



The Doorknob Collector

Number 41

May-June 1990

New England, here we come!

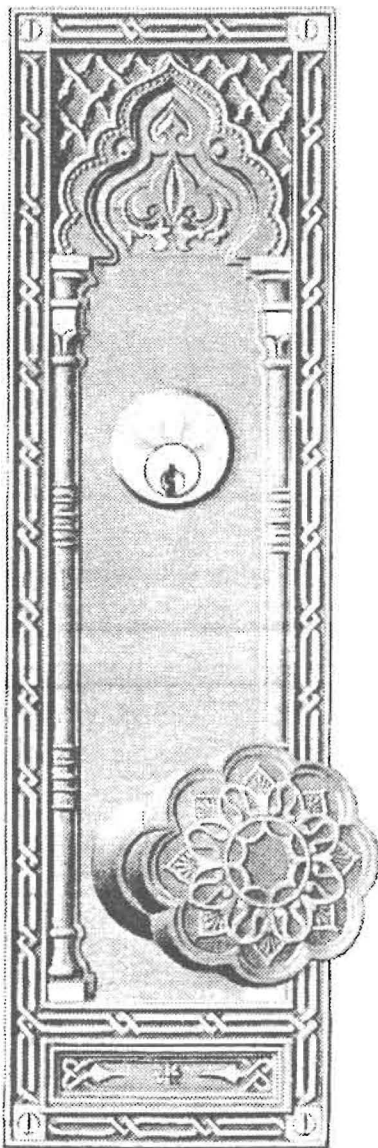
For the first time in the history of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, the Annual Convention will be held on the East Coast...at the Ramada Inn in the Warehouse Point Section of East Windsor, Connecticut. Many of the knobs in members' collection will be "coming home" to their birthplace.

Dates for the convention are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 3, 4 and 5, 1990. If history is any indication, many of the members will be on hand by Wednesday giving themselves a chance to socialize, visit antique shops and do a bit of sightseeing.

The Connecticut Trolley Museum and Fire Museum are about a mile from the Ramada Inn. Hartford, Connecticut, and Springfield, Massachusetts, are each about 20 minutes away.

Set up for the convention will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, and the usual buying, selling and trading among members will go on through the day.

On Saturday the display room will be open to the



NO. 87020 KNOB. NO. 87029 ESC.

CORBIN

GRANADA DESIGN

SCHOOL MOORISH

cast bronze

(see K-307)

public from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.. After Saturday's banquet the usual auction will follow.

Win Applegate has agreed to chair the traditional doorknob display contest and members are reminded that this year's theme is **CORBIN MANUFACTURING COMPANY.**

Sunday will be a full day. In the morning members are invited to come to the Thralls' home and view their collection and explore 'The Building' (which Ed built out of materials from many historical buildings in the Hartford area). Also on Sunday enjoy an early lunch at the Thralls and then leave for Terryville where Tom Hennessey will host a tour of the Lock Museum.

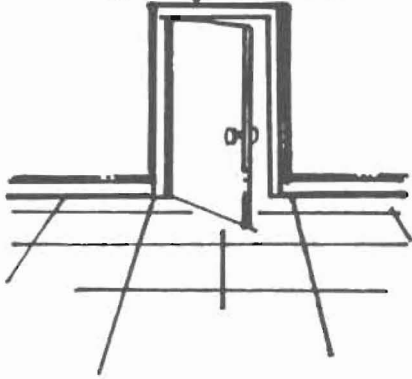
The annual meeting will be held on Friday night after the banquet. This is a departure from previous years when it was held on Sunday morning.

This year's convention committee will be looking forward to welcoming you to Connecticut and will do their best to ensure a memorable convention. ■

1990 ADCA Roster enclosed

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



The 1990 ADCA annual convention will be held earlier this year than any previous ADCA convention. The August 2nd through 5th meeting will be one month earlier than the 1983 convention which was held at Naperville, Illinois, September 8 through 11.

The March 1990 edition of the Lock Museum's newsletter informs it's readers of our upcoming convention. The newsletter lists three additions to the Lock Museum of America Hall of Fame with sketches of their careers. The Lock Museum has three books available for sale. They are "Padlock Collector 5th Edition," "Early Locks and Lockmakers of America" and "The Lure of the Lock." For more information on the books and the Museum you can write to Lock Museum of America, P.O. Box 104, Terryville, CT 06786.

Arnie Fredrick informs us that the club doorknob will be completed and available by convention time. The doorknobs will be on sale at the convention.

