

# The Doorknob Collector

Number 89

May-June 1998

## ***A Convention with an International Flavor Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada August 19-22, 1998***

In just a few months you can be part of the very first international convention of the ADCA. Come see old hardware and join old friends. Buy, trade and socialize. Arrive by Wednesday and enjoy the sights and sounds of Winnipeg on the group tour. However you plan to travel we just want to see you there.

Check with your local travel agent to get prices and best routes to the convention. You will probably get better prices on

airfares the earlier you book.

While planning your trip don't forget to plan for your display at the convention. The displays are what make the convention such a special time together. Not only do you see the great variety of knobs, but also the creativity of the members. In the past we have had rounds of cheese to display knobs with faces on them ("Cheese Heads", of course), trains made of antique hardware (drawer pulls, roses, knobs, etc.), magnificent displays mounted on boards, just to name a few. Use your imagination and come along to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. There will be four categories this year and a cumulative vote will determine Best of Show.



A View of Winnipeg

**Best of Sargent    Best Metallic    Best Non-Metallic    Most Creative Display    Best of Show**

Another fun event at the convention is the afternoon when we open the displays to the public and we put on our Victorian finest. We present the general public with a real turn-of-the-century experience. You are encouraged to bring along a costume and join in the fun. Costumes are not compulsory, but it is fun and adds to the enjoyment of the afternoon. For those of you coming to the convention for the first time, you will find this an afternoon to remember.

### **Newsletter Deadline – June 15**

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## In Memoriam

We regret the loss of two long-time members of the ADCA. Both E.P. Dick and George J. Doyle attended the first ADCA convention in Waverly, Iowa on September 15, 1981.

**E.P. Dick**, ADCA Member No. 13, died on February 3, 1998. He had been a Minneapolis collector for fifteen years prior to the formation of our organization. His wife Irma once said, "When your husband is in doorknobs, you're in doorknobs".

Irma and E. P. were a collecting team. Irma was often the one that chronicled and documented those items that had come from historical buildings. The Dick's displays at the early conventions featured a significant array of keyhole covers, still a rarity today.

As E. P.'s hearing diminished in later years, it was Irma who 'handled' the phone calls as they eventually disposed of their collection through fellow members of the ADCA.



E.P. Dick

Irma preceded E.P. in death a few years ago. Condolences can be sent to their daughter, Ms. Laura Pheonix, 410 6th Ave. SW Apt. C8, Rochester, MN, 55902-3274. She wrote, "he was happy for all of your friendships and good times."

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We extend our condolences to his family and friends, many of whom are in the ADCA.

**George J. Doyle**, ADCA Member No. 26, early 1970s doorknob collector and long-time member of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, passed away in Portland, Oregon on February 8, 1998. While not a familiar face at conventions, George was a faithful subscriber to *The Doorknob Collector*. He amassed a very choice collection of several hundred pieces, selling in later years to a fellow ADCA member – a kindred soul.

George and his collection were featured in a 1987 issue of the prestigious *Yankee Magazine*. He had earlier displayed in the West Hartford Public Library. Early on he flirted with the idea of writing a book on his new hobby, only to find one already in print so he resolved to write a newsletter – then finding that one was already out. He then turned his energies to lobbying for a society of knob collectors to go with the newsletter.

His boundless enthusiasm put him in contact with influential forces that moved faster with his idea than was collector supported. Recognition through Kovel's, The Yankee Trader, and the Dictionary of Associations mentioned "George Doyle's Antique Doorknob Collectors Society", before the club was actually organized.

Three years later, in 1981, the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America was formed, nursed into reality by fellow collectors of vision who shared George's dream.

Collectively, ADCA members thank you, George Doyle, for being the father of the idea for our national organization. ADCA is marked by a closeness rarely found

among such groups of diverse backgrounds and personalities, though the cause be one in common.



George J. Doyle

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

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## Our E-Knob Friends

[KnobNews@AOL.com](mailto:KnobNews@AOL.com).

As you get on line, please send us your full E-mail address along with permission to print. If your address has not appeared in this column, just let us know and we will put it in.

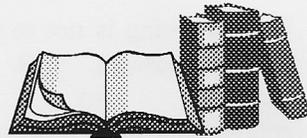
Win Applegate <a href="mailto:wingate@erols.com">wingate@erols.com</a>
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Jim Lea <a href="mailto:doorknobs2@aol.com">doorknobs2@aol.com</a>

**Did you know** that A. A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh was inspired by a



Canadian WWI regimental mascot called Winnipeg? Today at the Assiniboine Zoo you will find a bronze statue celebrating the connection. Come to the convention and see Pooh at the park.

And speaking of parks, Winnipeg has North America's largest surviving planted collection of publicly owned elm trees - 60,000 on city streets and another 120,000 on other public lands within the city. This will be a real treat to see since Dutch elm disease has wiped out many of the elms in the lower 48.



