

The Doorknob Collector

Number 103

September - October 2000

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

Knobs on Display

For those of you who have not been lucky enough to attend a convention we thought you might like to see what the display contest is all about. Each year a theme is chosen and attendees plan their displays around the theme. This year it was "Flora and Fauna". Members were to display knobs depicting either plants or animals. Well, the creativity of the group seems to expand each year. Just seeing these displays gives impetus to all members for the next year's displays. They are great fun for those who put them together and for those who enjoy the show.



The flowers on the wedding cake might break your tooth if you tried to eat them. This is Cheryl Blam's winning entry and as all wedding cakes are, it is a picture to the eyes.

Gardens seemed to be a theme that many of the members naturally thought of when putting together their displays. The pretty maiden in Ardythe Leaders' display invited all to take a walk along her flower garden path.

The butterflies found some of the flowers irresistible in Carol Meermans' display and flew in to take a closer look (see pg. 2). And Rich Kennedy remembered that all good gardeners must water their prized blooms (see pg. 3).

Grandma DeLange's rock garden has a "best friend" along for the tour. Florence Jarvis has blooms coming up through the ivy in her mirror garden (see pg. 2).

The Southwest is beautifully represented in the display by Debbie Fellenz (see pg. 3).



Newsletter Deadline - October 19, 2000

Newsletter will go to press on October 22nd

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Wanted Your Most Interesting Doorknob Story

By Dave Becker

The City Museum of St. Louis will be hosting what is hoped to be the greatest doorknob extravaganza ever. Organized by Bruce Gerrie, Architectural Director of the Museum, with help from Pattie Ramey and Dave Becker. The exhibit will open the third week of November and run through May 2001. Titled "Jewelry for Buildings - The Art of Antique Doorknobs in the City," the exhibit will feature a state-of-the-art collaborative effort, largely possible thanks to the support from ADCA membership. Win Applegate, Len Blumin, Maud Eastwood, Steve Menchhofer, Steve Rowe and Web Wilson are just some of the ADCA members who have volunteered to loan portions of their collections to this exhibit.

The antique hardware will be displayed in lighted secured fixtures from a local period hardware store. Several display strategies will be utilized including styles, periods, manufacturers, and suites of hardware, with the intention of



educating the public on the artistic merit of Victorian Hardware.

One of the things we are looking for to enhance the exhibit is your exciting, interesting, or passionate doorknob pursuit stories! The story is the theme, not the rarity of the individual item. Our intent is to detail the personal side of collecting antique hardware similar to the appeal generated by the PBS series, *The Antique Road Show*. If you have any stories that you would like to share, submit them to Bruce as soon as possible.

Our goal is to make this the greatest doorknob exhibit ever. If you have any special or unique hardware items that you believe would enhance the exhibit please let Bruce know. Additional items that we are still looking for include emblematic hardware from historic buildings and fraternal knobs and of course, that rare piece that few have seen.

We are hopeful that many of the ADCA Members will be able to visit and enjoy the exhibit when it opens this fall. If you need any additional information Bruce can be contacted at:

The City Museum,
% Bruce Gerrie,
701 North 15th Street,
St. Louis, MO 63103

email: BGERRIE@AOL.COM

Phone: (314) 231-2423

Website:

www.citymuseum.org/home.html



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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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Convention Memories by an Observer

by Debbie Fellenz

- Carol Applegate being the "water girl" for the tour bus
- Wind Applegate pulling a nice knob out of his pocket and saying that he found it at the architectural antique shop that we visited
- Barb Menchhofer leaving her camera on the tour bus after an announcement was made that nothing of value be left on the bus.
- Members using a cane should have a race
- Len Blumin saying that a cane is useful for keeping the elevator door open
- Countless trips to the mall
- Len Blumin jokingly saying that the DeLanges should be excluded from the display contest since they win so often
- Lee Kaiser's busy table since she had apples and chocolates to give away (but no free knobs)
- Win Applegate's dollar sale
- The "send Win on vacation" fund so the rest of us could buy something on ebay
- The "Oklahoma land rush"-look of the public rushing into the room when it opened. Most collectors were hoarse at the end
- The bittersweet tribute to Arnie that left many members in tears
- Win Applegate buying a knob at the auction that Arnie made, then giving it to Tedi Fredrick
- Jackie Rode giving her wrong number at the auction and Gene DeLange saying that it was a nice try
- The good food at the banquet and a great convention overall

