



# The Doorknob Collector

Number 76

March-April 1996

## Porcelain and Related Terms

by Maud Eastwood

For informed use of the term, porcelain, looking toward displaying and entering contests at the July ADCA convention, the related terms, earthenware, pottery, and ceramic, should also be understood and put in proper perspective.

Literally, a porcelain knob is a ceramic earthenware from a pottery. (All the same as saying that a dime is money made in a mint.) A ware, a process, formative material and place may be included but leave the reader confused.

Note that the terms in the above statement of a porcelain knob are used in their original meaning, not necessarily as they came to be known. However, they will serve to introduce definitions in a meaningful way.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Porcelain** - A fine, white type of earthenware.

**Earthenware** - Earth materials formed into objects (later referred only to a coarse, porous pottery).

**Ceramic** - Pertaining to pottery, earthenware and porcelain.

**Ceramics** - The art or occupation of making objects of baked clay.

**Pottery** - Earthenware of all kinds, formed into shape and baked  
Also the term for the place made.

### FURTHER CLARIFICATION:

**Porcelain** - Is also called China, because it first came from there.

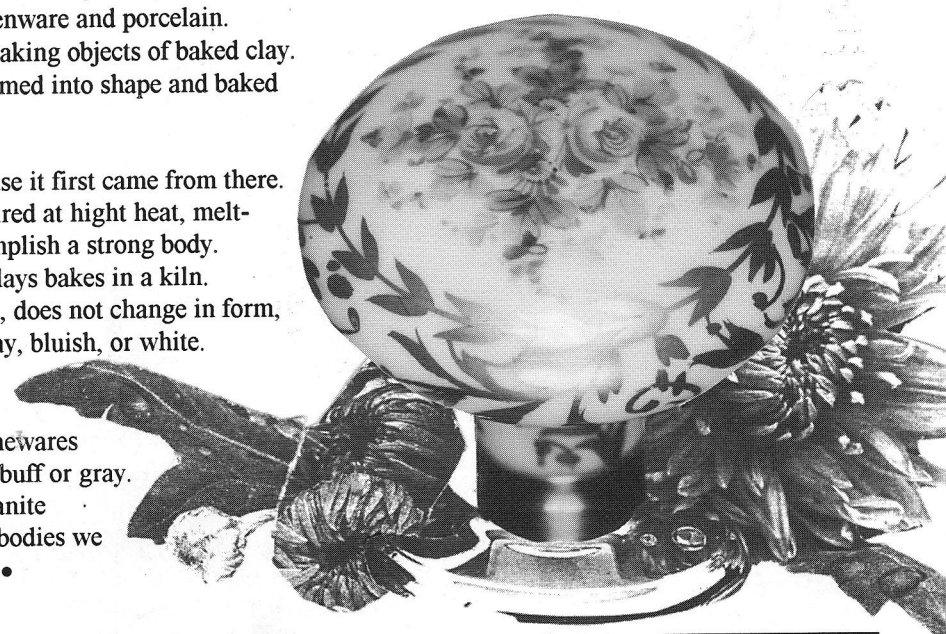
Porcelains are made of white clay fired at high heat, melting some of the properties, to accomplish a strong body.

**Pottery Wares** - Are made of native clays baked in a kiln.

The clay, that hardens with baking, does not change in form, and may be red, brown, yellow, gray, bluish, or white.

Both pottery and porcelain are earthenwares. Porcelain is the finest type of pottery, the lesser wares are called stonewares or earthenwares. Stonewares clays are buff or gray.

A following issue will address the granite wares, cream-colored, and other knob bodies we are familiar with, though not by name. •



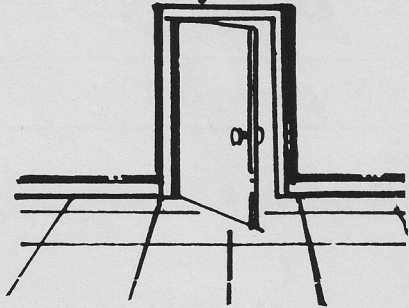
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ADCA Convention, Grand Rapids, Michigan - July 24-27, 1996

# THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



Do ADCA members want a more active organization? Some do, I am sure, but the feeling here is that many want the club just as a vehicle to obtain doorknobs or sell hardware. For those who would like to see a more active club. I have made a list of programs or projects ADCA should develop. Maybe they would inject a greater desire in the membership to participate in making doorknob collecting more fun. Here is my list:

