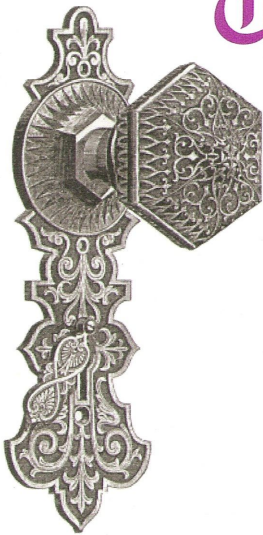


The Doorknob Collector



Number 144

July – August 2007

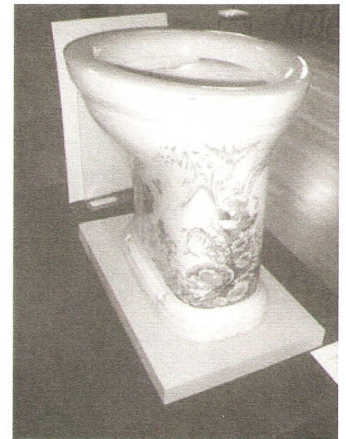
A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

A Nonprofit Organization Devoted to the Study and Preservation of Ornamental Hardware

PORTLAND WAS GREAT!

By Allen Joslyn

Everything about the Portland Convention was wonderful, but to this observer, two aspects stood out. The first was the tour day, to Aurora, the town for sightseeing, and Aurora Mills, the architectural antique shop, for buying, and then to the spanking “new” Bosco-Milligan Foundation’s Architectural Heritage Center. The Center- has to be seen to be appreciated. After entering and passing the huge lithograph of the Russell & Erwin plant (donated by Marshal and Vicky Berol), the Liz Gordon hardware room is to the right. It has three beautiful display cases donated by the ADCA and two other cases, full of a wide selection of hardware, mostly knobs, and it will have more. One of the cases has a bottom with numerous small drawers and the plan it is put knobs in the drawers (not removable, of course). The other large display area is on the first floor and displays various antique architectural elements, such as highly decorated Victorian commodes and elaborate woodwork, both interior and exterior. The remainder of the Center is composed of two large meeting rooms, the library, staff offices, and, in the basement, a work room and storage areas.



The Bosco-Milligan Foundation operates a number of different programs, lectures, tours and other events, as can be seen from its publication “News & Notes” and its website, www.visitAHC.org.

After visiting the Architectural Heritage Center, the group was treated to a reception at Rejuvenation. Bo Sullivan of Rejuvenation also was the speaker at the Banquet, presenting a wonderful show of historic advertisements for, and examples of, architectural decorations, such as window blinds.

The other highlight of the Convention was the number of “newbies” who attended. All together, there were eight members for whom this was their first convention. We were happy to welcome Nigel Barnes (#771) of Portland, OR, John (#342) and Millie Becker of Bremerton, WA, Shari Chenoweth (#799) of Newberg, OR, Keith (#754) and Sarah Chilcote of Salem, OR, Norm Gholston (#790) of Portland, OR, Harry (#131) and Ann Parkhurst of Palm Desert, CA, Bill (#57) and Marge Varitz of West Linn, OR, and Cary Pasternak (#105) of Pasadena, CA who accompanied an “old-timer”, Bud Wolski. The numbers following their names indicate that some had been members for many years. But at least one attendee, Shari Chenoweth, had not even been aware that the ADCA even existed until two months ago. It just goes to show that it is never too soon or too late to make your first trip to the convention. So if you have never been, plan to be there next year.



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Shari Chenoweth started collecting doorknobs when she first got an allowance, at age 5. Her family made yearly trips back to Missouri, and would stop at antique shops on the way. She saved her money and bought knobs. She grew up; married still believing that she was alone in the world, at least as far as collecting doorknobs went. Two months ago, however, someone at Aurora Mills mentioned the existence of the ADCA and, even more amazingly, that it was to have its convention in Portland! Needless to say, she signed up, and after the auction, left with many more knobs than she came with. Welcome home, Shari.

Annual Meeting Highlights

At the Annual Meeting, the directors whose terms expired this year were re-elected for another two years, and the officers were also re-elected for a one –year term. Steve Rowe is the President, Brad Kittel the Vice-President, Rich Kennedy the Secretary and Allen Joslyn the Treasurer.

Steve announced that Loretta and Ray Nemecek had volunteered to host the 2008 Convention in Illinois next July, and the proposal was unanimously accepted.

Roster Update in Next Issue

The updated roster will be included in the Sept-Oct Newsletter so be sure your membership is up to date so your name will be included. Check your expiration date on your mailing label.

