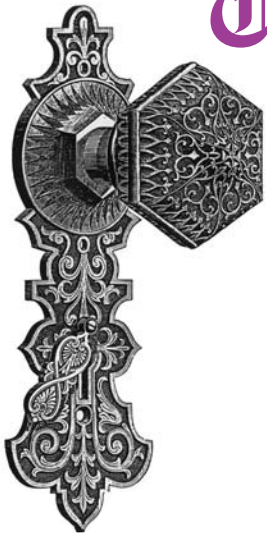


The Doorknob Collector



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

ELKINGTON & CO.

BY ALLEN S. JOSLYN

Summer is coming, so it's time to vacation in England. Birmingham to be precise, a 19th century English industrial powerhouse with vast factories turning out an amazing variety of products.

Today the lesson is on Elkington & Co., the premier electroplating factory, producing all sorts of fine products, from knives & forks to perfect copies of historic pieces. It produced, for example, the silver service for the Titanic. It also produced some exquisite builders hardware as pictured on the next three pages.

Up to 1840, silver plating consisted of rolling or soldering thin sheets of silver to copper. But electricity was in the air (with several Professors lecturing upon it). Independently three persons explored the possibilities of producing useful articles by electroplating. But the prize went to George Richard Elkington and Henry Elkington, his cousin, who took out what became the dominant patent and built a factory in Birmingham. Gradually other manufacturers took licenses from the Elkingtons. By the 1860s Elkington & Co. employed nearly 1,000 workers and was the leading silver and electroplating firm in the world.

An idea of their products can be obtained from photos posted on Google. Needless to say, they were in great favor with the Monarchy, and had numerous Royal warrants. Recently the insignia from George V's motorcar by Elkington was auctioned off.



	Inside	
Business Members..... 8	Custodian of Archives..... 5	In Memoriam—Ray Nemece..... 3
Club Information 8	Doorknob Exchange..... 5	Visit to Los Angeles.....6-7
	Elkington & Co. 1-4	



Elkington Showroom

Incidentally a long article on their electroplating factory was published in the Penny Magazine for October, 1844. If anyone wants a copy, please let me know.

This newsletter would also be delighted to receive more information on British and European builders' hardware. Unfortunately there does not seem to be organization there equivalent to our own.

See <http://www.carters.com.au/index.cfm/index/3413-elkington-and-co-silver-and-silver-plated-wares/>



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In Memoriam

Raymond J. Nemeec (#350) of Naperville, IL passed away April 17, 2015 at the age of 85. He was a Charter Member of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America; as a board-member, he spent years as editor of the *The Doorknob Collector*. Raymond is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Loretta, four children, Thomas, Allen, Alice, and Jennifer along with two grandchildren, and a great granddaughter.



He was a man of many passions. After his family, came baseball statistics. At age 11, Ray knew he was more interested in statistics than playing; he would calculate his batting average, while running to first base. Ray made his mark as one of baseball's greatest minor league researcher. He served as a founding member of SABR, Society for American Baseball Research. In August 1971 he and the group were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

Another interest was Radio. While serving in the Army, he announced live talent shows on the Armed Forces Radio. He hosted a radio show in the early 70's called, "Music, News & Nemeec" airing on WDGC-FM. Growing up near trains, fueled his love for LGB trains and Garden Railroading. He was a kind, reserved and always-complimentary man. He had an amazing gift for numbers and remembering details. He will be missed by all those who loved him.

Further, Ray and Loretta were the winners of the coveted Arnie Fredricks Award in 2008. An article on them by Maude Eastwood is in TDC # 151. Ray also wrote "From Niles to Sager: The Story of the Chicago Hardware Company", the definitive 6 part series of articles that appeared in TDC # 69-74.





