



LOCKS & KEYS



Issue 25

The Newsletter for lock collectors

July 2004

Roman locks & keys

Roman locks (other than padlocks) are rare. Roman keys, however, are found on most Roman sites, in some variety; and more are being found all the time.

There are several reasons for this. There are often more keys than locks initially. Many Roman keys were bronze (and some silver), which survives better than iron. And many Roman locks and latches were made of wood, although the keys were iron.

As no wooden locks or latches suitable for the common Roman keys have been found, proposed mechanisms are conjectural.

The biggest contribution to finding old metal artefacts, and archæological sites, has been by metal detectorists.

Latch lifters of a shape we now call 'sickle shaped' were copied from the Greeks. Either by an inward and upward movement, or a turning movement, they could have lifted a pivoted, gravity-impelled wooden latch bar, or pushed back a sliding bar: a very simple device. So common was this

(Continued on page 3)

Collecting feedback

There has been some response to the article on the Abloy lock. A locksmith who really knows Abloy tells me that, whatever people claim, (and proving a negative is always difficult), there is no evidence that the Abloy lock has been picked. Moreover, mere existence or possession of suitable picking instruments is not the same as being able to use them. And being able to use them on the workbench is not the same as using them in the field.

I have various sources of information, some more reliable than others. I have my books and my own personal knowledge, and occasional access to patents or patent abstracts. Readers send me contributions, and I also find items on the Internet. This is a vast source of information; but some is inaccurate or wrong, and some of it is opinion that is no better than hearsay. Assessing this information is sometimes difficult, and there is the possibility of being misled.

Though I worked briefly in the trade, I am not now a professional locksmith, so I value contributions and corrections from those who know more about locks than me. The *newsletter* would be better if those of you who know about locks would share your knowledge with other collectors. In particular, I welcome corrections to any errors I make.

Locks do not occur in a vacuum. They exist in various contexts, some of which might overlap. There are various technological contexts. For example, the advent of the

(Continued on page 2)

"Locks & Keys" last issue was incorrectly numbered: in effect, 23-24 combined.

"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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rolling mill made available to the smith uniform sheet metal, and various sections, simplifying his labour. The development of quantity production of hardenable steel and tools to work it made possible increased physical protection of locks and safes. Mass production machinery made possible a large increase in productivity, and wider availability of precision products.

Technological, social, and cultural contexts

Many collectors are interested in technological contexts, whilst others are interested in artistic contexts. Locks were at some times in the past a design statement, or an expression of civic or other pride. Today, although locks and safes are generally rather functional than artistic, their designs still benefit from the efforts of industrial stylists.

There are also social and cultural contexts. Pitt Rivers, for example, examined the distribution of primitive locks geographically and through time. Trade and cultural contacts saw the Chinese padlock spread through the Arab world and beyond, with distinctive variations in form and decoration. Likewise, contacts between Roman and Celtic peoples saw similar spread of Roman designs, which were later copied by Saxons and Vikings, and continued into late Medieval times.

The 19th century was a quiet age; trains and horseshoes on cobbles were usually the loudest noise, and lock inventors concentrated on defeating attempts at covert opening. By contrast, the mid-20th century was a much noisier age, and lockmakers' emphasis turned to resisting forceful opening.

'Families' of ideas

There are 'families' of lock ideas. Bramah adapted the woodworker's halving joint to locks (and incidentally invented the cylinder locking device idea, allowing the locking device to be separated from the bolt mechanism). Bramah's lock was (in addition to straight copies) rearranged in the Cotterill Climax lock, and further rearranged in the Aubin vibrating guard and Fichet 'umbrella' locks. Later, the Nix Pix brought a new take on the change key idea, with a re-keyable lock and key.

Pin tumbler locks are a large family — ranging from varieties of wooden Egyptian locks to modern Bi-axial cylinders. Another large family group is the locks using notched wheels as movable retainers: there are both keyless and keyed locks in this family.

The sidebar family includes the Abloy cylinder, the Ingersoll Impregnable, the General Motors sidebar disk tumbler cylinder, and the more recent Medeco lock. Basically similar in principle, although applied to a 'lever' type of lock (in practice, sliders rather than levers have been used, but the inventor claims both), is the Butter's System. A later lock on a similar principle,

differently arranged, is the Chubb Castle detainer mechanism.

A more diverse family is the concept of the 'detector'. These locks not only recognise their correct key: they react to an incorrect key or picking attempt, and signal this to the genuine key-holder.

These families can overlap, and some locks can form links between ideas. Whitfield's lock is a cylinder lock derived from the Cotterill Climax, but its mechanism is essentially a pin tumbler one, although instead of round pins, it has flat tumblers. It also uses a single flat spring around the cylinder, instead of individual springs, as is usual in pin tumbler mechanisms.

Any of these aspects could be the focus of collecting interest, though there could be many other interests, such as country, function, period, maker ...

Development pressures

There are many development promptings for makers of engineered products. The need to gain or retain market share is one. For this, a 'unique selling point' is useful. 'New and improved' has long been a useful slogan to sellers, even if neither adjective is true. Sometimes, the product is not even different. The practice of marking fake patent numbers on products is now illegal, but was not always so. Some products are developed merely to be different, or to circumvent existing patents. Some inventions are patented merely to deny the idea to competitors. A multi-national maker of home video cassette recorders holds a patent on a method of copy-protecting video recordings, which it has not used!

Experience of the product in service is commonly a prompt for development. For example, a corrosion problem might prompt a modification to the design, or a change of materials, or a different anti-corrosion treatment.

The *raison d'être* of locks

One impulse for product development is not unique to locks and safes, but is certainly rare for the designers and makers of other products. The possibility of crashes is borne in mind by, for example, car designers, but crashes are rarely deliberate. Some locks and safes are subject to deliberate, intelligent attempts to overcome or bypass them, by force or covertly. Clearly some makers try harder than others to make their products secure. There is obviously a

(Continued on page 10)

Number, please!

Some confusion over the number of the last issue of the newsletter! It should have been issue number 23, as it said correctly on the inside pages. I enthusiastically advanced the front page to number 24 in error, however.

So this issue is numbered 25. March 2004 issue must be regarded as '23-24'. So you haven't missed an issue, if you were diligently looking at the numbering.

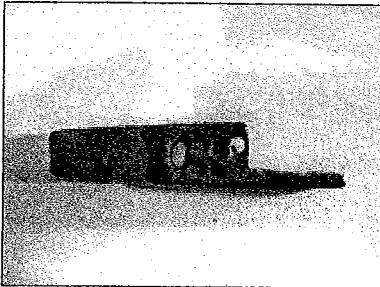
Roman locks and keys continued

(Continued from page 1)

type of key that its name was given to the bone ('clavicle') in the human body we call in English the 'collar bone', whose shape resembles this latch lifter. They are almost always of iron.

T- or L-shaped keys occur in various sizes, mostly in iron but also in bronze. They are typically of a size that suggests they were door keys.

The Romans also had metal versions of the Egyptian wooden lock. The locks were usually iron, but many keys were bronze. The size of these keys suggests they



were often for boxes rather than room doors. Turning keys for, mostly, small lever tumbler locks are also quite common. Many small keys made integral with finger rings have been found.

Typical roman tumbler lock bolt; these are made in iron or cast bronze, in many sizes.

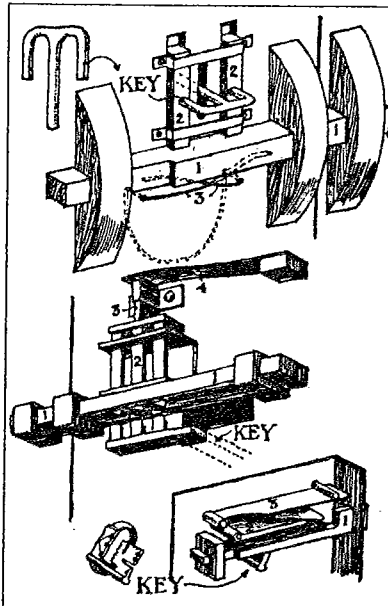
These were probably padlock keys.

