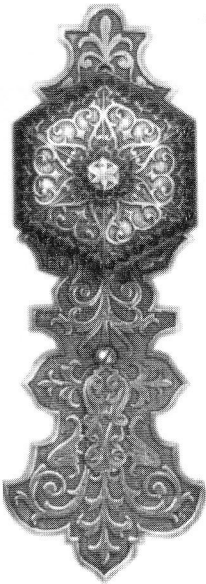


# The Doorknob Collector

Number 90

July-August 1998

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## TREASURY PATTERN HARDWARE

By Maude Eastwood

The display categories for members electing to enter competition in the August convention appeared in the last TDC issue. As a reminder, they are Best of Sargent, Best Metallic, Best Non-Metallic, Most Creative Display, and Best of Show. Remember that display size is not a determining factor for the awards. Your display choices (for everything except Best of Sargent) are wide open to any knobs in your collection. Should the choice be made to enter a display with TREASURY PATTERN hardware under Best Metallic, for instance, the following background information will be of interest.

Treasury Pattern hardware is a division under the category of Federal or Patriotic design hardware in the family of Emblematic hardware. Motifs characterizing Federal hardware are Eagles, Shields, Stars, Stripes, Scales of Justice, inscriptions or other emblems associated with government. Treasury pattern, alone, of the several classes under Federal designs, will be covered in this article.

Corbin named this class of design (often called the Weight and Measure or Scales of Justice design) when it was shown in their 1874 catalog under Knobs for Public Buildings. Although the design is named Treasury, Corbin did not specifically produce it for the original U.S. Treasury building (1836-1842) which had been built a bit earlier. However, Mr. Parsons of Corbin sent a sample of the knob to the architect of the Treasury in May of 1884. Shown here is the knob from the San Francisco Mint and a matching plate by Corbin.

Each manufacturer who produced doorknobs with the central scales of justice, chevron, and key theme varied the perimeter design. Corbin used the Greek key pattern (as shown in the illustration); Hopkins & Dickenson, a beaded border; Chicago Hardware incorporated a scalloped border; and Russwin encircled it with Gothic arches. Borders unidentified by company were the Bay Leaf garland, Volutes, and flat, knurled edge bordered knobs.

Other buildings fitted with hardware of this design were Post Offices, Military Barracks, Office Quarters, Courthouses, and Mints. Possibly, the most celebrated building to be outfitted with a variation of this design was the Philadelphia City Hall.

Corbin outfitted the San Francisco Mint that survived the 1906 fire. The hardware was removed for salvage at one point and later Schlage Lock Company reproduced the design for replacement. Corbin also outfitted the Pioneer Courthouse in Portland, Oregon.

(Article continued on page 4)



Corbin  
San Francisco Mint

Newsletter Deadline – August 22

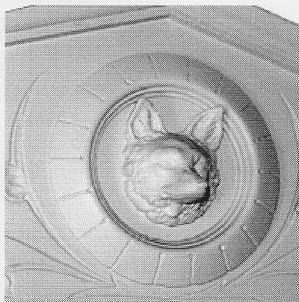
**Register NOW for the Winnipeg Convention!**

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## A Wonderful Find in Newport, RI

Carey, Richmond & Viking is a real estate company in Newport, Rhode Island. Several months ago Rich Kennedy was biking by the place and noticed the knobs. He is supposed to be watching traffic when riding on Bellevue Avenue, but knobs seem to be of more interest. There on the front door was a "doggie" knob. He looked closely and found another on the reverse side of the door.

The knobs lured Rich into the building, but of equal interest were the plaster frescoes above the hallway arch. One is very similar to the familiar "doggie" knob and the other is a fox. We began to wonder if there was ever a knob in the likeness of a fox. It does seem plausible. The photos show these two frescos. The dog seems to mirror the

