

The Doorknob Collector



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THE SUPER COUPLE WINS “THE ARNIE”

By Allen Joslyn

At this year’s Convention, the highest award in the world of doorknobbing, the Arnold Fredricks award (a/k/a “The Arnie”), was presented to Rich & Faye Kennedy.

Arnold Fredricks was a moving force – no, the driving force - behind the formation of the ADCA. He organized the first convention, in 1981 in Waverly, Iowa which inaugurated the club and our tradition of Annual Conventions. Twenty-one collectors attended the first one. Arnie was Member No. 1 of the ADCA, and served as Vice-President and then as President. .

The Award was created in his memory in 2000, and has been awarded only four times in the past – first to Maude Eastwood, the “mother” of all doorknobbers, then to Len Blumin, who was President for many years and author of VDA I and II. Later it was awarded to Win Applegate and then to Loretta and Ray Nemec.

Rich and Faye go about as far back as one can go in the history of collecting builders’ hardware. It all began, of course, with Maude Eastwood’s The Antique Doorknob published in 1976. Gradually word of it spread. Rich & Faye heard about it, got a copy and decided to do something about it. They got a list of purchasers from Maud and in March, 1977 a single sheet newsletter, entitled The Doorknob Collector, appeared in some 15 mailboxes, proposing to “unite all doorknob collectors” Rich went on “One idea was this newsletter to be sent periodically with interesting facts, articles and the like from fellow collectors and the second was in the future perhaps a loose leaf catalog of photos of everyone’s collection.”



By the time of the second newsletter appeared it went to 80 people, and the third went to over 150 hardware fanciers. By then we knew there were others out there and the group began to form. That was the pioneering of the Kennedys, whose newsletter was crucial in creating the community which became the ADCA.

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In the February 1981 issue of TDC, Rich wrote that Arnie Fredricks had suggested a Convention and Swap Meet in Waverly, that he had heard the idea from several other readers and asked for their reaction to it. And so, thanks to Arnie Fredricks' organizational efforts, the first Convention came to pass. *The Doorknob Collector* became the official publication of the Club and new editors took over. But without the foundation laid by the Kennedys, we still might be contained in our separate worlds. The Kennedys kept in contact with Maude, Len and others in the Club.

Actually, the first Convention he attended was in Hartford Connecticut in 1990. He arrived unannounced, and upon seeing the crowd, Rich's reaction was "my baby grew up"!

The Kennedys continued to contribute to the ADCA and to publicize our activities. After the Nemeč's editorship of The Doorknob Collector, the Kennedys took over again and edited it for 35 issues or 6 years. At the same time, they were – and are - the nerve center of the Club, the "back office". Who do you think kept track of dues, welcoming new members and reminding old ones to "get their money in"? They also administered the Conventions and sent us a roster of members. More recently they oversaw establishment and updates of our website, and handle book orders. Faye has been essential in putting together the issues of the TDC, and both of them have also contributed many articles over the years. There is undoubtedly a lot more they do in keeping the organization running smoothly which we do not know about. Oh, and by the way, they co-sponsored the Bethlehem Convention in 2001.

On the New Jersey level, the Kennedys have organized numerous local shows of hardware and given talks about it. Finally, on one bicycle trip in Providence, RI, Rich identified **O-213** as coming from the Turks Head Building – mystery solved. (See TDC #94).

The Kennedys richly deserve "The Arnie" for their decades of dedication to doorknob collecting and the ADCA.

Newbie Nobbers Notice Niceness of Convention

By Mike & Nancy Hocker, Galion, Ohio

It was with just a tiny bit of trepidation that the two of us decided early on to make a vacation trip from central Ohio to Buffalo to attend our first Annual ADCA conference.

It was with sought-out welcomes and great enthusiasm that we were accepted into the fold of the serious doorknob collectors. We are just beginning, and are certainly "not worthy" in front of the many knowledgeable collectors we met, but at no time were we uncomfortable. We were simply amazed at how fast we got to know most of the attendees.

The tours were excellent. We went to Buffalo knowing that we would get a good dose of Frank Lloyd Wright, but were even more pleasantly surprised at the depth of the Wright lessons, not to mention receiving a true primer to Buffalo, its architecture and its place in the world as well.

We also learned an immense amount about collecting, buying and selling in a very short time, thanks to the forthcoming helpfulness of all who were bargained with our eager questions on the trade floor on Friday.

My recommendation to anyone who, like us, has been a member of ADCA but is hesitant to come to the next convention, please **DO** plan to do so! You will **NOT** be disappointed. And we are sure those door knobs will unlatch some doors to lots of fun and new and lasting relationships!



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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.

