



# The Doorknob Collector

Number 57

January - February 1993



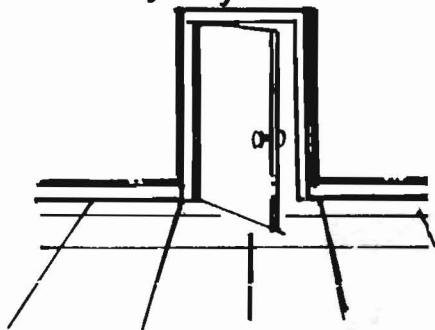
**October 8-11, 1993**  
**Antique Doorknob Collectors of America**  
**National Convention**  
**Washington, D.C. Area**

## **Convention Theme**

The 1993 convention theme will be Representational and Emblematic designs on doorknobs (Classification "A" in *Victorian Decorative Art* or Classification "O" in *The Doorknob Collector*, by Len Blumin.) The convention host Dale Sponaugle and his committee are hopeful a number of displays will be shown at the convention.

# THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



In the September-October issue of **The Doorknob Collector** we asked members to respond to three questions. Approximately 10% of the **ADCA** membership expressed their views.

The tables to the right show that members prefer the conventions on the weekends (Friday-Saturday-Sunday). Members with no preference ranked second.

As for the month, to hold the convention, no preference ranked first. October, the most popular month, ranked second choice. Summer months, primarily July and August, were third.

On the subject of expanding **The Doorknob Collector** into prices, members wanting more pricing information won by a wide margin. However, those who did not felt very strongly that publishing price lists, auction prices, etc., would have an adverse effect on the prices collectors would be paying.

The "door" does seem to be open for someone to publish price listing on an annual basis. There are such publications out

on many collectables. The market would probable include most members of **ADCA**, many antique dealers and salvage houses and libraries.

At this time one stumbling block may be that the identification system developed by Len Blumin has been used to identify only about 1000 knobs. There are many knobs, including all the glass, that have not received numbers. It would be most helpful for the person putting out a price listing to have almost all the known knobs identified.

**Nemec's Notebook...** Congratulations to Homer Snow and Mary Emerson who were married on December 4, 1992. Welcome to **ADCA**, Mary...Helen and Bill Byington are having a hardware display at the Johnson County Historical Museum in Centerville, Iowa, from December 1992 to March 1993. ■

## Days preferred for convention

Fri-Sat-Sun	46.2%
No preference	38.4
Sun-Mon-Tue	7.7
Weekdays	7.7

## Months preferred for convention

No preference	26.7%
October	23.3
July or August	20.0
September	16.7
Spring	13.3

## Should TDC carry more on prices?

Yes	69.2%
No	23.1
No preference	7.7



## Price Increase

The prices of the hardware books currently being sold by **ADCA** will be increased effective April 1, 1993. The increase reflects the higher costs of obtaining copies, shipping and handling. Current prices have been in effect since July 1, 1990.

### Book Prices effective 4/1/93

<b>The Antique Doorknob</b> by Maude Eastwood	\$12.00
<b>Antique Builders Hardware</b> by Maude Eastwood	\$19.50
<b>Antique Builders Hardware</b> (three ring binder w/hard cover) by Maude Eastwood	\$21.50
<b>Supplement No. 1</b> <b>Antique Builders Hardware</b> by Maude Eastwood	\$ 6.00
<b>Victorian Decorative Art</b> by Len Blumin	\$12.00

## Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

### Board of Directors

President.....	Win Applegate #110
Vice President.....	Dale Sponaugle #85
Sec/Treasurer.....	Loretta Nemec #8
Board Members.....	

Len Blumin #3  
Dean Campbell #11  
Maud Eastwood #2  
Arnie Fredrick #1  
Carlos Ruiz #52



### The Doorknob Collector

Published six times a year by Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, Inc.  
P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126.  
Raymond and Loretta Nemec, Editors.  
Phone: 1-708-357-2381  
FAX: 1-708-357-2391  
Printed by Sun Printing, Naperville, IL  
Annual Membership in USA: \$20.00  
Foreign rates on request.