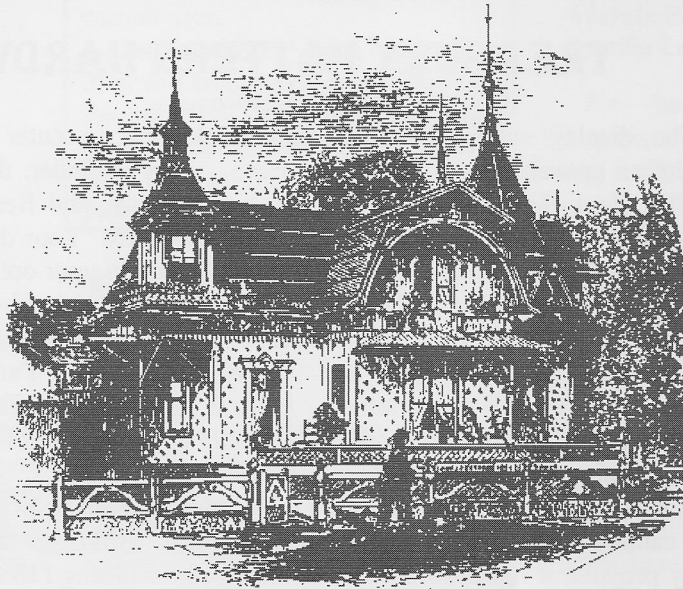


doorknobs on the front door. Does anyone know of a corresponding fox knob?

Rich recently took these photographs and received the permission of Victor M. Andrade, president and owner, to quote some interesting information about the old house from the brochure that the company gives out.

"Carey, Richmond & Viking brought restoration to its own front door in 1972 when it discovered it

needed larger quarters for an expanding staff. The firm purchased the historic "Bird's Nest Cottage" next door and began to restore it to its original Victorian



splendor. When it was built in 1872 across from the Redwood Library on Bellevue Avenue by Samuel F. Pratt of Boston, it was typical of Newport architecture of that period. The exterior was distinctive with its mansard roof, colorful slate siding, and intricate trim.

In 1874 'Harper's' magazine thought it was so typical of the Newport cottages of that era that



the house was sketched for a magazine illustration. Pratt used the house for a summer residence from 1872 until about 1917. Then the years began to take their toll; small additions were built, some of

the intricate trim was destroyed, and the layers of paint accumulated.

Andrade recognized the architectural importance of the cottage and restored it. Although the interior has been remodeled to accommodate a modern business, the handsome marble fireplaces have been retained and the interior woodwork is in keeping with that of the period. Today, with its exterior repainted the original Victorian colors

of burgundy and gray, the house looks much the way it did to the 19th-century Newport passersby."

### The Doorknob Collector®

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

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## Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs



O-212  
Masonic, Royal Arch Chapter  
Reading the center from 9:00: KSMTWSST



O-302  
"Seal of the City of Trenton-1792"  
Knob made c. 1910



F-248  
Perhaps doves on a potted plant, rare  
Russell & Erwin style construction



O-213  
Striking figure, rare  
Probably Masonic, perhaps Mystic Shrine



N-176  
Very unusual "dragon"  
Quite a find



N-177  
Attractive oval  
Note fine perimeter design

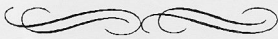
**Knob News  
etc.**

Time is passing by, but its not too late to register for our first international convention in **Winnipeg, MB, Canada.**

Just a few reminders to those who plan to attend. First, be sure to bring the **Canadian Customs letter** with you. The letter was included in your convention packet in the last newsletter. If you need another copy let us know and we will get one off to you right away. Also you should itemize your hardware by groups not individually. See your convention packet for detailed information.

Remember that Canada uses the metric system. The speeds and distances are listed in kilometers. This means that 63 mph is 100 kph. Also you need not grab a coat if you see that the temperature is 27 because it is really 80 degrees and lovely. Summers are usually quite mild, but a jacket or sweater for evening would be a good idea.

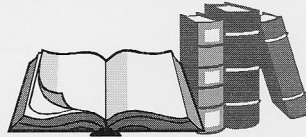
Even if you cannot be present at the convention, you can be there by adding your good wishes or ad to the souvenir booklet. Bob Rodder is hard at work creating this and needs your participation to make it a success. Send your ad or good wishes that you want printed to him soon. All material must be camera-ready. The **absolute deadline** for the booklet is **July 15**. It must be in Bob's hands on this date, not just in the mail.



The new ADCA brochures will be off the press by mid-July. Let us know if you would like some to distribute. For those of you who are dealers, how about including a brochure with each purchase of a knob. The brochure is a great way to introduce potential members to our club.

## From the Archives

By Steve and Barbara Menchhofer



### Time to Order Catalog Copies

The catalog order form for copies from the Archives is enclosed with this newsletter. Please read the form thoroughly so you will understand our system for ordering. We will accept orders until August 31st. Orders received after this date will **BE RETURNED**.

