

LOCKS & KEYS



Issue 20

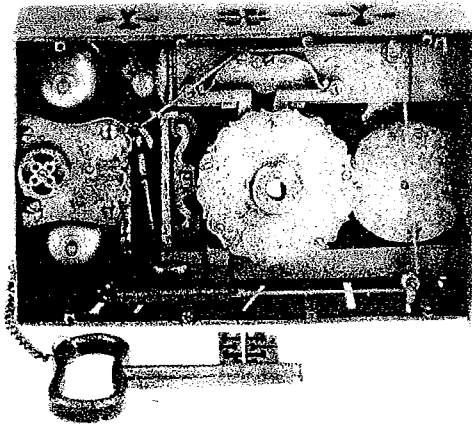
The Newsletter for lock collectors

March 2003

Peter Phillips

Peter Phillips, who died last year at the ripe old age of 94, was a keen collector of locks and keys which he took great delight in showing.

During his working life as a Builders Merchant representative he also had several other interests including Egyptology and Japanese art in a collection of Tsubas, as well as accumulating at the same time what was probably the finest collection of locks and keys in private hands.



He was never satisfied with second best and only collected examples of quality locks

(Continued on page 4)

Guns and Roses

Strongboxes of various sorts have been in use for thousands of years. Indeed, the 'box' is one of man's earliest pieces of furniture. Furniture historians suggest that from it developed much of our other furniture, especially receptacle items. The throne, and thence the chair, started as a box with elongated sides and back, forming legs, sides, and back. The British Royal Throne shows this development clearly. The settle, and table, also came from the chest, as did the shop counter. Other domestic furniture developed as the chest of drawers and its kin, and, stood on end with doors, various forms of what are now called cupboards.

For security, boxes were increasingly reinforced with iron bands, or sheet iron. As guns developed, the demand for armour declined, and skilled German armourers began to diversify into making iron caskets and chests. These developed into what was known as the 'strong German coffer', or 'Flemish kiste', or 'coffre fort' — hence the anglicisation into 'coffer'. This word had been in English for long, and allowed the double entendre 'to cough up' as a euphemism for extorting money by compelling a person to open his strongbox. Victorian romantics, ignorant of the true origins of such complex chests dating from the 17th century, called them 'Armada Chests', a name still used today¹.

The strongbox developed into an all-metal box by replacing all the metal bands with sheet iron, itself soon reinforced with some bands. Towards the end of the 18th century,

(Continued on page 5)

"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 MSWord7, MSWorks4.5, Write, Wordpad, or saved as .rtf can be used. Articles may also be emailed to the Editor — see below right.

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☎ West Linton 00 44 [0]1968 661039
Annual subscription: £10 payable in sterling
only. Published November; March; July
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From the Editor

The sale of a Cavalier lock in the Peter Phillips collection reminded me that I hope to carry an article on this famous lock. It was clearly a successful design, as they were made during a period of two decades. I guess about a score were manufactured, several of which are still in service. The inscription carried varies, and some have no inscription. With readers' help, it might be possible to make a list of the whereabouts of them all.



The Great Fire of Edinburgh, in November 2002, eventually only burnt out two blocks of the historic Old Town. Through four days, eighty firemen fought the blaze, with help from neighbouring brigades. Fire did not spread to the Royal Mile, University Old Building, the National Library, Law Courts, and other important buildings, all just a spark's fly nearby. Although nightclubs and bars in the area were packed on Friday night when the fire started, the only casualty was one fireman slightly injured.

Damage and financial loss, however, was great. One business woman looked down on the ruin of her business and said: "I've never seen such destruction. I've lost everything."

The fire would have severely tested any fire safe, but most fires are, whilst serious, nothing like so intense. Modern fire-resisting cabinets can give a good measure of protection in the fires which daily occur in businesses and homes. Ordinary filing cabinets merely act as ovens.



I hope to have an extra large next issue, and to mention some book and periodical items.

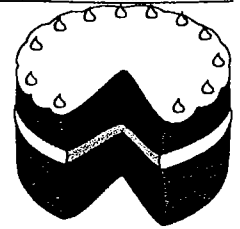
Just as this issue was being finalised, the death of Mr Jim Evans, Managing Director of Arthur Hough, was announced, on February 28th 2003. Jim spent his whole career in the keymaking business, and additionally, he was an enthusiast for local history and his village of Essington. He was also a Friend of the Lock Museum in Willenhall. He produced a gazetteer of lock makers, which grew steadily over some years. It was never complete; as technology advanced, Jim began adding pictures to the text, and so it grew. The gazetteer is now available on the Internet.

Jim was already preparing to retire, by working part-time.

We send condolences to his widow and family.

Feedback

What becomes of the millions of locks which have been made? One retired locksmith sadly reported that in his younger days, when they removed a brass lock, the men threw it into a box, and in December took it to a scrap metal merchant. The money fetched was shared out among the men as an untaxed Christmas bonus. Today many of them, even if unservicable, could fetch much more; but this is now, and that was then!

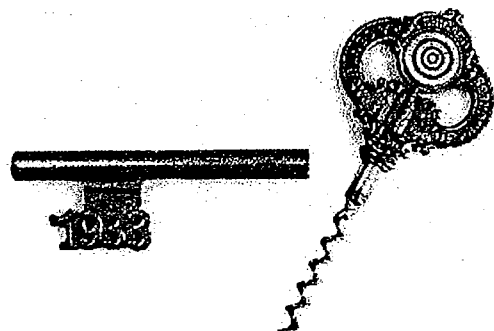


Various items have been contributed, and I am using some of them. I have been experimenting with trying to put more pictures into the newsletter, and experimenting with ways to make more pictures usable. Many pictures, especially colour ones, appear too dark when printed in black and white, others are faint or very small, and suffer if much enlarged.

