The Boorknob Collector

JULY 1986 - NUMBER 19

Convention



MALLORY, WHEELER, 1882 CATALOG (Actual size)

Aews

Lee and Jim Kaiser will host the sixth annual convention of the A D C A which will be held September 19, 20, and 21, 1986, at The Normandy Inn, 405 South 8th Street in downtown Minneapolis. Free parking is available on site.

Room rates at the Normandy are \$47.00 single and \$49.00 double occupancy. These rates are available before and after the convention dates.

The registration fee for the convention is \$45.00/single, and \$75.00/couple. The registration fee includes two dinners, two pre-dinner get-togethers, a display table and chairs and incidental expenses. Also, we will have the use of an executive suite as a central place to gather.

A registration form is enclosed, please indicate the nights you will be staying, reservations will be made for you and a confirmation will be sent.

Weather in Minnesota is unpredictable, but late September is usually pleasant (60's and 70's), we will guarantee there will be no snow.

Father Pepper of Waverly, Iowa will again be present for our invocation.

PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - BUT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15th.

The Doorknob Collector is published by the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, Inc. Editors: Lee & Jim Kaiser, 4125 Colfax Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION ANTIQUE DOORKNOB COLLECTORS OF AMERICA NORMANDY INN, MINNEAPOLIS, MN.

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th - Early arrivals gather in Hospitality Room

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

9 am	_	12 Noon	Set up displays and register items for
			auction - No Trading Please
12:00	-	1:00 p,m,	Lunch, on your own
1:00	_	5:00 p.m.	Trading
5:30	-	6:30 p.m.	Happy Hour
6:30	_	7:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:30	-	8:00 p.m.	President's Message
8:15	-	10:00 p.m.	Auction

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th

9:00	_	12:00 p.m.	Trading
12:00	_	1:00 p.m.	Lunch, on your own
1:00	_	4:00 p.m.	Open to the Public
4:00	-	4:15 p.m.	Display contest award winners announced
4:15	_	5:00 p.m.	Maudie's presentation
		6:30 p.m.	
6:30	_	7:30 p.m.	Dinner
			"Insuring Collections" - David Kaiser
		-	St. Paul Companies
8:45	-	9:45 p.m.	Special Slide Presentation

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st

9:00	_	12:00	Reports and business meeting
12:00	-	1:30 p.m.	Last minute trading - pack up
2:00		?	Open house and lunch - Kaiser's
			4125 Colfax Ave South

The convention display competition will be repeated this year. Vince Noe will handle details, ballots will be distributed.

The competition catagories are as follows:

CLASS 1 METALLIC Any metal knob or knobs, brass or iron, cast or wrought, plain or fancy.

CLASS 11 NON METALLIC Any material other than metal.

CLASS 111 BEST OF SHOW Best overall display - any material

Prizes will be awarded



COLONEL W. F. CODY

EARNESTLY DESIRES YOUR PRESENCE ON THE

OCCASION OF THE OPENING

OF HIS NEW HOTEL

"THE IRMA"

AT CODY, WYOMING

ON THE EVENING OF NOVEMBER EIGHTEENTH

NEVETEEN HUNDRED AND TWO

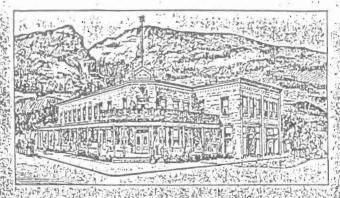
A D C A President, John Holland is the happy owner of a buffalo knob from the Irma Hotel.

The Hotel was named after Colonel Cody's daughter



DANCIONO

LINCOIN TRAde REVIEW



The New Cody Hotel, Cody, Wyoming

This hotel, costing upward of \$65,000, to be completed Oct. ist, 1902, is situated 900 miles from Lincoln, at the terminal point of the Burlington Yellowstone Park line. This hotel is notwithstanding its distance, entirely a Lincoln-built building, for in its entire construction Lincoln contractors and Lincoln business houses are represented. Alfred W. Woods, of Lincoln is the architect; Stephen Bros., of Lincoln, are the general contractors; the L. W. Pomerene Plumbing company of Lincoln, are contractors for plumbing, heating, and wiring; Searles & Chapin company, of Lincoln, furnish lumber; R. S. Young, of Lincoln, furnishes cement and plaster; the Western Glass and Paint company, of Lincoln, furnish the glass; N. Westover & Co., of Lincoln, furnish the steel; Reddig Mossholder & Co., of Lincoln, furnish the iron columns; the Geiser Manufacturing company of Lincoln, furnish the cornice; the Nichols Roofing company, of Lincoln, furnish the roofing; the Rudge & Guenzel company, of Lincoln, furnish the nalls, and the Lincoln Hardware company, of Lincoln, furnish the other hardware, while Lincoln bricklayers, stonecutters and carpenters perform the labor.

