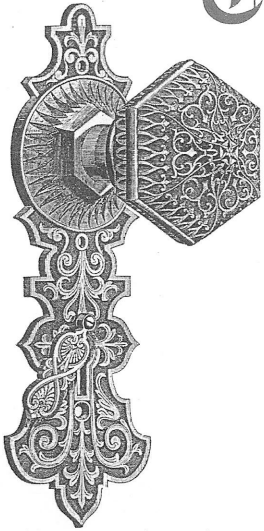


The Doorknob Collector



Number 169

September-October 2011

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

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

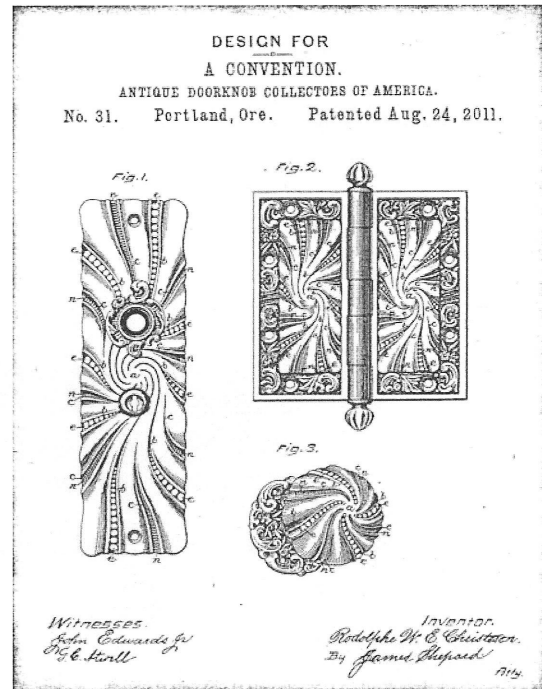
FUNKY, FUNNY, FUSTY PORTLAND CONVENTION

The 2011 Convention was a blast. The most interesting part of it was where it was held, the McMenamins Edgefield outside Portland. It was converted into a hotel from what was originally the Multnomah County Poor Farm, built in 1911. The concept – progressive as you would expect around Portland, was to create a self-sufficient colony to support the poor, destitute and homeless, and it appears to have been very successful for some 70 years. But times changed and it closed and abandoned until Mike and Brian McManmin bought it. They had a number of Portland pubs which featured their local brews. Over the years they restored the complex and tried to re-create a large measure of the Farm’s self-sufficiency. They make their own beer, wine, whiskey, jams, fruits and who knows what else.

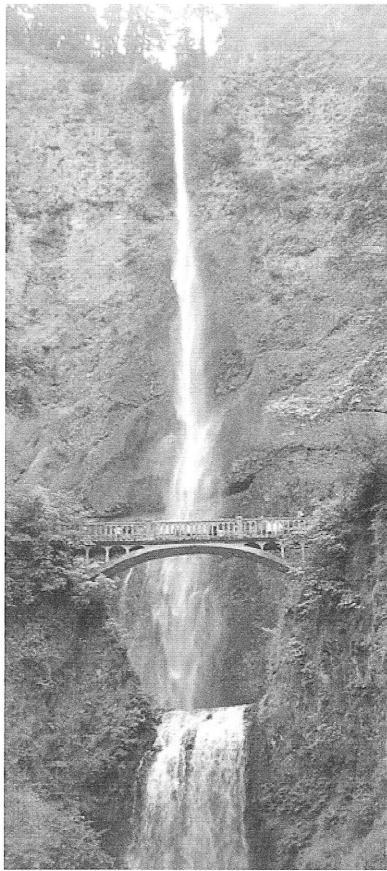
The Hotel has original scripts and pictures in each room, a number of bars and restaurants, and hot tubs. What it does not have is a telephone, air-conditioning or a TV in any room. One gets the distinct feeling of staying in a hotel in about 1920 – you almost expect to see cars of that era pulling up and discharging passengers, flappers and well-dressed gents, to be sure.