Several articles are in course of being written, on the basis of items contributed. So even if you 'can't write', let me have something and I will write it up for you.

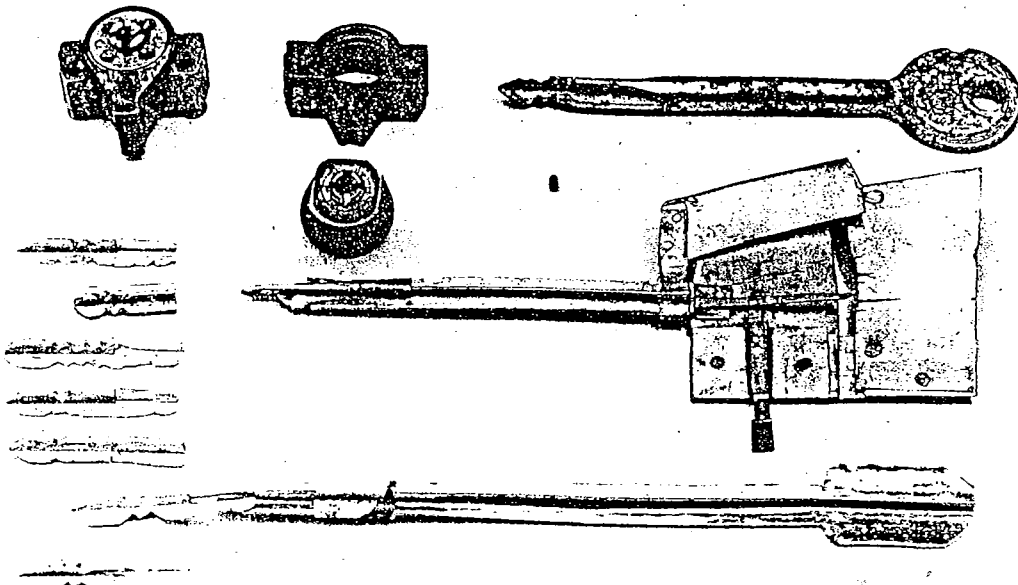
It would also be nice to tell how collectors, especially, perhaps, the non-locksmiths, became interested in this subject. Already I have received a few photos of collections, and would be happy to include a short profile of some collectors and collections.

We are in competition, it has been borne in upon me, with various 'theme' collectors. 'Logo' and 'story' locks are uncommon in Britain. However, collectors of many themes sometimes find locks and keys relating to their subject. Money bank collectors are an obvious target, but there are car enthusiasts, and Coca Cola collectors, mechanical puzzle collectors, to mention only a few, competing with us.



This is another area of collecting. Objects which look like keys but are not. The corkscrew idea has been around a few years, and still being made, sometimes to look old!

Zeiss Ikon cruciform pin tumbler cylinder locks



Illustrations for article on p9 below

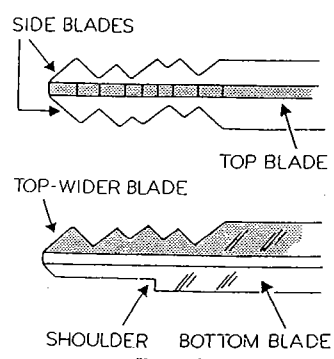


Figure 4

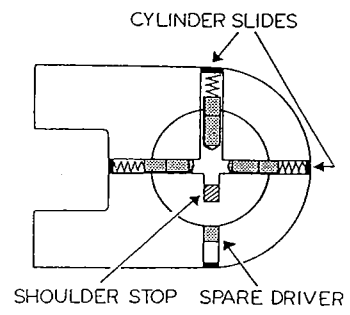


Figure 5

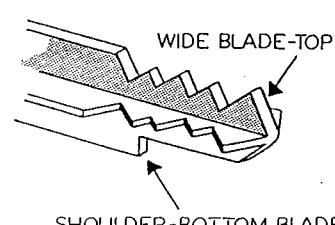


Figure 3

Zeiss Ikon top security cruciform locks were installed to combat lock-picking experts. The DIY lock-picking kit made from scraps of metal by Lt. Cdr. van Doorninck. Top left to right shows the complete lock, casing and barrel, one of the tiny pistons the four-sided key had to engage, and one of the keys. Centre right is van Doorninck's micrometer gauge for measuring the drop on the pistons. Left, some spare keys, and bottom right, a key holder made of tin.

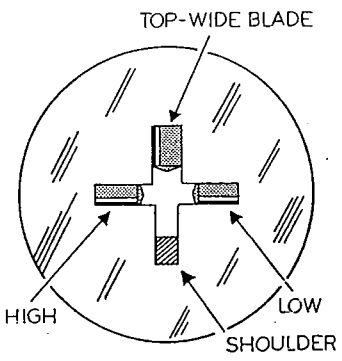


Figure 1

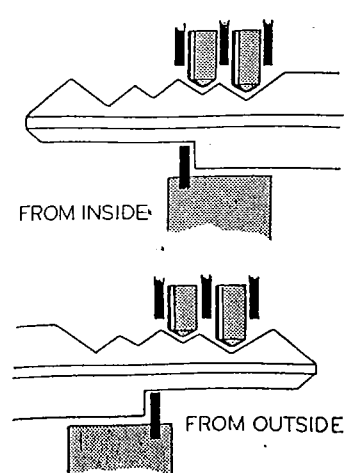
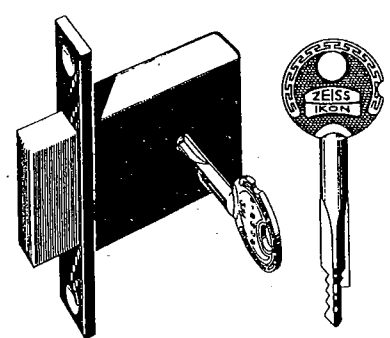


Figure 2

The small, strong security-lock

ZEISS IKON MORTISE DEAD LOCK No. 211

narrow model, with security device and enclosed case, long throw of bolt, for right and left hand use. Lock case, frontplate and striking-plate fine black lacquered. Bolt operated on both sides by key. 3 ribbed keys, 2 Roses. Not suitable for use in master key systems.