THIS ISSUE FEATURES THE COLLECTION OF STEVE AND BARBARA MENCHHOFER OF SPEEDWAY, INDIANA

"A FAMILY AFFAIR"

What a place to discover antique doorknobs—at an automobile literature swap meet! But that's where it was that we bought our first doorknobs in the late 1960's. A dealer from the Chicago area had a box of them that he was selling to be used as gearshift knobs in automobiles.

We bought four, brought them home, and then we began to become curious about them. How many designs were there, how old were they, and where did they come from? We wanted to know. So we began to haunt the flea markets and antique shows to find more.

Then in 1983 a gentleman telephoned us saying he had heard that we collected doorknobs. He told us about the ADCA and the convention that was being held in Naperville. This was the first time we had heard of anyone else collecting doorknobs. We decided to drive to Naperville and see what other people had in their collections.

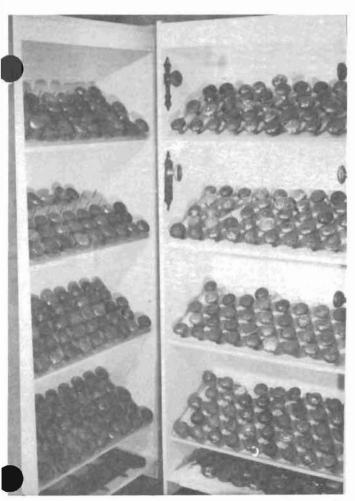
When we arrived we were astounded! Only being able to be there for one hour, we tried to take in and digest everything we saw. Needless to say, we were hooked! We knew when we left the convention that day that we would have to join the club. Besides all of the eye-catching, unusual displays of doorknobs, the club members knowledge of doorknobs and their friendliness toward us persuaded us that we had to be a part of this group.

We joined the ADCA and attended our first convention in 1984. It was both a learning experience and one where we made many great friends. That convention was so nice that we decided to go again in 1985. We left this convention with such a good feeling that we are planning to attend the next one. Our family came to visit the 1985 convention and what was a husband-wife hobby has now turned into a family affair. Our son-in-law and daughter have joined the club and have started their own collection and our 12 year old son has the beginning of a good hobby.

When anyone laughs when we say we collect doorknobs, we really snicker to ourselves knowing what a terrific collection they make. P.S. They are not laughing now as much as they used to.



The Menchhofer Family





The Fruits of a"Family Affair"

STEVE AND BARBARA'S FAVORITES



Gutta-Percha



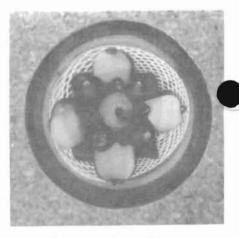
Gutta-Percha



"Doggie" Variation



Black & Blue Enamel



Paperweight Type New England Glass Co.



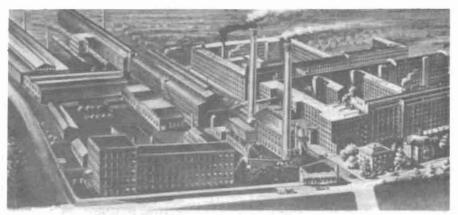




Pioneers in the Hardware Industry



Philip Corbin



P & F Corbin plants, New Britain, Connecticut

Philip Corbin was born at Willington, CT on October 26, 1824. His family moved to West Hartford where his father had a large farm (now Corbin's Corner). At the age of nineteen, he went to New Britain where he worked for the Matteson Russell & Co. The next year he worked for the North & Stanley Co., and learned the art of lockmaking from Stephen G. Bucknall, a lock contractor for this company Mr. Bucknall was an excellent teacher, as he learned the trade in his native England.

In 1849, Philip Corbin formed a partnership with Edward Doen called the Deon, Corbin & Co. They manufactured brass flush bolts, hinges, etc. In 1852, he formed a partnership with his brother Frank called The P & F Corbin Co. This new company prospered and in 1879 he started a new practice of paying his employees weekly instead of monthly which had been the practice of the other shops in New Britain.

