



The Doorknob Collector

Number 84

July - August 1997

KAHALA BRONZE, A Russell & Erwin Hardware Finish

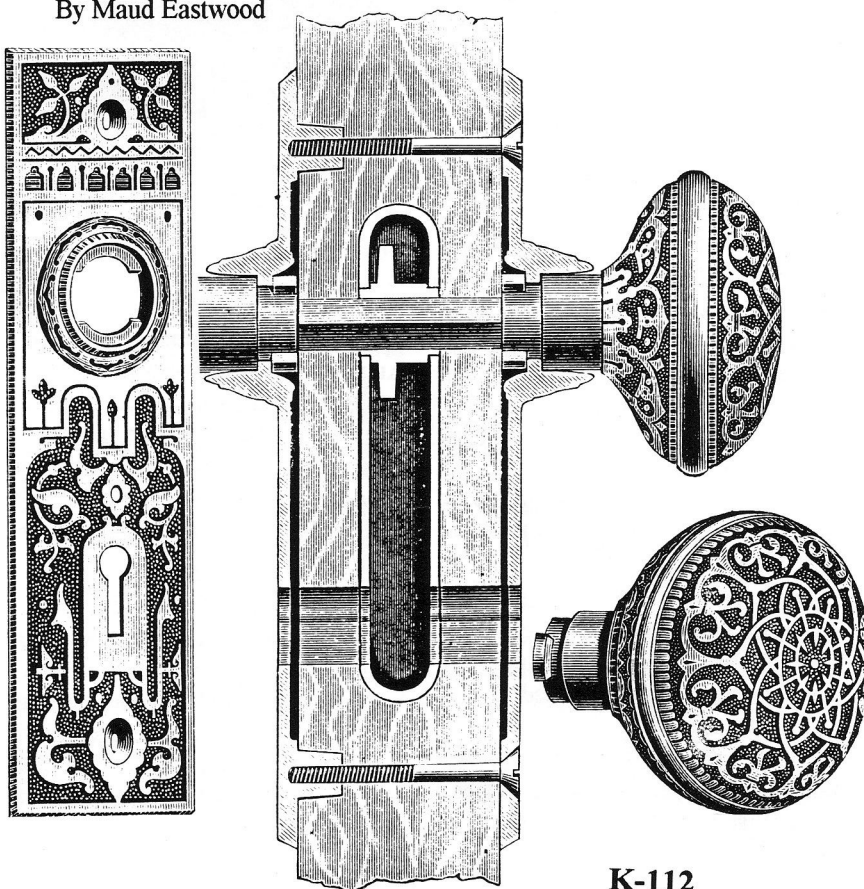
By Maud Eastwood

Builders' hardware catalogs list finishes for Iron and Steel separately from finishes for the other metals. Russell & Erwin's (R&E) 1899 catalog provided eight finishes in the Iron and Steel category.

Three of those 1899 finishes were quite unusual: Oroide (Gold Colored Plate), Florentine Finish (Chocolate Background, Light Polished Bronze Relief), and Kahala Finish (Dark Brown Color). The Kahala Finish begs further explanation due to its continued use over a number of years and the terms' seemingly inconsistent usage over those years.

Because this finish was variously labeled "Kahala," "Kahala Finish" or "Kahala Bronze" the question arises, "Just what was Kahala"? A 1909 definition revealed this finish to be "Dark Brown Oil Finish, Baked." Therefore, Kahala would not be a brown Japan (Brown Japan was not unusual as a finish) for Japans are baked enamels.

