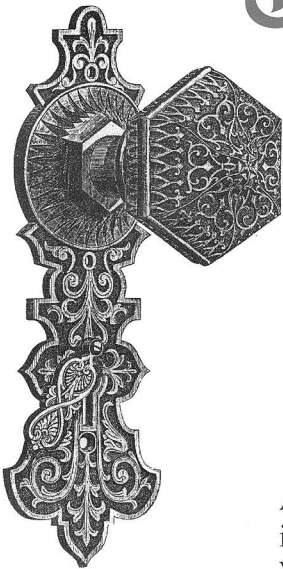


# The Doorknob Collector



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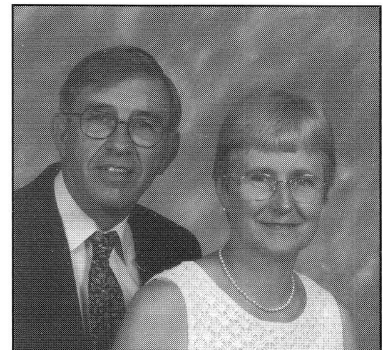
## A Look Forward A Look Back

By Faye and Rich Kennedy

As we bid farewell to the editorship of the newsletter let us do a bit of reminiscing. We have come a long way from the first newsletter way back in March 1978.

We were honored to be asked to be editors of the newsletter and had the pleasure of steering the production of the 100<sup>th</sup> issue, the only one ever done in color.

We have been editors of *The Doorknob Collector* since issue number 87 in January 1998, that's 35 issues. It was in March 1977 when we began a small experiment to connect collectors of doorknobs and sent out the first attempt at a newsletter. Using a list from Maud Eastwood of interested people who had purchased her books, a mailing list of 12 was put together. Far from being a regular mailing, we put together a newsletter when the spirit moved us. It was a very halting start for what later became *The Doorknob Collector*, but it did get the ball rolling. Now Allen Joslyn, one of the original twelve recipients of that first newsletter, will be taking his turn as editor of the newsletter beginning with the next edition.



Since 1998 when we took over the editorship from the Nemecs, there have been many changes in the way the newsletter is put together. Of course there are even more changes from the original newsletter that was typed, edited, cut into strips and glued on a paper to the final form, retyped, and then duplicated. Today we use the wonderful invention of word processing to produce the letter and the pictures are electronically embedded into the text. This is a change from when the pictures were sent to the printer with instructions as to where they should be inserted and the size of each. Using that process each picture would increase the cost of the newsletter. The club has saved a great deal of money by purchasing a scanner and embedding the photos and drawings electronically. Additionally, it has made it possible to keep an electronic copy of each of the issues for archive purposes.

We work with a local printing company to produce the newsletter that you receive in the mail. As Allen Joslyn takes over as editor, we will continue to use the same printing company that is close to our home. Allen will be sending the finished product to them and if there are any questions, they will still contact us and we can make a quick run and clear things up. When the newsletter is complete, we will

### Newsletter Deadline - Monday, December 16, 2003

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be picking them up and stuffing the envelopes for mailing. You might have noticed that the last newsletter was sent to you using a non-profit rate, another large savings for the club. Lee and Jim Kaiser were the first editors of a regularly published newsletter. Ray and Loretta Nemecek still hold the record with 66 newsletters under their belts. See TDC #100 for a full article about our previous editors. The torch is now being handed over to Allen Joslyn. We have every confidence in Allen's ability to shine as the fourth editor of the newsletter. He will be learning "on the job" as we all did, but fear not Allen, we are only 20 miles from you. You will not be alone. He has been gearing up for the transfer for several months and is eager to try his hand at editing. Just keep sending in articles for publication and he will be a very happy editor. We will continue our duties in running the front office, keeping the membership records, helping with the convention information, and helping out in other ways as we are called upon. This has truly been an honor to work with the many people who have contributed to make this club what it is. We will see you at the next convention.

## FRIENDS REMEMBERED

By Norman and Cheryl Blam

We have recently lost some dear and wonderful club members, and we the Blams are ever grateful that we had the opportunity and privilege

to get to know them. The opportunity to get to know Ed Thrall came when we agreed to help host the convention with the Applegates and the Thralls. Ed had definite ideas as to how he wanted to run the convention, and after much debate he was right, and the convention in Connecticut was outstanding. Of course seeing the dance hall Ed and Flicka built would have made the convention one to remember by itself!

