



The Doorknob Collector

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A Non-profit Organization Devoted to the Study and Preservation of Ornamental Hardware

The 2022 ADCA Convention will be a Blooming Time for Hardware

By Paul Woodfin

Hopefully everyone has made your reservations and are ready for our first convention in the Midwest in five years. As noted in the last newsletter, Bloomington, Normal and Peoria, IL will be our destination and the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington will be our venue, and July 20-23, 2022 are the dates. Please complete your registration packet (enclosed) and put your check in the mail, or register on-line using Paypal or Credit Card: www.antiquedoorknobs.org/convention

Our Convention theme is "Midwest Manufacturers & Mechanisms", so put together your displays featuring hardware by Chicago Hardware, Schroder, Adams & Westlake and many others, and creative hardware mechanisms like the Von Duprin's patented panic bars in theaters among many others. The articles on pages 3-5 show examples of iron sets by Chicago Hardware.

We have two planned days of tours by Vicky Berol (with advice from local members) and will see some fantastic hardware. Wednesday the 20th will be seeing the sites of Bloomington. The David Davis Mansion (at right), built by Abraham Lincoln's 1860 campaign manager, prominent attorney and judge, and later Lincoln's first Supreme Court appointment. Lunch will be at the Destihl Brewery, with a bit of education about the types of beers and processes (and tastings for those who want to partake). The Funk Prairie Home Museum offers a historic 1860s home and a stellar gem and mineral collection. Downtown has many antique and salvage shops.



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Thursday the 21st will be our visit to Peoria, by bus. Following a driving tour of the Historic District, our first stop will be the Pettengill-Morrison House (at right), followed by lunch at Kelleher's Irish Pub & Eatery. The Edward Easton House (a prominent local hardware dealer) and then the Wheels of Time Museum will complete our day. Make sure to visit Peoria Architectural Salvage sometime while you are in the area.

Friday will be buy/sell/trade all day, with the "Open to the Public" being late Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Hopefully will give community members ample opportunity for visitors to see (and buy) hardware and displays.

Saturday will have more buy/sell/trade, followed by lunch provided as part of your registration fee, the auction, and lastly the banquet. We hope to award the ADCA Educational Scholarship to several students, and hope to hear their presentations in person (as opposed to by Zoom in 2020). The Hospitality Room will be open Wednesday-Saturday evenings, which is a great place (along with in the convention room, at breakfast, at dinner, etc.) to get to know your fellow members and spouses better, to see old friends again, and make new ones.

We are hopeful that we will have a good mix of new members, veterans, and maybe some of the folks who met in 1981 and established the ADCA. The photo at below shows the attendees at the 1983 Convention in Naperville, IL (Bloomington is the 3rd Illinois convention). While styles have changed in almost 40 years (i.e. most do not wear coat and tie to the banquet) and many of the people have changed, we are the same group of fun-loving folks who appreciate fantastic hardware, showing off cool finds, helping each other get obtain items they are seeking, and making some new friends every year. The 42nd annual ADCA Convention will be a lot of fun, and we HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



The Doorknob Collector



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The Pabst Building

By Paul Woodfin and James Tomasello



When the Best family moved from Hesse to Milwaukee, they quickly put their brewing skills to use in their new homeland. What became Best Brewing was founded in 1844 by father Jacob and four of his sons. By 1860 Jacob Best was running the firm alone (his sons were involved with other brewers, including what became Miller). Frederick Pabst bought half of Best Brewing in 1863 from his mother-in-law (after Jacob's death), retiring from the steamship business. The company logo was a hop leaf below the letter B, which remains their logo today (see logo on doorknob below).