Loretta and I had the opportunity to attend a

wedding at Dubuque, Iowa, recently. We made sure our schedule would allow time to have lunch at the Ryan House. In addition to enjoying our lunch, we saw six Doggie doorknobs. In fact to enter and leave the Ryan House you must use at least three of the knobs. It is quite a thrill to see Doggie doorknobs still in use. (Watch for future issue on story of the Ryan house.)

A new book is out on powder jars and things like that, but it has two pages doorknob collectors may be interested in. The book, From Bedroom & Bathroom Glassware of the Depression Years, by Margaret and Kenn Whitmyer, has one page on glass doorknobs and one page on cabinet knobs and drawer pulls. There are ten glass doorknobs featured in color. Prices are given. The cabinet knobs and drawer pulls page has a total of 59 items with prices. The book sells for \$19.95.

We have heard from several members who are planning to attend their first convention this year. We hope the August date and on the East Coast will attract many of our members.

We hope to see a lot of 'first timers' at the August convention. It is a lot of fun, seeing, buying, trading and showing doorknobs. In addition, there are always a lot of friendly people on hand to make talking about doorknobs enjoyable. See you in August. ■

WRIGHT...from page 3
of Wright's career to the end of his life."

In his architecture, Wright designed buildings whose exteriors and interiors worked together to create a sense of unity, harmony and repose. The decorative elements of his houses, including furniture, art glass, textiles and lighting, were conceived as integral to the architecture.

Over 300 Wright designed - objects - furniture, windows, books and textiles, as well as archives..are housed in the museum building which is part of Domino's corporate headquarters in Ann Arbor, Michigan; approximately 100 of these works are on public display there.

"Our purpose in planning this exhibition with SITES is to extend to thousands of people the legacy of America's greatest architect, "says Thomas A. Monaghan, founder of Domino's Pizza. "It is my hope that future generations of his admirers will learn about his architecture and develop a deeper appreciation of his contributions to our American Heritage." ■

The Doorknob Collector

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Frank Lloyd Wright on tour

A comprehensive showing of more than 70 pieces of furniture, art glass windows and other decorative elements designed by Frank Lloyd Wright is the focus of a Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) exhibition, titled Frank Lloyd Wright: Preserving an Architectural Heritage, Decorative Designs from the Domino's Pizza Collection. It opened April 1st in Chicago, at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue and continues through June 17, 1990.

The exhibition will travel to four other locations. It will be at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York, from July 14 to September 2, 1990. This will be followed by a showing at the Denver Art Museum, Denver Colorado, October 13, 1990 to January 6, 1991, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 9 to April 16, 1991 and the Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas, May 19 to July 28, 1991.

The exhibition will survey Wright's decorative designs, spanning his 60-year career, while exploring the complex issue of preservation of Wright's buildings.

The national tour of this exhibition is made possible by a generous grant from Domino's Pizza, Inc. Organized by SITES in cooperation with Domino's Center for Architecture & Design, Ann Arbor, Michigan, the exhibition will travel under the auspices of SITES through July 1991. The guest curator is David A. Hanks, a recognized scholar in the field of decorative arts and author of The Decorative Designs of Frank Lloyd Wright.

"The Domino's Pizza Collection, which is the most comprehensive of Wright's decorative designs in the world, is known for the high aesthetic quality of its individual objects," says Hanks. "This exhibition brings together many of the finest of these objects ranging from the early years

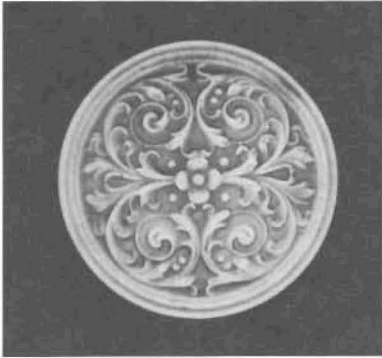
Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

by Len Blumin

TWOFOLD SYMMETRY

- F-240 Fine casting.
F-241 Unusual architectural feeling.
F-242 Pleasant combination of simple elements, courtesy of the Nemecs.
F-243 Handsome scallop shell, from the Stills.
F-244 Outstanding pine cone knob, beautiful and rare.
F-245 Fleur-de-lys, doubled.

