



LOCKS & KEYS



Issue 29

The Newsletter for lock collectors

November 2005

Washing hot money

Using a plurality of locks, or a lock which needs more than one key to open it, has

The theft occurred at the Bank of England's Returned Notes Centre, in Essex. Returned notes were counted, sorted, and either re-circulated or sent for destruction. Originally, destruction was by burning; the method was later changed to pulping.

Within the building notes were moved in wheeled cages having an inventory of their contents displayed on them. The cages were fitted with 2 self-locking brass padlocks. These padlocks were apparently specially made for the Bank, all of similar type, but in two sets. Worker supervisors had the key to the white padlocks, and the Security supervisors the key to the black padlocks. The colours were plastic tape on the padlock bodies. A worker found it possible to make a 'fake black' lock by changing the colour of a white lock.

After the two supervisors had unlocked a cage, the 'fake black' lock was switched in. When notes for destruction were put into the wheeled cage, the worker supervisor locked the cage as usual, with 2

(Continued on page 5)

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

"The colours were plastic tape on the padlock bodies. A worker found it possible to make a 'fake black' lock by changing the colour of a white lock."

"Locks & Keys" welcomes contributions, preferably with un-coloured 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.

been a useful means of dividing and sharing responsibility for security for centuries. However, it is not necessarily infallible.

In the 1990's several employees of the Bank of England stole perhaps £1M in used notes after defeating the Bank's security. Even when the employees' lavish spending exposed them, the Bank still did not know how the theft was achieved.

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email: rphillips52@btinternet.com

Editor

I have been really struggling to find material for this issue. I have a day job, and other calls on my time, so my capacity for searching is somewhat limited. I still have filler items coming in from several contributors, and these are welcome. But I am sure what you would most like to read is actual articles on locks.

So, please, write to me. Many of you know much more about locks than me, and have bigger and better collections.

Would you write about your favourite/prized lock? A company you know something about, or some other aspect of lock collecting. Readers will be pleased you shared your knowledge.

One subject particularly requested is where non-locksmith collectors can find locks and keys. So, who can tell stories of interesting finds?

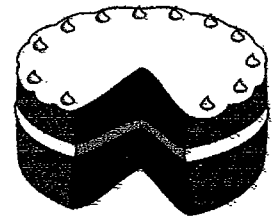
I look forward to an easier and quicker production of the next issue.

Feedback

Sadly, there has been very little feedback, and a considerable drop-off of renewals. Some readers will probably renew later on, but the small number of loyal subscribers does mean the newsletter is barely economic.

There have been some contributions on Roman locks, so I'll come back to that subject again. Roman finds continue to appear on the market, many of them apparently found by metal detectorists. Most are of little pecuniary value, but not necessarily without interest. However, be alert to the fact that some genuinely old but damaged artefacts have had modern repairs — and some sellers forget to mention this.

There have been very few questions or answers; and remember, there is the opportunity for free 'for sale / wanted' advertisements.



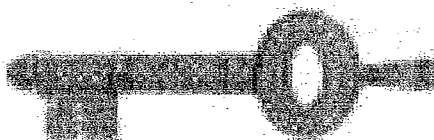
Looking for that special Christmas present?

Theo Fennell: contemporary pieces based on classic design principles, emphatically original, beautiful things. Some are absurdly expensive, many are surprisingly affordable, and all are unashamedly well crafted. The craftsmanship is of the highest order, the attention to detail painstaking. As modelled by Naomi Campbell!
PRICE LIST 2003/04 (All prices listed are inclusive of VAT at 17.5%, and are indicative and subject to change without prior notice.)

F

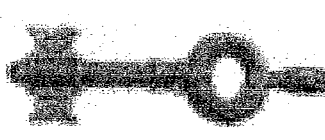
www.theofennell.com Email: orders@theofennell.com

- 7.13 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD WHIP KEY PENDANT £995
- 17.5 AN 18CT WHITE GOLD PAVE BRILLIANT CUT DIAMOND BABY KEY PENDANT £1,600
- 17.6 AN 18CT WHITE GOLD PAVE BRILLIANT CUT DIAMOND SMALL KEY PENDANT £3,500
- 17.7 AN 18CT WHITE GOLD PAVE BRILLIANT CUT DIAMOND MEDIUM KEY PENDANT £4,500
- 17.8 AN 18CT WHITE GOLD PAVE BRILLIANT CUT DIAMOND LARGE KEY PENDANT £7,950
- 26.1 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD AND BLUE TOPAZ LIEF KEY PENDANT £975
- 26.5 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD AND BLUE ENAMEL LIEF KEY £950
- 23.13 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD AND RUBY KEY PENDANT £295
- 23.14 AN 18CT WHITE GOLD AND PRINCESS CUT DIAMOND KEY PENDANT £575
- 23.15 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD AND AMETHYST KEY PENDANT £210
- 23.16 AN 18CT WHITE GOLD AND BLUE TOPAZ KEY PENDANT £220
- 23.17 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD AND PINK TOURMALINE KEY PENDANT £230
- 23.18 AN 18CT WHITE GOLD AND SAPPHIRE KEY PENDANT £285
- 23.19 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD AND EMERALD KEY PENDANT £325
- 23.20 AN 18CT WHITE GOLD AND TANZANITE KEY PENDANT £250
- 23.21 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD AND PRINCESS CUT DIAMOND KEY PENDANT £575
- 23.31 AN 18CT YELLOW GOLD OVAL BELCHER CHAIN BRACELET (choose from a selection of pendant key charms as above) £285

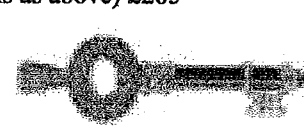


17.8

PRICE LIST 2003/04



7.13



26.5

Jøli fire safe, from Norway

These fire-proof cabinets were made in Norway post-World War II, and imported into Britain in small numbers, probably in the 1960's and 1970's.

They are well-made, with a solid fire-resisting lining based on a form of plaster. There are 4 moving bolts, 2 on each side. The key lock used is a 5-pin tumbler rim cylinder, but with a D-shaped spindle on the back, like some utility locks. The keyblank is rather thin, and prone to breaking. The bolts are moved directly by the spindle on the back of the lock cylinder. There are no relockers on the keylock model, but there is a drill-resisting curtain in front of the cylinder. The door handle is fixed, and only for pulling open the door.

A shelf and lockable drawer were available for a small charge. There was also an extra charge for the combination lock instead of the keylock.

There appears to have been only one size. The original of this leaflet would not reproduce very clearly.

The company is still in business, with a modern range of burglary and fire safes, safe deposits, keysafes, etc.:

**Jøli Safe AS Billingsstadsletta 91, 1396
Billingsstad Tlf.: 66 84 21 00 Fax.: 66 98 22 55
Avdelingskontor Trondheim Tlf.: 73 53 24 10**

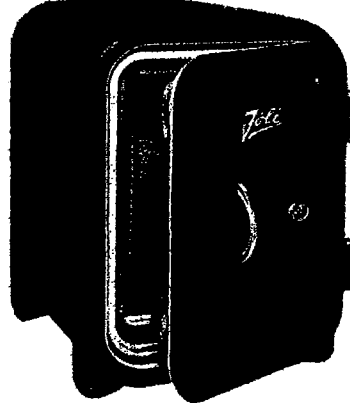
<http://www.joli.no/default.html>

From Trevor Dowson.

