



The Doorknob Collector

Number 59

May - June 1993

ADCA Convention - Gaithersburg, Maryland - October 8-11, 1993



**The Great Seal of the State of Minnesota
1858**



**Seal of the City of San Francisco Adopted
1900**



**State of Colorado
1876**



**Seal of the County of Union
New Jersey**

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



This newsletter is coming to you a little later than usual. And it is all my fault.

Something happened to me that I never thought would. I had a heart attack on April 17th and that was followed by triple by-pass, open heart, surgery on April 21. The operation went smoothly. Recovery, I am finding out, takes time, a lot of time.

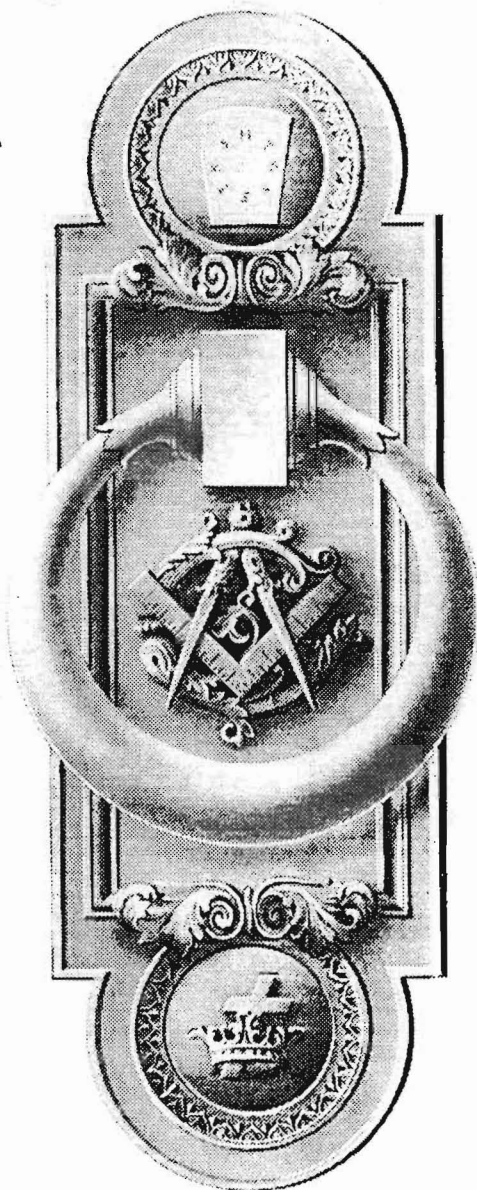
As I write this column we are still trying to get the medication to balance with by body needs. Then it is into phase two, a twelve week rehabilitation program. Hopefully after that I will be 100% and ready for the 1993 convention.

Speaking of the convention, I am really looking forward to it. I think it will be great. We should be meeting a lot of people who will be attending their first convention and lot of old friends who were at the one in Connecticut three years ago. We have a new member in Alabama who is planning on attending the convention.

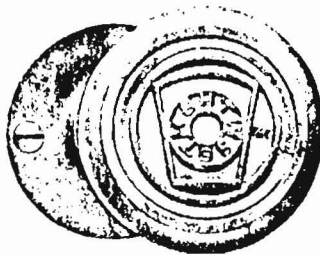
The books by Rhett Butler and Maude Eastwood, mentioned in earlier issues of **The Doorknob Collector**, are still scheduled for completion this year. We are expecting both of the books to be available at the convention.

Remember, we are always looking for material for the newsletter. We especially are interested in hearing from some of our newer members as to their interest in builders' hardware, how they got started, etc.

In closing, I want to thank all the members who did hear of my recent surgery and sent cards. They were appreciated. Thank you.



