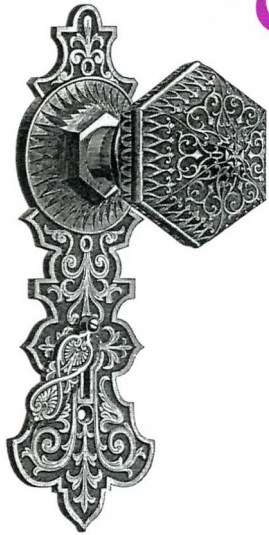


The Doorknob Collector



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

Antiquedoorknobs.us **The New Version of *Victorian Decorative Art*** **to Premiere December 1, 2016**

By Steve Hannum and Paul Woodfin

When the last update to Len Blumin's landmark *Victorian Decorative Art* was published by the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America in 2010, editor Win Applegate predicted that the next update could have as many as 1,000 additional knobs and be published in late 2011. While about five years late, and a reinvention as a web-based publication, the website www.antiquedoorknobs.us will debut on December 1 with more than 2,150 doorknobs featured (as of 11/11/2016). Site features include:

- Photos of almost all doorknobs are now in high-resolution color
- Each knob has its own page, many with expanded information and alternate photos
- The site allows searches using the box at the bottom of each page, which will return a list of knobs based upon the keywords entered by the user
- Easy navigation using the letter menus at the top of the page
- Listing of Manufacturers

When the Board of Directors decided unanimously in 2014 to transition the next version of *Victorian Decorative Art* to be a web-based resource, there were many advantages. These include:

- Updates can be made real-time in a matter of minutes, and additions can be created and made available to users on a regular basis (at least monthly). A periodic e-mail will notify members of updates and additions are made to the site. In contrast, each paper version took years to produce, and any errata had to wait until the next edition for correction.
- Members can use the comment box on each page to help identify the manufacturers, dates, and any other information regarding a doorknob. In time this site will likely become the most complete reference for door hardware in the world, compiling the knowledge that the many members of the ADCA have into this web resource.
- Site is available anywhere, anytime as long as you can connect to the internet. The site will also have PDFs available for download of each letter page, but not individual knob pages.

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The costs of developing and maintaining the website requires that the ADCA charge for access to the site, just as the club has previously charged for new editions of the printed VDA. However, the price is very small for members:

- ADCA Individual members will pay an annual \$10.00 membership fee for access to the website, as long as their ADCA membership is maintained.
- ADCA Business Members will pay an annual \$10.00 membership fee for access to the website, as long as their ADCA membership is maintained. ADCA Business Members can be listed on the “Where to Buy” in a format which you may provide.
- Non-ADCA members will pay \$45.00 for an Individual membership and \$120.00 for a Business membership to the antiquedoorknobs.us website.
- Special pricing will also be available in the future for libraries, museums, and professional organizations.

On December 1, click on the Membership tab, join www.antiquedoorknobs.us, and enjoy browsing through this great new resource.

MORE ABOUT “MOTHER” MAUD

For those who were lucky enough to have known Maud Eastwood, and those who have only heard about her, there is a wonderful segment on [Youtube](#) about her and her hometown, Chitwood, Oregon. Search for “Chitwood Oregon Town” and click on the segment entitled “Chitwood: An Oregon Ghost Town Near Newport”.

She earned that honorific by starting doorknob collecting as a recognized activity. Before her there were a few lonely folks, enamored of doorknobs but worried that their neighbors and friends might indeed have correctly assessed their mental condition. In 1976 she published *The Antique Doorknob*, an invaluable guide to knobs and what was known about them at the time. Word of it gradually spread and a movement began. Rich and Faye Kennedy stoked the fire with a newsletter, “The Doorknob Collector” in 1977. Its second issue started with an article entitled “You’re Not Alone”. And we no longer were. Maud was also instrumental in founding the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America.

As the program explains, she was born in Chitwood when it was a small but lively village on the Corvallis and Eastern Railroad, where trains would take on fuel, water and passengers. But eventually came a new paved road to the coast, automobiles and trucks. The railroad discontinued service through Chitwood. A covered bridge was built in 1926 (after Maud was born), and it is for that bridge – which is about all that is left of Chitwood – that the area is now known.

After a long period away from Chitwood, Maud moved back to raise sheep and pursue doorknobs. Every conversation or email exchange about knobs would normally begin with a report on her shearing, or end with her leaving to catch an errant sheep.

She was a wonder, and it is awesome to see and hear her again.

The Doorknob Collector ©



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How to Classify a Doorknob

Many of our newer members may wonder how to to classify their knobs and thus find a doorknob on www.antiquedoorknobs.us. Throughout the TDC newsletter we use a combination of letters and numbers to describe a knob. These letter categories come from Victorian Decorative Art by Len Blumin, one of our members. Below is a description of how Len has classified antique knobs to make identification easier for all.

