

The Doorknob Collector

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Wedgwood Jasper Doorknobs

By Maude Eastwood

Owners of genuine Wedgwood Jasper door-knobs are in rare company. For that matter, so are owners of imitation Wedgwood 'look-alike' pink doorknobs (pink was not a Wedgwood Jasper color). How rare a company are you in? Unless through later acquisition (post-1979) not even the Burt Wedgwood Museum in Merion, Pennsylvania nor the Wedgwood Museum at Barlaston, England were in that company. Perhaps a stigma exists against articles classified as utilitarian.

Two Jasper doorknobs attributable to Wedgwood, differing in shape and representative of two eras, the 19th and 20th centuries, have been reported in member collections. The first, Jim Kaiser's [see page 3] was a round shape, flat on top and was composed of three parts. There was a Wedgwood Jasper cameo, a metal ferrule, and a shank [see photo on page 2]. The ferrule and shank were manufactured by Yale & Towne. The removable cameo was held in place by the ferrule. The shank was machined for an 1890-patented Y&T triplex spindle. No other spindle could be substituted.

This cameo was a characteristic piece of Wedgwood Jasper ware, blue with a white bas-relief design. According to Lynn Miller, Museum Information Officer for the Barlaston Museum, the design was "Cupid Asleep" or "A Nymph Stealing Cupid's Bow". This is but one from the multiple hundreds of original Wedgwood designs coming down from the 1700s. For an illustration of this knob disassembled from TDC No. 78 is reproduced on the next page.

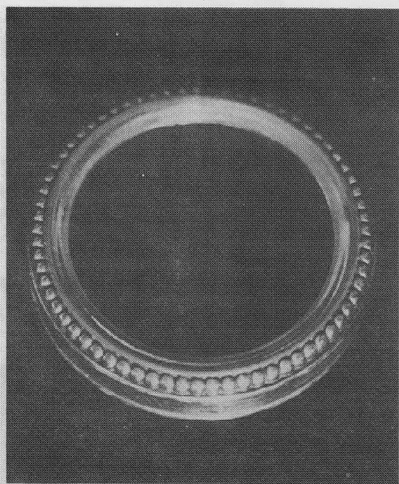
The reverse of this cameo held the inscription "Hartford 1911". This would lead one to believe that this was perhaps a commemorative piece. That and other possibilities have yet to be pursued, however, this same inscription has been noted on the reverse of an oval cameo of this same design set into a



Newsletter Deadline - Friday, August 16, 2002

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locket. [Note: a cameo arbitrarily measures up to 2 ½ in.) Importantly, Ms. Miller, upon receiving convincing clues of the knob's



authenticity expressed appreciation for the information. She was shown a copy of a page from the Bayer, Gardner, Hymes 1925 catalog showing two examples of Wedgwood knobs with captions below them. Ms. Miller said that the information "would be duly entered into our factory records, and will undoubtedly prove to be of interest in the future to students and experts alike".

Further information on this knob came from a representative of P.E. Guerin of New York, who, in the past, had retrofitted examples of this triplex spindled knob for use with conventional spindles. He stated this knob had been used on the famed 1912 New York Vanderbilt Hotel. The 1911 date may carry more significance than supposed.

The second Wedgwood Jasper knob covered in this article was acquired by Arnie Fredrick in the 1980s. This knob [see page 1] was oval, almost boat shaped, thick and wide, with a border of laurel between two plain bands outlining the bas-relief. The heavy cast metal shank was full height and ornamented in the Baroque style. On the underside there is an impression of "Wedgwood" in capital letters, indicative of an 1880s date. This information was subsequently forwarded to the Barlaston Museum for confirmation of authenticity.

Once again, the reply from Lynn Miller was positive. She remarked, "From the photographs of both the bas-relief and "Wedgwood" impressed mark, it is almost certain that this doorknob was manufactured by the Wedgwood Euria firm." She further identified the bas-relief design as "Apollo, God of Music" taken from the Apollo and the Nine Muses series.

Just what is Jasper?

Jasper Ware?

Queen's Ware?

