

The Doorknob Collector

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

Monrovia Convention 2015

BY ALLEN JOSLYN

Beautiful weather, great hotel, the San Gabriel Mountains in the distance. A most successful Convention, indeed. Thank you, Liz. The tour day started off with a visit to Gruman's Chinese Theater's Walk of Fame, whose imprints go back as far as Tom Mix. Rich Perris, a real expert on Hollywood history, provided a lot of background and details both here and at the Egyptian Theater down the street. That theater is a wonderful restoration of one of the great movie theaters on the early 1920s. But no, it was not inspired by the discovery of King Tut's tomb; it opened up just prior to that, but certainly resulted from the craze for things Egyptian at the time.

Then to Liz's Antique Hardware, where we shopped and were treated to lunch in her upstairs gallery. Thereafter we bused to Heritage Square (pictured below) where a number of great Victorian houses in Los Angeles were moved and restored. And, on the way home, we stopped at Rich Perris's Crown City Hardware.

Of course a bus was absolutely necessary to carry us all over the Los Angeles area. Who was that guy who suggested we could "caravan" in private cars, arrive at each location at the same time and find places to park, in the greater Los Angeles area? (Not me?)

The rest of the Convention went as expected, but there were several highlights: first, Rhett announced that some 30 more digitized catalogues were available on the Archives (a list is enclosed with this Newsletter), and Bo Sullivan gave an astounding performance as an auctioneer. Also Rich Kennedy, who together with Faye and Maud, really started the doorknob movement, resigned as Secretary and Paul Woodfin was elected to replace him. Rich will remain as a member of the Board of Directors. The financial statements for 2014 are also enclosed with this Newsletter.

Next year, **BOSTON!**



	Inside	
Business Partners 8	Display Contest 3	Knobs to be Photographed 6
Club Information..... 8	Doorknob Exchange 7	Monrovia 2015 1
Convention Pictures 4-5	Doorknobs Along the Ohio 2-3	Newsletter Archives 6

Door Knobs Along the Ohio...

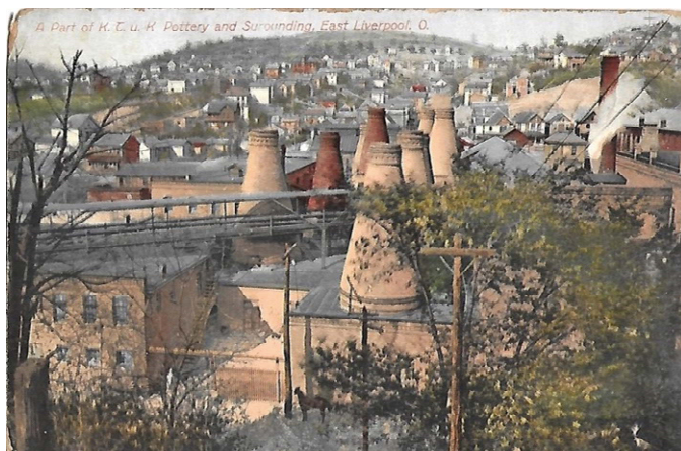
By Nancy Hocker

Sounds like a Vaudeville song, but it's actually a story about East Liverpool and the Ohio River. I stumbled upon it when my husband was talking to their chamber director and I saw a poster for their summer festival which included a door knob contest, and here is where the story begins:

In the middle 1800s The Riverside Knob Works in East Liverpool, Ohio, was making clay door knobs. In fact they were the largest producer of knobs in the country, shipping out three million knobs a year in the standard brown, black and white colors.

Production of the knobs meant burning 250 bushels of coal per week to produce approximately 35 barrels of knobs. Each barrel could hold approximately 1,500 knobs. They were a large employer for the area with up to 40 employees, plus other businesses providing them with ancillary products (coal, barrels, straw for packing and clay).