- A. **Representational Designs:** have a figure or scene on them; faces, birds, animals, buildings, trains, etc.
- B. **Asymmetric Designs:** have a design that looks different from each angle. Often there is no top or bottom to the design. However, they might also have a flowerpot or the like that indicates the direction the knob should be displayed.
- C. **Odd-Shaped Knobs:** may be six-sided, heart-shaped, look like pillows, or some other unusual shape.
- D. **Field or Diaper Patterns:** are often designs within designs, but the design of the knob usually covers the entire head of the knob.
- E. **Spirals and Swirls:** the design radiates from the center in a swirling or spiral pattern or there are fanciful swirls of leaves or geometric design on the knob.
- F. **Twofold Symmetry:** these knobs are identified if an imaginary centerline can be drawn across the knob and the design will be fully repeated on both sides of the line.
- G. **Threefold Symmetry:** likewise these knobs have a triangular design on them that could be divided equally and have the same design in each of three sections.
- H. **Fourfold Symmetry:** a design that can be divided equally into four like sections.
- I. **Fivefold Symmetry:** it becomes obvious that the design is now equally divided into five parts of similar design.
- J. **Sixfold Symmetry:** six repeats of the design decorate the knob. They sometimes have a central design of slightly different count; for example there may be a four-pointed star, a dot, or the like in the center.
- K. **Eightfold Symmetry:** these knobs usually have a rather busy appearance. Again the center may have a different count.
- L. **Radial Symmetry:** these include knobs with designs that radiate from the center of the knob and have a count that would not be included above.
- M. **Concentric Symmetry:** these appear to be circles within circles. However, the circles may be made of leaves, flowers, flower petals, designs, etc.
- N. **Oval Knobs:** somewhat self explanatory. However, this category also includes knobs that have irregular form that appears in the general form of an oval.
- O. **Emblematic & Fraternal:** have been moved to letter P, and grouped by design.
- P. Emblematic**
 - P-100 Seal designs
 - P-200 Logo, Symbol, Word and Number designs
 - P-400 Multi-Letter designs
 - P-600 School & College designs
 - P-700 Single Letter designs
 - P-800 Club and Fraternal designs
- U. **Glass Knobs**
- V. **Composite Knobs**
- W. **Wooden Knobs:** may be carved, turned, or pressed, and in many types of wood: oak, walnut, etc.

From TDC #93, with updates.

WILLIAM TONKS & SONS

By Allen S. Joslyn

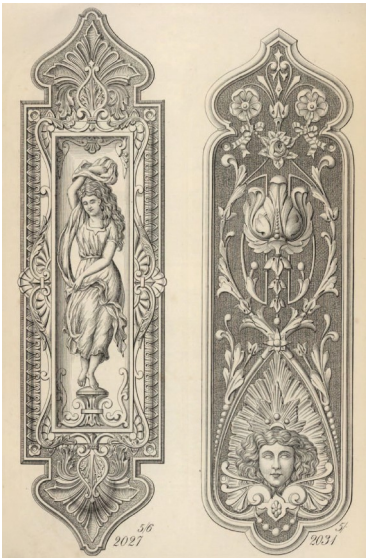
Birmingham's role in the British Industrial Revolution has been compared to today's Silicon Valley. It was right in the middle of the area of England, the West Midlands, which was known as "The Workshop of the World" and it specialized in heavy metal production and brass fabrication, from toys to decorative items (such as brass candlesticks). Indeed, brass seems to have been the metal of choice for almost everything.



Perhaps the foremost producer of fancy brass-works, cast and wrought, was William Tonks & Sons. It produced architectural hardware, art metalware, ecclesiastical metalware, and due to the Victorians' fascination with death, coffin hardware. But that only begins to describe the variety of its production.

William Tonks founded the firm in the late 18th century, and it won gold medals at the 1851 Crystal Palace Exposition in London, the 1862 London and the 1855 Paris Expositions, among other awards. It produced a number of catalogues: its riotous 1877 catalogue is available from the ADCA archives.

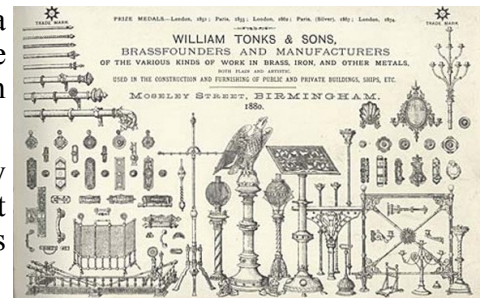
In addition to pages from that catalogue, shown here is a brass fingerplate and knob, with a picture of the Tonks trademark; it also used a



larger "sun" mark with two eyes and a mouth and often "W T & S". The piece was registered with the English

patent office in 1883.

The Tonks firm survived various iterations, and eventually found itself a part of the Ingersoll-Rand Group. Unfortunately not that much of Tonks' 19th century hardware seems to have found its way over the ocean, but hope springs eternal (as does eBay).