(Continued on page 4)



K-112

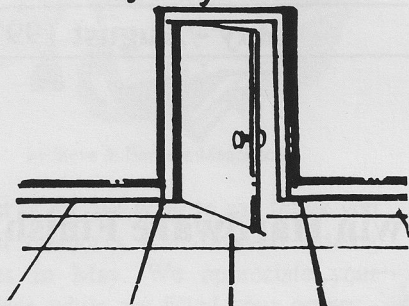
ADCA Convention, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania August 13-16, 1997

Inside

Meet your Board	Page 2
Classic Doorknobs	Page 3
Kahala Bronze	Page 4
The True Solution	Page 4
Welcome Home	Page 7
Did You Know	Page 7
Obituary	Page 7
Emil Miller Library	Page 8
Doorknob Exchange	Page 8

THE OPEN DOOR

by ray nemec

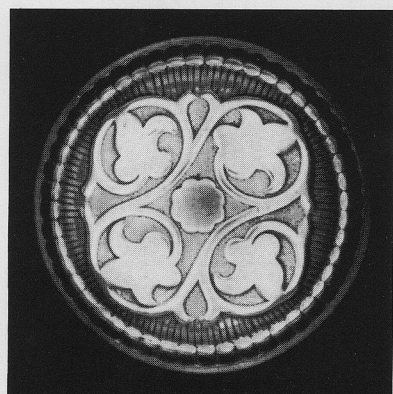


The loss of an ADCA member is always a sad event. The death of Richard Wise (see page 7) was not only that we lost a member but also a very dear friend.

Richard Wise was, to me, everything I would want a fellow ADCA member to be. He was enthusiastic, willing to share information, make trades and participate in club endeavors. He always had an up-beat tempo that was contagious.

In April Rich called, wanting to visit an antique shop in Chicago. Did I want to go? We had a great time. Later that month when Rich Kennedy came to Naperville, a call to Rich Wise and he was over to help spend some fun-filled hours talking hardware.

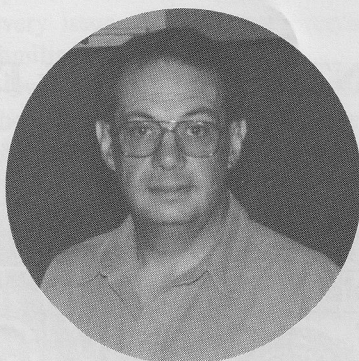
Putting the newsletter together takes many people, many ideas. Rich Wise was always there to help. We will miss you, Rich. ●



H-268 AMARAT

Meet Your Board of Directors

Each issue **The Doorknob Collector** will feature the picture of an ADCA member who is on the Board of Directors. In this issue we present:



DON WARMING

Don Warming joined ADCA in August 1990 at the convention held in Connecticut. He missed the last two conventions but he and his wife, Kathy, plan to be at this year's event in Pennsylvania. Don was elected to a one year term on the board in 1996. ●

Doorknob Raffle

Two figural doorknobs, an Oval Lion's Head and a Columbus Head, have been donated to ADCA for a fund raising raffle at the upcoming August convention. Tickets for the raffle will be sold Thursday, August 14 and Friday, August 15. The drawing will be held at the banquet Friday evening.

The Board of Directors of the ADCA strongly encourages every member to promote the interest of the organization and to cultivate new members.

In this light, those members who have frequent media interactions are encouraged to mention the ADCA and give its address and phone number to publishing media, TV and radio.

Members who are engaged in the business of selling antique hardware should be sure that they do not give the impression that the ADCA is in any way commercially related to them as this could jeopardize the ADCA's non-profit status. ●

THE ADCA BOOK PEDDLER

Book	Prices
Antique Builders Hardware (three ring binder w/hard cover) by Maud Eastwood	\$21.50
Supplement No. 1 Antique Builders Hardware by Maud Eastwood	\$ 6.00
150 Years of Builders' Hardware: Forms, Use & Lore (three ring binder w/hard cover) by Maud Eastwood	\$27.50
150 Years of Builders' Hardware: Forms, Use & Lore (soft cover-style)	\$22.50
Victorian Decorative Art by Len Blumin	\$12.00
Moes' Enterprise Catalog of Authentic Pre-1929 Hardware (1984) by Leonard Moes	\$12.50
The Builders Hardware Industry (by Walter H. McAninch, DAHC) A United States History 1830 to 1990s	\$25.00

*Canadian orders, add extra \$1.00 per book
Prices include shipping and handling costs.
Make check payable to ADCA
Mail order to ADCA Book Peddler
P.O. Box 126
Eola, IL 60519-0126

All ads, material and articles for the September/October 1997 issue of **The Doorknob Collector** should be in the hands of the editors by August 25, 1997.



