



The Doorknob Collector

NOV. — DEC. 1979

EDITORS' NICHE

We have had a wonderful summer and are getting back into the swing of things. With two girls aged 11 and 14, organization comes abruptly the day school begins.

We enjoyed our trip to Florida and were pleasantly surprised when we arrived at Disney World to see that all along Main Street each door had an antique knob and plate attached. We owned several of the patterns but there were some we hadn't seen before. We commend Disney for the attention to detail that gave us such delight.

Returning home we teased our friends about not telling us of the beautiful knobs throughout the Magic Kingdom. In reality we know only a collector would notice this detail. You who live in the West, are there similar knobs at Disneyland?

Early this fall we were in Conn. and took the opportunity to visit the Lock Museum of America and to meet Tom Hennessy. While there, we saw many familiar names in the guest book so we know many of you have been there.

We also spent an after-

noon with George Doyle and his wife in W. Hartford, Conn. Enjoyed his collection.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Faye and Rich Kennedy
Editors

COLLECTOR'S CORNER

Tillie Richey of Arrayo Grande, Cal. relates that it is easy to get hooked on doorknobs.

"In 1975 my husband and I were on our way to Yellowstone to meet relatives there from Louisiana. We stopped in Reno, Nevada the first night out. We had dinner in a restaurant that was furnished with all sorts of antiques.

"On the wall of the dining room, a board about 12" wide and 12' long was hung. This board held a display of all sorts of doorknobs. I looked at it in amazement, and said to my husband, 'That's what I'm going to collect as I won't have much money tied up in it.' That did it. I was hooked!

"On our return from Yellowstone we stopped in Reno again. There I purchased my first 4 doorknobs at antique shops--2 glass and 2 metal ones.

"That evening we had dinner with friends. My lady friend

was a teacher and they had just changed the locks on her classroom door. Well, she gave me one of the doorknobs from her classroom. From then on, it was all down hill. We then stopped at Auburn, Cal. where I purchased 2 lightly colored purple glass ones.

"My collection now totals about 250. By buying a few, receiving gifts from friends and relatives, etc. the collection is growing. Little did I realize there were so many beautiful kinds and designs on doorknobs. Up to this point, a doorknob was just something to open a door with.

CORRESPONDENCE

From R. Gentle (Murfreesboro, Tenn.) we hear that he sets up at the Nashville Flea Market each month. He offers all types of door hardware. His own collection consists of 200 knobs, 75 plates and 25 locks.

Frank Peters (Aromas, Cal.) in addition to being a doorknob collector has written a book, FRUIT JAR MANUAL and wants old canning or fruit jars in unusual colors or shapes. Maybe you could get a knob for a jar.

A request for a slight change in our format came from Tillie Richey. She is keeping her newsletters in a notebook and needs more room on the margin for ring binder holes. Hope this is better for you.

LOCKS

Many of our readers also collect other door hardware. Locks are often mentioned in letters to us. Scott Klemm (Rialto, Cal.) is the Associate Editor of the KEY COLLECTORS JOURNAL. This publication contains articles, catalog re-

prints, etc., of interest to key and lock collectors. They would welcome articles concerning knobs from our readers.

Membership in the Key Collectors International includes 5 issues of KEY COLLECTORS JOURNAL. The initial fee is \$15 with dues set at \$10 per year. If interested write to Don Stewart, PO Box 9397, Phoenix, Arizona, 85068.

We have previously mentioned the American Lock Museum in Terryville, Conn. which we have visited. They have a beautiful collection of knobs including enameled knobs similar to the one pictured in our last issue.

Another lock museum exists for those of you who live further west. Locks and Keys Museum is the private collection of Harvey W. Sass. It is located at 3001 Chicago Rd., Steger, Ill., 60475. This is the address of Elmer and Son Locksmith, Inc. He'd love to have you come by.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

A year ago we published an article on the knob and plate we use as our heading. We have just received this further explanation from Nels Nelson (Minneapolis, Minn.) --These two key hole locks were particularly for use on front doors of homes. The locks had a latchbolt and a deadbolt, plus two push buttons in the front of the lock. When the homeowner left the house and didn't require deadbolt security he would push one of the push buttons locking the outside knob. If the deadbolt were not thrown, the owner could use the night latch key to retract the latchbolt. This was using the upper key hole. If the deadbolt were also thrown both keys would have to be used to open the door.

Further information came from Maude Eastwood on the enameled knob in the last issue. It was made by Corbin (pg.44 Early

Locks & Lockmakers of America
by Tom Hennessy). The actual
enameling was done by Horace
Bunting, an enameling jeweler
from Providence, R.I.

RESTORATION NEEDS

Following is a letter from
Lombard Pozzi, citing his needs.
If you can help him out contact
him directly at 1226 Hope St.,
Bristol, R.I., 02809. The
illustrations on the following
page were provided by him.