The place is immensely popular in Portland – it was pulsing while we were there and a rock concert, expected to tie traffic up for miles, was scheduled for the night of the day we left. The hotel was certainly different from our other venues. Bo Sullivan, the Chairman of the Convention, certainly chose well. And the sponsors of the Convention – E. R. Butler, the House of Antique Hardware and Arcalus Period Design – should be applauded, at length. Bo also designed the very clever “Proposal for a Convention” brochure cover illustrated on the first page of this newsletter.

By the way, this is not the only hotel run by the brothers McMenammin. They have applied the same formula – historic hotel and fun – to other venues in Portland and Washington.



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Monday was the tour day, and started with a bus trip up the spectacular Columbia River Valley and its waterfalls. A point of historical interest – until the beginning of the last century when a road was blasted into the Valley, the only way to get to Portland from the West was by Boat. The Columbia is a major waterway for transporting freight from the Pacific. There is no point in trying to describe the waterfalls – see the attached picture.

After the bus trip we visited Temple Beth Israel and The 1928 Temple which in addition to being beautiful had some very interesting hardware, including a knob showing the Lions of Judah flanking the Ten Commandments. It also had a really neat front door handles (illustrated). The 1892 Mackenzie house had fabulous woodwork.



Lunch was had at the Architectural Heritage Center, together with viewing a new exhibition of glass knobs, as well as the permanent exhibition of door hardware. Then on to Kidd's Toy museum and a reception at our favorite shop, Re-

juvenation. The area of the Heritage Center and Rejuvenation, the east side of the Willamette River, is becoming very popular and trendy, which it was not when work began on renovating the Center's building.

There we four prize categories: Best in Show (won by Marge & Joe Bornino); Best Theme Display (won by Linda Smeltzer); Most Creative (Marge & Joe Bornino), and last – but not least – The "Ugly" (won by Patty Ramey). (See picture pg 4)



After the banquet, Sharon Nesbit told tales of Edgefield, from its original founding and construction, its life and slow decline and its re-birth under the brothers McMenammin.

We had several first-time attendees, Melinda Stewart, Pavel Amon, Clark Pope, Margaret Mills, and Louann Phipps.

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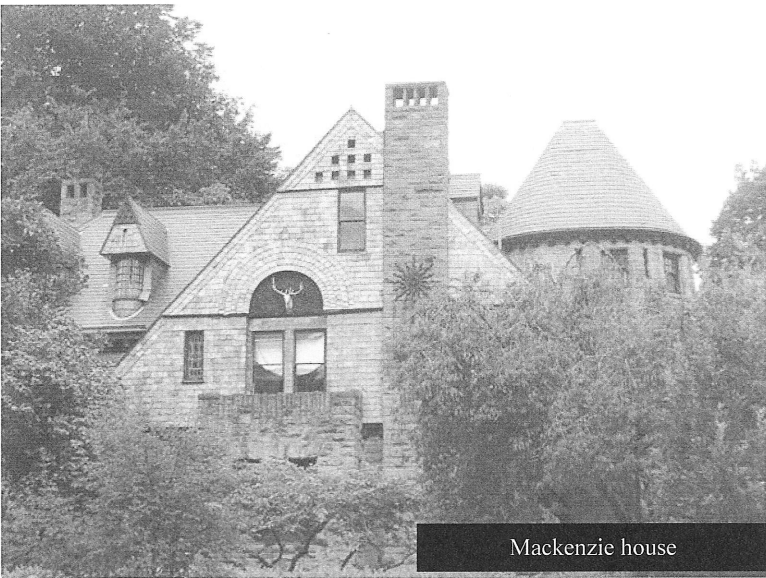
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07840