# Tracing back 112 years

by Ray Nemec

Recently I obtained 24 B-114 doorknobs from a man in Chicago. An attractive knob, it is easily found and most collectors have it in their collection.

These particular knobs however, offered an additional dimension. The building they came from and their existence could be traced back 112 years.

On June 30, 1880, a Mr. M. Johnson obtained a permit to build a three story brick dwelling at 755 North Dearborn Street, in Chicago, Illinois. The structure would be 51 feet wide, 63 feet deep by 45 feet high.

The structure on the south east corner of Chicago Avenue and Dearborn Streets served as a residence for a number of years. Eventually it was converted to a small hotel and re-named the *Rice Hotel*.

In 1965 a notice appeared in The Chicago Tribune that the building would be totally gutted. Upon seeing the notice, a reader went to the site and obtained the knobs and other artifacts from the building. He kept the knobs for the past 27 years, finally selling them in November 1992.

(Tim Samuelson contributed to this story.)■



B-114

## Ornamental design in antique doorknobs

by Len Blumin

(The following regular feature is a supplement to Len Blumin's excellent book, **VICTORIAN DECORATIVE ART**. Copies of the book are available from ADCA.)

### EMBLEMATIC & FRATERNAL KNOBS

- O-157 "FIDELI MERCES CERTA" Needs identification - Possibly Canadian.
- O-158 Fraternal Order of Eagles - Corbin 1932-1940 (See Antique Builders' Hardware Supplement No.1.)
- O-159 Star of David.

O-157



O-158



O-159



# Entries from a paperweight file, 1979

by Maude Eastwood

Len Blumin's fine article on millefiori doorknobs and paperweights in the November/December newsletter prompted me to review my joint millifiori-sulphide file.

These two paperweight types are often found side by side in reference material. For those unsure of what constitutes a sulphide, the design is accomplished by inserting a china clay, relief medallion in the body of the object---such as a knob or paperweight, etc., often in the form of a silhouette or bust of an important person.

I noted that Charlie Wardell had called in February 1981 to say he had just acquired a millefiori knob. The year before, Rich Kennedy had alerted me that two paperweight types were available in his area. I made haste to acquire them, even though I knew one was a cross between a sulphide and a millefiori (nine cane sections arranged around a white ceramic center could hardly qualify as a full millefiori). The second knob was a cushion bubble.

Nemecs called to say they had found a millefiori at last. Other members checked in from time to time to tell of a find or to report shocking prices being asked for knobs of this type. For sure, none who attended the convention where a new

member stole the show by arriving with his one purchase, will forget our shock. His one knob? A rare sulphide.

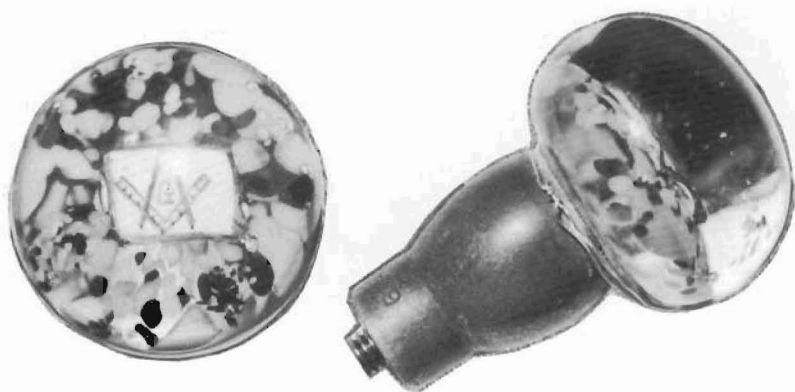
Some of you have weight types with dates worked into the design. John Holland's specimen, picked up at an estate sale in San Diego, bore the initials FCJ with an elevated NE. Might that be New England Glass Company, with the artists initials? The New England Glass Company was very active from 1856 in making paperweights. In that year they showed weights at the 25th Franklin Institute Exhibition. The New England Company has been identified as producing crystal, sulphide and flower doorknobs, as shown in paperweight books.

