



The Doorknob Collector

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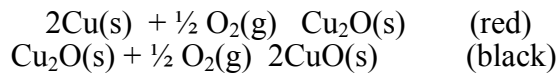
A Nonprofit Organization Devoted to the Study and Preservation of Ornamental Hardware

A WAY TO DEAL WITH VERDIGRIS ON BRONZE OR BRASS DOORKNOBS

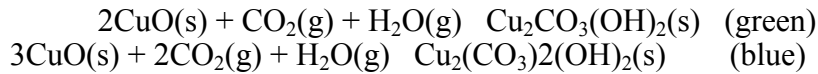
BY STEVE HANNUM

Antique doorknobs are seldom found in their original condition. How should they be treated? Some collectors chose to leave them in the “as found” condition. But most collectors chose to do some amount of cleaning even if just soap and water. Stephen Rowe’s method of hot washing soda, sodium carbonate, works very well for removing years of grime (see TDC #179). No matter the method it is very important to wash several times with clean water to remove any trace of cleaning solution.

Sometimes green spots remain or develop after cleaning. This is especially true when hardware is stored in a cool damp basement. Brass and bronze will naturally corrode when exposed to air. Copper metal is first oxidized to copper (I) oxide (Cu₂O), which is red, and then to copper (II) oxide that is black.



These oxides give antique knobs their patina. But in the presence of carbon dioxide and water blue-green copper carbonates can be formed.



Unfortunately these compounds cannot be completely removed without removing all of the patina. When they appear on bronze statues they are given the name Verdigris.

What I do when I find a spot of verdigris I remove as much as I can with a brass wire brush. A weak acid like vinegar will react with copper carbonates faster than with the oxides so a drop of vinegar can be brushed into the spot to reduce the amount of carbonate. A few minutes of vinegar does not seem to have much effect of the copper oxide. In order to prevent further growth of the carbonates I seal the surface with wax (such as Johnson’s Paste Wax). The wax helps hide the spot and give the surface has subtle shine. In order be sure the wax penetrates every part of the surface, I use a hot plate to warm the knob enough to melt the wax. The temperature does not seem to matter as long as the wax melts. When cooled I polish with a soft cloth and brush. The blue-green spot is left as a dark spot. I have used this technique for several years and have found no return of the blue-green color. I use this treatment as part of the cleaning of all my knobs.

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Here is an example of a knob with a small amount of verdigris in the grooves. Picture 1 shows the original. Picture 2 shows that much of the verdigris is removed by treatment with a wire brush and about 5 minutes of treatment with vinegar. In picture 3 the wax has hidden the remaining corrosion.



Original



After vinegar



After wax

However if the corrosion has gone too far the results cannot be hidden. Consider the following example shown below of a badly corroded knob. The knob was soaked in vinegar for about an hour to remove verdigris. The corrosion had eaten into the metal and the deeply pitted metal was exposed. But the patina of the non-corroded area was only slightly affected. The knob is beyond restoring or hiding the corrosion. In an attempt to minimize the damage, I used a brass and bronze aging solution (from one of our Business Members) on the bare metal. The darkening was not uniform, but did reduce the brightness of the cleaned portion of the knob as seen below. The final knob looked better but most likely only important or desirable pieces of hardware would have sufficient reason to bother with this degree of cleaning and restoration process.



After vinegar —>



<— After aging solution



Editor's Note: Steve Hannum serves on the Board of Directors since 2009, and manages the maintenance of our every-growing www.antiquedoorknobs.us website. In his former life, before finding the joys of retirement (husband/grandfather/collector/etc. full-time), Steve taught Chemistry to many college students across the country, helping future generations to know the "whys" behind metals, oxidation and chemical processes such as he has highlighted for us above.

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HOW A SOFT DRINK LED TO FANTASTIC HARDWARE

BY PAUL WOODFIN

Growing up in the southern United States, Texas specifically, there were only two colas that really existed. The others were just there on the shelf as options. Dr. Pepper, which was originated in Waco, Texas at the end of the 19th century, and Coca-Cola, with origins in Georgia in 1886 after Atlanta and Fulton County passed prohibition laws. Coca-Cola became an early alternative to alcoholic beverages, and in a few years the formula had changed into a soft drink similar to what is available today. By 1888 Atlanta druggist Asa Candler controlled the Coca-Cola Company, having bought out the inventor's family and other early partners.

