



The Doorknob Collector

Number 40

March-April 1990

To find salvage companies, read Old-House Journal

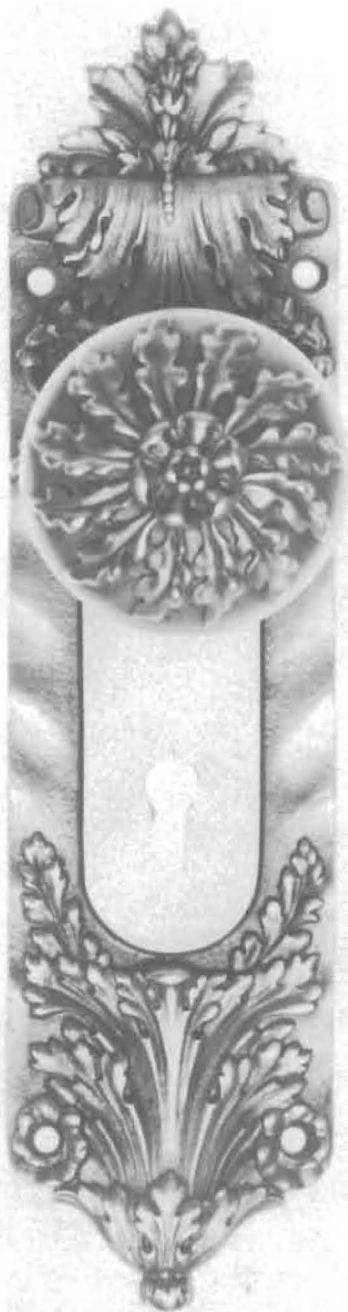
In three exciting articles of interest to doorknob collectors, the March/April 1990 issue of *Old-House Journal* features "Architectural Salvage to the Rescue," "Architectural Salvage Sources" and "Architectural Salvage Yards of the Upper Midwest." The three articles total 12 pages of interesting reading and information.

The first article covers such topics as Where to find salvage, Paying for salvage, Shopping for salvage and buying tips.

The article titled "Architectural Salvage Sources" should be of interest to collectors, particularly those who travel to different parts of the country.

A total of 74 salvage companies are listed with addresses and phone numbers. In addition, a map of the United States showing where the salvage yards are located is most interesting and helpful.

The articles points out that the best stocked architectural salvage yards are still located in major cities, mostly on the east coast with the midwest and



west coast also having a large number.

The companies are grouped by geographical locations; with the East Coast having 26, South 19, Great Lakes/Midwest 21 and the West Coast 7. The lone Canadian listing is in Ottawa, Ontario.

Although not all salvage companies are listed, this is the most complete listing that has been published.

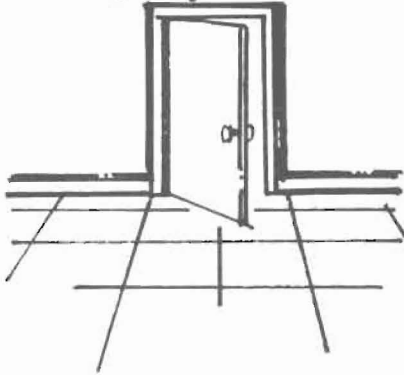
Bill Fellenz, son of ADCA members Dolores and William and brother of member Debbie Fellenz, was quoted in "Architectural Salvage Yards of the Upper Midwest," by author Gregg Carlsen. Bill, who operates the Fellenz Antiques - Architectural Artifacts in St. Louis, told Carlsen that there is competition for both material and customers among the salvage yards.

For a copy of the March/April 1990 issue of *Old-House Journal*, send \$4.95 to *Old-House Journal*, 435 Ninth Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. You may also write to the above address for subscription information. ■

1990 ADCA Convention in Connecticut

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



This is the 40th issue of **The Doorknob Collector**; or is it the 50th? The confusion stems from the fact that Rich and Faye Kennedy of Chatham, New Jersey, began publishing a newsletter in March 1977. It was called **The Doorknob Collector**. One issue was published that year, three in 1978, three in 1979, two in 1980 and the tenth and last issue in February 1981.

