



# The Doorknob Collector

Number 79

September - October 1996

## Grand Rapids was Grand

by President Win Applegate

What was an almost universal weakness in Frank Lloyd Wright houses? Why are Delft pottery molds made of plaster-of-paris? The answer to these and many other questions were raised and answered at the 1996 ADCA convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Thorough planning goes a long way towards guaranteeing a successful convention. Miriam and Gene DeLange certainly put the proper investment into the convention. Good weather, porcelain as a theme, good facilities and the Michigan Peninsula did the rest. The area around Grand Rapids was settled by the Dutch. Tulip farms and Dutch costumes with wooden shoes prevail for festive occasions. (continued on page3)

### They Came in Full Attire



Gene & Miriam DeLange  
Dutch

Charles Wardell & Rich Balasa  
Victorian

Maude Eastwood in Norvel's  
WWII Sailor Outfit

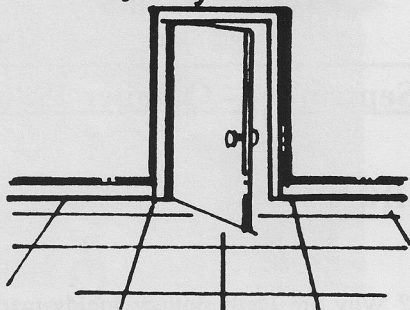
Glenn & Junella Leach  
Victorian

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## THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemeč



**Renewal time** - - - Once again it is time to send out renewal notices. The date on your mailing label tells you the date your membership expires. Only those members where the date reads 1/1/97 should receive a notice. However, if you do not get a notice for some reason, remember, to continue receiving **The Doorknob Collector** without interruption, your check or money order for \$25 should be received by December 31, 1996.

**Prize winner** --- The winner of our hardware puzzle contest (Issue #74) was Charles Bednar. He receives a year's membership to ADCA. Congratulations Charles.

**New area code** --- For the second time in seven years, ADCA's area phone number has been changed. Effective August 3rd, our new area code is 630. The 708 area code has been split up three ways. Some users, primarily in southern Cook County got to keep the 708. The northern part of the area was assigned 847 and the southwest section (where we are at) was given the 630. Remember, whether you are calling or faxing us, please use area code 630. •



"Gnome Nest" Marge Bornino's creation

## Meet Your Board of Directors

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



### MARGE BORNINO

Marge Bornino has been an ADCA member since 1987. She, and her husband Joe, hosted the 1991 convention at Lake Tahoe. They have attended every convention since 1988. Marge was appointed to the board in 1996 to serve a one year term. •

## New Look

We have made a change on our front page. For over eight years the front banner or, as some call it, the mast head, has remained unchanged. The design is the creation of member Richard Wise and it is hoped will give **The Doorknob Collector** more eye-appeal.

This is the fifth front page design for the publication. Those members who have all the issues can look back and see how the front page has changed. The original issues had a doorknob and escutcheon plate. In 1982 pictures of doorknobs were used. Then in 1986 topical pictures were used and the nameplate was repositioned. In 1987, a complete change was done. The club logo was placed there. For some time it was felt a design that would portray an antique look would be appropriate. We would like to get your comments.

### THE ADCA BOOK PEDDLER

<u>Book</u>	<u>Prices</u>
<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
<b>The Builders Hardware Industry</b> (by Walter H. McAninch, DAHC) A United States History 1830 to 1990s	\$25.00

\*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

### DEADLINE

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



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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.

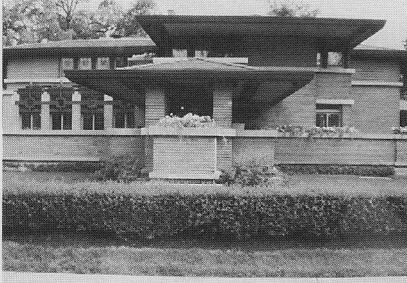
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# Grand Rapids Was Grand

by President Win Applegate

(Continued from page 1)



## 1908 Meyer & Sophie May commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to build the house on Madison Avenue in Grand Rapids, MI

The day before the official opening of the convention is reserved for tours. It is surprising how many attendees arrive early to participate in this event.

At one time, over 400 firms in the city derived their existence from the furniture industry. The rapids provided the power and the river the method of moving the wood for the industry. After furniture making moved south, some neighborhoods that had been built with furniture money, declined.

