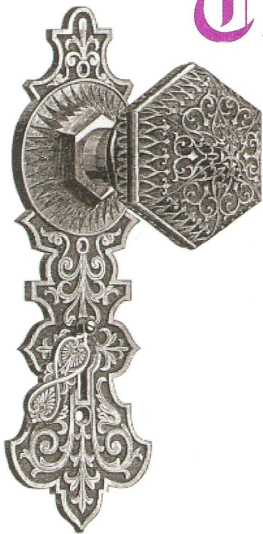


The Doorknob Collector



Number 142

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A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America
A Nonprofit Organization Devoted to the Study and Preservation of Ornamental Hardware

PORTLAND, OREGON

2007 ADCA CONVENTION

By Cathy Galbraith

The annual ADCA convention will be held July 10th – 14th in Portland, Oregon, the perfect time of year to visit the Northwest. This annual opportunity for ADCA members to gather together is always entertaining and educational, both for “old timers” and “first timers”. This year, the convention schedule has been adjusted just a bit, to allow attendance at the “EXPO Antiques Show” (July 14-15) – which is the northwest’s biggest antiques extravaganza.



Hardware room at the Bosco-Milligan Foundation

Highlights of this year’s convention include: a wonderful tour day (Wednesday, July 11th) that will take us to the historic Aurora Colony, followed by a visit to the Bosco-Milligan Foundation’s Architectural Heritage Center, where ADCA has supported memorial cabinets in the Center’s hardware gallery. Rejuvenation, Inc. will be hosting a great reception for the group for the day’s finale.

The convention will have its “buy-sell-trade” days on Thursday, July 12th and Friday morning, July 13th. The exhibit area will be open to the public on Thursday and this portion will be heavily promoted by both the Bosco-Milligan Foundation and Rejuvenation. The always anticipated auction

will take place Friday afternoon, and a professional auctioneer has been lined up to do the “going...going...sold” for us all.

The theme for this year’s displays is “American History”, which is an opportunity to be creative with emblematic hardware and knobs such as the American bison, or whatever your imagination can dream up.

The annual banquet will be Friday evening, July 13th. The headquarters hotel for accommodations, exhibit hall, and dinner will be the Holiday Inn at the Convention Center, which is very close to the Portland Trail Blazers Rose Garden Arena – just across the Broadway Bridge from downtown, in Northeast Portland.

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The hotel provides free parking and free shuttle from the Portland airport (PDX), has an indoor swimming pool and a great workout room – for those with any energy after all that hardware lifting.

The EXPO Antique Show takes place at the Portland EXPO Center, further out in Northeast Portland and an easy light rail ride, on Saturday, July 14th and Sunday, July 15th. This show attracts visitors from throughout the country and is not to be missed. The ADCA will have tables exhibiting some of the members' collections.

So plan to join your fellow “knob nuts” in Portland in July where the welcome mat will be rolled out in style! For more information about Portland as a destination, go to www.travelportland.com

ADCA – Portland – Tour Day

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Aurora Colony

When the California Railway Company built their line through Aurora, Oregon in the 1860s, the town became a favorite stopping point among travelers. Aurora is still attracting visitors to the Aurora Colony Museum and the Aurora National Historic District. Known as “Oregon’s Antique Capital,” the entire downtown area of Aurora is given over to welcoming visitors to the historic buildings filled with antiques and specialty shops. There are approximately 25 shops plus eateries. It is also home to Aurora Mills Architectural Salvage.

Aurora was founded as a “Utopian Society” in 1856 and built from the ground up by Dr. William Keil and his nearly 600 followers. Like the Shakers and other religious Utopian groups of the 19th century, the Colony’s belief system centered on the Golden Rule and the idea that “from each according to his ability, to each according to his need.” Goods were made and distributed within the colony through the colony store without exchange of money and some were sold to outside markets to support the colony. The Aurora settlers had started in Missouri and a scouting party came to the Northwest – first to Washington and then to Oregon to find another location, ultimately establishing itself in Aurora in the fertile Willamette Valley. The Colony thrived until Keil’s sudden death in 1877; without his charismatic leadership, the Colony finally dissolved in 1883 and distributed the property holdings among its members.