When the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** was formed in September, 1981, the decision was made to publish a newsletter. The Kennedy's were asked if they would edit the club's newsletter. They declined and gave permission to use "**The Doorknob Collector**" for the name of the club's newsletter.

Jim and Lee Kaiser became the editors and the first issue was published in December 1981. They started the current numbering system by designating that issue as Number 1.

Charles Wardell celebrated his 70th birthday in February by walking 70 miles. An avid outdoorsman,

Charlie walks about two or three miles four times a week. He actually walked 87 miles. He did a 19 mile tune up the first day, followed by two days of 24 miles and a day of 20 miles. The fourth day it rained so he counted his warm up day. His walk was covered by the local press and TV.

Connie Swaim and Don Johnson flew to New Jersey in February where they co-sponsored antique seminars with Harry Rinker, who has an antique column in several publications.

Art Paholke's search for doorknobs has been shelved for awhile. He twisted his ankle and X-rays showed dislocated bone in his foot. Art wrote he felt sorry for Loretta and me last year when we each had a broken ankle. At least none of our injuries were due to doorknob collecting.

One more reminder, if you have not sent for the Doggie Doorknob Coffee mug, don't wait too long, the supply is limited. ■



MENCHHOFER'S KNOBS

CORBIN CONVENTION THEME

The 1990 annual convention of the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** will take place at The Ramada Inn, U.S. 91, exit 45, East Windsor Connecticut, from August 2nd through August 4th. This is according to information received from committee person Ed Thrall.

The convention will be open to the public on Saturday afternoon, August 4th, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The annual auction, which has become so popular, will be held on Saturday evening.

The 1990 convention will be only the second one held outside of the Midwest. In 1982, the convention was in San Francisco.

A convention theme was started in 1988 and for 1990 the Corbin Manufacturing Company was selected.

The **Doorknob Collector** hopes to have complete details about the convention in our next two issues.

ADCA Roster
in next issue.

The Doorknob Collector

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Hobknobing With E. P. Dick

Although E.P. Dick no longer has his doorknob collection he is still interested in doorknobs and the many fine people he met through the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** conventions. Through his doorknobs he gave people a little peek, through the keyhole, if you will, of history and the lives of people.

E.P. collected doorknobs for almost 25 years. Some he got just before the wrecking ball took the buildings. He was one of the first collectors in the region, evoking little smiles when he announced his hobby. His ability to tell a good story and show he was knowledgeable about history and had researched doorknobs, made him a credible and much sought after speaker and presenter. He encouraged many people to start collections of their own, and join **ADCA**.

It was amazing how willingly people gave up their doorknobs for his collection, doorknobs they were still using usually. Slowly the antique shops in the area started having knobs in their collections of memories long past.

When E.P. retired he mounted the knobs on boards of about 25 knobs and began giving talks about them. The first was at a Richfield Historical Society Meeting in the Stewert Building in 1969. The second showing was a

three day "show and tell" affair at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, in Minneapolis. By 1975 he had given talks to Senior Citizen groups at local Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Lutheran Churches.

They were displayed in a window at the Richfield State Bank for two weeks. He showed them at Scout Meetings. He gave talks at the Edina Library three different time in six months.

He was invited to display doorknobs at the East Richfield Jr. High School Career Days. A teacher asked him, "Do you know how many people saw your doorknobs today? Over 600 people went by your booth." From this experience he lectured classes on the doorknobs until the glass knobs became too heavy for him to carry or to trust young children to carry.

He spoke at the Bloomington Historical Society and although it was at night an 80 year old man rode his bike from Richfield to hear him speak.

For twelve years he led tours at the Hennipen County Historical Society Museum and showed doorknobs at one of their monthly programs. He gave the Minnesota doorknobs to the Society to be a part of their permanent collection. The rest of the collection he sold before his wife, Irma died last summer.