1. Develop a membership dues program that encourages family memberships and a program to encourage donations of larger amounts.
2. Develop an incentive program to encourage each member to enroll new members into ADCA.
3. Put together a detailed report for a major project; than solicit funds from a foundation such as the Allstate Foundation (there are many foundation funds available).
4. Inaugurate an "Arnie Fredrick Award" to be given annually (at the convention) to an ADCA member for outstanding contributions to the club and/or in the preservation of antique door hardware.
5. Develop an ADCA Hall of Fame to honor members and others who have contributed to the development or preservation of hardware.

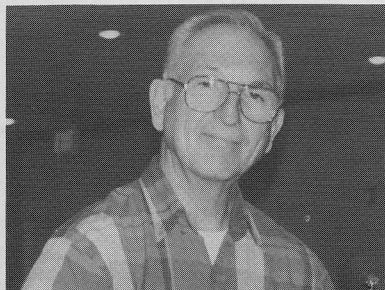
A sixth project on my original list is well under way to being completed thanks to Larry Bolen. Larry has spent many hours this winter working on a newsletter index. We hope to have it available in the very near future. It has been suggested to help underwrite the booklet advertising be accepted for inside the front cover and both sides of the back cover. The in-

dex covering the first 15 years of newsletters would be printed on a good stock of paper and serve as a handy reference for all. Depending on the method of printing we use, the cost could be around \$15.00 a page for the amount we would have printed. This could run around \$500.

There are many things we could do, as a club, and the ones I listed are just a few thoughts I have. You have some ideas on what you would like to see ADCA do. Hopefully you will share them with us. One thing to keep in mind is our resources are limited and ideas for "new" income are needed. I strongly oppose raising dues and look for alternative means to finance any project. •

## Meet Your Board of Directors

Each issue **The Doorknob Collector** will feature the pictures of an ADCA members who is on the Board of Directors. In this issue we present:



**Norman Blam**

Norman Blam has been a member of ADCA since February 1989 when his wife Cheryl, and he joined. They attended their first convention in 1989 at Iowa City. Elected to the Board of Directors in 1993, Norm is now serving his second two-year term. •

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America Board of Directors 1995/1997	
President.....	Win Applegate #110
Vice President.....	Dale Sponaugle #85
Sec/Treasurer.....	Raymond Nemec #350
Board Members.....	
	Norman Blam #176
	Maud Eastwood #2
	Rich Kennedy #238
	Stephen Rowe #287
	Linda Smeltzer #136

## THE ADCA BOOK PEDDLER

Book	Prices
<b>Antique Builders Hardware</b> (soft cover style) by Maud Eastwood	\$19.50
<b>Antique Builders Hardware</b> (three ring binder w/hard cover) by Maud Eastwood	\$21.50
<b>Supplement No. 1</b> <b>Antique Builders Hardware</b> by Maud Eastwood	\$ 6.00
<b>150 Years of Builders' Hardware: Forms, Use &amp; Lore</b> (three ring binder w/hard cover) by Maud Eastwood	\$27.50
<b>150 Years of Builders' Hardware: Forms, Use &amp; Lore</b> (soft cover-style)	\$22.50
<b>Victorian Decorative Art</b> by Len Blumin	\$12.00
<b>Moes' Enterprise Catalog of Authentic Pre-1929 Hardware (1984)</b> by Leonard Moes	\$12.50

\*Canadian orders, add extra \$1.00 per book  
Prices include shipping and handling costs.  
Make check payable to ADCA  
Mail order to ADCA Book Peddler  
P.O. Box 126  
Eola, IL 60519-0126

## The Doorknob Collector ©

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Founded in September 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit organization devoted to those interested in collecting and preservation of Antique Doorknobs and related hardware.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors of ADCA or the editors of **The Doorknob Collector**.

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# Simple Elegance Through Porcelain

by Maud Eastwood



Reaction to the naming of this year's convention theme varied. Collectors "into" porcelain knobs were delighted. Those collectors who had yet to become involved in this choice category wondered whether the field was broad enough to make a showing. Conversely, others aware of the many possibilities wondered if the number of types of ceramic specimen should be limited to do each one justice. Trust me, those who make the convention will not be disappointed. Surprised, yes, even amazed, but disappointed? Not a chance.

