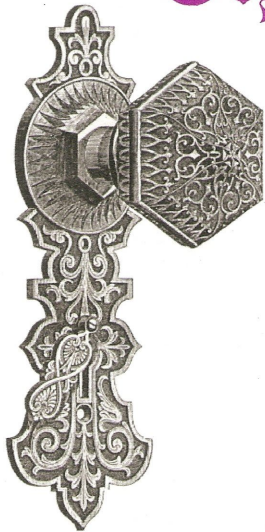


The Doorknob Collector



Number 146

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

An Interesting Find

By Faye Kennedy

While cleaning out my mother's apartment, I came across this casting; front and back views appear on the left. This casting appears to be quite old and is formed of a silver metal (possibly Britannia), but the most intriguing thing about it is the resemblance of the design to Len Blumin's A-102 "Lion" knob.



A-102

This knob is attributed to the Metallic Compression Casting Co. (MCCCo) with R. E. Mfg. Co. (Russell & Erwin) sole agents.



The R&E. version of this Lion knob casting exhibits far superior casting, yet the design and size appear to have been cast using the same pattern. We noted the Lion's mane features were identical, thus, if not from the same pattern, surely a clever copy. The unfamiliar company name -- Central Foundry Co., Marshalltown, Iowa, -- led to a concerted search for information as to its history or company records.



So I contacted the Marshalltown Library and they were only able to find mention of one foundry in Marshalltown's past. The reference librarian says they used the city and county history books as well as city directories in their search. The only foundry located was the "Marshalltown Foundry and Machine Shops" of B. T. Frederick & Co. The local history expert found but two mentions of it in the local "Marshalltown Statesman" newspaper, one being in the December 16,

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ADCA Convention – Lisle, Illinois – July 8-11, 2008

1883 and the second in January 1, 1884. The item from December 16 was an advertisement, which read: "Marshalltown Foundry and Machine Shops General Manufacturers. Keep on Hand and Make to Order All kinds of Machinery, All kinds of Machine Castings, Shafting Hangers, Pulleys, Iron Columns and Brackets. Window Caps and Sills, Door Plates, Balcony Railing, Balastrading and all kinds of Ornamental Iron Works. Orders solicited. Satisfaction guaranteed. B. T. Frederick & Co., Marshalltown, Iowa."

The January 1884 information was found in the section titled "Manufacturing Industries".

"FOUNDRY AND MACHINE SHOP OF B. T. FREDERICK & CO. This is one of the oldest and best known manufacturing establishments in our city. In fact it dates its inception among the first of our infant industries, gaining as the demand for its capacity and work comes and keeping pace with the best of our newer manufacturing houses and full up to all the trade requires. It is located on the corner of Second avenue and Linn street, occupying 180 feet square, a large portion of which it covers by its machine shops, foudry [sic], store and other buildings. The capacity of the foundry department is very large, proably [sic] is as extensive as any in the state. They supply the principal buildings in Central Iowa with all the iron work, such as columns, door-sills, stairs, etc., besides all kinds of castings for machinery. They do the principal casting for the Central Iowa Railway, the Diagonal, or W. I. & N. They also make a specialty of all kinds of mill machinery. Manufacture and set up all kinds of steam engines. In this latter line particularly they excell, building engines which have no superior in the country and which are sent to all parts of the West. They employ from 25 to 30 skilled machinests [sic] and moulders constantly and have a capacity in machinery to do any work of the most modern improvement. The firm is composed of B. T. Frederick and J. M. Gilchrist, practical machinests, thorough business men and supplied with a large and ample capital to meet their fast growing business."

Additionally, in my search to find information on the Central Foundry Company, I found a listing in "The American Bar" by James Clark Fifield - 1918 - Lawyers [see entry below]. Through this lead was a reference to a Mr. C.K.E.Boardman who was the lawyer represent-

ing the Central Foundry Company at some point between 1894, when he was admitted to the bar, and 1918 when the aforementioned book was published.

"Marshall town, 16,026, Marshall Co.
Marshall town State Bank
Boardman, C. K. E.