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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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Classic Doorknobs

by Barbara Mayer
The Associated Press

They open doors to some of the finest places.

Today's doorknobs can be as decorative as a fine brooch - and often as expensive.

They are available in heavy brass, hand-forged iron, hand-blown glass, cut crystal, porcelain and Lucite. Some are new designs, others are antiques or copies of early pieces.

Two trends are behind the fancy doorknob - an increase in housing restorations and a growth of the minimalist look.

Ken Jordan at Renovators Supply in Conway, NH speaks for the restoration.

"Many people moving into older homes which previous owners had modernized want to restore the original look," according to Jordan, technical director of the mail-order business that specializes in reproductions.

Marshall Watson, a decorator in New York City, speaks for the minimalists.

"If a room is simple and clean-lined," he says, "a beautiful doorknob will add flair in a quiet way."

Styles can range from one that looks like a miniature bird cage, available at Simon's Hardware and Bath in New York, to a blown glass knob in rose-colored glass with gold flecks, from Saks Fifth Avenue's Folio, a home accessories catalog. Bird cage latch sets are \$160 in iron and \$265 in brass. The rose glass is \$200 for two knobs and a brass spindle.

"Among the most interesting designs are those that look hand-crafted, such as iron doorknobs imported from France in black or rust finish," Chris Nicole Prince, co-owner of Simon's, says.

Simon's also stocks a cast bronze doorknob with a lion's head, porcelain knobs with little animals, birds or flowers painted on, as well

as cut crystal and Lucite knobs. Prices range from \$48 for a porcelain door latch set to \$480 for the crystal set.

"Even companies that formerly offered only polished or antiqued brass now are showing unusual knobs and have expended their finishes to include those such as bronze, pewter, verdigris, and rust," Prince says.

Baccarat, the French maker of fine crystal stemware, recently introduced doorknobs. Thomas Bastide, principal designer, says the design is drawn from "the impression left on the sand by a receding wave."

Baldwin Hardware Corp., of Reading, PA, known for its polished brass hardware, also has crystal doorknobs. One of faceted cut crystal by Swarovski of Austria if \$400 for the latch set. Also a departure for Baldwin are brass knobs in pewter, bronze or copper finish.

Arlene Cullen, Baldwin's marketing and design director, says 80 percent of the hardware business is shiny brass. But, she adds, "a growing number of small vendors - artisans and artists, usually - are coming out with small collections of unusual hardware for doors and cabinets."

While old doorknobs are the choice among renovators, copies can be less costly. Renovators Supply prices turn-of-the-century styles from about \$34 to \$74 for a set-knobs, spindle, latch and all. Styles range from the simple-molded glass or plain brass in round or oval shapes to the more decorative, such as black or white porcelain knobs, some with color designs, and solid brass cast in intricate designs.

If you must have original, be prepared to pay the price, Terry Kovel of Shaker Heights, Ohio, warns.

"Several years ago, at antique flea markets and shops, doorknobs were jumbled together in a box and

you could have any one you wanted for about \$5," Kovel, an authority on the antiques market, says. "Now that people have gotten into restoring old houses, anything out of the ordinary is typically \$25 to \$50 or more."

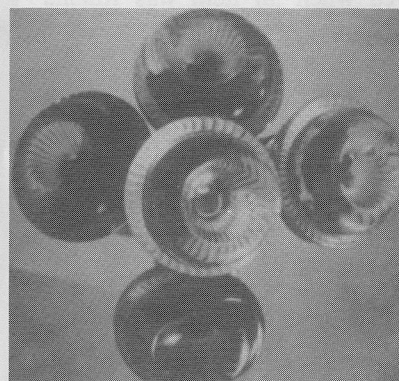
Two late 19th-century metal doorknobs, each in relief of a dog's head, recently brought \$7920 at an auction of antique hardware. The price, \$3,960 each, is believed to be the highest recorded for a doorknob, Kovel says.