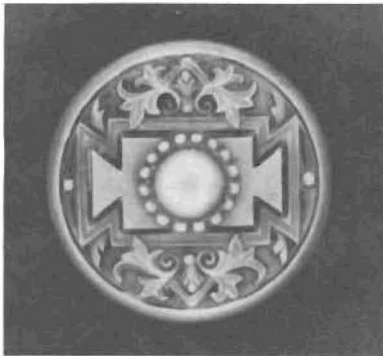
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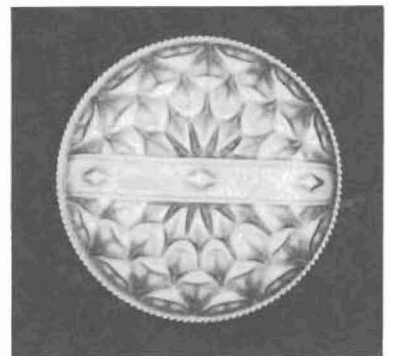
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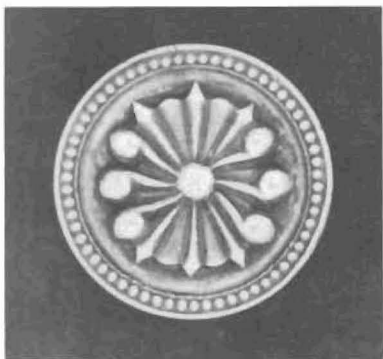
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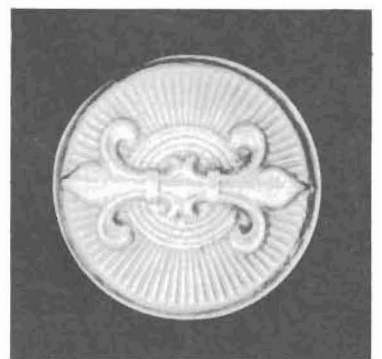
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F-242



F-245



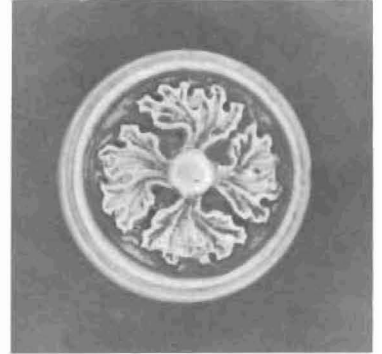
FOURFOLD SYMMETRY
(continued)

- H-483 Low relief, circa 1900.
H-484 Weird fourfold acanthus, but well made, heavily cast.
H-485 A doorknob for a Stephen King story, or a haunted house.
H-486 A swirl of four leaves.
H-487 "Landon," French Renaissance, Reading, 1910 catalog.
H-488 Delicate wrought design.

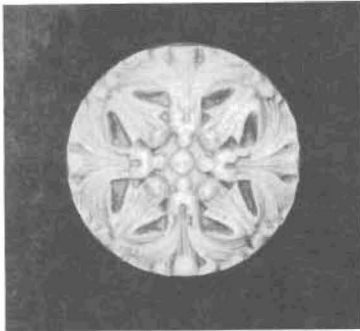
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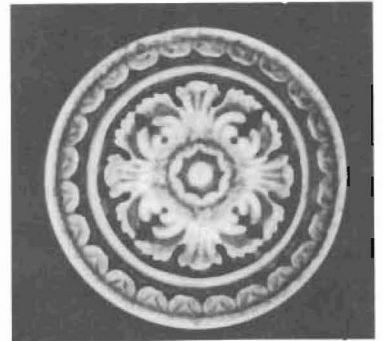
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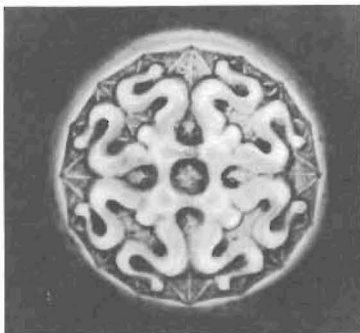
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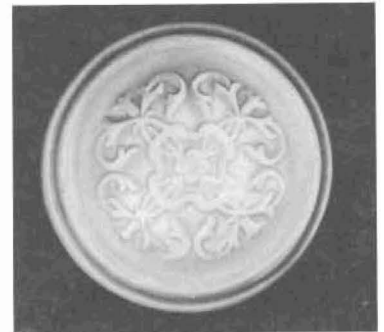
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H-485



