

Display in L.A.

The Los Angeles (California) County Museum of Art is displaying outstanding examples of American Arts and crafts from the collection of Max Palevsky and Jodie Evans. The exhibition, American Arts & Crafts: Virtue in Design will be on display through January 6, 1991.

Featuring late 19th and early 20th-century furniture, metalwork, ceramics and glass, American Arts & Crafts includes the finest works of the period's most acclaimed craftsmen such as Greene & Greens, Charles Rohlfs, Roycroft, Gustav Stickney, Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Henri Sullivan and others. The exhibition also includes selections of European examples to enhance the understanding of the American works on view.

A full-illustrated catalogue, written by Leslie Greene Bowman, the Museum's curator of Decorative Arts, will accompany the exhibition.

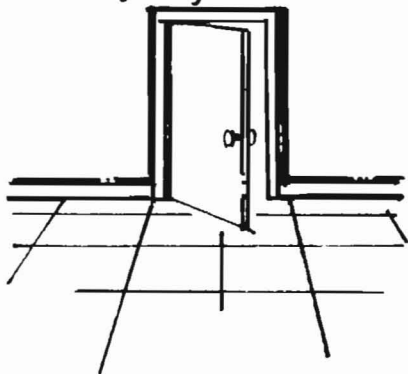
American Arts & Crafts; Virtue in Design was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. For more information contact Public Information Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036 phone 213-857-6522.■



Wall sconce in brass and leaded glass by Louis H. Sullivan. (L. A. County Museum of Art)

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



Our last issue carried a centerfold with pictures of almost everyone who attended the 1990 convention. Now that you have been guessing who's who for two months, this issue will include a page which will identify all the mysterious faces.

How does our membership cost compare to other clubs? Well, I belong to five other organizations and have just recently paid my 1991 membership dues. Here is how they compare:

SABR (baseball)	\$30
CERA (railroad)	25
BCCA (beercans)	24
NRC (radio)	22
ADCA	20
SCARS (radio)	10

It looks like ADCA members are getting a bargain. We encourage those who have not paid their 1991 dues to do so as early as possible. By showing your support now, you will help us make 1991 all it should be for ADCA.

Video tapes of the 1990 convention and Thrall's "The Building" are available for loan from the club. If you would be interested in seeing these tapes drop a note to Arnie Fredrick for more details. ■

WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE

by L. Carlisle Bolen

What a wonderful surprise Frances and I had after traveling about 1,091 miles. We stopped at the Danbury, CT, welcome station rest stop. To our surprise, as we were leaving the station, we looked up and there were three people walking down the walkway - Bill and Helen Byington and Arnie Fredrick. The Byingtons and Arnie had driven up in separate cars. I don't know who was most surprised (see photo).

Frances and I had also stopped at Charlie Wardell's house in Trinity, N.C. If you have never visited his home and seen his doorknob collection along with his other collections, you must make this a stop some day.

We all had a real treat at seeing Ed Thrall's "The Building." I don't believe I know of another person that could have built this building. The structure is so well constructed it is an asset to the community.

After traveling on into the other New England

states we stopped at Keene, N.H., where we spent the night. Also there were farmers from all over the United States there. We got to show them our doorknobs. They didn't know such beautiful doorknobs existed.

Don't forget to order your **SWEAT SHIRT** to wear to next year's convention and you, too, may be spotted along the highway somewhere.

We are looking forward to being with all of you next year at Lake Tahoe.

(Editor's note: See **THE DOORKNOB EXCHANGE** for sweatshirt order page 10.)



The Doorknob Collector

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Hardware, California style

by Maude Eastwood

What hardware fits the title, "California Style"?

Certainly, it would include the Mission hardware, hand-hammered on the site and later the subject of faithful reproduction. Should it also include dealers' hardware that was brought in for the mansions of the gold and oil rich and San Francisco's "Painted Ladies"? That is, before local hardware of quality was available.

Should hardware from the California warehouses of East coast manufacturers - that "Modern" and Art Deco type now being restored by popular demand-be included? Is California Style limited to hardware born and bred in California, or does it also include hardware preferred and available?

