



LOCKS & KEYS



Issue 18

The Newsletter for lock collectors

July 2002

Banbury stock locks

A part from churches, manor houses, lodges etc., few buildings had locks in the 16th and 17th centuries. The peasantry had nothing worth stealing, so in an era when locks and locksmiths were a rarity, blacksmiths were often called upon to make locks. The Banbury lock on a local Old Hall is probably an example of this combination of the two trades.

I found another example of multiple trades on a 'Gothic' Milner safe c.1850 I opened some years ago where the business card nailed to the woodwork inside the door stated, 'Whitesmith and Bellhanger, Scale Beam, Kitchen Grate and Smoke-Jack maker — Ironmonger, General Smith, Gas Fitter'.

Obviously, no single job was sufficient to earn him a living in Victorian times.

In Banbury locks, a wooden block is chiseled out and the working parts are fitted in. The wood thus forms the framework of the lock and an iron staple would be fitted into the stonework to take the bolt. Most date from 16th and 17th century.

Since woodscrews had not been invented, the lock was nailed to the door from the inside and clenched over on the outside to

prevent its removal. That, coupled with the fact that iron in contact with oak quickly rusts, made it very difficult to remove from the door.

In one case, the top part of the wooden case I was restoring had broken off due to the constant pressure of the tumbler spring over the last 350 years. The hammered sheet iron keyhole plates on both sides were badly corroded and the central 'Bridge Ward' twisted. It had obviously not been in use for many years.

Restoration standards

I believe any restoration carried out should be with original material as far as possible, but hammered sheet iron has not been made since the 18th century and is thus hard to find.

Failing that, to restore a lock to working condition I use the most modern material, in this case stainless steel for the outer keyhole plate. It was possible to rescue the inner plate by brazing on a brass bush.

The body was drilled through at each end and the top bolted and glued down, treated against woodworms and nailed back onto the door with handmade cut wrought iron nails of the same type as the original, obtained from the local blacksmith! This should now last a further 350 years!

The key was made from a rough brass casting, turned smooth, the bridge warding cut and chiseled into shape and stamped DE, David and Elizabeth, the initials of the

continued on p.4

"Locks & Keys" needs more subscribers. If you know any other collectors, please ask them to subscribe to their own copies!

"Locks & Keys" welcomes contributions, preferably with uncoloured illustrations on separate sheets. Unfortunately, colour photographs tend to be too dark to reproduce well. PC disks with files in Word2, Works3, Write, or saved as .rtf can be used. Articles can also be emailed to the Editor — see below right.

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What would you like in your newsletters?

I receive some feedback, and some contributions, but I would be happy to have more. When I started, I said the *newsletter* would not last long on my resources. Happily, I have been able to find material, and for this issue I am using a variety of items already contributed, for which space has not previously been found. So instead of a theme, this is an eclectic mixture.

Next issue I hope to concentrate on prison locks, so if there are any contributions on that area, start writing now! In fact, as this issue comes with your subscription renewal notice, now is a good time to tell me what you would like to see in the newsletter.

Some readers feel you do not get much out of it. Perhaps you are the ones with much to contribute. I would be happy to publish profiles of collectors and collections. And descriptions of your favourite lock?

The lock collectors' newsletter which flourished briefly in the 1970's (with around 500 subscribers!) had a lively question/answer column. In these pages, however, only a few contribute — especially answers.

My perennial desire is for more readers. Many people are buying locks in Internet auctions, so there must be some more collectors out there — but how to reach them?

Some readers have asked for more pictures. I would be happy to include more pictures, but the difficulty is finding ones that will reproduce clearly enough. Colour photos tend to be too dark, and I have not yet learnt how to remove dark coloured backgrounds from scans. (Can anyone help me with MGPhotosuite?) I have a program which can convert photos to 'drawings', but the results are less than ideal. Line drawings are best for reproduction.

For next year, I am accumulating material on padlocks from roman to modern; church chests, and dual control locks. There is an article on latches nearly finished. However I am still waiting for help on **cleaning and conservation** from you expert readers.

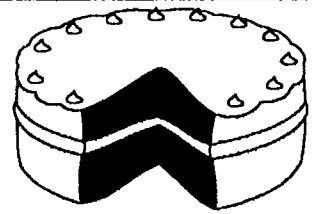
This spring I had the privilege of visiting the Master Locksmiths' Convention, and later will mention some of the modern locks I saw. I also collected some catalogues, and was struck by the increasingly hi-tec appearance of locksmithing, and how well-made the kit is. And yet, electronics has not made such an impact as it has on so many other industries. I'll come back to that thought later.

Please continue to contribute to the *Newsletter!*

Richard Phillips

Feedback

Appropos the 'Cornhill Robbery' (#9): there have been changes in the law since that



time, and then the word robbery was used more loosely. There was a distinction between burglary in the daytime, (housebreaking), which was a misdemeanour, and at night, (burglary), which was a felony, and so more serious. Other crimes were variously known as shop breaking, office breaking, garage breaking, etc. Since 1968, all such offences of breaking into property have been reclassified as burglary, regardless of whether the premises are houses or other buildings.

Another mechanical combination lock now on the market is the ERA Codemaster. At around £70, it seems expensive compared with keylocks of much greater strength. Strength of lock is not, of course, the only consideration. Some new doors of solid wood were installed in a northern university, but with a narrow, nearly full-length glazed panel in the middle. Thieves opened the doors by booting them in the middle and converting them to two half-doors.



The Government has a scheme to help fund repairs and maintenance to listed buildings used as places of worship. The present scheme covers work started on or after **1 April 2002**, and runs until 2003. After that, the Chancellor of the Exchequer will beg the European Commission for a reduction on church repairs to 5% (The British Government cannot make such tax decisions itself.)

The scheme will return in grant aid the difference between 5% and the actual amount spent on VAT. The Arts Minister said "This new grant will provide much-needed public support for these historic buildings. The scheme underlies the value this Government places on our important historic environment."

A private contractor, CSL, will deliver the scheme. For more information, contact:

The Listed Places of Worship Scheme

PO Box 609

Newport NP10 8QD

☎0845 6015945 www.lpwscheme.org.uk



The series of articles (see example on p.11 below) was collected together and published in a still useful book:

HASLUCK, Paul N. ed. *Domestic jobbing: the repair of household articles*. Cassell, 1919 pp. 119-141.

Armada chests

A rmada chests were 'invented' by romantic Victorians. The name comes from the fanciful notion that these chests were treasure chests salvaged from Spanish Armada wrecks.

