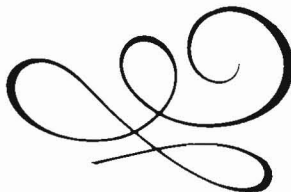
We hope, if you have never attended an ADCA convention, that you will read Win Applegate's article in this issue. After reading it, we think that any apprehension you may have had about attending the convention will disappear.

Helen and Bill Byington continue to be active in displaying their doorknobs. In June they had an exhibit at the Johnson County, Iowa, Historical Society called "Fleams, Fans and Fairy lamps: Curious Collections" that had a miniature lamp collection and antique doorknobs. They have been asked to do a program for a women's club in December.

Yours truly was interviewed by Nickelodeon magazine. The feature, under the name of "Curious Collections" was in their premiere issue, Summer 1993, on page 63. The club has received several inquiries about doorknob collecting from young readers which the magazine targets. •



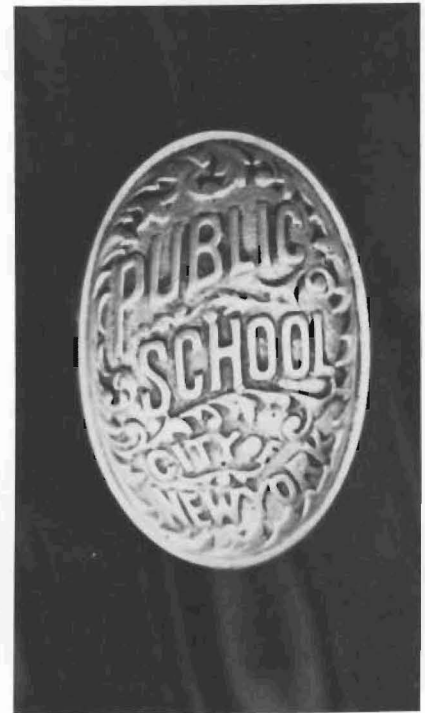
Detroit Fire Department



Price Increase

The prices of the hardware books currently being sold by ADCA will be increased effective April 1, 1993. The increase reflects the higher costs of obtaining copies, shipping and handling. Current prices have been in effect since July 1, 1990.

Book	Prices effective 4/1/93
The Antique Doorknob by Maude Eastwood	\$12.00
Antique Builders Hardware by Maude Eastwood	\$19.50
Antique Builders Hardware (three ring binder w/hard cover) by Maude Eastwood	\$21.50
Supplement No. 1 Antique Builders Hardware by Maude Eastwood	\$ 6.00
Victorian Decorative Art by Len Blumin	\$12.00



Public School
City of New York

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America Board of Directors

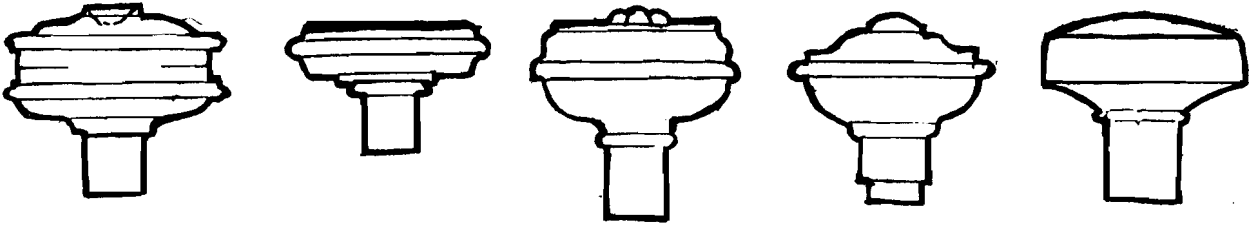
President.....Win Applegate #110
Vice President.....Dale Sponaugle #85
Sec/Treasurer.....Loretta Nemec #8
Board Members.....
Len Blumin #3
Dean Campbell #11
Maud Eastwood #2
Arnie Fredrick #1
Carlos Ruiz #52

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 Nemec, Editors.
Phone: 1-708-357-2381
FAX: 1-708-357-2391
Annual Membership in USA: \$20.00
Foreign rates on request.
Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is prohibited.
Printed by Sun Printing, Naperville, IL

Profiles in Hardware

by Charlie Wardell



A profile, by definition, is an outline of contour or simply a side view. Frontal views are inadequate for us

to rightly appraise an object and, if the opportunity exists, we must examine from different perspectives. Whether it is a tree, a car, a vase or a person we constantly use profiles in arriving at our appraisals of relative beauty. To capture (and hold) our attention the thing must have the proper lines and proportions. In crafted objects the profile is part of the overall design and the designer, the mold-maker, the founder and the chaser utilize every opportunity to enhance the beauty of their creation.

