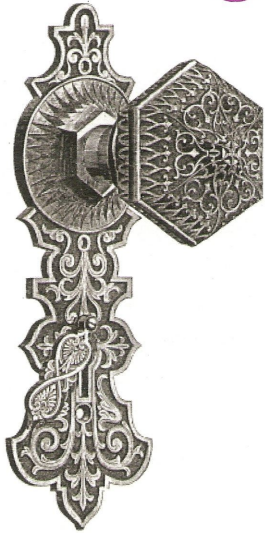


The Doorknob Collector



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

2008 ADCA Convention Jewels of the Door

By Loretta Nemec

The theme for the ADCA 2008 convention, *Jewels of the Door*, cannot be fulfilled unless you bring your Jewels with you. By now you have received your convention packet and placed the reminder on the door (remember the door hanger that was in your packet?) How many times have you passed that door hanger and said to yourself, “**I better send in my registration?**” Well, the time is drawing near. The convention won’t be much fun without you. A few days of “get away” will serve as a nice refreshing and revitalizing of oneself. Come reacquaint yourself with the members. We are a friendly group.

You say, “I haven’t much of a collection to bring” well, bring them anyway, and by the end of the convention you just might have a nice collection, at a reasonable price, to take home. At one convention a member had to purchase a suitcase to carry home his treasures. Another member stated that at the convention he is like “a kid in a candy store”.

If you’ve never been to a doorknob convention --- **this is the year.** Illinois, being centrally located, is a short drive from many of the states. Or if time permits, take the train from Oregon or California, or St. Louis. In the past we have taken the train to California, what a wonderful experience that was and when we got there we were relaxed and refreshed. Once in Illinois’s Union Station, the Metra will take you direct to Lisle or Naperville.

I have tried to have this convention as economical as possible, by having the convention just two days, you save yourself the expenses of another hotel night, for a saving of \$100 and the hotel parking is free that is another \$25 to \$39 per night savings.

Again, featured at this year’s convention will be the ever-popular display contest in the following categories:

Best Display of “Door Jewels” – Best assortment of every type of hardware that could be used on a door.

Best Hardware Display by Novice - First time conventioneer/collector

Most Creative Display - Judged on the creativity of members display.

Another added feature for this year is “**I have one of those.**” Members are encouraged to bring what they think is a rare or possibly one-of-a-kind doorknob. The conventioners will agree or disagree, how else would you know!

See you at the convention!



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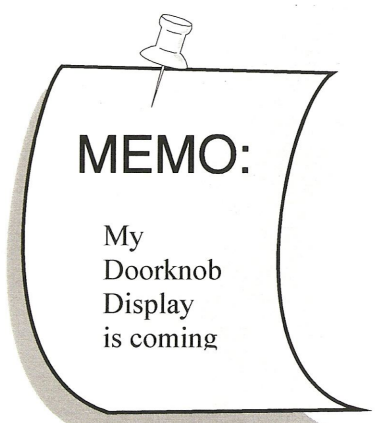
Calendar of Upcoming Events

By Faye Kennedy

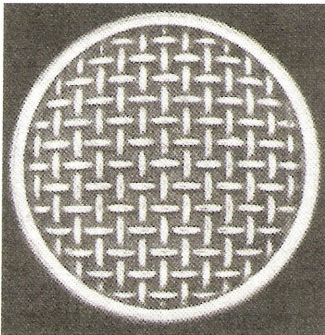
There is going to be a new page on the ADCA website. Our members are often asked to display their collections or to give talks to local organizations. Now there is a place to put that information on the website in a timely manner so others will have an opportunity to know of these displays.

How do you get your information out there? Just email or write to us and we will get it posted on the website. Our email is knobnews@optonline.net and our address is ADCA PO Box 31, Chatham, NJ 07928-0031.

So let others know of your displays and lectures. There are people out there who are interested and will come if they get the information in time.



