

# The Doorknob Collector

MARCH 1978

## YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

Since the last newsletter (March 1977) I have had the opportunity of meeting several doorknob collectors and corresponding with others.

In the spring of this year I met with Maude Eastwood of Tillamook, Ore. when she came East for a visit with her family. She is a delightful person and her book, *THE ANTIQUE DOORKNOB*, is a great help to us all. In trading, it is a useful reference to identify knobs to a correspondent.

Again last fall I visited with Betty Beebe and her husband in Talcottville, Conn. We had a nice chat and traded a few knobs. Betty has been collecting for 20 years now and has some real beauties which I have not seen anywhere else. As Betty put it, "We travel the New England circuit and never turn down a flea market or antique shop". Besides doorknobs which are in every nook of her home, there are mice, large and small, wooden and ceramic, lurking everywhere you look. I guess Betty's dream is a knob with a mouse embossed on it.

George Doyle of West Hartford, Conn. has gotten in touch with me by mail. He has a collection of several hundred knobs which he started only five years ago.

As I meet and hear about more and more collectors, I recall that almost all of us thought we were alone and a bit crazy to be collecting doorknobs. It was this reason that the newsletter came about. It is a way of introducing ourselves to each other.

## KNOBS ON DISPLAY

Both George Doyle and Maude Eastwood have mentioned a lock museum in Terryville, Conn. which is worth a visit if you are in the Hartford area. They have knobs on display as well as the locks. The Lock Museum of America, 114 Main St. Terryville, Conn. is open May through October, Tuesday through Sundays.

## NEW LOOK

Our format is new with this issue (only the second). Hopefully, the new look will help to increase the frequency of publication. We hope to get three issues out this year.

In future issues we would like to feature a collector. This would include the type of knobs collected, whether sets or single knobs are preferred, size of the collection, interest in trading, and any other information you would care to share. Send me information!

Also a question and answer column would be in order. Since the editor of this paper is not an expert, the answers would have to come from you the readers. We are confident that photographs of good quality can be reproduced in this column.

How about a reader exchange for selling, swapping, etc.?

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

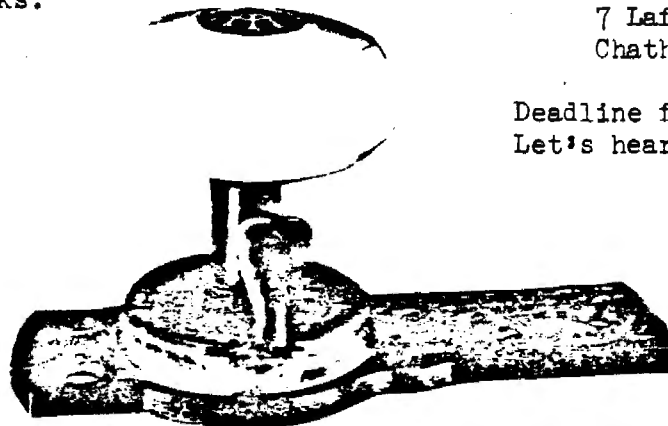
I have recently obtained this solid brass plate. I would appreciate it if someone could tell me what the matching knob looks like.



I have two wooden knobs with designs pressed into the surfaces. Does anyone else have similar knobs or know the approximate date on these knobs? They are quite old.

## RECENT INTERESTING FINDS

This knob has a May 30, 1876 patent. The knob does not turn, instead there is a thumb press to work the mechanism. I also found the companion box containing the complete works.



## COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Rich Kennedy, your editor, is our first collector to be highlighted. He began collecting only three years ago when he picked up two brass knobs and realized all knobs were not alike.

One of his first knobs was given to him by a friend who found it while fishing at Bar Harbor, Maine. The knob remained in his tackle box for twenty years.

Rich's collection numbers nearly two hundred knobs but continues to grow monthly. Mainly a collector of single knobs, he also has some pairs and several knobs with matching plates or roses. He has many varieties including procelain, wood, brass, copper, glass, steel, and bronze. Probably the oldest knob he has is a Sandwich glass one that dates back to 1829. Another unusual one is a sterling silver knob which he picked up in Newport, R.I. which may have come from one of the many mansions in that city.

Rich has traded with other collectors through the mail and is interested in trading mostly single knobs.

His wife shares his interest and their home in Chatham, N.J. is filled with knobs. On the stair landing he has made a rack which holds eighty knobs. The rest of the collection occupies bowls around the house.

## NEXT ISSUE

How to Clean Knobs

The plan also includes a listing of names and addresses. If you DO NOT want your name printed, let us know.

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7 Lafayette Place  
Chatham, N.J. 07928

Deadline for next issue June 15, 1978.  
Let's hear from you!!!!