

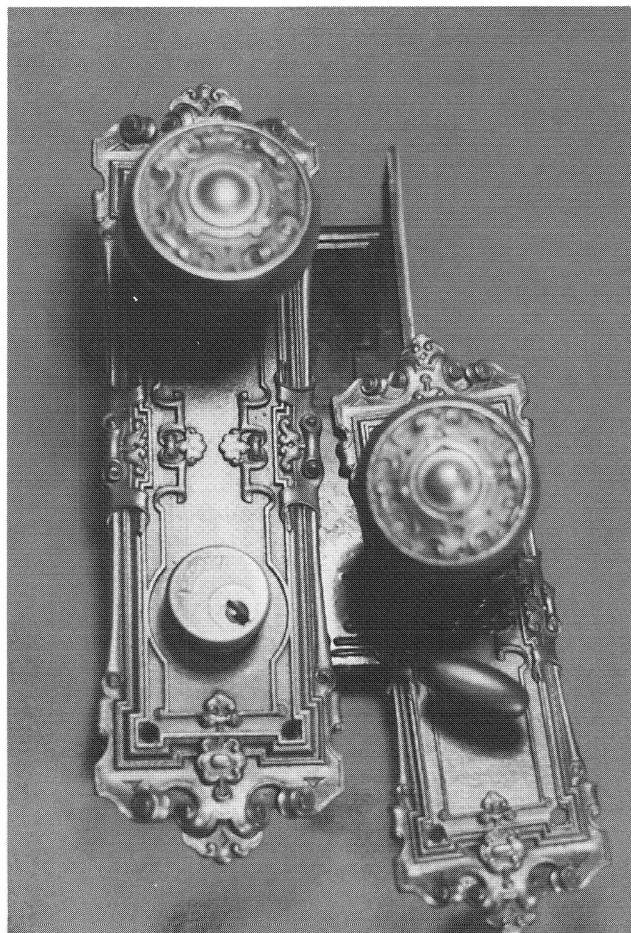
The Doorknob Collector

Number 82

March-April 1997

Iron Age Builders' Hardware Through the 1950's

by Maud Eastwood



Reading Hardware Co.
Cremona

The use of cast iron in architecture preceded the use of cast iron for ornamental door hardware. James Bogardus of New York cast store door fronts of iron in 1846, marking the first successful use of iron for architectural purposes in America. Noteworthy examples of later date were the dome of the U. S. Capitol Building (1850) and the glass and iron Crystal Palace in New York, the scene of the first World Fair (1853).

The earliest documentation of ornamental cast iron in builder's hardware to date covers the design patents for lock covers dated August 10, 1858, for Russell & Erwin whose 1865 catalog featured the three designs: Village, Pioneer, and Emigrant.

Consider that the 1865 catalog was issued by Russell & Erwin the year the civil War ended. At that time the usual hardware known and used was limited to black japanned cast-iron hinges and three types of doorknobs; dark mineral, white porcelain and glass. If anything better was wanted, the option was electro or hand plated silver or gold on plain surfaces.

Early examples of decorative cast iron knobs (c. 1860-1880) are occasionally found. These knobs appear polished but otherwise unfinished. Decoration usually involved open-work, the knob cast in one or more pieces. If multiple pieces, they were held in place by a screw or bolt. Occasionally, a finer metal inner shell provided interest. Bands of brass or bronze were sometimes used to "belt" halves together.

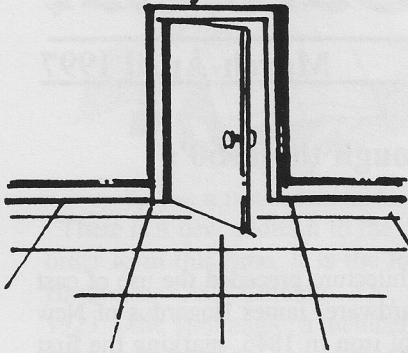
The next major step in cast iron use came in 1887 when Yale & Towne realized their goal of returning this metal to its "rightful place in ornamental door hardware". Yale & Towne's 1897 catalog listed thirty cast iron designs; their 1937 catalog still offered twenty-seven designs (of a total of eight-five) in cast iron, and also included wrought steel knobs in the Modern style. (continued on page 4)