Padlocks

Suitable padlocks have been found rather rarely, mostly of iron. Some have a moulded face, or helmet mask, on one side, the back being plain. They also usually have pivoting shackles, rather than sliding. More such padlocks seem to have been found in Germany than anywhere else. 'Spring barb' or 'chinese' padlocks are quite common.

Victorian landowners and others were frequently antiquarians, and amateur archaeologists.

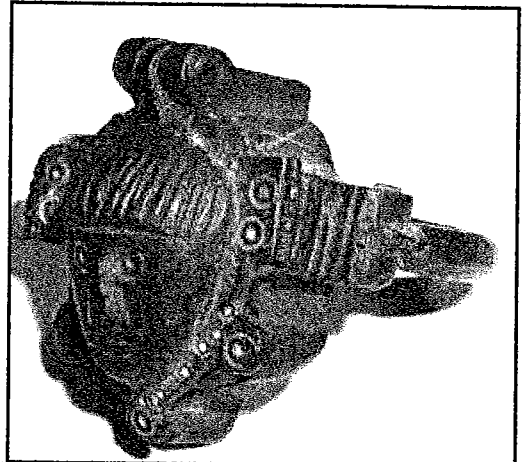
During agricultural and building work, many finds were made, and continue to be made. Often they are



Trconstructions of Roman locks: possible wooden tumbler lock; metal tumbler lock with sliding key; 'lever' lock with turning key. These were often padlocks or small box locks.

recorded, and reported in various antiquarian and archaeological journals. The standard of past recording, however, was variable, and sometimes done from memory years later.

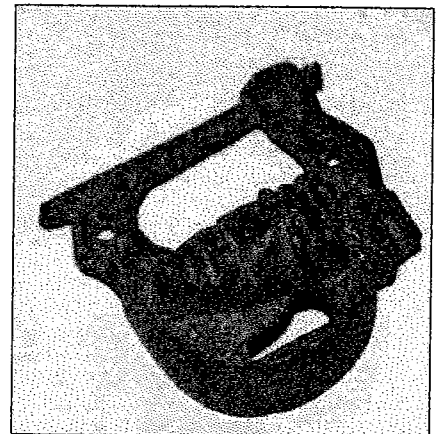
Building development continues to be a common cause of discovering archaeological sites and artefacts, though there are other important reasons for an increase in discoveries.



Late Roman Bronze padlock with face; the hasp is hinged at the back. Good ring dot detail around the edge of the face. From Top to Bottom of Face = 4cm, Across = 3cm, Depth = 4.5cm, Weight = 57.1g

During the Cold War period, the RAF conducted an extensive aerial photography programme covering most of Britain. In more recent years, much of this survey has become available to scholars and researchers. It has enabled researchers to identify many archaeological sites.

However, the biggest contribution has been by metal detectorists. 'Portable' proximity detectors were used for landmine detecting during WW2, but it was not until the 1960's that solid-state electronics made them popular with civilians. 'Treasure Hunting' (the phrase was often intended to be pejorative!) was popular for a few years, but then declined. In more recent years, however, there has been a revival of interest in 'detecting'. Microchips have made the detector device lighter, using less battery power. There are

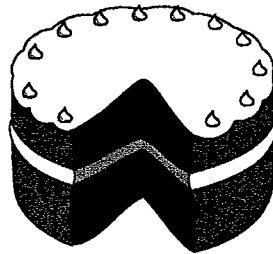


Rare roman iron padlock, using a turning key. The shackle at right hinges off the bar. 1.35" wide 1.3" tall and 0.8" deep

(Continued on page 4)

The rest of the feedback

Does anyone know anything about Tibbe? Who was he, where did he come from?



Ian McColl has provided the source of of much reproduction and fake locks originating in the Far East.

Asian Antiques has a website, and in their store are links to lists of locks and money banks. The fake/fantasy padlocks cost retailers about \$5.

http://aaimporting.com/store/merchant.mv?Store_Code=AA&Screen=CTGY&Category_Code=CIDC_LOCK

These banks have been around for some 3 decades. There are some popular models, and they are sold as reproductions, having 'TAIWAN' incised on the bottom of the plug. The colours are also garishly bright and fresh. However, a little grinding, or simply losing the plug, and some 'distressing', and these mechanical banks could be passed off as genuine originals. They are, however, slightly smaller than the originals. As original moulds were not available, moulds for the reproductions were made by copying from original castings — hence the shrinkage, as iron castings are always smaller than their moulds.

http://aaimporting.com/store/merchant.mv?Screen=CTGY&Store_Code=AA&Category_Code=CIDC_BANK

Whilst we are mentioning money banks, there are many varieties circulating in Britain. There are still and mechanical banks of iron, and some brass stills. There are pottery, plastic, and wooden banks, and varieties of home safes. There are not many accessible British books on moneybanks. One of the best is:

KING, Constance Eileen *Money boxes*. Lutterworth Press, 1983. Antique pocket guides series. 071882539x

This is out of print in Britain, but possibly still obtainable in America. See p16 for details of a new British book, and some other books on moneyboxes.

There are collections in the Museum of Childhood, Water Street, Menai Bridge (open summertime only); and the Museum of Childhood, High Street Edinburgh (open all year).

Thanks to ALCA and Trevor Dowson for information.

Richard Phillips

(Continued from page 3)

also dual coil detectors, with finely-adjustable sensitivity.

There are now some thousands of active detectorists in Britain. Many archaeologists have learnt to come to terms with them. Detectorists typically find ten times as many objects as careful sieving and inspection on a dig. They also find lead objects, which are difficult for archaeologists to find.

The scale of finds can be phenomenal! One detectorist had 11,000 finds in 2 decades in one Lincolnshire parish; he just put them in boxes, and they were finally given to a local museum. Of course, there is much modern dross around: ring pulls from drink cans, bottle tops, aluminium foil from chocolate and cigarette wrappings ... What most detectorists are interested in is coins. However, they will usually pick up many other objects, which might become available for disposal in various ways.

Portable Antiquities Scheme

There is a scheme for reporting and recording finds which now operates in England and Wales. The Portable Antiquities Scheme is operated by Finds Liaison Officers, who mostly work in county museum departments. Details are available at: www.finds.org.uk. Their database can be seen on the Internet, although some details are withheld: <http://www.findsdatabase.org.uk/hms/home.php?expand=29>. Many records cite a published reference to the object; there are several hundred locks and keys now listed. The old treasure trove law has been revised and extended, in the Treasure Act, 1996. Now prehistoric base-metal assemblages found from 2003 also qualify as Treasure. This law does not apply in all parts of the United Kingdom; in north Britain, the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel considers finds that are ownerless, and so belong to the Crown. See <http://www.treasuretrove.org.uk/index.html>.

"Nighthawks"

Some finds are not declared, however, because the detectorist has no permission to be on the land. 'Nighthawks' methodically search private land, usually farmland, and take anything they find. Such detectorists have, nevertheless, made some major archaeological finds, leading to some interesting and complicated conflicts of interest. 'John' found a hoard, now known as the 'Salisbury Hoard'¹ (not to be confused with the 'Drainage Collection' in Salisbury Museum). The Salisbury Hoard, an extraordinary collection of ancient bronze metalwork, was found by 'John', a 'nighthawk' with a metal detector, dug up, split up, and sold.

The British Museum went to great lengths to trace hundreds of objects from the hoard. Eventually the looters pleaded guilty to theft, and John received a

(Continued on page 5)

suspended sentence for theft. This major find would not have been made without detectorists. This find did not include any locks, but the exciting detective story is worth reading. Information on metal detecting in Britain today is available from the National Council for Metal Detecting: <http://www.ncmd.co.uk/>.

Many finds are made by chance, and dating is often difficult. Trading contacts from before the Roman invasion mean the British had some actual Roman artefacts, and they were sometimes copied by British craftsmen. Some patterns were continued after the Romans left — even being used by Vikings and Saxons.

During WW2, in preparation for an extension to an airfield in Anglesey, men and diggers went to clear the site. There was a prominent rock outcrop, which until mediaeval times had overlooked a small (bach) lake (llyn). The Llyn Cerrig Bach hoard of Romano-British ironwork was deposited in the lake from this rock, as a sacred votive offering. It included a slave chain (a set of manacles along a length of chain), but no keys².

