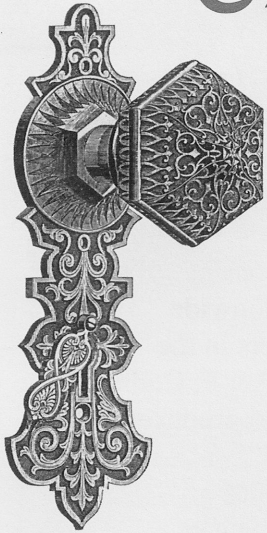


The Doorknob Collector



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

ON THE HUNT

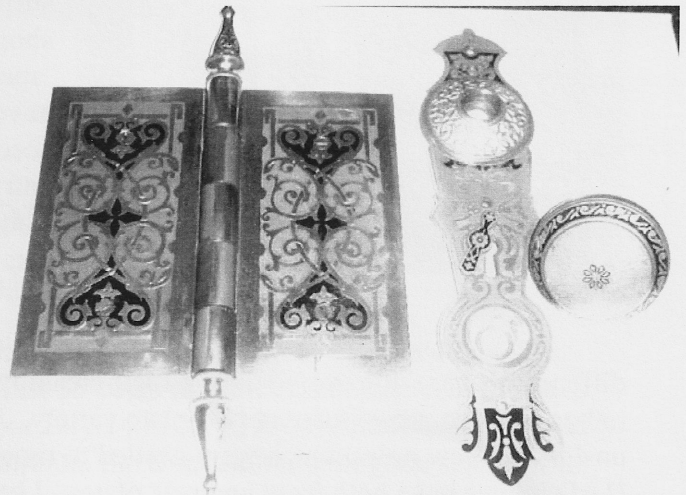
By Stephen Rowe

The ‘hardware hunt’ has been our favorite pastime for many years now. Countless flea markets, thousands of antique stores, years of attending ADCA conventions and now eBay, have produced many new pieces for our collections. After so many years of pursuing that ‘special find,’ one would think we had seen it all. This is simply not true as evidenced by the new items and patterns which frequently surface in the marketplace. Recently, I have had the privilege of finding several good items.

When I attend annual ADCA conventions, I usually plan for several days of hardware hunting prior to its start. This years’ convention in Chicago was no exception. Taking a red-eye flight and arriving early Sunday morning allowed a visit to the Kane County Flea Market, only two hours after landing. This flea market has a long history of providing hardware to ADCA members and I first heard about it when reading the TDC issue #24, July 1987. The market was enjoyable, providing me with numerous purchases, but not the ‘special’ find.

The following day, Tracy and I were joined by Rhett Butler in our exploration of the treasure

houses of Chicago. We were able to visit several architectural shops including *Salvage One Antiques* and *Urban Remains*, which were within blocks of one other. I was familiar with *Salvage One* as it had been referenced by other ADCA members and I enjoyed visiting it, although it was disappointing to see older artifacts such as hardware being phased out in favor of newer “retro” styled products. *Urban Remains* on the other hand, had a varied inventory of Victorian-era forward artifacts, including art glass, lighting, building ornaments and hardware. I was able to obtain a nice 2 3/4” Corbin J-104 over-sized entry knob to add to my collection.



Hopkins & Dickinson black and blue enameled hardware

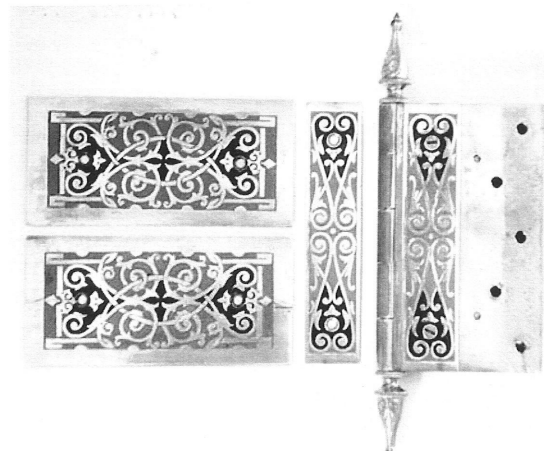
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A final shop, several miles away, was named *Cavalier Antique Lighting* and is owned by long term ADCA member Stefan Lys. Stefan's shop was literally packed with good lighting and hardware, making it somewhat difficult to see everything available! This shop provided me with a remarkable find, several pieces of 1870's Hopkins and Dickinson (H&D) black and blue enameled hardware (see pg. 1). This type of hardware is very difficult to find and in the many years of collecting I have only found examples made by Corbin and Russell & Erwin.



documentation is unknown. Hopkins and Dickinson's 1879 Catalogue, pg. 6, references gold plated enameled hardware in all colors, but until these examples surfaced it was largely unknown that representations of their line existed.

