



The Doorknob Collector

Number 66

July - August 1994



Close up of Pabst Theater and City Hall



Milwaukee Public Library Building 1898 with original light fixture.

Last call for Milwaukee

A final reminder, please return your 1994 Convention registration by July 20th if you have not already done so. If you did not get the registration packet, please call 708-357-2381 or fax 708-357-2391 and one will be sent to you immediately.

Milwaukee is a great city. Bus tours of Milwaukee on August 3rd and Old Milwaukee on August 4th are planned. In addition the Milwaukee Brewers American League baseball team is schedule to host the New York Yankees on August 3rd and the Baltimore Orioles on August 4th through the 7th.

Friday is "set up" day, the time to see what the other members brought, not only to exhibit but also, to trade and sell. The evening reception at the Pabst Mansion should be interesting and fun.

Saturday, August 6th, is planned for the convention to be open to the public. In addition, there will be

presentations, clinics and seminars. This is a good time to let you know we are looking for people to participate in this program. If you would like to be a part of the program let Greg Filardo know. Members are always asking about cleaning knobs, displaying them or the history of a knob. How do you photograph them? There are many questions to be answered. If you would like to host or participate in the seminars let us know and we will work with you to set up the program.

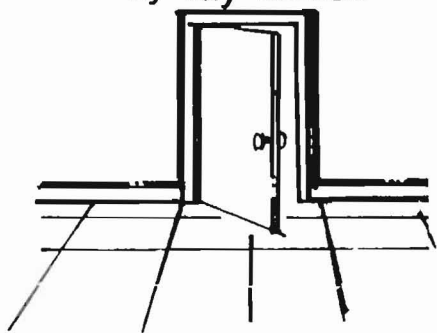
An evening banquet, general meeting and program will conclude Saturday's activities.

Sunday's schedule includes a Buffet breakfast and "the" auction. From past experience the auction runs about four hours. The conclusion of the auction is also the official end of the 1994 convention. Greg Filardo and his committee look forward to seeing you at this year's convention. •

(Above photos by Greg Filardo)

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemece



Do you have doorknobs that have not been assigned identification numbers? If you would like numbers assigned send us a picture of each knob (suitable for printing in the newsletter) and we will work with Len Blumin to have a number assigned to them.

An article about antique hardware, which included pictures of Bud Wolski and his collection, was featured in the May 29th edition of the Sunday Los Angeles Times. The article resulted in a number of inquiries to ADCA about hardware and the club.

Recently a story about Rich Kennedy and his doorknob collection appeared in a local newspaper in his area (New Jersey). Stories such as those on Bud and Rich are the best types of publicity for ADCA. Usually new memberships result from these articles.

The 22nd annual Lock Collector Show, sponsored by the Lock Museum of America, will be held on Saturday, October 8, 1994, in Terryville, CT. For details, write to the Lock Museum, P.O. Box 104, Terryville, CT 06786.



D-112 - Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.

Bits and Pieces

by Win Applegate
President

Recently we spent a day in "Old" Sacramento, the western terminus of the first transcontinental railroad. The town had been restored nicely into a tourist attraction. Those familiar with restorations know that tuck pointing masonry properly requires a tinting of the cement so the new does not stand out. . . . this was done. The door hardware was probably not original, but, for the most part, was old. New construction was obvious but used acceptable "reproductions".

Restored also were the blocks and blocks of wooden sidewalks. Tens of thousands of square feet of boardwalk surrounded these carefully restored structures. After what was probably a lot of research, correct brick tuck pointing, paint color matching and period hardware, these large expanses of lumber were all power-driven in place using Phillips-head screws. . . . a product not introduced until the 1930's!

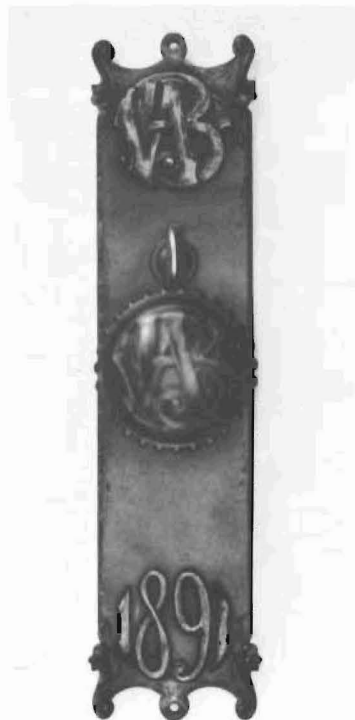
Well, . . . someone once said that life itself is one big compromise so.....

