

# The Doorknob Collector



Number 188

November-December 2014

**A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America**

*A Nonprofit Organization Devoted to the Study and Preservation of Ornamental Hardware*

## EMBLEMATICS ON DISPLAY IN PORTLAND

BY ALLEN JOSLYN

The Architectural Heritage Museum in Portland OR has mounted a show of some 60 antique unique knobs from the Razor collection recently donated to it and the collections of the Bosco-Milligan, Cathy Galbraith and Philip Austin. These are knobs made for special uses rather than general instal-

lation. They can fall into one or more of three classifications:

**Special or Proprietary Hardware:** created for a specific client who owns the design. Architect-designed hardware created for a specific building is a common type. The client has the option of destroying the pattern, retaining it for further use or permitting the manufacturer to produce it for the open market.

**Monogram Hardware:** includes the initials of the business, organization or individual for which it was made.

**Emblematic hardware:** includes logos, figures, symbols, heraldry or other decoration that reflects the character or use of the building. It was often used in commercial or fraternal applications such as Masonic temples, Elks lodges or banks.



Examples include the knobs manufactured for the Old Executive Office Building in Washington, D.C. by Hopkins & Dickinson (TDC 171) or Woodmen of the World knobs used in their lodges (pictured here). By the 1920s, the popularity of ornate hardware had faded, but some striking examples continued to be produced into the 1930s, such as the Buffalo hardware for the Department of the Interior, (TDC 179) or the Shushan Airport in New Orleans (TDC 116).

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## IN MEMORIAM



**Richard Zillman (#370)**, a long time ADCA member, died suddenly on August 12, 2014. He was born in Fairfield, Iowa and graduated from the University of Iowa with a degree in Business.

Richard and his wife, Cher, were active in many restoration and preservation organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area, among them, San Francisco Heritage, The Art Deco Society (where he and Cher dressed in vintage costumes),

California Historical Society, California Preservation Foundation and The National Trust for Historic Preservation. He was a founding member of The Victorian Alliance of San Francisco.

For those who attended the 2004 ADCA Convention in San Francisco, Richard and Cher generously opened their historic home on 280 Divisadero Street to our tour. Richard loved the history of the Victorian homes of San Francisco, and was always happy to impart his knowledge of the era. [See the March-April 2004 issue of the *Doorknob Collector* for the 280 Divisadero Street house history.] Always a "gentle man" as well as a "gentleman", Richard will be missed.



Submitted by Vicky Berol

## 75 NEW CATALOGS ADDED TO THE ADCA WEBSITE

75 additional catalogs have been added to the list of catalogs for sale on the ADCA website. Catalogs may be purchased on the "Antique Catalog Orders" page of the ADCA website (<http://www.antiquedoorknobs.org/AntiqueCatalogOrders.htm>).

For a limited time, all 75 newly added catalogs may be purchased for the special discounted rate of \$2500! This is a savings of 30% if all 75 of the new catalogs were purchased individually! Not only is this a great deal and an excellent way to expand the size of your personal research library, but also a wonderful way to support ADCA.

Or, *all* 149 items on the catalog order form may be purchased for the special discounted rate of \$5,000. This is a savings of 35% if all 149 items were purchased individually!

Buyers who take advantage of these special offers will receive their catalogs on a thumb drive—shipped via USPS Priority Mail—in order to eliminate the chore of downloading so many files.

Please note that individually purchased catalogs are available as PDF downloads only.

Bibliographical information is provided when known, including title (in italics), date of publication, pagination, and page size (height x width). Catalogs are complete unless otherwise noted.

Moreover, Maud Eastwoods' foundational works on hardware,

### The Doorknob Collector ©



Published six times a year by  
**Antique Doorknob Collectors of  
America, Inc**

P.O. Box 803,  
Hackettstown, NJ 07840

Annual Membership in US \$25.00  
age 18 or younger US\$10.00  
Foreign rates on request.

Founded Sept 1981, the **Antique Doorknob Collectors of America** is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization devoted to the study and preservation of ornamental hardware.

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long since out of print, have been digitized and are now offered in the section of Books for Sale: her first book, published in 1976, The Antique Doorknob, and her second book, published in 1982, Antique Builders Hardware: Knobs and Accessories, as well as its Supplement No. 1.

See insert for listing.

## 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:** I would like to trade my smaller but rarer Doggie bell ringer, 2 inches in diameter, with correct shaft for a normal Doggie knob. See pictures.

Mike Smith (#894) [arkansaswms@gmail.com](mailto:arkansaswms@gmail.com)



**Wanted:** A pair of these Fuller Ball Type Faucets (see picture on left) for a bathroom sink. Good reproductions are acceptable.