Technical Data:

Case height	46 mm	1 7/8"
Case thickness	14 mm	9/16"
Central frontplate	100 x 22 mm	4 x 7/8"
Bolt	40 x 11 mm	
Close	20 mm	3/4"
Backset	45 or 55 mm	1 1/2"
Total width	71 or 81 mm	2 3/4" or 3 1/4"
Price	43/- each	

Sole Agents: Messrs. Alfred G. Roberts Ltd.
 River House, 182/3 Upper Thames Street
 London-E.C. 4
 Central 87 02-5
 Area Stockists:

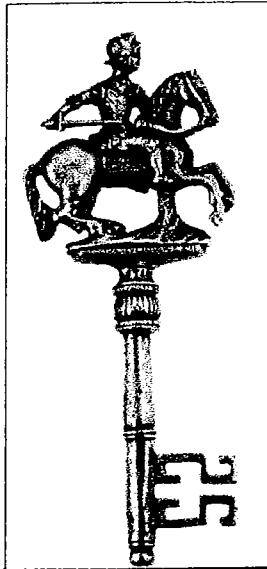


(Continued from page 1)

and only collected examples of quality locks and keys, often at great expense to himself.

One of known

He became collector by and locks and country For this display unit mahogany form a containing these ed his 24 showing the locks and throughout Greek and to the



German wrought iron key, 19th century, 13cm

Britain's best-lock collectors

well known as a giving lectures exhibiting his keys around the over many years. purpose he built a consisting of boxes, angled to semi-circle, the locks. On boxes he mount-panels of keys from left to right development of keys the ages from Roman times present day.

He was a stickler for detail. All his panels were labeled and all his locks had the keys attached to them by chains. If he acquired a lock without keys, he wouldn't rest until he had made a key of the correct period to fit.

His lectures were always well attended since he had the reputation of being the most knowledgeable man in his field, probably due to his fine collection of books. He would buy a book even if only one page referred to locks.

In later life he lived in a genuine Tudor cottage in the tiny hamlet of High Ongar in Essex with his Pekinese dog he called Bramah. It was there I visited him on many occasions. Unfortunately, his wife Vera was in a long stay hospital so he lived alone but always welcomed me as he would any serious collector who visited him. I also wrote to him from time to time with information about the Master Locksmiths Association of which he was an honorary member.

His old friends Peter and Sheila Bailey who ran the local grocers had been keeping an eye on him for many years and when he fell ill arranged for him to move to a local nursing home, where I visited him for the last time. Meanwhile Vera had been given some new treatment which vastly improved her health so they finished up living together again in a nursing home near Clacton until his death.

On November 20th 2002 his collection was sold at Sotheby's and fellow collectors gathered to see and bid for them. It was only then that the true value of his collection became apparent. From a valuation of £130-150,000, they eventually sold for £239,000 to collectors worldwide who were either present or bidding by tele-

telephone.

Although it is always a pity to see a man's life work broken up, no doubt many collections have been enhanced by Peter's locks and keys and they will be preserved and cherished by their new owners.

Peter Hall. MLA

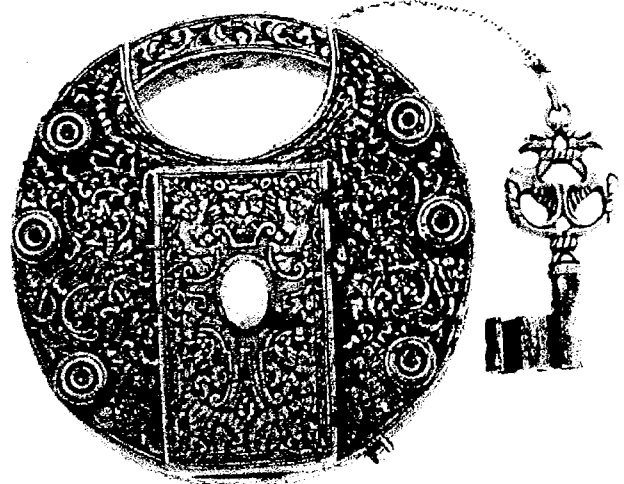
The picture on page 1 shows a large German iron alarm lock, late 18th century, the face with handle and brass clock dial inscribed "D. M. 1795", the movement with engraved sliding bolts and with one side also pierced with the initials "WA E R SQ"; restored. 34x23cm.

A sale catalogue is available from: Sotheby's Distribution Ltd, 34 New Bond Street London W1A 2AA Price £8 / \$20 W02852 The Welsh and oak sale, including the Peter Phillips lock and key collection.

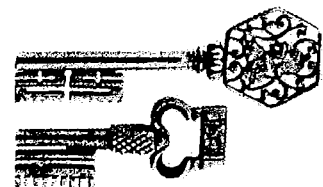
For a limited time, the catalogue is on the Internet at: www.sothebys.com

There is also the list of prices fetched.

Renaissance style padlock dated 1561, probably 19th century. Engraved with foliage, the front face with a pair of donkeys and foliage; together with a gilt key of ad-dorsed harpies.



2 French chiselled steel keys, one with a relief bust on each side in the bow, 17th C 7.5cm (above); the other with a flat top-bow, and bit with 9 teeth, 15/16th century



Guns and Roses

(Continued from page 1)

coke, instead of wood charcoal, began to be used extensively as fuel for iron smelting. Furnace heights and capacities rose, and so did the temperature inside the furnace. The iron actually melted, and absorbed carbon. This molten iron could be cast, but the carbon in it made cast iron brittle, and it is also weak in tension. Thus, it was not suitable for all purposes, though ideal for some.

