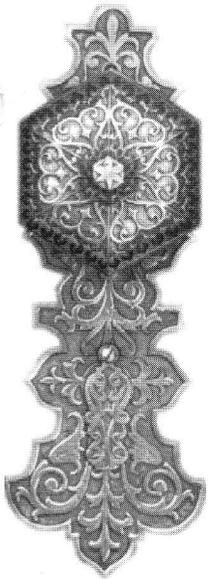


# The Doorknob Collector

Number 88

March-April 1998

## Sargent Hardware: Convention Theme for Winnipeg



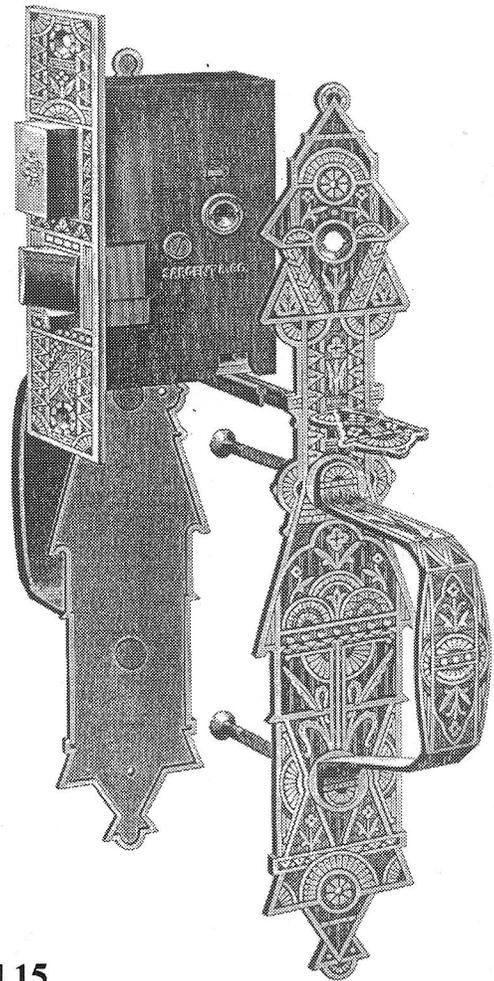
The theme for the Winnipeg ADCA convention is SARGENT hardware, Valerie Friesen and Bob Wilson, our hosts, chose this manufacturer believing everyone should have sufficient Sargent hardware in their collections to develop some fine displays. As many of us know, Sargent Manufacturing Co. is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, hardware manufacturer in the country. So with this in mind, everyone should start cleaning and polishing and planning for some outstanding displays. Remember "Sargent" Eastwood will be inspecting every

piece and also remember you have to be in it to win it!

Just who was Joseph Bradford Sargent? What was his vision for the hardware industry as it evolved? These and other questions will be answered in the next two issues of the TDC.

We know a few things already. The Sargent family first arrived from England in 1638. Joseph Bradford Sargent was born in 1822, starting his business career in Boston in 1839 in a dry goods store. Joseph returned to New York City to take up the reins of the J. D. Sargent & Co. after the death of his father. For the next several years, the three Sargent brothers along with a brother-in-law expanded the hardware business. Joseph purchased an entire city block in New Haven, Connecticut that had previously been owned by Benedict Arnold and Eli Whitney. It was here that Sargent built a state-of-the-art factory complete with "well-ventilated water closets and through sewerage" according to a local newspaper. By 1864 the company was well on its way to becoming a major hardware manufacturer. (Information from *The Builders Hardware Industry*, see The Book Peddler)

Just reading the paragraph above gives one the feeling of reading a bit of American history. Maybe buying a piece of property that had been owned by such prestigious owners was a good omen for the future of the company. What we do know from this vantage point, is that for Sargent it was a very good investment indeed and resulted in a great deal of pleasure for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century home owners as well as collectors of this unique art form.



**Newsletter Deadline – April 15**

Inside					
Bits and Pieces	3	Financial Statements	2	Our E-Knob Friends	2
Canadian Nuggets	3	From the Editors	4	The Public Relations Post	3
Correction	2	Keep in Touch	3	Why the VDA Addenda	2
The Doorknob Exchange	4	Knob News etc.	4	You Asked	4
The Book Peddler - supplement		Customs Information - supplement		VDA Addenda - supplement	

## 1997 Financial Statements

January 1, 1997 – December 31, 1997

### ADCA ARCHIVES ACCOUNT

Beginning Cash Balance	\$628.95
Total Receipts	\$1530.20
Total Disbursements	\$1627.88
Ending Cash Balance	\$1427.92

### MUSEUM ACCOUNT

Ending Cash Balance	\$4752.64
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### AUCTION ACCOUNT