Annual Membership in US \$25.00
age 18 or younger US\$10.00
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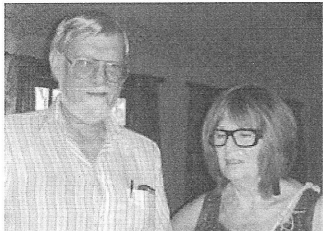
Mackenzie house



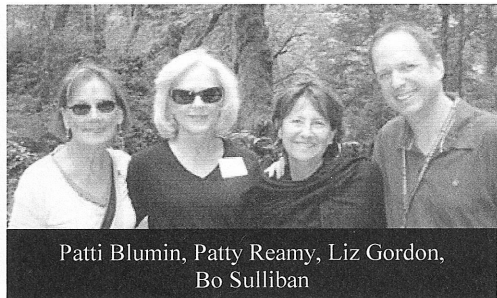
Illinois State Seal



Maud Eastwood



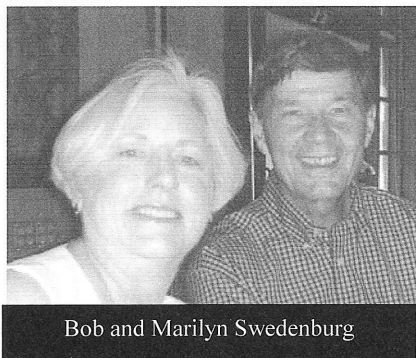
John Roberts and Judith Stogner



Patti Blumin, Patty Reamy, Liz Gordon,
Bo Sullivan

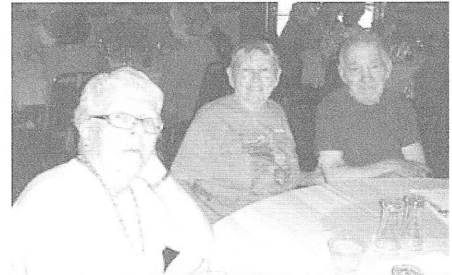


Melinda Stewart

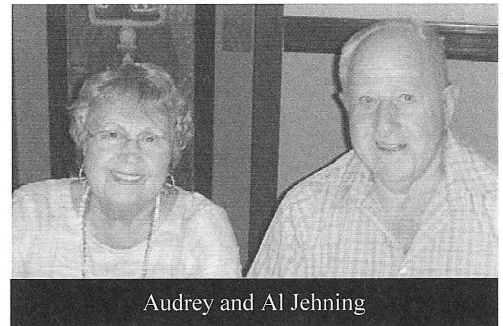


Bob and Marilyn Swedenburg

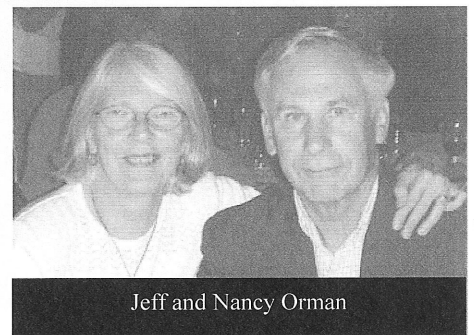
Bat Lamp with Snake



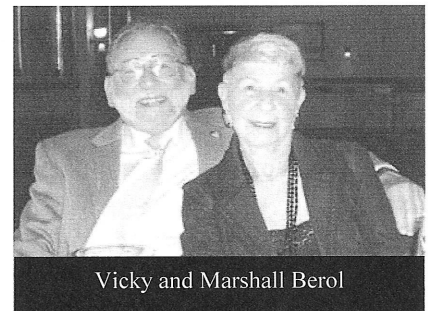
Bettie Madison, Marge and Joe Bornino



Audrey and Al Jehning



Jeff and Nancy Orman



Vicky and Marshall Berol



Contest Winners: Patty Ramey, Linda Smeltzer, Marge Bornino, Bo Sullivan



Shelia & Steve Menchhofer, Rhett Butler



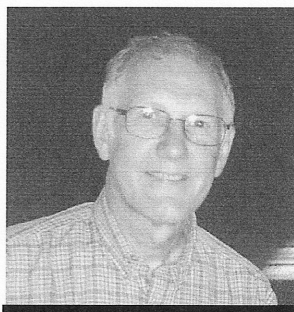
Diane and Steve Hannum



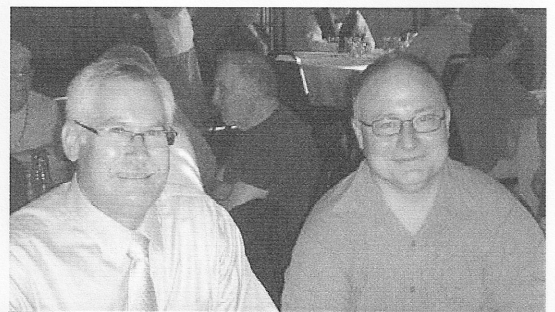
The Tour Day Gang



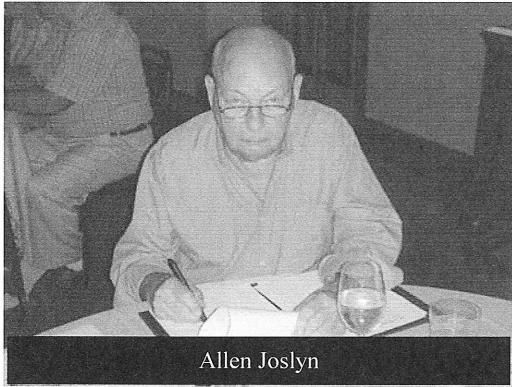
Jackie Rode



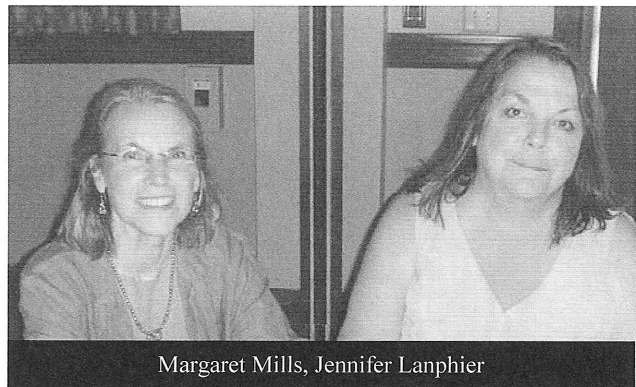
Phil Austin



Frank Dvorak and Norm Gholston



Allen Joslyn



Margaret Mills, Jennifer Lanphier

SOME PHILADELPHIA NOTES

By Bo Sullivan and Allen Joslyn

