



The Doorknob Collector

Number 32

November-December 1988



MALLORY WHEELER

The theme for the 1989 annual doorknob convention will be Mallory, Wheeler and Company.

The initiation of a convention theme in 1988 (Russell & Erwin) proved very popular and will be continued. Members, planning on attending the convention are encouraged to develop a display honoring Mallory Wheeler and Company. For more information on Mallory, Wheeler and Company, please read Maude Eastwood's feature on page three.

ADCA CONVENTION

September 21-24, 1989

Iowa City, Iowa

What A Convention!

by Dorothy Ann Miller, President

Indianapolis proved to be a wonderful place, and our annual convention was filled with education, trading and just plain fun.

A total of 68 members attended full-time this year with four more visiting on Saturday.

We were happy to welcome these members who attended for the first time: Joe and Marge Bornino, William Causey, Bruce and Amy Gerrie, Claude and Pat Knox, Joseph and Georgian Kutianski, Judy Niedenthal, John and Marie Osborne, Don Shreve, and Mary Wardell.

Our co-hosts, Joe and Julie Mann and Steve and Barbara Menchhofer, did a superb job of having everything organized. They are great planners and had thought of everything to make our convention an outstanding one.

On Thursday, those early birds who came in ahead of schedule enjoyed a tour of the James Whitcomb Riley home, the President Benjamin Harrison home and the Indiana State Capitol with its doorknobs bearing the Indiana State Seal.

On Friday morning we set up our displays. As usual,

several of the dealer-members had brought along a supply of doorknobs for sale. Buying was brisk and plenty of trading deals were also made for other "extra-special treasures."

After a wonderful dinner on Friday night, Len Blumin presented an interesting and educational program: "The Beginning - Metallic Compression Casting Co. and Russell & Erwin." Len is an excellent speaker, is knowledgeable and enthusiastic, and we are grateful to him for sharing this information with us.

The next treat in store was Maude Eastwood and her slide presentation and talk on Louis Sullivan and the hardware that he designed. Her slides contained some beautiful examples of his work, and we are certainly now more aware of the artistic contribution made by Mr. Sullivan. Maude always has such a wealth of information and wonderful pictures. Her program was outstanding and we appreciate all of the work that went into its preparation. Win Applegate expressed the feeling of most of the members when he commented that "both programs were classics and

What A Convention!

continued

should be transcribed and placed in the archives."

Saturday morning, Debbie Fellenz presented a slide show and talk that gave us some insight into the business aspect of antiques and collecting. We thank you, Debbie, for showing us inside of your business world.

That afternoon, the displays were open to the public for viewing. Even so, we had time for the camaraderie that we all look forward to each year. Getting acquainted with new members is always a joy.

Saturday night after dinner the winners of the display contest were announced. They were as follows: Best Single Knob - Ray and Loretta Nemeč; Best Russell & Erwin Display - Len Blumin; Best Metallic Knob Display - Ray and Kae Zyc; Best Non-metallic Knob Display - Ray and Kae Zyc. Congratulations to the winners!

The annual auction followed. The auctioneer was delayed and it looked like we would just have to wait for him. We then learned that one of our own members, Bill Causey, was an amateur auctioneer. He started the auction, and did such a good job, that when the scheduled auctioneer finally arrived we kept Bill and sent the other one on his way. Thanks Bill, you did a terrific job.

Sunday morning we held our annual meeting as called for in the bylaws. Before the actual business portion of the meeting, the President thanked Joe, Julie, Steve, and Barbara for all of the time and work that they had

devoted in order to provide us with such a well-planned, smooth-running convention. Then, Len, on behalf of the Club, presented the Manns and Menchhofers with special doorknobs as tokens of our appreciation.

The newly elected officers for the 1988-1989 year are: President - Dorothy Ann Miller, Vice President - Len Blumin, Secretary/Treasurer - Ray Nemeč, Board Secretary - Debbie Fellenz, Archivist - Alice Chadonich. Board members are: Len Blumin, Bill Byington, Win Applegate, Arnie Fredrick, Mark Davidovich, Ray Nemeč, Maude Eastwood and Dorothy Ann Miller. Ray and Loretta Nemeč will continue as co-editors of the newsletter. Loretta is Condolence Chairman. Please contact her with any information needing her attention.