One area, called the Historical District, has been saved and is 1-1/2 miles long by four blocks wide. It contains over 62 architectural styles in various stages of restoration since becoming registered in 1971.

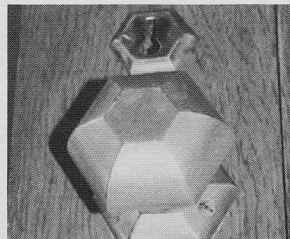
Within the area is a Frank Lloyd Wright house. It was not uncommon for him to name his houses after the owner. Mayer May, of May's Department Store, had his home constructed 1908-1909. In 1922, the later owner had the house nearly doubled with a non-Wright addition. Later years saw a conversion to a multiple family dwelling and the replacement of the yard by paving it over for a parking lot.

In the 1970's the house was acquired by the Steel Case Corporation. The restoration was classic "This Old House". The offending addition was removed and the original paints under as many as 15 layers were analyzed. The Prairie Archives in Milwaukee was

used to research the project. Original yarn samples were found and roof tiles were reproduced by the original manufacturer using the 1908 order.

Over 19 tons of structural steel were used to strengthen the building; Wright's roofs, some deflecting over six inches, were known to leak, due primarily to their weight and the many angles in their design.

I have toured other Wright houses, but this was the most informative as we were shown how he controlled every aspect of the design and construction including the placement of the furniture and how he used different colored



### Type of Doorknobs used

mortar; vertical being the same color as the brick and darker horizontal to emphasize the length of his structures.

Other points of interest that day included the unusual enclosed Meijer Gardens and the Gerald Ford Presidential Museum.

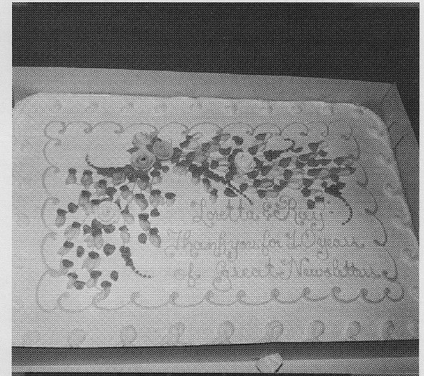
We were fortunate to have three speakers during our convention. Member Web Wilson talked about pricing his auction pieces. Another aspect of Web's talk offered alternatives regarding the ADCA's future direction. This part of his talk was very thought provoking and will be discussed in more detail in the next news letter in "The Business Side of the Convention".

Maud Eastwood outdid herself with her theme presentation on "the Wonderful World of Porcelain Doorknobs." Again, her talent for research resulted in a fine presentation and a 27 page booklet "*A Limited Guide to Understanding Clayware in Doorknobs*". A small supply of these are available through the ADCA office.

Kurt Freeman, Vice President of Veldheer's Delft Factory, spoke on the

manufacture of their pottery (of Dutch origin). When the clay slurry (slip) is poured into the plaster of paris molds, it is allowed to rest there as the mold absorbs the water. After about 20 minutes, the excess is poured out and the residue, without the water, forms the basis for the piece.

Perhaps it was the porcelain theme, but the displays were exceptional. Originality and color were paramount.



### Nemecs 10th Anniversary cake

On Thursday afternoon, a large cake was wheeled in as the convention honored the Nemecs on their tenth anniversary as Co-Editors of the ADCA Newsletter.

As usual there was lots of buying, selling and trading. How about just a good time by many fine people? Absolutely! . . . an evening at the home of Jackie Rode and Bettie Madison where we had the opportunity to see their collections as well as Florence Jarvis'. The return of the hospitality room, missing the last few years, was greatly appreciated and frequented by many.

Friday night's banquet with the DeLanges in full Dutch attire including wooden shoes was well received. During the evening a plaque of appreciation was presented to Julie Mann who served as Secretary to the Board for six years.

Several important actions were taken at the annual meeting and I will be reporting on these in the next news-letter with "The Business Side of 1996". ■

## Wilson's Auction #2 A Success

Web Wilson's Phone/FAX Auction #2 of collector quality hardware closed on June 25, with strong sales and great interest from around the country.