H-488



250 years of antique, metal doorknobs

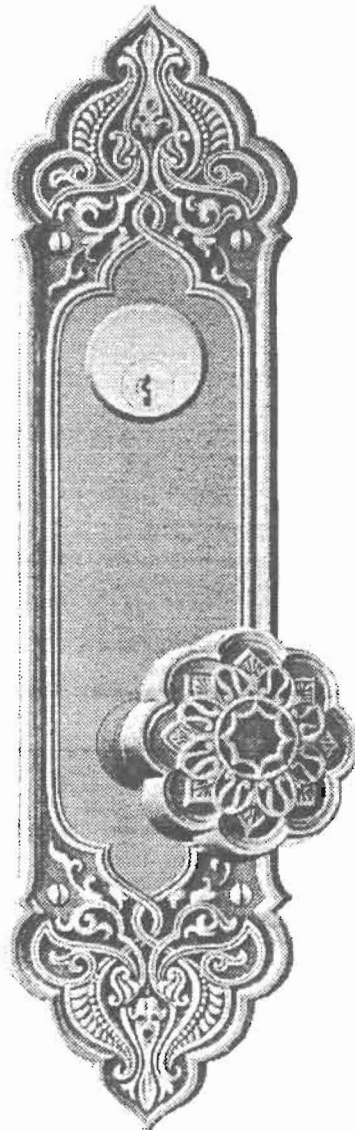
by Maude Eastwood

The reader's indulgence is begged through this attempt chronical so large a field in so small a space. The focus will be on metal doorknobs used or manufactured in the United States but, for a clearer overview, will include reference to certain European counterparts.

Antique metal doorknobs are prevalent in greater quantity today than antique knobs of glass, pottery, or wood. Their origins, somewhat obscured in conflicting testimony and the overlapping of eras, occur through three centuries.

The reason for the greater incidence of metal knobs is elementary. Originally, the manufacture and general use of metal knobs proceeded and exceeded knobs of other types. Stated simply, the market was greater; metal knobs better served the majority of needs. Moreover, they possessed rugged stability with aesthetic qualities.

Aesthetic qualities had little to do with promoting development of early 1800's domestic metal knobs but had everything to do with the popular, myriad designs that blossomed in 1870's, peaked in the 1890's, and waned in the early 1900's.



NO. 87120 KNOB
NO. 87129 ESC.

CORBIN
CORDOVA DESIGN
school moorish
cast bronze
K-307

Historically, metal door "furniture" ran the gamut - evidenced from the 10th century on - of door rings, handles, knockers, bolts, and

latches. Later, more sophisticated latches without and with knob handles evolved. In the 15th and 16th centuries primitive slide bolts on plates (Europe) appeared with small, conical knobs of lathe turned iron - possibly the earliest prototype of the round doorknob.

Excellent coverage of early knobbed European latches and locks may be found in Henry D'Allemagne's "Decorative Antique Ironwork" (Dover, 1968). Also pictured are full sized, ornate plates and doorknobs from 17th, and 18th, and 19th century France and Germany. British manufactured knobs of the 1760-1790 Georgian period were magnificent. America did not produce such well-ordered designs before the late 1870's.

England was mortising locks by 1767 when "Bent, the locksmith, was introducing a new style of mortise lock furniture." In America, the date was much later. After 30 years of attempts, improvements, and patented mortising machines, mortise locks were definitely "in" by the 1850's.

Knobs of the early rim locks or earlier plate locks in America were long necked, mostly wrought brass, small, with a foot or flange.

(see Antique Builders Hardware pages 3 to 14 for early examples of this type.) The flange was no longer needed with the mortise locks, providing a reliable dating tool. In the transition, roses or plates with thimbles were machined to receive the knob shank. Ninety-nine percent of American knobs have separate roses and plates. English knobs, almost exclusively, have attached roses.

American Art Hardware had its origins in the mid 1860's, a natural outgrowth of mortising the lock out-of-sight. Nearly all advances (major) in technique for effecting and improving ornamentation of metal hardware occurred from then through the 1880's. Crude, earlier ornamentation has, however, been documented back to the 1840's. In the early 1800's brass knobs preceded the use of plain silver knobs for fine use, followed by bronze.

Metal knobs are characterized by type, texture, size, configuration,

finish, ornamentation and manufacturer. Milestones in their evolution include: Metallic Compression Casting Company's (MCCC) compression bronze, 1860's. Corbin's enameling, 1874. Yale & Towne's (Y&T) statuary bronze, 1886. Electroplating, 1870's. Sand blast, 1874. Bower-Barff process for protecting iron from rusting, 1887. Aluminum as a new metal for hardware, 1890.