Actually they date from the 17-18th centuries. However inaccurate, this is now the generally accepted name for this type of chest.

As the demand for armour declined after the end of the medieval period (some was still used for show, as we still wear ceremonial swords), armourers had to diversify. The chest was a ubiquitous piece of furniture, developing along several strands. One was the strongbox. The strongbox steadily gained iron straps to strengthen it, until almost the whole of some wooden boxes was covered in iron.

Small caskets, for jewellery, were being made from the late 15th century, all of iron, but like a small chest (or coffer, from 'coffre fort' or strong box). These had a lock on the front. The logical development was a chest of sheet iron, with a wooden lining. The wooden lining was soon omitted.

Complicated lock

Developed first on small chests, the lock was fitted to the underside of the lid. It had a plurality of springbolts, which engaged under a rim around the opening of the box. All bolts were withdrawn by a system of levers, when the key was turned. In the 17-18th centuries, these models led to full-sized chests. Typically, the keyhole in the middle of the lid was hidden by a spring cover, and a dummy keyhole was provided on the front. Although made of sheet iron, the chests were re-enforced with criss-crossing bands. Depending on quality, most were painted, flowers being a popular theme.

The whole of the inside of the lid was covered with the lock mechanism, with commonly 8 bolts. Some chests had many more. There was normally a pierced plate fitted as a cover to the lockwork. The security was a box of wards, usually very well made. The key does not make a complete turn, so star-shaped wards were popular.

Despite the appearance of strength, the sheet iron is thin, generally little more than 1/8". Presumably, however, they did offer protection in the centuries during which they were made and used. Many have, in addition to the internal lock, hasps for two, or sometimes more, padlocks. This suggests that the usual way of opening was to attempt to force the lid.

Chests were made in Germany, especially in Nuremberg, with production spreading to the Low Countries. A good many were imported into England. Many of the imports came from the Low Countries, and were often known as 'Flemish kists'. Following massacres and continuing persecution by French Roman Catholics, 400,000 Huguenot Christians left France, many of them moving to England, mostly after 1685. They brought with them valuable industrial skills, including weaving, glassworking, and metalworking. Numbers of the later Flemish kists in Britain were made in England, mainly in East Anglia. Production continued until overtaken by cast-iron boxes at the end of the 17th century.

Armada chests were the best strongboxes of their day, and many have survived. Because they were often on

show, they tend to be nicely painted, and to have been well looked after. Many have survived with original keys, which are often bent from the strain of opening against so many springs. Often a tommy bar was used to assist turning. The lids were also quite heavy, and many have a supporting strut. Most were small enough to be lifted by one man, but larger ones were also made.

Some impressive examples

There is an impressively large one now on show in the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, from the Scottish Darien colony of 1698-9. In the

Bank of Scotland Head Office foyer in Edinburgh is a large example, 3'6" long, 2'3" high and 2' wide, still with colour painting. This chest belonged to the [Glasgow] Union Bank, formed in 1830, so must have been already quite old when the bank acquired it. Yet it still saw service for some years more. There is another similarly large one now in the Bank of England museum, which entered the Bank's service in 1700.

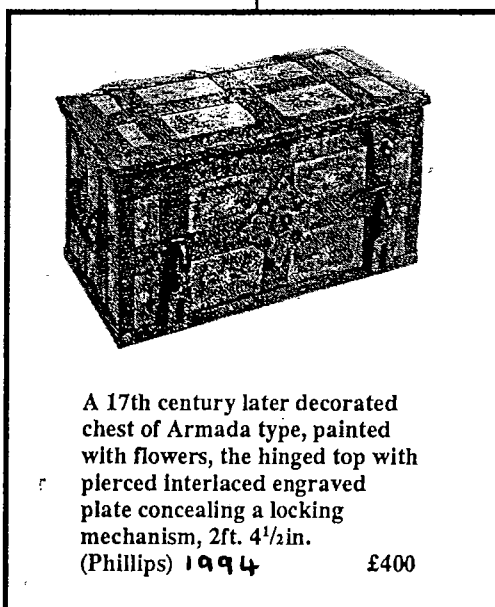
Several pictures have been sent in, (*thank you, Ed.*), but unfortunately, most reproduce poorly. The engraving from Price's *Treatise* shows the impressive mechanism clearly.

They are rarely given more than a passing mention in books and articles on furniture and chests, though the Armada origin is oft-repeated. These chests circulate in the antique trade, and can still sometimes be bought for around £1000, sometimes less. The small jewellery caskets are generally cheaper.

BAILEY, C T P: *Treasure chests Connoisseur* LXXV May-Aug 1926 pp16-18.

JEKYLL, Gertrude, and JONES, Sydney R. *Old English household life*. Batsford, 1945 p104.

R Phillips



A 17th century later decorated chest of Armada type, painted with flowers, the hinged top with pierced interlaced engraved plate concealing a locking mechanism, 2ft. 4½in. (Phillips) 1994 £400

The Banbury stock lock (continued from p.1)

current owners. The house had been built over previous foundations c.1650, and the first owners' initials had been stamped onto the lock bolt.

Perhaps one day someone will discover why they were called Banbury locks since I cannot find any history of

lockmaking in Banbury, Oxfordshire, England.

I find restoring old locks back into use is very rewarding and some day perhaps in another 350 years, someone will remove the lock and find my name on it.

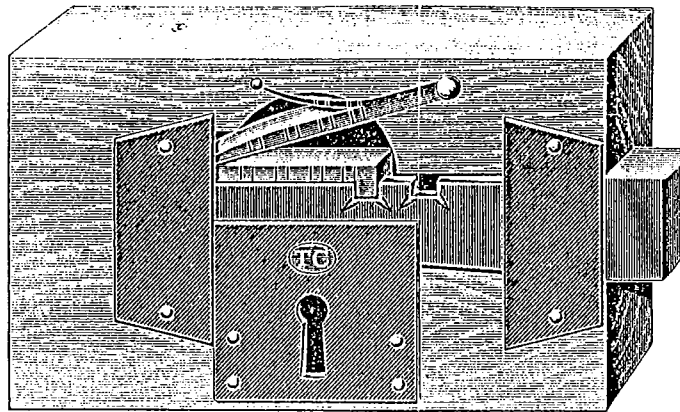
Peter Hall

These two Banbury locks show the usual and unusual. At top is a typical lock with its distinctive key. The collar is in the middle of the bit because it rests on the bridge ward, not the lockcase. This is a lock from Thomas Crompton of Wigan, 1920. Earlier locks differed only in the wood being cut out less neatly, all by hand. Often, cuts would be square rather than rounded. Banbury locks continued to be popular for unheated outhouses and stables because they were cheap and not so much prone to damage by condensation. Note price shown is per dozen! Various woods could be used, as available. Oak, beech, and elm were popular, but mahogany offcuts, and softwoods, have been used.