Design is to objects of art what verse form and rhyme is to poetry and there is poetic beauty in the hardware of 1870, 1880, and 1890. Artistry and craftsmanship in metals reached an apex in those years and, despite modern developments in mechanics and metallurgy, hardware from this era is incomparable. The last cathedral has been built

and the best hardware has been manufactured.

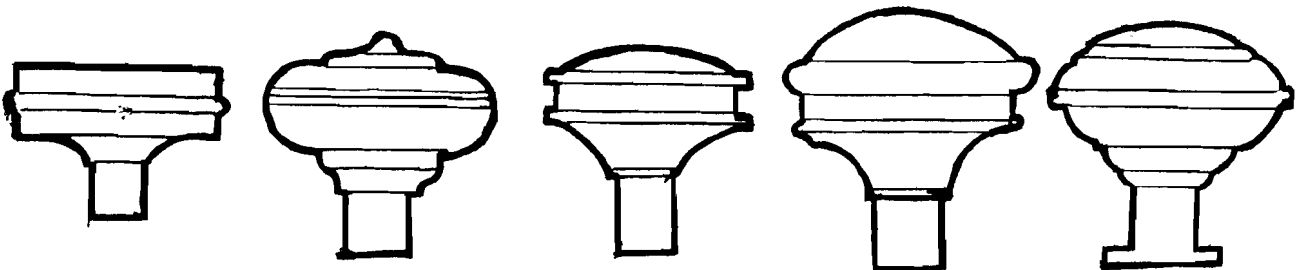
Turn your masterpieces of metalwork over again in your hands and count your blessings!

Close examination reveals few doorknobs with the same profile and this can be quite interesting. In spite of the necessary limitations in their size and shape the abundant numbers of configurations and variety adds spice to our hobby.

There are petite knobs, massive knobs, concave, convex, oval, hexagonal, octagonal, flattened, fluted, sculptured, pierced and painted knobs with the list continuing and adding to our interest in doorknob collecting.

Early in my collecting of doorknobs I corresponded with Dave Masterson in California, traded some very delightful pieces of hardware and I must give him the credit for alerting me to the importance of profiles in judging and selecting doorknobs.

Your satisfaction and pride, hopefully, will increase by greater attention to profiles. •



A Doughboy's story of a doorknob

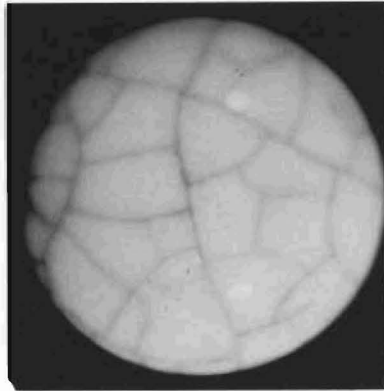
(Written by E. A. Batchelor for the International News Service and published in newspapers throughout the United States in September 1918.)

Paris, France, September 1, 1918-The ragged, dirty and generally battered soldier came into the Y.M.C.A. hut just behind the firing line and ordered a bowl of hot chocolate. He took his bowl and sat down in a corner all by himself, instead of joining one of the laughing groups around the other tables. From his pocket of the tunic he removed a doorknob, just a plain white china doorknob of the type sometimes used at home to fool a trusting hen.

He drank his chocolate in silence, 'the while looking sadly at the doorknob. Finally the Y.M.C.A secretary's curiosity was aroused and he went over and tried to engage the soldier in conversation. The usual platitudes about the weather failed to elicit more than a monosyllable reply. So did some remarks about the success of the Allied advance. The soldier just didn't want to talk.

But the secretary knew that there was something on the man's mind, and thought it might do his visitor good to tell him about it. So he persisted. Finally he picked up the doorknob and started to examine it. The soldier grabbed it out of his hand and put it back in his pocket.