The grave of 'a lady of quality' was found at the village of Glen Parva in Leicestershire. She was a Saxon lady, and she wore hanging from a girdle around her waist (in the manner of later chatelaines) two imitation keys. They were in the style of Roman T keys, but they were of sheet bronze. They were, clearly, worn as symbols or decoration, as they were not functional. An actual bronze key of L shape was found in a grave at Buttsole, Kent, apparently also Saxon.

A key similar to later Roman ones was found in the site of Troy, by the archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann. Today, international conventions concerning trade in antiquities would be invoked! See also: <http://www.unidroit.org/english/conventions/1995culturalproperty/main.htm>.

Readers interested in following the matter of illicit trading in antiquities can see:

<http://www.mcdonald.cam.ac.uk/IARC/home.htm>.

Archaeological finds

Numerous keys were reported throughout the Victoria County History³ volumes for England, together with locks or fragments of locks (mostly padlocks). Many other finds are noticed in county archaeological journals, and archaeological reports, often in a miscellaneous section of small finds. An interesting collection of pictures of Roman keys appears on the Internet at <http://stores.yahoo.com/853111/ankeymus.html>. The historical text at the beginning of this page is worth reading. There are also some reconstruction pictures.

Mediaeval and Romano-British antiquities may be bought legally from Gaukler Medieval Wares, 1052 Amphion St. Victoria B.C. CANADA V8S 4G3;

<http://www.medievalwares.com/antiquities.htm>

A British dealer is:

Lance Chaplin, 17 Wanstead Lane Ilford Essex IG1 3SB United Kingdom +44(0)20 8554 7154

<http://www.shaftesbury.com/coins/>

R Phillips

¹ See a brief summary at: <http://www.archaeology.co.uk/books/books.asp?book=hoard>. For the full exciting story, read:

Stead, I M. *The Salisbury Hoard*. London, Tempus, 1998. ISBN 0 7524 1404 6. £12.99. Reviewed in Current Archaeology issue 159, page 104.

² If you are interested in the history of these things, you will find the 117 page article that Hugh Thompson wrote for Archaeological Journal, volume 150 (1993) entitled *Iron Age and Roman Slave-shackles* essential reading. It is available from the Royal Archaeological Institute, or through interlibrary loan.

³ Many of these have been reprinted in recent years, but not revised.

Roman keys and padlocks, page 8 and 9

Keys for locks with wooden tumblers only lift the tumblers, allowing the wooden bolt to be moved either way by pulling on a cord or cords. The key may enter a slot between the tumblers (T shape), or beside them (L shape): #1 and #2 illustrate these two common types, found on most Roman sites. Usually there are two prongs; rarely, three or even four. Mostly made of iron, but some bronze ones have been found. The L shape is more common.

Slide keys lift spring-pressed metal tumblers clear of a metal bolt, then slide the bolt. Such locks could be used on boxes. Tumblers are nearly always iron; keys and bolts were made in both iron and bronze. A wide range of sizes occurred. Larger ones were usually iron. #4 — #7 show various forms.

Tumbler keys turned in the lock (often a padlock). The lock had wards and one spring-pressed single-acting tumbler on the top of the bolt. This form of tumbler lock continued until Robert Barron's invention of the double-acting tumbler in the late 18th century, and was still used long after. Pin and pipe keys were used, as #8 and #9. /these were often made as combined key and finger-ring.

#10 and #11 show forms of 'chinese padlock', commonly called 'barb-spring' or 'barrel locks'. Roman forms are usually of round or square cross-section. They were in use by Britons in the Iron Age, and were widespread throughout the Roman world — except, curiously, Germany. Saxons and Vikings long continued to copy Roman models. Some keys pushed straight in, some entered a slot and had then to be moved through a right-angle before pushing. Some went into a long slot and slid right along it.

The group (O3, O5, O8) on p9 are iron latch-lifters. The other keys were varieties all found in London.

Collection insurance: tailor your choice

Would you like to insure your Antique Collection against Fire, Accidental Damage and Theft losses for as little as £25 per year? A new online policy from Connoisseur Policies Ltd. offers just this.

Anthony Wakefield, whose brain child this is, and who has been arranging Fine Art and Antique Insurance policies for over 20 years, says: "There are plenty of specialist insurance policies available for the medium to large collector, but when it comes to people who have a collection valued between £5,000 and £50,000, most insurers do not want to know! The problem is that most ordinary household insurance policies offer cover on a 'New for Old' basis, which is clearly not appropriate for items that in many cases are irreplaceable."

Working with Sterling Insurance Limited, a GISC registered insurance company and member of the Sterling Insurance Group, Connoisseur Policies Ltd. has launched www.connoisseurpolicies.com. Follow a few simple instructions and you should be able to sign up for an affordable policy online within a matter of minutes.

Choose how you buy

Cover is purchased in units of £5,000, with, for example, a unit for insuring a stamp collection costing just £25 a year, inclusive of all charges. For collectors with numerous general smaller valued items there is a heading of "collectables" which, at £30 per unit, allows you to insure anything from a corkscrew to costume jewellery up to £500 per item and can be cheaper than selecting the more specific headings.

For larger items, there are various headings that cater for a wide range of interests and can cover up to £1,000 per item without the need to produce a professional valuation.

Items valued at more than £1,000 can be covered immediately for up to £1,000, increasing to the full amount once valuations or purchase receipts have been recorded and agreed by the insurers.

Range of policies available

The beauty of this new policy is that premiums are the same, wherever you live in the United Kingdom. You do have to meet certain criteria, such as having a good quality alarm system at your home and being claim free, but if you find you don't qualify for the online policy, Anthony Wakefield will try to find another of the many Sterling household policies that will suit your personal requirements. In certain circumstances, Connoisseur underwriters will take personal circumstances into consideration, so if you do not meet all the initial criteria for acceptance, you may still be eligible to apply on line, with the prior approval of the

insurers. The web site has been set up in such a way as to enable you to get a "quote" without having to enter any of your personal details. Only once you have decided to accept the quote will you be asked to submit your name, address and so on.

Secure online payment

The site has been designed to be as secure as possible, with payments made by credit card through WorldPay's (a member of the Royal Bank of Scotland Group) secure facilities. Once a policy is in force, clients are issued with a user name and password that enables them to access their file at any time and make changes on line.

If you want affordable cover specifically to suit your collections at home, this is the policy for you!

Rebecca Bray

Customer Services Manager, Connoisseur Policies Limited

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Internet: <http://www.connoisseurpolicies.com>

Take no money and run

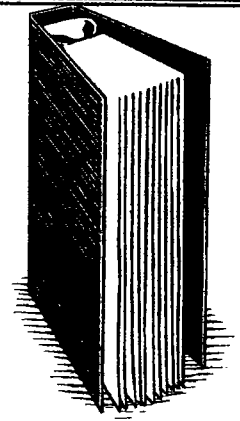
CHICAGO —Three bungling crooks spent hours prying a cash machine loose and then stealing it, only to recognise later that it had been out of order for two years.

The thieves' efforts to steal the ATM machine from L and G restaurant early Aug. 22 2003 were met with little resistance from the restaurant owner and employees, who had long been trying to get rid of the machine.

"The thing's been dead for a [long] time," waitress Tammy Katsenis said, reportedly adding that the company that serviced it had gone out of business. The machine was unplugged and completely out of cash.

The crooks' follies continued outside the restaurant when they tried to fit the cash machine into the back of a 1993 Cadillac DeVille. With the door wide open, the behavior was a bit inconspicuous to say the least. Police passing by in a patrol car saw the three men wrestling with the machine and chased them on foot. Cory Pickett, 32, was arrested, but the two other thieves escaped.

Bookshelf: Roman books, and others



Some of these references I found; others have been supplied by *Don Jackson, Trevor Dowson*, and a useful bibliography covering Roman, Viking and mediaeval locks at: <http://www.florilegium.org/files/HOME/keys-locks-bib.txt>

The small finds Series: *Vindolanda research reports. New series 2v*; v. 4 Hexham : Vindolanda Trust, c1996-[1997] ; 30 cm. ISBN: 1873136463.

