

The Doorknob Collector

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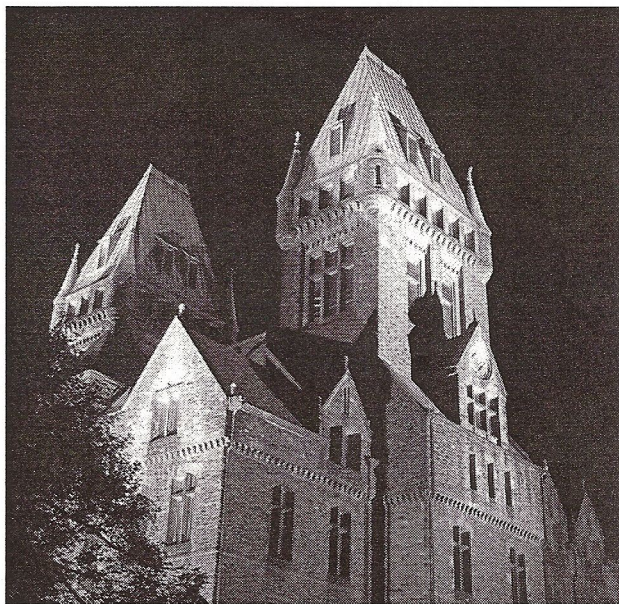
Buffalo, Home of Architectural Gems

By Allen S. Joslyn

Most of the time, members attending this year's convention will be tightly focused on knobs, hinges, and other small delights. This should not prevent them from appreciating the sights of Buffalo, especially its architectural gems. It has buildings from the major architects of 19th and early 20th century – Richardson, Burnham, Sullivan and Wright, to name four.

First, a little history -- Buffalo was founded in 1804 by Joseph Ellicott. It grew slowly at first, and its development was hindered by being burnt to the ground by the British in the War of 1812. What really made it into a commercial power was the opening in 1825 of the Erie Canal so that it became the western land terminus of shipments from the East Coast (New York City, to be precise). From it, ships could be loaded to distribute goods on Lake Erie and beyond. Then came the New York Central Railway, replacing the Erie Canal. Goods followed westward and grain flowed eastward, both through Buffalo. (Grain silos were a Buffalo invention). Buffalo was thus vitally involved in the Western expansion of the country. Steel also made the city important, with the Bethlehem Steel Works in suburban Lackawanna employing 21,000 workers, the third largest steel producer in the world, at its height.

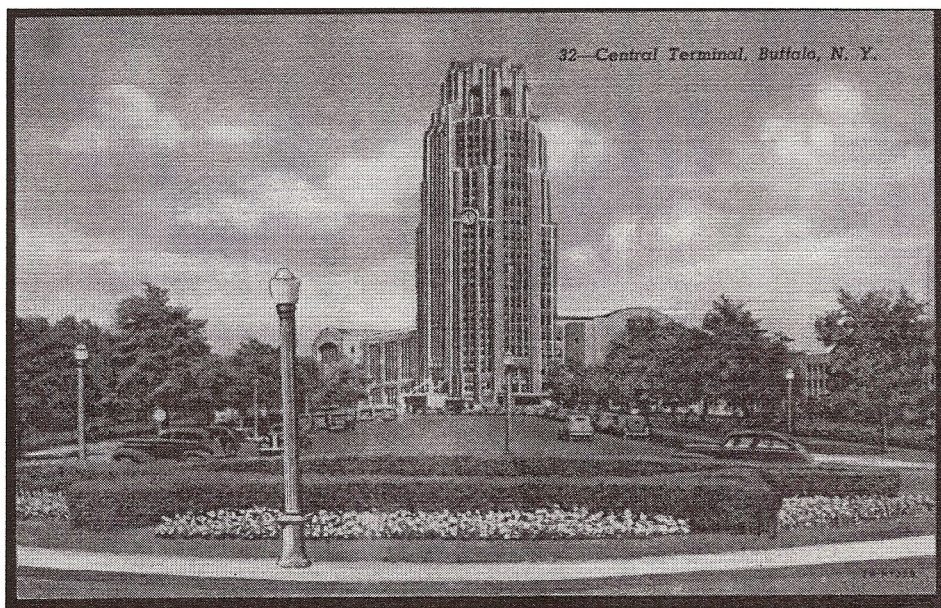
Buffalo hosted the 1901 Pan-American Exposition (the most important since Chicago's Columbian exposition of 1892), which included extensive electric lighting generated from nearby Niagara Falls and a number of temporary but none the less spectacular palaces, such as the Electric Tower, lit by 20,000 light bulbs. A distinct downer was, however, the assination of President McKinley on the fair grounds and his death a week later. Some historians trace the decline of Buffalo from that date, but it did not stop the building, including some six buildings by Frank Lloyd Wright and the Art Deco railway station.



