



# The Doorknob Collector

Number 62

November-December 1993

## Washington, DC welcomed ADCA

The Nation's Capital, The White House, Lincolns Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Smithsonian, and TheNational Building Museum



**WE SAW IT ALL**

### **MUSINGS ON KNOBS**

By Carol Klamm Meermans

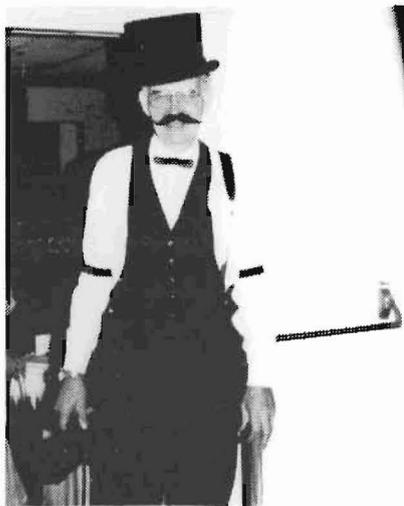
It's said, "When one door closes another opens wide."  
Have faith that there are better things on the other side!  
But we who are collectors of antique knobs and such  
Want those doors, closed or open, to have a special touch.  
Of course they must be fitted with good knobs that will not fail,  
Great quality like those my Messers Corbin, Towne and Yale.

## Bits and Pieces

by Win Applegate  
President

### THE OPEN DOOR

by Ray Nemeč



Maud Eastwood's new book, 150 Year of Builders Hardware: Forms, Use & Lore is now available either from the author or ADCA whichever way is more convenient for you. A flyer is enclosed with this newsletter for your ordering convenience. The 134 page book is actually the first of three sections or volumes Eastwood will publish.

Talking to Bud Wolski the other day and to an architect Charles Durocher, they agree the book should prove invaluable to renovators, restoration architects, locksmiths, handymen, users, collectors, etc.

An increase in yearly dues from \$20.00 to \$25.00 was voted at the general meeting in October. The increase becomes effective January 1st, 1994. You can renew your membership before January 1st (at \$20) and save \$5.00.

Congratulations to Maurice and Ruth Onraet. Ruth gave birth to twin sons on August 16th. Maurice indicates collecting hardware will have to be put on the 'back burner' for awhile. He says, "I even missed the show."•

The responsibility for "reviewing" the convention for the general membership usually goes to the President. When Len Blumin gave a brief critique of the convention during an awards presentation, I realized that I could not begin to top that so the recording was transcribed to give him "a leg up" on his article.

There were many fine moments this year. To me, the tours will always be remembered . . . a long and deep conversation with Carlos Ruiz and Ray Nemeč about prejudice and discrimination in America. When we concluded it we found ourselves standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

Over the years I have probably been to Washington ten or twelve times. The memorials of the older statesmen have usually been visited because they relate to what has been presented to me in history books. . . nothing wrong with that.

The Vietnam Memorial . . . **THE WALL** . . . is different. This is within my time and I don't need a father, grandfather, or great grandfather to reminisce for me. Each time I go, I find it very gripping . . . the emotion runs high.

OK, OK, enough.

The 1993 convention . . . **GREAT** speakers, people, weather, and hardware and tours! Fine job, Dale Sponaule.

**WINGATER #12.** (Suggested by Charles Wardell and confirmed by at least seven others)

The **BEST** doorknob find of the day will have been sold by a dealer less than 25 minutes before you get there.



The Applegates

#### **WINGATER #12 A**

That same dealer would rather have sold it to you since he knows you but didn't think you would be around today.

#### **WINGATER #12 B**

You happen to know the buyer as an interior decorator who ALWAYS wire brushes his brass.

#### **IT'S A NICE FEELING WHEN**

. . . you take your 2-1/2 year old grandson to a collectors' convention and a friend says, "he's definitely a 'keeper'!"



The Doorknob Collector

©

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FAX: 1-708-367-2391  
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Foreign rates on request.

# A Memorable Feast

by Len Blumin

About 80 members of ADCA attended a fabulous "banquet", ably served up by master Chef Dale Sponaugle.

Washington, DC was the setting, with the main events occurring at the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

For appetizers we boarded a bus for trips to the capital.