For Sale: The club has been given 3 posters that we are selling for \$100 each including shipping. These are museum quality posters on heavy paper (36 x 25 inches). The images are printed in a copper bronze color. If you would like, I can send you a color jpg of this item so that you can see it in better detail. Just email adcaoffice@aol.com

The poster is a reproduction of the Smith & Butler Bronze Hardware catalog circa 1868. They were printed by E. R. Butler & Co. for the special collection at the University of Delaware Library. This is a truly beautiful poster that would certainly be a great addition to any display of hardware. Send your order to ADCA, PO Box 803, Hackettstown, NJ 07840.

So What Is a B-210?

By Faye Kennedy

It came to my attention at the convention that some new members do not understand what we are talking about in this newsletter when we describe a doorknob by a number, as is often done in the Doorknob Exchange. The answer lies in the work done by Len Blumin in setting up a classification system for doorknobs. He then published *Victorian Decorative Art* which has subsequently been updated several times as we discover more knobs and obtain more information about them.

The B-210, as you can see in the picture, is an Asymmetric design [a single design with no repeats]. The initial letter of B lets the reader know that it falls in this category.

Victorian Decorative Art is a photographic study of ornamental design in antique doorknobs. Knobs are identified first by the initial letter. A look at our website under knob descriptions will give you a visual understanding of how the system works.



A	Representative Designs
B	Asymmetric Designs
C	Odd Shaped Knobs
D	Field or Diaper Patterns
E	Spirals and Swirls
F	Twofold Symmetry
G	Threefold Symmetry
H	Fourfold Symmetry

I	Fivefold Symmetry
J	Sixfold Symmetry
K	Eightfold Symmetry
L	Radial Symmetry
M	Concentric Symmetry
N	Oval Knobs
O	Emblematic and Fraternal



B-210

The book lists the known information about each knob pictured. If you would like to purchase a copy so you will be “in the know”, you can order them on our website using a credit card or printing out the order form under Books for Purchase. They are now available for \$19.99. I do try to picture any knob mentioned in the newsletter so the information will be available to you immediately, but it is handy to own a copy of *Victorian Decorative Art*.

A NOTE FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT, ALLEN JOSLYN

I am delighted to have been nominated and elected the new President of the ADCA at the 2012 Convention – particularly because the Nominating Committee consists of the prior Presidents. Steve Rowe, as might be expected is not disappearing but is the new Vice-President and expects to fully participate in the affairs of the ADCA (thank the Lord, I'll need him).

So to outline what has been going on at the Board of Directors' meeting of 2012, Win Applegate expects to have the VDA 4 in the bag – all pictures taken, etc. - within the next year. Thereafter his position, the emperor of VDAs, will pass to Steve Hannum. All salute Win and Steve.

Rhett Butler has been in charge of the Archives, and is having its catalogues digitized in the automated fashion which Google Books does. The result will be high-resolution images of the original catalogues, rather than copies of copies which were distributed in the past.

Rhett is also in charge of the Virtual Museum project, and there are important issues to be decided in the coming years. It is accepted that the future of VDA and Archives will be digital and web-based. But how? Do we simply put a “copy” of VDA 4th up on our website or do we make it fully searchable (e.g. let me see all Corbin 4-fold knobs)? And how is the ADCA to be compensated, if at all? Further details in the future. Member input would be very helpful.

There has also been a change in The Doorknob Collector: Faye Kennedy is officially assuming her de facto position as co-editor together with me. I am looking forward to her continuing contributions (as well as being able to put the thing together). By the way, Faye and I particularly would wildly applaud contributions to the newsletter from other members.

There is a wonderful note in this issue from two first-time attendees of the Convention, Mike & Nancy Hocker. We would like all of the club members to attend a Convention (but not all at once without 10 days notice, please). In order to encourage this, the Club has decided to waive attendance fees for each new attendee and his or her guests. We have also decided to send a free copy of VDA 2 & 3 to each new member.

So this Club, like numerous other organizations, is trying to adapt to the new digital age. I'm sure we can.

Contest Winners

Each year at the convention a display contest is held. The theme of the contest is determined by the theme of the convention. This year was no exception. The Flora and Fauna theme was well represented and won by Carol Meermans who used not only the knobs, but also, items that reflected the images on the knobs.

Steve Hanum took the honors for the Lesser Known Manufacturers with his road map and road signs pointing to the cities of the manufacturers represented in his display of doorknobs.

Then we always have the Ugliest Knob category that was won this year by Dale Sponaule when he didn't even know he was in the contest. Dale, it was really the rust that won!