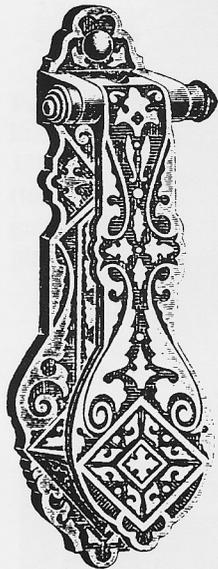
Ending Cash Balance	\$4573.19
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### GENERAL ACCOUNT

Beginning Cash Balance	\$5878.88
Total Receipts	\$18132.48
Total Disbursements	\$18333.19
Ending Cash Balance	\$5678.17

### Correction:

Barbara and Steve Menchhofer's address (ADCA Archives) was printed incorrectly in the 1998 ADCA Roster. It should read:  
5538 West 25th Street  
Speedway, IN 46224



Door knockers were popular, as were door bells, and Sargent was among the leaders in offering designs for both Colonial and Victorian architecture

Example:  
Sargent 1901  
This design was not used for doorknobs and thus does not have a name.

From the catalog:  
\$10/doz in Berlin  
Bronzed Finish

\$8.60/doz in Tuscan  
Bronzed Finish

## Why the Victorian Decorative Art Addenda

*Victorian Decorative Art* was published in 1983. Little then was known about many of the 520 knobs in the book. Likewise, scant information was available for many of the knob designs shown in issues of *The Doorknob Collector*. Members of ADCA have been very helpful over the years in submitting information to fill in the gaps, and these comments have been gathered together and summarized in a six-page "ADDENDA".

Here you will find new information on over 200 knobs, including such tidbits as manufacturer, name of design, and publication date of the original catalog (when known). This new data will be included in the upcoming publication of "The Book" (a compilation of all knob designs identified to date).

You may wish to use the "ADDENDA" to make notes in your dog-eared copy of *Victorian Decorative Art*. Although all of you do not own this book, it was easier to include it in the newsletter than to send it separately. Presently the book is out of print although we are trying to locate some copies. You will hear about them if we are successful.



Sargent  
G-123

## Our E-Knob Friends

[KnobNews@AOL.com](mailto:KnobNews@AOL.com).

As you get on line, please send us your full E-mail address along with permission to print. If your address has not appeared in this column, just let us know and we will put it in.

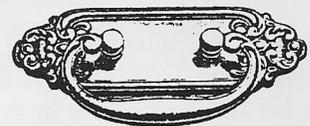
Loretta Nemeec  
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Sargent Haven Design 1910



### The Doorknob Collector®

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\$5.00

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

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Board of Directors of ADCA or the editors.

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## The Public Relations Post

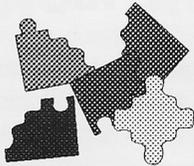
A great way to get our club known to the community is to show off our collections. This is exactly what Win Applegate, Dick Hubbard, and Rich Kennedy did for the months of January/February. The three of them collaborated on a show at the Morris County Library in Morristown, NJ. The curator of the show was a bit overwhelmed when the three of them walked in with more than enough hardware to fill the 4 x 18-foot case. All types of door hardware including hinges, plates, knobs, and early latches along with club publications were displayed.

This in turn prompted an article about the ADCA in the *Newark Star Ledger* on Sunday, February 1.

Continue to let people know about the ADCA and your interesting hobby.

## Bits and Pieces

By Win Applegate



Over 40,000 Commemorative Stamp proposals are received annually! I have been receiving some fine suggestions on how to get our long-standing proposal accepted. You should be brought up to date on our progress.

In August, following our Convention, I met with Congressman Chris Smith, (R) from New Jersey. Smith accepted several copies of our revised (fourth) stamp proposal and has followed our suggestion by gathering support of fellow congressman from Connecticut, New York, and Pennsylvania. The reasoning was that most of the early hardware industry was centered in these states.

My thanks to Steve Menchhofer, Len Blumin, and Rich Kennedy for

providing knobs and photos for the revised proposal.

Over recent years I have read numerous articles regarding the Commemorative Stamp and it's committee. It must be emphasized that this is a Citizens' Group, not easily influenced by governmental offices (still our best shot to date). I have interviewed persons familiar with the committee and find that groups with winning proposals are more than likely not notified if theirs is accepted.

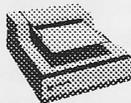
The planned list of 1998 stamps includes North American Flowering Trees, an unidentified alpine skier, Alfred Hitchcock, the sinking of the US Battleship Maine, various musicians, cartoon characters Tweety and Sylvester, and many others. No doorknobs this year ... maybe next.

Well, we've survived the 'Fat Elvis' versus the 'Skinny Elvis' issue along with a myriad of comedians and cartoon characters that sensitive people have been careful not to place on condolence mail. I guess we can wait a little longer

## Keep in Touch



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(973) 635-6338



E-Mail:  
KnobNews@aol.com

## Canadian Nuggets

The ADCA Convention will be held in Winnipeg at the Lombard Hotel which is located in the heart of the city. Room rates for either a single or double room are \$90 CN or approximately \$70 US.