"Excuse me, but I don't allow anybody to handle the door



knob," he said. "No offense, but I'm afraid it might get broken."

The secretary made profuse apologies and explained that he had no intention of invading the soldier's privacy, but he really was interested in learning the story of the knob.

"Well," said the fighting man slowly. "I guess you're a right guy, and, as I am enjoying your hospitality and have enjoyed it before, I might as well tell you, though I don't tell everybody. Some folks wouldn't understand and they might think I was crazy. It was like this. I was up in a little town one day during the big push on the Chateau Thierry front when the Boche began to shell 'us with shrapnel and big stuff. Our sergeant told us to duck into an old house because there wasn't a dugout handy and this place afforded some protection against shrapnel, though it wasn't any good in case of a direct hit. A dozen of us made a dash for the door and the other fellows beat me to it. I guess they didn't know I was coming because the corporal slammed the door just as I got there. I took

hold of this knob to open it and go in when a two hundred and ten hit the house square in the middle and blew it right out of my hand. That's why I treasure the knob."•



European Hardware
See page 5

Doorknobbing in Europe

by Debbie Fellenz



Doorknobs are still on all of the doors in Europe since Rick and I didn't have a screwdriver and spare knobs with us when we visited there lately! We did manage to buy some European hardware that will be for trade or sale at the convention in Washington, D.C. in October.

We gave up trying to learn the word for "doorknob" in different languages but managed to get the point across by gestures. We did learn the work for the important things in life - like ice cream in Germany, ice cream that was shredded to look like pasta with a tomato (strawberry) sauce. We also saw pizza ice cream, and whipped cream all over everything, and lot of it.

Many of the doorknobs in Europe were large, plain knobs in the middle of the

door. Door handles were more prevalent, and many were figural. The doors themselves were often double doors. It seemed like they were sort of a status symbol since most doors were very fancy.

Many doors have an ornate iron front with a doorknob to match the center of the grill. The hinges, door knockers, and mail slots were all fancy too. Most of the mail slots were vertical instead of horizontal.



Many doorbells were on a long rod that is pulled down to make the bell ring. that must have left an impression on me since I had a dream that the convention was in Germany and Arnie Fredrick wasn't there - I wondered what I'd do with my doorbells!

We found some hardware in antique shops and flea markets. Most shops have strict hours, they open and close punctually and many are closed for a few hours in the afternoon.) for a long lunch or nap). Many of the antique areas we visited have places to eat simply called "restaurant antique" so naturally we had to try them and see how the desserts were! (Great.)

We brought back doorknobs and other merchandise in our luggage but I didn't find any glass for my collection. Some things we have are hundred of years old, the age of the European buildings is incredible. If the door hardware could talk in English then we'd know a lot more than what is in history books.