The Scollage and the Earle were 20th Century come-latelies whose hardware was unmistakably California Style. Include the products of the Technical and Brock glass houses - all California based.

Let the experts decide what California style hardware embraces. The three eras of builders' hardware in California may be broadly labeled, dated and



highlighted for the collector as;

1. Original forged 1700's Mission hardware.

2. 1800's imported (both from United States and foreign sources.)

3. 20th century patented and (or) manufactured by competitive California builders' hardware manufacturers.

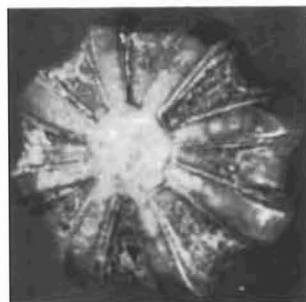
The heavy hand-hammered hardware of the Spanish Missions was forged for utility, not for beauty. Little attempt was made to standardize sizes and shapes. Materials were scarce. Surviving pieces are scarce. Doorknobs do not exist among Mission digs. Mission hardware pieces in faithful reproduction are

found in Earle's A-3 catalog.

Fine hardware of the 1800's was available to Californians in warehouses established by the major companies as early as 1865. Some of these companies operated their own steamship lines.

R & E Metallic Compression designs and Corbin's enameled knobs were not uncommon to the California scene, as were Wedgewood, crystal and the more common types.

From the turn of the century through



the 1920's a handful of fledgling California companies entered the builder's hardware field. World War I brought metal hardware production to a virtual stop. Subsequently standardization resulted. The time was ripe for a change and the market was ready.

Weiser Lock Company of South Gate was among the first - 1904. Weiser was a real going concern that also made hardware for movie sets.

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hardware...

Following World War II and a return to peacetime manufacturing. Weiser melted a roomful of such hardware to start a residential lock business.

Earle Hardware Manufacturing Company of Los Angeles was singularly successful. Earle was incorporated in 1913 and prepared to serve the needs of the varied styles of California architecture with faithfully reproduced, original Period designs. Earle's No. A-3, circa 1925 catalog was heavy on the side of Mission and Colonial hardware - strap hinges, lever handles, latches, knockers. Earle did not remain a California Company, but sold to the Reading Knob Works of Pennsylvania in 1928.

Acme of Los Angeles, established in 1926, were manufacturers, dealers and importers of fine and exotic hardware from the four corners and so served a large and varied clientele. They advertised "The worlds largest selection of custom hardware."

The Peabody Company, also of Los Angeles, offered a distinctive line of bold designs. They were acquired by



Schlage Lock Company in 1959 and operated as a Custom Hardware Division. The out-sized, full faced Lion knob is a product of Peabody Company.

Two of the companies patented bore-in type cylindrical locks in the 1920's, one, more successfully than the other. Walter E. Wread's patents were filed in 1925 and 1926. They were assigned by Mesne assignments to our-of-state McKinney Manufacturing Company. McKinney improved and marketed the line then sold to Corbin, who shelved it.

Walter Schlage was the California inventor who established the acceptance of the cylindrical lock. His push-button type, that required but two bored holes and a few screws to be user-

ready, gave main line lock manufacturers serious competition and put California on the map. Here is hardware production and marketing as its best. Walter Schlage's 260 patents paid off. His first patent was submitted in 1909. By 1925 his new plant in San Francisco was capable of producing 2,500 locks every eight hours.

California inventors have long been interested in the operation of locks. In early 1874 Joseph O'Neil received a patent for his Improved Permutation Lock and in February 1875, Hugh Rogers assigned half of his Improved Locking Latch to one Allen Hoskins.

George Cawthorne of Redwood City obtained a design patent for a late Art Nouveau door handle, dated 3-25-1924. This patent was assigned to Axford & De Shields, San Jose, California. Other California patents were obtained by Earle for their push button handle and by W.A. Anderson for glass furniture knobs, dated 8-16-1921.

The Technical Glass Company Inc. of Los Angeles issued catalog No. 7, c. 1938.

