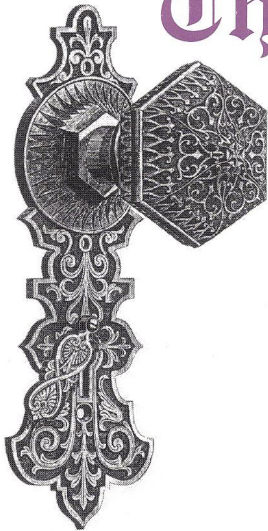


The Doorknob Collector



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CONVENTION DISPLAY CONTEST

By Faye Kennedy

The theme of the ADCA 2004 Convention will be Fourfold Symmetry, and this theme determines the subject matter for display contest. Therefore you should prepare a wonderful display of your fourfold knobs. Awards will be given for the Most Creative Display, the Best Theme Display and finally, the Best Of Show.

In past years we have had some very creative displays. In the **Most Creative** category the knobs may be simple, but the creativity that goes into the display is very important. Your display may use any theme that you wish. In the past, for example, we have had a "Devil" knob with a very scary soundtrack, and, in another year, school buses with knobs (the theme that year was "Schools of Design"). So this can be a real test of your imagination. (Please, no fireworks!)

The **Best Theme** display will feature outstanding fourfold knobs. **Best of Show** will go to the most outstanding display, as determined by the membership, regardless of its theme. So start going through your collection and see what you have that others would love to see.

Some fourfold designs are very obvious and others may require a second look. Below are four fourfold knobs. The two knobs on the ends are somewhat deceptive. They may look more like eightfold designs. However, a closer look will reveal that not all of the curls go in the same direction on the left-hand knob and although there are eight tulip shapes on the right-hand knob, four of them are identical and the other four are slightly different. Hence, these two knobs are classified as fourfold designs. Section H in *Victorian Decorative Art* should clear up any mystery, and in cases of disputed four-folds, Len Blumin will undoubtedly provide the definitive ruling.



Newsletter Deadline –June 16, 2004

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ON TOUR IN SAN FRANCISCO: THE SHANNON-KAVANAUGH HOUSE

By Vicky Berol



Photo by Douglas Keister from *Victorian Glory* by Paul Duchscherer, our banquet speaker.

The Alamo Square Historic District is significant as a collection of distinguished residential architecture. Although there are many styles, common architectural features tie the area together and provide a rich feast for the eyes.

Alamo Square Park is one of the three public parks dedicated in 1858 within the Western Addition area, which was officially annexed to The City in 1865.

"Postcard Row", perhaps the most recognized cluster of Victorian townhouses on Alamo Square, was built by developer Matthew Kavanaugh over a four-year period, 1892 - 1895. This famous row of seven Queen Anne houses includes 722 Steiner Street, the turreted example that Kavanaugh built for himself and his wife Catherine, in 1892. (The house is pictured on the far left). In addition to owning and developing most of the 700 block of Steiner Street, Kavanaugh also had extensive holdings on the 800-block.

At the turn of the century, the Kavanaughs moved to San Rafael, in Marin County. For the next 75 years, twelve families resided at 722 Steiner Street. In 1975 Michael Shannon, the current owner, saved the house from demolition, as it had been condemned by The City and scheduled to be torn down to make way for a parking lot for a neighboring institution.

Matthew Kavanaugh's design of 722 Steiner was eclectic. Appearing to be Eastlake in style, it is really Queen Anne, with typical fish scale shingles. The octagonal corner bay is reminiscent of the Second Empire style of two decades earlier. The interior woodwork on the first floor is predominantly turned and milled redwood, grained to match the original Honduran Mahogany fireplace staircase. The gas fixture on the newel post is original to the house and is in working condition. Throughout the house are important and period elements; intricate woodwork, moldings and corbels, delicate ceiling plaster rosettes, stained glass windows, mahogany floors and vintage gaslight fix-

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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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tures. Much of the wallpaper was designed and manufactured by Bradbury & Bradbury Art Wallpapers. Noteworthy is the stunning 20th Century stainless steel furniture, manufactured by Michael Shannon's design firm, Shannon & Jeal.

The Shannon-Kavanaugh House has been featured in film and television commercials and will now be a feature of the ADCA 2004 Tour.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

By Steve Rowe...

Have you heard the news? Convention time is near and if you don't register soon you are going to miss the single most important event for doorknob collecting this year. There is not a greater opportunity, whether on E-bay, at other auction sites or any flea market in this country, that will provide more available hardware, more educational possibilities or more hardware loving people. Hardware aficionados how can you not attend?

I live in California and have heard many times how expensive it is in my state. Many have even told me that they didn't believe it possible to host another convention here due to basic economics. Let me introduce you to the numbers 79, 3 and 0. **Seventy-nine** is the cost of a hotel room night at this year's convention. I cannot remember such a low rate since 1994, when we all attended in Milwaukee and stayed in college dorm rooms! The Sheraton Gateway Hotel is a first class hotel with many amenities. At \$79.00, this hotel is a bargain! **Three** is the dollar amount for 24-hour parking at the hotel property. Remembering past conventions I recall \$12-15.00 daily. **Zero** is the cost associated with the shuttle service delivering passengers to and from San Francisco International airport. In St. Louis I paid \$20.00 each way!

