

SHOPPING TOGETHER

BY WEB WILSON

If you are a doorknob collector, or an antiques dealer, when you go shopping -- You Go Shopping.

You have a plan, you have a purpose, and you have your own methods and strategies. Most importantly, you have a rhythm and a time factor that only works for you. Anyone else, even your best friend or your spouse, can't really "tag along" as they either are quickly shut out of your energy field, or if they are a kindred spirit, they will be shopping to the rhythm of their own antiques drummer.

The is very true for Jill and I-when we enter a shop or market we almost always head in opposite directions. One, because we can cover the territory faster, but more importantly, because we shop very differently. In fact, even if we start out together, within a few minutes we have become separated due to the pace our eyes set for us, and our varied interests. But we both keep mental notes on what we are seeing and as we cross paths between booths and showcases we share what we have found to buy---and what we have seen that we need to consider together.

Quite often what one of us has put into our mental inventory is something the other has noticed as well. Then we stand in front of the object and have a critical conversation on authenticity, condition, salability, profitability, and finally price. If we agree on all those factors, it usually means a buy. Dissention on any aspect of the object almost always means rejection.

We were in Texas somewhere last Spring, picking our way back from the Round Top show, when we went into a quality shop in a small town. Everything was authentic and interesting but we found nothing we could buy. The proprietor was friendly, and we mentioned our principle interests of vintage plumbing and antique hardware.

Now this shop was packed--easily many thousand items--all well displayed but mostly of very formal and fancy. We are pretty good pickers, being as we make our living at this, so when the guy said "did you see those things in the showcase" I was a bit chagrined to answer "No, whaddya have?"

The owner then opened a flat case sitting on the table in the middle of the room and pulled out a pair of fascinating figural cast iron window sash stops. How he remembered where they were hiding is a testament to the mind of a real antiques dealer, but these were surely something special.



My first reaction was 1) I am going to buy these and 2) this guy can't have much of a value reference here so even though he's running a pricy operation, these ought to still be under the money.

So I asked "how much", and his answer floored me. Now, I can't divulge the number because I am putting one of these little beauties in our New Year's Day 2020 Auction, but I was gobsmacked. I keep up a polite conversation, turning the little fellows over in my hands, trying to politely negotiate, but when I asked "so what's the price if I buy them both?" he came back with a number that was \$20 less.



At this point I set them down saying “they are great but just too expensive.” And then Jill spoke up and said, “Hey, you’re the doorknob man, you have to buy them!”

I said “Hey, no way I can make profit here. I love ‘em but there is no advancement.” So Jill said “Well OK then, I will buy them”, and she pulled out the cash and passed it over.

So New Year’s Day we’ll find out just who likes them better than we do. I say “we” as naturally I was glad to be a partner in the deal, or rather, have a partner with the kahones to do the deal. And that’s how shopping together works: teamwork and trust---and the fun of waiting for the payoff.

Editor’s Note: We found Design Patent #9896 by Thomas

Overton dated April 10, 1877 (at right). For a native Texan, seeing a Design patent by someone from Rockport, Texas (which is midway along the Texas Gulf Coast, just north of Corpus Christi) was very unexpected, as most design patents I have seen were from the northern and eastern states where manufacturing occurred. While I could find no information about Mr. Overton other than his birth and death information, this shows that even in Texas in 1877 people were wanting something other than plain window stops. The patent was not assigned to anyone, but some obviously were manufactured possibly in Texas since Web was able to find a pair here.

Web Wilson’s NYD 2020 Auction is now open for bidding. There are more than 140 quality lots (see pics below), of which nearly half are antique doorknobs and builders’ hardware. The auction will begin closing on New Year’s Day, 2020, at 5 p.m. Central Time.

Web Wilson’s auctions are now on line at www.auctions.looloodesign.com.

But the BIG news is that there is now a Mobile App you can download to your phone. Go to the link above and then follow the next link for easy installation.

There is an extended bidding feature so you won’t be sniped out at the last second. And for this sale, the buyers’ premium for ADCA members will only be 15%.

Web now lives in Texas, right near the big Round Top show. You can call him anytime at 800-508-0022.

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

THOMAS OVERTON, OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS.

DESIGN FOR SASH-HOLDER.

Specification forming part of Design No. 9,896, dated April 10, 1877; application filed March 27, 1877. (Term of Patent 7 years.)

To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, THOMAS OVERTON, of Rockport, in the county of Aransas and State of Texas, have originated and designed a Window-Fastening, of which the following is a full, clear, and exact description:

The nature of my design is fully represented in the accompanying drawing, forming part of this specification, and in which—

Figure 1 is a plan view.

A represents the figure of a small man pivoted at about the hip-joint to a window-frame, B, and provided with a brimless cap upon the head, which acts as the bearing-surface against the window-frame. The body is made nearly round, representing a side view of the figure, and the legs thrown out somewhat in advance of the body, as in the act of taking a step, presenting a convenient thumb-piece for use

as a lever in unfastening. The bottom of the feet are made oval, as shown, and the arm is placed close to the body, the ends of the fingers coming out nearly flush with the edge of the body, which is provided with a collar, c, and ornamented in a tasteful manner, so as to present a neat and becoming appearance.

What I claim is—

The design for a sash or window-frame fastener, as shown in the accompanying drawing, and hereinbefore described.

In testimony that I claim the foregoing as my own I affix my signature in presence of two witnesses.

THOMAS OVERTON.

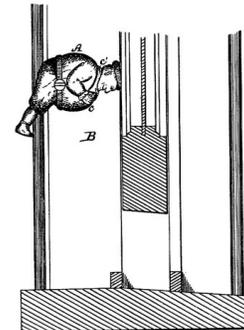
Witnesses:
B. P. CLARKSON,
C. D. CHAIN.

D8-402. OR D9,896 EX

DESIGN.

T. OVERTON,
SASH-HOLDER.

No. 9,896. Patented April 10, 1877.



WITNESSES:

Jan. H. Dickman
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PER
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