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Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

by Len Blumin

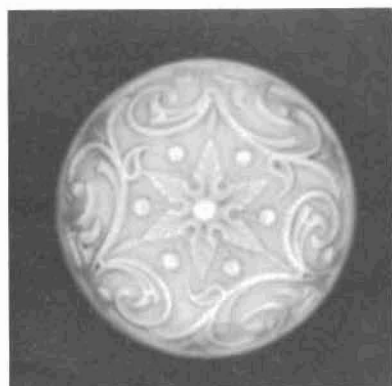
(The following regular feature is a supplement to Len's excellent book,
VICTORIAN DECORATIVE ART)

- J-109 Classic, H&D 1879 catalog. Smaller version of K-103.
J-110 Classic, H&D 1879 catalog, knob number 390. Compare to J-101, K-107.
(Note: K-107 now known to be H&D, not R&E as shown in VDA.
J-111 H&D, 1879 catalog, "Modern" design for this period.
J-222 "Raised" design, Branford, 1879, number 2327.
J-223 Adams & Westlake "Saloon" knob, for a rimlock.
J-224 Vernacular. Photo "retouched" to emphasize design.

J-109



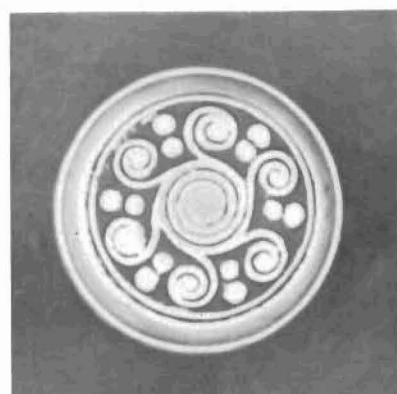
J-222



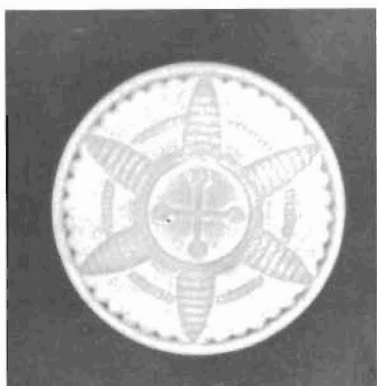
J-110



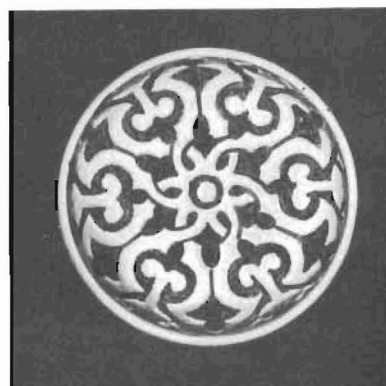
J-223



J-111



J-224



- K-213a Note different center, and stems for perimeter flowers.
 K-213b Note different center, Original K-213 by H&D, 1879 catalog.
 K-214a Mallory & Wheeler, Design pattern #19,553, 12/31/1889.
 K-214b Mallory & Wheeler, Less common flat version of K-214.
 K-226 Cast iron, somewhat crude.
 K-314 Wrought iron.

K-213a



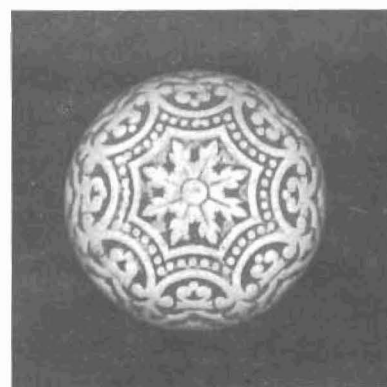
K-214b



K-213b



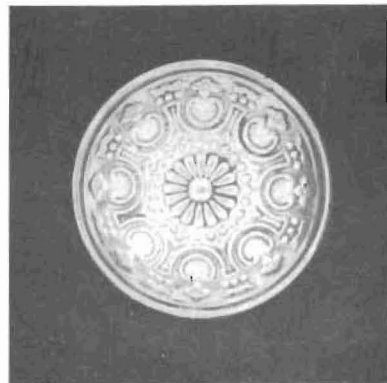
K-226



K-214a



K-314



Noble service

by Charlie Wardell

Recall anyone and you immediately think of some mannerism, physical feature, conversation, dress or voice that makes that person unique. We wouldn't remember them otherwise. Right? First impressions are lasting and we usually size up everyone quickly, leaving room for later adjustment.