Cast iron could be converted ('fined') to wrought iron, but the process still used large amounts of charcoal fuel. With coke as the main fuel for smelting ore, charcoal supplies could be used for converting cast-iron to wrought iron, and wrought iron to steel. Cast-iron was refined to wrought iron with charcoal, until Henry Cort's 1784 'puddling' process using a reverberatory furnace fuelled by coal. The simple steelmaking process produced 'blister steel', of variable quality and small quantity. The 'cementation process' used more charcoal and labour, but produced larger quantities of more consistent steel. Steel could be hardened and tempered, and was ideal for springs. The growing economy, shipbuilding, industrialisation, and population, all put pressure on dwindling supplies of wood.

Concerns about the population had been on the government's mind for some time. One problem was the lack of statistical information about what was happening to Britain's population. After much prevarication, George Rose eventually succeeded in passing through parliament an act, the Parochial Registers Act 1812, (52 Geo III Ch 146). This is commonly known as 'Rose's Act'. It came into effect in 1813. One of its provisions is of interest to us. Parish priests were required to provide a *'dry well painted iron chest, in some dry and secure place'*, to store church registers. This was the last of numerous church and government orders to priests and churchwardens for this purpose, through many centuries.

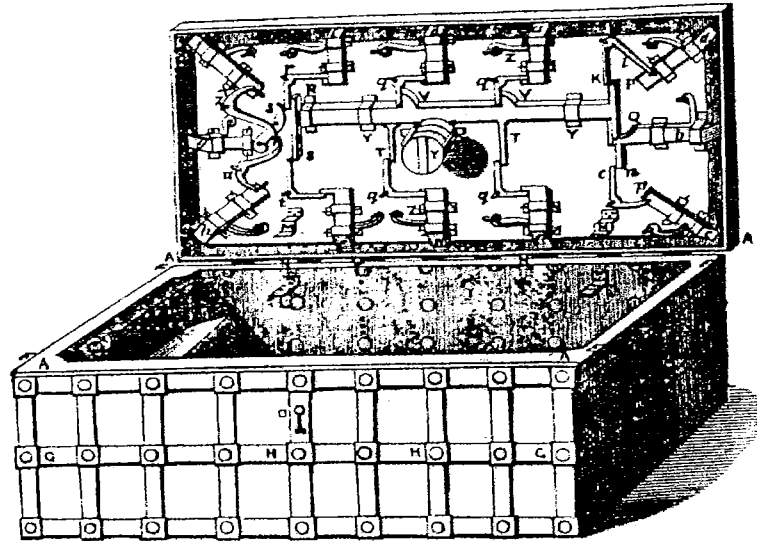
The type of chest obtained was a cast-iron box. These are usually modelled as framed and panelled wooden

chests, though some are completely plain. Such cast-iron chests appeared towards the end of the 18th century, and were made in Britain and America.

Several thousand 'Rose's Act' chests remain in British parish churches. Some even have '1813' cast on the lid.

A similar pattern of chest was also much used as a strongbox by better-off families, and some businesses.

Two sorts of lock were commonly used on these cast-iron chests. Both types are warded, although some patent locks did exist. One lock is a small block lock. This is mounted by large screws near the edge of the lid. The other would normally be called a 'press lock'. This is longer, so that its keyhole is near the handle in the middle of the lid. It is a flanged double-handed lock, normally used on the inside of the large doors of domestic



Strong German Coffin.

'presses'. Press in this context is a medieval word for what we would call a cupboard, usually tall, and often built-in (also, a library bookcase was called a press). Many of the chests in churches have lost their locks, but some are intact. Some of these chests were still in use by part-time village registrars into the 1970's! Such chests also circulate in the antique trade.

Evidently, the sledgehammer was not a common tool at the end of the 18th century, or the weakness of cast-iron would have been exploited. It is brittle!

When the chest became so large the lid was rather heavy to lift, the end handles were removed and the chest stood on end. Thus, the lid became a door. Many early cast-iron safes still have one large lock, with the bolt moved directly by the key.

Early sheet iron chests with lids were also made, but soon they too became cupboards with doors. The safe as we know it was nearly in existence.

The main difference, between these old chests and cupboards, is that the key moves the door bolt(s). On the safe, there is a bolt control handle to move the large bolts, the key only operates a small lock.

Richard Phillips

¹ For more on Armada chests, see *Locks and keys* #18 p3.

A key fantasy in *Alice in Wonderland*



6. A gold key that unlocked mysterious doors was a common object in Victorian fantasy. Here is the second stanza of Andrew Lang's "Ballade of the Bookworm":

One gift the fairies gave me (three

They commonly bestowed of yore):

The love of books, the golden key

That opens the enchanted door.

In his notes for an Oxford edition of the *Alice* books, Roger Green links this gold key to the magic key to Heaven in George MacDonald's famous fantasy tale "The Golden Key." The story first appeared in an 1867 book, *Dealings with Fairies*, two years after the publication of *Alice in Wonderland*, but Carroll and MacDonald were good friends and it is possible, Green writes, that Carroll saw the story in manuscript. MacDonald also wrote a poem titled "The Golden Key" that was published early enough (1861) for Carroll to have read it. The story is reprinted in Michael Hearn's splendid anthology *The Victorian Fairy Tale Book* (Pantheon, 1988).

Alice found herself in a long, low hall. There were doors all round the hall, but they were all locked; and when Alice had been all the way down one side and up the other, trying every door, she walked sadly down the middle, wondering how she was ever to get out again.