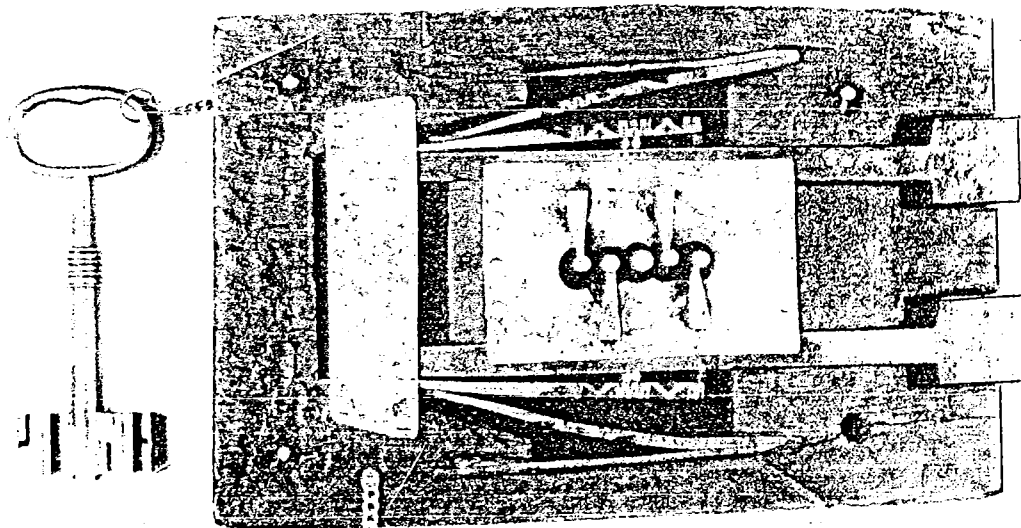
The bottom lock is unusual in being 2-bolt, and having a double-bitted key, and using bullet wards.

BANBURY LOCKS.

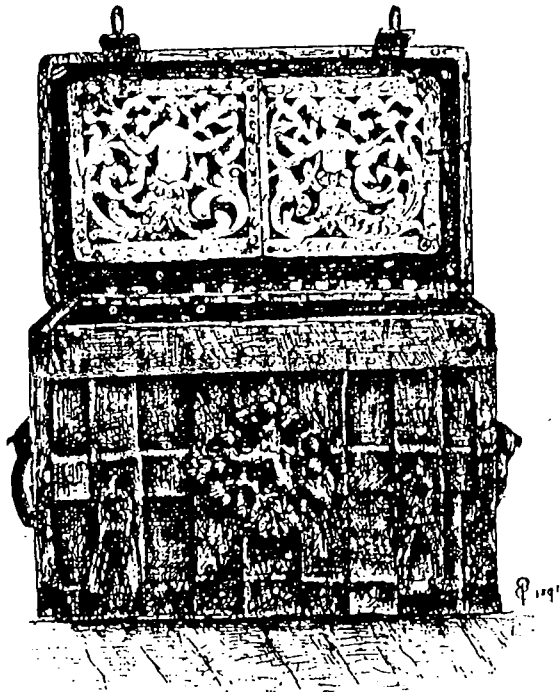
BANBURY STOCK LOCKS.



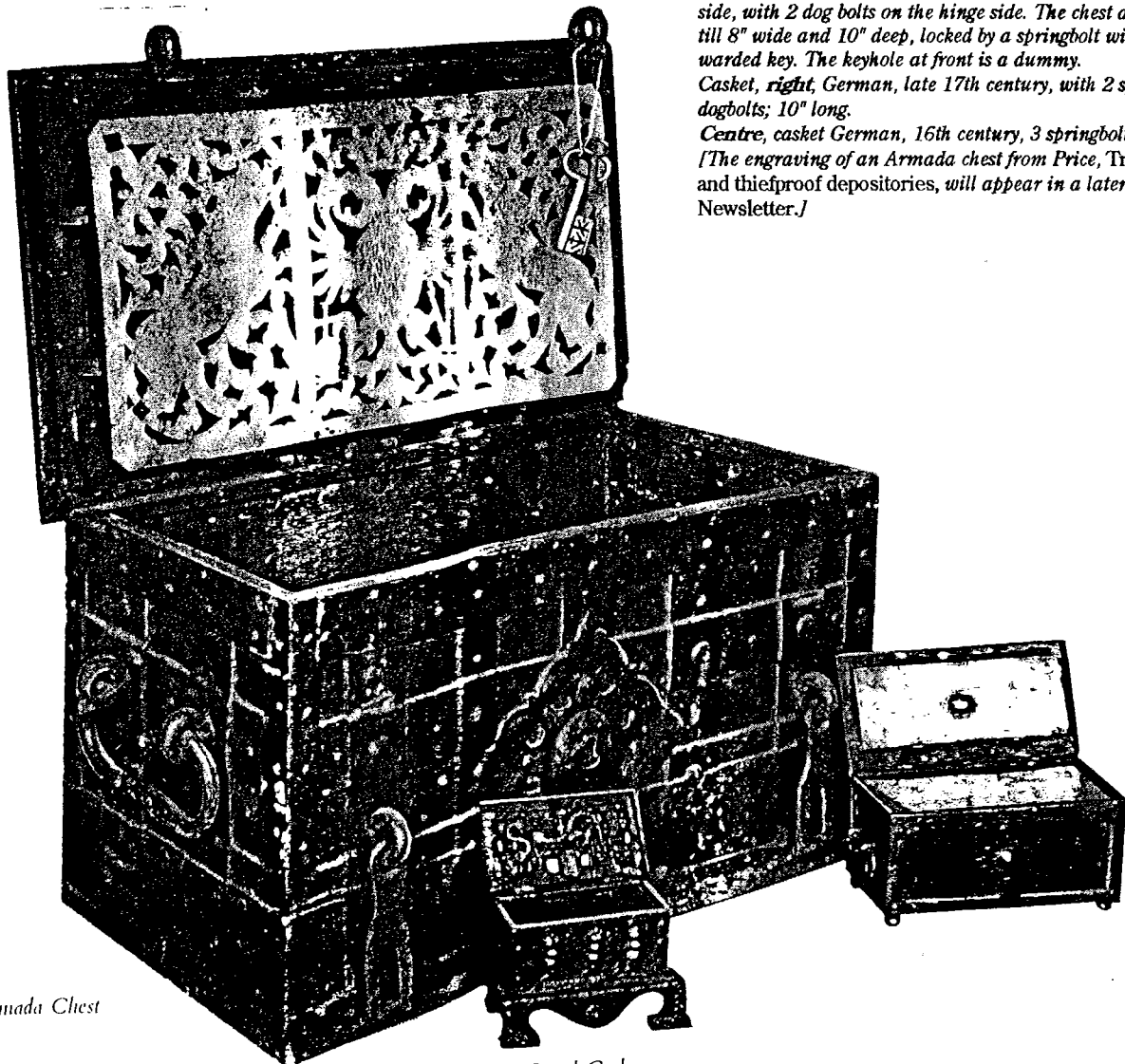
| | | | | | |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|---------------|
| Size ... | 6. | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 in. |
| Price ... | 13/- | 15/- | 18/- | 22/- | 27/- per doz. |



