



Number 63

January - February 1994



B. Wolf

Patented Mar. 9, 1852.

Clues to Identifying Argillo Knobs
Coloring: Red, black or variations of both.
Appearance: Jasper Stone
Composition: Glass
Shank: Iron or Plated
Socket (shank): Tight juncture. Glass cast on socket in the mold. No Lead

The Argillo Knob: Imitation Jasper Stone

by Maud Eastwood

(Story on page 3)

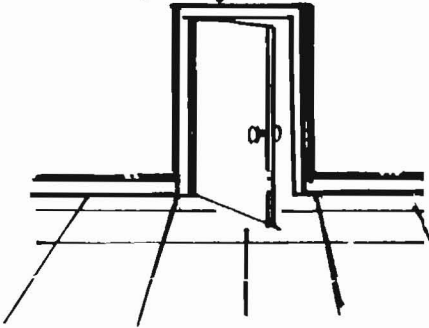
ADCA Convention, Milwaukee, WI
August 5-7, 1994

The President's Corner

by Win Applegate

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



While your officers are active throughout the year, many actions and decisions obviously center around the Board of Director meetings at the convention. Therefore this is the appropriate time to report to you on the "Business End" of your organization.

COMMEMORATIVESTAMP:

The ADCA has applied for the third time to the citizens' panel in Washington, D.C. to issue a series of stamps commemorating the Hardware Industry by featuring doorknobs.

This most recent proposal encompassed the previous works of Bill Byington and Charles Wardell. Additionally, specific knobs were selected and photographed. To enlighten the panel regarding the scope of the topic and our ability to assist, books by Maud Eastwood and Len Blumin were included with the proposal.

CLUB HISTORIAN:

Charles Wardell has been appointed to compile a detailed history of the ADCA. We have all seen some of Charlie's work and look forward to reading the results of his efforts in compiling this much needed history.

CONVENTION SUPPORT:

Hosting an ADCA convention is not a difficult task. Past hosts have found that lack of experience, not the work (actually minimal) created the apprehension.

To provide "experienced support", we have established a standing committee for Convention Site/Housing, Display Contest and Awards, Financial, Publicity and, of course, Auction.

It is felt that with this counsel, the hosts(s) will be able to more easily meld these functions into their locale for a successful and "stress-less" endeavor.

FINANCIAL:

In a few words, our finances are good. Over the years, Ray Nemec has done well and his fiscal management has resulted in continuously improving year-end balances.

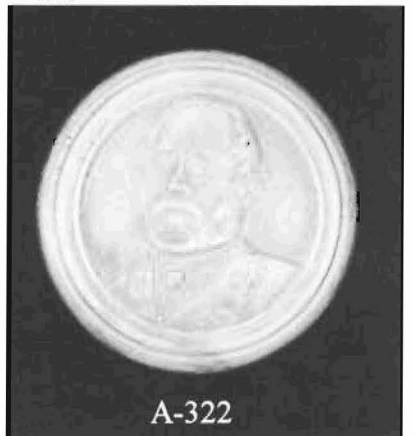
Some may ask, "why then, have the dues been raised?" Please read on.

EXPANSION OF VICTORIAN DECORATIVE ART:

Through the generosity and kindness of Leonard Blumin, the ADCA will be allowed to republish and expand upon the book which has become one of the major reference sources in our field of interest. If the ADCA decides to undertake this project, it could require significant funds prior to the first printing.

This potential project will be presented in greater detail in the next newsletter. Anyone wishing to help with this project please contact me.

Happy Collecting. . . •



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The Doorknob Collector

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Annual Membership In USA: \$25.00
Foreign rates on request.

The Argillo Knob: Imitation Jasper Stone

by Maud Eastwood



he Argillo Knob is arguably the shortest lived and least easily recognized knob under

the broad classification of mineral products. However, once known, certain clues apparent in the composition and method of production can make Argillo identification a relatively simple task.

