

The Doorknob Collector

A Publication of The Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

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

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RICHARD "RICH" KENNEDY

THE DOORKNOB COLLECTOR

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A News letter for the collector of Doorknobs and other door hardware

INTRODUCTION

The intent of this news letter is to stimulate the hobby of Doorknob collecting. It is hoped that we will be able to share with each other, articles of interest, events, and a means of trading or buying doorknobs by mail. Also, helping doorknob collectors to get acquainted with each other in their geographic local. There will be no set schedule for the news letter until there is enough data coming in from people to warrant it.

Enough of the formality, I'm Rich Kennedy editor of this the very first doorknob collectors newsletter. I have been in contact with Art Smith for several months exchanging doorknobs and ideas on how to unite all doorknob collectors. One idea was this newsletter to be sent periodically with interesting facts, articles and the like from fellow collectors and the second was in the future perhaps a loose leaf catalog of photos of everyones collection.

In 1977, Rich and Faye helped lay the foundation for what would become the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. Working from their home in Chatham, they mailed the first newsletter to 15 individuals who had purchased Maude Eastwood's pioneering book

on antique doorknobs. The second, a year later to 80 people and the 3rd to 150. What began as a simple effort to connect fellow enthusiasts grew into a national organization and a lifelong community of friendships. Soon afterward, Maude and her husband visited the Kennedys in Chatham,

beginning a relationship that helped shape the early years of the hobby.

Richard “Rich” Kennedy, whose curiosity about an ordinary brass doorknob helped build the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America and foster a national community of collectors, passed away on May 19, 2026, at the age of 86. Throughout his life, he brought the same enthusiasm, generosity, and sense of adventure to his family, friendships, bicycling, woodworking, and collecting.

Born in Montclair, New Jersey, on June 29, 1939, Rich grew up in New Providence, New Jersey, and graduated from Summit High School. He then joined Bell Telephone Laboratories, where he worked as a photographer until the breakup of the Bell System. He and his family lived in Chatham for many years before moving to Heath Village in Hackettstown 15 years ago.

Rich met his future wife, Faye Roskelly, at Summit High School in 1956, and they were married on July 1, 1961. In 1963, just two weeks after signing a contract to purchase their first home in Chatham, he was drafted into the United States Army and served for two years as a Military Policeman in Texas. Upon his discharge, he and Faye returned to Chatham, where they raised their two daughters, Jennifer and Leslie. Rich resumed his work at Bell Telephone Laboratories and continued his career in photography.

Rich was especially well known among collectors of antique hardware. Around 1968, he picked up a small brass doorknob that was on every door in his home. Having seen it every day of his life, he suddenly realized that not all doorknobs were the same. That moment sparked a fascination that would become one of the defining interests of his life.

Saturday mornings often found Rich searching flea markets, peering beneath tables in hopes of finding a doorknob he did not yet own. Over time, his collection grew to approximately 900 doorknobs before he gradually reduced it. He retained one of his all-time favorites, the A-10200 “Kreuzinger Lion.”

His collection encompassed many Emblematic and Fraternal doorknobs as well as examples from nearly every collecting category. More important than the collection itself, however, was the enjoyment he found in the hunt, the history, and the friendships formed through the hobby.

Those who knew Rich remember his quiet generosity, quick sense of humor, endless curiosity, and willingness to share both his knowledge and his time with anyone who asked. He had a gift for making people feel welcome; a conversation that began with a doorknob, a bicycle ride, or a woodworking project often ended with a new friendship.

As one of the early founders of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America, he devoted countless hours to fostering the friendships, generosity, and spirit of fellowship that became hallmarks of the organization. Along with fellow collectors, he hosted ADCA conventions in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and in Connecticut with Allan Joslyn, helping bring together enthusiasts from across the United States and Canada. He especially enjoyed recounting the time he traveled to Canada for a convention and surprised border

inspectors when they opened his suitcase and discovered it was filled entirely with doorknobs.

He is survived by Faye, his beloved wife of 64 years; his daughter, Leslie Corey, and her husband, Randy; his grandchildren, Cameron Corey and Marissa Scaccia; and his son-in-law, Patrick McNeal. He was predeceased by his daughter, Jennifer; his sister, Lois Kessler; and her husband, Jack Kessler.

Nearly sixty years after he first looked at an ordinary brass doorknob and realized that “not all doorknobs are the same,” Rich never lost his appreciation for craftsmanship, history, and the small details that make life interesting. His legacy endures in the organization he helped build, the friendships he cultivated, the knowledge he freely shared, and the family he loved.



The Atique Doorknob Collector, December 1981 to Present

Rich and Faye published a total of 10 newsletters. The February 1981 issue told of Arnold Fredrick's suggestion of a Convention and Swap Meet about mid-way across the country in Waverly, Iowa. That meeting resulted in the formation of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America. Rich and Faye turned the name and editorial responsibility over to the ADCA, but not their interest and involvement.

In December of 1981, The Doorknob Collector began as part of the ADCA with Lee and Jim

Kaiser as editors. Since that time others have stepped up to take the responsibility of editor. These include Ray and Loretta Nemec, Richard and Faye Kennedy (again), Allen Joslyn and Paul Woodfin. Since the death of Paul Woodfin, the position of editor has been open. In order for the publication to continue a new editor(s) is needed. Writers are always needed. Tell others about your favorited hardware or most your most recent purchase.

**Antique Doorknob Collectors
2026 Convention, August 6-8, 2026
at the Embassy Suites by Hilton
Philadelphia Airport Hotel.**

**Get you Patriotic hardware ready,
book your room at the hotel, sent
your registration form to**

**ADCA
2751 Oglethorpe Ct.,
Indianapolis, IN 46268.
Plan on having a great time!**

Some members have asked about receiving issues of The Doorknob Collector by email. The printer creates a proof PDF. Even when the issue is printed in black and white many of the pictures are in color. Currently US Mail costs \$1.71. If you would like to receive issues of the Doorknob Collector as a PDF by email instead of US mail send your name to adcaoffice@aol.com

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