

The Doorknob Collector

Number 104

November - December 2000

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

Loretta, May I Have the Envelope Please?

By Steve Rowe

Henry Drummond, a noted Scottish clergyman of the 19th century once said, "You will find, as you look back upon your life, that the moments that stand out are the moments when you have done things for others." Arnie Fredrick was a man who stood out amongst his peers for the things he did for others. Arnie gave unselfishly of himself to many different organizations throughout his lifetime. The A.D.C.A. was one of these lucky beneficiaries and because of this the Arnie Fredrick Memorial Award has been created to honor him.

Founded in 1999, the Arnie Fredrick Memorial Committee was established and given the directive to create and award this prestigious honor to those who have most emulated Arnie and his accomplishments in the A.D.C.A. The Minneapolis Convention site was chosen to be the first time the award would be given and those who attended this year's convention were not disappointed! In choosing the first recipient the committee (comprised of Loretta Nemec, Norman Blam and Steve Rowe) asked the club's general membership to nominate potential candidates. The committee received twenty-three nominations for this year's award. Once received, each committee member evaluated all possible candidates with fifteen different criteria. This year's award winner received the majority of votes from the nominations and was also the unanimous choice of the committee.

The evening of this year's banquet was filled with anticipation on who would be chosen the first Arnie Fredrick Memorial award winner. After dinner the club's President, Rhett Butler, conducted "business as usual." Rhett then asked Steve Rowe to come



Left to Right: Norm Blam, Loretta Nemec, Maude Eastwood, Candi Brekhus and Tedi Fredrick

Newsletter Deadline - December 16, 2000

Newsletter will go to press on December 21st

Inside					
Bits and Pieces	3	Just a Note	3	Ornamental Design	4-5
The Doorknob Exchange	8	New members	3	Surprise, Surprise	2
From the Archives	7	A New Book/ An Old Book	7	Wooden Knob Categories	3
Heartfelt Thanks	8	The Open Door	6	Your Board of Directors	3

forward and begin the presentation of the award. Steve introduced the award and explained how the recipient had been chosen. He then asked for several club members to come forward and speak about Arnie and to tell the group just how much he meant to them and the club. Maud Eastwood, Len Blumin and Win Applegate all gave personal testimonies about their friendships with Arnie. The club was also privileged to have both Tedi Fredrick and Candice Brekhus (Arnie's wife and daughter) in attendance at this year's convention. Tedi also came to the podium and spoke about her late husband and doorknob collecting throughout the years in their family. What a wonderful opportunity this was to meet both Tedi and Candi.

At this time all that was left was the award presentation. Steve turned toward Loretta and asked, "Loretta, may I have the envelope please?" After opening the gold leaf stationary he read as follows: "This years award winner has been an active member of the A.D.C.A since 1981. The recipient has attended all conventions and has served on the Board of Directors in numerous positions. This person has written many articles for the club's newsletter and also for outside copy. The recipient can claim authorship in the field of antique hardware and is often looked to as a source of knowledge in this field. Like Arnie, this person has given countless hours of service to

the A.D.C.A. On behalf of this committee I would like to congratulate the first Arnie Fredrick Memorial winner ... Maude Eastwood.



Candi Brekhus and Tedi Fredrick congratulate Maude Eastwood after receiving the Arnie Fredrick Award

Surprise, Surprise!

The following reflects the feelings of Maude Eastwood upon her receiving the Arnie Fredrick award at Convention 2000 in Minneapolis.

Her thoughts ...

Whoops, are they talking about me? Will I be asked to say something. My emotions took over and I cried. Then I really DID have to say something.

One does not prepare an acceptance speech in advance when they do not see themselves as a candidate. I had actively campaigned (filled out the questionnaire) for who I considered was the best qualified to receive the Arnie Fredrick Award. The board did not see it as I did.

In all humility I accept the award, even as I confess that three years ago, when it was first suggested, I was outspoken against such an award. I sincerely believed no one else could possibly qualify and felt the loss to the club was so great that to give such an award to a lesser-involved member would demean Arnie's memory. Eventually I

came to see that it could enhance Arnie's memory and inspire others to follow his lead.