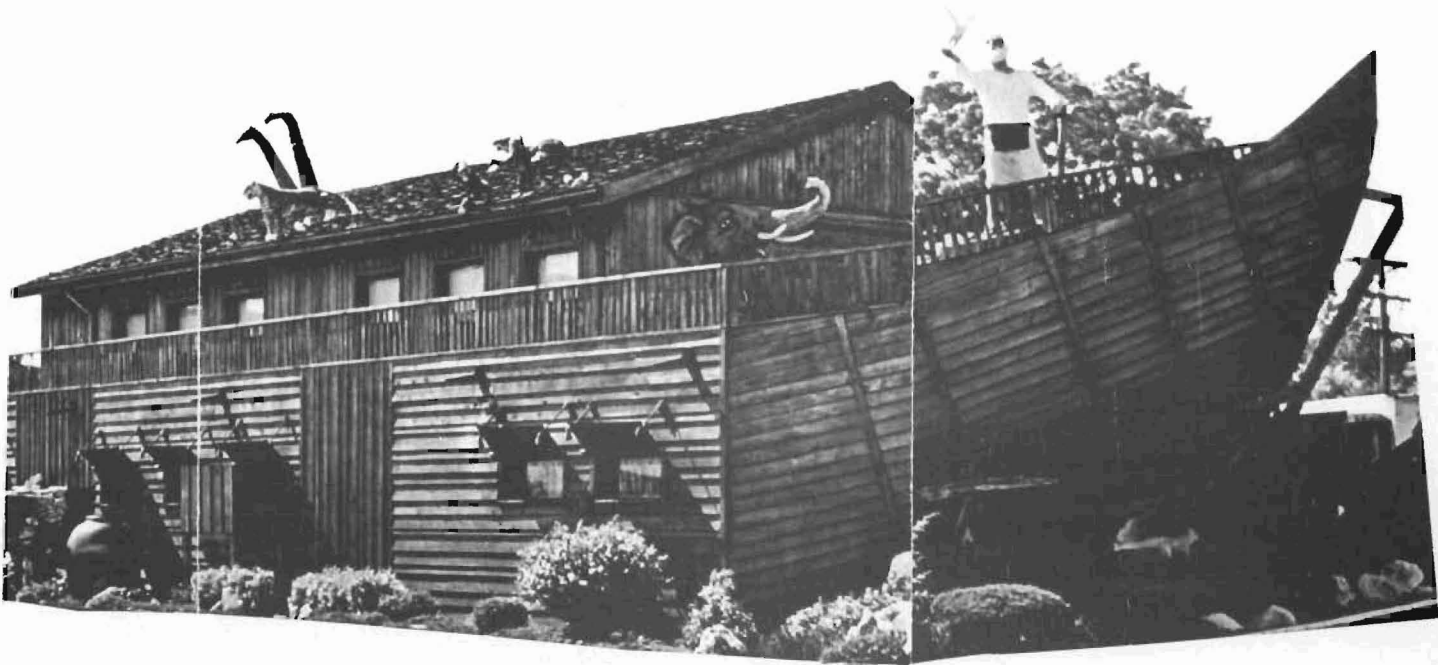
The Louvre and other buildings in Europe still have all of their doorknobs but we looked wistfully at them all. •

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Anyone wishing to have a topic discussed at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, October 10, 1993 should contact the President, Win Applegate prior to the convention at:

318 N. Burtis Avenue
Hamilton Square,
N.J. 08690
(609) 586-7285

Noah's Ark a safe place during flood



The great rains of 1993 resulted in some midwestern rivers leaving their banks and flooding many homes. With all the hardships and damage resulting from flood waters there was a bit of humor that resulted in the St. Charles, Missouri, area.

Some families in the St.

Charles area took refuge at Noah's Ark Best Western motel, which was the site of the 1985 ADCA convention.

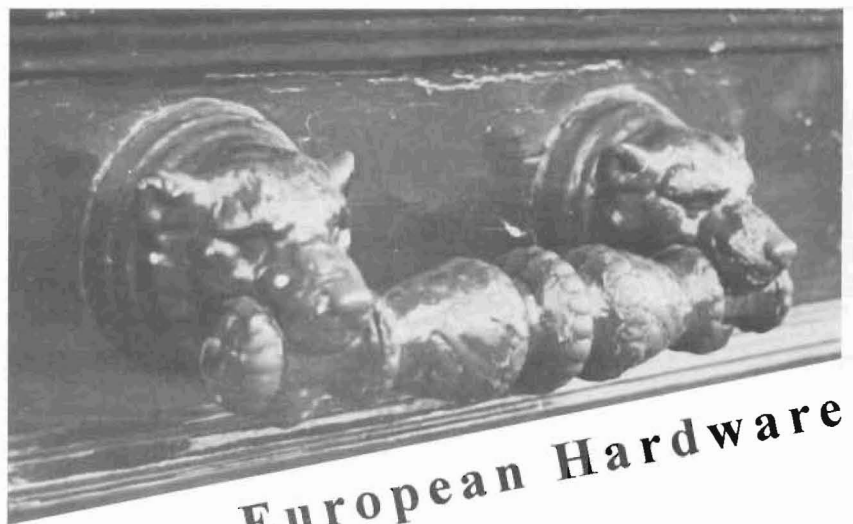
One temporary resident of the hotel said, "when I tell somebody I am at Noah's Ark they get a big charge out of that." "All you can do is laugh

about it" said one temporary resident.