PBS's This Old House recently made a side trip to Martha's Vineyard. Master carpenter Norm visited an 1891 Victorian House in the final stages of restoration. The original owner? This large Queen Ann Victorian with six exterior colors, lovely porches, a widow's walk and great interior wood work was built by hardware king Philip Corbin. If you didn't blink you could see one original door knob, but it was a beauty!

Most of the original exterior was obliterated by a 1950's "updating". The new owner who went all-the-way with the restoration is named Peter Norton. . . . I wonder if that is THE Peter Norton, the author of the very well known computer software package "Norton's Utilities"?

WINGATER #18

Any brown porcelain knob when placed on a flea market table will magically become a BENNINGTON knob. •



Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.
Wainwright Building - St. Louis, MO
Louis Sullivan Collection

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America Board of Directors 1993/1995

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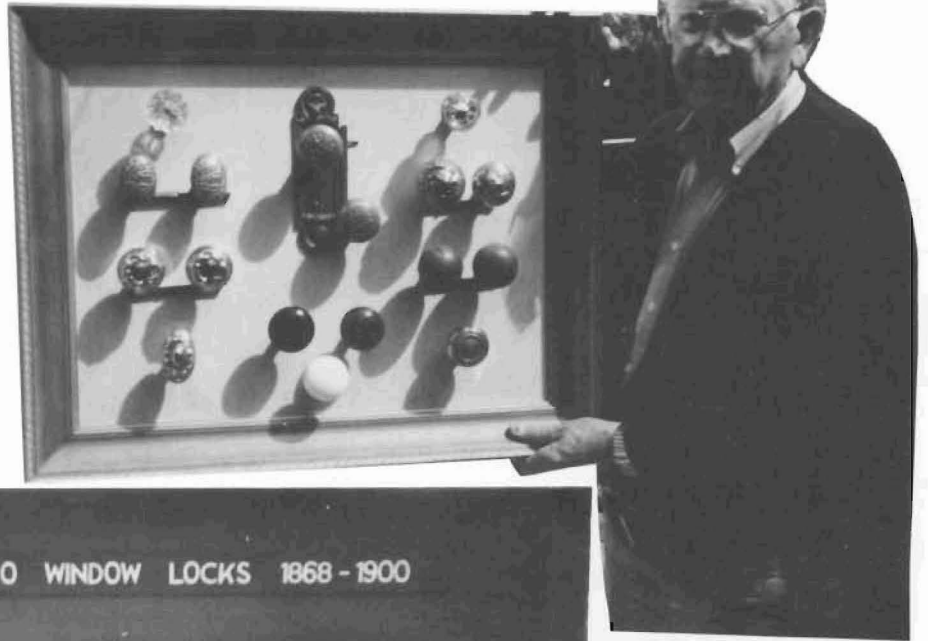
The Doorknob Collector

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Meet George Jurach

George Jurach is a relatively new member to ADCA (since August 1992) but he has been collecting doorknobs and related hardware for many years.

George lives in Old Sacramento, California, and specializes on hardware from there. He has made many beautiful displays of items in his collection. Besides doorknobs and related hardware, he has window locks, door bells, old Sacramento gaslight fixtures from 1855 to 1884, beer pumps and much more.



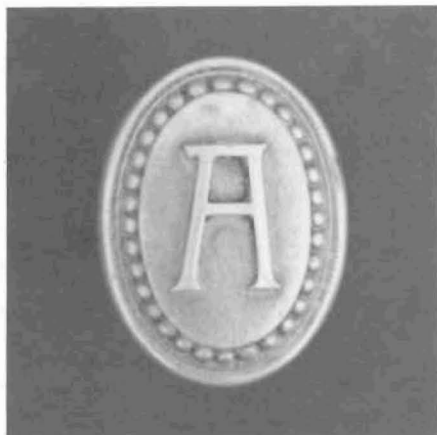
One display titled "Old Sacramento Bedroom" features hooks, pulls, stops. . . just about anything from the "hardware" line that would have been found in a bedroom over 100 years ago.

The pictures shown here are just a sampling of the many displays George has. •

Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs

by Len Blumin

Emblematic and Fraternal Knobs



O-160
"A"
Circa 1920



O-161
"RC"
Knob was reported made by Yale & Towne for
the Cuban Capitol building in Havana, Cuba.



O-162
"LN"
Does anyone know the history of this knob.
Circa 1920



O-208
Elk's Knob
Came from a building in Illinois, built in mid-
1920's.