I thank the board and fellow members who voted for me for this great honor. Whatever I had done

was as a labor of love and without thought of future recognition. I was forever addicted and afflicted with the doorknob craze and bound by an invis-

able cord to others of like mind.

As I flippantly remarked, "It is in my blood, I would do it all again, even without this recognition"

The Doorknob Collector®



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

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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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New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who have joined the ADCA since our last newsletter.

Donald Matson	San Diego, CA
Marion Frazier	Wheaton, IL
Stacey Hayes	Atlanta, GA
Robert Bendus	Breinigsville, PA

Your Board of Directors

Some new members have been added to the Board of Directors. We, the club members would like to thank all of these people for the great work they do throughout the year for the ADCA.

Officers:

President: Rhett Butler
Vice Pres: Stephen Rowe
Treasurer: Allen Joslyn
Secretary: Rich Kennedy
(Continuing 1999-2001)
Rhett Butler
Allen Joslyn
Rich Kennedy
Carol Meermans
Dorothy Ann Miller
Stephen Rowe
(Term 2000-2002)
Win Applegate
Norm Blam
Len Blumin
Sally Hyslop
Steve Menchhofer
Loretta Nemeč

Just a Note

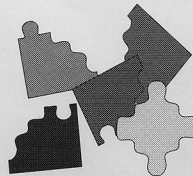
We received this short note from one of our newest members, Dick Hartley (#584). He came to the convention and was obviously very happy that he made the effort to attend. Take note new members. Maybe next year you can make it to Bethlehem, PA.

" Just dropping you a note to say how much I enjoyed the convention. Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined a

room so filled with so many doorknobs! I think I came home with some pretty nice pieces. Not bad for a novice. I'm looking forward to forthcoming newsletters and of course Convention 2001. See you then.

Bits and Pieces

By Win Applegate



At one of the earlier convention auctions that I attended, I noticed some wooden carvings that had been donated for the ADCA to sell. I asked Arnie Fredrick where they had come from. His reply was "Oh, just some old retired guy who does them in his spare time."

I naively accepted his answer, but continued to marvel at the quality and beauty of them. Almost all were done in walnut with, obviously, a doorknob design. Well, I finally figured out that the carver was Arnie. At this year's convention, much was said about Arnie Fredrick's accomplishments and contributions to our organization. Arnie was also an accomplished wood carver who frequently contributed his works to the ADCA Auction.

I got into the habit of acquiring many of his pieces. Items ranged from small jewelry boxes to six or seven inch wall plaques. Several of the items are battery-powered clocks. Obviously, I now cherish these items more all the time.

By "request" more Wingaters:

WINGATER #23

When flying to the Convention, the last person to board the plane will occupy the vacant seat next to you. (Verified by Rich Kennedy)

WINGATER #24

You will finally master the hotel thermostat the night before you

leave the Convention.

We have recently received a book from Art Paholke that I will cover another time when space permits.

Wooden Knob Categories

By Len Blumin

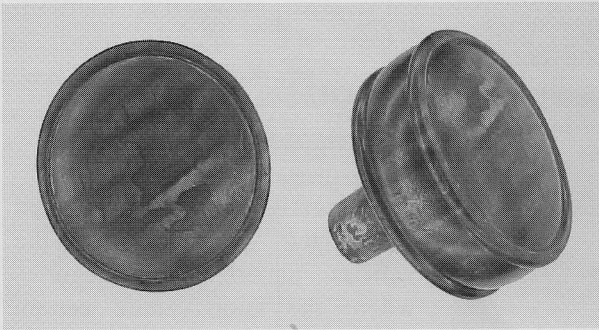
Decorative designs are best categorized by grouping the various patterns in categories where the knobs share certain common elements in the design, such as a type of symmetry, or lack of symmetry. Many wood knobs do not have any design and are best described by their shape. If you look directly at the face of a knob, the great majority of knobs are round. But if you look from the side there is much more variety. The side view presents a "profile", and we will refer to plain wood knobs largely by the shape or form of the profile. For instance, a common shape for wood knobs, and a shape easily turned on a lathe, is a simple rectangle or box, and several examples were shown in Maude's article in TDC 102, p.6. The side of the box was often just left flat, with a few incised rings, but sometimes shaped further with a variety of simple beaded forms. Numbers W-301 to W-310 will feature variations of the "box" shaped knob.