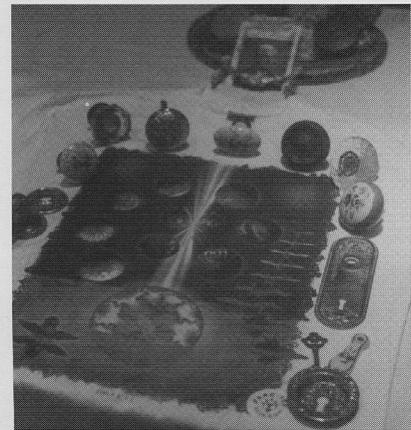
Lock Collectors Show

From Charles Stuttig

The Lock Museum of America will hold its 28th annual lock collector's show on Saturday, October 7th at the Terryville High School in Terryville, Connecticut.

Set up begins at 8am and show hours are from 9am to 4 pm. Tables will be \$30.00 and includes morning coffee and danish.

A noon buffet lunch will be available for \$5.00 per person. Reservations were to be in by Sept 1, 2000 (*we have missed their deadline in this newsletter because of the late convention*). If you have any questions concerning the show please call Geri Stuttig at 203-869-6260.



New Members

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

Dave Becker	Kirkwood, MO
Sharon Smith	Mesa, AZ
Kathy Clements	Tucson, AZ
B. Balough	Winters, CA
Lincoln Charles	Franklin, NH
Paul Manly	St. Paul, MN
Brian Leo	Richfield, MN
Jay Core	Little Rock, AR
Patricia Curley	Green Village, NJ
Mary Fayfield	Orono, MN
Margie Mudek	St. Paul, MN
Garlan Gudger, Jr.	Cullman, AL
S. Judith Lacy	Stillwater, MN
Kimberly Schaffel	Oakdale, MN
Tosh Gregg	SantaFe, NM
James Sutherland	Edina, MN
Bill Toberman	Plymouth, MN

Display Winners

Best Metallic Exhibit
Miriam and Gene DeLange

Best Mixed Composition
Cheryl Blam
Honorable Mention to
Carol Meermans

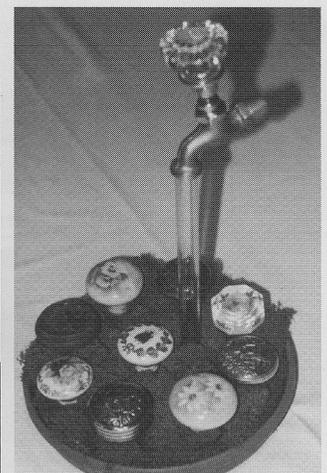
Best Pre-Twentieth Century
Steve Rowe

Best Novice Exhibit
Dick Hartley
Honorable Mention to
Nick Doto

Best of Show
Miriam and Gene DeLange

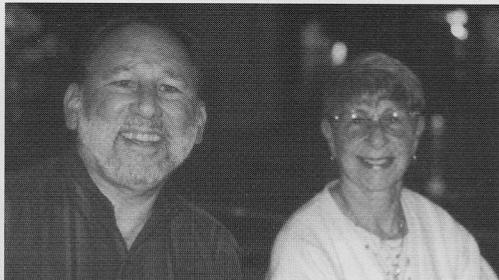


Display Contest Winners left to right:
Nick Doto, Dick Hartley,
Carol Meermans, Cheryl Blam, Steve Rowe,
Miriam and Gene DeLange