Early experiences in collecting doorknobs

Part II

by Steve Blumberg

The Standing Indian



A-203

Back in the 60's as I became interested in the beauty of the cities and collected and learned about artistic architectural fixtures, I also wanted to know the history of the areas I was going in. Why were these beautiful homes being destroyed? I made many friends with elderly people. I was in my middle teens. I used to befriend the poor elderly residents I would meet in my travels and drive them to the store, stop in and make sure they weren't sick. I became genuinely concerned for their welfare. They were depressed with not only growing old but couldn't understand the need for or the rapid changes going on in their communities. Homes they had known all their lives, whole communities, were being wiped out. I went in many homes back then, in immaculate condition, that were being destroyed. Also, many of these people had no place to go but to apartments. Having large old homes, some of which took in roomers, the excess stuff they accumulated was simply left behind. I used to move them for free and when asked to take money for my trouble, I would simply request to be allowed to take



St. Paul MN
The Standing Indian
c. 1968

whatever they were leaving behind. I had a number of wonderful people back then who felt I had been taken advantage of for my work in moving their furniture for no money. What I would take was stuff I would find in attics, some scrap plumbing and of course the knobs and stained glass windows.

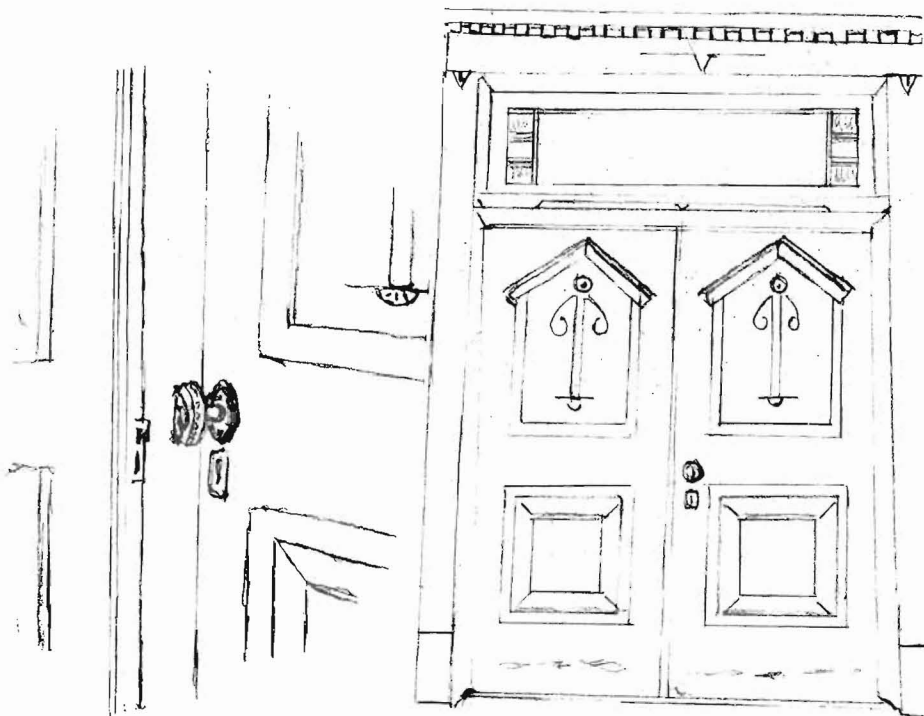
It was obvious to imagine, my reputation as a moving company for free got around. I had several older ladies seek me out, knowing a friend and so forth, that would ask if I wanted anything they were leaving when they moved out. I had a number of places left unlocked and be told of such, simply, so I could have it instead of the wrecking ball. Another thing I use to like is to have the old people tell me is what the neighborhood was like in the 20's and 30's or earlier when they were growing up.

I had this old friend who was born 12 days into the 20th century, January 12, 1900, who lived in South Minneapolis all his life. He

told me of the Brass street bands who would play in the street, the peddlers, the Flour Mill and the shifts of laborers, the logging job teams at the downtown labor markets, World War I. I like to hear of the pre-prohibition saloons. My friend from 1900, Ed or "Crackerbender," would tell me that as a kid of 10 or 12 for a nickel he would go over to the old Washburn Mill, across the Washington Avenue railroad tracks, and get a pail. Crackerbender would go into a saloon and have the pail filled for a nickel. Then he could eat free sandwiches that were always heaped on trays for the customers and then return to the Mill at noon time. He would receive a dime from the mill hands, so he earned a nickel. He also would sell newspapers for two cents and make a penny on them. Crackerbender would talk of his wealthy older customers back then who would silently whirl up on a high electric car and give him a nickel for the newspaper. He told me of several times as a boy he had rode in some of the cars.

This type of information one could never know unless they talked to someone who lived before World War I. Not many left from back then and when they are gone it will be only speculation. Some of these people would even remember doorknobs they noticed back then.