1985 ADCA convention attendees will recall that an ark-shaped restaurant, complete with modeled animals on the outside and stuffed animals on the inside, is attached to the motel. •

Convention Theme

The 1993 convention theme will be Representational and Emblematic designs on doorknobs (Classification "A" in *Victorian Decorative Art* or Classification "O" in *The Doorknob Collector*, by Len Blumin.) The convention host Dale Sponaugle and his committee are hopeful a number of displays will be shown at the convention.





We were a great team. There was Joe Sashlock and Mindy Hinge and all the rest. We were part of a hardware group in an old Victorian mansion. What fun we had just hanging around the door. I was so bright and polished then. Across the hall was a beauty, she was made of glass, and how she sparkled in the sun. We use to guess who was coming down the hall next, the little ones could hardly reach us and their sticky hands were terrible. Some of the grown-ups were not to nice, they would jerk and twist us, and slam the doors. Once or twice my friend fell off. Every week someone would clean us, it tickled, but we looked great afterwards.

As the years past and the family left, we became dirty and tarnished, all was quiet. One day someone came by and admired my hidden beauty. I thought I heard him say he was a doorknob collector and I would look great in his collection. Before I knew it, I was off to another bright future to be cleaned and admired almost daily. I do miss my friends, but if I could only talk what stories I could tell!•

Ruth Ann Overbeck to be convention guest speaker

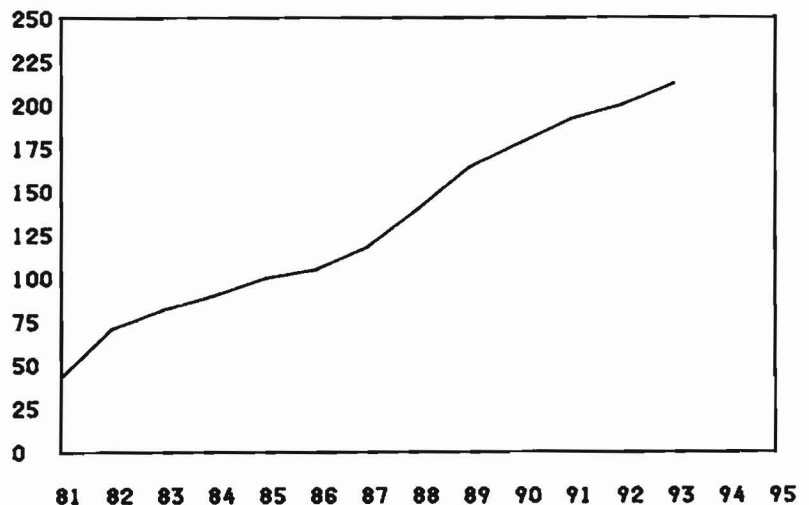
Ruth Ann Overbeck, who, in 1975 founded Washington Perspectives, Inc. (WPI), one of the nation's oldest public history firms, will be a featured speaker at the ADCA annual convention in October.

The guiding principle of the firm is Overbeck's commitment to make history available to the general public. Thus, WPI has produced walking tour brochures; architecture guides for citizens' groups tasked with historic oversight; history exhibits; documentation of more than 5,000 buildings, ranging from an 18th century Maryland manor house to log farm buildings in the United States and Canada and elegant Washington mansions.

Overbeck is a member of numerous history and preservation organizations. She has designed and led more than 100 history-related tours and seminars from Smithsonian Institution associates and co-authored the award-winning book, *Houses and Homes: Exploring Their History*.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and raised in Texas, Overbeck is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. While writing the biography of Alexander Penn Wooldridge, a 19th and early 20th century educator, she moved to Washington, D.C. Her love for the nation's capitol induced her to make Capitol Hill her permanent home in 1970.•

ADCA MEMBERSHIP BY YEAR



CollectorsNet®

the International Link Between Collectors & Computers

by H. Weber (Web) Wilson

Today both dealers and collectors recognize the need to bring modern technology into their businesses, especially since more and more of everyone's customers are making computers a part of their daily lives. So a watershed change in the antiques and collectibles business is under way, and the goal of CollectorsNet is to provide the communications framework that can help bring ADCA and other collecting groups up to speed.

For example, besides having support from all levels of the antiques business, we have terrific technology up and running. We had enough leased phone lines to allow for 130+ simultaneous users, a gigabyte hard drive on the main processor, full featured, intuitive software, and a steadily expanding communications capability. We have local line access in every major market nationwide, and the capacity to do everything from broadcasting messages to Internet access. And we are ready to upgrade the equipment and services as the customer base expands.

