

The Doorknob Collector

Number 113

May-June 2002

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

"See You in St. Louis, Louie"

Plan to be at the ADCA Convention 2002 in July along with all those other doorknob collectors. Below is a partial listing of great reasons to come to St. Louis and join in the fun. You might have to come early or stay longer to enjoy all that the city has to offer. Take a look at the St. Louis website at www.explorestlouis.com. Then send in your registration! See you there!

- **Old friends** will be there and you will have a chance to meet new ones. Remember Mark Twain once said a stranger is only a friend I haven't met yet. Maybe he said it in St. Louis.
- Wonderful **programs** are being offered at the Convention. In addition to the bus tour, Liz Gordon will speak on "The Last 50 Years in the History of Door Hardware" and Nini Harris will talk about "Victorian Era Architecture in South St. Louis".
- **Great hardware** to buy, sell and trade and it is all in one place; no trudging from shop to shop.
- The **Display Contest** offers you a chance to exhibit your collection (from a single knob to hundreds).
- **Food and fellowship** are offered up at both the banquet and the annual breakfast.
- Our famous **live auction** on Saturday morning offers you the chance to find that perfect piece of hardware you have been looking for, and at the right price.
- The Zoo (even a Butterfly Dome), Art Museum, Science Center and History Museum at **Forest Park** are just some of the things waiting for you in St. Louis.
- **Charles Lindbergh's** solo flight from New York took place 75 years ago, so of course St. Louis is celebrating with an exhibition at the Missouri History Museum.
- History buffs might also want to visit the **Cahokia Mounds**, site of North America's largest ancient Indian civilization and a United Nations World Heritage Site
- Most convention venues don't present the opportunity to visit a **riverboat casino**.
- And finally, a Mississippi **paddlewheel riverboat** is waiting to welcome you aboard.



Newsletter Deadline - Friday, June 16, 2002

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In Memoriam



Ray Zyc (#23), age 88, died Wednesday, March 27, 2002. He was born in Chicago, and was a 1932 graduate of Palatine High School. Ray married his wife,

Katherine (nee, Wiggins) on June 15, 1940 in Lake Geneva. He served in the US Navy aboard the Destroyer Benham DD796 in the Pacific. A Janesville, WI resident since 1957. Ray was a member of the American Legion, a life member of VFW, was past president and secretary of the YMCA Board in Lake Geneva, and was very active in Lake Geneva Masonic Lodge and Western Star Lodge. He was a member of Millard Community Church in Elkhorn.

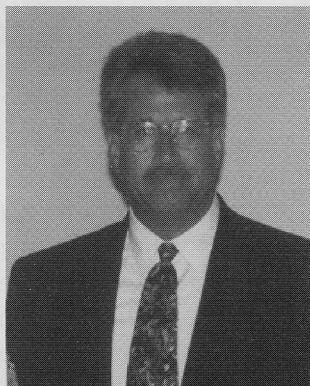
Survivors include his wife, Katherine; a son, Wayne Zyc of Apache Junction, AZ; a daughter, Dorthy Bilot of West Bend, a sister, and five grandchildren.

Ray and his wife, Kae attended the first convention and have been members of ADCA ever since. A note from Kae states that "doorknobs were truly the love of anything tangible for Ray." She remembers fondly the "good time they had at the (continued in next column)

conventions, especially dressing up to show the age and era."

Our heartfelt thoughts go out to Ray's family.

In Memoriam



William L. (Bill) Eastwood (#124) passed away on March 5th following a long battle with colon cancer. Bill's commitments to his profession and family life precluded active participation in ADCA affairs. He will, however, be remembered by attendees at the 1994 Milwaukee convention, as one of Maud Eastwood's three children who filed in singly, on cue, to help celebrate Maud's surprise 75th birthday party orchestrated by Loretta Nemeec.

However, Bill was active behind the scenes in the doorknob game from the late 1970s, when, from his back-East location, he ferreted choice glass and wooden knobs for his mother's growing collection. He also spent time in the research and patent sections of the Franklin Institute on her behalf.

The major portion of Bill's professional life took him from coast to coast. Graduating (continued in next column) from Lewis and Clark College with a Business degree in

1969, he worked for Aetna Insurance from 1969 to 1979 in Medicare Claims division, traveling nationwide. Following a stint managing an ambulance company, he moved to Seattle, WA in 1984 as Vice President of Operations for Blue Cross for Washington and Alaska, serving until 1994 when he relocated to Portland, OR, to take the Vice Presidency of Providence Health Plans, until full medical retirement in early 2001.