Ann Lunzilotta

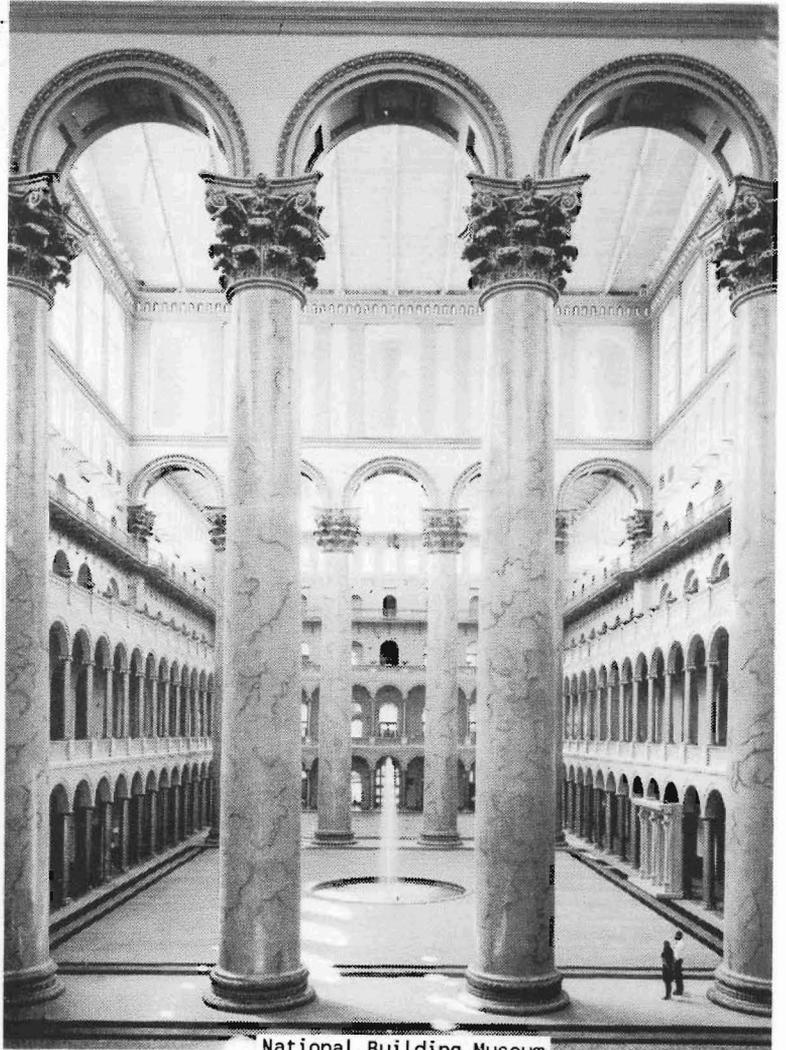
Under the spirited guidance of Ann Lunzilotta, a group of 35 early arrivals was treated to a panoply of delights. Thursday started with the White House, continued with liberal tastes of the Capital (both houses in session) and finished with lunch in the Senate cafeteria. The architectural details were most impressive, save for the rather plain hardware. That evening we all rode the Metro to member Steve Champlin's house for a warm reception and tour of his loving restoration project.

Friday's fare was no less filling, as chef Dale prepared a

vast appetizer buffet. We started with a sobering walk by the Vietnam Memorial, proceeded to the awesome Lincoln Memorial, and then tasted briefly the delights of the Smithsonian and the Bureau of Engraving & Printing, and all this before lunch! Sholl's Colonial Cafeteria fed our entire group in six minutes, and we were off to a unique treasure, the spectacular cavernous monument known as the National Building Museum. What a day.

The "main course" was served up with great flair, featuring tasty emblematics and gorgeous representational knobs. New members mixed with old for a two day feast of trading, socializing, viewing a vast array of creative displays, and generally having a great time. We all "overate". The highlight was a fabulous dinner with actual food, followed by beautifully illustrated talks

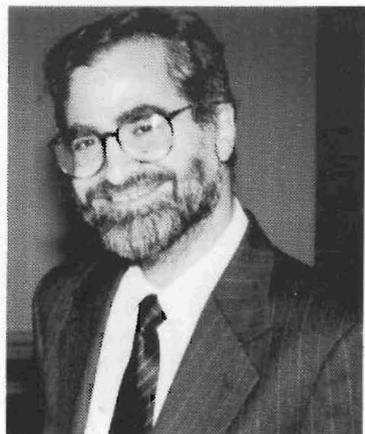
(continued on page 4)



National Building Museum



Ruth Ann Overbeck by Ruth Ann Overbeck and C. Dudley Brown. Side courses included a presentation by