Contents include: fasc. 2. Security ; the keys and locks / by Andrew Birley -

Note: 19 b/w full page illustrations (of multiple items each) containing 91 examples of keys of many types, locks, and lock plates, there are also a wooden lock survival from Vindolanda, and a photograph of the one from the Roman fort at Saalburg, Germany. Usual working or assembly methods of the metal keyed locks are not illustrated as well as some other books. This book helps to draw a line under the fact that 500 heavily armed soldiers were still often at the mercy of thievery amongst themselves. Nearly 200 locking devices have been recovered from Vindolanda, from AD 100 - 400AD, giving unusual insight into the evolution of crime prevention in Roman Britain. See also <http://www.vindolanda.com/> [I have not seen this site, as it crashes my IE5! Ed.]

Faussett, Bryan *Inventorium sepulchrale : An account of some antiquities dug up at Gilton, Kingston, Sibertswold, Barfriston, Beakesbourne, Chartham and Crundale in the county of Kent, from A.D. 1757 to A.D. 1773* / Edited by Charles Roach Smith. [S.l.] : Subsribers Only, 1856.

Notes: Numerous Roman, and some possibly Saxon, keys found in graves, together with some lock fragments. Several graves had lock boxes at the feet, usually chinese padlocks. Some illustrations.

Holdings: British Library ; Cambridge* ; Durham* ; Newcastle* ; SAS* ;UCL (University College London)* ; Glasgow

Museum of Antiquities of the University and Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne *Catalogue of Romano-British ironwork in the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne* / by W. H. Manning. Newcastle upon Tyne : Department of Archaeology, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1976 . 61p.

Keys pp38-39, p56 (fig.23).

British Museum. Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities *Catalogue of the Romano-British iron tools, fittings and weapons in the British Museum* / W.H. Manning. London : British Museum Publications, c1985 197p; 29cm ISBN 0714113700 Note: Locks and keys pp82-97; plates 37-43.

Manning, William Henry *Non-military ironwork in Roman Britain* / William Harry Manning. 4v, 1379 leaves. Note: Thesis (PhD) University of London 1969. Holding Libraries: ULL

Biddle, Martin *Object and economy in medieval Winchester : artefacts from medieval Winchester* / Martin Biddle with contributions by Ian H. Goodall, David A. Hinton, and 81 other authors and by the staff and volunteers of the Winchester Research Unit Series: Winchester studies. Oxford : Clarendon, 1990 2v. ISBN 0198131755

Note: Section on locks and keys.

Detector finds / Gordon Bailey. Chelmsford : Greenlight Publishing, c1992. 96 p : ill ; 30 cm. ISBN 1897738005 (pbk).

Note: T.p. title: Treasure Hunting magazine's Detector finds

There is a series of these books, variously numbered or described as new editions. They are about a hundred pages, with many small photos, brief descriptions, and prices. I have not seen them, but understand that they mostly include some keys. ISBN's traced are: 1897738021, 1897738226, 1897738102 ,

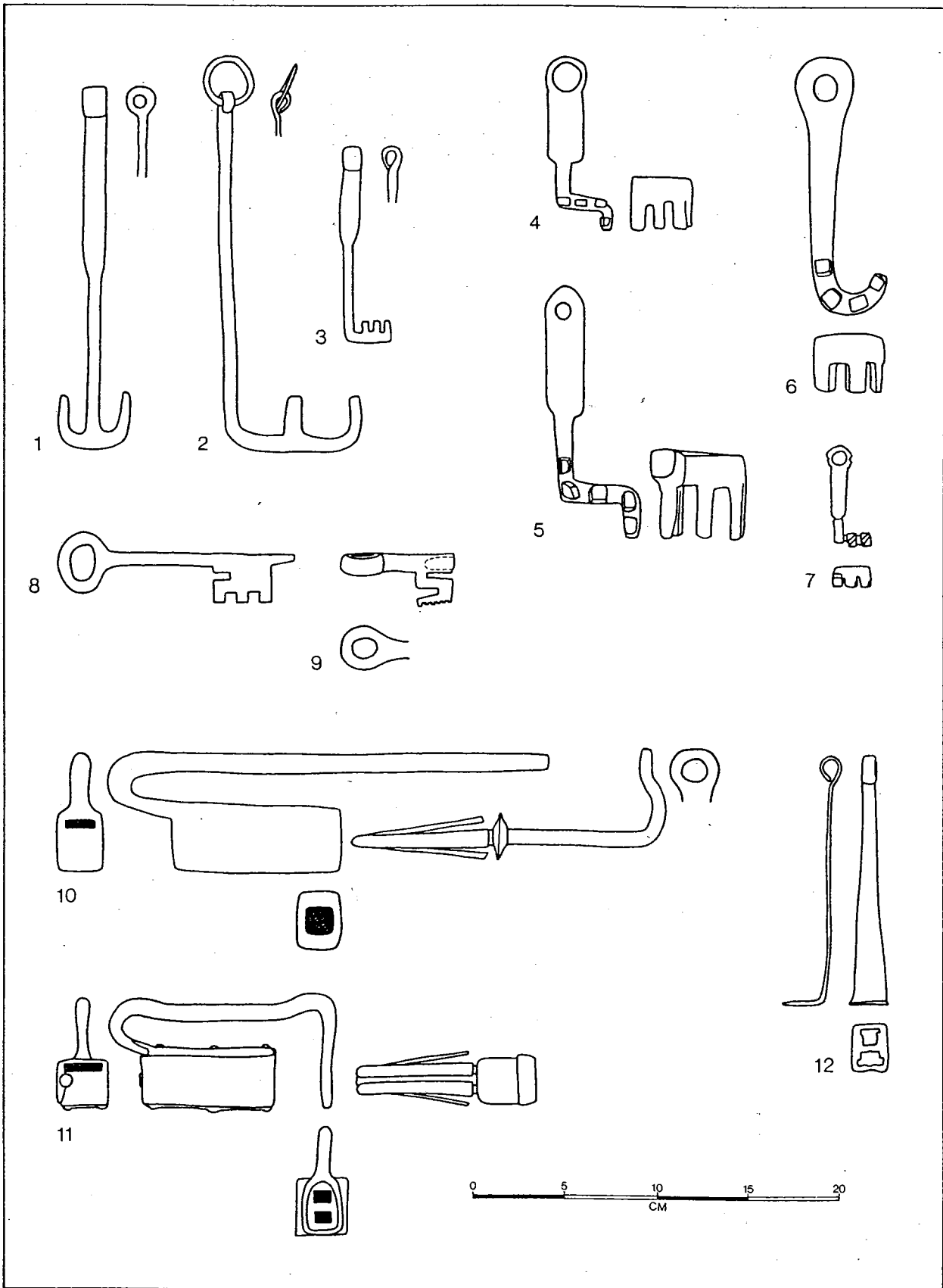
British Museum. Department of British and Mediaeval Antiquities *Guide to the antiquities of Roman Britain* / (by ... J.W. Brailsford.) [With plates, illustrations, and a map.] [Third ed.]. London, British Museum, 1964. 86 p.

Note: Includes diagrams of a working door or chest lock and a padlock, pages 76 and 78.