E.P. spoke twice at the



Optimists Club and three times at Walker Place, in the Community Room, the last time in 1989.

Hobknob with E.P. Dick was what he had printed on his business cards. The doorknobs have been a joy to him and to many people who heard him speak and those he traded with and bought from. (Editor's note: E.P. added one written line, "I miss all my Doorknob friends and the meetings.")

NEW



This mug was designed and produced for the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. ADCA was founded in Waverly, Iowa in 1961.

The "Doggie" doorknob, cast in bronze, was designed by Lucille Kressinger, manufactured by Russell & Erwin, and patented June 7, 1870. It is a beautiful representation of Victorian decorative hardware and a big favorite of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America.

1821

Doggie Doorknob Coffee Mug

By Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

\$6.00 plus \$2.50 shipping

Order Form Enclosed

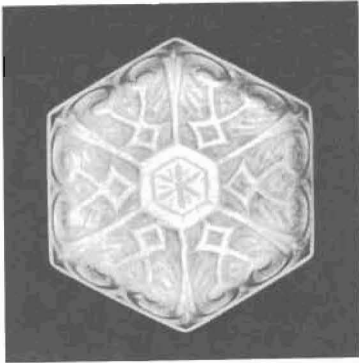
Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

by Len Blumin

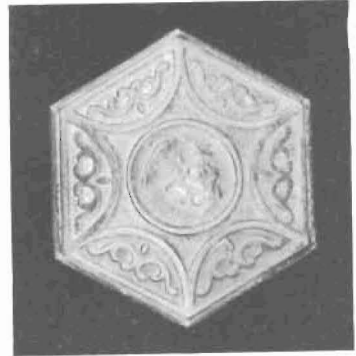
ODD-SHAPED KNOBS

- C-109a Large bronze version with stronger detail than C-109.
C-119 Small hexagon. MCC/R&E, Design patent #4113, J. a. Ruff, June 7, 1870
C-120 Unusual H & D hexagon, 1879 catalog, similar to Corbin's C-102.
C-121 Rate cast iron hexagon with small face in center.
C-122 Octagon, brass, circa 1900.
C-123 Unusual and rare. Tied Leaves, acanthus? Very nice.

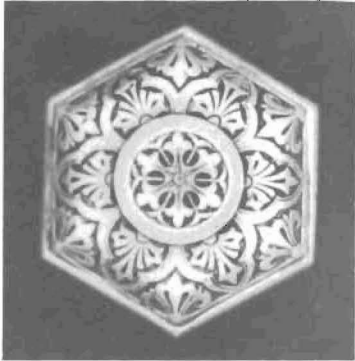
C-109a



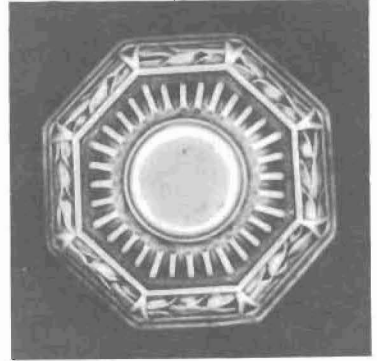
C-121



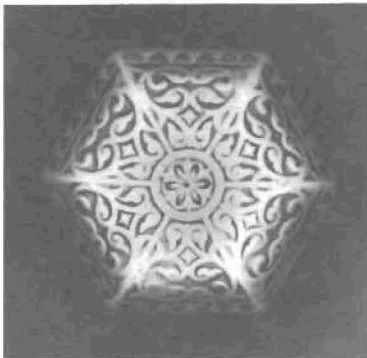
C-119



C-122



C-120



C-123



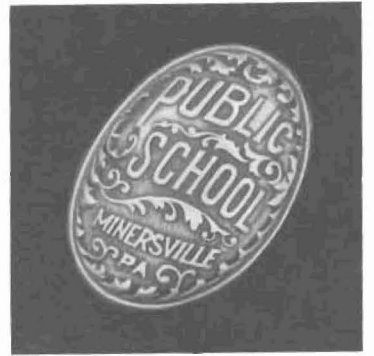
EMBLEMATIC, ETC.
(continued)

- O-137 "H" Oval knob.
O-138 FNB, possibly First National Bank.
O-139 Public School, city of New York.
O-139a Public School, Minersville, PA
O-140 "P" Hotel knob. Very nice.
O-207 Odd Fellows.