"Banbury" stock-lock with twin bolts partly shot.



◆ CHEST FROM ONE OF THE SHIPS OF THE SPANISH ARMADA.



Armada Chest

Jewel Casket

A RELIC OF THE SPANISH ARMADA.

The commemoration at Plymouth, in 1888, of the tercentenary anniversary of that grand event in English history, the defeat of the Spanish Armada, occupied much of our space. We are indebted to a correspondent, Mr. W. M. Ball, of Barton-on-Umber, for the illustration of another relic, similar

to one or two of those seen in the Armada Exhibition at Drury Lane Theatre in the autumn of 1888. It is a treasure-chest from one of the Spanish ships. We are told that about nine years ago there was a serious fire in Hull, in what was the principal mercantile street in olden times. In clearing away the debris from a cellar, this ancient chest was found. It was bought by a collector from a neighbouring village as an old curiosity, and has remained since that time in an outhouse, until unearthed by our correspondent. In outward appearance it resembles the chests described in the Armada Exhibition catalogue. The polished iron lock-plate represents two mermaids, surrounded by scroll work, and chiselled with small ornamentation, not shown in the illustration. The chest is of wrought iron, 24½ in. long, 11½ in. high, and 15 in. wide. An ancient key of the period was found inside. It is recorded that two ships, the Griffin and the Marigold, with a pinnace, from Hull, joined the English fleet in 1588, and it is not improbable that this chest was part of their booty, and was thus brought to Hull, where it has remained so long in obscurity. The cellar where it was found is close to the river, where these vessels would be likely at that period to be moored.

above: Illustrated London News, 9th January 1892, p. 54.

Large Armada chest, left, made in Nuremberg or Augsburg, 17th century; 37½x27x20". There are 4 bolts at front and 2 on each side, with 2 dog bolts on the hinge side. The chest also contains a till 8" wide and 10" deep, locked by a springbolt with another warded key. The keyhole at front is a dummy.

Casket, right, German, late 17th century, with 2 springbolts and 2 dogbolts; 10" long.

Centre, casket German, 16th century, 3 springbolts; 8".

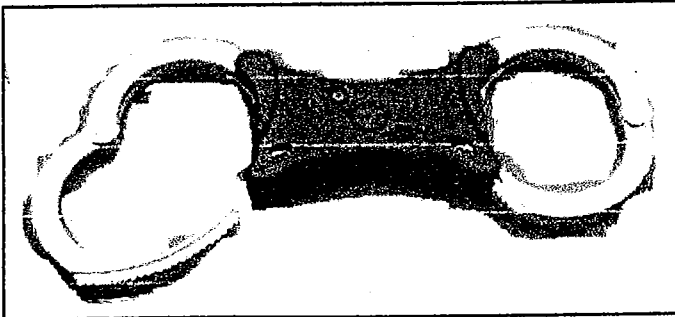
[The engraving of an Armada chest from Price, Treatise on Fire and thieftproof depositories, will appear in a later issue of the Newsletter.]

For Sale / Swap

Hiatt Speedcuffs

- These are one of Hiatt's current Peerless-type cuffs, as used by many British police forces - £25 (inc. post). The SPEEDCUFF is a purpose designed package comprising an integral rigid steel handcuff and an ergonomic plastic grip. (GB registered design No. 2034362). Using pressure sensitive areas, it can be a significant aid to gaining control. Speedcuff includes the following:
- New, improved, 3 independently floating locking bars, with 6 teeth each bar. - - Provides extra locking positions with perimeter sizes the widest in the industry.
 - 25 locking positions
 - Perimeter, minimum 5 3/4" 146mm maximum 9 1/4" 235mm
 - Shackles can be backloaded for speedcuffing (an exclusive Hiatt feature).
 - 400gm 14oz
 - Heavy duty rivets.
 - Fast, smooth, positive swing through action.
 - Exceed all published test standards.

Speedcuff is THE British arrest handcuff. (NB Hiatt do not supply this product to North America.) Hiatt also supply various pouches for this model, and a handcuffing training manual.



Also interested in buying UK and US safe plates, have English ones to swap.
Trevor Dowson 17 Landseer Drive, Gleadless Valley
Sheffield Yorkshire S14 1BS UK

Magee's Annual Padlock Auction

Remember to ask for details this summer. Complete illustrated catalog available for \$10 from:
Bill Magee 1364 Jeffco Blvd, Arnold, MO
63010 USA;
email bkmagee@aol.com

Chatwood items

Tom Gordon would like to buy or swap any Chatwood items, or any safeplates.

Tom also runs a website of interest to locksmiths, at www.master-locksmith.co.uk

It's an independent, totally free online information resource for UK and Irish locksmiths, and doesn't seek to sell anything. It supplies passwords *only* to past or present full members of British Locksmiths Institute / Master Locksmiths Association / Associated Locksmiths of America.