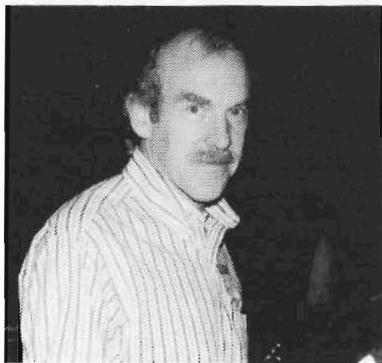


Louis Falasco

Louis Falasco on the U.S. Patent Office, and member Webb Wilson who have an intriguing introduction to a computerized collecting network that can be accessed by modem, including of course a section on doorknob collecting. The quality of displays was outstanding, and the public seemed interested and impressed during the open session.

C. Dudley Brown

Of course "dinner" was accompanied by the usual niceties, such as a board meeting and a general meeting (details to follow) but by now everybody was looking forward to dessert, "Auction a la Causey". Dale left this course in the masterful hands of sous chefs Fredrick and Applegate, and with auctioneer Bill Causey to lead us, we embarked on a merry sampling of the most delightful treats you could desire. Too soon it was over and we each went our way with thoughts of preparing for the next great feast, to be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. •



Webb Wilson

### Dues Increase

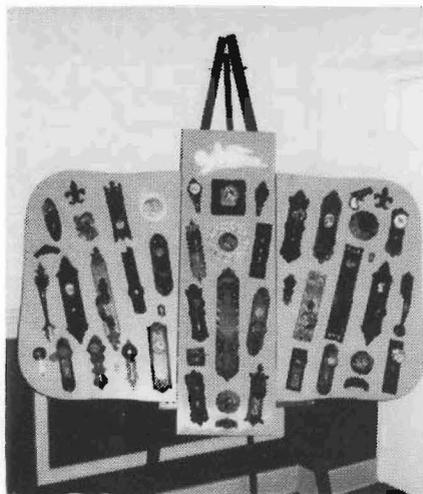
Members of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America voted at the convention in Gaithersburg, Maryland, to increase dues from \$20 to \$25 annually effective January 1, 1994.

The \$20 dues have been in effect since ADCA was formed in 1981. The club has maintained this rate through two postal increases, the last one on February 3, 1991, changing the newsletter from a quarterly to a bi-monthly publication and increased printing cost.

The increase took into consideration the announced postal increase scheduled for 1995, additional publication costs and several projects where preliminary work is being done.

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1994.**

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| USA                         | \$25.00 |
| CANADA, MEXICO & CARIBBEAN  | \$27.00 |
| ALL OTHER FOREIGN COUNTRIES | \$32.00 |



Thrall's Display



# ORNAMENTAL DESIGN IN ANTIQUE DOORKNOBS

by Len Blumin

(The following regular feature is a supplement to Len Blumin's excellent book, Victorian Decorative Art. Copies of the book are available from ADCA for \$12 per copy.)

## REPRESENTATIONAL DESIGNS

- A-202** Mallory Wheeler "Steam Engine" (or Locomotive). This finer version is done in bronze. The rarer cast iron version was pictured in **VDA**.
- A-322** I don't know who the men are, where the knobs were made or who made them. The General could be Grant or Lee and from a hotel.
- A-323** Hotel knob possibly. Could be Harrison. The photo quality is marginal but hopefully a member can help identify the knobs.

## ASYMMETRIC DESIGNS

- B-129a** Better photo, showing knob with less wear than in **TDC #28**.