O-137



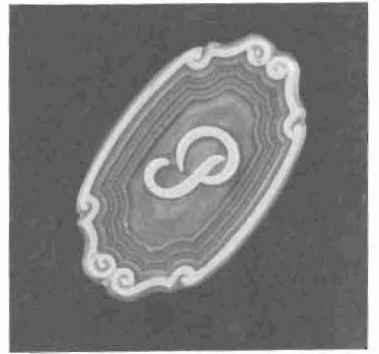
O-139a



O-138



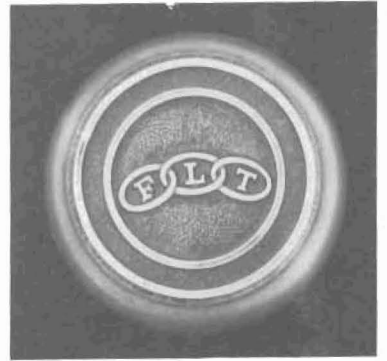
O-140



O-139



O-207



DOORKNOB COLLECTING - A PRIMER - PART III - DISPLAYS
by Len Blumin



"A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Of the many reasons people collect art and antiques, including doorknobs, surely the overriding one is an appreciation of their beauty. This article will discuss some of the ways our members have chosen to display their collections so that the beauty of the knobs can be seen.

There are of course dozens of methods to present hardware for viewing, a fact made abundantly clear after a visit to an ADCA convention. Another site to ponder display technique is the Lock Museum of America, in Terryville, Conn. For those of you unable to take advantage of those options, the following will have to do.

We might as well start at the top. Lee Kaiser and her late husband Jim created the finest doorknob collection in the world. What made their collection so special was not the number of knobs (lots), nor the quality and rarity (unmatched), but rather the great love and care expended in arranging them for viewing. The Kaisers took great pains to match the knob with its proper escutcheon or rose. The knob was glued or shimmed into

the escutcheon thimble (thin brass sheet works fine). Hanging the knob was then easy. Old wood from a barn provided a backdrop, applied to a room as paneling. Small brads were nailed into the siding, projecting about 1/4", and angled slightly up. The knob/rose made up as above was simply slipped over the projecting brad, using the existing screw holes of the rose or escutcheon.

The Kaiser system is virtually invisible, subject to easy variation, and allows for prompt removal for photography or inspection. Those privileged to have visited the old "doorknob room" on Colfax Avenue have treasured the experience forever. A feature of their display not easily described was the sublime beauty of the overall pattern of the many different pieces, creating a mural of hardware that was greater than the sum of its parts.

Picture frames are a method used by the Kaisers and others. A nice frame is filled with a cloth covered piece of plywood, upon which knobs can be mounted or secured with a number of methods. This type of display is not only attractive,

ADCA NEEDS YOUR
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
TO INSURE ITS FUTURE.

but allows for removal of the whole display intact for transportation to a local event (fair, library display, lecture) or an ADCA meeting.

The Thralls, of Windsor CT, have taken the board type display to the limit. Rather than restricting their display size to a mere picture frame, they have taken large flat surfaces such as bed headboards and dining tabletops, and covered them with a vast array of knobs, plates and more arcane pieces of decorative art. Conventioneers have marveled at how the Thralls wrestle these monster displays across the country to ADCA conventions, where they are much admired by the public.

Many variations in display technique are seen at each convention. Some may have revolving panels. Most employ at least one vertical panel, which allows the hardware to be viewed in its traditional posture.