Suddenly she came upon a little three-legged table, all made of solid glass: there was nothing on it but a tiny golden key, and Alice's first idea was that this might belong to one of the doors of the hall; but, alas! either the locks were too large, or the key was too small, but at any rate it would not open any of them. However, on the second time round, she came upon a low curtain she had not noticed before, and behind it was a little door about fifteen inches high: she tried the little golden key in the lock, and to her great delight it fitted!⁶

Martin Gardner's *Annotated Alice* has been reprinted in a definitive edition by Allen Lane, 2000, 0713994177. It combines his annotations to both of Lewis Carroll's *Alice* books.

...and finally

SIX firemen were called to an Ann Summers sex shop after a customer became trapped in a pair of handcuffs. Crowds gathered outside the store in Wolverhampton to watch the crew get to work with a hacksaw. Shop

assistant Emma Peynado said the fur-lined handcuffs jammed when the woman tried them on, adding: 'She was quite shaken up and tearful at one point. It's a very touchy-feely shop but I don't think she'll ever try any on again.'

Lewis Carroll invented the word game of 'Doublets'. It consists of changing one word into another by altering single letters at each step to make a different word. last the must identifiers in positions.

First and words in chain not have cal let- the same tions.	APE APT OPT OAT MAT MAN	Now try: BOLT LOCK
--	--	---

Solution in next issue. (No proper names.)
[Martin Gardner]

The THINK Tank

By David J. Bodycombe

TANK 1: Lateral

Suppose you had ten pairs of locked, standard issue handcuffs and their ten keys. You randomly place a different key in every pair of handcuffs, then try unlocking each one. How many, on average, will unlock?



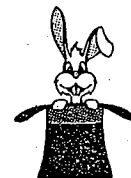
TANK 3: Logic

Suppose you had ten different locked doors and their ten keys. You randomly place a different key in every door, then try unlocking each one. How many, on average, will unlock?



TANK 2: Knowledge

Why did Houdini make a habit of kissing his wife, Bess, goodbye before undertaking some of his most dangerous escapes?

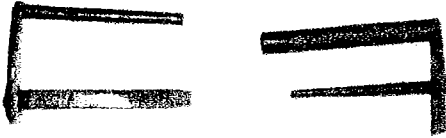
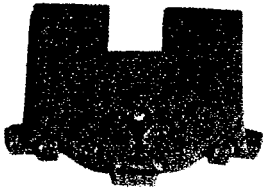


ANSWERS

1. Usually ten, because standard handcuffs have the same keys - sometimes even if they are different makes. They do not need to work in the same way as house keys, because handcuffed prisoners are escorted. 2. Bess often passed him a key or some small tools between their mouths. 3. One - this result is the same for x doors and x keys for any whole x.

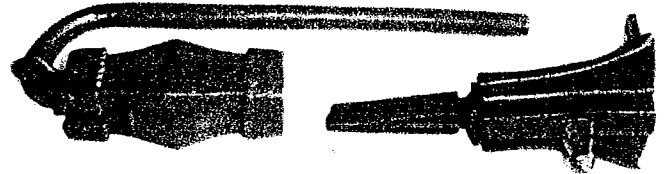
http://www.labyrinthgames.co.uk

Two 'chinese' padlocks

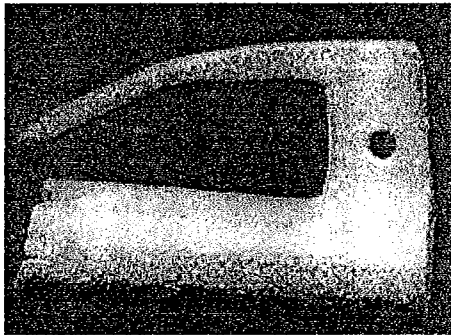


Two locks recently bought by *John Whitford*

This lock was bought locked, without a key. I made the key on the left, and kept filing it until it compressed the spring leaves to withdraw the locking bar on the left. I was then confronted with a screw mechanism behind the first side plate and had to make another key to undo the right hand plate. No indication of origin or date. A really good find for £25.



This is a Tibetan Thalcha or Temple Lock. It works on the principle of a slide key compressing expanding spring barbs to release the locking bar. The lock has a geometric design engraved on it. I bought 5 of them, all different, just by chance when buying a book on locks, from the bookshop owner.

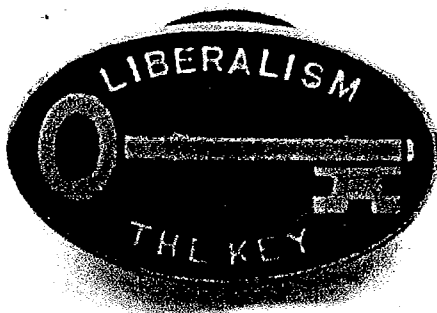


Body of a 13th century

chinese padlock excavated in England recently. The body is bronze, the missing interior and expanding barbs probably of iron.

Voters in Britain

will now know how to vote in forthcoming elections! This enamel metal lapel badge probably dates from the 1920's.



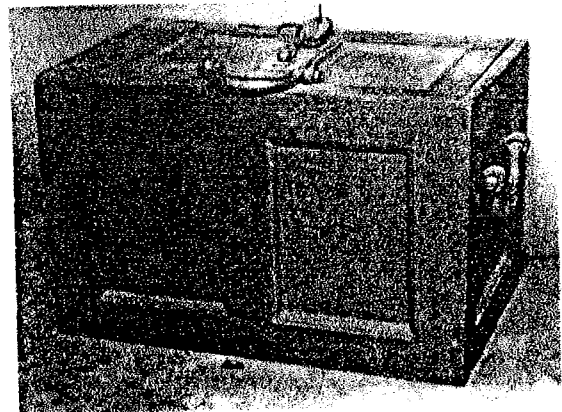
This cast-iron chest

is typical of those supplied in accordance with George Rose's Act (see p.5), modelled on a framed wooden chest. However, this particular chest was ordered in 1776 for a Philadelphia insurance company. It was made in a local ironworks. The general form was widespread.