Born Marshalltown, Iowa, Aug. 16, 1870; a. to bar 1894, Iowa; ed. Pub. Schs., Marshalltown; grad Cornell College, B. S. 1892; legal ed. Law office, City Atty., Marshalltown, 1906. Mem. Iowa State Bar Ass'n; general practice.

Attorney for; Mpls. & St. L. Ry. Co., first National Bank, Marshalltown State Bank, , Iowa Savings Bank, Western Grocer Co., Marshalltown Buggy Co., Central Foundry Co., American Products Co."

I was not really able to pin down the dates that the foundry was in business, but all in all I find the casting interesting to doorknob collectors.

Maud Eastwood looked further but found neither the name, Central Foundry Co., nor the name B.T. Frederick, in any related R. &E. material, patents, history - nothing. But, she was persistent as usual and found a full-page ad for the MCCCco, published prior to their acquisition by R&E., where the company was trying to sell rights to their "Process" to Foundrymen and other manufacturers. This ad can be traced to the late 1860s, for the following article and quotes were published in the report of S. Kneeland, Esq., Secretary of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at the Ninety-Sixth Meeting, held April 1, 1869, and published in the Boston Transcript, April 7, 1869, Professor Runkle in the Chair. It reported that

"--this new process greatly surpasses the old mode with respect to beauty and certainly of execution." [But there is no mention of the founder's name that was using the old method.] At some point an MCCCco. Representative (according to this ad) passed around examples of casting to encourage comparison of their new method to the quality of casting made by the old way. Among examples shown were two of the Waterloo Medal, one, a casting made by the old method, and one made by compression casting method using the same pattern."

The report also stated that "The old style medal looked, certainly, very coarse in comparison with the same medal made by metallic compression" and that "--the best specimen of casting made by the old style--by the most noted firm in this country" was inferior.

Is it possible that my find was the "inferior casting" to which the report refers? Tempting as such speculation may be, it seems rather unlikely. First, there is no identification of the design involved in the "castings" compared in Boston in 1869, and thus no reason to suppose that they were of a lion, or even doorknobs. Why would a Boston manufacturer rely on an Iowa foundry? Is it likely that an Iowa company, which is otherwise unknown, would be characterized as "the most noted firm in this country". Moreover, the lion knob was in fact patented by Ludwig Kruezinger of Cambridge, Mass. in 1870, who had assigned it to MCCCco., who had in turn assigned it to R&E (Patent No. 4097) – no Iowa connection there. There is thus no reason to wonder where MCCCco. got the Lion design. An equally plausible theory is that whatever those castings in 1869 in Boston may have been, the relationship between the Central Foundry casting and the Kruezinger knob is that sometime after 1870 Central Foundry copied it from a real Kruezinger knob and used it as an advertising piece.

A second interesting point should be mentioned. The Metallic Art Works of Boston had a short corporate life extending from January of 1871 to the early spring of 1873 when it was dissolved. During its existence, the Metallic Arts Works was under contract with, and license from, Russell & Erwin, to manufacture exclusively for them, Compression Bronze Builders' Hardware. This information was taken from a "To Whom It May Concern" notice circulated by Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company, March 28th, 1874. There is, however, no reason to associate them with the Kruezinger Lion design, since that patent was issued 6 months before the Metallic Arts Works Company came into existence (and the patent application was obviously filed well before then). Moreover, Kruezinger produced a number of other designs which he assigned to MCCCco.,

his apparent employer. So why doubt that he was the origin of the original lion design?

Further study may come up with some actual answers, but for now it remains "An Interesting Find".

A Note from the Editor.

Another interesting example of the design of a finely detailed knob being used in a more crudely cast advertising piece is the so-called "gutta percha" (which it assuredly is not) knob of a weeping child illustrated in TDC No. 139, p. 6 (origin unknown), and the crude casting of a quite similar design from a Philadelphia foundry shown below.