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:

Debbie Fellenz is looking for a set of hardware, including lock and hinges, in the pattern of D-127 (see picture), contact imnotpops@aol.com or 314-352-1384.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

The Door Knob Pullers Club

A recent issue of TDC (# 144) showed a knob bearing (on the back side, where it could never be seen if the knob were on a door) the words "Door Knob Pullers Club 1927". Some of us speculated that this may have been a predecessor of the ADCA, lost in the fog of ancient times. A great mystery – quick, get me Indiana Jones on the satellite phone!

Sorry, but there recently appeared another Door Knob Pullers Club item – a small non-functional knob-escutcheon type item, pictured here. The knob bears the inscription "The Door Knob Pullers Club 1923". Above the knob is the inscription "Whats Behind This Door You Never Can Tell", and below the knob "The More You Pull, The More You Sell". It seems apparent that the Club was some sort of organization of salesmen in the 1920s who assembled to spur themselves on – to pull every door they could find to make their sales - and probably awarding themselves these mementos at an annual gathering. Since no particular product is mentioned, I infer that the members of the Club sold different things, but were united in aggressive salesmanship. The depression presumably was the end of the organization.



The Union Trust, First Two Floors

The last issue of TDC featured an article on the Union Trust Building in St. Louis, and tried to describe the first two floors, before they were butchered in the 1920s, but I did not have any photographs at hand. The building was a big deal; at the Chicago World's Fair it was the only building designed by Adler & Sullivan which was exhibited, where it was "hung apart from the mass" of drawings by other architects". (National Register of Historic Places, Nomination Form for the Union Trust) Apparently the drawing did not survive; it was only because of commercial photographers in St. Louis and the archives of the Missouri Historical Society that we know what it looked like.



Picture Courtesy of the Missouri Historical Society

So what happened to the files of Adler & Sullivan and then Sullivan as sole practitioners?

They must have produced drawings and blueprints by the truckload. Yet the largest cache of Sullivan drawings numbered only 132, which were given by him to Frank Lloyd Wright on the eve of Sullivan's death. There are various explanations of the paucity of Sullivan records; here is a selection:

(1) Sullivan did not direct that any of his records be retained, but some younger architects asked George Emslie, Sullivan's long-time assistant, to collect Sullivan's drawings and records for deposit in some public library. Reportedly, however, Emslie was a bad choice because he had a habit of throwing away any paper he happened upon, and he destroyed Sullivan's diary, because, as he said, "who wants to read that old stuff, and it probably wasn't very important anyway". Connelly, Louis Sullivan As He Lived (Horizon Press, 1960), p. 14-15. On the other hand, Emslie in fact saved a number of drawings which ended up in the collections of the University of Michigan and the Art Institute of Chicago, and he also showed Sullivan's diary to Hugh Morrison, see below.