Visitors on this trip will tour the Aurora Colony Museum complex consisting of five colony buildings including two colony homes, completely furnished. The museum has wonderful collections of distinctive colony furniture and excellent textiles including quilts. Aurora Colony furniture was usually made from local wood and often painted “Aurora Blue.” The hardware generally consisted of turned wooden knobs with a dowel base fitted into a drilled hole in the drawer or door where it was glued or sometimes just perfectly joined. In later years screws were sometimes used. Metal hardware was made by the town blacksmith.

ADCA members will also take a walking tour of Aurora led by the museum's curator and Aurora scholar Patrick Harris, and then visit an 1869 Colony farm site where schoolchildren and adults have been immersed in the colony experience since 1987. After the tour, there will be a catered lunch at the farm and tour participants will have the opportunity to visit **Aurora Mills Salvage** (owned by ADCA member Mike Byrnes). Some of his extensive inventory can be seen on the website www.auroramills.com

Architectural Heritage Center

The tour will then travel back to Portland to the Architectural Heritage Center, owned and operated by the Bosco-Milligan Foundation. The Center opened in February 2005 after years of planning and a two-phase capital campaign to fully restore the building. The Center offers regular historic preservation education programs, workshops and tours to the public and presents rotating exhibits in its two galleries, one of which is Liz's Antique Hardware Gallery (named for Liz Gordon's estate gift). The Foundation owns one of the five largest collections of historic building artifacts, including a large collection of antique hardware. The collections were salvaged by the organization's founders, Jerry Bosco and Ben Milligan, during the 1950s through 1980s and have been enriched with many donations of artifacts and research library materials. See www.VisitAHC.org for more information.

Rejuvenation

The tour will then make a stop at the famous lighting manufacturer's "flagship" store where reproduction and restored light fixtures are available. There is also a wealth of home furnishings, architectural salvage and reproduction and vintage hardware to browse or purchase. Rejuvenation will host a reception for ADCA and will be promoting in advance the convention's time that is open to the general public. See www.Rejuvenation.com for abundant information on their products and services.

The tour will then return our tired, but happy travelers to the Holiday Inn.

Fig. 1



Sixfold knob
Classic design, 1870's

attached to the spindle in a manner that I had never seen before, suggesting a patented mechanism produced by an unknown (to me) manufacturer. It is difficult to describe mechanical gadgets, even with photos, but I shall attempt to explain how this knob set is assembled, in the hope that someone can track down the patent and perhaps reveal the identity of the manufacturer.

As shown in Figure 2, the knobs are mounted on a

A NEW SIXFOLD KNOB, DOUBLY NEW

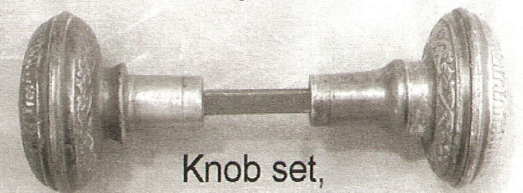
By Len Blumin

Most hardware collectors delight in discovering a design that they have never seen before, and I am no exception. Recently we purchased a set of bronze knobs, on EBay of course, and were happy to find a unique sixfold classic design that was entirely new to us (Fig. 1, Front View).

The design elements suggest that the knob was made in the 1870's. The perimeter design of petals is similar to that of several other knob designs, but not identical (see K-201, for example). The back of the knob also features a sixfold design in the classic style.

As I examined the knobs it quickly became apparent that the design was the least interesting aspect of the set. The knobs were

Fig. 2



Knob set,
full assembled

conventional 5/16" spindle. The shanks of the knobs are slightly tapered, and there are no mounting screws. One knob is firmly pinned to the spindle. The various parts are shown in Figure 3. As you can see, the other knob consists of several pieces. The body of the knob has a threaded post extending toward the end of the spindle. Then there is a strange sort of washer that has a tab extension on the rim. This washer acts as a locking device. When the knob is assembled, by screwing the threaded rod into the end of the spindle, a spring presses against the locking device and pushes it away so as to engage one of four slots in the end of the shank. Figure 4 shows the locking device on the threaded rod, with the spring just visible inside the knob body.

