

The Doorknob Collector

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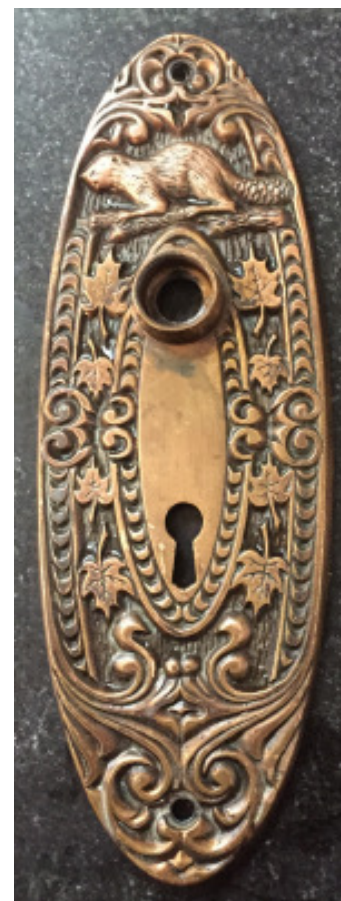
A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

A Nonprofit Organization Devoted to the Study and Preservation of Ornamental Hardware

ANOTHER MYSTERY SOLVED

BY ALLEN S. JOSLYN AND ALEX BLYTH

From time to time, they do get solved. In 1989 Ardythe Leaders asked whether anyone had an information on the Corn Belt Bank knob (TDC # 30). In 2009 Andy Streenz identified it as coming from the Corn Belt Bank in Bloomington, Illinois (TDC # 158). In 2002, I asked about the “beaver” knob (TDC # 115). Now Alex Blyth has identified it as a product of the Gurney Tilden Company of Hamilton, Ontario.



That company goes back to the 1840s in Hamilton, chiefly as a foundry producing stoves, but also man-hole covers, etc. Of course it expanded, opening factories elsewhere in Canada. Hamilton became known as “The Birmingham of Canada”. The founder, Edward Gurney, died in 1884. The firm became E. & C. Gurney, and then, in 1892, John H. Tilden became its President, and was reorganized as Gurney Tilden Co., Ltd. Thereafter it expanded into Builders Hardware. In 1902 it issued a catalogue of Builders Hardware (copy in Alex’s collection). which appear to be largely imported American designs. By 1909 Gurney-Tilden advertised that it manufactured “and carried in stock the largest range of Builders Hard-

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ware in Canada, suitable alike to trim churches, office buildings or private housing.”

The hardware illustrated herein was not included in the catalogue, but both carry the Gurney Tilden & Co. mark. The one is a “grape” doorplate owned by Alex, and the other is the “beaver” plate and knob. Hopefully further examples of their production will emerge. But at least another question has been answered.



2015 ADCA Convention Monrovia, CA

We are looking forward to our convention from August 5-8 in Monrovia, CA. This annual gathering is a unique opportunity for both long time convention goers and “first timers” to display their treasured hardware and share their knowledge with like-minded collectors.

The convention is being held at the Courtyard Marriott Monrovia. Monrovia is nestled in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, near attractions like the Santa Anita Racetrack, the Huntington Library, and the Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden. The hotel is a 15-minute drive to Pasadena. The convention will be bracketed by two flea markets in Pasadena: the Pasadena City College Flea Market will be held on Sunday, August 2, and the Rose Bowl Flea Market will be held on Sunday, August 9. If you’re planning on going to the flea markets, keep in mind that August is very hot in Southern California.

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Remember your hat, sunglasses, sunblock, and water.

This year, the exhibit area will be open to the public on Friday evening. The auction will take place Saturday afternoon followed by our banquet dinner that evening. The theme for this year's display is Builders' Hardware Post 1930.

We look forward to seeing you in August. We've planned a fun convention, and we're sure you'll enjoy your time in the beautiful San Gabriel Valley. For more information about the area's attractions you can go to www.visitpasadena.com ,or www.latourist.com

If you haven't been to a convention yet, this may be your year. Consider traveling to the Los Angeles area and enjoy all that it has to offer. If you are a first time attendee, your registration is free. Now there is a real deal for you. Check the registration packet that came with your last newsletter. If you have not received a copy, let us know at 908-685-5253 or email us at AD-CAoffice@aol.com. We will send one out to you by either the US Mail or email.