Not only is this convention a bargain, but also its location is one of the most picturesque cities in the United States! San Francisco is an area rich with historical Architecture and contains a wealth of vacationing opportunities for the traveler. Our convention tour will feature several stately, restored Victorian mansions that will be memorable places to visit. Richard & Cher Zillman's home is handsomely fitted with Russell & Erwin hardware and the painted ceilings are nothing short of fantastic. In Richard Reutlinger's mansion one can find a bluebird backplate, a lady and parasol doorknob and an unbelievable collection of Victorian furniture. This tour is an absolute must!

Our hosts have also planned for several days of buying, selling and good old doorknob camaraderie. On Thursday, July 29, our convention will once again be open for the public to see, buy and sell what we work so hard to collect and preserve. This night allows for many to view a window of time in our great country. A time where quality of design was paramount, where the pleasure of fine things could be seen through door hardware trimmings and where the art of embellishment was at its best! Working with both Vicky and Patti tells me we have great expectations about this public event. Do your best to bring a display, as many new faces will be in attendance.

Have you heard enough? Convinced to attend? Try opening the June issue of the nationally known Victorian Homes magazine. You will find an article advertising our club and its annual convention. ADCA thinks you should be in attendance this year. I believe San Francisco is going to be just too great to miss

Changes to Your Roster

Please make these changes to your Roster

Daker, Carl	Email: cjdaker51@hotmail.com
Pearson, Frank Jr.	Fax: 505-421-0167
Bolen, Lawrence	1000 Applewood Dr. Apt 288 Roswell, GA 30076 Phone: 770-968-1331
Mueller, Joe	4722 Bradford Dr. St. Charles, MO 63304-8780 Phone: 636-441-2779
Butler, Klatt	45 Prince St. New York, New York 10012

In Memoriam

Kaitlan (Kacie) Jo Brekhus, daughter of Mel and Candace Brekhus and granddaughter of Tedi Fredrick and Arnie Fredrick (deceased), died on Oct 3, 2003 in an auto accident. She was born on September 13, 1984 in Dubuque, Iowa, and was a freshman at the University of Texas in the Red McCombs School of Business. Kacie was a member of the 2003 pledge class of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority. The ADCA extends its condolences to parents Candace and Mel, brother Tom, grandmother Tedi, stepsister Sonja, stepbrother Dane, and the other relatives and friends of Kacie. (Corrected)



GOVERNANCE

The ADCA Board of Directors

By Len Blumin

The mission statement for ADCA states that we are devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware. ADCA works toward achieving that mission by publishing a regular newsletter, maintaining an extensive archive of historical material, issuing a book on ornamental hardware design ("Victorian Decorative Art") and holding annual conventions where members can gather to enhance their knowledge of the hardware industry and perhaps add to their personal collections. The ADCA Handbook tells a bit about how ADCA works to achieve its mission, and in this article we would like to focus on "governance."

We don't really have a paid staff running ADCA, so we rely on a cadre of dedicated volun-

teers to get things done. The organization has a **Board of Directors** that formulates policies and oversees virtually all ADCA activities. The Board consists of up to 14 Directors, who serve 2-year terms. Maud Eastwood serves permanently on the Board as Emeritus Director, so that makes 15 in all. The officers of the Board have specific functions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer), and are elected annually.

The ADCA Nominating Committee is appointed by the President, and usually consists of past ADCA presidents. **The Nominating Committee welcomes suggestions from the membership about people you think might make a good Director.** Well, just what is a "good director"?

A director has to be willing to play an *active role* in helping get things done. Ordinarily this means attending the conventions, writing articles (like this one!) for *The Doorknob Collector*, and helping on projects, such as assisting with the annual convention, mailing the newsletter and other publications, or volunteering for other tasks that need doing. Most of all a director has to be willing to sometimes forgo his or her personal agenda, and focus on the mission and goals of ADCA, in order to work towards reaching a consensus in matters that come before the board.

The Board meets annually during the ADCA Convention, and holds additional meetings "on-line" by exchanging electronic mail over the internet ("email"), so a potential director needs to be willing to learn how to do "email". Important issues are usually addressed face-to-face at the convention, but email has helped the Board to deal with minor issues during the course of the year in a timely manner. Email is free, and your local library usually can provide both instruction and internet access (for those of you who don't already have a computer).

Please give some thought as to whether you might some day like to serve on the Board of Directors, or perhaps you can recommend someone who would be an asset to the Board. If so, contact Len Blumin (LBlumin@aol.com - (415) 388-4990) or any other member of the Nominating Committee (Win Applegate, Rhett Butler, Maud Eastwood, Steve Rowe).