No. S 3659
Corbin Door Knocker



Barrows 1920 Catalog

1993 Membership Roster

ADCA members will find the 1993 Membership Roster, arranged by ZIP code number, enclosed with this issue of **The Doorknob Collector**. This is the largest list we have put out. Each year the club has shown growth. The 212 current membership is a 6% increase over the 200 we had at this time last year. Thirty-six states, the District of Columbia and one Canadian Province are represented on the membership roll. California leads with 33 members and Illinois is second with 27.

ADCA Membership by Year

1981 -	43
1982 -	71
1983 -	82
1984 -	90
1985 -	100
1986 -	105
1987 -	118
1988 -	140
1989 -	164
1990 -	178
1991 -	192
1992 -	200
1993 -	212

Note: The lettering on the Barrows doorknob bears the same lettering as the Corbin Door Knocker. Does anyone know what they stand for?



The Doorknob Collector

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Latches

by Maude Eastwood

A 1857 U.S. Patent copy reads, "A Latch is a catch that houses a Latch." The reader is lost.

A British source took the patent wording a step further. "Latches are included in the category of locks and their mechanism is almost as varied."

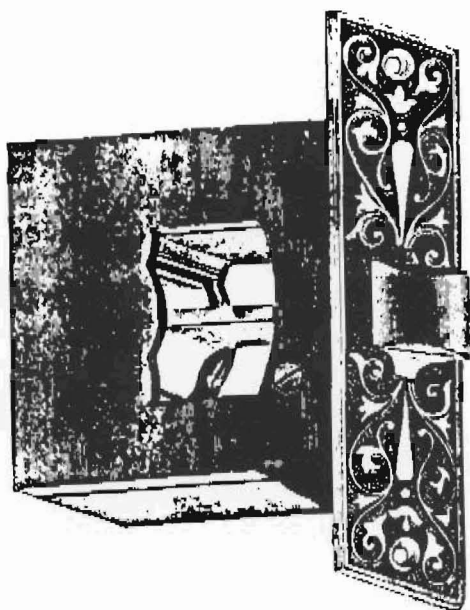
Comes understanding at the novice level. The latch is a member of the lock family and embodies certain characteristics.

As a member of the lock family, the latch may be referred to as a complete mechanism. Called a door-latch, it is used to hold a door shut. A metal case houses a spring-bolt, cam, and other parts, including a spindle and knob(s) to retract the bolt from the strike.

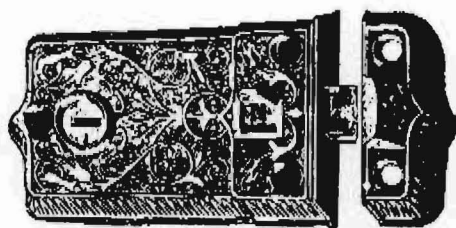
The latch does not have a square bolt operated by a key as does the lock.

The latch may also appear in a slim, trim form for rim and mortise application. Crosby's 1857 version, called a "Door Catch or Latch", was issued as an improvement by inserting an early version of an easy spring into the head (or bolt) of the latch.

Crosby's latch may be seen in the **ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF AMERICAN HARDWARE**, an unabridged reprint of the 1865 Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company, Published by the Association for Preservation Technology, where it is listed under bolts as "Crosby's' Patent Eccentric, for Inside Doors.



Decorative Mortise Latch and Striker



Screen Door Rim Latch



183.

Seed to Collecting Doorknobs Planted in 1946

by Ray Zyc



Back in 1946 upon returning from service, I did a complete turn-about in my vocation. From a clean white shirt and tie, business suit and polished shoes, I departed accounting, office management and the business world. Never did like it! What probably triggered this fast decision was the fact that I had returned to my pre-war position one week after returning from the South Pacific. A break down ensued, today it is called "Post War Syndrome."

At any rate I resigned my pre-war position, took a month off during which time I decided to become a carpenter, studying the craft for four years under the G.I. Bill, (smartest move I've ever made). Finally, I was enjoying what I was doing; now you can start to see how doorknob collecting was coming into the picture.