The Argillo Knob in a mineral knob, a patented glass imitation of the Jasper Stone of nature, with similarities to the volcanic obsidian that provided material for Indian arrow heads. Colors are limited to reds and blacks and, like the mineral pottery knobs, no two are identical in design. Unlike the pottery knob, the Argillo has a glass body and is never found in shades of brown.

The point should be made that in doorknob nomenclature, the term mineral, should not refer exclusively to the brown variegated member of the porcelain, jet, and mineral threesome. Mineral also serves as a broad term of classification under which glass and ceramics appear as mineral products. Pottery is a mineral product, fired or baked. Glass is a mineral product melted or vitrified. Both remain mineral by classification, wherefore, mineral will be appropriately found in the title or specifications of both ceramic and glass patents. The Argillo patents are good examples.

John Paige Pepper obtained patent No. 8592 for an "Improvement in Mineral Composition Resembling Jasper" on Dec. 16, 1851. The composition was made by the fusion of clay with alkaline matter and coloring agents in glass house pots. (The clay content made the composition a mineral, the vitrifying made it a glass). Pepper named



his composition Argillo-Stone, Argillo derived from the Greek noun, Argil, meaning white clay or potters' earth. This patent covered the composition only, with reference to its capability of being formed into articles both utility and ornamental.

The patent covering the use of the Argillo composition in the manufacture of door and commode knobs, was assigned to Pepper by Benjamin Nott in March of 1852. The titles and sub-titles were interesting for their wordage. Specification title: "Manufacture of Door-Knobs". Subtitle: "Improvements in the Manufacture of Vitreous Metal Knobs for Doors, Commodes, etc., together with the Tools for Executing Such Improvements." Drawing page title: "Making Pottery." Because of real or fancied inconsistencies in patent wordage both in title and specifications, study patents in full to avoid misconceptions and baseless assumptions.

The full history of the Argillo composition and knob has yet to be uncovered. That it was of impact is not doubted. In 1850 Russell & Erwin thought it important enough to buy the Albany Argillo Works of John Paige Pepper and to erect a building known as the knob furnace in New Britain, Connecticut, for its production.

The venture failed and Pepper returned to New York. The disposition of the stock in trade is not known. That Pepper resumed knob production in Albany is implied by the assigning of the Nott patent at the Albany location. Subsequent evidence suggests Enoch Robinson and Wm. Hall controlled the destiny of the Argillo knob. Their business ventures linked them back as early as 1849 in patents attaching knob bodies to their sockets or shanks.

The Argillo Knob was a stock item listed on 1864 E. Robinson & Co. invoice headings. In that year he supplied the new wing to the Treasury Building in Washington, D.C. with 26 pair or octagonal Argillo knob sets.

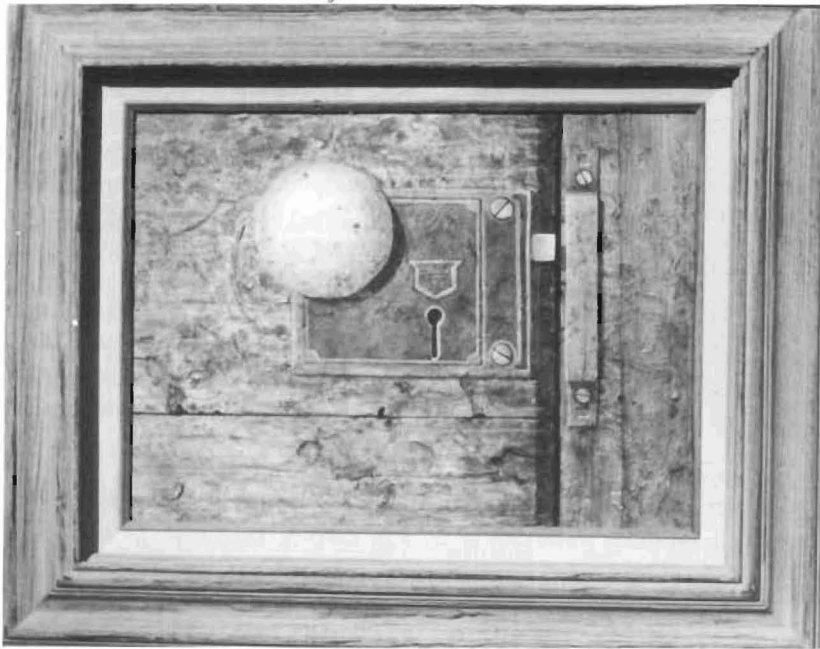
In 1872 Nashua in New Hampshire carried Hall's (Wm.) patent Argillo Knobs and Escutcheons. This patent would refer to the 1869 Hall patent for strengthening the bearing plate of escutcheons with a metal insertion.