ADCA Convention, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania August 13-16, 1997

	Inside	
Stallier Hotel Logo		Page 3
Hometown Heroes		Page 3
Iron Age Hardware		Page 4
Board Candidates		Page 5
Theater Knob		Page 6
Letters to Editor		Page 7
Obituary		Page 8
Doorknob Exchange		Page 8

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



Membership in ADCA dropped in 1996 to 241 members from a total of 253 in 1995. As always, we actively seek your help in recruiting new members. The organization is completing its 16th year and as can be expected, some of the early members have retired from collecting or dropped from the ranks for various reasons.

Because ADCA is an all-volunteer organization, we depend on you. As a member your involvement is important if we are to continue to offer interesting newsletters, programs and conventions. Mention ADCA, its activities and books, to potential members. Local community groups and libraries often look for programs and displays. Perhaps your interest in door hardware and ADCA's goal to educate and inform could be a force to interest others not only in collecting but in the history of hardware and the companies that manufactured it.

Opportunities are available within the organization to help keep it functioning. ADCA's small core of dedicated members, who have worked behind the scene for many years, are finding career and personal changes reducing their ability to serve the organization to the degree they have in the past. It is for that reason that we urge you to consider giving your time and talents to assist so that ADCA may continue to thrive and prosper. •

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:



Loretta Nemec

Loretta Nemec has been collecting doorknobs for over 17 years. She is one of ADCA's founding members and has served on the board from 1982 to 1985, 1991 to 1993 and is currently serving a one year term. She has served two terms as Vice President and one term as Secretary/Treasurer. Nemec, who hosted the 1983 convention, has been co-editor of *The Doorknob Collector* since 1986. •

Doorknob Raffle

Two figural doorknobs, an Oval Lion's Head and a Columbus Head, have been donated to ADCA for a fund raising raffle at the upcoming August convention. Tickets for the raffle will be sold Thursday, August 14 and Friday, August 15. The drawing will be held at the banquet Friday evening.

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

All ads, material and articles for the May/June 1997 issue of *The Doorknob Collector* should be in the hands of the editors by April 15, 1997.



The Doorknob Collector

©

Published six times a year by **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, Inc.**
P.O. Box 126, Eola, Illinois 60519-0126
Raymond and Loretta Nemec, Editors
Phone: 1-630-357-2381
FAX: 1-630-357-2391
Annual Membership in U.S.A. \$25.00
Foreign rates on request.

Single issue of *The Doorknob Collector* \$5.00
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*.

Any reproduction of material contained in *The Doorknob Collector* without permission of the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is prohibited. All material submitted for publication becomes the property of the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America**, unless otherwise agreed upon in advance in writing. Material quoted in *The Doorknob Collector* from other sources is subject to the requirements of the originator.

The Statler Hotel Logo Doorknob

by Maud Eastwood

Back in 1982 when I was still actively searching for door hardware and leaving no stone unturned, I made a zip-trip through City Liquidators warehouse in Portland, Oregon. Did I expect to find any doorknobs? Of course not. But there among four floors of ceiling-high commercial and residential expendable sat a small box of emblematic hardware.

Feigning half-hearted interest (which is hard to do when your eyes are popping out of your head), we finally arrived at a mutually agreeable price.

Happy as I was to find those knobs in 1982, I was even happier in 1987 to find an ad in a 1915 Hotel Monthly showing the knob's design to be the logo of the Statler Hotel Line. The first three Statlers, the Buffalo, Detroit, and Cleveland, also pictured in the ad, must have been equipped with logo doorknobs.

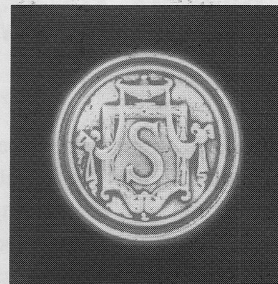
Subsequently, a number of Statler Hotels were added, the San Francisco Statler being the last in this line before it was acquired by the Hilton Hotel combine.