**A-202**



**A-322**



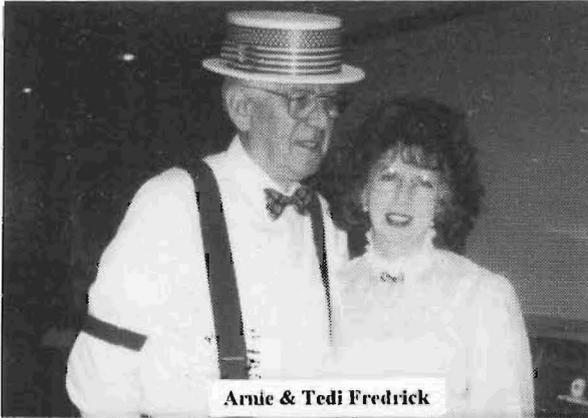
**A-323**



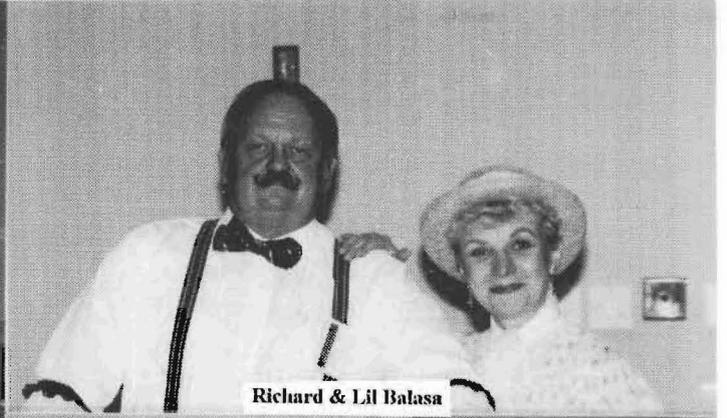
**B-129a**



1883 OR 1993  
THEY CAME IN THEIR SUNDAY BEST



Arnie & Tedi Fredrick



Richard & Lil Balasa



A. Leaders, N. Sandwick, C. Blam  
B. Menchhofer, L. Nemeč, C. Mcermans



R. Nemeč, W. Applegate, G. DeLange,  
S. Menchhofer & D. Friedman



Don & Kathy Warming



Maudie



Norman & Cheryl Blam



Dean & Edith Campbell

AND  
BROUGHT  
THEIR

TREASURED  
HARDWARE

## Awards

by Len Blumin

Each year we hold a display contest, and vote for "winners" in various categories. As a voter I found the task next to impossible, as there were too many outstanding displays to fit on the ballot. Outstanding *non* winners included Marge Bornino and Homer Snow. Others with more modest displays were no less welcome, and new members without displays were greeted as warmly as old-timers. The prize winners are to be congratulated for putting together some of the most memorable displays of any convention. Extra thanks go to Rich and Faye Kennedy, who organized the display competition and compiled the not-so-simple tallies.

### "YOUR TEN BEST"

1. Steve & Barbara Menchhofer
2. Gene & Mariam DeLange
3. Dean & Edith Campbell

### EMBLEMATIC

1. Arnie Fredrick
2. Charles Wardell

### FIGURAL

1. Robert Rodder
2. Rich Kennedy

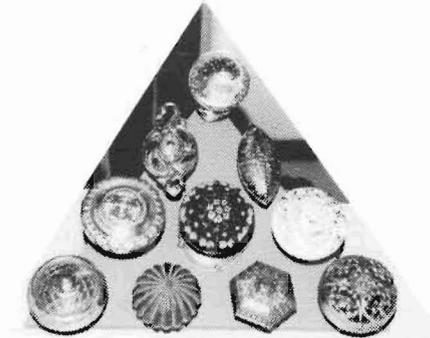
### HINGES

1. Charles Wardell
2. Dale Sponaugle

Top Photo: "Your Ten Best" division, Dean & Edith Campbell third place.

Center Triangle: Figural division, Rich Kennedy second place.

Bottom Photo: "Your Ten Best" division, "Jurassic Park" by Gene & Miriam DeLange second place.



## Business Matter

The Board voted to change the by-laws so that the officers could be elected directly by members at the annual meeting. The current officers were nominated to serve another term, and the membership re-elected them as follows:

President: Win Applegate  
Vice President: Dale Sponaugle  
Sec/Treasures: Ray Nemec

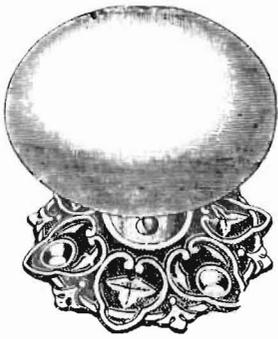
New board members Norman Blam and Richard Kennedy were elected to replace retiring members Dean Campbell and Carlos Ruiz.

Win quickly showed his leadership abilities by sweet-talking someone else into writing the convention article.

Other matters included approval of an increase in annual dues to \$25, starting January 1, 1994, and the selection of Milwaukee, Wisconsin as the site for next year's convention, with member Greg Filardo as concertmaster. •

## If Only I Could Speak

by Kathleen Warming



I guess you could say I've seen it all. From my position overlooking the wide veranda I could see the beautiful lawns and bright flower gardens in the spring; the brutal beauty of white crystals that hung from the giant firs after a winter storm. I was there when the Hastings first came many years ago . . . my first family.