Wilfredo Ortiz (#742) 773-837-1943



*2015 ADCA Convention  
Pasadena, California  
August 5-8th,*

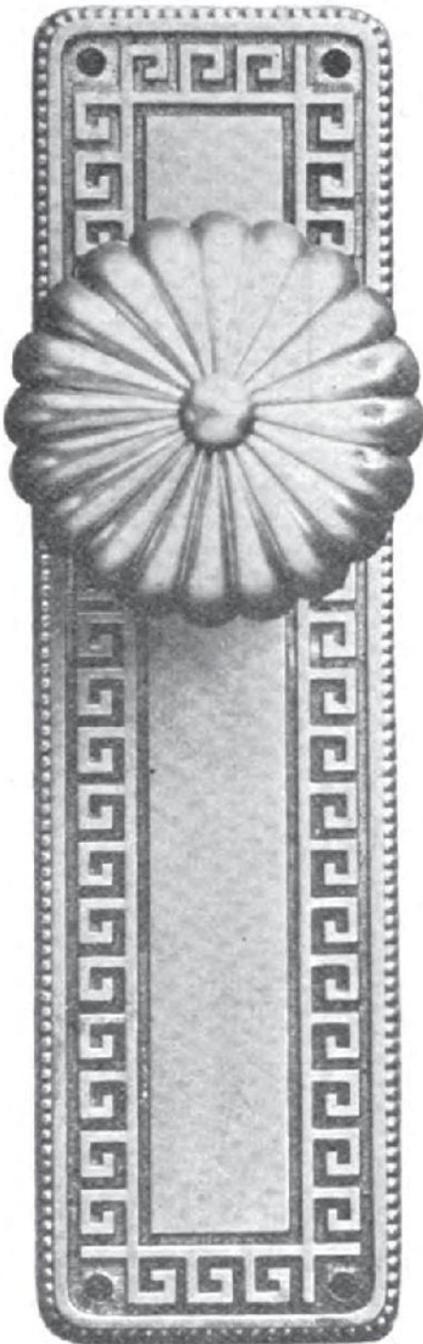
## LATE ADVANCES IN BUILDERS' HARDWARE

From an 1895 article in *The Inland Architect and News Record* [Vol. XXV. No.4]

Contributed by Paul Woodfin

**AS** the matter of builders' hardware is becoming daily of greater importance and demanding more and more attention, we have felt that a brief history of the rapid changes and advancement in this line could not fail to be of interest to our readers.

To those who are not familiar with the subject it seems as though the progress had been very rapid. Certainly, when comparing the builders' hardware of today with that of thirty years ago there has been a great step in advance, but most of the advance in the line of art has been within the last fifteen or twenty years. Thirty years ago there was practically nothing know except common black japanned cast-iron hinges, dark mineral, white porcelain and glass knobs, and if anyone desired anything different or better, they were limited to the use of electro or hand plated silver or gold on plain surfaces. There was no such thing as are in hardware.



In 1868, Rankins, of Philadelphia, produced a few knobs and escutcheons in white metal, plated in dark copper. About this time P.&F. Corbin put on the market a line of solid bronze metal, and Russell & Erwin brought out their line of compression bronze and lava knobs. In the latter part of 1872, Hopkins & Dickinson Manufacturing Company, of Newark, New Jersey, started in with a line of what was then called art hardware. In this condition the business remained with various changes until the latter part of 1886, when the late John W. Root conceived the idea that the hardware for a building ought to be made of special designs to harmonize with the character of the building on which it was to be used. Acting on this idea, he designed the hardware for the Phenix Insurance building which Burnham & Root were then erecting, and in consultation with Mr. Lockett of the Orr & Lockett Hardware Company, of Chicago, this design was made not only with the object of having something special and in perfect harmony with the character of the building, but with a view to obtaining as nearly as possible a reproduction of the old statuary bronze. The hardware was executed by the Yale & Towne Manufacturing Company, and has proved an unqualified success. The designs were complete, extending to the hinges, which were made extra heavy with five knuckles and loose pins instead of loose joints, as experience with the heavy doors of the Board of Trade, the Home Insurance building, and some others, satisfied Mr. Lockett that it was impossible to get mechanics to put on three or more hinges on a door so the weight and wear would be equally distributed. The experience in this building was entirely satisfactory, and they are now universally accepted as the proper thing.

The following year another departure was decided on in the hardware for the Rookery office building, when for the first time the now widely used Bower-Barffed black iron builders' hardware was introduced by Orr & Lockett. The design for this was also

made by the late John W. Root, and was certainly original, entirely unlike anything ever before attempted, and excited considerable comment.

For several years there was no radical change made in the finish or quality of the hardware. Numberless different designs were made in these finishes, but no change in material until the years 1890 and 1891, when Orr & Lockett again established a new standard by the introduction of aluminium [sic] hardware in special designs for the Monadnock, Venetian and the Isabella buildings, and their last achievement is the hardware which they have just furnished in a special solid silver metal for the Marquette office building. The hardware for the Columbus Memorial building was also made from a special design in a particular shade of light copper, which harmonizes beautifully with the mahogany wood on which it is placed. The hardware for the Chicago Herald building, the Hartford Insurance building, the Title and Trust building, the Chicago Stock Exchange, the Champlain building, the Old Colony building, the Woman's Temple, the Auditorium, the Omaha Bee, the Marshall Field building, and the New York Life, all furnished by Orr & Lockett, is all of special designs suited to each particular building, but they do not mark as do the others previously mentioned, a distinct epoch in the art.