TWO VERY INTERESTING KNOBS APPEAR

By Allen Joslyn



Among many others, two interesting knobs turned up in Portland. The first, with the inscription “Door Knob Pullers Club 1927” belongs to Linda Smeltzer. The knob was first mentioned in two other TDCs (No. 62 and No. 63) in 1993-94, but its origin has never been explained. What is most interesting is that the inscription is on the back of the knob, in a place it would never be seen when the knob is installed on a door. So we are left with two questions: what was this “Club”, and why did they hide the inscription? Perhaps to demonstrate that one had to “pull” the knob off the door to read it? But what was the point of that?

The second knob shows a fireman holding a child, presumably just rescued from certain death.

Charlie Wardell said many years ago that it was among his favorite knobs, and Marge Bornino has one as well. She believes that it came from a Firemen’s Fund Insurance Company Building. Incidentally the knob was brought in by a member of the public just at the end of the public hours, and promptly changed hands. You gotta stick around and move fast!



Exhibition of Interest in New York City

Several TDCs ago we noted the exhibition at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Museum in Utica, New York entitled “**A Brass Menagerie: Metalwork in the Aesthetic Movement**”, which included, in addition to brass furniture, lamps, etc, some of our favorite aesthetic hardware.

It has now moved to the Bard Graduate Center, 18 West 86th Street, New York, NY, 212-501-3023, www.bgc.bard.edu, and will be open through October 14th. Unfortunately it does not then move to anywhere else.

Thoughts from First-Time Conventioneers

I think I speak for both Keith and myself when I say that the convention was a terrific experience. It was great to finally meet people face-to-face that we'd only been corresponding with for a long time. Having so many people together who love old hardware was practically a religious experience! And we made some great business contacts as well. Some of the collections people brought were wonderful.

We're lucky it was so close to us, and we'd love to continue to come to the conventions. It will be difficult for us to travel far as we've got three young kids, but we're certainly going to try. Thanks.

Sarah Chilcote

I found it [the convention] very interesting. I wasn't sure what to expect – I guess I thought that most of the attendees would be simply “collectors” rather than the very knowledgeable folks that I met. Of course, there were people there who were more or less just trying to acquire that one special knob or show off their collection, but overall I'd say that I found a bunch of people who were really into the historical aspect, the practical aspect, and the sheer love of old hardware. A bunch of nerds like myself! It was fun. It was also a good way to connect with the growing network of businesses that specialize in antique hardware. Regards

Nigel Barnes

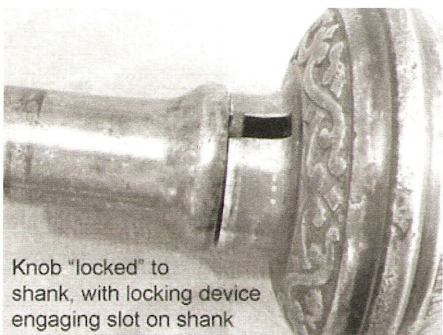
Hi there, thank you for the opportunity of sharing my wonderful experience at the convention this year. It was such a pleasure to finally meet people that have the same interests as I do. The wealth of knowledge was unbelievable. I want to thank everyone at the convention for making me feel like I belong. It's a wonderful thing to fit in somewhere with people who have the same interests.

I do know that I plan on attending the convention next year. I look forward to seeing a lot of new knobs and interesting items. Can't wait for auction. Thank you so much for welcoming me into the ADCA.

Shari Chenoweth

Explanation of Knob Attachment

By Maud Eastwood

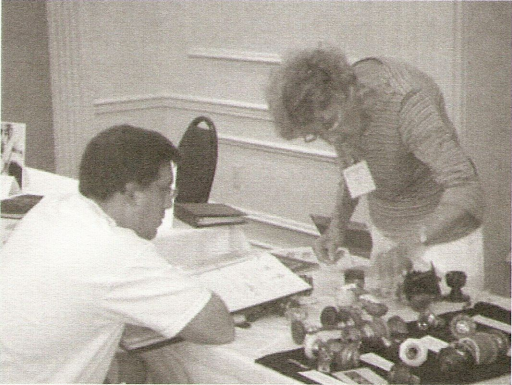


Len Blumin's excellent photography capabilities have not diminished since producing his incomparable *Victorian Decorative Art*, door hardware collector's prime reference guide. This assessment was borne out by viewing the detailed prints of his recent sixfold acquisition [see the March-April 2007 newsletter]. Indeed, the knob's design was new to me. However, the mystery of the unusual attachment was not, as I own a copy of the H.J.P. Whipple patent covering this method. The patent date: July 29, 1873; Patent No. 141,408. Pages 176 through 178 in *Antique Builders Hardware, Knobs & Accessories*, cover the Parker & Whipple Co., who manufactured and made this type available. Note the patent drawing detail page, 178, and other information.

