



# The Doorknob Collector

Number 75

January - February 1996

## Wilsons' Auction a Big Success

In November, 1995, ADCA members received an illustrated catalog for Web Wilson's first phone/fax auction of collector quality hardware. There were 151 lots to be auctioned via telephone, fax machine, and mail and the event was organized and run by Web and Jill Wilson (ADCA #266) who are antique dealers in Portsmouth, RI.

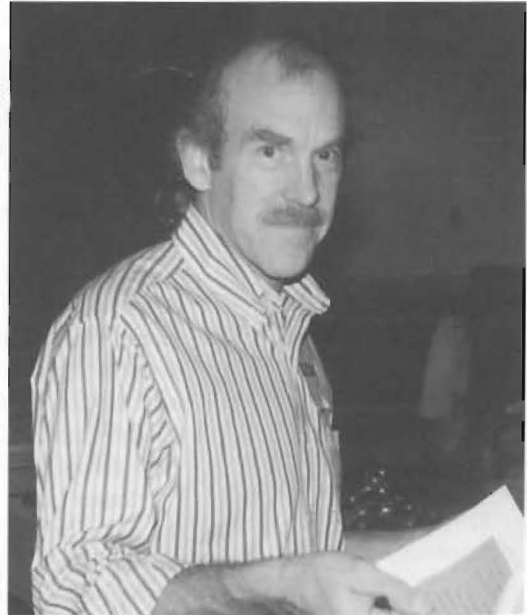
"It was a complete success", the Wilson's declared in a recent interview. "We had active bidding from all across the country, and we sold more than 70% of what we offered. We had competitive bidding in each of the 19 categories, and many lots brought a strong response.

Top lot in the auction was Lot 114 the "Judgment" knob, which was also the principal cover lot. It sold for \$850 plus 10%. Lot 19, fine Mallory Wheeler bronze knob with star center and "pavilion top" brought \$170. A mid-19th century black glass knob, lot 65, brought \$180, and a fine entry set in the "Auvergne" pattern was bid to \$400.

Many lots sold for under \$100. A Corbin hexagonal knob brought \$50, and a pair of decorated porcelain knobs brought \$40. A hand-faceted knob by Guerin sold for \$20, and a nice Arts & Crafts style iron door knocker went for \$55.

Lot 76, an early glass floret on a brass shank, sold for \$85. A nice passage knob from Lowe's Theater sold for \$30, and a combination doorbell/doorknob was bid to \$75.

"The bidding was really quite fun and exciting," Web noted. "After all the work we did to produce and mail the catalogs, we had some anxious moments waiting for replies. When the first fax came in we wondered if it would be a long list of bids on our favorite items, but instead, it was a single bid for an item I figured to be one of the last things that would sell." (Continued on page 4)



Web Wilson



Lot 114 Page 8 in catalog

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## THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec



This is the 75th edition of ADCA's publication, **The Doorknob Collector**. If you have read every page of every issue you have read 658 pages. After finishing reading number 75 you can add another eight pages to that total.

Last year we set a record with a total of 68 pages. This topped the 64 pages we published in 1992. The amount of pages we publish is dictated to a great extent by how much money we have available. The cost for a page has averaged about the same for the past two years, a little under \$64. Many of you will notice our printing costs went up in 1995 over 1994. The cost per page remained the same. In 1994 we printed 48 pages, 20 fewer pages than in 1995.

As we look to the future, there will be many changes for the newsletter. Some, such as the mailing list now on a computer, will have little effect in our finished product.

One of the areas being considered is having ADCA on the internet. Many of our members are already on it. We are making plans to experiment with publishing a newsletter to be sent via E-mail. With that thought in mind we would like for members who have E-mail addresses to forward them to us.

We will publish them in future issues so members can correspond with fellow hobbyists. It will also allow us to experiment with sending information to you.