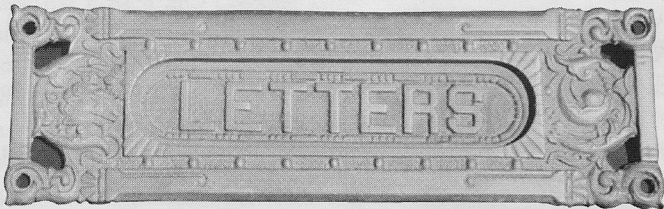
Top lot of the sale was a plate and knob in the Christensen pattern, from Russell & Erwin, 1899. The knob had two parrots perched among leaves and flowers, and the plate was cast in high relief with foliage and ribbons. A determined bidder won the lot for \$700 plus 10%.

Another strongly contested lot was the plumed knight door knob, created by the Metallic Compression Casting Company and Russell & Erwin in 1870. Marked on the back, and in near-mint condition, the lot brought \$600 plus 10%.

Bidding was by subscription, and the catalog featured a color illustration and detailed information for each of the 166 lots. Bids were called and faxed in from around the country, and the Wilson's sold more than 80% of the items offered.

Hardware in the Columbian pattern (Reading Hardware Co.) was very popular, with a set of four sash lifts bringing \$70, a mail slot going for \$75, and a pair of large door plates bid to \$310.

The auction catalog featured 17 categories of hardware, including hard to find enameled pieces, colored and cut glass, emblematic and fraternal pieces, and separate section of pieces in the Gothic and Aesthetic styles. In addition, Wilson offered some original molds from the Corbin Special Hardware catalog, as well as several unusual advertising pieces.



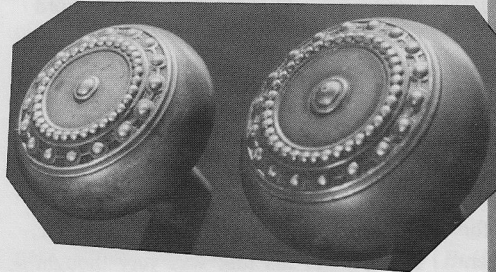
Lot 79. Letter slot in Columbian pattern, with fox head. Price: \$75 plus 10%.

Many lots sold for under \$100, with crisp Brocade pattern entry knob bringing \$35, a large root beer colored glass knob bringing \$65, and an unusual BPOE knob bid to \$50. A Detroit Board of Education knob brought \$40, and a two piece lot with entry and passage size knobs in the "Como" pattern was bid to \$85.

Web Wilson's Auction #3 of Collector Quality Hardware is scheduled for November, 1996. Call 1-800-508-0022 for more information. ■



Lot 98. Mint condition, bronze, plumed knight knob, Marked on reverse: "MFG. by Metallis Compression Casting Company Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co. sole agents Price \$600 plus 10%.



Lot 158, Corbin "Como" pattern (entry & Passage sizes) \$85 plus 10%.

### New Book - - -

**The Builders Hardware Industry, A United State History 1830s to 1990s.** edited by Walter H. McAninch and published by The Ballard Locks Publishing Co. (Seattle, WA) is now available.

The editor used the research information of Maud Eastwood in preparing this 209 page book which lists many of the Hardware Companies, alphabetically, with chronological histories.

Several pages are devoted to the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** along with other organizations.

ADCA is offering this book to its' members. You can obtain a copy by requesting the book, "**The Builders Hardware Industry**". Send \$25.00 (includes mailing and handling) to ADCA Book Peddler, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.



Lot 117, Gothic keyhole plates \$205 plus 10%

# Building The Market For Antique Hardware Via Auctions

(notes from the presentation by Web & Jill Wilson at the Grand Rapids convention, July 1996)

## How Our Auction Can Benefit Collectors, Dealers, and the ADCA

The primary goal of our phone/fax auction is to expand the antique hardware market for both collectors and dealers. We hope that our auction will increase the demand for good quality hardware, and this, in turn, will cause an increase in the supply of knobs, plates, bells, and other desirable items.

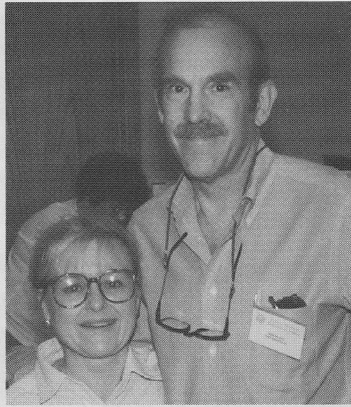
The reaction of many people to the increased publicity and activity in door hardware collecting is a concern that prices will immediately take a big jump. This is not necessarily true, and in fact, the price of hardware may actually decline if all the buckets and boxes of knobs that are now stashed in basements and garages are brought out for sale.

