

The Doorknob Collector



"HOUND DOG" BY METALLIC
COMPRESSION CASTING CO.
(RUSSELL & ERWIN)
PATENT JUNE 7, 1870
DESIGNER: LUDWIG KREUZINGER

Convention News

The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America will meet on September 11, 12 and 13 at the Schlage Lock Company at 2401 Bayshore Blvd in San Francisco. We urge all ADCA members to attend what we are sure will be an exciting and memorable event.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

- Sept. 10 Evening - Welcoming cocktail party at the Bayside Motor Inn (about four blocks from Schlage). This will be an informal gathering for early arrivals.
- Sept. 11 Morning - Registration, display set-up.
Afternoon - Visit displays, trade, and enjoy!
Evening - Cocktail party and dinner. Welcoming address by John Holland, featuring a presentation on the history of the hardware industry in America.
- Sept. 12 Morning - Visit displays, trade, and get ready for the public show. Late arrivals, such as antique dealers, may use this time to set up.
Afternoon - Public show and sale. This event will be widely advertised and promoted. We hope to attract many antique buffs and restorationists to enlighten them about the fascinating world of doorknob collecting. A great opportunity to lighten your load of duplicates and excess stock, and possibly defray the cost of your convention experience.
Evening - Free time, to visit with family or friends in the area, or seek out one of the many great dining attractions in San Francisco.
- Sept. 13 Morning - Formal presentation on selected doorknob subjects by leading members of ADCA, followed by the annual business meeting of ADCA. Farewell luncheon.

Continued next page

CONVENTION NEWS (continued)

We hope this 2½ day program will be flexible enough to meet the needs and expectations of all members. A detailed program will be sent to all who register, along with a reservation card for the modest and conveniently located Bayshore Motor Inn. The group rate at the motel for ADCA members will range from \$37 to \$55 per couple. If you wish to stay at this motel you should register early, as September is still a busy tourist season in San Francisco.

Now is the time to plan your display and organize your traders. You are welcome to bring your entire collection, but smaller specialized displays, particularly those with educational value, will be equally appreciated. We hope to attract several dealers who specialize in antique hardware, so those with few traders may still be able to add to their collections.

THE REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE CONVENTION IS ON THE LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER.

From the Editors

News from George Doyle of Olympia, Wa. The new Lock Collectors building in Terrytown, N.J. houses in addition to the large display of locks, 1000 old Corbin doorknob patterns, including all of their emblematics. The museum is on Rt 6, about one hour from Hartford.

George also reports this news item about our President, John Holland. John entered about 100 knobs in the hobby exhibition at the 1981 Arizona State Fair. Out of 114 entries he received the grand prize for the "Greatest Contribution to the Show".

Vice President, Arnie Fredrick sends the following from the Collectors Journal, May 21, 1982.

DOOR FURNITURE - I hadn't seen the term used until I read some books on English antiques. "Door Furniture" is anything even remotely connected with the entrance to a house or other building. The term covers door knockers, escutcheons, hinges, door porters, name plates, bells or other noise devises, keys, handles (knobs) and anything else you can think of having something to do with a door except the actual door itself. I wonder how many door furniture collectors there are in Collectors Journal land?

Arnie of course, enlightened the writer.



This remarkable knob is from the collection of Fred Magnus of Fort Meyers Beach, Florida.

The incident portrayed is that of a woman being shot at the entrance to a parsonage by a British soldier on June 7, 1780. The act would later spur the Colonists on at the battle of Elizabethtown.

The woman, Mrs. Hanna Caldwell was the wife of a minister who served with the Colonial army. The murder inspired the official county seal.

The County of Union New Jersey will celebrate it's 125th anniversary this year.

In the future each issue of the DC will feature a different knob in the masthead. The knobs selected will be of superior quality and design and will include specifics of origin.

THIS IS THE FIRST IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS WITH CHARTER MEMBER COLLECTORS. CHARLES WARDELL AND HIS WIFE MARY, LIVE IN TRINITY, NORTH CAROLINA.

I am interested in art, especially mosaics and stained glass windows. In the late 1950's and early 60's many windows became available locally because of the great building boom. Many fine churches were demolished and entire streets and sections of towns were cleared for urban renewal.

Some of the wreckers saved everything for resale and their yards and warehouses were rich in artistic windows, doors, paneling and metal work. I bought all the fancy windows, doors and sidelights I could find at a low price and stored them in my basement. Right then I became a collector and didn't care what others thought of my love for these beautiful artifacts. Ornate beveled and leaded glass entries could be bought for \$5. I have seen some similar entries recently priced at \$5,000. So - I wasn't so far off in my mind in 1960 as some thought at the time.