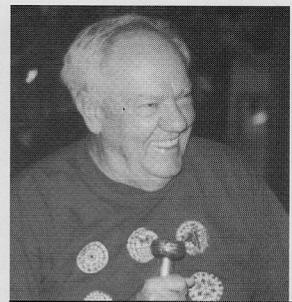




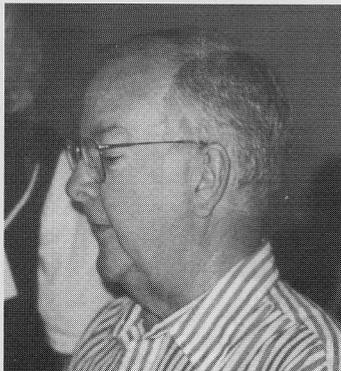
Brad Widseth



Marshall and Vicki Berol



Joe Mueller



Win Applegate



Barbara and John Hay



Dolores Fellenz



Zane Mead



Sally Hyslop and Rhett Butler



Lois and Phil Warrey



Dorothy Ann Miller



Helen Byington



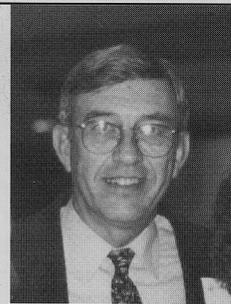
Loretta Neme, Bill Byington,
and Ardythe and Gerald Leaders



Cathy Galbraith



Barb and Steve Menchofer



Rich Kennedy



Alice Chadonich



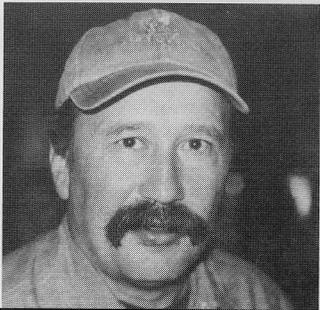
Debbie Fellenz, Helen Byington and Dolores Fellenz



Carlos Ruiz and Nick Doto



Cheryl Blam



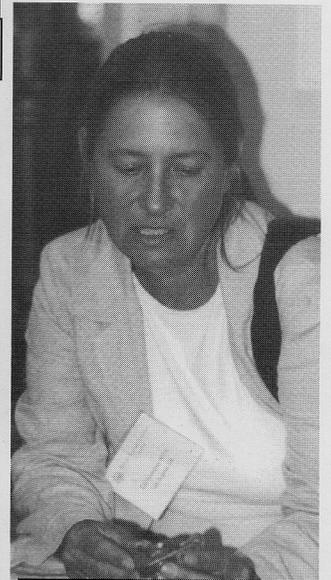
Bruce Gerrie



Traci Rowe



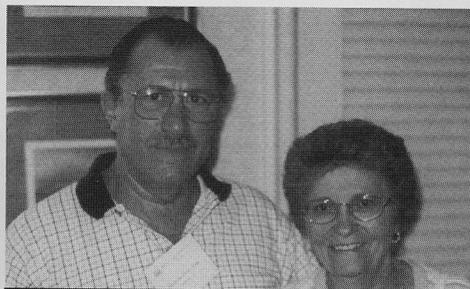
Dick Hartley



Liz Gordon



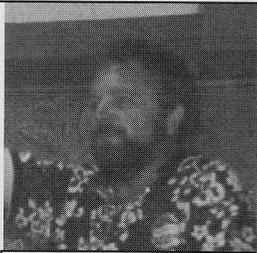
Candi Brehus, Maude Eastwood, Tedi Fredrick



Nick and Jean Doto



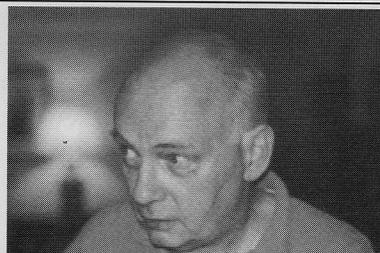
Lee Kaiser



Steve Rowe



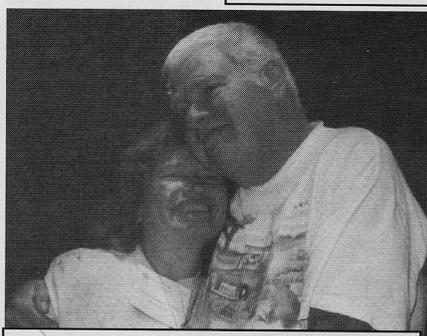
Rich Perris



Allen Joslyn



Carol Applegate



Carolyn and Dick Hubbard



Suzanne and Brad Kittel

A Delightful Find and a New Interest

By Grace Skibicki

Grace and her husband Sam have just recently joined the ADCA. They attended their first Convention in Minneapolis and met many of our members. She kindly consented to writing an article on how they got started in collecting doorknobs. Their story may sound very familiar to many of our members.