Right now, many antique dealers simply don't bring their hardware to shows, or feature it in shops, because they don't think anyone is interested. As results from the auction are publicized, they will realize that there is an active market in our hobby, and all of us should begin to see much more hardware offered for sale.

Another strong possibility is that prices may stay relatively the same, because equal increases in supply and demand will not necessarily push prices up, but at the same time there will be more selection for interested buyers.

This increase in market activity will also begin to provide both collectors and dealers with reliable benchmarks on rarity and condition. All collecting fields are built upon these two factors, and those of us who enjoy knobs, plates, and all the other goodies of our discipline, need to build reference points that will establish what's good, better, and best about our field of interest.

Increased activity and publicity for hardware collecting should also bring new people into the ADCA. This can only benefit our organization, and help us attract a new generation of collectors and historians.



Jill & Web Wilson

And the most benefits will accrue to the most experienced collectors and dealers. The "old-timers" in our group (regardless of actual age) will be the ones who will recognize the bargains -- and the truly rare pieces -- that will certainly come out of the woodwork, once people realize that a "doorknob" could sell for several hundred dollars, or more.

Value can only be established when a transaction is completed by a willing seller and a willing buyer.

If you do not complete a sale, then your object has no value. Previous sales are only benchmarks of how similar items were valued on a certain date. Offers to buy or sell that go unanswered are meaningless.

Your sale will establish a new price that is perhaps higher, perhaps lower, or possibly the same.

By presenting our phone/fax auction, we declare ourselves to be the willing sellers of every lot at the publicized opening bid.

If there are several willing buyers, the lot will sell for more than our opening, or offering, bid. If there is only one willing buyer, the lot will sell for the opening bid, even though this may be less than what we paid when we transacted the purchase.

If there are no willing buyers at our opening bid, there is no sale, and that item has no present value, even though a similar item might have sold for more, or less, in the past.

Therefore, one objective of our auction is to begin building a reference of actual sale prices for collectible hardware. This ongoing record will help both collectors and dealers as they build their collections and businesses. It will also begin to show us all what are the truly rare and desirable items, and give us benchmarks that will override our personal opinions.

## Building The Hardware Market Through Service & Publicity.

We hope that our auction will provide more than just a buy/sell opportunity to collectors and dealers. We are trying to offer a wide variety of items, all in very good to superb condition, in a range of offering prices that attract both sophisticated and beginning collectors.

So far, about half the bidders are non-ADCA people we have met at antique shows, or who have subscribed because of publicity and press releases. If their interest in antique hardware grows, they will become excellent candidates for ADCA membership.

We also are trying to provide accurate and meaningful information about each lot, with the goal of helping our bidders become as knowledgeable as possible. We hope that the auction catalogs will become useful and popular reference books.

Through our many years experience in the antique business, Jill and I have built a good network of contacts among trade paper personnel. We have had excellent response to the press releases and will increase our advertising and promotion.

In fact larger stories are currently planned for publications, radio, and TV. We will certainly make mention of the ADCA wherever possible.

But our primary goal is to make our auctions fun and easy for participants. Call us at 1-800-508-0022 and let us know your suggestions and comments. We will always be delighted to hear from you. ■

# 1903 P. & F. Corbin Residential Hardware Suggestions

by Maud Eastwood

Several factors guided early day homeowners in their selection of door hardware. A number of suggestions, rather than hard and fast rules, were given in a 1903 Corbin Monthly, outlined as follows.

Hardware should go with or complement the style of the house. The hardware finish should either harmonize or pleasantly contrast with the woodwork or colors used in any given room. The selection must finally be guided by the taste and means of the owner.

One recommendation was that in every case the metal for outside trim must be brass or bronze, which could be given the dark oxidized effect or other desired finish.

Metal was recommended because of its ability to absorb wear, brass or bronze for its resistance to corrosion. (In 1903, Corbin did not have access to the Bower-Barff "rust proofing" process for cast iron.) The dark finish would eliminate the necessity of repeated polishing, particularly in locations where air pollution from coal smoke was a factor.