My 1979 travels found me browsing in a corner paperweight "library" of a well-known Portland Jeweler's showroom. Seizing the opportunity, I spent an hour taking notes, jotting down addresses, and finding il-

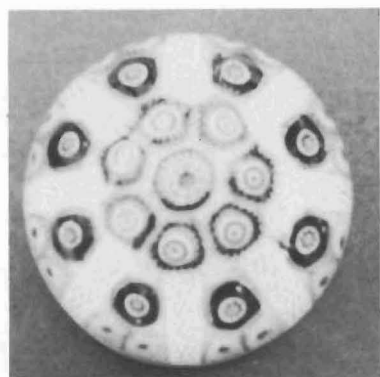
lustrations of crystal, sulphide and millefiori weight books.

Prominent collectors and collections of paperweights were mentioned or detailed. I contacted four professionals well-known in paperweight circles; Paul Jokelson, founder of the Paperweight Collectors Association, with an impressive list of other accomplishments; Christian Revi, closely associated with Jokelson with his publications and an authority in his own right; Maureen Duffany, Curatrix/Librarian, The Estelle Dohney Collection, Edward Laurence Dohney Memorial Library; and Gerrie Casper, Assistant Director and Curator of Paperweights at the John Nelson Bergstrom Art Center and Museum.

I was curious as to the incidence of doorknobs being found in paperweight collections and I was given answers - Paperweight people are as generous with their







information as are knob collectors.

Paul Jokelson indicated he had six sulphide doorknobs in his collection and had just acquired in February 1980 the Apsley Pellat "Apollo Belvedere" at a London auction. He felt that "almost all collectors have some crystal knobs in their collections, and that doorknobs by Baccarat, Clichy, and St. Louis were readily available at antique shops all over the country." (Wish that were true today!) (Late in 1983 the Jokelson collection was sold by Sotheby's. His Pantin Silkworm, alone, sold for \$143,000.00.)

Christian Revi provided other contacts and mentioned two doorknobs of later day make, those from Perth in Scotland. Perthshire millefiori knobs are sold in some fine china shops and in the larger, specialty shops carrying fine house fittings. The metal shanks should alert the buyer as to their age.

Gerrie Casper noted that their paperweight

brochure was being updated, but that their collection did include over 1200 examples of antique and modern weights. Knobs were few, but did include a rare pair of St. Louis "Pear" knobs, received in 1974 as a memorial. She indicated doorknobs made by the New England Glass Company could be found in the paperweight collections of the Ford Museum at Dearborn, Michigan and Old Sturbridge Village in Massachusetts.

Maureen Duffany explained the Estelle Dohney Collection was extensive and by no means limited to the large paperweight section. The twelve Apsley Pellat sulphide doorknobs in this collection have been photographed and described in *Glass Paperweights from the Estelle Dohney Collection* by Mary Redus Gayle, a former curator of the museum. The limited edition of 1971 was due for a second printing, slated for 1980.

In closing, I should mention my latest "find". A curious, rather small paperweight knob mounted on a unusual elongated metal shank took the eye of the bidders at the last convention. A Masonic emblem on a milk-white base was resting on a background of flower petals. I was fortunate to make the successful bid on this piece that I assumed to be a cane

head. However, I found that the shank accepted an ordinary knob spindle. Imagine my surprise to find a description of this very knob in McKearin's, *American Glass*, page 413, in my file. Quote, "various insignia such as---Masonic symbols and other designs---in milk white---", and, "we have a weight of this type showing the Masonic square and compass finely outlines in black and enclosing the "G", and "Made by Albert Graeser, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania." Even the background of the flower petals was mentioned, but my specimen did not bear the identification of the maker. I surmise my piece was used on a cabinet or was given as a gift.■



### DELAYED

Maude L. Eastwood's new book which was expected to be available for purchase by Christmas has been delayed. Originally titled "*A to Z Guide to Historic Builders' Hardware*," it is being given a shorter name and full details on how to obtain the book should be available for our next newsletter. We are sure the book will be well worth waiting for.

# Now, a guide for research material

A new publication that should benefit everyone interested in decorative hardware is expected to be available later this year. *A Guide to Decorative Hardware Research Material - 1993 Edition* is being prepared by Rhett Butler, a member of the **Antique Doorknobs Collectors of America**.