To what extent we proceed will, for the most part, be based on how many members have access to this means of communication and if there is a desire to communicate through the internet systems. •

## Bits & Pieces

by President Win Applegate

Antique Shows . . . Antique Shows. The period between Thanksgiving and Christmas appears to be one of the busiest. There were just too many in the Mid-Atlantic Region. I attended the Great Eastern at the Allentown (PA) Fair Grounds on December 2, always a good show because it frequently contains some fine hardware. This year was no exception as at least one hardware dealer "came through." It's interesting; he usually has good items, and is from the area, but he can't tell a Reading Hardware plate from any other.

The next day I visited the Philadelphia Show in the new Convention Center. This, in many ways, was a superb event with the kind of quality items that you just like to look at with no intention of purchasing. Many fine dealers displayed there.

I overheard an exchange between a "customer" and a dealer. You know the story line . . . "two aisles over I can get your \$125 piece for \$75!" The dealer politely suggested that the lady buy it over there. With that the "customer" walked away announcing to everyone at this 'class show' not only the dealer's gender but also that she was of the canine species. How does it go?? . . . you can take the XXX out of the YYY but not the . . .

The other purpose for making the Greater Philadelphia was to visit with Web Wilson. He and Jill were trying to wrap up the mail auction and conduct business at the same time. Certainly an innovative endeavor, the auction, from comments I received, was given pretty fair marks.

(continued on page 6)

## Meet Your Board of Directors

Each issue **The Doorknob Collector** will feature the pictures of one or two ADCA members who is on the Board of Directors. In this issue we present:



**Rich Kennedy**

Rich Kennedy has been a doorknob collector for about 20 years. He inaugurated a newsletter for collectors in 1978. Rich has missed only one convention during the past six years. Elected to the Board of Directors in 1993, he is now serving his second two-year term. •



**The Doorknob Collector ©**

Published six times a year by Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, Inc.  
P.O. Box 126, Eola, Illinois 60519-0126  
Raymond and Loretta Nemec, Editors  
Phone: 1-708-357-2381

FAX: 1-708-357-2391

Annual Membership in U.S.A. \$25.00

Foreign rates on request.

Founded in September 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit organization devoted to those interested in collecting and preservation of Antique Doorknobs and related hardware.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors of ADCA or the editors of **The Doorknob Collector**.

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### Antique Doorknob Collectors of America Board of Directors 1995/1997

President.....	Win Applegate #110
Vice President.....	Dale Sponaugle #85
Sec/Treasurer.....	Raymond Nemec #350
Board Members.....	
	Norman Blam #176
	Maud Eastwood #2
	Rich Kennedy #238
	Stephen Rowe #287
	Linda Smeltzer #136

# Michigan Trivia

(Gene DeLange, 1996 ADCA convention host, brings you the first in a series of articles on Michigan and what it has to offer ADCA members who will be attending the convention in July 1996.)

**M**ichigan became the 26th State when it joined the union on January 26, 1837. The state is often referred to as "The Wolverine State" or "The Great Lake State", and occasionally as "Water Wonderland". Currently the state ranks eight in population with over 9,300,000 residents, and with 58,527 square miles, places 23rd for land area.

From your geography lessons, you know that Michigan is the state shaped like a "mitten". Using the mitten analogy, Michiganders (not Michiganers) always refer to one region of the state as the "thumb area". The State consists of several islands and two peninsulas separated by the Straits of Mackinac. The Upper Peninsula, or "U.P." as it is commonly called, and the Lower peninsula are connected by one of the longest suspension bridges in the world, built in 1957 at a cost of \$99,800,000. The bridge, "Mighty Mac" is five miles in length. Only on Labor Day is the bridge open to pedestrian traffic at which time thousands of people "walk the bridge". This past year the celebrity walkers included Governor Engler accompanied by his wife and their year old triplet daughters.