Door Knocker from the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art



An exquisite pair of push plates



Front and side view



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: Front (exterior) or interior door plates or knobs to match the exterior one in the attached illustration. It is a Sargent pattern called "HF - Haven" and will measure 10 3/4" in length (interior plates will have only one key hole and will be 8 1/4" long). I am looking for solid bronze/brass but, in the case of the front door plate, would consider one in steel. Please contact:

Don Mayer (#395)
(250) 595 6030 donmayer@shaw.ca



HAIL TO THE CUSTODIAN OF THE ARCHIVES

By Vicky Berol



Steve and Shiela Menchhofer

According to Steve, he bought his first doorknob at an Automobile Literature swap meet in the late 1960's. At that time knobs were used on the gearshift or on the steering wheel (anyone remember "neckers knobs"?)

Fascinated, he bought four knobs and began to look and hunt at flea markets and antique shows. Learning that there was a group dedicated to the collector of doorknobs, and within months, a convention was going to be held in Naperville, Illinois, Steve and his family drove to meet others who were charmed by these beautiful pieces of antique builders hardware. They looked, learned and liked what they saw. They were hooked! And thus, a doorknob collector was born.

He joined the ADCA in September 1984, and attended the convention in Waverly, Iowa. He was listed in the 1984 membership roster as a "trader".

To some of the newer members, Steve may not be a familiar face, but he was quietly active and very effective. He was first elected to the Board of Directors at the October 1984 convention, and served 2 two-year terms, leaving in 1988. He was re-elected to the Board in 2000, serving through 2002. In 1988, The Menchhofer family played host to 68 ADCA members at the Indianapolis Convention.

In 1989, Steve and his late wife, Barbara, assumed the responsibility of the ADCA Archives. The Library has steadily grown primarily through the stewardship of the Menchhofers and the generosity of our membership. It includes catalogs from Chicago Hardware Manufacturers, Corbin, Nashua Lock, Sargent and Yale and Towne, as well as lesser known companies, such as Adams & Westlake and AG Newman. After 18 years, Rhett Butler has assumed the responsibility of the Archives and now has everything digitized.

Bitten by the hardware bug, Steve's collection began to grow. His knobs are the best of the best. At the 1986 Minneapolis Convention, Steve won the "Best Metallic" Knob Award. He garnered second place in the "Wood" category at the 1991 Lake Tahoe Convention; 1996 at the Grand Rapids Convention brought another First Place Award, again "Best Metallic". and in 1997, King of Prussia, another

convention, another award - "Iron/Steel Emblematic". And last, but not least, 2002, in St. Louis, the Display Contest.

Steve remarried and his wife, Sheila, has become an integral part of the convention activities.

A native of Indiana, Steve graduated from Speedway High School. The school has six campuses and approximately 1,600 students. Speedway was laid out in 1912 as a residential suburb. The town took its name from the Indianapolis Speedway. Another notable from Speedway is actress Joyce DeWitt, "Three's Company". There are 246 people in the United States with the name of Menchhofer and Indiana has more than any other State. - 102. (Obviously they found it a comfortable area). Regardless, we think our Steve Menchhofer is unique and special.

VISIT TO LOS ANGELES:

The Inside Scoop

By Terri Hartman

Our tour day will start out with a visit to Hollywood Boulevard where we will see the Walk of Fame and the Chinese Theatre Courtyard, and tour the Egyptian Theatre. We will have lunch and shop at Liz's Antique Hardware. Then we visit Heritage Square, which tells the story of the early Los Angeles and has a fabulous bunch of Victorian houses. Google it.

As you make your plan for this year's convention, we thought we'd point out some sights and activities that you might want to add on to your itinerary. Los Angeles is vast (Los Angeles County is larger than the states of Delaware and Rhode Island combined), so there's a lot to choose from. As you plan your visit, be sure to consult maps to make sure you've allowed enough time to get from place to place. If you're hoping to take a tour, be sure to consult the appropriate website for reservation information.