Regretfully, I do not own a set of Whipple hardware. However, I do have a knob with the cut-out slot in the end of the abbreviated metal shank. (see illustration)



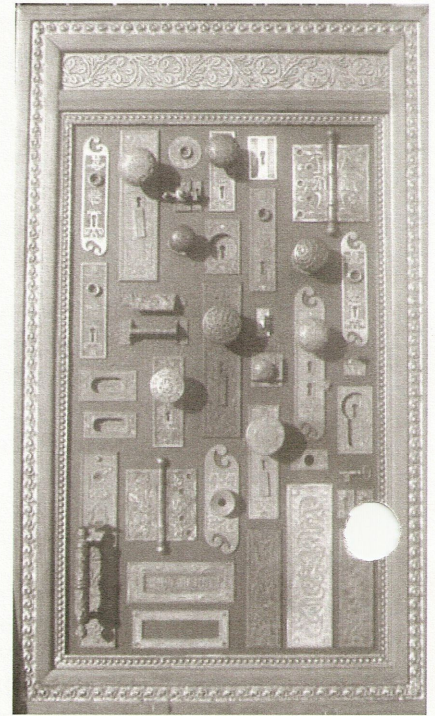
ADCA Portland Convention 2007 - We had a great tour and a great picnic on our Tour Day



Maud Eastwood and Jason Thorp



Display Contest Winners: Marge Bornino, Steve Takes, Bo Sullivan



Bo Sullivan won Best of Show with this Mallory Wheeler "Arabic" design display



Diane Hannum



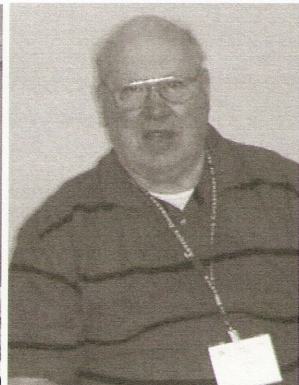
Cary Pasternak, Mark Aitken and Nick Doto



Corbin enameled knob



Sheri Chenoweth



Don Pearson



Marge Bornino - Wins Most Original Display



Bettie Madison



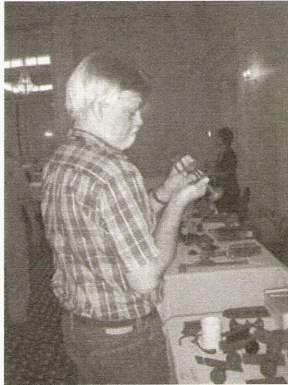
Jackie Rode



Win and Carol Applegate



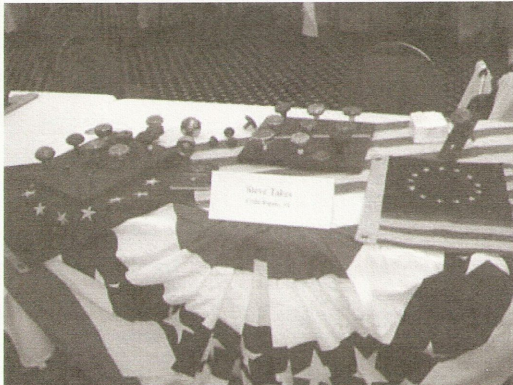
Courtney, Steve and Taylor Takes



Norm Gholston



Elaine and Donald Shreve, and Linda Smeltzer



Steve Takes won Best of Theme with this patriotic display



Richard Perris and Rhett Butler



Harry and Ann Parkhurst and Cathy Galbraith



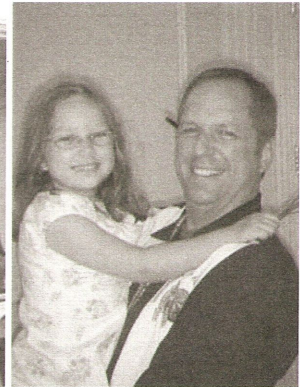
Skip Willet, Bud Wolski and Cary Pasternak



Jennifer Lamphier enjoying the banquet with Harry and Ann Parkhurst



Maud Eastwood and Philip Austin



Bo Sullivan with his daughter, Sarah



Skip Willet, Liz Gordon, Bud Wolski



Len Blumin, Rich Perris and Brad Kittel seated

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