### From the Archives

By Steve and Barbara Menchhofer

In this issue of TDC we are spotlighting the February 1892 Norwich Lock Mfg. Co. Catalogue of Builders' and Miscellaneous Hardware. This catalog is offered to the membership through the Archives.

There are three ways you may order the Norwich copies:

*Complete Catalog* - 400 plus pages are brimming with all kinds of hardware. There are doorknobs, mortise, rim, and sliding door locks, some padlocks, bell pulls, keys, sash lifts and much more. If your interests are geared toward doorknobs and related hardware, this is a good way to order this catalog.

*Selected Pages* - these include all doorknobs plus a mix of other related hardware such as locks, doorbells, pushplates, etc.

*Doorknob Design Pages* - pertain strictly to doorknobs and possibly escutcheons and levers.

The drawings of the hardware in this Norwich catalog are wonderful. You can see all the detail in the designs shown. You will not have any problems identifying your hardware if it was made by Norwich and illustrated in this catalog.

Whichever way you choose to order from this catalog, it is an excellent tool to use for your research and to broaden your knowledge of hardware.

An order form will be coming in the next edition of the newsletter. Copies are made only once a year to prevent over handling of the antique catalogs.

**Knob NEWS**  
etc.

From Shirley Meece (#465) comes this query.

She would like to know how you display your doorknobs. We would like to do a series of articles on this subject so we need your input. Send some pictures along with your answers if possible.

Shirley tells us that she has some on pedestals on a pull out shelf for the VCR. She says that the TV is by the door so callers get knobbed right away upon entering her home. She also displays some in the bed of an old Buddy L dump truck.

When Shirley and her husband tore down an old farmhouse, they gave the grandchildren of the former owners doorknobs from the building along with the following poem:

*Pause a moment ...*

*and think about the hands that have touched this century old doorknob.*

*Small hands reaching up, large hands reaching down, hands that were aged and slow.*

*Hands that opened the doors of rooms peopled with love and joy or filled with grief and despair.*

*Some opened doors where children lived with hope and anticipation.*

*Others opened doors of numbing monotony.*

*Hold this knob in your hand and feel the stories there.*

### Exhibition in Grand Rapids

Florence Jarvis will be having an exhibit at the Van Andel Museum (Grand Rapids Public Museum) from September 17 to Jan 10, 1999. So if you are in the Grand Rapids, MI area be sure to stop in and see the display. She will be letting others know about the club by distributing our brochures.

# Sargent & Company

By Maude Eastwood

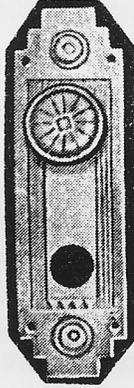
Sargent & Co. was not only one of the oldest hardware companies in the country, but also one of the most aggressive in marketing, whether the goods originated in their plant or from other manufacturers through Sargent's commission house in New York City. In assessing Sargent's stature in the manufacturing world, bear in mind that the lines of the early hardware companies were often highly diversified – the better to survive. An alternative was to become an agency for other manufacturers. Sargent chose to do both.

Labeled one of the largest manufacturers in the world at a U.S. Tariff Commission hearing in 1882, Sargent & Co. was credited with serving all parts of the world through their offices in foreign countries. They delivered their products, via company owned ships, even into the very center of the manufacturing district of England.

By his own testimony to the commission, Joseph Bradford Sargent stated that he had business experience since 1842 and had manufactured hardware since 1852. His company had shipped to England and Germany and to markets of Southern Europe, the Mediterranean countries.

He modestly agreed, when questioned by Commissioner Oliver, that Sargent had originated some novel and handsome designs for builders' hardware and added, "We have not been sleeping, of course, but there are others who have done quite as well, in that respect."

The foregoing is not to leave the impression that this company in their approximately 100 years of in-family and subsequent ownership escaped the woes caused by panics and recessions and the resulting set-backs common to their competitors. No, Sargent management also on occasion had to beg and borrow funds to stay afloat. They even cooked meals for their workers to forestall real hunger when hours and wages were necessarily cut. In those hard times, upkeep and research efforts suffered. However, measures were taken that



From a 1929  
Alcoa Ad

enabled Sargent to survive and rebuild as a continuing viable company.

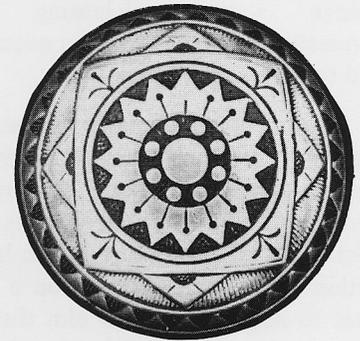
Joseph Bradford Sargent had always been somewhat of an innovator. Within a year of taking over the new Britain firm of Peck & Walter (1856) he had developed a process of baking enamel which enabled his company to compete for business in enameled fixtures that had formerly gone almost entirely to England. In June of 1871 he obtained a patent (No. 115,645) for improving door bolts.