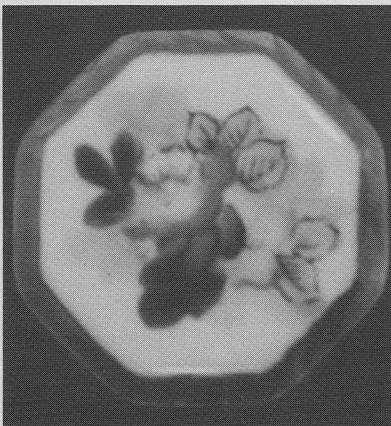
The list below is not exhaustive. Suggestions based on the specimen in your collection are welcome. Should you feel inadequate to assess or identify what you have, help is on the way, and you will be much wiser following the convention where a hand-out defining and illustrating ceramic terms, types and wares will add significantly to your knowledge of this field.

The triumvirate of so-called common white, black, and brown pottery knobs will undoubtedly appear in convention displays, but will take a back seat, even through the white and some of the brown are undoubtedly porcelain.

This determination was made for good reason; this type should not be lost in a the shuffle by having to compete with their more showy

porcelain cousins. Because of their historical significance in the progression of domestic doorknobs and the wealth of back ground material, including patents, men, and companies, they could easily become the focal point of a future convention.

Expect information on the more exotic types of porcelain knobs in following issues, allowing you to become more conversant and at ease in adding to and showing your collection.



In the meantime, review the considerable amount of material available in your copy of **The Antique Doorknob** (currently out of print), pages 45 through 58 on different types of ceramic knobs. Page 45 illustrates a hand painted, signed Limoges (France) knob.

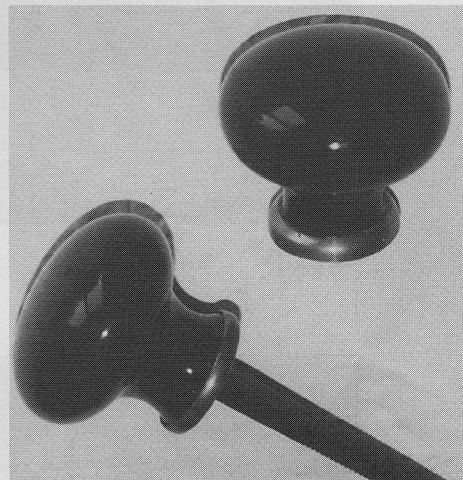
Also, review the definitions of ceramic, pottery, and porcelain on page 219 of the **Antique Builders' Hardware, Knob & Accessories**, and note the illustrations and other references on pages 219-220-221 in the collectors section. Study the four color pages of knob illustrations in the center-fold in conjunction with the "key" on pages 220 and 221, to become more familiar with the appearance of different types. Pages 110-111-112 show roses appropriate in the 1860's for use with ceramic knobs. Page 113

illustrates Lenox hand painted designs sold in 1914.

Be assured as you plan your convention displays, the same-as-always options apply. That is, guidelines involving size and type give free rein. So, feel free to bring your metal knob displays - - - basic to all convention - - - as well as your wooden, glass, and plastic, keeping in mind that the main theme for this year is porcelain, and on that theme the contests will largely be based.

Assistance will be available at the convention, if needed, to enable those who are entering contest to resolve questions concerning their specimen and the categories offered.

Your attendance is eagerly sought and your knowledge and expertise can only increase. •



## Convention Facts

- Hotel:** Hilton Inn  
4747 28th Street SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49512
- Airport:** Kent County International  
Grand Rapids, MI
- Amtrak:** Limited Schedule
- Bus:** Greyhound

The hotel is located 1-1/2 miles from the airport. Call the Hilton for free transportation service to and from the airport.



## Simply Elegance through Porcelain



Some of the common distinctions separating different types of porcelain knobs, or one from another?

**Age or Era:**

19th Century  
20th Century

**Manufacturer:**

Lenox, etc.