My husband, Sam and I fell into doorknob collecting by accident. Our introduction to doorknobs occurred on a very warm, humid August afternoon. The school gym was sticky and close. The occasional floor fan helped a little. But, we were willing to put up with the discomfort. Sam and I collect memorabilia of his hometown and this antique show had always yielded some finds in the past.

As usual, I was two booths ahead of him; Sam examines the displays in much greater detail than I do. Catching up with me, he talked about this "great doorknob" he had seen and it was for sale! Wow.

"A doorknob? What are you going to do with it?" He shrugged his shoulders. "I don't know. Look at it, I suppose.

Come on and see it. It's really something."

Reluctantly, I followed him. The owner, an elderly gentleman, was friendly and talkative. He reached underneath the table and unwrapped a set of beautiful glass doorknobs. The knobs were faceted and when I peered into the center, a myriad of lights winked back at me. It was as if I was looking into a kaleidoscope. I was captivated.

"Why are you selling this?" I asked, as nonchalantly as possible. "I bought the doorknobs with the intention of using them in a new house the wife and I were building," he said, "but, I lost them - hunted all over, couldn't find them, so we build the house without them."

"You found them, I see."

"Too late to use, so, I'm selling them. I told your husband he could have the set for forty dollars." Sam gave him the money and so it began. Now, when we visit the antique malls, the antique shows, flea markets and rummage sales we are on the lookout for glass knobs to add to our collection. We've spent the past five years checking under display tables, digging through pails and boxes of hardware occasionally quite successfully.

In the fall of 1999, Sam and I attended an outdoor antique market at Sandwich, Illinois. One of the first stalls we visited was dedicated to doorknobs and door hardware. There were racks of wooden knobs, baskets of glass knobs - a bonanza.

That day I saw my first wooden doorknob. I had never realized there was such an animal as a wooden knob. Looking back now, I wonder at my naiveté. Why couldn't a knob be made of wood? Until

then, we had never seen more than three or four knobs at any one site.

We were like kids in a candy store. "Look at this one."

"Oh, that's nice. How about this?"

This conversation went on for quite a while. But, finally, we settled on a glass knob and a wooden knob. When there was a lull in sales, Sam approached the dealer with our selection.

The two of them became caught up in a long conversation. Sam walked away with a business card and a brochure in his hand.

"Read this," he said, handing me the card. On the face of the card was printed, 'Antique Doorknob Collectors of America'. The brochure informed us how to become members. For the first time since we had begun collecting, we realized there were others who shared our interests. We weren't alone.

If we hadn't visited Sandwich, Illinois on that fall day, we would have missed the opportunity to attend the convention in Minneapolis this past month. What a disappointment that would have been!

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.

My Memories from Convention 2000

By Rich Kennedy

Our tour took us to three wonderful homes in the area. The American Swedish Institute was founded in 1929 by Swan J. Turnblad, a newspaper publisher and self-made millionaire.



Photo courtesy of
The American Swedish Institute brochure.
www.americanswedishinst.org

It is a marvel, with its spires and wooden carved interior. Note the carved fireplace and even the clock over the mantelpiece in the photo above. This gives you just a glimpse into an elegant home of yesteryear. I hope everyone saw the half-round pocket door, an engineering fete at its finest.

Our next stop was the Purcell Cutts house, a little tucked-in gem of history and a Frank Lloyd Wright look-a-like. It was open and airy and to everyone's surprise had those secret floor compartments (see photo) used for storage, an ingenious idea and space saver.

Our lunch at Dixie's Beach Club was definitely a delight to anyone's palette. The huge hamburgers were so filling that the idea of key lime pie for

desert was soon forgotten. Sorry no doggie bags here.

The press that the group received was remarkable. The convention was seen not only on local TV and print media, but also the BBC and CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Company) made sure that this was a truly international convention.

Live interviews were conducted on the bus with Valerie Friesen and Len Blumin.

The James J. Hill house was grand beyond belief! There was outstanding door hardware, along with wall sconces, a secret wall safe for the



Looking into a floor storage compartment

silverware, and a home organ. The elegant staircase and painting on the wall were a testament to the elegance of the Victorian era. Such grandeur

would be almost impossible to duplicate today

And as if the tour itself wasn't mind boggling enough, our last stop was at Art & Architecture. The owner, one of our own, Jim Schmitt provided us with refreshments while we hunted for hardware treasures. All in all it was an exciting and successful afternoon with friends.

