

The Doorknob Collector

A Publication of the Antique Doorknob Collectors of America

Non-profit organization devoted to the study and preservation of Ornamental Hardware

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2026 Annual Convention in Philadelphia



Imported cut-glass doorknobs used at Eleutherian Mills, the first duPont home, completed on 1803.

Philadelphia celebrated the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and we celebrated a time getting together with old friends, meeting new friends and of course great hardware.

HAGLEY MUSEUM & LIBRARY
Thursday began with of the Hagley Museum and Library in Wilmington, Delaware. Hagley is the former industrial site of the original black powder works of the DuPont Company and the first du Pont family home built in America, Eleutherian Mills. Completed in 1803 the home used imported hardware.



One of the cut-glass bell cranks.



The private areas used simple latches.

The Hagley library has a large collection of trade catalogs. We were able to see up close some of hardware catalogs and study the detailed art work of pages we had seen only as digital copies. Digital is great but to see and touch the paper is a different experience. From 1790 until 1880, the U.S. Patent Office required patent applicants to submit scale models of their inventions, along with written descriptions and drawings, for the examination of the U.S. Patent Office. In the early twentieth century, the Commerce Department gradually disposed of the patent model collection; many were sold at auction. The Hagley Patent Model collection contains nearly 5,000 of these models. You can see more of this collection at <https://museumcollection.hagley.org/explore-the-collection>. On the tour we were taken to a back room and shown several models for us to

see but not touch. More information on what to do and see at Hagley go to www.hagley.org.

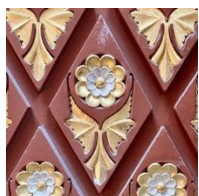
PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF THE FINE ARTS

After lunch we headed back to Philadelphia and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts where we were given an architectural tour of the 1876 building designed by Frank Furness.



an impressive mixture of dark stone and red and black brick to make dynamic patterns. A gothic window dominates the central pavilion. The low ceiling entry hall leads to a grand stair hall with vaulting ceiling and clay rosette-studded walls. The building has been restored removing the 1950's

modernization that lowered ceiling and covered the decorated cast iron pillars. New does not mean better!



Detail of the wall pattern.



The pillars were also part of the original heating system, with the base open to bring heat. Note the repeat of the flower motif in the pillar decoration.

CONVENTION PICTORAL



Tour group at the PAFA.



Rhett Bulter created a dynamic presentation at the entrance of the convention hall.



Left to right: Steve & Diane Hannum with Rick Mulray; Harvey Garrett and Carolyn Smith; Erin Sauer, Bama Kasa and James Tomasello; Harrison Hass, Mikael Grasser & Steve Rowe checking out the auction items.



Left to right: Jeff Beutner; Rhett Butler; Bo Sullivan; Cindy Drake and Tom and Andréé Dulac with Nick Doto.



2027 CONVENTION

Hosted by:

Cindy Drake
Kansas City, Missouri

Liz Gordon & Dale Sponaugle Display winners Steve Hannum & Rhett Buttler



After many years on the old platform, the ADCA website has been rebuilt from the ground up, and it went live this month at the same address: antiquedoorknobs.us.

The heart of it is still the knob archive — nearly 4,000 knobs and more than 10,000 photographs, the work of decades — but it is now something you can actually search. Filter by manufacturer, by decade, by design school, or by pattern name. Or search by picture: photograph a knob, upload it, and the site finds the closest matches in the archive. It works surprisingly well on a phone at a flea market.

For members, there is now a **member portal**. Sign in using the email address the office has on file and you can renew your membership online, keep your address current, choose whether you receive this newsletter by post or as a PDF by email, and read every back issue of *The Doorknob Collector*. The catalog library — over 200 manufacturers' catalogs, from Corbin to Yale — is available for purchase and download to your online member Catalog Library, with a member discount.

The site is new and we're still polishing. If something looks wrong, or you have an idea, use the **Feedback** button in the corner of any page — it goes straight to the office and to the volunteer who built it.

JOIN ADCA!

For Membership information please visit
www.antiquedoorknobs.org/membership
or use QR code

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