LOUIS SULLIVAN, AN INTRODUCTION

By Maud Eastwood

Architect Louis Henry Sullivan (1856-1924) was a pioneer in modern architecture in America. He was among the first – and some might say the foremost – of his profession to design the finishing hardware for his buildings, commercial and residential. His passion for ornamentation extended to both the surfaces of his buildings and to their functional attachments.

Sullivan's dream as a precocious teenager was to develop a truly American style of architecture. Endowed with remarkable talent, outlook and drive, and blessed with a moneyed and supportive father, he set about achieving that goal by studying at home, at M.I.T., and abroad, at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. Throughout his career, he cultivated alliances with like-minded professionals in the architectural field.

Sullivan rose from a promising draftsman at the age 17 in 1873 to a full-fledged architect in charge of the offices of Dankmar Adler in Chicago at the age 23, and then to a full partner in the firm of Adler & Sullivan by the age 25. By the age 39 (1895) he had designed more than 100 buildings, including some of the most prestigious in Chicago's skyline.

Shortly after he began his career, the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, and particularly the Japanese exhibit, whetted the public's appetite for articles of more artistic expression than generally found in American wares. Manufacturers of builders' hardware were quick to respond with a rash of largely pseudo-Oriental design doorknobs and plates, as well as designs from pattern makers, often without regard for established artistic principles. While some designs from the era were well executed, others largely defied classification (See L. Blumin's *Victorian Decorative Art* (2d Ed.), pp 6-7 on the Vernacular Period.)

At the same time, technological advances facilitated upgrading hardware quality, both with high relief representational doorknobs (dogs, lions, profiles, etc.) and designs such as Rice, Ivy,

Brocade, Cushion, etc. Classifying ornamental hardware by schools of design of hardware came later. Moreover, in the 1880s a new technique was developed which permitted rustproof satiny smooth cast iron of great detail to be produced (the Bower-Barff process). But more of that later.

The best currently known examples of Sullivan's hardware designs were for the Wainwright Building in St. Louis (1890-91), the Guaranty Building in Buffalo (1896), The Union Trust in St. Louis (1892-93) the St. Nicholas Hotel in St. Louis (1892), and – some would say - his crowning achievement, the Chicago Stock Exchange (1893-94). Architectural elements from the latter are on display in the American wing of the Metropolitan Museum in New York and the Chicago Art Museum. Others might point to his bank buildings in small Midwestern towns as his best work.

With a few exceptions (e.g. Henry Russell, Rodolphe Christesen, Ludwig Kruezing, all patent design awardees) hardware aficionados largely are unable to identify the designers of particular pieces of hardware, and certainly do not have a body of non-hardware designs to relate them to Sullivan is an exception, and the collector should have a feeling for his other designs, be they ornamental, architectural or interior design. To concentrate only on his hardware could be compared (pay attention, this is a joke) to an art expert on fingers who is utterly taken with that small part of the Sistine Chapel but ignores the remainder.

So, in the coming issues, we plan to devote attention to his buildings which have (or had) specially-designed door hardware, and to illustrate parts of those buildings other than the hardware. There are, however, some rather severe limitations on what we know. First, a shockingly large percentage of his buildings have been demolished, and we may never know what hardware they had. Moreover, the drawings done by Sullivan himself are sporadic and include only one drawing of hardware, the Guaranty building escutcheon. Apparently his firm's archives have been dispersed or lost. But at least one of his designs found its way into Yale & Towne's stock items, and there is one Sullivan mystery that took 90 years to solve. Stay tuned.

Souvenir Program Opportunity

Now is the time for all good members
to come to the aid of their club.

The ADCA will be publishing a San Francisco Convention Souvenir Program this year, and everyone (whether attending the convention or not) is invited and urged to participate. We hope to see a creative variety of listings from our membership relating to knobs, hardware, collections, wish lists, etc. The program will include the following.

- A list of officers and Board of Directors
- A list of all attendees of this year's convention
- A convention summary
- ADCA by-laws
- Messages and greetings from members and friends
- Advertisements for **YOUR BUSINESS**



There are tons and tons of pages to **fill** with your advertisements and greetings. Each attendee to the convention and contributor to the Program will be receiving a copy.

You will find more information about the rates and layout in your Convention Packet. Fill out the order form and send it in to Bob Rodder. It is fun and helps out your club at the same time. So take a second look and join in even if you are unable to join us in San Francisco. This is an opportunity for **ALL MEMBERS!**

A limited number of copies will be available after the Convention. If you do not receive a copy and would like one contact us at ADCA, PO Box 31, Chatham, NJ 07928-0031.

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:

Vicky Berol advises that she is still looking for the multiple items of hardware pictured in the January-February, 2004 issue of The Doorknob Collector on page 8. Please take a second look at that issue. If you have come across any of these items, please contact Vicky Berol, 2527 Gough Street, San Francisco 94123, (415) 771-9899, sfgofer@yahoo.com.

Keep In Touch

Membership Items and Roster Changes	Newsletter and Other Questions	Web Site
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