

# The Doorknob Collector

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## Distinguished Service Awards Given to John Holland and Emil Miller

*One of the highlights of the 2001 Convention at Bethlehem, PA was the awarding of two Distinguished Service Awards. We listened to Maud Eastwood extol the virtues of these two men who were so instrumental in getting the ADCA started as a club. Excerpts from Maud Eastwood's address to the members follows:*

I consider myself privileged to take part in this evening's presentation - the first Distinguished Service Awards to be given to two worthy ADCA members in recognition of outstanding service. The possibility of granting such awards was made possible by board vote in 1987. It replaced the granting of honorary life memberships for meritorious service.



Arnie Fredrick, ADCA's principal founder was previously honored for his role in the club's formation. Tonight we honor the invaluable services of two other dedicated members involved in the founding of the club with Arnie, John Holland and Emil Miller.

In the late 1970s, John Holland, retired banker, alerted to the existence of an unorganized group of doorknob collectors, caught the "same doorknob bug" as Arnie Fredrick, vice president of Lutheran Life's investments, as did Emil Miller, Schlage Lock Company's 30 year representative for Nebraska and Iowa. Through meeting and correspondence, these three inspired men, together with the efforts of a

### Newsletter Deadline - October 17, 2001

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## Distinguished Service Awards (cont'd)

group destined to become founders and charter members, led to the formation of the ADCA

Our club was not a 90-day wonder. Rather, we were nearly three and a half years in labor - 1978 to 1981. The desire was there, the need was there, and earlier effort to start a club by George Doyle was aborted. From the time the initial isolated dozen collectors become aware of each other through the publishing of a doorknob book on the West Coast and the issuing of the knob newsletter on the East Coast, using names and addresses supplied as the book sold, 3 years had passed.

Now the time was finally right. John Holland's passion, education, was evidenced by his pre-organization suggestions for Arnie Fredrick who was attempting to assess the interest in 1981, among a number of collectors engaged in trading knobs. John's suggestion - start a club. At this point ADCA was still but a gleam in Arnie's eye.

John was the first collector to display - on a large scale - his prize hardware pieces for the public to enjoy. At one point in 1981, he had displays in the Main Public Library in Phoenix Arizona. In November that year he took a special award in the hobby division at the Arizona State Fair.

Following the 1981 convention John Holland's said, "In my 30 years of conventions this convention stands out in interest, preparation, and friendliness of all attendees."

Emil Miller, on the other hand, was a liaison. A 30-year representative for Schlage Lock Company for the states of Iowa and Nebraska, Emil fully realized the value of interaction. He became the ADCA archivist.

In January 1978, Emil Miller, a collector of old locks, carpenter tools, hardware catalogs, and coopers' tools, ordered a copy of *The Antique Doorknob* and became a fancier of doorknobs too. Three years later, Emil "had a wonderful visit" with Arnie Fredrick of Waverly, Iowa. Interaction among a number of isolated collectors was building through personal correspondence and visits. Pressure grew to start a knob collectors club.

Contact was established largely through Rich Kennedy's newsletter subscribers listing. Additional buyers of a West Coast doorknob book added to the listing. By Arnie's testimony, "Emil Miller has been very useful to me." In spite of his full-time job, Emil gave of his limited time to make the club a reality.

Unexpectedly, Emil passed away in 1984 from complication following surgery. At the time he was slated to pick up the extensive Schlage Lock Collection - a gift he had masterminded - for the ADCA's archives. Subsequent changes in Schlage management saw the offer aborted. However, Emil's prior catalog gifts to the club from his own store of catalogs led to the establishment of the Emil Miller Memorial Library following his death. The on-going viability of ADCA will continue so long as members with enthusiasm step forward as did their predecessors, to lead and inspire by their example. And as long as the rest of us provide support and encouragement and importantly volunteer our services.