Candler was an entrepreneur who understood the power of marketing, and using wide-spread advertising, a distinctive bottle shape, and Coca-Cola giveaways, built Coca-Cola into the largest and best known soft drink company in the world. While Coca-Cola was originally only available at soda fountains, in 1899 more widespread distribution of the product in bottles became a large means of reaching new customers across the nation. Coca-Cola sold rights to bottle their product to independently-owned bottlers in cities across the nation, with more than 1,000 bottlers across the nation by 1919. Coca-Cola continues to this day to produce the syrup needed to make the soft drink, along with advertising to promote the product. Candler sold his stock in the Coca-Cola company in 1919.

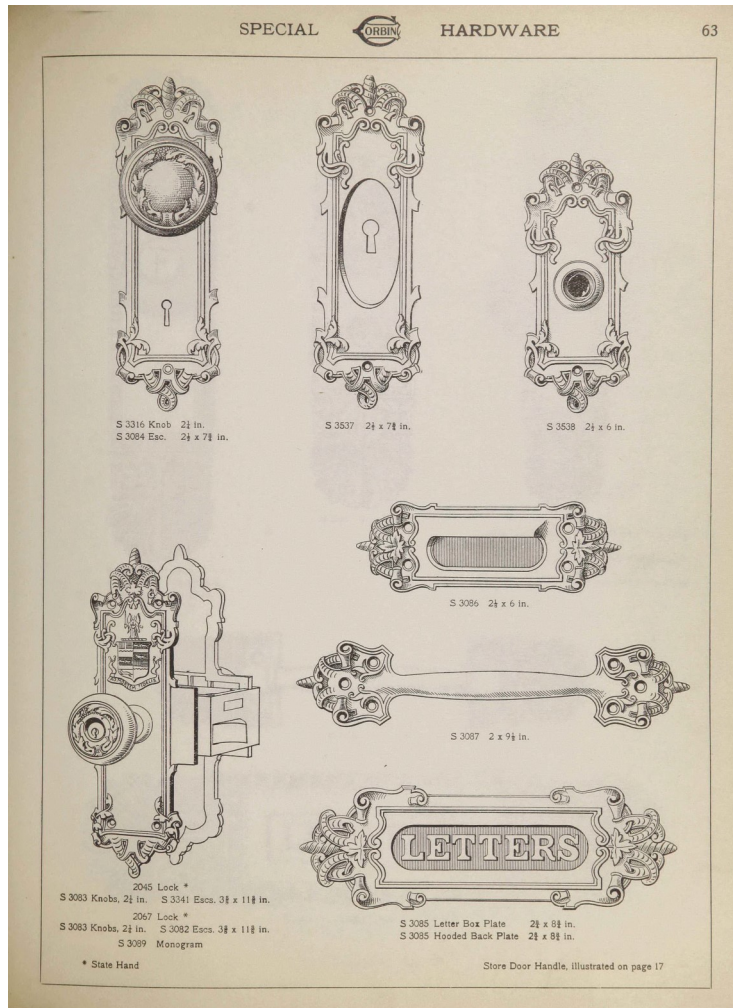
In 1903 Candler decided to build the tallest building in Atlanta, a 17 story building whose cornerstone noted the owner as the Candler Investment Co. He hired noted Atlanta architects George Murphy (who had designed Candler's house the previous year) and George Stewart to design the building, but was personally involved in many aspects of the design and material choices. Construction began in 1904



and was completed in 1906. The Candler Building's location is at a bend in Peachtree street so that the building appears to stand at the center of Peachtree street as you approach from the north. The façade is elaborately carved white Georgia marble, with the interior featuring marble and bronze accents on all 17 floors.

P & F Corbin designed a complete suite of bronze hardware for the building, which is featured on page 63 of the Corbin S catalog, including the letter slot shown on the previous page and the unit lock shown below. The doorknob is included in the VDA as [F-25610](#). A beehive is shown at the top of this hardware, symbolizing Candler's belief in supporting small businesses (as Coca-Cola had been just a decade earlier) become successful. Candler was noted in his 1929 obituary for loaning cotton farmers funds in a down market, and storing the cotton until prices increased to a profitable level. The Candler Building one of the architectural landmarks in downtown Atlanta, and as of 2018 is undergoing a conversion to a boutique hotel.

