



The Doorknob Collector

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

THE 2019 ADCA CONVENTION IN NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS BY PAUL WOODFIN AND STEVE HANNUM

The first visit by the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America to the Natural State provided memorable visits to historic sites, true Arkansas cuisine, and eventful buy/sell/trade days including a couple of active first-timer attendees and a large community group from the Little Rock area who came to look and also buy. This was the first convention hosted by Mike and Carolyn Smith, and they knocked a home run on their first at bat by providing some true Southern hospitality.

On Tuesday we headed off to see a Big Dam Bridge! Yes, that is what they call it; the longest bridge in North America built specifically for pedestrian and bicycle use. It is built above the Murray lock and Dam on the Arkansas River. When opposition to the cost of the bridge arose the head of the Pulaski County government was reported to have said “We are going to build that dam bridge!” The weather was beautiful and the view 90 feet above the river of the surrounding area was great. The bridge connects 14 miles of scenic trails on either side of the river. And the ramp has to be one of greatest skate board runs in the country. But there were no skate boarders in our group...

The next stop was the Old Mill (at right). Built in 1933, the mill was built to resemble an early Arkansas grist-mill left after years of decay. Every part is made of concrete in the faux bois of “fake wood” style. Senõr Dionico Rodriguez, who designed and built the bridges, benches and structures was so secretive about the process that no records for his techniques exist. The de-



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tails are so realistic that you have to look carefully to be sure it is not wood. The location and gardens were outstanding. The Old Mill is also the last remaining structure used in the classic film *Gone with the Wind*.



After lunch at BJ's Farmers Market Café, an "unfussy spot for home-style American eats" in North Little Rock, we headed to the Riverfront Sculpture Garden. The garden is part of Riverside Park, Little Rock's use of the land between the river road and the river. The Sculpture Garden has over 70 public art sculptures in garden like settings. At one end of the garden is the answer to the question we were all asking: yes, there is a little rock! A small rock out cropping on the south side of the Arkansas River was used by early river traffic as a landmark. It became a well-known

river crossing and a town developed.

Wednesday's tour began at the Central High School National Historic Site. This site operated by the National Park Service has a visitor center while still an operating high school. The goal of the visitor center is to preserve the legacy of the 1957 desegregation crisis and its role in the Civil Rights Movement. The Park Ranger walked us through what occurred in the Fall of 1957 when nine African-American students attempted to enroll in the all-white Central High School. We were reminded of the angry white protesters and the federal troops sent to escort the Little Rock Nine to class all that year.

Next we moved to the Arkansas State Capitol Building. Built between 1899 and 1915 it has been used as a stand-in for the U.S. Capitol in several movies (group photo above in the Governor's reception room). The central dome with its stained glass and large Tiffany chandelier is an impressive sight, as are the domes and chandeliers in the two legislative chambers as well as the Tiffany 10-foot high bronze entrance doors. Many of the doors have stained glass with doorplates showing the Arkansas State Seal (right).



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After lunch at the Clinton Presidential Library we were able to tour the Presidential museum. In addition to the Presidential Limousine and a model of the oval office, the main hall had alcoves devoted to events of each year that President Clinton was in office as well as other main events of his life.

We then visited the Old State Capitol Building, currently a museum of Arkansas history, and the 1889 Pulaski County Courthouse (which has been restored to the decorative style of the Victorian era). The 1914 Pulaski County Courthouse addition by ar-

chitect George Mann in the Beaux Arts style contains an impressive stained-glass domed ceiling (above) as well as door hardware by Yale & Towne with many plates showing the Pulaski County seal with monogram PC doorknobs (P-48006, at right) all still in use, although some were mounted upside down). A tour of the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple downtown concluded the downtown part of the tour.

A bus tour of the Quapaw Quarter of Little Rock concluded our day. Named for the Quapaw Indians who lived in the area centuries ago, it contains many homes from the Antebellum and Victorian eras, including the Villa Marre, which was featured as the setting for the TV series "Designing Women". We were able to tour one of the homes, the Hornibrook Mansion (pictured below). The home is now a bed & breakfast known as "The Empress of Little Rock", and was completed in 1880.



This Gothic Queen Anne style building was built to impress the local establishment. The unique architectural features (divided stairway, 3 1/2 story corner tower, stained glass skylight, and octagonal shaped rooms), which create a massive structure representing late-nineteenth century architecture in its most flamboyant style. The owners are continuing to do an amazing restoration. The woodwork of native soft woods was given a faux finish to look like hardwood,



with matching D-11900 Corbin Cushion hardware. Their website www.theempress.com has many pictures.

