

The Doorknob Collector

Number 98

November - December 1999

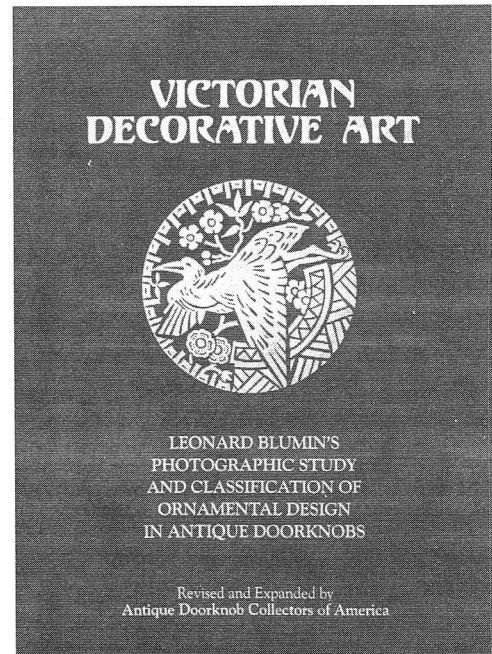
A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

Long-Awaited Revision Has Arrived - *Victorian Decorative Art*

The "Bible" of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America has received its long awaited revision. Many new members have not been able to look up a particular knob when it is referred to as A-101 in the newsletter and it has been a frustrating situation. All the waiting is now over. Included in this issue is an order form to obtain the updated *Victorian Decorative Art*. The book makes conferring with others easy by using a pictorial classification system. It is also most useful in researching historical hardware and in finding the correct knobs for restoration projects.

The book classifies knobs by shape, material, and design detail. For example, knobs are classified "threefold" if there are three repeats of a pattern in the design. Threefold designs are found in the "G" section of the book, and each has a unique number assigned. And so on for other groups of knobs that share a unifying design feature. (see the Jan-Feb 1999 newsletter for complete description of the various design groups). The updated book is being issued as a 3-ring binder making future additions possible.

Len Blumin was the author of the original book and we will always be grateful to him for the organization that he brought to the art of collecting. With his permission the book has been updated by the ADCA. The majority of the work of editing and publishing was done by Win Applegate. Len Blumin continues to contribute to the book



and share his expertise with the rest of us about doorknobs. The update has truly been a labor of love. Anyone who has taken on such an assignment realizes that the end product always takes much more effort than was anticipated at the get-go. Kudo's to the many ADCA members who contributed.

Win has learned all the ins and outs of publishing while steadfastly pursuing the completion of the revised *Victorian Decorative Art*. There were pictures that need to be scanned, photographed and otherwise reproduced. The book then needed to go to the printer and all those decisions of the correct fonts and layout were made. It was a big job to say the least, but it is now complete. Send in your order and get your copy right away. You will find the book to be an invaluable asset to your minor obsession of collecting doorknobs.

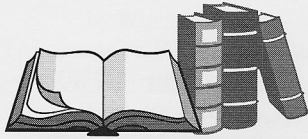


Len Blumin and Win Applegate

Newsletter Deadline - December 15, 1999

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From the Archives



By Steve and Barbara Menchhofer

Over 22,100 ...

That's right - there were over 22,100 sheets of catalog copies ordered this time. It took lots of time to process all of the orders we received. What takes the most time is when we have received the copies from the copy center and then we go through each one, page by page, to make certain that everything was copied correctly and that you will be receiving exactly what we have in our archives.

What is really great about going through these catalog copies is that we get to see all of the wonderful doorknobs and related hardware that the manufacturers had to offer. As we do this, we have been able to identify some of our doorknobs that we knew nothing about. One of our members said these catalog copies are a valuable asset to him because they help him identify his hardware and learn the history behind it.

To all of you who ordered copies, we say "thank you for your patience and understanding". We realize it is a long time from when your order is placed until you receive your copies. We know that you will learn a lot about your doorknobs by using your catalogs and you will find it was worth the wait.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members of the ADCA:
Patricia Okeefe-Powell
Omaha, NE

Contributors

We would like to thank the following people for their contribution of ideas, articles and information presented in this issue.

Barb and Steve Menchhofer
Win Applegate
Rhett Butler
Len Blumin

Thanks to Our Loyal Supporters

Early on in the life of the club, 18 members became life members and through their generous contributions launched the club.

