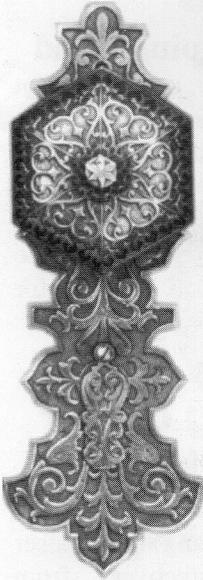


# The Doorknob Collector



Number 101

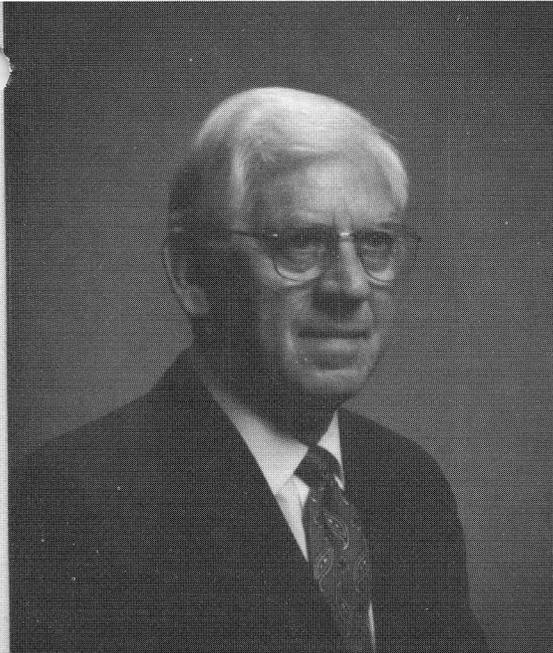
May - June 2000

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

## ARNIE FREDRICK TO BE HONORED AT CONVENTION 2000

ADCA will honor the memory of founding member, Arnie Fredrick at the year 2000 convention by presenting for the first time *The Arnie Fredrick Memorial Award*. Arnie died in 1995, at the age of 67. For those new to ADCA, some history might explain why we consider the "Arnie" award so special.

Arnie was a central figure in the formation of ADCA. He planned and hosted the first convention, held in his hometown of Waverly, Iowa in 1981. And we returned with pleasure to Waverly for the fourth convention in 1984. Arnie directed the drafting of our Articles of Incorporation and the ADCA Bylaws. He served as President, Vice President, and for 10 years on the ADCA Board of Directors. As auction chairman he worked tirelessly at each convention, and contributed actively to virtually every facet of ADCA life. Surely he earned his designation as ADCA member #1!



But a list of accomplishments tells you little of the person as an individual. Arnie was really a special guy. Handsome and wise, warm and soft-spoken, he was the epitome of a gentleman. At meetings his sage counsel was given the greatest respect, and his positive outlook uplifted all those about him. Throughout the year he was available and willing to solve problems or work on special ADCA projects. His humor and camaraderie are sorely missed.

In this newsletter you will find an "Arnie Fredrick Memorial Award" nomination form. Please give it some thought and forward the completed form to the committee.

Thank you. *The Awards Committee*

### Newsletter Deadline - June 15, 2000

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## In Memoriam

**Walter E. Bright (#46)** passed away on Jan.28, 2000. He would have been 92 on Feb. 22. His long life began in a log home amidst virgin forests in southern Indiana. Walter earned his Bachelor's degree from Hanover College and began teaching English, Drama, and coaching the basketball team. He and his wife, Mildred have two children, a daughter, Cerelle, and a son Clark.

At the onset of World War II, he took a job with Goodyear Aircraft Corporation helping direct riveting on the wings of new planes. This brought the family to Goodyear, Arizona, no trees, newly planted lawns reeking of cow-manure and dust everywhere. This was home!

After the war Walter resumed teaching and in 1948, the family moved to Phoenix where Walter became a principal and Mildred taught. He completed his Master's Degree at ASU, and was later honored in Who's Who in Education. He opened a new school in Scottsdale where he remained until his retirement in 1974.

In retirement he loved going out into the desert, collecting rocks, photographing the scenery and the flowers, and recreating some of this beauty in his own yard. It became his "Little Painted Desert" filled with artifacts, petrified wood, desert plants, and fossils. He and Mildred loved the beautiful handcrafts of the Arizona Indians. He also found a new interest and new friends in collecting doorknobs. This passion led them on new trips searching for these beautifully

crafted treasures, and even to Europe with ADCA friends.