Richardson's Asylum

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But the last decades of the 20th century were not kind to Buffalo. The opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway in 1959 largely destroyed Buffalo's importance as a shipping center. The decline of the Eastern steel industry was another blow. The Lackawanna steel works were closed in 1983, and Pittsburgh steel mills suffered equal declines. The Bethlehem Steel Company closed its Bethlehem, Pa. in the same period. Those who attended the Bethlehem Convention in 2000 may recall the awesome deserted mill on the South Side of Bethlehem – and one member actually managed to jog through it.



newal”, being replaced with that icon of progress, the empty parking lot. Many mansions, however, remain.

D. H. Burnham, the famous Chicago architect, designed the Ellicott Square Building at 295 Main Street, a few blocks from Sullivan's Guaranty, which opened in 1896. It stands 10 stories tall and fills an entire city block, the largest office building in the world at that time. It is organized around a large central court, finished in Italian marble with a glass roof. The mosaic floor dates 1930-31. Because it attracted so many law firms, it maintained its own law library.

There also is, of course, the Guaranty Building designed by Louis Sullivan, one of the few towers designed by him still standing. (See TDC, No. 134, Nov-Dec, 2005) Fortunately because of local support, and the efforts of Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, it was preserved and now is the headquarters of a local law firm. Unfortunately, it is in the process of renovation and is not open for public tours.

Even before Burnham, H. H. Richardson made his mark on Buffalo, designing what was then known as the State Insane Asylum, 400 Forest Avenue, which opened, half-finished, in 1880 and was completed in 1895). The complex consisted of 10 pavilions connected to two monumental towers (each 185 feet tall). The style is typically Richardsonian Romanesque, with heavy rough-faced red-brown sandstone, massive walls (some 5 feet thick), turrets, steep copper roofs with dormered windows, and domed doorways. It and its gardens (designed by Omstead) took up 200 acres. It was closed in 1974, and is obviously deteriorating. Occasional tours of the exterior are given, and one will begin at 9:30 on September 16th (sorry you missed the

Buffalo is valiantly trying to pull itself back up, attract new industries, and stem the loss of population. Hopefully our little Convention will be of some help.

In any event, Buffalo possesses a remarkable number of architectural gems. First, there is “Millionaire's Row” of Victorian mansions on Delaware Avenue. Some fell victim to the dreaded urban “re-

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auction), contact www.buffalotours.org . Its future has brightened considerably since New York State appropriated \$76 million for its restoration and the building of a visitors center on its premises. Symbolic delivery of the money by Governor Pataki took place of August 24, 2006.

Another building in need for attention is the Central Railroad Terminal, an Art Deco masterpiece which was completed in 1929 and abandoned by Amtrak in 1979. Successive owners sold off much of its decoration, and time has taken its toll. But it has a determined group of supporters (See www.buffalocentralterminal.org), and some of the artifacts have been repatriated, such as a massive clock which was tracked down in Chicago. It is opened for special events, such as a model railroad show to take place on September 10th.