The Buffalo Convention 2012



Display of
Allen Joslyn



A summer home designed by
Frank Lloyd Wright for Isabelle Martin



Tour group at Roycroft Inn
for a lunch break



Knobs on display



Phil Austin checking out
Andree Dulac's display



A floral display by
Cheryl Blam



Cheryl and Norm Blam



Richard Olmsted
Complex
saved from the wrecking ball



Winners of the Display Contest
Dale Sponaugle,
Carol Meermans,
and Steve Hannum



Nancy and Jeff Orman, hosts of next convention
in Pittsburg, PA



Detail of tulip window
in the Roycroft Inn



Margaret Mills, Shelia and Steve Menchhofer



Audrey & Al Jehning, Nancy Orman, & Jean & Nick Doto



Liz Gordon, Faye Kennedy, & Vicky Berol



A clever display of Flora & Fauna by Carol Meermans



Paul Woodfin and Phil Austin



New member, Judith Boardman



Win Applegate talking with Jackie Rode and Bettie Madison



Top row: Suzanne Kittle, Dale Sponaugle, Mike Hocker, Paul Woodfin; Bottom row: Jeff Orman, Nancy Hocker, Marshall Berol, and Allen Joslyn

Reflections On a Great Convention

By Faye and Rich Kennedy

Each year is a little different; you learn new things about your hobby, meet new members and you visit interesting places. This year we had two days of tours in the area. The weather couldn't have been better. In the open tour bus some of us even got sunburned.

On Wednesday we visited two venues. Roycroft was established by Elbert Hubbard who was a printer and maker of fine furniture. He was one of the first to put his name, brand, on his furniture so that it could be seen by all. Today there are still artisans working under the Roycroft name. They are juried for five years before they are accepted and able to use the Roycroft name. We were able to purchase items at the shop there. We enjoyed a quick meal at the Roycroft Inn on the veranda that connected three buildings. The factory was visited by many famous people like Booker T. Washington, Teddy Roosevelt, Henry Ford, John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, and Clara Barton in its heyday and the list goes on.

It was then time for us to move on to the Gray Cliff overlooking Lake Erie. This was a summer home, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright between 1926-31, for Isabelle R. Martin, wife of industrialist Darwin Martin. The home was bright with windows surrounding you. Most impressive was a fireplace that was large enough to walk into. Long logs were burned by leaning against the rear of the fireplace. Wright considered the hearth to be the center of family life [he lacked that closeness with his own family, but felt it was important for others]. A view of Lake Erie greeted you when you walked through the house. Wright even planned the drive coming up to the house so that on the Summer Solstice the sun set directly in front of you.

The next morning we started our tour at the world famous Anchor Bar, the birthplace of Buffalo wings. There we boarded a bus for a wonderful tour of the city of Buffalo. We didn't see any buffalo, but let me tell you about the seats on the bus. There are a lot of snow leopards missing there vinyl raincoats. Now you know what the seats looked like.

After seeing the turn-of-the-century innovations in commercial buildings, i.e., Louis Sullivan terra cotta facades, we had lunch at the Anchor Bar. The Buffalo wings flew off the plates to the enjoyment of the group. Now it was time to move on to the Darwin Martin House complex. We had visited this Frank Lloyd Wright home when we were in Buffalo previously. It was a real pleasure to see the progress they had made in the ensuing years.

This was the winter home of the Darwin Martin family, each having their own home in the complex. The simplest home was for the gardener. We enjoyed the walk through the conservatory and out into the garden where the roses actually smelled like the roses of by-gone days.

We had four members attend for the first time; Nancy and Mike Hocker [pronounced with a long O], Paul Woodfin, and Judith Boardman who came just for a short time. Paul is a real authority on emblematic doorknobs. His skill at researching them has really paid off. He is able to identify many of the knobs that have been a mystery to our members for years. So you should plan to be at the next convention; come to learn, come to enjoy the company.

Our Business Members

These are paid advertisements. The ADCA assumes no responsibility. For further information about these businesses see the Resource section on our website: www.AntiqueDoorknobs.org.

Materials Unlimited Owner: Reynold Lowe 2 W. Michigan Ave. Ypsalanti, MI 49197 Phone: 800-299-9462 Web Site: MaterialsUnlimited.com Email: Materials@MaterialsUnlimited.com	Antique Door Hardware Collector Owner: Tom Iannucci 16624 Frederick Rd. Mount Airy, MD 21771 Phone: 240-595-1115 Web Site: antiquedoorhardwarecollector.com Email: antiquehardware@verizon.net	Architectural Salvage, Inc. Owner: Elizabeth Werhane 5001 N. Colorado Blvd. Denver, CO 80216 Phone: (303) 321-0200 Web Site: savagelady.com/
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