Throughout his life he kept his high ideals, love of family, dearness of friends, and undying respect for education.



Walter Bright with his doorknobs

## New Members

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members who have joined the ADCA since our last newsletter.

Jim Best	Elkins Park, PA
David Day	San Francisco, CA
David Christian	St. Paul, MN
Yana Balson	Philadelphia, PA
Frank Gready	Huntington, IN



Both flora and fauna together.  
Can you find the deer?

## Lend a Helping Hand

There are many odd jobs that need to be done at Convention 2000. Enclosed is a form to indicate how you would like to help. Just fill in the form, fold and mail. Don't forget the stamp. Thanks in advance for your help.

## Thinking of Our Members

We are wishing Lee Kaiser well on her recovery from surgery. She says she is doing well and will be up and running in time for the convention. She says she will be there to greet all of her friends and she is looking forward to meeting some newcomers as well.

### The Doorknob Collector®



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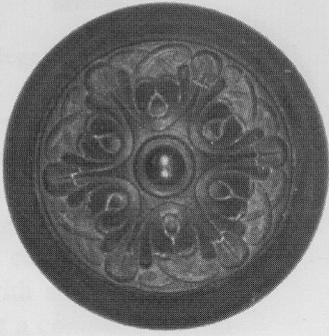
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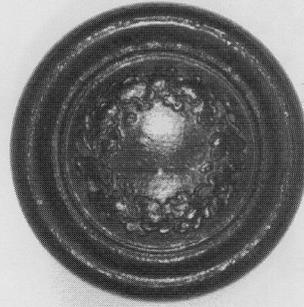
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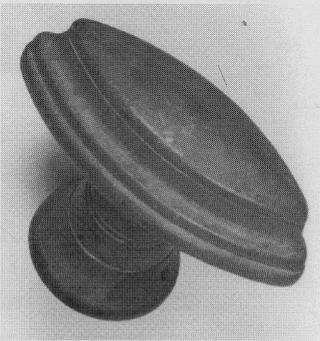
# Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs



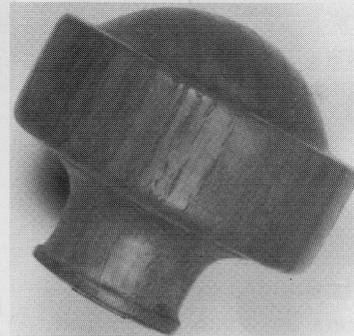
W-204  
Sixfold floral motif, possibly acanthus



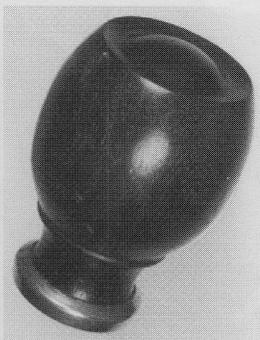
W-205  
Wreath design



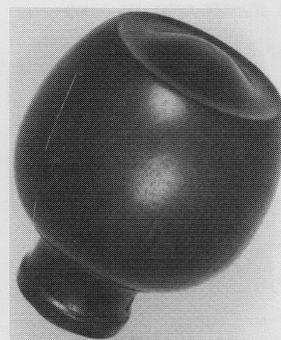
W-300  
Pointed oval with stepped profile, flared base  
A light wood, gift from The Netherlands