Finally, we come to Frank Lloyd Wright, who designed five houses, all still standing – one of which we will visit on the tour - and a signature office building, since demolished.

To briefly change subjects, another thing Buffalo is famous for is, of course, Buffalo chicken wings. They were invented at the Anchor Bar, 1047 Main Street, (716)-886-8920.

Have fun in Buffalo!

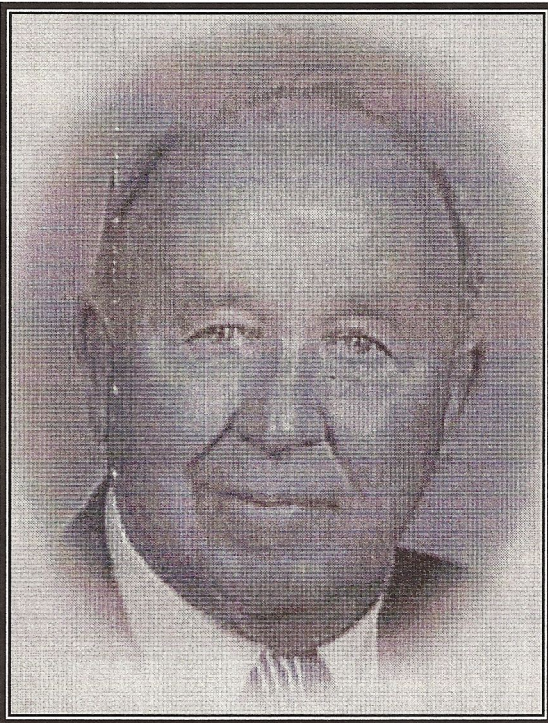
In Memoriam

Gerald Leaders (#550) who was 79 passed away on August 3, 2006 at his home in Dunlap, Iowa following a three-month illness with pancreatic cancer. Gerald and his wife, Ardythe (#14) have been involved with the ADCA since its inception in 1981.

He was ordained into the priesthood of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1967 and served as the pastor of the RLDS church in Dunlap for many years. Gerald was also a member of the Kiwanis Club, Webelos Council of the Boy Scouts of America and served for several years on the Dunlap City Council. Gerald served in the US Army, is a Veteran of World War II and has been a member of the American Legion for over 50 years.

He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Ardythe, his four children, Linda, Jane, Glen, and Gene, 15 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren in addition to many friends and relatives.

Our condolences go out to his family and friends. He will be missed by many.



REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Set forth below are the Financial Statements for 2005. A few explanations are in order.

First, the Convention Sponsor (Rhett Butler) was extraordinary generous and paid almost all of the Convention Expenses out of his own pocket. For purposes of comparability, those expenses have been recorded as such (producing a nominal loss of \$4,653), and then offset by a matching contribution of \$18,270 (the amount of expenses paid by Rhett) to the Virtual Museum fund. Undoubtedly there are other ways this and some other items could have been treated, but this seemed clearest to me. (continued on next page)

Second, the ordinary operations of the Club produced a net cash flow of \$3,749, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Kennedys, both in running the membership operations and always looking out for a place to save.

In a sense, of course, a dollar is a dollar, but not when it comes to restricted accounts. Of the \$83,139 we ended up with at year-end, \$60,563 is dedicated to specific projects, as shown below.

As always, questions cheerfully answered.

Allen S. Joslyn,
Treasurer

CONVENTION

Receipts

Registration	\$6,465
Brochure	\$1,475
T-Shirts	\$485
Donated Butler Posters	\$3,135
Other Earmarked Donations	\$2,250
TOTAL INCOME	\$13,810

Expenses

Printing Directors Books	\$120
Hotel	\$2,317
Rental of Tables & Linen	\$834
Hospitality Room	\$1,664
Brochure Printing	\$309
Supplies	\$45
Directors' Dinner	\$484
AV Equipment	\$26
Guest Speaker	\$300
Banquet	\$1,000
Bus Tour	\$3,024
Carriage Tour	\$945
Gratuity for Tours	\$100
Complementary Tote Bags	\$349
Name Tags	\$465
Complementary Pencils	\$129
T-Shirts	\$977
Convention Hall	\$4,250
Complementary Pads	\$1,050
Shipping	\$75
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,463
CONVENTION NET	-\$4,653