The knobs were salvaged from a Pittsburgh mansion and are based on a design patented June 7, 1870, by the Metallic Compression Casting Co. of Boston. At the same sale, a knob from a Connecticut State Capitol went for \$660.

When Watson has a house to renovate, he prefers to restore knobs rather than replace them.

"Old doorknobs often are quite decorative," he says. "The metal knobs may have reeding, chasing or gradrooning. The porcelain knobs may have floral decorations or be multicolored, and a glass or crystal knob will add sparkle to a room, like jewelry on a dress." ●

(Editors Note: Reprinted with permission by Associated Press.)



Paholke's Gift

Art Paholke shared with us what he feels was one of his greatest awards since he has been collecting ornamental hardware.

Art wrote, "As you know I have made pen sets with some of the extra hardware I have on hand. Last year I made a set from the Lexington Hotel in Chicago (Al Capone's headquarters) for a very dear friend, Professor Fred E. Inbau." Inbau, professor of Law Emeritus at Northwestern University, showed the set to Associate Dean Christopher Simoni, Director, Northwestern University School of Law Library. When the Director saw it he told Professor Inbau, "He had to have one for the library."

Art was pleased with the honor and made a set. Professor Inbau presented the work of Arthur R. Paholke to the Northwestern University Law Library on March 28, 1997.

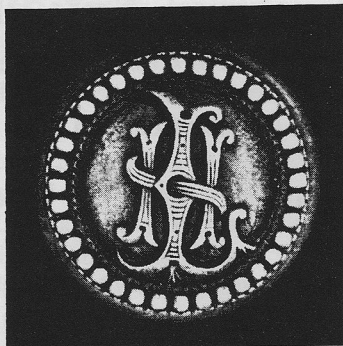
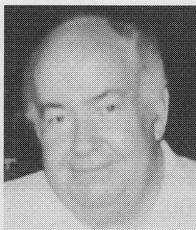
The pen set was accompanied with a letter of authenticity by Paholke. It said, in part, "The decorative escutcheon plate, monogram doorknob and wood base were obtained from suite 530 of the Lexington Hotel, Chicago Illinois.

"The ten-story building had existed at 2135 South Michigan Avenue, and was considered a prime example of Chicago architecture. It was built in 1892.

"The Lexington Hotel received its greatest publicity when, in the summer of 1928 mobster Al Capone switched headquarters from the Metropole Hotel across the street to the elegance of the Lexington.

"Al Capone converted the Lexington into both home and profitable brothel taking over the fifth and part of the fourth floor.

"Legend has it that the St. Valentines Day massacre was plotted from Capone personal suite 530." ●



O-122
Lexington Hotel, Chicago Illinois

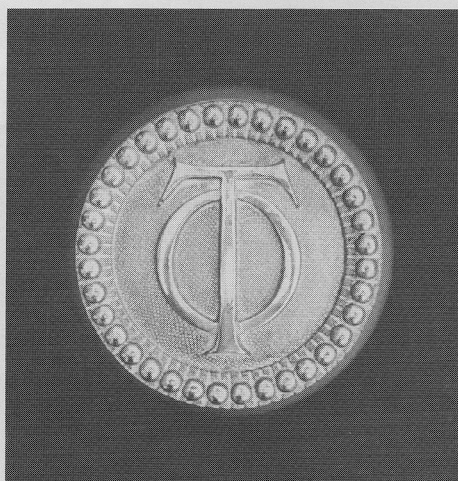
CONVENTION WORKSHOP

Mr. Andrew Baxter, museum conservator, will conduct a day long workshop on Friday, August 15, at the ADCA convention. It will be a general presentation concerning coloring, polishing, and protective coatings for metals. His slide show just before lunch break will cover the restoration of hardware and will include work he has performed for one of our members. Mr. Baxter will also have some handout material that will be useful in our own cleaning and refinishing work at home. ●

