

Property of "Antique Doorknob Collectors
of America"

"Emil Miller Memorial Library"

Donated by: Maudie Eastwood - in
memory of Emil Miller.

THE ANTIQUE DOOR KNOB

by Maudie Eastwood

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Photo Credits

To John Holloway, principal photographer, for his remarkable patience and selfless giving of time, and Karens Hawkins, assistant. The majority of the photos were taken of private collections, including the authors, and a few from retail inventories. Credit is given to the owners of these knobs—Michael Johnson of the Forty Thieves, Liz Fowler-1874 House, Hilby's Antiques, and Bill Day of Anchor Tools and Wood Stoves. Special credit also goes to Jerry Bosco and Ben Milligan at Genesis Glass whose fantastic collection of knobs dates over many years. Credit also goes to Mrs. Don Dewing and Bill Hackett. To all of these people, generous both in their time and patience, go a very special thanks.

Cover Design and Sketching — Ross Hawkins

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The material in each section on knobs is presented via advertisement.
U.S. Patent copies and illustration.

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Introduction

The current interest in antique door knobs and the collection of the same has been furthered by the institution of community renewal programs, committee actions to save and restore historic structures, and the bi-centennial fever.

Salvage operations yielded prizes from the hands of skilled artisans of the 18th and 19th centuries. Collectors of brass and bronze became interested. Restored mansions were resplendant with crystal, porcelain and brass door handles and knobs, interesting the layman.

Then the bi-centennial efforts influenced the architectural and interior decorating trades. Business names such as 'Architectural Antiques' appeared in the directories. 'Architectural fragments' were mentioned in brochures. The search was underway for time-honored door "furniture". Reproductions of fine antique pieces appeared on the market. The old was now new.

My hobby had suddenly come of age and it wasn't even *my* hobby. It was *our* hobby. Quietly over fifteen and more years the avant-gard of door knobbery had been amassing fantastic collections.

I was graciously allowed to view and photograph these collections of knobs from the central renewal areas of Portland.

Then late in the game, I found a volume covering door knobs by the Towne and Yale people that dealt with design. The combination of these two factors blew my mind — I visioned a larger and more involved work dealing with schools of design and the homes involved.

Then I sensibly retreated to my original plans: to interest others in a worthwhile hobby rooted in our past, a hobby within the means of any and all, and to impart self-help information on how to collect, identify and show door knobs.

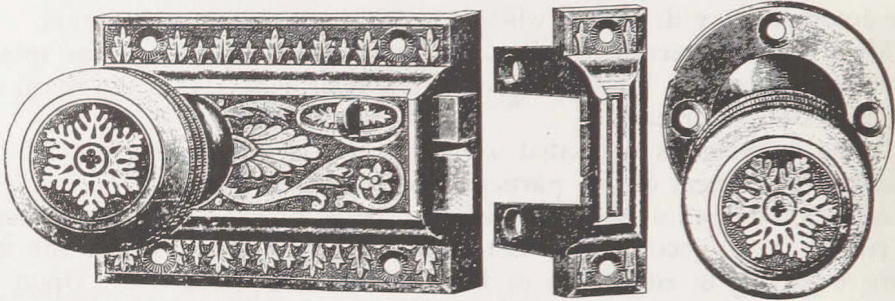
The orderly among you will wonder about the size of the knobs. Against my orderly photographer's advice, I omitted a method of measuring. The average knob is 2¼ inches. Occasional ones will be 2 inches or 2½ inches, rarely larger. Size does not enter into the worth of the knob.

The color photos on the cover and center fold are of knobs in the author's collection.
Photographer — John Holloway

THE ADAMS & WESTLAKE COMPANY

Saloon Door Latches

No. 180

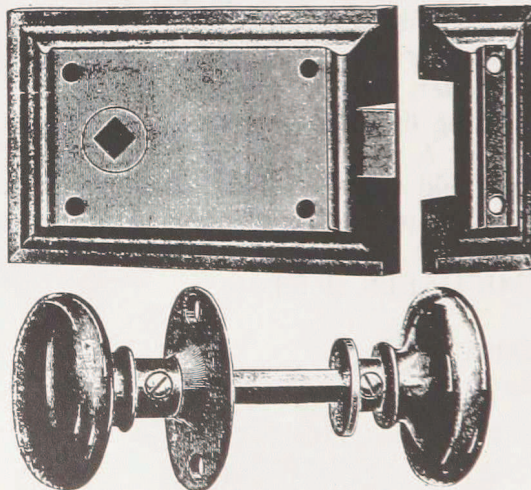


To Knob center, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches

Size, without Keeper, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{8}$ inches

Cut three-quarters size

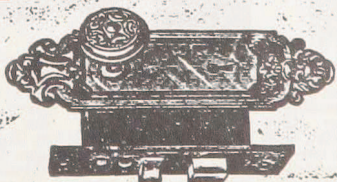






No. 185



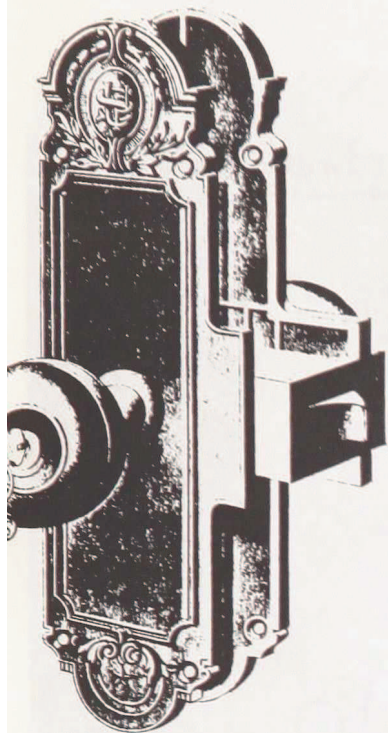
To Knob center, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches

Size, without Keeper, $2\frac{1}{2} \times 4$ inches

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This ad appeared in the August issue of the House and Garden, 1902.

The availability of the type of service offered in the above advertisement that appeared in the 1902 House and Garden, Vol. 11 — No. 8, by P. & F. Corbin would be rarely available today, except by smaller individual concerns.

The fine name of Corbin still appears in the yellow pages of the phone book.