*Editor's Note: Dorothy Ann Miller has donated the remainder of Emil's extensive hardware catalog and brochure collection to ADCA, a total of over 200 items!*

## Florence Jarvis Recognized

At 89 years of age, Florence Jarvis was recognized as the oldest member to attend every convention, 21 of them, since the inception of the ADCA. Len Blumin presented her with a Martha Washington knob that she had been coveting for a long time. The smile on her face says it all. Congratulations, Florence.



Florence Jarvis with her prized knob

### The Doorknob Collector®



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## Queries Answered

by Len Blumin

Each week we receive questions by phone, mail, and email. Len Blumin has been a great source for answers to these questions. If you would also be willing to identify knobs or answer queries, please let us know. We thought that many of our members would like to see his answers, so here are a few.

### Roman Soldier knob

What is the value of a Roman Soldier knob? "A roman soldier knob can be worth anywhere from \$20 to \$200.

The real answer is that there are many factors that determine the value of a knob, the most important of which are condition and rarity. There were many door knobs with a "warrior" motif.



Most show the side profile of a head. The helmet may have a chin strap (most common), and either a "keel" running from the top down to the neck, or a kind of "bun" near the back. The last type is most common. There are a few rarer types that I won't even mention.

The most common types were made in wood and cast bronze. Some earlier versions were of a kind of pot metal with a copper cladding. Wood knobs have a value of perhaps \$20-80, depending on condition. The metal knobs are worth a bit more, perhaps \$20 to \$150, again depending on con-

dition. \$75-100 is the usual value for an average knob in good condition. A few very rare types can be worth over \$200.

### Dyed Knobs

Like you, I was curious about the process used to stain/dye both glass and ceramic knobs, as shown by many examples on eBay during the past year. Those who have used the practice are not anxious to share their "secrets". I have tried without success to search the internet for chemicals and processes designed to color glass. In the meantime, you might want to purchase a few on eBay to get a close look. I think that they use special paints/ chemical solutions to coat the knobs, after which they are baked in an oven to "cure" the coating so that it becomes more permanent.

### Pierpoint

A "controlled bubble" knob was made by Pierpoint (and probably others) during the period 1880 to 1910. Many of these were made, so it is not unusual to see them offered for sale on ebay. I have seen them sold for as little as \$40 per individual knob (i.e, \$80 for a set of two knobs on a spindle), and as much as \$75-100 per knob. The average price seems to be about \$50-60 per knob. The condition of the knob is important. Any chips or scratches will detract from the value, as well as any looseness in the attachment of the glass to the metal base. (loose knobs are sometimes referred to as "spinners").

### Thank You From The Borninos

At the Convention, many of our members signed a card to the Borninos who normally attend and we received this reply.

"I would like to thank the club members for the 'missing

you card'. It was heart warming to know we were missed. We will be there next year with bells on. Too many commitments hit this year, couldn't make them all, as dates and places just didn't permit it.

Love, *Marge & Joe*"

## DOORKNOB ROUNDTABLE

By Len Blumin

Each ADCA Convention features an educational component. In Bethlehem we were entertained by a spirited discussion on modern techniques for producing fine hardware and reproductions. Win Applegate moderated the panel, which featured Maud Eastwood, Richard Perris (Crown City Hardware), Rhett Butler (E.R. Butler & Co.) and Len Blumin.

The audience learned a bit about how to detect a reproduction knob. Etching techniques allow for a variety of designs to be imprinted on the face of old ceramic knobs, or even onto glass knobs. Methods for adding color to plain glass knobs abound. And fine casting techniques create cast bronze and brass knobs that rival the originals.

Unfortunately it is quite possible to produce a copy that would be virtually indistinguishable from the original! But take heart. The current marketplace seems to prefer shiny brass products, as opposed to bronze with a mellow patina as seen in old specimens. And new knobs usually are one piece (heavy!), outfitted with threaded shanks and set screws. But as ever in antique collecting, "caveat emptor". If the price of a knob seems like a great bargain then you may be buying a reproduction. Always request the right to return a purchase if you later determine it to be a copy.