To get to Winnipeg is easy. At least five airlines serve Winnipeg: American, United, Northwest, Air Canada, and Canadian Airlines. Air Canada has many direct flights to and from major US cities.



Depending on your location, you might also look into train travel. After watching the series on PBS about train rides, it sounds like a great way to go. Contact your local travel agent for prices on all of these options.

A pre-convention tour is still in the planning stage, but you will hear more about it in the next newsletter. Plan to get there a little ahead of the convention to enjoy what the area has to offer.

A question has come up about the exchange rate for Canada. The easiest thing to do is to use a credit card and put most of your charges against your hotel room. The rate will be determined the day the charges go to your card provider. This is the easiest and cheapest way to affect the exchange rate. Presently the rate is 1.40 US\$ per Canadian dollar. We will keep you posted on the rate, but it does not change dramatically as do some other currencies.

Another question has been about customs. Valerie Friesen and Bob Wilson have sent us information (see enclosed flyer).

## 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.

**For Trade:** Russell & Erwin 1899 Catalog and Towne's 1904 "Builders Hardware". Will consider other old catalogs or hardware

Charles Wardell  
PO Box 195  
Trinity, NC 27370

**Wanted:** I am always looking for original Arts & Crafts bronze, copper and brass hand-hammered furniture, hardware, i.e., drawer/ door pulls, hinges, upholstery tacks. Also interested in wood pieces as well.

Vicky Berol  
(415) 771-9899

**Wanted:** Old catalogs from Hardware and Lock Companies, any kind of locks and keys.

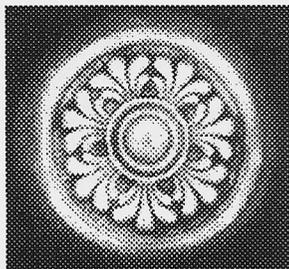
Gary Hahn  
135 So. Glassell  
Orange, CA 92866  
PH. (714) 997-0243  
FAX: (714) 997-1601

**For Sale:** H-233 with rose, M&W 1882, \$100 postage paid; Star of David knob with plate.

Tom Hennessy  
230 Main St.  
Terryville, CT 06786-0104  
PH/FAX (860) 589-6359

**For Sale:** 2 Detroit Board of Education knobs; 1 Board of Education Detroit 1905; 2 Chicago Board of Education (torch in hand); 1 arts/crafts knob; 8 gutta-percha knobs/ roses/escutcheon plates

Steve Robinson  
170 Kent St.  
Portland, MI 48875  
PH (517) 647-6155



Sargent 1905 L-122

March-April 1998

## New Member Policy

Membership in ADCA follows the current calendar year. Anyone joining between January and September is enrolled for the current year and receives all the issues of **The Doorknob Collector** for the current year.

New members after September 30th will be enrolled as members for the following year. They will begin receiving **The Doorknob Collector** with the Jan-Feb issue of the next year.

Sargent 1901 Hereford Design  
Letter Box Plate No. 258 HG



### From the Editors

Arnie Fredrick was the founder and first president of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. The club will always be indebted to his vision for and devotion to the club. In January we received a note from his wife, Tedi Fredrick who has given us permission to share it with all of the members.

*"I was pleased to receive your recent letter. How wonderful of the Antique Doorknob Collectors Club of America to extend Arnie's lifetime membership to me in his honor. Thank you.*

*It is gratifying to be reminded of the continuing respect, appreciation and love the members of ADCA have for Arnie. His dedication, devotion and loyalty to the club were ever evident. I do so appreciate your appreciation of Arnie. The ADCA lifetime membership is truly a tangible touching gift to me in honor of Arnie and his memory.*

*I like being a member of the club and receiving the newsletter. I am happy and pleased to be remembered and recognized with the membership."*

**Knob News**  
etc.

You will find **The Book Peddler** enclosed with this newsletter. It lists the available books and their prices. You will also find available ADCA note pads (a great gift idea). They are great to have around home or office. Take a look at the flyer and see if there is something you would like. The order form is also included.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members of the ADCA:

Charles Stuttig	Greenwich, CT
Jim Moreneau	Collingville, CT
Bill Chase	Cedar Falls, IA
Larry Sawyer	Albion, CA
Joe Ley	Louisville, KY
Paul Chenell	Channahan, IL
Bob Rysgaard	Robbinsdale, MN
Florence Elliott	Paxton, IL
Bo Sullivan	Portland, OR

## ?? You Asked ??

Beginning with this issue of TDC we will be publishing questions and answers (hopefully). The questions as well as the answers must come from you, the readers. Please let us know any information you can gather. (See page 3, Keep in Touch) We will make sure the answer gets to the one asking the question and we will also publish it for general information in this column.

**Q:** from Maude Eastwood

Any knowledge of Adelaide Alsop Robineau, an American potter of the early 1900s, producing ceramic knobs, as rumored, in her days at Syracuse, NY.

If you live in the area, how about a little research on this question. For your effort kudos will be forthcoming.