Collectors find Argillo knobs largely in the upper Eastern states. They exist in many collections, generally regarded as oddities, for their existence is unknown to most collectors. Some refer to them as end-of-the-day-glass, or as slag glass. Neither one of these terms are correct.

The Argillo is found only in shades of red and black, whether lighter or darker, plain or variegated. Recognizing the external characters resulting from this composition will be useful for establishing type: Variegated colors distributed into clouds, spots and figures approaching aspects of Jasper, plain Jasper colors, sometimes produced without variegations, a vitreous luster and conchoidal opaque surfaces. •

Doorknob Painting

by Debbie Fellenz



DOORKNOBS OF NEBRASKA

"These represent the life, past and sometimes present, behind the knobs, handles and locks. They represent years of work and play and happenings, hope and despair, dreams and love - a past pride of ownership, some being abandoned, others still in use, but all part of Nebraska and its settlers, past and present..."

D. Jeffrey

The Workshop Knob

The painting above won one of the top 25 awards state wide.

Doorknob collectors notice doorknobs on every door they see. An artist's eye also will notice a doorknob and realize the appeal it can have.

Artist Dianne Jeffrey, an ADCA member, can attest to that statement. She noticed a doorknob on a door of an 1880's homestead house on her ranch four years ago and that developed into a series of doorknob paintings.

Dianne takes photographs of doorknobs and then does a painting from that. She has a lot of subject matter on the ranch and that has spread to her neighbors' buildings plus most of the county.

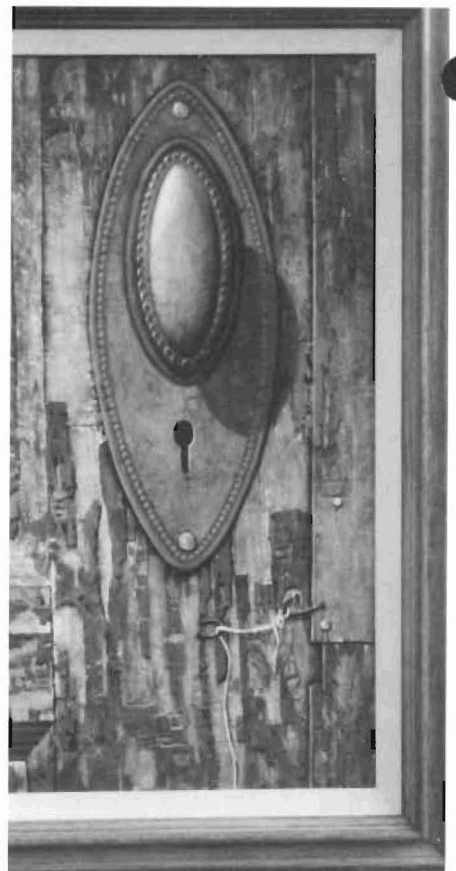
This award winning artist notices doorknobs while traveling and photographs them everywhere. One picture of a latch on a shed won (one of the top awards) at an art show. Her paintings are exhibited mostly at traveling art shows throughout Nebraska and the door

knob painting always draws a lot of interest and comments.