Evidence from P & F Corbin records shows that Corbin supplied Statler logo design knobs and key tags in early 1900, including the year 1912. The Lockwood Manufacturing Company provided Statler hotels with hardware from 1941 to 1956, according to Adon Brownell, who served Lockwood as Sales Manager during those years. This company re-equipped the existing Statler Hotels and equipped those later erected with new hardware. However, the old logo was not featured.

Consider the logistics of re-equipping a hotel building with new hardware. Remove the old hardware, dispose of it, and install all new in eight hundred to one thousand rooms. Boggles the mind. We are talking tons of hardware and armies of workers. Narrow the focus to multiple Statler Hotel re-equipping. What

was the fate of all the replaced hardware? A land-fill? Meltdown?

I can verify the existence of no more than twenty sets of Statler logo design doorknobs. I own one and there are nineteen more "out there somewhere." I know, I studied them closely before trading or selling them to fellow collectors at ADCA convention. •



O-126

Hometown Heroes



Photo by Grand Rapid Press

Miriam and Gene De Lange brought doorknob collectors to GR

Gene and Miriam DeLange were among sixty **Grand Rapids, Michigan**, residents honored last fall as "Hometown Heroes" at a reception in the brand new Van Andel Arena. It was all because they hosted the 1996 ADCA convention in the Grand Rapids area.

A picture of the DeLanges, with the caption they "brought doorknob collector to Grand Rapids," appeared in the Business Section of the **Grand Rapids Press** last fall. The accompanying article stated they were recognized for being instrumental in booking a national meeting in Kent County.

"There was much laughter," Gene DeLange said, "when we were introduced as host of the convention for the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America**, and the MC couldn't resist a couple of comments about my 'antique' mustache and 'antique' doorknobs. Each convention host received a beautiful plaque."

Miriam DeLange said, "it was a lot of work but a good experience and everyone had a good time." They were glad they did it and so was the Grand Rapids/Kent County Convention and Visitors Bureau. •

Builders' Hardware through 1950's

(continued from page 1)

The roles' iron played in the production of door hardware in the first half of the 20th century was dictated by the ever-changing industrial, economic, and social constraints of the country involved in two world wars in less that thirty year.



Russell & Erwin
Design for door lock plate

In 1925, Earle Hardware Manufacturing Company in California introduced a line of thirty-six wrought iron door handles in "Period" design. The periods represented were Colonial, English, Italian, Mission, Spanish and Aztec. Other 1925 Earle wrought iron items included doorknobs, levers, thumb latches, knockers, hinge straps and pull handles.

Other companies quickly followed suit manufacturing their own lines of colonial Hand Forged Iron and Colonial Wrought Iron hardware for both entrance and inside doors.

By 1940, busy hardware designs were largely outdated. Colonial (having four divisions according the use and metal), Modern, and Modernistic designs were preferred. Tubular latches and locks were introduced. A 1946 Russwin Manual indicated to what extent change had

come to the hardware industry. Buildings were now plain and other made of metal. "Doors were no longer display boards for door hardware."

Lack of design as formerly known characterized hardware of Modern design. Simplicity. One or two rings on the knobs and varying outlines on the plates whose general shapes led to the name 'Pendant'. These sets were made small size in wrought steel also wrought brass and bronze and were largely used for the trim on tubular latches and locks.

Modernistic designs followed, more geometric in style (Later called Art Deco) reflecting the trend in architecture in glass sided, step-back profiles.

Truly, iron was and is the indispensable metal that makes possible the manufacture of all other metals, and is basic to the manufacture of builder's hardware. •

Souvenir Program

The Antique Doorknob Club of America will be publishing a souvenir program for this year's convention. Everyone is invited and urged to participate. Bob Rodder, convention chairman, promises it will be a very special program that all members will want to keep.

There will be a lot of information. The souvenir program will include the 1997 convention attendees, convention program highlights, ADCA by-laws, and much more.

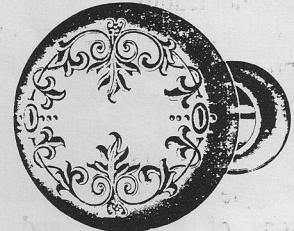
Most important, if you are a dealer, it will contain your advertisement. For anyone looking for hardware it will be a quick and easy way to find your phone/fax number and address.