It is becoming increasingly apparent that decorative hardware did not begin with Metallic Compression Casting Company, but that in the latter part of the 1860s a number of other entrepreneurs were experimenting with such hardware. These include Smith & Butler (TDC 164) and Whitney & Rogers (TDC 168). Now two more possible producers have appeared.

TDC No. 164 identified Smith & Butler of New York as electroplaters who produced decorative hardware in the latter part of the 1860s, and who had been mentioned prominently in an article in the Architectural Review of May, 1869 (reproduced in TDC 163). The next issue of the Architectural Review, however, stated J. B. Shannon of Philadelphia was the manufacturer of the admirable pieces of “artistic door furniture” which had been “described at page 689” of the article (TDC 167). The “Note” did not claim that Shannon was the producer of the hardware illustrated on the unnumbered page, which may have been a very careful, or a sloppy, choice of words.

The Architectural Review article of May, 1869 also identified Philadelphia as a hotbed of fancy door hardware. It stated that the first set of copper-bronze “door-lock furniture” had been installed “some three years and a half since”, putting it at the beginning of 1866. Moreover, “[m]any doors, of handsome residences here, have since been furnished with these ornamental bronzes”. So clearly a lot was going on in Philadelphia. But who was producing the “ornamental bronzes” and what did they look like?