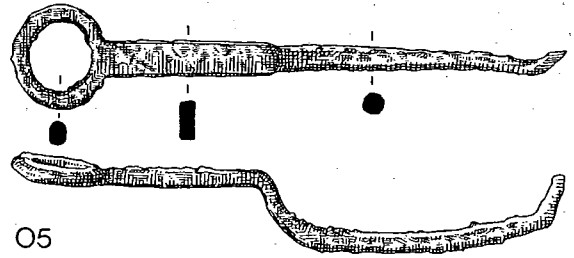
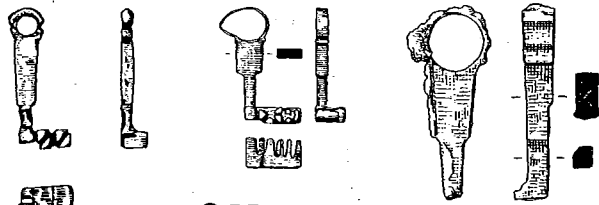
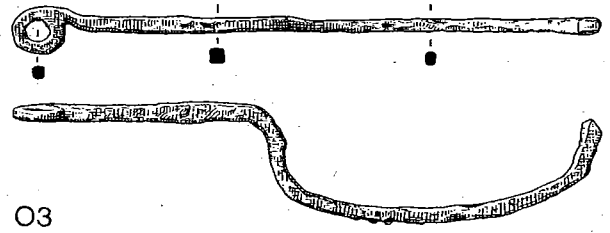
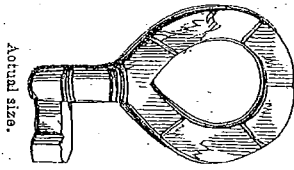
Ward-Perkins, J. B. (John Bryan), 1912- *London Museum medieval catalogue 1940* New ed. Ipswich : Anglia Publishing, c1993. 319p, [96]p of plates ISBN 1897874014 Originally published: London : London Museum, 1940

Roman artefacts found in Britain : catalogue and price guide / Nigel Mills. Chelmsford : Greenlight, c1995. 102 p : ill (some col.) ; 30 cm. ISBN 1897738072 . Note: Locks pp51-57.

Roman keys



See page 5 for details of these Roman keys

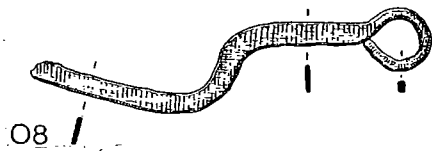
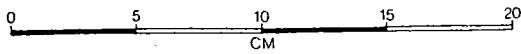


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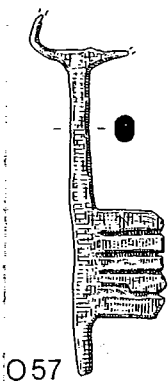
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O56

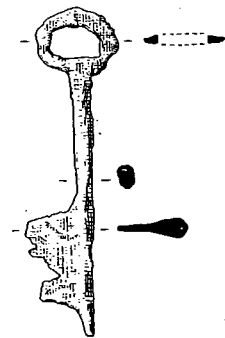
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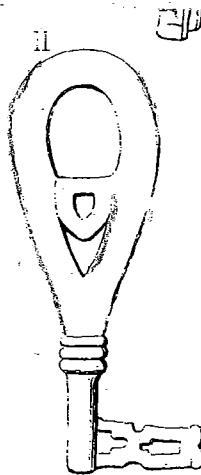
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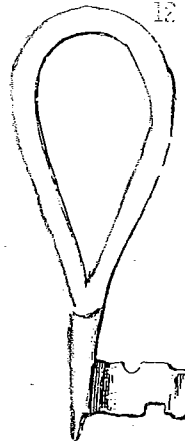
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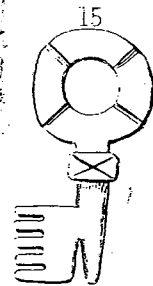
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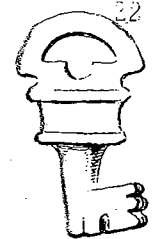
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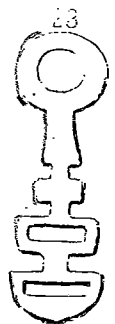
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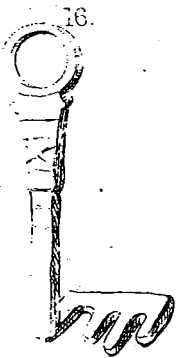
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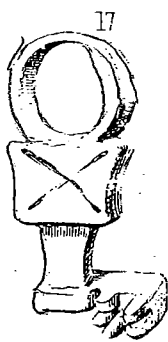
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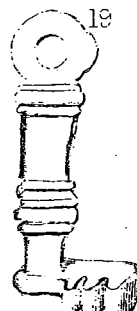
16



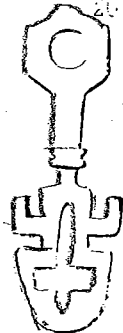
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18



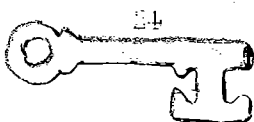
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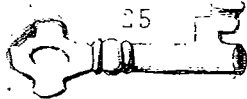
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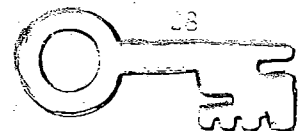
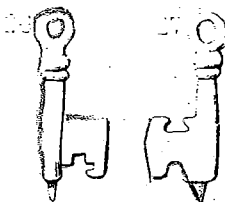
21



24



25



28

(Continued from page 2)

difference between a ¾" pressed aluminium warded luggage padlock and a 2½" solid stainless steel close-shackle padlock with pick-resisting mechanism and a million registered differs.

Some locks are only made for privacy protection from meddling. The degree to which locks resist real attack is, however, a matter of importance, and of interest to some collectors. In the 19th century there were public challenges and even international publicity in some cases. But the development of lock security did not end in the mid-19th century. Lockmaking continues to be a contest between lockmakers and burglars.

Mr Hobbs showed that picking some locks was possible; but his feats also showed how difficult it was. If it were easy, there would have been many imitators, and burglaries by lockpicking. Today, though lockpicking burglaries are not unknown in some countries, and possibly more common where warded locks and pin tumbler locks are more popular, in other countries lockpicking burglaries are rare. Jemmies are everywhere a more common means of criminal opening.

Quality locks

There are collectors interested in modern locks. One aspect of lockmaking (and collecting) is the development of security against unauthorised opening. Security is often an important aspect of the 'quality' of a lock, and some collectors are interested in quality. However, this newsletter might not be the best place for information on currently produced security locks. As I am not in the trade, I do not have much access to detailed information about them.

In addition to actual locks and keys (and there is a huge variety of these!), collectors could be interested in safes, safeplates, moneyboxes, books, advertising and catalogues, ironworking and other aspects of technology, industrial archaeology, design and decoration, handcuffs, key machines, and other items connected with locks and security, ...

So, what are *your* collecting interests?

As this is your last issue, and you will all now be writing to me to renew your subscription, please take this opportunity to tell me what aspects of collecting interest you, so that the newsletter can better meet your interests.

I really do need articles from you, as production of the newsletter is at present quite time-consuming.

The Editor

Popular picture postcards

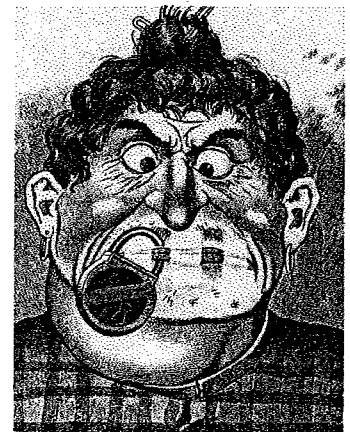
This postcard is undated but was posted in 1903; it is one of several concerning Lord Rosebery and Sheffield. But what was the affair? Lord Rosebery was Liberal Prime Minister 1894-5; and what is the little clockwork postman in the foreground?



LORD ROSEBERY at Sheffield: "He leaves his son, the sharer of his ideas, in charge of the strong box."

This old postcard is undated, but might date from the Great War. It has no caption.

Trevor Dowson



US cast-iron rimlocks

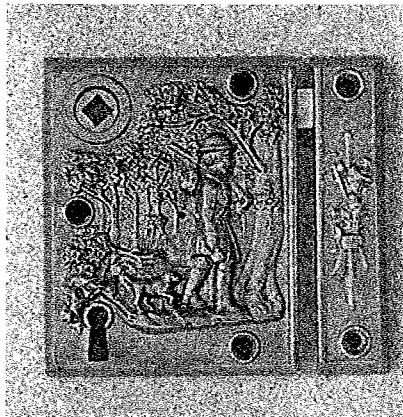
Until near the end of the 19th century, America imported large numbers of locks from Europe (mostly Britain), until the local lock industry grew big enough to supply local demand — and even to export to Europe.