Mr. Hastings was a large, solid built man with a firm grasp, his hands hard and callused from years of hard work. And the Mrs. Soft, gentle, loving hands that seemed to tremble with her eagerness of the day. The same hands that held one another as I watched them take an evening stroll with the family. Ah! Yes! The family. Little Jenny . . . I can remember the anxious touch of her chubby fingers when they first reached for me and as the years progressed, I remember the nervous excitement in her touch as she closed the door on one life to enter another, on her wedding day. Then Bud, hands sweaty and dirty from a day exploring the wonders of a frog pond and later the firm grasp similar to that of his fathers as he came through the door a young man after the war.

I've felt the hands of grocers, friends, the postman and yes, I could even feel the sadness from the Reverend when he came to pay his final respects.

Since, the Hastings, there have been many other hands, large, small, dainty, crude but all belonging to the hands of time.

So as you stand there admiring my intricate carvings and feel the smooth metal where once was adornment, remember all of what I have seen . . . . If only I could speak. •



Elegant display of Marge Bornino

### Let's Meet in MILWAUKEE

Plans are in the works for an interesting and fun-filled ADCA convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin during the summer of 1994. Along with the standard schedule of buying, selling and trading, presentations, committee meetings, etc., activities such as tours and a visit to the Pabst Mansion are being planned.

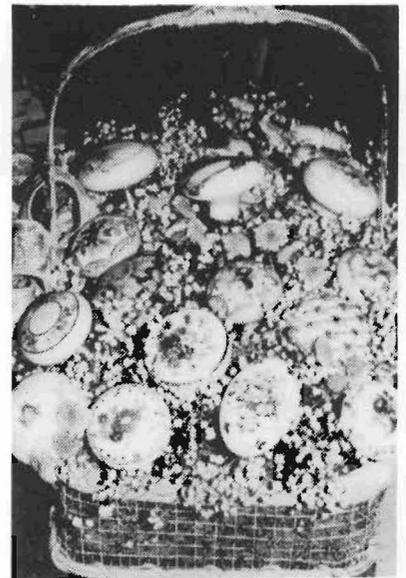
If you have any ideas or suggestions regarding the 1994 ADCA convention contact Greg Filardo (414) 931-0982 or the ADCA office.

## First Doorknob Club

(When the ADCA was formed in 1981) it was assumed by the membership this was the first club formed by doorknob collectors. Now evidence has come to light that over 65 years ago there may have been a group of doorknob collectors.

Steve Rowe tells us about a knob he purchased and now is in Charles Bednar's collection. Steve tells us the knob "was a plain iron (solid) knob, domed, no ornamentation, original green paint. Turned over and in raised (cast) letters it says, 'The Doorknob Pullers Club 1927.' "

Steve asks if someone knows anything about the knob and the club. Was there, indeed a group of door hardware collectors that predates ADCA and if so does anyone have information about it? I guess we would all like to know more about the history of the knob and "The Doorknob Pullers Club." Let us hope a member can solve this mystery. •



Cheryl Blam's Basket of Knobs

## Portland Unlocks the Past

An exhibit of historic hardware from the Bosco-Milligan Collection was on display at the Downtown Multnomah County Library in Portland Oregon from October 5 to October 29, 1993.

The exhibit, called "**Unlocking the Past**" and sponsored by Chown Hardware, a company doing business in Portland since 1879, featured historic doorknobs, hinges, plates and locks.

The Bosco-Milligan collection includes more than 50 categories and at least 8,000 pieces of fine building hardware. Many of these hardware styles and pieces were on display during the exhibit.

According to information supplied by the Bosco-Milligan Foundation, "the '**Unlocking the Past**' show was organized and designed by an all-volunteer committee chaired by Foundation Board member Joanne Carlson, with generous assistance of well-known author and hardware historian Maudie Eastwood, Don Shreve and Steve Chown." Eastwood and Shreve are ADCA members.