SPECIFICATIONS:

CYLINDER LOCK

The Standard Model is furnished with a rim lock locking device. Other vital sections of the door are covered with drillproof steel plates.

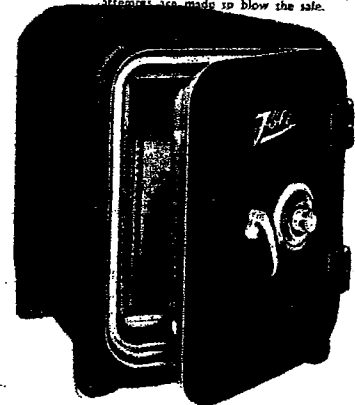


Height: 20 1/2" - 527 mm Depth: 13 1/2" - 343 mm
Width: 16 1/2" - 419 mm Width: 9 1/2" - 241 mm
Depth: 18 1/2" - 468 mm Depth: 11 1/2" - 302 mm

Weight: 2 cwt (90 Kilograms)

COMBINATION LOCK

At a slight extra cost, the family safe can be fitted with a combination lock as illustrated. The 4 locking bolts automatically spring into locked position, if attempt is made to blow the safe.



PRICES:

Standard model
Shelf
Drawer

Extra for combination lock

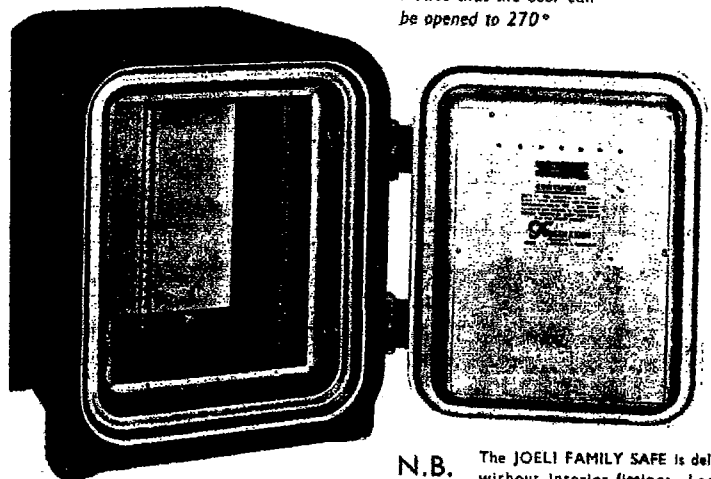
NB

The family safe is not intended for safe-keeping of large sums of money. For that purpose, we provide an especially designed JOELI MONEY SAFE.

Dealer:

**... fire-tested ...
... Fall-tested
Drill-proof lock**

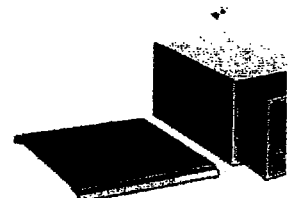
Notice that the door can be opened to 270°



N.B.

The JOELI FAMILY SAFE is delivered without interior fittings. Lock drawer and/or shelf available at an extra cost.

Insulation material lies between the strong outer and the JOELI Safe and is on guard against flames every day. This material has great insulation ability reflecting instead of allowing them to penetrate to the inner walls. It is this action which makes the insulation of the safe so effective. Each safe is provided with a certificate that it has been fire-tested at the Pyro-Technical Lab. It is guaranteed to withstand a temperature of 1000° Fahrenheit for more than an hour.



Videos for locksmiths (and collectors)

Tech-Train Productions

P.O. Box 15401

Pensacola, Florida 32514

Phone: (850) 476-7197

Toll-Free Ordering: (800) 356-0136

Fax: (850) 476-7410

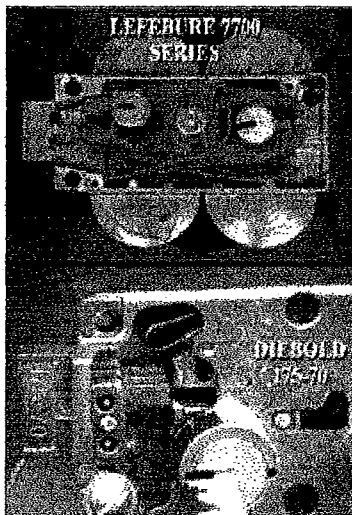
<http://www.techtrainproductions.com/index.htm>

Tech-Train Productions is dedicated to providing the security industry with the very best in education, educational videos, technical manuals and tools.

Today, Tech-Train Productions offers thirty-two different educational videotapes for locksmiths and security professionals. The range of subjects covered varies from Basic Locksmithing (tape #578) to Safe Deposit Lock Servicing (tapes #565, #566, & #567).

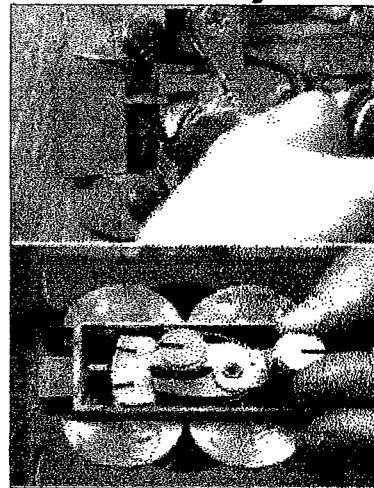
Video prices: VHS \$29.95; DVD \$40

Even if you can't own all the locks, you can see them in video! Here are some examples. There are also technical books, including masterkeying, and servicing various types of locks used in the USA.

**Safe Deposit Locks Vol. 2 - Resettable Lever Locks - VHS or DVD**

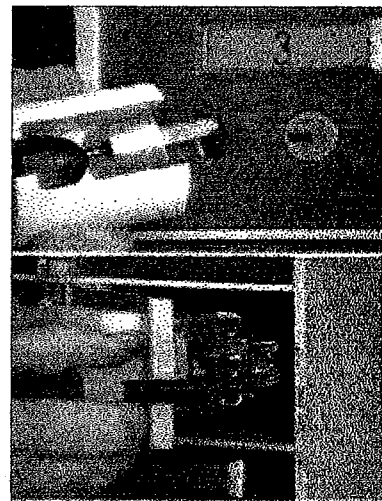
ID #: 566

This video covers the operation and service procedures for the most common resettable lever locks. With this video you will learn all that you need to know in order to service these popular locks. The locks covered include the S&G 4500 & 4340 series, Diebold 175-70, Mosler Rapid-Set, and LeFebure 7737 locks. Length: 58 min.