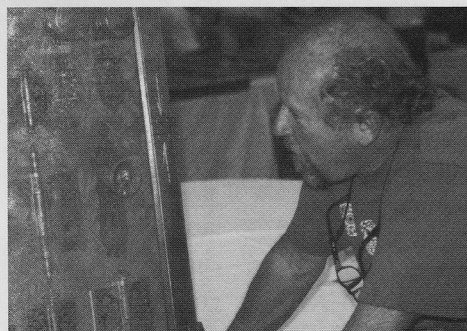
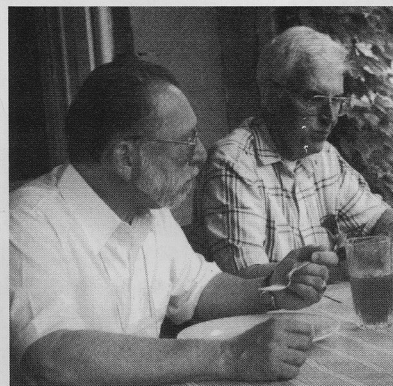
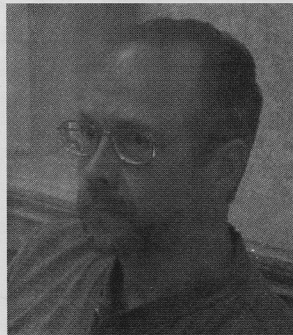
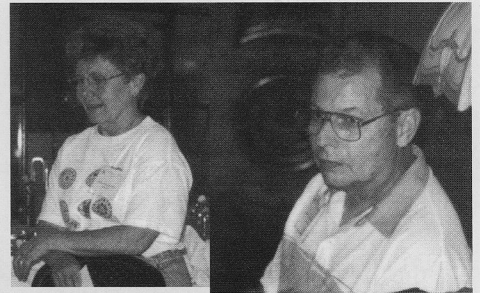
# Good Times at Convention 2001



Top to Bottom: Contest Winners; Cheryl Blam, Allen Joslyn, Carol Meermans, Win Applegate; Ralph and Carol Meermans, Ed Roskelly, Jessie Brooks, Devil knob, Jean and Nick Doto, Jackie Rode, Loretta Nemec, Gunilla and Allen Joslyn, , Susan and Brad Kittel, Win Applegate's granddaughter, Win Applegate and grandson



# Good Times at Convention 2001



Top to Bottom: Carlos Ruiz, a friend with Judy Stogner, Barbara and Steve Menchhofer, Dale Sponaugle, Maude Eastwood, Faye Kennedy, glass doorknobs, large display, Marshall Berol and Ray Nemeo, Ann Estelle, Len and Patti Blumin, Dick Hartley, Nancy and Jeffery Orman,



## Thoughts About the Convention

By Rich Kennedy

As Jackie Rode, our auctioneer, said those final words "This is the last doorknob to be auctioned" I knew the convention was officially over, and it was time to say goodbye to all my friends and fellow collectors.

While I was packing later in the day, I had flashbacks all the members and friends I chatted with and of all great hardware I had seen (some I couldn't resist). The convention seemed to slip by too quickly.

Our guide (in full historic dress) on the bus tour of the area did a wonderful job of pointing out many historic sites. We



then continued our bus trip to Jim Thorpe, PA. A short hike up the hill after arriving and we were rewarded with a lovely lunch on the veranda of the Asa Packer Mansion. What could be finer!

Yet another treat, a tour of the Harry Packer mansion next door. The hardware was magnificent not to mention all the other antiques.

Around noon on Thursday, the ADCA had a chance to have our



Carol Applegate, Cheryl Blam and Hilary Applegate enjoy lunch on the veranda.

one minute of fame on , a local TV station, WFMZ. We were also featured on the front page of the local paper, The Morning Call. From the banquet room there was a spectacular view of downtown Bethlehem including the brilliant star that shines from high on the hill. It can be seen for miles around.