Season's Greetings

### ADCA BOARD MEMBERS

| YEAR  | PRESIDENT    | V.PRESIDENT  | SEC/TREAS  | BOARD       | BOARD       | BOARD        | BOARD       | BOARD         |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| 81-82   | J. Holland   | A. Fredrick  | M. Weimer  | D. Razor    |             |              |             |               |
| 82-83   | A. Fredrick  | L. Blumin    | L. Kaiser* | D. Miller*  | L. Nemece   | C. Wardell   | J. Holland  |               |
| 83-84   | L. Blumin    | L. Nemece    | L. Kaiser* | M. Eastwood | D. Miller*  | A. Fredrick  | C. Wardell  | A. Paholke    |
| 84-85   | L. Blumin    | L. Nemece    | L. Kaiser  | M. Eastwood | D. Miller   | A. Fredrick  | C. Wardell  | F. Jarvis     |
| 85-86   | J. Holland   | A. Still     | L. Kaiser  | M. Eastwood | D. Miller   | L. Blumin    | F. Jarvis   | S. Menchhofer |
| 86-87   | J. Kaiser*   | M. Eastwood  | R. Nemece  | A. Still    | D. Miller   | C. Bednar    | F. Jarvis   | S. Menchhofer |
| 87-88   | D. Miller    | L. Blumin    | R. Nemece  | M. Eastwood | B. Byington | W. Applegate | A. Still    | S. Menchhofer |
| 88-89   | D. Miller    | L. Blumin    | R. Nemece  | M. Eastwood | B. Byington | W. Applegate | A. Fredrick | M. Davidovich |
| 89-91   | L. Blumin    | W. Applegate | R. Nemece  | M. Eastwood | B. Byington | D. Campbell  | A. Fredrick | M. Davidovich |
| 91-93   | W. Applegate | D. Sponaule  | L. Nemece  | M. Eastwood | L. Blumin   | D. Campbell  | A. Fredrick | C. Ruiz       |
| 93-95   | W. Applegate | D. Sponaule  | R. Nemece  | M. Eastwood | L. Blumin   | N. Blam      | A. Fredrick | R. Kennedy    |
| *During the 1982/83 and 1983/84 terms the office of Secretary/Treasurer was split into two positions<br>Dorothy Miller served as secretary and Lee Kaiser as Treasurer. |              |              |            |             |             |              |             |               |
| ** Jim Kaiser died during his term as President was succeeded by Vice President Maude Eastwood. Charles Bednar became Vice President.                                   |              |              |            |             |             |              |             |               |

## A Family Affair



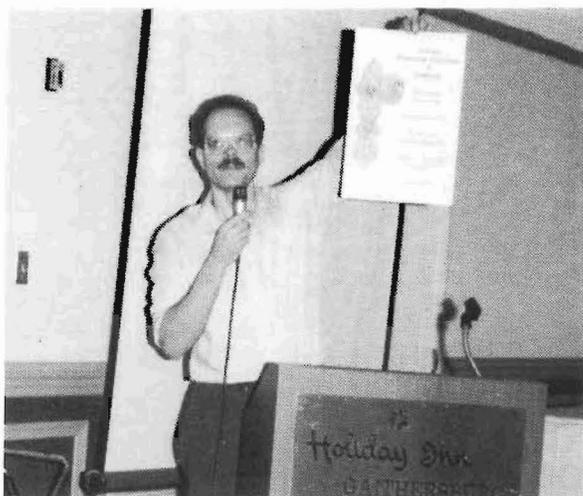
Liz Gordon with Grandmother Rose Gordon



Nancy Sandwick with daughter Diane and Mother Thelma Pittenger

# Convention Chairperson's Perspective

by Dale Sponaugle



Dale Sponaugle

As I continue to sort through my acquisitions from the convention, I'm reminded of the many friendships we all renew at each convention. I really enjoyed hosting the convention and found organizing it an enjoyable learning experience. I only regret that I didn't get to talk longer with those who attended.

I'm sure some of you have considered hosting a convention but for a variety of reasons have not yet done so. I'd like to review some of the reasons that may be holding you back from the perspective of someone who has just hosted a convention.

- **It is too much work.** Many people thanked me during and after the convention for all my "hard work." There is certainly work involved but it is not all that hard. For the chairperson the work mainly involves organizing and delegating, at least 20 other club members willingly contributed by making the convention a success and my thanks go out to you. We now have designated support people to work with the convention chairperson in the areas of convention publicity, display contest and awards, the auction and general host support.
- **My town doesn't offer a lot to do.** I was fortunate to host a convention in Washington as the area has so many things to offer. However, as ADCA President Win Applegate mentioned at the convention, it is the sense of family and exchange of ideas amongst ourselves that make the convention a success. That is, it is the people, not the location, that makes the convention a success.

- **My area doesn't offer expert as guest lecturers.** Once again I was fortunate in Washington. However it is still the people in the club that make the convention a success. We have drawn upon the expertise in our club in many past convention and will continue to do so. As we integrate more with preservation and restoration organizations we will enlarge our "expert base."