As a result of my frequenting the wreckers yards and sites of demolition I saw the door hardware which I passed up, through ignorance, for a time, but there came a day of reckoning. While I was loading windows into my station wagon, I sat down to rest in the old church and gazed across the room at a door fitted with some beautiful knobs. These were the first doorknobs I had ever appreciated and right there I became a collector and fancier of doorknobs.

The field was endless for a collector such as I in the 1960's and I added constantly to my collection. I was alone, I thought, in that fine hardware was being stripped from doors and sold as scrap metal. I have obtained many pieces from scrap yards, mixed with steam fittings and old machine parts.

Flea markets, antique shows and yard sales furnished a lot of knobs and a few were "liberated" from abandoned and fallen in buildings. I don't in any respect, believe I stole these knobs, only that I preserved a bit of Americana.

Thanks to the kindness of other collectors, namely Maudie Eastwood, Len Blumin, the Kaiser's and a few others, I have built my collection to over a thousand different patterns.

Some prize knobs are: the McKinley (face of President McKinley), Shriners emblem, Oklahoma State Seal, seven different warrior's face knobs, millifiori paper weight knob, a White House knob (removed during Mrs. Kennedy's stay), lion, bear, dog's face, honeybee, stork, dragon, Jenny Lind, Statue of Liberty, and over a hundred emblematics.

The cost of building this collection wasn't that much and the travels required have enriched my life and given me more recognition than I will likely receive in my own obituary....

Our heritage is priceless and our Federal and State governments are recognizing this by designating buildings and neighborhoods as National Treasures. There have always been collectors of fine arts such as, furniture, ceramics, glass, china and crystal ware, but you and I, as doorknob collectors (I hope you also like escutcheon plates, hinges, knockers, bells and store door handles) are alone in preserving this facet of American industry.

Fellow collectors wishing to visit us are welcome. I have been a carpenter and foreman for 35 years and I'm thankful for God's blessings and especially for his planting in me the love of beauty in nature and in man's crafts.

Charles Wardell

HEXAGONAL KNOBS



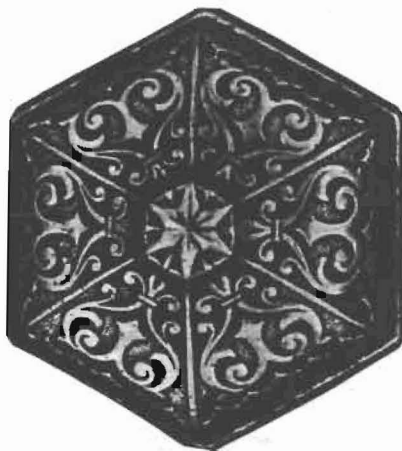
MALLORY WHEELER, CAST BRONZE
"STAR" 1882 CATALOG PG. 262

2.



METALLIC COMPRESSION CASTING CO.
(RUSSELL & ERWIN) CAST BRONZE
PAT. JUNE 7, 1870, DESIGNER:
JOSEPH A. RUFF

3.



METALLIC COMPRESSION CASTING CO.
CAST BRONZE, PAT. JUNE 7, 1870
DESIGNER: J.J.C. SMITH

4.



5.



DETAILS OF THE ORIGIN OF 4 & 5 ARE UNKNOWN TO THE EDITORS - COMMENTS WELCOME

THE ABOVE DESIGNS ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF PERHAPS A DOZEN OR MORE PATTERNS OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC FROM 1870 TO 1900. SUCH KNOBS ARE AMONG THE MOST DIFFICULT TO FIND. IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER THIS SCARCITY RESULTS FROM LIMITED PRODUCTION (PERHAPS PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE THE FEEL OF POINTS ON KNOBS) OR FROM HOARDING DUE TO THEIR UNIQUENESS AND EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY OF DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND RESEARCH BY LEN BLUMIN, 1982 CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

MEMBERSHIP, JUNE 1982

ANTIQUE DOORKNOB COLLECTORS OF AMERICA, INC.