We are adding the Russell & Erwin - 1887 - Volume VII catalog to the order form. For the collectors who favor R&E hardware, this catalog will be a sure hit. The selected pages offer doorknobs, escutcheons, locks, shutter knobs, door pulls, bell pulls, drawer pulls, and other related hardware (428 pages of pure enjoyment). The knob design pages are doorknobs, escutcheons, T-handles and levers. What a spectacular array of designs and craftsmanship, this catalog is a **MUST HAVE!**

If you have any questions about the catalogs or purchasing them, please call (317) 291-6043. Also our address is 5538 West 25th Street.

### The Mid-Year Roster

The ADCA roster is enclosed in this issue. It includes all current members. Note that the e-mail addresses of members are now listed unless otherwise requested. There are 54 more names on this roster than the last.

If you chat on-line and find someone interested in the club, direct them to the website or let us know and we will send them some information and an application.

## TREASURY PATTERN HARDWARE (Cont'd)

Corbin's knob assembly featured the Mix patent of 1872. Hopkins & Dickenson employed tiny screws to secure the top of the knob to the removable underpart and shank that screwed into place. (Pity the collector who let a silver and gold plated Hopkins & Dickenson full set go by in 1977 because it cost the whole sum of \$45.00.)

Another use of the Federal theme was the hand (door) plate found in the Levi Woodbury mansion in New Hampshire. Woodbury was Secretary of the U.S. Treasury from 1834 to 1837



so the use of such decoration is certainly appropriate. The plate had been enameled with the bars of the shield in blue and red. See the illustration here and imagine the beauty of the enamel.

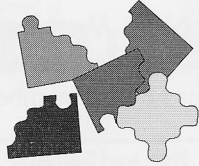
Members are urged to bring Federal motif hardware to the convention for its further appreciation and viewing.

### **SEND YOUR CONVENTION RESERVATIONS NOW TO:**

Bob Rodder, 1203 Bruce Rd.  
Oreland, PA 19075-1904

## Bits and Pieces

By Win Applegate  
From his



obituary in our last newsletter, it is obvious that George Doyle was certainly a catalyst in getting our organization started. Unfortunately, I got carried away between him and E. P. Dick. George did not attend the first convention in Waverly, Iowa. In fact, it was several conventions later that he finally attended. I want to thank our "keeper-of-the-facts", Ray Nemecek for pointing this out.

Well, convention registrations are moving along, as usual. Let us not forget that ads for the Convention Program need to be sent in as well. This booklet was reintroduced last year after a lapse of several years and it will now be an annual addition to the convention package.

Yes, yes! I have read the article about doorknobs being removed from buildings in Philadelphia. Over the years, one could almost write one article and just change the city. I remember not too many years ago when, I believe, the locale was Connecticut and the building was a police station.

To the best of my knowledge, no one has noticed a plethora of rare knobs show up anywhere. Incidentally, Philadelphia and the surrounding area into Princeton, New Jersey is noted for "Martha and George Washington" knobs.

The rumor has it that Bob Rodder keeps an inventory by address of where a number of these and other knobs are located. Periodically, Bob contacts the owner of such buildings regarding the possible sale of hardware. According to Bob, they're all still there!

You know? . It's a good thing that knobs did not start disappearing while we had our convention there last year. None of us has to be reminded that such acts are a crime

and we do not condone them. Unfortunately, the history of a collectable, whether it be a knob, or stamp or coin has, for the most part, an unknown past

Remember now, get your registrations in soon and beat the late fee. I know of people who have their plane tickets, planned their displays and still not registered!

See you in Wonderful Winnipeg. Peace.

## Thanks

We would like to thank Marti and John Egger for all the help they have given your editors. We took a look at our old roster and saw many members who have dropped out recently. We got some letters written inviting them to rejoin and Marti and John took over from there. They folded, labeled, stamped, and mailed out the letters during June. We are already seeing results of the mailing and thank them for their dedication and willingness to help out.

## A Ghostly Tale

A letter from a friend in West Virginia

We recently received a letter from an on-line friend and thought it was worth printing, so with Arcy's permission, here goes.