Finally, as chairperson you gain a very satisfying sense of accomplishment from having been part of bringing together old friends and helping newer members learn more about the club. I know I and several others who have hosted the convention in the past would be will to do it again. However, if we are to continue to try to vary geographically to allow as many members as possible the opportunity to attend, then we need more people to offer to host the convention. If enough people are willing to offer, then we could even plan several years in advance. If you think you are interested then contact Win Applegate or myself to discuss this further. •



Arnie Fredrick shows plaque he received as club honors it's founder with a lifetime membership.

**Roster Update**  
**New Members & Renewals**



**FROM THE ARCHIVES  
WITH ARCHIVISTS**

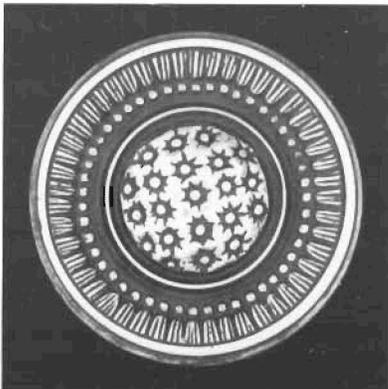
Steve/Barb Menchhofer

My, how the time flies when you're having fun! That is just what happened to us at the **ADCA** convention this year. We were having such a wonderful time that it seemed to be over before it began.

We're glad so many of you stopped by the Archives table and browsed through the catalogs and we were happy to answer your questions.

Our thanks to Liz Gordon for allowing us to copy her 1892 Norwich Lock Mfg. Co. catalog for the Archives.

Be thinking about what catalogs you would like to have because we will be offering them for sale to our membership in the next issue of **TDC**. ●



**D-119**

#343  
Donald Hill  
998 Glen Oaks Blvd.  
Pasadena, CA 91105

#344  
Chris Carlson  
160 S.E. 11th Street  
Pompano Beach, FL 33060  
PH: (305) 785-8877

#345  
Ronald S. Deitch, M.D.  
1133 20th Street, NW Suite B-150  
Washington, DC 20036

#346  
Nancy McClure  
11235 N.W. 150th Street  
Piedmont, OK 73078

#347  
Robert Forster  
55 Northgate Drive  
Albany, NY 12203

#348  
Linda & Bill Fry  
727 Argyle Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20901

#349  
Ed Turner/Mark Phillips  
417 A Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003-3806  
PH (201) 543-1481

#350  
Raymond J. Nemeo  
1424 Heatherton Dr.  
Naperville, IL 60563-2233

#351  
Larry Numbers  
Time & Again Antiques  
402 Main Street  
Pecatonica, IL 61063

#352  
C. Dudley Brown  
710 E. Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

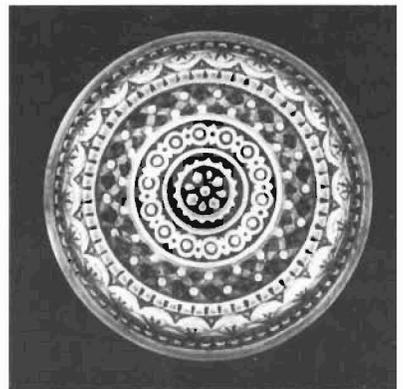
#353  
Ruth Ann Overbeck  
Washington Perspectives, Inc.  
148 - 12th Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

#354  
Gayle & Mark Reinsch  
2700 Lake Shore Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32210

**ADDRESS CHANGES**

#115  
Donald Friedman  
4900 Jerome Ave.  
Cicero, IL 60650

#208  
Frederic D. Smith  
18006 Rob Roy Lane  
Accokeek, MD 20607



**D-105**

**DEADLINE**

All ads, material and articles for the January/February 1994 issue of **The Doorknob Collector** should be in the hands of the editors by December 31, 1993.

## The Doorknob Exchange

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

**WANTED.** Two knobs D-119 and D-105. Two roses D-119 and D-101. Single rose. A-106, D-105, H-206, K-205. Any or all, brass only.

Stephen Rowe (#287)  
85 Jasmine Ave.  
Clovis, CA 93611

**FOR TRADE.** One A-206 Statue of Liberty Knob, (uncleaned), good condition, will trade for one of the following: A-104, A-105, C-104 or C-105.