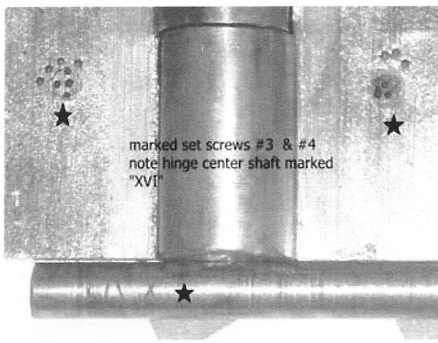
Enameled hardware was only made for a very short time and was extremely expensive to produce. Corbin began manufacturing a line of enameled goods in 1874, but discontinued shortly thereafter due to a nationwide economic depression allowing for few buyers in the marketplace (The History of the House of P.& F. Corbin, pg 58). It is assumed that Russell & Erwin also produced their enameled hardware during this same period, but credible



Interestingly, a single knob and plate in this pattern appeared on eBay during the last few years. Not surprisingly, it was the mate to the set purchased in this shop. A personal thanks to Stefan for parting with these 'special finds.' The knob purchased, K-101, appears to have had both a slight design and profile change to accommodate the enameling process (above left). The entry plate and large hinges pictured here appear to be the same examples which are pictured in the 1879 H&D catalogue.

The hinges are manufactured similarly to other high quality bronze hinges of this era, but several notable differences were discovered during their cleaning. First, the hinge is made with four hinge plates rather than the more frequent two-plate variety. Removable hinge plates were designed to cover the unsightly screw holes which were needed to mount the hinge, but detracted from their design. These H&D hinges have both front and rear plates. I believe the extra plates were made to help keep production costs lower as plates could be made to order and simply attached to a stock supply of hinge halves. Also noteworthy was that all hinge plates, halves and center pin were marked at manufacture to insure a proper fit (See TDC #143, May-June 2007), Tricks of the Trade - Hinges), H&D, however, went a step further by individually marking each screw hole to the corresponding screw (see pg 3). This is remarkable when one considers just how small of an area there is on the back of a screw shaft! Screws were marked with dots and then dots were placed at each corresponding screw hole.

Another good find occurred just this last month when I was fortunate to attend the Lock Collectors Convention in Connecticut with Rhett Butler. This was my first visit even though many other ADCA members have attended over the years. I was pleased to see Carolyn Hubbard and also Andy Himmen ADCA member #784. Andy had several tables filled with door hardware for sale and will be attending next year's convention in Hartford. The Lock show provided both Rhett and I with the opportunity to purchase a Russell & Erwin bronze push plate pictured in the 1875 vol.2 catalogue (see pg. 3). This nice Neo-Greco designed push plate is not easily found and we were delighted to add it to our collections. The show was well attended and the group was eager to discuss their collections.



We ended the day with a tour of The Lock Museum of America. Located in Terryville, Connecticut. The museum is operated by Thomas F. Hennessey and his son Tom Jr. It was established in 1972 and contains thousands of locks and hardware ephemera, including many rare doorknobs and pieces of home hardware. The museum is worthy of a visit and fortunately it will be included as a tour site for the 2009 ADCA Hartford Convention. I would encourage you all to attend next year's convention as this site will be one of the highlights of the convention. Besides, isn't it time for you to go out 'on the hunt' again?



ADCA 2009 CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT!!

Next year, 2009, our annual Convention will be held in Hartford, Connecticut. Connecticut was, of course, the epicenter of fine builder's hardware in the last 35 years of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. The Convention will run from July 14 to July 17. Brimfield is being held from July 14 through July 19, so you should be able to combine the Convention with good hunting.

Hartford is accessible by air through the airports in New York City, Boston, Massachusetts, and Hartford's own airport. Our Hotel, the Hilton, is working on a free shuttle from the Hartford airport. If you fly into New York City or Boston, you may need to rent a car, and access to a car is essential if you plan to attend the Brimfield market. Bring your flashlights - Brimfield starts early - and your hats, as it will get hot.