One flea market dealer I know regularly exposes hardware that is irresistible to me. I think he, of the dark glasses and full beard, knows my weakness and has become my personal picker. I probably pay too much but I try to buy all his good stuff so he won't lose interest in hardware. Another dealer that I see regularly looks like a gangster from a TV movie but is a very nice fellow, very knowledgeable and claims to have four college degrees. I believe him. His love of hardware is obvious and any transactions always pleasant. These observations aren't meant to be critical, I'm just being analytical for, after all, I want to recognize him the next time.

When I think of George Burns I smell a cigar and I see gaudy jewelry when recalling Liberace. A shaved head and a lollipop is Telly Savalas' trademark and he wouldn't leave home without it. The



lollipop, I mean. President Bush's spectacles and Henry Kissinger's voice distinguish them from everyone else. I wonder if Henry can sing? Checking Gorbachev's birthmark is everyone's responsibility and I wonder if Johnny Cash owns a sport coat.

Do you remember Edward R. Murrow? If the smoke cleared I believe the fresh air would have choked him. General McArthur's hat is a fable itself and a Life Magazine cover picturing it, hanging on a rack, told his story as plainly as the cross tells that of the Son of Man. The inquiring eyes and smile tells me Arnie Fredrick likes me and Maudie's stern face and sincerity in appraising hardware assures me that my hobby is not in vain. Marge Weimer's "I don't believe a word of it" posture convinces me that she'd be hard to fool. Then Charlie Wardell's close inspection (and envious look) poses the question, "does he want any more?"

Little things distinguish us as well as doorknobs and are keys

to close relationships. Recall your favorite knob. Is it the most beautiful one? Probably not but it has "character" that you like and feel an affinity for. Vernacular style is my favorite because there is a reflection of the independent American spirit, elements of it's design are timeless and no pretense or conceit is there.

My discovery of doorknobs was an accident and I could write a book about the occasion and how doorknobs opened doors to the world for me. I was born a collector, I'm certain, for as a child I saved tinfoil, popsicle sticks, nails and wooden boxes to use in making toys and other pretty things. I enjoy being called a collector (packrat?) and I wish I had discovered doorknobs fifty years earlier. Then I could boast of the greatest collection in America! Are we ready for another book on

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Service . . .

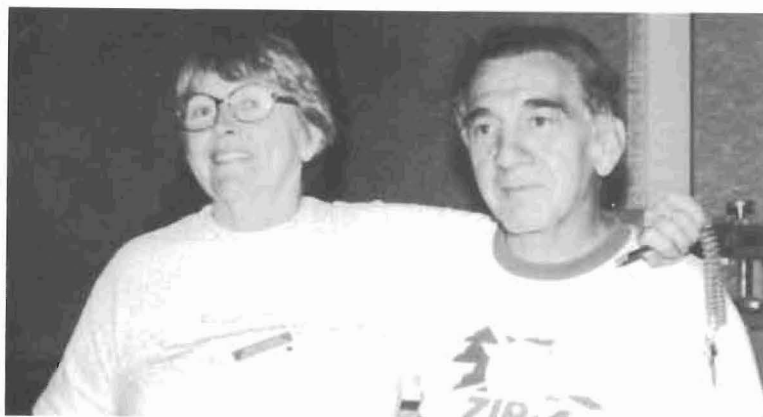
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hardware collecting?

I think the collector serves a noble service to a society that discards everything when the shine is gone. At one time baseball cards, comic books, Elvis records, silver dollars and Mallory Wheeler doorknobs were cheap and available, often for pennies, to anyone caring enough to save them. Wouldn't we all like to recall ten days of 1950 or 1910 and stockpile the common things? We would be millionaires.