Thursday was full of buying, selling and trading most of the day, and the introduction of a “silent auction” by one of our first-time attendees,



whereby members could write their name and bid on a sheet of paper until 11 am the following morning. The silent auction included two tables of items ranging from several fine doorknobs to bell pulls to ornate locks.

Two first-time attendees made their debut this convention:

- Elise Roenigk (#181), has been a member for a few decades but had never been able to attend a convention until this time. Elise owns and operates the historic *Crescent Hotel* in Eureka Springs, AR (which she restored with her late husband Martin more than 20 years ago), and is a National Historic Landmark built in 1886.
- Amy Larrimore (#998-below) is one

our newest members, with her Philadelphia-based *Requiem Salvage Company* having joined the club in November 2018. Amy owns a historic home there. Be sure to see her company listing on the back page of this newsletter.

Many people from the public joined us Thursday afternoon to learn what doorknob collecting is all about, and quite a few left with purchases in their hands. Ballots for the awards were turned in at the end of the day.

Friday morning included more buying/selling/trading and the conclusion of the silent auction. There was a bit of sniping at the end as Elise counted down to zero (photo above, Elise on the left), but this was a lot of fun and hopefully Elise was satisfied with the results. The afternoon auction was one of the smaller ones in the last few years, but there still was spirited competition for most items and some quirky paper hats courtesy of Rhett Butler.

The banquet and annual ADCA membership meeting provided some Arkansas hospitality at the close of the convention. Friday, July 26, 2019 was proclaimed *Antique Doorknob Collectors*



of America Day in North Little Rock by the Mayor Joe Smith, with a presentation from the City by Scott Sudduth, Convention & Visitors Bureau. Callie Williams from Arkansas’s Historic Preservation Program then provided an insightful talk about Arkansas history and historic sites from the area (left).

President Allen Joslyn then convened the annual meeting. The Treasurer's report by Paul Woodfin showed a slight profit for the 2018 Calendar Year (see enclosed report), and was favorably received. The Secretary's report by Mike Smith included 18 new members and 21 new member packets mailed by Vicky Berol to personally welcome each new member to the club.

Rhett Butler announced that 101 new hardware catalogs would be available in coming months (which was announced in the last newsletter, but changes, adding of watermarks to show the source of the catalog, and a great selling season at E. R. Butler have slowed the editing and release of the new catalogs). The club has also launched a new ADCA club website at www.antiquedoorknobs.org which now includes previews of each catalog so that the buyer can better know what information they are getting in each catalog.



Vice President Steve Rowe then presented the following Board members for election: for two year terms: Vicky Berol, Rhett Butler, Nick Doto, Steve Hannum, Allen Joslyn, Steve Rowe and James Tomasello; for a one year term, Jeff Orman, due to the resignation of Faye Kennedy from the Board in February 2019. These elections were approved unanimously. Steve then presented the current slate of officers (Allen Joslyn-President, Steve Rowe-Vice President, Mike Smith-Secretary and Paul Woodfin-Treasurer) for another one year term, and these elections were unanimously approved. President Joslyn announced that the Board had approved the formation of an Executive Committee. This Committee is comprised of the four elected officers and one "at large" member (Rhett Butler), had been

appointed by the Board to uniformly act on behalf of the Board anytime during the year, with any actions to be shared with the Board when they occur. This process is common for most non-profit organizations.

And then it was time for the most fun highlight of the evening: The Awards! The winners were presented with their awards by Paul Woodfin. Winning the Most Creative Display award was Tom (and Andree) Dulac (top). The theme this year was "the Big Boys (knobs over 3" in diameter)" and the largest collector of large knobs in the club, our host Mike Smith, won this award unanimously. Mike also received the award for Best in Show (middle). And for the first time in several years, Mike Smith did not receive the award for the Ugly Doorknob. Instead, Jessie Brooks, who has missed the last several conventions, made a profound return with a colorful knob and got to take the Ugly award home to Texas!



Mike and Carolyn Smith were also shown appreciation for making the 2019 convention an entertaining and resounding success (at right).

See you in July 2020 in Albany, New York!