In Memoriam

Hilary Lynn Applegate (#311), 51, passed after a brief illness on June 9, 2015 surrounded by family.

She will be remembered by our membership for her wonderful smile and her annual participation helping at the auctions during the conventions. Hilary was a regular attendee of the ADCA conventions along with her parents. Hilary was a very positive woman who shared her joy with all of us. She is a life gone too soon and she will be missed by all of us.

Hilary's real passion was collecting Breyer Model horses. As a knowledgeable collector of these horses, Hilary competed for many years in collector shows, most notably, the Mid Atlantic Regional (MAR) and the Chesapeake Regional All Bridle (CRABY) in Annapolis, Maryland. She won numerous awards and ribbons. Recognized as a knowledgeable collector, she was frequently called upon through the internet to clarify and identify 'found' models.

A life-long resident of Mercer County, Hilary was a member of Saint Mark United Methodist Church in Hamilton Square. She worked as a volunteer in the Medical Records Department of Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in Hamilton for fourteen years.

Hilary is survived by her parents Carol (#310) and Winfred (#110) Applegate of Hamilton Square, her brother Brian (#309) and sister-in-law Christine, her nephew Shawn and her nieces Karen and Elaine Applegate of Newtown, Pennsylvania.



Woodmen of the World Building Omaha, Nebraska



The Woodmen of the World was a fraternal benefit society founded in Omaha in 1890, and operates a large privately held insurance company for its members. As the insurance company grew the need for more office space required a that a large office building be built in 1912. Architects Holabird & Roche of Chicago designed an 18 story office tower for the company with elaborate terra cotta and stone work on the exterior and marble on the interior; a 19th story was added in 1919 to house radio station WOW. Hardware was designed and provided by Sargent in cast iron, including knobs, plates, and letter slots with the WOW logo. Sargent used these designs in their advertising in 1913. In 1934 Woodmen of the World vacated this building for the nearby Insurance Building, formerly known as the Bee Building. In 1977 the Woodmen of the World Building was imploded to make way for Central Park Mall.

Sources:

Wikipedia, *Woodmen of the World*
Landmarks, Inc. and the Junior League of Omaha,
Omaha City Architecture, 1977



SARGENT HARDWARE

WOODMEN OF THE WORLD BUILDING
OMAHA, NEB.

MESSRS. HOLABIRD & ROCHE
ARCHITECTS

In accordance with present-day practice it is not unusual to find the headquarters of a fraternal order established in a large and pretentious office building erected by and bearing the name of the order. The selection of **SARGENT** hardware, the design of which may be made to include the emblem of the order, for the equipment of such buildings, is also in accordance with present-day practice.

SARGENT & COMPANY
Makers
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

NEW YORK BOSTON PHILADELPHIA CHICAGO

Monadnock Building Chicago, Illinois



The Brooks family of Boston began investing in Chicago real estate shortly before the 1871 Chicago fire. Their architect of choice became the firm of Burnham & Root, designers of many early tall office buildings in Chicago and across the country. John Wellborn Root designed the original Monadnock to meet the “unadorned” exterior requirement of the owners, but with bay windows and Egyptian styling from the flared base and cornice with exterior load bearing walls. The building was planned to have 4 sections-Monadnock & Kearsage sections in the original 1891 building, and Wachusett & Katahdin sections in the 1893 addition. Root unfortunately died shortly after this building was designed and so for the southern half of the building, the firm of Holabird & Roche completed the design to complement the 1891 structure while being an entirely steel framed and terra cotta landmark. Many of the doorknobs, cast by Reading Hardware and bearing the letters of the sections of the building, are still in use on the building’s hallway doors.



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.

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Discovery Architectural Antiques Owner: Suzanne Kittel 409 St. Francis Gonzales, TX 78629 Phone: 830-672-2428 Fax: 830-672-3701 Web Site: Discoveryys.net Email: swk@discoveryys.net	The Brass Knob Owners: Donetta George 2311 18th St. N.W. Washington, DC Phone: 202-332-3370 Fax: 202-332-5594 Web Site: theBrassKnob.com Email: BK@theBrassKnob.com	Aurora Mills Architectural Salvage Owner: Mike Byrnes 14971 First St NE Aurora, OR 97002 Phone: 503-678-6083 Fax: 503-678-3299 Web Site: auroramills.com Email: auroramills@centurytel.net
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