One of the finishes listed in Sargent's 1926 catalog (for use on door closures, only) was Aluminum Bronze Enamel. Aluminum was coming into wide use as an architectural metal at this time and Sargent cashed in early. He was featured in an Alcoa advertisement in the November 1929 issue of Metal Arts as producing aluminum alloy door hardware (See the illustration above)

Through the years sizable histories of Sargent involvement in U.S. industry have been compiled. One with a personal slant was titled: *Joseph Bradford Sargent 1822-1907, Captain of Industry, A Genealogy* by David C. Sargent. Company versions varied somewhat.

Company ads, however, circulated from the 1860s onward, provide confirmation of items carried and the company addresses. According to an ad (c. 1860), three Sargent companies coexisted: Sargent and Company, 84 Beekman Street, New York; Sargent Brothers, Leicester, MA; and J.B. Sargent and Company, proprietors of the Peck & Walter Manufacturing Company, New Britain, CT. (The first one was agent to the last two.) In the advertisement, the "and" in the name was spelled out, not an ampersand as is usually used.

One last mind-boggling statistic: Sargent & Co.'s 1910 catalog totaled 1,320 pages, bettering Henry Towne's 1904 Locks and Builders' Hardware Manual by 203 pages, and this was only half the story. In at least four other years, the catalog pages numbered over one thousand, and one was said to have thirty thousand items listed. Locks, alone, filled 100 pages. Without doubt, Sargent and Co. excelled as a leader among the hardware manufacturers at the turn of the century.



Sargent 1888  
H-218

# Crossing the Border

By Win Applegate

In February, I was in the Holy Lands. While crossing the border from Jordan into Israel, I smiled at the proliferation of soldiers, M16 rifles and armored vehicles.

My fellow bus traveler asked why I was smiling and I explained about crossing the border for our convention in August. His response was, "THIS is a border crossing, going into Canada is a Sunday drive!"

This seems to be the general consensus of many of those planning to visit Winnipeg this summer. I have spoken to a number of members and here are just a few of their comments.

Gene and Miriam DeLange live in Michigan and travel into and out of Canada frequently. They do not anticipate any problems.

One year Debbie Fellenz, after acquiring considerable hardware at Brimfield, stopped at the U.S. Customs building and filled out a form. She felt that this eased things upon her return through U.S. Customs by showing that she had not acquired the hardware in Canada.

I have visited Canada more times than I can remember. The routine at the border is rather straightforward. Usually a customs person leans into the vehicle and asks the reason for entering and then asks each person where he or she was born. We always carry proof of citizenship, but have never been asked for it.

Yes, we had a problem once when a passenger did not look at the official and sensing nervousness, she asked us to open our trunk.

Some of our members currently planning to attend include Joe Mueller and Carlos Ruiz, Bob Rodder, the Menchhofers, and the Blams, to mention only a few.

May-June 1998

Due to time constraints, the Applegates and Kennedys will have to fly. We will probably UPS our hardware, remembering that we really do not plan to sell to Canadians and also that the hardware is over a hundred years old which excludes it from most of the customs regulations.

We will carry our Customs letter as we may check display boards and a few pieces through the airport.

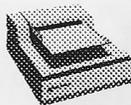
A last minute check has revealed that the customs letter does not mention the 100-year-old clause. Bob Wilson checked for us and says, "Customs has a standard of antiques being 100 years or older. The letter refers to any hardware brought in for display at the convention". This should be sufficient. Still have questions? Call Valerie Friesen, Bob Wilson or myself. Anyway, see you in August. Peace

*Editors note: The Canadians have been crossing the border for years to attend the conventions. Just think about it. If you haven't been to Canada before, it is time you visit our friendly neighbors to the North. Eah?*

## Keep in Touch



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## Canadian Nuggets

### Credit Card Use

There have been many questions posed about traveling to Canada. For those of you who have never been outside of the United States, first of all it will be a treat, and secondly, using your credit card is a piece of cake. When your bill comes, the amount will be shown in US\$. Your card service uses the current exchange rate on the date the transaction is sent in. It really couldn't be easier. We just returned from a trip to three different countries with three currency exchange rates and the bill indicates what was spent in local currency and the value in US\$. Using a credit card is probably the easiest way to handle your expenditures and avoid local exchange rate problems.

### Your Itemized List

Bring a list of your hardware categorized by: Type (e.g., knobs, hinges, etc.); Material (i.e., brass, glass, iron, or porcelain); the number of each category and the approximate cost of each category. For example, 30 brass doorknobs, value approximately \$2100.