Tom Gordon 11 Church St Exmouth Devon
☎01395 222588

Questions from readers



Cigar cutter trick padlock

24] Don Jackson sent some information and pictures on this. However, even his best efforts have not made the pictures usable. As well as poor lighting, possibly the original

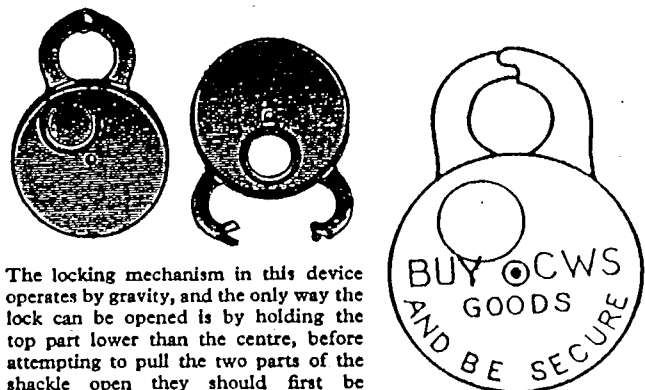
stamping was not too clear. This was a 'Bashful Trick Lock' made by TAFO Mfg Co. LA California, patented 4-20-15. This one was issued with the 'Compliments of London Guarantee & Accident Co. Ltd'. Front and back are identical, and give no clue as to how to open it.

Similar puzzles were sold inter-war by the mail order catalogue of Ellisdon & Son. They sold mainly pocket money toys for children (and adults). This extract is from 1938.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society example opposite is from Trevor Dowson's collection.

PUZZLE PADLOCK

A PADLOCK and CIGAR CUTTER COMBINED.



The locking mechanism in this device operates by gravity, and the only way the lock can be opened is by holding the top part lower than the centre, before attempting to pull the two parts of the shackle open they should first be pushed together so as to be sure the locking mechanism is free to work. Simply closing the lock in an upright position locks it again.

No. 531
Price
Post 2d. **6d.**



Places of interest

There is an HM Prison Service museum, which was for some time at Polmont in West Lothian. It is now believed to be at Newbold Revel, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 0TH,

☎01788 834167. I have not investigated this, and do not know whether it is accessible to the public, and if so, whether there is anything of interest to lock collectors. I shall be pleased to have more information from anyone who explores this.

Newark Antiques Fair is the largest such event in Europe. Dates of various events are available at: www.newarkantiquesfair.com/main.htm

At Fécamp in Normandy (on the coast between Dieppe and Le Havre) there is a Benedictine monastery with a distillery museum. This has a display of keys and locks. Given the monks' skill since 1520 at disposing of the by-product of beeswax production (wax was needed for candles), this place might be worth a visit if our summer conditions continue as cold and wet as at present.

Also watch for details of "Doors Open" programmes in Britain and Europe, usually published towards the end of August.

Readers might also like to be reminded of the *West Coast Lock Collectors Newsletter*. The Editor is Don Jackson PO Box 272 Pleasanton California 94566 USA. Fax is 925-846-4022; doggyjack@attbi.com. Subscription is US \$16, other countries \$19.

The American Lock Collectors' Association's newsletter has become the

Journal of lock collecting

Contact David Rankl 13115 Millersburg Road, S.W. Massillon, Ohio 44647 USA
dlr41@aol.com
 Rates: US \$16, foreign \$30

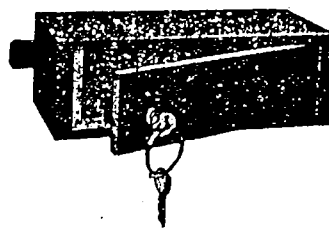
Joke: I have six locks on my door all in a row. When I go out, I lock every other one. I figure no matter how long somebody stands there picking the locks, they are always locking three.

Elayne Boosler

PROTECTION IN YOUR HOME

See our exhibit at the
 Ideal Home Exhibition,
 Olympia, April 3 to 28

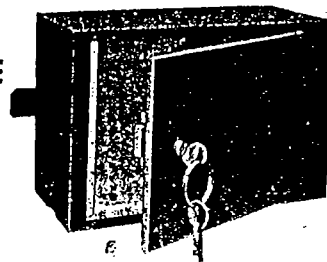
CHUBB'S WALL SAFE



Size 1 (Size of a brick): Price £1 0 0
 Outside measurements: 3 1/8" high x
 8 1/2" wide x 4 1/8" deep

Easily built into the wall. New Pattern, with bent steel body, and lugs at back

CHUBB & SON'S LOCK & SAFE CO., LTD.
 128 Queen Victoria Street and 68 St. James's St., Pall Mall, London



Size 2 (Size of 2 bricks): Price £2 0 0

Outside measurements: 6 1/2" high x

8 1/2" wide x 4 1/8" deep

Also size 3 - Price £3 0 0

Outside measurements: 14" high x

8 1/2" wide x 8 1/2" deep

Approximate inside measurements

1" less each way

The Countryman April 1934. These Chubb wallsafes used a steel furniture locker lock with 5 levers (not flush bellies) and a master lever — without its operating pin. The key was a flat steel key. The lock was fixed with 2 screws.

Tuesday, June 11, 2002 **METRO 3**

No, officer, it was not a cat burglar

IT WAS such a bizarre crime it could have come straight out of a Sherlock Holmes story. A man told police he woke up to find a chimpanzee at his bedside, stealing his mobile phone. Victim Mustapha Riat, 43, from Hackney, East London, said he watched the animal go and then phoned police. 'What I saw, I saw even if I was on my own,' he added. 'The animal must have been trained to do this.' But detectives, who think the thief came and went through an open window, are putting a decidedly non-Holmesian slant on the crime. They think the culprit was either a man with a 'very hairy arm' or someone in a gorilla suit. But they are checking reports of missing apes in the area — just in case. Det Chief Insp Trevor Smith said: 'I have dealt with all sorts but never anything like this.'

This article reports an incident in London — not the Rue Morgue, Paris! Clearly door locks are not sufficient: window locks are also needed. The story is reminiscent of the trained thieving crows noticed in issue #14.

Stop Press: Can anyone supply any technical or historical information about the John Tann Commercial Safe, Anchor Reliance, 12 Corner Bent ext. dimensions 88ins wide by 72 ins deep by 154 ins high? *Rev. Mike Walling, Canterbury.*
[wallings@surfaid.org](mailto:walling@surfaid.org)

German Chest Lock-Plate

This very elegant specimen of medieval iron-work is a fine example of the skill and labour expended on such ordinary objects as lock-plates, and the amount of detail in a comparatively coarse material which could be crowded into a very small space. The whole plate only measures about 10" by 14", whilst the escutcheon, into which the bulk of the work is compressed, is not half that area. The plate itself is bordered on each side with gothic crocketed pinnacles. It was fixed by the nail holes which can be seen, to the front of the chest. The escutcheon, which was secured to the chest lid by the hinged strap, was somewhat complex. The centre part, bearing a small snake, when lifted up disclosed the keyhole, which was surrounded by two winged dragons with interlacing tails.