I remember just such a case. I had this friend named Doc. He had been living in an old sleeping room on Holly Avenue, off Dale Street, in St. Paul. An elderly friend of his owned the place. One day Doc said, "Steve, I know how you like doorknobs. Just last week saw one I always liked with an Indian on it." I hadn't seen



one like that so I was very interested. Doc told me of his friend, who had the Indian knob, and if I would give him a ride he would visit with his friend. If I would just bring along another doorknob for the door I could have it. We went over there and sure enough there it was on the front door. The friend told me that the city of St. Paul was in the process of buying his place as he told me that he lacked the money to make the required updating the city told him it needed, and besides he was too old and tired to take in roomers any more. The house, as I remember it, was rather plain outside and had beautiful cherry woodwork in nice condition on the inside. The staircase and front hall were very elaborate. I had been meaning to go back and just visit the guy some more. Six months later when I drove past the house the windows were broken out and the front door boarded up. I stopped and went around back and the door was broken open. I went in and looked for more Indian knobs. The man told me there weren't any more but I wanted to be sure. There were none but I did get the elaborate grape leaf rose and key holes off the front door. Three-Fourths of the block was torn down and modern tract type houses

were put up in their place, which in ten years, themselves, were ripped to pieces by the rougher new residents who came into the area. I think the site is now a common weed filled lot. *(Sketches by Steve Blumberg)
(Next issue, **First Dog Knob**)

Identifying Doorknobs

This is the fourth of a series which cross-references the number appearing in Lionel Moes 1984 catalog with those assigned by Leonard Blumin.

| Moes | Len Blumin's |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Enterprises Catalog</i> <i>Victorian Decorative Art</i> | |
| A-37 | E-141 |
| A-38 | F-235 |
| A-39 | K-302 |
| A-40 | H-208 |
| A-41 | H-204 |
| A-42 | I-108 |
| A-43 | B-114 |
| A-44 | D-125 |
| A-45 | J-304 |
| A-46 | J-211 |
| A-47 | D-112 |
| A-48 | F-234 |
| A-49 | J-201 |
| A-50 | H-206 |

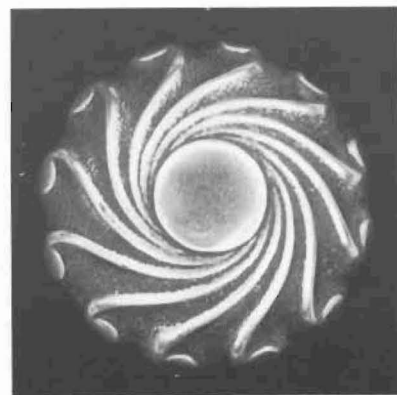
(Compiled by Edward Sobczak)

U. S. Patent

Invention number chart

This is the second chart in a series to help you determine the approximate age of patented hardware.

| YEAR | PATENT NUMBERS |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 1850 |6981 through 7864 |
| 1851 |7865 through 8621 |
| 1852 |8622 through 9511 |
| 1853 |9512 through 10,357 |
| 1854 |10,358 through 12,116 |
| 1855 |12,117 through 12,008 |
| 1856 |14,009 through 16,323 |
| 1857 |16,324 through 19,009 |
| 1858 |19,010 through 22,476 |
| 1859 |22,477 through 26,641 |
| 1860 |26,642 through 31,004 |
| 1861 |31,005 through 34,044 |
| 1862 |34,045 through 37,265 |
| 1863 |37,266 through 41,046 |
| 1864 |41,047 through 45,684 |
| 1865 |41,685 through 51,783 |
| 1866 |51,784 through 60,657 |
| 1867 |60,658 through 72,958 |
| 1868 |72,959 through 85,502 |
| 1869 |85,503 through 98,459 |
| 1870 |98,460 through 110,616 |
| 1871 |110,617 through 122,303 |
| 1872 |122,304 through 134,503 |
| 1873 |134,504 through 146,119 |
| 1874 |146,120 through 158,349 |



E-104 ROKEYB
Yale & Towne 1900

First Timers



Faye Kennedy



Tori Lederman and son

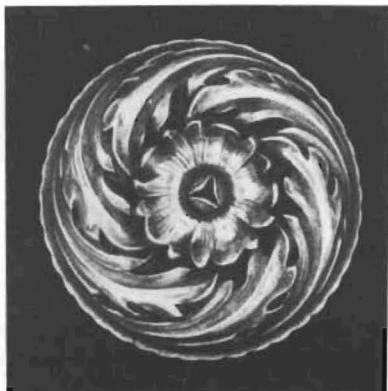


Sally Bober

Convention time is here again. Each year **ADCA** hopes all it's members will make it to the convention. Knowing this is impossible, we all want to see a good representation from "first time" **ADCA** conventioners.