Jasper is a vitreous stoneware so hard it can be polished like a gem stone. The surface is non-porous and mat in appearance. Josiah Wedgwood developed and perfected his Jasper body by 1775. The body or batch in potter's terminology refers to the composite mix, in plastic form, from which articles are molded or thrown. Subsequently, Wedgwood's work was imitated, but never equaled. The level of detail was the key.

Jasper Ware – Items made of Jasper. Thus, saying Jasper Ware doorknobs, perhaps creates a redundancy, for the doorknobs are the wares. The reference to Wedgwood Queen's Ware doorknobs is a different matter. Jasper is a body, Queen's is not.

The Doorknob Collector®



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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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Queen's Ware – A term used only when referring to Wedgwood's fine cream-colored earthenware (c. 1750), of which door-knobs were also made later. The Buten Museum's 1906 Shape Book illustrates a number of knob design identified as Queen's Ware.

The colors usually found in Wedgwood Jasper were blue, green, and lavender. These finished colors develop during the firing process in the kiln and result from oxides added to the body prior to firing. Playing a part in the varying color hues is placement within the kiln, the amount and type of oxides, temperature, etc. No firing, no color; no oxides, no color.

Jasper relief decoration, or bas-reliefs, are applied separately to the article and are not, originally, a part of the same mold. They are formed in separate molds from a body without oxides added and applied upside down in their intended position on the receiving article prior to firing. Through the firing process they bond with the ware. In this way the figure in the design remained free of color. Before firing and color development, the appearance of the object is a slate-gray.

A final procedure to accentuate the three-dimension effect on the bas-relief is called undercutting. This detailed cleaning of the design is performed by skilled workmen following removal of the bas-relief from its mold and prior to firing.

One last mention of the pink bisque French knob, an illustration of which can be found on page 220 of Antique Builders Hardware, Collector's Guide Section [available through the ADCA Book Peddler]. In this case the

relief decoration of this knob was solid with the surface. No undercutting was performed, therefore is not a Wedgwood. The design, "Marriage of Cupid and Psyche", was popular with Wedgwood artists and often used.



Of further interest, a copy of a 1779 Wedgwood & Bentley Catalog, in which Wedgwood classified the subjects of his reliefs and intaglios, would be a boon to collectors should one be found. During the mid-1800s Wedgwood maintained a wholesale depot in Paris.

**Convention 2002
July 24 to July 27
St. Louis, MO**

Host, Debbie Fellenz

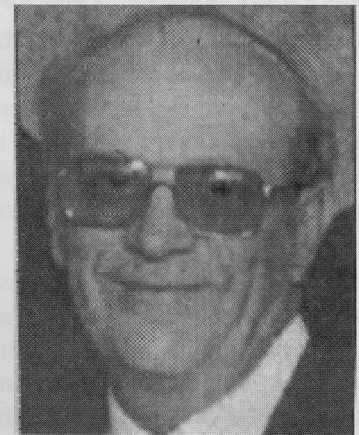
**Sample Mailing Label
for Convention**

Millenium Hotel
200 South 4th Street
St. Louis, MO 63102-1804

Attn: Rose Lane

Please hold for ADCA Convention

In Memoriam



Bill Chase (#505) of Cedar Falls, IA passed away on May 16, 2002. He was 58 years old. Born in Milwaukee, he was married to his wife, Molly in 1966. They had a daughter, Carri and two sons, Chad and Curt.

Bill was president of Petersen Brother Dry Wall Construction Inc.

Bill joined the ADCA five years ago. He was a collector of many things, doorknobs being one of them. Bill enjoyed the outdoors. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. Enjoying life to the fullest, Bill died of a massive heart attack while shooting at the Cedar Falls Gun Club trap league.

Molly says that most of all Bill was a family man. He was always involved in the childrens' lives when they were growing up and gave them good advise in their adult years when they ask for it.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family.

Last Minute Convention News

For those members who like to be fashionably late, there is still time to register for this year's convention. If you have never been to one before then now is the time. We in St. Louis are ready and waiting.

We are presently having a heat wave here in St. Louis, but hopefully that will be a distant memory by convention time. My mom and I have gained weight from all the restaurants we've sampled and are going to recommend. That's a tough job, but somebody has to do it.