Cast-iron rimlocks were produced in large quantity during much of the 19th century, mostly plain cases. However, several less common decorative ones have become sought after by collectors, selling for several hundred dollars. Among the well-known ones are the “Pioneer” and the “Emigrant”. US copies of the Carpenter latch were also made.



<http://www.eddonaldson.com>

Ed Donaldson
Hardware
Restorations, 1488
York Road
Carlisle PA 17013
Tel 717-249-3624
has a changing
stock of restores
old locks.

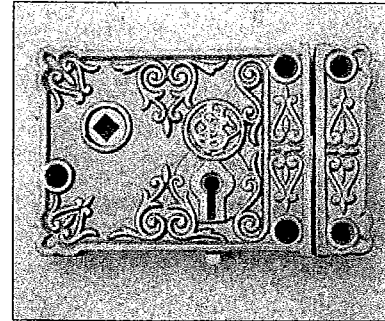
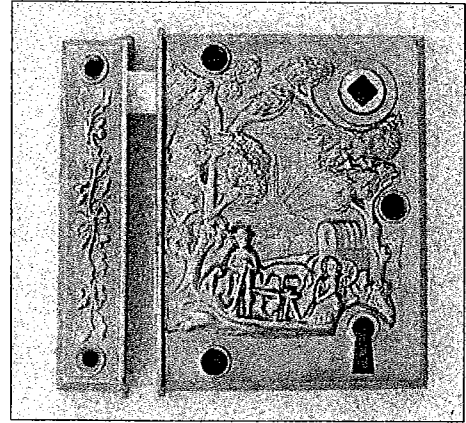


American scenic rim lock in cast iron. This lock is called the “Pioneer Lock” and depicts a frontiersman with a rifle over his shoulder and his dog at his heels with a wooded background. Lock measures 4 1/2" x 3 1/2" and is non-reversible. 1858.

Carpenter: US copy by Russell & Erwin

Cast iron American Carpenter-style lock manufactured by Russell Erwin & Co., circa 1840's. These locks were the American-made equivalent of the English Carpenter lock and one of the first signed American locks manufactured. A close-up of the seal (*right*) shows Russell Erwin & Co. New Britain CT with an eagle - a clear copy of the seals used by Carpenter locks but with the American eagle. This roundel appears to be cast rather than stamped, and is not such high relief as the stamped discs.

American scenic rim lock (close-up shown below) in cast iron. This particular lock is called the **Emigrant Lock** and depicts a man and woman frontier travelers with dog at a campfire. A Conestoga wagon, woods, and a setting sun are in the background. Lock measures 5" x 3 3/4" and is non-reversible; 1858.



Ornate cast iron horizontal rim lock manufactured circa 1890. Lock measures 3 1/4" x 4 1/4" and is reversible. Lock has a privacy slide bolt seen at the bottom in brass which allows you to lock the door for privacy without using the keyed bolt. (above)



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 or answers for this issue.

Question [27] (Issue 22 November 2003) received no answer. This is a collector of militaria, who needs keys for some wartime Zeiss Ikon locks fitted to some equipment cases. It would be real generosity if someone were able to help a collector in



Humour

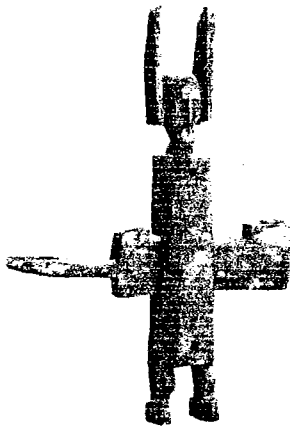
When a guy's lock began to give him trouble, he called a local lock shop where a friendly man informed him that the lock probably needed only to be cleaned and lubricated.

Because the shop charged \$50 for such cleanings, he told him he might be better off trying the job himself.

Pleasantly surprised by his candour, he asked "Does your boss know that you discourage business?" "Actually, it's my boss's idea," the employee replied sheepishly. "We usually make more money on repairs if we let people try to fix things themselves first."

'Bonnie' thief spared jail

A WOMAN who helped her former lover steal £40,000 of cars was spared jail yesterday. Wendy Black, of Wishaw, Lanarkshire, formed half of a 'Bonnie and Clyde' style duo who duped car dealers across Scotland, Hamilton Sheriff Court, was told. The boyfriend, whose whereabouts are unknown, would switch the keys after test driving a car, then return at night and steal it. Black (pictured) was ordered to do 250 hours of community service after she admitted five charges of theft between 1999 and 2001.

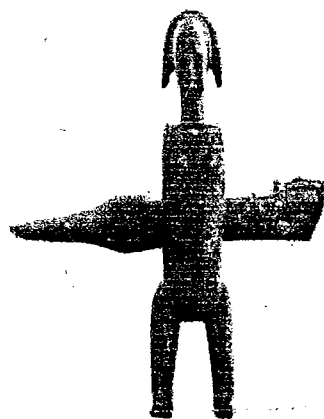


A Bambara wooden door lock, from Mali. Bambara door locks represent sexual intercourse, with a vertical female figure and horizontal male bolt. They were given to young brides.

22in (56cm) high

£1,000-1,500

AC



A Bambara door lock, for grain storage, from Mali.

Usually these locks are more abstract. This one depicts a woman.

21.5in (54.5cm) high

£1,000-1,500

JDB

Metro 27th April 2004

Good Question

Why do the doors on 24-hour stores have locks on them?

Scott Harvey, Glasgow

Metro 28th April 2004



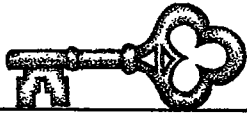
The Zeiss Ikon lock company has been sold, and is no longer part of Zeiss. I have not been able to follow up what has become of it, and my not speaking German does not help. If anyone can supply any information on this, I will gladly print it.



another field. Do please look back to that issue to see if you could help.

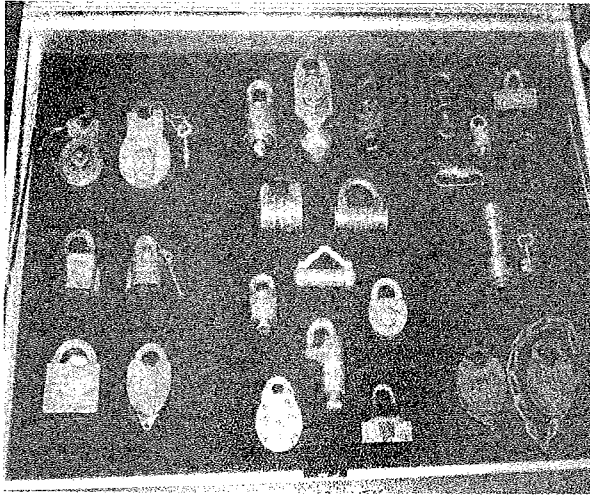
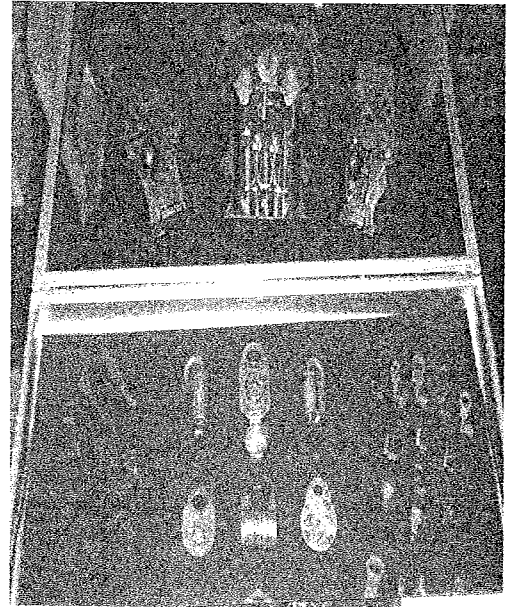
next column

Spotted these wooden locks in the current *Millars price guide to collectables*. They seem unusual to me! (above left).