Ed had a twinkle in his eye whenever he gave you some wonderful birds nest or knob he had made especially for you. He had a large imagination.

Who else could bolt door-knobs onto a table and take the whole display across country? He definitely had his own idea how things should be run in life as well as in government, but that is what made Ed the man he was, and we are all the better for it.

If you have ever attended a convention you would have remembered Barbara. She was always there with a helpful smile, and wonderful rich laugh. She disliked speaking in front of an audience and we always seemed to make her do it at each convention. She barely could reach the microphone let alone see over the podium!

Steve and she would come to the East to attend Brimfield antique show, and we would all get together in the evenings for supper. We would discuss the day and what we saw in the way of hardware. Most of the time Barbara and I would laugh like two school girls while the men sat look-

ing at us like we had two heads. Of course if one couple got a better knob during the day, the other couple was green with envy, but that was the fun of collecting and being able to share with each other. Barbara was a friend to everyone she came into contact with, and each of us who knew her felt that she thought we were special. She had that gift, and our lives were enriched because of her.

Doorknob collecting has been a wonderful hobby for Norman and I, but the reward has been the camaraderie and friendship that has been forged in the process. We will never forget these two dear friends, and are very glad to have gotten to know them in this lifetime.

### The Doorknob Collector®



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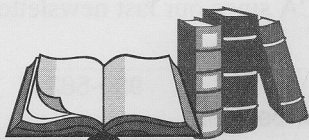
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## From the Archives

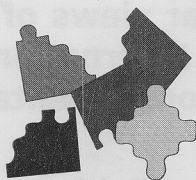


By Steve Menchhofer

Thanks to everyone who ordered copies from the archives. All the orders have been shipped and should have been received by now. There were almost 11,000 pages ordered. Some of the most popular catalogs this time were P. F. Corbin 1874-5 Hardware list, Mallory Wheeler & Co. January 1876, Mallory Wheeler & Co. 1882 selected pages and Nashua Lock Co. 1872 selected pages.

If you have any catalogs (doorknob and related hardware manufacturer's catalogs) or copies of catalogs that you would be willing to donate to the Archives please let me know. You can email me at smenchhofe@aol.com, call at 317-291-6043, or write to 5538 W 25th St. Speedway, IN 46224.

## Bits and Pieces



By Win Applegate

Photographing doorknobs; my, my it sounded so easy before I started.

"Well, how is the first update to the *Victorian Decorative Art* progressing?" With a smile I say, "Just fine, thank you." To date, well over 500 knobs have been photographed. That works out to,

probably, 1200 shots. That's a good start, right? Hardly.

The intent is to record as many as we can and issue in the first update 100 knobs along with the promised cross-reference listings.

It is interesting how we humans work. When I visit a collector for a 'photo op', after the social necessities, it is pretty much all work. The collector feeds me the knobs they have gathered (with any information or assumptions that they have regarding the hardware) and I shoot a pre numbered page then one or more shots of the knob. Timing? about 30 to 35 an hour.

Someone asked? "At that rate, how can you ascertain whether you have 'done' the knob before?" The answer is that I don't even try. That is one of the beauties of a digital camera: take as many photos as you wish because there is no film cost and the significant expense is really TIME! Those members who help compile the VDA can spend 30 minutes studying two knobs to see if they are identical or have slight variations; so close study during the photographing process is highly impractical. Not sure if the photo you just took will be acceptable?--go back and look (quickly) and if necessary adjust things and take one or two more and move on.

The point of this short story is that Dan Cica, (#690), sent me a photograph of what he has called the "Lotus" knob and asked if I already 'had' it. As fast as the photo op moves, I still remembered the knob from the collection of Charles Wardell in Trinity,

North Carolina. Since Dan will be sending me some knobs to record, what is the incremental cost of one more knob and the opportunity to have one more 'Lotus' photo to choose from? You guessed it: insignificant! Dan is sending the 'Lotus' along with his other gems.