**Country or Origin**

Foreign  
Domestic

**Ornamentation:**

By Configuration  
In Applied Design

**Process:**

Glazed  
Biscuit (un-glazed)  
Crackle Ware

**Identifying Marks:**

Signatures  
Inscriptions  
Patent Clues

**Type of Design:**

Floral  
Scenic  
Figural  
Geometric

**Type of Decoration:**

Hand Painted  
Transfer Printed  
Under-glazed  
Stencil Painting

**Wares:**

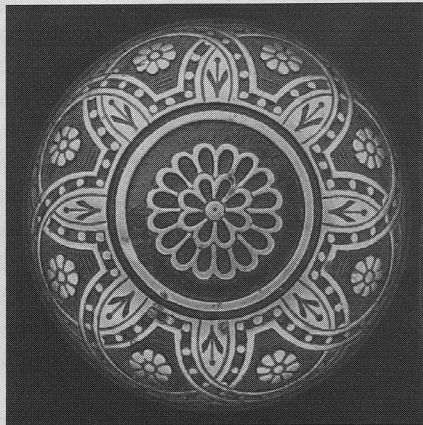
Jasperware  
Rockingham  
Redware  
Yellow-Ware  
Delft  
Faience  
Agateware



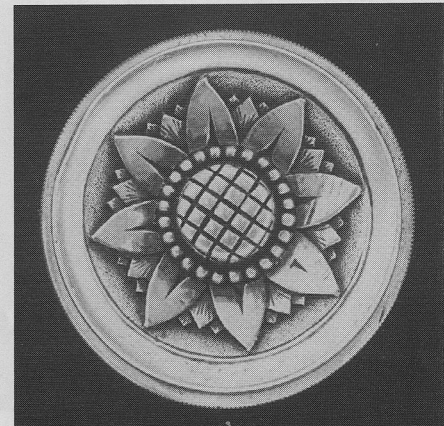
## Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs

by Len Blumin

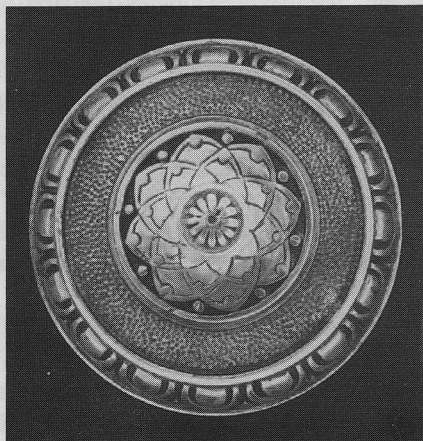
- K-234** Mallory Wheeler, 1882 catalog, p.261, this knob is a full 3 inches in diameter and is very rare.
- K-318** "Pineapple" motif, c.1900. Heavy, from a commercial building.
- M-142** Unusual Corbin knob, possibly commercial, c 1895, bronze.
- M-146** Concentric with fourfold center, c.1920.