At Lastingham church in Yorkshire is a chest specially moulded with the name **LASTINGHAM** and the date **182?**.

Such chests are often of much the same size. They have been for several thousand years.

They have to be strong enough to withstand being dropped from at least waist, or possibly shoulder, height. Yet they should not be too heavy to be carried a short distance by one man when full of something heavy, such as coin. The same considerations apply even to modern small arms ammunition boxes!



Questions from readers

Write in to "Locks & Keys" with your questions about locks. Somebody will surely be able to supply answers. The Editor will be pleased to print a composite answer to questions. When replying, please mention the number of the question.



There are no questions, and no answers in this issue.

For sale / wanted

For sale or swap: old Indian screw key padlocks £10 each.

Wanted: safe plates, British or foreign. I have duplicates to swap.

Wanted: information on old safe deposits, such as Chancery Lane Safe Deposit, Hull Safe Deposit, Leeds Safe Deposit, Huddersfield Safe Deposit; also others not listed.

Trevor Dowson

17 Landseer Drive, Gleadless Valley, Sheffield, Yorkshire S14 1BS

SPLINTER CELL XBOX VIDEO GAME

Those readers not much into computer games might like to explore the game *Splinter Cell*, based on a Tom Clancy idea. A secret agent is supplied by 'Q Branch' with certain interesting items of equipment.

Q Branch

You didn't expect a top-trained NSA operative to rely just on his muscle and wits, did you? To help accomplish your missions, you have a plethora of gadgets at your disposal that would make 007 jealous. These include disposable lockpicks that inject shaped charges into locks, and regular lockpicks.

The normal lockpick is a small mini-game in itself, actually. When using it, a cut-away image of the lock appears. You then move the left stick around in circles until the first pin in the lock starts moving and the controller starts vibrating. Then you just wig-



Places of interest

The Hanns Schell Collection in Graz, Austria, has just opened its second floor. There visitors can see the cast iron collection and wrought iron objects such as lock plates, door knockers and other metal fittings. More details available from hanns.schell.collection@gmx.at or ☎0316/71 56 56 DW 38.

The **Galleries of Justice** is a major tourist attraction in Nottingham. This is an award-winning experience, in buildings in use from the 1700's to the mid 1980's. As well as a prison and court, here was a working police station until 1985. There are permanent and temporary exhibitions. Of particular interest, perhaps, is the handcuff display. There is a library open by appointment.

Galleries of Justice, Shire Hall, High Pavement, Nottingham ☎0115 952 0555.

The Score is a film about a safe burglary caper set in Canada. Robert de Niro purposes to steal Napoleon's Field Marshal baton from a safe in a Customs store. How the safe is to be opened does not become apparent until well into the film. Just reaching the safe undetected is quite a task. The opening method is not new, but perhaps little known. I have seen a video of an actual demonstration, and on some safes it works spectacularly successfully! Collectors will be pleased to note that it does not damage the lock. Whether the burglary succeeds I do not reveal — readers can enjoy watching the film.

gle the stick a bit until the pin is released. Repeat for the remaining pins. It's a nice touch, but it also takes time, hence the much faster disposable locks. (Which in return only work one time each.)

More details at:

http://www.agr-s.com/html_reports/field-report0130.htm

Zeiss Ikon cruciform pin tumbler cylinder locks

The Zeiss Ikon mortise deadlock is of unusual design and construction. Its basic operation is that of a 6 pin tumbler cylinder lock, but the arrangement of the pins, and the shape of the key, are quite different from those in common use.

The cylinder is based on an early Yale lock idea, which had 3 pairs of pins similarly arranged. That cylinder was much bigger, and the key was a round rod with U shaped notches for the pins, and operated on 1 side only, like a modern rim/mortise cylinder. The only other cylinder mechanism operated from both sides (ie not 2 separate cylinders) is one model of the Ingersoll Impregnable range - which, therefore, could not be masterkeyed.

The Zeiss Ikon company was mainly known for cameras and other optical equipment, but also made locks. Famously, these were used in Colditz POW camp (see p3 top). At the end of WWII the Zeiss factory was in (Soviet) East Germany, at Jena. Much of the plant and expertise went west, and after the war there were two Zeiss businesses. Zeiss Ikon continued the original business in West Germany, and what was practically a new organisation, Carl Zeiss Jena, operated in East Germany. The locks continued from West Germany. They were exported into Britain and the USA in the late 1960's. Normal finish was black enamel, sometimes with polished steel.

The plug is constructed with a cross-shaped keyway, taking a key having four blades instead of the customary one. (Fig. 1) The plug contains three pairs of pin tumbler chambers, positioned around the circumference, one pair on each side, and one pair at the top. The vertical cut at the top of the keyway is wider than the other three, corresponding with the one wider blade of the key blank.

As this lock is key operated from both sides, the lower vertical cut of the keyway has no pin chambers. Instead, a shoulder stop for the key is built at one side of the plug. The keyway passes directly through the plug and a stop is positioned to one side to limit the key's entry from either side. The key enters the full extent of the keyway from the inside, but only halfway from the outside. When the lock is operated from the inside, the cuts nearest the bow operate the pins (Fig. 2) and the key cannot be removed. By so blocking the keyway, no other key can be inserted from the outside. When the lock is operated from the outside, the cuts at the tip of the key operate the pins.