A January 1911 article in the Baltimore Sun announced that the Coca-Cola company would be building a large "beehive" building in downtown Baltimore to serve as the manufacturing point for Coca-Cola syrup for the northeastern United States, with the balance of the building occupied by small businesses. Completed in 1912, the 8 story building was expanded in 1914 with a 12 story addition. The doorknob for this building, which was later named after Asa Candler, features the company's logo from 1912 and is shown in the VDA as [P-25010](#). This knob was identified in TDC #102.



References: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asa_Griggs_Candler
<https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/atlanta/can.htm>

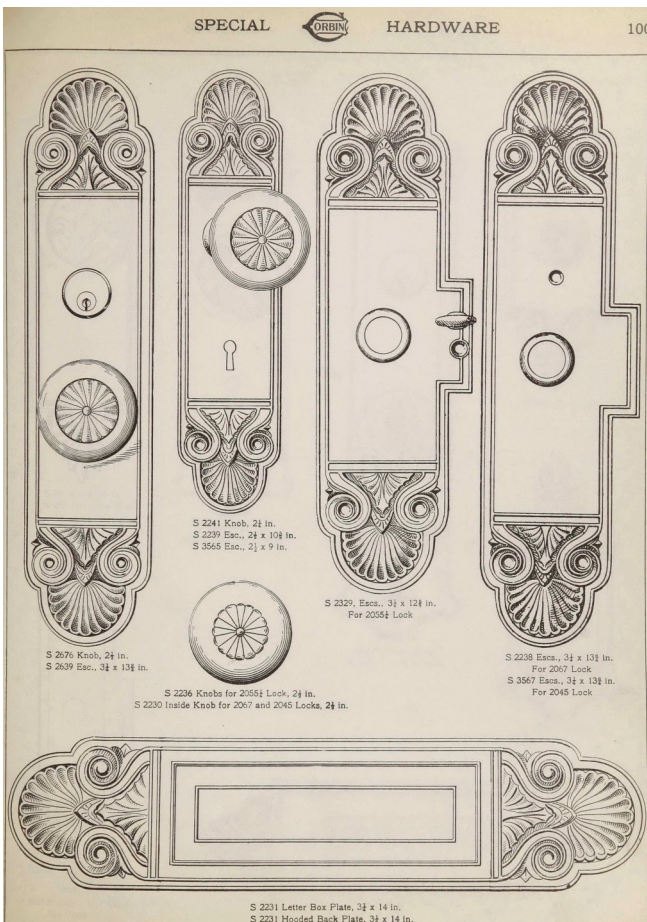
WAS CUSTOM HARDWARE EVER USED IN MORE THAN ON BUILDING?

BY PAUL WOODFIN

When first starting to collect emblematic hardware, researching to try and identify which building a custom designed piece was always the biggest challenge. With the Google Books project working with many libraries to digitize many books and periodicals over the past fifteen years, more resources have become available on-line for research. Sometimes the emblem was used on more than just a door-knob, so identifying the logo often makes finding the company and thus the building possible. But in a few cases buildings were built at nearly the same time, and so whether just one or multiple buildings used the same hardware design becomes a question. The best example of this is the P-46200 knob (at right) that was featured in TDC #210 as originating from the Metropolitan Life Insurance Tower on Madison Square in New York City. We have since learned that the same architect designed a new office for Met Life in San Francisco after the 1906 fire, and that building used the same oval MLICo doorknob.



Was this done in other buildings, whether emblematic or artistic custom hardware? In some cases, yes, often for the same company or by the same architect on similar projects. The knob and plate shown on the next page is from the Merchants Bank Building in Indianapolis (building pictured below right) is shown in the Corbin S catalog as part of a custom-designed suite of hardware with S2639 and S2676 numbers from the early 1900s (catalog page at below left). The seller was an ADCA member from that