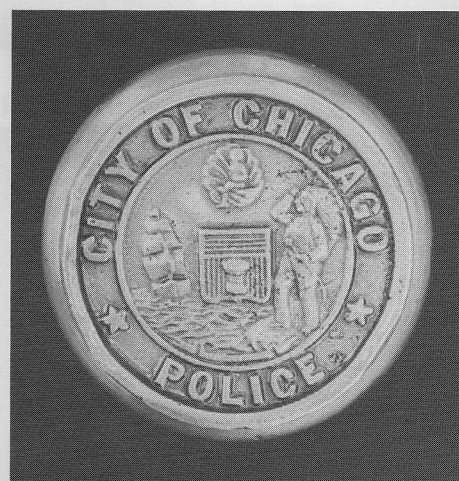
Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs (continued)

EMBLEMATIC

(Note that the O-200 series is reserved for fraternal knobs, so we jumped to the new 300 series.)



O-199
Well made "T.O."
emblematic, c. 1900



O-300
City of Chicago Police

Many Offers For 1998 ADCA Convention Site

Although a site has not been chosen for the 1998 **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** annual convention, it is expected to be held in the Midwest.

There is no shortage of cities and hotels who would like to host an **ADCA** convention. Some of the Midwest locations wanting **ADCA** to hold the 1998 convention in their city include Lexington, KY, Columbus, OH, Lisle and Schaumburg, IL, Waverly, IA and Oconomowoc, WI.

Oconomowoc is the site of a large collectors' convention this July. Hopefully by our August convention, reports on the July convention will have been received. With several **ADCA** members already interested in the Wisconsin location, a favorable report might be instrumental in having it there.

Whatever the decision, we know there are many cities wanting us. ●

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 for \$12.00)

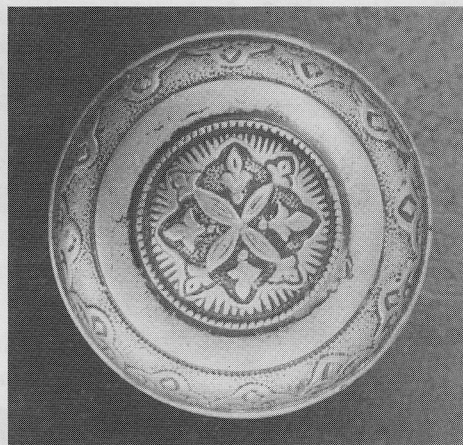
Concentric Symmetry Knobs

- M-146** An asymmetric wreath makes an attractive perimeter design, c. 1905.
- M-147** Pretty rim design and fourfold center, c. 1890.
- M-148** Fine Art Deco perimeter design, c. 1930.
- M-149** Circa 1920. Simple and pleasing design looks almost modern, but actually is based on an ancient Sumerian design known as the 'water-pattern', and later referred to as 'Guilloche' (see *Pattern Design* by Archibald Christie, Dover Books, 1969. P.178). [This excellent reference is a reprint of a 1929 edition, which in fact was originally published in 1910.]