The Hannums
The Dulacs

The Ormans



The Berols enjoy lunch at Benihana



Sheila Menchhofer and a different Steve



Mr. Phipps and Steve Menchhofer wearing Mr. Butler's turbans





Mike accepts the ADCA proclamation from the City of North Little Rock

Jeff Beutner and James Tomasello (wearing a real turban), made the trip down from Milwaukee



John Roberts and Philip Austin await the auction in their Butler-designed hats

The Dotos listen to the park ranger at Little Rock High School



Editor's Note: Thanks to Rhett Butler, Steve Hannum, Steve Rowe, Mike Smith and James Tomasello for most of the photos in this issue!

MEET JEFF ORMAN, ADCA BOARD MEMBER

BY VICKY BEROL

Welcome aboard to the ADCA Board of Directors. A native of Pennsylvania, Jeff was born in McKeesport which is, in his words, "a once (but no longer) thriving steel mill town near Pittsburgh". Educated through the Pennsylvania school system, he graduated from Allegheny College, majoring in economics. His entire professional life has been in finance, working for a CPA firm, an international coal company and, lastly, retiring after 26 years from Mellon Bank.

Active in the ROTC (Vietnam Era) he served three years in Kansas and one year in Germany. It was in Germany that Jeff met his wife, Nancy, while serving as a 2nd Lt in the Air Force. Nancy was working as a school nurse in the Air Force base elementary school. After discharge, Jeff and Nancy returned stateside, and he enrolled at the University of Pittsburgh, earning an MBA specializing in Accounting.

Prior to attending his first ADCA convention in Bethlehem, PA in 2000, Jeff had been a casual collector of antique builders hardware. Over the years, he has gone from "casual" to "serious", amassing a collection of over 500 knobs. He is not a purist and adds variety when something



catches his eye, however, his preference is ornate brass or bronze. However, he would not state his favorite knob, sort of like choosing a favorite child-Just not something you does. He and Nancy enjoy scouring flea markets and antique shops. As he searches, with Nancy's help for knobs, Nancy keeps a ready eye out for bill receipt clips that hang on a nail (Editor's Note: James Tomasello shares this collecting interest with Nancy). These items were used for advertising. Really! And people think we knobbers have strange collections.

Aside from enjoying the comradery and interest with like collectors and seeing their wares, it is also the architecture and history of the cities where the ADCA conferences are held. So much so, that he and Nancy offered to showcase their hometown of Pittsburgh, PA., in 2013, proudly showed us the many highlights of

"The Steel City". Pittsburgh, named for William Pitt, 1st Earl of Chatham, was founded in 1758, by General George Washington and General John Forbes, and sits at the junction of three rivers, the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio. Pittsburgh is also known for the 446 bridges throughout the city. During our stay, we toured "Clayton", the 23 room gorgeous Victorian mansion of Henry Clay Frick, built in 1882. In 1990 it was opened to the public as a museum. We also toured the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning, a collection of classrooms designed to represent the culture of 23 nations of the world. We also viewed the magnificent stained glass windows at The Heinz Memorial Chapel, dedicated in 1938, a gift to the City of Pittsburgh by the H. J. Heinz family. One of the gems of the city, and a unique way of transportation and sightseeing, but are the funicular inclines, allowing for amazing scenic views and thrills as the climb up the steep hills.

Pittsburgh is also known as a city of higher education - The Carnegie Institute of Science, Carnegie Mellon University ; sports - Pittsburgh Pirates, Pittsburgh Steelers and the Pittsburgh Penguins, the champion hockey team that won The Stanley Cup. As is often the case, our stay in this lovely city was far too short. All who attended will agree.

Nancy and Jeff have been married for 47 years, and are the parents of two adult children, Heather and Scott. With Jeff's extensive background in finance, he will be a valuable member, not only for the Club as a whole, but as our newest Board Member. Being budget savvy is always a plus.

Visit the ADCA on Facebook

Join in the discussion at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/antiquedoorknobs/>. As of August 2019 we have 495 members on Facebook. Mark Thompson posted a Howard Lock Co. combination lock that has origins from Pueblo, CO. And Christine Steinkuehler posted hardware pics from the Hick's Block, Victorian Row Houses from Topeka, KS.