The other main option is a horizontal display, often chosen for knobs lacking a plate or rose. A series of 1" holes are drilled into a piece of wood or beadboard (styof foam), usually in a 3" grid



ED THRALL'S EXHIBIT

pattern, and the knob shanks simply inserted in the holes. The board may remain flat, but is more easily viewed if elevated and tilted a bit. A velvet disguise for the board makes a nice background for the knobs.

I must admit, for practical reasons, I'm a fan of the horizontal school. I have a chest with 26 drawers, each drawer 2 1/2" deep. Beadboard has been cut to fit the drawers and covered with velvet. The holes in the board are on 2 3/4" centers, allowing a goodly number of knobs in each drawer. I like this method because we have a paucity of wall space, and I can store a maximum of knobs in a minimum of space. The one cabinet can hold over 1000 knobs!

There is no "best" method to show your treasures. Just don't hide them in the closet or garage. True, people may think it a bit odd when they first see them, but most are quickly taken by their beauty, and will be most appreciative of the opportunity to view your display. ■



KAISER'S DISPLAY

FROM THE ARCHIVES



by Barb & Steve Menchhofer

The ADCA archives were established in 1983. One reason was to enable all members to have access to early hardware catalog reference material. Since then the archives have grown to include catalogs from hardware manufacturing companies such as Russell & Erwin, Sargent, Yale & Towne, P & F Corbin and others. We are very fortunate to have such a wealth of research material available for our members.

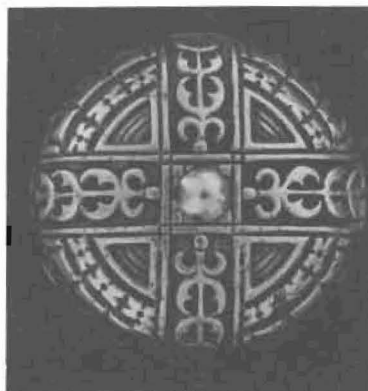
Included in this issue of The Doorknob Collector is an order form for copied catalogs currently available for purchase. Not only do the catalogs feature doorknobs but they also include such things as doorbells, push plates, cremone bolts, letter drop plates and other related hardware.

Take time to look the form over, consider what you want or need, and then place your order. Don't forget! You can order your

catalog copies three different ways -- complete catalog, selected pages, or knob design pages. Check your order form for details.

The deadline for orders is May 1, 1990. Order will be held and processed at one time in order to reduce wear and tear on the master copies. This will be your only opportunity to order catalogs before the 1990 convention. So if you want to research your hardware for display or educational purposes for the convention, now is the time to order.

If you have catalogs to donate to the Emil Miller Memorial Library or one you would like to loan us for copying, please let us know. Write to:
Steve & Barb Menchhofer,
5538 West 25th Street
Speedway, IN 46224



H-260

CLASSIFIED AD SECTION

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

WANTED. Knob and plate for Gothic design, page 9 of 1st Supplement to Antique Builders Hardware, No. 12. Also other pieces in same design. Other Gothic patterns could be substituted, as: No. 10, same page, or p.76, No. 10; p.82, No. 2; p.144, No. 18; or p.120, No. 7 in Antique Builders Hardware. Will buy or trade for. Maude Eastwood (#2), 3900 Latimer Rd., N., Tillamook, OR 97141.

WANTED. 4"x4" ornate solid bronze door hinges, interior shutter hinges, and sash locks & lifts for old house restoration. Jim Huntsman (#54), 416 S. 4th St., Stillwater, MN 55082. Phone 612-439-8294 (evenings).

FOR SALE. Knobs & Roses H-260. Cast Iron with brass band, Norwalk c1885. (see picture p.8) \$15 each postpaid. Loretta Nemeč (#8), 1424 Heatherton Dr., Naperville, IL 60563. Phone: 708-357-2381.

FOR SALE. Book, Victorian Decorative Art, by Len Blumin. Supply limited. \$11 (includes postage), ADCA, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.