The Riverside Knob Works used local clays for the brown and black knobs and purchased clay from the southern states for the white ones. Clay was mixed with water to the proper consistency and inserted into presses to dry. After drying the clay was crushed to sawdust consistency and pressed into the knob shape — at this time it was a “green knob.” After 48 hours the die marks and surface scratches were buffed smooth and the knobs were glazed and hot-fired in a kiln at



*Post card picture from 1910
of what the pottery plants looked like.*

2,100 degrees for 24 hours. White knobs had to dry a full week before firing and glazed and fired a second time. During World War II production was up to 80,000 knobs per day. Imperfect knobs (and to this particular door knob collector, there is no such thing) were those with chips, uneven finish, or bubbles in the glaze. They ended up in barrels which were taken to the banks of the Ohio River and dumped. As time went on the “door knob mines” along the river banks became a source of fun and entertainment for children and adults alike. The knobs were collected by color and a game similar to horseshoes became popular in East Liverpool. As more people collected these knobs they have become harder to find along the river, but I am sure there are still a few, and I have it on my bucket list to find one.

But the game did not end when the knobs became scarce. Homer Laughlin China of Newell, West Virginia picked up production of sets

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Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

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of six knobs, three of each color, so the event continues each summer during the Tri-State Pottery Festival.

East Liverpool began as a small community in 1798 and grew into the “Pottery Capital of the Nation.” A great place to experience that ceramics history today is at the Museum of Ceramics at 400 East Fifth Street. Contact them for hours at 330-386-6001 or www.TheMuseumOfCeramics.org.



knobs ready for the festival door knob contest.



Knobs from the early 1900s found along the Ohio River

The above information has been compiled from references “Local Knob Production Began in 1849” by Joan Witt published by the Tri-State Pottery Festival Assoc, Inc., and “East Liverpool, Ohio-Reflections of 200 Years.”

Display Contest

By Faye Kennedy



Contest Winners: Steve Rowe, Marge Bornino, Mike Smith



Most Creative Display

At every convention we have a display contest. They are always fun. Perhaps the most fun is the contest for the **Ugliest Knob**. We all have fun walking around looking for what we believe to be the ugliest knob at the convention. This honor went to Mike Smith this year. What this actually means is that he will have to return next year with the trophy he is holding so that it can be presented to next years' winner.



Best in Show

Additionally, Marge Bornino won Most Creative and Steve Rowe won Best in Show.

Come next year and display your wares.

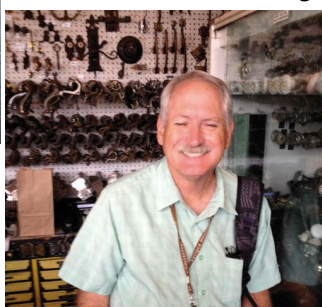
Having Fun at the Monrovia Convention 2015



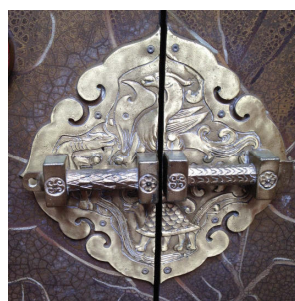
Liz Gordon,
our "Star" hostess
on the Walk of Fame



The group on a trip to the Egyptian Theatre.



Gary Harbison at
Liz's store



Details at
Gruman's Chinese
Therate



James Tomesello
first-time attendee



Jessie Brooks and Carolyn Smith



Our Luncheon Hosts



Enjoying lunch on tour at Liz's Loft



Paul Woodfin finding
some more hardware.



Allen Joslyn and Bo Sullivan



Phil Austin's Display of Post-1930 Builders' Hardware



Gary and Christine Harbison
First-time attendees



Steve Hannum



Mike Smith
had his own T-shirt made



Steve Rowe, Marshal Berol, Bo Sullivan



Faye Kennedy



Patty Ramey and Liz Gordon



KNOBS NEEDED TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED

BY STEVE HANNUM

As part of the preparation of Victorian Decorative Hardware 4, which will replace (not merely supplement VDA 2 and 3), we are re-photographing in color and hopefully better resolution all the knobs shown in prior editions. But we do not have all of the knobs to re-photograph. The ones we are still missing are listed below.