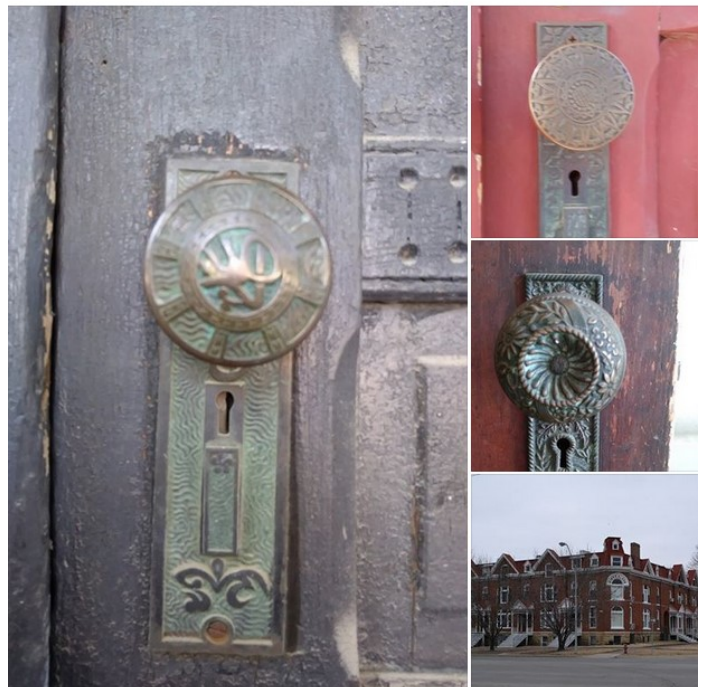
 **Mark Thompson**
August 29

The Howard Lock Co



 **Christine Steinkuehler**
August 31

I did a tour of Hick's block, a early 1890s block of Victorian row houses in my town the other day. Here are some of my favorite knobs.



Mark Hopkins Hotel San Francisco, California

Mark Hopkins was one of the “Big Four” of California, men who came to the west during the gold rush and made a fortune generally supplying miners, and then in real estate and railroads, and together formed the Central Pacific Railroad to build the western half of the Transcontinental Railroad. Hopkins built a large and extravagant Victorian mansion on Nob Hill in San Francisco, but died before the house was completed in 1878. The mansion later became the home of the San Francisco Art Association, serving as the home of the school and association until the 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed both the building and collection. A new, simpler building was quickly constructed and served the Association for the next twenty years.



By 1926 the school had relocated to a new campus, and the Nob Hill site was sold to a developer who constructed the nineteen-story Mark Hopkins Hotel on the site. Interestingly, some of the exterior wall that fenced the Hopkins mansion yard remained on the site and is still present today along California Street. Architects Week & Day designed the hotel to rival both the Fairmont Hotel next door and the Saint Francis Hotel on Union Square, using a French chateau style mixed with Spanish influences. The hardware is by Russell & Erwin, identified in their special hardware ledger as S3198 using a LaLonde knob with the MH lettering provided by the architectural drawings. The hotel’s top floor space was dubbed “The Top of the Mark” and was popular for deploying servicemen during World War Two to treat their spouse or girlfriend to a stellar evening.



While the hotel has been modernized over ensuing decades, including the replacement of hardware with electronic access cards, and historic areas restored to their original grace, the Mark Hopkins Hotel remains one of the featured hotels in San Francisco, almost a century after her debut.

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco_Art_Institute
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mark_Hopkins_Hotel

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Paying your Membership Dues

- Our membership system automatically sends an e-mail to all members who have e-mail addresses reminding you when your membership is due.
- If you signed up and created an account in the membership system, chose the Autopay option, and linked your PayPal account, then your membership will be paid through your PayPal account on the Due Date (and will have been since you signed up in the membership system).
- If you did not link your PayPal account, or do not have a PayPal account, then the club offers two options to pay on-line using your credit card at www.antiquedoorknobs.org/join-the-clubmembership.html or by mail to:

**Antique Doorknob Collectors of America
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- As always, you will receive reminder letters in this newsletter about your membership. If you receive a letter and think you have paid, please feel free to contact Mike Smith by phone or e-mail using his contact information below if you have any questions or need additional help.

2020 ADCA Convention

The 2020 ADCA Convention will be held in Albany, New York, hosted by Allen Joslyn and Sandra Stern. More details will be included in the next issue. 2020 will mark the 40th Annual ADCA Convention, after a group of collectors gathered together at Waverly, Iowa in 1981 and created our club.

Tentative plans are for the Convention to be held on a long weekend in mid-July (like the early conventions were), with a tour day on Friday and trading days on Saturday and Sunday. We hope this may allow some of our younger members with jobs and families to attend this convention.

Remember that first-time attendees do not pay the Basic Member registration fee. Albany is a scenic city with many house museums, historic sites, and Brimfield within a two hour drive.



Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

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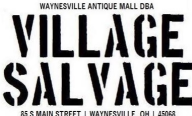
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Our Business Members

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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