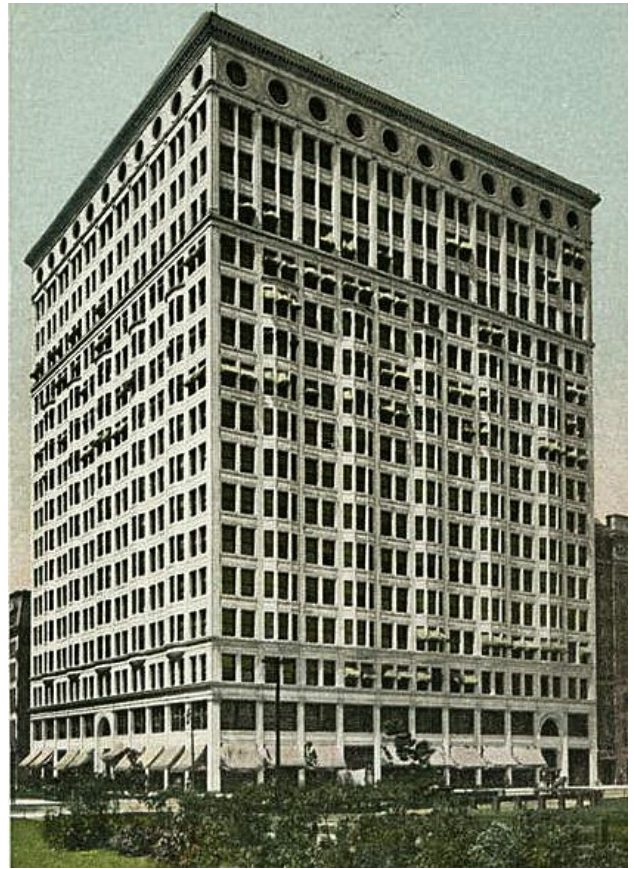


area, so the provenance was never in doubt. But the Merchants Bank was completed in 1909 which would have been a late use for those S numbers.

Mail slots and other pieces of hardware from this set have been sold on eBay by Indiana sellers who usually do not know the origin of this hardware.



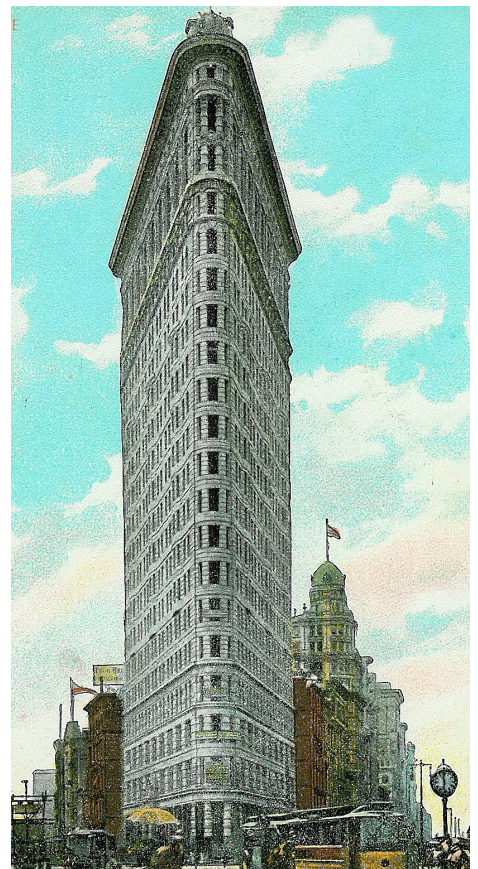
A visit to Open House Chicago in 2012 included a visit to the 1904 Railway Exchange building, which like the Merchants Bank was designed by D. H. Burnham & Co. The tour included a visit to the architectural firm now occupying the top floor offices. When the building opened, Burnham's firm relocated their offices from the Rookery to an entire floor in this building (Burnham actually owned a portion of the building, and his family retained an ownership interest for many years). In the lobby I noted several sets of S2639 and S2676 hardware, so proving that the perhaps the Railway Exchange (pictured at top right) was the origin of this Corbin suite of hard-



ware. This building was one of the first of many large office building commissions in Chicago where Burnham used exclusively white terra cotta on the exterior and white marble and bronze metalwork for the interior.

But the Corbin Special Hardware factory ledger book discovered last summer at the Lock Museum provided an unexpected piece of information about this suite of hardware. While photographing many of the pages of the ledger, when I got to the page showing S2639 I was expecting to see "Railway Exchange" or a similar entry. Instead the entry listed "for Flat Iron Building". So did the

hardware originate with what is perhaps Burnham's more famous design, the 1902 Flatiron Building (pictured at bottom right) at the wedge-shaped lot where Broadway meets Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street? The 1901-2 construction date would fit precisely with the S26xx numbers assigned by Corbin for this hardware. The Flatiron hardware had always been a mystery because more than a century of remodeling has dramatically changed the interior, while the exterior is a protected National Historic Landmark.