**Safe Deposit Locks Vol. 1 - Fixed Lever Locks - VHS or DVD**

ID #: 565

This video covers the operation and service procedures for the most common fixed-lever locks. With this video you will learn all that you need to know in order to service the S&G 4400 series, Diebold 175-05 & 175-06, Security (Kumahira) 73-11 & 73-21, Mosler 5700 and LeFebure 7300 series locks. You will also learn how to fit a key to these locks by using depth & spacing keys and with a code machine such as the Framon #2. Length: 58 min.

**Safe Deposit Locks Vol. 3 (Box Opening) VHS or DVD**

ID #: 567

This tape covers opening procedures for all of the locks covered on the earlier safe deposit lock servicing tapes. You will see close-up views of every step in the process of opening each box. Special sections include tips and tricks on nose pulling, door pulling and wedging. Each tape includes a Quick Reference Guide filled with valuable information. Length: 49 min.

(Continued from page 1)

locks that looked different and proper. But they could actually *both* be opened by the one key held by the worker supervisor. On the way to destruction by burning, (or later, by pulping), the wheeled cages were stored briefly inside a cage (grilled strongroom) without a surveillance camera, but a human guard outside. However, on several occasions, there a worker unlocked a cage and abstracted some notes. The lock was switched again, and the genuine black lock was refitted. The worker supervisor's key was returned to her. The 'fake black' lock was restored to white, and clean again, it was returned surreptitiously to the pool of black and white padlocks. Notes were removed from the building about workers' persons.

Careful timing and sleight of hand was necessary, and avoidance of the many surveillance cameras. The operation continued successfully and undetected for some time.

Exactly how the money was got out is not clear, except that by various subterfuges, by hiding money about the person, and by avoiding any occasions when there were searches at the end of what was described as the 'Burma Road', which was the way out of the building, the thieves were able to get money out of the building.

A Security guard who discovered the operation was blackmailed into joining it. When detected, he confessed, and told what he knew, identifying the other perpetrators. He was given a short prison sentence.

The actual detection of the theft came from routine reporting of a large cash deposit that one of the gang made to buy a bond, by a bank acting in accordance with rules instituted to detect money laundering from criminal sources.

This gang member had mainly dealt in cash most of his life, having an aversion to traceable monies, and paying taxes. For buying the bond, he had the cash available in

a safe under the stairs under the gas meter in his home. It was sufficiently well hidden that the Police did not find it when they searched his house; and the man did not feel that it was his duty to draw their attention to it. He also had a small float upstairs, behind the bath panel, of approximately £5,000 in ready money.

The Bank of England had insufficient evidence for a criminal prosecution of the other staff, but dismissed them and brought a successful civil action for restitution. However, the Bank certainly did not recover the entire amount lost.

This true crime was made into a television play called "Hot Money". The full judgement, (from which this story is abridged), is on the Internet.

<http://www.ucc.ie/law/restitution/archive/engcases/boe.htm>

Ballard's bottle lock Patent No. 1678, 1869

[This patent was granted in 1869 to William Edward Newton on behalf of Lewis Mortimer Ballard, of the City and State of New York, United States of America. It is a combination bottle lock, with changeable combination.]

This Invention is to provide the mouths of bottles and other necked vessels with a cap capable of being locked without a key securely over the neck of the bottle. The Invention comprises a locking cap constructed like a letter or combination lock, with a series of internally flanged and notched movable rings combined with a series of fixed lugs upon the neck of the vessel, or upon a collar attached thereto, so that by turning the rings after the cap has been placed upon the neck (over the stopper) the relative position of the notches with that of the fixed lugs will be changed to lock the cap on the neck, and prevent its removal until the relative position of the parts has been again established, when it may be removed.

And the Invention further consists in constructing the rings with two or more sets of notches in their internally projecting flanges and suitable recesses, so as to allow of certain of the notches being plugged or stopped by means of removable plates or fillings for the purpose of imparting a permutation character to the locking cap.

Fig. 1 represents a side elevation of a bottle with the locking cap applied to the neck thereof to secure the stopper from being removed; Fig. 2 is a sectional

(Continued on page 6)

Ballard's bottle lock Patent No. 1678, 1869

(Continued from page 5)

elevation of such locking cap applied as described showing the rings of the cap in an unlocked position; and Fig. 3 is a similar view, showing the rings as turned to lock the cap onto the neck of the bottle; Figs 4 and 5 are transverse sections, taken on the line *x, x*, in Fig. 2, of the locking cap, with its rings adjusted to occupy locking and unlocking positions on or over the neck of the bottle; Fig. 6 is a vertical section of a modified construction of such locking cap to give to it a permutation character; Fig. 7 is a transverse section thereof, taken on the line *y, y*, in Fig. 6.

In Figs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, A is a bottle, upon whose neck is secured a cylindrical sleeve or collar B of metal or other suitable material. This collar is provided with a series of fixed lugs *b, b*. Fitting over this collar B and its lugs *b* is a cylindrical cap C having its upper and lower parts *d* and *e* connected to each other by means of bolts *c, c*, or otherwise. The lower part *e* forms the bottom ring of the device, and turns in common with the top part *d*. Between these upper and lower parts *d* and *e* are arranged a plurality of independent rings *f* fitted to each other and to the upper and lower parts *d* and *e*, and provided, as is also the bottom ring *e*, with inwardly projecting flanges *g*, which fit easily around the collar B. The flanges *g* have each a notch *h* large enough to pass over the lugs *b* so as (by the passage of the notches over the lugs) to allow of the cap being passed over the stopper D and collar B on the neck of the bottle. When the cap C has been placed upon the collar it may be locked thereto, as certain combination locks are closed, by so turning the rings *e* and *f* as to cause the removal of the notches *h* from under the lugs *b*, thereby bringing the solid portions of the flanges *g* under the lugs. The bottom of the collar B is formed with a flange *s*, which answers the double purpose of a stop to the cap C when seated to its place, and as a shield to conceal the position of the notch *h* in the lower ring *e*, exposure of which would do away with the security of the locking cap by allowing through sight applied to notch of the adjustment of the several rings, so that their notches come in line with the lugs *b*. To unlock the cap or for rearranging the notches *h* under their respective lugs the rings *e* and *f* are turned to the positions in which they were first arranged.

For this, secret signs may be used, such as the combination of certain letters on the outside forming by the proper arrangement of the rings some mystical word or words, as in letter or combination padlocks of previous well known character or action. Thus in order to open the cap it may be necessary to turn the several rings till the letters P O R T come in vertical line, which they will not do until the notches are in line to clear the lugs. Any number and variety of letters or other characters around the rings may be used in connection

with the opening combination of letters or signs to puzzle and deceive the uninitiated.

To make the combination changeable (permutable), rings *e* and *f* may be as figs 6 and 7, with two or more sets of notches *h, h'*, and plates *i* may be slid into the rings so as to close certain of such notches, or by inserting a pointed instrument or device into holes *n* the plates be drawn out of such notches and be inserted into others, thus producing a great variety of changes to the combination of letters necessary to be brought into line to allow the removal of the cap C. Lugs *b* and flange *a* may be formed on the neck of the bottle itself thereby dispensing with the necessity of using a collar B.