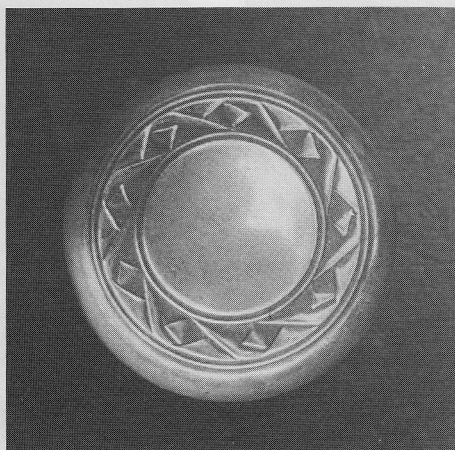
M-146



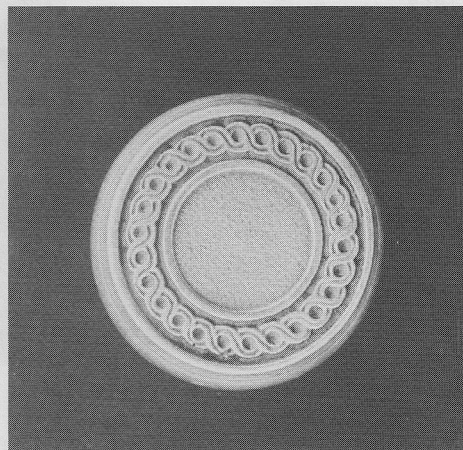
M-147



M-148



M-149



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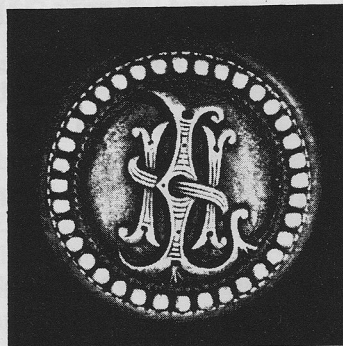
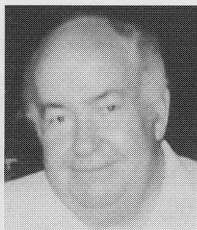
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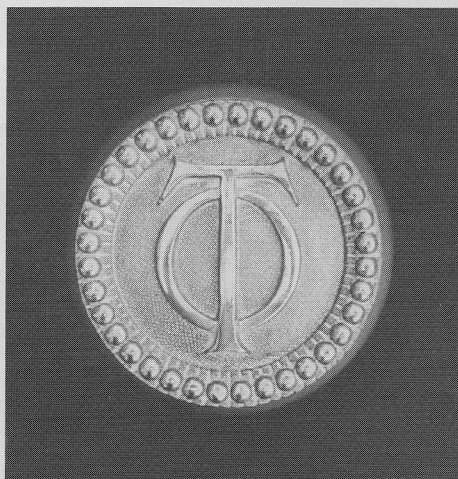
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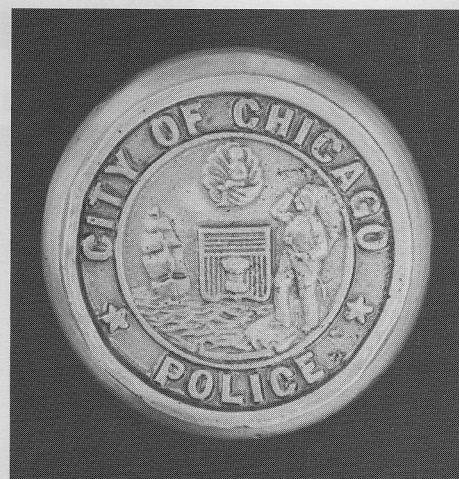
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Welcome Back

Norman Landis recently re-joined ADCA. Yes, it had been eleven years since Norman had been a member of the doorknob organization. He had never lost interest in collecting but doorknobs and other hobby interests took a back seat to the needs of his son, Doug.

On January 9, 1975, at a high school wrestling meet. Doug Landis, a wrestler for the Kirkwood (MO) High School team, was faring well in a match when something snapped. The wrestling accident left Doug paralyzed from the neck down, a quadriplegic.

It was a long road to new kind of life. His older brother, Monte, challenged him, with a bet, to begin drawing pictures by holding a pen in his mouth. Doug Landis won the bet. He went on to achieve a definitive style for fine, intricate detail. He also went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Webster University in media studies. He also received a master's degree in motion graphics from the California Institute of Arts.

Doug began drawing with pens and markers but eventually switched to pencils. Landis said, in an interview with Don Corrigan of **Times West Weekly**, St. Louis, he switched to pencil "about four or five years ago and it was a natural for moving to wildlife portraits." He said he can capture the character of the animals in greater detail.

"I decided to do the 'vanishing breeds' wildlife series because I am interested in the plight of endangered species," Landis told Corrigan. "I love doing the big cats and wolves," he said.

Landis has no studio. He has a special built easel which his wife, Brooke, attaches to the tray of his wheelchair when he is ready to work. Landis met Brooke at Webster University and she has become essential to the art process and distribution of his work.