Your membership dues are what keep the club moving along. It is your dues that make the newsletter possible. It costs about \$450 to print and mail each issue of the newsletter.

The ADCA would like to extend a special thanks to the following members who have gone the extra mile and given more than the basic membership during the last year.

Hilary Applegate	Sally Hyslop
Carol Applegate	Allen Joslyn
Chery Blam	Glenn Leach
Norm Blam	C. David Miller
Ted Bremble	Patricia Ramey
Albion Fenderson	Bud Wolski

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:** I need a knob with the letter "M" on it for a baby present. Please help me find one. Thanks

Debbie Fellenz, #31
2224 Cherokee, St.
Louis, MO 63118 (314) 776-8363



New Member Policy

Membership in ADCA runs from July 1 through June 30. Anyone joining between July and April is enrolled for the current membership year and receives all the issues of **The Doorknob Collector** for that membership year.

New members after April 30th will be enrolled as members for the following membership year and will begin receiving **The Doorknob Collector** with the Jul-Aug issue.

Changing the Membership Cycle

It is important that you note the change of membership year as you pay your yearly dues.

Please note the two possibilities of paying your dues. The easiest will be to pay for **18 months**. Those who prefer to pay only a half-year membership will again receive a renewal notice with their May-June newsletter.

The Doorknob Collector®



Published six times a year by **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, Inc.**
P.O. Box 31, Chatham, NJ
07928-0031

Richard and Faye Kennedy, Editors
Phone (973) 635-6338
FAX: (973) 635-6993

Annual Membership in US \$25.00
Foreign rates on request.

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

Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

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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Rhett Butler, New President of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

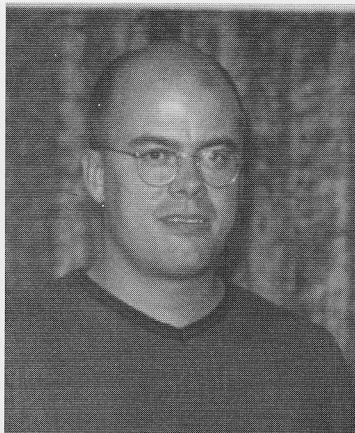
Rhett's father originally peaked his interest in hardware, but it blossomed into his life's work after earning a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts with an emphasis in Classical Studies at Hamilton College in 1984 and a Master of Architecture from Rice University in 1992. He also studied art at the Parsons School of Design and New York University.

Rhett founded E. R. Butler & Company (ERB) in 1990, a New York-based manufacturing firm and purveyor of premium quality custom architectural and furniture hardware. His vision was to provide high quality products to the architectural and design community in order to promote a renewed emphasis on architectural hardware as a decorative art.

As CEO, Mr. Butler designs new products and he is responsible for directing the specification and manufacture of fine architectural hardware for design and construction professionals. ERB's products have been used on a wide variety of projects ranging from the restoration of landmark buildings to celebrity residences and private jet airplanes.

Mr. Butler is also owner of FSB, Inc., the American affiliate of FSB, GmbH, a German manufacturer of hardware. He is also a partner in W. C. Vaughan & Co. that produces decorative hardware and specialty items seen in many old New England houses of distinction.

In 1993, Mr. Butler received the Award of Honor In Recognition of the Outstanding Contribution in Design from the San Diego Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Butler has also received other awards and his work



have been featured in numerous publications including such well-known ones as *Architectural Digest*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *House & Garden*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and many others.

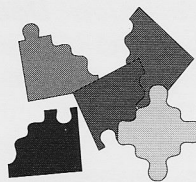
Not only does he donate his time to The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, but is involved in a plethora of community activities..

He also takes time out to be an artist, photographer, and avid collector. His collection includes about 20,000 pieces of hardware.

Mr. Butler's dedication to historical design and accuracy has led to his compilation of one of the most complete architectural and furniture hardware research libraries in the world. It includes more than 2,000 original manufacturers' trade catalogues and over 4,000 original drawings dating from as far back as the 17th century.

Bits and Pieces

By Win Applegate



By the time you read this, the "New" VDA will be at the printer. Currently, I am awaiting the fifth and final proof. The three ring binders have been ready for some time. Planned deadlines have a

place in a project, but should not be the determining factor.

The first discussions within your Board of Directors concerning the possibility of a revised VDA took place almost five years ago.