We have a menu that outlines the features accessible on CollectorsNet now. I've been fortunate in gaining the support of some key people in the business. My goal is to bring together as many quality contributors as possible, with everyone benefiting significantly. It will be a real compliment to have the ADCA as one of the initial participants, and we could begin with two primary functions:

1. The Doorknob Forum. In this menu section, accessed on the **CNNews** menu page, **ADCA** can post important club information that can be updated at any time. We could start with an edited version of The Doorknob Collector which can be uploaded as a binary message attachment or as a straight ASCII file. We will work with you to develop the format that is most compatible with your hardware and software, and works best with the "readability" factor of computer screens.

The main idea of the Forum is to provide ADCA members with a place where they can post messages or read information 24 hours a day. Members can respond to posted messages both publicly and privately, with the messages staying on line for several weeks. In this way, individuals can communicate, buy, sell, and trade, and the group can build a permanent, expanding dialog on issues important to ADCA.

As this electronic messaging feature gains volume, ADCA officers can post times when they will be on-line for live, screen to screen teleconferencing. This is an excellent way to address members' questions and concerns with immediate, personal responses. Whenever two or more members are on line, they can open a teleconference where they can share news, tell stories, or swap hardware if they wish.

2. Electronic Mail. Electronic messaging is going to increase dramatically as antiquers discover the fun and benefits of communicating via computer. Each ADCA member who signs on to CollectorsNet receives their own private e-mail box, where messages are logged in and out, and then saved according to each persons' priorities.

CollectorsNet is literally connected with the world, so all members can use this e-mail feature to communicate with anyone, anywhere, who has a modem and access to our BBS.

The people power needed to maintain the ADCA Forum is not great. The newsletter is produced on a computer now, so it only needs to be edited before uploading onto CollectorsNet. We will need to appoint one ADCA member to be Forum-op. He or she will have editing privileges, and will be responsible for developing the Forum into the sort of communications center that

works best for the doorknob folks. Each individual will of course monitor their own e-mail box, which by the way can receive messages from anyone, anywhere. As messages volume grow, people will find that CollNet provides great saving in letter writing, telephoning, mailing, etc.

As CollectorNet expands, and your organization adopts the new communication procedures, ADCA will be able to take advantage of computer networking. With the live dialogue capability of CollNet you will be able to conduct new member interviews on line, and have them fill out membership forms as you speak. You can also open a ADCA Store where you can set up your own billing procedures, confirm reservations for meetings, sell specialty items, or feature whatever else you choose. And everyone in the ADCA can also access the complete CollNet menu, including headline news, direct access to show managers, the CollNet Mall, database and InterNet gateways, the Computers fro Antiquers Forum, and all the upgrades we will be installing.

Even with just a few ADCA members having computers, we can build a pretty exciting Forum in short order. The BBS system is really quite intuitive, and we'll provide plenty of one-on-one support. All that's needed is a modem and communications software. We will all benefit from the 'newness' of the operation, and with good cross support we'll develop a system that meets everyone's needs. And it won't be long before many other ADCA members will want to be on line

(Web Wilson plans on being at the ADCA convention in October to discuss more fully costs, access and applications of CollectorsNet.)•

Did you know!

Did you know that in Kansas City at the Crown Center, is the headquarters of the Hallmark Card Company. In their office building is a wall of bric-a-brac that includes door hardware.



A career of hanging doors leads to unusual collection

By Mary Nugent
Staff Writer

A rainy day project has led to an unusual collection for Ole Herseth of Chico.

Herseth began collecting doorknobs and locks, both ordinary and unusual, more than 30 years ago. But it wasn't until last winter that Herseth decided to make the assortment a bonafide collection by mounting each one on a piece of wood.

When he displays the 100 or so locks on shelves, they are a conversation piece.

Herseth has owned and operated Ole's Weatherstripping and Custom Door Hanging for more than 30 years, and during the last decade or so, he has collected a myriad of doorknobs and locks.

"One door lock in the attic is nothing," he said. "But I've got a whole collection."