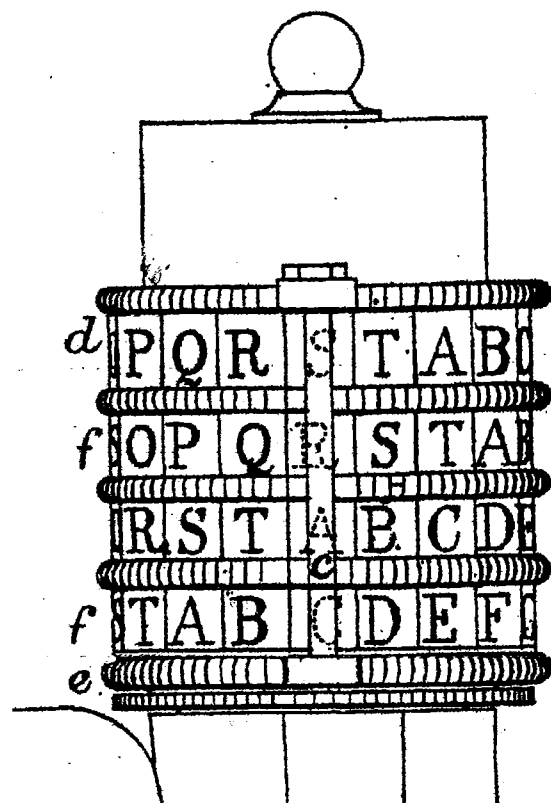
I claim as the Invention: —

First. The locking cap C with a series of notched internally flanged rings for operation in connection with lugs or projections *b* on the neck of a bottle or other vessel, or upon a collar attached thereto.

Second. The internally flanged rings of the locking cap C constructed or provided with two or more sets of notches *h, h'*, in combination with the removable and changeable plugs or plates *i* to the notches, for the purpose herein set forth.

W. E. NEWTON.

F I G. I.



Ballard's bottle lock Patent No. 1678, 1869

FIG. 3.

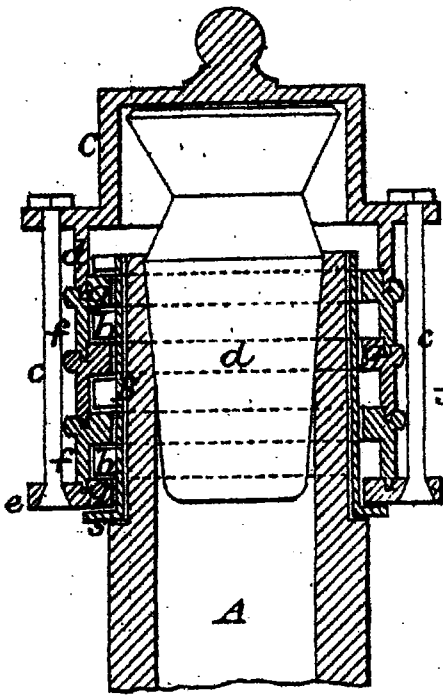


FIG. 6.

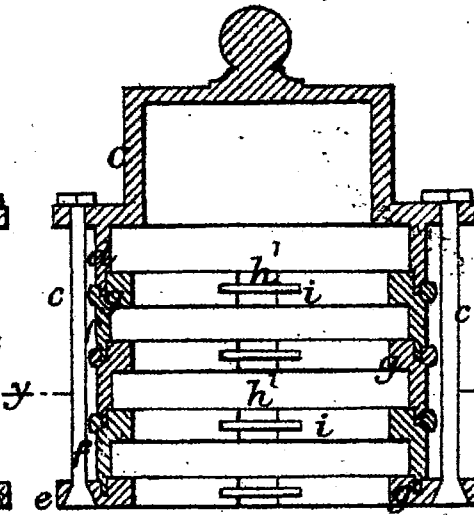


FIG. 2.

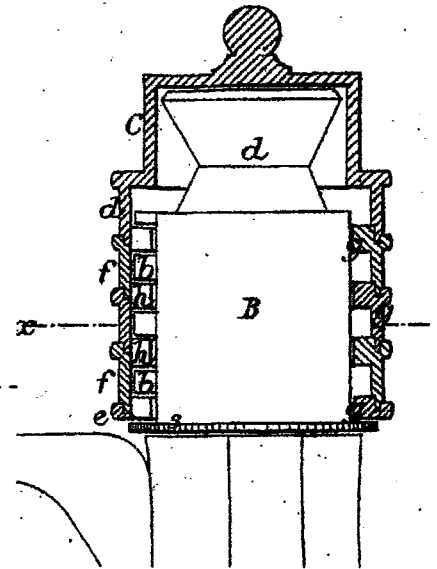


FIG. 4.

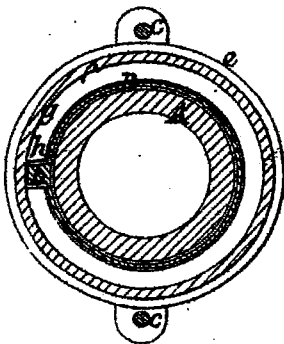


FIG. 5.

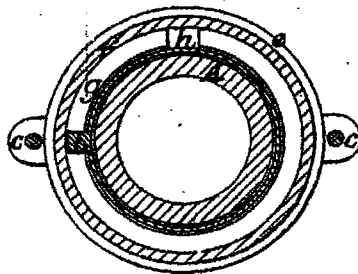
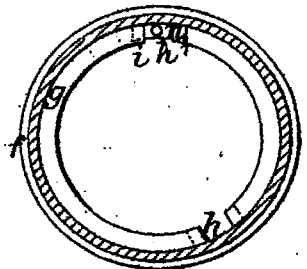


FIG. 7.

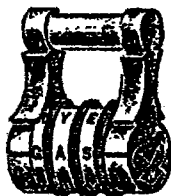


A.D. 1869. MAY 31. N° 1678.
NEWTON'S SPECIFICATION.

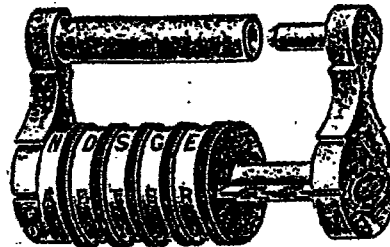
Benjamin Walters & Co. Ltd Wolverhampton

BRASS LETTER PAD LOCKS.

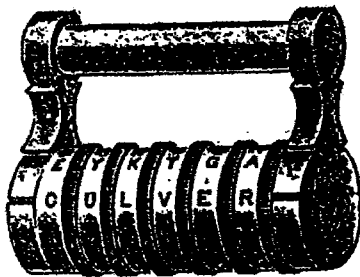
ORDINARY: TO OPEN WITH A SET WORD.



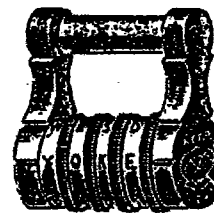
No. 4712.



No. 4722.



No. 4727.



No. 4217.

