

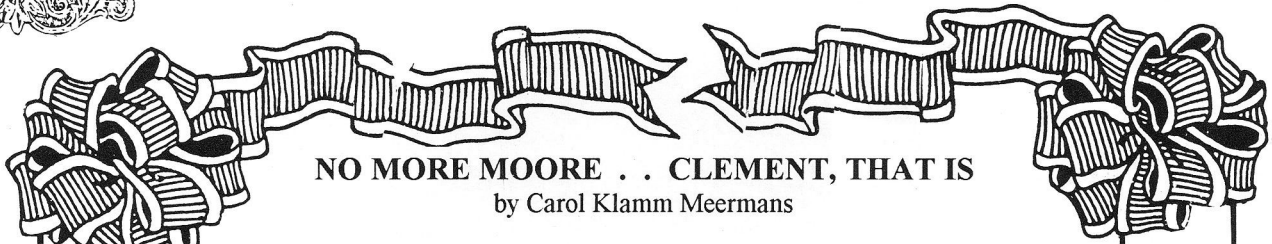


The Doorknob Collector

Number 80

November-December 1996

ADCA Convention, Pennsylvania - August 13-16, 1997



NO MORE MOORE . . . CLEMENT, THAT IS

by Carol Klamm Meermans

Santa's getting weary of those sooty chimney drops
while traveling by reindeer with landings on housetops.

Says Mrs. Claus,

"I'm tired of patching ripped, red, fur-trimmed britches
Torn on jagged mortar joints. Enough with all those stitches!"
Let's save our favorite jolly elf and wife from further strain.
At their grand ages no one needs another ache or pain.

We'll ask our clever **Homer Snow** . . . (his name's a perfect match!)

To make a Magic Master Key that works each lock and latch.
So Santa Claus could enter homes through even bolted doors
And nevermore leave soot or ash on hearths or rugs and floors.
But tracked in snow (not Homer), quickly melted, would be gone.
Plus, Rudolph, for a landing strip, would much prefer a lawn.

Fret not, that Magic Master Key won't trip alarms, if set;
Will neither rouse the children nor disturb a watchful pet.
For Santa, so much simpler to leave gifts for one and all,
Fill the socks, enjoy his snack, then exit the front hall.

A short hop to his waiting sleigh, sans fear of pitched-roof slip,
Call out a "Merry Christmas!", and continue on his trip!

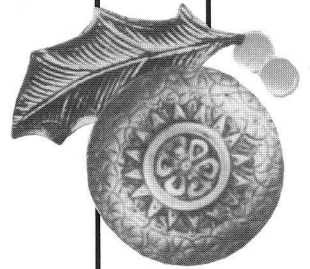
All you **ADCAers** make sure your front knobs shine!

A holly would be nice or a snowflake-type design
In keeping with the season and welcoming our guest.

When he sees our collections, he'll say,

"Knob Folk! Are the best."

"And thanks for asking Homer to invent this Magic Key
It's better that old Ali Baba's OPEN SESAME!"

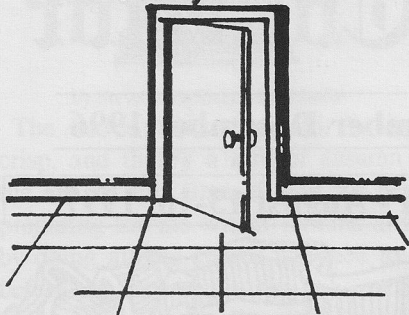


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THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



Maud Eastwood's book, *Antique Builders' Hardware* is no longer available in the soft cover style. There is still a limited supply of her fine book in the three-ring hard cover binder. For anyone wishing to get a copy of the book we suggest you act soon.

There is good news for those wanting to add to their library. We understand a writer (Don Duer), based in Florida, has been commissioned by the Schiffer Publishing Company to write a book on doorknobs and hardware. He has been in contact with the Lock Museum and ADCA as he researches the subjects. We will certainly pass along information as this project continues.

It looks like *House and Garden Magazine* will be doing an article on door hardware. Here again, the work is in the early stages. We do not have a target date for the feature but once it is known we will publish the information.