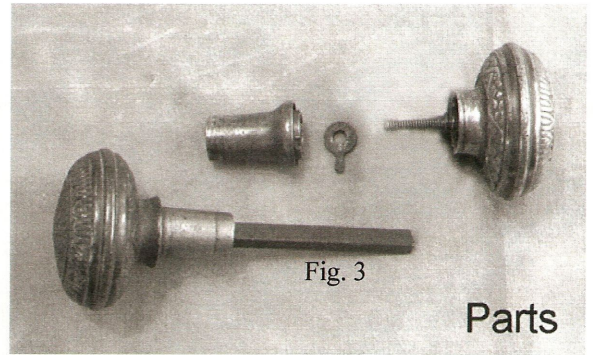


Fig. 3

Parts

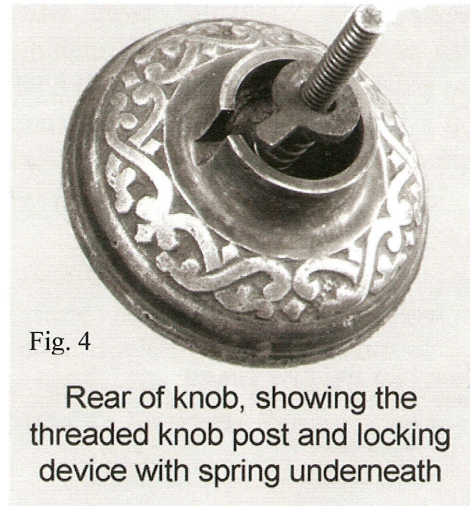


Fig. 4

Rear of knob, showing the threaded knob post and locking device with spring underneath

Now it gets interesting. Figure 5 shows the end of the spindle, revealing the finely threaded hole which receives the threaded post on the knob. It also shows how the shank slides onto the spindle, with 4 slots which face toward the knob body.

In Figure 6 we have begun to assemble the knob by threading the post into the spindle. Now we can see how the spring will push against the locking device. As the knob is rotated, the threaded rod travels into the spindle, reducing the distance between the 2 knobs. The locking device will be engaged in any of the four slots on the end of the shank when the proper mounting distance has been achieved, which of course will happen as the knobs are being mounted on the door. Figure 7 shows another view of the slots in the end of the shank.

Lastly, Figure 8 shows the knob fully assembled, with the knob now close to the shank. The locking device has been pushed away from the knob body, engaging one slot in the shank. The tab on the locking device prevent the knob from rotating, because the tab has become trapped in one of the slot on the end of the shank, and the shank can't rotate. The tab also is trapped in the slot on the knob body, which prevents the knob from rotating and becoming loose. Adjustment was easily accomplished by pushing the protruding tab in the direction of the knob body, causing the tab to become disengaged from the shank and allowing the knob's threaded rod to rotate freely into or out of the spindle.

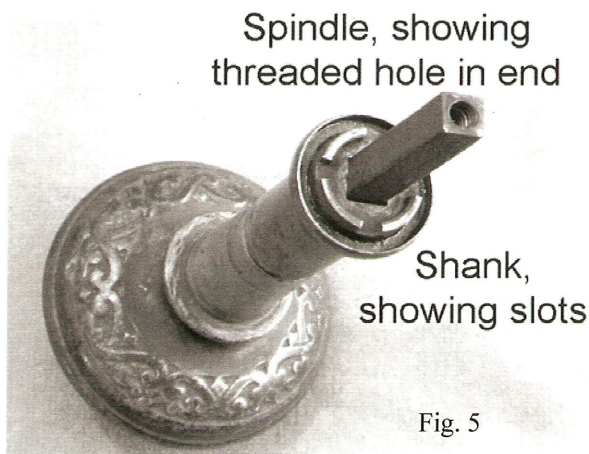


Fig. 5

(Note the spring around the threaded knob post. The spring pushes the locking device against the shank to engage one of the slots)