Shopping and Wandering

If you just want to wander around, Old Town Monrovia is a short drive from the hotel. Located on South Myrtle Avenue between Huntington Drive and Foothill Boulevard, the historic downtown offers restaurants and stores and a Friday evening farmers' market. (www.oldtownmonroviaca.com) Old Town Pasadena is also a good place to wander. It's only twenty minutes from Monrovia, and offers everything you'd need for a lovely afternoon. (www.oldpasadena.org)

Museums and Gardens

The Huntington Library is in San Marino, about twenty minutes away from the hotel in Monrovia. It is a private institution composed of a rare book and manuscript library, an art collection, and a botanical garden. (www.huntington.org)

The Pasadena Museum of California Art also shows just what its name implies. It is also about twenty minutes from Monrovia. (www.pmcaonline.org)

The Norton Simon Museum is also in Pasadena, and shows a wide breadth of European, contemporary, and Asian art. (www.nortonsimon.org)

The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, a 127-acre botanical site with historic structures, including two buildings on the National Register, is in Arcadia, about ten minutes from Monrovia. (www.arboretum.org)

Downtown, the Museum of Contemporary Art shows just what its name says it does. (www.moca.org)

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art in the Miracle Mile (very close to Liz's Antique Hardware) is the largest art museum in the western US. Its grounds contain the world-famous La Brea Tar Pits. (www.lacma.org). The Craft and Folk Art Museum, the name of which is self-explanatory, is directly across the street from LACMA. (www.cafam.org).

Exposition Park, on the edge of the University of Southern California, boasts the African American Museum, the Natural History Museum, and the California Science Center, where you can see the Space Shuttle Endeavour. (www.expositionpark.org) The Getty Museum, on the Westside of Los Angeles, shows European paint-

ings, sculpture, and decorative arts (and, on a clear day, an incredible view of the Los Angeles basin). Its sister museum, the Getty Villa, is a recreation of a Roman country house set in the rolling hills of Malibu. Make reservations. (www.getty.edu)

Architecture

If you are interested in architecture, your first visit should be to the Los Angeles Conservancy website. You'll find more information than you can use about Los Angeles architecture, including eight self-guided tours and information about the organization's regularly scheduled Saturday morning walking tours.

(www.laconservancy.org)

Modern

The Walt Disney Concert Hall downtown is a modern masterpiece designed by Frank Gehry.

(www.laphil.org)

Also downtown, The Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels is a beautiful structure designed by Jose Rafael Moneo. (www.olacathedral.org)

Mid Century (and a little earlier)

The Neutra House in Silverlake is open for tours on Saturdays, and may be viewed from the street all other times. (www.neutra-vdl.org)

The Eames House in Pacific Palisades offers an exterior, self-guided tour. (www.eamesfoundation.org)

The Schindler House in West Hollywood is open Wednesday through Sunday, with self-guided tours on the weekend. (www.schindlerhouse.org)

The stunning Wayfarers Chapel by Lloyd Wright in Rancho Palos Verdes is open everyday (www.wayfarerschapel.org).

The Hollyhock House by Frank Lloyd Wright is in Los Feliz, and is open for self-guided tours Thursdays through Sundays. (www.barnsdall.org).

Early Twentieth Century

The Los Angeles Central Library, a magnificent example of Egyptian and Mediterranean Revival architecture, is downtown. Docent tours are available everyday, and self-guided tours are also available.

(www.lapl.org)

Los Angeles Union Station has greeted train passengers arriving in LA since 1939. It's a combination of many Revival styles, and has been featured in many films. (www.greatamericanstations.com/Stations/LAX)

The Gamble House. Greene and Greene's masterpiece in Pasadena, offers docent-lead tours Thursday through Sunday. (www.gamblehouse.org)

Other Suggestions

Go behind the scenes of movie magic at Universal Studios (www.universalstudioshollywood.com)

Tour the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (www.jpl.nasa.gov)

Only in LA: The Hollywood Forever Cemetery offers a "Cemetery of the Stars" tour every Saturday. (www.cemeterytour.com)

The Nixon Presidential Library in Yorba Linda is open every day. (www.nixonlibrary.gov)

The Ronald Reagan in Simi Valley is also open every day. (www.reaganfoundation.org)

A Personal Preference

By Allen S. Joslyn

Los Angeles is huge, and a huge artistic site. So above are some – more than some – options. My choices, for whatever they are worth, are the Gamble House in Pasadena, The Huntington, the Norton Simon, and last – but actually first – the Getty, both on top of the mountain and the classic Roman pavilion. But wherever you go, you will see great stuff.

Our Business Members

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