Four of the five Great Lakes border Michigan giving us 3,288 miles of fresh-water shoreline, more than any other state. No part of Michigan is more than 85 miles from one of these four lakes: Huron, Erie, Superior and Michigan. Only Lake Ontario does not touch the borders of Michigan, (incidentally, the word HOMES is a good mnemonic device to use to remember the names of the Great Lakes). Michigan also has more than 11,000 inland lakes.... surpassing Minnesota's claim of 10,000 lakes. Unfortunately there is a downside to

being surrounded by so much water since the lakes influence our weather to a great extent. The winds blowing across the water bring humidity and clouds, as well as snow in the winter. In spite of this drawback, there are endless vacation and recreation opportunities in the state. During the summer months our lakes and beaches attract thousands of boaters, fisherman, and swimmers. Campers make use of our 94 State Parks, and hunters enjoy our four National Forests and our six State Forests... which give shelter to a white tail deer population numbering about 2 million (incidentally Grand Rapids is in Kent County which holds the record for the highest number of car/deer accidents in the nation). Winter sports lovers come here for skiing, skating, tobogganing, ice fishing, and snowmobiling. Michigan's two National Parks, Isle Royale and National Lakeshores, provide sightseers with beautiful scenery. The U.P. has over 150 waterfalls and even mountains... the Porcupines. Late in September or early in October, Michigan's 90-100 species of trees put on a spectacular autumn foliage color show equal to that found anywhere in the United States.

Important as tourism is, it isn't our only source of revenue. I'm sure that you know a major factor in Michigan's economy is Detroit's (Motown) automobile manufacturing industry which began over a 100 years ago and continues to this day, giving us a place as one of the industrialized states. Battle Creek with the Kellogg Company and Post Company, is the breakfast food capital of the country. But we do produce more than cars and corn flakes. Did you know that Michigan also ranks first in the production of navy beans? We grow the most cultivated Christmas trees, most of the cultivated blueberries and also potted geraniums. Traverse City supplies 80% of the nations' tart cherries and a good portion of the sweet cherries. We produce many

varieties of apples. We rank third in the nation in wine production. Other important industries are office furniture manufacturing, refrigerator manufacturing, iron ore production, gypsum, peat, wood and lumber products, and pharmaceuticals.

You can view the world's busiest waterway from a platform overlooking the Soo Locks in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. The yearly number of tons of cargo (95 million) that pass through the Soo Canals rivals the tonnage that passes through the Panama Canal. This, in spite of the fact that the Soo Canals are often closed by ice from December to April every year. Thousand-foot lake freighters and oceangoing vessels coming from the Atlantic via the Saint Lawrence Seaway go through this series of locks. The ships are raised and lowered 22 feet as they pass between Lake Superior and Lake Huron via the St. Mary's River... a feat which can be accomplished in six to fifteen minutes.

Sailors traveling the Great Lakes say they suffer from sea-sickness more often than they do on ocean voyages. The reason: wave action on the Big Lakes is short and choppy in contrast to the longer more gentle wave action of the ocean.

Michigan has many festivals each year. Among the larger ones are:

Tulip Time (Holland) yearly in May; Third largest festival in the country.

The World's Longest Breakfast Table (Battle Creek); early in June.

International Balloon Championship and Airshow (Battle Creek); early July.

National Cherry Festival (Traverse City); early July.

Chicago-MacInac Island Yacht Race (the longest fresh water yachting event in the world); July.

The Coast Guard Festival (Grand Haven); last week of July - first week of August.

International Festival of Lights

(Continued on page 6)



## Wilsons' Auction

(continued from page 1)

"But competition quickly developed," Jill added. "Every category had at least one item of considerable interest, and we soon had bids arriving steadily. Everyone picked up on the bidding system right away, and we were glad we had developed a good record keeping plan to keep track of all the activity."

The Wilsons set an opening bid on each lot, and if there was only one bid, then that was the selling price. "I figured the opening bid at about a half to a third of what I thought a lot might bring," Web explained, "even though in many cases this was less than what we originally paid."

"Our basic strategy was to attract as many bidders and to sell as many lots as possible," Web explained. "We set reasonable goals for this first event, and when the auction closed at 9 p.m. on November 30, we found we had greatly exceeded our expectations. Many bidders told us that they were equally happy."