Fortunately we lived in an area, well endowed with Victorian homes and stately mansions. Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, was known as the "Newport of the West." The beautiful spring fed lake attracted many of Chicago's very wealthy who built splendid multi-room mansions along it's shores. Of course the best of building materials



Ray Zyc with his
1992 First Prize display.

were used in construction including door knobs and related hardware.

The original owners were financially capable of maintaining these large homes by employing servants, maids, gardeners, etc. However by the time the third generation came upon the scene, this was no longer possible. The depression had taken its toll, the wealth had filtered away and the new tenants found they had to drastically remodel the homes, making them more efficient and adaptable too current living conditions. Ceilings were lowered making seven foot tall doors impractical; with the doors went the hardware. I was able to salvaged some of the knobs and hinges purely for the brass content, not realizing that this effort

would someday become the basis for our doorknob collecting hobby.

It wasn't until a news article appeared noting that Arnie Fredrick of Waverly, Iowa, had started a club for knob collectors that our hobby took off.

It had been 30 years since my house building and remodeling days. Kae and I still look for knobs and frequently give talks to various groups and have a great time in doing so.



Kae Zyc

It is becoming more difficult to find additions to our collections, but somewhere, somehow, there is a different and unusual knob waiting to be found.

Finally we should like to express our gratitude for all the great friends we have come to know through the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America**. Truly our extra bonus as collectors. ■

Bits And Pieces

by Win Applegate



Do you like PBS television as much as I do? Roger Kennedy's Rediscovering America has an interesting segment on Louis Sullivan. This particular program touches upon some of his accomplishments and shows one of his favorite types of work, the small Midwest bank building.

One fine example is the 1911 Peoples Saving and Loan building in Sidney, Ohio. A bank in Newark, Ohio is now an ice cream parlor but Kennedy takes you above the contemporary drop ceiling to show you the classic Sullivan artistry.

This time of year, I seem to throw out the same old line "Now that the income taxes are done, it's time to..."

Well, they are and it is!

I am not sure what time of year collecting really "picks up" but the spring time certainly adds to the enjoyment. As I write this, the Kutztown Extravaganza is at the end of this week, Brimfield is not far off, and...

For those planning on attending the convention in Maryland, it is a good time to find a piece or two of Victorian clothing as we will continue the precedent established so successfully in 1992 of dressing in Victorian clothing on the day the convention is open to the public.

Some wore clothing that had been handed down within their families, while others were

quite successful with a few items and a lot of ingenuity and imagination. For the men, a white shirt, a red garter on the arm and a paste-on mustache did wonders.

Other bits: If you attended the Elgin convention or you ever visited Salvage One in Chicago, you might appreciate a recent DEWARS Scotch advertisement that featured Leslie Hindsman, the owner of Salvage One.



What's a **WINGATER**?

WINGATER #17

A pressed glass knob from the 1920's when placed on a flea market table will magically become crystal.

WINGATER #17A

That same knob will develop a serious scratch before you get it home...almost certainly under the price sticker.

IT'S A NICE FEELING WHEN...some of your grandchild's first words are "Pop-Pop's knobs."