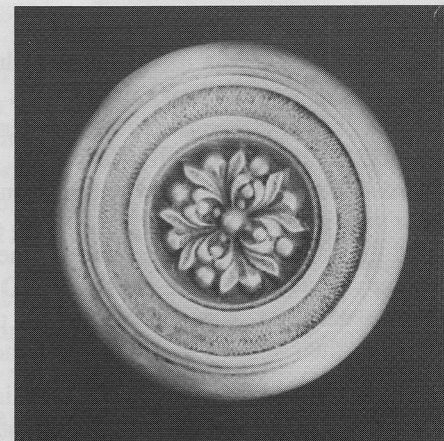
**K-234**



**K-318**



**M-142**

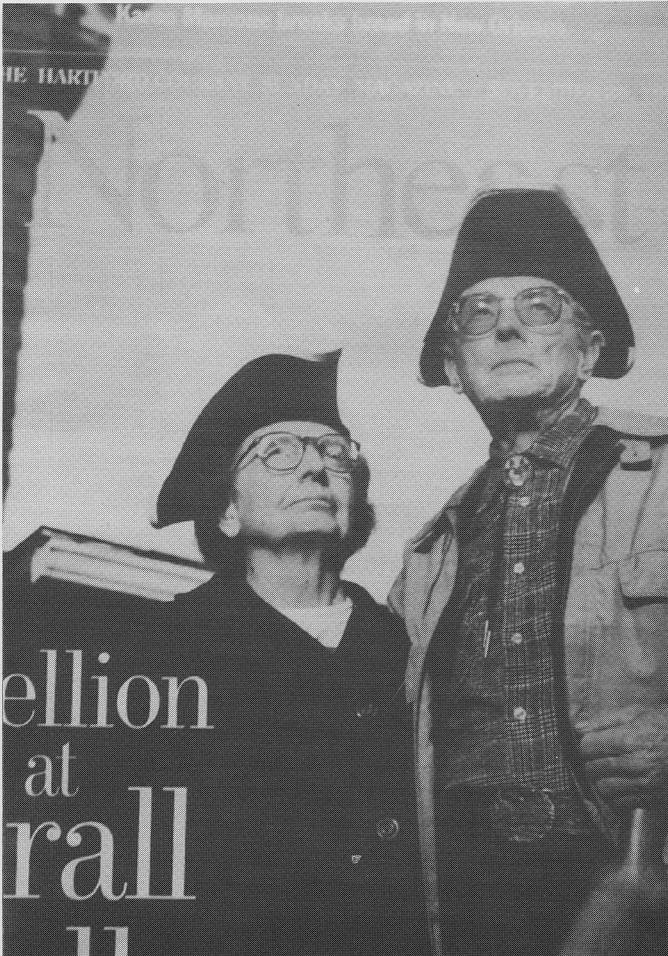


**M-146**



## KENNEDY KOMMENTS

by Rich Kennedy



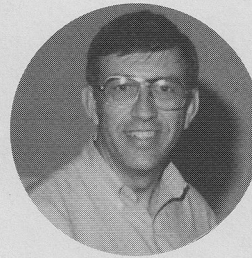
### Thralls Featured in Newspaper Story

Ed Thrall's battle with a local town over his 'BUILDING' and subsequent use as a dance hall on his property is well known to ADCA members who attended the 1990 Connecticut convention. On November 26, 1995, the **Hartford Current** ran a story by Joel Long about "his 17 year war with the town."

Ed and Flicka Thrall were pictured on the front cover the newspaper's Sunday feature section., **NORTHEAST**. In addition to the front page, there were six pages describing the Thralls, their history and details of the on-going situation.

Long did a thorough job in telling the story of Ed and Flicka and the history of the building. He also told us that Flicka's real name is Olive and Flicka means "young girl."

The final outcome of whether the Thralls regain the ownership of the property which was seized by the town is probably years away. •



I was curious, a doorknob I bought many years ago intrigued me. It was a clear glass knob with a glass screw shank. Maud Eastwood in her book *The Antique Doorknob* touched upon the type, and of course our convention theme being glass last year, I owed it

to myself to do some research on a must unusual knob.

Two books, *American Glass and Sandwich Glass* gave me some insight as to its origin. First, I was able to authenticate the knob as a Sandwich glass one manufactured in 1829. Although Henry Whitney and Enoch Robinson patent of Nov. 4, 1826 was for the process of manufacturing of glass knobs for doors and drawers, it wasn't until 1829 that Deming Jarves of Boston patent of June 11, was for improvement in manufacturing of glass knobs with glass shanks. Press glass knobs were quite in vogue in 1829, although Jarves new patent for knobs with glass shanks was different, it was not one of his most successful ideas because a large corresponding hole had to be drilled into the wood.

My next bit of research will be to discover what type of tool or machine was used to drill a large threaded hole to accommodate that type of knob.

If anyone has any information about that tool, or leads let me know. •

### The Hardware Gallery

by Ray Nemeec

A new hardware catalogue, the first one issued by ADCA member Liz Gordon, has come upon the scene.

Ms. Gordon pretty well describes her 36 page publication, **The Hardware Gallery**, in her introduction when she says, "we literally have traveled the world putting together a collection of hardware that transcends function, that combines utility with an aesthetic ideal."

I showed off the catalog to a few friends and the immediate reaction was to get a copy of their own and to place an order with Liz.

The catalog features, in beautiful color, reproductions, contemporary and vintage hardware.

Collectors of the future will truly enjoy collecting the hardware of 1996 as we enjoy collecting the hardware of 1896.

Liz Gordon did an outstanding job in preparing the catalog and from those who read it I am sure Liz will find many enthusiastic customers. •



## Bits & Pieces

by President Win Applegate

Several miles north of Princeton, New Jersey on the way to New Brunswick is a recycled Victorian farm house. It is nestled in a small grove of trees. It now wears a coat of pastel paint that allows it to blend into its surroundings rather nicely. Now it serves the community as a bank branch.

Just five blocks from my home, maybe twenty miles from the above building, stood a majestic white farm house that had survived the construction of a highway bypass in the 1930's and now was very prominently located on an intersection of two thoroughfares, in apparently tip-top shape with lovely gingerbread at the gables, it certainly had the same potential future.