Bill leaves his widow, Nancy, a daughter, Alexis, a son, Zachary, and his parents, Maud and Norval Eastwood. Bill's premature death came at age 55.

We extend our deepest condolences to his family.

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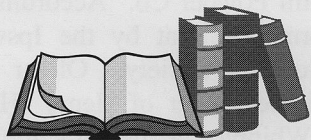
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Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

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From the Archives



By Steve and Barbara Menchhofer

Your catalog order form will be included in the next issue (July-August) of the newsletter. Read it over carefully before ordering. Please remember that there is a deadline for sending in your order. Any order sent after the deadline will be returned. The reason for this is our master copies are fragile. We only handle them once after we receive orders. We do not want to handle them any more than necessary. We will confirm your order by email or regular mail as soon as we receive it. Then it will be several weeks before you receive your filled order.

Catalogs can be a valuable asset to a collector. Order yours and find out.

Doorknob Display Contest for 2002 Convention

This year at the 2002 convention awards will be given in five categories. They are:

- Best Metallic Display
- Best Non-Metallic Display
- Best from a Single Manufacturer
- Most Creative Display
- Best of Show

Whether it be a single knob display or many knobs in a display or whether it be metallic, nonmetallic, glass, or any other material, we encourage everyone to participate in the contest.

Email Changes

Please note the changes in our email address; see the graphic on the last page.



The club now has two email addresses. A new email address will be posted on our website. Below is a new email address to use for general questions related to hardware and the club. This is easy to remember because it is the same as the club's website name.

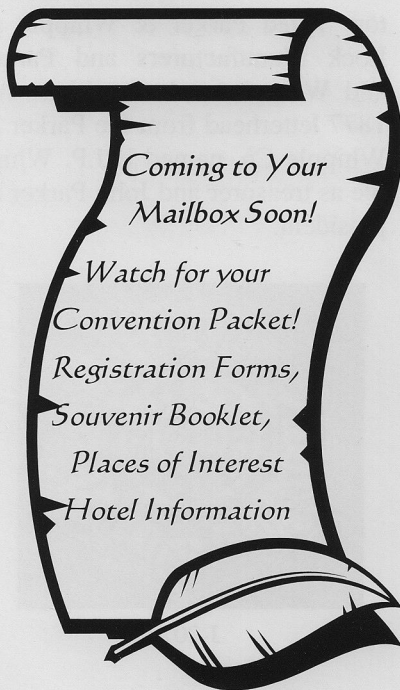
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News

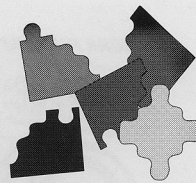
The second is for all of you out there who continue to contribute to the newsletter or want to reach Rich or Faye Kennedy directly. For these purposes please continue to use:

knobnews@aol.com



Bits and Pieces

By Win Applegate



I know it's the same line every year, but here it is again, "Now that the income taxes are done, it's time to get serious about this year's Annual Convention."

One of many highlights of Convention 2002 will be about our beloved Florence Jarvis. Florence did what many 'talk' about doing: she remembered the ADCA in her will!

Beginning with this convention, a portion of Florence's doorknob collection will be auctioned off during Saturday's auction. Each year, until depleted, a number of her knobs will be "returned to members" rather than disappearing in 'public' or Internet auctions. This was her wish. The proceeds of these sales will be donated to the ADCA. My! What a nice thought (and gift) from a dear, dear, now departed, member.

Florence planned this well, giving considerable thought and effort to this. Through her lawyer, close friends and with the ADCA's involvement, this groundbreaking gesture was properly (and legally) prepared a number of years ago.

Well? . . . ? . . . ?

* * * * *

I mentioned in a previous column about the untimely death of Stuart Drysdale's son. The passing of the heir to the Perthshire Paperweight business has led to the closing of the firm earlier this year. This is an unfortunate, but not uncommon event in a business that does not plan for the future.



Parker & Whipple Mfg. Co. Quandary

By Maud Eastwood

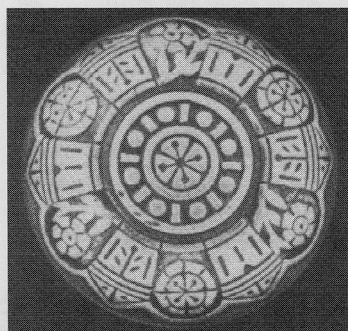
In the January-February issue (TDC #111), Ray Nemeč asked, "Can any of our readers add more to the Whipple story? Are copies of the pages containing the door-knobs available?" The answer to both questions is "Yes". To the comments, "we would like to know more about the company and the people who ran it and the market size, and was it just a regional company, or did their hardware reach eastern and mid-western markets" – answers will require more research. To this point, more research has turned up more questions.