Approximately 80% of the bidders were successful on at least one lot, and about half the sold lots went for the opening bid. "No one was successful on every item they bid on, although many people tried," noted Web. "About 20% of the bidders were not members of ADCA, and we had interest from seasoned collectors as well as neophytes."

"One of the appeals of silent auctions is the anonymity," Jill explained, "because many collectors and dealers want to keep their buying strategies private. Bidding by phone and fax allows folks to participate from the comfort and convenience of their home, and we are very careful to protect the identity of all bidders."

"Some bidders asked us who their competition was", Jill continued, "but we always keep that information in trust. Keeping bidder ID's private helps everyone, and we had excellent

support with this and the other rules we printed in the catalog."

Web had been collecting hardware for more than ten years, and he and Jill sell high quality hardware at antique shows all across the country. "Our inventory is always well received, and we continually meet folks who are unaware of the collecting potential of good hardware," they explained. "We spent several months planning this phone/fax auction, and were confident that it would be a great way to expand the market."

"We knew that every lot offered had to be illustrated, and that the biggest challenge would be to produce a quality catalog," Jill noted. "We went through many rolls of films and several processing experiments before we came up with the final product."

Web cataloged the hardware and did the photography; Jill laid out the pages and set up the record keeping. "My parents were visiting," noted Jill, "and my mother also put in many hours helping organize the paperwork."

"Expenses for the auction were considerable," Web noted. "We mailed a catalog to every member of ADCA, plus our own list of customers, and then we ran up a jumbo sized phone bill responding to bidders. We didn't keep track of our total hours, but there

were several nights when we looked at the clock and it was past one A.M."

The Wilsons are planning their next auction for the Spring of 1996. "We will make a number of improvements," they declared, "including more close-up photos, some color photography, and dimensions and weights for each lot."

"We are going to run our succeeding auction by catalog subscription," Web said. "All subscribers will receive a list of the prices realized in the November 1995 sale and we will also provide an 800 number for customer bidding."

"Catalog subscriptions will help defray costs, and will also separate the real buyers from the simply curious," Jill adds. "That should even out the competition, identify a group of serious dealers and collectors, and help participants build an illustrated record of hardware variety and values."

"Our hope is that an increased interest in quality hardware will benefit everyone," Web and Jill said. "When demand goes up, supply also increases, so the publicity that our auctions bring should result in more good stuff moving into the marketplace. Active auction bidders will then be out in front, making the best deals as both buyers and sellers."•

### *Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs*

by Len Blumin

The numbering system below is a supplement to the Sager knobs on the opposite page.

#### **SAGER New # Description**

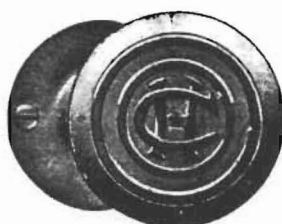
A	O-209 Elks Knob
B	O-190 Sager monogramatic, possible for a hotel
C	O-210 Odd Fellows knob
D	O-191 Masonic Knights Templar
E	O-201a Mesonic knob
F	O-211 Masonic, Mystic Shrine
G	O-192 Eastern Star, Masonic
H	O-204a Mesonic, Scottish Rite
I	O-205a Elks knob
J	O-193 Royal Arch Chp. Masonic ("KSHTSST")
K	O-162b Chicago Board of Education
L	O-194 City of Detroit Board of Education