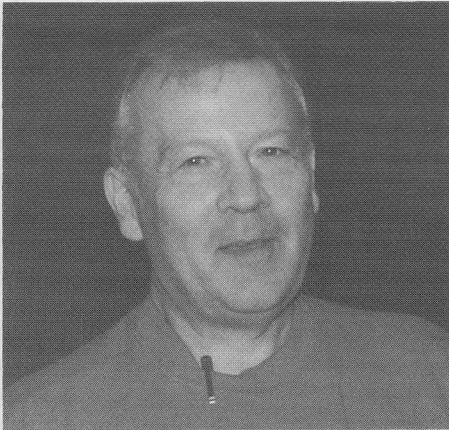
Researching and writing about the hardware companies can be challenging, informative and fun. Frustrating, too. I had a lot of enjoyment working on the Chicago Hardware Manufacturing Company and learning how Barrows and Sager companies tied in. I only published a small portion of the information obtained. I guess there may be enough for a book. I know that there is a lot of interest in the history of companies. We received a lot of positive comments about the series.

Needless to say, it would be nice to do more series like this. It takes time to research. I spent over three years gathering information on Chicago hardware. Hopefully, you may be

working on something along this line about a hardware company and will share it with us. ■

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:



Bob Rodder

Bob Rodder has been collecting door hardware since the 1970s. He became a member of ADCA in 1989 and attended his first convention in 1990. Bob will be the host of the 1997 convention at King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Bob was appointed to the board in 1996 to serve a one year term. •

Season's Greetings

The 1996 Display Contest

Winners of the display contest at the 1996 convention were.

1. **Best Single Knob:** Cheryl Blam, Porcelain Hand Painted.
2. **Best Display, Porcelain:** Charles Wardell
3. **Best Display Various design:** Florence Jarvis
4. **Best Metallic Display,** Barb & Steve Menchhofer
5. **Most Creative Display:** Marge Bornino
6. **Best of Show:** Cheryl Blam

Honorable Mention Ribbons went to Florence Jarvis, and Marge Bornino.

THE ADCA BOOK PEDDLER

Book	Prices
Antique Builders Hardware (three ring binder w/hard cover) by Maud Eastwood	\$21.50
Supplement No. 1 Antique Builders Hardware by Maud Eastwood	\$ 6.00
150 Years of Builders' Hardware: Forms, Use & Lore (three ring binder w/hard cover) by Maud Eastwood	\$27.50
150 Years of Builders' Hardware: Forms, Use & Lore (soft cover-style)	\$22.50
Victorian Decorative Art by Len Blumin	\$12.00
Moes' Enterprise Catalog of Authentic Pre-1929 Hardware (1984) by Leonard Moes	\$12.50
The Builders Hardware Industry (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 January/February 1997 issue of *The Doorknob Collector* should be in the hands of the editors by December 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.

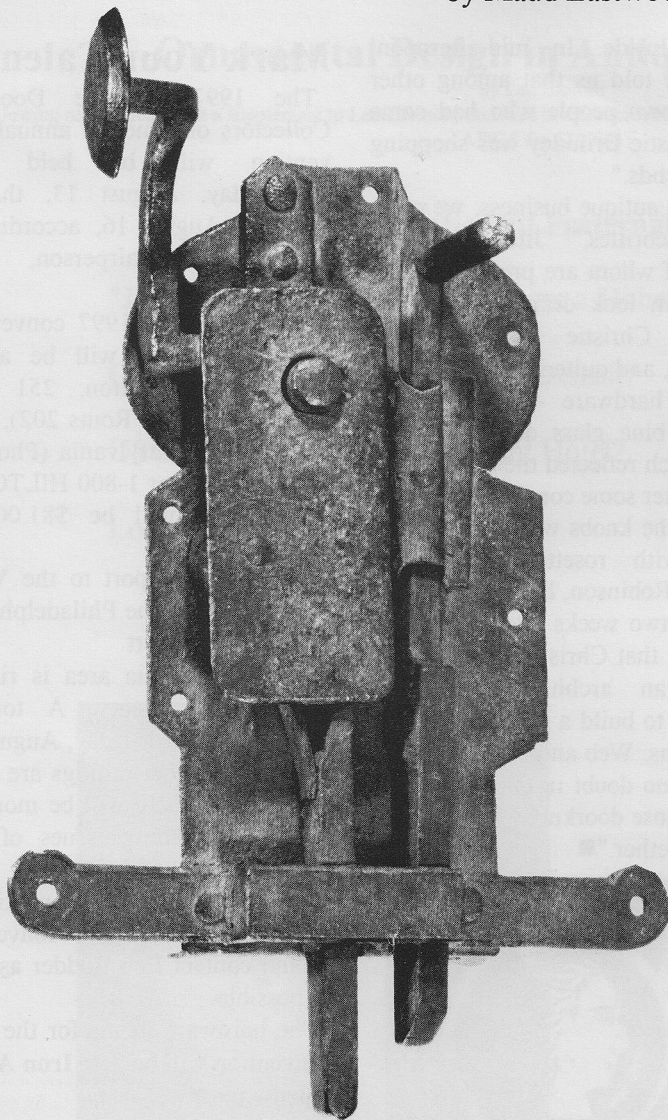
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A Background Introduction to Iron Door Hardware in America