Contrasted with the box knobs were a variety of rounded forms, ranging from flattened ovoids to spheres. Numbers W-311 to W-320 will be used for these various geometric solids.

American wooden knobs were most commonly offered in oak, walnut and cherry. The better knobs employed higher grades of wood, featuring fancy grains such as burl or birdseye patterns.

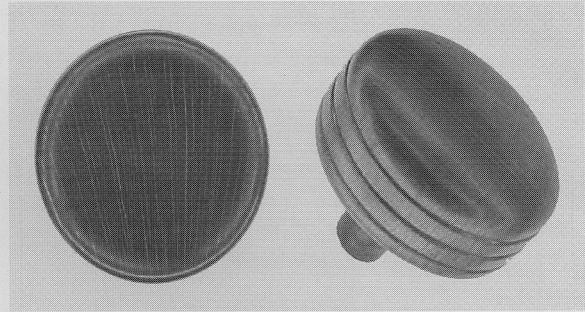
Note Len's new double view pictures of doorknobs.

Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs



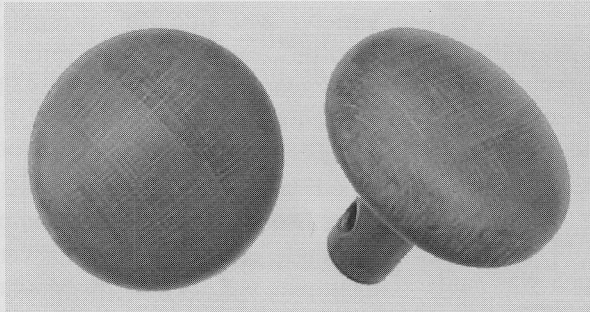
W-304

The knob is turned from figured wood, probably maple, which has been stained to a dark shade and turned with a softly rounded face and sides, finished with two simple beads on the side



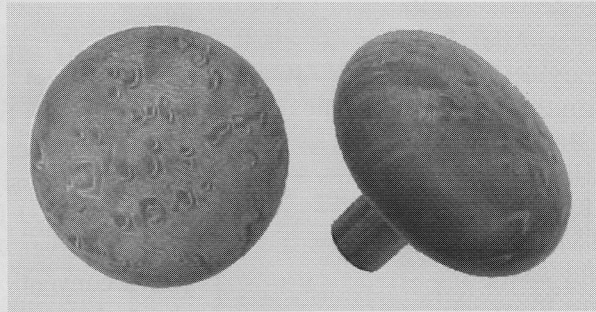
W-305

Perhaps the most commonly found wood knob, usually in oak. Note the fine lines in the face view, representing the "medullary rays" characteristic of oak. Incised rings on the side of the box are typical. Similar versions of cherry wood are even nicer.



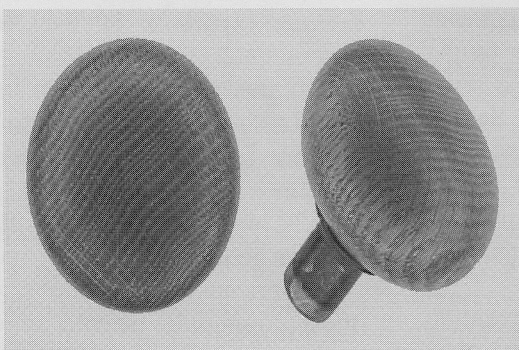
W-311

The simple shape we all know so well, whether in brass or wood. Oak versions like this are the most common.



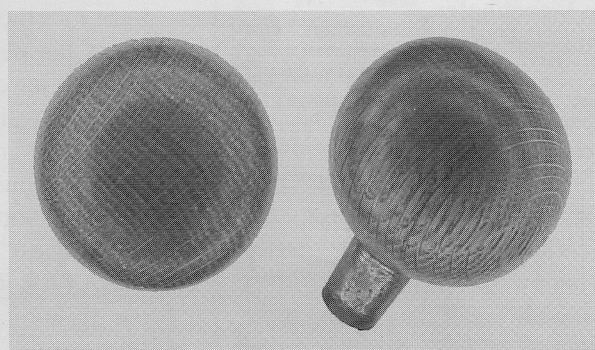
W-312

The same simple shape as W-311, but this one is made of fine birdseye maple, and the name Bardsley appears on the shank (see TDC #102).