For collectors there will be pages to place greetings or good wishes or place an ad if you wish.

To make the souvenir program a success we need you to participate. A form is included with this issue

of **The Doorknob Collector** with the ad rates and where to send your copy and check.

Whether you can attend the convention or not we strongly urge you to place your ad or greetings for all the members to see. It will help support ADCA, not only in this endeavor but for the future. •



F-222 VITTORIA
Russell & Erwin c.1895

ADCA Board Candidates Sought

Regularly scheduled offices to be elected in 1997 are President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Directors. The elections will be held in August at the annual ADCA convention. Although there is no deadline to run for office or nominate a candidate, names should be submitted by July 1st. Contact Nominating Committee Chair:

Len Blumin
382 Trockmorton Ave.
Mill Valley, CA 94941

A description of duties of ADCA officers appears in the March/April 1994 issued of *The Doorknob Collector*. They can also be obtained by contacting Len Blumin or the ADCA office.

The term for the officers and directors begins at the conclusion of the 1997 annual business meeting at the ADCA convention in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Terms run from the 1997 meeting to the 1999 meeting. Candidates for all positions must be active members of ADCA. •

Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs

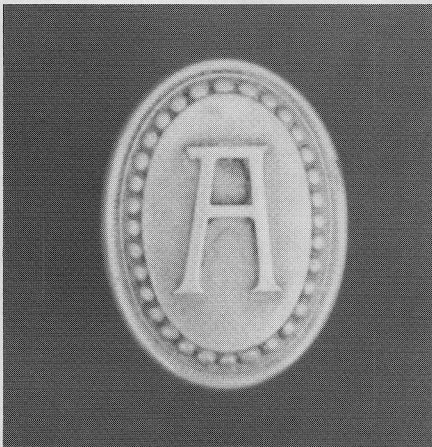
by Len Blumin

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-167** "A" Circa 1920, Originally appeared in issue #66 (July-August 1984) as O-160, corrected in issued #67, page 5.
- O-168** "RC", Republic of Cuba, by Yale & Towne, originally appeared in issue #66 as O-161, corrected in issue #67, page 5.
- O-169** The "LN" is for Lefcourt Newark, Leftcourt being the builder and Newark NJ being the city The Building is still there at 1180 Raymond Blvd. LN was originally shown in issue #66 as O-162, corrected in issue #67, page 5.
- O-185** Seal of the Supreme Court, State of Illinois Aug. 26, 1818.

O-167



O-168



O-169



O-185



Design for Theater Knob

by Maud Eastwood

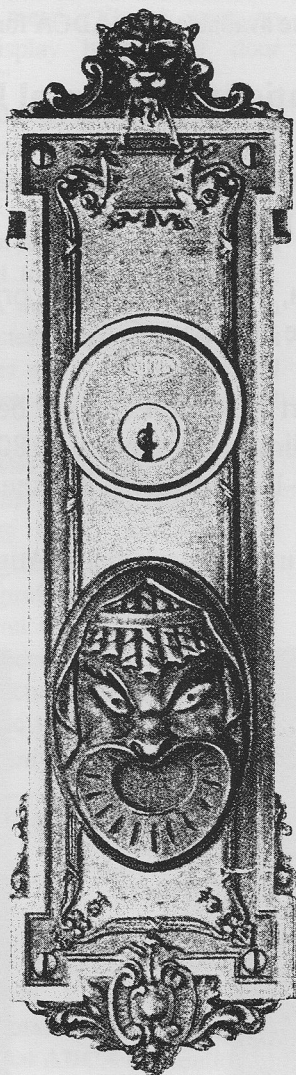
Of the several pages of Representational designs in Len Blumin's **Victorian Decorative Art**, no less than twenty-three show the human form in full or part. Nineteen of the twenty-three are limited to the bust or the head, full-face or in profile. At least ten of the nineteen are classical in form and one in allegorical. Not shown is a 1907 P & F Corbin knob depicting a character of questionable lineage.