Further research yielded a advertisement from the Western Architect in 1916 (shown top left) which pictures three buildings on Michigan Avenue that all have Corbin hardware. In the advertisement, the description of the Railway Exchange hardware is “a special design which was also used upon the Flat Iron or Fuller Building in New York”. Note that the McCormick is the tall building at center left, rather than Burnham & Root’s original Art Institute building with the gable roof on the left.

While monogram hardware may not have been used in multiple buildings unless they had the same owner and name, hardware companies would use the same monogram design on different knobs, creating a different knob design with minimal design effort. Two examples of this are found when comparing P-46760 and P-46761, or P-43910 and P-43930.

As shown in this article, architects would use well-designed custom hardware in multiple buildings in different cities, likely with a lower cost for the building’s owner and faster delivery time. Even more than a century ago, wise business practitioners such as Daniel Burnham knew that time was money, especially if the money was sometimes his own.

New Hardware Catalogs Available on the ADCA Website

ADCA archivist Rhett Butler and his team at E. R. Butler & Co. have recently completed scanning and proofing 101 new catalogs, which will be available on the ADCA website’s *Antique Catalog Orders* page by the end of May 2019. A list of the new catalogs will be posted on the site, along with an option to buy the 101 catalogs at a larger discount than the individual catalogs.

In December 2018 the ADCA lowered the pricing on individual catalogs and groups by fifty percent, so this will be a great opportunity for you to visit the website, and purchase & download any catalogs you have been wanting to add to your collection.

Highlights of the new catalogs include:

- Branford Lock Works
1876 catalog
- Branford Lock Works
1879 catalog
- P & F Corbin
1878 catalog
- P & F Corbin
Special hardware ledger
- Mallory Wheeler
1874 catalog
- A. G. Newman
1888 catalog
- Peterborough Lock
1897 catalog
- Russell & Erwin
1864 catalog
- Russell & Erwin
1866 catalog
- Russell & Erwin
Special hardware ledger
- Sargent & Company
1884 catalog
- Yale & Towne
Special hardware album

In Memorium

Tedi Fredrick (#446)

Tedi Fredrick went to heaven on the wings of angels on April 12, 2019 at the age of 87. She was in the tender loving care of the beloved staff of Clarksville Skilled Nursing & Rehab Center at the time of her death.

Gloria Theo "Tedi" Nellor Fredrick, was born April 18, 1931 to Clara & William McKinley "Max" Nellor, in Moorhead, Iowa. Her middle name, Theo, came from her father's twin brother, Theodore Roosevelt Nellor. Their father was in the newspaper business and wishing to remain impartial, he named his twin sons after both of the candidates. Tedi graduated as class valedictorian in 1948, and enrolled at what is now the University of Northern Iowa with a teaching certificate. She met Arnold Fredrick while taking tickets at a basketball game where her future brother-in-law was the coach.

They were married on April 19, 1952. They lived in Iowa City where Arnie was finishing his degree from the University of Iowa. While in Iowa City, their daughter Candace was born.

In 1953 they moved to Waverly, Iowa where son Tom was born, and where Tedi lived for the past 66 years. She was both a Brownie Scout and Cub Scout Leader, and was supportive of Arnie's love of doorknobs and antique hardware, as discussed in TDC #13. She helped host the first and fourth ADCA conventions in Waverly and his efforts to form the ADCA as the Iowa non-profit organization which we remain 38 years later. She has been an ADCA member for many decades and attended the 2000 convention to present the first Arnie Fredrick Memorial Award to Mrs. Maud Eastwood.

After Arnie died of cancer in June 1995 at age 67, Tedi carried on as an independent young widow remaining the stalwart of her multigenerational family, keeping everyone close and making sure everyone was loved and cared for. Tedi was known as the best cook of all time and the hostess with the most-est. Any invitation to her home was a rare treat where she entertained with panache all the while assuring that everyone felt welcome and comfortable. She refinished woodwork and furnishings and refurbished her exquisite home built in 1909. Husband Arnie called her the "Best Stripper in Town" when it came to her woodworking skills. Her gorgeous handwriting and eloquent writing on cards and notes made any mail from her desired and treasured.

Her family is comforted in their belief that she is now whole again in a place where she can see with both eyes, walk with both legs, stand tall and proud, shoot some hoops, cook some food, write some thank you notes and be reunited with all of her loved ones who no doubt are rejoicing that she is safe and sound in their loving arms.