Diane feels that doorknobs are a unique subject matter for a painting. She has finished about a dozen and plans to do more of various sizes. She doesn't really collect doorknobs but does keep a few for mementos.

Dianne was surprised to hear that there is a club of doorknob collectors and enjoys reading the newsletter. Her membership was a gift from ADCA member Dolores Fellenz, who saw her doorknob painting displayed at the Dawson County Museum in Lexington, Nebraska.

Dianne and her husband, Joe (who collects fence posts) reside on a ranch near Lexington, Nebraska. Hopefully they will attend an ADCA convention and she will display some of her doorknob paintings there. •





Dianne Jeffrey

Painting is a thread that weaves through all the things that make up one's life.

Dianne Jeffrey was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. She grew up exploring and observing the deserts and mountains of the Southwest. Art and exploring are naturals because her mother is professional artist Grace Grace, well-known in the Southwest and western states, and her father W. W. Grace, has always been connected with Real Estate and mining in Arizona, obtaining his start around the historic Tombstone area. Dianne has studied with prominent artists of the Great Plains and Western States. She has exhibited widely,

winning Best of Shows, numerous other prized, purchase awards and merit awards. Her work is in many private collections throughout the United States.

A ranch wife of Veterinarian Joe Jeffrey, Dianne lives on the Robb ranch, homesteaded in 1874 and located on the Oregon Trail beside the banks of the Platte River and near the historic Plum Creek Massacre area in South Central Nebraska. The ranch raises Angus cattle, A.Q.H.A. and Appaloosa horses.●

Collectors' Showcase

On Saturday, January 15th, an estimate of almost 1,000 people braved the coldest day in ten years to come view a portion of Loretta Nemec's doorknob collection and collections from 14 other collectors at Arlington Heights, IL annual Collectors Showcase. The event, held in the Arlington Heights Memorial Library, was open to the public for four hours.

Reports indicated that the temperature did not reach as high as a minus 10 degrees. This did not stop a steady stream of visitors for the entire time the show was open. Judging from the large group usually at Nemec's display and the very favorable comments, the doorknobs were a definite "hit" of the show.

The night before, Nemec was one of three collectors who were showcased on the "Potpourri of Collectors Preview Lectures." She gave a presentation on door hardware. The program was taped and will be presented on the local cable channel.●



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DEADLINE

All ads, material and articles for the March-April 1994 issue of **The Doorknob Collector** should be in the hands of the editors by February 25, 1994.

ORNAMENTAL DESIGN IN ANTIQUE DOORKNOBS

by Len Blumin

Emblematic and Fraternal Knobs

- O-164 A pair of griffins surrounded a "D," with egg and dart border. Origin unknown.
- O-165 Unusual older (c. 1875-1880) monogrammed center. (IHM?)
- O-166 Classic Russell & Erwin design (K-104) with monogrammed center. (CAD?)

O-165



O-166



O-164



Identifying doorknobs

In the last issue of *The Doorknob Collector* an ad appeared that "Moes Enterprise Catalog of authentic Pre-1939 Builders Hardware," printed in 1984 by the late Lionel Moes, was available from Bud Wolski. This fine reference manual, which includes escutcheons, roses and a variety of other hardware is now available from **ADCA** for \$12.50. There are at least 468 doorknobs pictured in the catalog. Moes identified knobs with the letter A, escutcheon with a B, etc.

Moes randomly assigned numbers. Len Blumin developed a classification system which is now widely used by members of **ADCA**. Following are the first 12 knobs from Moes catalog with the corresponding numbers assigned by Blumin. If there is interest in this feature, we will continue to cross reference the doorknobs in the future issues of *The Doorknob Collector*.