Knobs of the emblematic type, such as the Corbin referred to above, were not intended for mass-marketing. Their possible use was limited. However, they were good accounts for their manufacturer as initial orders specifying their use for certain buildings, theaters, office, hotel chains, etc. -- could well run from hundreds to thousands of pieces.

An emblematic knob is seldom given an identifying name but is referred to by a stock number. The number for this particular Corbin knob was S-3851, according to a 1907 source. Twenty years later the same knob appeared in an eight-page Corbin folder titled: *Modern Color Treatment of Builders' Hardware*. The hardware had acquired a polychrome finish.

As the folder was not intended to be ordered from, numbers were omitted and the caption, "A knob and escutcheon in a Special Design for Theaters" was substituted for number S-3851.

Salvage methods, systematic or pick-and-choose, and subsequent handling, often are determining factors impacting the re-use or collecting of emblematic hardware. • (See issue #39, page 6)



A-326
Representational Design
1907 Corbin

Baseball Caps

Good quality convention souvenir baseball caps will be available at the convention. They are U.S. made, of twill fabric with an adjustable band in the rear to fit all sizes. They will be printed on the front with the logo and some copy. Be the first on your block to have one.

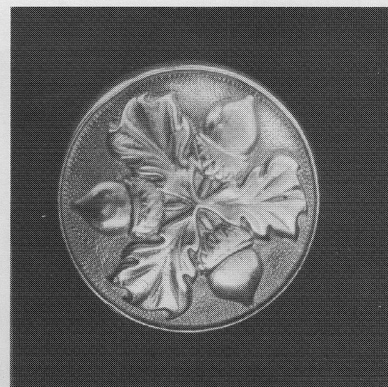
Bud Wolski to speak on Art Deco

Bud Wolski has been selected as a speaker at the fourth World Congress on Art Deco in Los Angeles on Friday, May 23rd. The congress programs will be from May 21 to May 26. There will also be Pre-Congress and Post-Congress activities.

The Art Deco Society of Los Angeles is hosting the event. President Mitzi March Mogul wrote to Wolski saying "we are all looking forward to your presentation." They indicated his topic, on Art Deco Hardware, "Sounds most appealing."

Bud would like to hear from other Art Deco hardware collectors prior to the convention to share information and thoughts. He can be reached during the day at 213/759-0344 or at night at 213/756-3868. You can write him at 9120 7th Ave., Inglewood, CA 90305-2726.

If you want more information about the organization write to Art Deco Society, P.O. Box 972, Hollywood, CA 90078 or fax to 310-659-3326. •



G-152
Chicago Hardware Co.

Response to Rowe's letter

After reading Steve Rose's letter in Jan/Feb 97 **The Doorknob Collector**, I was concerned with what he was saying. Is he advocating a NO PRICE LIST. If this be the message, may I ask who will determine the real value or worth? Only the person that wants that piece of ornamental hardware can say what they are willing to give for it in money or a trade.

Mr. Rowe has a recourse. He and the antique dealer had entered into an oral contract and so he could have sued the dealer.

A contract is an agreement that creates an obligation which is enforceable by law. Stated another way, a contract is a promise or set of promises for the breach of which the law gives a remedy, or for the performance of which the law in some way recognizes a duty.

In an actual court case to enforce a contract, which would be a CIVIL rather than a criminal action, the plaintiff need only produce a signed (THE BEST) contract as evidence of the agreement. The terms may be established by the piece of paper or otherwise. AN ORAL CONTRACT IS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH.

In order to be binding on the parties it is not necessary for an agreement to be in any particular form. IT CAN BE ORAL. It can be contained in an exchange of letters. It can be contained in a combination of ORAL STATEMENTS, memoranda and the acts of the parties.

The contract law can have variations in the different venues.

As a charter member of ADCA with a very modest collection of ornamental hardware (Doorknobs, Escutcheon Plates, Unit Locks, Key Hole Escutcheons Drawer and Bin Pulls, Door Pulls, Door Push Plates, Rosettes and hardware Catalogs), over 1500 doorknobs mounted on escutcheon plates (40"x4" linear feet) and over 12' linear of Hardware Catalogs (the oldest is a 1876 Corbin Catalog), I have yet to find a way to decide on, or establish a true real value, or real worth for any part of my collection. When attempting to obtain a piece of hardware my only thought is can I afford the asking price?