Lotus Knob

Let us not give my memory too much credit here as I have to admit, and I think that you will agree, that the knob is a truly beautiful example of artistic expression and, at the time, it did slow me down for awhile.

Oh, why are we only issuing 100 knobs in the update? The best answer to this is probably "commitment". Other updates will follow, but all subscribers to the original revised VDA were promised (at no additional cost) the 100 knobs and the reference listings. Work will continue and other updates will follow when the ADCA feels that they can be properly funded. My guess as to the current 'backlog' of knobs to-be-photographed and published? 1,500.

Enjoy your change of seasons and begin planning for the 2004 Convention in California.

## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who joined ADCA during our last newsletter.

723 Wanda Clark	382 Shady Ridge Rd Bismarck, ND 58102	701 (701) 750-0828 wanda.clark@compell.net
724 Nyla Novotny	8545 Normandie Circle Pater Lake, MI 49777	(602) 447-8739 n.novotny@integrasonline.com
725 Rodney Mohr	717 Butler Dr Manfield, OH 44907	(419) 756-3997 mohrbcws@Bright.net
726 Susan Bedford	2407 San Pablo Ave Berkeley, CA 94702	(510) 843-7388 chmogsalvage@earthlink.net
727 Harvey Jackson	7208 Cochran St Houston, TX 77022-4512	(713) 695-1014 carolyn-jackson@sbcglobal.net
728 Alexander Blyth	University Earth Science Dept. Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1	Waterloo arblyth@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca
729 Rex Valencia	PO Box 524 Lagunitas, CA 94938	(415) 488-4245 REXV44@earthlink.net
730 Hector Gonzalez	916 Taos Victoria, TX 77804	(361) 672-0338 hector@adca.net

## 2004 ADCA Convention

*July 27 through July 31, 2004*

Mark your calendar and join us for the **2004 ADCA Convention, July 27 through July 31, 2004. Make San Francisco your vacation city. The Sheraton Gateway Hotel is just 15 miles from San Francisco.**

The Sheraton Gateway Hotel is an elegant and stylish Four Diamond Hotel. All guest rooms and suites offer spectacular views of San Francisco Bay. Located 3 miles from the San Francisco International Airport, The Sheraton Gateway Hotel provides 24 hour complimentary shuttle service to and from the airport.

For those driving, covered secured parking is available at \$3.00 per car, per day, with in-and-out privileges.



*Fisherman's Wharf  
San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau photo by Jerry Lee Hayes*

Fitness enthusiasts can enjoy an indoor swimming pool, sauna, whirlpool and full service fitness center.

Look for more exciting ADCA Convention information in the upcoming issues of **The Doorknob Collector.**



## 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:

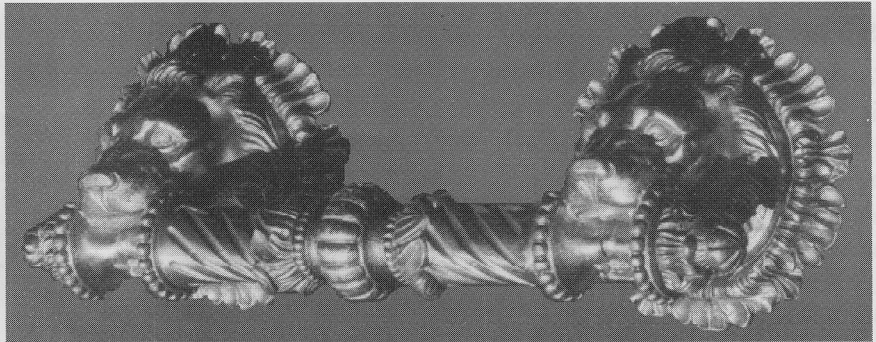
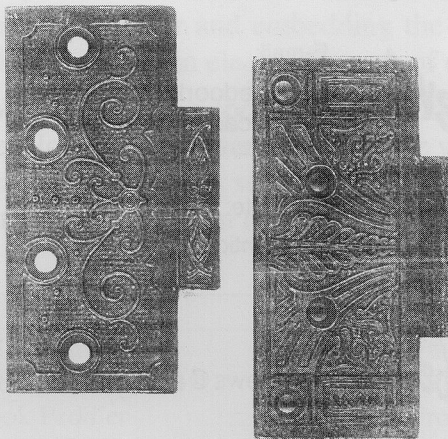
Doorknobs or push plates with Railroad logo or initials, ornate or plain. Please send quote with description and/or picture and price before sending.