Moes Enterprises Catalog

A-1
A-2
A-3
A-4
A-5
A-6
A-7
A-8
A-9
A-1
A-11
A-12

Len Blumin's Victorian Decorative Art

B-107
H-224
D-123
H-252
H-247
J -212
D-102
H-231
B-119
B-101
D-101
D-135

THE DOORKNOB PULLERS CLUB 1927

In our last issue of **The Doorknob Collector**, a story about a possible doorknob club back in 1927 was published. Charles Bednar has now furnished us with a "rubbing" of the doorknob which is pictured below. Again, we appeal to you for help in uncovering the story on the knob.



ADCA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following statement is for the year January 1, 1993 through December 31, 1993 (excluding archives, auction, convention and museum accounts.)

RECEIPTS

Renewal dues	\$3515.00
New membership dues	700.00
Sales of book, other items	1902.90
Interest on bank deposits	121.63
National convention income	801.66
Newsletter income (adv.)	40.00
Miscellaneous receipts	5.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7086.19

DISBURSEMENTS

Printing newsletter	\$1809.41
Other printing expenses	344.27
Postage	1474.90
Supplies & operating expenses	288.26
Computer expenses	213.48
National convention expenses	167.81
Insurance	229.00
Books purchased	1155.70
Miscellaneous expenses	1162.40
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$6845.23

Profit or (loss)	240.96
Beginning cash balance on 1/1/93	6459.76
Ending cash balance on 12/31/93	6700.72

Respectfully submitted,

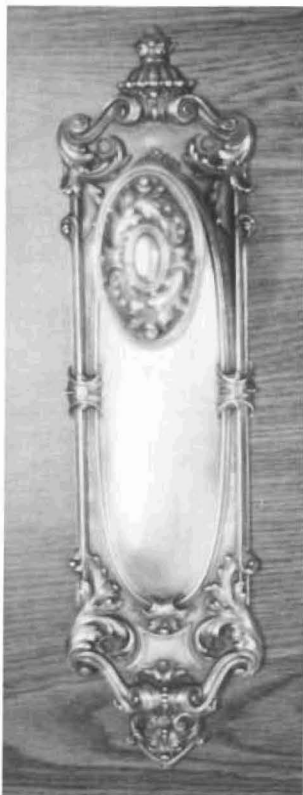
Raymond J. Nemec,
ADCA Treasurer

New member needs help

Scott Hall (#363) is a new member. His company, Old World Hardware Company, sells reproduction Victorian builders hardware through their 84 page mail order catalog.

Hall says, "we have also started manufacturing a plate and knob (N-137, see photo) in brass and bronze here in America. I am very excited about producing these exact replicas and am looking for a smaller interior escutcheon plate to match. The one pictured is 12-7/8 x 3-3/8 inches. I need a smaller one." Hall would appreciate if anyone has access to a smaller escutcheon or information to please contact him.

Scott Hall can be reached at:
Old World Hardware Co.,
P.O. Box 3099,
Pogosa Springs, CO 81147.
PH: (303) 264-2264
FAX: (303) 264-4724.



N-137 Corbin 1905 - Marseilles

KENNEDY KOMMENTS

by Rich Kennedy



Recently on one of my recent visits to a local flea market, before it closed for the winter, I spied a doorknob for sale that I didn't have. A rare find. As I got closer for a good look, I said to myself, "I'm not going to pay a lot for this!" I tried to decide which approach to use, the casual one or the up front one. The casual approach is where you say you just bought an old house and that doorknob would look great on the front door. This approach can be time consuming because the vendor will try to convince you that there are people who even collect these things and if you were a collector the price would be doubled. If you didn't believe him he will probably produce a book that shows pictures of them. The up front approach is dangerous because once you say you are a collector any chance to work down the price may be gone. I have developed a few do's and don'ts in bargain hunting. Never mention you are a collector, the price goes up. Don't bite your lip to hide your enthusiasm, a dead give away. Do try to find scratches, dirt and dents that will suggest it is less than true value and do bring plenty of cash, or you could wind up saying I paid a lot for this and you will bite your lip. •

Change in address.