More often than not, he explained, customers request he haul off their old doors when they get new ones. Locks, he said, remain attached.

Knobs are made from pewter, chrome, glass, stainless steel, brass, copper, and black and white porcelain. "Old ones are ornate and carved. And today they're reproducing locks that aren't made anymore," he said.

Herseth's collection also includes cabinet

knobs, old-fashioned coat racks with engraved porcelain ends, and doorknockers.

"Today we have those little magnified peepholes. But there used to be door knockers with a speak-easy," he said, displaying a two-sided, intricately carved tiny door for a peak hole.

"This was so you could see who was at the door, but they couldn't reach in and grab you," he said.

His treasures also include an old-fashioned bathroom lock with "occupied" and "open" signs, and a couple of "pretty old" store exit alarms, he said.

"I'm really not good at history, so I don't know how old these locks are. But I'd say my oldest is about 100 years old.

"The glass doorknobs are from the '60s. The block and handle sets are the sturdiest."

Deadbolts add extra security, but otherwise, all household doorknobs and locks offer the same amount of security, he said.

And his collection spans a large area. "They're all from Sacramento to the Oregon border, from Crescent City to Reno, Nev," he said.

So what are the plans for Herseth's unusual assortment? "I think I'll send a picture of it to an antique magazine, maybe sell it," he said.

(Reprinted from the August 7, 1992 issue of the Chico (California) Enterprise-Record.
O.E. Herseth is one of our newest members [#339])

The doorknob exchange



FROM THE ARCHIVES WITH ARCHIVISTS

Steve/Barb Menchhofer

Have you given any thought to your display for the ADCA convention in October? Even though it is a few months away, the time to begin is now! Get your catalogs out and research those emblematic and representational knobs so you will be able to identify the companies that made them. There were so many emblematic and representational knobs made that there should be a wide variety of each type displayed at the convention.

Our thanks to everyone who ordered catalog copies this time. We had 51 catalogs, total of 4500 plus sheets copied. Many new members ordered the copies this time and we were pleased that they did.

We will have some of the catalog copies displayed at the convention, so if you are there stop by the Archives table and browse a bit. We will not offer these for sale again until the end of the year. •

DEADLINE

All ads, material and articles for the September/October 1993 issue of **The Doorknob Collector** should be in the hands of the editors by August 13, 1993.

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

FOR TRADE. 2 knobs, plates B-205, F-122. Two knobs, D-111, H-210 (domed), L-107. One knob I-107, I-118 (iron), all brass except as noted. Stephen Rowe (#287)
85 Jasmine Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

FOR SALE. door hardware collection. (See story in TDC). For more details write or call. O. E. Herseth (#339),
Space S,
1388 Longfellow Ave.,
Chico, CA 95926.
PH: (916) 345-0676.

WANTED. Single roses, D-105, H-206, K-205. Two roses each, D-119, D-124, K-213, L-107. Two escutcheon each D-102, D-119, K-205. any or all, brass only.
Stephen Rowe (#287)
85 Jasmine Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611

WANTED. Antique Millefiori doorknobs. I have some for sale.
FOR SALE. Scottish contemporary doorknob and drawer pulls.
L.H. Selman (#328)
761 Chestnut Street,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
PH: (800) 538-0766.



Roster Update New Members and Renewals

#332
Joseph McDonough
615 Dymond Rd.
Libertyville, IL 60047
PH: 708-367-7119

#333
Salvage One
1524 So. Sagamon Street
Chicago, IL 60608
PH: 312-733-0098

#334
Patsy Andrews
8823 Heather Circle
Houston, TX 77055
PH: 713-932-6661

#335
William H. Berry
5576 Ranier Drive
Lisle, IL 60532
PH: 708-964-3272

#336
Phil Ellis
c/o Baldwin Hardware Corp.
841 E. Wyomissing Blvd.
Reading, PA 19612

#337
Luis J. Guzman
4965 Gayman Road
Doylestown, PA 18901

#338
Dr. R. Rex Eatmon
1501 Northland
Carrollton, TX 75006

#339
O. E. Herseth
Space S, 1388 Longfellow Ave.
Chico, CA 95926
PH: 916-345-0676

James Gierman #340
8436 Blackburn #2
Los Angeles, CA 90048
PH: 213-655-0541