One of the desserts at the open house at my house will be gooey butter cake, a St. Louis tradition. Of course, there will be many more things that are top secret right now!

A few reminders:

The van from the **airport to the hotel** can be reached at Exit 15 by the baggage claim. It is called the Trans Express.

Items to be mailed to: Millennium Hotel 200 South 4th Street, St. Louis, MO 63102-1804 Attn. Rose Lane with a note to hold for the ADCA Convention.

Ask for your **convention folders** at the check-in desk. For those not staying at the hotel your packets will be available in the hospitality room.

If you are **driving** it is best not to approach downtown St. Louis during **rush hour** (7:00 to 9:00 am and 4:00 to 6:00 pm).

The countdown has started for the convention, hope to see you all there.

Debbie Fellenz

In Memoriam



Marjorie Wiemer (#18) of Sedona, AZ, ADCA Charter member and first club Secretary/Treasurer passed away November 23, 2001. She was 89 and leaves five children, eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Marge will be remembered by members of the ADCA particularly for her ebullient personality and dedication in carrying out the duties of her office.

Marge, however, was more than a responsible club member, she was an avid collector, often on the road with her husband, Emmet (deceased) seeking not only knobs, but also the plates and other items of door and builder's hardware. Interestingly, one trip took them to St. Louis and the Fellenz warehouse, this year's convention site and hosts. Their collection was featured on TV on Oregon Open Road in early 1983 and in the Red Rock News in January 1990.

The Wiemers were not borderline or halfway collectors, they not only collected, but also made plaques to display their finding, be it a collection of keyhole escutcheons, door

handles, knobs, or other items. Together, they were responsible for opening the eyes of those around them to the joys and satisfactions of becoming involved in this new collector's field. ADCA's first President, John Holland, was perhaps their star recruit. In the Nov. 25, 2979 issue of the Arizona Republic, Holland is quoted giving the Wiemers credit for starting him in doorknob collecting in 1976.

Undoubtedly, Secretary Marge's infectious enthusiasm as she answered inquires following significant media attention after the 1981 organizational meeting, contributed to the growth of the club. In 1989 Marge was to pen, "You know, I am still proud of being the first Secretary/Treasurer of ADCA. It was work at the time, but was worth all my efforts." Anita Gold of the Chicago Tribune mentioned Marge's name in connection with this new club.

The Wiemers participated in convention activities, taking the blue ribbon in 1991 for their glass knob sets. At that same convention, Emmet submitted his winning design for the logo for the club knob.

Marge Wiemer, friend, fellow club member and collector will be missed. She was one of a kind. Her likeness appears on the back cover of Antique Builders Hardware, Knobs & Accessories, where her infectious smile seems to echo her oft repeated comment, "Don't we have fun!"



The Doorknob Exchange

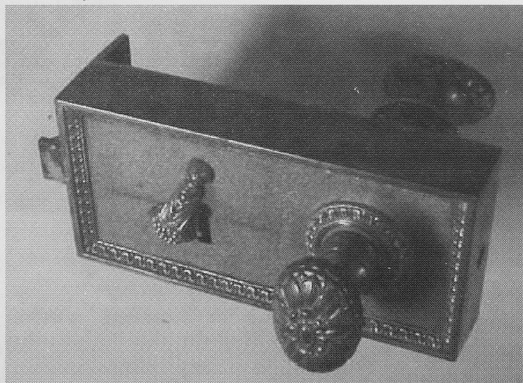
Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

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.

For Sale:

A bit of hardware history from the



Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in NYC. A pair of passage door locksets; left and right including striker plate; \$250 for the complete set.

Rich Kennedy (#238)
(973) 635-6338

Wanted:

Any ornate exterior door strike-plates. Please send photos, pencil rubbings, etc. to

Richard Zillman (#370)
280 Davisadero St.
San Francisco, CA 94117
(415) 861-1026

Arnie Frederick Memorial Award Update

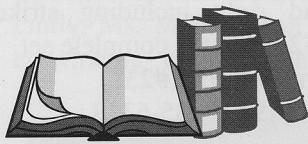
In 1999, ADCA formed the *Arnie Fredrick Memorial Committee* (AFMC) in order to establish a lifetime achievement award for club members who most emulate the club co-founder, Arnie Fredrick's service to ADCA.