After a scrumptious dinner, a business meeting was held and the Distinguished Service Awards were introduced. Florence Jarvis was thrilled when she was awarded a knob she always wanted. A special tribute was given to Faye Kennedy by her husband for her many hours of work on the convention and the newsletter.

And I can't forget the annual auction. There was plenty of hardware so no one should have gone away empty handed.

**See You in St. Louis!**

## New Resource Listing

It has become evident that the club needs a listing of the hardware services of its members. We get several inquiries each week wanting to know the value or origin of a knob. Many want to know where to purchase matching or period knobs, both original and reproductions. We would like to refer them to our members, but we

are not exactly who does what. We know that many of you are dealers and shop owners, but we need to know your specialties.

You will find a form enclosed to fill out that will help us make the proper connection to your business.

In addition to your yearly dues there will be an additional fee of \$25/year. We will make the listing available to those seeking information and will also post it on our website. This listing is intended to be a service to our members who sell all types of hardware. Having an up-to-date listing will help us answer questions more quickly so that we can send business your way. You can help your business and the ADCA by sending in the form. Thanks.

## Annual Lock Collector's Show

The annual Lock Collector's show will be held Saturday, Oct 6, 2001 at the Terryville High School in Terryville, Connecticut. The set up begins at 8 am and show hours are from 9 am to 4 pm. Tables will be \$30. This includes morning coffee and danish. Hope to see you there.

## YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Len Blumin

Rhett Butler

Sally Hyslop

Loretta Nemec

Maud Eastwood

Carol Meermans

Steve Menchhofer



## A Message From Your New President, Steve Rowe

*The follow text is taken from  
Steve Rowe's acceptance speech..*

Wow! It is hard to believe that I am now president of ADCA. It seems like just last year that I was attending my first convention in Milwaukee. But that was actually back in 1994, and I have not missed a convention since. I can honestly say I still look forward to every convention all year long!

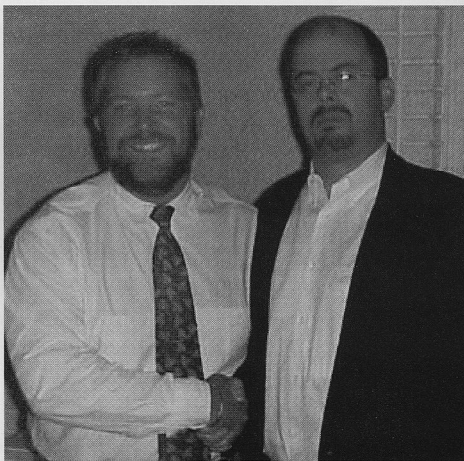
I would like to thank the members of ADCA for giving me the opportunity to serve as president. It is an honor to follow in the footsteps of such distinguished members as Arnie Fredrick, John Holland, Win Applegate, Jim Kaiser, Len Blumin and many others I have not mentioned. Hopefully, after my term closes, I will be able to somehow measure up to some of their accomplishments.

When Len Blumin first asked me to consider accepting the role of presidency I was hesitant as I wondered if I was the right choice. Could I do the job and in a satisfactory manner? I had to look at my qualifications and consider just what serving means to find my answer.

I am a 41 year old Anglo Saxon male, college educated, middle class, married with two children, dogs, and cats. There certainly is no answer here. Then I considered what hardware and collecting means to me. I have been an avid collector of door-knobs since about 1981. I enjoy collecting for many reasons. First, I simply like the hardware! I believe the design work and quality of their manufacture is nothing short of beautiful. Second, I feel I am helping to pre-

serve history by saving pieces from the scrap bin. And finally, I enjoy collecting as it has produced some of the best friends of my life. One could say I am passionate about collecting!

This passion is the only credential to validate my worthiness for becoming the next ADCA president. I do not see myself as anything special. In fact, I believe my feelings are no different than the passion already shared in this room. Consider Richard Hubbard's willingness to visit every show and flea market in his area.