One day it just disappeared. In a caravan of large dump trucks it became land fill. Yes, our municipality has zoning boards and historical societies, but there was little or no publicity . . . no advertisement in the paper, . . . no article in the newspaper. Sure, no doubt in my

mind that it was done legally. But I live in a community where an oversized sign will cause a stir and get out Mr. & Mrs. John Q. Public.

It was just one of those things that, once done, cannot be reversed and it takes the fight out of people. It certainly was well-orchestrated as a quick-to-follow newspaper article appeared and announced that an on-site spring house, (perhaps 6x10), would be relocated to a local park . . . two years later I cannot find the spring house anyplace. I have written to the mayor's office inquiring about its whereabouts. I am waiting for an answer, but probably know it . . . "in dismantling, it was found to be too deteriorated to be saved".

This parcel of land now contains a strip mall with dry cleaners, a bagel shop . . . oh yes, and a bank branch.

Why do we belong to organizations such as the ADCA? Many of us are driven by more than the "collecting" instinct. We admire the beauty and art and form of things from the past that represent the

creativity and craftsmanship of others. We rebel at the attitude of (some) others to cast aside these things of the past for quick monetary rewards without even cursory glances at other alternatives that would provide extended life.

It is through our collecting that we have, almost inadvertently, short circuited some of the doorknob-to-the-smelter traffic by creating a monetary opportunity for others.

There are other, more purposeful, ways that we can and do help our cause. We can be active in our community and make our presence known through involvement in historical societies and the like. Educating the public as some of our members do with exhibits and talks can also be effective. Political cronyism, as I am sure played a role in my example, is tough to beat, but it is that which is deep in the souls of many of us that would keep us alert. •

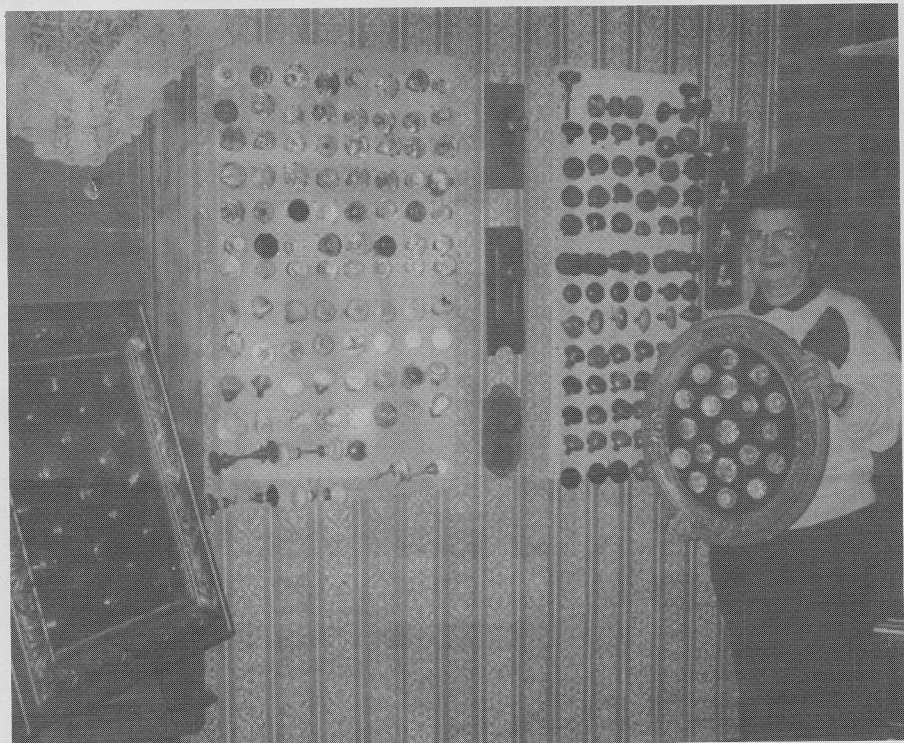
### Ardythe Leaders

Ardythe Leaders and her doorknobs were recently featured in an article in the **Sioux City, Iowa, Journal**. Leaders indicated her interest in antique doorknobs started in 1978 when she got curious about some unusual doorknobs in a historic house in which her daughter was living.

She and her husband, Gerald, attended the doorknob meet at Waverly, Iowa, in 1981, where the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** was formed.