Question: Were there or were there not two separate, individual companies with "Whipple" in their titles operating in the 1800s? Or was this a case of one company closing, then returning to the field with a name change, following a two-year closure period? The second possibility has some merit. Not only was the name "Whipple" in the name of The Parker & Whipple Mfg. Co. 1859-1880, but also in the Whipple Mfg. Co. of 1882-1885

Moreover, the name "H.J.P. Whipple" also appeared on the company roster for both companies. Also, in support of a single Whipple company theory is the lack of evidence of a second

Whipple Company in respected sources, such as Tom Hennessy's, *Early Locks and Lockmakers of America* and Rhett Butler's, *A Guide to Decorative Hardware Research Material*. Both of these sources mention the background of Parker & Whipple and cover the company closing in 1880.

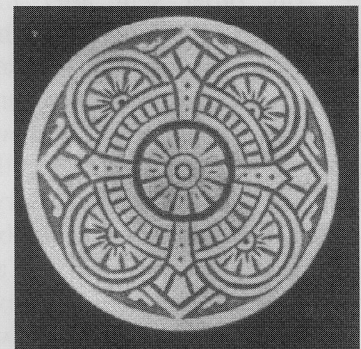
In support of two Whipple companies, related or not, Ray introduced evidence of an 1884 Whipple Mfg. Co. catalog whose factory and principle office were located in Cleveland, Ohio. H.J.P. Whipple was General Manager, and L. Austin was the President. The Parker & Whipple Mfg. Co. was located in West Meriden, CT. An 1860 Boston Business Directory listed Parker & Whipple as Lock Manufacturers and Parker and Whipple as locksmiths. An 1877 letterhead from the Parker & Whipple Co. named H.J.P. Whipple as treasurer and John Parker as president.



J-207

An interesting side note uncovered by Ray Nemeč is that Linus

Austin, of the 1880's Ohio-based Whipple Mfg. Co., owned the Austin Powder Co. According to information sent by the Ipswich Historical Society, Oliver M. Whipple, father of Henry (H.) J. P. Whipple, a manufacturer at Meriden, Connecticut, was extensively involved in owning and operating powder mills in Massachusetts, Maine and surrounding states. He divested much of his powder interests in 1855. He died in 1872. Did Oliver own powder mill interests in Ohio? (Ray, I can



H-246

see your built-in sleuthing instincts taking this lead over.)

Returning to the question of the availability of pages illustrating Whipple-produced doorknobs. A modest number are available through ADCA Archives to those members who take advantage of ordering a copy of the Buhl Sons & Companies catalog. Understand that this catalog represents the lines carried by a dealer of hardware, not a manufacturer of such, nor do they list the manufacturers they represent (unless perhaps a page is missing). The fact that they carry a large selection of Whipple hardware is very evident by the trademarks and tradenames on the items. (They also carry a smattering of Yale, Sargent, Dietz, and other company products.)

What percent of the Whipple manufactured line(s) was offered

through this 1884 Buhl catalog? Until a Whipple-issued catalog becomes available to the club from which to make comparison and copies, the question is largely mute. Ray indicated sections of 20 to 25 pages of doorknob illus-



trations were to be found in 1880s Whipple catalogs. Not so in the Buhl catalog. Metal knobs of ornamental design can be numbered on one hand. Two of these were illustrated in Len Blumin's, *Victorian Decorative Art*, No. J-207 and H-246. These were found on pages 84 and 89, respectively, in the Buhl catalog.

Four Whipple trademarks were found on locks illustrated in the Buhl catalog. Note that only one of the four alludes to Parker. This leads us to the possibility that the same company under different names may have produced the two companies' products in different eras.

The marks?

W.MFG.CO.

P.&W. MF'G.CO.

WHIPPLE MFG. CO. and

W&CO (as a stylized, intertwined set of initials)

In addition to the predominance of locks, both with and without ornamental fronts, Buhl offered a number of fancy Whipple store door handles with thumb latches, plated and keyhole escutcheons.

Distinctive design emblems unique to Whipple hardware include two background designs for plates. One, a succession, top to bottom, of very narrow horizontal lines. The other, small squares each having a dimpled center. The small bluebird in flight, the standing crane (stork?), and a stylized flowerpot of unique design are also Whipple clues.