Shannon was a hardware jobber and had a large store. In Freedly, Philadelphia and its Manufactures In 1867 (Edward Young & Co. 1867), he was described as a lock maker, bell hanger and silver-plater, and having an extensive hardware store. He was one of the oldest jobbers in the trade, and his business was later carried on by two sons, Albert and Edwin, under the name J. B. Shannon & Sons. Another son, J. J. Shannon had a large hardware business at another Philadelphia location.^[1] Freedly did not list him as a builders’ hardware manufacturer. B. Shannon did issue catalogues in 1885 and 1889, but they offered decorative hardware manufactured by others, chiefly by Sargent. An article in 1907 describes its “Methods Used by a Large and Successful Hardware Store”. Other than the Architectural Review “note”, we do not know what “door hardware” he produced,

1. *Reminiscences of Thomas Hobson in “The Branch Offices of The Iron Age: Philadelphia”, The Iron Age, January 4, 1906, p. 78; Obituary of Edwin Hutter Shannon, Evening Public Ledger, October 8, 1914.*

any. But there is currently no basis to disregard the identification of Shannon as a manufacturer. Given that early bronze experiments lasted just a few years before being made obsolete by MCCC (or run out of business by R&E) and further casting developments, Shannon may have tried to get a piece of the new pie, gotten burned, and gotten out. While Occam's Razor may apply to the natural world, human endeavors have a way of being more complicated and nuanced than we often imagine.

There was another firm in Philadelphia which was at work on door knobs. Philadelphia and its Manufacturers In 1867 contains the following interesting entry:

“Recently, Mr. Francis Jahn, 506 Race Street, who has been for several years a manufacturer of fine Swords, has commenced making French Bronzed Door Knobs, Escutcheons and Bell Pulls. He uses a base of the best brass, which he electro-plates and bronzes in a very elegant manner. The advantage of these knobs is that they look well for years without cleaning, and cannot easily be indented or injured. They are being extensively introduced in the fine dwellings that are now being erected in this and other cities.” (p. 316)

There is not much to be known about Mr. Jahn. He was born about 1817 in Saxony, which became part of Germany. In the 1860 Census, he was listed as a guildier; in the 1870 Census, as an electroplater. He is chiefly known today as a manufacturer of swords used in the Civil War. He was also an active firefighter; and recently his firefighter's hat and belt were up for auction. He and one C.S. Smith are referred to in a print c. 1855 of the Hope Hose Company, of which they were presumably members, as “ornament makers”.



While “French bronze” was occasionally used to refer to a thin metallic coat over cheap zinc items, more properly it is bronze consisting of 91% copper, 2% tin, 6% zinc and 1% lead. It was used extensively for high-end metallic sculptures in the 19th century because it could withstand exterior exposure.

Unfortunately we can identify only two of Jahn's doorknobs – the George and Martha Washington knobs, A-313 and A-314, which have his name on the shanks. But that is about it. The above entry does, however, provide a guide to finding other Jahn hardware – look for hardware made of brass with an outer layer of bronze.^[2]

So that is where we are now – two new manufacturers but no clear idea what they were selling or their relationship. Were Shannon and Jahn competitors with each other, one customer and the other the supplier, or having no relationship? For the moment, it is enough to recognize their existence. Hopefully, more will be discovered in the future. Meanwhile we try to document what we can.

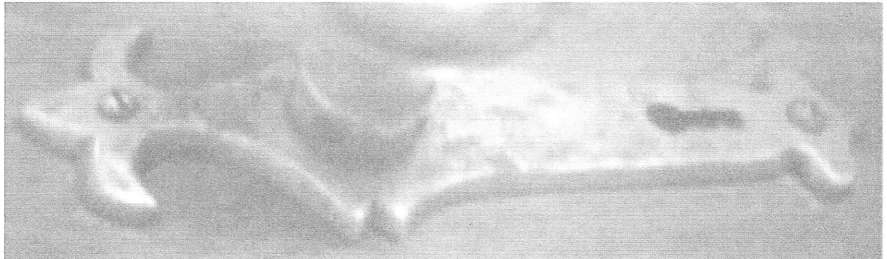
2. In case the question comes up, there was a B. Jahn Manufacturing Co. in New Britain, Connecticut, but it was organized in 1911, was not involved in decorative hardware and is now known as OKAY Industries, Inc