Wrought iron is plastic when red-hot. However, these high relief decorations were created mainly with a mixture of chiseling, filing, and engraving - all with hand tools!

[Adapted from *Connoisseur* vol XIV Jan-April 1906
Trevor Dowson]

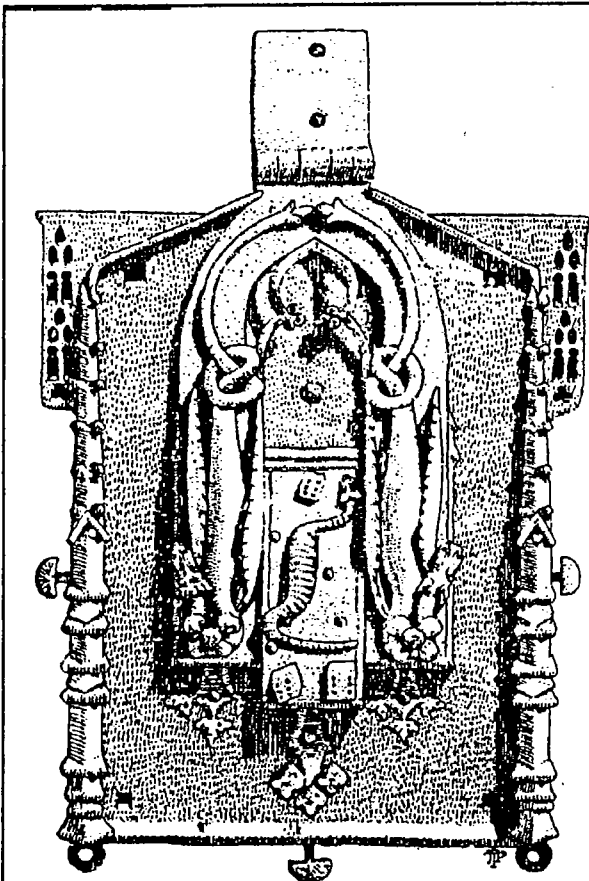
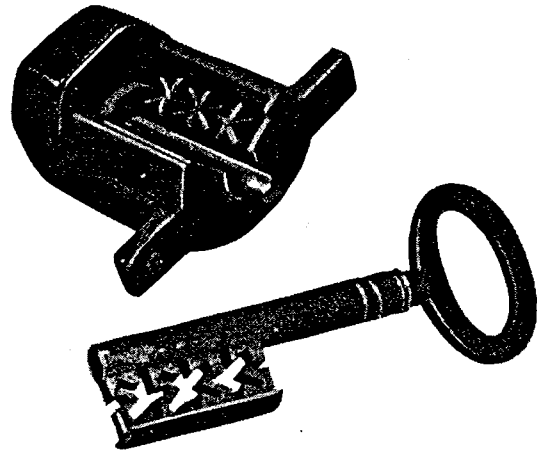


PLATE AND ESCUTCHEON OF A GERMAN CHEST LOCK



BOX OF WARDS WITH KEY
(German, 17th Century)

THIS is a specimen of the kind that was fitted in chests in the middle ages and at a later period, perhaps 100 to 150 years ago, in safes. This particular specimen, which is German, 17th century, was almost certainly made for a chest which had a lock with spring bolts, because the formation of the wards in the key bit makes it clear that the key could not turn the full circle.

The advantage of the box of wards, which provided all the security which the chest or safe possessed, was that it and the key could be made completely by a locksmith, who best understood their intricacies, and handed to the safemaker for fixing in place. The key was made large and strong because it had to operate directly the several and often heavy bolts of the chest or safe. The dome-like projection at the back of this and other exhibits is a characteristic of German design.

The above picture, and those on p.5, are from the Collection formerly belonging to Josiah Parkes & Sons, and for many years on display in the Company's Head Office in Willenhall.

Computer file

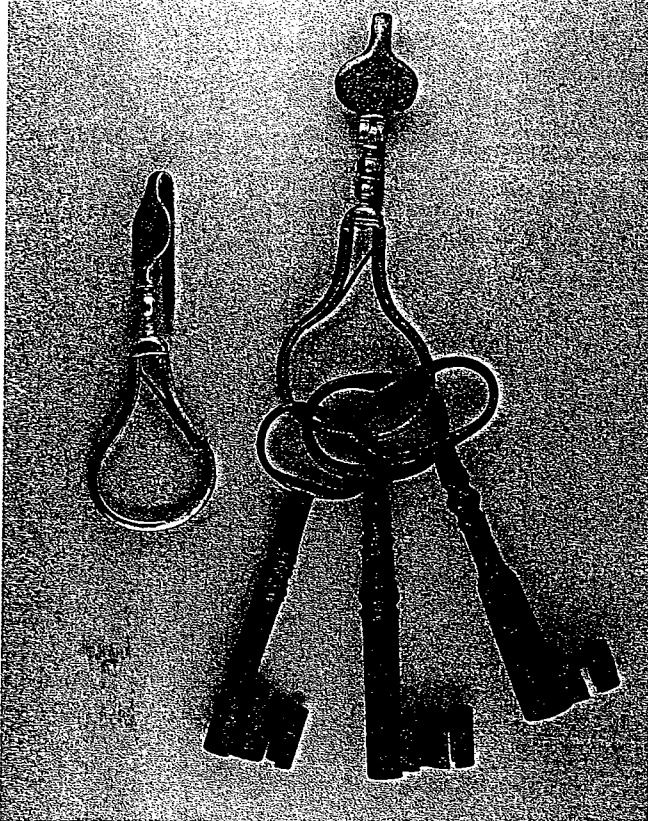
Can anyone help me with a copy of a computer file? I am seeking a copy of *msspub2.exe*. That will enable me to make improvements in the production of the newsletter — at present a lengthy and laborious process. Or a complete set of disks for *MSPublisher3* would be welcome.

Editor

Chatelaines and presentation keys

Chatelaines and presentation keys have somewhat in common: from functional to symbolic.

Kings began to give favoured courtiers keys to the private apartments, so they could enter freely and discreetly. Such keys became elaborately decorated. And gradually, Chamberlains became less functional and more ceremonial. Their keys had increasingly decorative bows and stems. Eventually the keys became entirely symbolic — the bit



Two key holders, one with contemporary keys. Mid-18th century, L. key holder and keys 11 ins. (28cm)

became vestigial and then disappeared completely in some Baroque chamberlain 'keys'.