Left to cherish her ever honored memory are her daughter Candi & Mel Brekhus, son Tom Fredrick, three grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister and many nieces, nephews and friends.



South Side National Bank Building Saint Louis, Missouri



The hardware for the bank was manufactured by P & F Corbin with an interlocking design of two letters S woven together, listed in the VDA as [P-73730](#).

The bank flourished until the Great Depression caused the “bank holiday” in 1933. The bank reopened shortly afterward, but was restructured as a National Bank in May 1934 with additional capital from the Busch family (whose financial position had improved since the repeal of Prohibition in late 1933). The bank remained in business at this location until their merger with a larger bank, which announced plans to dispose of the building by selling to Walgreens. The planned demolition and construction of a new store on this site was met with strong community opposition by local preservation groups.

In 2007-2008 the South Side National Bank building was converted to retail and service-type offices on the lower floors and residential condominiums in the tower portion of the building. Much of the hardware was removed from the building at this time, but the double S monogram remains in use in signage at the building.

Ninety years ago a new bank building opened at the intersection of Grand and Gravois Avenues, after the 1928 merger of two long-term financial institutions on the southside of St. Louis. One of the banks was founded in 1891 by Adolphus Busch, a prominent national brewer. The Busch family remained involved with the bank for many years.

The ten story art deco building was designed by architect W. G. Knoebel with a Bedford limestone exterior that includes stylized eagles with geometric and floral flourishes. The building’s original banking floor features bronze teller grills and deco chandeliers. A period photograph of the building is shown below.



Reference: * <http://www.builtstlouis.net/ssnb.html>

* https://www.stltoday.com/suburban-journals/metro/news/this-week-in-south-side-history-south-side-national-bank/article_c1ea0b49-1239-56d8-8ee7-4801c943018f.html

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Visit the ADCA on Facebook

Join in the discussion at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/antiquedoorknobs/>. As of April 2019 we have 438 members on Facebook. James Brady asked how to clean corrosion from a unit lock, which is our cover story this issue. Scott McCormick showed pic of hardware from the BC Parliament and Government House, Andy Streenz asked for help finding large Corbin cylinder locks, and our cats like hardware too.

James Brady
March 18 · Add Topics

This might be a sensitive topic to some... has anyone successfully restored a piece in this condition to the point in which it appears to have patina?

Private messages welcome if needed 😊 I would like to bring this Pittsburgh and Lake Erie knob set back to its former glory.

~James



9131846597

Scott McCormick
May 5 at 3:16 PM · Add Topics

Photos from the inside of Government House, Victoria British Columbia



Andy Streenz
Admin · April 26 at 2:36 PM · Add Topics

Following up to my earlier post on 1 1/2" Corbin mortise cylinders, here is the building they are for, and some close-ups of the hardware.

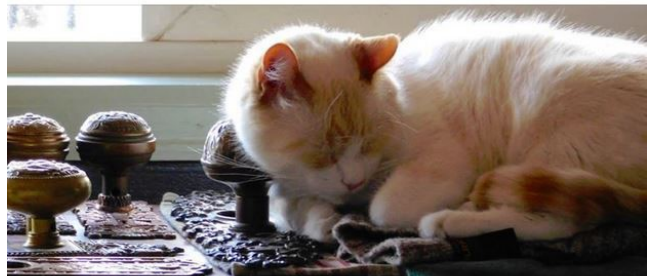
Anyone have a spare McC knob?

edit This is the old McLean County Courthouse and is now used for the McLean County Museum of History... [See More](#)



Linda Bat
April 27 at 5:11 PM · Add Topics

Just for fun - Here's a furry doorknob lover. Fast asleep - with the perfect pillow. 😊



Stephen Rowe Mr. Darcy prefers Pairpoint! lol



Like · Reply · 2w



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:

Andy Streenz (#838) seeking several large Corbin cylinders (1 1/2" diameter) that will fit a C01 keyway. He is in the process of reworking the hardware for the former 1903 McLean County Courthouse in Bloomington, IL which is now the McLean County Museum of History. Contact Andy at andy.streenz@comcast.net or (309) 454-1713.



Paul Woodfin (#829) is seeking the MT Niles/Chicago knob shown at left, and is still seeking the Yale & Towne plate at far left. Please contact Paul at paul.woodfin1@gmail.com if you have one (or more) of these items to spare.



Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

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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.

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