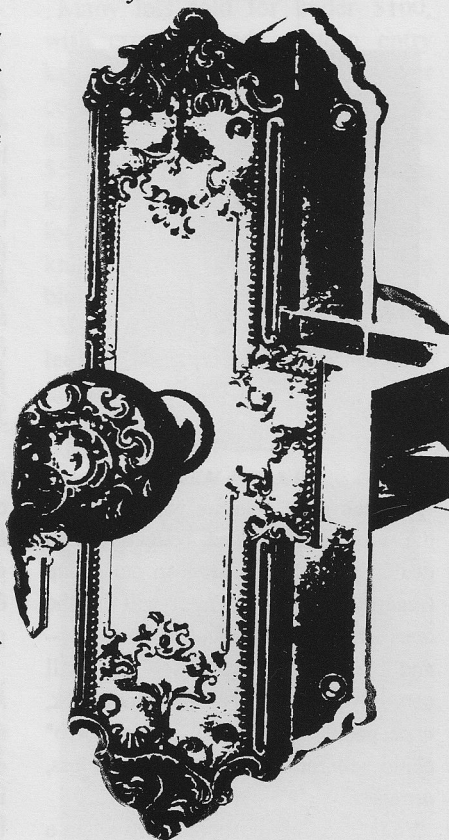
Options were given for selecting the hardware finish for inside use. Woods were widely used for interior finishing in that era and Corbin devoted much space to detail finishes properly used with their thirty listed woods, first to harmonize, then to contrast.

Hardware manufactured from the base metals without contrived finishes were considered to go well with any wood; however, the several finishes later termed "high fashion" were limited in their use. One could hardly go wrong using brass, bronze, silver or gold. Not so, with Barbadienne Bronze, Flemish Brass, the French and Colonial Gilt, Black Oxidized Iron, Steel Blue, etc.

Approved combinations:

**Ash:** To harmonize, use Bronze or Brass, or Antique Brass with a light sand finish. To contrast, Antique Copper with a light sand blast.

**Ebony Wood:** To harmonize, Chocolate, sand blasted. Contrast, Gold Plated, with a satin finish, Electro



**Corbin Unit Lock "Lutetia"**

Silver, or Verde Antique. **Light Oak:** To harmonize, Light Bronze, Brass, or Antique Brass, satin finish. Contrast, Black Iron or antique Brass.

"On general principals", Corbin offered the following advice: The hardware trim in each room should reflect the style of the room, allowing for several types or designs to be used in one house. The main halls should all be of one color in finish and in design.

The parlor, if in white, should have gold finish hardware. Dining rooms should use ornamented, burnished silver with high-lights polished to compliment the silver on the sideboard.

Libraries should use a restful, inconspicuous color. Bathroom hardware should correspond to the bathroom fittings, (The 1930s glass knobs for bathroom use were years away.)

The lock front's finish depended on the direction the door opened. Locks were to be finished with regard to the room or hall into which the door swung.

The discovery of the set of Corbin finish samples of the era could make

the foregoing 1903 Corbin information even more useful. With today's photographic capabilities, color charts could then be developed that would be of great interest to collectors and of incalculable worth to reproduction and restoration forces. ■

## Book Review

### *Revised Supplement to Antique Builders Hardware*

Buyers of Supplement No. 1 to *Antique Builder's Hardware, Knob & Accessories*, issued in 1985, should be aware that the 1992 Revised Edition was significantly up-graded in content and clarity of illustration.

Of particular note was the addition of Newman & Capron 1876 doorknobs and roses of representational design, transitional Art Nouveau to Art Deco designs, and samplings of Corbin Special hardware for door handles and emblematic hardware produced for specific commercial and other buildings, largely identified. (Corbin special hardware was not offered through regular sales catalogs.)

The above segments were in addition to the original content, somewhat enlarged and revised, of fraternal, organizational, religious, municipal, state, federal and board of education hardware designs. Knobs of hexagon and octagon shape, pull-knobs, and a section of 1894-1920 Sargent & Company hardware were also retained.

This 40 page 5-1/2 x 8-1/2 supplement may be drilled to add to the ring binder edition of *Antique Builder's Hardware, Knobs & Accessories*. The \$6.00 cost includes mailing. ISBN 0-19610800-4-3 (see AD page 2).