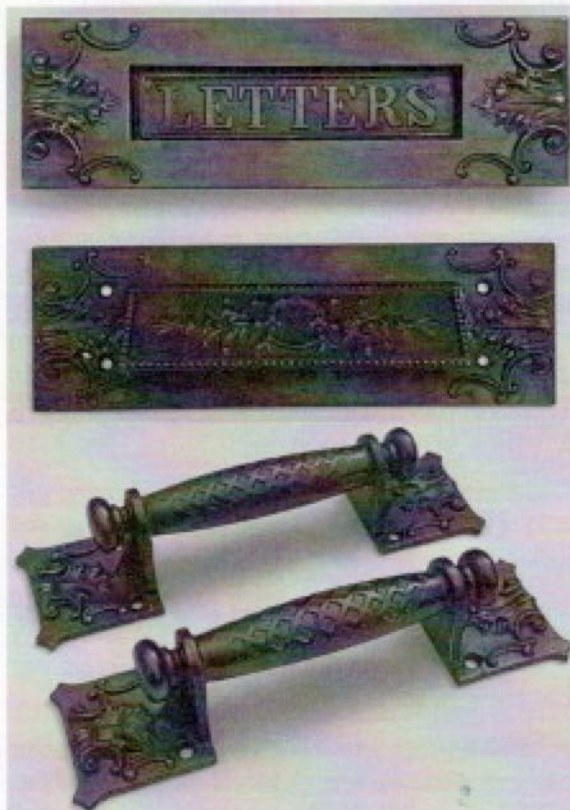
After the 1871 Great Chicago Fire, Best became the largest beer supplier in the country, after beginning to sate much of Chicago's thirst after the local breweries were destroyed and unable to begin brewing for some time. By 1893 they were producing more than 1 million barrels per year, far more than their nearest competitor.

The name of the company was changed to "Pabst" after the death of Pabst's mother-in-law (Mrs. Best), and he became a very wealthy man. He built a sprawling beer production complex on Milwaukee's near north side, and a palatial mansion on Wisconsin Avenue (toured during the 1994 ADCA Milwaukee convention). But most importantly to this article, he hired Chicago architect Solon Spencer Beman to build a 14 story office building/skyscraper (at left).

Beman was a well established architect in Chicago, having designed both George Pullman's office building on Michigan Avenue and the factory buildings and neighborhood community for the Pullman Palace Car Company. Beman had also designed a building for the Omaha Bee newspaper a few years earlier (see TDC #195). Beman, at this period in his career, loved Romanesque architecture but allowed his clients to influence the designs of their buildings. Pabst's Prussian heritage and Flemish detailing provides additional influences for the flourishes shown on the exterior of the building.

The steel-framed building was completed in 1891, and featured marble on the first floor entrance and hallways. Bronze-plated iron elevator cars & doors, and stair railings were by Winslow Bros. of Chicago (stair railings shown on bottom of next page, from 1894 catalog). The balusters were of a special design that many



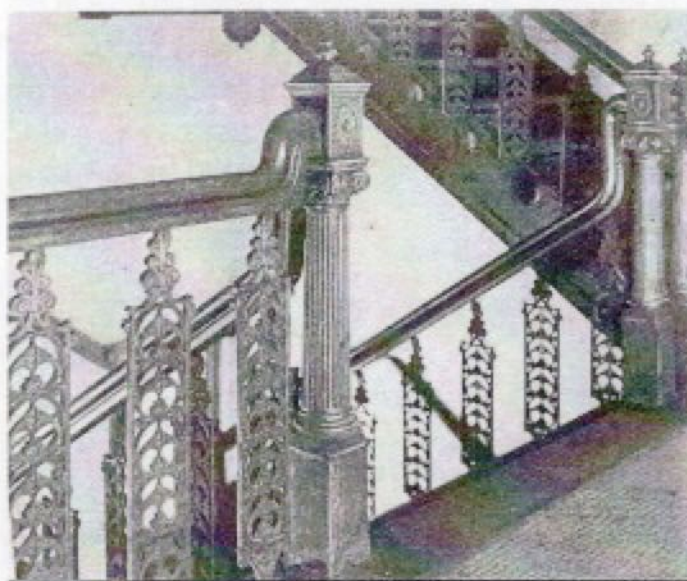


years ago was wrongly been attributed to the extant Second Leiter Building in Chicago. That building uses balusters of a different design by Winslow Bros.