The chatelaine was originally a useful accoutrement for the Housekeeper of a big house. In time, it, too, became a symbol for the lady of the house: more decorative than functional.

In the 19th century, there were observations about earlier styles being reproduced, complete with rust. This was because chatelaines were becoming quite valuable items in their own right. They were often nicely made, sometimes even gilded. Sometimes, they were supplied with good watches and dummy keys just for show.

The details of the chatelaine book alluded to in issue #17 are:

CUMMINS, Genivieve E., and TAUNTON, Nerylla D. *Chatelaines: utility to glorious extravagance*. Woodbridge, Antique Collectors' Club, 1994. 1851492062

A little book with nicely printed colour pictures of beautiful

keys, and some locks, with text in Italian and English, is:

LISE, Giorgio *Chiavi e serrature / Locks and keys*. Milan, BE-MA Editrice, 1987. 8871430514

Presentation keys

Presentation or commemorative keys developed in the 19th century as a gift to the VIP who ceremonially opened a building. They were mainly given by civic authorities, but other institutions, such as churches, and commercial companies, also gave them. They could be very decorative, made of polished steel, brass, silver or silver plated, gilt, even solid gold. Enamel plaques could be added. They were usually engraved with details of the opening event, and supplied with a box lined with velvet and covered with leather.

They were generally kept by the VIP's widow, but on her death, often nobody else had much interest in the key, or the place with which it was associated. When the house was



CHATELAINE; A REALLY USEFUL PRESENT.

LOOK, MA' DEAR; SEE WHAT A LOVE OF A CHATELAINE EDWARD HAS GIVEN ME."

cleared, such keys often descended through the chain of dealers to the antique fair. The price of silver and gold today is mainly the value of the craftsmanship, whereas in the past, the cost of the metal was the largest part of the price.

The market is awash with silver today. The latest Miller's silver collectors' price guide does not even mention keys. Fine silver of quality craftsmanship, in perfect condition, is highly esteemed. Pieces of indifferent craftsmanship, or damaged, or altered, sell for much less. Presentation keys, though not common, are not always expensive, even when nicely made.

Having bought one, it might be interesting to find some information about the building it came from — another field for the collector to explore.

R Phillips, with Trevor Dowson, Peter Hall
(see also pictures p.12)

WORK

An Illustrated Magazine of Practice and Theory
FOR ALL WORKMEN, PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR.

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LOCK REPAIRING AND KEY FITTING. BY THOS. WILSON.

BACK-SPRING AND TUMBLER LOCKS.

No doubt most if not all the readers of WORK have at some time or other had occasion to employ a locksmith. Now, I do not say that after reading the following article they will be able to entirely dispense with his services, but I purpose showing how any workman, professional or amateur, can

keep his own locks in repair. There are several reasons why they should do so, and before commencing this article I will mention one or two.

In the first place, there is the saving of money. Workmen's time in London and most of the large towns is charged for at the rate of a shilling per hour, and although the number of hours are not generally specified in the bill, that is the price the customer has to pay. I have frequently seen bills made out as follows: Man's time, taking off, cleaning, repairing, and fitting new key to lock—two shillings and sixpence. This represents two hours' time,

and sixpence for the key. In the country the customer would probably be charged three hours' time at ninepence. If the reader follows the directions I am going to give him, I think he will be able to save two shillings out of the half-crown.

Besides the question of cost, there is a graver reason why householders should do their own locks as far as possible.

"It is an ill bird that fouls its own nest," and I have not a word to say against workmen

in general, but there are black sheep in every fold. What is to prevent a man when fitting a key for a front door or safe lock from fitting an extra one for his own use? Of course, he would not use it at once; it would be laid by for a year, perhaps two, but he would be sure to use it at some time or other. For my part, I am convinced that many burglaries take place in this way.

One more reason, and I have done. When a workman takes a lock into the shop that

requires a key, he has a key or blank served out to him, and it is charged to the job. If, through carelessness or ignorance, he cuts the key wrong, he will have to apply for another, and will come in for a "wiggling" in the shop foreman. Sooner than do this, he will take out the wards, or alter the levers of a lock, and so fit the lock to the key, instead of the key to the lock, thereby reducing a good lock to the level of a bad one. Having, I hope, shown why locks should be repaired at home, I will now proceed to show how. First the tools. Well, the only tools absolutely necessary are a vice, hammer,

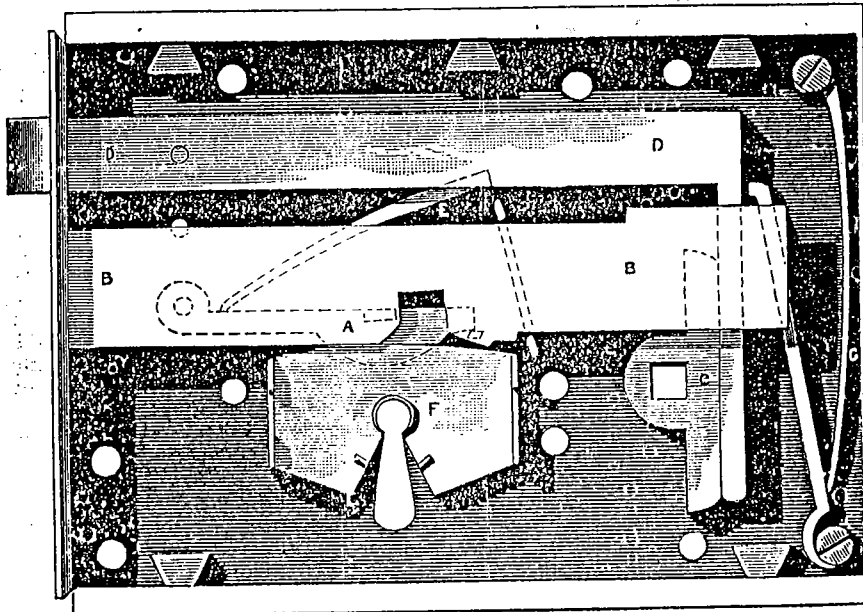


Fig. 1.