A-110	B-220		C-109a	C-121	C-132		D-114
E-120	E-138	E-148	E-150	E-157	E-159		
F-225	F-236	F-244	F-245		G-121	G-141	
H-108	H-118	H-230	H-236	H-248	H-253	H-284	H-286
H-416	H-420	H-436	H-463	H-472	H-474	H-478	H-479
H-483	H-486	H-492		I-121	I-122		J-208
K-213b	K-230	K-233	K-305	K-309			
L-114	L-116	L-126	L-127	L-129	L-130		
M-104	M-110	M-116	M-122	M-126	M-147		
N-105	N-123	N-136	N-140	N-141	N-145		
N-148	N-153	N-158	N-164	N-166	N-205		
O-123	O-127	O-148	O-161	O-168	O-173		
O-204	O-205	O-206	O-208				
W-401	W-500)	(The W's were printed in TDC #99)					

If any of our members have these, please send them to me so I can photograph them (and, of course, return them). My address is 2751 Ogleshorpe Court, Indianapolis, IN 46268, and my email is hannum1415@comcast.net. I promise to return them.

Newsletter Archives

By Faye Kennedy



The Doorknob Collector

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The Doorknob Collector is the newsletter of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. All members receive six issues a year. Articles cover all aspects of collecting, including manufacturing methods, care and preservation, architecture, patents, etc.

To download a newsletter, please [click here](#).

To search the newsletters, enter a word or phrase here:



Copies of ~~The Doorknob Collector~~ have been added to our website ready for download. They are now complete through 2013. Additionally, there is a new search engine to find what you are looking for. Simply type your search criteria in the box; when you find what you want download the newsletter.

Go to Antiquedoorknobs.org and then to Newsletter Archives.

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: Seeking a pair of these Corbin flush mounted door bolts to use on a pair of antique double doors. Was wondering if you have any of this pattern or any other bronze flush mounted pairs of door bolts?

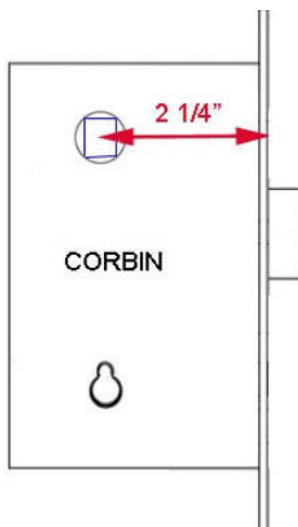
Seriously need a matching pair of old original antique mortise locks with 2 1/4" backset. Please let me know if you have a pair of matching locks with 2 1/4" or 2 5/16" distance from the center of the door knob spindle hole to outer edge of the lock; especially some that have a face that is 7" - 7 1/4" long.

Russel Barnes (#771)

Box 4695, Lago Vista, TX 78645

(512) 799-6076

tallcase@flash.net

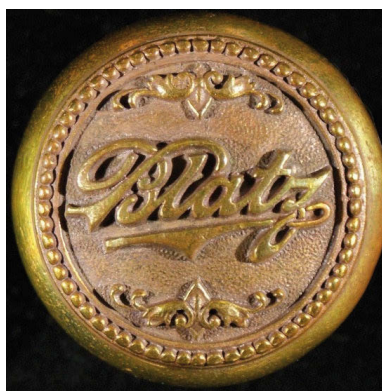


Wanted: Pabst, Blatz Hotel, Milwaukee Public Service knobs, and Milwaukee City Hall knob and plate. Willing to buy or trade.

James Tomasello (#942)

Ease53ny@yahoo.com

414-795-1911



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



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



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



American Antique Hardware

Owner Keith and Sarah Chilcote
Phone: 503-399-8009
Web Site: americanantiquehardware.com
Email: contact@americanantiquehardware.com



Liz's Antique Hardware

Owner: Liz Gordon
453 South La Brea
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Phone: 323-939-4403 Fax: 323-939-4387
Web Site: lahardware.com/
Email: Shop@LAHardware.com



Albion Doors & Windows

Owner: Larry Sawyer
PO Box 220
Albion, CA 95410
Phone: 707-937-0078
Fax: (call first) 707-937-0078
Web Site: knobsession.com
Email: bysawyer@mcn.org



House of Antique Hardware

Owner: Roy Prange
3439 NE Sandy Blvd./PMB 106
Portland, OR 97214
Phone: 888-223-2545 Fax: 503-231-1312
Web Site: HouseofAntiqueHardware.com
Email: Sales@HouseofAntiqueHardware.com



Bill's Key & Lock Shop

Owner: Andy Streenz
127 E. Beaufort St. or 401 N. Main St.
Normal, IL 61761 Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: 309-827-5522
Web Site: billskeyandlockshop.com
Email: locksmith@billskeyandlockshop.com



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