*"It's not often I have the pleasure of showing anyone my knobs. I am a closet collector of doorknobs. My cache is under my bed in a gunnysack right next to my shotgun. Imagine my surprise finding others who share this rare interest.*

*"Aside from reporting where a knob was found, what it looks like and the price paid, stories about doorknobs are rare. No longer do we find loyal collectors sitting around the pot-belly stove with their feet up, discussing*

*their knobs. The story I am about to tell you is not only true, it is going on today.*

*"The old house had bounced on and off the market like a ping pong ball on a hard green table. We got it for a price quite below the market. It didn't take more than a week to discover why.*

*"It began as soon as we moved in. Footsteps. Storming up and down the old wooden stairs, running through the house to the bathroom, waking everyone up. The toilet flushed continuously all night long. It was annoying to say the least. And our well was not recovering by morning. We spoke to the children. They assured us it wasn't any of them. So we waited and watched. It began shortly after midnight. The toilet lid bounced. The toilet flushed. And back up the stairs "they" bounded, two at a time.*

*"Our bathroom gets so much traffic that the door has always been left ajar. We closed it. The next morning, it was open, the toilet seat up, and the well down.*

*"My oldest son got an idea. He took the door off the bathroom, turned it upside down which made the doorknob assembly upside down also. It was quite a chore putting it back. This seemed to work. The toilet stopped flushing during the night, our well is full to capacity in the morning. But the footsteps on the stairs remain. We decided that we could live with that. We named our "resident" runner, Curtis.*

*"We have developed a new problem: we think the roof leaks."*

### **CALL FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS NOW**

**The Lombard Hotel  
Winnipeg, Manitoba  
(204) 957-1350**

## 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.

### Sell or Trade: Victorian Hinges.

Cabinet Door - bronze:

(9) 1 1/4 x 2 1/8"

(12) 1 1/4 x 2"

Door - cast iron:

(8) 3 1/2 x 3 1/2 steeple pin type

Door - bronze plated

(9) 4 x 4" (designed)

Rich Kennedy #238

(973) 635-6338

[Knobnews@aol.com](mailto:Knobnews@aol.com)

**Wanted:** Always looking for original Arts & Crafts bronze, copper and brass hand-hammered furniture, hardware, i.e., drawer/ door pulls, hinges, upholstery tacks. Also interested in wood pieces as well.

Vicky Berol #450

(415) 771-9899

**Wanted:** Old catalogs from Hardware and Lock Companies, any kind of locks and keys.

Gary Hahn #436

135 So. Glassell

Orange, CA 92866

PH. (714) 997-0243

FAX: (714) 997-1601

**Wanted:** Always looking for patterned iron or bronze hinges, multiple sets of door and/or cabinet hardware, pre-1935. Will buy or trade when possible

Materials Unlimited #325

Attn: Lorelei or Rachael

2 West Michigan Ave

Ypsilanti, MI 48197

PH. (800) 299-9462

FAX: (734) 482-3636

[Materials@Mat-Unl.com](mailto:Materials@Mat-Unl.com)

**Sale:** Handcrafted functional displays using antique doorknobs and knockers. Your own knob or mine mounted on cherry, walnut, white oak or red oak with clear oil stain. For more information call:

Jim Lea #518

56 Methuen St.

Lowell, MA 01850

PH. (978) 452-6870

## New Member Policy

Membership in ADCA follows the current calendar year. Anyone joining between January and September is enrolled for the current year and receives all the issues of **The Doorknob Collector** for the current year.

New members after September 30th will be enrolled as members for the following year. They will begin receiving **The Doorknob Collector** with the Jan-Feb issue of the next year.

## From the Editors

We are very excited about the newest addition to the ADCA. We now have a web site that you can visit. Please let us know how you like it and what you think should be on it.

We plan to put some of those knob pictures that we have received out on the web so that members and friends might be able to help us identify them. We often get beautiful color pictures, but don't have any way to publish them in the newsletter. Maybe now you will enjoy seeing them on the web.

Additionally, we will be using some articles of interest from past newsletters.

Rich has talked to several people on-line who are interested in antique hardware so we know they are still out there. All we have to do is let them know about our group and we will surely grow.

And for those of you who do not have access to the web at home, take heart, some libraries now have access to the web or maybe a friend or family member will let you on their computer. You will be able to find the ADCA at:

<http://members.aol.com/knobnews>

## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members of the ADCA:

Bob and Helen      Rolling, IL

Gates

Roy Prange      Portland, OR

Michele Finley      Brooklyn, NY

Jennifer Lanphier      Portland, OR

We have also had other members who have missed us and come back into the fold. It is good to have all of you join in the fun here at the ADCA.

Some of our newest members plan to attend the convention. This will give us a chance to meet them and for them to see what we are all about. To both new members and those just coming to their first convention, be ready for some real fun and fellowship.

We have had 16 new members since the beginning of the year.

## Keep in Touch

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