Landis said his art started as a hobby. He never looked upon himself as an artist until he received an award of excellence - a blue ribbon - for a drawing of a cheetah. Landis said, "It wasn't until later that I found out a judge had no idea I was disabled and drew with my mouth." ●

Did You Know?

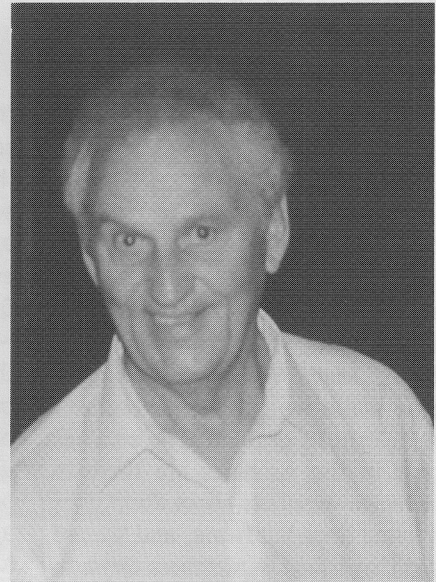
The May-June 1997 issue, number 83, of **The Doorknob Collector** marked the start of our 21st year. It was twenty years ago, March 10, 1977, that the first issue, a two page newsletter, went out to doorknob collectors. Rich Kennedy was the editor and publisher.

The next issue did not reach collector until a year later, in March 1978. This was followed by a July 1978 issue. It went out to 25 collectors. Only four names on the 1978 mailing list continue to receive **The Doorknob Collector**. Len Blumin, Maudie Eastwood, Art Paholke and Violet Raffin have been receiving the publication continuously since that issue.

Kennedy went on to do a total of ten newsletters in four years. When the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America was formed in September 1981, the publication continued as the newsletter of ADCA. Kennedy turned over the reins for the publication to Jim and Lee Kaiser. They issued 19 editions of **The Doorknob Collector** over the next five years.

In 1986 Ray and Loretta Nemec became editors and this is the 65th issue they have edited in nearly eleven years. They have seen it grow. The first issue they edited in 1986 went to about 100 members. From a mailing of twenty-five in 1978, **The Doorknob Collector** goes to about ten times that amount today with almost 240 copies of this issue being mailed. ●

Obituary



Richard Wise

Richard Wise, an ADCA member who had attended four of the last five conventions, died as a result of an aneurysm on May 16, 1997 at Aurora, Illinois. He was 71.

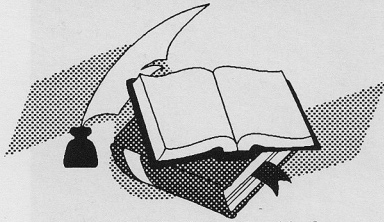
Wise was born March 2, 1926, at Sioux City, Iowa. He and his wife, Betty, had just recently celebrated 50 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, Wise is survived by his two daughters, Bonnie Jean Otte and Liza Ellen Rybicki, their husbands and five grandchildren.

A silk-screenist in the printing industry before he retired in 1988, Richard Wise had put his talents to use and designed the sketch that adorns the front page of each issue of **The Doorknob Collector**. Many of the recent pictures of door hardware appearing in the publication were from Wise's collection. He was an active collector and a frequent attendee at a number of flea markets. ●

"T" Shirts

A limited supply of Doorknob "T" shirts will be for sale at a reasonable price during the convention, at Carolyn & Dick Hubbard's table. Stop by early to purchase your "T" shirts.