## Correction

Issue #75 of TDC, Jan./Feb. 1996

submitted by L. Bolen. Sager "J"

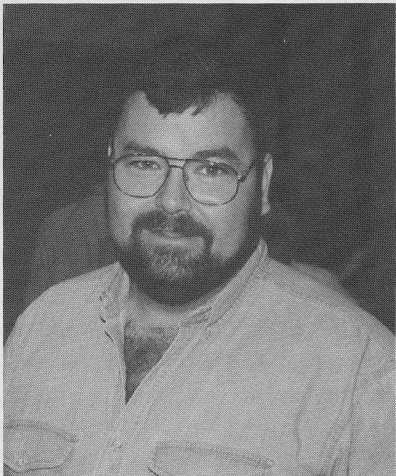
O-193 should read "HTWSSTKS"

**Hiram, The Widows Son, Sent To be in charge of Building KING**

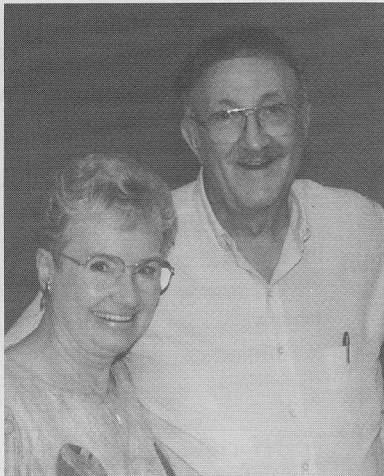
**SOLOMONS TEMPLE.** Symbol of Royal Arch Chapter, the Degree between Blue Lodge and Shrine.

# Their First Convention

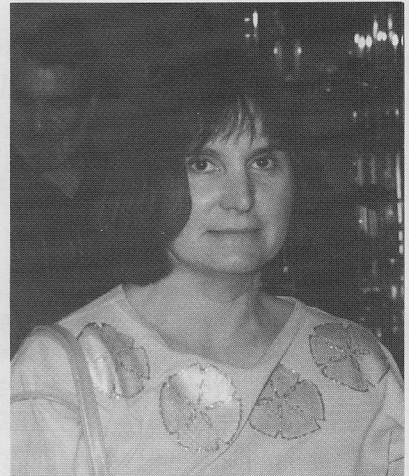
First time attendees:



**Jeff Reardon**



**Lori & Charles Mesken**



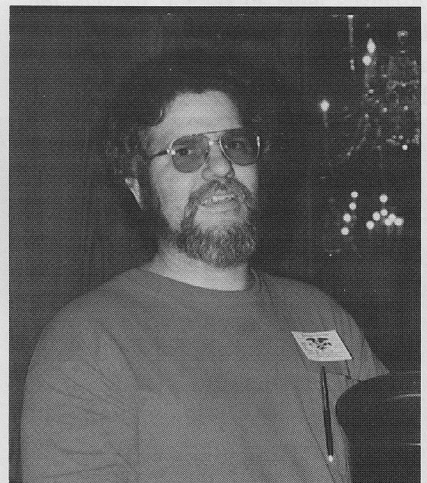
**Camille Woodward**



**Tom & Chuck Krueger**



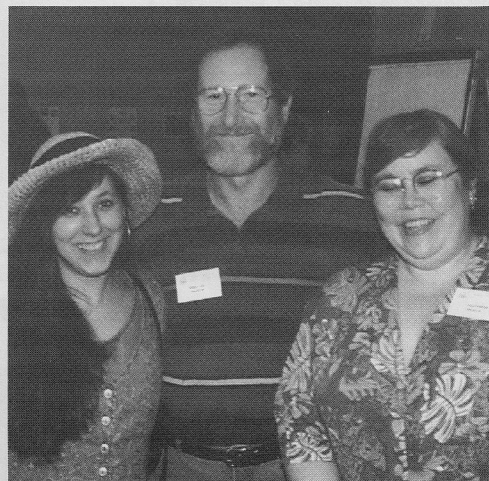
**Dwight Cleveland**



**Steve Robinson**



**John & MaryAnn Morscher**



**Rachael Clark, Raymond Lowe, Lorelei Crawford**

## From The Archives



by Steve & Barbara Menchhofer

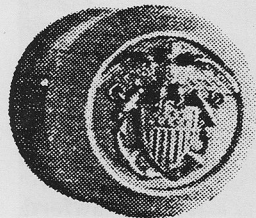
Grand Rapids was just that - Grand! We had a wonderful time at the convention this year. Gene and Miriam DeLange, the perfect hosts, welcomed everyone to their great state of Michigan.