A Quality.		B Quality.		C Quality.		D Quality.	
No.		No.		No.		No.	
4712	3 roller 12/- per doz.	4716	3 roller 13/- per doz.	4720	3 roller 19/- per doz.	4724	3 roller 23/6 per doz.
4713	4 " 14/- "	4717	4 " 15/- "	4721	4 " 23/6 "	4725	4 " 29/- "
4714	5 " 16/- "	4718	5 " 17/- "	4722	5 " 28/- "	4726	5 " 34/6 "
4715	6 " 18/- "	4719	6 " 19/- "	4723	6 " 32/6 "	4727	6 " 40/6 "

NOTE.—When ordering, it is only necessary to state the number required.

Benjamin Walters & Co. Ltd,

of North Street, Wolverhampton, were general lock makers: 'makers of all kinds of rim and mortice locks and latches, combination & night latches, & every description of brass & iron cabinet locks'. Most likely, they made cabinet locks and Bales latches, but acted as wholesale factors for many other types, (like Beddows & Sturme).

They were situated upstairs at 24 North Street opposite the Molineux Hotel. The business closed when the

premises were required for the building of the Wolverhampton ring road.

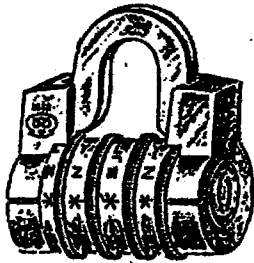
They produced (or at least, sold) a wide range of padlocks. These letter combination padlocks are not especially rare, though the larger changeable ones are less common. Walters' trade mark was a Staffordshire knot with a W.

There were also other makers of similar locks. Similar locks seem also to have been made in Europe. A rather better quality was made by Hobbs & Co.

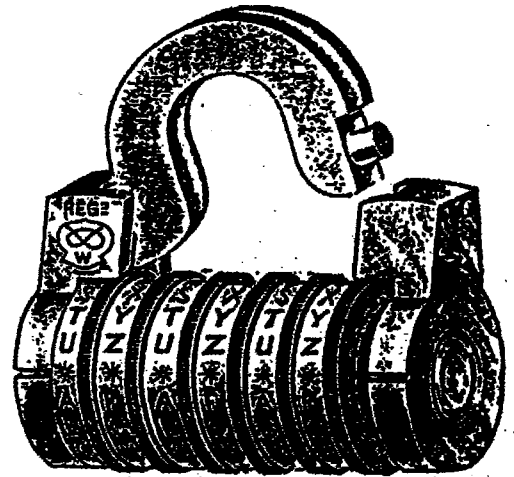
Benjamin Walters & Co. Ltd 1914

BRASS LETTER PAD LOCKS.

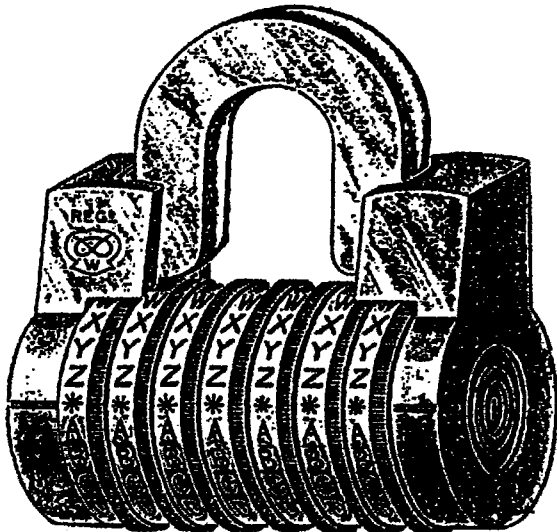
BEST QUALITY. CHANGEABLE WORDS.



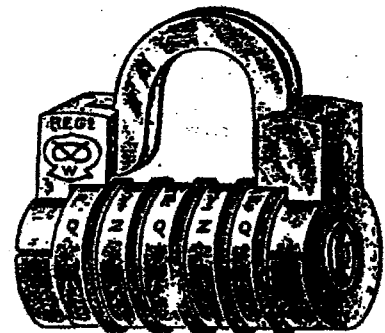
No 4723.



No. 4732.



No. 4734.



No. 4730.

										4 roller.	5 roller.	6 roller.	7 roller.
No. 4728.	1 inch	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 3	7/-	7 9	8 6 each.
No. 4729.	1 1/2 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 6	7 3	8 -	8 9 "
No. 4730.	1 1/2 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 9	7 6	8 3	9 - "
No. 4731.	1 1/2 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 3	8 -	8 9	9 6 "
No. 4732.	2 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7 9	8 9	9 9	10 9 "
No. 4733.	2 1/2 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 -	10 -	11 -	12 - "
No. 4734.	2 1/2 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 9	12 3	13 9	15 3 ...

DIRECTIONS FOR OPENING AND CHANGING THE LOCK.

Place the stars in exact line with the nick at each end of the lock, thus—*—*—*—*—*—and it will then open by pulling the lock the long way. By the following instructions any person may alter the lock to open at whatever letters there are on the lock:—When the lock is unlocked, lift up the shackle and screw off the end: the rollers with the letters on will then take off; under each letter is a small nick, on each roller is a small pin; place the letter required upon this small pin, then screw on the end, and be sure to try the lock before fastening down the shackle to ascertain that it will open at the letters wanted. As there are thousands of changes in the lock, it is impossible for the maker or any other person to open it should the letters be misplaced.

A copy of these directions is enclosed with each lock.

NOTE.—When ordering please state number and number of rollers required.

Information resources

West Coast Lock Collectors' Association
Secretary/Treasurer Bob Heilemann 1427 Lincoln
Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90401 USA
310-230-3004
locksmann@earthlink.com

The Antique Lock Collector quarterly \$17 / \$20
abroad
www.wclca.org

American Lock Collectors Association
Secretary/Treasurer David Rankl 13115 Millersburg
Road S.W. Massillon, Ohio 44647 USA
330-833-1438
dir41@aol.com

Journal of Lock Collecting 6pa \$18 / \$30 abroad
alca-online.org

The Lock Collector 6pa £9 / £10.50 abroad
from Tony Beck 19 Lawrence Avenue Chaddesden
DERBY DE21 4RD United Kingdom 01332 679358

Village Lock-up Association
7 Inch's Yard Market Street Newbury Berkshire RG14
5DP UK.

Internet Links (selected)

Internet Medieval Sourcebook
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/sbook.html>

United States Patent and Trade Mark Office
<http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>

FreePatentsOnline.com (good source for US
patents)
<http://freepatentsonline.com/>

UK Intellectual Property on the Internet (a UK
portal site with links to patent searching
<http://www.intellectual-property.gov.uk/>)

European Patent Office
[http://ep.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97_cgi.exe?
Action=FormGen&Template=ep/EN/home.hts](http://ep.espacenet.com/search97cgi/s97_cgi.exe?Action=FormGen&Template=ep/EN/home.hts)

A free service which allows the user to make limited
searches of various databases containing published
patent applications including UK Patent Office, the
European Patent Office, other European national offices
and a PCT database. The pages of many applications
are available for viewing.