The works of Beethoven, Handel and Steven Foster can be enjoyed because a collector saved their manuscripts. The letters of Washington and Lincoln inspire us today and who but a collector cared enough to preserve, at risk of death, the writings of Moses, David or Saint Paul or even Shakespeare? Without them we would be poor, indeed. Yes, a Divine providence was at work but a collector was on the scene too.

There is pleasure as well as responsibility in preserving bits of Americana and an industry which is nearly ignored by historians needs champions (like the ADCA) to document it's important contribution to our way of living. I look forward to many years of being a hopelessly happy, harmless, harmless hardware hustler. ■



Dates set

In its 10th anniversary season, the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America's annual convention will be held in South Lake Tahoe, California. The convention will take place August 11-14, 1991, at the Tahoe Sands Inn, 3600 Highway 50, South Lake Tahoe, California.

While specific plans for the convention are still in the formative stages, the proposed activities include California style hardware as the theme. Details will be forthcoming from convention organizers Marge and Joe Bornino as they develop. Watch **THE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR** for updates. In the meantime, mark August 11-14 on your calendar now. ■

ADCA

National convention sites

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| 1981 | Waverly, Iowa |
| 1982 | San Francisco, Ca |
| 1983 | Naperville, IL |
| 1984 | Waverly, Iowa |
| 1985 | St. Charles, MO |
| 1986 | Minneapolis, MN |
| 1987 | Des Moines, IA |
| 1988 | Indianapolis, IN |
| 1989 | Iowa City, IA |
| 1990 | East Windsor, CT |
| 1991 | South Lake Tahoe, CA |
| 1992 | ? |



Handle on decor

A collection of cabinet and door hardware cast from red brass, aluminum alloys, or iron is inspired by the art of the ancient pueblo dwellers, and is a good basic for Southwest decor. Prices range from \$150 to \$175 for the largest latches (door pulls) to \$16 to \$20 for smaller shanks (handles and knobs). For more information, contact Craftsmen in Wood Mfg. at 4040 W. Whitton Ave., Phoenix, Ariz. 85019 (602-278-8054)

Call for bids

Bids for the 1992, 1993 and 1994 ADCA convention are still being accepted. Contact President Len Blumin or the ADCA office (at Eola, Illinois) as soon as possible.

SCHLAGE



DAHLIA



DUCHESS



RAMSBURY

HARDWARE

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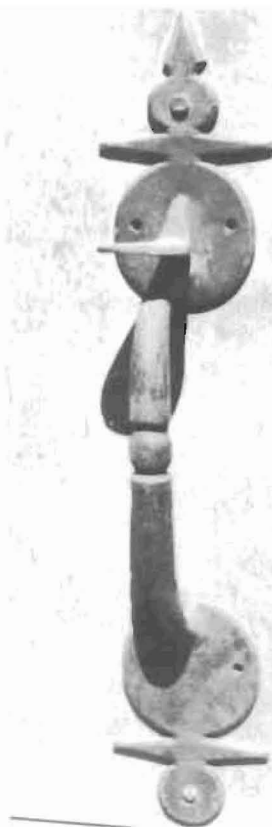
Technical manufactured Builders' Glass Hardware and Specialties, merchandising in both the United States and five foreign countries. Technical's line included pressed and cut glass in large variety of colors.

Under the watchful eye of Walter Schlage, the Brock Company of Irvine, California supplied glass knobs for Schlage for a number of years.

In closing, it should be noted that no attempt has been made to limit California builders' hardware manufacturers to those companies listed, nor, because of limited space, to have slighted those named.

Further, questions have arisen regarding the re-occurrence of certain Earle catalog designs in other company catalog's. (See club newsletter for March/April, 1980) The companies of Earle, Peabody, Weiser and SECO are involved. A clear cut picture has yet to emerge that would explain what factors, other than mergers, that would allow this duplication.