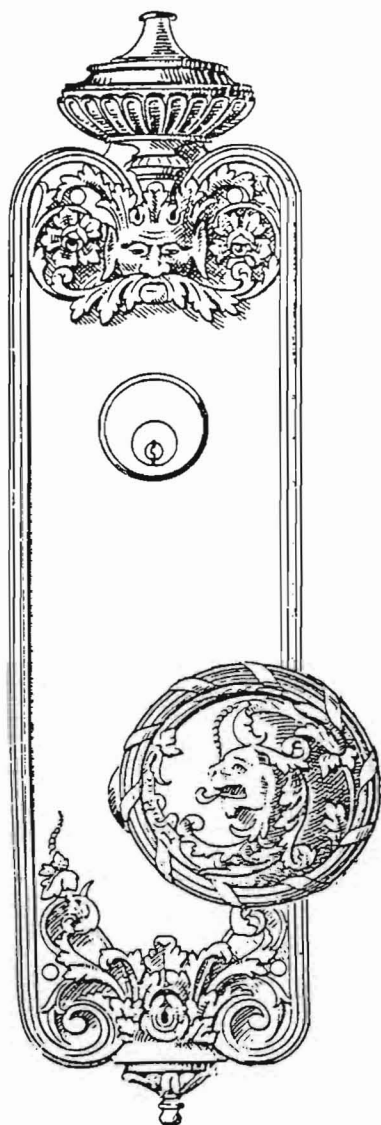
HARDWARE CATALOGS

The following is a list of Russell & Erwin Manufacturing Company catalogues known to exist. They are in the hands of collectors, museums and/or libraries.

If you have a Russell & Erwin Hardware Manufacturing Company catalog not listed below, please let us know.

Russell & Erwin Mfg. Co.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CAT.#</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
1865		436
1866		212
1897		276
1899		515
1909	Vol. 10	1275
1920	Vol. 11	448
1921	Vol. 12	448
1923	Vol. 14	359
1926	Vol. 15	420
1929	Vol. 16	
1936		548
1950		359
1959		336



S 187 Knob, 2½ in.
S 194 Esc., 3½ x 14 in.
S 193 Esc., 3½ x 11½ in.

CORBIN SPECIAL
HARDWARE



S 5294 2½ in.



FROM THE ARCHIVES WITH ARCHIVISTS

Steve/Barb Menchhofer

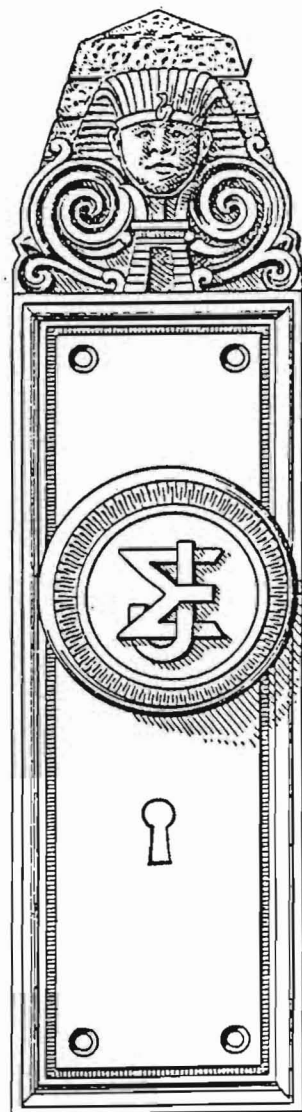
What an interesting and eye-catching theme has been selected for the 1993 ADCA Convention -- **Emblematic and Representational Designed Doorknobs.**

Good resources for these designs are Victorian Decorative Art by Len Blumin, any and all of Maude Eastwood's books, and of course the ADCA Archives. Take this time to research your knobs for your convention display by using any of these books or your catalog copies.

You'll discover that many of the larger hardware companies made the emblematic doorknobs for their customers; some knobs can still be seen on buildings today. Take Corbin for example. In our archives we offer 43 pages of special hardware made by Corbin. They offered their customers everything from lodge emblems to state seals, to knobs with profiles of U. S. presidents on them.

Russell & Erwin - Volume 2-1875 and Mallory, Wheeler & Company - 1882 also offered some great representational doorknobs. Another company, A.G. Newman, offered some fine representational doorknobs in the late 1800's and advertised them in their catalog as "extra large and full, suitable for front doors or public buildings".

However you choose to do your research, you will find this theme very interesting to delve into. ■



S 3479 Knob, 2½ in.
S 3477 Esc., 3 x 11½ in.

CORBIN SPECIAL
HARDWARE



S 5295 2½ in.

PAGE FROM CORBIN SPECIAL HARDWARE



S 157 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.
S 158 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.