W-313

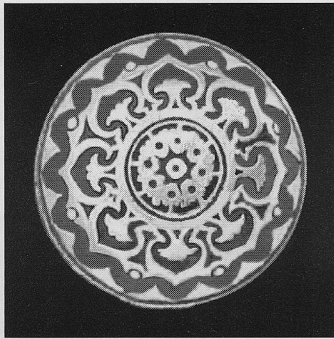
Fat Ovoid - well, maybe not the best name, but it describes the shape, which is sort of mid way between the standard ovoid and a full sphere. Note the fine grain in the oak.



W-314

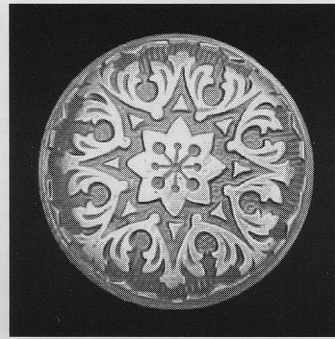
Now we have the full sphere. Note how the frontal view shows the same shape as the side view. Fine grained oak. You may be able to see the medullary rays on the face, perpendicular to the grain of the growth rings.

Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs



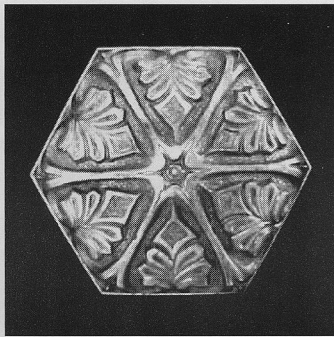
K-120

Rather crude railroad style knob, by Adams & Westlake, 1880's



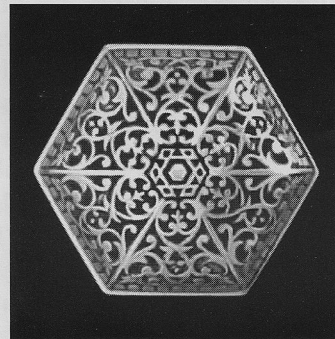
K-121

"Nice little bell pull, maker unknown. It looks eightfold, therefore placed in the "K" series, but careful study reveals it is actually a fourfold design!"



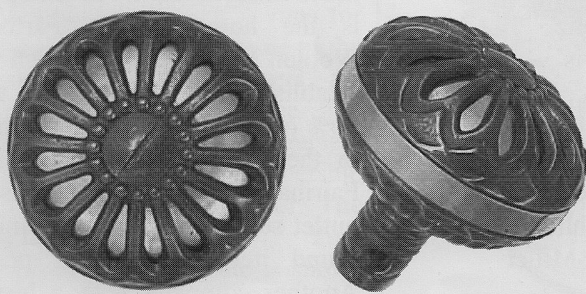
C-133

Large and heavy cast bronze hex, with footed shank. c. 1870



C-134

Fine hex by Corbin, 1874-75 Catalog. Similar to C-102, but perhaps finer, as C-102 was a "copy" of an R&E pattern.



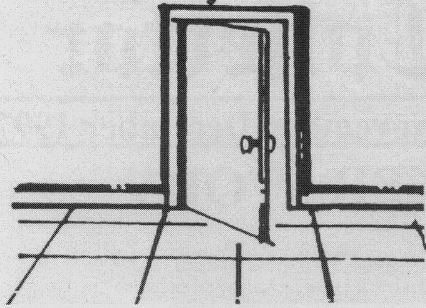
L-133

"Unique early cast iron knob, patented May 31, 1870. Open fretwork on face allows viewing of decorative polished brass insert. Note also the decorative brass band around the mid-section."