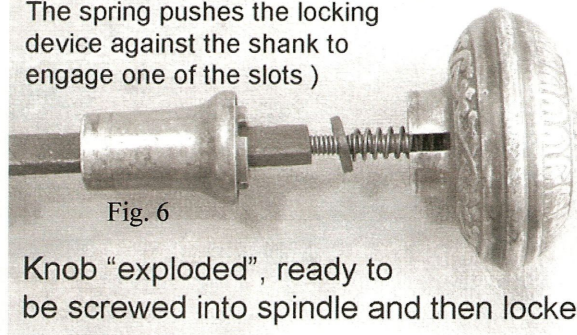
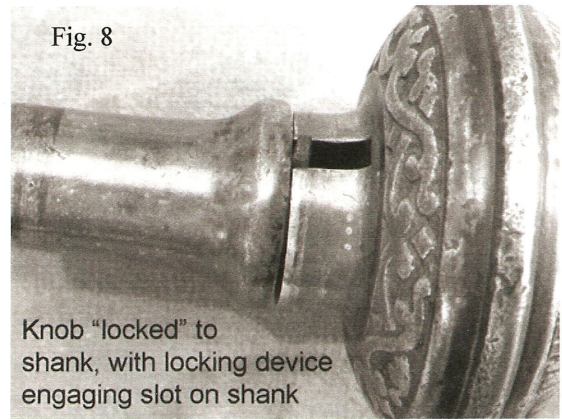
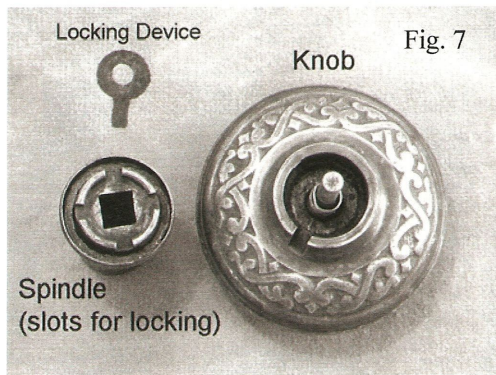


Fig. 6

Knob "exploded", ready to be screwed into spindle and then locked



I fear that this design was not a big seller, which explains why we collectors have not come across them very often. The likely explanation for poor sales is that when the knobs were used it didn't take very long for the normal repeated twisting of the knob to result in fatigue of the metal of the tab, causing it to fracture and fail. If you like to see this unique and interesting piece you can view it at the 2007 ADCA Convention in Portland, Oregon, in July.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Two new interesting web sites have been brought to our attention. First, Google now has a site to search patents. Secondly the University of Michigan hosts a site called "The Making of America" which is a digitized library of over 12,500 books concerning 19th century America, mostly printed then. Google "Making of America" and select the "umich" site. One interesting book in the library is A History of Real Estate, Building and Architecture in New York During the Last Quarter of a Century (1898), pp. 531-543, "Artistic Hardware"

Mark your Calendar
July 10th – 14th
See You in Portland



Victorian Decorative Art – What's To Come

By Win Applegate

Question: “How many of you saw the movie Rambo #1? Wait, wait, before you answer - - it was a trick question.

There never was a movie called Rambo #1. The first in a series, any series, is rarely numbered. So it was with the Victorian Decorative Art. When Len Blumin published his book, it stood alone and, perhaps, a sequel was never given any serious thought. What a gem the VDA was! Created, much of it hand printed and composed without the aid of a computer, the VDA made its mark as it presented a totally new concept in identifying and classifying antique doorknobs. But, of course, you have read the forward in the first update and know my feelings.

So, on to the issue of numbering upcoming ‘updates’. The concept being used to number these updates is not very complex and there is little precedent to support our approach. The first update, and the second in the series, is the initial three ring binder which we call “VDA II”. It contained everything in VDA I, plus a lot more.

At the time of the introduction of the three ring binder VDA II, it was announced that a free 100 knob update (VDA III) with two cross reference listings would follow. Sufficient knobs have been identified and classified by Len to warrant this printing of VDA III. The programs for the cross reference listings, by manufacturer and by date, have been written and are being tested. The numerous “eagle eyed” members within the ADCA have noted errors and provided additional data that we are attempting to include in VDA III. Time to the printer? Hopefully under two months.