The mortise lock shown was
made by several manufacturers,
among these, P.F. Corbin and
Sargent & Co. My main interest
is that the face plate be brass,
not steel. I would be interest-
ed in any available quantities
of this lock type, either with
or without their strike as
shown.

I also need a minimum of
six pairs of the wood doorknobs
shown for the restoration of an
1887 Romanesque Revival granite-
walled library in the town of
Warren, R.I. The actual design
of the knobs may vary slightly
from that shown, however, all
six sets should be identical,
or very nearly so. Birch or
maple is preferred, however,
mahogany or walnut would also
be suitable for this building.

I am looking for a source
for a minimum of eight pairs (I
would accept a lesser amount if
that's all that was available)
of the storm sash latch pic-
tured. These latches were
manufactured at least as far
back as the late 1940's.

I am also interested in
purchasing old steeple-tipped
cast iron door hinges as they
become available. I use them
in various restorations.

The other item I need is
the brass escutcheon plate
which is pictured.

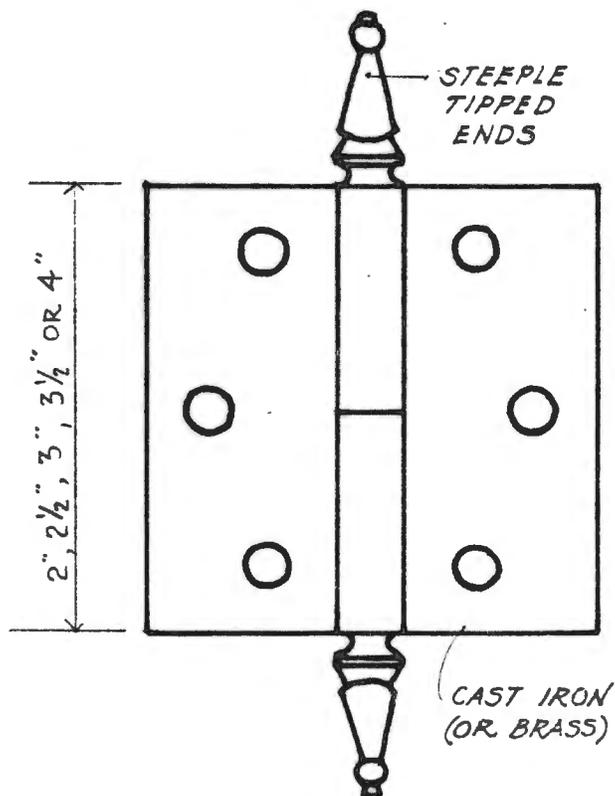
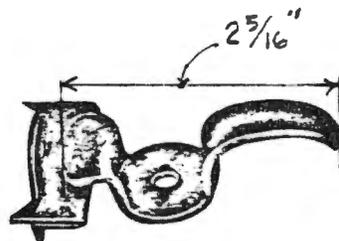
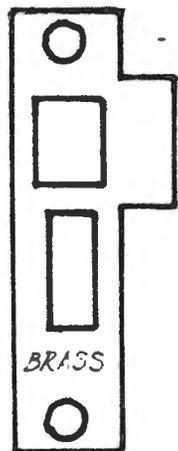