Time flew by quickly as it usually does at a convention. So many people stopped by the Archives table to browse through the catalog samples, talk, and ask questions.

Donation were made to the Archives and the Emil Miller Memorial Library. Maude Eastwood donated a 1936 Schlage Locks Catalog which is in great condition. Liz Gordon donated a copy of her new catalog "Liz's Antique Hardware Presents the Hardware Gallery". Charles Berg donated two framed pages from an early Mallory and Wheeler catalog showing gold bronze metal doorknobs and bell pulls.

We, as archivists, purchased one book and four catalogs for the Archives and Emil Miller Memorial Library. The book is "The Builders Hardware Industry" - a United States History 1830s to 1990s. Our own Maude Eastwood was the research consultant for it. The four catalogs are Yale & Towne Mfg. Co. - Cat #20, Yale & Towne Mfg. Co. - Cat #26, Russell & Erwin Mfg., Co. - Volume 10 dated 1909, Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co. - Volume 16.

It was a great convention for the Archives and the Archivists. So many nice people, so many nice memories - - what more could a person ask for. •



US Navy

## 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:** Emblematic Door Knobs, US. Navy & US. Army, seen in Russell & Erwin 1909 catalog page 439.

Cheryl Blam (#204)

573 Park Ave.

Cedarhurst, NY 11516

PH: Evenings 516/295-5511

**Wanted:** Press glass or cut glass with brass emblem BPOE appliqué, seen in Russell & Erwin 1909 catalog page 437.

Cheryl Blam (#204)

573 Park Ave.

Cedarhurst, NY 11516

PH: Evenings 516/295-5511

**Trade:** 9-1/2 HP Johnson Outboard Motor. Excellent condition worth \$450.00, used six hours. Will trade for doorknobs or related hardware.

Richard Wise (#269)

814 Bangs Street

Aurora, IL 60505

PH: 630-898-8377

**Wanted to buy:** A copy of Maud Eastwood's first book, *The Antique Doorknob*. I lost my copy at the 1995 convention in Santa Monica, and would like to replace it. If you have a copy you are willing to sell, please contact me.

Carol Meermans (#34)

30516 Maple Drive

Bay Village, OH 44140

PH: 216/871-8683

### OBITUARY

Roger Gwillim, An ADCA member since 1982, died on March 24, 1996, in Phoenix, Arizona. He was 75

A retired civil engineer, Gwillim died just a few days short of his 76th birthday. He was born on March 29, 1920. He is survived by his wife, Marianna.



Cut glass with brass BPOE Appliqué

## Letter to Editor

Hi Folks:

Just a few lines to express our appreciation for the help given us at the convention. We plan to obtain another membership for Mary Ann next year, and enjoy another table, etc. We have not stopped talking about the great people we met at the convention. From the nice members, displays, and the whole program we were very impressed. I wish I would have joined years ago.

John Morscher #439

### New Member Policy

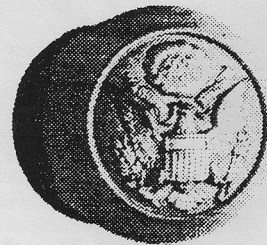
Membership in ADCA follows the current calendar year. Anyone joining during the period from January through September is enrolled for the current year and is sent all back issues of *The Doorknob Collector* for the current year. The member then continues to receive the rest of the current year's issues of *The Doorknob Collector*.

Applicants for membership after September 30 are enrolled as members for the following year. They received notices of year end meetings as well as other current ADCA announcements and are told they will begin receiving *The Doorknob Collector* during the next year. •

### A Limited Supply

Did you miss Maud Eastwood's inspired and interesting presentation on ceramic hardware at the 1996 ADCA annual convention? You need not fret because a limited supply of her 27 page booklet on the subject is available for \$3.00 (including mailing and handling). The booklet is titled, "A limited guide to understanding clayware in doorknobs."

If you want a copy of the booklet, rush your order with \$3.00 to ADCA Booklet, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126. Remember the supply is limited. Only 12 copies remain and there are no plans to reprint it when the supply is exhausted. •



US Army