Yes, Virginia, there will be a VDA IV. Already there is an arsenal of over 600 knobs waiting. VDA IV will certainly require an additional binder. At least another 100 need to be photographed and identified. For this, a number of our more knowledgeable members will be conscripted to lend a hand. Oh yes, another cross reference listing will be included: a listing by ‘broad type’ such as “*warrior facing left*”, “*school knob*”, “*lady*”, “*monogram/initials*”, “*Masonic*”, etc., etc. Time frame? Hopefully within the year, as I want to move this project along before I have to upgrade my computer, again. Recap:

Original bound book - VDA

3 Ring Binder - VDA II (Includes VDA)

100 Free Knobs - VDA III – Pending

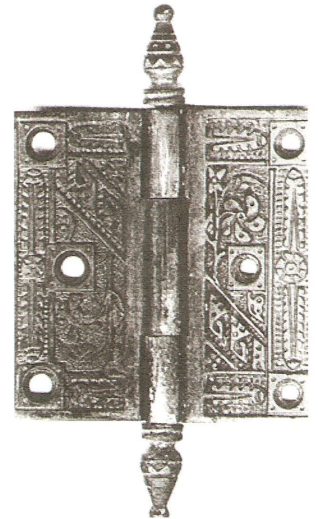
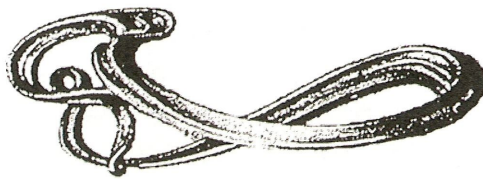
Second 3 Ring Binder- VDA IV - Pending

The Doorknob Exchange

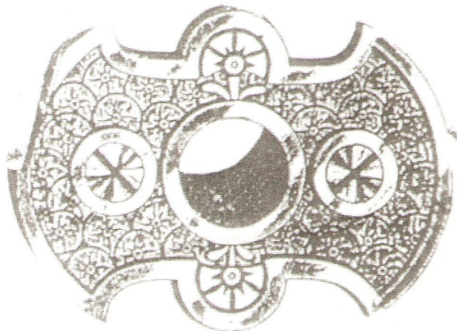
Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

Wanted: Vicky Berol of Gofer Unlimited, 415-771-9899, sfgofer@yahoo.com is looking for the following four items:

- 1) Need ten "Ceylon" strike plates and eight 3.5" hinges, steeple finials (not ball finials), in cast iron, bronze plated or brass. (right)
- 2) Art Nouveau Drawer Pull (Louis Majorelle design) (below) Looking for many, but would be happy with a similar design or even a reproduction.



- 3) One brocade brass escutcheon (below).



- 4) One pressed brass escutcheon (right)

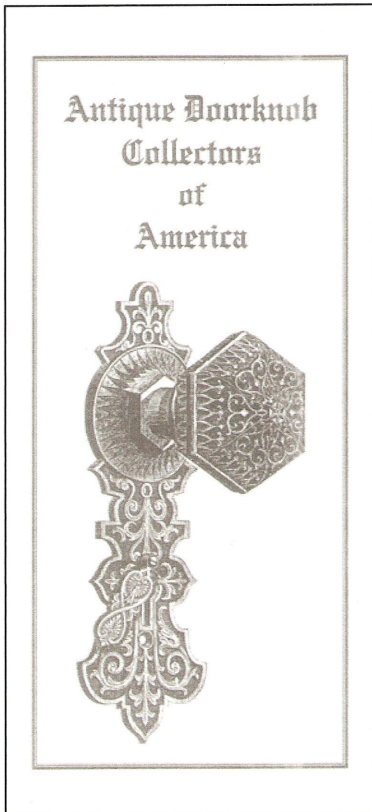


For Sale: Vicky has for sale a complete K-214 (Mallory Wheeler "Arabic" design) interior lock set with knobs in excellent condition, \$100. (below)



ADCA Brochures Available

Many of our members have used the brochures that the club provides. If you are having a "show and tell" or display of your collection please let us know. We would like to provide you with brochures about the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. Just let us know how many you would like and we will get a package off to you. You may email us at Knobnews@optonline.net or send a note to Box 31 (see below).



We have included a copy of the ADCA brochure in this newsletter. Take a good look at it. It provides a bit of history about the use of ornamental hardware in America. There is also a section on how there was a renewed interest in this art form during the 1970s. The result of all of this was the establishment of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. Finally there is a membership form on the back of the brochure.

Some members carry a few with them when out looking for new hardware. If you start up a good conversation about your hobby, often others would like to know more. This is the perfect opening to discuss the club and give the interested person a brochure.

Most of our new members now come from the web, but we still get a few by word of mouth and even receive brochure membership forms that have been picked up at an antique store or from a member of the club.

Membership

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