We are sorry that John Holland, who was not able to attend, requested that he be replaced as Chairman of the Education Committee, Greg Filardo has consented to be our new Chairman, and we bid him welcome.

After the annual meeting we were all invited to the Steve Menchhofer home for a buffet luncheon. Again, they outdid themselves and no one wanted to leave.

To all of those who were unable to attend, we were sorry that you were not with us. We hope that you will be able to attend next year.

Please permit me, at this time, to express my thanks to all of the officers for their help during the past year. A special thanks to Len for providing all of the knob pictures in the center



part of **THE DOORKNOB COLLECTORS**, to Ray and Loretta for such a fine quality newsletter, to Debbie for donating the doorknobs that were presented as gifts, to Alice for her work in getting the catalogs copied, the order mailed out, and for writing her regular articles for the newsletter. Thanks to Steve and Al, who are leaving the board. Both have taken a turn at hosting a convention. Hopefully you will serve again in the future. Welcome to Arnie and Mark, our new board members!

The 1989 Annual Convention will be hosted by Helen & Bill Byington at Iowa City, Iowa in September. Let's all start now to make our plans to be there.

The Doorknob Collector

Published six times a year by Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, Inc. P.O. Box 126, Eola, IL 60519-0126. Printed by Sun Printing, Naperville, IL. Phone: 1-312-357-2381.

Raymond and Loretta Nemeč, Editors. Annual Membership in USA: \$20.00. Rates on Request for inserts.

History of Mallory, Wheeler & Company

by Maude Eastwood



Mallory, Wheeler & Company is a magical name to doorknob devotees. Any

hardware attributed to Mallory, Wheeler commands instant attention. Established in 1834, the years 1847 through the 1870's saw this New Haven, Connecticut, manufacturer garner many of the highest awards and medals at exhibitions for excellence in locks, both at home and abroad. Unfortunately, sniping competitors and a series of nagging patent infringements suits would ultimately take a heavy toll of the vitality and longevity of this grand company.

As a leading lock manufacturer, Mallory, Wheeler devoted a large section of their 1882 catalogue to locks and keys. One segment--rim locks of cast iron--were identified by name: "Elm City", "New Haven", "Peoples", and "Rural." The lock trim section, though smaller in size, commands the greater attention of knob collectors due to the held-over 1870's designs and irregularly shaped escutcheon plates and because of the new and controversial Eastlake patterns of the 1880's.

Ten representational knob patterns were given such no-nonsense names as: "Vampire", "Steamship", "Dog Center" and "Indian". (See ABH, P.122-127). Many of Mallory, Wheeler knob patterns were patented. One, described as "agitated water", patented by Charles W. and Frank H. Andrews, was assigned to the company in 1889. The agitated water

referred to the background pattern and the centering design was optional--in this case, an Arabic, un-deciphered symbol. (VDA p.K-9, TAD p.179)



The three principals or owners of the company as listed in Mallory, Wheeler's 1882, 332 page catalogue were Burton Mallory, J. Davenport Wheeler and William H. Andrews. Of the many patents awarded this company, two by assignment from Burton Mallory were Patent No. 7378, issued in 1874 and Patent No 8772 for 1875, covering knob designs. Frank A. Andrews patented a reversibly knob latch in 1873, for the Mallory Wheeler Company.

Infrequently, Mallory Wheeler and Company catalogues surface. In 1979, an 1882 copy was offered for sale in Reno, Nevada, for a princely sum. In the mid-1970's, a 600 page, 1870's issue was offered through an antique magazine. Club members may order reprints of selected pages of the 1882 volume through the club's archives. Other catalogues included a 14x18, 295 page catalogue listing Fredrich B. Mallory as third owner, with Burton Mallory and J. Davenport Wheeler.

Mallory, Wheeler goods were handled by several dealers and wholesalers through the years. Sargent advertised as "sole agent" for Mallory Wheeler & Company, in 1879 and continued to offer their wares through 1882 at 37 Chambers Street in New York. A catalogue up-date slip for the 1882 catalogue placed the company's New York warehouse at 55 Chambers Street without the Sargent connection mentioned. Shannon & Sons of Philadelphia carried a certain amount of Mallory, Wheeler hardware from 1884 through 1888; Pratt & Company in 1885.