The various schools of design associated with metal knobs are well covered in The Antique Doorknob and Antique Builders Hardware. Faddist designs also carried weight at different periods: Eastlake, 1876-1890. Oriental, 1879. Art Nouveau, 1880-1910. Art Nouveau and Art Deco (1915-1925) are now considered by some as schools in their own right.

Knowledgeable collectors have little doubt which metal knobs are most collectable - novices may consult the Antique Builders Hardware. ■



No. 87134

CORBIN

CORDOVA DESIGN
SCHOOL MOORISH
cast bronze
(see K-307)

Doggie Doorknob Coffee
Mugs can still be ordered
from Bill Byington.

THE BORN LOSER by Art Sansom





**FROM THE ARCHIVES
WITH ARCHIVISTS**

Barb & Steve Menchhofer

ARE YOU AWARE?

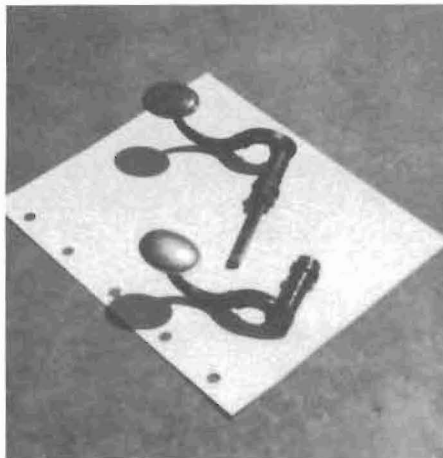
Since P & F Corbin has been selected as the company to spotlight at this year's convention, we have been scanning our Corbin copied catalogs that are available through the Archives.

Are you aware of how interesting some of this material is? For instance, in the 1905 catalog the Corbin Company lists 26 finishes available for their wrought bronze and cast bronze doorknobs, eight finishes for their wrought brass and cast brass, and 21 finishes for their wrought steel and cast iron knobs. That's some selection!

The Corbin, a series of monthly bulletins published by P & F Corbin Company (1902-1903) which also is available through the Archives, is certainly very interesting reading material. These publications have very descriptive articles in them about Corbin hardware, telling of homes and buildings it was used in and showing pictures of the hardware, buildings, and homes.

Are you aware that the great Mormon Temple at Salt Lake City, Utah is equipped with Corbin hardware? According to the August, 1903 issue of The Corbin, the hardware used is an adaptation of the Corbin "Chartres" French Renaissance design, clasped hands replacing the rosette in the panel near the bottom and a beehive being worked into the pattern above, where the word "Push" appears. The finishes are gold and nickel.

Not stopping there, The Corbin includes editorials, poems, sayings, and articles of advice. All of these things combine to make these bulletins a must for collectors! There are so many interesting facts to uncover by using the Archives--ARE YOU AWARE?



See Bill Hart's For Sale ad

ROSTER UPDATE

Address change:
#126 Richard Nichols
4144 10th Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103

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

FOR TRADE. A-101 for C-111; A-104 for A-102; A-318 for A-105; B-131 for A-304; B-129a for H-407; O-101 for B-210; N-103 for F-218. Want to trade for these knobs only. Mike Maldonado (#135) Phone: 203-646-0003 weekdays ONLY.

FOR SALE. Doorknob off old farm house in Germany. \$30 a pair. Bill Hart (#108), 1937 Moser Dr. Henderson, NV 89015. Phone: 702-565-9211 or after 5p.m. 702-565-4752. (See pic p.8)

FOR SALE. Green glass octagon shaped knob. \$50. Loretta Nemec (#8), 1424 Heatherton Dr., Naperville, IL 60563. Phone 708-3572381.

FOR SALE. Addenda #1 to Victorian Decorative Art by Len Blumin. Additional information on over 100 doorknobs in Len's book. \$2 prepaid. ADCA, P.O. box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.

FOR SALE. Books by Maud Eastwood, The Antique Doorknob \$9.00; Antique Builders Hardware \$18.50 (also available in ring binder with hard cover \$20.50.) Supplement No. 1 to ABH \$5.25. Above prices include postage. ADCA, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.

FOR SALE. Cassette copy of radio program interviews Robert Twombly about his book, "Louis Sullivan, His Life & His Work." About 55 minutes. \$7.95 postpaid, payable to ADCA, P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.