John Van Kluyve #194
42 Casson Lane
W. Paterson, NJ 07424-2751

Karen & Clark Bright #291
80-Q No. Cabrillo Hwy., #236
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

Kent Westbrook #307
16891 Stevens Canyon Rd.
Cupertino, CA 95014

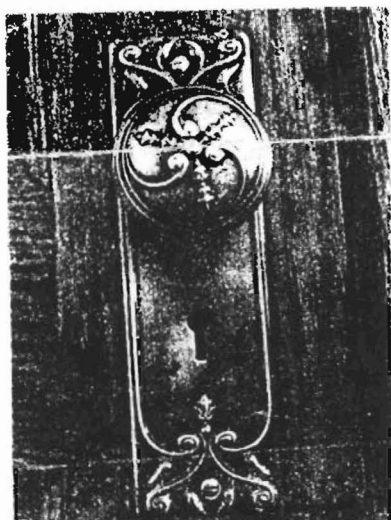
The Doorknob Exchange



**FROM THE ARCHIVES
WITH ARCHIVISTS**
Steve/Barb Menchhofer

Catalog copies are for sale again and the order form is included in this issue. We've added another copy to the Archives - thanks to Liz Gordon who loaned us her Norwich catalog. It is titled "Catalogue of Builders' and Miscellaneous Hardware" dated February 1892. The complete catalog has 404 pages. Selected pages total 94 and doorknob designs pages total 32. It is a great catalog and one worth having.

When placing an order, your form and check should be sent to us no later than March 1, 1994. Orders will be processed as soon as possible after the cut off date. If you have any questions about ordering catalogs please contact us. •



G-107

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

WANTED. To buy. Decorative hinges in iron or brass. 4x4 and larger. Will pay \$10 each.

Liz Gordon (#111)
Liz's antique Hardware
453 South La Brea
Los Angeles, Ca 90036
PH: (213) 939-4403
FAX: (213) 939-4387

WANTED. Six knobs and plates (brass) Russell & Erwin (G-107) Clermont. See Photo
David Olafsen (#43)
20048 Free Church Road
Caledonia, IL 61011
PH: (815) 389-2728

WANTED. To complete a display, Profile doorknob. A-322 or A-323.
Arnie Fredrick (#1)
221 Second Street SE
Waverly, IA 50677
PH: (319) 352-4070 or
(319) 352-6000.

New Members (Roster Update)

Steve Efnor #47
4256 Noesho Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90066
PH: (310)313-4124

Dothan R. Boothe #73
By-gone Days Antiques, Inc.
3100 South Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28209

Louis J. Vittori #103
3318 S. Lowe
Chicago, IL 60616

Judith Stogner #170
795 Clemont Drive, NE
Atlanta, GA 30306-3672

James C. Bennett #280
Rt. 3 Box 300
Marietta, OH 45750

J.R. Helget #355
Andersen Corp.
100 Fourth Ave. No.
Bayport, MN 55003-1096

Nicholas Doto #356
1564 Prospect St.
Trenton, NJ 08638

Betsy Werhane #357
Architectural Salvage, Inc.
1413 S. Broadway Blvd.
Denver, CO 80210

Sally & Al Berman #358
157 South Liden
Palatine, IL 60067

Howard L. Bowen #359
1 Garden Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33908

John & Karen Silvey #360
50 Maripose Ave.
San Anselmo, CA 94960

Honor Mahoney #361
944 N. Main St.
Sheridan, WY 82801

Norbert Pehl #362
1912 Brigden road
Pasadena, CA 91104

Scott Hall #363
Old World Hardware co.
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147
PH (303) 264-2264

L. Creighton McGrath #364
4434 N. Damen Ave. Apt. #10
Chicago, IL 60625

Francis M. Poznanski #365
701 Elderberry Lane
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056