Conceivably, specimen of Mallory, Wheeler hardware might be found in any of several countries served by Sargent, since from 1877 Sargent sailed their own fleet to ports "all over the world", including the center of England's hardware trade. By whatever route taken, Mallory, Wheeler locks have made their way to wherever locks of quality were required; one was found at Fort Custer in Montana when the fort was de-activated in 1890. One prize picture in my hardware-by-photo collection is that of a Mallory, Wheeler lock taken from the "S. S. Yaquina City," a ship wrecked on South Beach, Newport, Oregon, on December 4, 1887.

In conclusion, the suggestion is given that Thomas Hennessy's book, EARLY LOCKS AND LOCK MAKERS OF AMERICA, be consulted for excellent coverage of this and other early hardware companies. (Contact the Lock Museum, P.O. Box 104, Terryville, CT 06786)

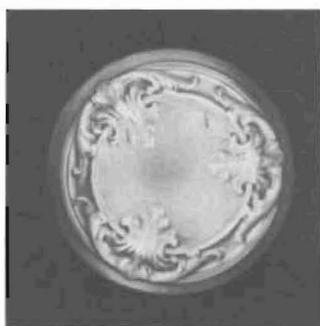
ORNAMENTAL DESIGN IN ANTIQUE DOORKNOBS

by Len Blumin

THREEFOLD SYMMETRY

- G-131 Circa 1900, stamped.
G-132 Art Nouveau, circa 1900.
G-133 Stamped, but nicely.
G-134 Busy little pattern.
G-135 Greek style.
G-136 Gothic, steel.

G-131



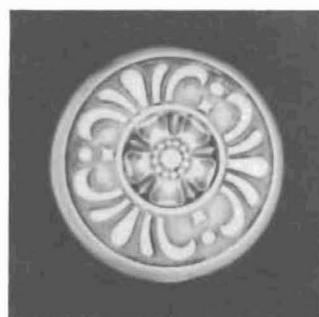
G-134



G-132



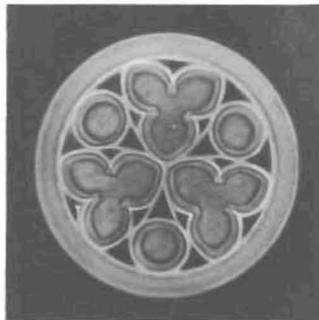
G-135



G-133



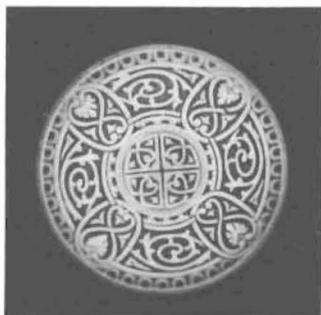
G-136



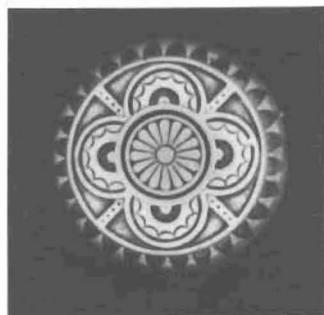
FOURFOLD SYMMETRY
(continued)

- H-113 Classic, Yale & Town, circa 1875. Central area depressed.
H-114 Classic, Corbin, 1875 catalog. Delicate.
H-115 Classic, by "Metallic Art Works," Boston. No.1.
H-273 Vernacular, Mallory, Wheeler & Co., 1882 catalog.
H-274 Vernacular.
H-275 Vernacular.

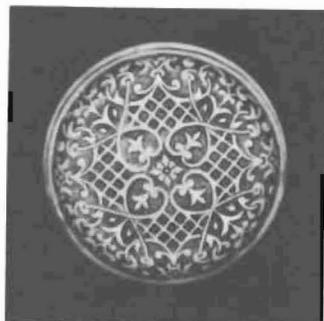
H-113



H-273



H-114



H-274



H-115



H-275



Trials of a Convention

by Win Applegate

Most vividly in each person's mind is undoubtedly their first Collectors' Convention.

DES MOINES in 1987 was certainly no exception for me. The scenario I am sure has been repeated before.... a small suitcase neatly packed by your wife and a few doorknobs hand-carried in a small canvas bag.