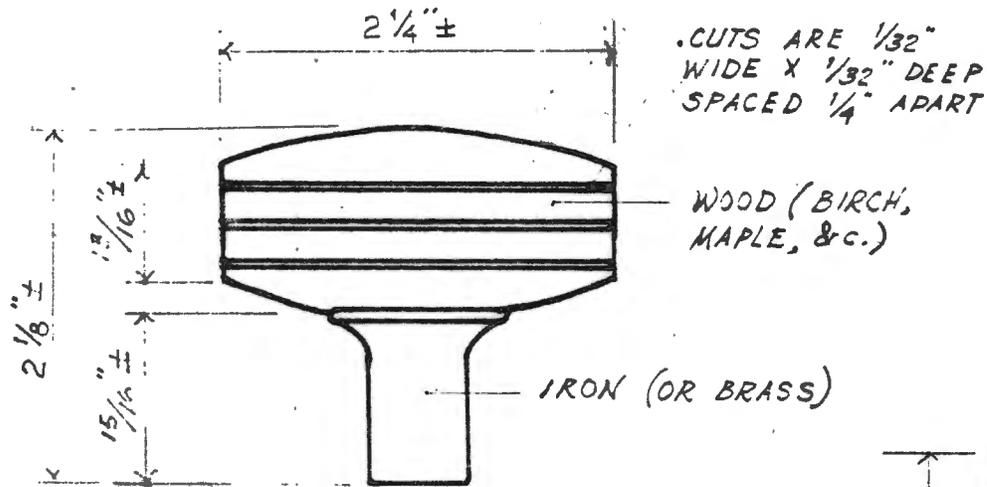
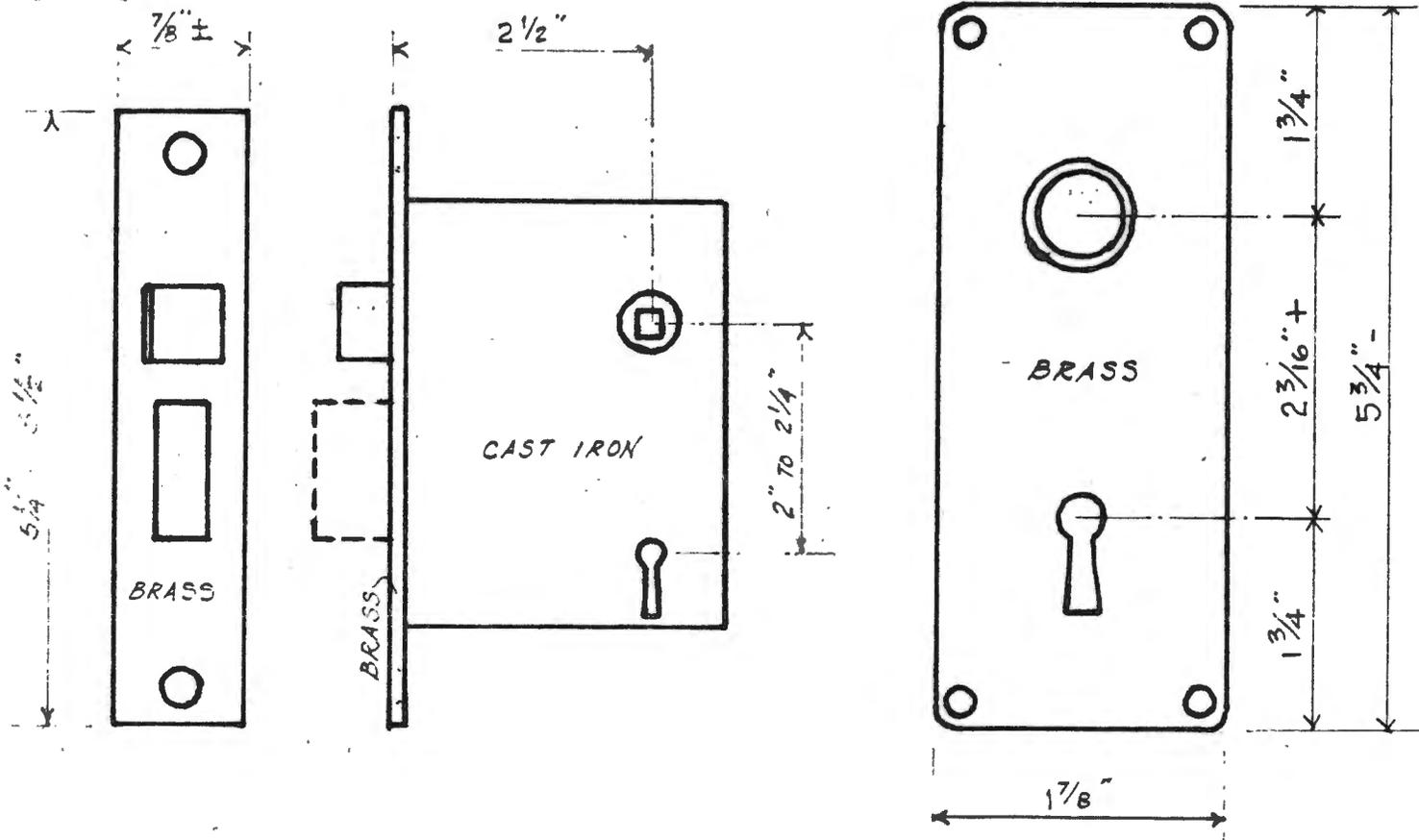
Presently, I am restor-
ing an old fire station which
dates from 1846. Another

Victorian-era structure presently
undergoing restoration is the
former Town Hall in North Provi-
dence, R.I. which was built in
1879. When buildings are being
demolished locally, I salvage many
items which are stored and later,
when another structure of the
proper period and detailing is be-
ing restored, reuse these period
architectural elements. In addi-
tion to hardware, I have old
doors, mantles, blinds, storm
sashes, plank window frames, bal-
usters, newel posts, etc. I try
to be as true to a building's
original design as possible, hence,
I do not use more ornate items
than were originally part of the
structure. For example, I would
not use steeple-tipped hinges in
a building which has the more
common unadorned variety (no
steeple, ball, or acorn tips.)

NEXT ISSUE

Due to the space involved in
printing our list of collectors,
we were not able to put in the
article on emblematic knobs. We
would like more information from
our readers on this subject for
the March issue.

What other subjects are of
particular interest to you?



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