L-133 is actually a very interesting knob . It was patented on May 31, 1870, just before the large group of MCCC knobs on Jun 7, 1870. This knob was given patent number 103,749, issued to one Geroge Jones, Peekskill, NY. The patent referred to the method of making the knob in two halves, the front half being open fretwork, so as to allow for viewing of a colored inner piece, which in this case was polished brass. Note also the decorative brass band around the mid-section. Note the central screw in the middle of the face, used to hold the whole thing together.

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



CONVENTION BY NUMBERS

The 2000 **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** convention in Bloomington, Minnesota, was the 20th annual meeting of members. This was the second convention in the Twin-Cities area, the first being held in 1986. The convention has been held in 12 states and one province.

Iowa leads with four conventions followed by California with three and Illinois and Minnesota tied with two.

The record for most members attending a convention is held by Gaithersburg, MD, with 83 in 1993. Milwaukee was second with 80 in 1994.

The average attendance has been a little over 60 members.

Following is a year-by-year attendance record with the convention site:

Yr.	Location	Attendees
1982	San Francisco, CA	32
1983	Naperville, IL	50
1984	Waverly, IA	54
1985	St. Louis, MO	51
1986	Minneapolis, MN	60
1987	West Des Moines, IA	52
1988	Indianapolis, IN	65
1989	Iowa City, IA	71
1990	East Windsor, CT	78
1991	So. Lake Tahoe, CA	76
1992	Elgin, IL	76
1993	Gaithersburg, MD	83
1994	Milwaukee, WI	80
1995	Santa Monica, CA	56
1996	Grand Rapids, MI	65

- 1997 King of Prussia, PA 71
- 1998 Winnipeg, Manitoba 40*
- 1999 Portland, OR 60*
- 2000 Bloomington, MN 68*

The 2001 convention scheduled for the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania will be hosted by Allen and Gunilla Joslyn. Tentative dates are for about the second week in August.

THOSE ATTENDING BOTH 1986 AND 2000 CONVENTIONS

A total of 60 members attended the 1986 ADCA convention in Minneapolis. Twenty-three of the those attending the first Minnesota convention were able to be at the 2000 convention.

Death has claimed twelve who attended the 1986 convention including founding members E. P. Dick, Irma Dick, Arnie Fredrick, Jim Kaiser, Max Liesman, Ethladel Magnus, Fred Magnus and Emmet Wiemer.

The following members attended both the 1986 and 2000 conventions in Minnesota:

- Charles Bednar
- Len Blumin
- Bill Byington
- Helen Byington
- Alice Chadonich
- Maude Eastwood
- Debbie Fellenz
- Dolores Fellenz
- Florence Jarvis
- Lee Kaiser
- Ardythe Leaders
- Gerald Leaders
- Barbara Menchhofer
- Steven Menchhofer
- Dorothy Ann Miller
- Gene Moen
- Joe Mueller
- Loretta Nemec
- Raymond Nemec
- Carlos Ruiz
- Lois Warrey
- Phillip Warrey
- Bradley Widseth

CONSECUTIVE STREAKS

A few years ago Cal Ripken was the talk of the baseball world when he set a record for consecutive games played. ADCA has it's own consecutive streak going. Five members have attended all twenty conventions, two have attended eighteen and two have made it to the last sixteen conventions.

We honor the members here for their support of ADCA conventions by attending them each year. The ten members with the longest consecutive streaks are:

Years	Name	(first year)
20	Len Blumin	(1981)
20	Maude Eastwood	(1981)
20	Florence Jarvis	(1981)
20	Loretta Nemec	(1981)
20	Raymond Nemec	(1981)
18	Barbara Menchhofer	(1983)
18	Steve Menchhofer	(1983)
16	Joe Mueller	(1985)
16	Carlos Ruiz	(1985)
14	Win Applegate	(1987)

MINNESOTA SIDE TRIPS

Some of those attending the 2000 **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** convention took trips to Faribault and Owatonna, Minnesota.

Faribault is located about 53 miles south of the Twin Cities and is the home of the Faribault Woolen Mill Company which was established in 1865. More than 50% of the woolen blankets made in the United States come from Fairibault. The company has an outlet store where some members found items at bargain prices. Another company with a history of over 100 years in Faribault is the Farmer Seed and Nursery Company.