The next few days were sort of a euphoric haze. There were so many doorknobs and many fine people that it became a matter of have a little chat here, buy a doorknob there, have a longer chat there, buy some doorknobs here....

Somewhere around noon on Saturday I began to come out of this haze and realized that I had a little more than "a few" doorknobs to get home. A plan began to evolve which I followed very closely:

Pay the kid at the Holiday Inn to driver me to KMart, buy a soft sided suitcase and proceed from there.

While others were enjoying Ray Nemeck's blue-light special, I was coming to the startling realization that the new soft-sided suitcase would not support many doorknobs.

I very seriously considered staying over till Monday because not only would I have the opportunity to visit the Stills but it would also buy me more time to work on my dilemma.

There are two things drawing me back to New Jersey. One was my concern that the Federal Reserve Check Clearing might be very efficient and that it would be nice if I touched my bank account before the



cancelled checks did. The second issue, not to be minimized, was the fact that I had already spent my Wedding Anniversary away from home and that each day my return was delayed would undoubtedly create additional problems that would geometrically compound themselves.

Eventually in desperation, phase two of the plan was formulated and followed almost to the letter. It included:

Squeezing the nicely folded unused extra clothing in a soft suitcase and wrapping the new acquisitions, some of which were not too clean, with used clothing in the hard-sided suitcase, get the Holiday kid to load the luggage in the station wagon, get the check-in porter at the Airport to unload the wagon and check the luggage, and then try to do the same thing in New Jersey.

-6-

The trip East was basically uneventful except that arrival was late at night and pouring rain.

A decision made weeks ago, somewhat out of necessity, meant that a limousine would be meeting me at the Airport to drive me home. A few dollars to the kid in Des Moines and a similar amount at the curb check-in at the Airport had gotten around any possible problems with over-weight luggage. Now the last stage was of great concern because of the possible age of the limo driver.

Many of these are gentlemen who would have difficulty with a fully packed attache case let alone half of the doorknobs West of the Mississippi.

The hour was late, the limo was late, and the weather was terrible. I was very very very relieved to eventually see someone show up with a long green card with the word "APPLEGATE." This person also appeared to be about 27 years old and a middle-line-backer for his college football team.

My point was quicker than John Wayne ever drew a gun, when the driver asked the obvious question, "which one should I carry?" Nothing was said about the heavy suitcase except that it looked as though another fifty yards to the limo would have created a permanent curvature of his spine. The ride home was rather quiet with a chat about where I had been and what I had done. It eventually became apparent that in the darkness in the bad weather the driver didn't know where he was going. So I led him home "the back way." (continued P. 7)

APPLEGATE.....

A few weeks later when I had to go to California it was decided that my wife Carol, and my daughter, Hilary, would also go....this decision was not necessarily made without consideration for my Des Moines trip.

A late afternoon flight meant that I would put a full day in the office and meet the girls at Newark Airport. Carol is very uncomfortable about driving the New Jersey Turnpike and therefore a car service was reserved. On the afternoon of the trip, the suitcases were neatly lined-up in the living room. The trip was for a week, and even with my wife's great talent for folding and packing the suitcases were, by her definition, rather full.

With a knock at the door the driver arrived. Going out to the car, the girls were following the driver who had all the suitcases in tow.

As nervous chatter, my wife said, "I hope these suitcases aren't too heavy." To which the man replied, "LADY, THIS IS NOIHIN, A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO I HAD SOME GUY WITH 100 DOORKNOBS IN ONE SUITCASE!"

TO MEMBERS OF ADCA

Ethladel and I wish to thank all of the members for the card and comments on our "50th Wedding Anniversary."

It was very thoughtful and we missed being with you, as our entire family (small) of eight were with us for a family reunion, and it was GREAT. Again thank you, we treasure all our friends of ADCA.

Fred & Ethladel Magnus

Restoration Leads to Collecting

by Ardythe Leaders



"Do I want to go to what kind of a convention?" That was Gerald's reaction when I asked him to go with me to the first doorknob convention in Waverly, Iowa. I know he went out of curiosity.