Junior Memberships Available

Thanks to the attendance of Vincent Castro (12 years old), with his mother, at the last Convention in the Chicago area, together with a recent email from an 11 year old, has prompted the Board of Directors to establish a Junior Member category, for those 18 or younger, at the rate of \$10 per year.

In Memoriam

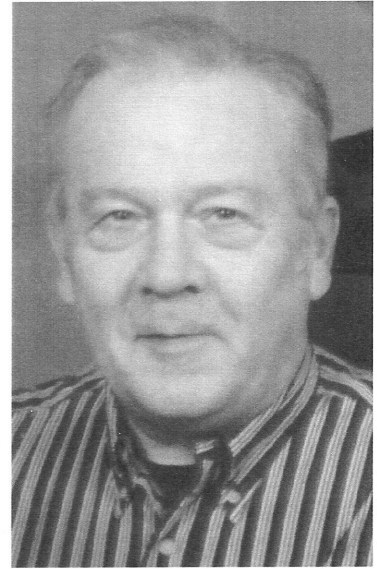
Robert W. Rodder (#167) of Oreland, Pennsylvania died Monday, September 29, 2008 after a long courageous battle with leukemia. He was 70 years old. Bob was born, raised and educated in Philadelphia. He leaves behind his wife, Barbara, and their two daughters, Kristin and Pam along with their husbands Ben and Ken. His grandchildren, Megan and Ava will miss PopPop very much.

Bob was a very active member of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America attending many conventions. He began collecting in the 1970s, joined the ADCA in 1989 and attended his first convention in 1990. Bob served on the Board and was the host of the 1997 Convention in King of Prussia Pennsylvania. He was a familiar face at the conventions and a friend to all. His family reminded us that he loved his hardware although we all knew that. Bob will be missed by all who knew him.

Bob worked for nearly 47 years at AT&T including several months volunteering and assisting with repairs after hurricane Andrew hit Florida.

Bob's work with AT&T was as a long line technician. He was responsible for keeping AT&T's lines and equipment running throughout the Philadelphia region. Bob served in the United States Army in the early 1960s. He served in ASA Intelligence in Germany during his Army service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, 2 International Plaza - Suite 245, Philadelphia, PA 19113 or Rosenfeld Cancer Center at Abington Memorial Hospital, 1200 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001.

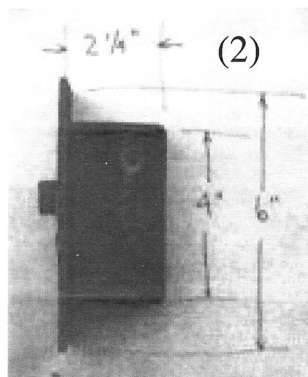
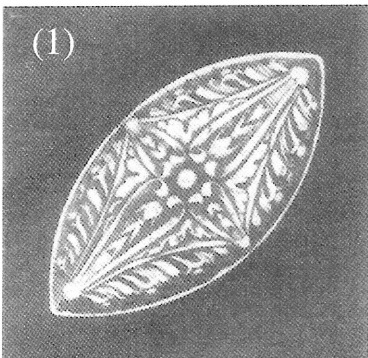


The Doorknob Exchange

Members are reminded that their membership entitles them to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge.

WANTED BY GOFER #1 (Vicky Berol, sfgofer@yahoo.com)

- (1) Marquise interior knobs, N-101, 3/8" spindle, many needed;
- (2) One Russwin mortise lock, Backset 1 3/4", faceplate 1 1/4".
- (3) Six crystal doorknobs, 2 1/4", plain glass knob, no faceting, rounded face, silver foil, brass neck. It has a straight shank style. The knob is solid glass, no ribs paneled sides. The center of the knob where it joins the shank is foil.



(3) The knobs are this shape, but have a straight shank

Additions to the ADCA Website

By Faye Kennedy

Take a look at the club's website at www.AntiqueDoorknobs.org and see what is new. We have added the possibility to download past newsletters by going to Newsletter Archives. There you can view all the newsletters from December 1981 through January-February 1996. I have put in a listing that is a combination of an Index and a Table of Contents. Often the title of the article did not really inform the reader as to its contents, hence the combination.

There are also many interesting items that are not noted in the listing that are well worth reading. Three former regular columns that are not listed are The Open Door by Ray Nemece, Bits and Pieces by Win Applegate, and Kennedy Komments by Rich Kennedy.

The availability of these old newsletters to the public fulfills the educational requirement that goes along with our nonprofit status. More newsletters will be added as we get them scanned. The most recent newsletters will not be put up on the website.