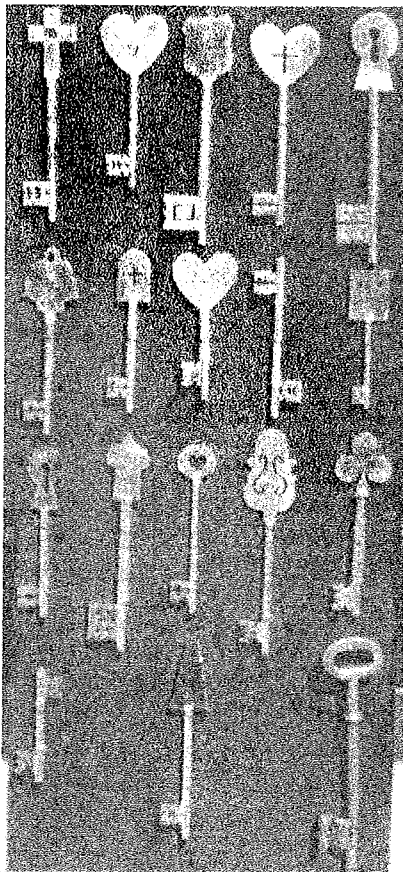


Lock and key collections

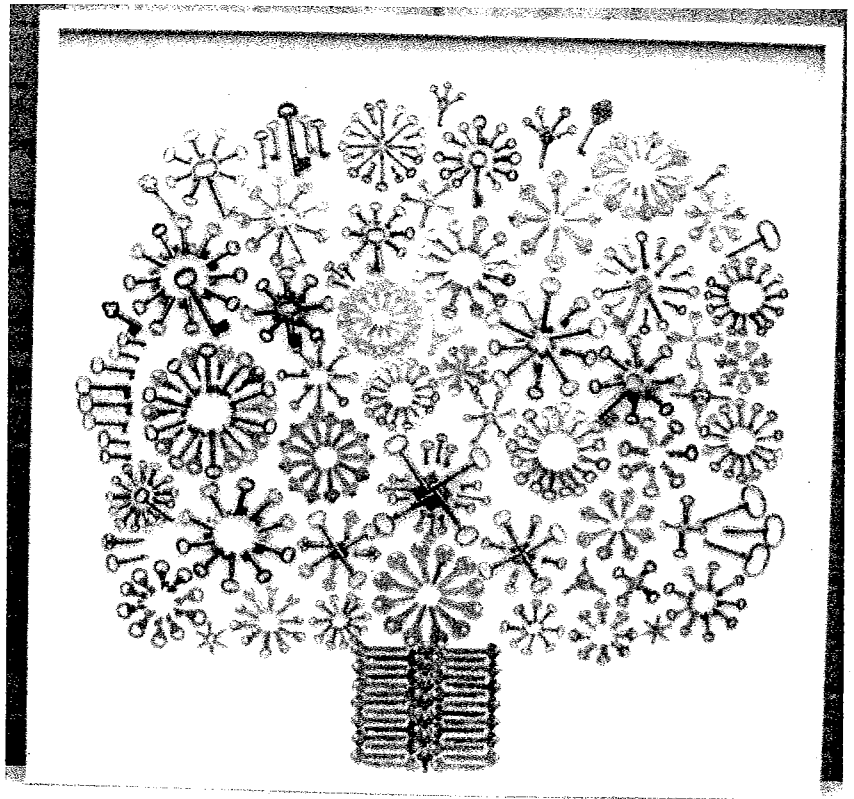
Several collectors decorate their envelopes and letters with rubber stamps: this one from John Stone.



Part of the collection of Steven Sommers (above and above right)



Michael Larkin's collection of commemorative and decorative bow keys.



Another of John Stone's keyboard arrangements. This board should be viewed from a distance, when the flower pattern is more obvious. Close up, there is a large variety of keys. The 'pot' is 7lever utility lock keys. (See also Issue 10 p8)

The German Museum for Locks and Metal Fittings

A Lock Collector's Paradise

The city of Velbert is located near Düsseldorf in Germany's Rhineland, and has been the centre of German lock production for the past 400 years. In its specialisation in this particular economic branch, it is an almost exact equivalent to Willenhall in Staffordshire.

The German Museum for Locks and Metal Fittings was established in 1936. Over the past decades the museum succeeded in gathering a collection that is unique, and not only in Germany. Starting with locks from the Roman era, over medieval and renaissance pieces, as well as coffers and safes, the exhibition shows the development of security technology from its very beginnings in antiquity up to the present day.

The visitors can both admire the products of the excellent craftsmen of the past, and can also try out a large number of the mechanisms, to discover their secrets.

In addition, the museum houses a library of approximately 1000 books on the subject, as well as an archive of over 10,000 documents, including patents, catalogues etc. The museum staff often acts as advisor to private collectors, other museums, and sometimes even the film industry.

English is spoken, and guided tours in English can be arranged for groups over 12 people.



Contact:

Das Deutsches Schloss- und Beschlägemuseum
Im Forum Niederberg, Oststr.20
42551 Velbert

Tel. ++49 (0)2051 262285; Fax ++49 (0)2051 262297

museen@velbert.de

Opening hours:

Tu.-Fr. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. ; Sa. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Su. 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 2 – 4 p.m.

Colditz re-visited

Colditz is situated in Eastern Germany between Leipzig and the Czech Republic. It is a very long way from Britain, and even now (the Wall has been down for 15 years) a right hand drive car tends to make every pedestrian in the street stop and look around.

The castle was a hunting lodge for centuries before the Second World War. It is an enormous 6 storey building, having two inner courtyards with cellars and a gatehouse (but also a ramp at the back so that the gentry hunting in the adjacent parkland could easily ride directly into the inner courtyard.)

Since the war it has been a hospital until 5 years ago. It is now being converted into a youth hostel and a museum but neither are finished yet. You can have a guided tour for £2.50 — the lady shut the ticket office and gave me a personal tour of the castle for over an hour — they are not busy. The website pictures show the items in the town's museum (where they were sent from the guards' black-museum at the end of the war). These have recently been returned to the castle but they have not yet put them in glass cases, and I was allowed to handle a number of these wonderful pieces.

The castle was chosen by the Germans as the place to send all Allied officers who were caught trying to escape from other POW camps.

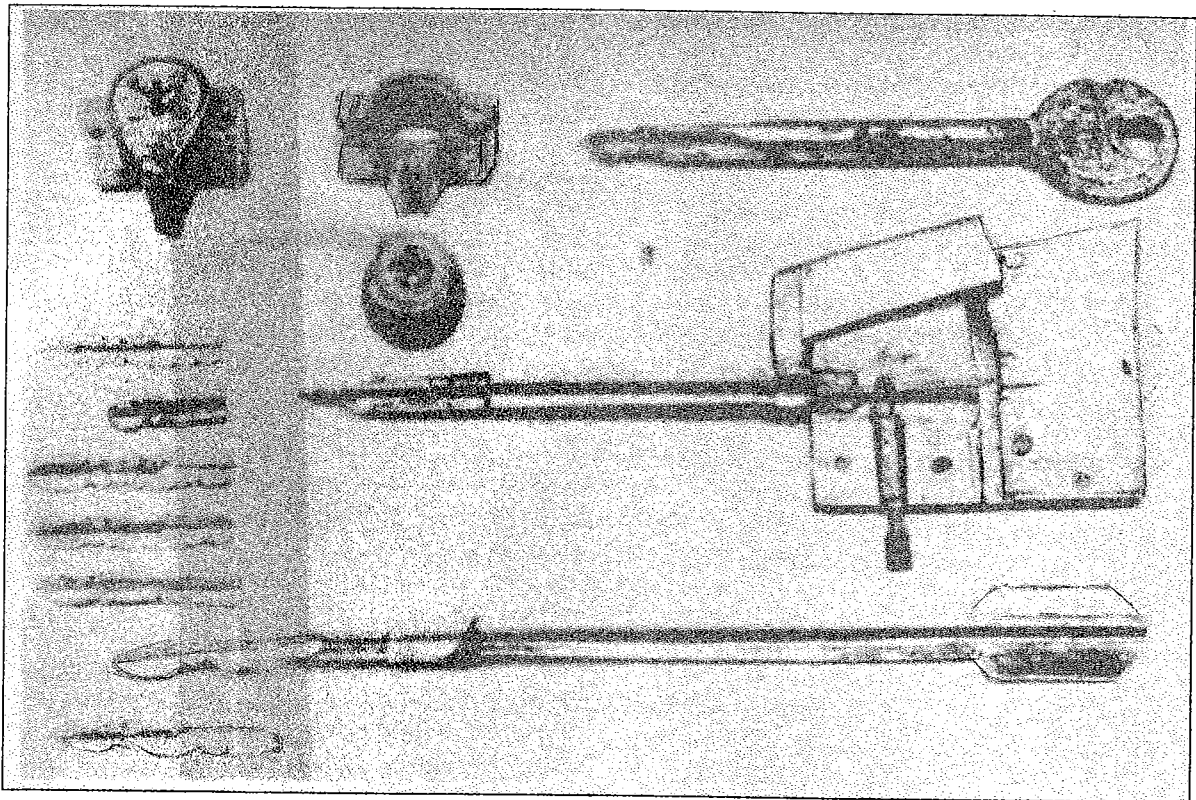
The Germans soon recognised that they needed to change the locks, and so out went large warded mechanisms and in came cruciform Zeiss Ikon pin tumbler locks (which were probably quite new at the time).