The plant had grown in size and the product line expanded to a complete line of builders' hardware. This company produced all of the locks and ornate hardware for the Connecticut State Capitol building in 1879. They added the famous "Corbin master ring cylinder" to their mortise locks and in 1900 were the first to produce the "Unit Lock", a revolution in door locks which only required cutting a notch in the door to install this factory pre-assembled lock.

The P & F Corbin salesmen (in brown derbies) became leaders in the builders' hardware field. The Chicago office & warehouse employed 500 people writing specifications and bidding on contracts. The locks and hardware from the factory which was constantly expanding was shipped in freight car loads all over the country.

In 1902 P & F Corbin and the Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co. merged and formed the American Hardware Corporation with Philip Corbin president.

Philip Corbin died in New Britain at the age of 86 - Nov. 3, 1910



Joseph B. Sargent



Sargent & Co. plant, New Haven, Connecticut

Joseph Sargent was born at Leicester, MA in 1824. He started his career as a clerk in a Boston dry goods store and advanced to the position of manager. He then moved to Griffin, Georgia with his older brother Edward, where they conducted a successful mercantile business.

In 1854 they formed the Sargent & Brother Co. in New York City as sales agents for the Peck & Walter Mfg. Co. of New Britain, one of their accounts. This company failed in 1857 and Joseph Sargent, a stockholder, purchased the assets and formed the J.B. Sargent & Co. in New Britain. He moved this company to New Haven, CT in 1865. The company name was changed to Sargent & Co.

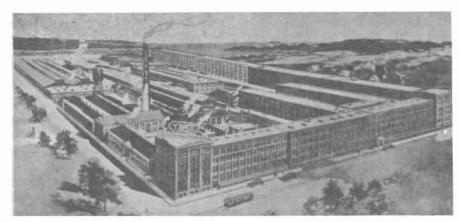
This company's sales office in New York was the sales agent for Mallory, Wheeler & Co., lock manufacturers in New Haven. In 1870 Mallory, Wheeler & Co. decided to set up their own sales office in New York City and Sargent & Co. which manufactured carriage and coffin hardware then started making locks and builders' hardware.

In 1900 Sargent & Co. employed 2,000 workers in their greatly expanded plant on Water Street in New Haven. Joseph Sargent died in New Haven in 1907 at the age of 89.

Pioneers In The Hardware Industry



Henry R. Towne



Yale & Towne Mfg. Co. Plant Stamford, Ct.

Henry Towne was born in Philadelphia, PA in 1844. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and started his career as a draftsman for the Richmond Iron Works. He was placed in charge of erecting the machinery used to build the famous iron ship, the U.S.S. Monitor, built during the Civil War. In 1865 he toured Europe and studied engineering at the Sorbonne in Paris, France. He returned to Philadelphia in 1867, and went to work for William Sellers & Co.

In 1868 he teamed up with Linus Yale, Jr. of Shielburne Falls, MA, and they formed the Yale Lock Mfg. Co., building a new plant in Stamford, CT. Linus Yale, Jr. died that same year and Henry Towne was made president of this new company. The Yale Lock Mfg. Co. name was changed to the Yale & Towne Mfg. Co. in 1883 and this company became the largest single lock and builders' hardware manufacturer in the country with 6,000 employees. The company also had a large plant in Philadelphia, PA where they manufactured chain blocks, electric hoists, and industrial fork lift trucks.

Yale & Towne brought out several other lock companies including the United States Lock Co. of Shielburne Falls, MA, The American Lock Co. of Cazenovia, N.Y. and the Branford Lock Works of Branford, CT.

Henry R. Towne remained as president of the company until 1915 when he became Chairman of the Board. He died in 1924 at the age of 80.

The Editors thank Mr.
Thomas Hennessy, author
of "Early Locks and Lockmakers of America" for
permission to use the
material for the
"Pioneers" feature

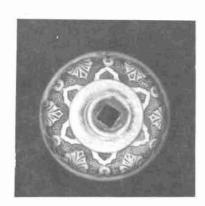
Also please note:

Mr. Hennessy has set up a display of Sargent & Co. hardware at the Lock Museum of America and would appreciate loans or donations of ornate Sargent knob and escutcheon sets.

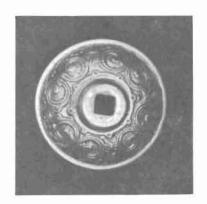
Address: P.O. Box 104 Terryville, Conn. 06786 Telephone-203-589-6359

THE FRONTS AND BACKS DON'T MATCH These knobs have an apparent "marriage of convenience".









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