Owatonna, located 15 miles south of Faribault, is the site of a bank designed by Louis Sullivan. The Owatonna Bank was the first of eight rural bank commissions

Sullivan received in the late stages of his career, according to a brochure prepared by the Norwest Corporation. The bank officially opened July 14, 1908, and today it still reflects the Sullivan magnificence.

For anyone stopping to see the bank, they will find a bank that has been remarkably well preserved and a monument to the work of Louis Sullivan.

AN ANALYSIS

In 1986 at convention time, ADCA had 90 memberships. Sixty people attended the convention. This included 23 dual memberships (husband-wife); thus there were 37 memberships, or 41.1%, in attendance at the convention.

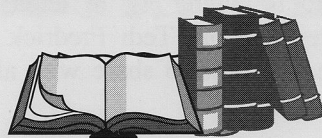
At the 2000 convention it was announced the club had 261 memberships. There were approximately 68 people in attendance representing 56 memberships, or 21.5% of the memberships.

In 1986 34 (or 91.9%) of the 37 memberships displayed knobs for show, trade or sale. In 2000, approximately 29 (or 51.8%) of the 56 memberships displayed knobs for show, trade or sale.

New Member Policy

Membership in ADCA runs for one year from your first issue of the newsletter. New members are enrolled beginning with the first issue of the newsletter after receipt of dues. Yearly membership includes six issues of **The Doorknob Collector**. Your membership renewal date is shown on your address label. Reminders will be sent when membership renewal is due.

From the Archives



By Steve and Barbara Menchhofer

We would like to thank all the members who ordered catalog copies from the Archives. You should have received them by now. The new additions to the Archives (P.&F. Corbin-April, 1881, Mallory, Wheeler and Co.-January 1876 and The Ornamental Wood Company-September 1870) were well received. We were happy to see that several newer members of the ADCA placed orders.

In closing we would like to mention the convention in Minneapolis. It was superb. Sally Hyslop, our convention hostess, and her committees all did an outstanding job. Kudos to Sally and her committees!

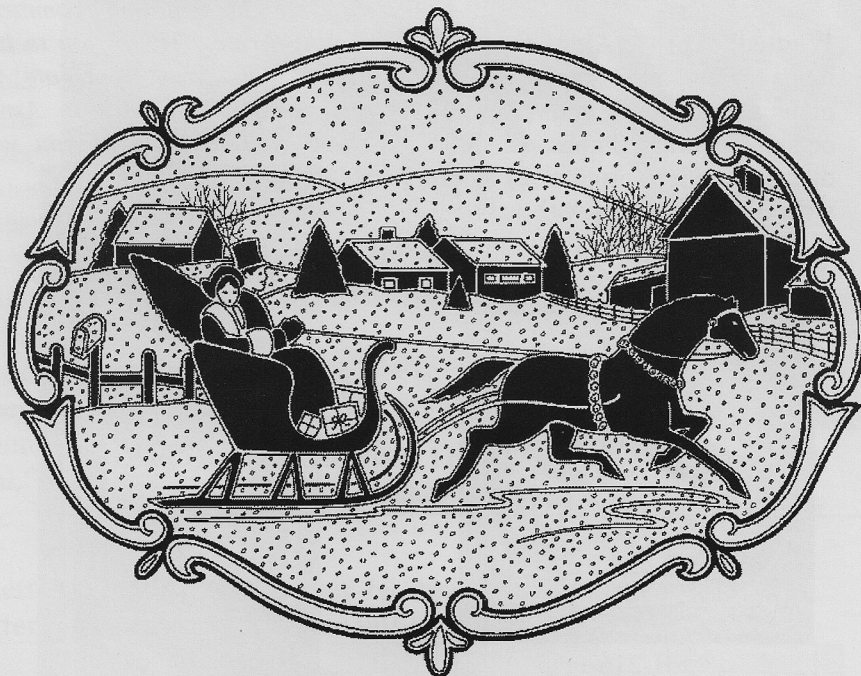
It was wonderful!

A New Book

Decorative Hardware, a book written by Liz Gordon (#111) and Terri Hartman (#432) was published in October by Reganbooks, an imprint of Harper Collins. It covers interior designing with knobs, handles, latches, locks, hinges, and other hardware. We congratulate them on their accomplishment.