Ardythe and Gerald have regularly attended conventions since, making most of the Midwest ones but also attending the 1993 convention in Maryland and the 1995 convention in California.

The article gave ADCA's address and several inquiries resulted from the publicity. •



(Photo by Doris Bingham)





## From The Archives

by Steve & Barbara Menchhofer

You will find a catalog order form included with this issue of **The Doorknob Collector**. If you are a new member and have no idea what we are talking about, read on.

Catalog copies are copied pages made from original hardware catalogs that have been loaned or given to the Archives. In order to save wear and tear on these master copies we limit the number of times we offer them for sale. Orders received at any other time during the year will be returned.

The deadline for ordering catalogs is April 30, 1996. If you have any questions about the catalogs please write to us at 5538 W. 25th Street, Speedway, IN 46224 or call us at 317-291-6043. •

**THE TIME TO ORDER IS NOW.**

### 1995 ADCA Archives Financial Statement

#### Receipts

Catalog Orders	\$1,283.35
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,283.35</b>

#### Disbursements

Catalogs Copied	\$ 655.70
Catalogs Purchase	125.00
Adm. Operating Expenses	112.37
Postage (Shipping)	77.80
Insurance	100.00
Bank Service Chg.	18.36
Miscellaneous Expense	96.65
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$1,185.88</b>

Excess or

(Deficit of Receipts over Disbursements) \$ 97.47

Beginning Cash Bal. on 1/1/95 \$870.34

Ending Cash Bal. on 12/31/95 \$967.81

## The Doorknob Exchange

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

**Wanted:** The following doorknobs in solid brass only:

B-202 (multiples wanted),

E-108 (Knobs and plates)

Robert Johnson (#407)

13016 N. 15Ave.

Cambridge, IL 61238

(309) 944-4294

**Wanted:** 5x5 50 Brass right hand door hinge, (see photo).

Dale Lutz (#388)

10765 Bestul Road

Amherst Junction, WI 54407

PH: 715-824-2837

**Wanted:** Will buy or trade -Bronze Doorknobs, A-105, A-203, A-304, B-103, B-109, B-112, B-213, C-101, D-113, G-101, H-223, H-235, H-241, K-206, K-208.

Steve Rowe (#287)

2535 Roberts Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

PH: (209) 299-8863

**Trade:** Bronze Doorknobs - A-106, B-217, C-104, C-105, D-105, D-106, D-112, C-119, G-101, H-103, H-233, H-407, K-205, L-101, L-102.

Steve Rowe (#287)

2535 Roberts Ave.

Clovis, CA 93611

PH: (209) 299-8863

### Auction #2

Web Wilson's Antique Hardware Auction #2 is scheduled for June of '96. More close-ups, color photos, dimensions of each lot, and other improvements. Bidding by subscription: \$12.50 per catalog. We will provide an 800 number and prices realized from Auction #1 to all subscribers.

Mail checks to:

Web Wilson (#266)

P.O. Box 506

Portsmouth, RI 02871

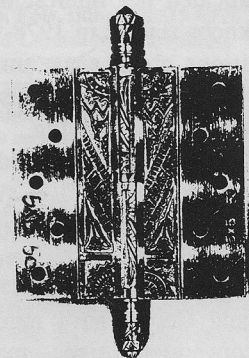
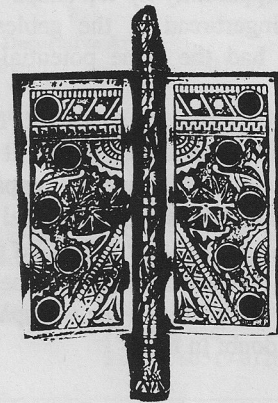
PH 800-508-0022 for more details.

Winter FAX: 813-758-8302

## OBITUARY

Word was received recently of the death of Fred Magnus, an ADCA charter member. He is believed to have died in January. Magnus was 90 years old, having been born on December 19, 1905.

An article announcing his 90th birthday appeared in the November-December 1995 issue of **The Doorknob Collector**. He was proud of the fact he reached and was able to celebrate his 90th birthday. He is survived by a son and was preceded in death by his wife, Ethladel, and a son.



### DEADLINE

All ads, material and articles for the May-June 1996 issue of **The Doorknob Collector** should be in the hands of the editors by April 15, 1996.