### Shipping Knobs

There are local offices for all major parcel services including UPS, Fedex and RPS. Postal service is also available, of course. When shipping, use the same listing/ description of goods as described above.

**\*Send to:** Valerie Friesen  
782 Corydon Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3M 0Y1  
Telephone (204) 477-4286

**\*Goods to be received no later than August 14, 1998. Please advise Valerie of your shipment:** Phone (204) 477-4286 or 1-800-830-9421, Fax: (204) 779-2556 or email RWilson15@Compuserve.com

## 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:** Always looking for original Arts & Crafts bronze, copper and brass hand-hammered furniture, hardware, i.e., drawer/ door pulls, hinges, upholstery tacks. Also interested in wood pieces as well.

Vicky Berol #450  
(415) 771-9899

**Wanted:** Old catalogs from Hardware and Lock Companies, any kind of locks and keys.

Gary Hahn #436  
135 So. Glassell  
Orange, CA 92866  
PH. (714) 997-0243  
FAX: (714) 997-1601

**Wanted:** The Japanese umbrella-lady knob.

Bonnie Otte #484  
212 Plum St  
Aurora, IL 60506  
Botte@ix.netcom.com

**Wanted:** Always looking for patterned iron or bronze hinges, multiple sets of door and/or cabinet hardware, pre-1935. Will buy or trade when possible

Materials Unlimited #325  
Attn: Lorelei or Rachael  
2 W. Michigan Ave  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
PH. (800) 299-9462  
FAX (734) 482-3636  
Materials@Mat-Unl.com

**Wanted:** Highest prices paid for quality pieces

Web Wilson #266  
PH. (800) 508-0022  
FAX: (401) 683-1644

**For Sale:** About 360 doorknobs from buildings slated for demolition in Jersey City, NJ. Will sell as a lot, asking \$500. There are 94 glass, 11 wooden, 22 metal (mostly brass), 77 black, 69 white and 88 Bennington type knobs. Moving and need to sell-no room in the new place.

Joe Suruda  
46 Isabella Ave.  
Bayonne, NJ 07002

## New Member Policy

Membership in ADCA follows the current calendar year. Anyone joining between January and September is enrolled for the current year and receives all the issues of **The Doorknob Collector** for the current year.

New members after September 30th will be enrolled as members for the following year. They will begin receiving **The Doorknob Collector** with the Jan-Feb issue of the next year.

### From the Editors

It has been an interesting experience to be connected to the World Wide Web. We have received many inquiries about the club via e-mail and have also learned that several of our members have Websites that might be of interest to you.

We need to get on the Web ourselves. It is a great way for people to know that we exist. Hopefully, we will be out there within the year.

**Jeff Reardon #447** has a website dedicated to his antique shop and antique hardware. Find him at [vistawave.com/antiques/](http://vistawave.com/antiques/).

**Rick Rickford #511** has a website dedicated to his restoration business. You won't believe your eyes when you see what can be done with broken treasures. See [www.rickford.com](http://www.rickford.com)

**Web Wilson #266** You can see Web's auction catalog in color and the quality inventory he has for sale. He both buys and sells antique hardware on line at [www.antiqnet.com/webwilson](http://www.antiqnet.com/webwilson).



Sargent 1888  
J-209

## New Members

Ten new members from across the country have joined our group since the last newsletter was issued. We extend a warm welcome to our newest members of the ADCA:

Evelyn Flynn	Royal Oak, MI
James Lea	Lowell, MA
Milton Kern	Kutztown, PA
Greg Brueggemann	San Francisco, CA
Ken Kelly	San Jose, CA
Ron Elsberry	McMinnville, OR
Ian & Andrew Baren	Katonah, NY
Steve Griswold	Aurora, IL
Rick Rickford	Montclair, NJ
Jeff Kraus	New York, NY

## Lock Museum Offers Book

Our sister organization, The Lock Museum of America has a new book for sale **Tom Hennessy** (#164), a long-time member of The Doorknob Collectors of America, is the author of this new book, *Locks and Lockmakers of America*.

You will find this work to be an excellent reference book covering The Lock Companies of Terryville, CT, Early Lockmaking in England as well as chapters on other lock companies of Connecticut. Fourteen other American companies outside of Connecticut are covered in another chapter. There are also two chapters on the development of American Locks and Bank Locks. The final chapter is on the Lock Museum of America. There is an appendix and bibliography included for your convenience.

The book is published by Locksmith Publishing Corp. 1998 and is offered at \$25.00 plus \$3.00 postage.

To obtain the book, please write to:  
The Lock Museum of America  
320 Main Street  
Terryville, CT 06786-0104  
or call (860) 589-6359.