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: Fourteen back plates as pictured here. They are 5 ½ inches in height, brass and are hammer-forged (or have that look). There is no name or number on them. Do not need the knobs. They are for a house in Milwaukee so they may have been a local item.

David Olafsen (#43)
20048 Free Church Rd.
Caledonia, IL 61011
(815) 389-2728



Wanted: One Masonic Temple knob

Rich Kennedy (#238)
fandrkenedy@aol.com
908-684-5253

The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

Please Note: Our Office Has Moved

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PO Box 803
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Email: ADCAoffice@aol.com
Phone: 908-684-5253

Our next **Convention** will be held in **Buffalo, NY**
This is s a convenient location for all those living in
the East or Midwest.

So if you haven't yet been to a convention,
2012 should be your year.

We know our friends from the West will also arrive by plane hoping to
meet many more members, so it doesn't matter where you live, this will
be the

Convention for Connecting!

Our Business Members

These are paid advertisements. The ADCA assumes no responsibility. For further information about these businesses see the Resource section on our website: www.AntiqueDoorknobs.org.

<p>Albion Doors & Windows Owner: Larry Sawyer PO Box 220 Albion, CA 95410 Phone: 707-937-0078 Fax: (call first) 707-937-0078 Website: knobsession.com Email: bysawyer@mcn.org</p>	<p>Antique Door Hardware Collector Owner: Tom Iannucci 16624 Frederick Rd. Mount Airy, MD 21771 Phone: 240-595-1115 Web Site: antiquedoorhardwarecollector.com Email: antiquehardware@verizon.net</p>	<p>Architectural Salvage, Inc. Owner: Elizabeth Werhane 5001 N. Colorado Blvd. Denver, CO 80216 Phone: (303) 321-0200 Website: savagelady.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: lahardware.com/</p>
<p>Discovery Architectural Antiques Owner: Suzanne Kittel 409 St. Francis Gonzales, TX 78629 Phone: 830-672-2428 Fax: 830-672-3701 Web Site: Discoveryys.net Email: swk@discoveryys.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: HouseofAntiqueHardware.com Email: Sales@HouseofAntiqueHardware.com</p>	<p>Aurora Mills Architectural Salvage Owner: Mike Byrnes 14971 First St NE Aurora, OR 97002 Phone: 503-678-6083 Fax: 503-678-3299 Email: auroramills@centurytel.net Website: auroramills.com</p>	
<p>Phoenix Non-Ferrous Technologies Owner: Lincoln Charles P.O. Box 98 Franklin, NH 03235 Telephone: (603) 455-8273 Email: info@phoenixnfttech.com Website: phoenixnfttech.com</p>	<p>American Antique Hardware Owner Keith and Sarah Chilcote Phone: 503-399-8009 Email: contact@americanantiquehardware.com Website: americanantiquehardware.com</p>	<p>Webwilson.com Owner: H. Weber Wilson PO Box 506 Portsmouth, RI 02871 Phone: 800-508-0022 Web Site: webwilson.com Email: Hww@webwilson.com</p>	
<p>Materials Unlimited Owner: Reynold Lowe 2 W. Michigan Ave. Ypsalanti, MI 49197 Phone: 800-299-9462 Web Site: MaterialsUnlimited.com Email: Materials@MaterialsUnlimited.com</p>	<p>The Brass Knob Owners: Donetta George 2311 18th St. N.W. Washington, DC Phone: 202-332-3370 Fax: 202-332-5594 Email: BK@theBrassKnob.com Web Site: theBrassKnob.com</p>		

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