We want to thank two of our members who offered to do the scanning. Douglas Cox is one of our newer members who read about the need and dove right in. Steve Hannum has been a member since 2000 and he is offering his services as well. The two of them have saved the club a great deal of money by helping us get these old newsletters into a form that you can search online. Thank you gentlemen.

Yet Another Opportunity to Volunteer

HANDS NEEDED FOR OUR AUCTION PROGRAM

By Faye Kennedy

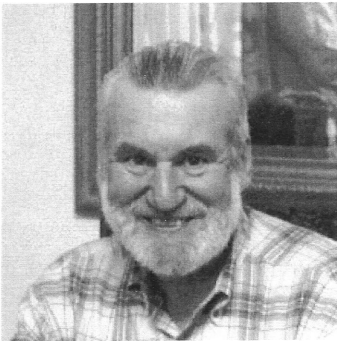
Every year at the convention we use an Auction Program to balance bought and sold items for each member who participates in the auction. The only problem is that it takes a human to run the program. That may mean that you can help with this yearly chore.

Wanted: Someone willing to learn a VERY SIMPLE AUCTION PROGRAM. Each year we use a computer program at our annual auction that has been programmed in Microsoft Access. However, the person running the computer program does not need to know how to use Access because it is self-contained and quite self-explanatory program that was written specifically for the ADCA. It calculates the amount of money each participant in the auction spent and sold and deducts the club's share. It allows the reckoning to be completed within minutes at the end of the auction (rather than hours like the old hand calculations took).

Presently only Win Applegate and Faye Kennedy know how to run the program. Since we have conventions at various locations, it is not always possible for either Faye or Win to attend every convention; therefore we need members from different locations to know the program. I would like someone who is attending the Hartford convention to be willing to sit with me while I work on the auction and see the program in action. **I PROMISE IT IS VERY EASY!!** If you can navigate the web, you can run this program. Please contact Faye Kennedy at knobnews@optonline.net or 973-635-6338.

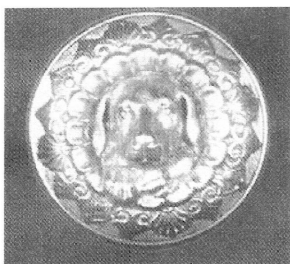
Meet Your ADCA Board Members

This is the second in a series. We would like all our members to know a little about who is on the ADCA board so we asked them a couple of silly questions like "What is your favorite knob?" We all know that you really can't answer that because we love them all.



Len Blumin (#3)

Mill Valley, California

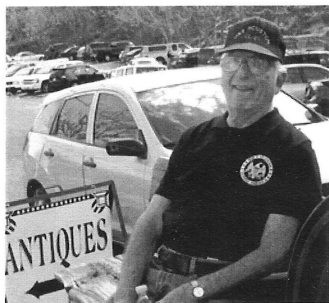


Len Blumin is the author of Victorian Decorative Art which has become the bible for collectors and he was a prime mover in forming the Antique Door-knob Collectors of America and bringing us all together.

Patti and I started going to flea markets in 1975 to buy simple hardware for a door, and discovered ornamental hardware instead! Just kept going back for more! Ended up with about 3,000 knobs, most of which are now gone. We have kept a selection of our favorite pieces from the era 1870-1890.

I worked for 22 years as an Emergency Physician in San Francisco, at what is now California Pacific Medical Center, retiring at age 52 to pursue a life with more hardware, more birds, and less stress. Restoring our 1994 Victorian has been a labor of love, shared equally by Patti and me. We are both active in Audubon Canyon Ranch, a nature preserve north of San Francisco, where Patti has served as a docent for over 25 years teaching kids the rudiments of nature. I have worked in various capacities on the ACR Board of Directors, serving as Treasurer and President. We are also avid supporters of PRBO Conservation Science. These days we are out bird-watching at least 2-3 times a week, and plan most all of our vacations around birding activities. Look forward some year to a convention in Cape May, NJ, famous for both its Victorians and its birding. Email address: L. Blumin@aol.com

Do you have a favorite knob? Yeah, I'll tell you after you tell me who's your favorite child! I guess I favor the original MCCC knob designs, and I remain partial to the Kruezinger Doggie, A-101.



Norman Blam (#176)

Cedarhurst, NY



Norm Blam, a native of Brooklyn, served in World War II in the Pacific, and retired as a Naval Captain in 1987. Norm and his wife Cheryl became members of ADCA in 1989 after reading Maude Eastwood's book, and finding out there was a doorknob club.