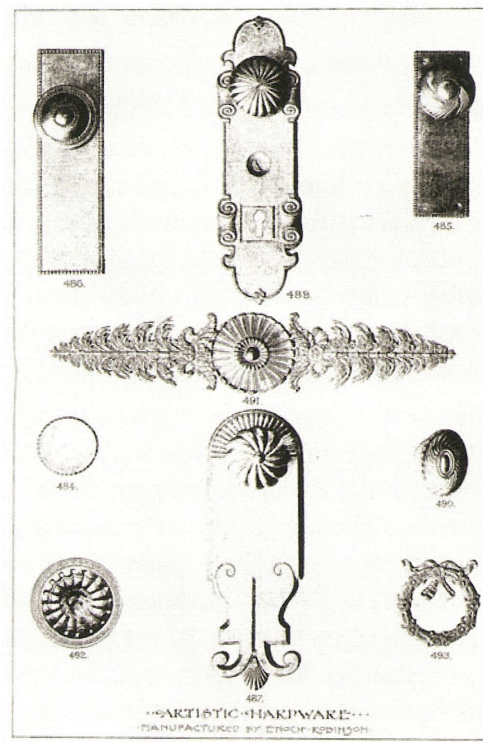
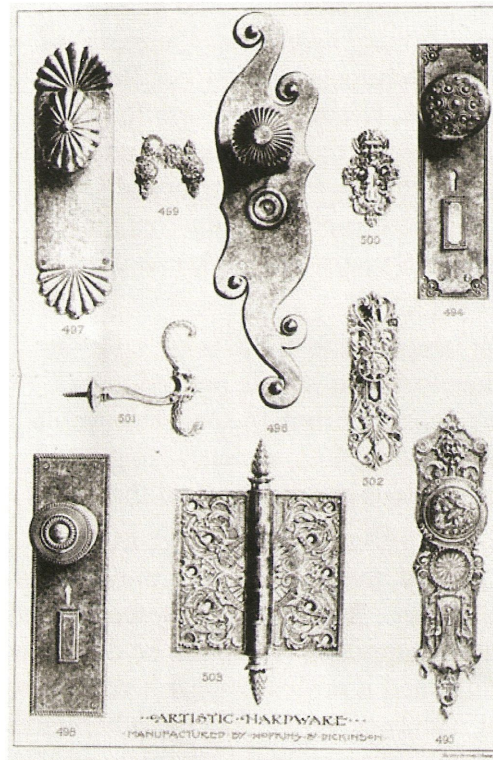
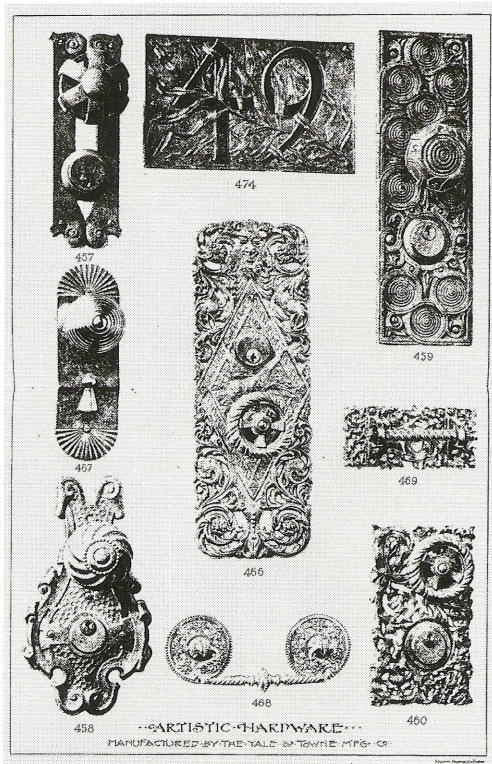
(2) Sullivan's office records were lost in a fire, Cahan, They All Fall Down: Richard Nickel's Struggle to Save America's Architecture (The Preservation Press, 1994), p. 67

(3) In 1918, Sullivan placed his office drawings and other records in storage, gave three boxes of negatives to a photographer, and closed his office in the Chicago Auditorium Building. "What happened to the stored material is anyone's guess, although some of it has surfaced from time to time." Twombly & Menocal, Louis Sullivan, the Poetry of Architecture (W. W. Norton, 2000), p. 171. The source of this information is two pages of Sullivan's diary which Emslie allowed Hugh Morrison, Sullivan's earliest biographer, to transcribe; Morrison later gave Richard Nickel a thermo fax of the transcription, and Nickel allowed Tim Samuelson to make a photocopy. Id., p. 434, n. 2

The probable explanation for the loss of most of the records and drawings is that it would take money to store them, and for what? The buildings owners had their buildings and probably had no interest in drawings of ornaments. Adler & Sullivan dissolved, and that would have been a likely time to throw away a lot of records. Then, as Sullivan's individual practice contracted, and he fell out of favor, the financial burden of keeping an archive of drawings would have become unsupportable. The buildings – the whole focus of the architect – had been erected and were the best representation of the architect's vision. Drawings and paper designs were mere preparations, easily disposed of once the building was built. This, of course, fails to recognize that economics renders buildings dispensable and led to the demolition of most of Sullivan's creations, but that drawings can be forever. The comparable lesson is that Victorian buildings may come down in droves, as they did, but the scavenged hardware can be forever - in the right hands (to wit, ours).

