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## E. R. BUTLER & CO.

### *Early American Silvered Glass Knob*

SILVERED GLASS, also called Mercury glass, is double walled glassware coated silver inside. For decades nineteenth-century glassmakers searched for a way to make silvered glassware using tin, lead, mercury and other compounds, but it wasn't until 1849 that a satisfactory method was found. That year in England the first patent for silvered glass was given to Hale Thomson and Edward Varnish. In 1855 the New England Glass Company received a patent in America, and production at other glassworks soon followed. Each manufacturer created their own recipe, a closely guarded secret. The first silvered glass products were door knobs: Enoch Robinson, who once worked at the New England Glass Company, patented a "Method of

Attaching Glass Knobs to Metallic Sockets" using a keystone shaped socket to hold in place a denticulated knob. For over a century since glass knobs have adorned doors, cabinets and drawers; they still define "cleanliness, purity, refinement and good taste." E.R. Butler & Co., successor to E. & G.W. Robinson, still uses Robinson's innovation to produce silvered glass knobs of superior design and workmanship. Mercury Glass Knobs are 2¼ inch diameter for doors and 1½ inch for cabinets and furniture, with solid turned brass shanks available in many decorative finishes. All knobs are fully complemented by architectural trim including hinges, locks, cane bolts, cylinder rings and covers, key escutcheons and covers, thumb turns, doorstops, etc.

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