W-402  
Domed face, flat sides, wood shank

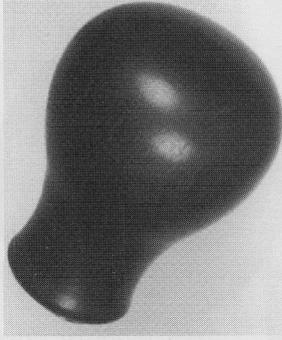


W-403  
Tulip shape, ebonized  
With brass ferrule



W-404  
Tulip shape, ebonized

## Ornamental Design in Antique Doorknobs



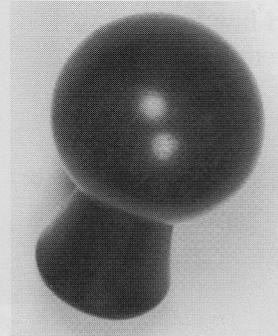
W-405  
Club shape  
With ogee profile



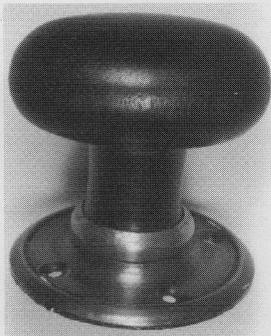
W-406  
Simple club shape  
c. 1870



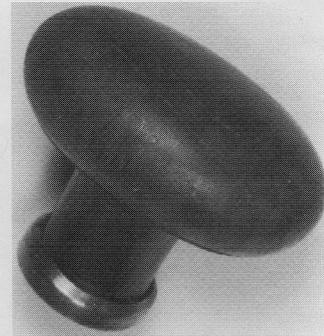
W-407  
Round body with short broad shank



W-408  
Round body on conical shank, ebonized

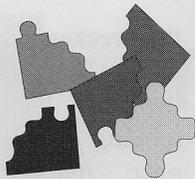


W-409  
"Typical" English wooden knob  
ebonized with attached rose.



W-410  
Plain knob with brass ferrule

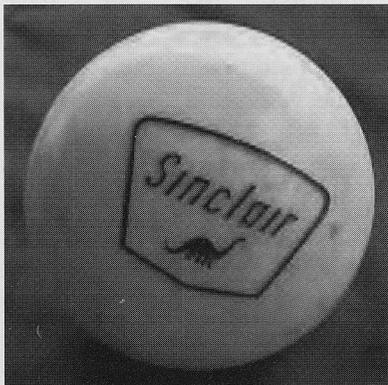
## Bits and Pieces



By Win Applegate

Remember the 'fake' COKE knob? (see page 8) Well, further investigation into the "how's" strongly suggests that you take an old white ceramic doorknob, preferably with a crusted/rusted shank and let a computer-driven device with a diamond bit copy a design on its face. Once you find the correct shade or shades of paint the rest is fairly simple.

Below is an example of the art of making antiques. Many of these will elicit fond memories to those over a "certain" age. Knobs currently identified as fake include: Ford (perfect blue), Mobil with its 'Flying Red Horse', Dr. Pepper, Sinclair Oil (with the Dinosaur), Texaco Star, Keen Cutter, and Griswold. These may jump-start the nostalgia so



you may wish to acquire one or more, "just because". Just be reminded that they are not 'legit'.

The Perthshire article seemed well received. I mentioned another reference book on the firm. The book, "The Complete Guide to PERTSHIRE PAPERWEIGHTS" is written

by two couples, the Mahoneys and the McClanahans. It can be obtained from them (hard cover or soft back) by calling them at 1-800-795-1486 or through Lawrence Selman's Paperweight Press 1-800-538-0766. The book shows every product produced through January 1997. It appears that the firm has added other doorknobs since then.



## Don't Throw That Away!!

By Steve Rowe

It was another beautiful Sunday morning: up at 4:30 a.m., and on my way to a favorite antique flea market in hopes of finding that elusive figural doorknob. Arriving with flashlight in hand, I began to walk the aisles of unpacked items knowing the earlier I got on the hunt, the better chance of finding something good!

Approaching one architectural dealer, I noticed a cardboard box waiting to be unpacked. Inside I found two H-102 Hopkins & Dickinson Vernacular knobs which was great since this pattern is both beautiful and difficult to find. I picked up the first knob, and my heart sank. The shank had been cut off at the base and a nut soldered on. The dealer quickly explained they had been altered

to make of all things; drawer pulls!?! I was quoted \$20.00 each, as is, and now I was faced with a tough decision. Lacking the pattern in my collection, I decided to take a chance on both. Then the questioning began, was my decision a sound one?

Knowing my collecting habits, you would have to believe I had made a grave error in judgement. I generally don't collect altered items, nor promote polishing a collection believing the alteration of antique hardware has a negative impact on value. However, as a promoter of proper restoration, my decision was made with the hope that restoration would be possible. (see TDC #93)

My interest in various areas of hardware collecting has led to the study of construction techniques. I have discovered that most quality manufacturers used similar production methods. In my study I have measured, hammered, and sawn several damaged knobs in half; and in doing so, have unlocked some of their secrets. The H&D hardware purchased that day was manufactured using an early construction style technique. The knob body was cast in one piece and the shank was attached in a secondary procedure. This knowledge of manufacturing led me to purchase the altered pieces of hardware.