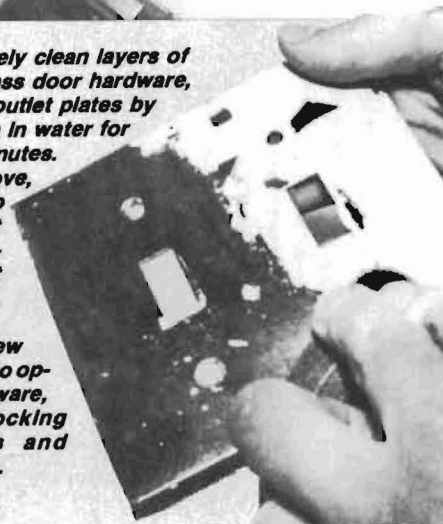
The answers may be waiting for us at the 1991 California convention. ■



Boiled Brass



You can safely clean layers of paint off brass door hardware, switch and outlet plates by boiling them in water for about 10 minutes. Simply remove, cool and rub off the paint with a plastic mesh pot scrubber. Then polish and add a few drops of oil to operable hardware, such as locking doorknobs and door hinges.





by Steve & Barb Menchhofer

It's That Time of Year!

Once again it's that time of year--time to place your order for catalogs. Time to be considering which catalogs will be helpful to you in identifying your new found doorknob treasure or that interesting escutcheon plate you happened to find at a flea market.

Order forms are enclosed with this issue of **The Doorknob Collector**. January 1, 1991 is the deadline date for orders. Your check or money order must accompany your order. Do not add postage as it has already been included in the cost.

Catalogs are offered only twice a year to save wear and tear on the master copies. If you are thinking about next years convention, you may want to place your order now as you can acquaint yourself with the convention theme hardware.

We offered eight new catalogs at the 1990 convention. Two more have been added to the order from at this time bringing the total of new catalogs for 1990 to ten. The newest offerings are Yale & Towne, Catalog #16, July, 1897 and P & F Corbin Bronze Hardware List., 1874-5.■

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge.

FOR SALE OR TRADE. Limited number of knobs and plates from the "Ellicott Square Building." Buffalo, NY. Designed by Daniel Hudson Burnham. Built in 1896 and was the largest office building in the world upon its completion. Listed on the National Register of Historic Building. Dale Sponaugle (#85), 247 Summit Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214-1933. Ph:716-834-3970.

FOR SALE. Russwin brass knobs and complete locksets. Patent date 1902. Madison style. \$23 per set (includes shipping.) Ric Smith (#208), 62 Sorrento Blvd., Hanahan, SC 29406. Ph:803-553-6508 evenings & weekends.

BUYING, SELLING, TRADING. Doorknobs and related hardware. The Antique Doorknob Museum & Shop."In Historical St. Peters Village." Call Wed-Sun 12-5, 215-469-0970 or write to P.O. Box 7, St. Peters, PA 19470. Bill Causey (#155).

WANTED. I am a collector of Masonic brass door knockers, trivets, bookends, and am now searching for a set of doorknobs with the square and compass logo. Many early Masonic Lodges used these fraternal doorknobs, generally inside doors of the temple which was not

visible by anyone from the outside. Norman G. Gordon (#243), 34 Woodward Ave. Thornhill, ONT, Canada L3T1E5. PH:416-889-3344.

FOR SALE. My collection of approximate 1,000 doorknobs, plus plates and related hardware. Florence Chelin (#22), R5-2026 S. Main, Princeton, IL 61356. PH:815-875-1896.

FOR SALE. Antique Doorknob Collectors of America Sweatshirt, All sized, all colors. Doggie doorknob likeness on sweatshirt. Price \$16.50 each. **A.D.C.A.** Dept S, c/o L.C.Bolen (#113) 17 Tree View Drive, Apt. B, Lithonia, GA 30038. PH:404-981-1752.

FOR SALE. ADCA club doorknobs. Wood body, brass stems, design in club logo. Laser engraved, in walnut. \$27 includes shipping. **ADCA** Dept D, c/o Bill Byington, 415 Magowan Ave., Iowa City, IA 52246, PH:319-338-0982.

WANTED. I.C. RR Co. doorknob. Ray Nemec (#8), 1424 Heatherton Dr., Naperville, IL 60563. PH:708-357-2381.■