I collect because I enjoy looking at the hardware, learning the manufacturer, the school, the design, and making keys for the old locks. I also enjoy making pen sets with my duplicates, for my friends. At no time do I think I would want to sell any part of my collection.

I consider myself a neophyte in this endeavor of collecting antique architectural hardware; so I must ask where can I buy a book or books on the real value or real worth of the hardware?

Maybe in these books I could find the real value of the following; four wood doorknobs made by Arnie Fredrick, three with Maud Eastwood likeness and one with the grotesque in the Empire doorknob (Corbin 1895). The bee from the Nemecs, the pull plate made by the Nashua Lock Company from the Balasas, the cherubs from the Knox. The many pieces from the Pat and Harvey Sass, the Kaisers, the Millers, the Hollands and I could go on and on, but I must stop with Maud Eastwood.

No one could place a value on my collection with the thought of obtaining it from me. I know someday it will be for sale, but not in my life time.

Back in 1984 Lionel D. Moes produced a catalog with a price list (today a treasure), that the likes has to this day not been duplicated. We all lost a great collector and many lost a good friend, when Moes died. Today if we had a continuing source of information and price list like Moes we would have a real understanding of the value of our hardware.

The Numismatic community, to name one large group, as well as other collectors have price lists, books and catalogs. Why should the doorknob collectors be secret about what one may pay for a piece of hardware? I believe we need more Web Wilson's, Lilac Shed Antiques, and Liz's Antique Hardware. The more the better for all the doorknob collectors.

In Moes catalog I could have bought a A-101, the Priest AKA the Judgment doorknob for \$85.00 or a pair for \$170.00. This little grotesque was ugly at \$85.00 and he hasn't improved at \$850.00

Arthur R. Paholke
Charter member #51
Hot Springs, AR

Freedom of individuals

In reply to the invitation for more comments on the issue raised by Steve Rowe in the last newsletter, I submit the following in consideration of the working of the intents and purposes of ADCA as recorded in Section II of the Articles of our Incorporation.

Succinctly put, as a non-profit incorporated body, we are mandated to engage in charitable and educational works and to associate those interested in the design, history, and collection of antique doorknobs and related hardware.

Even though the above underlined words do not appear on our membership brochures, they nevertheless are in a very real sense at the core of our club's continuing mission.

I believe we are filling those mandates and attracting members interested in design and history as evidenced by requests for our specialized books, material offered in the newsletter, filling requests for information, helping locate hardware, giving interviews, lectures, arranging hardware displays in public places and for private gatherings. Individually, these are on-going projects.

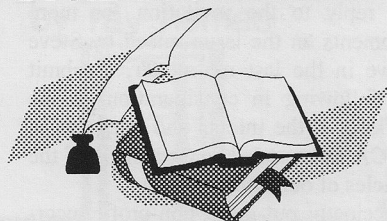
Newsletters are regularly sent to important seats of learning and research. Hardware has been made available by individuals for restoration work. A considered opinion is that there would be no advantage to the club to dilute its mission by printing sales prices, other than in occasional specific cases. Otherwise, the concept of the newsletter would change and impact the focus of the club.

However, the right of individual members to conduct their own business with freedom is not being questioned and should remain inviolate.

Maude Eastwood
Charter member #2
Woodenville, WA



From The Archives



by Steve & Barbara Menchhofer

There is a new addition to the catalog order form this time. It is the Reading Hardware Co., Catalog #20, dated 1923. Dale Sponaugle, a member of the ADCA, loaned us his catalog so we could copy it for the Archives. The complete copy has 406 pages. The selected pages' total 64, and the door-knob design pages total 41. This catalog would make a fine addition to your library.

Order forms have been included with this newsletter. Check yours out and place your order. Orders and checks must be returned to us by May 1, 1997. Any orders received after this date will be returned. Orders will take time to be filled so please don't expect yours to arrive right away.