Blackhall Revisited

In TDC #145 (incorrectly numbered 144) we noted that Clarence H. Blackhall's 1890 Builder's Hardware: A Manual for Architects had been reprinted by Kessinger Publishing, but that the reprint omits several oversize pages showing "artistic hardware". Thanks to Bo Sullivan, we can now reproduce pictures of those missing pages.



Questionnaire Response

By Faye Kennedy

I have come to the conclusion that a **Collector is a Collector**. At the time of this writing we received 50 responses and they are still coming in.

I thought it might be fun to see what your fellow DOORKNOB COLLECTORS also have squirreled away in their homes. The only information I gathered was the items that are cherished by various members. Some of them definitely take up more room than the doorknobs.

This was fun. The club will receive \$1.50 for each response so I want to thank all of you who participated by filling out the green questionnaire that was inserted in the last newsletter. So here goes!

WE ALSO COLLECT:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Advertising items; jigsaw puzzles, paperweights, trade cards | Gemstones | Post cards |
| Animal items; cows, frogs, dogs | Genealogy | Posters, movie, etc. |
| Antique cars | Glass and glassware | Pottery |
| Architectural articles | Glass insulators | Print blocks |
| Art; antique and other by various artists | Glass shades for lamps | Quilts |
| Baseball records | Golf memorabilia | Radio programs, old |
| Beanie babies | Hair pins | Records, old |
| Beer items: cans, coasters, Matchbox cars with beer logos | Hardware; door, other related, building and furniture, doorbells | Rugs |
| Bells, antique and doorbells | Hats | Scarves |
| Bookmarks | Hotel memorabilia, soaps | Schwinn bikes |
| Books | Ice cream scoops, antique | Seltzer bottles |
| Bottle openers | Jewelry; antique, Mourning, cufflinks, earrings, hat pins | Shells |
| Bottles | Knives | Shoes (2) |
| Brass stencils | Laural Burch | Shot glasses |
| Buttons | Lighting; antique | Slot machines |
| Byers carolers | Local history items | Stamps (8) first day covers, Air Mail |
| Cake stands | Locks and keys | Stones, rocks, beach rocks |
| Chicago water tower | Magazines | Swizzle sticks |
| Children's books | Magnets | Telephones |
| Classic cars | Marbles | Tools; wooden planes, yard sticks, hand tools, cast iron levels, belly drills |
| Clocks | Mechanical music | Toys, antique |
| Coins and paper money | Metal forms; grates, stove plates, etc. | Victorian Easter/Christmas items |
| Cook books | Model trains | Watches |
| Cookie jars | Mortar & pestles | Western/cowboy |
| Dickens' heritage houses | Natural history items, bird nests, pressed flowers, insects, etc. | Windows; leaded glass, stained glass |
| Dolls; antique, Barbie | Netsuke & ojime | Wine |
| Elevator indicators | Nouveau statuary | Worlds fair, 1933-34 |
| English chintz china | Paper crafting supplies | Victorian dishes |
| Fabric | Patterned glass | Victorian apartments |
| Flower frogs | Photos of Victorian homes | Yard art |
| Furniture; antique | Pinball machines | |

Opportunity Awaits – Newsletters Online

By Faye Kennedy

Members often ask how they might help from home. Well, here is a great opportunity for members who have access to a computer and Adobe writing software. The club has been talking about getting past newsletters up on the website to be able to further our goal of education about doorknobs and related hardware but we do not currently have the proper software to complete this project here in the office. We need some help.

We have several years of newsletters that need to be converted to pdf files. These will then be posted on our website. The newsletters will be posted as they are completed, so do not be overwhelmed by the size of the project. An hour here and there by our members would make light work for all and really contribute to the purpose of the ADCA. You might even have a son or daughter who would be willing to do some volunteer work for our club. We all know the young people know how to do this stuff.

If you can help us with this project, please contact Faye Kennedy to make arrangements to receive the files. Call 973-635-6338 or email knobnews@optonline.net.



THANKS

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

Full convention schedule will be in your souvenir booklet which will be in your convention packet upon arrival.

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