ARIZONA

MR & MRS GEORGE BIXBY
3 W. Cambridge Ave
Phoenix, Az. 85003

DENISE GREEN
3902 W. Tierra Buena Lane
Phoenix, Az. 85023
Tel: home 602-938-1164
work 602-979-0301
Lock research-non trader

MR & MRS WILLIAM GWILLIM
11242 So. Shoshoni Drive
Phoenix, Az. 85044

JOHN & CHLORENE HOLLAND
3434 North 47th Way
Phoenix, Az. 85018
Tel: home 602-840-1945
Emblematic & fancy glass
Trader

EMMET & MARJORIE WIEMER
Box 3088
Sedona, Az. 86340

ARKANSAS

MRS JIM MEADOWS
10317 Meandering Way
Fort Smith, Ark. 72903

CALIFORNIA

LEONARD BLUMIN
382 Throckmorton Ave
Mill Valley, Ca. 94941
Tel: h & w 415-388-4990
Trader

BETTY KAY BJORNSEN
Box 13
Glendale, Ca. 91209

MARK DAVIDOVICH
919 Palm Ave #3
Carpinteria, Ca. 93013

MR & MRS HYRUM DROUBAY
D0349385
6 Friendly Lane
Navato, Ca. 94947

THOMAS FARADAY
Box 966
Crescent Creek, Ca. 95685
Tel: home 209-267-0942
Non-trader

CALIFORNIA (Cont.)

GEORGE E. GIBSON
760 Los Altos Ave
Long Beach, Ca. 90804
Tel: home 213-498-1187
work 213-424-1611
All kinds - Trader

KIM HATFIELD & LIN JOHNSON
1240 Hymettus Ave
Encinitas, Ca. 92024
Tel: home 714-753-1066
Traders

FRANK PETERS
495 Carr Ave
Aromas, Ca. 95004
Tel: h & w 408-722-6090
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MR & MRS PETE RAFFIN
990 South 6th St
San Jose, Ca. 95112

MATYLD A. RICHEY
428 Orchard Ave
Arroyo Grande, Ca. 93420
Tel: home 905-489-7186
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836 Holly Hill Drive
Walnut Creek, Ca. 94596

A.L. STILL
30433 Vanderbilt St
Hayward, Ca. 94544
Tel: Home 415-489-8534
Cast brass - Trader

D.E. VANDERBILT
Box 289
Millbrae, Ca. 94030

MR & MRS ROBERT WESTLAND
1781 Live Oak Ave
Concord, Ca. 94521

MARGARET WOLSKI
9120 - 7th Ave
Inglewood, Ca. 90305

FLORIDA

MR & MRS FRED MAGNUS
370 Washington Court
Fort Myers Beach, Fl.
33931

ILLINOIS

RALPH CHELIN
Rt #5
Princeton, Ill. 61356

RICHARD FULLER
686 Kenilworth Ave
Glen Ellyn, Ill. 60136

MR & MRS GLENN LEACH
42 Nottingham Rd.
Springfield, Ill. 82704

LORETTA NEMEC
1424 Heatherton Drive
Naperville, Ill. 60540
Tel: Home 312-357-2381
Work 312-840-3307
Generalist-buying-selling
Trader

DAVID OLAFSEN
20048 Free Church Road
Caledonia, Ill. 61011

ROD PSCHERER
262 Walnut
Elmhurst, Ill. 60126

HARVEY SASS
3601 Chicago Road
Steger, Ill. 60475

MR & MRS ROY SCHOUREK
3217 - 15th St C
Moline, Ill. 61265

MR. A.G. TERRY SHAFFER
1414 Williamsburg Road
Country Club Hills, Ill. 60477
Tel: home 312-957-2842
work 312-943-2300 ex 290
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Trader

IOWA

JAMES P. ANDERSON
1104 - 5th St N W
Waverly, Iowa 50677

MR & MRS WILLIAM BYINGTON
415 Magowan Ave
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

DAVID DVORAK
747 Alpine Drive
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

MEMBERSHIP, JUNE 1982

ANTIQUe DOORKNOB COLLECTORS OF AMERICA, INC.

IOWA (Cont.)

MR FREDRICK
221 - 2nd St S E
Waverly, Iowa 50677
Tel: home 319-352-4070
work 319 352-4090
Generalist - Trader

MR & MRS GERALD LEADERS
901 Jeroleman
Dunlap, Iowa 51529

MAX & BARBARA LIESMAN
4004 Oxford
Des Moines, Iowa 50313
Tel: Home 515-243-4025
Hopes to trade

MR & MRS EUGENE MORRIS
Box 467
Forest City, Iowa 50436

R.A. SCHULTZ
703 North Iowa St.
Charles City, Iowa 50616

MASSACHUSETTS

THOMAS S. SCHULTZ M.D.
93 Walnut St.
Walpole, Mass 02135
Tel: Home 617-668-3909
Work 617-783-9070
Trader

MICHIGAN

FLORENCE E. JARVIS
127 Prospect Ave N E
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503
Tel: home 616-454-7568
Generalist - Trader

MR & MRS ROBERT JONES
902 Lockwood
Royal Oak, Mich. 48067

MR & MRS NORMAN NICHOLS
G 1423 Williamsburg
Flint, Mich. 48507

MINNESOTA

CHARLES BEDNER
1132 W. Roselawn
St Paul, Mn 55113
Tel: home 612-489-1090
Emblematics, Victorian
Trader

MINNESOTA (Cont.)