Any questions you may have about these catalogs may be answered by writing us at 5538 West 25th Street, Speedway, IN 46224 or by telephoning us at 317/291-6043 after 6:00 PM. •

1996 ADCA Archives Financial Statement

Receipts

Catalog Orders	\$1,677.65
----------------	------------

Total Receipts	\$1,677.65
-----------------------	-------------------

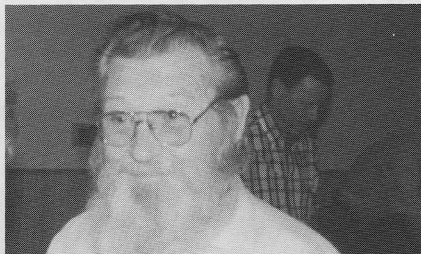
Disbursements

Catalogs Copied	\$1,217.86
Catalogs Purchase	423.00
Adm. Operating Expenses	76.64
Postage/Shipping	124.89
Insurance	100.00
Bank Service Charge	40.47
Miscellaneous Expenses	33.65
Total disbursements	\$2,016.31

Excess or (Deficit) of Receipts over Disbursements	(\$338.86)
---	------------

Beginning Cash Bal. on 1/1/96	\$967.81
Ending Cash Bal. on 12/31/96	\$628.95

Obituary



Claude Knox

Claude Knox, an ADCA member since December 1987, died of heart failure in Oak Harbor, Washington, on January 9, 1997. He was 61

Knox was born on September 14, 1935, at Demopolis, Alabama. He and his wife, Pat, were married on March 12, 1960. They have two children, a son, Bart and a daughter, Kay.

A metal-smith by trade, Knox owned a mobile home park and most recently owned ten mules. He entered mules in various competitive events. Failing eyesight for the past several years forced Knox to forgo much of his doorknob activities. He found an alternative to doorknob collecting in the mules.

Claude Knox became one of ADCA's most active member after joining the club, acquiring several doorknob collections. He responded to most of the ads in **The Doorknob Collector** that offered knobs for sale or trade. Claude and Pat attended the conventions from 1988 through 1991. •

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: Five pairs of H-110 or similar, two large size if possible
Debbie Fellenz (#31)
2224 Cherokee
St. Louis, MO 63118
PH: 314/776-8363

Wanted: G-152 Acorn (see page 6)
Art Pahlke (#51)
116 Hacienda Rd.
Hot Springs, AR 71909
PH: 501/623-5708

For Sale: Ritz-Carlton Lion Crest door knob 0-196. These are new old stock, factory fresh, and completely unaltered. \$74.50 each includes rose, dummy mounting spindle, plate and shipping and handling.

Richard Perris (#254)
1625 Calle Granada
Duarte, CA 91104

For Sale: Selected doorknob from my collection. The Setter A-103, The Heart C-111, many others, with rare catalogs too. Send me a self address stamped envelope for my list.

Charles Wardell (#9)
P.O. Box 195
Trinity, NC 27370

Wanted: Information on antique casement hardware.

J.R. Helget (#355)
Anderson Corporation
100 4th Ave. No.
Bayport, MN 55003-1096
FAX: 612/430-5306

Hardware Service: Free Hardware Matching Service (furniture & House Hardware). Send Photo-copy and SASE along with description:

Robinson's Antiques (#460)
170 Kent St.
Portland, MI 48875
PH: 517/647-6155 (wrong phone number appeared in issue #81)

For Sale or Trade: Board of Education Knobs, Seal of B of E Detroit MI, James McMillian, Delray MI, c.1905, will sell or trade for cast bin pulls, cast hinges, hooks & furniture hardware.

Robinson's Antiques (#460)
170 Kent St.
Portland, MI 48875
PH: 517/647-6155 (wrong phone number appeared in issue #81)

Wanted: The following doorknobs.
D-102a, D-103, D-105, D-107, D-109, D-113, D-114, D-118, D-120, D-121, D-126, D-127, D-128, D-129, D-130, D-131, D-132, D-133, G-101, G-106, G-121, G-125, G-127, G-128, G-134, G-135, G-136, G-137, G-138, G-139, G-140, G-141.

Homer Snow (#149)
7332 Sherman Street
Nashville, MI 49073
PH: 517/852-9455