Three people who attended their first convention in 1993 were Sally Bober, Faye Kennedy and Tori Lederman. They all seemed generally impressed with the hardware they saw on display, for trade and for sale.

More important, they all seemed thoroughly delighted by the friendliness and helpfulness of the members who have been at previous conventions. Everyone is made to feel they are a part of the convention and the newcomers soon feel they 'belong.'



**E-136
Urbino
Yale & Towne**

Display categories announced

There will be a total of eight awards given out at the 1994 convention to members participating in the display competition. The display contest will consist of the following:

Yale & Towne...first, second and third place awards.

Louis Sullivan...Best (no second or third place awards).

Open... first, second and third place awards. This category gives everyone a chance to display their creativeness.

Best of Show...This will be selected from the Yale & Towne and Open categories.



**E-132
Cluny
Yale & Towne**



FROM THE ARCHIVES WITH ARCHIVISTS

Steve & Barbara Menchhofer

It's always interesting to see what people order from the Archives when we offer catalog copies.

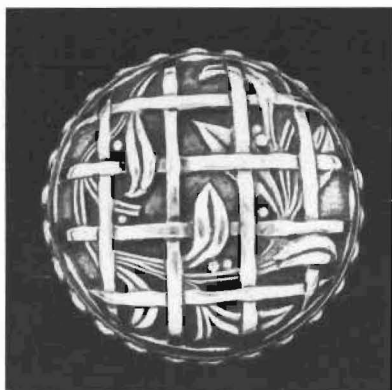
This time the 90 selected pages from the 1886 Branford Lock Works Catalog were ordered most. The selected pages from both the 1879 Hopkins & Dickinson catalog and the 1892 Norwich Lock Manufacturing Company tied for second place. These are all good catalogs.

Ten people requested copies and of the three categories offered for the catalogs, we copied sixty-nine over 6,800 pages. We would like to thank the people who ordered the catalogs and encourage those who have not to do so. Many thanks to Bob Rodder and Dale Sponaugle for their active interest in enhancing the Archives by sending us numerous copies of catalogs we do not have. Much appreciated!

If you have a catalog you would like to donate to the **ADCA Emil Miller Library** or Archives, we will gladly accept it (it's tax deductible) or if you have a catalog to loan us for copying, let us know. We will give you particulars when we talk with you.

Don't forget. . . we take samples of catalog copies to the **ADCA** convention for our members to browse through. Visit the Archives table while you are at the convention; talk to us about the **Emil Miller Library** and the Archives.

Your interest and support of the **Emil Miller Library** and the Archives is necessary to make it grow and become a more educational, historical and informative part of **ADCA**.



B-213
Holly
Yale & Towne

Additions to the roster

Roy Hajek #374
3776 S. Lee Point Road
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Alan D. Keim #375
740 Jackson
Carpentersville, IL 60110-2358

Pamela Carter #376
Bell Meadows Farms
2414 E. Soundview Drive
Whidbey Island
Langley, WA 98260

The New York Public Library #377
Grand Central Station
P.O. Box 2240
New York, NY 10163-2240

Lee Loring #378
3333 No. San Fernando Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91504

Correction

In our last issue (#65) Richard L. Zillman's phone number was incorrect. The correct number is 415/285-4171. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.

The Doorknob Exchange

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

WANTED: Oval Reading School Knob. Will buy or trade for other school knobs.

Win Applegate (#110)
Phone: 609/586-7285

WANTED: Information on Charles W. Sager, who was an executive of Barrows and Sager Lock Company. Looking for a sketch of his career and a picture.

Ray Nemecek (#350)
1424 Heatherton Drive
Naperville, IL 60563-2233
Phone: 708/357-2381
FAX: 708/357-2391

WANTED: Key plate (Moes, Page E8, item #E134), rosettes (Moes, Page C4, items #C63 & C101), knobs (Moes, Page A3, item #A51, or Blumin K-104), (Moes, Page A11, item #A267).
Richard Zillman (#370)
280 Divisadero Street
San Francisco, CA 94117
PH: 415/285-4171

WANTED: Odd Fellow Knob.
Will trade Elk knob (O-208).
Rich Wise (#269)
814 Bangs Street
Aurora, IL 60505
PH: 708-898-8377

MUSINGS ON KNOBS

by Carol Klamm Meermans

Are you in a business that bores you quite to tears?
Or one you've grown to hate with a passion through the years?
Just keep your front door handles polished with a high-gloss sheen.
Then you might get to rule the Royal Navy for the Queen!