An Old Book

We still have McAninch's book *The Builders Hardware Industry, A United States History 1830s to 1990s* for sale through the Book Peddler. It was mistakenly stated that it was available only through the publisher (publisher has gone out of business). This book gives a chronological history of hardware companies and is helpful in researching your hardware.

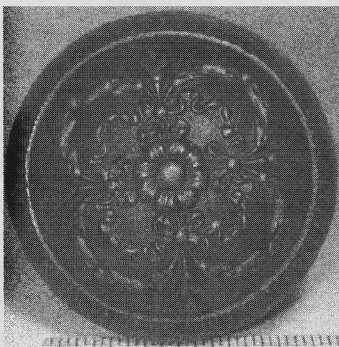


**The Happiest of Holidays to All
ADCA Members and Their Families**

The Doorknob Exchange

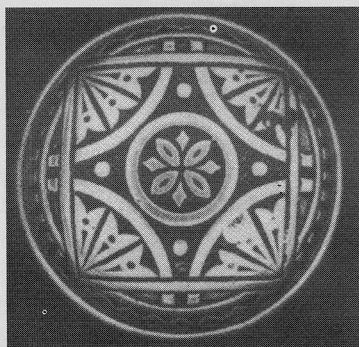
Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

Wanted: I'm looking for an electric doorbell plate that is brass, made by Sargent, and the style is Savonna. I also need one cast iron big shank knob in the pattern below.



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

Wanted: I'm looking for two items. Four brass knobs, H-216 pictured below and several octagonal brass knobs (2 3/8" diameter, 2 1/2" projection) along with the brass plates with keyhole (7 1/4" x 2 3/4"). (next column)



H-216

Vicky Berol (#31)
(415) 771-9899

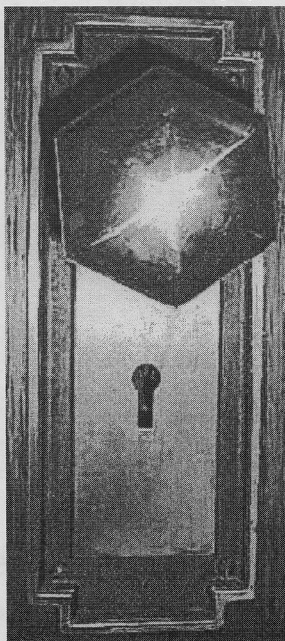
Heartfelt Thanks

The following is a letter we received from Tedi Fredrick that she asked us to share with all of the members.

My heart is filled with gratitude as I reflect on the evening of the ADCA banquet. This was the special occasion to honor the founding member Arnie Fredrick at the year 2000 convention by presenting the Arnie Fredrick Memorial Award to the first recipient.

It was wonderful to hear the accolades, listen to the expressions of reverence, love, honor, high regard and admiration for Arnie. The tender touching tributes to Arnie lauding, praising and commending his life and contributions to ADCA show your gratefulness to him and your devotion and affection for him.

Thank you to the awards committee members Norm Blam, Loretta Nemec, and Steve Rowe. Thank you to Maude Eastwood for fine presentation commemorating Arnie. Thank you to Len Blumin and Win Applegate for their heartfelt tributes to Arnie. Thank you to each of you who



gave personal tributes about Arnie.

I am enamored with the fellow feeling of the club members. You are amiable, cordial, sensitive and caring to each other. The pervading sense of enthusiasm is keen. The attachment and fondness felt for each other is ever evident. Your warm heartedness and consideration for each other is enhanced with fervent high regard.

I cherish the memory of the evening - one of pleasantness and winsomeness. I hold dear your kindness to me and to my daughter, Candi. You were charming, genial, delightful and tender to us.

In closing I say this again to you the ADCA members for Arnie that he loved you dearly and held you in high regard and esteem and embraced you in his heart. It was truly his joy, his privilege and his pleasure to have known you.

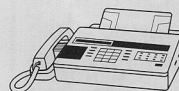
Sincerely with affection,

Tedi

Keep in Touch



Mail:
ADCA Box 31
Chatham, NJ
07928-0031



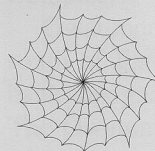
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