Jerry Clausen's lock pages
[http://members.aol.com/pdx2001/padlocks/index.
htm](http://members.aol.com/pdx2001/padlocks/index.htm)

I've Moved to Mexico and left my locks in Portland,
Oregon. I've decided to sell my entire collection of
about 1000 locks and this website. \$10,000. Or Best
Offer. Serious inquiries regarding the entire collection
will be welcome. This website displays about 1/3 of my
entire collection.

Lock markings

Some locks are marked only with letters; these are
a few, to start readers thinking. If more markings
are sent in, I will add to this list in future.

A & W Co	Adams & Westlake Co.
AFS	Abel Fletcher & Sons
B&S	Beddow & Sturmey Ltd [later, Heenan, Beddow & Sturmey]
BB	B Burgess & Sons Ltd
D B S W	David Beards & Sons Ltd
D M & Co	Davenport Mallory & Co.
E	Eagle
ERA	J E Reynolds & Co. Ltd
ETAS	E Tonks & Sons Ltd
F	E T Fraim Lock Co.
F S	Fraim-Slaymaker Hardware Co.
H & J F	Humphrey & John Fox
H & TV	H & T Vaughan
HTV	H & T Vaughan
ILCO	Independent Lock Company
J P S	Josiah Parkes & Sons [mainly wartime products]
L & F	Lowe & Fletcher
L S & B	Lovedee, Son and Bate
M L Co	Miller Lock Co.
M W Co	Mallory Wheeler & Co.
O & S L	A Oakden & Sons Ltd
R & E Co	Russell & Erwin Co.
S	Slaymaker
S & Co	Sargant & Co.
S & E Co	Smith & Egge Co.
S & G	Sargent & Greenleaf
S B & Co	Slaymaker Barry Co.
T H & Co	Thomas Herbert & Co.
US	United States Lock Co.
W	Waterbury Lock & Specialty Co.
W & Co	Wilcox & Co.
W [with knot]	Benjamin Walters
W W & Co.	William Wilcox & Co.
Y & T	Yale & Towne Mfg. Co.

A 'Great Hobbs-tacle': a very rare Chubb bank lock

This is an example of what is probably the rarest production lock ever made by Chubb's. It was designed and produced as a direct result of A.C. Hobbs' picking of Chubb's locks at the time of the Great Exhibition.

The design is quite different from any Chubb lock made before. It has no detector, its strength lies in a sophisticated 12 lever anti-pressure detent system. The action of the lock is such that all the levers must be lifted to the correct height — simultaneously — before the bolt stump is brought into contact with the levers.

The lock incorporates a series of curtains, and a pair of sliding 'portcullises' that open to allow the key access to the lever and then close again before tension can be applied to the bolt.

The detent system employed effectively prevents the tentative picking process that Hobbs employed.

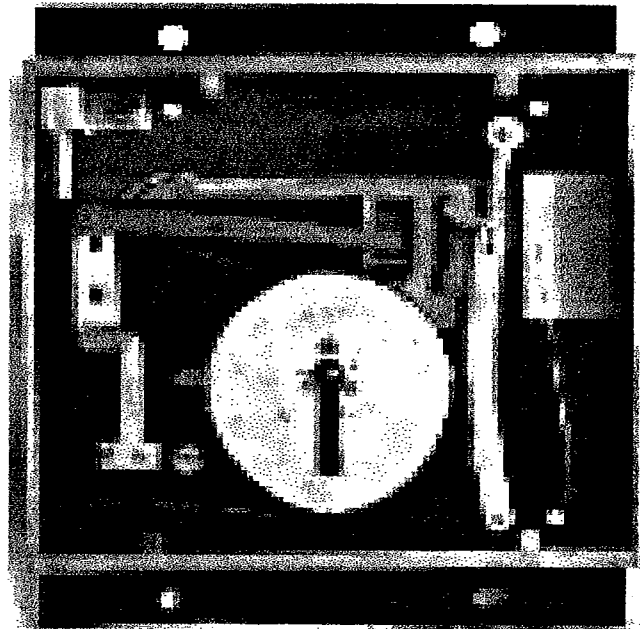
It is thought that Hobbs was aware of the development of this lock, and that when challenged to pick it he declined to try.

He is quoted as saying "Mr Chubb has produced a lock the like of which he has never made before!" Whether he meant a different design or one that could not be picked is unclear.

I suspect that this lock was only produced to prove that Chubb's could make a lock that Hobbs could not pick. It would have been expensive to make, and with only three known examples I doubt many were ever made.

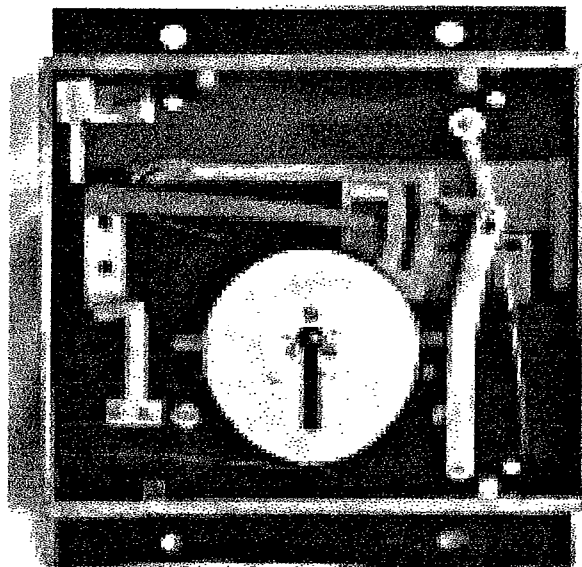
Paul Prescott

(Does anyone know of any more examples, in Britain or elsewhere? Ed.)



Chubb: Safe / Vault lock, c1852.

Dimensions (mm): 227 X 177 X 38. There does not appear to be any patent for this lock.



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.



5] Trevor Dowson would like any information or trade catalogues on the safemakers George Withers, Samuel Withers, and Thomas Withers, who had separate businesses in West Bromwich. Also the safemaker Bash & Co, in business in Glasgow c.1874 - 1911.

29] Does anyone recognise this mark, or give limits of age?



For Sale/Wanted

Second Hand Safes for sale

DREAM CLASSIC CARS
VIEWING IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:
LAWFORD MANNINGTREE ESSEX
Telephone No. 0776 2031455
dreamclassiccars@aol.com

<http://www.dreamclassiccars.co.uk/>

The company has moved to new smaller premises, and will no longer deal in safes. However, from its previously large stock of modern secondhand safes, many removed from closed bank branches, some remain to be sold. All prices have been reduced for quick sale. Please note all safes are cash and carry. Buyers must arrange their own collection: the company can load for you with its fork lift.

All safes must go: no reasonable cash and collect offers refused. If you want the lot make me an offer — I might accept for cash and carry.

For example:

Rosengren safe, model RT3, 2ft x 2ft x 2ft 6" high, key lock, from city bank, one shelf, typical insurance rating: £15,000 cash, £150,000 jewellery, very high security safe, £495.