Butler is curator of the Foundation for the Preservation of Decorative Hardware Research Material. His expertise is on decorative and builder's hardware, both American and European,

door locks, hinges, etc. He is also a collector of architecture and design books, especially books and catalogs on decorative and builder's hardware.

*A Guide to Decorative Hardware Research Material - 1993 Edition* will include listings of Decorative and Builder's Hardware research material collections, source books, periodicals, hardware catalogs and collections. It will also list individual buildings, experts on decorative and builders

hardware, dealers, suppliers and manufacturers of antique and reproduction hardware.

Butler says, "it is my intention to produce a final version of this information in the next few months." He further states, "if there is sufficient interest and quantity of new information," revised editions would be published in subsequent years.

Information on how you may obtain the book will be printed in *The Doorknob Collector* in future issues. ■

1930	<b>SAGER LOCK WORKS.</b> North Chicago, Illinois (sold to Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.) 295pp. 8x11. Ref. Hennessy's Early Locks and Lockmakers of America.	CtLMA
1937	----- Builder's Hardware Catalog No. 37 of ornamental hardware, doorbells, door cups, handles, hinges, keys, door knockers, lever handles, locks, push & pull plates, etc. 567pp.	AHSAP
1938	----- 600pp. 8x11.	CtLMA

Reprinted from *A GUIDE TO DECORATIVE HARDWARE RESEARCH MATERIAL - 1993 EDITION* by permission of the author.



Chicago Fire Department



Unknown-could be related to Olympic Club



Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

## ADCA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following statement is for the year January 1, 1992 through December 31, 1992 (excluding archives, auction, convention and museum accounts.)

### RECEIPTS

Renewal dues	\$2730.00
New membership dues	1020.00
Sales of book, other items	1684.78
Donations	100.00
Interest on bank deposits	235.50
National convention income	489.68
Convention auction income	388.87
Miscellaneous receipts	3.25
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$6652.08</b>

### DISBURSEMENTS

Printing newsletter	\$2788.37
Other printing expenses	270.86
Postage	1330.87
Other publication expenses	222.22
Supplies & operating expenses	285.70
Books purchased	692.72
Convention expenses	843.25
Insurance	174.00
Miscellaneous expenses	1863.34
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>\$8471.33</b>

Profit or (loss)	(1819.25)
Beginning cash balance on 1/1/92	8279.02
Ending cash balance on 12/31/92	6459.76

We are fortunate in being able to derive additional income from the sale of books and promotional items in addition to regular ADCA membership dues. We continue our efforts to keep annual membership costs to a minimum in the face of increased publication costs. Your continued support and patronage is very much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta T. Nemec,  
ADCA Treasurer



## Cleaning Hint

After metal doorknobs are cleaned with a soft wire wheel, rub baby oil on them, this will prevent rust and make a nice natural shine. Baby oil is also good for porcelain knobs, it covers nicks and scratches. The nice thing it will do is wash out of clothing and off your hands. This is also good for tools, golf clubs, etc.

**Alan & Laura Lander #277  
Springboro, PA**



**F-104**

## Roster update No.4

The following are additions to the 1992 ADCA Roster which was enclosed with the May-June 1992 issue of **The Door-knob Collector**.

#318

John Paulson  
615 W. 18th Street  
Carroll, Iowa 51401

#319

Jim Curran  
Horsefeathers  
Architectural Antiques  
346 Connecticut St.  
Buffalo, NY 14213

#320

Matthew Connor  
10 Vernon Road, N.W.  
Atlanta, GA 30305

#321

R. Scott Greenberg  
2 Hooper Ave.  
Atlantic Highlands, NJ  
07716

#322

Carole C. Wilhite  
P.O. Box 588  
Temple, GA 30179

#323

Cynthia Lee Jenner  
55 E. 76th Street  
New York, NY 10003

#324

Mike Hollis  
Warner Bros. Studios  
4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg 44  
Burbank, CA 91522

## Kennedy Comments

by Rich Kennedy



If anyone was looking for the **Kennedy Comments** in the last issue, sorry it wasn't there. I was "hob-knobbing" around and missed the deadline.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season, and now that we are into the doldrums of winter it is time to polish, count and catalogue all the knobs. I built a simple camera stand utilizing my "point and shot" camera to photograph them. Most simple cameras have a minimum focus range of three feet. At that range in most cases you should be able to get eight knobs in one shot. If anyone wants a more detailed description of the stand, drop me a note.