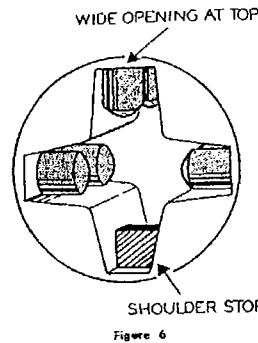


Figure 6

pins when the plug is turned 180°, as the lock is put in the locked position. The spacing between the pairs of driver pins is unequal (Fig. 6) preventing withdrawal of the key when the plug is halfway between the "locked" and the "unlocked" position.

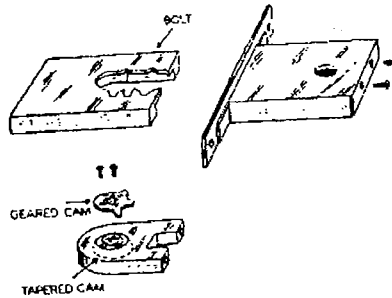
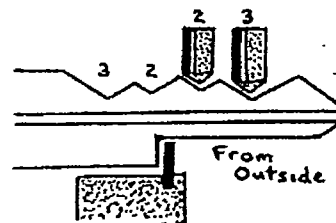
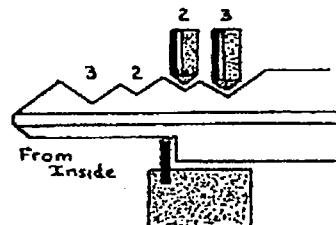
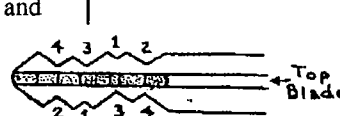


Figure 7

retaining machine screws.

The inside mechanism is extremely simple. The bolt is made of steel and has a multi-grooved or geared edge, into which fits the cylinder (activating) assembly. (Fig. 7) The plug is tapered and is held in position on the small side, by a geared cam (attached by two retaining screws). The geared cam engages the geared edge of the bolt, moving it to the locked or unlocked position. This complete assembly is held in the steel casing from the back by two



This is the system of coding used on Zeiss Ikon locks.

The code may start with one letter which indicates the design of the keyway. This letter is followed by six numbers, for example, X322143. The first two numbers, 3-2, indicate the two first cuts on the top blade of the key, starting from head to tip. The two cuts are repeated in reverse, completing the cuts on the top blade.

Looking down on the key, with the head toward you, the "right" blade takes the next pair of numbers, 2-1, again starting from head to tip. The last pair of numbers, 4-3, apply to the "left" blade, beginning from the head.

For the last two cuts on both blades, the combination should be reversed on both sides. The right has 21 and the reverse of 43, giving you 2134 and the left side would become 4312.

Murray Carp, Gaston Adler, Richard Phillips, C Edwards

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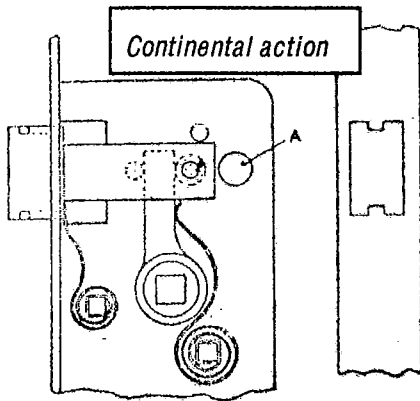
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Doublesided continental locks with pipe key

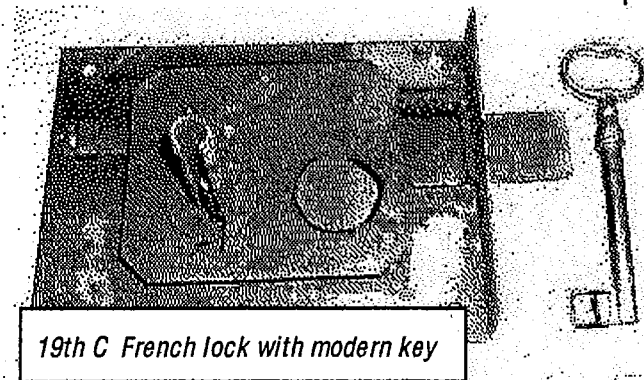
Sometime ago I came across a lock strange to me, though doubtless familiar to some readers. It was an upright two bolt mortice lock, with a 2-lever mechanism.



I now know it is a typical 'continental action' lock.

This is a convenient way of describing an easy action which is in almost universal favour on the

Continent of Europe and occasionally employed in Britain for narrow locks. As shown, there is often one scroll spring to act on the bolt, and another much stronger one on the follower. It is essentially an action for lever handles to turn one way only, a stop preventing the follower from turning in the other direction. The follower, which is below the bolt, has a single horn fairly long so that a comparatively short angle of movement of the handle will withdraw the bolt. The follower horn bears against the head of a screw in

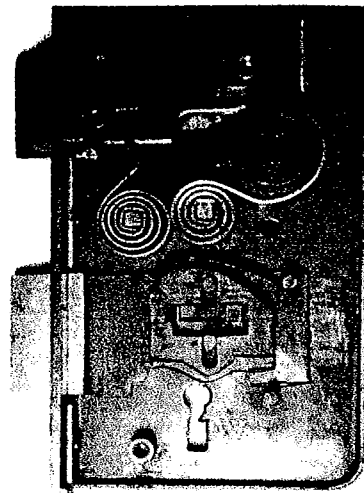


19th C French lock with modern key

the bolt tail. This screw can be removed through the hole A in the lock case. Therefore the bolt can be withdrawn through the forend, reversed, and put back, without taking off the cap of the lock. In many of the Continental locks the bolt head is grooved or flanged to fit a hole correspondingly shaped in the forend and so cannot rise as it moves in and out. Sprung lever handles are rarely if ever used on the Continent.

The other peculiar feature was that the lock used a pipekey.

Sometime in about the 1840's, Mr Parsons (he of the 'balance lock') introduced a form of two-sided lock which has been rarely used in Britain.