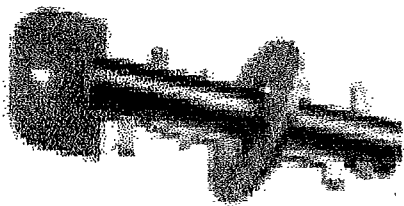
Sargent & Greenleaf safe, of Kentucky USA, 1ft 6" x 1ft 6" x 2ft high, this is a four digit dial combination lock, the combination can be changed (we have the instructions). This was removed from the mansion house of Duke of Marlborough, and is a very high security safe, £10,000 cash, £100,000 jewellery, £295.

Chubb safe, 2ft x 2ft x 2ft high, key lock, £4,000 cash £40,000 jewellery, £95



An intriguing mail order catalogue came through my door recently. It contains numerous moneybanks, both still and mechanical. Some are reproductions of old castiron banks, some are new designs in the old style. Some are modern in appearance and concept. There are also numerous puzzles. Some of these are beautiful wooden puzzle boxes which are chests, moneyboxes, books, etc. See p.13.

Future collectables

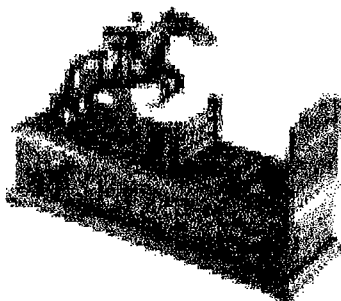


Free the Key

Try to manoeuvre the brass disk off the aluminium key, but don't lose your senses, it might take longer than you think to make it through the metal maze. Measures 10.7 cm long. Created by Oskar Van Deventer.

ITEM#: 3535 PRICE: £6.99 SALE £4.99

This product is an original design — made only by Bits And Pieces.



Straight From The Horse's Mouth Bank

Just put your coin in the horse's mouth and pull the lever - horse and rider will jump cleanly over the fence to drop it safely on the other side.

measures 23 cm long x 7.5 cm wide x 15 cm tall.

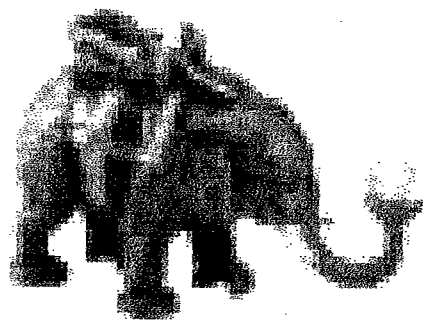
ITEM#: 3605 PRICE: £19.99 SALE £15.99

This product is an original design — made only by Bits And Pieces.

These moneybanks, some reproductions of old designs, some new designs in the same style as old ones, are fairly inexpensive, and might well be tomorrow's collectables. There are a score of them on the website, together with numerous puzzles. 'Made of realistically distressed cast iron, it will create an antique ambience when displayed in any room' — and ready to be sold on to the next buyer as a genuine antique!

Some puzzles are wood puzzle boxes designed by Akio Kamei — such as a 'secret key box'. These beautiful puzzles are already very collectable!

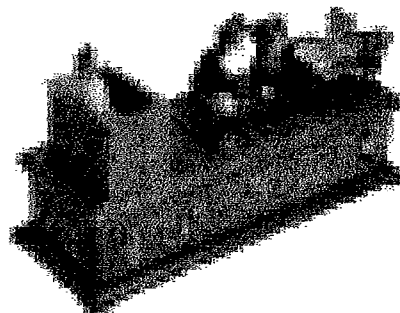
www.bitsandpiecesuk.com



Elephant Bank

Our iron reproduction of an early American bank is a delightful way to save your change. Just place the coin in the slot in the elephant's trunk, pull his tail and up flies the coin to be deposited in the chair on his back. Finished in a realistic antiqued surface, this bank is sure to be a collectible for years to come. Measures 12.7 cm tall x 17.5 cm long.

ITEM#: 3518 PRICE: £14.99 SALE £9.99



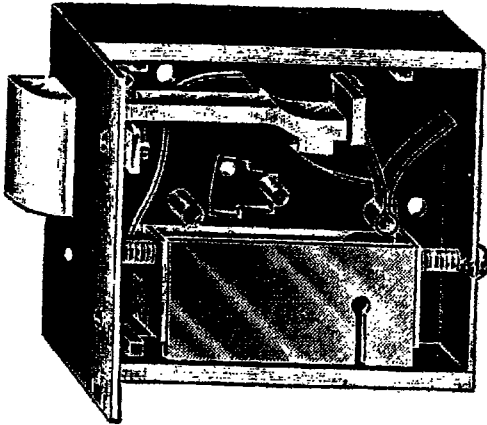
Money In The Kitty Cats Bank

These three cast iron cats have more than a ball of string and a mouse to play with. They're waiting for you to place a coin in front of them and pull the lever, so they can leap across the floor and drop it in the sink! Measures 20 cm long x 7.5 cm wide x 13.5 cm tall.

ITEM#: 3485 PRICE: £18.99 SALE £15.99

This product is an original design — made only by Bits And Pieces.

Adjustable backset rim latch



No. 31.

No. 31 4-in. PATENT MOVEABLE KEYHOLE to SUIT DOORS, with HOLES IN WHEN DIFFERENT PATTERNS HAVE BEEN IN USE TO AVOID CUTTING FRESH HOLES IN DOORS—

39/- per dozen.

This japanned case night latch (British, early 1930's) is described as patent, but the patent details (if it actually was patented) are unknown. It seems a clever and useful idea, but it cost about a third more than common night latches of the period. I doubt if they were much used; I've never seen one. (Beddow & Sturmøy 1930 catalogue.)

Just my lock!

A MAGICIAN paid a locksmith £130 to free him from a pair of handcuffs. Tony McNamara trapped his hands in them after a trick went wrong. Locksmith Stuart Eccleston picked the lock while paramedics gave the magician oxygen. Mr McNamara, of Enfield, North London, now plans to give a charity show for the paramedics.

METRO 28/6/05

Is it a bird? No, It's Spider-Gran

A GRANDMOTHER of 78 scaled her block of flats after locking herself out of her fifth-floor home. Nie Sanmei used window grills as hand and footholds. She was halted by a fourth-floor air conditioning unit but refused to be rescued, telling firefighters: 'I'm nearly there.' She let them help her down when her daughter arrived with her door key in Changsha, China.

Metro 2/2/05

European collectors meeting 2006

Dear Lockfriends,

After a talk this morning with Manfred Welker - iron and lock specialist on the GERMANISCHES NATIONALMUSEUM IN NÜRNBERG it was confirmed that we will hold our 5th annual European lock collectors' meeting 8-10 September 2006 in NÜRNBERG.

This is the first stage of planning; as soon as we have selected hotels you will be informed for booking.

This is only to help you keep this date reserved for your yearly planning.