THE 2008 ADCA CONVENTION

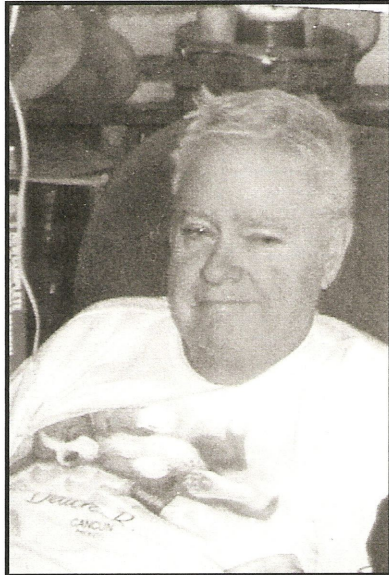
The sponsors of the 2008 Convention, Loretta and Ray Nemeč and the Bonnie and Tom Otte, have selected the locale, the hotel and the dates.

It will be held in Lisle, Illinois at the Lisle Wyndham Hotel on July 8-11.

The Hotel is 18 miles from O'Hare Airport and 25 miles from Midway Airport. For those staying over the weekend, there is a free shuttle bus that takes you to the Amtrak train station, which runs directly to Chicago for \$5.00 round trip. Once in Chicago everything is within walking distance or can be reached with the free shuttles.

Remembering Dick Hubbard

By Win Applegate



Dick Hubbard (# 192), passed away Saturday morning, November 17, 2007. He had conquered cancer and sparred almost daily with diabetes and heart disease.

Dick served in the armed forces, the Airborne, from the Korean to about the Vietnamese War. He retired after a distinguished career from the Hackensack, New Jersey Police Force.

In the world of collecting, he danced over that solid double yellow line between locks and doorknobs. Initially a lock collector, he served on the Board of Trustees of the Terryville Lock Museum. With a membership number of 192, I would guess that he did not join the ADCA until about 1989.

I remember receiving a note from him, introducing himself and suggesting that we meet. As our friendship grew, there was something in the way and it turned out to be mutual. Eventually, we expressed our concerns. With a strong handshake, a deep look into each others eyes and a hearty laugh, we both apologized, in advance, for anything we might say that could offend the other and destroy what we hoped would be a lasting friendship.

Funny, I can not remember Dick ever saying anything that would have offended me. Dick was just a peach of a fellow!

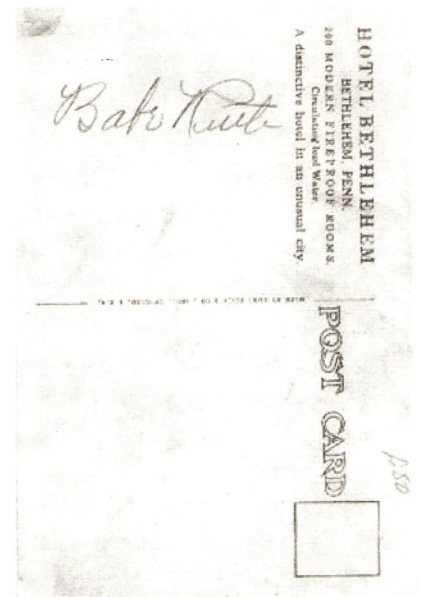
Hubbard's best friend was John Guisti, a Brooklyn locksmith. John didn't drive so, with Dick driving, after picking John up in Brooklyn, they covered the Northeast extensively. They hit all of the flea markets; often both sleeping in the car to be there when the gates opened, typically before daylight. Occasionally, Carolyn Hubbard accompanied them, particularly to the lock conventions in Terryville and Indianapolis.

If Dick had a 'flat side' it was his claustrophobia. The family does not know exactly when it developed as he was flying as a paratrooper at one point in his life. This phobia meant that he drove everywhere, even to Winnipeg, Canada and the first Portland Convention.

I once asked him why he didn't take the train and he said "*Because I can't get out and walk around when I want to.*" In convention hotels, he could be seen carrying boxes of hardware up four or more flights of stairs because he did not favor elevators.

As mentioned in TDC #'s 107 & 110, Dick liked to marry up knobs from hotels and other buildings with post cards from the same.

The 2001 convention in Bethlehem PA was headquartered in the Bethlehem Hotel. In time, Dick located a Bethlehem Hotel post card. Later, upon examination, the back of the card had the signature "Babe Ruth". Valid? Did the card seller notice it and ignore or just miss it? All questions never to be answered. Shortly after the post card incident I was visiting my alma mater, Lehigh Uni-



versity in Bethlehem and in the Linderman Library was an exhibit (what timing!) documenting the occasion when Babe Ruth visited Bethlehem, PA and stayed in the Hotel Bethlehem. To my nonprofessional eye, the signature was valid.