by Maud Eastwood



Early American iron door hardware, whether hand-wrought by blacksmiths or cast by iron-founders, is worthy of study. The wide use of iron for facilitating and controlling door movement preceded that of the so-called finer metals, brass and bronze.

The village blacksmith was production door bolts, bars, hasps, and latches by the early 1700s, hampered as he was by English domination and competition. Cast iron was little used before 1800. In sequence, door hardware recorded in America

progressed from wooden latches, hinges, and bolts to forged iron examples of similar forms. Improved latches and locks followed.

Four of the more distinctive early wrought types of latches in the evolution of latches to locks having knobs that turned, were Knocker latches of the early-to-mid 1700s, Escutcheon Lift latches of the mid-to-later 1700s, Suffolk latches of the late 1700s, and the Norfolk latches that superseded all other wrought-iron latches until William Blake's cast-iron, patented Norfolk-type latch of 1840.

The understanding should be that examples of the foregoing wrought-iron types co-existed in more than one time frame and locality, given the individuality of the blacksmiths, the unsettled state in America due to the Revolution and Civil War, and the later massive move to settle the West. Quite frankly, specific specimen are hard to date.

After 1825, a back plate was added to the basic latch parts - - the bar and catch. Those plates were square or keyhole in shape. With the later addition of springs and a cam to work the bar, came the name, latch-lock. Later, hand grasps and small, stationary knobs for lifting, sliding, or depressing the bar were added. Such were the forerunners of the fully enclosed rim and mortised locks, wrought and cast, and their trimmings, knobs and escutcheon plates. ■

(Additional articles covering 19th and early 20th century iron hardware by Maud Eastwood will be continued in the next issue of **The Doorknob Collector** and will tie in with the 1997 convention theme, Iron Age.)

Roster Notice

The Fall 1996 ADCA roster is available to members. There are over 50 new names and changes. To receive a copy, send \$1.00 to ADCA Roster, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.

IT'S TIME TO CHECK YOUR LABEL!!

This issue, #80, may be you last issue of **The Doorknob Collector**! Look at the date behind your membership number on the mailing label. That is the date your membership will expire. If it reads 1/1/97 this will be your last issue. You can renew your membership now to insure that you will receive issue number 81 on time. Membership dues are \$25 (\$27 in Canada). Mail your check or money order to ADCA, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126. ■

Hurricane, Romance and Cobalt Knobs

Web and Jill Wilson report that the big east coast hurricane last August actually brought them considerable good fortune.

"We were doing a show out in the Hamptons, at the end of Long Island," Jill related recently, "which is the prime summer destination for New Yorkers. It is an indoor show, but because of our architectural and garden inventory, we have always set up on the front lawn. This year we were a little apprehensive as we anchored our rather flimsy tent while listening to the severe weather forecasts for the onslaught of hurricane **Bertha**."

"On Saturday the storm really broke, bringing high winds and slashing rain," Web recalled, "and although we secured our things, and added some protective plastic sheeting, we looked very much like a couple of homeless people about to be swept out to sea."

"Fortunately, however, antique people are serious about their shopping and also have great spirits," he added, "so there was excellent attendance during the storm, and we sold steadily all day."

"The other dealers were also great," Jill noted, "they would struggle over to our outpost in the storm to see how we were doing, and fill us in on how things were

doing inside. In mid-afternoon, someone told us that among other well known people who had come by, Christie Brinkley was shopping with friends."

"In the antique business, we often see celebrities," Jill continued, "most of whom are pretty low key, and often look different than you expect. Christie Brinkley was pleasant, and quite interested in our antique hardware - especially six pair of blue glass doorknobs that very much reflected the color of her eyes. After some consideration, she bought the knobs which were complete with rosettes, and locks marked Robinson, Boston."