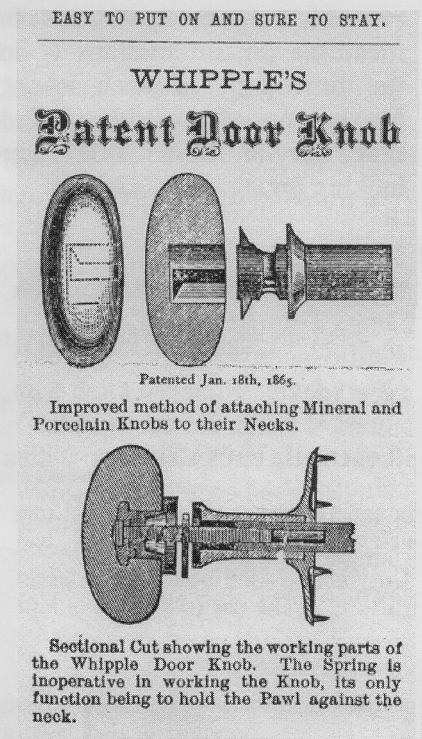
A future article on Whipple could touch on the c. 300 year-old Whipple House at Ipswich, MA, of its occupancy by Captain John Whipple (H. J. P. Whipple's grandfather). Of the various patents attributed to members of the Whipple clan, of a "situation" involving a Whipple worker and his invention that gave rise to an infringement suit between R&E and Mallory, Wheeler Co. in later years. These side-interest stories will have to wait to leave room to pose my last question: Which Whipple company manufactured the Rutherford Hayes house hardware viewed by Ray and which one provided it for installation? There could be a difference. (One assumes the attendant at the Freemont Presidential Canter was correctly informed.)

The answer lies in critical dates. When was the house built, when was the hardware installed, was the hardware original to the house, was it replaces? Hayes was president from 1877-1881. He died in 1893. Do these dates factor in? Were the knobs examples of H. J. P. Whipple's July 29, 1873 patent for Attaching Knobs to Spindles? Or the earlier Jan. 18, 1865 patent for a spindle? That depended on

the formative material of the knobs. Metal, glass, mineral or porcelain? If the 1873 patent, no side screw or washer was used. If the later, the knob was formed of porcelain or mineral.

Lastly, was Whipple a regional company? Probably, yet with Detroit and New York outlets.

Note the Whipple material on pages 176 - 178 of the *Antique Builders Hardware - Knobs & Accessories* by Maud Eastwood (c. 1982). [editor's note: copies of sections of these pages are shown here]. Sources of early information are the late Emil Miller and Arnie Fredrick, and member Charles Bednar. An 1873 Whipple genealogy record and the U.S. patent records.



Two examples of Whipple door-knobs are shown on the previous page. They are identified in Len Blumin's *Victorian Decorative Art*.

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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.

We have become aware of the fact that this column has yielded several successful searches. So remember to get your ads in (deadline for submissions is on the first page of each issue). Maybe you will be able to find that special item YOU are looking for.

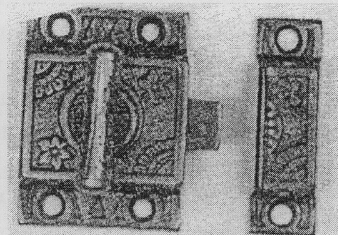
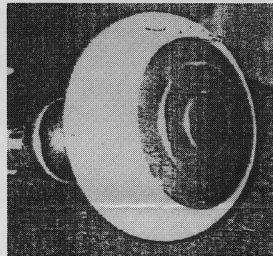
Wanted:

4 Cast iron cupboard latches with brass T-turn. Pictured.

Plastic (composition or celluloid) ivory knob. Rounded knob with brass shank, brass center with concentric circles and also with a single raised center. Both types are pictured. Need many, either singles or pairs.

Several brass mortise lock plates.

Vicky Berol (#450)
2527 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 94123-5012
(415) 771-9899
sfgofer@yahoo.com

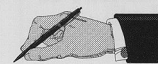


New Members

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

677	Mark Schmitt	Annawan, IL
678	Robert	Shepherd, TX
679	Joshua Gray	Denison, TX
680	Tim Judge	Bluffton, SC
681	Robert Pantell	San Francisco, CA
682	Brad Williams	Provincetown, MA

Keep in Touch



Mail:
ADCA Box 31
Chatham, NJ
07928-0031



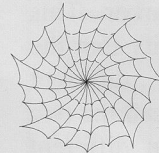
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Web Site:
www.Antiquedoorknobs.org

News

E-mail:
Knobnews@aol.com

"See you in St. Louis, Louie"

**Antique Doorknob Collectors of America
Convention 2002**

**July 24 to July 27
St. Louis, MO
Host, Debbie Fellenz**