One thought that continued to present itself was the respect one develops for the early efforts of authors such as Maude and Len with their first publications. Yes, each of us had our frustrations, but I had the significant advantage of computers! Spelling checks, global (mass) changes, moving of large blocks of text, no retyping and the ability to electronically scan photos: just 'a few' of the advantages I had over their early endeavors. The printer? Well, he will get a CD disk all ready for him. No pasting of half tone pictures and aligning and gluing the text galleys to each page, etc.

The amount of data provided by the 'proof readers' has been voluminous!

Len Blumin's team included Maude Eastwood, Dick Hubbard, Steve and Barbara Menchhofer, Bob Rodder and Steve Rowe. These members have an amazing amount of in-depth knowledge of ornamental hardware.

A welcome 'late inning' contribution from Don Dione in Quebec cleared up a foggy M-114 with not only the manufacturer (Peters Combination Lock Co. of Canada), but also the Patent Date.

Once you receive your own VDA, you too can help provide additional information and new knobs to be numbered by Len Blumin and placed in future updates. The current purchase price includes the next one hundred knob update plus two cross reference listings.

Almost a thousand doorknobs and, perhaps a thousand, or more, to go! Happy hunting.

The Business Side of 1999

by Win Applegate

This year's Board of Directors meeting was a classic example of the time and efforts expended by board members for the ADCA.

Revised Bylaws: In a project that extended over three years, a committee of: **Loretta Nemec, Maude Eastwood** and **Len Blumin** developed a revised set of ADCA bylaws. These three members have been present at almost all Board meetings since the formation of the ADCA and were in the best position to review all of the prior minutes and lists of motions passed and actions taken over the years. "Gender bias" from removed from some of the text.

A major change was the staggering of the terms of directors; this has resulted in the return to annual elections where one half of the board of directors will stand for election/reelection. An additional stipulation now limits the contiguous term of a president to four years.

With one minor change, the revised bylaws were approved and later presented to the general membership at the business meeting. These are available from the ADCA office upon request and will be included in the new member packet.

Commemorative Stamp.

The idea of a US Commemorative Postage Stamp was first suggested in the 1988 business meeting by **Fred Magnus** (#10). Submissions to the Commemorative Stamp Committee, a citizens, non-political group, have been made by:

Fred Magnus-September 1988,
Charles Wardell-March 1989,
Bill Byington-September 1989 and
Win Applegate-June 1993 and October 1998.

A New Jersey Congressman made the last submission to the committee, with unknown results.

The committee has concluded that a commemorative series of stamps honoring the American hardware industry does not seem likely and the project has been closed. Anyone wishing to pickup the banner and take on this effort is invited to do so.

Archives: The archives report by the **Barbara Menchhofer** indicated that they handled record requests for catalogue copies.

In a later discussion regarding insurance, it was brought to light that at a recent convention, a newly donated catalogue was damaged by people merely turning its pages. Paper that is over 100 years old is fragile and it was recognized that our library will continue to deteriorate over time.

A pilot project was established and funds voted to investigate the possibility of digitizing or using newer copying methods for our catalogues. **Len Blumin** will lead one phase of this with **Rhett Butler** working on other long-term aspects. It is hoped that before our "paper" library disintegrates, we can find a more permanent method to economically preserve the valuable and beautiful assets that we have gathered together.

Financial: **Rich Kennedy** presented the financial report that showed a stable fiscal status. The **Kennedys** have acquired an electronic scanner that is used in the production of the newsletter and it has already paid for itself.

Revised and Expanded Victorian Decorative Art:

The board voted to establish a fund of proceeds from the sale of the VDA to fund further updates of the book.

Nominations and Election:

Len Blumin presented a proposed slate for the announced semiannual election. The acceptance of the revised bylaws actually made it an annual election.

The nominees were approved by

the board and later elected at the business meeting on Friday evening. **Dale Spoungle** declined to continue on the Board and was replaced by **Allen Joslyn**. A past president, **Dorothy Ann Miller** returned to the Board and accepted the appointed position of Secretary to the Board, replacing **Carol Applegate**.

Your new officers for the coming year are
President - **Rhett Butler**,
Vice President - **Loretta Nemec**
Secretary - **Richard Kennedy**, and
Treasurer - **Allen Joslyn**.

Copies of the minutes of the board or annual business meeting are always available upon request.



Keep in Touch

Mail:
ADCA Box 31
Chatham, NJ
07928-0031

FAX:
(973) 635-6993

Phone:
(973) 635-6338

E-Mail:
KnobNews@aol.com

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