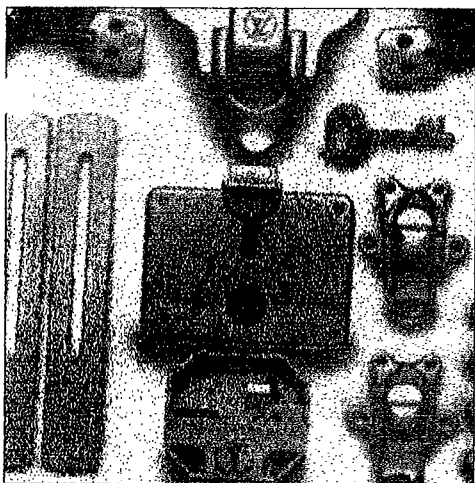
See you there.

PETER FRIEDHELM VON KNORRE



Louis Vuitton trunk locks

Louis Vuitton trunks are fitted with a security lock designed by Louis Vuitton and patented in 1890. It originally had 5 levers, but now has 6 to accommodate the growing number of registrations. Each key number is permanently registered in Louis Vuitton's customer file, kept meticulously since the brand's establishment. Any time an existing customer purchases a trunk from a Louis Vuitton store anywhere in the world, a lock to fit his existing key is made in Paris and sent to be fitted to the newly-purchased trunk. Likewise, replacement keys can be issued and delivered after confirmation of ownership.



'Louis Vuitton is repairable': part of the components of a rigid trunk, including the lock.

Chinese style

Details play a central part in Chinese furniture, right from the design stage. Metal hardware was commonly used for reinforcement and decoration. Even in ancient times, ironmongery was a specialised guild that had more common with science than with woodworking. Chinese metalsmiths were skilled in firing decorative hardware to perfection, but were also concerned with complex metallurgical formulae to create alloys of great strength with a range of different hues.

The hardware handles made for doors and cabinets depicted a variety of animals, fish, and birds. Fish symbolised harmony and freedom during the Ming dynasty. Fish also feature in the etchings and engravings adorning locks and keys, which were commonly regarded as signs of status and wealth. The keys used by high-ranking officials and members of rich households were beautifully and artistically made, depicting images of 'qilins' (the auspicious Chinese unicorn), butterflies, tigers, and other animals.

Chinese locks

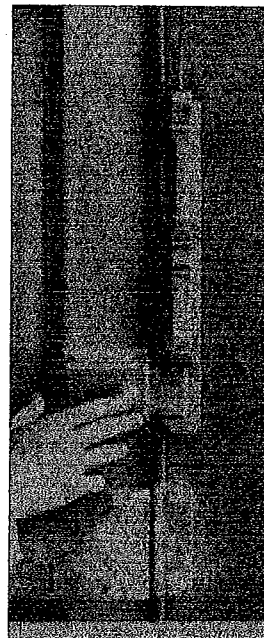
Locksmith craftsmanship reached its peak during the Tang dynasty, when locks were valuable pieces of equipment, and materials such as bronze, silver or gold

Georgian privacy bolt

There was a major fire at Hampton Court Palace in 1986. Ten years later, restorers reached the royal bedrooms, and found how little privacy King George II and Queen Caroline had. The corridor had not yet been invented, so access to each room (including bedrooms) was through the previous one, until the last one on the floor was reached.

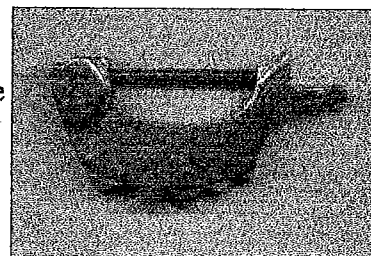
However, many personal friends, courtiers, and officials had access, and could walk in any time. This was the privilege originally provided by the 'chamberlain key'. These keys were originally actual functioning keys, giving entry to the King, including the King's bedroom. In time, they would become vestigial, merely symbolic.

This privacy is cable operated, so that it can be released remotely by a cable, from the bed. It would allow the bedroom occupant to shut out even a keyholder, or release the door without getting out of bed.



were often used. Much Asian 'brass' is actually 'paktong': a brass containing a small amount of nickel, it resists tarnishing better than other brasses. Tang locks were mostly padlocks that opened by key or combination. Often the keyhole was hidden among tiny crevices decorating the lock's surface so that only the owner could find it quickly.

Chinese combination locks were different from those made in the West, as the wheels usually bore symbols rather than numbers, or poetic words that had to form a nonsensical phrase to open. Keys were also a symbol of married women. Because married women were designated as the family's 'key-carrier', women who did not have a key fastened to their robes were assumed to be unmarried.



Chinese brass padlock, c. 1960; copy of an older design

(Now I know why one of my Chinese padlocks is in the shape of a fish. *Ed.*)

From: QUINN, Bradley. *Chinese style: the art of living*. London, Conran Octopus, 2002. 1840912758; 1840914599 2005 pbk.

There are currently several Chinese padlocks on eBay at: http://search.ebay.ca/_W0QQfrtsZ50QQfsooZ1QQfsopZ1QQsassZdagoodstuff

Murphy's Laws of Locksmithing continued

The probability of arriving at the job site without a needed tool or with the wrong hardware are directly proportional with the square of the travel distance

- You will always have what you need when the job is next to your shop.
- They lock will always be the wrong hand and not field reversible when the job is more than 1/2 hour travel.

Any written specification you have been issued by the customer will be the old one that has since been revised. Any lock finish or style that you have with you will not match the rest of the hardware in the building. The harder it is to obtain matching hardware, the more the customer will insist on an exact match.

- If you have an exact match the customer will say "Matching isn't important, don't you have anything cheaper?"

When a customer has a large number of specialty locks, that lock will require very expensive service and pin kits.

- When you buy the kits, you only get to use them one time, or you find that something you already have can be used instead.
- When you don't buy the kits, nothing else that you have will work instead, and you will have constant problems that would have been avoided by buying the kits.
- By the time you finally buy the kits your lost time will exceed the cost of the kits by ten fold. Then your customer will go elsewhere.

The harder you try to get to a call quickly, the more other locksmiths will beat you to it and the less likely you are to get paid for coming out. The more difficult the customer, the more locksmiths he calls to come out.

- The more people they call, the less likely you are to get paid.
- Major ass holes call every locksmith for a hundred miles radius.
- They only pay the first to show up and complain about the price they have to pay, even though they were quoted that price before they told you to come.

No matter how low you bid the job there is

always an idiot out there willing to do it for less.

- The more you cut your price to get business, the more likely you are to go out of business.
- The more you try to compete on a price basis the lower your prices will go. Your income will follow.

The bigger your yellow pages ad is the more low priced calls from non-repeat customers you will get.

- Increasing the ad size and cost increases the percentage of low profit calls you get.
- The prize for beating out all other locksmiths for the biggest most expensive advertising in all the different yellow pages books is bankruptcy

The more you advertise that you have 24 hour service the more security guards and Insomniacs will call you in the middle of the night with request for price quotations.

- You will get angry calls from people who stopped by your shop at midnight and you weren't there even though you advertised 24 hour service.
- You will get calls after midnight from people who saw your 24 hour service claim and want to have you meet them at your shop immediately to cut one key on your 89 cent coupon special. {On this lost Leader you lose your mind and your sleep.}

Your best apprentice will quit and open a shop across the street and cut your prices. The one who is un-trainable will stay with you forever.

John F. Bousquet