The door hardware was by Chicago Hardware and as noted above, features the Pabst/Best logo on the knobs. The hardware is all cast iron with a Bower-Barff finish, although some appears to have been bronze plated like the work by Winslow Bros (perhaps Mr. Pabst's office had the plated hardware?). In their 1895 catalog the plates, letter slot and sash lifts (at left) are named the Orleans design. We do not know if this design was original for the Pabst Building, or whether it was an earlier stock design. But the Pabst was completed just 3 years after their 1888 catalog was published, so quite possibly this is where the design originates.

The Pabst remained the tallest building in the city until City Hall was completed in 1895. While remaining a popular office buildings due to location and size, the building suffered during the Great Depression and World War II. The elaborate pitched roof on the tower and wings began to leak, and after the war required replacement. As was typical of the time, a modern design was chosen and resulted in one of the most ugly facades imaginable (below right).

By 1981 the building was set to be replaced by a new office tower. In respect for the original version of the Pabst, the new skyscraper features a similar but



C.—STAIRWAY, PABST BUILDING, MILWAUKEE.
Electroplated in Bronze.



References:

- Wikipedia, Jacob Best. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob_Best
- Wikipedia, Pabst Brewing Company. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pabst_Brewing_Company
- Wikipedia, Pabst Building. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pabst_Building
- Winslow Brothers, *Ornamental Iron*, 1894.

Visit the ADCA on Facebook

Join in the discussion at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/antiquedoorknobs/>. As of February 2022 we have more than 1,900 members in our Facebook group. Recent highlights include a post by Cindy Drake showing her latest display using an old Coca-Cola crate. Josh Phillips asking where to get another Kreuzinger Lion and Plumed Helmet knobs like his dad has. Kathy Dahlstrand is looking for Chicago Hardware Corinthian 5" hinges, and Linda Batt identified the A-37100 North Wind knob as being manufactured by Cartland & Sons of England, as shown in the 1886 catalog.



Cindy Drake

February 28 at 4:33 PM · 🌐

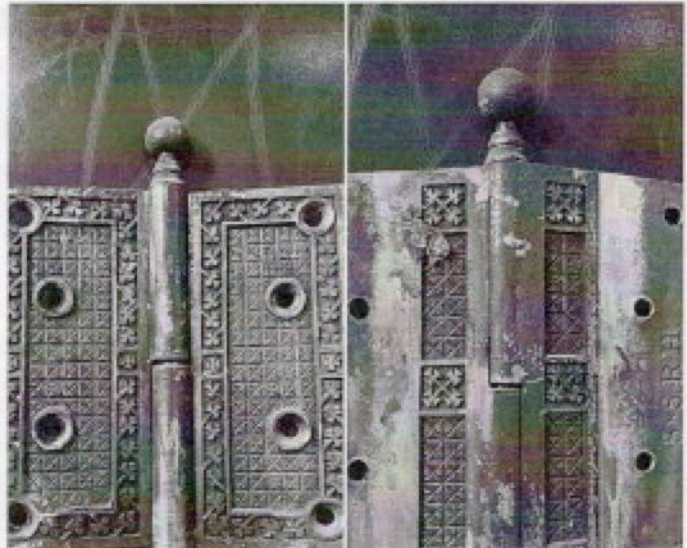
I thought you all would appreciate my new display for my partial collection of door knobs. I tried to get a nice variety. I took an old coke tray that was pretty dilapidated and spray painted it. Then I picked some of my favorite knobs. What do you think?