S 3419 $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Dia. •
on S 285 Knob



S 634 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.



S 1421 2 in. Dia. *
on $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Knob



S 3040 $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Dia.



S 134 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.



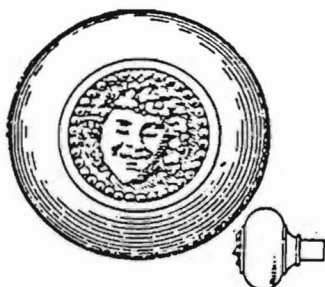
S 247 $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Dia.
on $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Knob



S 3206 2 in. Dia.
for Plate



S 3007 $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.
on S 134 Knob



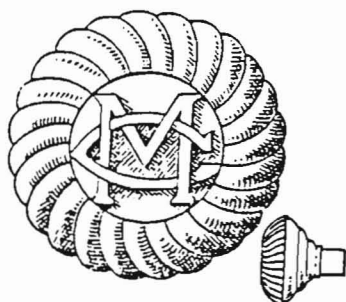
S 1628
on S 1896 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.



S 222 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.



S 282 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.
S 318 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.



S 147 $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ on 9524 $\frac{1}{2}$ Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.
— $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ on 3 in. Knob



S 3275 $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ •
on 81220 Knob



S 1163 1 x 1
on $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Knob



S 1164 1 x 1 on $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. Knob

S 335 Knob $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.

The doorknob exchange

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

FOR SALE. Rare doorknob doorbell in excellent working condition. The fancy brass front knob has a button in the middle lettered "BELL," and the other knob has a bell inside the knob that rings when the button is pushed. \$200.00.

R.H. Company very fancy large size letter slot that is lettered "NEWSPAPERS." \$100.00

I also have many old original sets of fancy embossed Victorian Hinges for sale. Send SASE for a list and prices.

Russell Barnes (#288),
P.O. Box 141994,
Austin, TX 78714-1994.
PH: (512) 835-9510.

WANTED. Any and all published material concerning decorative and builders' hardware. This means books, catalogs, brochures, trade publications, newspaper and magazine articles, advertising material, copies of research documents, notes from your own research. This material is desperately needed to add to any 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, NY 10012
PH: (212) 925-3565
FAX: (212) 925-3305.

WANTED. To buy or trade. Knob & escutcheon that appears on page 419, Sweet's 1906 catalog. (Chicago Hardware Co. ad).

Ray Nemece (#8),
1424 Heatherton Dr.,
Naperville, IL 60563
PH: (708) 357-2381
FAX: (708) 357-2391.

WANTED TO BUY. Emblematic doorknob from Washington University, St. Louis, MO.
Liz'sAntiqueHardware(#111)
453 S. La Brea,
Los Angeles, CA 90036
PH: (213) 939-4403
FAX: (213) 939-4487.

WANTED. I am looking for three pocket door locks in the Windsor pattern, single pocket doors, not double parlor doors. This pattern was by Reading and is pictured on pages 137 and 138 of Maude Eastwood's book, antique Builders Hardware.
Cynthia Jenner (#323)
55 E 76th Street,
New York, NY 10021
PH: (212) 988-9344
FAX: (212) 505-6478

WANTED. Antique Millefiori doorknobs. I have some for sale.
FOR SALE. Scottish contemporary doorknob and drawer pulls.
L.H. Selman (#328)
761 Chestnut Street,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
PH: (800) 538-0766.



Roster Roster update No. 6

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

Tori Lederman #329
76 Pierpoint St.
Southampton, NY 11968

Ellen Zimmerman #330
110 West 87th Street
New York, NY 10024

The following are changes to the 1992 roster:

Russell Barnes #288
P.O. Box 141994
Austin, TX 78714-1994

Don Warming #235
32 Cliff Road
Cumberland Center, ME 04021



DEADLINE

All ads, material and articles for the July-August 1993 issue of *The Doorknob Collector* should be in the hands of the editors by June 25, 1993.