ORR AND LOCKETT  
HARDWARE CO  
50 State St (OPPOSITE MASONIC TEMPLE)  
and 71 Randolph St.

To illustrate some of the various designs executed by us & to show the progress we have made in the use of the various metals & finishes as applied to Builders Hardware we refer you to the following large Buildings. 1. PHOENIX executed in STATUARY BRZ in 1886 & 7. 2. ROOKERY in BOWER BARRE IRON in 1887 & 1888. 3. VENETIAN BUILDING in ALUMINUM in 1890 & 91. 4. COLUMBUS MEMORIAL BUILDING in LIGHT COPPER in 1892 & 93. 5. MARQUETTE BLDG in special SOLID SILVER METAL in 1894 & 95. We have also furnished nearly all the large Office buildings, Hotels, Railway Depots & the handsomest private Residences in Chicago.

We were the ORIGINATORS of all the above work and CLAIM to have done MORE for the ADVANCEMENT of ART in BUILDERS' HARDWARE than any other concern in this country.

It must not be supposed, however, that this period has been one of uninterrupted progress, as would seem to be the case from the foregoing statement, for the fight has been a hard one for those whose hearts, as has been the case with Mr. Lockett, were set on a real and permanent advancement. No sooner was a thoroughly first-class article produced that the market was flooded with imitations of various degrees of worth or worthlessness. It is true as a whole, however, that in spite of all backsets the advance within the past few years has been surprising, and there are now on the market a large number of very excellent designs in almost every conceivable finish.

No one not familiar with the builders' hardware business can form anything like a fair conception of the immense amount of detail work involved in furnishing any really fine residence or be handled by any person of average intelligence. Today it requires a specialist, a man of great patience, exactness, with some knowledge of mechanics, a familiarity with architectural drawings, an artistic taste, a wide experience, and a knowledge of the immense variety of goods made by the different factories.



**Broad Street Station  
Pennsylvania Railroad  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**



The Pennsylvania Railroad built their Philadelphia station just west of City Hall in 1881 to designs by the Wilson Brothers. In 1893 architect Frank Furness more than doubled the size of the original station, with twelve tracks extending from the Schuylkill River to the station atop a “Chinese Wall” which divided this section of the city into two parts. The 1893 station housed the administrative headquarters for the railroad in grand Victorian splendor, along with a grand waiting room and services expected from one of the largest and most profitable railroads along the east coast. The hardware was manufactured by Chicago Hardware Company in bronze with a custom PRR monogram (VDA O-179). The station served the railroad until 1933 when a new station was built at the Schuylkill River. Railroad offices remained at Broad Street Station until 1952, when the building was closed. The station was demolished in 1953, replaced by Penn Center which includes some five million square feet of commercial space, becoming the new business center for the city.



Broad Street Station, with the 1881 station at center right and the 1893 station at center. City Hall is seen at the right edge of the photo. Source: Wikipedia, [Broad Street Station \(Philadelphia\)](#)

**Century Building  
Saint Louis, Missouri**

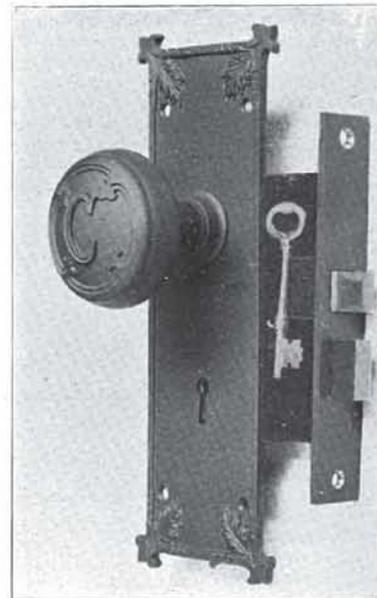


The Century Building, designed by architects Raeder, Coffin and Crocker, was completed in 1896 and was a prime office building located across the street from the Federal Building and Post Office. The building also contained a theatre and occupied an entire half-block with the later Syndicate Trust Building. The Century Building was faced with Georgia marble, had ornamental ironwork by Winslow Brothers, and iron hardware by Yale & Towne through Shapleigh Hardware of Saint Louis. The building was featured in an article of the August 1897 edition of the *Inland Architect & News Record*, including the photos at left. The Century Building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002, but sat vacant for several years and was demolished in 2004 to build a parking garage, despite there being many other vacant lots nearby which could have provided space for a parking garage.



**HARDWARE.**

The hardware for the Century building is all of special design. The first floor is genuine bronze metal. The upper stories are furnished throughout in Bower-Barff goods. The corridor and lavatory doors are furnished with pneumatic door checks and



**BOWER-BARFF LOCK AND MONOGRAM.**

springs of the latest device. The corridor doors are hung on extra heavy butts, three to each door, and provided with extra heavy cylinder office locks, special boxed extension and lip strike. Security of key system is assured in the fact that there is no master or general pass key. All communicating doors or doors

## Our Business Members

These are paid advertisements. The ADCA assumes no responsibility. For further information about these businesses see the Resource section on our website: [www.AntiqueDoorknobs.org](http://www.AntiqueDoorknobs.org).

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