The first convention they attended was hosted by the Byingtons in Iowa City, IA,. Norman became a Board member that year, and they along with the Applegates helped Ed & Flicka Thrall host the Windsor, Ct. convention in 1990.

Email: nycblam@aol.com

Do you have a favorite knob? Norman's taste ranges through all types of knobs, but his favorite is A209, the Steam Ship in Len Blumin's Victorian Decorative Art. A close second would be the Devil knob although he has not been able to find any information as to its origin. Maude Eastwood feels, it is extremely rare and old just by the nails in the rosettes.

The Blam household is full of doorknobs in baskets and on the walls, and in an English Shirt case which Norman had to put a support column in the basement to hold up the floor because of the weight of the knobs. If ever a member is on the east coast and would like to visit or see Norman collection let him know

ADCA Items For Sale

Think Holiday Shopping

By Faye Kennedy

This year at the Convention in Lisle, IL, black cloth bags were offered with Antique Doorknob Collectors of America printed in white. The bags measure 14 x 15 inches. I use mine to carry curriculum to a class I teach. They are great to keep in your car for simple shopping and you can go "green" with this black bag as well. Cost is \$3.00 each.

We also still have some beautiful 3/4 inch facsimiles of some classic doorknob patterns that were made by Rhett Butler for the ADCA. They are enamel on brass and come in four patterns and two styles.

You may purchase either a hanging charm (as pictured) or a lapel button. They are copies of A-104, "Flying Bird" (reddish-brown enamel), A-105, "Two Birds" (blue enamel), A-304, Parasol Woman (red enamel) and B-109, a Christensen design (green enamel). Some members have purchased two to make earrings. The cost is a real bargain at \$3 per charm.



Send orders along with your check in US\$ to ADCA, PO Box 31, Chatham, NJ 07928-0031



Let us know of your displays or talks so we
www.AntiqueDoorknobs.org

Our Business Members

<p>Al Bar Wilmette Platers Owner: Greg Bettenhausen 127 Green Bay Road Wilmette IL 60091 Phone: 866-823-8404 Web Site: albarwilmette.com email: info@albarwilmette.com</p>	<p>Albion Doors & Windows Owner: Larry Sawyer PO Box 220 Albion, CA 95410 Phone: 707-937-0078 Fax: 707-937-0078 (call first) Website: www.knobsession.com Email: bysawyer@mcn.org</p>	<p>Antique Door Hardware Collector Owner: Tom Iannucci 2611 Silverdale Drive Silver Spring, MD 20906 Phone: 240-595-1115 Web Site: www.antiquedoorhardwarecollector.com/ email: rebecca.iannucci@comcast.net</p>	<p>Architectural Salvage, Inc. Owner: Elizabeth Werhane 5001 N. Colorado Blvd. Denver, CO 80216 Phone: (303) 321-0200 Website: salvagelady.com/</p>
<p>Back Door Warehouse 2329 Champlain St. Washington, DC 20009</p>	<p>Discovery Architectural Antiques Owner: Brad Kittel 409 St. Francis Gonzales, TX 78629 Phone: 830-672-2428 or 888-686-2966 Fax: 830-672-3701 Web Site: www.Discoverys.net Email: bwk@discoverys.net</p>	<p>House of Antique Hardware Owner: Roy Prange 3439 NE Sandy Blvd./PMB 106 Portland, OR 97214 Phone: 888-223-2545 Fax: 503-231-1312 Web Site: www.HouseofAntiqueHardware.com Email: Sales@HouseofAntiqueHardware.com</p>	<p>Liz's Antique Hardware Owner: Liz Gordon 453 South La Brea Los Angeles, CA 90036 Phone: 323-939-4403 Fax: 323-939-4387 Email: Shop@LAHardware.com Web Site: www.lahardware.com/</p>
<p>The Brass Knob and Back Door Warehouse Owners: Donetta George and Ron Allen The Brass Knob 2311 18th St. N.W. Washington, DC Phone: 202-332-3370 Fax: 202-332-5594 Email: BK@theBrassKnob.com Web Site: www.theBrassKnob.com</p>	<p>Webwilson.com Owner: H. Weber Wilson PO Box 506 Portsmouth, RI 02871 Phone: 800-508-0022 Web Site: www.webwilson.com Email: Hww@webwilson.com</p>		

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