About two weeks later it was announced that Christie was going to marry an architect, and they planned to build a house out in the Hamptons. Web and Jill concluded, "there's no doubt in our minds that it was those doorknobs that brought it all together." ■



Mark Your Calendar

The 1997 Antique Doorknob Collectors of America annual convention will be held from Wednesday, August 13, through Saturday August 16, according to convention chairperson, Bob Rodder.

The site of the 1997 convention, Rodder reported, will be at the Valley Forge Hilton, 251 West DeKalb Pike (US Routs 202), King of Prussia, Pennsylvania (Phone 1-800-879-8372 or 1-800 HILTONS.) Room rates will be \$81.00 per night.

The closest airport to the Valley Forge Hilton is the Philadelphia International Airport

The Philadelphia area is rich in architectural history. A tour is planned for Wednesday, August 13, and several other outings are being considered. There will be more details in upcoming issues of **The Doorknob Collector**.

Anyone interested in making a presentation at the convention should contact Bob Rodder as soon as possible.

The hardware theme for the 1997 convention will be **The Iron Age in Hardware**. ■

← A-315

Cast Iron profile of Clara Barton

ADCA BOARD MEMBERS

Year	President	V. President	Sec./Treas.	Board	Board	Board	Board	Board	Board
81-82	J. Holland	A. Fredrick	M. Weimer	D. Razor					
82-83	A. Fredrick	L. Blumin	L. Kaiser*	D. Miller*	L. Nemece	C. Wardell	J. Holland		
83-84	L. Blumin	L. Nemece	L. Kaiser*	M. Eastwood	D. Miller*	A. Fredrick	C. Wardell	A. Paholke	
84-85	L. Blumin	L. Nemece	L. Kaiser	M. Eastwood	D. Miller	A. Fredrick	C. Wardell	F. Jarvis	
85-86	J. Holland	A. Still	L. Kaiser	M. Eastwood	D. Miller	L. Blumin	F. Jarvis	S. Menchhofer	
86-87	J. Kaiser*	M. Eastwood	R. Nemece	A. Still	D. Miller	C. Bednar	F. Jarvis	S. Menchhofer	
87-88	D. Miller	L. Blumin	R. Nemece	M. Eastwood	B. Byington	W. Applegate	A. Still	S. Menchhofer	
88-89	D. Miller	L. Blumin	R. Nemece	M. Eastwood	B. Byington	W. Applegate	A. Fredrick	M. Davidovich	
89-91	L. Blumin	W. Applegate	R. Nemece	M. Eastwood	B. Byington	D. Campbell	A. Fredrick	M. Davidovich	
91-93	W. Applegate	D. Sponaugle	L. Nemece	M. Eastwood	L. Blumin	D. Campbell	A. Fredrick	C. Ruiz	
93-95	W. Applegate	D. Sponaugle	R. Nemece	M. Eastwood	L. Blumin	N. Blam	A. Fredrick	R. Kennedy	
95-96	W. Applegate	D. Sponaugle	R. Nemece	M. Eastwood	L. Smeltzer	N. Blam	S. Rowe	R. Kennedy	
96-97	W. Applegate	D. Sponaugle	R. Nemece	M. Eastwood	L. Smeltzer	N. Blam	S. Rowe	R. Kennedy	
					L. Nemece	S. Menchhofer	M. Bornino	D. Warming	B. Rodder

*During the 1982/83 and 1983/84 terms the office of Secretary/Treasurer was split into two positions
Dorothy Miller served as secretary and Lee Kaiser as Treasurer.

** Jim. Kaiser died during his term as President was succeeded by Vice President Maude Eastwood. Charles Bednar became Vice President.

Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs

by Len Blumin

(The following regular feature is a supplement to Len Blumin's excellent book, *Victorian Decorative Art*. Copies of the book are available from ADCA for \$12.00)

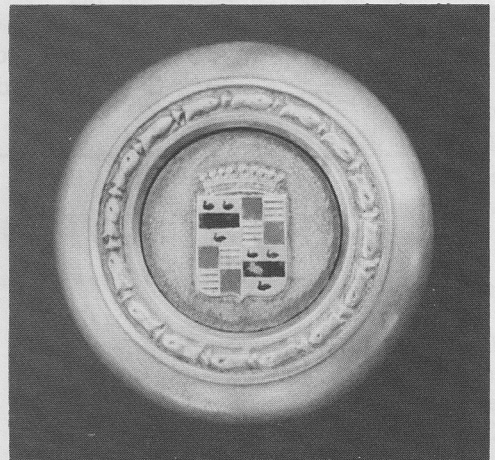
Emblematic and Fraternal Knobs

- O-178** "JH," is suppose to have come from a "John Hancock" building.
- O-180** Cadillac emblem. Cadillac Hotel, Detroit?
- O-182** USG - Possibly, Ulysses S. Grant Hotel?
- O-183** Looks like "CTC".