In August 2000, the first AFM award was presented to Maud Eastwood during the 20th annual ADCA convention in Minneapolis. As the awards first recipient, Maud was unanimously chosen for her contributions both to ADCA and to the field of hardware research, documentation, preservation and collecting.

The AFMC will once again honor a club member at the 22nd annual ADCA convention to be held in St. Louis, Missouri. This year's award recipient as the unanimous choice of the committee, and also first runner up in the initial nomination, will be deserving of ADCA's highest recognition. The AFM recipient has been involved in many areas of leadership over the years along with being a vital member of ADCA. It would be a pleasure to have each of you attend the 2002 ADCA convention in St. Louis to share in the honor of recognizing the second recipient of the Arnie Fredrick Memorial Award.

See you in St. Louis!

From the Archives



By Steve and Barbara
Menchhofer

It's order time for the catalog copies! You will find your order form enclosed with this issue of the newsletter. Read it over carefully before ordering. The deadline for ordering is August 30, 2002. Any orders sent to us after this date will be returned. If you have any questions about the form or ordering, please email us at smenchhofe@aol.com or telephone us at (317) 291-6043.

Look for a display of sample catalog copies at the convention. They will be on the Archives table. Spend some time browsing through them to see what we offer. See you in St. Louis.

New Members

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

683	Everett Barnard II	Indianapolis, IN
684	Teresa Donnelly	Ayr, Ontario
685	David Mather	Royal Oak, MI
686	David Hyslop	Minneapolis, MN
687	Harold Waters	Livingston, TX

ADCA Website

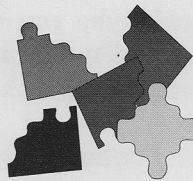
Antiquedoorknobs.org

Have you visited the club's website yet? Brad Kittle has taken over the maintenance of the site. If you have any suggestions please contact him at:

abkittel@gvec.net

Bits and Pieces

By Win Applegate



A CALL FOR DOORKNOBS.

Prior to a convention it is not uncommon to announce a "Call for Papers." Well, we're taking a 'twist' on the 'call'.

Work on the first update on the Revised *Victorian Decorative Art* has been started. Do you have knobs not listed in the Revised VDA? I want to borrow them. If they are sent to me I will make every effort to photograph them and have them in the mail back to you within one week.

Obviously, that is not the end of the process, but it limits the time that your treasures are out of your hands. Much more work will remain to be done: letting author Len Blumin (with the help of others within the ADCA) do as much as they can to classify, number, and identify your 'find'. Len and his volunteers can use as much help as they can get from you, so please provide as much information as you know about each knob. Answer these questions if possible. Do you know the manufacturer; was there a manufacturer's name on the escutcheon or on the lock; have you already identified it from a catalog; which catalog; what was the date of the catalog?

There is the possibility of a new VDA Section. Typically, over the years, a manufacturer may have offered, say, fifty different knobs, but only offered 30 escutcheons and another 20 roses. The architect and, perhaps, the woman of the house would 'mix-n-match' the hardware to suit.

However, in some instances, specific plates and roses matched the pattern exactly. While there are numerous examples, one that particularly comes to mind is Reading Hardware's "Elaine" pattern (D-124) with three sizes of escutcheons plus a plethora of other hardware from hinges to sash pulls.

Being considered, but not yet decided, would be this new section showing, possibly, matching escutcheons and roses (D-124E and D-124R).

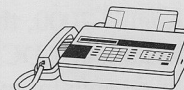
If you have unpublished door-knobs, please bring them along to the St. Louis Convention to be photographed for the update. For those not attending the convention send your knobs to:

Win Applegate
318 North Burtis Ave
Hamilton Square, NJ 08690

Keep in Touch



Mail:
ADCA Box 31
Chatham, NJ
07928-0031



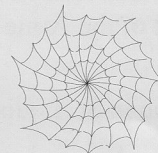
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