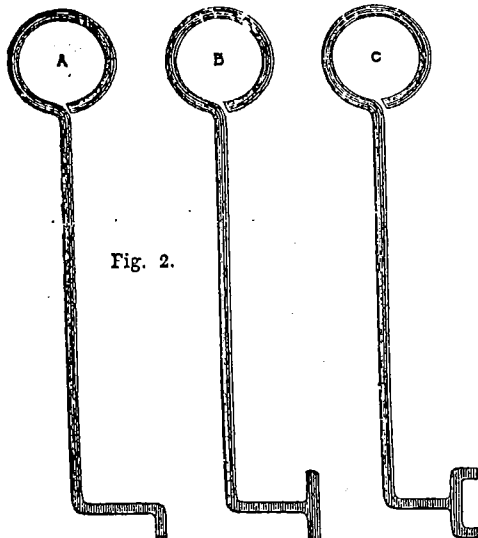


Fig. 2.

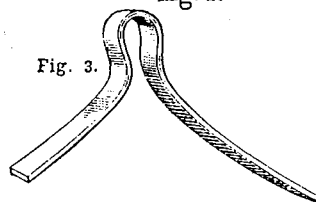


Fig. 3.

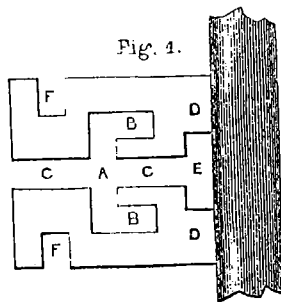


Fig. 4.

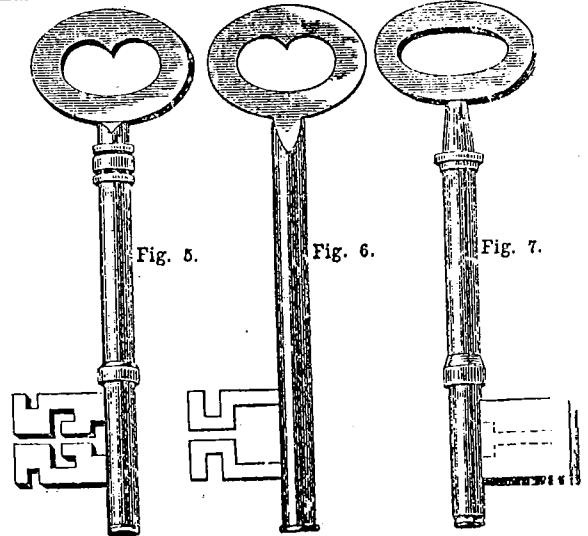


Fig. 5.

Fig. 6.

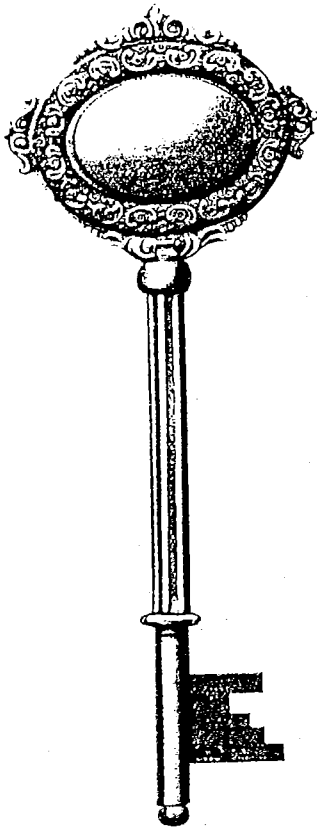
Fig. 7.

Fig. 1.—Interior of Ordinary Back-spring and Tumbler Lock—A, Tumbler; B, Bolt; C, Follower; D, Catch; F, Keyhole Plate; G, Feather Spring. Fig. 2.—Different Forms of Picks. Fig. 3.—Scotch Spring. Fig. 4.—Enlarged Diagram of Key in Fig. 5—A, Spot at which to Drill Hole in Blank; B, B, the L Wards; C, C, Bridge Wards; D, D, Parts at which Key is liable to break when cutting L Wards; E, Collar Ward; F, F, External Wards. Fig. 5.—Key belonging to Lock. Fig. 6.—Skeleton Key capable of Opening Lock. Fig. 7.—Blank with Bridge and Collar Wards Cut.

CHUBB LOCKS

FANCY BOW KEYS

Instead of the ordinary patterns, Keys of any of the following designs, at a small extra charge, will be supplied on request with all kinds of Lever Locks.



B 4538. — Presentation Key, complete in case.
 9ct. Gold ... £6 15 0
 Sterling Silver ... 2 2 0



014



016



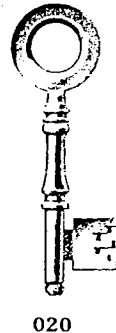
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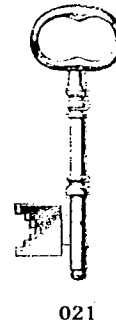
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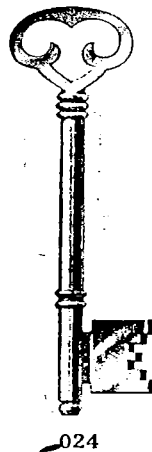
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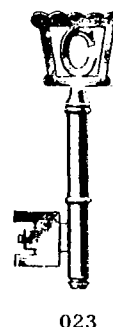
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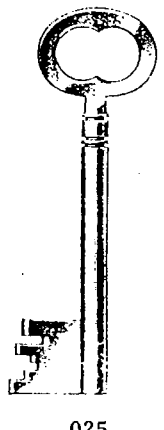
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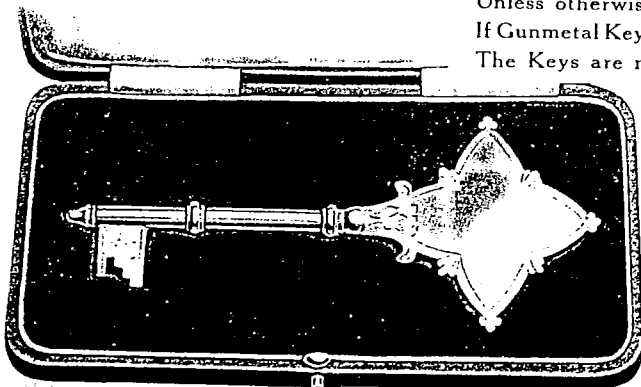
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 upper left: Mappin & Webb Ltd, Goldsmiths, Silversmith, and Jewellers, Sheffield and London etc. 1920's (actual size)
 left: Walker & Hall Ltd, Sheffield, c1920's: makers of gold and silver plate and electro plate.
 above: fancy keys from Chubb Locks, 1931



3103

Sterling Silver Presentation Key. In Case.