References:

Oldcopper.org

Doreen Hopwood, *The Brass Industry and Brass Workers in Birmingham*, *West Midlands History*, April 2012



Indianapolis Welcomes “The Other Guys”

We all know the biggest names in door hardware—P & F Corbin, Russell & Erwin, Yale & Towne, and Sargent. But then there are “**The Other Guys**”, such as Branford, Hopkins & Dickinson, Lockwood, Chicago Hardware, Schroder, and many others. Most of the “Other Guys” made very nice and even great pieces of door hardware. So the theme for the 2017 Antique Doorknob Collectors Convention is “**The Other Guys**”. Come to Indianapolis, July 26 – 28, 2017 and bring your best doorknobs and door hardware made by “**The Other Guys**”. Be such and include items made by that most prolific of hardware makers: **Unknown**.

Speaking of knobs by Unknown, I received the picture at right which was taken a few years ago of a stunning doorknob. It will appear as J-12400 in the new VDA web site. The border gives it the appearance of being an early design. Is it owned by one of our members? And does anyone know the maker?



Convention Notes

By Paul Woodfin

I attended my first convention in 2012 in Buffalo, and was welcomed by some of the finest and most knowledgeable people you will ever meet. Faye, Rich, and Win invited me to ride with them for the first tour day, and I learned a lot about the club and collecting. At the Roycroft Inn, I was greeted by “Abtexusa? Justnobn” from Steve and Sheila, since I had acquired a lot of my early collection from Steve on eBay. Meeting Dale, the Blams, the De Langes, and everyone else was a lot of fun. At the airport on Sunday, Steve Rowe was also waiting for a flight and we spent a good bit of time talking. Steve asked me “did you get anything good, and are you happy with what you got?” I definitely was, and the sage advice offered over the next half hour was memorable.

At each convention, several awards are given:

- **Best in Show**, for the best overall doorknob and hardware display.
- **Best Theme Display**, which will focus in the best hardware display by the “Other Guys” in 2017.
- **Most Creative**, with members letting their artistic and creative sides show
- **The “Ugly”**, for the least beautiful doorknob in the eyes of those at the convention. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder on this one.

Members are encouraged to bring display(s) to the convention. Large or small, a display need only show a sample of hardware items effectively. Steve Rowe has a few antique Eastlake frames which fit in a suitcase and make for an excellent display if you are traveling by air.

Attending a convention is a great opportunity to collect hardware items you may be seeking, learn a lot from people who have been collecting for years, and building friendships with fellow collectors.

Hardware Auction Set for Day after Thanksgiving

By Web Wilson

Web Wilson (#266) has set up an antique doorknob and builders' hardware auction which will end on November 25, the day after Thanksgiving.

The catalog will be on line and open for bidding at LiveAuctioneers.com beginning on Tuesday, November 15. The auction will close live, on line, on Friday, November 25, beginning at 8 p.m. EST. More than 125 lots will sold.

Highlights including Holly pattern, War Department, Robinson, Mallory Wheeler, Russell & Erwin, huge Columbian PUSH plates, early styles, quality glass, several large lots of matching knobs and plates, plus numerous scarce and unusual pieces such as the ruler/paperweight (below) with flowers, swirls, and a little lift knob with the especially well-cast bull standing in strong relief.

For more information contact Web Wilson or visit www.webwilson.com and sign up for the newsletter.



When Steve Hannum goes Photographing...

Steve travelled to Bloomington, IL back in May to visit with ADCA members Andy Streenz and Laura Walden and to take photographs. Steve was able to identify the doorknob shown at right as originating from the McLean County Courthouse in Bloomington, which was built in 1903 and today is the McLean County Museum of History.





P & F Corbin
"Milan"
Passage Set

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:

Susan Neptune (#878) is looking for some of the knobs & rosettes shown at right.

Contact her at
suzneptune@gmail.com



In Memorium

Ann Estell (Member #191)

Ann E. Estell, 98, of West Orange, N.J., passed away on Friday, June 3, 2016. Ann was born in the Bronx, N.Y., and lived in West Orange for the past 50 years. She worked for Prudential in Newark, N.J., as a section head before marriage, and then later worked at Ceridian in East Hanover, N.J., in data processing, retiring at the age of 86. She was active in the PTA, Cub Scouts, the Orange Library, and was a subscriber to the Paper Mill Playhouse for 29 years. Ann was predeceased by her husband, Stanley, in 1986, and is survived by a daughter, Barbara, and two sons, George and Richard.

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The Doorknob Collector

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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.

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Albion Doors & Windows

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Fax: (call first): 707-937-0078
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Antique Door Hardware Collector

Owner: Thomas Iannucci
16624 Frederick Rd.
Mount Airy, MD 21771
Phone: 240-595-1115



Website: antiquedoorhardwarecollector.com/index.html

Bill's Key & Lock Shop

Owner: Andy Streenz
127 E. Beaufort St. Normal, IL 61761 or
402 N. Main St. Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: 309-827-5522 or 309.454.1713
Website: billskeyandlockshop.com
Email: locksmith@billskeyandlockshop.com



House of Antique Hardware

Owner: Roy Prange
3439 NE Sandy Blvd./PMB 106
Portland, OR 97214



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Email: Sales@HouseofAntiqueHardware.com

The Brass Knob

Owners: Donetta George
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