It all started in November 1978. I was helping our daughter strip woodwork in their newly purchased old victorian home, when I noticed the brass shank on the old black porcelain doorknob had a design on it. I saw an ad in "The Old House Journal" about a book, "The Antique Doorknob". I ordered the book and wrote a letter to the author. I was delighted to receive a personal reply from the author, Maude Eastwood and the autographed book. When I received an invitation to a doorknob convention in our home state, Iowa I was excited.

It didn't take Gerald long to catch "knob fever". The second day of the convention he bought a sack of

"Goodies" from a lady before she could even get in the door.

The hand painted ones are my favorite. We have a pair of "signed" French porcelain doorknobs. Arnie Fredrick stopped by one evening a long time ago and pointed out the signature to us. We didn't even know it was signed.

I'm fascinated by the old wooden knobs. I wonder if some of the dents and holes in them are from Indian arrows? Some special knobs are the porcelain doorknobs from Gerald's grandparents old house. A knob from the out-house on our church's farm. A brass knob from our son, (Glen's house a former Catholic convent) and ofcourse the doorknob which started all this.

A lot of our customers are aware of our hobby. One young man even retrieved a door from a ditch to get the doorknob off for me.

Gerald and our oldest son (continued P8)

FROM THE ARCHIVES
by Alice Chadonich



How nice it was seeing so many of our friends again in Indianapolis. It was a great convention. For those unable to attend and for those who may have overlooked picking up an order form, an up to date blank is enclosed with this issue of **THE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR**.

To place your order, merely check in the space provided opposite the catalog listing. The prices shown include postage. Make your check payable to Alice Chadonich, Archivist ADCA, and mail it along with your order form to my house address, 4701 Harrison St., Omaha, NB 68157. Please place your order prior to year's end. Copies will be made and mailed shortly thereafter.

Thanks to Maude Eastwood and Len Blumin who came forward at the Convention with catalogs for copying.

Leaders.....

own and operate a used parts business for tractors and combines. I help in the office and Gene, our youngest son works there after school. Gerald is an elder in "The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints".

We don't have a lot of spare time, but this is a hobby you can enjoy regardless of how much time you have.

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America welcomes letters from its readers. Address all correspondence to "Letters to the Editors," P. O. Box 126, Eola, IL 50619-0126. ADCA reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Dear Collectors:

I would like to share my find with my fellow collectors. I found this knob at a flea market. I have no idea why the man appears to be shooting the lady. Maybe someone know.

Maurice Onraet #132



0-105 - TDC #21

(Editors Note) Fred Magnus advises: the incident portrayed in the above knob is that of a woman being shot at the entrance to a parsonage by a British soldier on June 7, 1780. The act would later spur Colonists on at the battle of Elizabethtown.

The woman, Mrs. Hanna Caldwell, was the wife of a minister who served with the Colonial army. The murder inspired the official county seal for Union County, New Jersey.

CLASSIFIED AD SECTION

Members are reminded that your dues entitles you to advertise items for sale, trade or wanted at no charge.

FOR SALE. 19 antique rosewood/walnut doorknob sets with escutcheon plates. \$20 per set postpaid. Will consider best offer for lot. James Baird, P.O. Box 516, Petersham, Mass. 01366.

FOR SALE. Back issues of **THE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR**, \$2.00 each. For list of available issues, write ADCA, P. O. Box 126, Eola, IL 605 9-0126.

WANTED. Knobs, number K-214 with arabic design, flat or round. Also, any Victorian hardware (knobs, plates, locks, hinges, etc., for restoration project). John Decker, 519B Clayton St., San Francisco, CA 94117.

WANTED, TRADE, or BUY. Knobs with single letter. I am trying to complete the alphabets. Don Friedman, 4900 Jerome, Skokie, IL 60077. Ph: 312-679-4424.

WE'VE COME A LONG WAY

1988 was a great year for ADCA publicity. As we write this article, news has come to us that Maude Eastwood will appear on a Public Television program called "Collectors" to be aired November 14 with repeat on Sunday November 20th.

Country Living is planning on having an article in their December 1988 issue which will acknowledge our

organization. This comes after national recognition in the October 24th issue of U.S.A. Today and earlier articles in THE Old HOUSE JOURNAL and many other antique publications. We also want to thank the Lock Museum in Terryville, Conn. for their support throughout the year.

We look forward to 1989 as another great year for ADCA.