Incoming President, Steve Rowe, being greeted by outgoing President, Rhett Butler

How about Joe Mueller's willingness to drive miles for a good knob? Len Blumin's desire to catalog every good doorknob, Rhett Butler's efforts to link Enoch Robinson to MCCC, Florence Jarvis saving all year long for that one good knob at the convention and finally Maud Eastwood's continued work in the field of hardware producing at least three excellent reference books. My point is clear. I am not the only person in this room who is qualified to serve in this club!

This brings me to the purpose of my speech. We all are qualified; therefore we all should be

called to service. As incoming president I would like to pose a question to all ADCA members. "What is it that you are doing or will do to help promote the club this year?" Granted, not everyone has the desire to serve as president, but everyone can contribute. Whether it is becoming a board member, hosting or helping to host a convention, writing an article for the newsletter, donating a catalog to the Archives, attending the next convention or something as simple as distributing ADCA brochures in the Antique stores you already visit weekly. What will you do to help your club?

Currently, I am chairman of the Arnie Fredrick Memorial Committee. I am certain you have noticed that we have chosen not to give an award this year. Why not? When guidelines were created for this honor there was a strong desire by the Committee and your Board of Directors to include club participation. This year's participation was dismal. Of 270 members only 13 were willing to submit a nomination for the award. Even though there are clearly qualified candidates, the Committee has decided to wait until there is increased participation to give the next award. Is this an area you could commit yourself to?

In conclusion, It is my desire as incoming president to see that more people become involved. With help, the ADCA can grow in numbers, promote and educate more people than it ever has and foster new relationships between members. I cannot accomplish these tasks alone.

**What will you do to help me achieve these goals?**





## ADCA SHIRTS FOR SALE

We have available for sale some great shirts from the Bethlehem Convention. They are of a very nice quality fabric. The Tee shirts are \$15 and the Polo shirts are \$25 each.

The quantities and sizes available are listed below

	L	XL	XXL
Yellow Tee	5	3	4
Grey Tee	3	3	3
White Polo	0	3	2
Grey Polo	0	0	2

Even if you don't wear and XXL, they make great night shirts. Remember the holidays are coming up and your favorite doorknob collector would love to receive one of these. Order from:

Allen Joslyn  
249 Valley Rd  
Montclair, NJ 07042  
AJOSLYN@home.com

## MAIL MATCHING SERVICE OFFERED

Is your much-loved Victorian home missing one doorknob? Do you need plastic cabinet knobs for your 1940s kitchen? The mail matching service at Liz's Antique Hardware is designed to help.

If possible, please send us a photo and template of size of the items you're trying to match. Do not send the hardware; we cannot be responsible for any customer hardware. If you're not trying to match something exactly, give us an idea of what you need, which may involve cutting photos out of a magazine or sending a photo of the piece that needs hardware.

Include a letter telling us how many you need, and a check for \$10. (The check covers our time in going through the inventory.) Send to:

Liz's Antique Hardware  
Attention Jennifer  
453 South La Brea  
Los Angeles, CA 90036.

Jennifer will get back to you. If you'd like to e-mail Jennifer, please do so at  
LAHmailmatch@aol.com.

## New Members

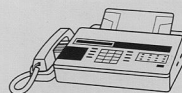
We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who have joined the ADCA since our last newsletter.

- 650 Karl Ranallette  
San Bernardino, CA
- 651 Peter Morenstein  
San Francisco, CA
- 652 Laima Vanderstoep  
Chicago, IL
- 653 Bill Hart  
Fernley, NV
- 654 Jonathan Farrell  
Burlington, VT
- 655 John Bero  
Rochester, NY
- 656 Glenn Claypoole  
Lehigh, PA
- 657 M. Hanna  
Bethlehem, PA
- 658 David Althouse  
Denver, PA
- 659 Jason Henderson  
Beaufort, MO
- 660 Donna Tuttle  
Los Angeles, CA
- 661 Lloyd Noseworthy  
Bethlehem, PA
- 662 Bob Williams  
Sultan, WA

## Keep in Touch



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