"Rip Van Winkle" Capt Damiaem van Doorninck

Capt Damiaem van Doorninck was a German-speaking Dutch officer fluent in cosmography and advanced mathematics, and he lectured interested Dutch and British prisoners on both subjects. He also had a natural ability when it came to wrist watch repair, and his customers included German guards as well as prisoners. This was a valuable skill in the era of clockwork watches, especially in wartime. (According to some accounts, he was a watchmaker in civilian life, and might also been a locksmith.)

Van Doorninck was allowed to acquire some tools, which the Germans supposed to be too small to be useful for escaping. He invented a device which, when attached to a micrometer, could obtain measurements accurate to within a tenth of a millimetre of any cruciform lock, and he was therefore able to manufacture a key to fit any such lock in Colditz. He lectured other prisoners on how to use this device correctly, a course that lasted six months.

Van Doorninck later successfully escaped from Colditz



Captain Van Doorninck's lock picking. Top: Zeiss Ikon cylinder, and dismantled cylinder; an original key. Centre: Van Doorninck's pin measuring device; the long needle moves over the scale at right. Bottom: the 'Universal' key-bit holder, to hold the various different key bits shown at left. (The original of this photo came from Dr Rheinhold Eggars, the German Security Officer at Colditz Camp for most of the war.)

and in 6 days made his way to Switzerland with Fl Lt Bill Fowler, an Australian officer.

The prisoners had fabricated cruciform keys and a decoder from old tincans. Each blade of the keys was twin thickness and very robust. The decoder relied on the lock being picked, partially turned and then this pivoted device with a pin lifter at one end and a scale at the other allows each pin length to be individually read. After calibrating the scale with some loose pins, thereafter, pin lengths (equivalent to depths of cut on the key) could be measured without dismantling the locks.

When you consider that this was 60 years ago and they were not locksmiths, it was a real achievement. They did 'borrow' a lock to help them work it out, they were

very motivated, were Europe's finest, and they had all the time in the world but blimey! Their rope ladders and wooden sewing machine and wooden typewriter and fake ID's and clothes and everything else were stunning. Their hidden radio station was not discovered until 1990. A tunnel took the Germans 4 days to find even when they were sure that it started in a room that was only 15 foot by 15 foot.

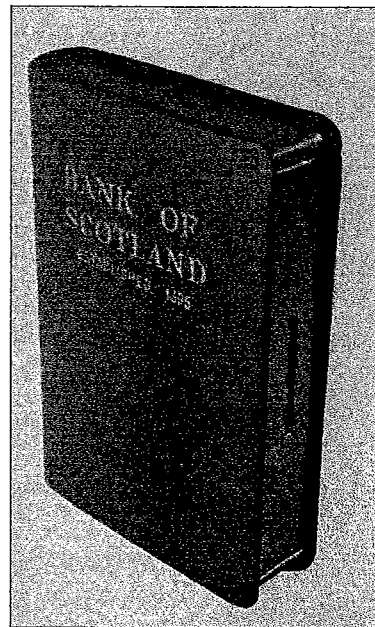
Go now before the museum is all sorted and you will not be disappointed.

(Cheap flight to Berlin and then hire a car).

Tom Gordon

<http://www.colditz-4c.com/tour/p11/p11.htm>

Bank books



There is a new book published in Britain about money banks:

Thomas, Brin *Safe saving with home safes 1900 - 2003*. 40p. Steyning (6 Portway, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3QF) : The Author, 2003. No ISBN. £5.

Bellows, Ina Hayward. *Old mechanical banks; a comprehensive study of the subject of mechanical banks*. 151p. Chicago : Lightner publishing company [c1940] LC41005663

Davidson, Al (Albert) *Penny lane : a history of antique mechanical toy banks*. Mokelumne Hill, Ca. : Long's Americana, c1987. 0960440607

Duer, Don. *A penny saved : still and mechanical banks*. 171p. Atglen, PA : Schiffer Pub., c1993. 0887405282

Dunham, Leonhard W. *Money boxes*. 12p. [London?] : Chubb & Sons Lock and Safe Co. Ltd [c198-?] [Small colourful selection, based on the author's collection.]

Gardner, Ian *In for a penny : [money boxes related games and school items from the Museum of Childhood collection]*. 31p. Edinburgh : Museum of Childhood [1991] 0905072421. [A politically correct selection of pottery, still, novelty and mechanical banks in the museum's collection.]

Hertz, Louis Heilbronner *Mechanical toy banks*. Wethersfield, Conn., M. Haber, 1947. Notes: "Limited to three hundred copies signed by the author." LC47003729

Jorgensen, Gordon D. *A guide to dime registering banks*. 44p. [Waterloo, NY] (29 W. Elizabeth St., Waterloo 13165) : [G.D. Jorgensen], 1982. LC82138062

King, Constance E. *Money boxes*. 64p. Guildford : Lutterworth 1983. 071832539x Antique pocket guides.

[The most accessible British book, although now op.]

McCumber, Robert L. *Chein Banks : mechanicals and stills : with a section on tin banks made in U.S. zone Germany*. 60 leaves. [Glastonbury, CT] (201 Carriage Dr., Glastonbury 06033) : R.L. McCumber, [1991] LC91196143

McCumber, Robert L. *Registering banks : recording banks, pocket dime register banks, pocket tube banks*. 159p. Glastonbury, CT (201 Carriage Dr., Glastonbury 06033) : R.L. McCumber, 1990. LC90213327

Moore, Andy *The penny bank book : collecting still banks through the Penny Door*. Exton, Pa. : Schiffer Publishing, c1984. 091683978

Norman, Bill *The bank book : the encyclopedia of mechanical bank collecting*. 159p. San Diego, Calif. : Accent Studios, c1985. 0917205006

Redwine, James L. *Coin banks by Banthrico*. 256p. Atglen PA : Schiffer Publishing, c2001. 0764312804

Rogers, Carole G. *Penny banks : a history and a handbook*. New York: Dutton, c1977. 0525474684

Stulb, Vickie. *Modern banks*. 160p. Gas City, IN : L-W Book Sales, c1997. 0895380846

Whiting, Hubert B. *Old iron still banks*. Manchester, Vt., Forward's Color Productions, 1968. LC68006582

There is a photogallery of money banks on eBayUK at:
http://search.ebay.co.uk/money-bank_W0QQmaxrecordsreturnedZ300QQsalocatedincountryZ3QQsocolumnlayoutZ4QQsocurrencydisplayZ2QQsorecordsperpageZ50QQsosortpropertyZ1

A specialist dealer is:

John & Simon Haley, Collectors' Old Toy Shop, 89 Northgate, HALIFAX HX1 1XF UK; Tel 01422 347377.