# EMBLEMATIC AND MONOGRAM KNOBS

Illustrations one-half size



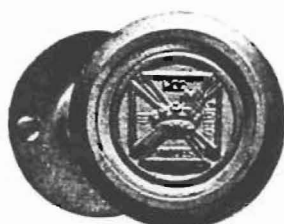
Type A



Type B



Type C



Type D



Type E



Type F



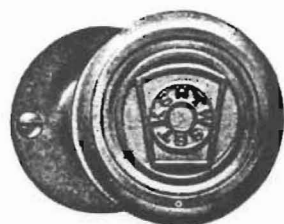
Type G



Type H



Type I



Type J



Type K



Type L

# KENNEDY KOMMENTS

by Rich Kennedy



Several months ago I was invited to speak at a Historical group on what else but hobnobbing. The program chairman said I had about an hours time. Trying to postpone this as much as possible I finally decided I would do it, not because I didn't know my subject but speaking in front of 40 people is not one of my favorite things. I thought I was prepared for everything. I had slides. I had archives material. I brought 60 doorknobs to show. Was I ready? Yes. No. I wasn't ready for all the questions. What was the double keyhole for? What was Hemicite? Who was Jarves? Is my glass knob at home worth anything? After many many more questions, I politely said I was out of time. Thank goodness! Looking back, I really did have a lot of fun talking about collecting doorknobs, the ADCA and old hardware. I have since had several invites to other groups, which leads me to mention that many groups are looking for speakers, even those who collect strange things like doorknobs. The honorarium I received was great, a good way to raise some money for the club. Even if you just exhibit part of your collection at a library or museum it will help to spread the word about ADCA. •



Lot 122 Lowe's Theatre

Lot 19

## Hardware Puzzle Answers

Below are the answers to the Hardware Puzzle which appeared in The Doorknob Collector Issue 74.

1. AMERICAN HARDWARE CORPORATION
2. BARROWS LOCK COMPANY
3. RUSSELL AND ERWIN COMPANY
4. SAGER LOCK COMPANY
5. READING HARDWARE WORKS
6. P F CORBIN
7. HOPKINS AND DICKINSON MANUFACTURING COMPANY
8. CHICAGO HARDWARE MANUFACTURING COMPANY
9. TECHNICAL GLASS COMPANY
10. YALE AND TOWNE MANUFACTURING COMPANY
11. SARGENT AND COMPANY
12. SCHLAGE LOCK COMPANY
13. LOCKWOOD MANUFACTURING COMPANY
14. BRANFORD LOCK WORKS
15. NASHUA LOCK COMPANY
16. PARKER AND WHIPPLE COMPANY
17. NORWALK LOCK COMPANY
18. PENN HARDWARE COMPANY
19. EAGLE LOCK COMPANY
20. MALLORY WHEELER COMPANY

## Trivia

(Continued from page 3)

(Battle Creek); November and December.

Mackinac Island is encircled by State Highway SR 185, and according to AAA, is probably the only state highway in the nation on which a motor vehicle accident has never occurred. Of course the fact that all transportation is by foot, bicycle or horse drawn carriages might have some bearing on this record. The only motorized vehicles allowed on the island are a public utilities truck, a fire truck and an ambulance. In the winter time only a few hearty souls stay on the island. They often commute to the mainland by snowmobile when the lake freezes over.

Cooper Peak Ski-Flying Hill near Ironwood in the U.P. rises some 999 feet above the ground. When it is not in use you can go to the top via a chair lift and elevator. From that vantage point, on a clear day, you can see Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and across Lake Superior into Canada. The highest artificial ski jump in the world (90 meters) is located at Pine Mountain, just outside of Iron Mountain.

.....Coming next issue: "What to see and do in Michigan at Convention Time." •

## Bits & Pieces

(continued from page 2)

However, a buyer's premium is still not everyone's favorite.

There is no way of finding out, but I would LOVE to know who was bidding against whom.

Believe me, all of Web's hardware was not in his mail auction! The Wilson/Oltz booth contained some choice items. Where do dealers get these things!!

Another booth displayed oval French ceramics with roses. With a price tag of \$298 I had to slowly shake my head and move on. Well, after all, the grandchildren need shoes. •

## 1995 ADCA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The following statement is for the year January 1, 1995 through December 31, 1995 (excluding archives, auction, convention and museum accounts).