The buying, selling and trading days were a blur. Deals were made and old friendships were re-kindled. The displays were more creative than ever and it was nice to see many new members participating in the festivities. We believe it may be a record number of visitors who came to the open house (more than 180 guests

signed in). But the real question is, "Did anyone talk with Flora or Fauna" anytime during the convention?

The banquet was sumptuous and afterwards a touching moment in the ADCA's history took place when the "Arnie Fredrick Award" was presented for the first time to Maude Eastwood for her outstanding contributions to the club over the years.

Saturday morning brought us together as a group for the last time. Breakfast was served as members checked out the items that were to be put up for auction. Jackie Rode continues to be our "auctioneer par excellence" with help from Marshall Berol, Steve Rowe and Hilary Applegate.

LOOKING FORWARD

By Allen Joslyn

Next year's convention will be held in August in the Lehigh Valley area of eastern Pennsylvania, probably in Bethlehem, PA. The valley is named after the Lehigh River that begins in the Poconos and runs into the Delaware River. Most major carriers such as United, Delta, Continental and Northwest serve the airport (ABE). It is about 80 miles by car from the Newark airport and 65 miles from the Philadelphia airport.

The surrounding area has many flea shows, antique malls and shops, and other types of entertainment, including the Renniger's flea market every Saturday. If you possibly can, plan to schedule several days before or after the convention in the area for some serious fun.

There is also a lot of interesting history in the area. From the middle of the 19th century until recently, the valley was a leading center of iron and steel production. Bethlehem was founded in 1741 as a Moravian town in which the church owned everything, and the church elders' consent was required for any major decision by its inhabitants; one citizen who had annoyed the elders had to propose six possible wives before he found one the elders would approve. Many parts of the old Moravian town survive in the center of Bethlehem. In 1904 Bethlehem Steel was founded in South Bethlehem, and it went on to become the leading fabricator of structural steel which was used to build the George Washington and Golden Gate bridges, numerous skyscrapers as well as Nike missile silos.

ADCA on the Worldwide Web

Recently we received an email from someone interested in our organization. I recognized the name as East Indian, but thought little of it until I asked for an address to which we could send some introductory information. The person said they had seen our website and had become interested. We sent the information off to New Delhi, India.

This is one reason we would like to get someone interested in keeping our website up to date. We did not realize that people were picking up our site through searches. If you think that you would like to do something for the club from home and have an inclination toward websites, please let us know. Become our WEB MASTER.

Whenever we get an inquiry by email we do encourage the person to visit the site, but this is the first time that someone from such a distance has indicated that they have visited the site before they were told how to get there. We have not registered with any search engine at this time because we don't have someone to update the site.

Possibly people find us through other sources. We are listed on the Maloney's Antiques & Collectibles Resource Directory at <http://www.CollectingChannel.com> under Clubs/Associations

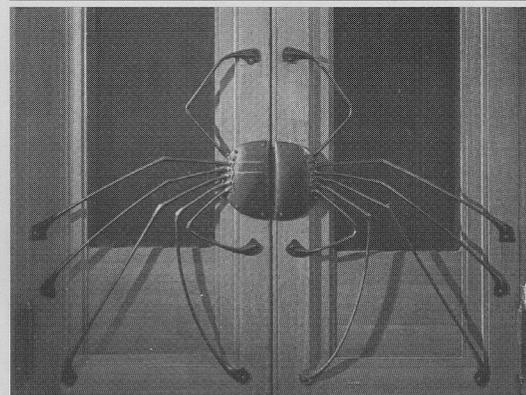
The Doorknob Exchange
Members are reminded that your dues entitle you to advertise items for sale, trade, or wanted at no charge. ADCA is

not responsible for any transaction or the condition of the items advertised.

Wanted: I'm looking for an electric doorbell plate that is brass, made by Sargent, and the style is Savonna.

Debbie Fellenz
2224 Cherokee St.
St Louis, MO 63118
(314) 776-8363

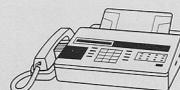
This spider handle is in Moscow and was designed by Shekhtel. Lee Kaiser sent this article from the Nov 1999 Architectural Digest Magazine. Perfect for Halloween.



Keep in Touch



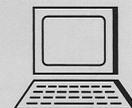
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