Using this production method, c.1860's-1870's knobs have shanks which are cast separately, then screwed into the body of the knob. Following installation of the shank, a small hole is drilled through the shank step (or lip) and directly into the body of the knob. A pin is then hammered through both,

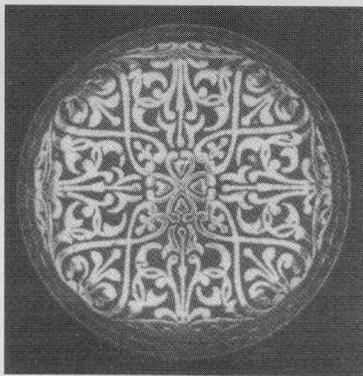
## ***Don't Throw That Away!!***

(cont'd)

holding them firmly together. This pin is quite easy to see on the backside of the knob. Manufacturers such as, *Metallic Compression Casting Co, Russell & Erwin, Mallory-Wheeler, Hopkins & Dickinson, Niles and Yale* all used this technique. Of course, the rest of the story is clear! Having two, early pinned type knobs with damage, made their restoration imminent. Another six months passed before locating the first "donor knob". It took quite some time to find a perfect match since it was important the new shank also be H & D of the same variety and patina. The "donor" also had to be damaged in order to avoid destroying another good quality knob regardless of its variety.

The first step in restoration was to practice on the "donor". The knob was placed in a vise, and using a hacksaw, the top of its body cut off. Inside it is easy to see how the pin was driven through the shank's lip and into the body of the knob. A small hammer and center punch were used to push the pin back out. This insured that the pin would not be scarred and could be used again. It is important to avoid pulling the pin out backwards since this would destroy it. Finally, in a counter-clockwise motion, the shank screwed out of the knob body.

Next was the removal of the damaged shank from the H102 knob. The body of the knob was still intact allowing the pin to be driven to the interior of the knob itself. The old shank was then screwed out, and the loose pin inside removed. The replacement shank was then



H-102

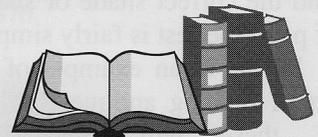
screwed in until tight, and all that remained was to install the original pin. Two techniques can now be used. First, the shank can be screwed in with an adhesive such as *Lock Tite*, the pin shortened and driven in flush with the shank's step. The second, a preferred method, entails drilling a small pilot hole through the original shank's step and into new metal of the knob body. Be extremely careful, the body needs to be protected from scarring and the hole drilled must be slightly smaller than the original pin to insure a snug fit.

Once I installed the "new" pin, the results were uncompromising. When the knob was placed with a group of similar types, there was no discernable difference. Using original construction technique and materials, the knob was restored to its original state without compromising the hardware's integrity, thereby saving a rare piece that would have been otherwise lost. Disclosure of the restoration done is vital since it would not be discernable unless brought to the potential new owner's attention.

Only one knob purchased that day has been restored. The search continues for another "donor" to complete the restoration of the remaining knob. The flashlight remains in my car, and early mornings on

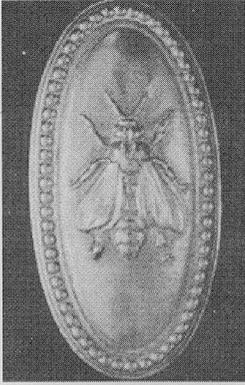
the weekend are still a regular thing. The success of restoring the first knob has me now looking at many items that I once quickly passed over. Whether a knob for its shank; a damaged door plate for a possible keyhole cover; or half of a hinge with its steeple, many of these items still have great value. So stop - take a second look and please; ***Don't throw that away!!***

## ***From the Archives***



By Steve and Barbara Menchhofer

For those of you who are attending this year's convention, now is the time to ponder what to take for your displays. The theme of this year's convention is Flora and Fauna Doorknobs (plants and animals). We all have doorknobs with plants or animals on them, but wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to tell about your doorknobs--age, manufacturer, and if there is related hardware in the same design. This is where your catalogs come into play. Get them out and study them. Even if you aren't attending the convention, it's a good idea to learn about your doorknobs. In this day and age of architectural restoration people are becoming more aware of the importance of original door hardware. For the preservation of antique doorknobs and related hardware we must keep learning about our hobby so that we can pass our knowledge on to others.