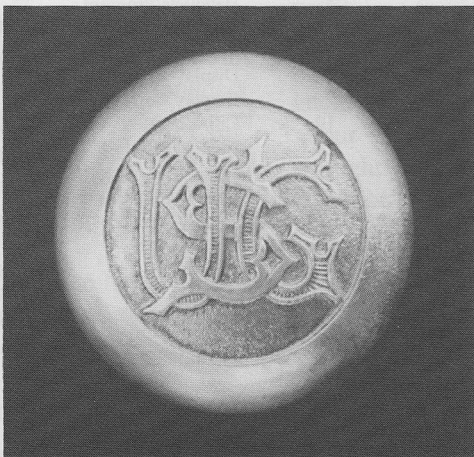
O-178



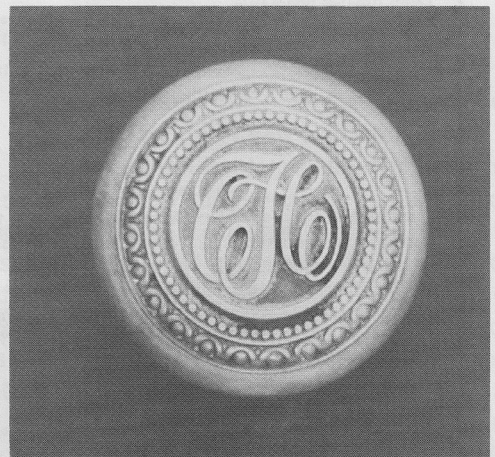
O-180



O-182



O-183



The Business Side of Things

by President Win Applegate

Much of the business side of your ADCA over the last year and a half has been within the Board of directors itself.

Organizationally:

With Len Blumin declining to run for another term and the death of Arnie Fredrick, two vacancies were created on the Board in 1995. As you are now aware, these were filled by Steve Rowe and Linda Smeltzer.

Since 1983, the size of the elected ADCA Board of Directors has been set at seven plus Maud Eastwood as a lifetime member. With only one meeting a year and the possibility that each member can not always make the annual meeting, it was decided to increase the size of the Board. It was felt that by enlarging the Board, better continuity of the Directors and the overall effectiveness of the Board would be assured.

The Board recommended and the Annual Business Meeting voted a

change in the by-laws to increase the size of the Board of Directors to a minimum of ten and a maximum of fourteen. By the same procedure, five new Directors were elected:

Steven Menchhofer and Loretta Nemeck; both long time attendees at Board Meetings.

The other newly elected Directors are:

Marge Bornino
Bob Rodder
Don Warming

We welcome them to their new position and look forward to their participation.

Board Procedures:

In an effort to better meet the demands placed upon it, the Board is developing a more detailed series of communications among its members throughout the year. This will allow it to develop topics during the year and should lead to a tighter agenda when it does meet.

Commemorative Stamp Proposal:

The proposal has been modified and will be directed to a New Jersey Congressman. The folio has been reworked to emphasize hardware firms in the states of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut. It is anticipated that this will result in four congressmen supporting our request.

This has been temporarily delayed until after elections.

Update of Victorian Decorative Art:

Len Blumin's original book has now been converted (digitized) for computer processing and it is anticipated that all previously published supplements will also be done before the '97 convention.

This brings us to the 1997 Convention . . . don't miss it, it will be another good one. Philadelphia and its architecture and history can be overpowering!

Have a Happy Holiday. ■

ADCA Convention Survey Results of survey taken earlier this year.

•1. Cities with highest interest for a future convention.

1.	Atlanta	61.1%
	Boston	61.1
3.	New Orleans	58.8
4.	Seattle	56.3
5.	Toronto	55.6
6.	Philadelphia	53.3
7.	Chicago	50.0
	New York	50.0

Cities with little interest.

Least interest listed first.