Stephen Rowe (#287)  
85 Jasmine Ave.  
Clovis, CA 93611

**WANTED.** To trade for or buy. Painted porcelain or colored glass knobs.

Cheryl Blam (#204)  
573 Park Ave.  
Cedarhurst, NY 11516  
PH: 1-800-368-9300

**WANTED.** Yale & Towne Navarro style (Louis XV) front door excutcheon plates and knobs, interior plates, french door levels, pocket door pieces, window sash lifts, etc. (See photo).

Gayle Reinsch (#354)  
2700 Lake Shore Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32210  
PH: (904) 384-8119  
FAX: (904) 285-9793

**WANTED.** Yale & Towne Hellenian style (Colonial School), exterior & interior excutcheon plates and knobs. (See photo)

Gayle Reinsch (#354)  
2700 Lake Shore Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32210  
PH: (904) 384-8119  
FAX: (904) 285-9793

**FOR SALE:** Moes Enterprises Catalog of Authentic Pre-1939 Builders Hardware. Without cover. Being sold as a reference source. (Moes enterprises ceased operation in 1985.) Over 150 pages, pictures of hundred of knobs, plates, roses. \$12.50 PPD.

Bud Wolski (#20)  
Manchester Sash & Door  
1228 W. Manchester Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90044  
PH: (213) 759-0344

**FOR SALE.** Some inventory shown in Moes' catalog (see above) still available. Send list of wanted items by Moes identification NBR to: Bud Wolski (#20)

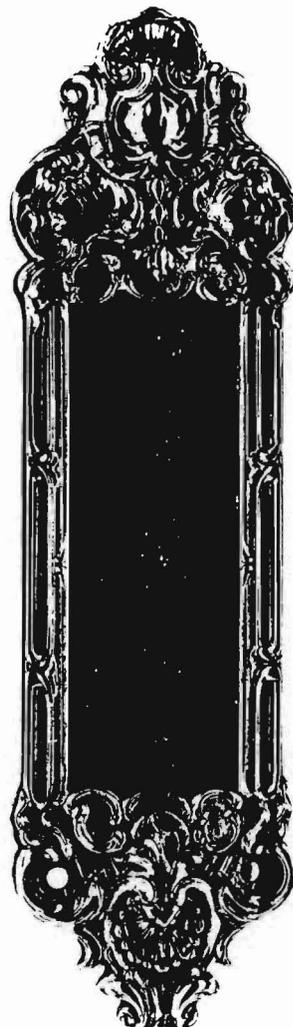
Manchester Sash & Door  
1228 W. Manchester Ave.  
Los Angeles, Ca 90044  
PH: (213) 759-0344



A-206



Yale & Towne circa 1904  
HELLENIAN, Colonial School



Yale & Towne circa 1902  
NAVARRO, Louis XV

# NEW PUBLICATION

YOU ASKED for a ready source of time-saving basic hardware knowledge largely lost to today's buyers, sellers and users of "yesterday" builders' hardware. In answer, the first section of three that will round-out Maud L. Eastwood's new book, 150 YEARS OF BUILDERS' HARDWARE: Forms, Use and Lore, is CURRENTLY AVAILABLE.

Users  
Libraries  
Collectors  
Locksmiths  
Renovators  
Second Hand Stores



Dealers  
Handymen  
Book Stores  
Salvage Yards  
Professional Building Interests  
Restoration Architects

## THIS BOOK IS FOR YOU

This 1st section of 150 YEARS OF BUILDERS' HARDWARE: Forms, Use & Lore, 134 pages and 300 illustrations, is available in two editions. Perfect Bound and 3-Ring Binder. The Perfect Bound will allow buyers to order, as sections two and three become available, any one of the three singly, or in sets of two or three. The Binder can also house sections two & three.

AS A SERVICE TO ADCA MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND CONVENTION, THE SPECIAL CONVENTION PRICE OF \$18.50 FOR PERFECT BOUND AND \$23.50 FOR THE 3-RING TYPE, WILL BE OFFERED UNTIL JAN. ADD \$1.50 FOR MAILING.

Order from THE ANTIQUE DOORKNOB, Box 2609, WOODINVILLE, WA. 98072-2609 or ADCA, P.O.Box 126, Eola, Il. 60519-0126

### GIFT FOR:

Print full name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.)

Print full name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Ms.)

STREET

STREET

CITY STATE/PROVINCE COUNTRY ZIP/POSTAL

CITY STATE/PROVINCE COUNTRY ZIP/POSTAL