# Convention 2000 Update

**August 22-26**  
**Tuesday through Saturday**  
**DoubleTree Hotel**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Call the DoubleTree Hotel at (612-854-2244)  
for a room reservation. Be sure to mention you are a member of the ADCA  
to get the reduced room rate!

## **Tour Day** (Cost \$30/person)

**Wednesday, August 23**

We will tour three historic houses and have lunch at Dixie's in the historic Calhoun Beach Club.

## **Evening Reception**

**Wednesday, August 23**

Join owner and fellow ADCA member, Jim Schmitt at Art and Architecture in the warehouse district for a wine and cheese reception

## **Buy, Sell and Trade**

**Thursday and Friday, August 24 and 25**

In addition to wheelin' and dealin', there will be a presentation.

## **Open House**

**Thursday, August 24 from 7:00 - 9:00 pm**

A chance to give the public a look into the fascinating hobby of collecting door hardware. Victorian attire (optional) is always a welcome addition to this event.

## **Annual Meeting/Banquet**

**Friday, August 25**

To be held in the hotel's Grand Salon.

## **Member's Breakfast**

**Saturday, August 26**

Always delicious and a final chance to greet all of your old and new friends

## **Auction**

**Saturday, August 26**

This favorite activity follows the great breakfast. It is the culmination of the whole convention and is enjoyed by all.

## **Hospitality Suite**

**Wednesday through Friday evenings**

A place to come for conversation and a relaxing refreshment

## Don't Hesitate!

Make your hotel and convention reservations by June 1 to become eligible for the drawing to win a full ADCA registration refund!

## Best Wishes to the Zycs

Ray and Kae Zyc (#23) have been members for years. We want to wish them a happy **60th wedding anniversary** on June 15, 2000. This is truly a milestone. We understand that along with all those doorknobs there are also paperweights, and woodworking that occupy their time.

### Contributors

We would like to thank the following people for their contributions.

Win Applegate  
Len Blumin  
Tedi Fredrick  
Sally Hyslop  
Loretta Nemec  
Steve Rowe

### Surfin' the Web

While you are out there surfing the web take a look at [restorationcraftsmen.com](http://restorationcraftsmen.com).

Represented on this site is one of our members, Keith D. Miller (#456) of Atlanta, GA. Unfortunately it was still under construction, but we are told it will be up very soon, so try again.

If you would like to see your website mentioned, drop us an e-mail or note and we will let our members know how to find you on the web.



## Wooden Knobs - American and British

By Len Blumin

Wood doorknobs were popular with both American and British manufacturers. There are some distinct differences. American-made knobs usually feature a wood body attached to a metal shank, which in turn accepted a standard metal spindle. American knobs often feature an ornate design, but a number of simple shapes were offered, in a variety of woods such as maple, oak, cherry and walnut.

The British knobs usually have a wooden shank, often reinforced or thickened to accept the metal spindle. In addition, the British knobs gain distinction by the use of fine woods (ebony, lignum vitae, etc.), simple designs, and roses that are firmly attached to the knobs.

We have featured a dozen wooden knobs in this issue. Len Blumin numbers the knobs for identification. There is a science to this numbering system. You will notice that similar designs are numbered in a series.

In the Jan-Feb 2000 (TDC #99) you will see another set of wooden knobs. Note that those with figures are numbered in the W-100 series. Those with designs are in the W-200 series. In this issue you find plain knobs of various shapes and diverse wood species in the W-300 listing. And finally, the W-400 series is for those knobs of British origin. Although most are very "plain", the variety of shapes makes them of interest to the collector.

To complete the tour of the numbering system, see TDC #99 where W-500 represents miscellaneous wooden knobs, such as composite material knobs. This particular one has a German silver overlay.

### New Member Policy

Membership in ADCA runs from July 1 through June 30. Anyone joining between July and April is enrolled for the current membership year and receives all the issues of **The Doorknob Collector** for that membership year.

New members after April 30th will be enrolled as members for the following membership year and will begin receiving **The Doorknob Collector** with the Jul-Aug issue.

### Convention Package

If you have not, received the Convention 2000 packet please contact us and we will see that you get one right away.

### Keep in Touch



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