1.	Anaheim	73.3%
2.	Kansas City	52.9
3.	Phoenix	47.1
4.	Seattle	37.5
5.	Miami	35.7
6.	Dallas	33.3
7.	Nashville	31.2
8.	New Orleans	29.4

Comments: Seattle and New Orleans were the only two cities to make the top eight in both lists. However, in both cases substantially more people favor both cities.

•2. Portland received the most support for cities not on the list.

•3. Where would you prefer the convention to be held

Suburban Hotel	59.1%
Downtown Hotel	31.8
College Campus	9.1

•4. Cost per room - would not go if cost was over

\$90	36.4%
\$100	27.3
\$110	9.1
\$125	0
\$150	4.5
No Limit	22.7

•5. If we had to choose between a hotel not to exceed above costs or a campus site which would you prefer.

A. Hotel not to exceed above costs	30.8%
B. A campus site if hotel exceed your cost limit	64.5
C. Don't go to that city.	3.8

•6. Convention features rated by importance.

1	Auction
2	Displays
3	Research Presentations
	Seminars
5	Banquets/Program
6	Visit/reception at local members home
	Preconvention Gathering
8	Display Awards
9	Display Contest
10	City Tours
11	Buffet Breakfast
12	Committee Meetings

•7. A feature of the convention is a display contest

Do you normally participate Yes 71% No 29%

What type of awards do you prefer?

Plaques	39.13%
Ribbons	47.83%
Trophies	13.04%

ESTABLISHED

1873

PHOENIX LOCK WORKS.

P.



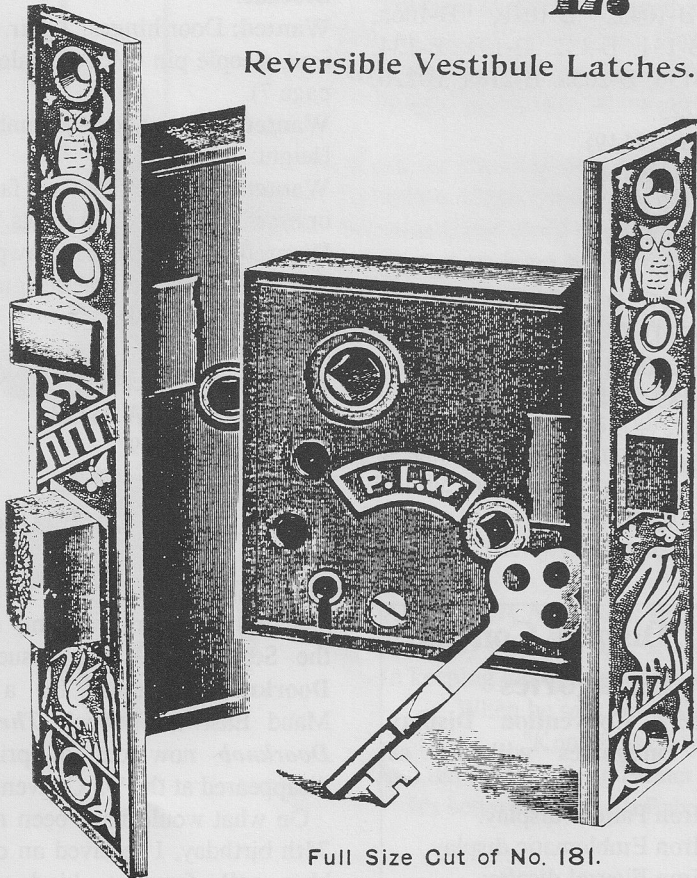
W.

L.

Bronze Metal

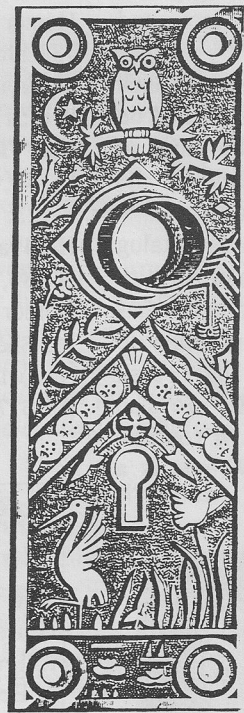
Escutcheons and Rose.

Reversible Vestibule Latches.



Full Size Cut of No. 181.

Full Size Cut of No. 161. Lock Front.



Full Size Cut
E. & R. No. 5181.