Dick's collection, unlike mine, contained few insignificant knobs. Probably the most notable, but not necessarily the most valuable, is a knob from the Sushan Airport. This article is already too long; the knob is covered in appropriate detail in TDC #116.

Earlier this year John Guisti died. Dick spent hundreds of hours helping the auctioneer prepare the auction catalog with John's locks. I understand that the auction went off within the last few weeks.

Our typical routine was that we would visit and have lunch at our favorite diner in either town. Dick came to prefer my diner so he would drive down and bring a bag of his latest finds and we would each do a "show-n-tell". In later years, between good friends, it was no longer a trading session. The event was more of a 'gifting' session where value for value was no longer important and we often knew what would be exchanged before we saw the 'other' piece. This is one of the things that define a friendship.

On Monday, November 12, he called and mentioned another minor stent procedure later in the week. He reminded me that now, outside of his family, I was his best friend. We set a tentative date for the following week after the procedure. He had had several of these procedures prior. After the successful stent procedure, things

turned south and our next "gifting" session was not to be.

Dick's greatest legacy was his family. In addition to his wife, Carolyn he left twin daughters, Nancy and Penny and oldest son, Richard. His other son, Sean and his wife, Claudia, gave him his much talked about grandson, Aidan.

Richard Crosby Hubbard was 72.

CORRECTION

The September-October 2007 issue of *The Doorknob Collector* should have read No. 145, **not 144**.

Our New Members

We welcome our 23 new members who have joined the ADCA since the first of the year.

Jo Ann Fischer	Fullerton, CA
Douglas Fritz	Marion, WI
Kathleen Kinkead	Winnetka, IL
Shari Chenoweth	Newberg OR
Elaine Chrysler	Denver CO
Shizue Davis	Cranford NJ
Joseph Davis, Jr.	Houston TX
Robert Dickensheets/SCAD	Atlanta GA
Frank Dvorak	St. Charles MO
Jo Ann Fischer	Fullerton CA
Douglas Fritz	Marion WI
William Gainey	Flint MI
Norman Gholston	Portland OR
Forrest Henry	Elk Grove CA
Nancy Hocker	Galion OH
Kathleen Kinkead	Winnetka IL
Michael McComb	Brush Prairie WA
Jim McLaughlin	San Antonio TX
Daniela Patterson-Wyatt	Richmond VA
Milt Pertl	Erie PA
Cherie Powell	Topeka KS
David Stienon	Madison WI
Robert Swisher	Urbans IL
Jason Thorp	Gresham OR
Vicky Troy	Gastrop TX
Kathy Wilding	Nipomo CA

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.

For Sale: Thinning Our Collection:

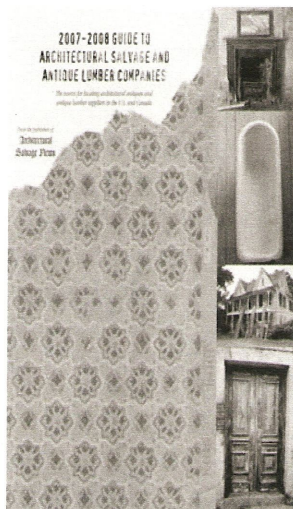
We have large numbers of identically patterned doorknobs in iron and brass for sale.

We also have certain patterns of escutcheons, hinges, and window locks in quantity, and patterned mortise locks in small numbers. We can match several other simple Victorian patterned doorknobs in small numbers.

Please contact John and Sharon Decker (#141), with specific inquiries at sgdeckerbak@msn.com or PO Box 918 Bakersfield, CA 93302-0918, or (661) 323-7850

For Sale: A book from the publishers of Architectural Salvage News. Using this book you can find architectural antiques -- including antique doorknobs!

The 2007-'08 *Guide to Architectural Salvage and Antique Lumber Companies* lists all the architectural salvage companies in the U.S. and Canada, along with their websites. It's the easiest way to find what you're looking for.



Price is \$12.99. Order at <http://www.architecturalsalvagedirectory.com>

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