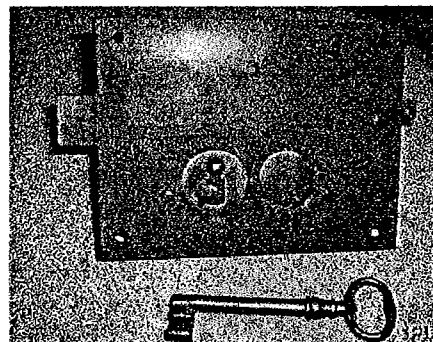


Modern continental action 2-lever double-sided mortice deadlock, using a pipe key

There are 2 drillpins, so that pipe keys can be used, and the keyholes are not opposite each other. There is no passage right through the lock. It prevents, for example, turning the end of a pin key with nippers from outside. The key does not have to be symmetrical, so the security is equivalent to a single-sided lock. There is a talon on the bolttail for each keyhole, and likewise, bellies on the levers.

Locks on this principle were in use in France (and still are), and elsewhere in Europe. George Price observes that such French locks were of a very inferior description. This continues to be often the case.

The principle has been used in Britain in more recent times for some secure grillegate locks used in prisons.



In my lock, the stump is fixed in the case, and the levers slide vertically rather than pivot. They are guided on 2 pins.

Since then, I have found an old French rimlock, warded, but made to take a pipe key. Probably more accurate to call this one a 'flush lock'.

Presto Combination padlock changing

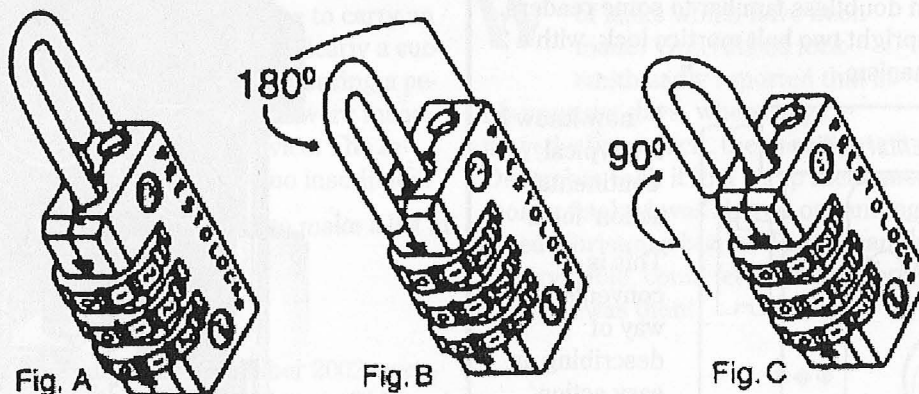


Fig. A

Fig. B

Fig. C

HOW SHOULD I SET MY COMBINATION LOCK?

The Presto combination padlock is factory set to open at 0-0-0 when aligned between the arrows, as shown in Fig. A. You may leave it at this if you wish and open the lock by turning the dials to 0-0-0, or you can set your own combination in the following manner:

Step 1: Open lock by turning the dials to present combination and pull shackle out. Fig. A.

Step 2: Turn shackle halfway around (180°) in either direction and push in as far as possible. Fig. B.

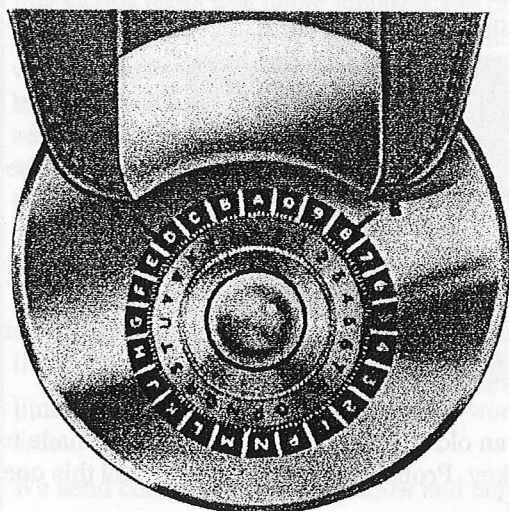
Step 3: Hold shackle depressed and turn it (90°), quarter turn, in either direction as shown in Fig. C. Leave shackle in this position. You are now ready to change the combination.

Step 4: Turn dials to the new desired combination. Record the numbers for your reference.

Step 5: Without disturbing the dials, reverse the process as follows: Turn shackle a quarter way around (90°) Fig. B.; pull out shackle and turn pulled out shackle half way around (180°) and push in. Fig. A. Turn dials to any number to lock. Your lock will now open with the new combination. When you wish to change to a new combination, simply repeat steps 1 through 5.

These locks are marked PRESTOLOCK Mexico Pat3720082. They have been about since about 1990. They might also occur badged with other names. They are made in several sizes, and possibly other finishes, but are usually seen with a satin chrome body with a dimpled surface. The body is probably zinc diecast. The (hardened?) shackle locks only at the heel.

Dial combination briefcase lock



This ingenious lock offers all the convenience and security associated with "combination locks", and some important additional features, *without any* protrusion into the case. For instance, when the briefcase is open, the owner, by moving a small catch, can disengage the code mechanism so that the lock will operate as a normal catch-lock with the usual simple snap action until the code locking mechanism is again required. Then only one pre-set three-digit combination, known only to the owner, will operate the lock. Precision built to watchmaker's standards, this solid brass lock is wholly reliable, simple and positive in operation, and immensely strong. **(Turning the dials gives no clue to the Correct combination).**

Many customers connected with the diamond and jewellery industry have found this lock ideally suited to their requirements. And so also, let it not be said, the Diplomatic Service.

These locks were probably made by **Hodges Locks Birmingham**, in the 1950's and 1960's — the details come from a 1968 advertisement.