MR & MRS E.P. DICK
6815 So. Humboldt
Minneapolis, Mn. 55423

LEE & JIM KAISER
4125 Colfax Ave So
Minneapolis, Mn. 55409
Tel: home 612-827-7080
work 612-827-5677
Generalists-Catalogs
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1103 Missouri Ave
Duluth, Mn 55811
Tel: home 218-724-2802

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MR & MRS WM. FELLEENZ
439 North Euclid
St Louis, Mo. 63108

NEBRASKA

MR. & MRS EMIL MILLER
8074 Cedar St
Omaha, Nebr. 68124

NEW JERSEY

MR & MRS ALLEN JOSLYN
249 Valley Road
Montclair, N.J. 07042

FAYE & RICH KENNEDY
7 Lafayette Place
Chatham, N.J. 07928

NORTH CAROLINA

MR & MRS RODDEY BROWN
1252 Andover Road
Charlotte, N.C. 28211

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OHIO

RALPH MEERMANS
30516 Maple Drive
Bay Village, Ohio 44140

OHIO (Cont.)

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1575 Garman Road
Akron, Ohio 44313

OREGON

MR & MRS DEAN CAMPBELL
612 No. Meridian Road
New Berg, Ore 97132

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1874 House
8070 S E 13th Ave
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PENNSYLVANIA

MR & MRS RICHARD KLOPP
1801 Cambridge Ave #B-03
Wyomissing, Pa. 19610

DON REESE
608 North Main
Port Allegany, Pa. 16743

WENDELL TRUMBULL
54 East Market St
Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

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LOMBARD POZZI
1226 Hope St
Bristol, R I 02809

SOUTH CAROLINA

BILLY G. ROGERS
Rt 3 Box 681
Dillon, S.C. 29536
Tel: Home 803-774-2026
Work 803-774-4155
Hopes to trade

UTAH

THOMAS WITMER
93 East 100 North
Box 406
Farmington, Ut. 84025

WASHINGTON

GEORGE J. DOYLE
3700 Elizabeth Ave
#131
Olympia, Wa. 98501
Tel: home 206-491-6311

DARRELL O. RAZOR
214-111th Ave N E
Bellevue, Wa 98004
Tel: Home 206-883-0111
Work 206-454-5477
Trader

ART SMITH
936 North 76th St
Seattle, Wa. 98103
Tel home 206-789-2668
work 206-762-2880
Emblematics, Victoria
Trader

WISCONSIN

MR & MRS RAY
CHRISTENSEN
5106 W20597 No Shore
Lane
Muskego, Wi. 53150

LOIS HATCH
342 So. 23rd
LaCrosse, Wi. 54601
tel home 608-782-8744
Wood or glass knobs
Not trader yet

JUDY & DAN PETERSON
Rt 2 Mahocker Rd
#5372
Mazomanie, Wi, 53560
tel home 608 767 3727
Generalists
Traders

MR & MRS RAYMOND ZYC
1042 Milton Ave
Janesville, Wi. 53544
tel home 608-754-2644
Victorian
Traders

FROM THE EDITORS (continued)

No one identified the mystery knob shown in the March issue.

A volunteer at the nursing home your editors work for, brought us a doorknob she purchased at an antique shop in Athens, Greece. It is similar yet different from American pottery type knobs. We will bring it to the convention.

Latest membership count - 71!

We think the "hex" knob sheet in this issue turned out well - Thanks in large part to Len Blumin. The Editors have a spare #3 which we would love to trade for a #1 or #2.

Next Issue: Convention Highlights and the Editors choice of what we feel are the three best designs (geometric grace) in our collection, PLUS WHAT EVER WE HEAR FROM YOU.....



REGISTRATION FORM - 1982 CONVENTION OF THE ANTIQUE DOORKNOB COLLECTORS OF AMERICA

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

Make checks payable to "ADCA Convention"

Mail to LEONARD BLUMIN, 382 THROCKMORTON AVE
MILL VALLEY, CA. 94941

FEES:

ADCA Members: single \$25
couple \$45

Non Member: single \$45 *
couple \$65 *

Dealers: Sun. Sept. 12 only-\$15

*Includes ADCA membership for
one year starting Sept. 1982

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 15, 1982

A proxy ballot will be sent to each member who has not registered by the deadline