I also have a video (unedited) of last year's convention, it's guaranteed to make you laugh and get motivated for this year's convention. I will be glad to send it to anyone to borrow and enjoy. Remember the tape is **UNEDITED** so the way you look or the things you said will not be held against you. ■





# FROM THE ARCHIVES WITH ARCHIVISTS

Steve/Barb Menchhofer

A new year...a new beginning! Many resolutions made by everyone, some to be broken and some that will be carried through.

Why not make a resolution to broaden your knowledge about your doorknob collection by ordering the catalog copies that we are offering in this issue of **The Doorknob Collector**?

You will find an order blank enclosed providing the necessary information to place an order. Please remember, the catalogs are only offered and copied twice a year to save wear and tear on the masters. Should you send us an order at any other time, we will hold it until the next time we offer the catalogs.

Please send your orders and checks to us by March 15, 1993. It will take some time to have all the copies made, sorted, and mailed but we will send them out as soon as possible after the deadline. ■

## DEADLINE

All ads, material and articles for the March/April 1993 issue of **The Doorknob Collector** should be in the hands of the editors by February 25, 1993.

# The doorknob exchange

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

**FOR SALE.** "Newark School Knobs," brass, O-114. 25 at \$40 a pair.  
Richard C. Hubbard #192,  
162 Poplar Ave.,  
Hackensack, NJ 07601.

**FOR SALE OR TRADE.** Pouty Rigid Door Knob set as described in Eastwood's "Antique Builders' Hardware," pages 179-180. This rare 1880 locking device has 2-3/4"x8" ornate brass escutcheon and is in beautiful condition, ready to install. Price \$300 or trade.

Charles Wardell, #9  
P.O. Box 195  
Trinity, NC 27370  
(919) 434-1145.

**FOR TRADE.** Buffalo door-knob. Wanted A301, A201, A202, A318, or C-C111. The Buffalo knob came from the Erma Hotel, Cody WY.  
John Holland #4,  
3434 No. 47th Way,  
Phoenix, AZ 85018.

**WANTED.** To buy, 6 knobs F104 Niles, for home renovation.  
Cynthia Jenner #323,  
55 E. 76th Street,  
New York, NY 10003,  
PH: (212) 988-9344.

**WANTED.** To buy or trade for. Knob & escutcheon that appears on Page419, Sweet's 1906 catalog.  
Ray Nemec #8  
1424 Heatherton Drive  
Naperville, IL 60563  
PH: (708) 357-2381  
FAX: (708) 357-2391.

**WANTED TO BUY.** Architectural hardware for doors, windows, furniture, bath accessories, ceiling fixtures, wall scones, etc. (1950 on back), Send photo with prices to Liz's Antique Hardware #111,  
453 S. LaBrea,  
Los Angeles, CA 90036,  
PH: (213) 939-4403,  
FAX: (213) 939-4387.

**WANTED.** Information on Sager Lock Co., Charles W. Sager. Need copies of articles, research documents, advertising material, etc. Information need for a story on the company.

Ray Nemec #8  
ADCA, P.O. Box 126,  
Eola, IL 60519-0126.

**WANTED.** Any and all published material concerning decorative and builder's hardware. This mean books, catalogs, brochures, trade publications, newspaper and magazine articles, advertising material, copies of research documents, noted from your own research. The material is desperately needed to add to and verify information for a guide to decorative hardware research material to be published in time for our convention. Please contact:

Rhett Butler #292  
P.O. Box 272  
New York, New York 10012  
PH: (212) 925-3565  
FAX: (212) 925-3305.

**WANTED:** Acorn knob (see page 1, #52, TDC March-April 1992). Willing to trade for or buy.  
Arthur Paholke #51,  
116 Hacienda Rd.,  
Hot Springs, AR 71909  
PH: (501) 623-5708.