RECEIPTS	1995
310 Renewal dues	\$4438.00
311 New membership dues	804.00
312 ADCA publication sales	405.00
313 Promo, misc. item sales	133.00
314 Book sales(Eastwood, etc.)	384.85
315 Donations	200.00
320 Int. on Temp. investments	88.14
330 National conv. income	3311.00
341 Regional Swap Meets	80.00
379 Archives	158.70
390 Miscellaneous income	10.30
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$10,012.99</b>

DISBURSEMENTS	
701 Printing newsletter	\$4343.13
703 Other printing expenses	74.00
730 Postage(exclud.conv.)	1815.04
803 Operating exp., adm.office	561.63
804 Purchases: comp/fax/printer,etc.	640.49
805 Archives expenses	158.70
841 Regional Swap Meet	80.00
908 National Conv. expenses	2372.92
971 Honorariums	1000.00
981 Insurance	355.00
987 Condolence expenses	85.56
988 Purchase books	136.50
989 Purchase videos	37.00
990 Misc. Expenses	43.58

**TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$11,703.55**

120 Excess of receipts over disb.	\$(1,690.56)
110 Beginning cash bal.	\$5,965.80
100 Ending cash bal.	\$4,275.24

Respectfully submitted,

*Raymond J. Nemec*

Raymond J. Nemec,  
ADCA Secretary/Treasurer  
1/2/96



## From The Archives

by Steve & Barbara Menchhofer

1996---another new year! "Out with the old and in with the new" is a familiar saying, but in the case of the doorknob collector, maybe it should be "in with the old and out with the new". The "old" refers to victorian doorknobs and hardware.

It's time to familiarize yourselves with your collections and reference materials, see what you have and what you need or want. This is your opportunity to look over your catalogs to see if you would like to order more.

The catalog order forms will be going out to the membership in the March-April issue of **The Doorknob Collector**. Please remember that we offer these catalogs only once or twice a year to save wear and tear on the master copies. When you get your form, look it over carefully and place your order before our deadline. If you have any question please call us at 317-291-6043, or write us at 5538 W. 25th Street, Speedway, Indiana 46224.

We are looking forward to another year as your **Archivists**. Thanks for all the help you have given us over the years. •

1996  
Convention  
Theme

⌘  
Porcelain  
Hardware  
⌘

Grand Rapids, MI  
July 24-27, 1996

⌘  
Gene & Miriam DeLange  
Chairpersons

## The Doorknob Exchange

Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge. ADCA is not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

**Wanted:** F-203 and Slide Corbin Bell Pulls (see photo).

Richard Wise (#269)

814 Bangs Street

Aurora, IL 60506

PH: 708-898-8377

**Wanted:** The following doorknobs.

B-105, B-108, B-109, B-110, B-118,

B-121, B-123, B-204, B-206, B-212.

Homer Snow (#149)

732 Sherman Street

Nashville, MI 49073

PH: 517-852-9455

**Hardware:** We have more than 70 doorknob patterns in stock as well as a good supply of roses and escutcheon plates. Can we make a match for you? Or maybe provide additions for your collection.

•Full listing available on request.

•Other Hardware available on a limited basis (Bells, pulls, shelf brackets, etc.)

•Non damaging jewelry quality cleaning & polishing.

**Lilac Shed Antiques (#402)**

Ken or John Spahr

P.O. Box 206

Washington, Maine 04574

PH: 207-845-2263

### Auction #2

Web Wilson's Antique Hardware Auction #2 is scheduled for Spring of '96. More close-ups, color photos, dimensions of each lot, and other improvements. Bidding by subscription: \$12.50 per catalog. We will provide an 800 number and prices realized from Auction #1 to all subscribers.

Mail checks to:

Web Wilson (#266)

P.O. Box 506

Portsmouth RI 02871

PH 800-508-0022 for more details.

FAX: 401-683-1644



### DEADLINE

All ads, material and articles for the March-April 1996 issue of **The Doorknob Collector** should be in the hands of the editors by February 15, 1996.

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\* Changed to K-320

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