CLUB		
Receipts		
	Membership Dues	\$7,445
	Bookpedlar	\$958
	Misc	\$73
	Interest	\$1,512
	TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$9,988
Expenses		
	Bookpedlar	\$70
	Insurance	\$834
	Internet & Website	\$489
	Postage	\$1,211
	Printing	\$3,337
	Office Supplies	\$68
	Social Security	\$230
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,239
	CLUB NET	\$3,749
DONATIONS RECEIVED		
General		\$3,141
Virtual Museum		\$27,770
DONATIONS MADE		
	Bosco-Milligan Display Cases	-\$4,000
AUCTION		
	Commissions	\$308
ARCHIVES		
	Net after expenses	\$95
VDA2d		
	Book Sales	\$71
WHERE HELD		
	Fidelity Investments	\$55,803
	Wachovia Checking	\$24,945
	Archives	\$2,391
	SUM	\$83,139
DEDICATED TO		
	VDA2d Supplement	\$9,793
	VDA3d	\$21,000
	Bosco-Milligan	\$2,000
	Virtual Museum	\$27,770
	SUM	\$60,563

What is a Business Membership?

By Faye Kennedy

Confusion continues to plague our members who own businesses when it comes time for membership renewal. Each member of the ADCA is a member in his or her own name. Businesses do not have memberships in the name of the business, but we offer some advantages to those of you who own a business related to antique hardware and want others to know about it.

There are two choices for members with businesses related to antique hardware. You may have a link to your website from **AntiqueDoorknobs.org** or simply list your business services on our website. Both will be in the Business References section of the website, the linked sites will be more prominent and will have a logo that links to your entry. But either is a great way to get information about your business to anyone who is looking for services related to door hardware and antiques. Additionally, with a Website Link your business information will be displayed at our conventions. **NOTE:** Your personal membership is included in the cost.

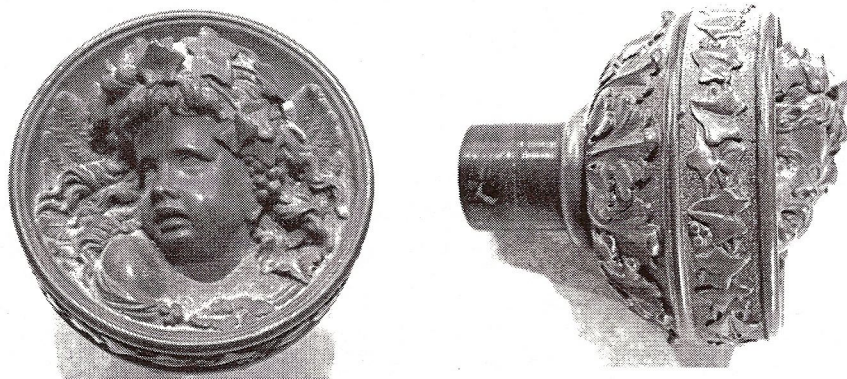
For a Website Link		For a Simple Listing (no web link)	
Your membership	\$25	Your membership	\$25
A link to your website	\$75	Your listing	\$25
Total cost	\$100	Total cost	\$50

If you do not have a website you may want a **Simple Listing**. If you have a website you may want to have a **Website Link** from our website to yours.

Most of our members choose a Basic Membership of \$25 per year, but those who want to let others know about their business have the opportunity to do so. Your membership remains under your personal name.

GUTTA PERCHA REVISITED

Last issue's Article on Gutta Percha referred to four knobs from the Menchhofer collection, but pictured only three. Here is the fourth, which may be the best of the best.



Membership	Newsletter and Other Questions	Web Site
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