



The Doorknob Collector

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RUSSELL & ERWIN CAR LOCKS

By Allen S. Joslyn

Car Locks were, of course, locks made for the doors of passenger railway cars. Some companies seemed to specialize in them, such as Adams-Westlake. Russell & Erwin was not known in that area, but it did produce a few and distributed them in a rather specialized manner.

The first patent of an R&E car lock was a design patent by William Gorman, assigned to R & E, and issued November 15, 1870. (D. 4474). Gorman, of course, did a number of other designs for that company. The second patent was a “useful invention” patent issued on January 21, 1873 to Emery Parker and assigned to R&E (No. 135,147). Its main feature was a shank support for the knob. These two were combined and stamped with both Patents (picture on right). Another version with a aesthetic-like design was stamped only with the Parker patent (picture on pg 2). These were not identified as R & E, products but were rather stamped “L. G. Tillotson & Co., New York”. So what was it?

L. G. Tillotson & Co., founded in 1862 by Luther Gere Tillotson, was a very successful manufacturer/distributor of telegraph, railway and electrical equipment, and for a period was the largest independ-



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ent telegraph manufacturer. The largest telegraph company, Western Union, manufactured its own equipment. But of the independents, L. G. Tillotson was constantly developing advanced machines. In 1882 it issued a 326 page catalogue

An interesting diversion. Tillotson manufactured Civil War pocket spy sets, which Union spies used to tap into and listen to Confederate telegraph messages by throwing bare wires over any Confederate Army's uninsulated telegraph wires and to send false information to the enemy.

Railroad products were not what the company was best known for, but it made perfect business sense to combine that with telegraph supplies. After all, Railroads were huge users of the telegraph. As they expended across the United States, next to the lines were telegraph poles, and local railroad clerks used and depended on telegraphic communications. Indeed, the telegraph has been called, with good justification, "the Victorian Internet.". The connection between the two is illustrated by the fact that Mr. Tillotson simultaneously served as the head of his company and the superintendent of telegraphs with the Erie Railroad until 1866, and other telegraph magnates held similar railroad positions.

So it made perfect sense for R & E to distribute its car locks through Tillotson rather than directly through its hardware chain of supply.



Sources:

John Casales, "L. G. Tillotson", published in the October 2008 issue of the "AWA Journal", quarterly journal of The Antique Wireless Association, accessed October 30, 2015.

Tom Standage, The Victorian Internet (Walker and Comoany, 1998)

Bonham's Auctions, "History of Science and Technology", Sept. 21, 2015, Lot 64.

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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.

Wanted:

I am restoring a Victorian "Eastlake" door and I need this door-knob and plate with draft plate cover. I would also like to get the lock that goes with this group

Wilfredo Ortiz (#742)

773-837-1943



ADCA 2016 Convention

Boston, MA

July 16-24, 2016

Convention 2016 Booklet

By Rhett Butler

I am already working on the brochure for our 2016 convention to be held in Boston. The theme will be Early American Glass Knob Manufacturers from the Boston Area.

I would be honored to have a huge section of support/advertising for our convention brochure, which will be quite extensive regarding the information it will contain on early glass knob manufacturers of the Boston area.

Prices for advertising will be the same as they have been for over a decade, so hopefully it will seem reasonable.

full page ad (5" X 8") \$55

half page ad (5" X 4") \$30

horizontal quarter page ad (5" X 2") \$20

vertical quarter page ad (2-1/2" X 4") \$20 (includes business cards, good wishes or greetings)

Camera ready artwork is needed and appreciated!

If anyone else knows of any related non-profit, besides the lock museum, that we should invite for our advertisement section, please advise. I am waiting with bated breath for your immediate replies.

State Capital Knobs

By Paul Woodfin

	Minnesota State Capitol		Illinois State Capitol
	Illinois Centennial Building		Georgia State Capitol
	Colorado State Capitol		Montana State Capitol
	Oregon State Capitol		Massachu- setts Statehouse Annex

State Capital Knobs

	Missouri State Capitol		Pennsylvania State Capitol
	Indiana State Capitol		Oklahoma State Capitol
	Virginia State Capitol		Michigan State Capitol
	Louisiana State Capitol		Arizona State Capitol

State Capital Knobs

	Delaware Legislative Hall		New York State Capitol
	Ohio Capitol An- nex		Kentucky State Capitol
	Connecticut State Capitol		Connecticut Governor's Offices, State Capitol
	Washington State Capitol		Wisconsin State Capitol

State Capital Knobs

	Texas State Capitol		Mississippi State Capitol
	South Dakota State Capitol		Idaho State Capitol

Notes on the knobs.

By Paul Woodfin

The two **Illinois** knobs differ; one is from the capitol itself while the other is from the Centennial Building on the SE corner of the capitol yard, which was built 100 years after the founding of Illinois. The Centennial knob has a stone in the lower right corner with the dates of 1818 and 1918 (statehood date and 100 years later). There is a winged version of the Centennial knob, see O-143.

Massachusetts built their Statehouse in the 1790s, and built the major Annex to the capitol behind the statehouse in 1895. Two wings were later added around 1917.

The **Virginia** capitol was designed by Thomas Jefferson and would not have originally had emblematic doorknobs. The building was restored in 1870 after part of the second floor collapsed onto the House chamber and killed 62 people. Two wings were added in 1904.

Delaware's legislature used Dover's county courthouse to meet until building Legislative Hall in the early 1930s.

Ohio's statehouse was completed in the late 1850s. An annex to the statehouse was built in 1900 for the judiciary and offices. These knobs come from the annex, which now houses the Senate

Connecticut's capitol evidently used more than one knob design, including a version of the state seal and the Corbin stag.

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.

<p>Materials Unlimited Owner: Reynold Lowe 2 W. Michigan Ave. Ypsalanti, MI 49197 Phone: 800-299-9462 Web Site: MaterialsUnlimited.com Email: Materials@MaterialsUnlimited.com</p> 	<p>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</p> 	<p>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</p> 
<p>American Antique Hardware Owner Keith and Sarah Chilcote Phone: 503-399-8009 Web Site: americanantiquehardware.com Email: contact@americanantiquehardware.com</p> 	<p>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</p> 	<p>Antique Door Hardware Collector Owner: Thomas Iannucci 16624 Frederick Rd. Mount Airy, MD 21771 Phone: 240-595-1115 Website: antiquedoorhardwarecollector.com/index.html</p> 
<p>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</p> 	<p>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</p> 	<p>Bill's Key & Lock Shop Owner: Andy Streenz 127 E. Beaufort St. 401 N. Main St. Normal, IL 61761 or Bloomington, IL 61701 Phone: 309-827-5522 Web Site: billskeyandlockshop.com Email: locksmith@billskeyandlockshop.com</p> 

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