Full Size Cut
E. & R. No. 5161.

For descriptions, see page 79.

**Builders' Hardware,
and
GENERAL SHIP HARDWARE
1894**

From The Archives



by Steve & Barbara Menchhofer

The leaves are turning gold, the air is crisp, and there's a hint of autumn in the air. At this time of year we begin preparing for the winter months ahead by doing all the chores we need to do before the first snow, not only outside the house but inside as well. After all of our jobs are done, fall is a great time for us to work on our doorknob collection and research our hardware catalogs.

One of the lesser known or talked about hardware catalogs in the Archives is the Phoenix Lock Works - - 1894. We offer this catalog in complete form of 159 pages or 44 selected pages. It is the only catalog we have from this company. Looking through the selected pages, we find that there are few doorknobs shown. The most striking pieces of hardware are the different locks and escutcheons.

There is one design in both the lock and escutcheon that features an owl on a tree branch with stars and a moon at the top, a butterfly and a bird by the keyhole, and a stork at the bottom.

The hardware shown in this catalog goes from very plain to ornate. As with most of the older catalogs, this one has drawings with details that are easy to see. Shutter knobs, shutter bars, sash lifts, drawer pulls, bell pulls are also shown in the selected pages. If you like the older catalogs, this 1894 one is a good one to own. ■



N-201 Tosca

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: N-201 - Tosca design, Oval shape.

Eddie Sobczak (#154)
4848 So. LaCrosse Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638
PH: 312/735-1466

Buy or Trade: N-127 for N-201
Excellent condition.

Eddie Sobczak (#154)
4848 So. LaCrosse Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638
PH: 312/735-1466

Wanted: The following doorknobs.

A-107, A-108, A-109, A-110, A-111, A-112, A-113, A-319, A-320, A-322, A-323, B-104a, B-104b, B-106a, B-129a, B-131, B-132, B-133, B-134, B-135, B-136, B-205a, B-218a, B-220, B-221, B-223.

Homer Snow (#149)
732 Sherman Street
Nashville, MI 49073
PH: 517-852-9455.

For Trade: B-126, B-214, B-215, B-216, B-217, D-134, D-135, F-108, F-123, F-233, G-118, G-131, H-206, H-249a, H-220b, H-262, H-459, H-462, H-480, H-489, H-493

Homer Snow (#149)
732 Sherman Street
Nashville, MI 49073
PH: 517-852-9455

1997 Display Contest Categories

The 1997 Convention Display contest categories will be as follows:

1. Best Iron Pattern display.
2. Best Iron Emblematic display
3. Best Iron Figural display
4. Best Bronze display
5. Most creative display
6. Best of show. (based upon total votes from categories one through five above.) ■

Auction #3

Web Wilson's Antique Auction #3
Call today for your full color catalog, complete with prices realized from Auction #2. Then bid on two Doggie knobs, a seated stag, many fine pieces from MW, R&E, et.al, colored glass, 14 lots of Ekado pattern, door bells, mail slots, shutter hardware, etc., etc....! Send \$12.50 to P.O. Box 506, Portsmouth, RI. 02871, call 800-508-0022, or FAX us at 401-683-1686.

Wanted: Door hinges - 4 pair, 4-1/2x4-1/2, cast iron, bronze overlay, ball tip. (Moe's catalog, D-108, page 7).

Wanted: Door hinges - 4 pair. 4-1/2x4-1/2, cast brass, steeple pin. Pattern: Brocade.

Wanted: Door hinges: 2 pair. 4x4. Cast iron, steeple pin (Moe's catalog, D-118, page 7).

Wanted: Brass address number. 1252. Height: 3-1/2 - 4".

Wanted: Tie-back (either fancy brass or brass with porcelain insets.)

Wanted: Pair porcelain drawpulls, 3/4" - 1". Prefer floral design.

Vicky Berol (#450)
Gofer #1

2727 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
PH: 415-771-9899

Letter to Editor

Knob folk are the best

Thank you for running my request in the September/October issue of *The Doorknob Collector* for a copy of Maud Eastwood's book *The Antique Doorknob* now out of print. Mine disappeared at the '95 Convention.

On what would have been my sister's 75th birthday, I received an out-of-the-blue call from a kind gentleman ADCAer who has an extra copy. He certainly added sunshine to what was a sad day for me. Knobfolk are the best! Your Exchange ads work.

Carol K. Meermans #34
Bay Valley, OH