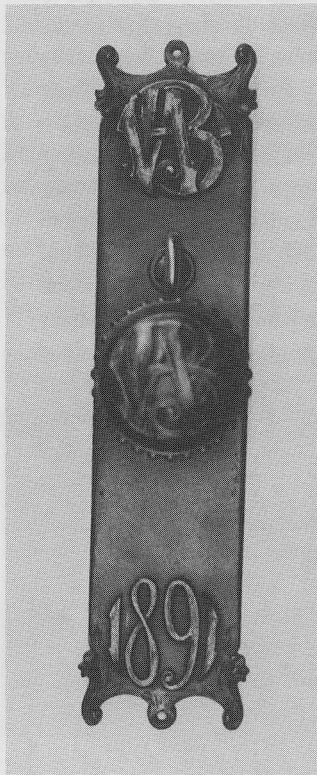
From The Archives



by Steve & Barbara Menchhofer

First of all, we want to say thank you to all members who ordered catalog copies in May. We appreciate your patience while we filled your orders - all 10,817 sheets of them. The catalogs that are in the Archives are there to help educate members about doorknobs and related door hardware, and we are pleased that so many members chose to avail themselves of this privilege.

Now we are preparing for the convention. As always, we will be taking some samples of catalog copies with us for the members to examine. They will be on display at the Archives table, so please take some time to look them over. ●



Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.
Wainwright Building - St. Louis, MO
Louis Sullivan Collection

Emil Miller Memorial Library

Several months ago a long-time member commented that he had never sent for any of the material offered by the *Emil Miller Memorial Library*. It seems that although a regular column by the archivists appears in almost every issue of *TDC*, not everyone is familiar with the library.

Over ten years ago Dorothy Miller, then club archivist, wrote about the beginning of the library. Since most of our current membership (about 65%) were not members when the article was published we thought it is time once again for Dorothy to tell how the Emil Miller library came to be. The following is reprinted from the April 1987 issued of *The Doorknob Collector*:

At the September 1984 annual meeting, then President Len Blumin announced that the ADCA Board of Directors had voted to honor the memory of Emil R. Miller, a charter member and 1983-84 club archivist, by naming our club archives and library, "*The Emil Miller Memorial Library*."

President Blumin then presented three books that had been donated by their authors: "*The Antique Doorknob*" and "*Antique Builders' Hardware, Knob and Accessories*" by Maude Eastwood and "*Victorian Decorative Art*" by Leonard Blumin. Len also donated his only copy of "*Babcock & Stowell's 1894 catalog*." This was the beginning of our permanent club library of complete books.

Martin Meldahl later presented the new library with his copy of "*Corbin Catalog Number 28M*" and Dorothy contributed Emil Miller's "*P & F Corbin, 1905 Catalog*" and his "*Sager Locks & Hardware Catalog No. 37, 1937*."

That was the start of the library in 1984. It has continued to grow, but we are always looking for new additions. If you have any old hardware catalogs that would enhance the library, we would be delighted to have you help us grow even more. Remember that your donations are tax deductible. ●

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.

Service: If you are thinking about selling your hardware collection, we would like to talk with you about custom auction services.

Web Wilson (#266)
P.O. Box 506
Portsmouth, RI 02871
PH: 800-508-0022

Hardware service: free hardware matching service (furniture and house hardware). Send photo-copy and SASE along with description.

Robinson's antiques (#460)
170 Kent St.
Portland, MI 48875
PH: 517/647-6155

Back issues of Web Wilson's Antique Hardware auction catalogs - with prices realized - are available in limited quantities. Catalog #1 (b&w) \$5; catalogs #2, #3 and #4 (full color) \$15 each. Please add \$1 for postage and handling.

Web Wilson (#266)
P.O. Box 506
Portsmouth, RI 02871
PH: 800-508-0022
Fax: 401-683-1686

Still needed. An "R" knob (for a baby present.) I have traders or will buy.
Debbie Fellenz (#31)
2224 Cherokee Street
St. Louis, MO 63118
PH 314/776-8363

Wanted: G-152 Acorn, by Chicago Hardware.
See page 6, issue number 82 TDC
Art Paholke (#51)
116 Hacienda Rd.
Hot springs, AR 71909
PH: 501/623-5708

Wanted: Escutcheon plate (geisha girl in her bamboo covered house) complimentary to A-304.
Loretta Nemec (#8)
1424 Heatherton Drive
Naperville, IL 60563
PH: 630/357-2381