L. Noseworthy (#661)  
43 W. macadam Road  
Bethlehem, PA 18017  
(610) 867-8455

### Wanted:

Pairs of cast iron hinges, brass/bronze overlay, 4 ½ x 4 ½ inches with either ball or steeple pins in patterns shown below. Darker in color, not brassy.

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



## Two Lions

Check out these lions. Joe White (#489) from Houston, Texas was out in California and got in touch with Dick Hartley (#584).

When he bought them from Joe, they looked like someone had "wizzed" them and removed all of the patina. Dick found an artist who works with bronze castings and he did a great job of putting the patina back on using a heat finish. It once again looks its age. Although there are no casting marks on the piece, Joe thinks that it may possibly be English in origin. Dick will mount them on his entry door when he completes his new home.

Thanks for the picture, Dick, it is truly a beautiful handle and we enjoy seeing such great hardware. Perhaps one of our readers may know of its origin.

## The Book Peddler

There are some fine books listed in the Book Peddler that would be just perfect to fill your holiday needs. Please get your orders in early to ensure a timely arrival at your door. Take a look at the form that is enclosed.

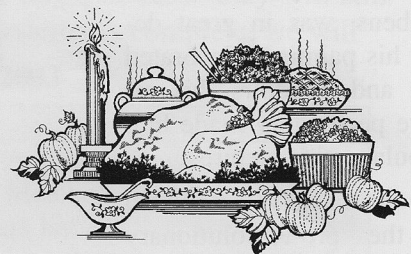
## Barbara Menchhofer Memorial Fund Established

The Club has received a donation of \$ 500 from an anonymous donor to establish the Barbara Menchhofer Memorial Fund (and subsequently another donation of \$25 was made to that Fund). The anonymous donor suggested that "the fund not be kept in perpetuity, but used in a timely manner where the Menchhofer Family and all donors can see and experience the benefits of the love and appreciation with which it was created." Any suggestions from members as to possible uses of the Fund will be gratefully received.

## New Address for ADCA News

Send your news articles to:

Allen Joslyn  
249 Valley Road  
Montclair, NJ 07942



Happy Holiday Season



## Rosters Issued

For the first time you are receiving not only a roster of club members, but also one listing our business members. Please keep this handy for when a friend asks you where to get some hardware. We encourage you to support these businesses.

## Look for the Signature

Porcelain Doorknobs were indeed a work of art! Vibrant designs and scenes applied by hand or as decals. The hand-painted ones are often more desirable, but decals sometimes reproduce famous paintings.

Recently while cleaning one knob I thought I caught a glimpse of a name or signature. Curious, I got out my eye loop and saw the signature FRAGO, yet on another knob the signature FRAGONARD appeared, who was this person?

Jean Honor Fragonard, Frago was his nickname, was born in Grasse in France in 1732. When the family moved to Paris he was apprenticed to a lawyer who luckily noticed his penchant for painting and steered him in that direction.

His charming style of painting lovers, cupids and youthful Venuses, in the style of Rubens, was in great demand; his paintings decorated salons and boudoirs, his attractive personality made him as popular as his pictures.

He is closely associated with the pre-Revolutionary

period and as the style changed he did not adapt to



Detail of knob at right.

the cold classic style that came into vogue during the French Revolution. He lost patrons at that time, but his paintings live on. There are more than 550 paintings, and several thousand drawings and some etchings.

Fragonard studied in both Paris and in Rome. While in Rome, he painted romantic landscape designs at d'Este in Tivoli. Upon his return to Paris in 1764 he was welcomed into the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture.

Today Fragonard's famous five panel series called "The Progress of Love" commissioned by Mme du Barry for her Pavillon de Louveciennes is in the Frick Collection in New York City.



Sources: *Encyclopedia Britannica, 2003* and *Encyclopedia Americana, 1998.*

## Keep in Touch

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