Kathy Dahlstrand

February 2 · 🌐

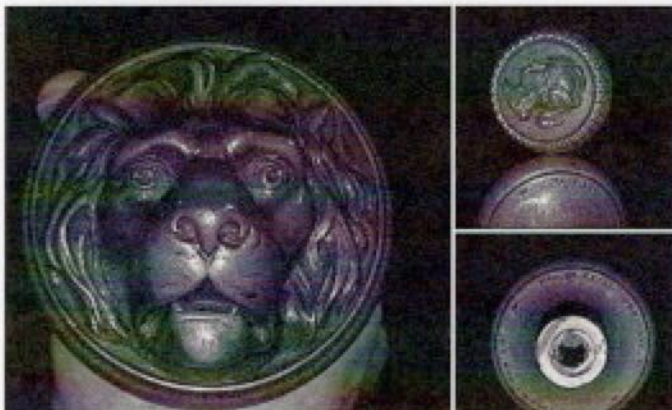
ISO a 5x5 right hand hinge. Niles Chicago, Corinthian pattern (or similar)



Josh Phillips

February 21 at 9:45 AM · 🌐

Sorry everyone if this is rude or not proper etiquette but I'm having a hard time getting an answer to question I have been asking. My father has always wanted two pair of these for his office entrance and will not settle for anything but these. I had planned on just tracking a set down and making it a birthday gift but like my father I'm finding it harder than expected! Could anyone please help? Where I could purchase or even what I should expect to pay I did find the person with the helmet and it was sold from under me but it was around \$200 can't even find the lion anywhere? Thanks in advance for anyone who can help.



Linda Batt

January 26 · 🌐

So I'm pretty sure you'll agree that this knob is the original "Wind face" (A-37100) design. An English Cartland & Sons design - catalog here dates to 1886, finger plate reg mark to 1874. He appears to be Neptune/Poseidon - given the trident and fishy tailed webbed creatures he's hanging out with on the plate. I was happy to add him to the collection. I confess I have a thing for the English - Downton Abby and all, lol. 🌐



Chicago Edison Building Chicago, Illinois

After Thomas Edison's development of electricity for residential and commercial use in New York, demand for the new technology quickly spread throughout the country. In 1882 electric lighting first became available in Chicago from the Western Edison Lighting Company, owned jointly by Edison and local citizens such as Robert Todd Lincoln. By 1887 the company was reorganized as the Chicago Edison Company, and began development of a central generating plant in the Loop. Big changes came in 1892, when Samuel Insull, a former Edison employee and Vice President of General Electric, became the new President of Chicago Edison.

Insull's business instincts and experience led him to build Chicago Edison as a "regulated monopoly". Because the company was locally owned, reliable service at a fair price became their business practice. Buying smaller companies across the city allowed the firm to grow while maintaining satisfied customers. By 1897 a new office building was needed to house the company's business employees, and so Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge was hired to design a mid-block structure on Adams Street.

The resulting building was smaller than the neighbors, but sufficient for the near future of the firm, extending in back to another street. While the building's entrance was ornately clad in marble and bronze, the door hardware featured Chicago Hardware's Brewster design in Bower-Barff iron, with a special knob bearing a CE monogram.



Chicago Edison quickly outgrew their new edifice, and after merging in 1907 with Commonwealth Electric to form what is now called ComEd, a new home was needed. They rented space in the Commercial National Bank Building a half block away, and after the bank moved to a new building in 1914, ComEd purchased what is known today as the Edison Building.

In 1930 the Marshall Field estate demolished the three buildings in the photo (Home Insurance at left, and Merchants Bank at right), and constructed the art deco Field Building.



References:

- Wikipedia, Commonwealth Edison. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_Edison
- Inland Architect & News Record, July 1900. Chicago: Inland Publishing Co.

Club News and Notes

Membership Dues

If you pay your dues by mail, please remember our new mailing address:

Antique Doorknob Collectors of America
2527 Gough Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

Convention Registration

Remember to complete and submit your convention registration form (mail or on-line) now or not later than June 27th, which is also when our block of rooms with the hotel will expire. If mailing your registration form and payment, we need to receive by 6/27 to provide counts to the tour sites.

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